

The Magazine of **Jacksonville State University** | FALL 2022

GEM

of the hills

JSU DEDICATES NEW BUSINESS BUILDING

PAGE 8

MARCHING SOUTHERNERS WIN TOP HONOR 18



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COLLEGIATE
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a *message* from **THE PRESIDENT**

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

Greetings from the Friendliest Campus in the South! We are happy to bring you the latest news from your alma mater. There are many exciting developments to share, which you will see outlined in the pages to follow.

JSU is growing in both size and status. Last year, our enrollment soared to an all-time high – 9,540 students – and we expect to meet or break that record this fall. At the same time, we have been able to maintain the quality of education we provide, as evidenced by the high marks we received from *US News and World Report*. Our new Student Success Center and centralized advising model have helped make this possible.

Outside the classroom, JSU continues to reach new heights. Our men's basketball team returned to the NCAA tournament in March for the second time in school history. Meanwhile, the Marching Southerners continue to outperform themselves, receiving the top

honor in college marching bands and an invitation to perform at the 80th anniversary of D-Day in 2024.

In short, it's a great time to be a Gamecock! I hope to see you at Homecoming in October, when we will cheer on the football team's final season in the FCS and kick off the Rich Rod era.

Sincerely,



Dr. Don Killingsworth Jr.
(‘99/’01), President



a *message* from **THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR**

GREETINGS, GAMECOCKS!

Another fall semester is right around the corner, and we can't wait to welcome our future alumni to the Gamecock family.

Homecoming is scheduled for October 21-23, and we hope you will be able to join us for a weekend full of activities. As always, we have some outstanding Alumni of the Year Award winners this year, whose successes you can read about on pages 14 and 15. Stay up to date on all the Homecoming festivities at www.jsu.edu/homecoming.

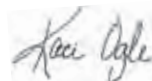
Thank you for all you continue to do to assist in our enrollment efforts. If you haven't already, join our Alumni Recruitment Team at www.jsu.edu/alumni/get-involved. We, as alumni, are the best recruiters for JSU and with your help, we can continue to assist enrollment management efforts and welcome generations to come into our alumni family.

Have you heard about the Marching Southerners Tour de France 2024 for the 80th Anniversary of

D-Day? We invite you to join us on that trip. Learn more at www.jsu.edu/France2024/.

As always, we love to hear from you. Keep us informed on all the amazing things that are happening in your life and we will continue to keep you updated on all the amazing things happening with our alma mater.

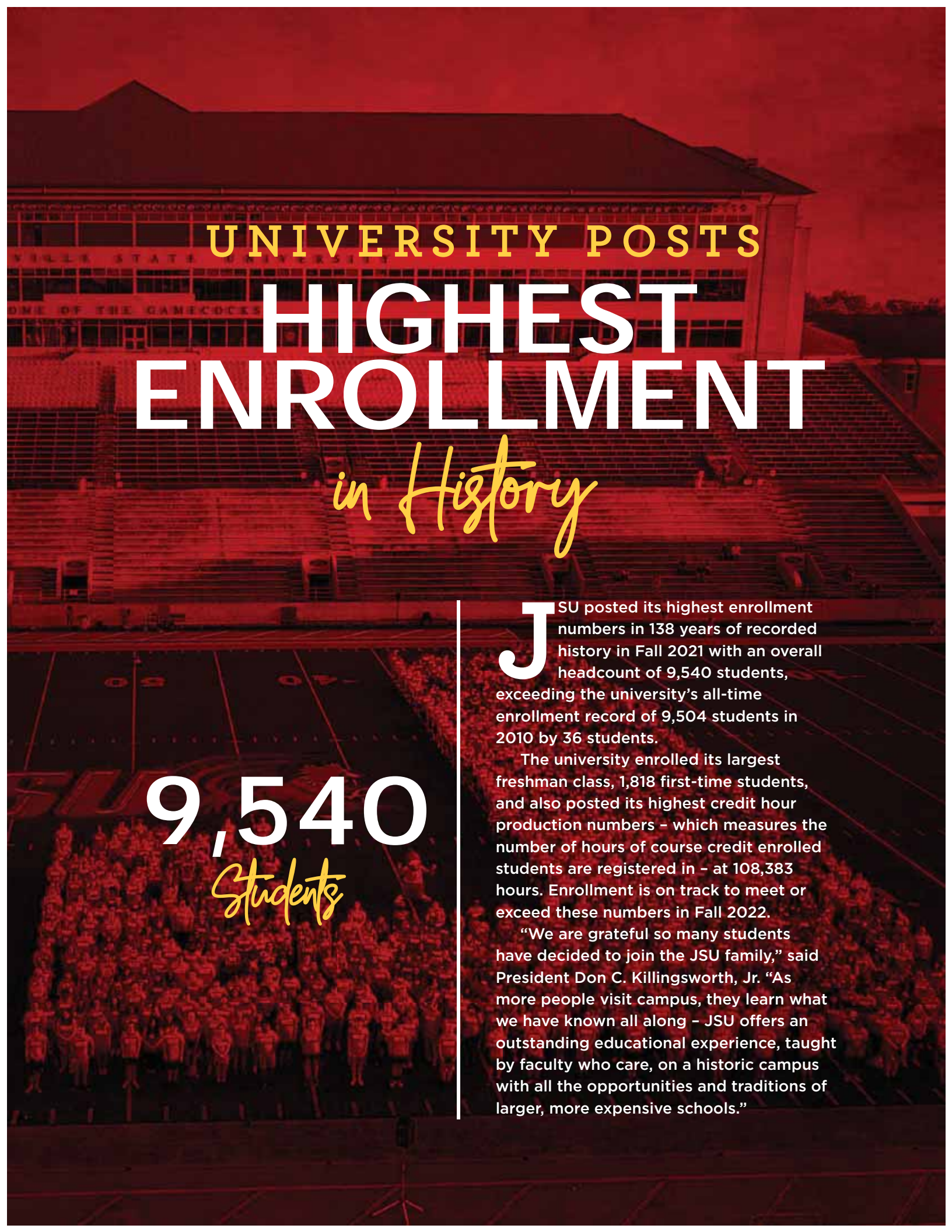
I hope to hear from you soon!



Kaci Ogle (‘95/’04),
Director of Alumni Relations



Go Gamecocks!
Blow Southerners!



UNIVERSITY POSTS
**HIGHEST
ENROLLMENT**
in History

9,540
Students

JSU posted its highest enrollment numbers in 138 years of recorded history in Fall 2021 with an overall headcount of 9,540 students, exceeding the university's all-time enrollment record of 9,504 students in 2010 by 36 students.

The university enrolled its largest freshman class, 1,818 first-time students, and also posted its highest credit hour production numbers - which measures the number of hours of course credit enrolled students are registered in - at 108,383 hours. Enrollment is on track to meet or exceed these numbers in Fall 2022.

"We are grateful so many students have decided to join the JSU family," said President Don C. Killingsworth, Jr. "As more people visit campus, they learn what we have known all along - JSU offers an outstanding educational experience, taught by faculty who care, on a historic campus with all the opportunities and traditions of larger, more expensive schools."

Forensics Professor Launches Hit True Crime Podcast



In the realm of true crime, Joseph Scott Morgan is nearly as high profile as the cases he’s covered. JSU’s Distinguished Scholar of Applied Forensics is a regular guest expert on shows like “Crime Stories with Nancy Grace” – having appeared on her podcast and various platforms hundreds of times. But now, the perpetual guest star is striking out on his own.

Morgan’s new, independent podcast, “Body Bags with Joseph Scott Morgan,” was nominated for a Clue Award at CrimeCon in April among a slate of media giants. Launched just six months

prior, the series has already gained a big following. He uses his background as a death investigator to explore the science behind murder.

“To me, there’s a void in the podcast world,” Morgan said. “There’s nobody, at least no one that I can find, with a specific forensics background. All I want to do is teach and to use these cases as a way to instruct. Being a teacher is what I do. It’s who I am.”

A 33-minute episode airs weekly on Apple Podcasts, Audible, Spotify, iHeart radio and other platforms. 🎧



*** PICTURED ABOVE (FROM RIGHT TO LEFT):** Joseph Scott Morgan, Nancy Grace, and Morgan’s spouse, Kim

New Fountain Makes a Splash

It didn’t take long for word to spread that JSU had completed construction on its first water feature, the Miriam and James Haywood Memorial Fountain, this spring. Within days, students donning caps and gowns began meeting photographers at the beautiful new spot to pose for graduation pictures. Located in the courtyard in front of Angle Hall, the fountain was funded by a gift from the estate of JSU alumni and retirees James and Miriam Haywood.

