

This is a 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 2026 Edition

FEATURED EVENTS



This April, alumni and friends gathered for one of our most beloved traditions—the 20th Annual Shrimp Boil! This milestone celebration brought us all together for a night of fun, good food, and entertainment by the Jax State Steel Drum Band before heading to Jax State Football's Spring Game. Our Northeast Florida Network joined the fun from afar and hosted a shrimp social to bring Gamecocks together for this enjoyable tradition.

Batter up! We traveled to Auburn and Troy for our final Gamecock Grand Slam series in baseball. We also enjoyed an evening of Gamecock spirit, fellowship, and giving back at the Marshall County Spirit Night. To conclude the month of April, the Jax State Alumni Association hosted the Spring 2026 Graduation Toast with more than 200 graduates, friends, and family in attendance to celebrate. Congratulations to our newest alumni!

To view our events over the past month, [click here](#).

If you missed the opportunity to purchase our fun **Aloha Cocky** Hawaiian-themed shirts at the Shrimp Boil, we still have a few in stock. [Click here](#) to order.

UPCOMING EVENTS



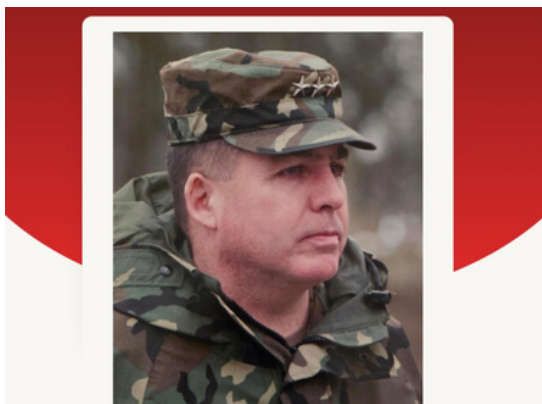
May is filled with exciting engagement opportunities! The Coaches Caravan series with Coach Kelly begins this month. There is still time to join us tonight in Cartersville, GA, or make plans to join us in Nashville, Gadsden, or Fairhope. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Birmingham area Coaches Caravan had to be cancelled. We'll see you soon at another engagement opportunity. Join fellow Gamecocks for an evening of camaraderie, insight, and school spirit. Jax State coaches will share program updates, discuss the upcoming season, and engage with attendees.

We look forward to this week in Nashville, May 7-9, as we step into a night of mystery and magic Thursday evening at the House of Cards. On Friday, we will gather for our Coaches Caravan at Riley Green's Duck Blind, and Saturday, Gamecocks are invited for a relaxing afternoon at Arrington Vineyards. Bring your family and friends, and enjoy the fun, live music, and fellowship!

At the end of the month, we are excited to meet alumni and friends for an evening of Gamecock spirit in Seattle. Enjoy great company, skyline views, and a relaxed social at one of the city's best rooftop spots—The Charter Hotel Seattle.

We hope to see many of our alumni, friends, and family this month! Check [here for event details and register on the website](#), or [view the schedule here](#).

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Throughout his career, **Lieutenant General Ronald Emerson Adams ('65)** has been highly honored for his commitment and service. He served two years in the Army National Guard while attending college and served an additional 37 years on active duty as an Army aviator, cavalryman, and commander. He was Jax State's first Regular Army General Officer and remains its only three-star general.

General Adams said Jax State helped him learn who he was. He was only to be a temporary student at Jax State but chose to stay.

"I wanted to remain at JSU, and did. I never regretted that decision. After growing up like I did, moving every one to three years and having to say goodbye to friends, familiar places and routines, the four years at JSU were pivotal. The relationships nurtured on campus encouraged me and kept me grounded. Those relationships remain among my most treasured," General Adams said.

[Read more about General Adams here.](#)

COCKY BUSINESS



After 25 years in the financial services industry, Jax State alum **Stephen LaFollette ('87)** saw an opportunity to build something personal and impactful. In 2020, he formed Pine Bend Wealth Management in Anniston, Alabama, and has committed to serving his community ever since.

"In building my own practice, I've been able to stay closely connected to the community I love while delivering a higher level of care, trust, and long-term partnership for the families I'm privileged to serve," LaFollette said.

