

# The Bulletin

A Magazine From Johnson C. Smith University | 2017 – 2018

A photograph of two hands, one from a person with a darker skin tone and one from a person with a lighter skin tone, both wearing blue suits and white shirts, passing a golden baton. In the background is a large, red brick clock tower with a white clock face, set against a clear blue sky. Green foliage is visible in the foreground.

## Passing THE BATON





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

02	President's Message
03	Cover Story
06	Features
14	University News
24	Academics
38	Student News
48	Athletics
58	Philanthropy
64	Donors
92	Community Engagement
96	Alumni
108	Class Notes

## The Bulletin

A magazine from Johnson C. Smith University

2017 - 2018

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**Note:** Throughout this publication, STEM refers to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

**Opposite page:** Clarence D. Armbrister, J.D., 14th president of Johnson C. Smith University

# President's Message

**T**he execution of the passing of the baton in a closely contested relay race is one of the most exciting and exhilarating moments in sports. This 2017-2018 edition of The Bulletin spans the “passing of the baton” from Dr. Ronald L. Carter to me, which began officially on January 1, 2018. Orchestrated under the able leadership of Board Chair Shirley J. Hughes, the transition from one administration to another was executed with the precision of a well-coached relay team.

I had the distinct honor of addressing the campus community on January 3, 2018, as the 14th President of Johnson C. Smith University and shared with the community my initial thoughts on the factors I believe will ensure that JCSU will thrive for another 150 years. In that address, I introduced the “4 R’s”: resources, recruitment, retention and rigor—and my belief that if we can move the needle appreciably in these areas, JCSU will undoubtedly thrive.

As the year progressed, I met with the members of the faculty and staff of every school and college. I met with students. Also, I met individually with members of the board and addressed alumni on various occasions. The experiences I shared in all of those interactions confirmed that which I had anticipated upon being named president: the JCSU community and stakeholders are proud and passionate about the University. In addition, I was presented with multiple examples of the University’s principal tenet: JCSU changes lives!

Every one of us who works here serves an important role in advancing this academic mission. Collectively, we all help to educate new students and create new knowledge—whether we teach rigorous courses, roll up our sleeves as staff, are active alumni ambassadors, or leave an indelible imprint on the culture of the institution as this generation of Golden Bulls.

The year saw transition and triumph, and I humbly invite you to share in the honor of looking back over 2017-18, remembering how far we’ve come as we continue to grow in excellence.

Sincerely,



**Clarence D. Armbrister, J.D.**  
President







President Clarence D. Armbrister, J.D.

## Passing the Baton of the Presidency: Smooth transition leads to greater heights

Presidents are the visionaries of universities, and the transition between them can have a profound effect on an institution—creating a period of either continued success or disruption.

When Clarence D. Armbrister, J.D., took over the reins of Johnson C. Smith University from Dr. Ronald L. Carter in the middle of the 2017-18 academic year, the institution braced for change. Carter's distinct and bold style had defined JCSU for almost ten years—a generation—and was ending after a months-long national search for a new leader. Thankfully, the passing of the baton from JCSU's 13th to the 14th president was seamless, smooth, and supported every step of the way.

The transition began as soon as the selection of the president-elect was announced Oct. 4, 2017, and he was a special guest at Homecoming 2017. His return visits were carefully timed to coincide with other key campus events, such as trustee meetings, allowing him to get a feel for people's hopes and fears as well as gain a sense of how JCSU works.

During that period, a transition team that included trustees, search committee members, administrators, faculty, alumni, and students provided information, and encouragement in a wide variety of ways. As a result, Armbrister entered office with an in-depth knowledge of JCSU's culture, challenges, and strengths as well as burgeoning relationships with key people and a clear mandate to advance the University.



President Clarence D. Armbrister addressed faculty and staff during the annual appreciation luncheon.

Armbrister's official tenure began on Jan. 1, 2018. On Jan. 3, he addressed an audience of 200 faculty and staff in the New Science Center and laid out a strategic agenda focusing on the "Four R's" of resources, recruitment, retention and rigor, which he said were "inextricably linked" to the University's success.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected as the 14th president of Johnson C. Smith University, which throughout its 150-year history has improved the lives of its students and contributed to the communities it serves," Armbrister said. Immediately following his appointment, Armbrister was introduced to members of the campus, the press, and community partners at a series of intimate events. He met with student leaders, members of The Duke Endowment, and conducted a number of one-on-one interviews with Charlotte broadcast and print media. He noted JCSU's past accomplishments and expressed optimism for the future.

As well, Denise McGregor Armbrister was welcomed with open arms. She is JCSU's first "First Lady" in 25 years, so her presence was especially welcomed. Mrs. Armbrister, a senior vice president of Wells Fargo Corporation and executive director of the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation, delivered the keynote speech at the Leading Ladies Women's History Month

Luncheon March 21, 2018, when Golden Bulls came together to acknowledge women of substance who made JCSU great.

Later that evening, Armbrister had this to say at the welcome reception hosted by the Duke Endowment:

"I can't thank you enough for the warm welcome you have extended to Denise and me – not just tonight, but since the day I arrived. We are thrilled to be a part of the Johnson C. Smith University family and the Charlotte community. After tonight, we can truly say that this is home."

While the Armbristers were the most lauded change of 2017-18, the University saw transitions on several other fronts as well.

JCSU's Irwin Belk Complex saw the baton passed – literally – as the Department of Athletics hosted the 2018 NCAA Division II Track and Field Championship on May 24-26, 2018. It was the third time JCSU hosted the national championships. Around 800 student-athletes from across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean, as well as their coaches, sports information directors, athletic administrators and spectators, flocked to the complex's Mondo surface track. JCSU is the only HBCU to host in the championship's history.





Institutional Advancement gained a new vice president. Tami B. Simmons brought experience as a corporate leader and deep community ties following the departure of Joy Paige Springs. Springs, who led the division for eight years, was already professionally acquainted with Simmons, which helped to ensure the baton wasn't dropped during the change in leadership.

Finally, the School of Professional Studies combined with Metropolitan College to become Metropolitan College of Professional Studies, which in addition to adult learning courses now includes both the

Department of Business Administration and the Department of Health and Human Performance. The realignment allowed for the development of the School of Social Work, which encompasses both undergraduate and graduate-level studies.

It was indeed a year of transition combined with onward and upward change. The baton has been passed and the torch remains lit for generations of Golden Bulls to come.







Lauren Herring '20 interviewed Denise McGregor Armbrister during the Leading Ladies Luncheon.

## First Lady Denise McGregor Armbrister honored at Leading Ladies luncheon

At the Leading Ladies & Co. Women's History Month Luncheon on March 21, 2018, the Golden Bulls family came together to acknowledge women of substance who have made Johnson C. Smith University great. They also got to know JCSU's new First Lady, Denise McGregor Armbrister, senior vice president of Wells Fargo Corporation and executive director of the Wells Fargo Regional Community Development Corporation.

Close to 100 students, alumnae, and friends of JCSU filled Grimes Lounge for the event, which was organized by the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement. Shakoya Brown '20, public relations coordinator for the Student Government Association, served as the mistress of ceremony. Miss Johnson C. Smith University Mariah Collins '18 and Takeem Dean, Dean of Students, provided the welcome and opening remarks, and SGA Senator-at-Large Brittany Patrick '19 offered a meditation on the theme, 'Nevertheless, she persisted.'

"We were not created to be small, but our accomplishments are meant to uplift and inspire other women," Patrick said.

Deja Wilkerson '18, president of JCSU's chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, spoke on the significance of the luncheon that recognized the contributions of women who break down barriers, raise their voices and fight for what they believe in.

"Here at JCSU, we are privileged to be connected to ladies who are standing tall as change agents on campus and in the city of Charlotte," Wilkerson said. "Our purpose today is to use this space to empower and celebrate each other as we continue to smash the mold, in spite of discrimination in our fight for immigrant rights, education equality, racial justice and other issues affecting our communities."



Miaamour McCants, Golden Bull Activities Committee chair, followed with an introduction of Armbrister. After Shisso Mbombo '19 gave a rousing rendition of Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful," the first lady took the stage for an interview conducted by Lauren Herring '20.

In the warm and personal interview, Armbrister shared with the audience the guiding principles she lives by. Regarding the transformative power of education, she counseled the assembled to "search out, seek and accept every opportunity to be a sponge. This goes for book learning, experience or travel."

Armbrister injected a bit of levity when she broke out in Jamaican patois to dispense her mother's advice, "Don't follow

fashion," instead advising students to be fearless in their pursuits and live a life of purpose. Stories about her great Aunt May, an immigrant, union organizer and entrepreneur, also gave insight into Armbrister's worldview as an empowered woman of color.

"I feel like we really got to know her on a personal level," Brown exclaimed afterward. "She inspired me not to just make my mark, but to clear a path for others to come after me."

Special recognition and awards were given to Dr. Kelli Rainey, vice president for Academic and Student Support Services and Chief Operating Officer for Institutional Effectiveness; and students Temitope Ashorobi '18 and Brenda Montañez '20.







Marc Morial, president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League, delivered the keynote address to more than 200 graduates.

## Morial to graduates: Choose excellence over convenience

JCSU's 2018 Commencement exercises saw a return to Bojangles' Coliseum instead of being held on campus as it has been in recent years. Still, the major touchpoints of excellence, achievement and jubilation were ever-present on Sunday, May 20, 2018.

Flowing stoles, from the Divine Nine to those celebrating Haitian Flag Day, boasted the diverse cultures at JCSU, and there was no interruption of celebratory dances. Three dozen members of the Class of 1968, resplendent in their golden robes, marched onto the floor of the arena, with Helen Simmons Henry '53 clad in white at the head of the column. Close to a thousand relatives, friends and supporters—among them Congresswoman Alma Adams and former Congresswoman Eva Clayton '55—filled the seats of the arena, cheering and waving at their favorite graduates. In return, the 241 graduates held nothing back as they collected their reward. Valedictorian Damara Garcia-Garcia

had the audience in tears recounting her triumphs of the year, despite the heartbreak of her brother's deportation. Footage of Metropolitan College graduate Angela Silver's spirit-filled march went viral, with over 100,000 views and 2,000 shares on Facebook.

"It was a lifetime of rejoicing that had been pent up," Silver said. "I am the first college graduate in my family. The trajectory of my whole family has changed, everything has changed for us."

President Clarence D. Armbrister heralded the graduation as a personal connection to the University. "I will forever be linked to the Class of 2018," he said, "because I celebrated my first JCSU Commencement with you. JCSU changes lives."

Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League, delivered the keynote address. A close friend of President Armbrister from their

undergraduate days at University of Pennsylvania, where they both pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Morial went on to become mayor of New Orleans and a Louisiana state senator. He redefined the Urban League's civil rights agenda with a renewed emphasis on closing racially-influenced economic disparities.







President Clarence D. Armbrister, J.D. addressed more than 200 graduates during the 2018 Commencement Ceremony.

Morial encouraged the graduates to pursue greatness. "Choose excellence over convenience, and say no to mediocrity," he said. "And do not forget where you came from. Common sense is genius wrapped up in work clothes."

He noted the graduates should not become embittered by the racism they would invariably face.

"Racism is real, but you are not going to let racism get you down," Morial said. "You are not going to let racism break your spirit. You are not going to let racism make you hostile or angry, whether it's at Starbuck's or Waffle House, whether it's with Trayvon Martin or Michael Brown or Eric Garner."

Instead, he implored them to build real assets and grow businesses.

"A fancy car and handbags don't accrue value," he said. "America respects economic and political power."

The University conferred upon Morial an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree before valedictorian Garcia-

Garcia took the stage in an impassioned speech. She began by recalling Alice Walker's famous quote.

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any," she said. "I have felt powerless many times in my undergraduate years, but at each turn I was able to sustain because someone believed in me."

Her voice cracked as she recounted the times faculty, staff, friends and family supported her over the past four years, and scarcely an eye was dry as she spoke of her brother's deportation to Mexico. Garcia-Garcia had earned a full-ride James B. Duke Scholarship to attend JCSU and maintained a 4.0 GPA. She graduated with a degree in psychology and a minor in biology.

"At this time when the nation is so divided, we must keep the lessons we learned at JCSU and remember the most powerful tool is love," she said. "But love allows for accountability. We must advocate for those who may not ever get to walk on a stage, and work day and night to make ends meet. Knowledge is



power, but power without love is reckless."

Then each of the 241 graduates heard their names called and ascended the stage to receive the degrees they worked tirelessly to earn. There were 206 bachelor degrees and 37 Master of Social Work degrees conferred. Two undergraduates earned double degrees.

The "steadfast gleam to lead us o'er life's way" shone in every graduate's face as the Class of 2018 marched through the doors to new opportunities. Without a doubt, they are prepared to "hold high the Gold and Blue."



Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller delivered an inspirational message to the Class of 2018.

## Baccalaureate speaker encourages seniors to “Walk through the door”

The pews of the Jane M. Smith Memorial Church were filled with members of the Class of 2018, and hearts were just as full at JCSU’s annual Baccalaureate service, held Friday, May 18, 2018. The Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller delivered an inspired sermon at the traditional service, which rang with “amens,” a spirited choir and a few happy shouts.

President Clarence D. Armbrister called the service to order with words of welcome for graduating seniors, families and friends before the scripture reading. D’Andre Carter ‘18, president of the Student Government Association, turned to Genesis 32:22-30 to orate the story of Jacob wrestling the angel for a blessing. Senior Class President Alana Worth followed up with Isaiah 40:29-31, whose most famous passage reads:

*But those who wait on the Lord  
Shall renew their strength;  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
They shall run and not be weary,  
They shall walk and not faint.*

Rev. Waller’s address continued in this vein, encouraging those gathered to overcome obstacles for the sake of the rewards on the other side.

“Some of you may say ‘JCSU gave me a degree.’ But Johnson C. Smith University is not in the business of giving away degrees,” Waller said, to an uproarious response. “You chose to dedicate these four years of your life to study, and you are walking out with a degree. You were not given anything. You took it, got it, earned it.”

Waller congratulated them on their achievements and advised them to keep pushing for more opportunities to grow, contrasting the idea of fate with destiny. Fate is predetermined, he said, but destiny is only there for people willing to go after it. He cautioned against becoming disillusioned by struggle, insisting that nothing worthwhile comes easily.

“Do you notice,” he asked, “that in the Bible the land of milk and honey is always situated next to the land of Hittites and





Jebusites? In the land of milk and honey are people who don't want you to have it, but greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world!"

Opposition is inevitable, Waller counseled, but the lens through which

one views the world makes all the difference. The door of opposition and the door of opportunity are often one and the same, he said. As well, he reminded graduates of their obligation to give back.

"The real question is, 'What do you do with your door?' Now that you have the degree and access," he challenged. "Someone needs you to walk through your door, because it leads to their own. Walk through the door, children, into the promised land."





More than 200 graduating seniors processed into Jane M. Smith Memorial Church for Founders' Day.

## Legacy and faith punctuate Founders' Day Convocation

Guests braved the chilly spring Sunday to honor the roots of Johnson C. Smith University at the Founders' Day Convocation, held April 8, 2018.

Among the attendees gathered in the Jane M. Smith Memorial Church were Charlotte City Councilman Justin Harlow; Trustee Christy Bryant '75, president of JCSU National Alumni Association; and several descendants of Mary Baird Biddle, whose generous donation in 1867 sowed the seeds for campus growth and expansion. One family member, Christine Beebe, recently pledged a \$250,000 bequest to JCSU.

Dr. Kendall Mobley, assistant professor of religion and the Spiritual Life coordinator, opened the event with an invocation of the Holy Spirit, asking everyone to remember the courageous visionary founders as well as the stalwart men and women who followed in their footsteps.

"If we can reach a little higher or see a little farther than them, it's not because we are better, but because we stand on the shoulders of giants," Mobley said.

Charlotte City Councilman Justin Harlow brought greetings on behalf of the city council.

Harlow congratulated JCSU on behalf of Mayor Vi Lyles and the entire city council. "Charlotte would not be what it is today without JCSU's timeless tradition of excellence," he remarked. "The institution builds community bonds and shares resources. JCSU ensures social advancement for all who step on campus."

The Founders' Day Convocation is a time every year to reflect on the vibrancy of JCSU's legacy and to honor the progress fostered by past leaders. It is also a time to recognize the 1867 Giving Societies inductees, each of whose donations to the University since the year 2000 tally more than \$10,000. Their





contributions made the progress of many students possible, and they stood to be honored during the ceremony.

"Like the Sankofa bird, there is wisdom in learning from our past," JCSU Board of Trustees Chair Shirley J. Hughes said. "When you leave, are you ready to carry on the legacy?"

Jesse Cureton, chief consumer officer and executive vice president of Novant Health, delivered a robust keynote speech. Cureton, who grew up on Charlotte's west side, spoke about the importance of making an impact on the world.

"It may feel like you have decades of time to figure this out," he told the assembly, "but you are creating a legacy every day with every interaction you make."

