

# GEM

of the hills

EDUCATING  
ALABAMA

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2019

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a *message* from **THE PRESIDENT**

**DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,**

Greetings from the Friendliest Campus in the South!

This redesigned edition of “GEM” is just one of the many positive changes taking place at your alma mater. More than a year following the devastating March 2018 tornado, the repairs and renovations are really starting to take shape. We are showing the resiliency of being true Gamecocks by recovering from this disaster in record time.

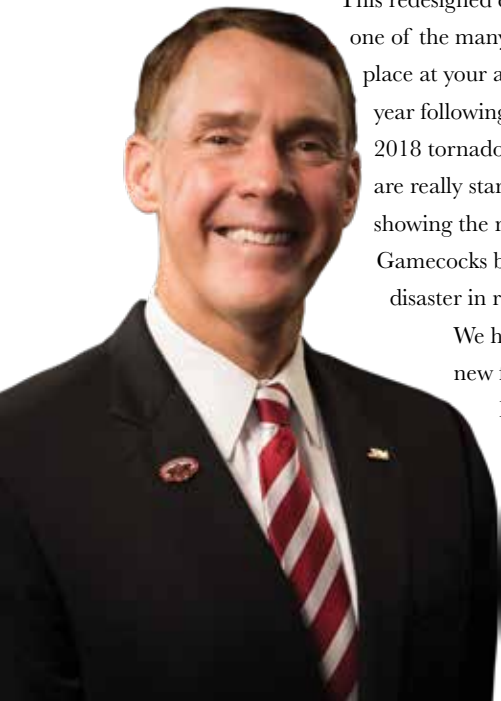
We have opened two amazing new facilities - the Recreation and Fitness Center and the Jim Case Baseball Stadium (page 17). We have also taken over management of the former Reserve Apartments (page 13). Mason Hall, home to

our outstanding David L. Walters Department of Music, is getting some much-needed upgrades. As we wrap up repairs to damaged facilities, we have drawn up plans for the new state-of-the-art Merrill and Wallace Halls.

Of course, what is more important than the physical buildings housed on JSU’s campus is the work that goes on inside them. As the cover story illustrates, JSU is at the forefront of academic innovation and community engagement. Our renowned School of Education, with its Center for Autism Studies and programs like On to JSU, is one example of how JSU continues serve the people of Alabama while educating tomorrow’s leaders.

It is a great time to be a Gamecock!  
Go Gamecocks and we are JSU Strong!

John M. Beehler, PhD, CPA  
President



**GREETINGS, GAMECOCKS!**

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

**HELLO, GAMECOCKS!**

Summer has arrived and campus is filled with incoming freshman attending our outstanding Gamecock Orientation. It is always exciting to see future members of our alumni family beginning their journey at JSU!

I hope you like the new look of the GEM! Get to know some of our young alumni who are changing lives in the education world on pages 7-8. Travel with us to Iceland this December to see the Northern Lights. Details are on page 16. Remember Mrs. Lou Kennamer on page 29. And if you haven’t already heard, Dr. Rebecca Turner has recently retired as Provost. Learn more on page 30.

Homecoming will be here before we know it. Join us under the tent this year on the alumni front lawn for pastries and juice before the parade at 10:30 a.m. You can find the complete homecoming schedule on page 25.

Until we can rebuild, you can reach us at the School of Business and Industry Complex (Bldg. 3) at the former Kitty Stone Elementary School located at 115 College Street SW, just a couple of blocks off Mountain Street.

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

Go Gamecocks!  
Blow Southerners!

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







**\* FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:**  
The Recruitment Team- Curtis McGhee Jr., Roxanne Bailey, Brett Underwood, Noelle Stovall, Dr. Messer, Lauren Findley, Logan DeBoer, Haley Ginn, Cody Beck, and Arlene Flores.

# MEET DR. MESSER

and the Recruitment Team

By Brett Buckner

Emily Messer has come home and she hopes to grow the family. The Hokes Bluff, Ala. native has been named associate vice president for enrollment management at her alma mater.

Messer earned two degrees from JSU – a BA in English in 2005 and a Master of Public Administration in 2007. She went on to earn a Doctorate of Education in higher education administration from the University of Alabama. In 2012, she was named JSU’s Young Alumna of the Year.

“Being back at my alma mater is really a dream come true,” Dr. Messer said. “I love enrollment management, and to be able to do that at JSU is so very special.”

Dr. Messer comes to JSU from

”

WHAT I REALLY LOVE IS BEING ABLE TO SEE A STUDENT THROUGH FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO THE TRANSITION INTO COLLEGE AND, ULTIMATELY, THROUGH GRADUATION.

Shorter University in Rome, Ga., where she served in various roles of increasing

responsibility – from director of student life to assistant dean of students to, finally, vice president of enrollment management. She also previously worked in student affairs at Southern Methodist University.

It was as a student at JSU where Dr. Messer first discovered, then heightened, her love for the administrative side of higher education. As a student, she served as SGA president, worked for then associate vice president of student affairs, Dr. Alice Cusimano, and was a JSU ambassador and an orientation leader.

“I just did a little bit of everything,” she said. “I loved what I was doing and realized that I could really see this as a career, working in higher education and impacting the lives of students.”

Messer came on board at JSU in May 2018 and she and her staff have begun working to implement their plan for increasing enrollment. One of the main areas of concentration moving forward will be opening lines of communication between JSU and younger high school students.

“We’re using all forms of communication – text messages, phone calls, emails, postcards and letters,” she said. “But not just for seniors. We’re targeting sophomores and juniors, to build that admissions funnel for years to come.”

Dr. Messer also wants to get alumni more involved.

“Word of mouth will always be the best way to recruit,” she said. “We want them to share the great experiences they’ve had while also being a little more active in

referring those students to us.”

To that end, Dr. Messer created a Prospective College Referral Form, encouraging alumni to recommend potential students. Alums can also join the Boots on the Ground Campaign, a volunteer alumni group that helps recruit students. Information on both opportunities is available online at [www.jsu.edu/alumni](http://www.jsu.edu/alumni). JSU has recruiters working nationwide. Alumni are encouraged to look up their area’s recruiter online at [www.jsu.edu/undergraduate/meet-counselors](http://www.jsu.edu/undergraduate/meet-counselors) to connect.

For Dr. Messer, the joy of working in enrollment comes both from giving back to her alma mater and also brightening the future of young people who grew up just like she did.

“Being at JSU and working in these 11 regional counties is intriguing to me because that’s where I grew up,” she said. “To be able to help provide higher education to those students is a great opportunity. What I really love is being able to see a student through from high school to the transition into college and, ultimately, through graduation.”



# ON THE COVER



by Brett Buckner

**K**ENDALL REYNOLDS ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A TEACHER. USING A KIT ORDERED FROM A TOY CATALOG, SHE PLAYED TEACHER TO HER LITTLE SISTER AND A CLASSROOM OF STUFFED ANIMALS. IT WASN'T UNTIL HER SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL THAT SHE FULLY COMMITTED, INSPIRED BY THE ENGLISH TEACHER SHE WANTED TO EMULATE.





“There are so many kids who just need an adult to believe in and love them,” Reynolds said. “I wanted to be that for the children in my classroom.”

Reynolds graduated from JSU in 2018 with a degree in early childhood/elementary education and is now a third grade teacher at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School in Huntsville, Ala.

That first day on the job, Reynolds was nervous, but confident. She had an irrational fear of forgetting everything she’d learned and she questioned her ability to manage a room full of 8-year-olds. Once the day started, however, everything fell into place. She knew she was ready. After all, she was a graduate of JSU’s School of Education

“I believe JSU produces the most prepared and qualified educators who love what they do and have passion unmatched,” Reynolds said. “I am beyond blessed to be a product of, in my opinion, the best School of Education in the country.”

That’s the goal in the JSU School of Education – to produce the best, first-day-ready educators.

“We want to reach a world-class standard, which means raising the bar beyond Alabama,” said Dr. Tommy Turner, dean of the School of Education. “Our teachers need to be equipped to go anywhere in the world – anywhere – and impact student learning positively. That’s our goal, and it’s connected to the legacy that began here.”

## BEGINNINGS

JSU traces its beginnings to the establishment of the State Normal School in 1883, when it trained teachers and educated local children. In 1897, the Jacksonville Public School District was formed, with its schools serving as a training ground for Normal School students.

In 1929, the two-year Normal Schools of Alabama officially became four-year teachers colleges. That same year, Jacksonville sold its city school land and buildings to what would be known as the Jacksonville State Teachers College. In 1957, the name was changed to Jacksonville State College before finally becoming Jacksonville State University in 1966.

JSU’s legacy as a teachers college is a source of pride. However, having a rich history does not ensure a prosperous future.

“The assumption is that we’re always going to be here,” said Dr. Janet Bavonese, associate dean for the School of Education. “But our challenge is to raise the bar, to go above and beyond, to push innovation to the next generation. Yes, we have a storied history. Yes, we have one of the most successful programs in Alabama, but there are other things to be accomplished. We don’t want to be on the cutting edge. We want to be the cutting edge – to have other schools follow our lead.”

## CHANGING MINDSETS

Payton Golden was a problem child, the kid with ADHD bouncing off the walls with energy. Today, the

problem child has become the advocate. The 2018 alumna is now a special education teacher at Emma Samson Middle School in Gadsden.

“I may be the only love some of these children see throughout the day,” Golden said. “Give that difficult child a chance. Don’t quit on them because they’re a problem. Give them the chance to learn, and they will surprise you.”

Valerie Wheat, a special education instructor and assistant director for JSU’s Center for Autism Studies, has spent 30 years teaching and studying special education.

“We’re really changing mind-sets,” Wheat said. “It’s why we like to say that special education is not a place, it’s a service. We need to prepare our teachers for entering a neuro-diverse environment.”

Beneath the special education umbrella, the School of Education fosters several programs and areas of study that aim to change perspectives about special needs children and their place in the classroom. JSU’s Center for Autism Studies prepares the next generation of teachers with strategies to better interact with students with autism.

“If given the right opportunities, students with autism can accomplish great things,” Wheat said. “There have been many great contributors to science and math who have been on the autism spectrum. That’s why we’ve got to find a way to assimilate them into the classroom because they have so much to contribute.”

Two additional JSU programs designed to help those with special needs are On to JSU and Transition

University. Transition University cultivates relationships between high school students with intellectual and severe disabilities and JSU’s special education teacher candidates – providing socialization and educational enrichment. On to JSU provides a two-year postsecondary educational experience aimed at improving economic and independent lifestyle options. Participants take part in academic classes and social events with non-disabled peers, live on campus, and complete an internship.

“It’s all about teaching independence,” said Karen Carr, On to JSU program director. “We want them to be able to live and work on their own someday.”

## FUTURE LEADERS

Dr. Eric Mackey is part of the School of Education’s legacy of leaders.

Mackey – who graduated from JSU in 1992 and was the first in his family to earn a college diploma – worked in the public school system from 1993 to 2010, serving as a high school physics teacher, assistant principal, principal, and superintendent of Jacksonville City Schools. In April 2018, he was named Alabama Superintendent of Education.

“JSU does an excellent job in preparing teachers first, to teach students, and then to teach the material,” Mackey said. “To be effective, you have to love kids. That’s something that universities can do a better job of – helping students to figure out if they’re really meant to be teachers. Once you figure out who has that calling, the rest comes easy.”

A love of learning was why Mackey became a teacher.

“JSU provided an excellent environment, even back then,” Mackey said. “We had rigorous classes. It was focused on understanding children, and children with special needs, and then there was the practicum experience, where we’d work in actual classrooms with students. I’m sure it’s even better now.”

