

# DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

March 2023, Issue No.7



### WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- UPCOMING EVENTS
- PROMINENT WOMEN OF JSU
- A MESSAGE FROM THE JSU DREAM TEAM
- STUDENT RESOURCES

## Word of the Month: **Courage**

the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc., without fear; bravery.

Dictionary.com

## WELCOME!

*By Ethan C. Brown*

Hello everyone! I am very excited to bring you our March newsletter. This edition will be centered around Women's History Month! I am honored to highlight some of the amazing women that have impacted our campus. As always, I hope you enjoy, and I look forward to bringing you future editions.



# Women's History Month March

When/Where: TMB Lawn, finish at McCluer Chapel / March 29, 2023 | March starts at 12:10PM

Women of the Year Awards ceremony and refreshments provided after the march.



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JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY



Ms. Pearl Williams is a native of Ashland, Alabama. She grew up in Anniston, Alabama and was educated in the public school system of Calhoun County. She was married to Mr. Horace Williams who is now deceased. To this union four sons were born. Major Dwayne Williams, her oldest son was killed at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

Ms. Williams received her education at Jacksonville State University. She has a B.S. degree in Law Enforcement and Sociology and a Master's degree in Public Administration. In 1976 she became the first female, as well as the first black, police officer on the Anniston Police force. She transferred to Jacksonville State University Police department where she also became the first female, as well as the first black, police officer. She worked as a police officer for 12 years and was transferred to the Counseling and Services Department where she became the Coordinator of Part-time Off-Campus Employment until her son was killed on 9/11. She founded the House of Refuge, a non-profit Ministry in 2002 and established a Narcotics Anonymous support group in 2003. Ms. Williams has received many awards and recognitions for her work in the community. She has an affinity for the youth and the elderly.

She received the Book of Golden Deeds Award from the city of Jacksonville in 2012. This award pays honor to people who have made significant contributions in deeds and service to their community. She also received the Citizens Award that same year. Ms. Williams has been on the speaking Circuit and is a former client of the Nashville's Speaker's Bureau. She is a Minister of the Gospel and is a member of the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville.



Dr. Helen Bush Caver was an Associate Professor and Reference Librarian specializing in children's literature at JSU for more than 28 years. She earned a master's degree from Atlanta University in 1969 and a doctorate from the University of Sarasota in 1989. After retiring from JSU, Dr. Caver accepted a position at Talladega College in the Savey Library in 1998. Dr. Caver was awarded the Distinguished Black Woman Award from the Alabama SCLC and a Calhoun County Leadership Award are among the many recognitions she received during her life. She was a member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. Dr. Caver sadly passed away in 2005, but her spirit forever lives on at JSU.



Mrs. Heather Whitestone McCallum lost her hearing when she was eighteen months old. She was rushed to the hospital with a dangerously high fever as a result of an influenza virus, and, according to the doctors, she was just hours away from death when she arrived at the hospital. The doctors administered two potent antibiotics that saved her life. Within a few months, however, her family came to realize that her hearing was impaired, and this injury is thought to be caused by the virus that nearly took her, the antibiotics that saved her life, or the combination of both. However, it is clear that this impairment did not slow Heather down. She was crowned Miss JSU in 1994 and went on to be crowned Miss Alabama on September 17, 1994. In 1995, Miss Whitestone became the first woman with a disability to be crowned Miss America in the pageant's then 75-year history. During her reign as Miss America, Heather devoted her time to working with children with hearing impairments, teaching them that positive thinking is powerful and leads to triumph. Today, Mrs. Heather Whitestone McCallum now resides in Georgia with her husband and family.



Dr. Claudia McDade spent her first 24 years in Baton Rouge, LA in a 1950s idyllic childhood. Baton Rouge is seat of state government, hub of petrochemical industry, and home of Louisiana State University. McDade family friends came from those endeavors, many internationally, who encouraged Claudia in her formative years. When she was 7, she asked her beloved Papa what was the best degree she could get; he said a PhD. When she exclaimed she would get one, he affirmed her, saying he had no doubt if she worked hard enough. Dads didn't say that to girls in the 1950s! As an ABD, Claudia walked onto the JSU campus seeking a faculty position. Surprised by few cars, she quickly discovered it was Spring Break, but a few administrators were there. She boldly presented herself to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences who quickly took her to the VPAA's office for an impromptu interview.

He hired her on the spot (the first woman faculty in the PSY Department) as Psychology Department Associate Professor if she graduated with her LSU PhD by August 28, which she did. Dr. McDade was passionate about students and strived to discover what each student knew and teach each accordingly. Trained in Cognitive Psychology, but working in a Behavioral Psychology Department, she spent many years combining/advancing both approaches, pioneering computer-assisted instruction and Precision Learning at the university level. In 1980 she became Director of the Center for Individualized Instruction, which later became Learning Services to convey that college is about learning—not instruction. Throughout her 35 years at JSU, Dr. McDade brought many national and international recognitions to the University and to Learning Services, as well as publishing and editing many journal articles; these are documented in her Curriculum Vitae. Under her leadership, Learning Services was awarded the elite Certification as Distinguished Developmental Writing and Quantification Program, National Association for Developmental Education, 2007. Two of her proudest moments were honors as Distinguished Research Award, College of Letters and Sciences in 1991 and Outstanding Faculty Award, National JSU Alumni Association in 2000. Her greatest professional experience was as a Fulbright Scholar in Bulgaria, Summer 2004. She also brought over 10 million-grant dollars to JSU. Most importantly, Claudia McDade lived up to her goal of assisting every student she taught in developing his/her learning higher.



