



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

VOLUME 1

FALL 2018

## Welcome from the Dean

It has been a pleasure to start another successful school year here at JSU's School of Education! As Dean, it is my hope that alumni will always feel welcomed on campus, and I encourage you to stop by Ramona Wood Hall to visit your alma mater. We frequently sponsor events, such as the September 28 SoE Open House or monthly [Preview Days](#), during which alumni and their children and friends have opportunities to visit campus. Should you wish to assist the School of Education, via your time (e.g. as a guest speaker, content expert, Board of Visitors member) or your gifts (we always appreciate your School of Education-designated donations at [www.jsu.edu/giving](http://www.jsu.edu/giving)), we would love to hear from you! You can contact the Dean's Office at 782-256-8200. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way, and "Go Gamecocks!"

*- Tommy Turner*



Dean Tommy Turner volunteers as a Dunk Tank "victim" for the Faculty Appreciation fall festival! Good sport!

## SoE OFFERS INAUGURAL STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY

By Kelly Paynter

Professors **Gena Thornburg** and **Kelly Paynter** have worked to develop the first-ever faculty-led study abroad tour for the School of Education, in which students will visit London and Scotland for 8 days. They will experience the culture, history, and diversity of these two integral areas of the United Kingdom firsthand including the local elementary, secondary, and higher education systems as well as the typical tourist sights.

Students can receive class credit for EED 299, EFD 552, EED 550, or EFD 645 as they learn about education in the United Kingdom! They'll participate in symposiums

to learn more about the successes, trends, and challenges of education systems within the United Kingdom; gain insight into the journey to becoming a qualified teacher in England; visit local schools in both Scotland and London; and explore Oxford, the world's oldest university town. They'll also see many of the famous tourist sites that make the United Kingdom one of the most exciting destinations in Europe.

Payment plans are available to make the trip more affordable, and students may be able to use Financial Aid to pay for their trip. Students also receive half-off their tuition for study abroad

classes, which allows them the opportunity to apply what they would have paid toward tuition to the study abroad fee. The deadline to enroll in the Study Abroad trip is **February 28, 2019**.

For more detailed information, visit <http://www.jsu.edu/study-abroad/england-scotland/index.html>, and to view payment option information visit <http://www.efcollegestudytours.com/program-payment>.

If interested, contact faculty leader Dr. **Gena Thornburg** at [gthornburg@jsu.edu](mailto:gthornburg@jsu.edu) or 256-782-5081; or Study Abroad Coordinator **Jason Mallet** at 256-782-5313 or [jmallet@jsu.edu](mailto:jmallet@jsu.edu).



## SoE FACULTY PRESENT AT SUMMER “COLLEGE FOR KIDS” PROGRAM

*By Kelly Paynter*

This summer, the Children’s Corner at the Houston Cole Library hosted weekly mini-lessons for children in the Jacksonville area. Spearheaded by librarian **Laurie Charnigo Heathcock**, the series of presentations involved faculty members teaching topics of interest to children ages 4-8. Each session averaged between 15-30 children, and at the end of the summer, over 35 children received their “diploma,” which meant they attended at least five sessions. Multiple School of Education faculty delivered lectures for this event series, including:

- **Priscilla Wilson**, Counselor Education – “Welcome to Dr. Wilson’s Feel-Good Factory!” (puppet show about feelings and emotions)
- **Kimberly Warfield**, Instructional Leadership – “The Incredible Human Body: My FIVE Senses” (presentation about science and the senses)
- **Wendy Stephens**, Library Media – “Drawing with Scissors: A Matisse Lesson and Cut Paper Collage Craft” (art history and hands-on exploration)
- **Kelly Paynter**, Instructional Technology –

“Eat This, Not That: Kid Edition!” (making good nutritional choices)

- **Tim Whittemore**, Instructional Services – “Spanish Mini-Lección for Kids” (basic Spanish phrases)
- **Cynthia Connor**, Curriculum & Instruction – “Play for All: Adapting Toys for Children with Different Abilities” (a discussion of special needs and demonstration of associated toys/play)

The library plans to make the “College for Kids” program an annual offering.



“Graduates” of the 2018 JSU College for Kids program

## PREEMINENT SCIENTIST PRESENTS TALK TO SoE FACULTY

By Kelly Paynter

Faculty from the School of Education and School of Science were treated to a presentation by Dr. **Ed Fenimore**, Emeritus Fellow of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Senior Scientist of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Dr. Fenimore received his PhD in astrophysics at the University of Chicago and spent his career at Los Alamos working on the birth of black holes seen from across the universe and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. He shared with faculty about his efforts to mentor middle school students in creative thinking and problem-

solving. He then presented a model to SoE and SoS faculty for teaching science concepts to science educators that went beyond the scientific method, instead encouraging educators to pursue personal interests in non-scientific fields, and then see how those fields intersected with science. He gave examples of how a former student used an interest in economics to boost his theories in biology. According to Dr. Fenimore, educators should teach science basics, such as the scientific method, to younger children so that they know well the rules that they will soon break as they become independent, free thinking young adults who eventually forge new paths in scientific thinking.