LaFollette was a member of the Jax State ROTC and said it shaped the way he approaches leadership, responsibility, and service in every aspect of his life. He was later stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii as a Field Artillery Officer.

[Read more about Pine Bend Wealth Management here.](#)

[Submit your own Cocky Business to be featured](#) in one of our upcoming newsletters here!

ALUMNI CONNECTION

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Would you like to know how many alumni live near you? Sign up with Alumni Connection and utilize the map feature to locate new acquaintances or old friends!

Alumni Connection is a free platform to help you stay connected to Jax State and fellow alumni. You can also update your information anytime. [Sign up today!](#)

As a Jacksonville State University National Alumni Association Member, you can live most anywhere to receive some amazing discounts through our Member Deals program. Discounted prices are available for various hotels, theme parks, and other attractions in California, New York, Florida, and more.

[Click here](#) to learn more about discounts, deals, and membership.

GROWING GAMECOCKS



We're excited for all of our Growing Gamecocks graduating this month! We wish you all much success. If you have nieces and nephews, you can also enroll them in the Growing Gamecocks program.

[Click here for details and to sign up today!](#)

AROUND CAMPUS



Jax State has approved a partnership with **Sanders Flight Training Center**, an FAA Part 141 flight school based in Jasper, to provide flight instruction for students pursuing the Commercial Aviation concentration in Jax State's new Bachelor of Science in Aviation program. [Read more here.](#)

The Jax State Board of Trustees has approved the naming of the **Scott Williams Dining Room** in recognition of his 47-year career in campus dining, including 37 years at Jax State. The honor, made possible through a gift from Sodexo, reflects a career

defined by leadership, consistency, and a deep commitment to the campus community. [Read more here.](#)

Jax State Bowling recently won its second NCAA title in three years! Jax State capped off an incredible 103-10 season with its second NCAA Collegiate Bowling title with a 4-1 win over Wichita State in the Baker best-of-seven national championship match. [Read more here.](#)

Jax State softball clinched its first Conference USA regular season title in program history after hitting five home runs across four different batters in a 12-4 win in five innings over the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders. [Read more here.](#)

COMING TO THE ROC



Join us for the **Grand Opening Celebration** of the Randy Owen Center for the Performing Arts! Tickets are still on sale—an opportunity for the Jax State community to be part of a defining moment on campus.

Live in Concert: Randy Owen, Alabama, and Friends, celebrating the grand opening of the Randy Owen Center, will take place on Wednesday, May 27, at 7 PM. This special event marks the opening of a new space that will serve our students, faculty, and the region for years to come.

[Purchase tickets here.](#)

GAMECOCKS GIVE BACK



For decades, the **Jacksonville State University Army ROTC** program—known proudly as the **Gamecock Battalion**—has stood as a cornerstone of leadership development and service to our nation. Since its establishment, the program has commissioned more than 1,600 officers into the United States Army, producing leaders who have served with distinction across every component—Active Duty, National Guard, and Army Reserve.

There are several meaningful ways to give back and continue shaping the future of Army leadership at Jax State:

- **Support Rowe Hall Renovations**

As we open this world-class facility, there are also opportunities to leave a lasting mark:

Brick Pavers – \$500

- Includes 3 lines of 14–20 characters per line

Name a Seat (Includes up to 3 lines of text, 35 characters per line)

\$500 (Choir Loft)

\$1,000 (Balcony and back of orchestra level)



\$2,500 (first five rows of orchestra level)

\$2,500–\$5,000 (pews in the church)

[Click here](#) for more information on opportunities or to give today.

- **Invest in Cadet Scholarships and Programs**
- **Mentorship and Engagement**
- **Strengthen the Network**

As we recognize Military Appreciation Month, we honor not only those currently serving, but also the generations of Gamecock alumni who have worn the uniform with pride. The mission remains clear: developing leaders of character for the Army and the nation. With the continued support of its alumni, the Gamecock Battalion will carry that mission forward for decades to come. For more information on ways to support, visit <https://give.jsu.edu/g/rotc> or contact Jack Lyle at jblyle@jsu.edu.

<p>DR. WENDY CASH DIRECTOR, ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT 256-782-5405 WCASH@JSU.EDU</p>			<p>BRITTANY WHITE ASST. DIRECTOR, ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT 256-782-8256 BHWHITE@JSU.EDU</p>
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