Dr. Roberta O. Watts has become a “legend in our time” for her promotion of excellence in education and health care. In the year 2017, Quality of Life Health Services, Inc. will celebrate its 40th year of People Caring about People. What began as the dream of one individual, Dr. Roberta O. Watts, has grown into 28 facilities offering comprehensive primary health care services, something that has exceeded the expectations of the founding Board of Directors. Since its inception, Quality of Life has grown to serve more than two hundred thousand people in both rural and urban communities throughout Alabama. Dr. Roberta O. Watts founded Etowah Quality of Life Council, Inc. in 1977 while as a Community Health faculty member at Jacksonville State University. The original mission was designed to address the unmet health care needs of the medically underserved population in Gadsden. With the assistance of fourteen community leaders, the original Board of Directors initiated work on the project.

Development of a new community health center in Gadsden was a slow and tedious process that was further impeded by numerous Federal and State Regulations. However, perseverance paid off in 1978, when funding was secured for one of the two original centers; the Gadsden Neighborhood Health Center. By early 1981, unexpectedly high growth and demand for services led to approval for funding of a second medical center, the J.W. Stewart Medical Center, named after the first medical director of Quality of Life and a founding Board Member. The same year, the Gadsden Neighborhood Clinic's name changed to the Roberta O. Watts Neighborhood Health Clinic as a way of recognizing the efforts of Dr. Watts. Dr. Watts is the essence of a legend; she has worked relentlessly promoting the welfare of Alabama's residents. Her promotion of excellence in education and health care for all has definitely made her a "legend in our time."

- Research Compiled by **Charlcie Pettway Vann**

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### **A message from the JSU DREAM Team**

On March 8, 2023, we celebrate International Women's Day. This day is not only to celebrate the progress of women's rights. It is also a time to reflect on the areas where additional opportunities exist. It is important that we utilize an inclusive and intersectional approach in the ongoing fight for women's rights. As individuals and members of groups we must lift the voices of all women and the DREAM Team would like to share some insight of the experiences of women with disabilities.

Globally there are one billion people living with disabilities with the majority identifying as women. At the intersection of gender and disability, we see disproportionate rates of gender-based violence by partners, family members, and even health care professionals compared to women without disabilities. There is also a belief in society that women with disabilities are not sexually active. This is an untrue belief that has wide reaching impacts. It pushes this assumption that women with disabilities do not want to fulfill the role of a mother, for those that want to be mothers. Historically, we have seen women with disabilities being pressured into having abortions and into forced sterilization because of their identity as a result of pseudoscience like the eugenics movements. Women with disabilities may access health care differently. For example, many providers are not trained in a way that provides good communication between the provider and their patients who utilize sign language, or these patients may need different approaches in support due to other diagnoses and traumas. This year we challenge everyone to eliminate beliefs that women with disabilities are less capable, promote reproductive rights and access to sexual health for women with disabilities, dismantle gendered patriarchal systems and protect women from violence, ensure all women have equal access to quality education and health care, and demand that the voices of women with disabilities are included in the design of policies and programs.

- Author: **The DREAM Team at JSU**

# STUDENT RESOURCES

## Preferred Name Request (Registrar's office)

[http://www.jsu.edu/registrar/student\\_forms.html](http://www.jsu.edu/registrar/student_forms.html)

## Counseling Services

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

## Student Health Center

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

## JSU Library LGBTQ+ Resource Collection

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

## Title IX

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

## LGBTQ Vocabulary List

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

## D&I Glossary

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

## Diversity Discussion Request

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

## Cocky Cares

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

## Disability Resources

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

## Student Success

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

## Gamecock Market

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

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

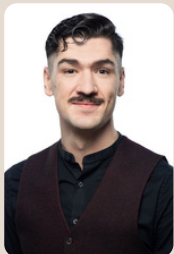


## Mrs. Charlcie Pettway Vann

Director of the Office of  
Diversity and Inclusion

[cvann@jsu.edu](mailto:cvann@jsu.edu)

256-782-8434



## Mr. Jacob Phillips

Administrative Assistant and  
Coordinator of Safe Zone

[jlphillips@jsu.edu](mailto:jlphillips@jsu.edu)

256-782-8438



## Ethan C. Brown

Work Study and Editor of *Diversity  
and Inclusion: The Official  
Newsletter*

President of ActiveMinds

[Ebrown18@estu.jsu.edu](mailto:Ebrown18@estu.jsu.edu)

# THANK YOU FOR READING!



[www.jsu.edu/diversity](http://www.jsu.edu/diversity)