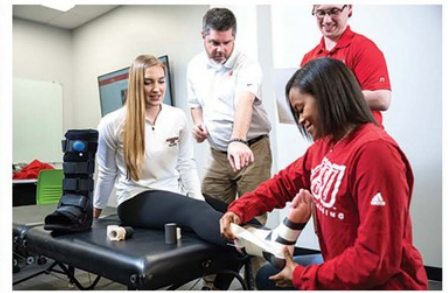
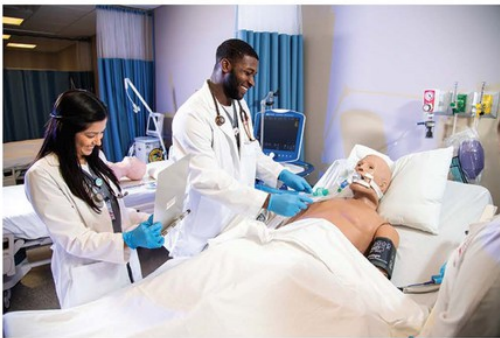


JSU CHPW Newsletter

Fall 2023



Message from the Dean: Tracey D. Matthews

Dear Alumni and Friends:

We hope you enjoy the many updates from the College of Health Professions & Wellness Fall 2023 newsletter. There is so much to be excited about this Fall. On October 17, 2023, we had our official ribbon cutting for the South Complex and Naming of the Nursing Wing! Please see the story below about this wonderful day. We now have 3 health professions in one building (Nursing, Respiratory Therapy, and Athletic Training). As most of you are aware, this has been a long waited for our Undergraduate Nursing program. I am so happy that our nursing students and faculty are finally in one building. They endured being displaced from Wallace Hall when an EF-3 tornado destroyed their



building and supported many COVID-19 University and community initiatives with no official home during the very heights of the pandemic. More importantly they did this with great strength, resilience, and passion. Below, you will see the “Take a Seat” campaign for our nursing program. You can add your name or honor your friends, family, or faculty by purchasing a seat in the newly renovated classrooms. The seat can be purchased for \$250 which includes a plaque honoring the donation. Please information below on how you can “Take a Seat.” If you are interested in other ways to give, please contact Mr. Joseph Munster at jmunster@jsu.edu. We encourage to read about an alum who is giving back through a scholarship to support students studying in education or wellness.

Beyond the ribbon cutting in October, two discipline specific accreditation visits occurred for Nursing and Respiratory Therapy. We anticipate very positive results once the accreditor results are shared.

There are so many updates to provide, and I do hope you enjoy reading about our student, faculty, and alumni successes.

Be well and Go Gamecocks!

Dean Matthews

Ms. Linda Prickett announces her retirement!

Ms. Linda Prickett is a native of Calhoun County and grew up 10 miles from Jacksonville. She has been working at JSU since June 1993. Linda began working at the JSU-Fort McClellan/Anniston/Oxford office located in the Education Building on Fort McClellan. At that time, Fort McClellan was an active-duty U.S. Army military base and JSU offered evening classes for active-duty military and their families in classrooms at Fort McClellan, Anniston and Oxford High Schools. With the pending closure of Fort McClellan, she transferred to JSU’s main campus in August 1998 to the College of Nursing & Health Sciences as the Secretary to the Dean. Since then, she has continued in this role as the college’s second dean’s secretary. She is currently Administrative Associate to the Dean, College of Health Professions and Wellness.



Linda's devotion and loyalty to her deans and faculty has always been paramount. Whenever there is an event to plan, she is there to offer her gifts of planning and organization. Linda has an institutional memory unlike any other, is ready to serve in any capacity, and gives her time and energy to anything that is needed. Linda is the epitome of service and dedication to her profession. She is a positive force in the Dean's office and everyone she deals with on campus. Ms. Linda Prickett, you will be greatly missed at the CHPW, but we wish her all the joy she deserves in her retirement.



University Dedicates JSU South Complex

It's been more than five years since a tornado struck Wallace Hall, home to JSU's School of Nursing. After 17 semesters of holding classes in Houston Cole Library, the nationally-ranked program is reunited at the newly renovated JSU South.