If anything, those classes have gotten tougher, but the love for learning that brought Mackey to the School of Education still thrives within its classrooms and continues to inspire future generations.

“I have never seen teachers who are as passionate about their jobs as the instructors are in JSU’s education program,” Reynolds said. “It is such an inspiration to see people who love what they do. It rubs off on their students and causes us to be passionate about what we’re doing as well.”

Makayla Isley became a teacher because she understood those needs that often go unrecognized.

“When I was younger, I needed my teachers,” said Isley, who graduated from JSU in 2018 with a degree in early childhood education. “I had some really rough days and hard things going on.”

One teacher made sure Isley was taken care of, asking if she’d eaten and constantly telling her that she was good and loved. That compassion carried Isley. She wanted to someday show her own students that kind of love. Today, she is a fourth grade reading and Alabama history teacher at Oxford Elementary School in



Oxford, Ala. She also teaches reading intervention.

“You never really know what happens at home,” Isley said. “I remind myself I might be the only smile, hug and ‘I love you’ that a child hears that day. In my prayers every morning I ask for each student to leave my room with full bellies, hearts and minds.”

### THE STATS

The School of Education has no shortage of statistics proving the readiness of its graduates. But to Dr. Turner and his staff, only one stat matters – the school’s 96 percent pass rate on the Teacher Performance Assessment. Of the 90 students who presented their portfolio for national scoring, 86 passed.

“That’s the only stat I’d give – a 96 percent pass rate,” Dr. Turner said. “And it was our first time.”

Developed by the Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity in 2009, the test measures a teacher-candidates’ abilities in planning, instruction and assessment. It requires students to submit

a portfolio of materials for review, including a series of lesson plans, a video of themselves teaching and written analysis of their instructional practice. As of September 1, 2018, Alabama – along with 39 other states – approved this assessment option for candidates seeking initial teaching certification. JSU has been “ramping” up for using it with its students for three years.

“I’m very happy about 96 percent,” Dr. Turner said. “I think that’ll stand up against any university anywhere. That 96 percent puts us on track for achieving that goal of a world-class standard.”

### NEVER GIVE UP

For those in the classroom, the recent graduates still finding their voice and their footing, some days are filled with tiny miracles while others are a series of disasters.


Isley was filled with first-day jitters. Her mind swirled with all those “What ifs,” imagining all the worst things that could happen. Her desk was covered with sticky notes from new teacher training.

During the day, her students played “get to know you games,” and she read “Mr. Morris’ Fantastic Flying Books” before delivering a “Hallmark-movie worthy pep talk.”

Then she got confused lining the kids up for the buses and panicked at the thought of having put some on the wrong bus. It was a heck of a first day – for the teacher.

“I left that day with my heart fuller and my mind and body more exhausted than I ever have felt,” Isley said. “I will never forget it.”

For Reynolds, there have been hard days. There have been days when she didn’t think she could do it any more. On those days, she just remembers why she wanted to be a teacher in the first place.

“Every time I see a lightbulb go off in a kid’s head,” Reynolds said, “every time I see one of my students do something kind, every time I see my students engaged in a lesson, I remember this is why I’m doing it, and it that makes every other hard day so worth it.” 

“I have never seen teachers who are as passionate about their jobs as the instructors are in JSU’s education program,”  
-Kendall Reynolds ‘18







# ciab, Y'ALL!

Design by: Harley Stickney // Student Designer



AROUND CAMPUS

JSU's beloved band, the Marching Southerners, received a New Year's Day blessing from His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican on Jan. 1, 2019, after performing in the annual World Peace Day Parade.

The world-renowned band marched through the streets of Rome playing "Ode to Joy" to 100,000 spectators gathered to hear the Pope's annual New Year's Day message at St. Peter's Basilica. At the end of the Pope's address, the band played the JSU Fight Song and other game day favorites, including singing "I'll Fly Away."

Parade organizers extend invitations to select American and Canadian bands. This isn't the first time the Marching Southerners have been asked to cross

oceans to perform. The band was invited to play for the Queen of England in London's 2012 New Year's Parade. They performed at the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 2016 in Honolulu, Hawaii. In 1996, they marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

More than 400 JSU students, faculty, staff, alumni and family members participated in the week-long journey throughout Italy. In addition to the New Year's Day performance in the Vatican, the Cocky travelers visited the cities of Venice, Rome, Florence and Pompeii – taking in museums, monuments and historic sites along the way. 🇮🇹

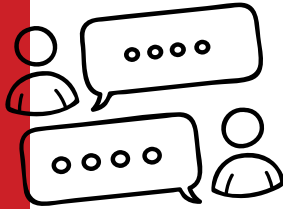




# JSU Recognized with **HIGHEST HONORS** in University Communications

The JSU Office of Marketing and Communications has been recognized with the highest honors bestowed in university advancement, by the Council for the Advancement of Schools and Education (CASE) awards.

The honorees were recognized at an awards celebration at the CASE District III conference in Atlanta in February.

**1****GRAND AWARD****for Communications and Marketing:**

“When the Storm Hits: How PR Can Pick Up the Pieces When the Sky Falls.” Honorees include: Buffy Lockette, Sydney Jones, Sebastian Mendez and Chris Newsome. This entry will be considered for the national CASE Platinum Award.

**2****GRAND AWARD****in Online Innovation/  
Experimentation for**

“When the Storm Hits: How Facebook LIVE Can Pick Up the Pieces When the Sky Falls.” Award Winners: Sydney Jones and Buffy Lockette.

**3****AWARD OF EXCELLENCE****in Crisis/Issues Management.**

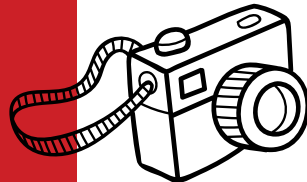
Honorees include Buffy Lockette and Sydney Jones, with the support of Dr. Jeff Ryan and Officer Elizabeth Morrow.

**4****SPECIAL MERIT**

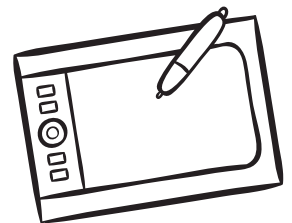
**for Social Media Strategy and Execution,** for the creative use of Facebook LIVE following the March 19 tornado. Honorees include Sydney Jones and Buffy Lockette.

**5****GRAND AWARD****for Excellence in Photography**

for the portfolio of JSU University Photographer Matt Reynolds. This entry will be considered for the national CASE Platinum Award.

**6****AWARD OF EXCELLENCE****in Graphic Design for**

Recruitment Publications for the Undergraduate Viewbook, created by Emily Lankford and Trevor Grimes.

**7****SPECIAL MERIT****in Graphic Design**

for a Single-Page Publication or Flier for the Undergraduate Viewbook by Emily Lankford and Trevor Grimes.

**8****AWARD OF EXCELLENCE****in Graphic Design for a**

Single-Page Publication or Flier for the “You Are In” admissions brochure created by Emily Lankford.

# Darby Angle Crowned Miss JSU 2019

Sport management major Darby Angle was crowned Miss JSU in January, and represented the university at the Miss Alabama pageant in June.

A second generation Gamecock, Darby is a junior hailing from Dallas, Texas. The Marching Ballerina demonstrated her range as a dancer during the pageant, delighting the audience with a humorous and high-energy tap route to Dolly Parton's "9 to 5," winning the talent portion of the competition. Her social impact initiative is "Precious As Rubies," a personal platform to help women who have gone through sexual violence, specifically on their college campus, to realize their true value and purpose.

Taylor Snider, a nursing major from Hueytown, Ala., was named first runner-up and won the Lifestyle and Fitness portion of the competition. Courtney Williams, a nutrition major from Leesburg, Ala., was second runner-up. 🍷



## JSU Takes Over Management of Former Reserve Apartments

Students now have more housing options at Jacksonville State, as the university has taken over management of the former Reserve Apartments – now repaired, renovated and renamed The Pointe at JSU.

The off-campus housing community was significantly damaged by the EF-3 tornado that struck the city and campus on March 19, 2018. The property is now under new ownership, has been completely renovated, and is ready for occupancy. JSU has entered into a management agreement with the new owners and will operate the apartment complex as a student residence.

The Pointe is open to upperclassmen and offers four-bedroom, four-bath housing units with fully furnished common areas and bedrooms, new stainless steel kitchen appliances, washers and dryers in every unit, patios and balconies, pool and clubhouse access, an exercise gym and basketball/tennis and volleyball courts.

"The Pointe offers students upscale accommodations within walking distance of campus," said Brooke Lyon, director of housing operations. "A year following the March 19 tornado, JSU has rebounded from a student housing shortage and we are happy to provide our students even more options like The Pointe to call home." 🍷





## COUNTRY MUSIC LEGENDS ROCK CAMPUS, **RAISING \$1.28 MILLION**

Country music and JSU fans alike packed JSU Stadium on Sept. 26 for a sold out tornado relief concert benefiting JSU, organized by iconic Country Music Hall of Famers Alabama.

The legendary band assembled an all-star lineup of talent – including Charlie Daniels, Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, Shenandoah, Jamey Johnson, Riley Green, Drake White, Home Free, John Berry, Gordon Mote, Darren Knight "Southern Momma," Sixwire, Sweet Tea Trio, and SiriusXM's Storme Warren – who all came together to donate their time and voices to raise funds for the tornado-ravaged university. The historic concert generated a grand total of \$1.28 million.

"Teddy, Jeff and I are so proud of the artists who played this benefit for tornado damage at Jacksonville State University," said Alabama frontman Randy Owen, a JSU English alumnus and member of the Board of Trustees. "With over \$70 million dollars in damages, we're glad that we, along with our artist friends, were able to help raise over a million dollars. I graduated from JSU so it's very personal for me. Teddy and Jeff said 'let's do this' the day I called them after the tornado. #JSUSTRONG."

JSU President John Beehler said, "We are so thankful to Randy Owen, Teddy Gentry and Jeff Cook of Alabama and all the other artists, sponsors and university personnel who worked together selflessly to make this event a huge success. Not only was nearly \$1.3 million raised to help us rebuild our campus, but smiles were put on the faces of thousands of attendees who have endured so much since the devastating tornado of March 19, 2018. The impact of this concert will be felt for years to come."

Nationwide Insurance (Randy Jones & Associates, Inc.) was the presenting sponsor of the evening. Platinum sponsors included Dr. Pepper (official drink of the show), Ford, Alabama Power Foundation, Marc and Mary Angle, Ken and Jenny Howell and Trycon Tufters. Gold sponsors were Jim and Gina Nolen, Thomas Dedrick/Raymond James and Webb Concrete and Building Materials. Collectively, these local Alabama companies and individuals donated more than \$300,000 in sponsorship dollars. 🍷

- 
1. Thomas Dedrick, Marc Angle, Earl Warren and Mary Angle chat backstage.
  2. Alumnus Riley Green gave a surprise performance.
  3. The whole crowd sang along with Jamey Johnson's "In Color."
  4. Charlie Daniels brought the house down with his classic "Devil Went Down to Georgia."
  5. Alum Keaton Glass and Jesi Lankford enjoy the show.
  6. JSU stadium was packed with country music fans, despite the rainy forecast.
  7. Cocky was happy to share the spotlight with some of his favorite performers.
  8. Alumnus and trustee Randy Owen presented a \$1.28 million check from the proceeds to President Beehler.
  9. The Sweet Tea Trio sang in sweet harmony.
  10. Comedian Darren Knight had the audience laughing with his Southern Momma tales.
  11. The event united the JSU family and celebrated the Gamecock spirit of resilience.