He laid out a clear plan to go about doing that: Embrace change, develop passion and have faith. One must be willing to take risks, he emphasized, and be confident in one's identity. But the most important aspect is faith.



President Clarence D. Armbrister and City Councilman Justin Harlowe

"There are moments in my life I have struggled for integrity, lacked courage, or couldn't find my passion, and when I am there I connect with a power bigger than myself that informs all these things. Faith is key," Cureton shared.

## Marching band shines on 'Good Morning America'

By **Beatriz Guerrero**

The International Institution of Sound, JCSU's high-stepping marching band, took America by storm May 1, 2018, when they appeared on ABC's Good Morning America broadcast.

The band was energetic and enthused as they stepped into the BB&T Ball Park in Uptown Charlotte at the crack of dawn. Under the direction of Robert L. Edwards, they played long-time favorite "JCSU Groove," led by drum majors Trajuan Warren '19 and Bobby Speas '19.

The band worked with the producers, keeping the tunes going for video teasers and short takes, followed by a presentation of products from local entrepreneurs. During the segment, GMA awarded a local business owner \$10,000. Blue Satin dancers Sade Jones '19 and Alysha Cauthen '19, the team captain, presented the award.

"Being on 'Good Morning America' was an unforgettable experience," Cauthen said. "Going behind the scenes and



learning how things are done before a show goes live was fun! I'm grateful for the opportunity to represent JCSU."

"The whole experience was surreal. I can't believe we had the opportunity to actually be on national television," said band member Mayra Parrilla '19.

It was a pinch-yourself-moment for the band's future professional musicians and

dancers, who sacrifice long hours, late nights and early mornings to hone their craft in the sanctuary of the band program. IIOS put in action their motto of "Dedication, Determination, and Drive," and showed the world how we do as the Gold and Blue!



President Armbrister speaks to faculty about the vision for Metropolitan College of Professional Studies.

## Clarence D. Armbrister Named 14th President of Johnson C. Smith University

On Oct. 4, 2017, the Board of Trustees of Johnson C. Smith University announced the selection of Clarence D. “Clay” Armbrister, J.D., as the University 14th president. His tenure became effective January 1, 2018.

Before coming to JCSU, Armbrister served as president of Girard College, an independent college preparatory five-day boarding school for academically capable students from economically disadvantaged families from the Philadelphia region.

Armbrister succeeded Dr. Ronald L. Carter, who stepped down officially on December 31, 2017, after leading the successful transformation of Johnson C. Smith University for nine years. Carter announced his resignation in August 2016 and committed to leading the University until the Board of Trustees could complete a thorough national search for the right leader to continue the forward trajectory of the institution.

Armbrister has extensive experience at all levels of education, including time in the School District of Philadelphia and senior administrative positions at Temple University and Johns Hopkins University. In addition to his background in education, Armbrister has held executive positions in law, government and finance.

Armbrister’s range of experience across several sectors helped him stand out among highly-qualified candidates, said Shirley J. Hughes, chair of the JCSU Board of Trustees and chair of the Presidential Search Committee.

“Mr. Armbrister’s diverse career experience provided the competitive edge in a nine-month search,” said Hughes. “We believe his varied background in education, finance, government and law brings an exceptionally broad lens



to the increasingly complex demands of the changing landscape in higher education today.”

Armbrister enthusiastically began working with the board, faculty, staff, students and alumni while collaborating with community leaders to continue propelling JCSU to the fore as an innovative institution providing higher education access to diverse students. As a first-generation college graduate, he brought a powerful personal perspective to the importance of education.

“I am honored and humbled to have been selected as the 14th president of Johnson C. Smith University, which throughout its 151-year history has improved the lives of its students and contributed to the growth of Charlotte,” Armbrister said. “JCSU is one of the finest institutions of higher education in the country that meets not only the needs of its students, but those of the communities it serves—locally, regionally and globally.”

Prior to his leadership of Girard College, Armbrister served as senior vice president and chief of staff at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He honed his experience in higher education during his five years at Temple University in Philadelphia, where he served as senior vice president for administration before being promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer.

During his tenure as executive vice president and chief operating officer at Temple University, Armbrister was responsible for \$400 million in capital projects on several campuses and the rapid conversion from a commuter to a residential campus. He also led Temple’s management, planning and coordination of student affairs, facilities management services, campus safety services, intercollegiate athletics, computer and information services, affirmative action, enrollment management services, and management analysis.

Armbrister also has higher education teaching experience. He served as an adjunct faculty member at Temple, developing and teaching a municipal finance curriculum in the Beasley School of Law.

In addition to his experience in elementary and secondary education at Girard College, Armbrister served as managing director for the School District of Philadelphia (1996-1998), which at that time was the fourth largest school district in the United States with more than 215,000 students.

Armbrister has been successful at the highest levels of municipal government and has worked with some of the most well-known politicians in the recent history of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He was city treasurer for the City of Philadelphia (1994-1996) during the tenure of former mayor Ed Rendell, who became governor of Pennsylvania. From 2008-2011, Armbrister served as chief of staff for former Philadelphia mayor Michael Nutter. His work in the finance sector includes being an investment banker at UBS PaineWebber, Inc., where he served as head of the Municipal Securities Group education practice, overseeing nationwide efforts in underwriting transactions for issuers in the K-12 public education market.

Armbrister began his professional career practicing law and was a partner in the public finance division of Saul, Ewing, Remick & Saul in Philadelphia.

A native of Miami, Armbrister received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and in economics from the University of Pennsylvania. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School. He and his wife, Denise, who is senior vice president of Wells Fargo Corporation and executive director of the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation and the Wells Fargo Regional Community Development Corporation, have five children.



# School of Social Work and Metropolitan College of Professional Studies launch, expand Metropolitan College of Professional Studies

Holding high the legacy of 150 years of undeniable progress, Johnson C. Smith University realigned its academic colleges to better fit a university model, and arrived at the next step: developing a school in the discipline of social work.

A “school” is an organizational structure that offers the following attributes:

- Both undergraduate and graduate degrees in a focused area
- Research and training opportunities
- Is responsible for the degree offered by the university in that area of study

As of July 1, 2017, JCSU’s School of Social Work offered both Bachelor and Master of Social Work degrees, as well as research and training opportunities in the theory and practice of social work.

Dr. Helen Caldwell, former dean of the College of Professional Studies, was tapped to head up the School of Social Work, which includes the Bachelor of Social Work program, the Master of Social Work program, and oversees a major partnership with Elon Homes and Schools for Children. Research in the School of Social Work is constructed on a foundation of cultural competence and focuses on a continuum of child and family services, as well as older adults’ issues.

Caldwell earned her MSW degree from Rutgers University with a concentration in social work administration. She pursued a Ph.D. in social work at The Ohio State University over the course of two years of full-time study before completing a Ph.D. in urban higher education from Jackson State University.

Her combined training in social work education and higher education with a focus on leadership theories strongly credential her to lead the School, as well as her more than 30 years of experience in higher education as a social work educator and academic dean.

The University also realigned the adult degree program along with some traditional professional studies programs to better serve the needs of non-traditional and traditional



Dr. Helen Caldwell



Dr. Laura McLean

students. Metropolitan College became Metropolitan College of Professional Studies, with the Department of Business Administration and the Department of Health and Human Performance (sport management and community health) under its umbrella. Housing these programs under one college strengthens JCSU’s online business administration and sport management majors, while providing greater access to a combination of on-campus and online classes for students in the adult degree program as well as traditional students.

Dr. Laura McLean remained its dean, overseeing the integration of traditional and nontraditional students and improving institutional support. McLean earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Master of Education degree in curriculum and supervision from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a Doctor of Education degree in curriculum and instruction from Gardner-Webb University. She joined Johnson C. Smith University in 2005 as assistant director of student support services, before becoming director of Metropolitan College’s adult degree program in 2010. She was appointed dean in 2015.

In these ways, and with this visionary leadership, JCSU continued to enhance educational pathways for change agents, both now and in the future.



# Golden Bulls unite to fight for DACA

Johnson C. Smith University students stood up in defense of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program on Sept. 6, 2017. The policy, which gives undocumented students protected stay in the United States, was rescinded Sept. 5.



The Golden Bulls community shows support for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) students.

Dozens of Golden Bulls braved a chilly rain to hear members of Latinos Aiming For Achievement (LAFAs), a student organization focused on advocating for undocumented students, speak passionately on the issue in the rotunda of the Mary Joyce Taylor Crisp Student Union.

“To me, DACA represents opportunities and opens doors that would otherwise be shut,” said Brenda Montanez ’20, president of LAFAs.

DACA, an American immigration policy established by the Obama administration in 2012, allowed some individuals who entered the United States illegally as minors to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and to be eligible for a work permit.

Juan Carlos Contreras ’18 is majoring in computer engineering with a minor in cyber security. He was glad to be part of the event. Though he has lived in Charlotte since age 4, Contreras is undocumented and a DACA recipient. He said the event was necessary to raise awareness.

“Many JCSU students didn’t know what DACA was or how it was affecting their fellow Golden Bulls,” Contreras said. “After the event, several students approached me. They had no idea people on campus were struggling with this, and they

volunteered to be there and help in any way they could. Support for undocumented students has always been strong at JCSU, but now they have some concrete ideas for meaningful action.”

Montanez was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, but came to Charlotte as a child with her parents. She was in high school when DACA was announced. She heard about JCSU, proudly a historically Black university, extending its mandate to educate the underserved by recruiting undocumented students and enrolled.

“DACA allowed me the freedom to come out of the shadows and follow my dreams and aspirations,” Montanez said. “DACA gave me a newfound determination and made my goals appear more attainable. I was adamant to pursue higher education, working my way to medical school, and fulfilling my goal of becoming a pediatric surgeon. Now that DACA is gone, it feels like we are being forced to go back to the shadows.”

Montanez is a founding member of LAFAs, which held the event to raise the student body’s awareness of the stakes of losing DACA.

“We felt like it was wrong to just stay quiet and watch the events unfold,” Montanez said. “We hoped to bring

together the Hispanic students and the JCSU community to educate everyone on what DACA is, how it impacts our lives, and clear up any misconceptions.”

The results were beyond successful; almost 100 Golden Bulls attended in an overwhelming show of support for fellow students impacted by the legislation. Frank Dorsey, assistant director of Student Engagement, told the assembled crowd, “If this is an issue for one of us, it is an issue for all of us.”

“It’s a great feeling to know that whatever happens, we are not alone,” Montanez said. “It brings me comfort to know that JCSU supports DACA recipients and will stand behind us as much as possible to ensure we are comfortable and safe. The fight is not over; rather it is just starting, and I believe we must stand united, rather than divided.”

During Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15), JCSU hosted several programs linking the struggles of the undocumented to the Civil Rights legacy.

“It’s easier for people to relate when they can see something in terms of common issues they have also experienced,” Contreras said.

\*All students consented to the use of their names in this article.

# Tami B. Simmons named as new vice president of Institutional Advancement

On Sept. 21, 2017, Tami B. Simmons was appointed vice president of Institutional Advancement. Simmons, a member of JCSU's Board of Trustees, served as executive director of Susan G. Komen Charlotte having joined the organization in 2012. She assumed her new role at the University on Oct. 18, 2017, leading the areas of fundraising and development, communications and marketing, and alumni relations. Simmons, who served as secretary of the JCSU Board of Trustees, resigned from the Board at the end of September.

"I am thrilled to welcome Mrs. Simmons," said former President Ronald L. Carter. "Given her demonstrated experience in securing both private and corporate philanthropic support, executing foundation strategies, and designing and implementing comprehensive institutional advancement programs, Tami will ensure that the strategic direction we have set for fundraising, alumni relations, development, and marketing and communication activities will continue without interruption."

Simmons came to JCSU with a wealth of experience. Previously, she spent five years at Susan G. Komen Charlotte and 19 with Wells Fargo, leaving as senior vice president and director of corporate philanthropy for the Eastern United States.

"I have always been impressed with the work of Johnson C. Smith University and very aware of the University's importance to Charlotte and the Southeast region," Simmons said. "JCSU has a history of being at the forefront of innovations in higher education, and it represents the best of intellectual rigor, applied research, arts and culture, and social responsibility. Johnson C. Smith University's future is bright as it continues to educate students who become leaders in every field of human endeavor. I am honored to add my service to advancing the mission of this great institution. As a proud graduate of two outstanding HBCUs, I bring great respect for the traditions of HBCUs to my work as I collaborate with donors, alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the University."



Tami B. Simmons





Brandon Lunsford, university archivist and digital manager, stands on the steps of Biddle Hall.

## JCSU lands grant to preserve West End history

Johnson C. Smith University is helping preserve the history of Charlotte's oldest Black community, using cutting-edge digital tools that bring the past to life. In 2017 the project, titled "Mapping the Historic West End: The Digital History of African-American Neighborhoods in Charlotte, North Carolina," received a \$25,000 Catalyst Fund grant from LYRASIS, one of the nation's largest non-profits serving archives, libraries and museums, and a \$100,000 Digital Humanities Advancement grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

University archivist and digital manager Brandon Lunsford, who is a project manager for the grants, is using the funding to create an interactive digital map of Charlotte's West side. The 150-year-old neighborhood is undergoing rapid gentrification. Using History Pen, which is a social media mapping tool, Lunsford takes a picture of a location and 'pins' it on the map, then attaches a wealth of multi-media information sources to that pin.

"The idea is to get people from the neighborhoods around here to tell their own stories and preserve the history of a place that is rapidly being changed," Lunsford said. "There are so many who have lived here all their lives, and we want to hear what these streets, these churches, these schools, and all these places mean to them. The goal is to showcase the history of the area from the perspective of the people who lived here and still do."

Through oral histories, photographs, newspaper articles and letters, community residents are participating in a large-scale effort to document and engage with the city's history. Lunsford also conducts first-person interviews and pulls from

information that is already archived. The Excelsior Club's pin, for example, features first-person interviews, pictures, links to UNCC special collections and information from the Carolina Room of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Main Library, as well as images from vintage West Charlotte High School yearbooks.

"There was a lot of information out there, but it was all in different places," Lunsford said. "I wanted to bring it all to one spot."

Other people Lunsford interviewed for the digital map include Civil Rights titans James Ferguson and Julius Chambers, whose law offices were bombed during the 1960s, and members of Clinton Chapel AME Church—at 220 years, the oldest African American congregation in Charlotte. The church was originally part of the Brooklyn neighborhood, but moved when the city demolished the historically Black area.

"The people were pushed out of their side of town but they didn't die out or scatter," Lunsford said. "They kept their congregation together and kept their church alive."

These are stories of survival, no matter what—despite Jim Crow, destructive urban renewal policy, the rise of crime and drugs in the 1980s, and now gentrification, these neighborhoods have stood the test of time.

"Forces have been trying to tear them apart but these communities are resilient, and they love their neighbors, their homes, their streets and buildings," Lunsford said. "I just want to preserve those stories."

# Johnson C. Smith University Recognizes its Employees for service and excellence

The University and the Office of Human Resources thanked faculty and staff for another year of service and excellence at the 2018 Faculty and Staff Appreciation Awards Luncheon, held May 21, 2018, at the Hilton Charlotte Center City.

Golden Bulls were enthusiastic and supportive of each other, nominating honorees for each category and the committee was diligent in choosing the final winners for each award. Johnson C. Smith University congratulates the following individuals for outstanding work in their disciplines.

