

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

August 2023, Issue No.10



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2023 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION
- WHO IS SANDRA SUDDUTH?
- CHARLEY JAMES: A UNIVERSITY TREASURE
- PRIDE PHOTOSHOOT
- UPCOMING EVENTS

Word of the Month: Kindness

1. the state or quality of being kind:
2. friendly feeling; liking.

Dictionary.com

HEY, JAX STATE!

By *Ethan C. Brown*

Welcome back to campus, Gamecocks! It is my hope that you all had a fun (but safe) summer break. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion has been hard at work planning events for the 23-24 school year. This month's newsletter will cover our activities from the summer (in case you missed them.) As always, you will also find information about our upcoming events included in the newsletter. Don't forget to sign up for our newsletter mailing list, it can be found on our website! Thank you for reading, and we hope to see you all around campus this year!





Photos taken by Alyssa Cash, JSU Marketing



2023 Juneteenth Celebration

By Ethan C. Brown

Over summer break, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's second annual Juneteenth Celebration was held. On Thursday, June 15th, members of the community congregated in Merrill Hall for an evening of 'Freedom Day' celebrations. The night included local musicians/singers, speakers, line dance performances, games, soul food, and a vendor area featuring black owned small businesses from the Calhoun County area.

Music for the evening was provided by TAD of Jazz, the Living By Faith Ministry Mini Singers, and Piedmont High School fine arts teacher Jason Wright. The line dancing demonstrations were presented by the Anniston Steppers and the Gadsden Line Dancers. Speakers for the evening included Charley James and Myles Ham. Diversity and Inclusion Director Charlcie Pettway Vann presented flowers to JSU Instructor Emerita Sandra Sudduth at the Juneteenth celebration as well. Mrs. Sudduth was the 2023 recipient of the Dr. Roberta Watts Lifetime Achievement Award, which is presented during women's history month. Mrs. Sudduth was hospitalized earlier this year and could not attend her award ceremony. Thankfully she made a full recovery, and this summer's celebration was the perfect time to give her recognition and her flowers.

To learn more about Juneteenth, and why we celebrate it, check out our June newsletter! All past newsletters can be found on the 'Newsletter' tab at www.jsu.edu/diversity/

Who is Sandra Sudduth?

By Ethan C. Brown

Instructor Emerita Sandra Sudduth served the JSU community from 1994 to 2010. But Sudduth's dedication to Jacksonville runs deep.

Born and raised in Jacksonville, Mrs. Sudduth understood the importance of community. Her father Theodore Bert Fox, the great-grandson of a slave, became the first black chairman of the Jacksonville City Council in the 1960's. After being appointed, Fox ran unopposed for the next three terms. Throughout her childhood, Sandra learned a lot about elected offices and being a leader from her father. After college Mrs. Sudduth returned to Jacksonville and began teaching in the Anniston City Schools, and even helped develop a counseling program for the school system. While doing this she also served as an adjunct professor at JSU, until receiving her fulltime position in 1994. It was in 1990 though, that Mrs. Sudduth filled the council seat vacated by her father. Sandra Sudduth followed her fathers legacy, becoming the first black Chairwoman of the Jacksonville City Council.

Mrs. Sudduth had a hand in many influential projects throughout Jacksonville, almost too many to name. Because of her hard work and determination, Mrs. Sudduth was awarded the 2023 Dr. Roberta Watts Lifetime Achievement Award during Women's History Month. The JSU and Jacksonville community are blessed to have experienced the work of Mrs. Sandra Sudduth.

Charley James: A University Treasure

By Ethan C. Brown

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Charley James is a Jacksonville State treasure. Mr. James was not just a 1969 honors graduate, he was one of the first black graduates at Jax State! We were so blessed to have Mr. James on campus for our Juneteenth celebration. It was one of the first times he had been on our campus in over 50 years, a campus he has had a very complicated relationship with.