Mrs. Haywood (‘45) worked for the university for 35 years in various roles including secretary to Dr. Ernest Stone, assistant business manager, and director of personnel services and payrolls. Mr. Haywood (‘50), a former Gamecock football player, was a teacher and assistant football coach at Jacksonville High School until joining the university’s staff in 1960 as director of food services - drawing on his experience running military mess halls during World War II. They both earned



bachelor’s degrees in education from JSU.


“The Haywoods were loyal supporters of JSU who wanted to leave a legacy on campus in addition to all their contributions as alumni and retirees,” said President Don Killingsworth. “We are thankful for their generosity and proud to honor their memory with this new campus showpiece.” 🎧



JSU RANKED AMONG BEST COLLEGES IN THE SOUTH.

Jacksonville State has been named one of the top universities in the South by the global authority in education rankings, US News & World Report. In the 2022 edition of Best Colleges, JSU was named one of the Top Public Schools in the South - coming in No. 38 among Southern universities that depend upon state funding. The university was also named a Best Regional University in the South. Regional universities are defined as those that offer a full range of undergraduate programs, some master's programs and a few doctoral programs.

JSU was also named a Top Performer on Social Mobility - ranking No. 91 in the South out of all colleges. Social mobility measures the percentage of economically disadvantaged students who are able to advance socially by enrolling in college. For the first time, US News ranked undergraduate nursing degree programs. JSU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing was ranked No. 332 in the nation among accredited, four-year degree programs.

"It is an honor to be named among the Best Colleges in the South," said Dr. Don C. Killingsworth, Jr., JSU president. "It is JSU's mission to provide the people of Northeast Alabama the opportunity to better their lives and advance their careers through the transformational power of higher education." 

GAMECOCKS VS. LIONS



OCTOBER 21-23, 2022



FRIDAY, OCT. 21

- > CLASS OF 1972'S "GOLDEN GAMECOCK" 50-YEAR CELEBRATION
- > ROTC ALUMNI BANQUET
- > BAC WEEKEND

SATURDAY, OCT. 22

- > PRESIDENT'S OPEN HOUSE, 8:30-9:30 AM
- > HOMECOMING PARADE, 10 AM
- > GAMECOCKS VS. SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA – KICKOFF AT 1 PM, WITH HALFTIME RECOGNITION OF ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

SUNDAY, OCT. 23

- AND HOMECOMING COURT
- > UN DAY TEA, 2 PM

FOR MORE HOMECOMING DETAILS, VISIT JSU.EDU/HOMECOMING

ON THE
COVER



JSU DEDICATES NEW BUSINESS BUILDING

By Buffy Lockette

JACKSONVILLE STATE DEDICATED ITS NEW BUSINESS BUILDING, HUGH D. MERRILL HALL, ON JULY 18. THE ORIGINAL MERRILL HALL WAS DESTROYED BY AN EF-3 TORNADO ON MARCH 19, 2018.



Located on the site of its predecessor, the new 105,000-square-foot building features a 300-seat auditorium, three-story atrium and common space, 12 academic classrooms, a Finance Lab, an in-house Career Development Center, job interview rooms, team working areas for group projects, faculty and staff offices and a coffee shop.

“We settled upon a design that honors the original building but provides all the new features and latest technology not available when the building was first constructed in 1970,” said President Don C. Killingsworth, Jr. “The result was a modern twist on the historic campus icon.”



Destruction of the original Merrill Hall.




Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill, the cousin of Rep. Hugh D. Merrill, was among the speakers at a dedication ceremony held in the new building's three-story atrium. Rep. Merrill was instrumental in helping change the status of JSU from a teachers' college to a state college and ultimately to a respected university. He also served as president pro tempore of its Board of Trustees for 12 years, from 1968 to 1980.

Merrill Hall is home to the JSU College of Business and Industry and houses the Lyons & Company, Inc., Department of Management and Marketing as well as Applied Engineering, Communication, and Finance, Economics and Accounting. It is accredited by AACSB International and offers bachelor's and master's degrees, including a top ranked online MBA.

To learn more about JSU's College of Business and Industry, visit the website at www.jsu.edu/business.

JSU is grateful to the many alumni and donors who supported the College of Business and Industry through these resolved naming opportunities below. At the building dedication, there were many additional ribbon cuttings for spaces throughout the building, including JSU's first corporate naming of a university department.

Additional naming opportunities are available. Contact Executive Director of University Development, Mr. Bill Nash, for more information at bnash@jsu.edu or 256-782-5003. 

- Bates King Team Room
- Brock Family Finance Commons
- Clarence W. Doughty III Finance Wing
- Dr. Louise J. Clark Student Advising Center
- Dr. William T. Fielding Dean's Office
- Floyd Wesley and Katherine T. Kirby Team Room
- Ken & Jenny Howell Auditorium
- Larry & Sue Guffey Team Room
- Lyons & Company, Inc Department of Management & Marketing
- Mandell Tillman Dean's Board Room
- Marc, Mary, & Darby Angle Team Room
- Milford & Beth Morgan Classroom
- Randy & Julieann Hurst Team Room
- Regions Bank Finance Lab

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

OCT. 1

College of Health
Professions
and Wellness
Alumni
Tailgate, 11 a.m.



OCT. 21-23

Homecoming Weekend
and BAC Weekend



NOV. 11-12

Marching Southerners/
Ballerinas Reunion
Weekend and 1992
National Championship
Football Team Reunion

Please note the International House and Programs' 75th anniversary celebration has been postponed to 2023. Stay up to date on alumni chapter events at jsu.edu/givejsu.

GET GOING WITH THE COCKY TRAVELERS!

WITH ALUMNI

HIT THE ROAD WITH YOUR
FELLOW GAMECOCKS DURING
THESE INCREDIBLE TRIPS PLANNED
FOR SUMMER 2023.

GREEK ISLES

Spend 11 days, 10 nights, hopping between Athens, Mykonos and Santorini discovering ancient legends and monuments such as the Parthenon and Acropolis. From the ruins of Athens to the bright rooftops of Mykonos and Santorini, embrace Greece at its best!

CANADIAN ROCKIES AND GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy 7 days, 6 nights, exploring waterfalls, glacial peaks and towering summits. This adventure brings together the expanse of the prairies, the majesty of the Canadian Rockies, and Montana's Glacier National Park.

**DATES WILL BE ANNOUNCED
SOON. GET YOUR PASSPORT
READY AND CONTACT ALUMNI
RELATIONS AT ALUMNI@JSU.EDU
FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

**TRAVEL PROVIDED BY R&R TRAVEL
AND COLLETTE TOURS.**

HELP US RECRUIT FUTURE GAMECOCKS!

Do you know someone who would be a great Gamecock? Complete the Prospective Student Referral Form on the alumni website at jsu.edu/alumni/student-referral.html and join the Alumni Recruitment team at jsu.edu/alumni/get-involved!



Red Tie

DINNER & AUCTION




The Office of Alumni Relations and the JSU Annual Fund Board hosted JSU's fifth annual Red Tie Dinner and Auction on Feb. 25. The donor recognition and fundraising event generated more than \$157,000 benefiting the specific colleges, departments, programs and scholarships across campus supported by the JSU Annual Fund.

An elite group of JSU supporters kicked off a new year of annual fundraising while recognizing loyal annual donors. The formal event featured dinner, silent and live auctions, and entertainment. The guest list for this invitation-only event included leadership level annual donors and university leadership.

Corporate and individual sponsorship donations help manage the cost of the event, ensuring that all proceeds go directly to the college and programs to enhance the JSU student experience.

The sixth annual Red Tie Dinner and Auction is scheduled for Feb. 10, 2023, in the University Recreation and Fitness Center. The Office of Alumni Relations encourages all those who support JSU with annual gifts to consider maintaining and increasing leadership-level giving of \$2,500 or more in the calendar year to secure your invitation to next year's Red Tie event.

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

NEW FACES!

