

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



September 2025 Edition

FEATURED EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS



In August, we sent our summer graduates off in style with a champagne toast and visited with many of our alumni in the Sunshine State. We joined alumni in Santa Rosa Beach for dinner. Then, we traveled to Orlando for the Jax State vs. UCF kickoff, which offered networking opportunities and provided a chance to cheer on our Gamecocks for the season opener. Alumni enjoyed meeting fellow Gamecocks over great food at The Porch South Orange, experienced an exciting new adventure at the Orlando ICEBAR, and braved the weather to meander down memory lane at our tailgate prior to kickoff. If you haven't joined us, we hope to see you at other activities we have scheduled for the fall. **See more photos from Orlando alumni activities here.**

The Cocky Travelers are counting down to Alaska, and we hope you'll join us! Alumni and friends are headed to Alaska aboard the Norwegian Bliss! Join us and bring your friends aboard a 7-day cruise as we set sail from Seattle. Come and enjoy the camaraderie and the breathtaking views of Sitka, Juneau, Endicott Arm & Dawes Glacier, Icy Straight Point, Ketchikan, and Victoria, British Columbia. Visit www.funvacationstravel.com to learn more about the trip and to reserve your cabin for only \$125/person. All payments are due by January 30, 2026.



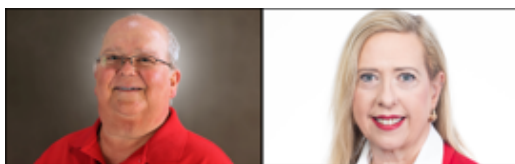
Fall is here, and we have some wonderful engagement opportunities in September for you! We invite you to reconnect with old friends, network with other Gamecocks, have some fun, and hear campus updates.

- 4: State of the University Address, Otter Creek, Ohatchee
- 9: State of the University Address, Wynlakes Country Club, Montgomery
- 10: Rocket City Trash Pandas Baseball Game, Huntsville
- 13: Jax State vs Georgia Southern
- 16: Bowling with the Best, Gadsden
- 19: 1975 Golden Gamecocks Reunion
- 19: ROTC Alumni Banquet
- 19: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., XI XI Chapter 45th Reunion
- 19: A Cappella Choir 65th Reunion
- 20: Homecoming Parade, Alumni Tailgate, and Jax State vs. Murray St.
- 20: Black Alumni Weekend Tailgate
- 20: WLJS 92.1 50th Reunion
- 24: State of the University Address, Birmingham
- 27: Jax State vs Southern Miss

Click here to learn more and register for future events as they become available.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

COCKY BUSINESS



2025 ALUMNI OF THE YEAR



We are excited to announce the Jax State 2025 Alumni Honorees.

Alumnus of the Year: Dr. Kevin Lackey, '91

Alumna of the Year: Ellen Tibbets Hurst, '91

Young Alum of the Year: Matthew Shaffer, '10

Military Alumnus of the Year: Maj Gen Larry R. Broadwell, Jr., '94

Homecoming is September 20, 2025. Our honorees will participate in the Homecoming parade that will begin at 11:00 a.m., and they will be recognized on the field during the first quarter of the game. Come on out and help support our award recipients, football team, and Marching Southerners!

To read more about each honoree, [click here.](#)



What started as a leap of faith between two cousins has blossomed into a beloved eatery where faith, family, and community are always on the menu. In October 2023, **Tillery Rice ('19)** and **Chloe Tidwell ('23)**—two Jax State alumnae and lifelong best friends—took ownership of **Swheat Market Deli** in Cartersville, GA, transforming their dream into a flavorful reality.

“We’ve been through so much together—laughing, crying, and celebrating—and now we get to share this incredible journey of building something we’re both so passionate about,” said Tillery. “Serving our community, being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, and sharing delicious food—it doesn’t get better than that.”

Walking into **Swheat Market** is like coming home. -- **[Read more about their journey here.](#)**

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

ALUMNI CONNECTION



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Moving to a new location? Starting a new career journey? We encourage you to

Help support the University you love by becoming a member of the Jax

sign up for Alumni Connection and make sure all of your information is correct. This social platform updates directly to our database, allowing you to update your new mailing address, email address, and career information. Using your non-JSU email or social media, verify with a quick code, and start uploading your information and connecting with former classmates and professors in just minutes! **Click here** to get started.

State Alumni Association! Although many local businesses offer discounts for our members, there are nationwide companies that provide discounts to our alumni as well! Support the University while enjoying these wonderful benefits. **Join today and celebrate your connection to Jax State!**

GROWING GAMECOCKS



Growing Gamecocks is a special program that celebrates future Jax State students. You can enroll your child, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or your best friend's child! Each year, enrolled children will receive a Gamecock surprise during their birthday month, up until their 18th year. Additionally, students who have been admitted to Jax State and have been previously enrolled in the Growing Gamecocks program are eligible to receive a one-year, non-renewable scholarship. This scholarship will cover the remaining cost of tuition after the recipient's first-time freshman merit scholarship is applied. If interested, students must apply for additional scholarship funding through the **Jax App**. Scholarships open on Sept. 1 and close on Feb. 1 each year.

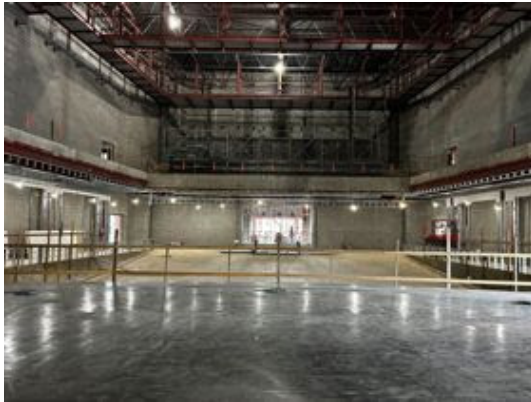
Learn more about the program and how to enroll a child.

AROUND CAMPUS



Jax State dedicated "A Space for Grace" on August 13. The new Serenity Garden, located behind Mason Hall, is a sanctuary to provide students, faculty, staff, and visitors with a peaceful area for reflection, connection, and mental wellbeing. The project took shape through a grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama (CFNEA), support from the national nonprofit Nature Sacred, and contributions from across the Jax State community — including more than \$13,000 raised by former Miss JSU Grace Ann Lundy during her 2024 service initiative, "Let's Talk About It." Lundy said she was determined the garden not bear any single person's name, but rather reflect a shared mission. "A Space for Grace" was inspired by a saying within the Marching Ballerinas: *Give yourself grace*. "This garden is a symbol of strength," she said. "It takes immense strength to give yourself grace every day with whatever you may be dealing with." **Learn more about the Serenity Garden.**

COMING TO THE ROC



With its visible progress, the ROC is taking center stage in community conversations. What's the vision for the ROC? **Check out this video to learn more.**

GAMECOCKS GIVE BACK



Since January 1, 2024, supporters from across the country and around the world have stepped up to be part of the "It's a Jax State of Mind" campaign, and the impact is growing every day! We're proud to share that donors from 42 U.S. states and 5 countries have already made a gift. Each red state on the map represents donor participation, and every gift makes a meaningful difference.

Together, we're transforming student lives,
opening doors to new opportunities, and
building a stronger future for Jax
State! Learn more or give today at
jaxstateofmind.com.

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