DEAR ALUMNI,

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

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

Our athletic director, Mr. Warren Koegel has announced his upcoming retirement on December 31. He has certainly left his mark on our athletic program. Read about his success at the helm of the Gamecocks on pages 12 and 13.

On page 14 you will find a tribute to Mrs. Miriam Haywood, a beloved member of the Gamecock family, who graduated from JSU in 1949 and immediately became a part of the JSU community.

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

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

Sincerely,
William A. Meehan, Ed.D.
President
JSU Nursing Renames Auditorium in Honor of Lela Sarrell

BY ANGIE FINLEY PHOTO BY STEVE LATHAM

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

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

“This is a wonderful gift that we’ve received,” said JSU president Dr. William Meehan of the technology. “Students today don’t learn like they did when I was a student many years ago... today’s gift of this learning center will help engage our students of today.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

“This is a wonderful gift that we’ve received,” said JSU president Dr. William A. Meehan of the technology. “Students today don’t learn like they did when I was a student many years ago... today’s gift of this learning center will help engage our students of today.”

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

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

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

At the conclusion of the program, Dr. Meehan, Dr. Turner, Dr. Shelton, Mrs. Sarrell and Mr. Parker cut the ribbon dedicating the center.
Marc and Mary Angle
Make Donation to Transition University & the MBA Program
BY JARED JONES

In August, Marc and Mary Angle, both graduates of Jacksonville State University, donated $25,000 to the university to help fund Transition University and the online Master of Business Administration program. Mrs. Angle, a former Ballerina, graduated in 1988 from the College of Education and Professional Studies with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education, while her husband graduated from the College of Commerce and Business Administration in 1982. Mr. Angle, who was president of the Kappa Alpha Order, was instrumental in establishing the Paul Carpenter Village (Greek housing) on campus in the ’90s. The Angles currently reside in Plano, Texas, where Mr. Angle is the president of Regions Bank for the state of Texas. The decision on where to designate their funds was an easy choice. When asked why they chose to donate the larger portion of their gift to Transition University, he said, “It’s about doing the right thing. We feel that we are all responsible for helping the less fortunate.” Mrs. Angle fell in love with Transition University, especially with her ties to JSU’s education program, which is near and dear to her heart. The $15,000 donation will fund the program for five years. The $10,000 gift to the online MBA program will help support next level education at JSU and will help graduate studies.”

Our education at JSU taught us morals and ethics and our JSU teacher candidates. “Many students with disabilities tend to be ostracized by society. Our JSU students treat the high school students with respect and provide opportunities that allow for meaningful decisions for their future employment.”

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

Marc and Mary Angle

JSU Transition University
A Win-Win Program

BY CHRISTINA MACDONALD

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

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

Dr. Connor explained, “The goal of TU is to provide the opportunity for those high school students with special needs aged eighteen to twenty-one to socialize and learn from their peers. Research has shown that students learn well from their peers, but a majority of these students’ fellow classmates have already graduated from high school.” This program also provides opportunities for service-centered learning, since a college campus serves as a mini community where transition skills (e.g. social, pre-vocational, self-advocacy, etc.) can be enhanced. Mrs. Owens expanded upon this concept, describing Transition University as being a “win-win” opportunity for the students of TU as they develop a skill set needed for more independent lifestyles. It is also beneficial for the teachers of those students in the acquisition of success within the transition strands, and for the students of JSU as they obtain hands-on experience with the students they will potentially instruct in the future.

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

Now read the GEM on your iPhone or iPad for FREE!
John M. Brown, instructor in Jacksonville State University’s Department of Learning Skills (Learning Services), passed away on July 29, 2014. Brown had been an employee at Jacksonville State University for twenty-seven years. He was a graduate of the University of North Alabama and Auburn University.

JB, as he was known to most, was a writing instructor who taught basic English skills and freshman success courses. His largest influence and teaching contribution came through his many years of dedication to helping students pass the English Competency Exam (ECE). He wrote two textbooks, Write Away (1st ed.) and Exploring Correct English, both of which were instrumental in helping teach grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, paragraph and essay development. He was one of the developers of the successful summer bridge program, ExSEL, which for over twenty years assisted underprepared students in gaining entrance into JSU.