Alumni Relations welcomed two new staff members in January. Brittany Harper White ('21) is serving as assistant director while Christy Clasgens ('19) is administrative assistant. In addition to Director Kaci Ogle, rounding out the Alumni Relations team is Amy Schavey, assistant director of the Annual Fund, who transitioned over from University Development in October 2020. We wish longtime Alumni Relations staff members Alan Renfroe ('88/'07) and Nancy Turner Mizerak a very happy retirement. 🍷



Brittany Harper White ('21)



Amy Schavey



Christy Clasgens ('19)

Connect With Us!

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 /JSUALUMNI  /JSU_Alumni



JOIN AN ALUMNI CHAPTER!

WITH ALUMNI

DID YOU KNOW THE JSU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAS ADDED THREE NEW CHAPTERS IN THE PAST YEAR?

- Marching Ballerinas Alumni Chapter, led by Kris Bush ('98)
- LatinX Chapter, led by Sebastian Mendez ('15)
- Northwest Georgia Chapter, led by Terry Sosebee ('79)

ADDITIONAL ALUMNI CHAPTERS INCLUDE:

- Art Alumni
- Atlanta Area
- Auburn/Opelika Area
- Ballerina Alumni Chapter
- Birmingham Area
- Black Alumni
- Blount County
- Calhoun County
- Central Alabama Area
- Etowah County
- Greek Alumni
- Grey Echelon
- Huntsville Area
- J-Club (former athletes)
- LatinX Alumni
- LGBTQ+ Alumni
- Marshall County
- Northwest Georgia Alumni
- Omega Psi Phi Alumni
- Rome, Ga. Area
- ROTC Alumni
- Student Alumni
- Graduates of Last Decade (GOLD)

LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH CHAPTER ON THE ALUMNI RELATIONS WEBSITE, JSU.EDU/ALUMNI.

Interested in starting an alumni chapter in your area? Call 256-782-5404 to find out more information about the process.

ALUMNI

of the Year

AWARD WINNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT HALFTIME DURING THE
HOMECOMING GAME ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR MR. DON MARTIN '71

Don Martin earned a BS in business from JSU in 1971. After working in Mississippi and Chicago, he moved to Atlanta to begin a career in advertising at Southern Living magazine - quickly becoming Southeastern advertising manager. Next, he co-founded Martin & Butler, representing a number of national magazines. In 1983, he established Donald B. Martin Properties. Specializing in vintage apartment buildings constructed before 1930, the company owned and renovated some of the finest, most sought-after properties in the city. In 1990, he was asked to join the JSU Foundation Board for what he thought would be a three-year term that turned into 32 years of service. He served as vice president, president and Capital Campaign chairman over the years and helped establish the Annual Scholarship Luncheon and the Bridge the



Gap campaign to assist students with tuition. He chairs JSU's Red Jacket Council, comprised of eight members who serve and report to the university president. He and his wife, Margaret Ann, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary in May. They have one daughter, Anna Lauren Armstrong, a son-in-law, Daniel, and two grandsons, Eli (7) and Andrew (5). They have retired in Atlanta and established the Don and Margaret Ann Martin Scholarship at JSU.



ALUMNA OF THE YEAR MRS. DEBORAH KAY MILLER '81

Deborah Kay Miller earned a BA in political science from JSU in 1981 and continued her education at the Jones School of Law in Montgomery, earning a Juris Doctorate with honors. As the first woman elected Student Government Association president at JSU, she continued to pave the way for others as a contract lobbyist in a male dominated field. She has served as a lobbyist for the American Cancer Society, where

she was successful in securing funding for breast reconstruction surgery, and for the Coalition of a Tobacco Free Alabama, where she assisted with the successful passage of the Youth Access to Tobacco legislation. She went on to found her own lobbying firm, Miller Development Group, with her husband, Jeff. The Miller Development Group is a governmental affairs and lobbying firm that has been named one of the top lobbying firms in Alabama. One of the highlights of her career was having the Prompt Pay Act of Alabama named in her honor as the Deborah Kay Miller Act by the Alabama Legislature. She and her husband have two adult children, Kasdin and Torrie, and four grandchildren. The couple resides in Montgomery, Ala.



**YOUNG ALUM OF THE YEAR
MS. SHANTEIA BEAVERS '19**

Shanteia Beavers earned a BS in nursing from JSU in 2019. She currently serves as a Registered Nurse in the trauma department at The University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she is also pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. She plans to

graduate in December 2023 and aspires to become a nursing instructor while working as a Family Nurse Practitioner. She has completed six assignments as a travel nurse in Texas, Arkansas, Georgia and Kentucky. While at JSU, she was a Nursing Ambassador, a member of the Jacksonville Association of Nursing Students and a tutor for elementary school students at the Jacksonville Community Center. Having been the recipient of several scholarships as an undergraduate, she has established the Shanteia Beavers Nursing Scholarship at JSU, which has already awarded four students an annual scholarship. She resides in Talladega, Ala.



**MILITARY ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
COL. VICTOR RICHARD
SATTLERLUND '00**

Col. Victor Richard Satterlund earned a BS in sociology in 2000 and was commissioned as an infantry officer in the Army. He served in various leadership and staff positions – from platoon through brigade levels – and completed four combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq while assigned

to the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Fort Lewis, Wa., where he later served as a company commander with a combat tour to Iraq. Next, he returned to Fort Benning as Battalion S1 and Rifle Company commander, completing four combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2011, he was selected to attend Command and General Staff College in Canberra, Australia, where he earned a master's degree in strategy and management from the University of New South Wales. He then returned to Fort Benning to serve as Battalion Operations and Executive Officer, with deployments to Afghanistan as a Joint Task Force Commander. Following his tour in the Special Troops Battalion, he was selected to serve on the 75th Ranger Regiment Staff as the Senior LNO and Operations Officer,

also deploying to Afghanistan. He earned another master's degree at War College within the Advanced Strategic Leadership Studies Program, focusing on strategy and policy. His awards and decorations include three Bronze Star medals, one with valor, and 16 Army Commendation Medals, three with valor. He has also been awarded the Purple Heart, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ranger Tab, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge and the National Infantry Association's Order of Saint Maurice. He currently serves as commander of the 199th Infantry Brigade at Fort Benning. He has three children: Arianna (16), Hunter (12) and Hoyt (6).

PI KAPPA PHI *celebrates* 50TH ANNIVERSARY


JSU's Pi Kappa Phi fraternity celebrated its 50th anniversary on Feb. 26, with more than 300 alumni converging on campus to mark the occasion, including 16 of its original 26 charter members.

All generations of Pi Kapps were represented at the reunion. The first student initiate, Murphy Lynch, and the most recent initiate, Cooper Young, participated. Bruce Donzelman – who pledged in 1976 while living in the International House – travelled all the way from the Netherlands to attend. Rusty Fuller ('85), who now serves on the Board of Trustees, was there to show his support. Even the chapter's most famous alumnus, Randy Owen ('73), was present.



