

# GEM

OF THE HILLS

SPRING 2017

## ALOHA Y'ALL:

MARCHING SOUTHERNERS CARRY  
FOUNDERS' LEGACY ACROSS THE PACIFIC

## KNOW ONE ANOTHER, LOVE ONE ANOTHER:

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

## BEHIND THE WHEALE:

JSU GRADUATE TAKES ON LAW AND HOLLYWOOD

## CHEER FOR THE HOME TEAM:

ALUMNI LEAD JSU SOFTBALL  
TO WINNING TRADITION





### DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

At JSU, we are *Transformative, Innovative and Engaged for Success* (JSU TIES). In making this theme a reality, we are experiencing a "renaissance" on campus. As the dictionary indicates, we indeed



### GREETINGS GAMECOCKS!

We have recently welcomed 727 graduates to our alumni family following the April 28 commencement ceremonies. Our total network of alumni now exceeds 60,000! And our Student Alumni

are having a "rebirth, revival, and period of new growth or activity." It is truly an exciting time to be a Gamecock.

Many transformational things are happening on campus. We are renovating two historic buildings (page 6), updating and modernizing classrooms (page 16), constructing a new baseball stadium, and will soon break ground on a new student recreation center. We continue to add new programs to support our students, such as the Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (page 6) and a Transfer Pathways Program to ease the transition for students into JSU from two-year schools (page 24).

On the academic front, JSU has been recognized as one of the nation's top producers of Fulbright Scholars and we are better serving our community through outreach efforts like the new Center for Manufacturing Support

Association (SAA) continues to grow with over 100 members. It is great to be a Gamecock!

This summer, campus will be busy with construction/renovations of the Gamecock Baseball Field as well as Sparkman and Daugette Halls. We will welcome our 2017 freshman class to campus through summer orientations. Freshman Convocation on August 22 will begin their fall semester with a pep rally, picnic and, of course, the ringing of the bell!

Thank you for all you continue to do to assist in our enrollment efforts and be JSU's "Boots on the Ground" in your area. We want and we need you to be involved. We, as alumni, are the best recruiters for JSU. With your help, we can continue to help enrollment management efforts to increase enrollment and welcome generations to our alumni family.

(page 11). Additionally, our top-notch athletic programs continue to break records, from softball (page 8) to basketball (page 17).

It is hard to believe that nearly two years have passed since the first lady and I joined the JSU family. It is a privilege to serve as president of your alma mater. I am proud of all that we have accomplished together and look forward to continued success in the coming months and years ahead.

Go Gamecocks!

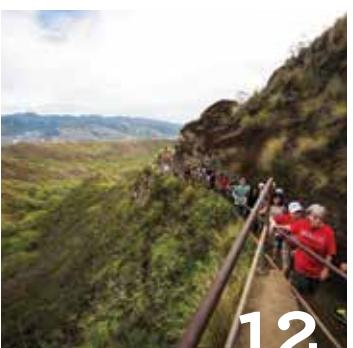
*John M. Beehler*

John M. Beehler, Ph.D., CPA  
President

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### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

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★ **RIGHT:** Dr. Charles Lewis, VP of University Advancement



★ **ABOVE:** Founder's Day Scholarship recipients

**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Jean Reid, Savannah Booker (recipient of Marcus & Jean Reid Scholarship), and Marcus Reid; Kayla Smith (recipient of Major Williams Scholarship)



# FOUNDER'S DAY

## Two-thousand Seventeen

In celebration of the anniversary of the founding of Jacksonville State in February 1883, University Advancement hosts Founder's Day each February to honor the past and recognize those driving the future of the university.

Outstanding students who received scholarships from the JSU Foundation were invited to meet and thank their donors on Feb. 22. Likewise, donors were invited to meet their scholarship recipients

★ **LEFT:** Molly Henson (recipient of Gary O. Lewis Scholarship) and Gary Lewis

**BELLOW (LEFT TO RIGHT):** Jenny and Ken Howell (Howell Endowed Scholarship), Jim Kirksey (donor), Dr. Pamela Beehler and President Beehler, Sharron and Don Hedden (donors); Glea Sarrell, Jeffrey Hughes (recipient of the Lela Blocker Sarrell Nursing Scholarship), and Lela Sarrell

and learn about JSU's achievements over the past year. President John M. Beehler delivered a State of the University address, after which students shared how a scholarship was making an impact in their lives.

Congratulations to the students who received scholarships and thank you to those who have given back to the university by supporting these outstanding students!

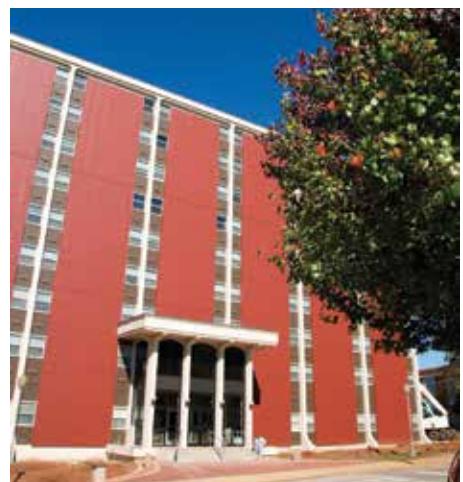


## Camden Swatts Crowned Miss JSU 2017

JSU freshman Camden Swatts was crowned Miss JSU 2017 in January. The dietetics major will go on to compete in the Miss Alabama Pageant, to be held June 7-10 at Samford University. Swatts is native to Beauregard, Ala., and aspires to be a registered dietitian. Her talent is dance.

Since 1971, seven former Miss JSUs have gone on to be crowned Miss Alabama: Ceil Jenkins Snow, 1971; Jane

Rice Holloway, 1973; Julie Houston Elmer, 1977; Teresa Cheatham Stricklin, 1978; Tammy Little Haynes, 1984; Heather Whitestone McCallum, 1994; and Jamie Langley, 2007. Stricklin went on to win first runner-up in the Miss America Pageant in 1979 while Whitestone was crowned Miss America in 1995. ☺



 Built in 1970, Sparkman Hall is to be renovated and reopened by this fall.

## University Renovating Sparkman and Daugette Halls

Two campus mainstays, each cloaked in history, are getting a facelift. In November, the JSU Board of Trustees announced that Sparkman and Daugette Halls will be renovated to add much-needed student housing to campus as student enrollment continues to increase. The

board approved a \$10 million non-bank qualified tax-exempt loan to fund the project. The revenue gained from housing fees paid by occupants will service the renovation debt. Renovations are underway and the university hopes to reopen these student residence halls in the fall. ☺

## JSU Opens New Veterans Center

JSU celebrated the grand opening of the new Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success on November 10, 2016. The ribbon cutting and open house were held at the center, located in Daugette Hall, following the Jacksonville State and City of Jacksonville's annual Veterans Day ceremony. ☺



## Governor Appoints Rusty Fuller to Board of Trustees

The Alabama Senate has confirmed Gov. Robert Bentley's appointment of Rusty Fuller to the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees, effective immediately. He will represent Congressional District 6, filling a seat left vacant following the death of longtime trustee Jim Bennett in August.

A JSU alumnus and former football standout, Fuller earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from the university in 1985, where he was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society. He began his professional career as a biology teacher and coach at Thompson High School in Alabaster, Ala., before transitioning to pharmaceutical sales with what is now Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation. He

has 30 years of pharmaceutical experience, including 23 years in sales management.

As a student at JSU, Fuller played football from 1979 to 1983. He was a member of two Gulf South Conference championship teams in 1981 and 1982. He participated in the NCAA playoffs in 1980, 1981 and 1982 and was named to the GSC Team of the Decade for the 1980s and the Team of the Quarter Century for 1971-1995. He was also named to the JSU All Century Team in 2003 and was inducted into the JSU Sports Hall of Fame in 2013.

Fuller has been married to JSU alumna Joy Biles Fuller for 33 years. They reside in Vestavia Hills and have three children, four grandchildren, and attend Church of the Highlands in Birmingham.



"Rusty Fuller is a great addition to the JSU Board of Trustees," said President John M. Beehler. "He truly loves our university and is dedicated to its success across all dimensions." ☺

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<sup>2</sup>Net purchases are purchases minus credits and returns.

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ON THE  
COVER

“I’ve always felt blessed to lead this program, but it’s not my program,” McGinnis said. “This program is Jacksonville State’s... it’s the Jacksonville State family’s. But more importantly, it’s the kids who have come through this program, it belongs to them.”

-Coach Jana McGinnis

# CHEER FOR THE HOME TEAM:

Alumni Lead JSU Softball to Winning Tradition

By Chris Brown

Near the northeast portion of campus, there’s a short piece of road – less than a quarter-mile in length – that connects the City of Jacksonville to the world of university softball where Jacksonville State has become a powerhouse. Like its namesake, Jana McGinnis Lane allows people from various cities and states to come together and enjoy college softball.

For those fortunate enough to don a red-and-white Jacksonville State uniform, however, they leave University Field with something more – something life changing.

“Coach McGinnis will take girls from different regions and different upbringings and different cultures and get them to buy into this program, because she’s the common denominator,” said former JSU standout Ella Denes. “For me, she helped me be OK with who I was, both as a player and a person. I always had trouble balancing the competitive demand of sports and the type of ‘nice’ personality I have, but she showed me first-hand that you can have both. In a lot of ways, she just gave me confidence in myself more than anyone ever has. Ultimately, she’s the sparkplug that makes everything go.”

The sparkplug that the reigning Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year refers to as her former college head coach was placed inside the engine of a

vehicle – which was about to go through a major restoration – in 1994. After a brief, one-year stint at Cherokee County High School, which resulted in a Class 4A state championship in basketball, McGinnis accepted the softball head coaching position at her alma mater a year before the school made the decision to jump to the Division I level.

During the two seasons Jacksonville State was making the transition to the game’s highest level, McGinnis coached her team to a combined 48-38 record before exploding onto the Division I scene in 1996 with an overall record of 46-11, including a 13-3 mark in Atlantic Sun play. To this day, McGinnis has only one sub-.500 season on her resume and it came in 2001 when the Gamecocks finished with a 24-27 record.

“Dana, my sister, and I played here as college basketball players – Jacksonville State is our home,” McGinnis said. “Jacksonville State is really all we’ve ever known. Our mom retired from here and there’s four girls in my family and we’ve all got degrees from here. This is just our family.”

Initially, McGinnis turned down the softball opening twice before athletic director Jerry Cole asked her to sit down with him, face-to-face.

“He wanted to talk about where he

saw Jacksonville State going and its athletic program,” McGinnis said. “I told him, ‘I had played women’s slow pitch (softball), so I don’t feel like I’m the right person to take this job but I’ll learn it.’ He then looked me right in the eyes and said, ‘I’m not asking you to win 20 games. I’m asking you to recruit good people and get this program’s reputation up,’ and I said, ‘I can do that.’”

Even though Jacksonville State’s athletic director from 1973 to 1997 didn’t technically ask McGinnis to “win 20 games,” that’s what the Spring Garden High School graduate has done every year since 1995, including ten 40-win seasons and nine more 30-win seasons. However, when asked about the level of success of JSU’s softball program, McGinnis is the first to defer any personal accolades and recognition. She’d rather the attention be turned to current and former players as well as assistant coaches who have put in time and effort during practices and games to get the Gamecocks where they are now. In fact, the editors of GEM had a difficult time convincing her to appear on the cover of this magazine alone.