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

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

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

“The benefit to JSU students is the extension of current academic support services and the addition of support services that are more tailored to student needs,” Moore said. “For example, non-traditional students or students who work may have difficulty finding time for a scheduled tutoring appointment each week, therefore the drop-in format might work better.”

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

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

Liberty Mutual is a proud partner of the JSU National Alumni Association

For additional information about Liberty Mutual and our car and home insurance, please contact us at 800.524.9400 or visit us at libertymutual.com/jsu.
Buffy Lockette has been named JSU’s new director of Public Relations, assuming the role previously held by Patty Hobbs who retired in June. Lockette brings with her fourteen years of higher education experience, working in public relations at both the University of Florida and Auburn University at Montgomery.

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

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

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

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

Alumna Dr. Alicia Simmons returned to JSU in 2005 as the director of Institutional Research and Assessment and was recently promoted to vice president of Research, Planning and Collaboration. In nine years, she has built JSU’s sponsored research program from scratch - securing millions of dollars in federal grant funding to enrich and support the campus and local communities. In the past year alone, her department has increased the university’s grant awards by 51.5 percent. A recent $11.67 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education is bringing technology to high-need, rural classrooms.

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

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

Simmons earned a B.S. in sociology, with minors in social work and gerontology, from JSU in 1985. She went on to earn a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in social work from the University of Georgia.
WARREN KOEGEL
TO RETIRE DECEMBER 31

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

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

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

Hired as the school’s sixth full-time athletics director on June 1, 2011, Koegel spent ten very successful years as director of athletics at Coastal Carolina University, of whom his tenure, highlighted by a new $1.5 million weight room.

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

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

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

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


In 2013-14, Jacksonville State had five OVC Player or Most Valuable Player of the Year Awards, nine NCAA All-Americans, sixty-five OVC All-Conference honors, two teams claiming OVC Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

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

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

Prior to joining JSU in 2011, Koegel spent ten very successful years as director of athletics at Coastal Carolina University, where the Chanticleers made fifty-six NCAA Championship appearances, won forty-eight Big South Conference Championships and won the Sasser Cup, which is awarded to the top athletic program in the Big South Conference, five times.

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

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

Prior to his stint at Chattanoogo, he had served on the football coaching staffs at the University of Connecticut, Rutgers University and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he had served as line coach as well as interim head coach in 1993. Koegel was an assistant football coach at Rutgers University from 1984 to 1990 and Wyoming University from 1977 to 1983.

Koegel played in the National Football League from 1971 to 1973, spending time with the Oakland Raiders, St. Louis Cardinals and New York Jets. He started at Penn State University under legendary football coach Joe Paterno, where he earned All-American honors. He was co-captain of the Nittany Lions his senior season and earned a bachelor’s degree in 1971.

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

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

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

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

Prior to joining JSU in 2011, Koegel spent ten very successful years as director of athletics at Coastal Carolina University, where the Chanticleers made fifty-six NCAA Championship appearances, won forty-eight Big South Conference Championships and won the Sasser Cup, which is awarded to the top athletic program in the Big South Conference, five times.

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

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

Prior to his stint at Chattanoogo, he had served on the football coaching staffs at the University of Connecticut, Rutgers University and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he had served as line coach as well as interim head coach in 1993. Koegel was an assistant football coach at Rutgers University from 1984 to 1990 and Wyoming University from 1977 to 1983.

Koegel played in the National Football League from 1971 to 1973, spending time with the Oakland Raiders, St. Louis Cardinals and New York Jets. He started at Penn State University under legendary football coach Joe Paterno, where he earned All-American honors. He was co-captain of the Nittany Lions his senior season and earned a bachelor’s degree in 1971.