Opened in 1976 as Jacksonville Hospital, the 104-bed facility was donated to the university by Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center a few months after the 2018 tornado. Work began in 2021 to transform the space into a state-of-the-art teaching facility, to include:

- Four lecture classrooms with seating for 125 students
- Renovation of existing space for nursing arts and skills labs
- Athletic Training Classroom and Lab
- A student lounge
- Study space
- A dining area, which includes a Boar's Head deli operated by JSU Dining

In addition to the School of Nursing, JSU South is also home to Respiratory Therapy, Athletic Training, and the JSU/RMC Student Health Center. The local community will be invited to an open house in February.

Nursing Wing Named After 1973 Alumna

[Lynne Cobb Parker](#) could have enjoyed a career in gospel music. The Weaver, Ala., native recorded several albums with her sister and father as the Bill Cobb Trio, touring with gospel greats. But she

was inspired to minister to people through another path – nursing. The 1973 nursing alumna went on to become CEO of Baptist Medical Center South in Montgomery, Ala. The new nursing wing in JSU South is named in her honor. Pictured above, on the far right, is Parker as an undergraduate, in front of the construction site for Wallace Hall. (Originally shared from The Red and White)



New Programs Alert!

For the Fall 2024 we now have the following programs in the College:

- Bachelor of Public Health
- Master of Public Health
- Dietetics has moved to the Department of Kinesiology

JSU School of Nursing Hosts Accreditation Visit

The JSU School of Nursing hosted their reaffirmation of accreditation on-site visit October 4-6th. Our accrediting body, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), holds the JSU School of Nursing (SON) accountable for meeting the Essentials (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2008/2011) as well as other standards that support quality, integrity, and achievement of our mission, vision, and goals. The accreditation process includes a written self-study, which provides evidence that the JSU SON programs meet accreditation standards, and an on-site visit by a team of accreditation visitors.



CHPW Welcomes New Faculty and Staff!



Dr. Shanteia Beavers

The JSU School of Nursing is proud to welcome Dr. Shanteia Beavers to our undergraduate nursing faculty team! Dr. Beavers brings a variety of education, experience, and practice that will add to students' learning at JSU.



Rhonda Knight

Rhonda Knight will be the program coordinator for the dietetics program that is moving from Family & Consumer Sciences to Kinesiology. She has much experience with ACEND (accrediting body) and has worked with Georgia Department of Public Health for over a decade.

JSU Respiratory Therapy Program Hosts CoARC Visit

The last full week in October of each year is designated National Respiratory Care Week. This recognition was started by President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. This year, JSU RT spent our Respiratory Care Week hosting an accreditation site visit team. On October 26th and 27th, JSU RT hosted a site visit team from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). This site visit is one of the final steps in the approval process to allow our program to advance from Provisional Accreditation (awarded when opened the program in 2017) to Continued Accreditation.



The site visit went extremely well. The JSU RT Community showed strong support for our program during the site visit. The site visit team met with current JSU RT Students, previous graduates, clinical preceptors, JSU Administration, JSU RT Medical Director Dr. Rohit Patel, JSU RT Faculty and Staff, and met with our JSU RT Advisory Board. The Advisory Board members are RT leaders from facilities that our program partners with for clinical sites. We had over 30 members on campus to show support for our program. We are excited to share that the site visit team found no citations or findings of not meeting our accreditation standards. They shared a long list of strengths that they observed from the program and were impressed by the support from JSU Admin and the JSU RT Community. Their report has been submitted to the CoARC Executive Office for review. It will also be reviewed by our assigned Program Referee. If neither of these reviews require any additional information, our program will be recommended for Continued Accreditation at the March 2024 CoARC Board meeting.



JSU Respiratory Therapy Class of 2025

On August 16, 2023, JSU Respiratory Therapy held orientation for our JSU RT Class of 2023-2025. It is exciting to see these 30 students begin their journey to become RTs! As many have left healthcare during the pandemic, it is exciting to see these students eager to join the field of Respiratory Therapy and train to "Be A Therapist"! JSU RT! Go Gamecocks!