**Cato Par Excellence Teaching Award** – Dr. Terza Lima-Neves

**Par Excellence Teaching Award** – Mr. Jemayne King

**Sit Lux Award** – Dr. Ying Bai

**Moses S. Belton Distinguished Service Award** – Mr. Demond Raybon

**Sara Stewart Distinguished Service Award** – Dr. Cathy Jones

**Lonnie T. Parker Pinnacle Service Award for Caring** – Mr. Maurice Raley

**Lonnie T. Parker Pinnacle Service Award for Enterprise** – Ms. Virginia Rose-Anderson

**Lonnie T. Parker Pinnacle Service Award for Innovation** – Ms. Anna Xia Wood

**Lonnie T. Parker Pinnacle Service Award for Quality** – Dr. Brian M. Jones

**Lonnie T. Parker Pinnacle Service Award for Servant Leadership** – Ms. Natasha Wilson



Dr. Terza Lima Neves

## Trench Worker Award Winners

Dr. Lucinda Blue  
Mr. Richie Colon

Dr. Matthew DeForrest  
Dr. Thomas Fleming

Mr. Eliu Iraheta  
Ms. Deborah King

Dr. Cindy Kistenberg  
Mr. Gregory Preyor

Ms. Keisha Wilson  
Ms. L. Dawn Winfield

Congratulations to our **“First Year Stars”** who have reached or will celebrate their one-year anniversary this year (based on their full-time hire date):

Dr. Tara Bingle  
Ms. Nancy Boley  
Mr. Lauriston Bristol  
Ms. Aisha Bryant  
Ms. Kimberly Cross  
Ms. Antia Dawkins  
Mr. Frank Dorsey, II  
Ms. Leslie Brooks

Ms. Kara Gilliard  
Ms. Anjelica Grant  
Dr. Kareema Gray  
Ms. Natasha Harris  
Mr. Anthony Hooks, Jr.  
Dr. Maureen Leary  
Ms. Demesha Leathers  
Mr. Montaze McCrae

Ms. Tenessa Moore  
Ms. Brittne Paramore  
Ms. Tierra Parsons  
Ms. Tiphane Pate  
Dr. Keri Petersen  
Ms. Tara Prince  
Ms. Kayla Ratliff  
Ms. Kendall Ridenhour

Mr. Marcus Roberson  
Mr. Nomar Rodriguez  
Mr. Todd Sherwood  
Mr. Steven Shipp  
Ms. Tami Simmons  
Dr. Felesia Stukes  
Mr. Adrian Stowe  
Ms. Jessica Taylor

Mr. Terrence Warren  
Ms. C. Shanika  
Washington  
Mr. Jason White  
Ms. Janishia Williams  
Mr. Serge Zeze

### 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. A. Christian Casper  
Dr. Erin DiCesare  
Mr. Ramon Fernandez, Jr.  
Ms. Tracey Foster  
Dr. James Freeman  
Dr. David Luciano  
Ms. Jacyn O’Toole  
Mr. Steven Pearsall  
Mr. Greg Petzke

Ms. Julie Reed  
Dr. Harold Shoemaker  
Ms. Shelline Warren  
Ms. Natasha Wilson

### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. Nicola Bivens  
Ms. Kendra Bradley  
Dr. Cheryl Brayboy  
Ms. Tarji Caldwell  
Dr. Carol Davnporte

Ms. Katrina Gordon  
Ms. Prudence Grant  
Mr. Henry Hughie  
Mr. Joshua Nypaver  
Dr. Marsha Rhee  
Ms. Rebecca Rippy  
Ms. Carol Scott  
Dr. Alexa von Dohlen  
Dr. Hampton Wright



## 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. Sunil Gupta  
Ms. Andrea Hylton  
Dr. Dezette Johnson  
Ms. Marian Jones  
Dr. Harriette Richard

## 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ms. Belinda Meads  
Ms. Latrelle McAllister  
Dr. Alfred Smith  
Mr. Melvin Stephens

## 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. Amos Etukudoh  
Dr. Deborah Quick

## 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dr. Timothy Champion

## 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. Stephen Joyner, Sr.

## 45 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ms. Barbara Carr

## RETIREE

Ms. Cynthia Cole

*Congratulations to all of our award recipients.*



# The Duke Endowment gives 'heavenly' welcome to JCSU president and wife

The Duke Endowment welcomed President Clarence D. Armbrister and his wife, Denise McGregor Armbrister, to the greater Charlotte community March 21, 2018, with a show of true Southern hospitality. Over 100 guests came to the private event, including such luminaries as former Mayor Harvey Gantt; Chair Shirley Hughes and members of the JCSU Board of Trustees; and philanthropists Herb and Felicia Walton Gray '92.

Minor Shaw, chair of The Duke Endowment and president of private investment company Micco LLC, offered opening remarks and Hughes introduced Armbrister, who charmed the crowd with an anecdote about the Three Dog Night song, "Never Been to Spain."

"I've never been to heaven, but I've been welcomed in Charlotte," he joked, paraphrasing the lyrics.

Armbrister spoke briefly on his impressions of Charlotte, noting its gracious culture and tendency to change street names without warning, before moving to the meat of his message—his early observations of JCSU.

"JCSU is important to Charlotte and the region," he said, "because JCSU changes lives."

Referencing a Harvard University study that ranked Charlotte last in a list of U.S. metropolitan areas for upward mobility, especially among people of color, Armbrister spoke passionately.

"There is no institution better positioned to change that trajectory than Johnson C. Smith University," he said. "Student success has to be at the core of everything we do."

Laying out his plan to achieve that goal, he invoked the Four R's, a strategy he determined upon assuming leadership at the University: resources, recruitment, retention and rigor. The University needs more resources, but must also ensure the best use of resources it already has, he maintained. Those resources will enable JCSU to recruit top faculty, staff and students, as well as help retain them with the best programs, equipment and amenities. Finally, those factors will lead to increased rigor in Golden Bull graduates, igniting the flames of sustained success.

"We need them to solve the problems of the future that we haven't even anticipated yet. I look forward to collaborating with everyone in the room to make it happen," Armbrister said. "Thank you for my own piece of heaven."

# Campus Briefs

## Once in a lifetime, black sunshine

Golden Bulls took to The Block to get a look at the first solar eclipse visible across both coasts in nearly a century on Aug. 22, 2017. At approximately 2:35 p.m., Biddle Memorial Hall went dark as the moon passed between the earth and the sun. Some had special sunglasses to view the eclipse, while others used handmade viewers they learned to construct from the Internet. As the sun seemed to go away, The Block was filled with the sounds of insects typically heard at night. Everyone gathered was awe-struck by the natural phenomenon. It was an amazing moment in time for students, faculty and staff to experience together.



## King of TEDx: 'Change is coming'

English instructor Jemayne King delivered a TEDxCharlotte talk Oct. 13, 2017, at Central Piedmont Community College's Halton Theater. Titled "The Revolution will be Subtweeted: The Evolving Face of Pedagogy," his talk addressed whether the Academy can continue to exist in its current state, as younger scholars require modern methods of engagement.

King, who teaches a course on hip-hop footwear's pop culture impact and authored the book "Sole Food: Digestible Sneaker Culture," said traditionalists need to consider the learning styles and career desires of the 21st century scholar. He summarized the take-away from his lecture as the headline "Leader of the new school aims to upset the pedagogical appcart."

TEDx is an internationally respected program that brands itself on spreading 'Ideas Worth Sharing.'

Regarding the fate of higher education, King said, curriculum development and methods of pedagogy must be modified.

"Resistance to this change is futile," King said.





# JCSU tops CIAA schools for 'U.S. News' HBCU rankings

On Sept. 11, 2017, U.S. News and World Report ranked Johnson C. Smith University as the top CIAA institution and No. 18 out of 80 Historically Black Colleges and Universities nationwide.

To qualify for the U.S. News rankings, a school must be currently designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a historically black college or university (HBCU), and an undergraduate baccalaureate-granting institution that enrolls primarily first-year, first-time students. The school also must be part of the U.S. News Best Colleges rankings.

HBCUs represent just 3 percent of the nation's more than 4,000 colleges and universities, but are almost twice as productive as non-HBCUs with regards to Black graduates in areas such as STEM. According to the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 24 percent of all African-American college students start college at HBCUs, and HBCUs award 24 percent of the undergraduate degrees earned by African Americans.

## Upcoming mobile apps help improve campus safety and communication

For the 2017-18 school year, JCSU won two sizable grants aimed at putting information at the tip of Golden Bulls' fingers. In Fall 2017, Campus Consortium, the largest global education association of schools, colleges and universities, awarded Johnson C. Smith University a \$22,495 grant toward implementing a campus safety app for students and faculty. On February 15, 2018, JCSU won a \$252,465 grant to implement a mobile app for students and faculty.

The safety app would improve security on campus by using wi-fi or cellular data to provide location details when someone makes an emergency call. This gives far more accurate information and provides first responders with a better idea of where they need to go. Students could also use

the app to send alerts to their family, professors or friends in the event of a crisis.

The mobile app grant would streamline or simplify processes students can have difficulty navigating by funding applets for Campus News, Emergency Numbers, Parking, Dining and more. In addition, it will also feature applets for academics and financial aid.

"A well-thought out mobile app will go a long way in attracting and retaining today's students and employees," said Latrelle McAlister, vice president of Administrative Services. "Johnson C. Smith University is delighted to receive Campus Consortium's grants."

## New students learn to become sustain-a-bulls

On August 6, 2017, JCSU pre-semester session students came together to beautify the University's Sustainability Village. Students toured the village and gave the garden some much needed TLC by pulling up weeds after a successful harvest season.

The vegetables and fruits in the garden are sold at the farmers market to help promote healthy living and provide access to healthy foods in the community.

Sustainability Village is designed to produce food for thought as students learn while gaining hands-on experience in a sustainable environment. It includes a greenhouse along with an aquaponic system that provides a sustainable food source as



fish and plants grow symbiotically. The village helps fill a void in Charlotte's Northwest Corridor, which is one of the city's largest food deserts.



Ronald McNair Scholars

## JCSU launches its first cohort of the Ronald McNair Scholars Program

JCSU chose 17 students to be part of the University's first cohort of the Ronald McNair Scholars Program, investing in the group through research experiments and scholarly activities in order to equip them for successful doctoral studies.

The induction ceremony took place Friday, February 9, 2018, in Grimes Lounge. President Clarence D. Armbrister met with students and congratulated each individually on their accomplishment.

"It feels good to be part of such a prestigious program, and it feels good to be an asset to my school," said communication arts major Mayra Parrilla '19.

The Ronald McNair Scholars Program is a Federal TRIO program that is funded by the U.S. Department of Education with the goal of increasing graduate degrees for minority students coming from low-income families, and who are first-generation college graduates. The program was established in honor of the late Ronald E. McNair, a South Carolina native who died in 1982 during the launch of the U.S. Challenger space shuttle.

With the help of Dr. Antonio Henley, dean of University College, and under the directorship of Jonathan Smalls,

JCSU began participating in the program in Fall 2017. A number of students applied and from that pool, 17 students were chosen: communication arts major Shakoya Brown '20, psychology major Delaya Davis '20, chemistry major Miranda Davis '19, community health major Georgina Diaz '20, interdisciplinary studies major Ashley Green '20, biology and chemistry major Shanice Harrison '19, interdisciplinary studies major Mary Holliman '19, biology major Christina Jones '19, sport management major Charles Langston '20, psychology major K'neadee Lester-Jackson '20, biology major Emoni Lewis '20, biology major Naoko Little-Jackson '18, criminal justice major Quenton Mills '19, biology major Jahvez Mitchell '19, communication arts major Mayra Parrilla '19, political science major LaRon Rhone '20, and history major Aria Springfield '20.

Since then, the students have enjoyed many opportunities, including Graduate College Day at Hampton University, where they spoke with representatives from a number of advanced degree programs; summer research programs; cultural events and mentorship-building with experts in various fields of study.



They also attended the 24th annual Undergraduate McNair Research Conference, held at the University at Buffalo in Niagara Falls, NY July 19-21, 2018. The fellows presented their research topics to McNair scholars from across the United States, attended a graduate school fair, and engaged in various seminar sessions.

As a courtesy of attending the conference, the University of Buffalo granted each Golden Bull a ticket to the "Maid of the Mist" boat tour of Niagara Falls.

To close out the eight-week McNair Summer Fellowship, the fellows showcased their research topics to JCSU peers, faculty and staff. Each one conducted a presentation, conversing about their research and receiving feedback. In concert with JCSU's Quality Enhancement Plan, fellows presented on an array of topics across academic disciplines.

Brown covered "Young Adults & Politics: Understanding How Social Media Affects the Political Engagement of HBCU Young

Adults in the 21st Century." Diaz presented "Economic Mobility: Perceptions of Minorities Living in the Northwest Corridor." Holliman researched "The Correlation Between Trauma and Delinquency in Teenaged Black Girls." Jones studied "Effects of Colored Lights on Phenotypic Growth in Fruit Fly (*Drosophila virilis*)." And Langston presented on "Student Athletes: Predictors of Academic Achievement among Black Males at an HBCU."

Mills studied "Life Imprisonment: The Effects on Families and Urban Communities." Mitchell covered "The Impact of a Farmer's Market on Food Security in an Urban Community in Northwest Charlotte, N.C." Parrilla tackled "The Feminist Movement through the Characterization of Women in 20th Century Hollywood."

"It's an overwhelming experience but I am excited for it," Brown said. "I'm looking forward to realizing the greatness I and my fellows in the cohort have in store."

## Agile partnership yields big returns for STEM program

In August of 2017, a partnership between Johnson C. Smith University and nonprofit Southern Fried Agile (SFA) resulted in a substantial donation to the STEM program and priceless job experience for computer engineering major Imyer Majors '18.

Agile, which began around the start of the millennium as a set of software development practices, rapidly emerged as a global movement to help organizations master continuous change. SFA grew out of that into an annual conference based in Charlotte that reaches over 20,000 people.

The partnership with JCSU began as a small idea to increase engagement with minority students. Neville Poole is southern regional director for Solutions IQ, an Agile consultant company that develops leaders and improves processes for firms all over the world, and chair of the Southern Fried Agile conference. She reached out to Dr. Hang Chen to discuss what the dean of STEM thought would bring more JCSU students to the table.

"How could we expose more JCSU students to the content and people at

Southern Fried Agile?" asked Poole. "We really wanted to inform the students' perspective around what Agile is doing in the industry. It's part of financial services, retail, software development, insurance—all kinds of industries use Agile methodologies. So giving a JCSU student exposure to the people and topics is a huge value add."

Southern Fried Agile pledged a \$2,500 gift to JCSU's STEM program and donated a pro bono Agile session for JCSU faculty and staff. Poole went further, creating a summer internship program just for JCSU students at Solutions IQ. Imyer Majors was overjoyed to be chosen as the initial intern.

"It was a meaningful experience that closed the gap for both the hard and the softer skills that I'll need in corporate America," Majors said. "I gained a huge amount of experience, networked and was able to show what STEM at JCSU has taught me."

For four weeks, Majors' responsibilities included working in various departments of the company, learning Agile extreme

programming and Scrum, and gaining familiarity with lean practices to create cost-effective and quick code.

"It shows the community the investment in our students and helps build up the minority talent pipeline," said Chen. "It's so important to nurture leadership skills, team building and the know-how to improve processes. The principles behind it, of collaboration, transparency and stability, are the types of things we want to invest and imbed in our students."

SFA reserved five spots for JCSU students to volunteer at the Charlotte conference November 30, 2017, one of the largest regional Agile events in the country. The volunteers not only participated on the day of the event, but were involved in the planning stages, facilitating the logistics for the conference speakers, programming and more.

"The internship helped me gain relevant knowledge, skills and experience, and helped me establish important relationships that can be beneficial in the future. I do not regret it," Majors said.



Black Ink Monks returned to the American Hebrew Academy to teach high school students how to create and perform spoken word poetry.

## Black Ink Monks spread passion for poetry and cultural exchange at Hebrew Academy

Members of the Black Ink Monks, Johnson C. Smith University's oldest non-Greek organization, returned to the American Hebrew Academy (AHA) in Greensboro, N.C. during the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend, Jan. 11-15, 2018, to teach the high school students how to create and perform spoken word poetry. This trip marked their third invitation in the last five years to the only secular Jewish boarding school in the United States.

The four-day experience, entitled "Spoken Words/Words Spoken: Bypassing the Dangers of the Single Story," explored the power of stories, both the ones told within families and the narratives promoted by society. Students Sierra Ellis '18, Drew Emerson '18, TJ Evans '18, Brianna Glymph '18, Diashanna Logan '18, Tawanda Nyahasha '20 and Tyler Williams '18 made the trip.

In addition to current JCSU students, former Black Ink Monks members Tyran Green '13 and Andrew Smith '14 participated, as well as Frederick Murphy, who served as JCSU's director of counseling from 2010-2015, and Dr. Cindy Kistenberg, who serves as faculty advisor to the Monks.

"The experience at AHA was amazing! Just as the kids say they learned from us, I learned from them," said Smith. "From leading a workshop, to figuring out how to get the kids excited or interested in a subject, to encouraging them to push through anxiety and pour their hearts out on the stage, each day offered new opportunities to learn."

Smith, who was JCSU's first film major, now owns a production company and is shooting a documentary film with Murphy.

The weekend also provided an opportunity for the Black Ink Monks and the students at AHA, who represent 35 countries and all branches of Judaism, to learn about themselves and each other.

"AHA taught me invaluable lessons about culture," said Drew Emerson '18. "It is great to see the differences, but it's even more amazing to see the similarities. I taught them about metaphors, similes, and wordplay, and they taught me how to trust my faith, myself, and how to strive through adversity."



Murphy and Kistenberg gave presentations focused on the transmission of trauma from generation to generation via oral history. Through lecture and discussion, they illustrated how the effects of the Holocaust and slavery continue to impact behavior, and how family stories can have both positive and negative effects generation after generation. The AHA students and Monks shared their own family stories in small groups.

The group attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat service on Friday night at Temple Emanuel, Greensboro's Reform Jewish congregation. Green shared an original poem about the iconic leader to the audience of several hundred, which included congregation members, local educators, politicians and clergy.

That Saturday night, the Monks conducted a workshop with the students, teaching them how to create their own spoken word pieces and perform them. The Monks spent Sunday afternoon working with individual students in preparation for that evening's open mic night, which traditionally has been the highlight of every visit.

"A lot of students are going through the same situations that all people go through," Evans said, "but they rarely have time for an outlet. The open mic allows AHA students an opportunity to share what they have written."