During his college career, he was a Third Team All-American as a senior and played on two Orange Bowl championship teams. He also played in the Hula Bowl, East-West Shrine Game and the College All-Star Game. Koegel received Penn State’s Dedicated Player and Outstanding Senior Awards.
Remembering Miriam Haywood
1949 Graduate, Lifelong Gamecock

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

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

In addition to their time, the Haywoods made many large and small monetary contributions to the university. Perhaps the most significant was their personal commitment to help finance the educations of many young people. While Mrs. Haywood was cheerleader sponsor, they often financed air travel for the cheerleaders to away games. The couple financed and furnished the university’s very first Cocky mascot suit in 1966. They purchased many items for the university, from the Good Luck Gamecock and the American flag at the stadium to the dogwood trees surrounding Bibb Graves Hall. They were instrumental in raising funds for the construction of the university’s marble monolith on Pelham Road and spearheaded a successful drive to raise money to restablish the athletic training table for the football team. As their final gift to the university they loved so dearly, the Haywoods have bequeathed their estate to help fund a bell tower.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“For years she cooked them meals and desserts for their monthly meetings. She absolutely loved those guys,” she says.

“She was a very proud Gamecock and wanted everyone else to show their pride as well. She will be greatly missed!”

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

“Both Miriam and James loved to cook. They even had their home remodeled so they could have his and her kitchen. Miriam was famous for her banana pudding among other wonderful dishes. Many of the men in the Gamecock family will say they have never had better banana pudding than Mrs. Haywood’s,” he adds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In January 2014, Owen’s fundraising endeavor celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary and the momentous milestone of more than $500 million in donations. Leading the way in how the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other deadly diseases, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital holds to the belief that all a family should worry about is the health of their child when fighting cancer and other deadly diseases, St. Jude understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer free and in remission.

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

Today, country musicians such as Taylor Swift, Rascal Flatts, Keith Urban, Tim McGraw, Carrie Underwood, and many more can be found on the Country Cares website as some of the various artists or “clubs” under which Country Cares fans can make donations. During the annual Country Cares seminar, artists and others from the music and radio industries from around the world come together to learn more about what St. Jude is and how they can help.

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

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

While in the hospital, Turri recalls meeting Martina McBride and talking with her for about thirty minutes. “She was just so lovely,” states Turri. “I was not a country music fan and my family didn’t listen to that genre, so that night I told my dad that we needed to figure out who that lady was and go hear her music. So, we went to the public library... and checked out her current album at the time, which was Evolution. Her song ‘Happy Girl’ became my mantra to get me through therapy.”

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

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

Turri is now twenty-five years old, cancer free and in remission. She currently works in Nashville for American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC), the fundraising arm of St. Jude. She is on the radio development team, assisting St. Jude radio partners to continue to excel at their radiothon fundraisers. She recalls meeting Randy Owen while a patient at St. Jude and was able to later reconnect with him as an employee at St. Jude last year.

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

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

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

From Alumnus to President

After completing his Bachelor of Science in biology in 1972 at JSU, Meehan returned for his master’s and worked as a graduate assistant in the admissions office. “I had great mentorship here with the faculty in the biology department and other administrators,” he said. Upon graduating with his Master of Science in biology in 1976, he was approached by Dr. Theron Montgomery and asked to stay as a full-time biology instructor.

“In 1999, Meehan earned his doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Alabama. His dissertation was “An Analysis of Sabbatical Application Patterns, 1988-98, at Jacksonville State University.” On July 1, 1999, Dr. William A. Meehan became the eleventh president of JSU.

Meehan Family Grows Up on Campus

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

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

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

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

In 1999, Meehan earned his doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Alabama. His dissertation was “An Analysis of Sabbatical Application Patterns, 1988-98, at Jacksonville State University.” On July 1, 1999, Dr. William A. Meehan became the eleventh president of JSU.
Currently, Drew and Will are juniors at Auburn University, but return to Jacksonville each summer for classes. Prior to moving to Auburn, they both completed dual enrollment courses at JSU while in high school and were prepared to step into the college lifestyle having grown up on a college campus.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Meehan Legacy

“When I went into this business, it was to teach and to be with students,” Dr. Meehan said. “I think helping students reach their goals, and being able to add value to the experience of all those at the university – to the students, to the faculty and staff – if I can say I’ve added value to that experience, that’s been the most rewarding part.”

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

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

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

With numerous conference championships, Meehan has also witnessed much athletic growth in the university, especially in regard to the Gamecocks’ breathtaking football performance in the fall of 2013 and the excitement of this current season. It was under his administration that the JSU athletic program became a member of the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC). Should he give a current “State of JSU” address, Meehan said, “We have improved the academic offerings for students. We have consistently provided
It is rare to find a university president who will go out on a sweltering Saturday morning and help freshmen move into the dorms on move-in day, a president who takes time to know students and faculty by name and greet them with a smile, and who always has the best interest of the students at heart.