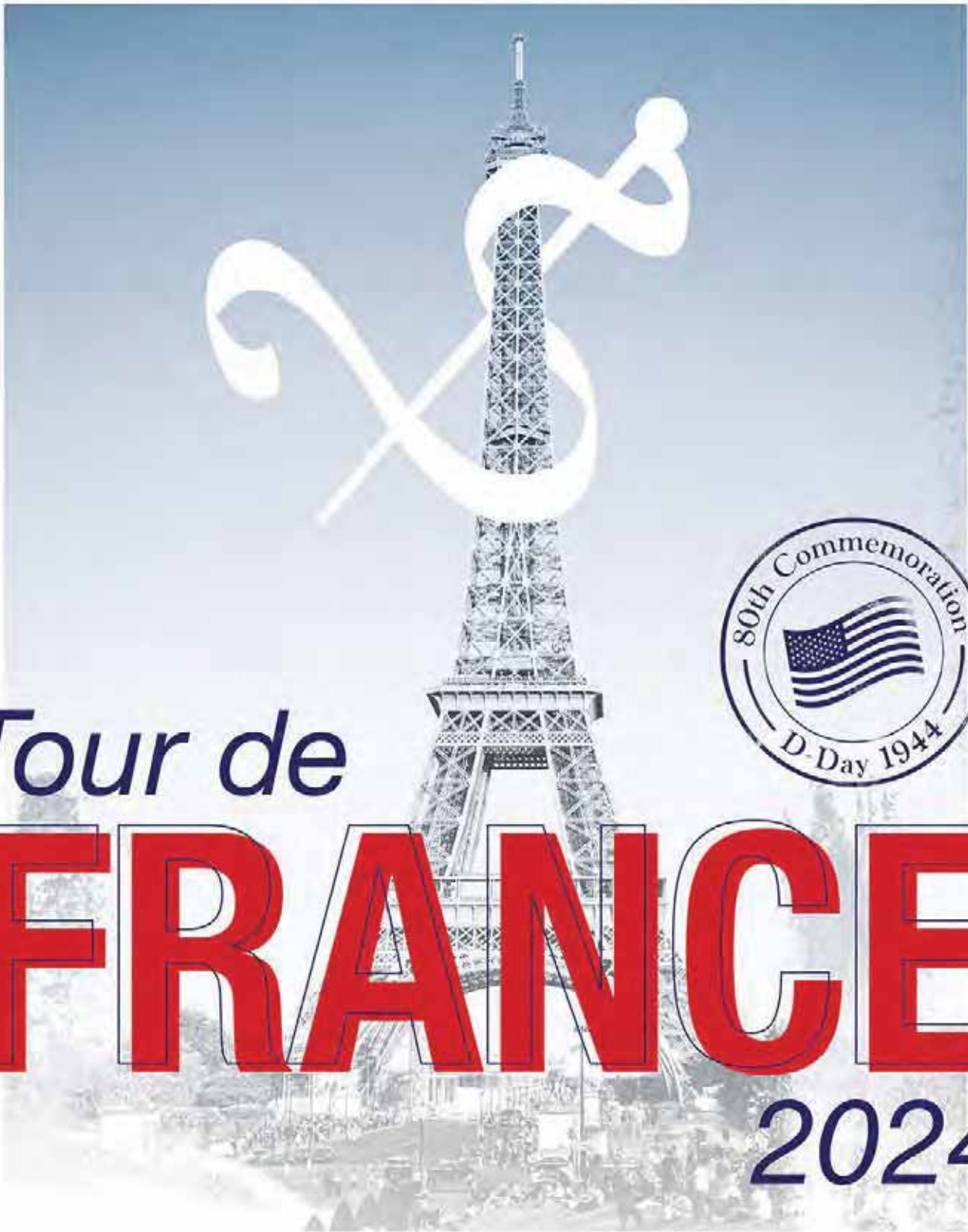
Event organizer and fraternity officer, Dewayne Bowen ('93), said "Many of our charter members haven't been on campus since the 1970s and several told me the banquet made them fully realize what a positive impact their work 50 years ago as students had on so many men throughout the years."

Guests were treated to a performance by Owen, who played on one of the exclusive guitars sold at the event to raise funds for the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts. To date, Pi Kappa Phi members have contributed \$600,000 to the ROC.

"Every brother in that room played a part over the last 50 years, whether they led the chapter or played intramural sports," said Chris Stokes ('11). "We often forget about the impact we all make in our short time at JSU and Pi Kapp, but that impact is part of the 50-year story that continues today." 

1. Charter members gather together for a group photo.
2. The first composite photo captured in 1972.
3. Pi Kappa Phi alumnus, Randy Owen, plays guitar for the crowd.
4. Members and their guests enjoy dinner together.

THE MARCHING SOUTHERNERS



Tour de

FRANCE

2024

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

|featurestory|



MARCHING SOUTHERNERS WIN TOP HONOR

in College Bands,
Invited to Perform in France in 2024

By Buffy Lockette

Jacksonville State University has long believed its famed marching band, The Marching Southerners, to be one of the best college bands in the country. Now it has the hardware to back it up.

The John Phillip Sousa Foundation notified university leadership in December that the Marching Southerners have been named the 2022 recipient of the prestigious Sudler Trophy. Given to one collegiate marching band every two years, the award is the football equivalent of winning the Heisman Trophy. JSU is the smallest university ever to win the trophy since the awards program was created 40 years ago.

"The announcement that we will receive the coveted 2022 Sudler Trophy completely humbles me," said Dr. Kenneth G. Bodiford, JSU director of bands. "In addition to the current members and staff, this award is a culmination of all the hard work and dedication of past

members and directors dating back to the founding of the Southerners and Marching Ballerinas in 1956.

It is truly an honor to share this accomplishment with our entire band and university family."


Established in 1982, the Sudler Trophy recognizes collegiate marching bands of particular excellence that have made outstanding contributions to the American way of life. It is awarded biannually to a college or university marching band that has demonstrated the highest musical standards, the most innovative marching routines and ideas, and has made important contributions to the advancement of college marching band performance standards.

Members of the John Phillip Sousa Foundation's Board of Directors will present the trophy to the band during the Southerners' Reunion Weekend, at the Nov. 12 football game versus Eastern Kentucky. Come cheer on the

Southerners this fall and see their 2022 halftime show, "One Giant Leap."

The band also recently learned it has been invited to perform in Normandy, France, in June 2024 in observance of the 80th anniversary of D-Day. They will represent the US in ceremonies organized by the D-Day Commemoration Committee, performing along with other ensembles, choirs and JROTC students in two official public ceremonies memorializing those laid to rest on the beaches of Normandy.

"This will be an amazing experience for our students," said Bodiford. "We are honored to help salute the brave men and women who fought to liberate Western Europe and turn the tide of World War II."

Alumni and friends are invited join the Southerners in France. Learn more at jsu.edu/france2024/. 

"In addition to the current members and staff, this award is a culmination of all the hard work and dedication of past members and directors dating back to the founding of the Southerners and Marching Ballerinas in 1956. It is truly an honor to share this accomplishment with our entire band and university family."

-Dr. Ken Bodiford



GAMECOCK FOOTBALL

GAMECOCKS RISING

Have you heard? Jacksonville State is moving to the highest level of college football, the Football Bowl Division (FBS), beginning with the 2023 season. The university has accepted an invitation to join Conference USA in all sports starting in 2023-2024.

"We are certainly proud of the tradition that has been built by Gamecock football, one that spans well over a century," said JSU Athletics Director Greg Seitz. "We've solidified ourselves as one of the most successful and consistent programs in the FCS over the past decade,

and the opportunity to compete at the game's highest level is one we couldn't pass up."

Leading the Gamecocks to new heights is a legend in college football, Coach Rich Rodriguez, who was announced as the program's 28th coach on Nov. 30. The author of one of college football's most prolific offensive schemes, he brings with him over 30 years of collegiate experience – including head coach positions at West Virginia, Michigan and Arizona. He begins his first season with the Gamecocks this fall.

JACKSONVILLE STATE vs UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS VS GAMECOCKS IN 2023

It's the moment we've all been waiting for! Jacksonville State will finally face off against college football's other Gamecocks – the University of South Carolina – in 2023. Mark your calendar for Nov. 4, 2023, when JSU will travel to Columbia, SC, for its first gridiron matchup between the two schools. Go JSU Gamecocks!

2022 SCHEDULE PREVIEW

HOME GAMES ARE IN RED

SPORTS



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
08.27

*Cramton Bowl in
Montgomery, AL*



DAVIDSON
09.03

Band Day



MURRAY STATE
09.10



TULSA UNIVERSITY
09.17



NICHOLLS
09.24



KENNESAW STATE
10.01

Preview Day/Family Day



NORTH ALABAMA
10.15



SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
10.22

Homecoming



AUSTIN PEAY
10.29



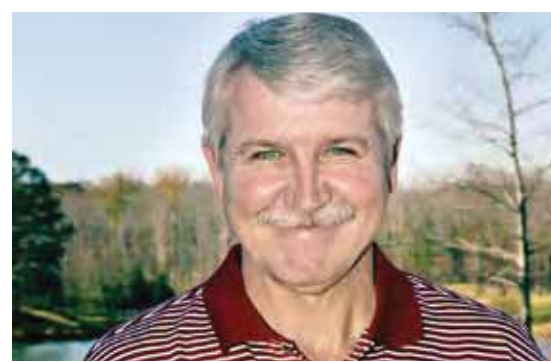
EASTERN KENTUCKY
11.12

*Southerners Reunion
& Sudler Trophy
Presentation*



CENTRAL ARKANSAS
11.19

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



LONGTIME **GOLF COACH** ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT


One of the most storied careers in JSU's rich athletics history came to a close on May 19, when Coach James Hobbs announced his retirement after 45 years on campus, 40 as golf coach.