"THE IMPACT OF THIS CONCERT WILL BE FELT FOR YEARS TO COME."

*-PRESIDENT BEEHLER*





Cocky Travelers to Visit  
**ICELAND**  
*December 16-22*



**7** Days

**10** Meals

JSU alumni and friends are invited to enjoy Iceland's Magical Northern Lights during an upcoming Cocky Travelers trip on December 16-22.



**Highlights Include:**

- Reykjavik
- Northern Lights Cruise
- Golden Circle
- Thingvellir National Park
- Geysir
- Gullfoss
- Vik
- Seljalandsfoss
- Skogar Museum
- Skogafoss
- Jokulsarlon Glacial Lagoon
- Skaftafell National Park
- Vatnajokull Glacier
- Lava Exhibition Center
- Blue Lagoon

Deposit due now, contact the alumni office to reserve your space today!



play  
ball

## University Dedicates New Baseball Stadium

JSU Baseball enjoyed a new stadium this season. Named in honor of Coach Jim Case, who is now in his 18th season with the team, the new state-of-the-art facility includes a 1,000-seat spectator grandstand with a shade canopy, seven VIP suites that are able to entertain large groups with seating inside and outside, a new state-of-the-art press box with radio and television broadcast booths and a game operations center.

"I do not have words to express how grateful I am to have my name associated with one of the finest stadiums that I have ever seen," Coach Case said. "It's an overwhelming honor and I am so thankful for it. This stadium is a generous tribute to the tradition of JSU Baseball and is a great commitment to its future."


The JSU Board of Trustees approved the naming of the stadium at its quarterly meeting last summer, granting the request of Bob Kennamer and Earlon McWhorter, the two donors who made the facility a possibility with their contributions to the project.

"When Earlon and I made our pledge to support the construction of a new baseball facility, our only request for consideration was the naming rights to the stadium," said Kennamer, a JSU alum and former longtime member of the JSU Board of Trustees. "I can't think of a more deserving name to be on this

first-class facility that will be the home of a first-class program that Jim Case has run in his time here at JSU."

The baseball field itself has been named in honor of Coach Rudy Abbott since 2000. Construction on the new stadium began in spring of 2017 and the first game in the park took place on Sept. 30, when the Gamecocks hosted Mississippi State in an exhibition game.

The Gamecocks' home dugout is now located along the first-base line and adjacent to a new clubhouse that features a locker room, lounge, team meeting area and athletic training treatment area. The clubhouse is attached to an enclosed training facility that allows for batting and pitching workouts. New step-down team dugouts, bullpens, new coaches offices and meeting space is also included in the project.

"We are very thankful for these generous private gifts from Mr. Kennamer and Mr. McWhorter," said JSU President John M. Beehler, a former Penn State baseball player and fan of the game. "These transformational gifts, the largest ever made to Jacksonville State University, helped fund this new stadium for the baseball team, and I know Coach Case is honored to have his name on this first-class facility." 



# gamecock FOOTBALL

The five-time Ohio Valley Conference champs will host the most home games in a regular season in JSU history this fall.

"We couldn't be more excited about our 2019 football schedule," JSU Athletics Director Greg Seitz said. "Not only do we have a record-number of home games for our fans, but we were able to secure seven Division I games in what we feel is one of the best settings in the FCS."

JSU finished the final polls ranked No. 10 in 2018, the sixth-straight year finishing in the Top 10 of the FCS rankings. The Gamecocks are coming off their sixth-straight FCS playoff appearance, the third-longest active streak in the nation.

## gamecock football schedule 2019

\*Home games are in **red**.

**08. 29**   
SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA

**C 09.07**  
UT CHATTANOOGA

**TICKETS** are available for purchase online at [JSUGamecockSports.com](http://JSUGamecockSports.com) or by calling the ticket office at 256-782-8499.

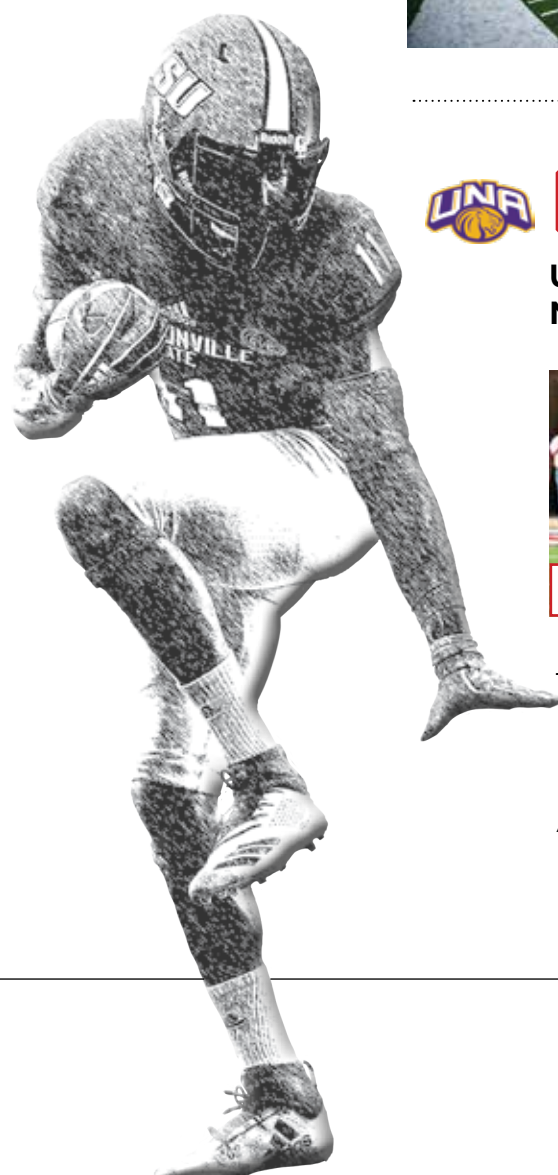
**09.14**   
EASTERN WASHINGTON



 **09.21**  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA



**09.28**   
AUSTIN PEAY



# PREVIEW 2019

 **10.05**  
TENNESSEE STATE



**10.26**   
MURRAY STATE



 **10.12**  
EASTERN ILLINOIS

**11.02**  
UT MARTIN



**11.09**  
TENNESSEE TECH

**10.19**   
SOUTHEAST MISSOURI



**EKU 11.23**  
EASTERN KENTUCKY



# JSU STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL CORNHOLE CHAMPIONSHIP



By Brett Buckner

While tossing bags across the backyard into a set of cornhole boards that his buddy's parents made, Branson Oliver never imagined he'd one day be crowned a national champ in the game. But that's exactly what happened when he and his throwing partner, fellow JSU student Dustin Travis, won the American Cornhole League's College Cornhole Doubles National Championship.

Oliver, a 22-year-old junior majoring in occupational health and safety, and Travis, also 22 and a junior majoring in computer science, graduated together from White Plains High School – located just over the mountain from Jacksonville. Yet, they beat teams from as far away as Ohio and Virginia on their journey to winning the tournament in Myrtle Beach, S.C. on Dec. 30.

The National College Cornhole Championship crowns the best college team and college alumni team from around the country. It provides scholarship money to students and donations to booster clubs. The open format allows for any size college to participate. The American Cornhole League

encourages colleges to develop cornhole as an intramural or club sport and develop strategies to leverage cornhole to raise funds for college athletics.

To the uninitiated, cornhole is normally a game reserved for tailgates and family reunions, but there's serious money to be won for those who put forth a little time and effort. Oliver won a total of \$5,000 in scholarships: \$2,500 in doubles, \$2,000 for a second place finish in the singles competition and \$500 in the pro tournament. Travis won \$2,750: \$2,500 for the doubles win and \$250 for placing ninth in singles play.

"I know lots of people who make a living out of this," Oliver said. "They travel all over the country playing in \$10,000 and \$25,000 tournaments. And anybody can be in them – just practice and get really good."

People are normally shocked by just how popular cornhole is becoming.

"ACL has a contract with ESPN, and they're really trying to expand things," Oliver said. "They're trying to bring it up to where it's seen as a national sport

rather than just a tailgate game people play for fun. People can earn a living doing this."

Oliver admits that he doesn't really practice all that much, instead playing in local tournaments whenever possible. "Really it's just muscle memory," he said. "Once you get the rhythm down, you're good to go."

When it comes to game time, some like to yell and talk trash to get into the head of their opponent. Oliver is more laid back. He can usually be found listening to rap music through his earbuds and sipping on a frothy beverage until it's his turn to throw.

"I'm pretty quiet, trying to get in the zone," he said. "The whole tournament, I usually keep my head down and listen to music to drown everything else out."

When it comes to plans for the future, Oliver hopes to get a job with Honda as a safety monitor and perhaps, one day, work for OSHA. Travis, who currently works as an assistant pro at the Anniston Country Club, aspires to go through the Professional Golf Management Program and eventually manage a golf course. 🚫



# IONAL CHAMPIONS



FEATURE



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TOURNAMENT SERIES

*alumni volunteers  
needed for*

# BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Our "Alumni Boots on the Ground" initiative to utilize our alumni to help JSU's enrollment and retention efforts is growing strong, but there is always room for more volunteers.

**Opportunities include:**

- ▶ Representing JSU at college recruitment fairs in your local area
- ▶ Hosting an alumni/prospective student dinner or reception in your area
- ▶ Bringing a student to JSU for a campus visit or setting up a visit
- ▶ Representing JSU at your local high school or community college awards program to present scholarships to future Gamecocks
- ▶ Serving as a mentor for current JSU students through the online mentoring program
- ▶ Participating in an alumni career panel on campus for our students

**SIGN UP TO HELP AT**  
[jsu.edu/alumni/get-involved](http://jsu.edu/alumni/get-involved)

**QUESTIONS?**  
Contact Kaci Ogle  
Director of Alumni Relations  
[kogle@jsu.edu](mailto:kogle@jsu.edu) or 256-782-5405



u p c o m i n g

## ALUMNI EVENTS

- ▶ **Aug 18-30**  
Scotland/Ireland Trip
- ▶ **Oct. 4-6**  
BAC Weekend  
JSU Preview Day
- ▶ **Oct. 18-20**  
Homecoming Weekend
- ▶ **Oct. 26**  
J-Club Reunion and  
Athletic Hall of Fame
- ▶ **Nov. 22-23**  
Southerners Reunion Weekend
- ▶ **Dec. 13**  
Commencement
- ▶ **Dec. 16-22**  
Iceland Trip

**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](http://jsu.edu/alumni/student-referral.html)





## WHAT'S YOUR JSU STORY?

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



### Alumni Bricks

JSU is still selling alumni bricks for the sidewalk on the alumni lawn. Proceeds from the brick program go directly to student scholarships, so order yours today at [jsu.edu/alumni/docs/brick.pdf](http://jsu.edu/alumni/docs/brick.pdf).

### NEW LIFE MEMBERS OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The [Alumni Association](#) welcomed the following new life members between July 2018 and February 2019:

- Ashley Martin Cockrell, '02
- Mark du Pont, '13
- M. Chris Lee, '81
- Tommy Lowe, '93
- Eric McCulley, '95
- Dr. Gina Moses, '91
- Cheryl Bevelle-Orange, '90
- Ken Dale Wiggins, '17
- Darryl E. Williams, '94

Have you considered supporting the [JSU Alumni Association](#) through an annual or lifetime membership? When you become a member of the [Alumni Association](#), you assist our programming efforts for our students and alumni. Membership dues allow us to support our regional and affinity chapter activities along with reunions and Homecoming events.