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

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

We are well positioned in what we want to be, which is an economic engine for our community and for our students. Our ACT score average for first-time freshmen has continued to go up, now it’s 22.6. Our transfer average for first-time freshmen has continued to go up; now it’s 22.6. Our transfer students now have scholarships. Colleges and universities have increased tuition and JSU has also but we have been able to provide more financial aid for students who are doing well academically and will graduate.

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

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

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

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

1999 Named the 11th President of JSU
Past presidents and officers of the JSU National Alumni Association honored Dr. and Mrs. Meehan with a resolution in appreciation of their support during his presidency.

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

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

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

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

Class of 1964 Golden Gamecock Reunion

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

*picked below*

**2000-2013**

Jennifer Anne Nelson ’07 and Lawrence "Larry" K. Nelson III ’06, Teara, Atlanta, welcomed the birth of their third child, Joshua, on June 5, 2014. Mr. Nelson was a member of the JSU rifle team.

Tabitha Nicole Rankin Ashley ’08 and her husband Jarrod, Oxford, Ala., announced the birth of their fourth child, Joshua, on September 6, 2014. Mr. Nelson was a member of the JSU rifle team.

Jeremy Williams ’12 and his wife Rachel, Millbrook, Ala., welcomed their first child, Amelia Jo, on June 23, 2014.


**2000-2014**

Devin D’Juan Beasley ’00 and Makesha Reed, May 19, 1990-1999

**WEDDINGS**

*picked below*

**1999-2010**

April 4, Jeanne W. ’06 and Mark Hobbs, Oct. 11, 2014, in Guntersville, Tenn. Mrs. Hobbs is employed by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.

**2000-2014**

Drew O’Ryan Bosley ’10 and Makyla Reed, May 25, 2014, in Huntsville, Ala. He was a member of the men’s basketball team from 1998 to 2000. The couple resides in Huntsville.

Patrick Ronald ’03 and Lauren Lingrell ’12, June 7, 2014, in Geraldine, Ala. Mr. and Mrs. Ronald were members of the Southerners. The couple resides in Boone, Ala.

**2014**

Eric Allen Sherling ’12 and Rebekah Katherine Williams ’15, June, 2014, at the JSU Alumni House. Mrs. Sherling is employed by Amazon, Montevallo, Ala. Mr. Sherling is employed by the Ford Motor Company, Pella, Iowa. The couple resides in Mufford, Ala.

Elsa Beason ’13 and Kyle Love, March 22, 2014, in Oxford, Ala. Mrs. Lovell was a member of Delta Zeta and is employed by Chihuly Glass and Garden.

Eric W. McWhorter ’80, Gadsden, Ala. Information was listed in his obituary that he was commissioned and not the senior Mr. McWhorter.

**JSU FACULTY/STAFF**

Mariann L. Huttnerline, April 6, 2014, Ochotee, Ala. Dr. Huttnerline is an instructor in the communications department. She has also taught at Lake Johnson High School, the University of Alabama, Redstone Arsenal and Monroe College University where she chaired the Department of Humanities. She is a nationally recognized authority in the field of communication law and served as a consultant to media and government officials.

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

Joe Leonard Langston, June 20, 2014, Birmingham, Ala. In 1964, he joined the staff at WBRC-TV in Birmingham as a reporter/news anchor. Later he joined the news team at WVTM TV but later returned to WBRC as news director. During his years in television, he received every major award from the Associated Press and United Press International. In 1999, Dr. Langston retired from WBRC to accept an endowed chair in the Department of Communications at JSU where he retired in 2009.

Lt. Col. Victor L. Miller, U.S. Army Retired, September 18, 2014, Jacksonville, Ala. After his retirement from the Army in 1969, he became the associate food service director at JSU for 35 years. Later he accepted a position with the University of Florida (Gainesville) as associate food director in the athletic department.