College of Health Professions and Wellness Award Recipients



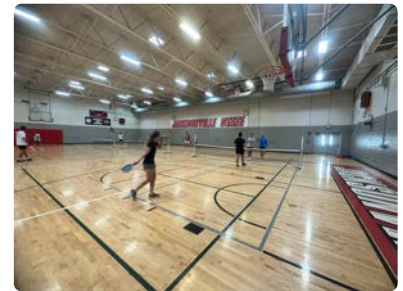
Dean Tracey Matthews presents Andres Crawley of the Respiratory Therapy Department the College of Health Professions and Wellness Faculty of the Year Award.



Left to right: Dr. Heather Wallace-Emerging Leader Award; Dr. Betsy Gulledge-the Sarah V. Latham Excellence in Nursing Award; Carla Willingham-Staff of the Year; Mrs. Lori Cochran-Community Engagement Award; Mr. Andy Green-Faculty Fellow

Pickleball, pickleball, pickleball!

Our JSU Pickleball Club, sponsored by KIN faculty member, Lori Cochran, is growing!! We have over 36 players playing in Kennamer gym each Tuesday, along with several faculty/staff members. We have definitely outgrown our 4 court gym – which is a great problem to have!



We are planning an official collegiate match in Oxford against UAB in October and playing in a Kennesaw State Invitational with Auburn, Emory, Ole Miss etc in October as well.

We have 3 in-house (faculty and students) fund raising tournaments scheduled this fall. We hope more faculty/staff will come join us. Please email Lori Cochran lcgalloway@jsu.edu for more information.

You can also follow us on our Instagram account, [@jsu_pickleball_club](https://www.instagram.com/jsu_pickleball_club)!

JSU Sport Management Program Sends 5th Student-Representative to be at Super Bowl Super Bowl LVIII

For the 5th consecutive year, the JSU Sport Management program will have a student-representative at the Super Bowl. Andrew Strickland has been accepted by Living Sport, an International Sports Business program, to spend a week in Las Vegas working Super Bowl LVIII. Best wishes to Andrew on this adventure.



JSU Sport Management Alumni



Griffin Gonterman

Griffin Gonterman of Huntsville, AL just left the Dallas Wings of the WNBA to accept an account executive position with the Georgia Swarm of the National Lacrosse League.



Claire Behan

Claire Behan of Nashville, TN has recently accepted a facilities and social media marketing position with 3 Step Sports, the nation's largest youth sports club and event operator in Fort Lauderdale, FL.



DJ Foster

DJ Foster of Dadeville, AL will be moving to West Texas where has accepted a position with Mountain Star Sports where he will be working with the El Paso Locomotive FC.

JSU Sports Management Visits Talladega Superspeedway

The Sport Management program also engages in experiential learning philosophy by engaging in field experiences with its many partners such as the Talladega Superspeedway. The experiential learning philosophy enables students to acquire "hands-on" educational experiences and provide practical applications within the sports industry.





Take a Seat

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE
COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND WELLNESS
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY



Jacksonville State Master's in Athletic Training Graduate is Part of Athletic Training Team That Saves a Life

Justin Files and the JSU Athletic Training staff were in the athletic training room getting ready for their football game. They were gathering all their supplies to head to the field for pre-game warm-ups. This is a normal occurrence for any athletic trainer as they prepare to go provide care to their athletes for an athletic contest. But what happened next was not an ordinary thing. Justin was summoned that a fan was unresponsive just outside the football building. He immediately jumped into action and responded. His response included performing CPR, using an AED, and saving a life.

The three members of the JSU athletic training staff – Assistant athletic trainers Justin Files and Danielle Jefferson and head athletic trainer Michael Polascik, responded and provided vital aid. The JSU MAT program is excited to recognize Justin for his quick thinking and use of what he learned in the program to save a life! In addition, it is important to recognize all who helped in the care for this man.

*Please visit [The Anniston Star](#) to read the original article.

Congratulations MAT Graduates!



Greta Romei

The JSU MAT Program would like to congratulate Greta Romei, graduating class of 2023, for passing her board of certification exam and beginning her career at the University of Alabama at Birmingham as a football intern.



Justin Files

The JSU MAT Program would like to congratulate Justin Files, graduating class of 2023, for passing his board of certification exam and beginning his career at Jacksonville State University as an assistant athletic trainer.