When Charley James attended Jacksonville State, the school was in the beginning stages of desegregation. Sadly, Mr. James and his schoolmates of color did not experience the JSU that we all know and love. Mr. James shared at the Juneteenth Celebration that he had never felt a part of the JSU family, until he met Charlcie Vann and Jacob Phillips of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Mr. James gave a testament to the office, saying that if he would have been provided a resource such as a Diversity and Inclusion office, it would have potentially changed his whole experience. Mr. James' words were very touching to the audience.

Mr. James has had a very successful career since his graduation in 1969. After being drafted the September of his graduating year, Mr. James went on to have a 30 year career in the Air-force. His positions and honors are as follows: "Lieutenant Colonel James held the following primary positions in the Air Force: Race/Human Relations; Equal Opportunity and Treatment (EOT), Human Relations (HR), and Substance Abuse Instructor, (SA) Branch Chief; EOT, HR, and SA Inspector General Team; Commander, AFROTC Unit, California State University; Commander, AFJROTC Unit, Loyola Marymount University; Chief, Military Equal Opportunity Division for all Air Force bases in Europe.

Lt.Colonel James' Military Honors include

(1) Air Force Commendation Medal and (7) Meritorious Service Medals. In 1968, he was selected as the U. S. Air Force Team Chief to brief the Bulgarian Minister of Defense to help prepare Bulgaria to become a member of NATO." Mr. James began teaching in 1999 and was selected as a master instructor by ROTC Headquarters in 2010. Colonel James also participated in many community relations projects, and retired from the AFJROTC in 2012. He is still a devoted member to his community.

It has been a blessing for us to know Charley James, and a pleasure for me to introduce everyone else to him. We hope to see Mr. James back on campus in the near future!

www.claytoncountyga.gov/residents/community-services/veteran-of-the-month-program/previous-veterans-of-the-month/august-2020/

Pride Photoshoot



Photos taken by Alyssa Cash, JSU Marketing

Upcoming Events:

JSU PRIDE **JSU SAFE ZONE** **JSU** OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY
LGBTQ+ FACULTY AND STAFF COLLECTIVE

Full Spectrum *are hosting a*
POOL PARTY!

JSU REC
indoor pool
Friday, August 18
3pm - 7 pm

There will be yard games and refreshments

Can't wait to see you there!



GRAB AND GO!
Diversity Breakfast

STUDENTS!
Stop by Angle Hall 117 and grab breakfast on your way to class.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21ST • 8-10AM
SEE YOU THEN!



Diversity
FASHION PHOTOSHOOT

August 30, 2023
2PM - 4PM Self Hall 129

Wear your favorite outfit!

Scan to RSVP



STUDENT RESOURCES

Preferred Name Request (Registrar's office)

http://www.jsu.edu/registrar/student_forms.html

Counseling Services

<http://www.jsu.edu/ccservices/>

Student Health Center

<http://www.jsu.edu/studenthealth>

JSU Library LGBTQ+ Resource Collection

<http://libguides.jsu.edu/lgbtq>

Title IX

<http://www.jsu.edu/titleix/>

LGBTQ Vocabulary List

<https://thesafezoneproject.com/resources/vocabulary/>

D&I Glossary

<https://www.jsu.edu/diversity/glossary.html>

Diversity Discussion Request

<https://www.jsu.edu/diversity/event-request.html>

Cocky Cares

<https://www.jsu.edu/cockycares/>

Disability Resources

<https://www.jsu.edu/disabilityresources/>

Student Success

<https://www.jsu.edu/studentssuccess/>

Gamecock Market

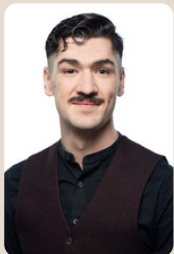
<https://www.jsu.edu/gamecockmarket/index.html>

JSU Safe Zone is a campus-wide program that works to ensure a welcoming environment for all gender identities and sexual orientations. By establishing an identifiable network of trained individuals committed to fostering an atmosphere of respect and inclusion, the program provides a safe space for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies on campus.



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**THANK
YOU FOR
READING!**



www.jsu.edu/diversity