Annual membership is \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. Lifetime membership is \$500 per person or \$750 per couple and you can pay over a 12-month period. Membership also comes with discounts for events and purchases. Become a member today at [www.jsu.edu/giving](http://www.jsu.edu/giving) or text [JSUFAMILY](#) to [91999](tel:91999).

### Alumni Pens

Get your own piece of history from the alumni house. Along with the house, it's great oak and walnut trees were destroyed by the storms. These limited edition pens, with wood salvaged from a walnut tree near the alumni house parking lot, are available for \$75 and \$100. Contact the JSU alumni office to purchase yours today.







Mark your calendar for **HOMECOMING 2019!** OCT. 18-20.







## HOMECOMING 2018 RECAP

Thousands of JSU alumni and fans returned “Home” on Sept. 28-30 for Homecoming 2018. Festivities included a 50-year reunion for the Class of 1968, a 70th anniversary celebration for the ROTC program, a Gamecock Orientation reunion, and numerous other events and activities over Homecoming Weekend.

### schedule for *homecoming 2019*

#### **Friday, Oct. 18**

- ▶ Class of 1969, 50-Year “Golden Gamecock” Celebration
- ▶ ROTC Alumni Banquet, Jacksonville Train Depot
- ▶ Sixties Group Alumni Dinner

#### **Saturday, Oct. 19**

- ▶ Homecoming Parade, 10:30 a.m.
- ▶ JSU vs. SEMO, 3 p.m. – Alumni of the Year and Homecoming Queen and King Recognition at Halftime

#### **Sunday, Oct. 20**

- ▶ UN Day Tea, 2 p.m.



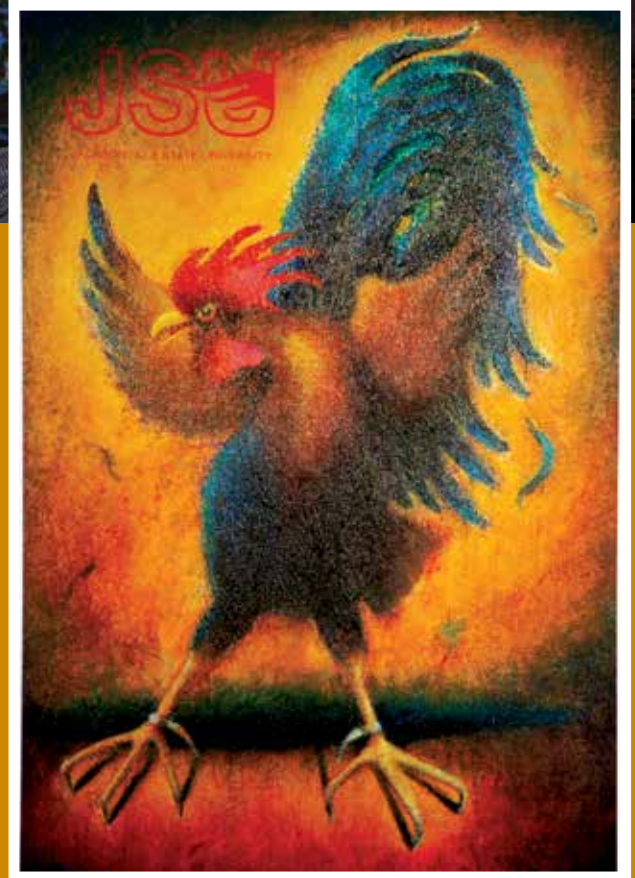


## »» STEVE LOWERY

Steve Lowery, noted Birmingham artist and musician, was commissioned in the summer of 2018 to create a new Fighting Gamecock painting. Lowery's art includes illustrations of 26 world boxing title fights and team illustrations of the New York Yankees for the New York Times. He has drawn or painted numerous sports legends, musicians, artists, and performers including Salvador Dali, The Neville Brothers, John Coltrane, Muhammed Ali, Catfish Hunter and Andres Segovia, just to name a few. His work has hung in Madison Square Garden and has been featured on jacket covers on books by Dali and Coltrane.

Prints of the Gamecock painting are unique, using a multi-layer digital printing technique with a holographic background that gives the print a shimmering quality as light reflects off of it. The signed numbered prints are a limited edition of only 100.

Signed numbered prints from 1-50 are being offered in appreciation to donors who make a gift of \$2,500 or more to the University Excellence Fund. Signed numbered prints from 51-100 are offered in appreciation to donors who make a gift of \$1,000-\$2,499 to the University Excellence Fund.



For more information on making a gift to the University Excellence Fund please contact Dr. Charles Lewis, Vice President for University Advancement at, 256-782-5003 or by email at [crlewis@jsu.edu](mailto:crlewis@jsu.edu).



# ALUMNUS JIM HIXON makes generous commitment to JSU

When Jim Hixon was a teenager playing clarinet in his high school band, he watched the Marching Southerners perform during competitions and knew then that Jacksonville State University would be his university of choice.

In 1978, young Jim fulfilled his dream of becoming a Marching Southerner. He said of the experience, “I loved it. We practiced as hard as the football players. The band was wonderful and I got goosebumps every time we took the field. In addition, the band was like a second family to me and I cherish my experiences at JSU.”

Hixon graduated from JSU with a degree in accounting in 1980 and the university helped him secure his first banking position.

“My degree and assistance from the university helped to launch a wonderful career,” he said. “Next year, I will retire from Family Savings Credit Union after 35 years with this outstanding company.”

Due to Jim’s suggestion of having a credit union chapter meeting at JSU Stadium, that Family Savings Credit Union now has a suite on game days. As a Gamecock football fan, Hixon has season tickets to JSU home games and always attends. His plans in retirement include traveling to all of the away games, as well.

“I’ve been blessed and now I want to bless others,” Hixon said. He recently announced three separate commitments to his alma mater.

After talking with Athletics Director Greg Seitz, Hixon made a pledge to support the JSU Athletic Excellence Fund. Next, he donated an antique Conn 20J upright recording bass to the Marching Southerners, after consulting with Band Director Dr. Kenneth Bodiford.

“This specific antique tuba is very difficult to find so I jumped at the opportunity to purchase it when it became available,” Hixon said. “This instrument is what gives the Marching Southerners its signature deep-bass sound.”

Hixon has also made a significant planned gift by including JSU in his estate plans. When realized, this donation will fund two full scholarships for deserving students in the School of Education and the School of Arts and Humanities. Hixon, a scholarship recipient himself, knows how meaningful these gifts can be for hard-working students.

“I lived in Jacksonville for 23 years and attended athletics events and Marching Southerners reunions,” he said. “It has been like a family. It was time to give back because I really love JSU.”

Earl Warren, director of development, said “JSU is proud to claim such an outstanding alumnus as Jim Hixon. We appreciate his generosity so much. Jim and I hope that his gifts will spur others to give back, as well.”





The second annual event doubled its attendance.



Allison and Amado Ortiz



Back: Chris Betzler and Tyler Brown, Front: Garrett Squires, Mike Dalesandro, Kevin Barajas, and Devin Rios



Darren and Tonya Douthitt




Marc and Darby Angle with Dean Bill Fielding



Will Loeffler, Hannah Hurst, Sydney Jones-Wright and Madison Wright

## Development Hosts Annual **RED TIE DINNER AND AUCTION**

The Office of University Development hosted JSU's second annual Red Tie Dinner and Auction on Feb. 1 at Leone Cole Auditorium. Doubling the first event in attendance and proceeds, an elite group of JSU supporters kicked off a new year of annual fundraising, recognizing loyal 2018 donors and benefitting the JSU Annual Fund. The formal event featured dinner, silent and live auctions, and entertainment from the JSU Steel Drum Band. Thanks to the generosity of the event sponsors, all proceeds, over \$50,000, were applied directly to the schools and programs across campus. The guest list for this invitation-only event included leadership level donors in 2018, the university's executive council – including the president, deans, directors and trustees – and members of the JSU

Foundation board and the JSU Annual Fund board. President Beehler welcomed the guests, thanking the supporters and volunteers who have offered their time, money and resources to help bridge the gap between state funding and the realistic needs of a growing university. The Annual Fund is the cornerstone of philanthropy at JSU. Through various means, the JSU Annual Fund solicits gifts annually from alumni, friends, corporations, foundations and government entities to support and enhance the various schools and programs of the university. Sponsorship opportunities for the next Red Tie event are available now. Contact the Office of University Development for details. 



# remembering LOU KENNAMER

By Brett Buckner



## Everyone knew Miss Lou.

She was a successful business woman, dedicating 30-plus years to helping ladies keep pace with the latest fashion trends as owner of Lou's Dress Shop on Jacksonville Square. She was an avid golfer, competing in championship tournaments at the Anniston Country Club. She was a community leader and a visible champion for small business owners, serving on numerous city and county development boards. She was a philanthropist, her name adorning a JSU faculty award, an academic scholarship and even a building.

Many adjectives and definitions have been and will continue to be used to describe Louqueta "Lou" Kennamer. To her husband, Bob, she was "soul mate."

"She was one of the most loving and compassionate people I've ever known," said Bob Kennamer, his voice thick with tears. "She was unselfish, smart, generous and so very, very brave."

Mrs. Kennamer died in August, after a long battle with cancer. But even in death, she was concerned for others, requesting donations

be made to the Lou Kennamer Memorial Fund at the JSU Foundation instead of flowers sent to her funeral. It was fitting. Lou loved Jax State. It's where she met Bob, her true love, the man she was married to for six months and one day short of 60 years.

The Kennamers met back when JSU was known as the Teachers College. Every year the school hosted three or four big dances with live music by bands like the Woody Herman Band or the Glen Miller Band.

"To take a date to one of those dances made it real special," Bob remembered, "and you had to get that lined up well in advance or else all the pretty girls would be taken."


Bob asked Lou to be his date a month or so before the dance. She said yes. Only before their first date, something else came up – a Sadie Hawkins dance. This time, it was Lou who did the asking. "The rest was history," Bob said. "From then on, I got to tell people that she asked me out on the first date we ever had."

Over their years together, both Bob and Lou became fixtures

in and around JSU. Bob served on JSU's board of trustees for 26 years, and Lou was on the JSU International House board. Together, they were long-time supporters of JSU, most recently donating \$1 million to start construction of the new JSU baseball stadium. Bob and Lou Kennamer Hall, home to the Department of Kinesiology, is named in their honor.

It was Bob who initially felt indebted to his alma mater. Having attended JSU on the G.I. Bill, he saw the university as creating the educational foundation that allowed both he and his wife to have successful careers.

"We both developed a deep love for Jax State," said Bob, who retired from State Farm Insurance. "The university did so much for me, and Lou developed her love, in a way, because of how I felt. It became very important to her."

JSU President John M. Beehler said, "Mrs. Kennamer was one of JSU's greatest champions. Her style, charisma and deep love for the university are unmatched and she will be greatly missed." 



# END OF AN ERA:

*Provost*

Rebecca  
Turner

Retires After  
38 Years

By Brett Buckner

A career that has lasted almost half a lifetime and helped transform JSU into a renowned university is coming to an end. On June 1, Dr. Rebecca Turner, provost and vice president of academic affairs, retired from JSU after 38 years.

“I can’t tell you what a wonderful time I have had,” Dr. Turner said. “I can’t imagine a better place to work than in a university setting.”