“I’ve always felt blessed to lead this program, but it’s not my program,” McGinnis said. “This program is Jacksonville State’s...it’s the Jacksonville State family’s. But more importantly, it’s



the kids who have come through this program, it belongs to them."

Shying away from letting GEM write a feature about just her, McGinnis asked that we turn the spotlight back on her assistant coaches: Mark Wisener and Julie Boland.

Mark Wisener has been a member of McGinnis' staff for 20-plus years and has emerged as one of the key components in making sure the engine remains in running capacity. Wisener, who played baseball at Snead State before transferring to JSU in the early '90s, has coached six conference Pitchers of the Year, including in 2016 when Whitney Gillespie won the award after posting a 16-4 record with a 1.13-earned run average, 18 complete games and two-no-hitters as a sophomore.

The other staple that holds the Jacksonville State softball program together is long-time assistant coach Julie Boland, who played under McGinnis and ranks in the top 10 on numerous lists in the program's record books.

"When I first came on my recruiting visit and when she talked to me on the phone, I knew there was something real about her," Boland said of Coach McGinnis. "There was no fakeness or her just trying to sell a school or make everything look shiny. She was just real. And when I met her in person, I felt the same thing."

With McGinnis, Wisener and Boland all Jacksonville State graduates, it makes JSU one of only two out of 295 Division I softball programs – UCLA being the other – in which the entire full-time staff are serving at their alma mater. When asked what has kept the trio together through the decades, Wisener believes their "friendship" is the top thing.

"Jana lets Julie and I have a lot of say, because she really respects what we have to say," he said. "Jana and I have worked together for, I guess, going on 22 years now and we've never had an argument about practice, games or what we need to do. We all just have a unique friendship and work relationship. There have been 'bigger programs' who have asked Julie and I come, but that's just not home to us."

The word "home" is defined several different ways: a place where one lives, a headquarters, a place where one is born. In the case of Jana McGinnis, Mark Wisener and Julie Boland, home is Jacksonville State. Home is the people who share the feeling of love and appreciation every time an Ella Denes jogs onto the playing surface of University Field knowing they're about to give everything they have and more to represent the university.

To the community of Jacksonville as well as the players and families of Jacksonville State, this is and will always be home to Jana McGinnis.

## JSU Recognized as Top Producer of Fulbright Scholars

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has named Jacksonville State University a top producing institution of Fulbright Scholars. One of the most prestigious awards in academia, the Fulbright Scholars program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program.

JSU received more Fulbright awards in 2016-2017 than any other university in Alabama and was among the top producers in the nation, with the following three recipients:

**Guillermo Francia** – A computer science professor, Francia is a recipient of a Fulbright Cyber Security Award from the US-UK Fulbright Commission. He is in London, England, working with a group of prominent cyber security experts at Imperial College to perform research on critical infrastructure security. He is part of the first wave of American researchers traveling to the UK as part of the 2015 Obama-Cameron bilateral agreement to

strengthen cyber security research collaboration between the United States and UK.

**Russel Lemmons** – A distinguished professor of history, Lemmons will travel to the Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich in Germany over the next two springs to research the life of a Jesuit priest, Rupert Mayer, who opposed National Socialism. He plans to spend a great deal of time in the Jesuit archives and the Diocesan archives in Munich. The results of his research will be seen in a biography he is writing about Mayer.

**Ellen Peck** – An assistant professor of drama, Peck is both a theatre practitioner and a musical theatre historian specializing in the early 20th century. She is currently using her Fulbright award to teach classes in musical theatre and American theatre history at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University in Romania.

"JSU's participation in the Fulbright Scholars program has enabled our faculty to experience international cultures, engage in scholarship with an expanded



world view, teach in universities around the world, and bring those perspectives back to our campus," said JSU Provost Rebecca Turner. "For a campus our size, located in a small town in rural Alabama, we are proud of our global citizenship emphasis and thank the Fulbright program for assisting us in fulfilling our mission."

Since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 370,000 participants – chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential – with the opportunity to exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns. Over 1,100 U.S. college and university faculty and administrators, professionals, artists, journalists, scientists, lawyers and independent scholars are awarded Fulbright grants to teach and/or conduct research each year in over 125 countries throughout the world.

## JSU Opens Center for Manufacturing Support

JSU has established a new Center for Manufacturing Support to expand opportunities for the university's applied engineering students. Housed within the Department of Applied Engineering, the goal of the center is to marry research and education, enabling students to obtain meaningful, real-world experience while providing support to small businesses.

The center has already collaborated on several projects with regional businesses and corporations – from prototyping work for a small business in Birmingham

to a 3D printing project for Gnutti Carlo to ongoing efforts with Honda Manufacturing of Alabama. The center is also actively working with other departments and units on campus, including rebuilding the ROTC rappelling tower.

"The experience students are receiving working with regional industries through

the center has already begun to pay off

for both the students and companies,"

said Chris Marker, center manager. "The students are getting real-world experience and the companies are completing projects

that would otherwise not be feasible."

Marker said this serves as an early exposure to the job market for students, allowing them to learn alongside future employers. At the same time, the center benefits local industries by providing them access to a skilled labor force and assistance with projects.

The center is open year-round. For more information, contact Chris Marker at [256-782-5129](tel:256-782-5129) or [cmarker@jsu.edu](mailto:cmarker@jsu.edu).

# ALOHA Y'ALL:

## Marching Southerners Carry Founders' Legacy Across the Pacific

By Buffy Lockette

Photography by Matt Reynolds

**W**hen the founding director of the JSU Marching Southerners, Dr. John T. Finley, was serving his country in the US Air Force during World War II, he never imagined that in a few short years he would establish a band program that would carry his legacy back across the Pacific six decades later.

Following a Veterans Day halftime show in 2015, the 60-year-old band was surprised with the news that it had been invited to perform at the

75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. This past December, more than half of the 500-member band, accompa-

nied by over 100 alumni and friends, flew to Honolulu to take part in the historic event.

"I wanted to accept the invitation because I knew this particular performance had the potential to be life changing for our students – and it was," said Dr. Ken Bodiford, JSU director of bands.

This wasn't the first time the band has been asked to cross oceans to perform. It was invited to play for the Queen of England in London's 2012 New Year's Parade. In 1996, it marched in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

With more than a year to prepare, the Southerners' 2016 halftime show – "Heroes: Lost and Fallen" – was designed to honor the anniversary throughout marching season. Featuring patriotic hymns and popular tunes from the era, each show was dedicated in memory of those who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. During one poignant moment during the show, actors interpreted loving couples being separated by the war and, later, happily reunited

– except for one whose spouse had made the ultimate sacri-

fice for his country.

In advance of the trip, Pearl Harbor veteran Durward Swanson met with the band to share his memories of the tragedy and prepare the students for their performance. It was a message clarinetist Rayne Ragains has heard her entire life. The great granddaughter of two War World II veterans had planned to sit out of the band her senior year, due to the demands of her final year in nursing school, but had a change of heart when she learned about the

halftime show theme and the performance at Pearl Harbor.

"I talked it over with my parents and they told me what an honor it would be to be part of this," said Ragains, who cried throughout her Pearl Harbor performance. "I got to march the year and it changed my life – every year I have marched has changed my life, but this year



**"I think that both Dr. Finley and Dr. Walters would have been extremely proud of the band at the Pearl Harbor performance."**

**-Dr. Ken Bodiford**



has been one of the biggest impacts on me and my family."

The band flew to Honolulu on Dec. 9. It was originally asked to participate in a mass band performance at the national ceremony on Dec. 7 but, due to final exams, wasn't able to get to Hawaii until later in the week. Instead, it helped close the anniversary week on Sunday, Dec. 11, with a heartwarming performance on the dock of the USS Missouri overlooking the memorial for the USS Arizona. After spending the morning touring the site of the tragedy they had heard so much about over the past year, band members marched through the gates of the USS Missouri memorial and assembled along its dock.

A hush fell over the audience lined up along the deck of the ship when the signature sound of the Marching Southerners began to rise up from the dock below, drift across the peaceful harbor, and bounce off the volcanic remnants of the Ko'olau Range just like it has off Chimney Peak all these years since the war. It's a sound enriched by the Conn 20J tubas Dr. Finley ironically acquired as Navy surplus when he established the band – horns that continue to be repaired and reused since they're no longer manufactured.

This respect for tradition is ingrained in the culture of the Marching Southerners. It was passed down from Finley to Dr. David Walters, who took over as band director when Finley was pro-

moted to head of the music department in 1961. Walters also served in World War II, stationed in the Pacific on the USS Dixie. Both men played in the military bands of their respective branches. Perhaps it was there they acquired the discipline that would be passed on to generations of Southerners.

Both Finley and Walters died within a few months of each other in 2015 and the loss has been felt deeply by their successor, Dr. Bodiford, who had led the band under their mentorship since 1994. In February, Bodiford announced that the 2017



LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. David L. Walters and Dr. John T. Finley, World War II.





**ABOVE:** Dr. Timothy Lindblom



**ABOVE:** Dr. Maureen Newton

## Deans Selected to Oversee Two New Schools

JSU has promoted two well-respected departmental leaders to serve as deans of the university's new School of Science and School of Human Services and Social Sciences.

Dr. Timothy Lindblom, head of the Department of Biology, has been named dean of the School of Science while Dr. Maureen Newton, head of the Department of Sociology and Social Work, has been named dean of the School of Human Services and Social Sciences.

The university announced last June that it was reorganizing its four colleges into six schools to create more manageable, marketable and synergistic units. The large College of Arts and Sciences was split into three schools: the School of Arts and Humanities, the School of Science, and

the School of Human Services and Social Sciences. The university needed to select new deans to oversee its two new schools.

"As JSU moves forward with its new academic structure with six schools, leadership is extremely important to our future success," said President John M. Beehler. "I am very pleased that we have found two excellent leaders in Maureen Newton and Tim Lindblom to be our founding deans of the School of Human Services and Social Sciences and the School of Science. I am confident they are the right people at the right time to lead these two new academic schools to a bright future that is transformative, innovative and engaged for success."

## Merrill's Makeover

Over the 2016-17 school year, four newly renovated classrooms opened for students and faculty to utilize and enjoy. These rooms were made possible by generous donations from Ronnie Smith, Noble Bank and Keith Mitchell.

Renovations began shortly before Spring Break 2016 and were completed during the summer. Not only did these rooms receive a physical facelift – with fresh paint, new flooring and furniture – but they were also equipped with new technology, such as televisions and Smartboards, to enhance the classroom experience for both students and faculty members.



"The classroom upgrades feature modern technology and comfortable furniture that help our students as they prepare for a career," said Bill Nash, JSU development officer for major gifts. "Great facilities help us attract great students. We are fortunate to have donors who see the value of investing in our students to help the School of Business and Industry reach its objectives."

JSU is grateful for the generous donations provided to make this possible for students. If you are interested in giving back to JSU, please contact the Office of Institutional Development at 256-782-5605 or visit [www.jsu.edu/giving/](http://www.jsu.edu/giving/).



## MARCH MADNESS HITS JSU

March Madness broke out on campus this spring when the Jacksonville State men's basketball team earned its first Ohio Valley Conference Championship title and made its first trip to the NCAA Tournament. JSU is the first athletic program to win both the OVC Football Championship and OVC Men's Basketball Championship in the same academic year since Murray State accomplished the feat in 1996-97.