Ellen Green, assistant director of Institutional Advancement at AHA, noted that spoken word is also an important outlet for the Black Ink Monks. Her praise for the Monks and recognition of their talent is why they have been asked to return next year.

"The Black Ink Monks express themselves in the most passionate and eloquent way," she said. "I am always impressed by their originality, spontaneity, and ability to let us see their souls through their poetry."

Nyahasha, a sophomore psychology major, supported her point.

"I have been a writer for a couple of years, but I took poetry for granted. Teaching these kids how to express themselves made me realize I have a talent most people can only wish for," he said.

## ANTSHE conference focuses on nontraditional students, awards JCSU student scholarship

Higher education professionals and nontraditional students from across the nation converged on Johnson C. Smith University during the Association for Nontraditional Students in Higher Education (ANTSHE) conference from March 15-17, 2018. The theme was "The Fight for Academic Equity: Creating Social Cohesiveness Between the Adult Learner and College."

Top leaders in academia shared ideas on topics such as improving outcomes for at-risk adult students, creating a cohesive learning community in an online environment, supporting the reentry of Black women into higher education, and best ways to connect with the veteran population. The ultimate goal of the sessions was to explore best practices for improving engagement and collaboration among nontraditional students, administration, and faculty.

The conference opened with remarks from Dr. Laura McLean, dean of Johnson C. Smith University's Metropolitan College of Professional Studies. Dr. Lucinda Blue, assistant professor of business administration, led a breakout session titled "College and Life Success for the Adult Learner," and Dr. Melita Pope

Mitchell, assistant dean of Metropolitan College and director of Adult Degree Programs, mediated a student panel discussion.

ANTSHE award winners were also announced during a ceremony at the conference. JCSU's own Tracy Sullivan '19 was honored with the President's Scholarship, which recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to create adult learner programs and environments that encourage, motivate, and provide the resources and aide needed for adult learner success.

"I am truly grateful to receive the ANTSHE President's Scholarship," Sullivan said. "I don't take my winning for granted—it was a blessing. This scholarship will help cover my tuition next semester and get me one step closer to realizing the dream of earning my degree. It is one less loan I will have to take out to pay for my education."

Sullivan is a business administration major with a concentration in management.



Eight JCSU students traveled to Italy for the summer study abroad program.

## Golden Bulls go on an Italian adventure

On May 21-June 1, 2018, Dr. Rennae Stowe, assistant professor of Health and Human Performance, and Jemayne King, English instructor, accompanied eight JCSU students, mainly majoring in sport management, to Italy for the summer study abroad program.

Yasmine Parker '20, Zamiyah Ben Israel '21, Georgina Diaz '19, Sheila Davis '19, Maya Lockett '19, A'Lexus Hardin '19, Vantino Johnson '19 and Kennedy Thomas '21 traveled to Rome, Florence, Milan and Turin. In these major Italian cities, they gained a deeper understanding of Italian culture through sport and hip hop fashion.

"It was impactful because most of the students had never traveled out of the country, and they all were saying how much they looked forward to traveling abroad more after we returned from the trip," Stowe said. "It was very eye-opening for them to see how people live outside of the U.S. and to get to experience another culture."

Major topics of study included sport and recreation in Italy as forms of social education; examining the social aspects of sneaker culture in Italy; and developing an understanding of

the norms, behaviors, and assumptions in Italy regarding the global impact of Hip-Hop culture. Students toured famous football (soccer) museums and stadiums, trained with professional athletes, visited exclusive galleries and traveled to ancient sites such as the Trevi Fountain and the Colosseum.

"Seeing something that was built nearly 2000 years ago was amazing," one student said. "In the U.S., everything we see that is historical was made in another country or is no older than 200 years."

"Nothing could prepare me for the breathtaking and emotional experience I encountered at Vatican City," said another.

"The history behind the Colosseum was interesting," said a third. "Knowing that people actually fought and killed each other in the coliseum while others watched is very different."

They called the trip "amazing," "breathtaking," and "the most beautiful thing I have seen."

The itinerary was a collage of once-in-a-lifetime experiences. The group visited FIGEST (Federation of the Italian Traditional Games) and learned ancient sports from crossbow shooting to bocce and the ruzzola (cheese) throw. They also took in soccer training at the AC Milan Junior Camp and had exclusive tours of professional stadiums such as Allianz and San Siro.



King, who teaches a popular course on sneaker culture, is a certified football fanatic, so he was as excited as the students to walk among the halls of famed teams.

“Milan has two big soccer clubs, AC and InterMilan. We worked out with AC Milan Juniors’ team trainer, doing real soccer drills and conditioning the first half of the day, then went to the San Siro stadium, which hosts both clubs. It was vicious, but fun,” he said.

When the Smithites traveled to Turin to see Juventus, one of the top soccer clubs in history, play at the brand new Allianz Stadium, their enthusiasm knew no bounds. Even their driver, who lived an hour outside of Turin, was starstruck enough to go inside and join them on the tour.

Overall, King says, they were treated like dignitaries most places they went, and even presented with small gifts. He counted two factors that made it an invaluable experience. “It showed our students we are residents in a global neighborhood without borders or boundaries. Also, and as importantly, it showed our students that Africa’s imprint is all over the world. There’s not a place on earth we don’t influence,” King said.

He cited numerous instances of hip hop styling and culture the students noticed in Italy, from people wearing their sneakers laced over the loop instead of under it—a distinct hip hop style—to the brands they wore.

“They dressed more like us than we do,” Vantino Johnson said. The student, who already has a reputation for fashion on campus, took advantage of the trip to bring some distinctive items home. “I learned that if you have product to sell, get African Americans to popularize it. We make it valid.”

Maya Lockett ’19, a Los Angeles native majoring in sport management, was surprised at the level of physical fitness in Italy.

“Most Italian foods in America consist of carbs, so I expected to see a high obesity rate due to the lack of nutrition and high amount of carbs in their diet,” she said. “Boy, was I wrong!”

Americanized Italian food is already very delicious to me but authentic Italian food blew my mind.”

To prepare for the trip, students had a group project contrasting aspects of Italian and American culture. They researched topics and prepared presentations on the cities they were going to tour. Once there, they kept travel journals, created video blogs of their experiences, and turned in a final essay.

Zamiyah Ben-Israel ’21, a biology major from Brooklyn, took the normal steps of preparing for the journey: she bought a European electrical adapter, converted her cash to euros, and researched the weather. She also took the time to look up the ratio of Black people living in Italy.

The pro-black young woman said she encountered a few instances of prejudiced attitudes, but overall was surprised at the level of warmth she received from Italians.

“I didn’t expect my presence to be so welcomed—or for the gelato to taste so good!” she said. Overall, she recommends the study abroad experience to all her fellow students.

“Studying abroad gives you the opportunity to broaden your horizons. You learn new things, see new people and experience their cultures. It challenges your goals,” Ben-Israel said.

Lockett agreed. “I’ve always loved to travel but traveling has become something that I think about every day now. Exploring different cultures brings a kind of happiness and excitement for me that I’ve never felt before. Study abroad gave me the opportunity to discover myself while learning different customs, outlooks and activities. I want to make traveling a part of my lifestyle now.”





Charlotte Teachers Institute participants

## JCSU strikes partnership with Charlotte Teachers Institute

In a move designed to deepen and diversify engagement in professional development for teachers, Johnson C. Smith University and Charlotte Teachers Institute formed a new educational partnership to support classroom teachers in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

"Our collaboration with Johnson C. Smith University will add exciting new ideas and expertise to our existing partnership with CMS and with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte," said CTI Executive Director Scott Gartlan. "We will be able to welcome CMS teachers and UNC Charlotte professors to JCSU's historic West End campus, building on our strong foundation of transforming teachers and students from pre-kindergarten through college by focusing on content knowledge, creativity, collaboration and leadership."

Through CTI seminars led by UNC Charlotte and JCSU faculty, CMS teachers learn new content, work collaboratively with other teachers, and develop new curricula for their students. Teachers serve as leaders in the institute, working collaboratively with university faculty. More than 450 CMS teachers have participated in 68 CTI seminars, producing more than 700 original curriculum units and enriching over 103,000 students.

"We join this partnership with enthusiasm and with an eagerness to learn and to share our strengths," President Clarence D. Armbrister said. "As a historic urban university located in the heart of Charlotte, we are uniquely situated to work with the other partners to better the lives of CMS teachers and students and to contribute to the transformation of public education."

CTI and its partners center activities on learning and leadership opportunities for teachers through intensive,

semester-long seminars. JCSU will lead seminars for the first time in Fall 2018.

"Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools looks forward to continuing the collaborative spirit of our partnership with Charlotte Teachers Institute and UNC Charlotte in the framework of preparing and strengthening the opportunities for teachers," said CMS Superintendent Clayton Wilcox. "The reach stretches even farther with the addition of Johnson C. Smith University, providing another level of access to quality preparation for our educators."

CTI was founded on four pillars of strong professional development: content knowledge, creativity, leadership, and collaboration. The new partnership will broaden the institute's capacity within each of the areas of emphasis.

"We are very pleased to welcome Johnson C. Smith University to this dynamic partnership with UNC Charlotte and CMS to support the Charlotte Teachers Institute," said UNC Charlotte Chancellor Philip Dubois. "CTI has served an important role in strengthening Charlotte's public education system by providing teachers with high quality professional development opportunities."

Gartlan said CTI's focus on building social capital among teachers, faculty and graduate students addresses the community-based Leading on Opportunity initiative's priorities to tackle the community's upward mobility.

"Our work aims at strengthening Charlotte's education system through early education and college and career readiness," Gartlan said. "Adding JCSU as a collaborator brings important relationships and knowledge that can help move us forward in a strategic way."



# Golden Bulls win top spots in CIBER business competition

Four Golden Bulls traveled to Georgia State University March 8-9, 2018, to attend the Center for International Business Education & Research (CIBER) International Case Competition, and brought home first and second place prizes. It was JCSU's third year competing in the event.

Anthony Jefferson '19, a marketing major; accounting majors Caleb Letele '18 and Bedrick Yobo '18; and finance major Basir Wright '19 were accompanied to Atlanta by Yvette Hall, interim chair of the Department of Business Administration and Economics, and Dr. Maureen Leary, assistant professor of accounting.

The CIBER competition pits students from HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions against a real-world business problem. The students are assigned to teams of four, with members from different universities and majoring in a distinct field area. This year's challenge was how Netflix could best move forward in the Indian market after a less-than-stellar performance since entering the market in January 2016. Jefferson's team took first place for their solution, while second place went to Wright's team.

"I enjoyed the opportunity to get exposed to different students and their diversity of ideas and ways to approach the case," Jefferson said.

The first day, students participated in a variety of events designed to foster a sense of unity, including a participatory drumming and percussion session. Then the teams were provided the case study. They had to do outside research in order to perform thorough SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analyses, and supported their recommendations with data incorporated into a PowerPoint presentation—by midnight. The next day, the teams presented their ideas to convince a panel of judges that their recommendations were feasible.

"We found that we had a lot in common and we had been through a number of common experiences," Wright said. "The only issue was there were so many ideas, it was a challenge to hone them down to formulate our recommendations. We just didn't have a lot of time."

Yobo agreed. "I learned how to take a massive amount of information, research it, and formulate it into a presentation with a limited amount of time — about eight hours," he said.

"Our students brought a certain charisma and enthusiasm to the event," said Hall. "Even advisors from other institutions remarked on their professional presence! This competition is a

testament to the importance of a global mindset and reinforces the department's commitment to international business education."

"JCSU students stood out in every respect!" Leary concurred. "They were enthusiastic and well-liked. Their presentation skills were outstanding and they represented JCSU very well."

Leary and Hall met with the students several times to prepare them for the competition, providing instruction as the students practiced working with case studies. Alumnus Ken Mabry '17, who was part of last year's winning team, took a break from his master's studies at North Carolina A&T to share his experience with the would-be participants.

"It was a great opportunity for our students to connect with peers from other universities and work through multiple cross-cultural obstacles," Mabry said. "It all plays into the strengths of working on a diverse, global team."



JCSU students at CIBER competition in Atlanta



Members of the JCSU Concert Choir performed in Opera Carolina's "I DREAM."

## JCSU Choir members pinch themselves in "I Dream"

Members of the JCSU Concert Choir performed in Opera Carolina's production of the rhythm and blues opera "I DREAM" by Douglas Tappin in Charlotte's Knight Theater May 18-25, 2018.

"I Dream focuses on the final hours of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, with daydreams of his childhood and flashbacks to the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement. The story of courage and leadership in the face of a higher calling examines the ways Dr. King confronted the injustices of society through love and humanity.

Tappin, the composer, and Maestro James Meena, the conductor, auditioned choir members to perform solo lines. Nine students were selected: Deomunique Abrams '19, Audria Brooks

'19, Anna Shisso '19, Taequan Owens '19, Jessica Lanier '21, Mercury Carver '21, Meshac Casmir '18, Nathaniel Cunningham '21 and Laura Salinas '20. They performed a number of solos as well as group songs.

"My experience in Douglas Tappin's 'I Dream' was nothing less than amazing," said Abrams. "To have a small part in something so huge meant everything to me."

This was not Abrams' or the rest of the choir's first professional experience. The JCSU Concert Choir joined the Opera Carolina chorus for the Andrea Bocelli World Tour Concert Friday, February 9, 2018, at the Spectrum Center. They also performed "Porgy and Bess" on the stage of the world-wide Spoleto Festival in 2016, and were lauded by the New York

Times as well as local outlets for their rich range and talent.

"That experience was amazing, but being in 'I Dream,' which focuses on the last 36 hours of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, was more relatable," Abrams said. "I felt it personally, from the music and the lyrics of each song to the police brutality, which our people still encounter today. A chill went over my shoulders at each performance, from the March on Selma to The Gala scenes."

To prepare for the show, choir members received special training from Dr. Frank Williams, their customary accompanist, and Dr. Shawn Allyce-White, the choir director, on each song for about three weeks.



They also had several extended rehearsals with Maestro Meena and the rest of the Opera Carolina chorus. As the Spring 2018 semester closed, the schedule ramped up, with the choir running through the entire production complete with principals and Tappin present at each one.

"Mr. Tappin is one of the most talented persons ever," Abrams said. "The lyrics were pure genius. His swagger and soul encouraged each person to feel more comfortable performing."

An especially memorable scene of the show was the re-enactment of the first march on Selma.

It featured the song "Selma (No More!)" and started with a broken hum, as characters had been brutally beaten by police and were picking each other up.

Principal performer Darnell Ishmael began to sing "No one's gonna keep us down no more, no one's going to keep us down no more," and many audience

members' faces matched those of the cast's, shining with tears.

"This entire opera was a heartfelt one," Abrams said. "It came to Charlotte and to our lives at the right moment. I feel very blessed to have been a part of it; it was one of the best moments of my life."





A number of faculty members at JCSU published scholarly papers, articles and books during the 2017-18 academic year. Below is a list of some of their works in print and digital media.

**Dr. Ying Bai**, professor of computer science, and Dali Wang. "Calibrate Parallel Machine Tools by Using Interval Type-2 Fuzzy Interpolation Method," *The International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Technology*, Vol. 91, Issue. 5-8, 2017, Springer Advanced Manufacturing Technology, pp. 553-560. Dec. 2017.

**Takeem L. Dean**; Barner, S.; McCormick, C. "3D Printing," *Facing an Exponential Future: Technology and the Community College*, p. 33-42. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield 2018.

This book brings awareness to community college administrators and faculty to the recent technological developments,

such as Artificial Intelligence, autonomous vehicles, personal robots, 3-D printing, the Internet of Things, nanotechnology, genome research, bitcoin, and quantum computing. These technologies will require radical change in the operation of community colleges. This book describes the new technologies, discusses the impact on the community college environment, and provides recommendations for modifying college operations.

**Dr. Matthew DeForrest.** "The Atemporal Presence of the Discarnate States of A Vision in Words Upon the Window-Pane and Purgatory," *The Yeats Journal of Korea: An International Journal of Yeats and Modern Literature*. Sejong City and Seoul, South Korea: The Yeats Society of Korea 2017 54: 157-175.

Yeats's works exist within a recovered and reinvented space in time — one that he created for himself by reimagining the bardic role within a modern era. With the completion of the 1937 edition of *A Vision*, his art began to project an understanding of time that incorporated an orthodox conception of the eternal — but also of a supernatural time that inhabited a space between the mundane and the eternal.

This supernatural time, as seen in *The Words Upon the Window-Pane* and *Purgatory*, is more fluid than the one we normally inhabit.

**DeForrest.** "The bundle of accident and incoherence that sits down to breakfast': Symbolic Time Underpinning the System in the Vision Papers." *The 26th Anniversary of The Yeats Society of Korea International Conference on W. B. Yeats and Movements in Literature, Art, and Society 2017*. Ed. Young Suck Rhee. Seoul, South Korea: Hanbit Publishing 2017. 89-99.

An examination of how Yeats' view of symbolic time appears in the *Vision Papers* and how it is projected into after-life described in *A Vision* — a place where one normally does not expect to find time.