Hobbs arrived at JSU in 1977 as an assistant basketball coach before taking over as golf coach in 1983. In 1995, he established the women's golf program. The JSU Hall of Famer has led the men's and women's golf teams to a combined 23 NCAA regional appearances. He coached seven All-Americans during JSU's time in Division II and, after the Gamecocks made the move to Division I, he coached 10 Ohio Valley Conference Players of the Year.

"I take great pride in the fact that golf has moved from Division II to Division I and that we made that move very successfully," Hobbs said. "And I take great pride in the fact that we were able to start the women's program, get it up and running, and that we've been able to get it to where our women's program is on equal footing with the men's."

For his outstanding leadership, Hobbs has been named the Ohio Valley Conference's Coach of the Year eight times – four on the men's side and four more on the women's side – during the Gamecocks' tenure in the league from 2003-2021. He was also named the Coach of the Year in the ASUN Conference in 1997 and in 2002. Hobbs has also seen his golfers succeed beyond JSU, with former OVC Champions Danny Willett and Matt Wallace evolving into two of the world's top golfers.

With the Gamecocks preparing to join Conference USA in Fall 2023, JSU will begin a national search for two head coaches – one to lead its women's program and another to lead the men's program.

"I want to thank Coach Hobbs for his service to JSU, Gamecock Athletics and, more importantly, our student-athletes over the past 45 years," JSU Athletics Director Greg Seitz said. "Our golf program is what it is today because of Coach Hobbs." 

HISTORIC HOOPS

Gamecock Basketball Teams Finish Record Breaking Seasons

While the Gamecock Nation is abuzz with all the exciting news happening with JSU's football program, the contributions of both the men's and women's basketball teams should not be overlooked by sports fans. Both teams had historic seasons this year.

The women's basketball team experienced one of its best seasons, finishing the year 24-8 overall for the winningest season in its Division-I program history, earning an ASUN West Division Championship and advancing to just the program's third ASUN Championship Final appearance and first since 1999. The team's win over Liberty University to reach the final was the highest net-ranked win for JSU and its trip to the WNIT was the first postseason tournament appearance of any kind for the Gamecocks in the 28-year Division-I history.

Meanwhile, the men's team made its second March Madness appearance this spring, facing off against Auburn University in the NCAA men's Division I tournament after winning its first Division I regular-season Conference championship. The Gamecocks first competed in the Big Dance during Coach Ray Harper's first season in 2017. 



STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

During the university's annual Founders' Day scholarship banquet, recent and upcoming graduates reflected on how they have overcome obstacles to succeed in college.

by Brett Buckner

CINDY DANINI *Jeff Parker Scholarship*

Cindy Danini's college experience has taught her how to be more comfortable in her own skin.

"I came in as an enthusiastic freshman who really wanted to get involved on campus," said Danini, a 22-year-old from Attalla, Ala. "Through my involvement, I've learned much more about myself than I ever did before. I think the great thing about the college experience at JSU is that you get the opportunity to explore and understand who you are, given the opportunities provided."

Now, as the marketing major with a minor in art history prepares to graduate in Fall 2022, she reflects

on her time at JSU and some of the obstacles she has overcome. As both the child of Mexican immigrants and a first-generation student, her pursuit of a college degree hasn't always been easy.

Part of what propelled Danini in her journey was knowing that she wasn't alone, and she wants to share that experience with others. "I hope to encourage other students in similar situations to mine to have the courage to pursue higher education, too," she said. Her advice to incoming freshman is simple - don't be afraid to ask for help.

"I felt like many of my questions about college were base level or even silly," she remembered, "but



there are people here at JSU who understand that everyone comes from different backgrounds, and they are often excited to know that you are choosing to take such a big step in attending college."

After graduation this fall, she wants to work in Mexico - combining her marketing and art history education to help promote the knowledge and preservation of its ancient ruins.



NAKITA NORMAN *Jack and Tracy Lyle Endowed Scholarship*

For Nikita Norman, there are no words to describe the feeling of being a college graduate. On December 10, 2021, when the now 24-year-old walked across the stage to accept her degree, she understood the magnitude of the moment. She was the first in her family to attend college.

"I felt several emotions lifted off of me," said Norman, who earned a BS in Occupational Safety and

Health Management. "To be the first felt so amazing, but to know that my little brother was looking up to me felt even better. I will always remind him that he can do whatever he puts his mind to."

While attending JSU, Norman - like students before and after her - didn't always make the best choices. But in some ways, those poor decisions helped mold her into the young woman she has since become.

"One lesson that I learned while being in college is to never let your past define who you will be in your future," she said. "I made several bad choices when it came to college, but I also learned from them and changed the narrative for

my future. I am now a successful college graduate."

After graduation, Norman embarked on her career as a safety engineer at Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, located in Lincoln, Ala. She has advice for incoming freshmen who don't know what to expect in college.

"Get to know each and every one of your professors," Norman said. "They each serve a special purpose of your college journey. Never be afraid to ask for help. There are several resources throughout the campus that will give you the assistance you need to be successful."



JENNIFER SADLER *Stone McCurdy Scholarship*

Jennifer Sadler was spending spring break at home in New Site, Ala., in March 2018 when she heard a tornado had struck JSU’s campus.

“The night of the tornado is actually funny,” said the now 26-year-old Sadler, explaining she was recovering from surgery at the time and the after-effects of anesthesia gave everything a surreal quality.

“One of my roommates called to let me know what was going on and that they were okay, but our windows were busted, a metal sign

had come through the apartment, and they were listening to the alarms buzz from the bath tub,” she said. Her response? “Oh, that’s great.”

When the anesthesia wore off, the harsh reality set in. The tornado had destroyed her apartment. She eventually moved back home with her parents, enrolled in online classes, and worked for a nearby daycare. After two years, she saved enough funds to return to campus.

“The most difficult part of returning to school after the tornado was the financial burden,” she said. “My student loans were already in a repayment state, and I was trying to save money. Also, coming to terms with the fact that I would be older than many of my peers and just the expectation

that everyone should complete a bachelor’s degree within four years was difficult.”

But Sadler persevered. She maintained her grades, making the honor’s list continuously, and received scholarships from the JSU Foundation to help with funding

“For those, I am forever grateful,” she said. “As a first generation student, my parents were unable to fund my education, even after financial aid. I have worked almost every semester that I’ve attended college, but those generous donations have been huge blessings in my journey.”

Since graduating in May with BS in Family and Consumer Sciences, she is volunteering while waiting to begin her teaching career this fall.

QUAD WHITSON *Linda Gail Waldrop Gamble Scholarship*

When Quadarius Whitson first stepped foot on JSU’s campus, he was a completely different person from the young man who graduated this May.

“I was a lot more cautious and less adventurous when it came to getting involved and exploring my opportunities around campus,” said the 21-year-old Family and Consumer Sciences major who was crowned Homecoming King in Fall 2021.

As time passed, Whitson made friends and found himself in different leadership positions, serving as a JSU Ambassador and co-founder of the Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Center.

“A common fear I had was rejection, but once I overcame that, being outgoing became so much

easier,” he said. “The people that I’ve met along the way and the different scenarios and situations you are put in as a leader on campus have made me into the person I am today.”

Whitson is also a member of the Lambda Sigma Honor Society and president of the Student Culinary Council. But of all his campus activities, serving as a Gamecock Orientation (GO!) Leader is what he’s most proud of. “Not only did I have one of the best summers with a great team,” said the Talladega native, “but I also had the opportunity to help so many incoming students who were once in my shoes.”

Serving as GO! Leader placed Whitson in a unique position to offer well-earned advice.



“Freshman year is more than likely going to be the hardest since it is such a huge adjustment,” he said. “Having people that are experiencing some of the same struggles you are going through can help tremendously. By being there for each other through ups and downs, you will form relationships that will truly last a lifetime.”

Whitson studied culinary arts in Italy this summer before embarking on a master’s degree program in nutrition at the University of Georgia.



JSU Moves to Centralized Student Advising Model

By Brett Buckner

There's more to academic advising than simply being told which classes to take. Advisors are the architect of the future for every student who walks – wide-eyed and anxious – into their office.

“Every student needs to feel connected,” said Dr. Janet Bavonese, assistant vice provost of advising. “Every student needs to feel that they have someone they can reach out to who will not only encourage and support them, but will also deliver a hard truth when they are struggling. Every student needs a person they trust – someone who will say, ‘I’ll help you not only survive but thrive over the next four years here.’”