The Gamecocks took part in the "Big Dance" – the NCAA Tournament – on

March 17, facing off against the No. 2 Louisville Cardinals in the first round of playoffs. Although luck wasn't on the Gamecocks side during the St. Patrick's Day matchup, the national stage was not too big for the No. 15 seed team in its first appearance in the NCAA Tournament. The Gamecocks led for much of the first half before Louisville's relentless pressure began to take its toll and the Cardinals claimed a 78-63 win. First-year JSU coach Ray Harper couldn't fault the effort from his squad.

"I think the entire country got an opportunity to see how hard our guys play," Harper said in the post-game news conference. "I think we represented our university, our city and the OVC in a class manner, which we said we would. The bar's been set. Hopefully, we can do it again someday soon."

Follow the team on Twitter at @JSU\_MBB and visit [www.jsugamecocksports.com](http://www.jsugamecocksports.com) for updates.



**JSU** | DEPARTMENT OF NURSING  
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

## 50 YEARS OF JSU NURSING

This year marks the 50th anniversary of JSU Nursing. Established in 1967, the nursing program is known for producing high quality nursing graduates who are leaders in the field. To date, the program has awarded more than 4,000 nursing degrees. Come celebrate 50 years of JSU nursing excellence at an anniversary gala on Sept. 16, 6 p.m., at Leone Cole Auditorium.

To register, call 256-782-8404.

# KNOW ONE ANOTHER, LOVE ONE ANOTHER: international program celebrates 70 years

By Buffy Lockette



**ABOVE:** International students congregate in the new International House in 1965.



**ABOVE:** It's a tradition for international students to wave their nation's flag in JSU's Homecoming Parade each fall.

At the end of World War II in 1945, the United Nations was formed to foster international cooperation and prevent future conflicts. Only a year later, in Alabama, a similar organization was established on the campus known today as Jacksonville State University.

Dr. James H. Jones and his wife, Myra Hume Jones, had traveled to Europe and were heartbroken by the destruction and devastation the two world wars left behind. Having spent time in France while Dr. Jones studied for his doctorate, the two believed they could make a difference in world affairs by inviting French students to study in Jacksonville, Ala., where Dr. Jones served as a language professor.

"My mother and father thought we had had enough wars and that if people got to know each other better, they would get tired of fighting," said son William

Jones, explaining how the program's motto became "Know one another and you will love one another."

In 1946, the JSU International House and Program was born. What began as an Alabama-Paris cultural exchange program grew over the next decade to include students from nearly every continent. Dr. Jones served as director for 18 years, assisted by Mrs. Jones. Their son William was 15 years old when the program was established and, now in his 80s, he looks back on it as the highlight of his parent's lives.

"They thought about these people as their children," said William Jones '53. "My mother always kept the door open. They referred to my mother as 'Momma Jones' and to my father as 'Doctor Jones'."

John R. Stewart, Jr. '74 shares similar stories about his family. His father, Dr.

John R. Stewart, Sr., led the program from Dr. Jones' retirement in 1963 until 1985. Stewart was 11 when his parents became the new "father and mother" of the international program. Mrs. Trudy Stewart also taught Instructional Media 101 – a course on using the library – at the university.

"My parents lived and breathed the International House for 22 years," said Stewart. "That was all that was ever discussed at the supper table at home. When the foreign kids got sick, my parents spent as much time at the hospital with them as they ever did with me. And yeah, it was all family."

The university constructed a new home for the program, the International House located at the intersection of Highways 21 and 204, the year of Jones' retirement. Stewart remembers helping assemble the beds and move in the first group of students in the house in 1964. When two students arrived weeks early – Gordon from Australia and Franz from Austria – Stewart and his brother had to make room for their new international siblings until the International House opened on Labor Day.

"Gordon brought his guitar, and he could sing 'Waltzing Matilda,'" Stewart said. "We got out in the backyard with pine trees and tried throwing a boomerang. You cannot throw a boomerang in Alabama. It will not come back."

It was this warm, family-like environment that welcomed Jeffrey Smyth when he arrived on campus in 1958 from England. While studying at JSU for a year before returning home to Cambridge University, Smyth befriended a Japanese student named Tomiko. They stayed in touch and married a few years later after returning to their home countries. Today, they live in Canada.

"For Tomiko and me, living in an international student community prepared us for the rest of our lives," said Smyth. "We live easily and comfortably in

the world's most multicultural large city, Toronto, where almost half the residents – including us – were not born in Canada."

The Smyths recently returned to campus for the 70th anniversary celebration of the JSU international program, held over Homecoming Weekend at Houston Cole Library. More than 150 alumni traveled from across the globe to reunite with old friends and share memories from the International House. JSU President John M. Beehler addressed the crowd.

"You really can't get things done anymore without thinking about the international ramifications," Beehler told the audience. "We want to make sure our students are able to function globally. It is important that we continue the tradition of the International House, but we need to work to internationalize all 8,000-plus JSU students. We want to transform our students into educated, ethical professionals – and to do that they are going to have to be globally connected."

There are typically 20 international and 20 American students living in the International House. The experience of living with others from around the world proves to be life changing for the

American residents and international students alike.

Dalene Cunningham Decker ('86), now a Georgia elementary teacher, had met few people from outside the United States before moving into the house and having roommates from Denmark, Thailand and Costa Rica from 1983 to 1986. "It was like a family living in the house together," she said. Kent Anderson ('72), a Tennessee attorney, had a roommate from Vietnam in the 1960s and the two became great friends despite conflicts between their countries.

Current JSU student Mason Battles from Gadsden, Ala., said, "I came in as an outsider and moved in with a roommate from Jordan. I think, as Americans, we have pre-dispositions but once you know people that changes."

Years pass, the world turns, and allies change. Still, 70 years later, Dr. Jones' motto continues to ring true: "Know One Another and You Will Love One Another."

Learn more about the JSU International House and Program at [www.jsu.edu/ihop](http://www.jsu.edu/ihop).



**ABOVE:** Sri Lankan student, Shanuji De Mel, performs at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.



# BEHIND THE WHEALE: JSU Graduate Takes on Law and Hollywood

By Heather Greene

At first glance, the office of Laura Lundy-Wheale ('10) might seem like that of any other Atlanta lawyer. Her husband Patrick, also an attorney, holds the office adjacent to hers, and George, their beagle, has the difficult task of greeting clients.

Yet, Wheale lives somewhat of a double life. When she's not working on a case for a client, she can be found on film sets with some of Hollywood's biggest names pursuing her other passion – acting.

Despite her full-time job, Wheale has plunged into the film world, landing

a role on the Ang Lee film, "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk," with a star-studded cast: Joe Alwyn, Vin Diesel, Steve Martin, Kristen Stewart, Bruce McKinnon, Chris Tucker and Deirdre Lovejoy. She starred as the title character's sister.

As the film is set in Texas but filmed in Locust Grove, Ga., Wheale's authentic Southern accent helped her easily glide into this role, and the on-set voice coach, who also did the voice coaching for "Titanic," helped her and others appropriately add in that Texas twang to their

lines. In the film industry, where Southern accents are often learned, Wheale's dialect is rich with authentic Southern charm.

"A lot of people like the accent because it is very different," said Wheale. "On the flip side of that, I've been told multiple times 'you need to learn how to neutralize it.' I guess that's something I'm working on, but I also feel like it's something that makes me who I am."

Soon after, she was cast as a reporter in the Academy Award-nominated film, "Sully," directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Tom Hanks.

"I got to meet him in hair and makeup actually," Wheale said about meeting Hanks for the first time. "He came over and introduced himself to me...It was one of those things like, 'I know who you are. You're Tom Hanks.'"

Originally from Cedartown, Ga., Wheale grew up in a family that believed in exposing their four children to various fields of study, the arts, and hobbies so they could discover their own talents. At the age of 12, Wheale was introduced to acting at the Alliance Theatre in Midtown, and she forever fell in love with the stage. Seeing her passion for acting and knowing there was no community theatre in Cedartown, her parents, JSU graduates Bill and Catharine Lundy, started a children's community theatre, which hosted productions each summer as Wheale grew up.

Another one of Wheale's many talents that she discovered as a child was tennis, and when she finished high school in 2006, she accepted a tennis scholarship at JSU.

"It's a tradition in our family to go to Jacksonville State," Wheale said, reflecting on her family tree comprised of multiple Gamecocks.

Juggling tennis practices and matches, drama rehearsals, studying, and Phi Mu involvement, her "renaissance" lifestyle carried over into her college years. She laughs recalling a time when she was so exhausted from her hectic routine that she fell asleep in the corner of the Black Box in the Stone Center during a rehearsal. However, she expresses how appreciative she was that JSU was willing to work with

her on her demanding schedule, explaining she "found that everyone was very friendly and supportive."

Wheale holds fond memories of JSU and to prospective students says, "You gotta go there, especially if you're wanting to have the experience where you are going to be able to go walk across campus and see at least three people you know. Coming from a small town, that's what I like."

Upon graduating from JSU in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in theatre and a minor in English, she continued to follow in her father's footsteps by entering Cumberland School of Law. For her, choosing to study law was also a conscious decision of working towards gaining access through doors that are sometimes difficult to open in the film world.

During the first two years of law school, Wheale found herself taking a step back from acting for no apparent reason, but feeling the void that left in her life, she knew that had to change. So during the summers of 2012 and 2013, she enrolled in the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in Los Angeles, selected based upon the fact that her favorite JSU drama professor, Susan McCain, had trained there with Lee Strasberg.

This unlocked the door to the film industry and became Wheale's first introduction into acting on film. "It was just opening up another world that, I think, I was just intimidated by," explained Wheale.

Now, that intimidation seems to have subsided, having two huge film credits on her resume.

"I've been very spoiled with both those movies, having worked with such directors because it was such a pleasant experience," Wheale said.

Wheale's love of theatre even played a role in her marriage engagement. Her husband, Patrick – who she met in law school – proposed to her on stage at the Cedartown Theatre after a production of "Into the Woods." The day the couple said "I Do" in 2013, JSU was represented.

"I invited all of my tennis teammates to my wedding," she said. "Each lived all over the world but found a way to Cedartown to attend my wedding. Through our relationships built at JSU, we are all forever bonded. I can't think of a better way to capture the bond that JSU encompasses for me."

After tying the knot and passing the bar, the couple joined Childers, Schlueter & Smith, LLC in Atlanta, which is conveniently also a growing area for the film industry today. When not practicing law or on a set, Wheale can be found attending live performances, watching movies, or bouldering.

From small-town shows each summer in her hometown to the JSU Stone Center stage to working with directors Clint Eastwood and Ang Lee, Wheale has worked to strategically be where she is in her career. While tight-lipped about her future plans, audiences can bet that this will not be the last time we see Wheale on the silver screen. 