Dr. Ed Fenimore

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## JSU'S LIBRARY MEDIA STUDENT OF THE YEAR LEVERAGES TECHNOLOGY WITH YOUNG LEARNERS

By Wendy Stephens

**Taleah Thomas**, second grade teacher at Cleburne County Elementary School, was named JSU's Library Media program 2018 Student of the Year. She is finishing her internship this fall and will graduate in December.

Mrs. Thomas has trained her 2nd grade students to navigate to the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL), a set of tax-supported databases accessible to everyone in Alabama based on IP address. The AVL is a terrific resource for teachers looking for high-quality information text. Getting everyone's attention with, "Hocus pocus, everybody focus,"

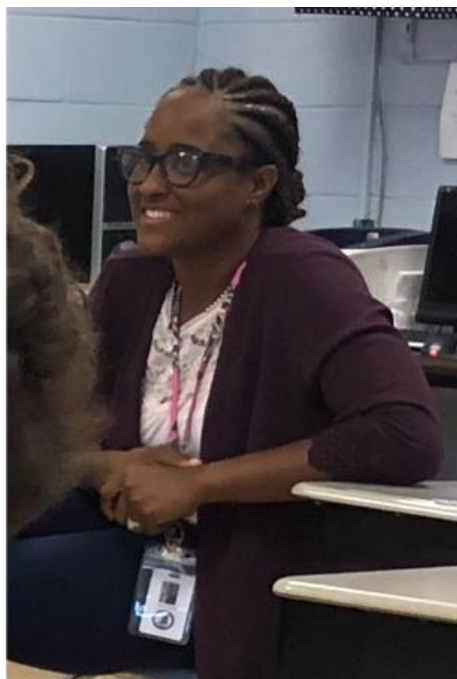
Mrs. Thomas' upbeat attitude brings her classroom alive with learning.

For a recent lesson on desert animals, Mrs. Thomas supplied images instead of common or species names for keyword access. Students, using the visual menus, developed both language skills and content knowledge as they worked together in groups to complete a file of facts about the animals using material from AVL's *PebbleGo* and *Kid's InfoBits* databases, in addition to print books on related topics from the classroom library.

And, perhaps most surprisingly, many students stayed within the

AVL to read quietly about other animals after their assignment was completed. Mrs. Thomas said her students often request AVL time.

The AVL is not the only state-supported resource making a difference in Cleburne County. Thomas also brought in lab resources from AMSTI to teach students the distinctions between states of matter, using cornmeal as a tangible example of a substance with multiple characteristics. Mrs. Thomas' inventive and student-centered instruction proves no one is too young to develop the curiosity and inquiry mindset underpinning research.



Library student Taleah Thomas



Dr. Janet Bavonese



Dr. Shana Smith

## SoE WELCOMES NEW FACULTY MEMBERS FOR 2018-2019

*By Janet Bavonese, Shana Smith, Stacey Gill, Ahmad Alhammouri, & Robin Boyles*

The SoE has been privileged to acquire the talents of new faculty this year, some new to positions, others new to the institution.

Dr. **Janet Bavonese**, a familiar face in the School of Education as the former chair of the Curriculum & Instruction department, was promoted to the Associate Dean position. Congrats to Dr. Bavonese!

In other news from the Curriculum & Instruction department, Dr. **Shana Smith** was hired as an Assistant Professor of Special Education. Dr. Smith graduated from Auburn University with a Ph.D. in Special Education and Rehabilitation. She received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a

Master's degree in Special Education with a specialization in teaching children with severe emotional disturbances and administration. Along with her classroom experience, Dr. Smith has served as the Director of Special Education for Auburn City Schools, where she was responsible for ensuring system compliance with state and federal regulations relative to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1970; served on the At-Risk Students Committee; and chaired the School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports & Interventions Teams within the school system. She served on the Auburn University and Auburn City Schools Collaborative Effort to Provide Meaningful Professional Development Committee and the Auburn University Autism Clinic Advisory Council. She was

Adjunct Professor and University Supervisor for graduate and undergraduate students at Auburn University, Assistant Director of the Auburn University RSE Summer Clinic for students with emotional and behavioral disorders, and consultant for various school systems throughout Alabama and the State Department of Education. In 2015, Dr. Smith became the Director of Educational Services at Glenwood for the Allan Cott School for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and the Lakeview School for Boys with Severe Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. Presently, she is an Assistant Professor in the Special Education Department and serves as the co-project director for the *OntoJSU* program.