**DeForrest.** *The iPad Experiment*. Blog, <https://artsandlettersatjcsu.org/blog/>. Various posts on (primary) the intersection of technology and education.

**Dr. Eduardo Haynes** - Adjunct Assistant Professor Metropolitan College of Professional Studies. "The Complete Manual." CreateSpace, 2017.

This book is a how-to guide for a gentleman to change their image through



clothing. The book outlines the basic items that a budding professional needs to have in their closet or what a seasoned professional needs to own in order to reinvent themselves.

**Jemayne King**, English instructor. "Sole Food: Digestible Sneaker Culture," 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition. Warren Publishing, Inc; March 22, 2018.

The contemporary athletic shoe has experienced an evolution comparable to man. What began as necessity matriculated to style, then morphed into a culture with its own multicultural identity. "Sole Food," through the vehicle of sneaker culture, addresses societal ills, life and identity within that culture, and explores the overall impact and phenomenon of sneakers on a global level. Whether an aficionado of sneaker culture or a contentious observer, "Sole Food" takes the reader on a fantastic voyage with nary a pit stop or layover.

**Julie Reed**, instructional electronic resources librarian; Geneen Clinkscales, systems librarian. "Open Educational Resources: A Field Guide for Academic Librarians," chapter titled 'Interinstitutional Collaborations to Forge Intracampus Connections: A Case Study from the Duke Endowment Libraries.' Pacific University Press, Spring 2018.

This work will take a decidedly practical approach to articulating the role of academic librarians in the development and implementation of Open Educational Resources (OER) on college and university campuses. It will begin with the fundamentals of what OER are, what problem(s) they are meant to solve, the new pedagogical approaches they enable, and their potential to positively impact student success.

Next, the book will pivot to a series of case studies on the practical aspects of advocating for OER adoption to both students and faculty; finding and evaluating existing OER; partnering with other campus units to develop, license, and publish them; and assessing their adoption and implementation. The work will conclude with a vision of the role of library-based publishing in the OER space.

**Impact:** We hope to assist librarians at other institutions of higher learning with developing similar collaborative programs supporting Open Access and OERs.

**Dr. Alexa Rosypal von Dohlen**, professor of biology, Verma, S.K., J.D. Mowery, D. Scott, B.M. Rosenthal, J.P. Dubey, and D.S. Lindsay. 2017. "Sarcocystis jamaicensis, n. sp. from red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) definitive host and IFN- $\gamma$  gene knockout mice as experimental interme-

diate host." *Journal of Parasitology*, 103: 768-777.

Here, we report a new species of *Sarcocystis* with red-tailed hawk (RTH, *Buteo jamaicensis*) as the natural definitive host and IFN- $\gamma$  gene knockout (KO) mice as an experimental intermediate host in which sarcocysts form in muscle. Two RTHs submitted to the Carolina Raptor Center, Huntersville, North Carolina, were euthanized because they could not be rehabilitated and released. Fully sporulated 12.5  $\times$  9.9- $\mu$ m sized sporocysts were found in intestinal scrapings of both hawks.

Sporocysts were orally fed to laboratory-reared outbred Swiss Webster mice (SW, *Mus musculus*) and also to KO mice. The sporocysts were infective for KO mice but not for SW mice. All SW mice remained asymptomatic, and neither schizonts nor sarcocysts were found in any SW mice euthanized on days 54, 77, 103 (n = 2) or 137 post-inoculation (PI).

The KO mice developed neurological signs and were necropsied between 52 to 68 days PI. Schizonts/merozoites were found in all KO mice euthanized on days 52, 55 (n = 3), 59, 61 (n = 2), 66, and 68 PI and they were confined to the brain. The predominant lesion was meningoencephalitis characterized by perivascular cuffs, granulomas, and necrosis of the neural tissue.

## Dr. Ying Bai presents disaster evacuation models in Rio



**Dr. Ying Bai**, Professor in the Dept of Computer Science and Engineering, just published another paper titled: "Build a Practical Evacuation

Contraflow Model for Natural Disasters by Using Fuzzy Inference System" in the *Proceedings of 2018 IEEE International Conference on Fuzzy System*. The conference is held in July 8-13, 2018 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The paper is about designing and building of a highway contraflow model to help decision makers to effectively evacuate people prior to

some natural disasters, such as hurricanes and wildfires, make damages by using fuzzy inference system.

This research was supported by a funding provided by the US Dept of Homeland Security, and Dr. Hang Chen is the co-author for this paper.

The schizonts/merozoites were located in neural tissue and were apparently extravascular. Brain homogenates from infected KO mice were infective to KO mice by subcutaneous inoculation and when seeded on to CV-1 cells. Microscopic sarcocysts were found in skeletal muscles of 5 of 8 KO mice euthanized between 55-61 days PI. Only a few sarcocysts were detected.

Sarcocysts were microscopic, up to 3.5 mm long. When viewed with light microscopy, the sarcocyst wall appeared thin (<1 µm thick) and smooth. By transmission electron microscopy, the sarcocyst wall classified as "type 1j" (new designation). Molecular characterization using 18S rRNA, 28S rRNA, ITS-1, and *cox1* genes revealed a close relationship with *Sarcocystis microti* and *Sarcocystis glareoli*; both species infect birds as definitive hosts.

The parasite in the present study was biologically and molecularly different from species so far described in RTHs and we therefore propose a new species name, *Sarcocystis jamaicensis* n. sp.

**A. Rosypal von Dohlen, Verma, S. K., J. D. Mowery, D. Scott, C. K. Cerqueira-Cézar, J. P. Dubey, and D. S. Lindsay.** 2017. "Sarcocystis strixi, n. sp. from barred owls (*Strix varia*) definitive hosts and gamma interferon gene knockout mice as experimental intermediate hosts." *Journal of Parasitology*, 103: 555-564.

**Abstract:** Here we report a new species of *Sarcocystis* with a barred owl (*Strix varia*) as the natural definitive host and interferon gamma gene knockout (KO) mice as an experimental intermediate host. A barred owl submitted to the Carolina Raptor Center, Huntersville, North Carolina, was euthanized because of paralysis. Fully sporulated 12.5 × 9.9 µm sporocysts were found in intestinal scrapings from the owl.

Sporocysts from the barred owl were orally fed to 4 laboratory-reared outbred Swiss Webster (SW) (*Mus musculus*) and 8 KO mice. All mice remained asymptomatic. Microscopic sarcocysts were found

in all 5 KO mice euthanized on day 32, 59, 120, 154, and 206 post-inoculation (PI), not in KO mice euthanized on day 4, 8, and 14 PI. Sarcocysts were not found in any SW mice euthanized on day 72, 120, 206, and 210 PI. Sarcocysts were microscopic, up to 70 µm wide. By light microscopy, the sarcocyst wall < 2 µm thick had undulating, flat to conical, protrusions of varying dimensions. Numerous sarcocysts were seen in the histological sections of tongue and skeletal muscles from the abdomen, limbs, and eye but not in the heart. By transmission electron microscopy, the sarcocyst wall was "type 1j."

The ground substance layer (gs) was homogenous, up to 2 µm thick, with very fine granules, and a few vesicles concentrated toward the villar projections. No microtubules were seen in the gs. Longitudinally cut bradyzoites at 206 days PI were 7.8 × 2.2 µm. Based on molecular characterization using 18S rRNA, 28S rRNA, and *cox1* genes and morphology of sarcocysts, the parasite in the present study was biologically and structurally different from species so far described, and we therefore propose a new species name, *Sarcocystis strixi* n. sp.

**A. Rosypal von Dohlen, Lindsay, D.S., S.K. Verma, D. Scott, J.P. Dubey.** 2017. "Isolation, molecular characterization, and schizogonic development of *Sarcocystis columbae* from a Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)." *Parasitology International*, 66: 106-111.

**Abstract:** Raptors serve as the definitive host for several *Sarcocystis* species. The complete life cycles of only a few of these *Sarcocystis* species that use birds of prey as definitive hosts have been described. In the present study, *Sarcocystis* species sporocysts were obtained from the intestine of a Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and were used to infect cell cultures of African green monkey kidney cells to isolate a continuous culture and describe asexual stages of the parasite.

Two clones of the parasite were obtained by limiting dilution. Asexual stages were

used to obtain DNA for molecular classification and identification. PCR amplification and sequencing were done at three nuclear ribosomal DNA loci; 18S rRNA, 28S rRNA, and ITS-1, and the mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit 1 (*cox1*) locus.

Examination of clonal isolates of the parasite indicated a single species related to *S. columbae* (termed *Sarcocystis* sp. ex *Accipiter cooperii*) was present in the Cooper's hawk. Our results document for the first time *Sarcocystis* sp. ex *A. cooperii* occurs naturally in an unknown intermediate host in North America and that Cooper's hawks (*A. cooperii*) are a natural definitive host.





Dr. Eduardo Haynes

## Haynes helps young men dress for success

Dr. Eduardo Haynes is an adjunct professor in the Metropolitan College for Professional Studies. Since 2015, he has taught business research and case analysis and the senior paper course for business majors. Haynes has more than 20 years in financial services and 15 years in higher education.

The Charlotte native enjoys writing books that uplift and empower the next generation of leaders.

In 2017, he wrote a systematic guide that teaches young men how to dress for success in the world around them. The book is entitled “The Complete Manual: Redefining your Brand through Clothing.”

“The Complete Manual” was a labor of love for me,” Haynes said. I wanted to create a quick read for young men to pick up and quickly apply. I wrote the book like an instruction manual with departments because most men (including me) do not like to read instructions,” he said.

He feels that branding yourself though clothing is important for everyone, especially men.

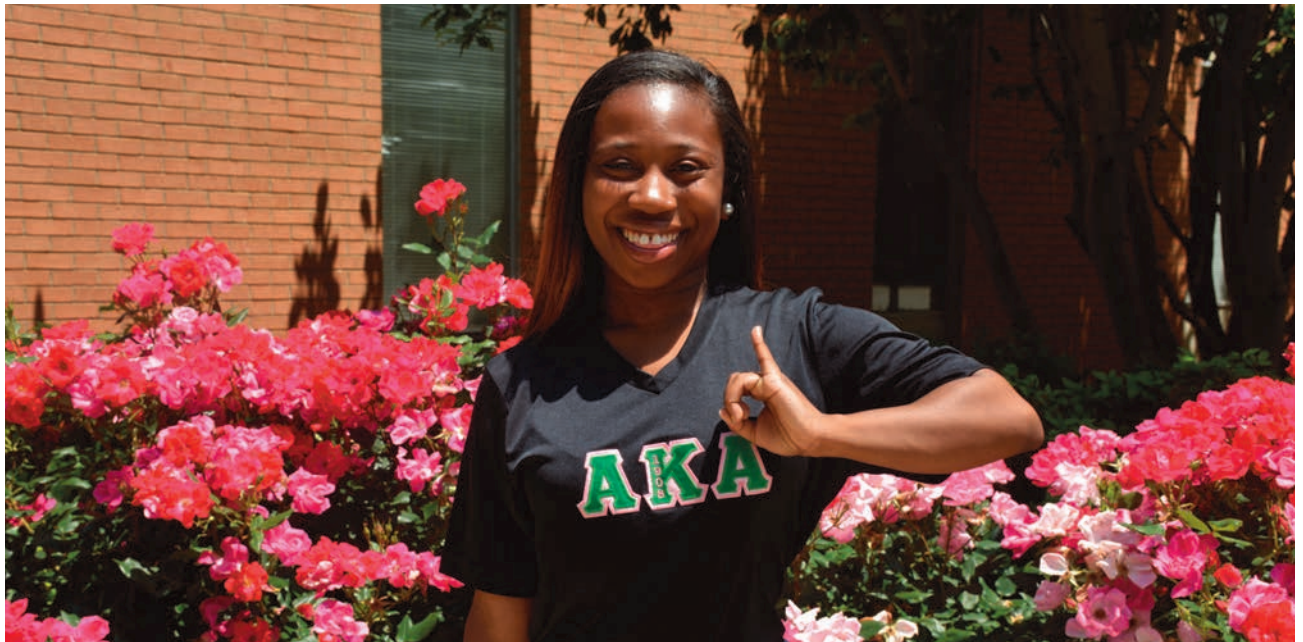
“Making a first impression is everything; I want men to be able to mark clothing off the list as a barrier,” he said.

When asked which clothing necessities men should have, Haynes was ecstatic to lend his expertise.

“The main necessities that a man should have are a navy tailored sport jacket, dark slim jeans, tailored white dress shirt, tailored white French cuff dress shirt, navy and gray tailored trousers, brown loafers, brown oxfords, suede Chelsea boots, navy tailored two button suit, and neckwear of choice.

Haynes received a Bachelor of Science degree from N.C. State University, Master of Business Administration degree from Gardner-Webb University, and a Doctor of Business Administration degree from The University of Phoenix School of Advanced Studies.

To purchase the “The Complete Manual,” visit Amazon.com.



Mary Holiman '19

## Student represents JCSU in Alpha Kappa Alpha's national leadership program

Mary Holiman '19 was selected to be one of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s Spring 2018 Leadership Fellows. She's the first AKA from the Mid-Atlantic Region to participate in the competitive annual program, which since 1979 has chosen 30 young women nationwide in which to invest resources, education and mentorship to prepare them to be leaders. The AKA Mid-Atlantic Region includes Virginia and North Carolina.

Holiman is vice president of JCSU's National Council of Negro Women chapter; president of the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society; a peer mentor and tutor in Student Support Services; a member of the Golden Bulls Activities Committee; a member of the JCSU choir; and a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. She was ecstatic about the opportunity.

"As the first regional AKA to be a fellow, I just want to make my sisters and mentors proud," she said. "The point of Alpha Kappa Alpha is to be of service to all mankind, and I know this training will help me toward that goal."

The Leadership Fellows Program was designed to provide training and development, student internships, and job placement assistance. This year, fellows benefitted from a weeklong conference held May 15-19, 2018, in Chicago where they engaged in meaningful workshops in order to advance their personal, professional, and sorority goals. Seminars, a career fair and networking meetings with graduate schools filled

the learning requirements, while community volunteering and a cultural project gave them valuable experience as servant leaders. As a new dimension to this program, participants are receiving year-long coaching from mentors who are top professionals in their fields.

Holiman, who grew up in Hardeeville, S.C., a small town with a high crime rate, says the leaders of her community kept her on the right path.

"My family, preachers and teachers all really embodied the mentality that it takes a village to raise a child," Holiman said. "I knew if someone saw me doing anything unbecoming, they would correct the behavior."

She had special praise for a high school chorus teacher who happened to be a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

"Dr. Prescott-Hodges Wright helped me find my voice, not only in chorus, but also outside of the classroom," Holiman said. "She helped me to focus on living my best life as an individual."

Holiman is ready to take on new horizons after she graduates from JCSU. "I can't wait. Being a voice for others and helping them can change the world."



## Miss JCSU appears in EBONY magazine's HBCU Campus Queens Edition

Mariah Collins, Miss Johnson C. Smith University 2017-2018, appeared as one of the Top 10 Historically Black College and University's (HBCU) campus queens in Ebony magazine's September 2018 back-to-school issue.

The Louisville, Ken., native competed against 62 young women representing HBCU's across the nation. Mariah took third place in the online voting competition.

Collins, a member of Gamma Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., was excited to exemplify the excellence of Johnson C. Smith University in the national publication.

"I am thrilled to represent my wonderful HBCU in EBONY magazine. As a young girl, I would admire all of the powerful African American women and men that appeared in the magazine. It makes me proud to know that I will be a part of history," she said.

Collins, a sport management major with a minor in biology, was active on campus as an ambassador for the Health and Human Performance Department, a member of the Psychology Club, peer mentor and a member of the JCSU Pre-Alumni Council.

In addition, she is the game operations manager at MC3 Sports & Entertainment, LLC. She hopes to become a sport and entertainment attorney.



Mariah Collins '18

# JCSU student chosen as White House HBCU All-Star

Miami native Tasja E. Estiverne '18 was selected as a 2017 student ambassador by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The sport management major was an active member of Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Mr. Senior, JCSU women's basketball manager, a campus NAACP member and Official Student Leader (captain). He was a recipient of the Presidential Volunteer Award.

"I am excited to be a part of this great program that connects the White House with HBCUs," Estiverne said. "I am learning all I can from former All-Stars and our state and local lawmakers so I

can inform my fellow students and we can all be knowledgeable of the connection between HBCUs and the White House."

2016 All-Star Tremell Parker mentored Estiverne, sharing his impressions of the program and ushering him through the application process.

"He showed me everything I needed to do to become an All-Star," Estiverne said.

His appointment period lasted approximately one year, and during this time Estiverne served as a representative by providing outreach opportunities and communications to his fellow students about the value of education and the

Initiative as a networking resource. Estiverne also shared via social media proven practices that support opportunities for all young people to realize their educational and career potential. Additionally, he strengthened relationships with community-based organizations, participated in regional and national events, and attended web chats with Initiative staff and other professionals from a wide range of disciplines that support a spirit of student engagement and career development.