**"You gotta go there, especially if you're wanting to have the experience where you are going to be able to go walk across campus and see at least three people you know. Coming from a small town, that's what I like."**

*-Laura Lundy-Wheale*

# JSU HOMECOMING



Thousands of JSU alumni and fans stepped right up to the “Greatest Show on Turf” in October for Homecoming Week 2016. Festivities included a 50-year reunion for the Class of 1966, a 70th anniversary celebration for the International House and Programs, a 1955 Refrigerator Bowl team reunion, a 1970s alumni tailgate, and numerous other reunions, events and activities over Homecoming Weekend. Be sure to mark your calendar for **Homecoming 2017: Oct. 26-29**.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & REUNIONS

**AUGUST 26**

**JSU vs. UTC Tailgate  
in Montgomery**

**SEPTEMBER 16**

**Fab 40s/Nifty 50s Alumni  
Luncheon**

**OCTOBER 14**

**JSU Preview Day and  
Family Day Weekend**

**OCTOBER 26-29**

**Homecoming Weekend**

**NOVEMBER 3-4**

**Southerners Reunion Weekend**

**FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALUMNI  
EVENTS, VISIT [WWW.JSU.EDU/ALUMNI](http://WWW.JSU.EDU/ALUMNI)**

## WHAT'S YOUR JSU STORY?

We want to hear about your experience at JSU! Please share your story with us at [alumni@jsu.edu](mailto:alumni@jsu.edu) and tell us why you chose JSU and how that decision has impacted your life!

## JSU Launches Transfer Pathway Program

JSU is excited to announce the launch of the Transfer Pathway Program, a new initiative that will benefit all community college students in Alabama and other states.

The goal of the Transfer Pathway Program is to significantly increase the transferability of students from community colleges throughout the state of Alabama, regionally, and nationally. The pathway model allows students to enroll in specific courses at the community college level that will better prepare them for the major they wish to pursue at JSU. The program addresses recruitment and retention of college bound students. The initiative will operate as a parallel option, not a substitution, and this will not conflict with the Alabama state-wide articulation agreement.

A pilot version of the program is slated to begin this summer at Gadsden State Community College (GSCC). Faculty

members at JSU and GSCC have collaborated to develop five pathway programs that will serve as the pilot experience at GSCC.

Dr. Jean M. Pugliese, executive director of the Transfer Pathway Program, stated, "JSU wishes to recruit high quality students from community colleges, and more importantly, JSU wants these students to have a positive experience as they progress and eventually graduate from JSU. We plan on having events that cater to the potential transfer student population."

JSU's Alumni Relations Office has also joined forces with the Transfer Pathway Program to promote its implementation and create interest among potential students in the communities where alumni live and work.

For more information about this program, please contact Dr. Jean Pugliese at [pugliese@jsu.edu](mailto:pugliese@jsu.edu).

## Alumni Volunteers Needed

Hopefully by now you have heard about President Beehler's "Alumni Boots on the Ground" initiative to utilize our alumni to help JSU's enrollment and retention efforts. We would like to ask for volunteers to serve as our Boots on the Ground. If you are interested in any of the following opportunities, please contact Kaci Ogle, Director of Alumni Relations, at [kogle@jsu.edu](mailto:kogle@jsu.edu) or 256-782-5405.

- Serve as a JSU representative at college recruitment fairs in your local area
- Host an alumni/prospective student dinner or reception in your area

- Bring a student over for a campus visit or set up a visit with JSU for the student
- Represent JSU at your local high school or community college awards program to present scholarships to future Gamecocks
- Serve as a mentor for current JSU students through the online mentoring program (sign up at [jsu-csm.symplicity.com/mentors/](http://jsu-csm.symplicity.com/mentors/))
- Participate in an alumni career panel on campus for our students

## Annual Fund Board Seeks Support

By Linda Lehtomaa

When Phil Purcell agreed to assume the chairmanship of the newly reactivated Annual Fund board, he knew it would be challenging and also one of the most rewarding opportunities of his career.

Purcell graduated from JSU in 1970 with a degree in business and a minor in accounting. He credits hard work and the excellent education he received at JSU for a successful career in sales and marketing of information technology solutions. Newly retired, he decided that now is the time to give back to his alma mater.

"I want to ensure that Jacksonville State University students for years to come will have state-of-the-art classroom and laboratory facilities, cutting-edge technology, outstanding programs and faculty, and scholarship funding, to name just a few of the elements critical to educating the workforce of tomorrow," Purcell said.

He added, "Business and government require competent, professional employees who can think critically, solve problems, and collaborate in a team setting to meet the challenges of a global community. It will require enhanced funding for JSU to ensure that its graduates are ready for these challenges."

"We will also be seeking dollars for extracurricular activities such as athletics, on-campus clubs, and the Marching Southerners, which are vital in providing special university experiences for students," Purcell said.

"We have assembled a stellar Annual Fund board whose members represent a cross-section of business, government and the community at large. They have each made a personal commitment to the university and look forward to helping tell

the Jacksonville State University story to others," he said.

The Annual Fund board plans to ask alumni, those who benefitted from their educational experiences at the university, to invest in their alma mater when help is most needed. In addition, it is their hope that business partners who ultimately hire JSU students and vendors who work with the university on a daily basis will join in the endeavor to strengthen JSU's future.

According to Purcell, "We seek to make the Annual Fund board's relationship with donors a win-win for everyone. It is our promise to create a culture of success, communicate clearly the university's needs, establish trust in the Annual Fund, and maintain that trust with positive actions and continuous communications."

The Annual Fund board, working in concert with JSU President John M. Beehler and the Office of Development, seeks to add revenue that has been cut from state allocations and help to slow the tuition hikes that have been required to meet the JSU budget.

According to President Beehler, "Make no mistake, Jacksonville State is an outstanding university and it is our goal to ensure that educational excellence will continue to be a hallmark of the JSU experience. The ultimate objective is that our graduates continue to be successful for decades to come."

"I want to thank the prestigious individuals who have stepped forward to join the Annual Fund board and work with us to continue on the path to greatness for JSU," President Beehler added.

## ANNUAL FUND BOARD

### PRESIDENT OF ANNUAL FUND BOARD

**Phil Purcell**

### GOVERNMENT/FOUNDATIONS COMMITTEE

**Charlie Waldrep, Chairperson**  
**Derrick Bryant**  
**Kay Brown**  
**William Coplin, Jr.**  
**Darren Douthitt**  
**Jim Epik**  
**Robert "Terry" Moore**  
**Charles E. Robinson, Jr.**

### CORPORATE/BUSINESS HEALTH & MEDICAL PROFESSION COMMITTEE

**Lynn Lovelady, Chairperson**  
**Tara Clark Powell**  
**Jay Puckett**  
**Leigh Read**  
**Steven Waits**

### SPECIAL EVENTS/ RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

**Roy Williams, Chairperson**  
**Jim Kirksey**  
**Lilly M. Lelbether**  
**Brenda Tidwell**

### MILLENNIALS/PARENTS COMMITTEE

**Alan Cheney, Chairperson**  
**Chris Betzler**

# ALUMnotes

## BIRTHS

### 1990-1999

**1** Julie McGatha Ferrell '00 and her husband Eric, Birmingham, Ala., announce the birth of their daughter, Aria Ann, on May 20, 2016. Mrs. Ferrell is employed by Curves International as a business development manager. At JSU, she was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi.

### 2000-2010

**2** Warren G. Sarrell III '09 and his wife Astin '08, Heflin, Ala., announce the arrival of their son, Warren "Wren" Glea Sarrell IV, on January 18, 2017. They also have a 7-year-old son named Branson. Mr. Sarrell is the Cleburne County circuit clerk in Heflin. He was the JSU Young Alum of the Year for 2016 and currently serves as the alumni advisor for the Kappa Alpha Order. Mrs. Sarrell is a sixth grade math teacher at Cleburne County Middle School.

### 2011-2017

**3** Derrick '07/'09 and Tonya Phares Wilson '08 announce the birth of their twin daughter and son, Bellamy and Xavier, on June 10, 2016. Mr. Wilson is employed by the Jacksonville City School System. Mrs. Wilson, a current MFA candidate at JSU, is employed by WideNet Consulting.

## WEDDINGS

### ATTENDED ONLY

Keri Ellen Medders and Neal McGinnis, September 17, 2016. Mrs. McGinnis was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry at JSU.

### 1980-1989

Greg LaFollette '83 and Denise Rooney Thomas, Dallas, Tex., were married by JSU football coach John Grass on the field after the home game against Tennessee Tech University on October 8, 2016. Both Mr. and Mrs. LaFollette are former members of the Southerners and had several current band members in their wedding party. JSU mascot Cocky was the ring bearer! Mr. LaFollette was also a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry at JSU.

**6** Erica Paige Huddleston '14 and Jarrod Wayne Rowland, June 6, 2016.

Beth Rachael Milam '14 is now married to Paul Sewell, August 27, 2016. A former JSU cheerleader, Mrs. Sewell is employed by Cherokee County High School in Centre, Ala. and is pursuing a master's degree in social studies. She

also serves as the cheerleading sponsor at Cherokee. While at JSU, she was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha, the Baptist Campus Ministry, and served as an Ambassador.

Caitlin Prater '14 and Brad Elder, July 23, 2016, in Pell City, Ala. Mrs. Elder is employed by Munford High School as an English teacher.

**7** Jennifer Roberts '14 and Charles Floyd '15, September 3, 2016, in Cartelton, Ga. Mrs. Floyd is employed by National Commercial Services as a marketing associate, while Mr. Floyd is employed by American Sun Control as a project manager. They reside in Atlanta, Ga. While at JSU, Mrs. Floyd served as a treasurer, new member director and president of Phi Mu. Mr. Floyd was a new member educator of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Erica Adams '15 and Jason Campbell, August 6, 2016, in Jacksonville, Ala. Mrs. Campbell is employed by WideNet Consulting, LLC as an internal marketing specialist.

Sara Elizabeth Posey '15 and Micah James Gaines, October 22, 2016, at Southwind Plantation, Wellington, Ala. Mrs. Gaines is working on a master's degree at JSU and is employed by Pledger Behavior Consulting.

**8** Kendra Briana Akles '15 and Daniel Kyle Prince '16, October 3, 2015. Mr. Prince is employed by JSU's Institute for Research & Collaboration.

**9** Emily Cole Fincher '16 and Joshua Neal Lankford, October 1, 2016, in Orange Beach, Ala. Mrs. Lankford is employed by JSU. While at JSU, Mr. Lankford was a member of Delta Chi and Mrs. Lankford was a member of Phi Mu.

## OBITUARIES

The following information was either obtained from obituary notices or was provided by family or friends of the deceased.

## JSU FACULTY/STAFF

Dr. Kenneth William Day, Jacksonville, Ala., July 19, 2016. He retired as a JSU marketing professor in 2014.

Dr. William A. Medley, Jacksonville, Ala., September 1, 2016. He was a retired JSU professor.

Amanda Elizabeth Parris, Piedmont, Ala., August 8, 2016. She was retired from JSU.

Dr. Shirley Mason Seagle, Jacksonville, Ala., September 26, 2016. An environmental botanist, Dr. Seagle was retired from JSU as a professor with 20 years of service.

Betty Elsie Christopher Smith, Jacksonville, Ala., August 8, 2016. She was a retired employee of the JSU housekeeping department.

## ATTENDED ONLY OR DATE OF GRADUATION UNKNOWN

William Andrus, Birmingham, Ala., July 28, 2016, after a battle with cancer. He was in sales for Pitney Bowes, Xerox, and in the medical field which was his life's work for 20 years.

Jarrad Denard Blade, Stone Mountain, Ga., August 6, 2016, when his vehicle was struck by a wrong-way driver. He played football for JSU. He was employed by Local 479 and had worked on the set of the TV show "MacGyver," overseeing craft services.