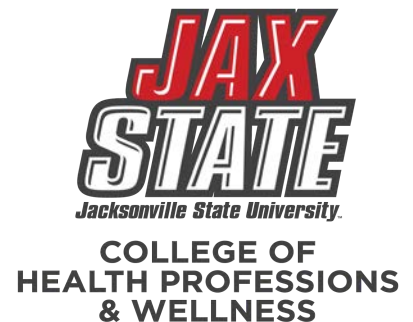
Micah Glover

The JSU MAT Program would like to congratulate Micah Glover, graduating class of 2023, for passing his board of certification exam and beginning his career at Fultondale High School as the athletic trainer.

CHPW Giving

If you would like to speak to a giving officer, please contact Joseph Munster at jmunster@jsu.edu.

Are you interested in finding ways to give back to the College? If you are interested in providing internships/fieldwork opportunities or have service-learning projects for our students, please let us know! Also, please consider a [donation!](#)





Education Alum Establishes Scholarship to Support Future Teachers

by Brett Buckner, [JSU News](#)

All anyone needs to know about Coach Mark Sanders can be summarized by his response to a single question: “How are you doing?”

“If things were going any better, I’d have to be three different people,” he said. “I just can’t imagine being any more blessed.”

Sanders and his wife, Dawn, wanted to share those blessings with others by establishing the Coach Mark and Dawn Sanders Scholarship at Jacksonville State. It’s awarded to a junior or senior studying education or wellness.

“We understand the powerful influence that teachers and coaches can have,” said Sanders, who has spent 22 years coaching. “We know firsthand how difficult it is to afford college, especially now, and our heart is in helping people who can one day have a powerful influence on the next generation. We want to add value to leaders who can then multiply that value to others.”

Sanders, who attended nearby Alexandria High School, knew as far back as seventh grade that he wanted to be a teacher and a baseball coach.

“I always had a passion for people,” Sanders said. “I knew how to communicate with people, how

to motivate people and how to help them grow. I also loved sports, and combining those skills and passions just made sense.”

After high school, Sanders received an athletic scholarship to Emmanuel College, a four-year school in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) about 100 miles north of Atlanta. It was there he learned a harsh truth.

“I realized pretty early on that I was not going to make a career out of playing baseball,” he said, laughing, “so I decided to come home to JSU, to get my teaching certificate.”

To pay his way through JSU, Sanders worked multiple jobs and took out student loans. He graduated in 1997.

“What really stands out to me in terms of my time at JSU is clearly the teachers,” he said. “I had some outstanding teachers who believed in me and who saw a real potential in me. They also helped me see the importance of valuing and adding value to students.”

Those lessons carried over to being a coach. “Leadership is simply influence,” he said.

In 1998, Sanders got his first job teaching at Westbook Christian School in Rainbow City, Ala., where he also coached football, baseball and basketball. He then moved to Riverchase Middle School to be its new softball coach.

“I didn’t want to coach softball,” he said. “I had no interest at all in coaching softball.”

The Riverchase principal sweetened the offer by telling Sanders that the baseball coach was looking to move up and he could have the job if he proved himself well with the softball team.

“And what he told me was that the softball program had not been very good,” Sanders said. “I didn’t know exactly what that meant...were they .500 or maybe a little below .500?”

Not even close. Riverchase Middle School hadn’t won a single game in three years when Sanders took over the program.

“I felt sick,” he said. “I’m a competitive person, and I didn’t know how I was going to improve this team.”

To make matters worse, the best middle school softball teams in Alabama were in Sanders’ conference.

“We just started dreaming and scheming – and ended up winning 11 games in that same conference in our first year,” he said.

In 2009, Sanders was named head softball coach of Helena Middle School during its inaugural season – where he has built a dynasty. Over the past seven seasons, the Huskies went 205-12. In 2017, they were 34-1, and went undefeated in 2018, 2019 and 2022. Helena High School has played in three straight Class 6A state softball tournaments.

In May, Coach Sanders was named head softball coach at Helena High School – continuing with the sport he originally only took on as a placeholder. He hopes future scholarship recipients share his passion for leadership as teachers and coaches.

“It means everything,” he said. “We want to be outrageously generous by investing in people who will have influence on the next generation.”

*This story originated from [JSU.edu/News](https://www.jsu.edu/news).

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Tamatha Johnson

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