Driven by this goal, JSU is moving away from its traditional faculty-led advising model to a centralized approach with a staff of full-time advisors. This new structure is based on a 2020 report by the National Academic Advising Association, or NACADA, that recommended eight steps to improve student advising at JSU.

“This model will better support students and provide advisement on a more consistent basis,” said Bavonese, whose position was created as part of the NACADA plan. “There has never been a real concentrated focus on making sure advisors had access to the same information, that everyone had the same training, and that’s our goal with this initiative.”

The new structure features six College Advisement Teams embedded in each of JSU’s colleges, allowing for students to receive specific advisement based on their major.

“We’re going for a transformational type of advisement,” she said. “We want to offer students the whole support system that JSU provides, whether that is connecting them with resources on campus, like the Gamecock Market, or tutoring within the Student Success Center. We want to address not only the classes the student needs to take but how they develop throughout their matriculation at JSU.” 🚫

MESSER BECOMES OFFICIAL VP OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT



GIVING

During its quarterly meeting on Jan. 25, the JSU Board of Trustees announced the promotion of Dr. Emily Messer from acting to official Vice President for University Advancement. She will continue serving concurrently as Vice President for Enrollment Management, with the new title of Vice President for Advancement and Enrollment Management.

Messer was tasked with leading University Advancement – a division that includes the JSU Foundation, University Development, and Alumni Relations – on an interim basis in Oct. 2020. Meanwhile, she has continued to lead the Enrollment Management division, which encompasses Admissions and Recruitment, Financial Aid, Marketing and Communications, and Military and Post Traditional Student Services.

Messer joined JSU’s staff in May 2018 as Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. After her team recruited the university’s largest freshman class in Fall 2019, she was promoted to vice president. Under her leadership, JSU has continued to break enrollment records – posting its highest all-time enrollment in Fall 2021.

Over the 15 months that Messer served as interim vice president of University Advancement, the division increased gifts and pledges 217 percent over 2020, including raising more than \$3.5 million for the Randy Owen Performing Arts Center. Her team has initiated new efforts, including the “All In” campaign that increased employee giving 76 percent.

To support Messer in managing the demands of running two university divisions, the

university promoted Bill Nash to Executive Director of University Development and Jessica Wiggins to Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management.

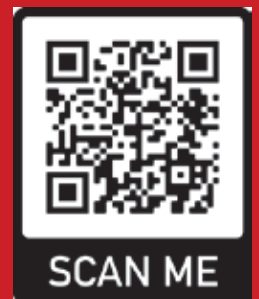
Prior to her employment at JSU, Messer served as Vice President of Enrollment Management, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Life at Shorter University. She also previously worked in student affairs at Southern Methodist University. A JSU alumna, the former SGA president earned two degrees from the university – a BA in English and a Master of Public Administration. She also earned a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration from The University of Alabama. She is native to Hokes Bluff, Ala. 



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, September 30
RTJ Silver Lakes Golf Course
9 AM Shotgun Start
jsu.edu/cockyclassic

Sponsorship opportunities are available! Contact the Alumni Relations office for more information.



REGISTER HERE!

Building a Legacy:

Naming Program Offers Opportunities for Making a Mark on Campus

By Buffy Lockette

There's something in the air at Jacksonville State. From record enrollment to outstanding academic and athletic accomplishments, JSU is making a name for itself. As a result, alumni and friends are coming forward to proudly affiliate their own names with the university - literally.

Inspired by the university's progress and bolstered by a desire to continue the momentum on campus, JSU supporters have stepped up to make contributions to the colleges, departments and programs they care about in exchange for naming rights to various locations and entities on campus.

Namings are often used as an opportunity for loved ones to remember someone who has made an impact on campus. For example, the "Dr. Louise Clark Advising Center" in the new Merrill Hall has been named in honor of the late Dr. Louise Clark, former associate dean of business, who passed in August after 50 years of service to the university.


Meanwhile, a growing number of supporters are leaving their mark at JSU by securing naming rights for something they have a connection to on campus. JSU retirees Dr. Kelly and Karen Gregg have arranged for the Mason Hall loading dock to be named in their honor. Dr. Gregg, retired professor of geography and geology, and Mrs. Gregg, retired certification officer, continue to serve in the JSU Steel Drum Band and are, therefore, frequent visitors to the loading dock.

JSU Trustee Clarence W. Daugette III ('74) is leading by example. Thanks to his generosity, six offices in Rowe Hall - home to the ROTC program - have been named in honor of alumni who died in Vietnam. The Rowe Hall office suite is named in honor of his father, Col. Clarence William Daugette, Jr. ('25), a decorated World War II veteran. Meanwhile, the JSU President's Office has been christened the "Dr. Clarence W. Daugette, Sr. Presidential Suite" in honor of his grandfather, who served as president from 1899 to 1942.

In April, a generous donation from Lyons & Company, Inc., secured the naming rights for the first corporately named JSU department: The "Lyons & Company, Inc., Department of Management and Marketing." The Alabama based human resources firm employs several JSU alumni, including President and CEO Bruce Cornutt ('95) and affiliate David Glass ('90), president of Aligned Insurance.

"We have noticed that JSU supporters often think it takes an enormous amount of wealth and notoriety to secure naming rights on campus but that is not the case," said Dr. Emily Messer, vice president for advancement and enrollment management. "We are happy to work with alumni and friends to identify the right project that meets their goals and fits their budget."

The university welcomes naming proposals - no matter how large, small or unique.

To learn how you can leave a legacy at JSU through a campus naming, contact University Advancement at 256-782-5003. 



ALUMnotes

BIRTHS

2020-2022

1 Sabrina Martin Dothard ('18) and her husband, Joseph Graves Dothard ('18), welcomed the arrival of their second daughter, Lorelei James, on March 7, 2022. Mrs. Dothard served as president of the Student Alabama Education Association and was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha and the Student Alumni Association. Mr. Dothard was president of Kappa Alpha. Both were Freshman Forum mentors, Gamecock Orientation (GO!) leaders and JSU Ambassadors.

2 Valene Singleton Harvey ('06/'11) and Brandon Scott Harvey ('02/'10) recently celebrated the second birthday of their daughter, Raegan Noelle, on January 2, 2020. Valene is an IT support analyst for JSU and Brandon is a systems administrator at Anniston Army Depot.

3 Emily Lankford ('16/'20) and Josh Lankford welcomed the arrival of their third child, Harlan Grace, on November 11, 2021. Emily was a member of Phi Mu, currently serves as the JSU Phi Mu Faculty Advisor, and is employed at JSU as the Lead Graphic Designer. Josh was a member of Delta

Chi and is employed with Southeastern Equipment Rentals.

WEDDINGS

2020-2022

4 Ann-Katherine Dothard ('21) married Jalen Johnson ('17) on April 9, 2022. Jalen is an Athletic Compliance administrator in JSU Athletics and serves as a Commissioner on the Alabama Athlete Agents Commission. Ann-Katherine, a member of Zeta Tau Alpha and a former Gamecock Orientation Leader, is a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at RMC Hospital in Anniston, AL.

5 Elizabeth Minton Lackey ('21) married Sean Lackey ('19) on September 25, 2021. Sean, a member of Sigma Nu, now works as a safety advisor for Safety Management Group. Elizabeth, a member of Delta Zeta, is a Registered Nurse at Huntsville Hospital.

6 Justin White ('21) and Brittany Harper ('21) were married on May 16, 2021, a week after graduating from JSU. He was founding president of Pi Kappa Alpha and a member of the Honors Program, Baptist Campus Ministries and Freshman

Forum. He now serves as a labor and delivery nurse at Northeast Regional Medical Center. Brittany was a member of the Student Alumni Association, Student Activities Council and Zeta Tau Alpha. She is now assistant director of Alumni Relations at JSU.

ALUMNOTES

1960-1969

7 Dr. Syble Hazelrig Brindley ('64) recently published a memoir entitled, "The Seventh Child and Her Hazelrig Heritage," tracing her heritage back to England in 1280. The cover photo of Dr. Brindley was captured by former JSU photographer Mr. Opal Lovett and given to her husband, Dr. Joseph Durwood Brindley ('64), when they were dating at JSU. The Brindleys spent their careers in education.