Nora K. Brownell, Anniston, Ala., October 12, 2016, at age 98. She had been an employee of the Alabama Health System and also had worked for 20 years for the Arabian American Oil Co.

Sarah Kathryn McClendon Evans, Atlanta, Ga., October 16, 2016, at age 96.

**1. Aria Ann Ferrell**

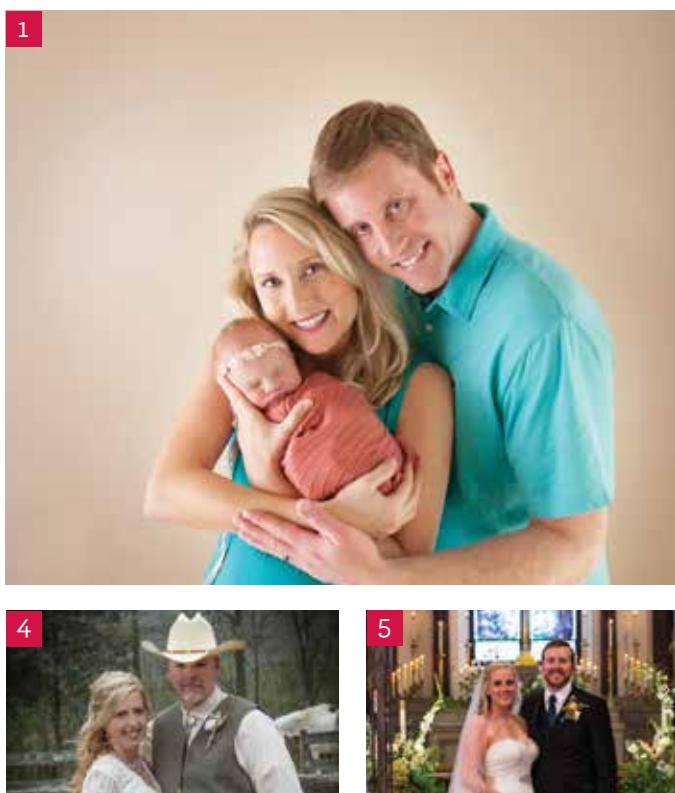
**2. Warren "Wren" Glea Sarrell IV**

**3. Bellamy and Xavier Wilson**

**4. Ellen Ann Tibbets '91 and Ronald Wayne Hurst**

**5. Andrea Faith Hoke '12 and Nathaniel Jacob Castillo**

**6. Erica Paige Huddleston '14 and Jarrod Wayne Rowland**



Annie Beatrice Morris Henderson, Anniston, Ala., January 6, 2017. She was retired from Monsanto.

James Maurice Hicks, Anniston, Ala., August 2, 2016. He played football for JSU in 1947 and 1948.

**10** Francine Cuitte-Mottet, Seraing, Belgium, July 24, 2016. She had been a member of the International House Program at JSU from 1952 to 1953.

Marion Wallace Sprayberry, Anniston, Ala., July 28, 2016. He was a decorated World War II veteran and a retired executive with Southern Bell (now AT&T).

Johnny Mack Towns, Oneonta, Ala., November 6, 2016. He was an Army tank commander. Spending most of his professional life in law enforcement, he was appointed as the U.S. marshall for the Northern District of Alabama by Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

Dr. Carlos Efrain Zeller, Valley Head, Ala., February 8, 2016. He served as head of the science department at Northeast State Community College from 1977 to 2004. While at JSU, he was a member of the International House Program from 1960 to 1963.

#### 1940-1949

Lois Norred Bankhead '44, Great Falls, S.C., January 12, 2017, at age 100. She was an elementary school teacher in Alabama and in Great Falls schools and, later in her career, was a speech therapist.

Thelma Lorene Braswell '46, Wedowee, Ala., October 23, 2016. After earning a master's degree from Auburn University, her teaching career spanned 51 years in Randolph County. She finished her career as Title One coordinator in the Randolph County Superintendent's Office.

Martha Clara Freeman Hayes '46, Pensacola, Fla., September 6, 2013. She was a retired teacher with the Dekalb County (Ala.) School System.

William J. Whatley '47/'52, Pensacola, Fla., January 24, 2017. He served as a medic in the Army during World War II. He was a teacher and administrator in the Calhoun County and Anniston City school systems for 34 years and was instrumental in developing the

Head Start program for Calhoun County.

Col. (Ret) James Franklin Gamble '49, Guntersville, Ala., May 30, 2016.

Fred Hobert Rogers '49/'63, Steele, Ala., November 3, 2016. He served in the Marines in World War II in the Pacific Theater. He taught school at Alma Hinson Junior High, Attalla, Ala., serving also as principal and assistant principal. He was also principal of Etowah Middle School and Curtiston Elementary School, Attalla, Ala., before retiring in 1989.

Irby Ray Swords '49/'50, Birmingham, Ala., October 7, 2016. He served in the Navy in World War II and in the Air Force during the Korean War. After a career in college education administration and education, he retired from Troy State University.

#### 1950-1959

Floyd Perry "Buddy" Tredaway '50, Jacksonville, Ala., December 22, 2016. He was retired from teaching at JSU.

While a student, he was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry. He was married to Jane Self Tredaway '50.

Martha Cromer Bauers '51, Seminole, Fla., September 8, 2015. She taught in Pinellas County (Fla.) for 35 years.

Dorothy Richards Held '51, Gadsden, Ala., September 8, 2016. She taught at Mitchell Elementary School and in Fulton County (Ga.) for a combined 36 years.

Robert Bradford Lorren '51, Odenville, Ala., from a heart attack and complications from leukemia.

He served in the Merchant Marines during World War II. He taught secondary education and was assistant superintendent for the Huntsville City Schools for many years before his retirement. He was married to the late Ann Dawkins Lorren '51.

Betty Hammond Maples '53, Anniston, Ala., August 31, 2016. A retired teacher, she had been married to the late Floyd Melvin Maples '52.

Capt. (Ret) John Thomas Williams '51, Bonita, Calif., August 26, 2016. He played football for JSU (1947-1950), both offense and defense, and made All-Conference and Little All-American Fullback. He also served as president of the Student Government Association during his senior year and was voted into Who's Who. In 2003, he was selected as a member of the JSU All-Centennial Team celebrating "100 Years of Gamecock Football." He coached and taught in Alabama. He also became a faculty member of the Naval War College and served in the Navy in various positions, completing his naval career as the commanding officer, Naval Amphibious School, in 1982. After retirement, he worked as a Navy contractor. He was married to Averill Parsons Williams '52.

Hazel Benefield '52, Rainsville, Ala., April 4, 2016.

Ramona Jean Kennedy Fischer '52, Newton, N.J., January 2, 2001.

Mary "Joy" Lloyd Ferguson Borden '53/'75, Piedmont, Ala., September 22, 2016. She began her teaching career in Weaver, but transferred to Piedmont where she taught for over 30 years. She also taught piano. After retirement, she and her husband opened a photography studio. She was a member of the JSU band before it was known as the Marching Southerners.

Robert Walter Dobbs '53, Rainbow City, Ala., September 29, 2016. He coached, taught and served as an administrator in several schools in Florida and Alabama, including Geraldine, Crossville and Fyffe. While at JSU, she was a cheerleader.

Dr. John R. Kirkpatrick '56, Piedmont, Ala., December 23, 2016. He served in the Army during the Korean War. He was one of the original administrators at Gadsden State Community College in 1965, where he served for 20 years. After retiring in 1985, he worked at the State Technical Institute in Memphis, Tenn. for another decade, retiring as academic vice president. He was a Marine veteran in the Korean War and served more than 30 years in the Marine Reserves, retiring as a colonel. He played football at JSU in 1951-52.

Peggy Jean Henley Grant '56, Melbourne, Fla., August 20, 2016. She began her teaching career in Alabama before moving to Florida, where she taught in Brevard County for over 25 years. She retired from Kennedy Middle School, Rockledge, Fla., in 1994. While at JSU, she was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Rev. George E. Jarrell '57, South Lyon, Mich., January 28, 2016. He was an Army veteran. After working in several industries, he was ordained and served Beaumont, Oakwood, St. Joseph and Providence Park Hospitals as a chaplain. While at JSU, he was a member of the International House Program.

Huey Ray Brown '58, Anniston, Ala., January 11, 2017. In his early career, he worked for the Boy Scouts of America and GMAC before going on to coach football and basketball at Oxford High School and Johnston Junior High. He later became assistant principal at Anniston High and principal at Piedmont Elementary. His last position was at Saks Elementary School, where he retired after 18 years. After retirement, he was a substitute teacher and girls' basketball coach at the Donoho School.

Pauline Mayes Galloway '63/'66, Fort Payne, Ala., May 29, 2016. She was a retired teacher with the Dekalb County Board of Education. She was married to the late James Bertral Galloway '51.

Virginia Ihrie Clark Maxwell '54, Pink Hill, N.C., September 5, 2016. During her career, she worked as a home economist and later as a home extension agent for Lenoir County. Over the years, she taught at several schools and owned and operated two child care centers in Pink Hill. She also owned and operated a dress shop in Kinston.

James M. Cheatham '55, Wellington, Ala., November 18, 2016. He was a teacher and coach at Saks Junior High School, Duke Junior High and Alexandria High. He was also a farmer and raised a herd of registered Black Angus cattle.

Jacqueline Hunter '55/'82, Anniston, Ala., November 28, 2016. She taught fifth grade at 10th Street Elementary School, kindergarten at First United Methodist Church (FUMC), and at Ft. McClellan.

Helen Thompson Nichols '55, Birmingham, Ala., November 16, 2016. A high school teacher for many years, she taught at Emma Sansom, Litchfield and Westminster Christian School. While at JSU, she was a cheerleader.

Johnny Rodin Mackey '56, Kennesaw, Ga., December 24, 2016. He played basketball for Jacksonville State.

Glenda Dalton Martin '64/'77, Anniston, Ala., July 27, 2016. She taught at Saks High School and Wellborn High, as well as serving as an adjunct for JSU, Gadsden State and Ayers State.

She also worked as education director for Gadsden Business College. After retiring, she worked full-time with her husband operating Green's Art Supplies. In recent years, she authored a book entitled, "To Fear or to Fear Not," a cherished legacy to her family.

Sue McGraw Rudd '64, Gadsden, Ala., August 10, 2016. She began her teaching career at Gadsden High School and continued as a teacher and administrator at Gadsden State Community College for 10 years and worked as a programmer and systems analyst for BE&K for 30 years.

Leardis Gray Rice '62, Fairfax, Va., January 13, 2016.

Patricia Dooley Grogan '61/'75, Cropwell, Ala., September 27, 2016. She taught for 36 years. She was married to Gerald Grogan '62.

June Kirkland Harbison '63/'64/'75, Cullman, Ala., September 17, 2016, following a long battle with cancer. She served as an English teacher in Cullman County schools for 30 years. While at JSU, she was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry. She was married to Jethro S. Harbison '63.

Lt. Col. James Gilbert Wamsley '63/'65, Jacksonville, Ala., January 8, 2017, at age 99. After a distinguished military career in the Army, he taught at Jacksonville High School until his retirement in 1983. He also served as press box announcer at JHS football games. For 20 years, he was known simply as "The Colonel" by his students.