"This opportunity is just a stepping stone for my goals of becoming a great HBCU advocate," Estiverne said.



Tasja E. Estiverne '18





Kioda Wilson '20

## Kioda Wilson earns MetLife STEM scholarship

Kioda Wilson '20 of Axton, Va., received a \$2,000 MetLife STEM Scholarship from the Independent College Fund of North Carolina (ICFNC) on May 3, 2018. Wilson is majoring in international business administration.

The criteria for this scholarship is strict. Recipients must have financial need; meet or exceed a 3.2 grade point average; and demonstrate campus involvement, work experience or community service experience. Preference is given to computer, engineering or math majors, and students from underrepresented populations in those majors.

Wilson dreams of leading marketing or project management campaigns overseas. She studied Spanish to prepare for a study abroad experience she hopes to participate in during her senior year.

"My family doesn't go a lot of places, so I always thought how wonderful it would be to explore the world," Wilson said.

"Different places have different benefits to offer. That's why I chose JCSU, because I come from a small town. There's no Walmart and not many traffic lights, even. But I'm very into culture, and at JCSU, the culture is so rich," she expressed.

Wilson is a part of the National Council of Negro Women; Delta Mu Delta, the international honor society for business administration programs; Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Fraternity, which recognizes academic excellence in first-year students; and the Helping Hands and Healing Hearts mentorship program. She made the Dean's List for Fall 2017 and Spring 2018, and in 2016 she was honored as the JCSU freshman with the most community service hours.

As the second-oldest of four and the only one attending college in this generation of her family, Wilson actively encouraged her siblings to take school seriously and continue their education.

"I tell them they've got to stay focused, because at some point, the future is right there," she said. "Start preparing early."

MetLife has contributed \$76,000 over the past four years for scholarships to independent college students in North Carolina.

The Independent College Fund of North Carolina is a division of North Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities (NCICU), the sector of higher education that represents North Carolina's 36 private, non-profit colleges and universities.

# Tuned In: JCSU's only graduating music major made sweet sounds her senior year and beyond

Da'Shawn "Brown Sugar" Covington '18 was the sole Golden Bull to graduate in May 2018 with a degree in music. She may have been the only, but she was hardly lonely.

Covington, who hails from Washington D.C., performed in several Soul Junction music events on campus alongside professional musicians such as the Grammy Award-winning Hamiltones. She was an active member of the University Communications and Marketing Department's student photography team, and an ambitious entrepreneur who vended her own clothing line at JCSU's inaugural Pop-Up Shop event during Founders' Week 2018.

With all those activities, Covington did not slack on academics—she made the Dean's List two years in a row and received an award at the 2018 Senior Luncheon.

All that hard work served her well. Two days after graduating, she landed a job at Power Studio in Maryland as an assistant producer.

"I've always loved music. My biggest influencer is my dad," Covington said. "Ever since I was a kid, I traveled to the studio with him all the time. Even so young, I deeply felt in my heart that it was a special place where I belonged."

Covington was grateful for the mentorship of her professors and the many opportunities JCSU afforded to grow both personally and professionally.

"Now," she says, "I am extremely confident in my abilities and I have JCSU to thank for it. No one can take that away from me."



Da'Shawn Covington '18





Alexus Duncan '17 (second left)

## Alexus Duncan: Internship aids lawyer in the making

Alexus Duncan '17, a psychology major from Raleigh, N.C., with a concentration in development and minoring in pre-law, held an internship at Hegedus Law Firm during Fall 2017. She drafted legal documents, conducted research, and attended court with a main focus on the firm's divorce caseload.

Alexus heard about this internship through her former teacher Attorney Hailey Hawkins and Dr. Latonya Williams, one of her advisors at JCSU.

Duncan honed legal writing and analysis skills while gaining a better understanding of family and criminal defense law, which is her area of interest.

Upon graduation in December 2017, Duncan planned to continue working at Hegedus Law Firm before entering Wake Forest University School of Law in Fall 2018. Alexis is a member of the Gamma Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the former captain of the JCSU Women's Bowling Team, has

worked as the co-chair of publicity for the Golden Bulls Activities Committee and held a position as secretary for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

"Students should be engaged in internships, not only to build their resumes but also to network and obtain field experience in the profession they aspire to be in," Duncan said. "Internships benefit a student through hands-on experience and potential job opportunities. They are priceless."





Kaitlin Santos '19 (left)

## Softball player Kaitlin Santos studies stem cells in prestigious research internship program

Kaitlin Santos, a rising senior on the JCSU softball team, is currently on the fast track in helping unravel some of modern medicine's most difficult mysteries while helping provide valuable headway in the creation of ground breaking biological startup companies and other businesses that support research.

Santos, from Honolulu, Hawai'i, participated in the rigorous 10-week Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU): Biology and Biotechnology. Hosted by the UNC Charlotte Department of Biological Sciences, the program focuses on research in biology and biotechnology in a traditional research experience while conveying how basic biotechnology research leads to business creation and industrial development.

"I worked with Dr. Christine Richardson and my research focused on the Clustered Regulatory Interspaced Short

Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR/Cas-9) dealing with mouse stem cells," said Santos. "We were trying to 'knock out' the Pif-1 gene in cells as they seem to be associated with DNA damage repair."

During the program, participants were in traditional research settings, weekly meetings to discuss findings in their research, and attended workshops on research ethics. Students also attended seminars on applying to graduate school and career opportunities.

Admission to the program is extremely competitive and requires an extensive application and interview process. The program culminated with a presentation at the Department of Biological Sciences Summer Symposium.



# Bush finds inner strength second time around at nation's No. 2 children's hospital

Taneva Bush '19 is steadily progressing on her goal to become a doctor. She took an intensive 10-week internship in summer 2018, as part of the Undergraduate Research Fellowship program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in Ohio.

It was the second time around for Bush, who completed an initial fellowship last year in the Department of Anesthesia at the hospital's Research Clinic. She was of such benefit, the hospital invited her to return.

"I love the people I work with and how open I can be," Bush said. "Asking questions is my favorite part by far."

Bush performed the duties of RNA isolation, to confirm Slc10a6 RNA expression in muscle afferents by femoral neurotracer injection, but not in cutaneous afferents by saphenous afferent.

"The goal for our research is to find a new way of effective and safely managed treatment for children who experience neuropathic myalgia, rather than continuing treating them with opioids or other anti-inflammatory therapies," she explains. "I also performed mice injections, perfusions, dissections, cryostat tissue cutting, and molecular techniques such as cell counting and microscopic analysis."

Initially, Bush suffered from anxiety over the complicated research. As the only African American woman in the program, she feared showing her full potential.

"When I found out everything I was going to be doing, I was afraid to touch anything in the lab because it was going to be on me if I messed up. But then I realized it's research, and that's what happens in research. Sometimes you mess up, sometimes things do not go the way you want them to go, and sometimes things are perfect. It's a matter of learning to accept that," Bush said.

She took encouragement from one of her mentors, anesthesiologist Ali Kandil, who reminded her, "It's fear that sits in the way of what we can do. Once you drive out fear, you can do anything."

"The scope of what I learned changed tremendously, with the help of the team I worked with," Bush said. "I'm grateful they saw my potential, and the ambition to do great made me diligent. I can't believe I did a fellowship at the No. 2 pediatric hospital in the nation!"



Taneva Bush '19



D'Andre J. Carter '18

## D'Andre Hearts Media!

D'Andre J. Carter '18, a Las Vegas native, is a political science major with a minor in communication arts. Carter was hired by iHeartMedia Charlotte as a promotions, marketing, and digital media assistant, a job he landed while working as an intern for the major media outlet.

As an iHeartMedia Charlotte intern, Carter executed and managed station

appearances at remotes and events, engaging with the station's listeners while promoting the station and client brands, executing contests on-site, managing/distributing station prizes, and product sampling for clients.

He impressed management so much, they hired him into his current position, overseeing the planning, development, and acquisition of online content and generating campaigns that drive traffic to iHeartMedia's websites.

Carter served as the president of the Student Government Association and a

member of the Alpha Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., as well as holding various other leadership roles on campus. After graduation, he planned to move to Washington, D.C., to pursue a master's degree in political communications at American University.

"I encourage younger students to actively seek and engage in internships," Carter said. "It's the best way to experience working in your chosen field."





(L to R) Rep. Mark Walker (R-N.C.), Tony Watlington, Jr '19, Jameia Booker '19 and Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-N.C.) on Capitol Hill.

## Booker meets idols, makes mark on Capitol Hill

Jameia Booker '19, a criminology major with a pre-law minor, was chosen to participate in the HBCU Bi-Partisan Congressional Internship program June 4-July 27, 2018.

Rep. Alma Adams spearheaded the program in 2016 to address the lack of diversity among congressional staff. African Americans make up less than 1 percent of top Senate staffers, despite representing 13 percent of the U.S. population.

Interns in the program spend four weeks in the offices of both a Republican and a Democrat—in Booker's case, Congresswoman Adams' office for four weeks and the office of Rep. Mark Walker (R-N.C.) for four weeks. Upon arriving at Capitol Hill, a few aspects of the internship surprised her.

"When I entered the office, I noticed most of the staff were young and that surprised me," Booker said. "I'd always thought it was hard to get a job on the Hill, and that you had to know someone. It really opened my eyes to more possibilities."

Before starting the internship, Booker created a list of goals she hoped to accomplish, which included items from answering her first phone call to meeting civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis. She worked toward those goals daily, drafting letters, answering telephones, running errands and providing support on special projects. She also made the acquaintance of key players on Capitol Hill, including members of Congress, and spoke with them at hearings for the Small Business Committee, the Senate Agriculture Committee, FBI Oversight Committee and the Department of Justice's 2016 Election hearing. Her most treasured encounter, though, was much more informal.

"I was leaving the Capitol returning to the office, when I accidentally got on the same elevator as John Lewis," Booker said, smiling at the memory. "That was the best day." Rep. Lewis congratulated her and even checked with Adams on her progress.

Booker is an active Golden Bull, as the incoming president of the Student Government Association; member of the Gamma Lambda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; on the National Council of Negro Women; vice president of the Criminal Justice Association; member of Alpha Phi Sigma, the national criminal justice honor society; Student Support Services; Official Student Leader; Golden Bulls Activities Committee and the Food Service Committee.

She credits her involvement at JCSU for preparing her for the congressional internship, as well as the mentorship of Dr. Nicola Bivens, Dr. Anita Bledsoe-Gardner, Dr. Deborah Quick and Dr. Terza Lima-Neves.

"The best advice I can give a Smithite is to take advantage of the learning experience JCSU offers, get out of your comfort zone, have faith and trust in God," Booker said. "As an African American woman interning on the Hill I had to bring my A game every day—not for anyone else but for myself, because I knew I wanted to leave my mark on the Hill."

After graduating in 2019, Booker plans to enroll in law school at Georgia State University.



Charlotte skyline served as backdrop to the 2018 NCAA Division II Track and Field Championships

## Golden Bulls host and compete in NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships

Johnson C. Smith University proudly hosted the 2018 NCAA Division II Track and Field Championships May 24-26, 2018. Around 800 student-athletes from across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean flocked to the track of the Irwin Belk Complex. They were joined by coaches, sports information directors, athletic administrators and spectators. JCSU is the only HBCU to host in the championships' history, and has done so three times, the last time being in 2010. The University hosted the championships for the first time in 2007.

Athletes began arriving as early as Tuesday, May 22, holding practices on the track. A 1,200-seat banquet took place Wednesday night at The Park Expo. WBTV sports director and news anchor Delano Little emceed the event and held a live broadcast on site, as athletes in the division received their U.S. Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association Regional Awards. President Clarence D. Armbrister and CIAA Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams were in attendance and delivered welcoming remarks to the assembled crowd.

"It was my absolute pleasure to welcome guests to Charlotte and to Johnson C. Smith University," said Armbrister. "This year marks JCSU's third time hosting the event, and I like to think it is due to our own tradition of excellence, having sent four track and field athletes to compete in the Olympic Games."

Thursday saw the first day of competition, when preliminary trials took place. Large crowds filled the stands as family and friends showed up to support.

Lamont Johnson, head track and field coach, was enthusiastic about the event. "Having three JCSU athletes compete in the championships speaks volumes to the character and quality of our student-athletes. As well, I must say we really excelled as an entire department," Johnson said. "It was a complete team effort in order to make this championship a success. The entire athletic department deserves the credit."

JCSU showcased hometown hospitality by decking out a Refresh Room in Brayboy Gymnasium. Athletes relaxed to music, shot baskets or enjoyed friendly competition on oversized tabletop games such as giant Connect Four and Jenga. It was very well-received.

"Hosting the NCAA Division II Championships allowed JCSU to provide a signature track athletics event and placed our university in a leadership position, working with groups such as the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority and local media," said Stephen Joyner Sr., director of Athletics. "It allows our student-athletes the opportunity to compete in their venue at the highest level."



# Barrett places third in 400m hurdles at national track and field championship



Freshman Timor Barrett '21 earned All-American honors at the 2018 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships on a humid afternoon May 26, 2018. He finished third in the 400m hurdles at home in the Irwin Belk Complex.

Barrett, from St. Catherine, Jamaica, drew lane seven for the championship race and bolted out to an early lead and after the 200m mark dropped to third place.

He maintained third place coming into the final stretch and cleared the remaining four hurdles cleanly, taking third place with a 50.85 time.

"Being able to compete against the best in the NCAA Division II and finishing third as a freshman is a great achievement that I will always cherish," said Barrett, who hails from Jamaica. His stateside 'mom' was in the crowd cheering him on. "It was also a great feeling to know that I was

able to compete and represent my school in the NCAA Championships on my home track."

Senior Landon Huslig from Oklahoma Christian University won the event with a 49.67, while American International University's Chad Miller claimed second place with a 49.72.

In the preliminaries on day one, Barrett led most of the race and wound up with a time of 51.55, finishing second in his heat. Heading into the final day of competition, he held the fifth-fastest time of the meet.

On the women's side, Kianje Pollard '19 also competed in the 400m hurdles preliminaries, posting a time of 1:01.16, finishing fifth in the last collegiate race of her storied JCSU career.

# Stevens makes JCSU track and field history in record-setting year

Sah-Jay Stevens '21 made history as the first JCSU woman student-athlete to participate in the javelin throw at the 2018 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Stevens, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, rewrote the Golden Bulls record book in her first season when she set a school record at the Aggie Invitational on April 14 with a throw of 41.88 meters, earning her a provisional mark into the NCAA Championships.

The record was short-lived, as she threw for a distance of 45.24 meters the following week at the USC Open in Columbia, S.C., further cementing her spot in the national finals.

At the CIAA Championships in Bowie, Md., she earned a third-place finish with a 36.76 mark.

She made her NCAA Championship debut at her home facility in the Irwin Belk Complex but failed to post a mark in the finals. Despite this disappointment, she made JCSU history and won a place in Golden Bulls hearts in a very successful first season.



# JCSU men's basketball and women's tennis make strides in 2018; athletes earn All-CIAA Awards

The Johnson C. Smith University men's basketball and women's tennis teams both stood out during the 2017-2018 athletics season with both teams having players receive All-CIAA honors and two student-athletes earning major CIAA Awards in their respective sports.

The men's basketball team rebounded from a disappointing campaign in 2017 and advanced to the 2018 CIAA Championship game, finishing with a 20-11 overall record.

Led by a group of seniors in guards Robert Davis '18 and Christian Kirchman '18, alongside junior Roddrick Ross '19, the Golden Bulls took down Southern Division rival Fayetteville State in the first round and then knocked off Bowie State to advance to the CIAA Championship game.

In the finals, the Golden Bulls ran into a red-hot Virginia Union team, falling to the Panthers in the title game.

Davis completed the regular season as the league's scoring leader with 21.9 points per game. He also finished first in free throw percentage. His best outing of the year came when he scored 23 points against Lincoln, and he also torched Virginia State for 23 points on Jan. 10.

For his performances over the course of the season, Davis was honored as a First Team All-CIAA member and became just the third Golden Bull to win the CIAA Player of the Year Award. Kirchman started in every game for JCSU this year at guard, scoring in double-figures in all but four contests and also earning a First Team All-CIAA designation.

Ross, a junior, completed his first season with the Gold and Blue, ending the regular season with an average of 14.3 points per game. All-told, he recorded double-digit scoring outputs in 23 of the 27 games in which he saw action, earning First Team All-CIAA honors.

In addition to the success of the JCSU men's basketball team, the JCSU women's tennis team also had a breakout year, finishing with a 16-10 record and a 10-2 mark in CIAA matches, also advancing to the CIAA Championship match.

Freshman Halle Parker '21 finished the regular season undefeated at No. 1 singles, earning the CIAA Rookie of the Year Award and was an All-CIAA selection.

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## JCSU victorious in the Commemorative Classic, marking 125 years of Black college football

On Dec. 27, 1892, Biddle Institute (Johnson C. Smith University) traveled to Livingstone College's Old Delta Grove campus in Salisbury, N.C., and played the first ever football game between Black colleges. The battle in the snow ended with a 5-0 Biddle Institute victory.

