

# School of Health Professions and Wellness

SPRING 2021

## JSU Nursing helping to fight COVID pandemic

For over a year, COVID-19 has dominated the news and devastated families across the nation. Since vaccines have become available, JSU Nursing faculty and students have answered the call in assisting with vaccination clinics in the local area. Working with agencies such as Calhoun County EMA, Regional Medical Center, Alabama Public Health, and other organizations, JSU Nursing faculty and students have committed their talents to help bring this pandemic under control.

Even as their holiday break continued, JSU Nursing faculty began administering injections at the Calhoun County vaccination clinic held at the Anniston City Meeting Center. Hundreds of healthcare workers, first responders, and residents over the age of 75 lined

up for the opportunity to have some protection from the virus. During the Spring semester, many JSU Nursing students have assisted in giving vaccinations in a variety of locations.

“Empowering exemplary nurses to care for anyone, anytime, anywhere” is the

vision of JSU Nursing. The opportunity to make a positive impact in controlling this pandemic is one that we welcome. JSU Nursing is ready and willing to assist anytime the community’s health is a risk. It’s what we do; it’s what we love!



## JSU Kinesiology Sport Management students gain experience at Super Bowl LV

JSU undergraduates Rachel Nevitt, Jordan Adkins and Claire Vermette received valuable experience as volunteer workers at the Super Bowl in Tampa, Florida. These Gamecock students were among several

thousand workers needed to make the event possible.

JSU Kinesiology’s Sport Management program prepares graduates for all aspects of sport management including budgeting and finance, marketing,

public relations, facilities management, event planning, and the legal and ethical considerations of sport management/recreation administration.

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## Message from the Dean: Tracey D. Matthews

Dear Alumni and Friends:

On behalf of the School of Health Professions and Wellness, I am excited to share with you this bi-annual newsletter that provides you with updates about the great work of our faculty, staff, and students. As most of you know, the School has been through some major hurdles including the 2018 tornado, and now adjusting to a new normal through COVID-19. Faculty and staff continue to remain resilient, creative, and flexible as they continue to deliver exceptional educational experiences to our stu-



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dents. I am extremely proud of their grit, drive, and determination during this very trying time.

In this newsletter you will be able to learn more about the activities and new initiatives that continue within the SHPW. Our theme for this year is “Building Community.” I hope you will see this interwoven throughout the articles you will read. SHPW is committed to not only building community within our school and University, but also in our community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that renovation of South Complex (formally the Regional Medical Center in Jacksonville) will begin later this Spring! The renovation will include:

- Four new lecture hall classrooms spaces seating 125 students each
- Updated Administrative suites
- Renovated and new nursing skills labs
- New student lounge, study, and informal dining space
- New Master of Athletic Training

### Educational space

Academic programs that will be housed in South Complex will include Undergraduate Nursing, Respiratory Therapy, and our new Master of Athletic Training program.

In addition, our previous Challenge Course was destroyed by the 2018 tornado. We have received approval to move ahead with rebuilding the course in another location on campus. More details about this project will be shared in the future.

In closing, I hope you enjoy learning about our initiatives, programs, and our students. We look forward to seeing you soon. Please know you are always welcome back to JSU! We also want to thank you for your continued support of our programs, whether by referring students, offering student practicum experiences or financial support, we are grateful for your willingness to give back.

Go Gamecocks!  
Dean Tracey D. Matthews, DPE

## JSU Respiratory Therapy & JSU School of Business develop program to elevate therapists into leadership positions

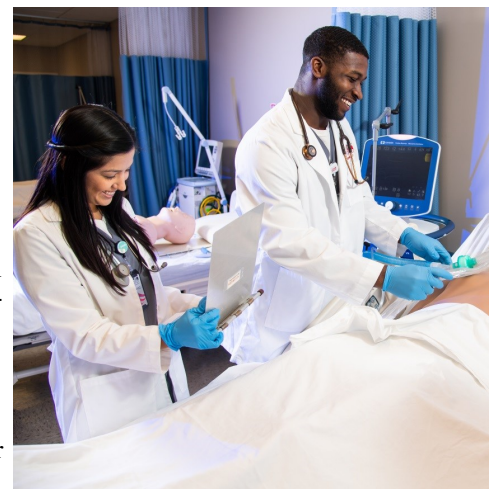
Over the past year, respiratory therapists have earned their place at the top of the healthcare industry. With JSU’s new RRT to BSRT Bridge 4+1 MBA program, therapists can obtain the degree they need. In this program, registered respiratory therapists that have completed an associate-level program have the option of obtaining an advanced degree in Respiratory Therapy and a Masters in Business Administration.

The program is designed to help respiratory therapists improve their skills as leaders, educators, and advanced-level clinicians. We pre-

pare students to become departmental leaders and administrators in their role as an advanced-level therapist.

As a 100% online program, it is designed to be convenient for the working therapist. The Bachelors in Respiratory Therapy portion can be completed in one year if all core requirement courses are complete. The MBA portion can also be completed in one year.

During the pandemic, respiratory therapists have been vital in the healthcare industry. Thank you for all you do!



## “Breathe-EASIER” Project scheduled for presentation

Over the Summer semester, Drs. Crabtree, Morrow, and Mabrey led twenty-five students from nursing, respiratory therapy, and exercise science in clinical rotations at the Department of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation in the Tyler Center of RMC in Anniston. Client participants of the program, Breathe EASIER, tested a novel approach to pulmonary rehabilitation during a pilot home-based telehealth program aimed to improve functional capacity and quality of life that was offered as an alternative to traditional center-based rehab programs. The 9-week program consisted of a day of orientation for students held at the JSU South Complex, followed by 8 weeks of virtual client assessments, structured exercise, and edu-

cational sessions. Over 476 clinical hours were logged by students as they gained valuable interprofessional experience in emerging technological approaches to client care. The program enabled students to gain critical experiential learning and allowed high-risk clients with chronic lung conditions to continue care safer-at-home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Presentation of findings from the program are scheduled in March 2021 during the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions’ (ASAPH) virtual conference series and in June 2021 during the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners’ (AANP) Annual Conference.