Judith McAllister McCarver '58, Roswell, Ga., January 19, 2017. She taught for 24 years at Calhoun High School. While at JSU, she was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry. She was married to the late Gerald Eugene McCarver '59.

Toby W. Craft '64, Huntsville, Ala., September 2, 2016. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and rose to the rank of captain in the Army. After leaving active duty, he remained in the Army Reserves for 35 years, rising to the rank of Lt. Colonel. He worked for the Missile and Space Intelligence Center as an engineer. He retired in 1996.

Judy Bruce Guin '64, Huntsville, Ala., July 18, 2016. She was a member of the Marching Southerners and Ballerinas at JSU. A retired teacher from the Huntsville City Board of Education, she was married to Jackie Brooks Guin '63.

John Wendell Taylor '60, Gadsden, Ala., August 24, 2016. He served in the Army during the Korean War. He worked in education for over 40 years and spent seven years as a football coach at Litchfield Junior High. He also served as principal at Elliott Elementary and General Forest Middle Schools. His love of football led to 30 years of refereeing high school football.

Donald Ray Walker '60, Jacksonville, Ala., July 21, 2016. He served in the Army during the Korean War. He had a 30-year career in education as a teacher, coach and assistant principal at Alexandria High School.

Glenda Dalton Martin '64/'77, Anniston, Ala., July 27, 2016. She taught at Saks High School and Wellborn High, as well as serving as an adjunct for JSU, Gadsden State and Ayers State.

She also worked as education director for Gadsden Business College. After retiring, she worked full-time with her husband operating Green's Art Supplies. In recent years, she authored a book entitled, "To Fear or to Fear Not," a cherished legacy to her family.

Robert Leonard Stine '64, Mobile, Ala., October 30, 2016. He began his career with Sears Roebuck upon graduation. His last position was as a hard lines merchandise manager in Mobile. He then worked as a realtor for Thomas King Roebuck and later opened his own Stine Real Estate business where he worked until he closed it in 2012.

Dr. Gerald W. Waldrop '64, Helena, Ala., October 4, 2016. He started his career in education at Jefferson State Community College and retired from Gadsden State Community College in 1996. He was a professor of history and political science for 30 years. He also taught as an adjunct for JSU and the University of Alabama in Gadsden. He was elected to the last at-large class of the Alabama House of Representatives (1970-74), representing Etowah County. He also served in the Senate representing Etowah and Cherokee Counties. While at JSU, he served as president of the Student Government Association and was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Toby W. Craft '64, Huntsville, Ala., September 2, 2016. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and rose to the rank of captain in the Army. After leaving active duty, he remained in the Army Reserves for 35 years, rising to the rank of Lt. Colonel. He worked for the Missile and Space Intelligence Center as an engineer. He retired in 1996.

Judy Bruce Guin '64, Huntsville, Ala., July 18, 2016. She was a member of the Marching Southerners and Ballerinas at JSU. A retired teacher from the Huntsville City Board of Education, she was married to Jackie Brooks Guin '63.

Janie Yeager Hendrix '66, Weaver, Ala., September 11, 2016, after a battle with cancer. She was retired from Federal Mogul.

Ray McCay '66, Huntsville, Ala., January 14, 2016. He had been owner of Ray McCay, CPA.

Jane Roberts Skipper '66/'71, Gadsden, Ala., July 5, 2015. She taught for over 30 years, followed by a second career in real estate. She was the boys and girls tennis coach at Gadsden High School.

Marilyn Cooper Miller, '71/'77, Rockford, Ala., May 22, 2013. She was a teacher for Montgomery City Schools.

Henry G. Reynolds '71, Centre, Ala., August 27, 2016. He was an employee of the Gadsden Times newspaper for 44 years.

Ronald Chambliss '72/'76/'82, Alexandria, Ala., July, 2016. He was a principal for the Calhoun County Board of Education's Alexandria High School.

James Wayne Williams '72/'83, Canton, Ohio, December 16, 2016. He served in the Alabama National

Joel McCalla Jones '68, Maryville, Tenn., October 15, 2016. He was recently a broker employed by Wallace and Wallace. He owned Jones Environmental Construction, G.H. Jones Construction and Black Bear Inspections.

William "Freddie" Pollard '68, Albertville, Ala., January 20, 2016. He was the founder of the Alabama Symphony and, at JSU, was a drum major for the Marching Southerners.

#### 1970-1979

Florence Louise Bell '70, Mobile, Ala., August 29, 2016.

George Campbell Smith III '70/'75, Rainsville, Ala., November 4, 2016. He served as band director at Plainview High, Ider High and Valley Head High Schools. He also briefly served as guidance counselor for Fyffe High School and then part time counselor at Valley Head. He retired in 2000. He also worked in radio for 43 years at WFPA in Fort Payne and WKEA FM and 101.7 the Storm. He retired from radio in 2011.

Nina Polk Burns '71, Eastaboga, Ala., December 23, 2016. She was an accountant with East Alabama Planning and Development. She was married to the late Lt. Col. Donald Franklin Burns '70/'01.

Lela Lewis Locklin '71/'84, Munford, Ala. She taught English for 28 years at Talladega High School, where she was also the yearbook sponsor for 20 years. She taught night classes at Gadsden State Community College Center in Talladega.

Marilyn Cooper Miller, '71/'77, Rockford, Ala., May 22, 2013. She was a teacher for Montgomery City Schools.

Henry G. Reynolds '71, Centre, Ala., August 27, 2016. He was an employee of the Gadsden Times newspaper for 44 years.

Ronald Chambliss '72/'76/'82, Alexandria, Ala., July, 2016. He was a principal for the Calhoun County Board of Education's Alexandria High School.

James Wayne Williams '72/'83, Canton, Ohio, December 16, 2016. He served in the Alabama National

Guard, achieving the rank of captain. He also worked for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. He played basketball for JSU.

Travis Leon Garrett '73, Rome, Ga., July 19, 2016. A Navy veteran, he served for more than 30 years as a minister of music in a number of churches.

Lt. Col. (Ret) Thomas E. Tucker, Jr. '73, Huntsville, Ala., July 28, 2016. He was commissioned through the JSU ROTC program and retired following a distinguished military career in 1998. He was a member of Kappa Sigma at JSU.

Jonnita Marie Reid Newman '74, Jacksonville, Ala., January 6, 2017.

Patricia Ann Smelley Pike '74, Lincoln, Ala., January 29, 2017. She was retired from the Alabama School for the Deaf and was a former principal at Coosa Valley Academy.

Betty Heptinstall Rowe '74/'75, Jacksonville, Ala., August 26, 2016. She had served as a teacher at Jacksonville High School. She also worked for many years alongside her husband in the insurance industry before she returned to college to earn her teaching degrees. She was a charter volunteer at the Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center.

Linda Sue Richey Thompson '74/'79, Weaver, Ala., May 28, 2016. She retired after 25 years of service with the Department of Defense at Fort McClellan as a management analyst. She was married to Evis Ray Thompson '72.

Mitchell Wayne Upton '74, Gadsden, Ala., March 14, 2016.

Andrew Weeks III '74, Oxford, Ala., August 9, 2016. He was retired from Martin's Department Store.

Robert Lawrence Hicks '75, Hoover, Ala., October 20, 2016. He was employed by State Farm Insurance for 30 years. At JSU, he was member of Delta Chi.

Edward Ashton McMullan III '75, Fort Payne, Ala., April 30, 2015. He was employed by Akins Furniture in Fort Payne.

Cheryl Segler Richards '75, Guntersville, Ala., July 31, 2016. She was a member of the JSU Gamecock Chicks and was selected Gamecock Chick of

the Year in 1976. She was married to Donald Keith Richards '79.

Rex Wallace Ballinger '76, Wedowee, Ala., September 17, 2016. He was an Army veteran and was a retired U.S. Postal Service postmaster.

Terry Wayne Coheely '76, Piedmont, Ala., December 1, 2016. A Navy veteran, he was a supervisor at SCT Yarn.

Charles Julius "Skippy" Hallmark '76, Talladega, Ala., July 27, 2016. He was a retired investigator with the Talladega County Sheriff's Department.

Betty Howell McArthur '76/'79, Oxford, Ala., October 20, 2016. She taught for 23 years at Kitty Stone Elementary in Jacksonville, Ala.

Lt. Col. (Ret) Joseph Michael Gardella '77, Decatur, Ala., May 19, 2012, from a stroke. He had a 27-year Air Force career, serving in the four combat theaters during World War II, on the Berlin Airlift in Korea, and during the early stages of the Vietnam War. He retired from the Air Force in 1964 and from the 3M Company 22 years later.

Vesta E. Coleman Gregory '77/'91, Richmond, Va., August 17, 2016. She was retired from the University of Alabama. At JSU, she was a member of the Marching Southerners, the Baptist Campus Ministry and the International House Program.

Jack David Miller '77, Spanish Fort, Ala., July 25, 2016. He was retired from Disability Determination for Social Security.

Richard Boatwright '78, Anniston, Ala., April 25, 2016. He had been a member of Delta Chi at JSU. Mr. Boatwright was married to Tamrala Greer Boatwright '90/'98.

Joel Alton McCreless '79, Anniston, Ala., November 10, 2016. He was retired from Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company and the Alabama Army National Guard. He was a Vietnam War veteran.

Sharon Lynn Moore '82/'89, Lineville, Ala., November 11, 2016. She was a teacher with the Clay County Board of Education.

Ora Mae Owens Mullendore '79, Anniston, Ala., October 12, 2016. She taught in the Anniston City School System for 25 years.

## 1980-1989

Daniel Edward Merryman '80, Pell City, Ala., December 12, 2016. A Navy

veteran, he served in the communications department at the White House under Presidents Nixon and Ford. He also coached women's softball and basketball.

Emma Sherron McCullars Pritchett '80, Ohatchee, Ala., February 15, 2016. She taught at the Donoho School and in the Calhoun County School System. She was married to Richard Harold "Dick" Pritchett '65.

Gary Lamar Redden '80, Brooklet, Ga., December 25, 2016. An Army Vietnam veteran, he served as a personal bodyguard for General Abrams and General Goodpaster. He also had been employed with Catalyst in promotional sales. He was married to Yvonne Sorrells Redden '71.

Kandris Jones Miller '85/'10/'13, Eastaboga, Ala., September 28, 2016. She was an educator in the Anniston City School System.

Sheila Herren Fincher '81/'92, Woodland, Ala., October, 2016. She was a high school English teacher at Woodland for 27 years. After receiving a master's degree, she transitioned to the librarian position at Woodland for the final nine years of her career, retiring in 2007.

Linda Jane Kerlin Powell '81, Birmingham, Ala., November 22, 2016. She was a guidance counselor with the Shelby County Board of Education.

Gerald Keith Bearden '86, Trion, Ga., August 7, 2016. He was a former band director at Capital Heights School in Montgomery, Ala. He was a member of the Marching Southerners at JSU.

Brenda Lawson Adams '82, Guntersville, Ala., August 16, 2016.

Col. (Ret) Robert Jerry Bryant '86, Jacksonville, Ala., December 30, 2016. He served in the Army for 26 years, including a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Alan William Longshore '82, Dothan, Ala., January 21, 2017, from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). He was an Air Force veteran, a USDA employee, an Army Chemical School and Maneuver Support Center employee, an entrepreneur of Certified Network Solutions in Anniston and, most recently, a retiree of the Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center at Fort Rucker.