1970-1979

Donna Bass Scroggins ('78) and Stan Scroggins ('79) have built an academy for K-12 students in the Philippines, with the help of several American churches. They have served 40 years in local Baptist churches and moved to the Philippines in 2017 to teach at the Baptist Missionary Association Bible College. As students,

they were both active in Baptist Campus Ministries while he lived in the International House and she played on the women's basketball team. They plan to retire back home in the US in 2023.

8 Elaine Morris Heath Greenwalt ('75/'95) has written a book, "Bow Your Head, My Child: My Heavenly Father's Words, from His Mouth to My Fingertips," in support of her brother Clayton Morris's ministry. Mr. Morris and his wife, Vickie, attended JSU in the 1970s and now pastor a congregation and are building a Christian children's home in Romania. Mrs. Greenwalt, her husband Larry ('75), and Mr. Morris were members of the Marching Southerners.

9 Mike Maxwell ('77) was selected as the 2021 Conservationist of the Year from the West Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District. He and his wife, Melanie Adams Maxwell ('77), are active Marching Southerners alumni and reside in Fayetteville, Ga.

1990-1999

Todd Brooks ('91) and his wife, Sarah, purchased the Comanche Times, a weekly newspaper in Comanche, Okla., where he has worked as



1. Lorelei James Dothard
2. Raegan Noelle Harvey
3. Harlan Grace Lankford
4. Ann-Katherine Dothard ('21) and Jalen Johnson ('17)
5. Elizabeth Minton Lackey ('21) and Sean Lackey ('19)
6. Justin White ('21) and Brittany Harper ('21)

publisher for the past three years. Previously, he served as an editor for the Marlow Review in Marlow, Okla., where he also pastored Fifth Missionary Baptist Church. He was a member of the football team at JSU.

Dr. Banyon Allison ('95/'96/'02) is serving as assistant principal at John Carroll Catholic High School in Birmingham, Ala., after retiring from 26 years in public education in Alabama. He played football at JSU from 1991-94.

Christy Wallace ('97) was named director of the Jacksonville Public Library in Jacksonville, Ala., after serving as interim director and library specialist. She earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Alabama in May 2021.

2000-2009

Dr. Laura Hawkins Tate ('01) completed a Doctor of Education degree at Samford University in 2020 and is currently principal of Edgewood Elementary School in Homewood, Ala. She has been named Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year by the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools.

10 Adam Ross ('02) is offensive line coach and run game coordinator for the University of Richmond. The former Gamecock football player began his coaching

career at JSU, where he worked 11 years. In addition to coaching, he is owner and operator of a family apparel business, Stamp Creek Outfitters. He and his wife, Leah Harwell, have two young daughters, Emma and Ann.

Dr. Jordan Land ('03, '04) has joined the faculty at the University of Tampa as a full-time professor of criminology and criminal justice. Over the past 15 years, he has worked with various institutions in the field of academia, both online and residually, winning a Teacher of the Year Award and helping create four American Criminal Justice Association - Lambda Alpha Epsilon clubs on college campuses.

Dr. Josh Boyd ('06) has served as band director at Newnan High School in Newnan, Ga., since 2019, where he was named 2022 Music Educator of the Year for bringing his community together after the school was hit by a tornado in March 2021. He previously served as band director at Smokey Road Middle School and Point University. He was a member of the Marching Southerners.

Brandi Bishop ('07) recently became a Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations through the Association of School Business International. The Certified Public Accountant serves as Chief School Financial



English Alumna Awarded Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship

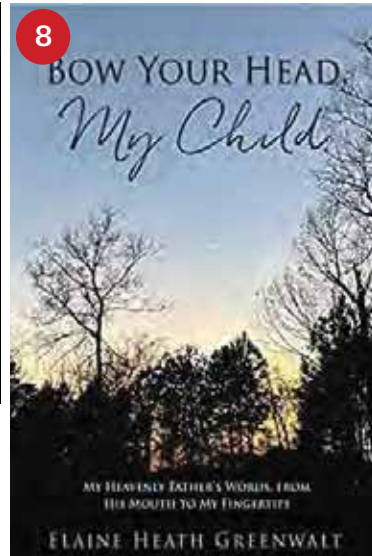
English alumna Patrice Green has been selected by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as a Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural Heritage Fellow. She is one of only 15 librarians across the US chosen to participate in the prestigious three-year program, led by the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. The program's goal is to advance multicultural collections through innovative curatorial practice and leadership.

After graduating from JSU in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in English, the Birmingham native earned a Master of Arts in public history and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina. She began her career as a research and instruction librarian at the University of Georgia. She currently serves as curator for African American collections at The Pennsylvania State University, where she manages the Charles L. Blockson Collection of African Americana and the African Diaspora.

As an undergraduate at JSU, Green and her identical twin sister, Latrice, were members of the Marching Southerners and the Honor's Program. Coincidentally, Latrice ('17) was featured in the Fall 2021 issue of "GEM," in an article about Honor's Program alumni. Latrice just completed a Master's in Public Administration at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and is a band director for the Jefferson County Board of Education.



7. Dr. Syble Hazelrig Brindley's ('64) memoir, "The Seventh Child and Her Hazelrig Heritage"



8. Elaine Morris Heath Greenwalt's ('75/'95) book, "Bow Your Head, My Child: My Heavenly Father's Words, from His Mouth to My Fingertips"

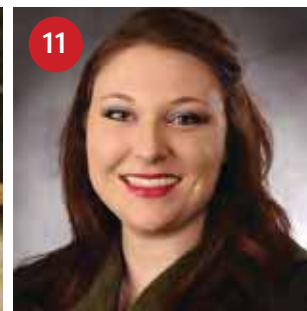


9. Mike and Melanie Maxwell ('77)

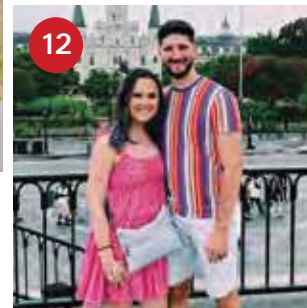
10. Adam Ross ('02)



11. Dr. Logan Ann-Marie Smith ('15)



12. Joseph Duke ('18) and Madelynn Duke ('19)



Officer for the Clay County Board of Education in Ashland, Ala. Previously, she worked for the State of Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts.

Phillip Tutor ('07), has joined the University of West Alabama's Office of Strategic Communications as a news journalist. A member of the University of Memphis' Journalism Alumni Club board of

directors, he has spent the past 32 years at The Anniston Star in Anniston, Ala., most recently serving as the newspaper's editorial page editor and metro columnist. He is currently writing a book on the Anniston Rams baseball team.

2010-2019

Ashley Denise Robinson ('10), owner of Green Cardigan Marketing, was honored with Fort

Lauderdale Magazine's "Best Ad Agency" award in 2021. The boutique marketing company specializes in the unique marketing needs of attorneys.

Dr. Matthew Turner ('12) is Mission USA administrator for the Congregational Holiness Church, headquartered in Griffin, Ga. His duties include awarding scholarships to members of the congregation's approximately 10,000

churches worldwide. He received a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry from Liberty University and a Doctor of Ministry from South University.

Jacqui Edmiston ('13) ensures safety protocols and prepares detailed plans and strategies for responding to emergency situations in the Olympics and Para-Olympics events

around the world. She recently worked in the Paralympic Winter Games in Beijing, China, in March.

11 Dr. Logan Ann-Marie Smith ('15) has been inducted into the Prestigious Marquis Who's Who Biographical Registry. She earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from South College School of Pharmacy in 2018 and works as director of ContinuumRx. She also serves as a preceptor for South College and Belmont University pharmacy students and is a member of the Rho Chi Honor Society, American Society of Health System Pharmacists and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.

12 Joseph Duke ('18) and Madelynn (Barker) Duke ('19) are living in New Orleans, where they are working at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary while Joseph pursues a Master of Divinity degree. Madelynn was crowned Miss JSU in 2016, representing the university in the Miss Alabama pageant. Joseph interned for the Office of Public Relations while at JSU. They are currently working in the communications office at the seminary, where Joseph is social media coordinator and Madelynn is a graphic designer and photographer.

Julianna Hill ('18) won an Emmy Award in 2020 for her work on ESPN

SportsCenter's feature "Unstoppable: Taquarius Wair." She worked for ESPN for three years as a production assistant and content associate before accepting her current role as producer at FX Networks. She is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha.