In academic circles, to spend nearly 40 years at the same university is

a rare feat. But for the Calhoun County native, JSU was where she belonged. Her career was fated from the beginning.

“I love JSU, it’s just that simple,” she said. “This university gave me my first introduction to higher education, and that’s a game-changer.”

Dr. Turner was a first generation college student when she entered JSU as a freshman. She transferred to the University of Montevallo as a junior in 1969 to major in social work because JSU didn’t offer

an undergraduate degree in that field – an issue she would later remedy.

After graduation, she spent eight years as a social worker before an advertisement in a monthly newsletter for social workers caught her eye. It was from JSU, which was looking for someone to come in, teach classes and develop a social work undergraduate degree. “It had my name written all over it,” she said.

Dr. Turner remembers the date she interviewed for the

job – July 29, 1981 – because it was the same day of the historic Royal Wedding between England’s Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

“I thought that would be my legacy,” Dr. Turner said with a laugh. “But as the years passed, so many other amazing opportunities came my way, and I think I made the most of it.”

Dr. Turner would go on to become JSU’s first woman vice president. Over her past 17 years in Academic Affairs, her accomplishments have

“I love JSU, it’s just that simple.”

—Dr. Rebecca Turner—



included bringing the Red Balloon Initiative to campus in 2010, which was focused on transforming traditional learning spaces into learning environments that are movable and flexible and use technology. She has also led the university in adding several new academic programs, including its first doctoral degrees.

Turner decided to retire in order to spend more time with family, especially her 90-year-old mother, who lives alone following the death of Dr. Turner's father in 2017.

"Just making sure all of her needs are being met is a real priority, especially now that she's by herself," Turner said. "I want to be able to spend as much time with her as possible."

In addition to spending time with family, Dr. Turner hopes to travel and write in retirement. She also plans to continue serving on community agency boards and participate in accreditation reviews for the Council on Social Work Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. But mostly, she's looking forward to relaxing.

"I'm looking forward to not constantly looking at my phone, checking for emails," she said. "But I'll always answer the phone if it comes from JSU."

Taking over the helm as JSU's next provost is Dr. Christie Shelton, JSU professor of nursing and dean of the School of Health Professions and Wellness. The JSU

for us, our programs, and our students. As time went on, I came to know her much better. She and I were the only two females at the table amongst four male deans when I first became dean. I watched her lead with power and passion and watched her move forward many successful initiatives. I experienced

"....I watched her lead with power and passion and watched her move forward many successful initiatives. I experienced her encouragement and her guidance that she so readily provided to those on her team."

-Dr. Christie Shelton

alumna earned her BSN and MSN from the university before receiving a PhD from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She returned to JSU in 2003 and served in a variety of leadership roles – including BSN program director, co-principal investigator, nursing instructor and associate dean – before becoming dean in 2013.

"I first remember Dr. Turner as a powerful leader at JSU when I was an instructor," Dr. Shelton said. "The faculty within nursing always viewed her as a tremendous advocate

her encouragement and her guidance that she so readily provided to those on her team."

Dr. Shelton's tenure as dean has been one of marked growth for her school. Under her leadership, the School of Health Professions and Wellness has created several new programs – including a bachelor's in respiratory therapy and a doctorate in nursing practice. The nursing program has grown to become one of the largest and most successful on campus, with graduates regularly outperforming

peers on the licensure exam.

She serves as treasurer of the State of Alabama Association of Colleges of Nursing and as a board member-at-large of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. She is also a member of the Alabama Health Action Coalition and serves as a board member for Cleburne County Hospital, The Spectrum Option, and the Sanctuary Home.

Dr. Shelton became provost on June 1, and a national search is being conducted to secure her replacement as dean in the School of Health Professions and Wellness. She will serve in a dual role as provost and dean until a new dean comes on board. As she assumes her new position, she is thankful for the strong legacy passed on by her predecessor.

"As I have told her several times and as I still say, she has tremendous shoes to fill," Shelton said. "Her legacy at this university will always permeate Academic Affairs. I am thankful for the opportunity to have been a mentee under her and to learn from someone I consider to be one of the best." 



- 1. Luke Christian Newsome
- 2. Alexia Reed
- 3. Charles "Charlie" Levi
- 4. John Robert Worthington Jr. '08 and Taylor Michelle Nicolle '12
- 5. Susan Leanne Kelly '13 and Michael Brock Pyle
- 6. DeLana Jean Harris '18 and Tyler Austin Delano
- 7. Sabrina Alyssa Martin '18 and Joseph Graves Dothard '18



# ALUMnotes

## BIRTHS

### 1990-1999

**1** Chris Newsome '96 and Tasha Newsome of Jacksonville, Ala., announce the birth of their son, Luke Christian Newsome, on April 11, 2019 in Huntsville, Ala. Luke was born at 9:16 a.m., weighed 6 lbs. and 8 oz., and was 19 inches long. Chris has been the university's webmaster since 1998 and was named Employee of the Year in 2003 and 2017.

### 2000-2009

**2** Devin D. Beasley '00 and his wife, Kesha, of Huntsville, Ala., welcomed their third child, Alexia Reed, on June 28, 2018. They have another daughter, Avery, and son, Ashton. Mr. Beasley, a former Gamecock basketball player, works for the City of Huntsville's Department of Parks and Recreation.

### 2010-2018

Carrie Maxwell Poole '13 and AJ Poole '14 announce the birth of their daughter, Nola Jean Elizabeth, July 14, 2018. Mrs. Poole was a member of Alpha Xi Delta.

**3** Jordyn Brown Upchurch '15 and her husband, Christopher, welcome the birth of their son, Charles "Charlie" Levi, September 13, 2018. They

own a farm in Lineville, Ala., and were named the Outstanding Young Farm Family of Alabama for 2018.

## WEDDINGS

### 1990-1999

Jonathan Eric McCulley '95 and Matthew Lee Howell of Atlanta, Ga., were wed on June 26, 2018, in a ceremony officiated by JSU Dean of Students Terry Casey. McCulley is a flight attendant with Southwest Airlines. As a student, he was a member of the SGA and served as a peer counselor and assistant.

### 2000-2009

Joshua Pritt '03 and Brenna Kaminski, Melbourne, Fla., married on Sept. 8, 2018. He is employed as a senior software engineer at Schneider Electric.

**4** John Robert Worthington, Jr. '08 wed Taylor Michelle Nicolle '12 on April 14, 2018. As students, Mr. Worthington was a member of Kappa Alpha Order, was active in SGA and served as a Gamecock Orientation leader. He is currently working as a country music tour manager. Mrs. Worthington was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi, served as a JSU Ambassador and worked as a student assistant in the JSU Office of Public

Relations while she was in school. She currently works as an animal hospital supervisor. They reside in Sewanee, Tenn.

### 2010 – 2018

**5** Susan Leanne Kelly '13 wed Michael Brock Pyle, Dec. 15, 2018. She is a fifth grade teacher at White Elementary School. She was a member of Alpha Xi at JSU. The couple resides in Taylorsville, Ga.

Misha Whatley '13 wed Aaron Rudolph '14 on Nov. 3, 2018. Mrs. Rudolph, who was a housing resident assistant at JSU, is employed by Health Services Center. Mr. Rudolph is employed by Central Network Retail Group. They reside in Birmingham, Ala.

Mary Hannah Brittain '14 wed Josh Keith on Oct. 27, 2018. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta. The couple resides in Jacksonville, Ala.

Steven Matthew Chubay '15 married Kimberly Addison Eskins '17, on Oct. 20, 2018. Mr. Chubay is employed at Decostar Industries, Inc. as an automation engineer. He was a member of Sigma Nu and the Marching Southerners drumline. Mrs. Chubay was a Marching Ballerina and performed as a Go Go with the Hardcorps Pep Band. They reside in Carrollton, Ga.

Santiago "Santi" Hechart '15 and Alex Woodfin, Dec. 22, 2018. Mr. Hechart was a member of Kappa Alpha. He is employed as a financial planner with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith.

Thomas David "Todd" Cunningham III '16 married Elizabeth Ellen Verdone in November 2018. The former Gamecock baseball player now plays professionally for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

**6** DeLena Jean Harris '18 wed Tyler Austin Delano on Dec. 30, 2018. She was a member of the Student Alumni Association, was active in the SGA and served as a Gamecock Orientation leader. They reside in Madison, Ala.

**7** Sabrina Alyssa Martin '18 wed Joseph Graves Dothard '18 on Sept. 22, 2018. Mrs. Dothard was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha, SAA, served as president of SAEA, a Freshman Forum mentor, served as a Gamecock Orientation leader, and a JSU Ambassador. Mr. Dothard served as president of Kappa Alpha Order, a Freshman Forum mentor, served as a Gamecock Orientation leader, and JSU Ambassador.

## OBITUARIES

### JSU EMPLOYEES

Mary "Mickey" Cleverdon, Point Clear, Ala., Sept. 13, 2018. She taught English and literature at JSU.

Maybell Gardner, Jacksonville, Ala., Nov. 5, 2018. She retired from JSU in 1999 as a secretary and owned Raintree Antique Shop.

Miyo Norimatsu Haynes '94, Jacksonville, Ala., July 12, 2018. She retired from the Bursar's Office at JSU.

James D. McDaniel, Newport News., Va., Oct. 21, 2018. After his retirement from the Army, Col. McDaniel became a professor at JSU.

Rebecca Giddens McNeal, Jacksonville, Ala., Dec. 30, 2018. She was employed by JSU in the Building Services department.

Sybil Inez Doss Reaves '49, Anniston, Ala., Aug. 6, 2018. She retired from JSU.

Dr. Tim Roberts, Jacksonville, Ala., July 2, 2018. He was a professor in Family and Consumer Sciences at JSU since 2002.

Dr. Elizabeth S. Sowell, Houston, Tex., Oct. 14, 2018. She was a retired JSU professor in Family and Consumer Sciences. Contributions can be made to the Elizabeth

S. Sowell Scholarship Fund through the JSU Foundation.

Eugene J. Williams, DeArmanville, Ala., June 24, 2018.

### DATE UNKNOWN OR ATTENDED ONLY

Charles E. Acker, Oxford, Ala., Jan. 14, 2019. He was part owner/operator of Acker Cabinet Company for more than 20 years and a teacher for the Cleburne County Board of Education for 25 years, retiring in 1993.

Kevin Dale Blue, Piedmont, Ala., Oct. 27, 2018. He had been an officer with the Piedmont Police Department. Officer Blue played football for JSU from 1985-1989.

George Randy "The Legend" Bussey, Southside, Ala., Oct. 30, 2018. He played baseball for JSU and was part of the runners-up team of the 1983 Division II College World Series. He coached at Oxford High School and Sacred Heart Catholic School.

Mary Alice Caver, Anniston, Ala., June 18, 2018. She worked for Anniston Head Start.

Mary Joyce Wood Dieter, Mableton, Ga., Oct. 15, 2018. After working as a beautician in her family-owned shop, she worked for 35 years at Southside Hospital as Blood Bank Section Head, retiring in 1991.

Donald Ray Ginn, Anniston, Ala., Sept. 26, 2018. As a student, he played basketball for JSU and was a record holder for free throws in tournament. He served in the Army National Guard and had a 27-year career with Household Finance Corporation. After his retirement, he opened his own business, Security South Mortgage, and retired again after 20 years.

Thomas Weldon Hudson, Gadsden, Ala., Aug. 13, 2018. He played football for JSU and retired from Goodyear in 2003.

Robert L. Kelley, Dothan, Ala., March 15, 2018. He played football for JSU for four years and owned and operated a lawn care business.