Rev. Robert Bryant Edwards III '87, Rainbow City, Ala., November 20, 2016. He had been a teacher at Westbrook Christian School and Etowah County Career Technical Center. He coached Little League baseball and basketball teams of all ages, including middle school and junior varsity teams at Westbrook Christian. In 2004, he became associate pastor at North Glencoe Baptist Church and, in 2005, pastor of First Baptist Church of Rainbow City - where he led the church for nearly 11 years. He was a member of Delta Chi at JSU.

Laurie MacDonald McNair '83, Duluth, Ga., July 28, 2016. She was a retired quality assurance analyst with Turner Broadcasting. She previously served on the JSU Alumni Association Board of Governors.

David R. Steele '84, Ellerslie, Ga., October 13, 2016. He devoted his life to serving others, working with the YMCA for 34 years. While at JSU, he was a member of the Baptist Campus Ministry.

Patrick Franklin Carter '85, Lady Lake, Fla., February 13, 2016. He spent most of his adult life in food service at athletic venues, starting in the Baltimore Orioles minor league organization before moving to Florida in 2000 and working for the Tampa Bay Rays and other sports teams and major colleges in Florida. While at JSU, he was a member of the rifle team.

Kandris Jones Miller '85/'10/'13, Eastaboga, Ala., September 28, 2016. She was an educator in the Anniston City School System.

Elizabeth Ann Worthy Smith '85/'97, Talladega, Ala., October 29, 2016. She was a retired educator and former Talladega City Board of Education member.

Patricia Fernstrom Austin '86, Eastaboga, Ala., November 2, 2016. She was a guidance counselor with the Shelby County Board of Education.

Joe Frank Norton '90, Spring Garden, Ala., December 29, 2016. After working for several years in the field of diesel mechanics/management, he became an instructor at Ayers State Technical College. After retirement, he became an independent business owner for Branson Tractors.

Leah Carol Gatlin Watts '10, Moundford, Ala., July 16, 2016. She began her teaching career at Talladega County Central High and transferred to Moundford Middle School in 2013.

Kristen M. Bentley Prewitt '13, Mobile, Ala., July 13, 2016, following an automobile accident. She was a summa cum laude graduate of JSU and a member of Sigma Alpha Iota and the Marching Southerners.

Richard Earl Saxon III '91, Attalla, Ala., November 12, 2016. He worked as a claims representative for the SSI division of Social Security.

Letitia Badgett Haggard '93, Piedmont, Ala., July 31, 2016.

Taska Williams Raburn '93, Anniston, Ala., August 8, 2016. She was a registered nurse.

Danny Willett, who won the 2006 Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Player of the Year Award in golf at JSU, is now the No. 1 ranked amateur player in the world. He is a native of Sheffield, England.

Robert Steven Smith '87, Roswell, Ga., November 28, 2016. He had been the owner/agent of Steve Smith Insurance Agency-Cotton States.

Debra Renea Duncan Tidwell '98, Gadsden, Ala., September 18, 2016. She began her nursing career at Riverview Regional Medical Center and worked as director of nursing, associate director of nursing and as an occupational health care complex nurse for multiple facilities in the Gadsden area.

## 2000-2017

Laura Danielle Robertson '01, Anniston, Ala., March 19, 2015.

Tammy Annette Creel Campbell '03, Heflin, Ala., September 3, 2016. She had taught elementary school in the Cleburne County School System and was also a counselor at Ranburne Elementary.

## 1990-1999

R. Gene Coggins '89, Lanett, Ala., September 13, 2016. He was manager and owner of The Brides of Christ Mission, Inc.

Perry Eugene Ramsey '89, Arab, Ala., July 24, 2016.

Aaron Michael Anderson '09/'11, Jacksonville, Ala., August 1, 2016. He was a capacity planner at the Anniston Army Depot for the past seven years. At JSU, he was member of Pi Kappa Phi.

Leah Carol Gatlin Watts '10, Moundford, Ala., July 16, 2016. She began her teaching career at Talladega County Central High and transferred to Moundford Middle School in 2013.

Eric N. Parris '15, Anniston, Ala., January 3, 2017. He worked as a computer programmer/app designer at Wright Media.

**ALUMNOTES**  
**ATTENDED ONLY OR DATE OF GRADUATION UNKNOWN**

Phillip Wayne Richardson '94, Gadsden, Ala., January 25, 2017. He owned an accounting business and was employed as an area manager with Goodyear Tire and Rubber.

Brian John Stevens '94, Columbiana, Ala., March 28, 2015. He was married to Kathleen Berry Stevens '94.

Krista Joseph Anderson '95, Oxford, Ala., December 16, 2016.

## 1950 – 1959

Dr. Jack D. Street, Beloit, Wis., was awarded professor emeritus status in May 2015 upon his retirement from Beloit College, where he taught for 54 years. He holds an MA in French from the University of Alabama, an MA in Italian from Middlebury College, and a PhD in French from the University of Iowa. His teaching career spanned 62 years and he has authored three books on Italian theatre of the 20th and 21st centuries.

## 1960 – 1969

William R. Lee '68, Hixson, Tenn., has been named professor emeritus of music at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He was a member of the Marching Southerners (1964-1968) and wrote the covers for the first two Southerners recordings. He taught at UTC for 30 years as coordinator of music education. He was director and founder of the Southeast Institute for Education in Music and has more than 200 publications and presentations. He has won numerous awards, grants and fellowships. He was named to the Tennessee Music Educators Hall of Fame in 2012. He is married to Sue Knight Lee '68, who was also a member of the Southerners.

Lewis Edmund Morris '76, Huntsville, Ala., has retired as Huntsville's police chief, a job he began in 2012. He has been with the department for 38 years. He was a member of Kappa Sigma.

Yvonne Gunn Swift '79/'90, Jacksonville, Ala., is now co-principal at Kitty Stone Elementary School.

## 1970 – 1979

John L. Casey '71, Orlando, Fla., has been a national space policy advisor to the White House and Congress, a senior field engineer on the space shuttle program, consultant to NASA headquarters and consultant to or president of several leading edge technology startups. He is the author of the 2011 climate book, "Cold Sun," and its 2014 remake, "Dark Winter," which has become a best seller.

He currently is the president of Veritence Corporation, a science and engineering consulting company, and CEO of the International Earthquake and Volcano Prediction Center in Orlando. He is a former Army missile and computer systems officer.

Rhonda Trammell Tinker '85/'89, Jacksonville, Ala., is now co-principal at Kitty Stone Elementary in Jacksonville. She is married to David Bruce Tinker '84.

Jim R. Andrews '86, Los Angeles, is now manager and clinical trial liaison for Portola Pharmaceuticals in San Francisco. The company discovers and develops novel therapeutics to meet patient needs in thrombosis, other hematologic disorders and inflammation indications. He has worked in the pharmaceutical industry since 2001. He is responsible for the support of medical facilities in the western states participating in two phase-three clinical trials for FDA consideration of two potentially life-saving medications.

11 Cynthia Kilgore Pharr '72, Owens Cross Roads, Ala., taught elementary

school music in Tennessee public schools for 15 years. She also worked as a social worker for the states of Alabama and Tennessee for 15 years. Upon moving to Huntsville in 2003, she worked as a realtor for eight years. She is married to Carey Pharr who attended JSU but went on to get his electrical and mechanical engineering degree with TVA at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He retired from TVA after 35 years in Nov. 2014.

Paul E. Carpenter, Jr. '76, Savannah, Ga., has been appointed pharmacy director of the St. Joseph's/Candler System. He had been serving as interim director and came to Candler Hospital in 1987 as an IV supervisor. He was awarded Pharmacist of the Year 1985 in Chapel Hill, N.C., where he was employed from 1983-86. He also received the Georgia Society of Health System Pharmacy Community Service Award in 2004.

Lewis Edmund Morris '76, Huntsville, Ala., has retired as Huntsville's police chief, a job he began in 2012. He has been with the department for 38 years. He was a member of Kappa Sigma.

Yvonne Gunn Swift '79/'90, Jacksonville, Ala., is now co-principal at Kitty Stone Elementary School.

## 1980 – 1989

Jamie-Lynn Marcus Campbell '81, Huntsville, Ala., retired from the Huntsville City School System as a special education teacher after teaching for 27 years.

Rhonda Trammell Tinker '85/'89, Jacksonville, Ala., is now co-principal at Kitty Stone Elementary in Jacksonville. She is married to David Bruce Tinker '84.

Jim R. Andrews '86, Los Angeles, is now manager and clinical trial liaison for Portola Pharmaceuticals in San Francisco. The company discovers and develops novel therapeutics to meet patient needs in thrombosis, other hematologic disorders and inflammation indications. He has worked in the pharmaceutical industry since 2001. He is responsible for the support of medical facilities in the western states participating in two phase-three clinical trials for FDA consideration of two potentially life-saving medications.

Teresa Cannady '87, Vero Beach, Fla., is an international development specialist and attorney. She had been in private practice in Albertville, Ala. for several years before beginning a career in international development in 1998. Now, 17 years later, she is still working internationally, supporting countries to develop effective legal systems and protect women's rights. Now in Vero Beach, she still completes short-term international assignments. She has had her first book published, "The Triangle," an international spy intrigue novel. She is working on her second book, which will detail the lives and politics of the many countries in which she has lived and visited.

Roy Williams '87, Birmingham, Ala., is public relations director for the 19-branch Birmingham Public Library System. He is also the host of Biz Talk radio show airing Saturdays, 7:30-8 p.m., on WAGG 610 AM in Birmingham. He previously spent 23 years as a reporter at the Birmingham News. At JSU, he was a member of the International House Program and the Marching Southerners.

## 1990 – 1999

Cheryl L. Bevelle Orange '90, Collierville, Tenn., has been promoted to director of information technology for FedEx. She first joined FedEx in 1997 as an EDI analyst. She has also served as retail marketing manager for FedEx, leading the team to develop business requirements and implement the first FedEx retail point of sale solution for the FedEx World Service Center locations. She also created and launched other game-changing solutions for FedEx such as the FedEx Tech Awards Program, FedEx Web Services and the FedEx Developer Resource Center. She has been awarded a Five Star award (2014) for using Quality Data Management principles to redesign processes and optimize resources to save the company several million dollars over a three-year period.

Michael Wayne Prestridge '90, Tavares, Fla., a nationally-recognized expert in mapping, serves as chief deputy in the Lake County (Fla.) Property Appraisers Office, working with property appraisers to increase online services. Before moving to the Appraisers Office, he worked for the Orange County property appraiser for 22 years, starting as a mapper and then as chief deputy for six years. He has been recognized

by Florida's elected property appraisers for his leadership and innovation. At JSU, he was a member of the Marching Southerners.

Randy T. Belyeu, Jr. '91, Montgomery, Ala., currently serves as a biology teacher and softball coach at Wetumpka High School. His team won Alabama's 2015 6A State Softball Championship against Southside-Gadsden by a score of 3-2. His varsity team finished 42-8 and his junior varsity team finished 30-1. He was named Alabama's 6A Coach of the Year for 2015. At JSU, he played baseball for the Gamecocks.

**12** Christie Gibson Baker '91/'94, Gulf Shores, Ala., has recorded and released two country single songs with AMI records in Nashville. "When You Love Somebody" and "Love Don't Even Know My Name" can be heard on YouTube.com. Mrs. Baker is currently employed at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores. She hopes to further her career in writing, performing and recording more country music.