Dr. William James Reid, Jr., August 20, 2014, Centreville, S.C. A World War II veteran, he also served in the South Carolina National Guard. Dr. Reid served as chairman of the science and engineering department at JSU from 1968-1998, where he published twenty-eight professional papers, served as chairman of the Alabama Academy of Physics and as president of the Alabama Physics Teachers. After retiring from JSU, Dr. Reid and his wife moved back to South Carolina.

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

**OBITUARIES**

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

**RETIREMENT**

In the June 2014 issue of GEM, the following alumni were listed in error as deceased or information in the listing was incorrect. We apologize to our alumni, their families and friends.

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

Eric Allen Sherling ’12 and Rebekah Katherine Williams ’15, June, 2014, at the JSU Alumni House. Mrs. Sherling is employed by Amazon, Montevallo, Ala. Mr. Sherling is employed by the Ford Motor Company, Pella, Iowa. The couple resides in Mufford, Ala.

Barbara Goodwin Garrett Vi, Pensacola, Fla.

Hugh A. McWhorter, Sr., ’90, Gadsden, Ala. Information was listed in his obituary that he was commissioned and not the senior Mr. McWhorter.


Hugh A. McWhorter, Sr. ’90, Gadsden, Ala. Information was listed in his obituary that he was commissioned and not the senior Mr. McWhorter.

**ATTENDED OR ONLY DEGREE GRADUATION**

James Cray "Jim" A. Jones, November 6, 2014, at Thompson’s Florists, Tuscaloosa, Ala. Mr. Jones was a salesman with Walker’s liquor store and had been in the car business for over thirty years in the Northfield and surrounding area. Mr. Beane placed tennis for JSU and was a member of Sigma Nu.

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

James Wesley Hodges, Jr., Greensboro, Ga., December 14, 2013. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked as a graphic illustrator for NASA at the Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala., for forty-one years, where he trained numerous awards of achievement. He retired in 2005.

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

James L. Stephen, Horton, Ala., September 24, 2014. A veteran of World War II, he served with the 96th Infantry in Germany, Austria and the Philippines. An educator for thirty-eight years, he was principal at Carrington and Stoner High for many of those years.

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

Kathy Joy Wilford, Winder Woods, Tex. The post office notified the alumni office that Mr. Wilford was deceased.

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

1940-1949

Edna Bailey Mann ’45, Schuylkill, New York, November 16, 1953. The information was received during the annual JSU phonathon from someone at her home phone number.
Marcus Lafayette "ML" Roberts, Jr., '47, Tuscaloosa, Ala., passed away on October 28, 2014. He was a 1947 alumnus of Tuscaloosa High School, where he served as chair of the business education department until 1994. He was appointed registrar and instructor at the University of Alabama. He served in many other capacities at the University of Alabama before retiring in 1987 when he was professor emeritus of curriculum and instruction. Dr. Roberts was a member of the International House program at JSU.

Walter Eugene "Gene" Lusk '51, Huntsville, Ala., September 9, 2014. He was a retired U.S. Army colonel. He served thirty-two years in the Army Reserve. In 1961 he was appointed Ten-

Catherine Howard Thomason '51, Memphis, Tenn., April 17, 2014. The alumni office was notified by Mrs. Thomason’s sister that she had passed away in 2014.

William Roberts "Bill" Giles '51, Jacksonville, Fla., February 24, 2014. He served in the Army Air Corps in World War II as a member of the 454th Bomber Group. Giles was killed as president of Florida Equipment Sales, Inc. after fifty years in the company.

Dan C. Vanderford '53/63, Oxford, Ala., August 19, 2014. He taught at Suko, White Plains and Cold-

Emilla Sprayberry Robertson '49/62/71, Tallahassee, Ala., May 10, 1944. She was an educator for more than forty years in Calhoun County and in Anniston. She taught at Westfield High School in Wetumpka, Tusk-

Verena Clinton Grant '53, Cressville, Ala., January 2, 2014. The alumni office was recently notified by Mrs. Grant’s sister that she had passed away in 2014.

Marcus Lafayette "ML" Roberts, Jr., '47, Tuscaloosa, Ala., passed away on October 28, 2014. He was a 1947 alumnus of Tuscaloosa High School, where he served as chair of the business education department until 1994. He was appointed registrar and instructor at the University of Alabama. He served in many other capacities at the University of Alabama before retiring in 1987 when he was professor emeritus of curriculum and instruction. Dr. Roberts was a member of the International House program at JSU.

