

This is copy of our Alumni Newsletter that is sent monthly to our Alumni.

If you wish to receive these emails, please let us know at alumni@jsu.edu



May 2025 Edition

DR. WENDY CASH
DIRECTOR,
ALUMNI
ENGAGEMENT
256-782-5405
WCASH@JSU.EDU



BRITTANY WHITE
ASST. DIRECTOR,
ALUMNI
ENGAGEMENT
256-782-8256
BHWHITE@JSU.EDU

FEATURED EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS



April was a "home run" for alumni engagement!

We began the month with our **Alumni Engagement Board Retreat weekend**, which included dinner, campus tours, and numerous opportunities for engagement.

By mid-April, we launched our Grand Slam Series with visits to alumni and friends in **Chattanooga, TN; Nashville, TN (Nash Bash); and Rome, GA.**

The **19th Annual Shrimp Boil** was a huge success! More than 350 alumni, students, and friends gathered for an unforgettable day of food, fun, and fellowship--while raising funds for student scholarships.

The month came to an end with the celebration of the Spring 2025 graduating class. The Alumni Association hosted a **Graduate Toast** at the University Recreation and Fitness Center's outdoor patio, highlighted by a champagne toast from President Don C. Killingsworth, Jr.

ON THE ROAD WITH JAX STATE Fairhope, AL

Baseball, golf, and a getaway... all in one month? That's what we're up to this May! Mark your calendars and join us for these exciting opportunities to stay connected with Jax State alumni and friends.

- **Grand Slam Series:** You have two more opportunities this spring to be a part of the Gamecock Grand Slam Series! We will wrap up the Spring portion of our series with the **Atlanta Braves on May 6** and our very favorite team—the **Jax State Gamecocks—as they take on the Auburn Tigers on May 13.**

- **Topgolf:** Join us Thursday, **May 8**, for a night of fun, friendly competition, and prizes at *Topgolf*. Whether you are a seasoned golfer or picking up a club for the first time, **Topgolf is the perfect place to connect and socialize.** Your \$30 ticket includes reserved bays, delicious food, and plenty of laughs. Grab your friends and come show off your golf skills!

- **On the Road with Jax State--Fairhope, AL:** Join President Killingsworth and other special Jax State guests in Fairhope **May 16–17** for a **weekend of connection and fun.** Events include a low country boil at The Grand Hotel, golf at Lakewood Golf Club, and beignets at Panini Pete's. Wrap up the weekend with a casual dinner at District Hall.

Click [here](#) to learn more and register for future events as they become available.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

COCKY BUSINESS



When Governor Kay Ivey appointed Falon C. Hurst as the new sheriff of Calhoun County, it wasn't just a victory for public safety—it was a proud moment for Jacksonville State University.

"Local is important to me," Hurst said. "I grew up with the University in my backyard. Most of my mentors and the people I admired earned their degrees at Jacksonville State. I knew I wanted to be a part of that legacy."

Read Sheriff Hurst's full alumni spotlight [here](#).



Sometimes, non-traditional paths lead to entrepreneurial success, which was certainly the case for Hannah Perry.

A self-proclaimed conservative when it comes to taking risks, Hannah might have never taken the leap into business ownership. However, her husband Cody had different ideas.

Read their *Cocky Business* story [here](#) and submit your own *Cocky Business* to be featured in one of our upcoming newsletters [here](#)!

ALUMNI CONNECTION



Did You Know...?

When you join the Jax State Alumni Connection, you can upload photos from events you attend to share with other alumni.

It's a great way to relive special moments and see what fellow Gamecocks are up to all over the world. Whether it's a tailgate, reunion, or professional gathering, your photos help keep our alumni network strong and connected.

Simply [click here](#) to get started and connect with your fellow Jax State alumni in one convenient location. You're just a few clicks away from reconnecting and reminiscing

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



This summer, keep an eye on your mailbox for *The GEM of the Hills* Alumni Magazine! Inside, you'll find our **ALUMnotes** section, where we share exciting milestones and celebrations from fellow Gamecocks.

Whether you're tying the knot, welcoming a new baby, earning a big promotion, or marking another special moment—we want to hear from you!

Submit your ALUMnotes by emailing your announcement to alumni@jsu.edu to be featured in an upcoming issue.

about your days on the Friendliest Campus
in the South!

GROWING GAMECOCKS



Growing Gamecocks is a special program created to engage and inspire future Jax State students. Alumni, family, and friends can enroll children at any age to receive annual birthday cards and gifts—helping them feel connected to the Gamecock family from the start. **It's never too early—or too late—to join!** One scholarship is awarded each year, with special consideration given to students who demonstrate leadership, community involvement, and participation in extracurricular activities.

Click [here](#) to get the details and enroll the Growing Gamecocks in your life. **All Growing Gamecocks are encouraged to enroll, from ages 0 to 18!**

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO



It's been a busy and exciting season for Gamecock alumni! We **closed nominations for our 2025 Alumni of the Year** and kicked off the **Gamecock Grand Slam Series** with great energy and engagement. Our **Alumni Engagement Board held a productive and inspiring retreat**. We celebrated tradition and community at the **19th Annual Shrimp Boil** and raised a toast to our newest graduates during **Graduate Toast**. Be sure to check out our recent alumni spotlights featuring **Jeff C. West, Jeremy Dean, Beth Rogers, Matt McCullars, Dana Davis, and Dr. Michael Turner**—outstanding examples of Gamecock excellence in action!

Be sure to visit our **Facebook page** and **Instagram** to catch up on anything you missed, and don't forget to follow us while you're there! You can also view albums of all our latest events **[here](#)**.

COMING TO THE ROC

GAMECOCKS GIVE BACK



The planned **Recording Studio for the Randy Owen Center** includes two isolation booths, one for vocals and one for percussion, a booth capable of holding small instrumental ensembles, and a recording suite large enough to accommodate our music technology classes. The new programs in Music Technology and Music Industry allow for students to gain skills needed in the industry, from live performances in both the recital hall and concert hall as well as sessions within the studio itself.

From concert hall seats to classrooms and offices, there are multiple ways to give and leave your mark on this state-of-the-art facility.



Experience the best of both worlds: support Jax State while receiving fixed payments for life with a Charitable Gift Annuity.

A charitable gift annuity is simple. You make a gift to the JSU Foundation of cash or appreciated stocks, and we agree to pay up to 2 individuals a fixed income for life. The payments never fluctuate and are not affected by changes in the economy or financial markets. You will receive an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of your gift, and annuity payments are guaranteed for life and backed by a reserve and the assets of the JSU Foundation. Annuity payments are partially tax-free, making them more valuable than fully taxable income of the same size.

Check out our **Benefits Calculator** or call Kim Dalesandro at 256.782.5606 for a customized illustration.

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Jacksonville State University Foundation, Inc., 700 Pelham Road, North, Jacksonville, AL 36265

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