Virginia Barton Penton, Sylacauga, Ala., Dec. 17, 2017. She was married to Erskine Ramsey Penton '61.

Paul Stacy Shaw, Wilmington, N. Car., Aug. 13, 2018. He played tennis for JSU.

Martha Vivian Banks Speaks, Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 19, 2019. She and her husband founded The Episcopal Day Care School in Gadsden, Ala., where she taught for 12 years with no salary. She was known for aiding the homeless and indigent.

Judy Scroggin Updike, Niceville, Fla., December 2018. She had been a member of the JSU Marching Ballerinas.

### 1940-1949

Helen Louise Ledbetter Doss '42, Alexander City, Ala., June 4, 2018. She taught for 40 years, many of them at Radney Elementary School. She was the wife of the late, Sam C. Doss, Jr. '47. She played basketball for JSU.

Constance Mock Robinson '42, Lawrence, Kan., Aug. 3, 2018. A teacher at the junior high level, she taught in the public schools of Alabama, Virginia and Kansas.

Hilma Cosper Bennett '47/'58, Sellersburg, Ind., Nov. 4, 2018. She taught for more than three decades at Oxford (Ala.) High School as an English teacher.

Elene Sparks Chastain '49, Ashville, Ala., Oct. 1, 2018. She taught French in Alabama, Colorado and Illinois. She was a member of the JSU Marching Southerners and the International House program. She was married to the late Clarence Shelton Chastain '48.

Helena Black Mabrey '49/'76, Union Grove, Ala., Sept. 19, 2017. She was an elementary school teacher for more than 35 years.

### 1950-1959

Volis Buckelew '50, Albertville, Ala., Jan. 1, 2019. He served overseas in the Army during World War II and taught



at Sardis and Marshall County High School. He was a NASA aerospace engineer for the Apollo moon landing program and other projects for over 30 years.

Mary McClintock Gamble '50, Titusville, Fla., February 16, 2019. She was a retired teacher with the Brevard County (Fla.) Board of Education and a member of the JSU Genteel Gamecocks. The family requests any donations in her memory be made to the JSU Foundation, designating that it be used for teacher scholarships.

Foster Hugh Selman, Sr., '50, Rome, Ga., July 4, 2018. He taught and coached at Armuchee (Ga.) High School. After retiring in 1980, he taught and coached golf at Riverside Military Academy. Col. Selman was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program. Though beginning in the Army, he retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant colonel with more than 38 years of combined service. He was a member of the JSU Marching Southerners.

Adelaide Runyan Poland '51, Lineville, Ala., Feb. 28, 2018. She taught at Mountain Community School and Lineville High School for 29 years. She also worked in her husband's business, Poland's Hardware, where she started a gift line known as "Adelaide's Gifts."

William Eugene Weems '51, Dora, Ala., April 17, 2018. He enjoyed a 34-year teaching career, spending 27 of them teaching science at West Jefferson High.

Bervele Almus Fuller '52/'60, Ider, Ala., March 26, 2018. He was a retired educator from Ider High School.

John L. Meadows '52, Scottsboro, Ala., Aug. 15, 2018. He served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. The former Gamecock football and baseball player went on to become an assistant football coach at Cullman High School and head coach at Hanceville High, Gordo High, Scottsboro High, S.R. Butler High in Huntsville and Lincoln County High in Fayetteville, Tenn. He was named to the JSU Hall of Fame in 1986 and honored as JSU Alumnus of the Year in 1969.

Billy Jack Crawford '53, Tallahassee, Fla., Oct. 3, 2018. After serving in the U.S. Army in Korea, he worked as a school psychologist in Mississippi and Florida before joining SRA, a subsidiary of IBM.

Geraldine Chamlis Cogburn '54, Huntsville, Ala., March 30, 2018. She retired from Redstone Arsenal as a budget analyst.

Willie Huggins Williams '54, Huntsville, Ala., Aug. 14, 2018. Mrs. Williams taught for over 30 years at Rison Elementary, Blossomwood

Elementary and Fifth Avenue Elementary. The last 20 years of her career were spent at Jones Valley Elementary.

Patricia Pharr Bridges '55, Jasper, Ala., Dec. 31, 2018. An elementary school teacher, she had taught at several schools in the Gadsden City School System, but most of those years were spent at Ivalee Elementary. She had been married to the late James S. Bridges '59.

Agnes Moon Sprayberry '55, Gadsden, Ala., Jan. 28, 2019. She taught at Alexis, Hardin and Spring Garden Schools in Cherokee County. As a student, she was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Roy Jackson "Bull" Bailey '56, Mansfield, Ga., July 14, 2018. He played football for JSU and was recognized in 2003 as a member of its All Centennial Team. Serving as team captain, he helped lead the Gamecocks to victory in the Refrigerator Bowl in 1955. His career in education saw him teaching and coaching, serving as an administrator, then retiring as assistant director of transportation for Dekalb County (Ga.) schools.

Charles F. Miller, Sr., '56, Talladega, Ala., Sept. 13, 2018. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. The former Gamecock basketball player began his coaching career at Alexandria High in Winter Garden

(Fla.) and then Alabama's Talladega High, where he coached for 26 years. He also served Talladega County Schools as a teacher, principal of Graham Elementary and assistant principal of Talladega High. He has been inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame, JSU Athletic Hall of Fame, Calhoun County Sports Hall of Fame and Snead State College Hall of Fame.

Shirlee Barnwell Williams '56, Williamsburg, Mass., Dec. 22, 2018. She taught in Alabama and Indiana and joined Cincinnati Public Schools in 1964. She began as a teacher, then served in a variety of administrative positions before retiring as assistant superintendent in 1990. She was a member of the International House program at JSU and was selected JSU's Alumna of the Year in 1988. She was married to the late Charles Williams '58.

Archie Ray Bullock '57, Gadsden, Ala., July 5, 2018. He had served as a football and basketball coach at Litchfield. After coaching, he was the director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Gadsden, where he developed many youth programs and civic activities, including the vision for and development of Noccoalula Falls Park and Pioneer Homestead. He then became director of Parks and Recreation for the State of Alabama. He also served as the

softball director for the State of Alabama, which led to his induction into the Softball Hall of Fame. He played tennis for JSU.

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James Gerald Rayburn '58, Rainbow City, Ala., Dec. 4, 2018. As a JSU music student, he composed the JSU alma mater. He worked as a band director at both Roanoke and Cordova High. After receiving his master's and doctoral degrees, he worked in college administration for the remainder of his career. He served as dean of students at Livingston State University and Brewer State Junior College (Fayette, Ala.), which he helped open in 1969. He served as dean of instruction and interim president at Brewer (now Bevill State) until his retirement in 1995.

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James Monroe Ellis '59, LaFayette, Ala., Nov. 30, 2017. He was an Army veteran, commissioned through JSU ROTC. He served as a personnel manager for several large corporations before starting his own business, Lost and Found Baggage, in 1980.

Merle Flowers Sims '59/'68, Piedmont, Ala., Feb. 8, 2017.

### **1960-1969**

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William "Hank" Fannin '60, Talladega, Ala., Nov. 1, 2018. He served in the U.S. Army's airborne/paratrooper division. After graduating from the Birmingham School of Law, he became a member of the Talladega County Bar and Alabama Bar Associations. He was the first district attorney hired by Talladega County and was appointed judge of Talladega in 1984.

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Charles E. Freeman '60, Abbeville, S. Car., Jan. 10, 2019. He served during the Korean War with the Army's 1st Cavalry Division as a sergeant and received the Purple Heart. He received as director of financial systems accountability with the General Services Administration, Washington, DC.

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Aleene Beason Tinsley '60/'72, Gadsden, Ala., Nov. 13, 2018. She retired from the Attalla City School System after 33 years of teaching. She was married to Charles Aubrey Tinsley '53.

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Jimmy W. Austin '62, Jacksonville, Ala., July 4, 2018. He was an Air Force veteran and played baseball for JSU. He taught at high schools in Bremen, Tallapoosa, Toccoa, Barnesville, Somerville, Chickamauga and Cobb County (Ga.), served as assistant principal at Gordon Military Academy and coached several sports throughout his career.

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Howard E. "Buddy" Bigbee '62/'77, Munford, Ala., July 8, 2018. He was retired from Oxford City Schools after many years of coaching and teaching.

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Barbara Christine Brown Vaughn '62, Pell City, Ala., June 23, 2018. The former International House member taught languages in several countries while her spouse was stationed throughout the world in the military. Upon returning to Pell City, Ala., she taught special education until retirement.

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Arthur E. Faulkner '63, Owens Cross Roads, Ala., Aug 10, 2018. The former Gamecock football player worked as a certified public accountant for 45 years.

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Leo Ray Lewis '63, Walnut Park, Ala., Jan. 13, 2019. He served in the Army during the Korean War. After graduation, he worked for Republic Steel for 42 years.

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JoAnn Coutler Black '64, Prattville, Ala., Nov. 14, 2018. She devoted her

career to social work and community service.

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Kathleen "Granny" Lovett Donaldson '64, Gadsden, Ala., Aug. 4, 2018. She had taught in the Etowah County School System for 35 years.

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Patricia Gail Tudor Frederick '64, Buford, Ga., Nov. 8, 2018. She was an elementary teacher for Gwinnett County Schools for 30 years, teaching at Lilburn, Dyer and Sugar Hill.

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Linda Camp Barnett '65/'75, Oxford, Ala., Oct. 6, 2018. She taught in the Oxford City School System and coached various girls sports for 30 years.

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Jim D. Brookes '65, Gadsden, Ala., Oct. 5, 2018. After graduation, he became an executive counselor for the Boy Scouts of America. He served as physical director for the Gadsden YMCA before becoming a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the State of Alabama, working with the blind and visually impaired. He retired after 30 years of service.

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Adalia Moore Browning '65, Rainbow City, Ala., April 13, 2018. She taught for 33 years in Attalla and Etowah County Schools, retiring from Glencoe Middle School. She was married to Leslie O. Browning '61.

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LTC Ernest Albert Frankl '65/'71, Trussville, Ala.,

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JACKSONVILLE, AL 36265



Jan. 11, 2019. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC and served in the Army in Vietnam. When he returned to the U.S., he became an active member of the Army Reserves, teaching military science at JSU. After retirement, he remained active with the JSU ROTC program. He also worked for the Regional Planning Commission of Birmingham and later for the EEOC, from which he retired.

Ruby Jo Plunkett Heard Holcomb '66, resident of Virginia at time of death, Nov. 25, 2018. She was a retired teacher with the Blount County (Ala.) Board of Education.

Ray Charles Rosson '66/'78, Gadsden, Ala., Aug. 10, 2018. He was an educator in the Decatur City School System until his retirement.

Edna Ford Tate '66/'89, Anniston, Ala., Nov. 20, 2018. She enjoyed a career in social work with the Alabama Department of Pensions and Security.

Dolores Smoake Lutz '67, Jacksonville, Ala., Sept. 5, 2018. A gifted musician, she was a member of the A Capella Choir at JSU.

Charles Robert "Bobby" Wynn '67, Gadsden, Ala., Dec. 26, 2018. The Army veteran worked in the computer field. Over his career he was employed by Holy Family Hospital, Carraway Methodist Hospital, Baptist Medical

Center and Marvin's Corporation.

James C. Campbell '68, Columbiana, Ala., Dec. 9, 2018. He was an Air Force veteran, stationed in Germany.

Raymond Lee Higginbotham, Sr. '68, Marietta, Ga., Aug. 3, 2018. He was retired from the Federal Aviation Administration and worked previously for Beers Construction, Houston Lighting and Power, Southern Company Services and LJ Hooker Developments.