Emilla Sprayberry Robertson '49/62/71, Tallahassee, Ala., May 10, 1944. She was an educator for more than forty years in Calhoun County and in Anniston. She taught at Westfield High School in Wetumpka, Tusk-
Charles Dow Grimes, Jr. ’69, Mount Olive, Ala., County Board of Education. Mr. Griep played football at JSU. The alumni office was notified by his wife that he had served two terms on the Jacksonville City Council. Mr. Jordan was married to Jeanne for thirty-nine years and was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. She had also worked for the Cottaquilla Girl Scout Council and was a member of Sigma Nu, he was a charter member of the fraternity’s Iota Lambda chapter at JSU. He was a member of Sigma Nu, he was a charter member of the fraternity’s Iota Lambda chapter at JSU.

Peggy Jean Current Luid ’63, Waco, Tex., Aug. 17, 2014. Mrs. Luid taught for thirty-three years, the last twenty-nine years at Connersville High School.

Joe B. Hitt ’66, Oxford, Ala., July 4, 2014. He was a retired health inspector with the Calhoun County Health Department. Mr. Hitt was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

Dede Vernon Miller ’66/76, Alexandria, Ala., City Council. Mr. Ledbetter worked at the Anniston Army Depot as a purchasing agent. He worked at the Navy Exchange as a purchasing agent. He was retired after forty-one years with the U.S. Air Force and had served in the Korean War.

Betty Morris Beasley ’68, Hokes Bluff, Ala., July 29, 2013. Mrs. Beasley was a master gardener and one of the original founders and officers of the Calhoun County Sports Hall of Fame, the Young Harris House of Fame, and the Calhoun County Sports Hall of Fame.

Jennifer Martin Wright ’94, Southside, Ala., Sept. 18, 2014. The alumni office was just recently notified by Mr. Aguilar, who recently retired from the JSU International House where he touched lives, made memories and was a friend to all. Mr. Aguilar was married to Ena Aguilar, who recently retired from the JSU International House.

Kenneth “Scott” Helms ’94, Prattville, Ala., April 22, 2014. He had been an instructor at Northeast Alabama Community College, and was a friend to all. Mr. Aguilar was married to Ena Aguilar, who recently retired from the JSU International House.

Melanie Wester Low ’96, Jacksonville, Ala., May 1, 2014. She was a retired interpreter. After obtaining her Master’s degree in audiology, she served as a WMD instructor with the Department of Homeland Security.

Cindy Smith Williams ’86, Hokes Bluff, Ala., May 28, 2014. She had been employed by Gadsden Regional Medical Center for twenty years.

Philip Anthony Gilbreath ’62, Jasper, Ala., July 16, 2014. Mr. Gilbreath was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.


Jerry W. Brooks ’66/72, Boaz, Ala., July 3, 2014. Mr. Brooks had taught at Gadsden City High School, and was a member of the Gadsden County School System where he served for thirty-two years as a social studies teacher, assistant principal and the director of student information.

Anthony R. Jones ’93, Bill City, Ala., April 19, 2014. He had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry at JSU and was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Kenneth “Scott” Helms ’94, Prattville, Ala., April 22, 2014. He had been employed with Louisiana Pacific International House where he touched lives, made memories and was a friend to all.

Jennifer Martin Wright ’94, Southside, Ala., Sept. 18, 2014. The alumni office was just recently notified by Mr. Aguilar, who recently retired from the JSU International House.

Melanie Wester Low ’96, Jacksonville, Ala., May 1, 2014. She was a retired interpreter. After obtaining her Master’s degree in audiology, she served as a WMD instructor with the Department of Homeland Security.

Cindy Smith Williams ’86, Hokes Bluff, Ala., May 28, 2014. She had been employed by Gadsden Regional Medical Center for twenty years.

Philip Anthony Gilbreath ’62, Jasper, Ala., July 16, 2014. Mr. Gilbreath was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.


Jerry W. Brooks ’66/72, Boaz, Ala., July 3, 2014. Mr. Brooks had taught at Gadsden City High School, and was a member of the Gadsden County School System where he served for thirty-two years as a social studies teacher, assistant principal and the director of student information.