In the Educational Resources department, Dr. **Stacey Gill** was hired as the department chair.

Dr. Gill holds a BA in History, an MAEd in Educational Leadership, and an EdS in Educational Leadership from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He earned his EdD in Educational Leadership from UAB and the University of Alabama. He is a native of Eutaw, Alabama, who served 8 years in Birmingham City Schools and 2 years in Jefferson County Schools as a classroom teacher. He became an assistant principal in Tarrant City Schools and was later appointed Principal in Choctaw County schools. As the instructional leader, he led the turnaround efforts to increased student achievement and graduation rates in two schools and received awards and recognition by the district two consecutive years for outstanding leadership. He transitioned to higher education as the Director of Adult Education at Drake State Community and Technical College in Huntsville. His research agenda includes developing an effective leadership model for difficult

rural and urban secondary schools.

In the department of Secondary Education, Dr. **Ahmad Alhammouri** was hired as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He obtained his BS in mathematics and statistics from Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, Jordan; MA in Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in Mathematics Education from the University of Jordan, Amman; and his Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in Mathematics, from Ohio University, Athens. Dr. Alhammouri has taught middle and high school mathematics in Jordan, Kuwait, and the United States. He served as a teaching assistant in the Departments of Teacher Education and Mathematics at Ohio University. Additionally, during his Ph.D. journey, Dr. Alhammouri served as a graduate assistant and research assistant for the Advanced Teacher Capacity (ATC)

and Outreach for Outcomes projects, which included mentoring high school mathematics teachers. Dr. Alhammouri's research interest focuses on mathematical modeling and quantitative reasoning, including how to advance mathematics teachers' capacity to address these terms in their instruction.

Dr. Alhammouri is a member of several professional organizations, including the Mathematical Association of America, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

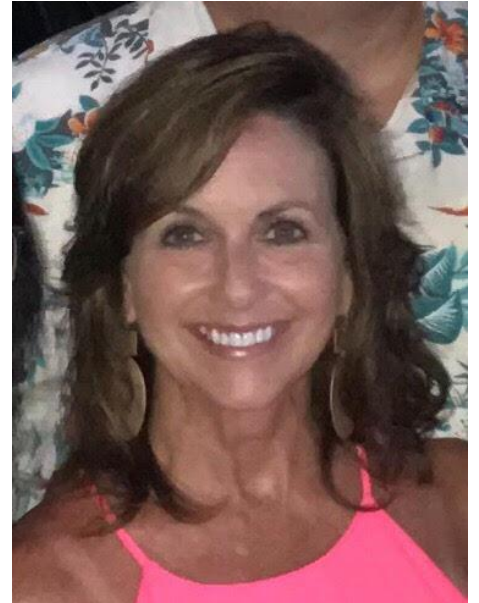
The teaching assignments for Dr. Alhammouri include Math Methods, Quantitative Reasoning in Secondary Schools I & II, and Assessment, as well as supervision of teacher candidates. Dr. Alhammouri enjoys playing and watching soccer. He is also a gourmet cook.



Dr. Stacey Gill



Dr. Ahmad Alhammouri



Robin Boyles

**Robin Harris Boyles** earned a B.S. in music education from JSU in 1984, followed by a B.S. in early childhood education in 1991. She returned to earn a M.S in 1998 and an educational specialist degree in 2013. Mrs. Boyles has dedicated her life to education and recently retired from Jacksonville City Schools where she taught first grade at Kitty Stone Elementary for 26 years. She has been a presenter at JSU Core Academy several times. She taught adjunct at Gadsden State for two years. Robin has always

been an active part of the Jacksonville community. She has served as a Relay for Life team captain for many years and coordinated the Paws for a Cause fund raiser that helped raise thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Society. She and her husband Marty, a former Marching Southerner, proudly serve on the JSU Annual Board Foundation and actively support all things JSU! They have three daughters, Shelli, a 2010 graduate in marketing from JSU; Hali, a 2012 graduate in business

administration from JSU; and Calli, a senior in the marketing program at JSU. They attend Church of the Highlands in Oxford where they both serve in roles of leadership. Robin also had the honor to be awarded the Alumna of the Year award in 2015, where she proudly represented her hometown and alma mater. Mrs. Boyles is currently serving as the Early Childhood Clinical Specialist in the SoE and is proud to be serving and promoting a program that set the path for her life goals.