Since 2009, JCSU and Livingstone College have battled in the annual Commemorative Classic to commemorate that historic first game that started Black college football.

The Golden Bulls forced three Livingstone interceptions and scored on plays of 76 and 30 yards en route to a 27-14 win in the historic 125th anniversary of the first black college

football game at a cool and overcast Alumni Memorial Stadium in Salisbury, N.C. on Nov. 4, 2017.

Safety Carlo Thomas '18 tied the JCSU school record for career interceptions, picking off Livingstone quarterback

Xavier Longerbeam and returning it 30 yards for a touchdown.

The victory gave JCSU an 8-1 lead in the Commemorative Classic series.





# JCSU football earns three postseason All-CIAA awards

Three JCSU football student-athletes earned All-CIAA honors for their performances over the 2017 season.

Safety Carlo Thomas '18 was named to the All-CIAA First Team as a defensive back. Over the course of the season he managed 64 tackles 41 of which were solo. He also posted 8.5 tackles for loss (37 yards) and had two sacks (12 yards).

On Nov. 4, he became the JCSU career leader in interceptions when he picked off two passes at rival Livingstone. In that game he returned his first interception 30 yards for a score, putting JCSU up 13-0. His second interception of the day, which set a new JCSU record, came in the fourth quarter to thwart a Livingstone drive, sealing the 27-14 win.

Thomas finished his JCSU career with 188 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, two sacks and 22 interceptions, four of which he returned for touchdowns.

Desmond Dozier '20 earned All-CIAA Honorable Mention as a kick returner. Dozier returned 16 kicks for an average of 30.6 yards per return. At Winston-Salem State, he set a new JCSU mark for the longest kickoff return when he raced 97 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter. The previous mark was 93 yards, set in 1994. He went on to add a 92-yard return against



(L to R) Carlo Thomas '18, Desmond Dozier '20, Sa'Von Williams '21

Fayetteville State on Oct. 14. He currently has three kickoff returns for touchdowns.

Rounding out the list of JCSU award winners is Sa'Von Williams '21. Williams, a defensive lineman, was named to the CIAA All-Rookie Team after a stellar year with the Gold and Blue. He notched 33 tackles with 22 of those being solo stops. He also had nine tackles for loss (39 yards), four sacks (30 yards) and had two pass breakups. His season-high came in a seven-tackle effort at Winston-Salem State.

## Johnson takes the helm of Golden Bulls Track and Field



JCSU hired Lamont Johnson to lead the Golden Bulls cross country and track and field programs. Johnson joined the Athletics staff after serving as assistant coach at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

In his first season with UWP, the Rangers saw four athletes named All-Great Lakes Valley Conference. Johnson helped his athletes break multiple school records, including both the men's and women's 4x100 relays.

No stranger to the CIAA, Johnson spent two seasons at Virginia State University. During his time at VSU, he coached Justin Williams to a berth in the NCAA Championships in the 110 hurdles and the Trojan men's 4x100

relay team to the NCAA's. Additionally, he also coached four other student-athletes to All-CIAA honors.

Johnson also had a stint as an assistant coach at the Academy of Art where the Urban Knights won the NCAA Division II National Championship in both the indoor and outdoor seasons in 2012-13. There, he coached seven student-athletes who earned a total of 28 All-American honors.

He also brings Division I experience to JCSU, having coached at Eastern Michigan, Troy, Alabama, New Mexico and Iowa State.

# Three with JCSU ties inducted into CIAA John B. McLendon Hall of Fame

Three individuals with ties to Johnson C. Smith University were inducted into the CIAA John B. McLendon Hall of Fame as part of the 2018 CIAA Tournament.

## Dorothy Cowser Yancy, Ph.D. '64



Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy served as the 12th president of Johnson C. Smith University from 1994-2008 and the 14th and 16th President of Shaw University from 2009-2010 and 2011-2013. She was the first female President in the CIAA, she holds the title of President Emerita at both institutions and is known for her institutional management and

fundraising efforts for academic and athletic deliverance.

Yancy marked her 14-and-a-half year tenure at JCSU by raising over \$145 million through two significant capital campaigns and increasing the University's endowment by nearly \$50 million. Under her leadership, JCSU was the first Historically Black College or University to receive the Genius Grant in 1996 and became an IBM "Thinkpad" University, as the first HBCU to provide every student a laptop to use while they were students. Additionally, a new technology center, library and the Irwin Belk Complex were constructed under her watch.

In her tenure at Shaw, Yancy stabilized the financial state of Shaw, restructured debt, balanced the budget and recruited one of the largest freshman classes in the history of the school. She retired in 2010 but returned the next year after the campus was struck by a tornado. Within the next year Yancy lead the restoration of functionality to campus and brought all buildings back into use. In her final tenure, she led the university through five program accreditation reviews.

Yancy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and social science from Johnson C. Smith University, a Master of Arts degree in history from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, and a Ph.D. in political science from Atlanta University. Yancy's legacy is marked at both JCSU and Shaw with buildings named in her honor.

## Coach Kermit Blount



Current JCSU head football coach Kermit Blount was inducted after serving as a standout quarterback at Winston-Salem State University, returning to his alma mater as the head football coach in 1993.

During his tenure, Blount led the Rams to two CIAA Championship titles in 1999 and 2000 in three post-season appearances. Under his leadership, the Rams competed in the Pioneer Bowl both seasons, winning in 1999. He was honored as CIAA Coach of the Year, Washington D.C. Pigskin Coach of the Year and 100 percent Wrong Club Coach of the Year in both 1999 and 2000.

In 12 years, Blount marked a 76-53-3 CIAA career record before the WSSU's transition to NCAA Division I FCS (formerly I-AA). He continued as head coach throughout the three-year transition, earning a 91-87-3 coaching record making him the winningest coach in WSSU history.

Blount assisted several former Rams football players such as Richard Huntley, Oronde Gadsden, Tory Woodbury and William Hayes reach the NFL as either late round draft picks or free agents.

In 2011, he took control of the Delaware State University football program where he spent four seasons. Blount was named head football coach at Johnson C. Smith University where he marked his third season in 2017.

Blount earned his Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical education from Winston-Salem State University in 1980. While at WSSU, he earned four letters and guided WSSU to the 1977 and 1978 CIAA championship. In 1978, he was named a Black College All-American.

## Raymond McDougal '58



Raymond McDougal joined the Fayetteville State University Broncos in 1970 as the head football coach and head coach of the newly formed men's golf program.

After his first year with the university, he turned the golf program over to Dr. Moses Walker and focused on 11 seasons with the football team and one season at the helm of the men's basketball program as interim head coach.



Upon returning to lead the men's golf team in 1993, McDougal began making his mark as a CIAA legend. Within two decades at FSU, McDougal led the Broncos to 16 CIAA golf titles and six PGA National Minority Division II golf titles in 15 appearances.

McDougal and the Broncos participated in seven NCAA Division II Super Regionals, finishing as high as third in 2007 and second in 2009. FSU's second place finish at the 2009 regional tournament earned the team its first NCAA Tournament berth, becoming the first HBCU to make the championship in 35 years.

McDougal coached five CIAA MVPs and All-Americans, eight CIAA Tournament medalists and 44 All-CIAA student-athletes.

He has also earned 12 CIAA Coach of the Year awards and retired from Fayetteville State in June of 2014.

McDougal is a 1958 graduate of Johnson C. Smith University where he was a four-year scholarship athlete in both football and golf. As a student-athlete, he earned individual winner awards in four golf tournaments and played halfback and quarterback for the Golden Bulls football team.

Prior to his career at Fayetteville State, he was the head basketball coach and backfield assistant football coach at Bethune-Cookman University.

## Former NFL player Terrence Warren joins Athletics staff to increase sponsorships and engagement



Terrence Warren joined the Department of Athletics in the newly created position of assistant athletics director for external affairs. Warren is a former NFL player, NCAA All-American and CIAA champion who came to JCSU after serving as the director of operations and wellness at the Orange County Sportsplex in Hillsborough, N.C. There he managed the budget and daily operations of the 6,000-member facility. He also

supervised a 37-person staff and established partnerships with local and state agencies to secure grants, private donations and government funds.

He previously served as associate athletics director for marketing, promotions and ticketing at Delaware State University. At DSU, he marketed and planned a ticketing campaign to increase revenues for the Hornets football, men's and women's basketball and other varsity teams. He also

provided leadership for all aspects of the DSU ticket operations, including developing procedures and best practices for a Division I athletic ticket office.

A dual student-athlete at Hampton, he was a 13-time NCAA All-American in track and field, 12-time CIAA champion and two-time NCAA DII national champion in the 200 meters. He was a gold medalist at both the World Junior Track and Field Championships and Olympic Festival.

Warren, the first Hampton player to be drafted, was selected by the Seattle Seahawks in the 1993 NFL draft, where he played from 1993-95. He also played for the San Francisco 49ers in 1995, the Jacksonville Jaguars from 1995 to 1996 and completed his career with the CFL's Toronto Argonauts from 1998-1999.

For his accomplishments at Hampton, he was inducted into the CIAA John B. McLendon Hall of Fame in 2015. He was also inducted into the Hampton University Hall of Fame 2011. He graduated from Hampton in 1992 with a degree in recreation management and later earned an MBA in marketing from Averett University in 2005.



JCSU fans and 14th President Clarence D. Armbrister and board chair Shirley J. Hughes affirm the importance of HBCUs during "For the Culture" Game.

## JCSU basketball games become a celebration of culture and social consciousness

Social consciousness is a core value of Johnson C. Smith University and it's woven into the very fabric of campus life, extending from the political science department to campus protests and even to athletic events.

During basketball season, students, faculty, staff, alumni and fans gather in Brayboy Gymnasium to cheer on the Golden Bulls women's and men's teams with a fervor that is known throughout the CIAA as "Brayboy Madness."

But there's method to the madness. Every January and February, the JCSU Athletics department, the University Communications and Marketing department and athletics sponsors partner to create exciting game experiences, turning games into platforms to highlight Black history, promote social

justice, raise funds for cancer research, and strengthen the close-knit Golden Bulls family.

JCSU held its fourth annual Black Out game on January 31, 2018. A highlight of the basketball season, it acknowledges support for the concepts behind the Black Lives Matter movement. Coaches, students, alumni and fans show their support by wearing all-black attire. Spoken word performances, music, Black history facts and signs with slogans such as "Black Girl Magic," "Black Excellence" and "Melanated and Educated" combine to make the game a meaningful and thought-provoking experience.

The Black Out game culminates with a moment of silence for attendees to reflect on how they can be change agents to



make our world a better place. It's powerful to see fans standing together, holding signs proudly as the PA announcer reads a stirring social justice statement.

On Feb. 21, 2018, JCSU held its second "For the Culture" game to affirm the importance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Fans wore dashikis to show pride in black culture and celebrate its role in college sports. The Luv-A-Bulls cheerleaders wore custom-made cheering uniforms that featured gold and blue African print fabric. Students and fans waved signs with slogans such as "HBCUs Matter," "I Love JCSU" and "Knowledge is Power." JCSU even provided signs for the visiting team to show pride in their alma mater.

Fans from JCSU and rival Winston-Salem State University stood together in a moment of unity holding their signs and cheering loudly as the PA announcer read a statement touting the

relevance of HBCUs, the accomplishments of HBCU graduates and the contributions of HBCU athletes to intercollegiate and professional sports.

Students also used a time out to bring attention to gun violence in America. The PA announcer read a statement denouncing gun violence followed by a moment of silence for the victims of the school shooting in Parkland, Fla. The cheerleaders and dance team held signs supporting a ban on assault weapons.

The enthusiastic participation in these games illustrates that athletic events can be important venues for reinforcing institutional values. It's another example of how JCSU supports students as they learn to be change agents, activists and advocates for causes in which they believe.





## JCSU Celebrates the 2018 Athletic Season with a presentation of Smitty's Golden Awards

The Johnson C. Smith University Department of Athletics presented the yearly athletic awards at the annual Smitty Golden Awards in Grimes Lounge.

Each sport gave four awards to deserving Golden Bull student-athletes. Those awards include team MVP, Most Improved, Top Newcomer and Coaches Awards.

In addition to the individual awards, team awards included highest team grade point average and male and female team of the year.

The event concluded with the awarding of the Pettis Norman Male and Female Athlete of the Year Awards. The Pettis Norman Award is given to the student-athlete judged to have had the best overall season.

Halle Parker '21 of Magnolia, Delaware earned the Pettis Norman Female Athlete of the Year after she recently completed her first year wearing the Gold and Blue. This past season, she returned a perfect 10-0 mark in CIAA matches. Playing at No. 1 singles, she dropped just one set in league matches and also returned an impressive 9-2 mark in doubles action alongside teammate Jada Strickland '21.

Overall, she completed the season with a 16-8 singles mark while in doubles matches she finished with a 15-11 overall record.

For her performance, she was named to the All-CIAA team and was tabbed as the CIAA Rookie of the Year and helped the JCSU Women's tennis team advance to the CIAA Championship match.

Senior men's basketball player Robert Davis (West Friendship, Md.) was tabbed as the Pettis Norman Male Athlete of the Year after completing his four-year career with the Golden Bulls with 1,606 points while shooting 42.5 percent for his career (516-1215), 34.2 percent from long range (150-438) and 82.3 percent from the free throw line (424-515).

This past season, he earned First-Team All-CIAA honors and was named the CIAA Player of the Year, becoming just the third Golden Bull to achieve this honor.

Davis was named to the NABC All-Region team and received the most votes in earning a First Team selection by the North Carolina Collegiate Sports Information Directors Association while helping the JCSU men's basketball team advance to the CIAA Championship game.



# Culler named CIAA Sports Information Director of the Year

Johnson C. Smith University Sports Information Director K.C. Culler was named the John Holley CIAA Sports Information Director of the Year at the annual awards luncheon at the CIAA spring meetings in Charlotte, N.C.

In his third year at JCSU, Culler was appointed CIAA Sports Information

Directors Association Vice President after previously serving as secretary.

In addition to his association leadership, Culler is regarded for his consistent coverage of the Golden Bulls athletics programs through previews, recaps, game notes and media guides.

Culler is a past member of the CIAA Golf Committee and currently serves on the CIAA Softball Committee. He also served as the host media coordinator for the 2018 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships.



K.C. Culler receives Sports Information Director of the Year Award from Dr. James Anderson, president of the CIAA Board of Directors, and CIAA Commissioner Jacquie McWilliams



The Division of Institutional Advancement culminated the Tomorrow is What WE Make It Comprehensive Campaign.

## JCSU's 7-year comprehensive campaign exceeds \$150 million milestone

On Dec. 14, 2017, Johnson C. Smith University proudly announced that the Tomorrow is What WE Make It comprehensive campaign—launched in 2010 by the JCSU Board of Trustees, with a \$150 million goal—had secured gifts and commitments totaling \$159.4 million as of Dec. 6, 2017. This is one of the largest sums ever raised by JCSU. The campaign concluded at the close of JCSU's 150th anniversary, with over \$1 million dollars pledged for each year that the University has been in existence.

JCSU experienced broad-based support from Trustees, alumni, corporations, foundations, faculty/staff and friends in the philanthropic community. Alumni contributed \$5,987,867 and Trustees raised \$2,855,970 of the \$159,479,683 total. Also included is a \$1 million bequest from the Larry A. Griffin Family Trust and the Michael L. Griffin Family Trust. The Duke Endowment contributed the campaign's \$35 million lead gift.

In prior updates Institutional Advancement disclosed reaching \$38 million by the end of Fiscal Year 2011, \$79 million at the end of 2012, \$94 million at the close of 2013, \$107 million at 2014, \$115 million at 2015, and

\$135 million at the end of fiscal year 2016. \$7,446,035.26 was raised specifically for the President's Gap Scholarship Fund to cover the shortfall some students encounter between financial aid received and the cost of tuition.

"It's exciting to see the combination of support from alumni, local community members and national foundations on this record-breaking comprehensive campaign," said Kristin Hills Bradberry, campaign consultant. "It's also impressive to note how much of the support in this campaign has already been given, not just pledged, and is making an impact now on the lives of students at JCSU."

"We knew that \$150 million was an ambitious goal when we launched our comprehensive campaign, but we were confident that JCSU's stakeholders and the community would partner with us to reach it," said Shirley J. Hughes, chair of the JCSU Board of Trustees. "Thank you to the entire JCSU community, friends and supporters. Your contributions have made this the most successful campaign in the University's 150-year history. Most importantly, your gifts enable and encourage



young women and men to pursue their dream of completing a college education. We are grateful for your confidence in JCSU's ability to deliver a high-quality education to our students and for your confirmation of the University's importance to the city of Charlotte."

The funds raised will support scholarships, academic resources, capital projects, and the JCSU Fund.

"I am deeply grateful to everyone who has participated in this outstanding effort," said then President Ronald L. Carter. "The success of this campaign speaks to larger hopes for a better university and a better tomorrow—a tomorrow transformed by

the change agents developed, encouraged and inspired within our gates."