Harold Glenn Mabrey '68, Rainbow City, Ala., Jan. 16, 2019. The Navy veteran retired from Goodyear as manager of the Engineering Lab. He was a former JSU cheerleader.

Edward Michael McMahan '68, Birmingham, Ala., July 7, 2018. He spent much of his career in accounting and finance in the steel industry.

Jamie Moncrief '68/'73, Anniston, Ala., July 26, 2018. He was a Navy veteran and retired educator.

Dennis Elwood Schlerf '69, Weaver, Ala., Jan. 11, 2019. He retired after 30 years of civilian employment with the Anniston Army Depot as a maintenance management specialist. He enjoyed coaching Little League and working on his farm and with his quarter horses.

## 1970-1979

Josie Traylor Jones '70, Anniston, Ala., Sept. 17, 2018. She had worked as an accountant with the Anniston City School System until she retired in 2002 as director of finance.

Randel Ray Burns '70/'71, Decatur, Ala., April 30, 2018. While at JSU, he was director of Dixon Hall (1970-71), a campus police officer (1968-71) and played intramural softball (1968-71).

Diann Weaver Rains Cruickshank '70/'73, Opelika, Ala., Nov. 6, 2018. She was the school counselor at Cherokee County High School (Centre, Ala.) and served as coordinator of academic and student services at Gadsden State Community College. She was a member of Phi Mu.

Dianne Traina McDonald '70, Dacula, Ga., July 27, 2018. For more than 30 years, she was a pulmonary functions therapist and blood gas specialist and consultant in the Gwinnett County Hospital System in Lawrenceville and Duluth, Ga. She also worked in the pulmonary departments at Grady and Emory Hospitals in Atlanta.

William Dan Pitts '70, Anniston, Ala., June 20, 2018. He began his career as a bank examiner with Georgia State Bank, then served as vice president of the Bank

of Anniston, American Express and the John H. Harland Company, among others. He was former president of the JSU National Alumni Association and was married to fellow alum Cathy White Pitts '70.

John Bennett "Benny" Brake '71, Birmingham, Ala., July 7, 2018. The former Marching Southerner served as drum major of the 313th U.S. Army Band, retiring after 32 years of service

Lester Knox Coleman III '71, Brooklyn, N.Y., May 2018. The former Gamecock football booth announcer under Coach Charly Pell went on to have a long career in broadcast news. He worked at WSGN Birmingham and WBZ Boston and served as a White House correspondent during the Carter and Reagan administrations. After obtaining his doctorate degree, he served as professor and chair of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the American University of Technology in Lebanon.

Maj. Gen. William Russell Cotney '71, Memphis, Tenn., July 28, 2018. He served for 40 years in the Air Force, retiring in 2011 after eight years as commander of the Tennessee Air National Guard.

Elizabeth Anne Dozier Jones '71, Huntsville, Ala., Oct. 15, 2018. She was an assistant professor in the School of Psychology at West Virginia College

of Graduate Studies in Charleston, W. Va. She also served as a school psychologist for Birmingham City Schools.

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Maxie Lee Keith McCullough '71, Ashville, Ala., Jan. 31, 2019. She taught second grade at Ashville Elementary for many years.

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Garvis Randy Taylor '71, Gadsden, Ala., Dec. 5, 2018. He taught school and coached in Dekalb County for 32 years. His son, Jeremy '05, is also a JSU graduate.

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Charles Hail '72, Weaver, Ala., July 3, 2018. He was a retiree of the Anniston Police Department and the Alexandria Post Office.

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Patricia Ann Box (Patterson) Bowlin '73/'76, Hokes Bluff, Ala., Jan. 30, 2019. She retired after 32 years of service at Sand Rock High School. An accomplished pianist, she played for Southern gospel quartets, including The Crusaders and the Evangelaires.

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Kenneth Patrick Burns '73, Lincoln, Ala., Jan. 6, 2019. He was retired from the federal government after 28 years of service as a security specialist.

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Vickie Moore Calhoun '73/'80, Gadsden, Ala., Oct. 19, 2018. She taught for over 30 years, 29 of them at Striplin Elementary School. She also taught classes for JSU at Gadsden State

Community College. An accomplished athlete, she coached fast-pitch softball at Gadsden State and helped start the fast-pitch program at Gadsden City High School. She was also the first girls basketball coach at Gadsden High and the first woman inducted into the Etowah County Sports Hall of Fame (1997).

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Richard Douglas Edwards '73, Gadsden, Ala., July 22, 2018. An Army veteran, he served as a hospital staff pharmacist at Fort Ord, Calif., and at Fort McClellan. He also worked as a pharmacist at Gadsden Regional Medical Center for over 30 years, retiring as director of pharmacy services in 1995.

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Col. Jerry Michael Elder '73, Mobile, Ala., Dec. 28, 2018. He was a highly-decorated Army veteran, serving for 33 years, and retired as a chemical officer.

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Wade R. Lipscomb '73, Huntsville, Ala., July 31, 2018. He served as an assistant basketball coach and taught golf and physical education classes at JSU after receiving a graduate assistantship. He next spent more than two decades teaching, coaching and serving as athletic director at Huntsville High. He was honored as Alabama's Athletic Director of the Year in 2001.

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Robert Caldwell Snead, Jr. '73, Birmingham, Ala., July 28, 2018. He practiced law in Birmingham

until his death and, in his spare time, was a well-known charity auctioneer. While at JSU, he served as a class officer, member of the student council and was selected Class Favorite. He was also a member of Alpha Tau Omega and served as its president.

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James Ray Shell '73, Ohatchee, Ala., Dec. 14, 2018. An Air Force veteran, he was an accountant with Shell & Associates.

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Billy Eugene Summerlin '73, Gadsden, Ala., Oct. 30, 2018. In 1970, he took an administrative position at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Gadsden and worked there for 23 years, rising to the level of senior vice president before retiring in 1993. He was an accomplished musician.

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June Meeks Allred '74/'75, Anniston, Ala., Jan. 16, 2019. She began her education career as a teacher at Johnston Elementary and served as assistant principal at Constantine Elementary before becoming the long-time principal of Golden Springs Elementary. She was married to the late Bill Allred '51.

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Morris Edward Ansley '74, Talladega, Ala., May 31, 2018.

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John Robert "Jack" Cooley '74, Demopolis, Ala., Sept. 21, 2018. A Marine Corps veteran and member of the National Guard, he retired from ALFA

Insurance as district manager after 25 years of service. In retirement, he owned a BBQ restaurant and catering business. As a student at JSU, he was a member of the JSU football and tennis teams.

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Richard Wayne Crouch '74, Gadsden, Ala., February 2, 2019. He was a career law enforcement officer, beginning his career with the Anniston Police Department. Over the years, he served as police chief in Starkville, Miss., Moultrie, Ga. and Gadsden, Ala.

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James Henry Tolliver, Jr. '74, Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 29, 2018. The Marine Corps veteran served in Vietnam. He was a certified public accountant and a member of the National Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. At JSU, he was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi.

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LaRevia Andrea Dennis Gray '75/'88, Gadsden, Ala., Oct. 19, 2018. After graduation, she worked as a juvenile probation officer in Etowah County. She served as an emergency respite care volunteer, a counselor at The Bridge outpatient substance abuse program and a counselor at Mountain View, a facility for youth who struggle with behavioral issues and substance abuse.

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J. Lamar Murphree '75, Birmingham, Ala., July 15, 2018. He worked for the Monsanto Company for more than 32 years.



He was a published author and traveled around the country speaking at numerous conferences. He was awarded the prestigious Hammer Award for working with U.S. Customs attorneys in rewriting customs regulations relating to duty drawback.

Michael Andrew Rice '75, Franklin, Tenn., Jan. 11, 2019. He served in the 101st Airborne in Vietnam. After graduating from JSU, he became an agent with the Secret Service for 26 years. He later worked with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Hunt Oil.

Willie J. Yarbrough '75, Anniston, Ala., Aug. 30, 2018. The military veteran had a 33-year career in education, working for the St. Clair County Board of Education, Calhoun County Board of Education, Thankful Junior High and Saks Middle and High Schools.

Weyland Burton '76, Wellington, Ala., July 8, 2018.

Elton Couch '76, Anniston, Ala., Sept. 23, 2018. The decorated Navy veteran worked for a number of years with General Electric, Moore Business Forms, Talladega Machine, C&D Automation and C&A Communications. He had been married to Evelyn Brooks Couch '68.

Donna Kay Lester Davis '76, Ohatchee, Ala., Aug. 28, 2018. She worked



## FEAR THE BEAK OR THE CREEK?

*JSU alum Russ Waits, Class of 1990, maintained his Gamecock composure while facing the rapids on the Nantahala River in North Carolina on a recent rafting trip he chaperoned for Jacksonville High School's Student Ambassadors. The JHS principal, now in his second year at the school, is a former Marching Southerner and holds a bachelor's degree in music education from JSU. He went on to earn a Master of Education in music education from Auburn University in 1991 and served as band director of Emma Sansom High School for 15 years and Gadsden City High School for three years. In 2007, he earned an education specialist degree in education leadership from the University of Alabama and moved into administration. He served as principal of Mitchell Elementary School and Emma Sansom Middle School before assuming his current position at JHS. He is a proud member of the Chanticleer Society tailgate club comprised of JSU alumni and fans and serves as the director of music at First United Methodist Church of Jacksonville.*

in child care and raised three daughters, all who graduated from JSU with accounting degrees.

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Andrew David Jones, Jr. '76, Moundville, Ala., July 19, 2018. He worked for BF Goodrich and Bama Concrete. At JSU, he was a member of the Marching Southerners, Phi Mu Alpha, the Symphonic Band, Brass Choir and the A Capella Choir.

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Luther Earnest Pinegar '76, Arab, Ala., Jan. 29, 2019. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in the Military Police.

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Gwendolyn Wills Childress '77, Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 14, 2018. She had a distinguished, 39-year nursing career, working at Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center in Anniston, Brookwood Hospital in Birmingham, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama and UAB Hospital.

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Lana Carol Bryan Kilpatrick '77, Gadsden, Ala., Jan. 18, 2019. She was retired from the Etowah County School System.

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Carol Lorraine Knight '77, Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 23, 2018. At JSU, she was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

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Lt. Col. Franklin Biron Holliman '78, Fort Mill, S.C., Aug. 25, 2018. Commissioned through the JSU ROTC, the Army veteran served in the Chemical Corps. He

was also a retired truck driver who owned and operated Schneider National Carriers.

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Daniel Houston "Chip" Burke, Jr. '79, Pensacola, Fla., Dec. 22, 2017. He worked in nuclear cardiology at Baptist Hospital in Pensacola for almost 30 years.

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Randall S. Paul '79, Dayton, Oh., Aug. 19, 2018. Dr. Paul was director of the School of Music at Wright State University. He was a respected performer, scholar, conductor and longtime educator. He also authored many articles relating to the clarinet and published his book on reed making in 2010. At JSU, he was a member of the Marching Southerners.

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Cheryl Diane Black Youngblood '79, Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 5, 2019. She retired after a long career of teaching at Randolph Park Elementary School in Anniston and Hemphill Elementary School in Birmingham.

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### **1980-1989**

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Leslie Eugene Ellis '80, Attalla, Ala., Nov. 8, 2018. A former member of the Alabama Air National Guard, he retired from Goodyear with 34 years of service. He was also a cattle farmer. He was married to Jo Ann Berry Ellis '72/'76.