## Kinesiology Alumni Spotlight: Shaun Weeden

Shaun Weeden is from Atlanta and a 2018 graduate of JSU majoring in Exercise Science and Wellness with a minor in Nutrition. While at JSU, he played football for the Gamecocks. He is now ACE (American Council of Exercise) certified and is in the process of being a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist.

Currently, Mr. Weeden works with lululemon® in a partnership role while working toward an ambassador role in the Atlanta area. He will soon be conducting workout bootcamps and personal training while advertising lululemon® to the public. JSU School of Health Professions and Wellness wishes you the best in your endeavors!



## Thank You, from JSU Health and Wellness!

It has been a challenging year for JSU, our Alumni!  
The JSU School of Health Professions and Wellness would like to take a moment to say:

*Thank You!*





## Nursing Student Spotlight: Charlie Waters

Charlie was a 2016 graduate of Armuche High School in Rome, GA. He started his college career here at JSU in Fall 2016 with a planned major in exercise science. Charlie was your typical hard-working, all-around college guy. During Charlie's freshman year at JSU, he was playing intramural sports with his fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi. During that game, he obtained a knee injury that needed further evaluation. Upon evaluation, Charlie had a problem. Charlie had developed an acute form of leukemia.

He continued to go to college, work 30+ hours weekly, and worked painting houses on the side. He did not tell anyone about his diagnosis. He stated you just "do what you

have to do."

Charlie was admitted into the nursing program in Spring of 2020. He had made it through two years of treatments and had just gained his remission status—just in time to start nursing clinicals in first semester. Charlie said he changed his major to nursing after he saw how flexible the career was and how much more hands-on nursing could be.

Charlie is currently in third semester in the JSU Nursing Program. He states he has learned so much already and is excited for the knowledge that is still to come. When asked if there was one thing he would like to tell current nursing students about facing adversity, he

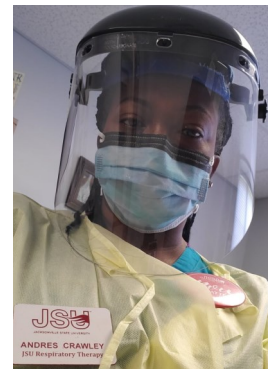
stated "Don't let bad situations take advantage of you and don't let anyone tell you what you can or cannot do. You are the only governor to yourself."



## Respiratory Therapy Faculty Spotlight: Mrs. Andres Crawley

Mrs. Andres Crawley serves as Director of Clinical Education at JSU Respiratory. Mrs. Crawley has been an RT for 16 years and joined our program in 2017. When asked what she liked least about being an RT, she responded, "Honestly, I cannot think of anything I don't like about the role of an RT. Our job responsibilities are plentiful and gratifying. I have been able to work in

various roles that have kept the excitement going." As to what she liked most about being an RT, her response was "What I like most about being an RT is the hands-on care you give patients when they are at their worst. The rewarding feel of seeing patients progress and get better is a feeling that can't be explained and never gets boring. Being an RT makes you grateful for all life's little (and big) blessings."



## March is National Athletic Trainers Month!

National Athletic Training Month is held every March to spread awareness about the important work of athletic trainers. The National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) has designated this year's slogan as "Essential to Healthcare".

JSU's Master's in Athletic Training program is headed by assistant professor and program director, Dr. Chris Clark. Dr. Jennifer Savage serves as assistant professor and coordinator of clinical education. Mr. Randy Beason operates as ad-

joint faculty in the program. The School of Health Professions and Wellness would like to recognize the important work that athletic trainers provide. You are essential to healthcare!



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*“Happiness lies first of  
all in health”*

George William Curtis

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and Wellness!**

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**SCHOOL OF HEALTH  
PROFESSIONS & WELLNESS**  
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

*The Jacksonville State University School of Health Professions and Wellness was established to deliver a top-quality education for 21st century professionals in an effort to promote health and wellness in our communities, state, nation, and around the world.*

*The departments of nursing, respiratory therapy, and kinesiology have developed undergraduate and graduate programs utilizing the latest evidence-based practices. It is our goal to prepare future leaders in health and wellness professions.*

## **Giving to JSU Health Professions and Wellness: An Investment in the Future of Healthcare!**

The JSU School of Health Professions and Wellness has always strived to provide world-class healthcare education and serve the health needs of our communities. Our faculty, staff, and students have remained committed to making a difference in our communities, locally and beyond.

This past year has presented challenges for everyone. With the pandemic and economic challenges, it seems that some aspect of our lives been impacted in some way. However, the JSU School of Health Professions and Wellness has been focused on strategies that can make a difference. Whether it was COVID vaccination assistance, providing health education to the community, developing health/wellness programs, or preparing our students to become leaders in an ever-changing healthcare environment, our goal has never changed...working today for a better tomorrow.

We would like to continue and even expand upon the programs that have served our students and communities over this past year, but we need your

help. Would you consider partnering with us to make for a better tomorrow? We have made giving easy for your convenience. Simply text JSUHEALTH to 91999 or go to:

[Jacksonville State University  
\(mobilecause.com\)](http://www.jku.edu/mobilecause.com)