Jeremy Daniel Wallace '97/'07, Gadsden, Ala., is the new assistant principal at Alexandria Elementary School. He has spent 14 years as a teacher and coach at Pleasant Valley High School.

John Matthew Larry '99, Rome, Ga., has been named ELA-8 physical education teacher, head varsity baseball coach and assistant softball coach at Darlington School. He has more than 20 years of experience in collegiate athletics. Most recently, he served as head baseball coach and professor of health education at Shorter University, where he was named Staff Member of the Year in 2012. In 2014, he led Shorter's baseball team to an NCAA Southeast Regional Championship and to the semifinals of the NCAA World Series. He is married to Jacqueline B. Larry '02.

**2000-2012**

Christy Allison Hamilton '94/'97/'04, Jacksonville, Ala., is now principal at Kermit Johnson Elementary in Jefferson County.

Bill Glenn Shelton '95/'06, Dutton, Ala., was named supervision director for the Alabama Science Teachers Association in 2015. He currently serves as principal at Rosalie Elementary School and is in his 21st year of teaching. Before moving into administration, he spent 15 years as a classroom teacher, earning National Board Certification in early adolescent science.

Shannon Galloway Mallett '99/'03, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching third grade at Kitty Stone Elementary. She previously taught at Shades Cahaba Elementary in Birmingham and at Pleasant Valley Elementary near Jacksonville. She is married to Eric K. Mallett '11.

Ashley Tillery Smith '99/'05, Aniston, Ala., is teaching fifth grade science at Kitty Stone Elementary.

She previously taught at White Plains for 15 years. She is married to Clint Smith '03.

Major Michael D. Kennedy '96/'97, Colorado Springs, Colo., has been appointed the director of operations for the U.S. Air Force Academy, Department of History. Maj. Kennedy, an Air Force logistics readiness officer and 1997 recipient of the Lovett Scholarship, is also the new course director for History 100, Introduction to Military History, the core history course for freshman cadets. He is married to April Batey Kennedy '99/'11, who recently joined the New Parent Support Program staff with the Army Community Service at Fort Carson, Colo. As a registered nurse, she provides support and services that reflect the needs of the military families in the area.

James A. Todd '01, Piedmont, Ala., has been hired as an assistant professor of politics at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Fla. He completed his PhD in political science at the University of Alabama in 2015.

Christy Powell Shepard '02/'05, Oxford, Ala., has been appointed as the new principal at Coldwater Elementary School with the Oxford City School System. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta.

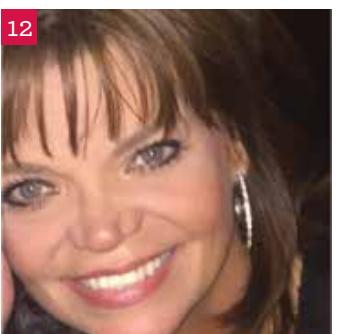
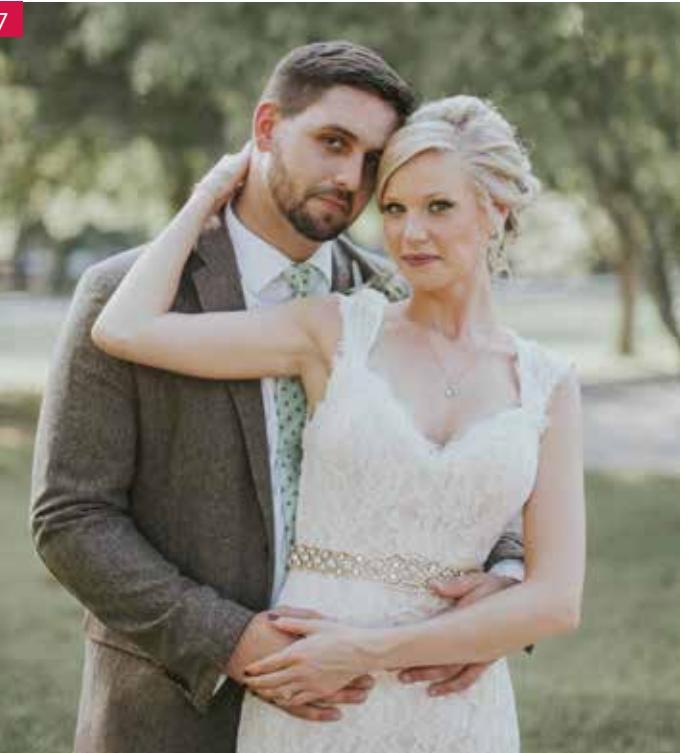
Brooke Miller Lee '04, Jacksonville, Ala., is the new owner of Swank Boutique on the Jacksonville Square. She is married to Steven Alan Lee '04, who played football at JSU and was part of the 2003 OVC championship team. He owns the Steven Lee Agency of Allstate Insurance in Jacksonville.

Adam S. Crowe '05 Henrico, Va., is Virginia Commonwealth University's director of emergency preparedness. He recently authored "A Futurist's Guide to Emergency Management," in which he makes projections on theoretical scenarios in emergency management to help others working in emergency management areas plan for future risks but also to address questions that need to be answered now.

Somer Lynn Leathers Medley '05/'14, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching special education at Kitty Stone Elementary. She previously worked for 10 years in Polk County, Ga. at Cherokee Elementary.

Crystal Kirkpatrick Langston '07, Jacksonville, Ala., teaches at Alexandria Elementary School.

Jeffrey Ryan McCoy '07, Boaz, Ala., is teaching at Pleasant Valley High



- 7. Jennifer Roberts '14 and Charles Floyd '15**
- 8. Kendra Briana Akles '15 and Daniel Kyle Prince '16**
- 9. Emily Cole Fincher '16 and Joshua Neal Lankford**
- 10. Francine Cuitte-Mottet**
- 11. Cynthia Kilgore Pharr '72**
- 12. Christie Gibson Baker '91/'94**
- 13. Emma Dean Garrett Allen '11**
- 14. Jeremy Straub '11**

# NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBERS

AUGUST 2016-JANUARY 2017

Jeffrey Scott Cruse '91  
 Christine Rachael Ginn '11  
 Edward L. Parris  
 Melissa Ann Parris '11

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THE INFORMATION TO THE JSU  
ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE, 700  
PELHAM ROAD NORTH,  
JACKSONVILLE, AL 36265.

School. He previously taught at Cleburne County High, Sardis High and Ragland High.

LaTrevia M. Norwood '07, Childersburg, Ala., has had her first book published, "Divas in Distress," which centers on four separate characters who reflect on what it means to be successful and happy after leaving the housing projects in which they grew up. While writing her book, she suffered three tragedies herself – she first lost her biological father to cancer, then her stepfather to cancer, and then her husband to homicide. Rather than let grief overcome her, she said she made it her goal to finish the book. She has already started writing the sequel, "Divas in Distress II: The New Beginning."

Andres Amores '08/'11, Anniston, Ala., former JSU tennis standout from Ecuador, has been named the new head men's and women's tennis coach at JSU. He replaces long-time coach Steve Bailey '75/'77, who retired in June. He was an All-OVC player (2005-2008). He previously coached at North Carolina Wesleyan College, where he served as head coach for two years and left both programs ranked No. 1 in their respective league. As a student, he was a member of the International House Program.

Lori Davis Bradley '08, Piedmont, Ala., is a teacher in the Piedmont City School System with the Piedmont Learning Academy. She is married to John Clinton "Clint" Bradley '93, who works in insurance in Centre, Ala.

Seth Ford '08/'11, Ragland, Ala., was recently named the new head coach of the varsity boys' basketball team at Ashville High School in the St. Clair County Board of Education.

Jordan Lee Weathers '09, Jacksonville, Ala., is the assistant principal at Wellborn Elementary. He previously taught in the Oxford City School System at C.E. Hanna Elementary. Melissa Nicole Gay '10, Weaver, Ala., is a second grade teacher at Kitty Stone Elementary.

Holly Alyssa Patterson '10, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching English at Pleasant Valley High School. She previously taught at Saks High and White Plains Middle.

Christina Rachael Ginn '11, Pooler, Ga., has started her residency in

pharmacy at St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital in Savannah, Ga. She was a GO! Leader and a member of Zeta Tau Alpha at JSU.

**13** Emma Dean Garrett Allen '11, Alpine, Ala., has had a new book published. "Faith to Remove Mountains" gives the reader a wealth of information on how to put faith to work.

**14** Jeremy Straub '11, Grand Forks, N.D., has been involved in just about every aspect of getting North Dakota's first spacecraft ready for launch. He is the director of the OpenOrbiter Small Spacecraft Development Initiative, which he helped found, at the University of North Dakota. He is responsible for everything from making sure that critical satellite components are ordered to liaising with NASA regarding integration testing to ensure that it will fit into the deployer that will take it into orbit. He mentors students from freshmen to graduate students.

Hannah Cooper McCauley '12, Ruston, La., is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts at Louisiana Tech University. Her photography has been exhibited in group shows in various venues, including Louisiana Tech, Photoplace Gallery in Vermont, and the Gadsden Museum of Art. She is married to Zachary Gene McCauley '11, who is also pursuing an MFA in photography at Louisiana Tech.

Sallie Kruse Thomas '12, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching pre-K at Kitty Stone Elementary. She previously taught for several years in Waco, Texas.

Kayla D. Goodwin '13, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching pre-K at Kitty Stone Elementary. She previously taught at Iqra Math and Science Academy in Anniston.

Geraldi Mejia '12, is purchasing manager at Hornsby Steel, Inc., in Cleveland, Ala. His company recently partnered with JSU to demo a bench he helped design and develop that features a solar-powered charging station. While at JSU, he was a international student representing the Dominican Republic and a member of the Gamecock Baseball team.

Mytesa McLester Horton '13, Jacksonville, Ala., is teaching at Jacksonville High School. She previously taught at Weaver High.

Phillip Wayne Hunt '13, Rainbow City, Ala., is teaching history at Jacksonville High School. He previously taught at Sylvan Learning Center and 21st Century Program, Gadsden City School System, STEM education.

Jennifer E. White '13, Talladega, Ala., has opened an exercise studio in Talladega, Motivations, with the goal of not only helping people live healthy lives, but also to motivate and support them through the trials of life.

Morgan Kate Martin '15, Boaz, Ala., is the latest addition to the staff of the Sand Mountain Reporter.

Abigail Kate "Abby" Minter '15, Heflin, Ala., has been named executive director of the Cleburne County Chamber of Commerce, where she has been an active volunteer for the past several years.

Michelle Leigh Thomas '15, Jacksonville, Ala., is a teacher of world history at Pleasant Valley High School.

Shelby Leigh Triplett '15, New Market, Ala., a Space Camp crew trainer at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, was recently proposed to under the iconic Saturn V rocket at the center by her now finance, Steven Scott. He said, "This rocket took man to the moon, but you take me so much farther!" Her grandfather helped build the massive F-1 engines, which were the backdrop for the photo of the proposal. The two met while students at Jacksonville State.



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Mon	Mobile, AL		4:00 PM
Tue	Fun Day at Sea		
Wed	Yucatan (Progreso), Mexico	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Thu	Cozumel, Mexico	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Fri	Fun Day at Sea		
Sat	Mobile, AL	8:00 AM	

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