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Karen Magill Loftin '80/'93, Anniston, Ala., Oct. 10, 2018. Her

teaching career began in Abilene, Texas, and later at Kitty Stone Elementary in Jacksonville, Ala., where she taught for more than 25 years. She was married to retired JSU professor, Dr. William E. "Bill" Loftin.

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Jeffrey Alan "Jeff" Parker '80/'81, Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 23, 2018. He had a successful career in the consumer packaged goods industry, holding management positions with General Foods, Schering-Plough and Con-Agra, as well as senior executive positions at Sara Lee, Foster Farms and Crider Foods. After retiring from the corporate sector, he served as executive in residence for JSU's School of Business and Industry, spending more than 13 years teaching in both the graduate and undergraduate programs. In 2005, he helped establish the nonprofit Sarrell Regional Dental Centers for Public Health and was named CEO. He was selected as one of the 20 individuals who changed health care for the better by "Health Leaders Magazine" in 2013 and was the first person in the U.S. named an Ashoka Fellow in the oral health field. As a student, he was a member of Kappa Alpha and he was named JSU's Alumnus of the Year in 2008.

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Gloria Elliott Hinds '81/'83, Jacksonville, Ala., June 28, 2018. She had been employed by the

Calhoun County Board of Education at Saks Middle School.

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Remona Kay Sewell '82/'88/'98, Hokes Bluff, Ala., Sept. 4, 2018. Ms. Sewell was a retired project supervisor with the Calhoun-Cleburne Mental Health Center. As a student, she was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

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Casey Mac Carson '84, Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 10, 2019. He was a member of the Marching Southerners.

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Jerry Lynn Griffin '84, Oxford, Ala., Jan. 23, 2019. He worked for many years as a buyer for Wakefield's and Martin's department stores. He had been a member of the Marching Southerners. Memorials can be made to the JSU Foundation designated for the Marching Southerners Fund.

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Betty Runyan Kilgo '85, Attalla, Ala., Dec. 2, 2018. She was an art teacher for the Gadsden City Board of Education.

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Jesse B. Shaddix '85, Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 12, 2018. He retired from the Marine Corps with 21 years of service. After receiving his theology degree, he served in the North Alabama Ministers Conference for more than 37 years.

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Charlotte Ann Blevins Stratton '86, Anniston, Ala., Jan. 7, 2019. She taught elementary school from Hawaii to California, North Carolina



to Illinois and Alabama to Georgia. She retired from the Department of Defense Schools Program in 2002 but then taught another ten years at Faith Christian School in Anniston.

Bonnie Jones Huddleston '88, Anniston, Ala., Dec. 17, 2018. She and her husband owned and operated Alexandria Hardware and Diamond H. Leather for many years.

Jeffie Burns Latham '89/'91, Gadsden, Ala., Oct. 26, 2018. As an Air Force wife, she taught in many schools but retired from Centre Elementary School in Cherokee County.

### **1990-1999**

Joel Stephen Henry '90, Alexandria, Ala., Oct. 10, 2018. He had been an RN at Northeast Alabama Regional Medical Center, Anniston, Ala.

James B. Rawlinson '90, Weaver, Ala., Jan. 23, 2019. He was retired from the Army, having served with Special Forces (Green Berets).

C. Todd Cox '91, Villa Rica, Ga. Dec. 2018. The former Marching Southerner had been a teacher in Paulding County, Ga.

Dr. Patricia Gibbins Koors '91, Birmingham, Ala., July 1, 2018. She practiced pediatric allergy medicine in Anniston.

Jerry Combs Malone '91, Ashburn, Va., Aug. 28, 2018. A member of MENSA and numerous academic societies, she was an educator and counselor.

Patrick Norman Moore '93, Eastaboga, Ala., April 18, 2019. Mr. Moore was the advisory services director at Itential, LLC. He was a Life Member of the JSU Alumni Association and an avid Gamecock fan.

Lana J. Pitcher Sigler '94, Helena, Ala., Nov. 11, 2018. She had a career in education.

Sharon Lockette Stone '95, Piedmont, Ala., Feb. 14, 2019. She earned a BS in accounting and worked for Fort McClellan and the U.S. Department of Agriculture over her career.

Michael Jeffrey Collins '96/'03, Springville, Ala., Aug. 21, 2017. He was employed by Odenville Middle School.

Garrett C. Smith, Sr. '96, Oxford, Ala., June 20, 2018. The Army helicopter and test pilot retired from the Anniston Army Depot

### **2000-2009**

Wytausha Almon Perry '01, Weaver, Ala., Jan. 4, 2019. She was an educator for almost 18 years at Anniston High School, Duran Jr. High School, Weaver High School and Calhoun County Alternative School. She

was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Delia Rae Barnes Kelly '03, Madison, Miss., Oct. 15, 2018. She and her husband owned Kelly Tile and Marble.

Jeffery Scott Phillips '03, Attalla, Ala., June 28, 2018. He was employed by ALTEC Industries. He was married to Cassandra Taylor Phillips '90.

Jason Dale Glidewell '04/'07, Ragland, Ala., July 23, 2018. As a student, he was a JSU Housing resident assistant and a member of the Marching Southerners.

### **2010-2018**

Scott Peter Del Pozzo '09, Holyoke, Mass., Jan. 25, 2019. He was a Franciscan Friar, serving communities in the U.S. and South America. From 2008-2011, he served as assistant director of emergency management in Easthampton, Mass., and, since 2005, he served the town of Amherst, Mass., as an emergency dispatcher.

Jason Paul Campbell '10, Lebanon, Mo., Feb. 17, 2017.

Gloria Jean Helm '11, Jacksonville, Ala., Jan. 5, 2019. She worked at Fort McClellan as an editor of "Military Police School" magazine and the editor-in-chief of the "US Chemical School" journal. For many years, she volunteered with the

JSU drama department making costumes for plays.

Michael Andrew Thompson '13, Birmingham, Ala., July 7, 2018. He had worked for Alabama Power and Gulf Power and was most recently employed at Edward Jones Investments.

Le'Sharia Bre'Aun Steele '14, California, Oct. 27, 2018.

Justin Wayne Tinker '18, Gadsden, Ala., Feb. 8, 2018.

## **ALUM NOTES**

### **1960-1969**

Judge Bobby M. Junkins '69/'72, Rainbow City, Ala., has completed 30 years of service as the probate judge of Etowah County, Ala., and six years in the Alabama Legislature. In 2018, he was awarded the Spirit of Citizenship award of Etowah County by the Family Success Center in honor of his public service.

### **1970-1979**

Mark Fagan '74 has published a new book on the Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA), which manages pensions for 358,000 public teachers and public employees. "Alabama's Public Pension Fund Growth and Economic Expansion" tells how RSA grew assets and helped expand Alabama's economy

through RSA's investments and industrial recruitment for the state. It can be purchased online at <https://store.bookbaby.com/profile/MarkFagan>.

### **1980-1989**

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Harold Dean '83, North Little Rock, Ark., was honored by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Arkansas with a Legacy Leadership Award. At JSU, he was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

**8** Wanda Gresham Dunham '85, Atlanta, Ga., has been promoted to chief of system safety, security and emergency management and police chief of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), where she has worked for 30 years.

Emily Sides Bonds '87, Mountain Brook, Ala., a partner in the Business and Commercial Litigation Practice Group of Jones Walker, was named Top Woman Attorney by "B-Metro Magazine." As a student, she was a member of Alpha Xi Delta and was a Marching Ballerina. She was named JSU's 2013 Alumna of the Year and served as president of the JSU National Alumni Association. She is married to James Bryan Bonds '87.

Tamea J. Esdale Barnes '88/'92, Pinson, Ala., retired on Aug. 30, 2018, from Trussville City

Schools after a 30-year career teaching elementary school. She began her career at Norwood Elementary School in Anniston and then moved to the Piedmont City Schools. In 1996, she moved to the Jefferson County School System and began teaching at Trussville.

### **1990-1999**

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Kevin Garrett '90/'95 and Tina Jones Garrett '95/'98, Atmore, Ala. Mr. Garrett serves as pastor of First Baptist Church in Atmore. He previously served as pastor at Cove Creek Baptist in Glencoe. Mrs. Garrett is a special education teacher for the Escambia County Board of Education. Both were members of the Marching Southerners.

**9** Tracy Wright '92, Chickamauga, Ga., was named to the Bandworld Legion of Honor by the John Philip Sousa Foundation. He has been the director of bands at Ringgold High School since 2016. He previously served as band director at Ringgold Middle School since 1993. He has also served as an adjudicator and honor band conductor throughout the U.S. and Australia. As a student, he served as a drum major for the Marching Southerners.

Dr. Banyon Allison '95/'96/'02, Oxford, Ala., was recently selected to attend the Alabama Superintendents Academy for the

2018-2019 cohort. He is currently the transportation director for the Calhoun County Board of Education. He previously served as assistant principal at Alexandria High and Walter Wellborn High. At JSU, he played football for the Gamecocks.

Shane Maneri '96 has joined the team at Bull Realty in Atlanta, Ga., where he specializes in assisting hospitality clients in the disposition and acquisition of hotels, resorts and casinos. The New York native attended JSU on a baseball scholarship.

Shasta Boyd McFry '99/'04, Piedmont, Ala., was named Assistant Principal of the Year for the Calhoun County School System. She is assistant principal at Ohatchee Elementary and has been in education for 16 years. She also serves as Title I facilitator and Pre-K director at Ohatchee. In 2018, she received the STAR award from the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education.

### **2000-2009**

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Jennifer Brown Williams '00, Birmingham, Ala., has been appointed as a member of the Alabama board of JDRF, the leading global organization funding type 1 diabetes research. She currently serves as an RN for Dr. Al Cohn at Grotting and Cohn Plastic Surgery.

Boyd Scoggins '03/'07, Jacksonville, Ala., has been elected as an at-large director for the International Employee Assistance Professionals Association's executive board. He is employed by the Department of Defense. As a student, he was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

### **2010-2018**

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Thomas Bryant Whaley '11/'13, Roanoke, Ala., was hired as director of the Randolph County Economic Development Authority. At JSU, he served twice as SGA president and was a member of Kappa Alpha.

**10** Sarah Nicole Corby, '12, Woodstock, Ga., has joined the staff of the Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega, Ala., as the moderate care assistant director/social worker. She previously served as a case worker specializing in the needs of children in foster care with a foster care agency and for the State of Georgia.

Ethan Owens '14, Pell City, Ala., is now director of bands for Talladega High School. He and his wife, Mackenzie Tillman Owens '15 have two children. They were both members of the Marching Southerners.

Chad Boyer '15, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., is going through the Military Police Corps Captain Career Course. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program.

Jesse Miles Stevens '15, Huntington, W.Va., has accepted a position at Marshall University as assistant professor and assistant director of bands. He was a recent graduate assistant with the JSU band program and had been a member of the Marching Southerners and the Chamber Winds.



8. Wanda Gresham Dunham '85



9. Tracy Wright '92



10. Sarah Nicole Corby '12

## EFFORTS CONTINUE FOR A JSU CAR TAG FOR GEORGIA RESIDENTS



The JSU National Alumni Association has learned our application for a JSU Car Tag for JSU alumni and friends in Georgia is making its way through the approval process. We hope to learn of the decision soon. Of course, we will let you know as soon as we hear anything. Get ready, you may be seeing JSU Car Tags in your area very soon!





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**PARENTS:** If this issue is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer lives at home, please send the correct address to [alumni@jsu.edu](mailto:alumni@jsu.edu). Thank you.