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## FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES SPONSORS FUN, RELEVANT EVENTS

*By Robbie Boggs*

FCS Hospitality and Culinary Management students participated in a Farm-to-Table initiative at Mason Hall on September 10. Community leaders from Talledega County sampled special menu items prepared by some of our culinary students. **Brent Robinson** served as Chef for the deconstructed chicken and dumplings. **Harley Robertson** was Chef for the Flambé dessert. The objective of this initiative is to promote community cohesiveness and showcase locally grown food sources.

Next, FCS Merchandising students traveled to Atlanta AmericasMart to watch the Spring/Summer 2019 fashion show event on October 18. Students were able to observe vendors working with buyers from across the Southeast as they purchased merchandise for the upcoming season. The owners of Uncommon showroom on the

9th floor gave the students a tour and explained the various lines that are carried and target markets of each line. One of the students attending was offered an internship with the firm for Summer 2019.

*Right:* Deconstructed chicken dumplings.

*Below:* Savannah Brown, Lexie Moore, Seia Watson, Evelyn Fuller, and Destiny Easley at AmericasMart.



Another initiative by the FACS department was to honor local first responders JSU U.P.D., the Jacksonville Police Department, and the Piedmont Fire Department for their continued service to the community on October 24 at a luncheon in Mason Hall. Culinary students prepared pizza rolls, BBQ sandwiches, baked beans, and sopapillas for the 18 guests who attended this event.

Culinary and Hospitality students also recognized the important contributions of the JSU Health Professions faculty and nurses at a luncheon in Mason Hall on September 26. The Quantity Foods class prepared a three-course meal consisting of marinated vegetable salad, homemade chicken pot pie, and deconstructed baked apple pie.

Finally, **Madison Burrell**, a junior from Jacksonville, AL majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Merchandising, was named as the 2018 JSU Homecoming Queen. She is a member of Sigma Alpha Omega Christian Sorority. For her platform, she chose *Know Your Worth*. This is a self-established platform that actually began in her freshman year in college as she struggled with self-worth, self-esteem, and self-confidence. Since so many people struggle with confidence issues (and not just women), her goal is to help others know they are worthy, beautiful, loved, and valued. It is her belief that if kindness begins with her, perhaps it will have a ripple effect that can benefit others.



*Top:* Community “Super Heroes” honored at the First Responder Event.

*Middle:* JSU Health Professions faculty and nurses at the September 26 luncheon.

*Bottom:* Madison Burrell, 2018 Homecoming Queen and FCS student.

## CYNTHIA HARPER DAYCARE STUDENTS GO TRICK-OR-TREATING

By Robbie Boggs

Pre-school children enrolled in the Cynthia Harper Daycare Center in Mason Hall showed up in costume and went trick-or-treating in Ramona Wood

Building and Bibb Graves Hall on Halloween morning. Students enrolled in FCS 353, Child Development Lab, dressed in costume as well and visited with Ramona Wood administration and faculty to get candy before

going on to visit all floors of Bibb Graves Hall. JSU President Dr. **John Beehler** and First Lady Dr. **Pamela Beehler** provided candy and took a picture with the children. The children are sure to have many happy memories!



Brenda Cline with preschoolers



Dr. Pamela Beehler with preschoolers

## SoE LIBRARY LIAISON RECOGNIZED FOR EFFORTS, PARTNERSHIPS

By Wendy Stephens

JSU's Education Librarian **Laurie Charnigo Heathcock** is on a roll. In addition to running a popular summer enrichment program for youngsters, her innovative, community-centered thinking is embodied in the Children's Reading Room project and its potential to improve early childhood literacy in Calhoun and Etowah counties.

Ms. Heathcock has leveraged both the physical space and the excellent collection of more than 20,000 children's books to create a stimulating and family-friendly service for the JSU community. In 2017, she tapped into a range of on-campus departments, including Early Childhood Education, Art, and Theater to

to produce an adaptable space that brings the University's heritage as a "normal" school into the 21st century. With the support of Dean **John Bauer Graham** and Public Services Chair **John Bruce Upchurch**, Ms. Heathcock sought grant funding for construction, decoration, fixtures, and furnishings, including a stage with variable lighting for performance and puppetry. The Reading Room is now a bustling space where classes meet, early childhood majors study, and families drop in for self-paced activities and crafts. Ms. Heathcock conducted a training workshop ("Storytime Magic") for student volunteers, coordinated a storytime calendar and sent home information about the room with all students in Jacksonville City Schools to

bring students whose families are not affiliated with the University onto campus. She has planned a series of events featuring children's literature from around the world in conjunction with students living in International House. Stop by the fifth floor of Houston Cole to check out the space the next time you are on campus!



Laurie Charnigo Heathcock