Anthony R. Jones ’93, Bill City, Ala., April 19, 2014. He had been a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry at JSU and was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Kenneth “Scott” Helms ’94, Prattville, Ala., April 22, 2014. He had been employed with Louisiana Pacific International House where he touched lives, made memories and was a friend to all.
1930-1939
“Margarette Rose Bryant ’19, Charlotteville, Va., now resides at a retirement community in Charlotte- ville known as the Martha Jefferson House. She enjoys reading, current events and is an avid reader. One of our oldest living graduates, Mrs. Bryant was a student at JSU (Jacksonville State Teachers College) in her junior year and Miss Personality. After graduation, she served as a primary school teacher at Blue Mountain, Alabama, public schools. She later mar- ried M. Howard Bryant and worked for many years as a clerk with the FBI.

1960-1969
Raymond H. Hightower ’58, Marietta, Ga., retired from the Federal Aviation Administration and has established “Recruiting and Hiring Students and Recent Grads.” The Pathways Programs provide talented individuals who are in school or who have recently received a degree with greater access to federal jobs and internships, as well as meaningful training, mentoring and career development op- portunities.

1980-1989
Dr. Gingrich H. Robinson ’80, Athens, Ga., is a noted University of Georgia professor, has become an internationally recognized scientist and today is working in Germany with chemists at Technische Universität in Berlin as a member of being awarded the Humboldt Research Award in 2012. This spring he was honored at the University of Georgia’s 2014 recipient of the Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Award. This award is given to professors who serve as role models for faculty and students and Dr. Robinson is now the university’s nominee for the SEC Professor of the Year Award. Dr. Robinson has received at least twelve different professional awards or academic distinctions. He has made international- ly recognized discoveries in geoelectrical chemistry, an area of science that examines the composition of metals associated with organic compounds. Dr. Robinson played football at JSU and was selected as JSU ’94 Alumnus of the Year. He is married to Cynthia Walker Robinson ’80.

2010-2019
Bella B. Vann ’85, Norfolk, Va., has won the D istin- guished Service Medal from NASA where she worked as a research scientist for thirty-two years before recently retiring. She was one of only eighteen agencies employees who were awarded this medal in 2014. In her long career with NASA, Ms. Vann made significant contributions in the management of science and technology at numerous NASA centers.

2019-2020
Brenda Lindley-Anderson ’81, Huntsville, Ala., has been active in the community for many years and currently serves as project scientist for the Alternative Fuel Effects on Contrails and Cruise Emissions (ACCESS) experiment. She has been promoted to vice president with Gibbs & Associates. Available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million and most major bookstores.

2020-2029
John Christopher Hamilton ’86, Wetumpka, Ala., was inducted into the 2014 Marshall County Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Ingram played football for JSU. He is married to Cindy Rouse Hamilton ’93. He is principal at Arab Junior High School.

ATTENDED ONLY OR DATE OF GRADUATION UNKNOWN

Michael Todd Banes ’93, Slyva, Ala., November 3, 2013, after a short battle with kidney cancer. Rev. Banes was a pastor for over twenty-three years and had been pastor at many churches in the area. He was currently employed by Calhoun High School as an assistant coach for the softball team. He previously taught and was the head baseball coach at Florida State University and as an assistant coach for the softball team. He was currently employed by Childersburg High School as an assistant coach for the softball team. He was inducted into the 2014 Marshall County Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Ingram played football for JSU. He is married to Cindy Rouse Hamilton ’93. He is principal at Arab Junior High School.

Christopher Robinson Sr.’73, Moody, Ala., April 6, 2014. Mr. Scott was a housing RA at JSU and a member of Sigma Nu.

Wendy E. Robinson ’12, Glencoe, Ala., July 10, 2014. The alum office was notified by her mother that Mrs. Robinson had passed away.


ALUMNOTES
“Personal notes”


Margarette Rose Bryant ’19 (OL), Bruce E. Anderson ‘76 (OL), Lelia B. Vann ’80 (OL), Janet Elizabeth Sizemore Sandberg ’98, Jacksonville, Ala., May 7, 2014.

