

This is copy of our Alumni Newsletter that is sent monthly to our Alumni.

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July 2025 Edition

FEATURED EVENTS



UPCOMING EVENTS



We welcomed many former faculty and staff back to campus for the 2025 Retirees Summer Picnic, held on June 17. Originally planned for the Alumni House lawn, the event was moved indoors to UREC Studio 1 due to inclement weather, but the atmosphere remained as warm and lively as ever. Retirees enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Cooter Brown's and spent the afternoon reconnecting, reminiscing, and celebrating their continued place in the Gamecock family. The gathering served as a meaningful reminder of the lasting bonds shared among Jax State's dedicated retirees. **See photos from the luncheon here.**



We hosted an interest meeting for our **2026 Cocky Travelers Alaska Cruise**—both in person and virtually! Alumni and friends joined us in Merrill Hall to learn more about the 7-day adventure, ask questions, enjoy a cupcake or two, and even reserve their spot on the trip. We're already counting down to Alaska!

We've got some exciting events on the horizon—whether you're looking to reconnect, relax, or support a great cause, there's something coming up for every Gamecock.

Lunch Bunch - Montgomery, AL

Take a break and enjoy great food and conversation with Jax State Alumni & Friends at SaZa in Montgomery! There's no cost to attend—just cover your own meal and let us know you're coming so we can reserve your spot.

July 23 | 11:30 AM–1:00 PM | Montgomery, AL | [RSVP today!](#)

Lunch Bunch - Cartersville, GA

Sneak away from your busy day and join fellow Gamecocks for lunch at Shweat Market Deli—an alumni-owned spot in the heart of Cartersville! No cost to attend (Dutch treat), but be sure to RSVP so we can save you a seat.

July 24 | 11:30 AM–1:00 PM | Cartersville, GA | [RSVP today!](#)

Gamecock Gatherings - Santa Rosa Beach, FL

Enjoy a summer evening with Jax State alumni and friends at The Chanticleer Eatery in Santa Rosa Beach! Whether you're a local or just passing through, we'd love for you to join us. Dinner is Dutch treat—just be sure to RSVP so we can plan ahead.

August 5 | 6:30–8:00 PM | Santa Rosa Beach, FL | [RSVP today!](#)

Gamecock Gatherings - Orlando, FL

Kick off football season with Jax State alumni and friends in Orlando as the Gamecocks take on UCF! Join us Wednesday for a casual Lunch Bunch (location TBD) and a "cool" evening at ICEBAR—fur coats provided! Then, on Thursday, don't miss the pregame tailgate before the 6:00 PM kickoff. Be sure to RSVP so we know you're coming!

August 27–28 | Orlando, FL | [RSVP today!](#)

Click [here](#) to learn more and register for future events as they become available.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

COCKY BUSINESS



Ciara Smith ('23) is making history—Anniston's first African American mayor, only the second woman to hold the office, and its youngest ever at 26. A Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree, Smith became the city's youngest elected official in 2020. [Read how this proud Jax State alumna blazed a trail to the mayor's office.](#)



For Robert Smith ('88), Jacksonville State University wasn't just a place to earn a degree—it was the foundation for a business he started as a teenager and has grown into one of the Southeast's top awards and personalization companies. As owner of Awards To Remember, Smith has spent more than 40 years turning small gestures into lasting recognition, serving clients across the region and maintaining strong ties to his alma mater. From classroom lessons to campus signage, Jax State remains central to his story. [Read more about his journey and the legacy he continues to build.](#)

[Submit your own Cocky Business to be featured](#) in one of our upcoming newsletters here!

ALUMNI CONNECTION



Congratulations to our newest Jax State graduates—you did it, and we're so proud of you! As you take your next steps, stay connected to your Gamecock family through **Jax State Alumni Connection**, our exclusive alumni engagement platform. Whether you're curious about where other grads live, want to reconnect with

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Show your Gamecock spirit for life by becoming a Lifetime Member of the Jax State Alumni Association! With a one-time commitment, you'll receive a Lifetime Member car decal, a commemorative plaque, a Jax State rain pullover, and more—including a parking pass valued at \$100, good for any non-reserved

classmates, or just stay involved with the University you love, this platform makes it easy. No more scrolling through social media to find the right “John Smith”—just one click gets you started. Sign up using your non-JSU email or social media, verify with a quick code, and start exploring your alumni network today! **Click here** to get started.

campus space (excluding red curbs, handicap zones, and gameday parking). Payment plans are also available for lifetime memberships. It's a meaningful way to support the University while enjoying exclusive perks that last a lifetime. **Join today and celebrate your lifelong connection to Jax State!**

GROWING GAMECOCKS



Growing Gamecocks is a special program created to engage and inspire the next generation of Gamecocks! Open to children of alumni, family, and friends, the program celebrates future Jax State students with annual gifts or birthday cards delivered around their special day each year. As a bonus, high school students who are enrolled in the program and admitted to Jax State are eligible for a one-year, non-renewable Growing Gamecock Scholarship—making the journey to college even more meaningful. Start your child's connection to Jax State early and help them grow with pride!

Already a member? Send us your photos of you with your Growing Gamecocks goodies to: alumni@jsu.edu

Learn more about the program and how to enroll a child.

AROUND CAMPUS



Curious about going back to school but not quite ready to commit? Jax State is offering a **FREE course** in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 that introduces the foundations of Artificial Intelligence—what it is, how it's used, and its ethical impact. Whether you're starting or finishing a degree, this is the perfect way to "Try It" risk-free. **Click here to learn more** and see if Jax State is your next step!

Want a real-time view of campus life at Jax State? Check out our **eleven live webcams** located across campus, offering a glimpse of favorite spots like the Quad, stadium, and more. Whether you're an alum missing your alma mater or a future Gamecock exploring from afar, you can tune in anytime—**just click here!**

COMING TO THE ROC

GAMECOCKS GIVE BACK



The ROC will host its share of events in addition to all the great events we already have on campus. In order to streamline ticket buying across campus and athletics, the ROC, as well as the departments of music, theatre, and film, will utilize the PACIOLAN ticketing software and database already implemented by Jax State athletics in 2024. More information is to come, but take this time to **make sure your contact information is up to date in Paciolan** for purchasing your athletic tickets this fall and ROC tickets, as ROC donors will receive presale access.



Making a charitable gift of stock to **Jacksonville State University** is a simple and meaningful way to give back. By donating appreciated securities directly, you can avoid capital gains taxes and may be eligible for a charitable deduction for the full market value of your gift. The process is easy, and we can work directly with your broker to coordinate the transfer and ensure your gift makes an immediate impact. For more information, click **HERE** or call **256-782-5306**.

DR. WENDY CASH
DIRECTOR,
ALUMNI
ENGAGEMENT
256-782-5405
WCASH@JSU.EDU



BRITTANY WHITE
ASST. DIRECTOR,
ALUMNI
ENGAGEMENT
256-782-8256
BHWHITE@JSU.EDU

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Jacksonville State University Foundation, Inc., 700 Pelham Road, North, Jacksonville, AL 36265

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