Benjamin "Mongo" Ostrander ('18) has opened Mongo's Pizza on the Jacksonville Square, in the same location as the former Roma's Pizza. The Jacksonville native grew up going to Roma's and has kept its historic sign in place. After 20 years in the food industry he earned a degree in business management from JSU to make his dream of opening his own restaurant a reality. Check it out next time you are in town.

2020-2022

Samia Meera ('20) has been named a semi-finalist for the Fulbright US Student Program to study in Nepal in 2022. She is currently a graduate student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Division of Nephrology.

Katelynn Shadoan ('21), in collaboration with JSU sociology professors Dr. Sarah Donley and Dr. Tina Deshotels, published sociological research examining LGBTQ+ individuals' experiences living in the Deep South. At JSU, she was a member of the Honors Program and the Marching Southerners.

She is currently pursuing a master's degree in sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she is researching non-traditional families.

OBITUARIES

YEAR UNKNOWN

John D. Alverson,
10/23/21

Lona "Lynne" Messer
Barnes, 11/1/21

Henry Hank Berchak,
7/24/21

Kenneth Owen Bundrum,
2/14/22

James Richard
Chambers, 2/15/22

Nelson G. Coleman,
10/2/21

Vanessa Cecelia Perkins
Colley, 5/2/22

Sgt. James Corbett,
2/24/22

Jeffrey Thomas Cox,
1/2/22

Gay Gwin Fowler,
1/23/22

Mary Lynne Jones
Garner, 10/8/21

Billy Gene Heathcock,
10/19/21

Sherry Blake Lee,
10/22/21

Louis Michael
McCluskey, 2/11/22

Jimmie Nell Miller,
11/5/21

Vera Deason Miller,
10/3/21

Billy Ross, 3/3/22

Bonnie Segui, 2/12/22

Margaret Frances
Simpson, 1/20/22

Jackie F. Stevens,
4/23/22

Hassie B. Taylor, 1/29/22

Mike Utter, 4/19/22

Deandre Davis, 5/3/22

Kaylee Jeter, 5/18/22

Guy Neal Wardlaw,
5/15/22

1950-1959

Lt. Col. Rex Milford
Wallace, Sr. ('51), 5/18/22

Virginia Lou Watson
('53), 9/5/21

WHAT'S YOUR JSU STORY?

We want to hear about your experience at JSU! Please share your story with us at alumni@jsu.edu and tell us why you chose JSU and how that decision has impacted your life!





Business Alumnus Named President and CEO of Coca-Cola United

Business alumnus Mike Suco has been named president and Chief Executive Officer of Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc., the second largest privately held Coca-Cola bottling company in North America and the third largest Coca-Cola bottler in the United States. He is the eighth president in the company's 120-year history.

Suco joined Coca-Cola United in 2000, where he has held numerous management and executive positions over the past two decades. Since March 2021, he has served as senior vice president and Chief Commercial Officer - with responsibility for national retail sales, marketing, on premise, revenue growth management and eCommerce. From 2016 to 2021, he was vice president of the company's East Region, based in Atlanta, and responsible for sales and distribution within Georgia and more than \$1 billion in revenue.

Suco grew up in Jacksonville, Ala., where his family moved after immigrating from Cuba in 1962. After earning a Bachelor of Science in business administration from JSU in 1990, he began his career with The Ernest and Julio Gallo Winery in 1991. He joined the Coca-Cola System in 1996 as a market development manager for The Coca-Cola Company. His mother, Teresa, was a Spanish professor at JSU for 43 years and his wife, Shelly, is a 1994 alumna. He was a member of Kappa Sigma at JSU.

Troy Lee Morrison ('54),
9/12/21

Gilbert Jerome Turley ('65), 2/7/22

Evelyn Byers Douthit Austin ('56), 2/11/22

Catherine Rutherford Waldrep ('65), 9/12/21

James Robert Bishop ('57), 1/21/22

Lila Jeanette Houts ('66), 1/1/22

Sara Kay Brown ('58), 2/1/22

Joe Warren Jordan ('66), 9/8/21

Carolyn Dews Keech ('58), 11/31/21

Katy Croft Likos ('67), 3/9/22

Edward Lorenzo Buckner, Jr. ('59), 3/12/22

Virgil "Sonny" H. Coker, Jr. ('69), 11/19/21

Clara Ann Yarbrough Chambers ('59), 8/4/20

Charlotte Lee Williams ('69), 3/22/21

1970-1979

1960-1969

Delton L. Haynes ('70), 1/23/22

William Elder Brazelton ('61), 2/5/22

James Robert Hodges ('70), 4/2/22

Robert A. Brown, Sr. ('61/'72), 11/30/21

Peter Theodore Lafakis ('70), 2/11/22

Shelby Jean Bullard Hawkins ('61), 1/2/22

Jan Edward Payne ('70), 12/6/21

Huey Penton Humphrey ('61), 11/23/21

Elaine Smith Stephens ('70), 11/3/21

Catherine Dunaway Sims ('61), 9/25/21

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Glenda Simpson Lambert ('62), 1/9/22

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James Merrill Johnson ('63), 4/24/22

Louie Leon Young ('72), 9/5/21

Dr. Michael Wallace Kimberly ('64), 3/3/22

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Anthony Wayne Ray ('64), 10/1/21

Rayford Morland Hanvey ('74), 9/12/21

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('74/'75), 12/29/21

Patricia Elaine McLendon
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Brenda Helen Hepinstall
Hay ('76), 3/7/22

Frank James Crow ('77),
2/23/22

Randall Arthur
Gourdouze ('77), 3/1/22

Thomas Baughn Morris
('77) 11/11/21

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1/31/22

Sharon Dodd Smith
('77), 12/19/19

Richard Eugene
Stedham, Sr. ('77),
11/4/21

Gary Lamar Anderson
('79), 9/1/21

Danny Cristopher Fetzer
('79), 1/25/22

Ollie Callaway Jones
('79), 10/11/2

1980-1989

Marianne Steed
Blackwell ('80), 11/18/21

Steven Alden Davis
('80), 1/29/22

Debra Ann Shultz Honer
('80), 2/18/22

Susan Elaine Grizzard
Young ('80), 2/11/22

Dallas Harold Smith ('81),
1/26/22

Timothy Lewis Byrd
('82), 5/1/22

James Oliver Pentecost
('82), 11/17/20

Michael J. Bucey ('84),
2/10/22

Maj. Ronald Lee Landers
('84), 7/19/19

Gary Lee Pace, Sr. ('84),
1/21/22

Jerry Donald McEver
('85), 9/17/21

Paul Joseph Cochran
('87), 4/30/22

Betty Rutland Douglas
('88), 1/26/22

Herticene Sebrevia
Easley ('88), 1/12/22

Hobert T Mewbourn, Jr.
('88), 4/25/21

1990-1999

William Terry Lunsford
('90), 8/28/21

Anna Keitt McIlwain
('90), 2/22/22

Kimberly Jane O'Dell
('91), 1/27/22

Penny Lynn LaTaste
('91), 9/19/21

Joyce Miller LaTaste
('93), 9/14/21

Felicia Harmon Garrett
('96), 10/25/21

Lana Jill Guthrie ('99),
12/14/21

2000-2009

Michael Weaver Aday
('02), 10/12/21

Denford Cleveland
Hacker ('01), 7/25/21

Matthew Brian Smalley
('08), 9/11/21

2010-2019

Christian McKenely
Nobles ('15), 11/8/21

2020-2022

Jaxson Payne Chaffin
('20), 9/17/20

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('72), 2/9/22, Baseball

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Sr., 1/31/22, Sciences

Hubert Gray Barry ('60),
3/30/22, Mathematics

Dr. Thomas Francis
Bruer, 11/22/21, Political
Science

Dr. Louise Clark, 8/20/21,
Business

Dr. George Cline,
2/10/22, Biology

Dr. Christopher Horsfield
6/17/11, Mathematics

Dr. Johnny Wayne
Dempsey ('64), 11/23/21,
Mathematics

Dr. Gene Hanson
('56), 4/5/22, Physical
Education

Calvin Magee, 5/20/22,
Football

Jetta Faye Manners,
1/20/22, Registrar's
Office

Pamela Rogers Pope,
11/29/21, Business

Tonya Renfroe ('19),
2/4/22, Payroll

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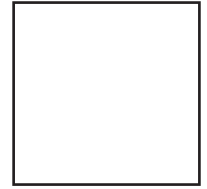
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