Margueritte Posey Bryant ‘39 (left), Bruce E. Anderson ‘76 (middle), Lelia B. Vann ‘80 (right)

Lorrie Dole Sowards ’93, Anniston, Ala., has been hired as a phlebotomist at Jacksonville High School and Kim Stone Elementary in Jacksonville, Ala. She is married to Jeff Alan ’94. Ms. Sowards has worked at Oxford Medical, Trussville Memorial, William Hurt Elementary (Shelby Ortega), Lile, Paul Lushhans (New Orleans), Faith Christian and in the Calhoun County Schools during her career.

“I have worked at Oakwood,” said Sowards. “I was inducted into the 2014 Marshall County Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Ingram played football for JSU. He is married to Cindy Rouse Hamilton ’93. He is principal at Arab Junior High School.

Caryn Paula Pearson Caratelli ’99, Raleigh, N.C., has been promoted to vice president with Gibbs & Associates. Available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million and most major bookstores.

Caryn Paula Pearson Caratelli ’99, Raleigh, N.C., has been promoted to vice president with Gibbs & Associates. Available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million and most major bookstores.
Chad Huffman '09/11, Hanley, Tex., is now the principal at Hanley Middle School, Hanley, Tex. He was a JSU cheerleader and ambassador and is a life member of the JSU Alumni Association.

Evelyn Nicole McGowan Smith '12, Scottsboro, Ala., was recently hired as the director of community relations at Legacy Village, an assisted living and senior care facility in Jacksonville, Ala. She will lead the facility’s efforts to develop partnerships with local organizations that are focused on serving seniors, their families and the community.

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

Kleyson Russell Gainzler '12, Alexandria, Ala., is teaching kindergartener at Kitty Stone Elementary School in Jacksonville. In her second year of teaching, Mrs. Gainzler previously filled in for numerous longer-term substitute positions.

Jake Green '13, Jacksonville, Ala., teaches AP (advanced placement) biology, AP environmental science and preAP biology and biology at Pedmont High School. He recently was one of fourteen five-year teachers in Alabama schools to receive $3000 grants for classroom materials and supplies from the Alabama Power Foundation.

Did you leave your name in STONE... AT YOUR ALMA MATER?

Make sure you left your mark at JSU for future generations to see!
Purchase a brick to be placed at the JSU Alumni house for only $50.

BRICK SIZE: 4" x 8"
Three lines, 16 characters or spaces per line (Indicate your engraving information in the boxes below)

$50 PER BRICK

Method of Payment (please check one)

☐ Check (make your check payable to: JSU Foundation)
☐ VISA       ☐ Mastercard      ☐ American Express
Account #       Exp. Date
CV Code: _______ (last three digits on back of card)
Signature

Yes, please notify recipient of my gift.

ALUMNI BRICK ORDER FORM
Please complete the following information and return to:
JSU Alumni Relations Office, 700 Pelham Road North
Jacksonville, AL 36265

In Memory of
Class of '____
(name)
Go Gamecocks
(name)

ALUMNI BRICK ORDER FORM
Please complete the following information and return to:
JSU Alumni Relations Office, 700 Pelham Road North
Jacksonville, AL 36265

In Memory of
Class of '____
(name)
Go Gamecocks
(name)

Did you leave your name in STONE... AT YOUR ALMA MATER?

Make sure you left your mark at JSU for future generations to see!
Purchase a brick to be placed at the JSU Alumni house for only $50.

BRICK SIZE: 4" x 8"
Three lines, 16 characters or spaces per line (Indicate your engraving information in the boxes below)

$50 PER BRICK

Method of Payment (please check one)

☐ Check (make your check payable to: JSU Foundation)
☐ VISA       ☐ Mastercard      ☐ American Express
Account #       Exp. Date
CV Code: _______ (last three digits on back of card)
Signature

Yes, please notify recipient of my gift.

ALUMNI BRICK ORDER FORM
Please complete the following information and return to:
JSU Alumni Relations Office, 700 Pelham Road North
Jacksonville, AL 36265

In Memory of
Class of '____
(name)
Go Gamecocks
(name)
A snowball fight breaks out at Burgess-Snow Field at JSU Stadium during the unexpected snow in January 2014.