Honorary co-chairs of the campaign were Congresswoman Eva Clayton '55 and Sally Robinson, Charlotte philanthropist. The campaign co-chairs were Kendall Alley, regional president (Charlotte) at Wells Fargo; Trustee Kevin Henry, executive vice president and chief human resources officer at Extended Stay America; and Thomas Baldwin '71, former executive at BB&T.

## \$1.8 Million in grants funds Access to Innovation initiative

Johnson C. Smith University announced the receipt of \$1,100,000 from Kenan Charitable Trust and \$738,000 from the Department of Education for its Access to Innovation Initiative Nov. 16, 2017.

This K-16 initiative will increase students' interest and preparation in computer science and entrepreneurship and their overall STEM skills. West Charlotte High School and Ranson International Baccalaureate Middle School have been identified as pilot schools for the first three years.

Students from West Charlotte High and Ranson Middle will have opportunities to participate in programs covering after-school enrichment, dual-enrollment, mentorship and summer sessions from JCSU. These programs will aid in the strengthening of students'

college-readiness, technology skills and entrepreneurial mindset.

Teachers from the schools will also be provided support for implementing computer science education into West Charlotte's NAF Tech Academy and Ranson Middle School's IB program.

JCSU students will be exposed to tech-entrepreneurship through a pre-college summer program, innovation and market-driven courses and programs, experiential learning and capstone projects.

During Summer 2017, JCSU partnered with Google to launch a pilot at the University with 20 incoming students. Additionally, Professors Suryadip Chakraborty and Awatif Amin spent six

weeks in Google's Faculty-In-Residence program, building classroom projects.

"This initiative is about co-creation, impact, and scalability," said Terik Tidwell, director of STEM Innovation. "Over the last year, we have been listening and working with industry partners, parents, community leaders, teachers, school leaders, and universities to develop a blueprint to increase the density of access and propensity towards innovation for students in and around the university."

"JCSU's faculty and staff are ready to accelerate our impact for creating a strong STEM workforce in the innovation economy," said Dr. Hang Chen, dean of the College of STEM. "With this additional support, we will be able to continue on the university's radical trajectory."





President Clarence D. Armbrister and Denise McGregor Armbrister

## Arch of Triumph Gala celebrates landmark ten years and welcomes the Armbristers to Charlotte

The Arch of Triumph gala, which took place on April 7, 2018, held even more than the usual pomp and circumstance. The new, larger location in the Charlotte Convention Center Crown Ballroom reflected the growth of the event over the past decade, and signified the heights which are to come.

The festivities are always a time for Charlotte's best and brightest to come together and support the JCSU Fund. This year had the added attraction of welcoming President Clarence D. Armbrister and First Lady Denise

McGregor Armbrister to the Golden Bulls family.

"I can't thank you enough for the warm welcome you have extended to Denise and me – not just tonight, but since the day I arrived," Armbrister said. "We are thrilled to be a part of the Johnson C. Smith University Family and the Charlotte community. After tonight, we can truly say that this is home." Tonya Rivens of WCCB News served as the mistress of ceremonies, officiating the evening with poise and grace. Tymier Farrar '21, vice president of the Freshman

Class; Shakoya Brown '20, Student Government Association public relations coordinator; D'Andre Carter '18, Student Government Association president; Trustee Sheila Brown '77; Trustee Monroe Miller and Board of Trustees Chair Shirley J. Hughes all lent their voices to present the Arch of Triumph Award honorees. Alumna honoree Dr. Octavia Cannon '88 is a board-certified physician and co-owner of Arboretum Obstetrics and Gynecology, LLC, the sole private practice in Charlotte staffed entirely with women physicians. She is also president elect of the American College



of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists and will be the first African-American to lead the 84-year-old organization.

The Griffin Family, of Griffin Brothers Tire Service, were honored as JCSU's long-time community partners. The Honorable Vi Alexander Lyles, the first African American woman and the first former city administrator to serve as mayor of Charlotte, received the national award.

The evening was punctuated by the sounds of the Johnson C. Smith University Jazz Band and musical selections from the University Concert Choir.

A video presentation, introduced by Miss JCSU Mariah Collins '18, presented the voices of several students, business leaders and community partners welcoming the Armbristers to Charlotte. Students Daryl Napper '18 and Kaylin Roman '18; alumni Craig Bell '87 and Dorothy Counts Scoggins '64; former Mayor Harvey Gantt and Councilman Justin Harlow; Moira Quinn of Center City Partners; and Trustees Tom Barnhardt and Damien Johnson '95 extended the hand of fellowship to the new president and his family.

Denise Armbrister proudly introduced her husband, sharing both professional and personal insights into his character. "Nelson Mandela once said,

'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' At the core of Clay's being is the belief that education is the door to opportunity and success," she said.

The night was also an occasion to announce Marc Morial, current president of the National Urban League and former mayor of New Orleans, as JCSU's 2018 Commencement speaker.

Over 690 JCSU alumni, business representatives and members of the philanthropic community attended the first Arch of Triumph Gala on April 18, 2009, at the Westin Charlotte.



Dr. Octavia Cannon '88, Board of Trustees Chair Shirley J. Hughes, President Clarence D. Armbrister, Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, Larry Griffin, Sr. and the Griffin family

The initial event grossed \$128,000 to benefit the JCSU Fund, which raises money for scholarships, teaching, learning initiatives and programs vital to providing a quality educational experience to JCSU students. Since its inception, the annual gala has raised close to \$2.4 million.

This year, 750 of Charlotte's most prominent corporate, philanthropic and community leaders, along with

University trustees, administrators, alumni and friends attended the black-tie event. Wells Fargo, Atrium Health, The Duke Endowment, Bank of America and Fifth/Third Bank were among the top sponsors.

**Armbrister closed the evening with these words:**

"Excellence doesn't happen by spontaneous combustion. This gala is

evidence that we have students, faculty, staff and alumni who ignite a fire in themselves every day to ensure sustained excellence at the University. I look forward to taking this fantastic voyage with all of you."



JCSU Library Services Director Monika Rhue '91 (second right) stands with Biddle family descendants.





# Big Hitters show big love

The annual Big Hitters reception to recognize some of JCSU's dearest donors was held under a tent decked out in gold and blue during the Homecoming football game Oct. 21, 2017. The Division of Institutional Advancement sponsors the event each year to thank those who gave \$2,000 or more to the University in the past year, as well as members of the 1867 Giving Society.







## Blue Cross Blue Shield of N.C. awards \$325,000 grant to combat food disparities

Johnson C. Smith University's Sustainability Village received a \$325,000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina to fund its Sustainability Village Expansion Project II.

JCSU's Sustainability Village is an innovative learning prototype for students, including academic coursework, hands-on experience and study abroad opportunities, that focuses on food disparities in socio-economically challenged communities, such as Charlotte's Northwest Corridor, which comprises 34 historic neighborhoods and is where JCSU is located.

Dr. Philip Otienoburu, assistant professor of Biology and director of the Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainability, is ecstatic about the grant and how it will combat food disparities that affect those outside the gates of JCSU.

"We hope to continue our mission of addressing food insecurity in the community, building our academic programs on campus and building stronger community partnerships aimed at addressing the unbearable social and economic inequalities that residents in our community face daily by virtue of their zip codes," Otienoburu stated.

This grant will be used to purchase and install three new commercial-scale greenhouses on campus, together with their technological support systems. Two buildings will house hydroponic gardens and one will be an aquaponics garden.

Mike Restaino serves as a member of the JCSU Board of Visitors and is an advocate for the only historically Black college in Charlotte. He is also the community relations district manager for Blue Cross Blue Shield, and was instrumental in securing the grant.

In 2010, Blue Cross Blue Shield collaborated with The Duke Endowment, an organization designed to help people and strengthen communities in North Carolina, to fund the original Sustainability Village.

This grant will expand JCSU's growing footprint for food production within the Northwest Corridor and help the University address food insecurity in the area through the Rosa Parks Farmers Market, which was established in partnership with the Mecklenburg County Health Department in 2016. Additional vegetables and produce from the expansion will be available to local farmers markets at affordable prices.



This grant will also provide students with community outreach experiences in these neighborhoods and assist neighborhoods in developing their own neighborhood community gardens.

It is pivotal that students continue to engage in opportunities that will enhance professional development and entrepreneurial spirit.

"This opportunity will provide our students with a sophisticated, technology platform to learn about sustainable agriculture and be a part of a rapidly expanding entrepreneurial environment on campus," said Otienoburu.

Students who major in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) or students who are interested can earn an opportunity for community outreach and learn business acumen.

"Students can help create models that address these issues across America and the globe. They will also help foster and inspire the next generation of leaders to impact necessary changes in the community," stated Restaino.

JCSU will have the largest greenhouse area in the city of Charlotte when construction is complete.

## 2018 | 1867 GIVING SOCIETIES INDUCTEES

**GOLDEN BULL SOCIETY** in honor of the University's golden bull mascot - the embodiment of pride, spirit and association with JCSU.

**Cumulative gifts ranging from \$100,000 - \$499,999**

Mr. James Ely III '88  
Mrs. Mattie Solice Grigsby '48  
Jimmie W. Patton Trust  
Mr. Aaron L. Reynolds '67  
Mr. Craig D. Stauffer

**DUKE SOCIETY** in honor of James B. Duke, who included JCSU in the Duke Endowment in 1924.

**Cumulative gifts ranging from \$50,000 - \$99,999**

Dr. Lucinda Bowen Blue '74  
Mr. James A. Gaither '66  
Mrs. Lucille Garrick Gaither '66  
Mrs. Viola B. Myers-Williams '68  
Mrs. Cindy Gantt  
Mr. Harvey Gantt

**MYERS SOCIETY** in honor of Col. William R. Myers' gift of eight acres of land to establish a permanent site for the then Biddle Memorial Institute.

**Cumulative gifts ranging from \$25,000 - \$49,999**

Mrs. Mary L. Faulkner '63  
Mr. Paul D. Faulkner '64  
Mrs. Tasse A. Little  
Mrs. Gwendolyn R. Smith '72  
Ms. Cynthia A. Williams

**SANDERS SOCIETY** in honor of Dr. Daniel J. Sanders, the first African - American President of JCSU.

**Cumulative gifts ranging from \$10,000 - \$24,999**

Dr. Venton Lee Bell '66  
Mrs. Alice Jo Blyther '62  
Colonel Morris L. Bodrick '89  
Ms. Emily Burt  
Mrs. Elizabeth A. Carrothers '55  
Mr. Hubert I. Davis '69  
Mr. Matthew Evans '55  
Ms. Jo Ella Cooper Ferrell '69  
Dr. John E. Floyd '70  
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Mrs. Beatrice Mayfield Flythe '67  
Dr. William C. Flythe '65  
Ms. Shelia D. Harvey '76  
Mrs. Gerald E. Hatcher '72  
Mr. Benjamin C. Heatley '92  
Mr. Ronald T. Johnson '67  
Mrs. Sandra Ross Johnson '69  
Ms. Lucille Joyner '59  
Dr. Shirley Wilson Logan '64  
Ms. Ivy A. Metz '71  
Mrs. Melba D. Mobley '67  
Ms. Patricia N. Robinson '72  
Ms. Bevelyn Sherrill  
Mr. Lawrence Yizar

# The 1867 Society

The 1867 Society recognizes donors whose cumulative giving since January 2000 to Johnson C. Smith University totals \$10,000 or more. This distinguished society is comprised of six societal giving levels, named in honor of images and transformational leaders and donors of the University. The 1867 Society members are inducted into the society at one of the societal levels and recognized for each new level attained at an annual luncheon held during Founders' Day weekend. All 1867 Society inductees are also invited to join the student processional for Convocation, which is also held during Founders' Day weekend.

## 1867 SOCIETY MEMBERS

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Mrs. Pearlie Ann Williams '65  
Dr. Shirley Mae Williams-Thompson '63  
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## Alumni Giving Honor Roll

Alumni financial support is the critical difference in the life and legacy of the University. During Fiscal Year 2017-2018, alumni giving totaled more than \$714,406.43 and the alumni giving participation rate was 15 percent.

### CLASS OF 1938 - \$300

*Class Agent - Office of Alumni Affairs*  
Dr. Clarence F. Stephens, Jr.

### CLASS OF 1940 - \$1,000

*Class Agent - Office of Alumni Affairs*  
Ms. Ireta Taylor Dawson

### CLASS OF 1942 - \$150

*Class Agent - Office of Alumni Affairs*  
Mrs. Daisy B. Chapman

### CLASS OF 1945 - \$200

*Class Agents - Mrs. Mildred S. Grier*  
Dr. Darius L. Swann  
Mrs. Mildred S. Grier

### CLASS OF 1947 - \$175

*Class Agent - Mrs. Gloria P. Munoz-Martin*  
Ms. Susan Knights

### CLASS OF 1948 - \$22,150

*Class Agents - Mrs. Mattie Solice Grigsby*  
Dr. Clarence W. R. Wade  
Dr. Georgetta Merritt Campbell  
Ms. Mary B. Chasten  
Mrs. Katherine Davis  
Mrs. Eva G. Donaldson  
Ms. Fatina P. Gaston  
Mrs. Mattie Solice Grigsby  
Mrs. Gertrude Mitchell  
Mrs. Zaidee Reasoner Morris

Mrs. Magnolia M. Pickens  
Dr. Clarence W. R. Wade  
Mrs. Darwin McBeth Walton

### CLASS OF 1949 - \$4,100

*Class Agents - Mr. Charles W. Hargrave*  
Mrs. Odelle Steele Searles  
Mrs. Helen Reese Epps  
Mrs. Anita T. Garner  
Mrs. Maggie Lloyd Gilliam  
Mr. Charles W. Hargrave

### CLASS OF 1950 - \$50

*Class Agent - Mrs. Ruth S. Cathey*  
Mr. O'Dell Robinson

### CLASS OF 1951 - \$11,525

*Class Agents - Mr. Harry L. Jackson*  
Dr. Maggie Lynch Mallory  
Mrs. Leora Ernestine Broady  
Reverend Dr. Lawrence T. Glenn  
Mr. Vincent G. Mallory  
Dr. Maggie Lynch Mallory



**CLASS OF 1952 - \$750**

*Class Agent - Mrs. Mary L. Massey-Jones*  
 Mr. Melton Ellerby  
 Mrs. Rosa L. Poston  
 Mr. Arthur C. Redding

**CLASS OF 1953 - \$10,075**

*Class Agent - Mrs. Deloris G. Evans*  
 Mrs. Mary J. Bowden  
 Mrs. Johnnie M. Collins  
 Mrs. Lotess Priestley Cright  
 Mrs. Deloris G. Evans  
 Mrs. Helen V. Henry  
 Mrs. LaVerne R. Parker  
 Mr. David L. Pugh, Sr.  
 Reverend Benjamin F. Thompson  
 Mrs. Frances T. Wade

**CLASS OF 1954 - \$1,850**

*Class Agent - Mrs. Johnsie M. Grier*  
 Mr. Robert L. Babbs  
 Mrs. Janie Clinkscales Chavis-Lucas  
 Mrs. Henrietta M. Motley  
 Mrs. Margaret H. Thomas

**CLASS OF 1955 - \$10,044**

*Class Agent - Dr. Telezee Littlejohn Foster*  
 Mr. Cecil L. Adderley, Jr.  
 Mrs. Evelyn J. Blackwell  
 Mrs. Elizabeth A. Carrothers  
 Mr. Bruce C. Chandler  
 Mr. Wendell A. Daniel  
 Estate of Artie C. Phillips  
 Mr. Matthew Evans  
 Dr. Telezee Littlejohn Foster  
 Mrs. Janetta T. Gadsden  
 Mr. Simeon Humes  
 Dr. David L. Hunter  
 Mrs. Rosa Johnson Jones  
 Mrs. Betty Allen McGill  
 Mr. Roosevelt D. Odom, Jr.  
 Dr. Louis W. Pointer  
 Mr. Thad Rhodes, Jr.  
 Mr. Rudolph C. Worsley

**CLASS OF 1956 - \$5,850**

*Class Agent - Mrs. Muriel D. Wiggins*  
 Mrs. Bessie B. Graham  
 Mrs. Wilhelmina Page Kimpson  
 Mrs. Pecola Abraham Maxwell  
 Mrs. Evelyn W. McIntosh  
 Mrs. Muriel D. Wiggins

**CLASS OF 1957 - \$3,330**

*Class Agent - Mr. Rufus D. Spears*  
 Mr. Charles F. Davis  
 Mrs. Ora M. Galloway  
 Dr. Ophelia DeLaine Gona  
 Ms. Louise Page Gordon  
 Mrs. Mildred L. Johnson  
 Mrs. Lucille Reynolds Morris

**CLASS OF 1958 - \$2,476**

*Class Agent - Mrs. Sarah Young Gist*  
 Mrs. Katie Barnhill  
 Mr. Norman L. Deas  
 Mr. Lemuel H. Froneberger  
 Ms. Theon Hardy  
 Mr. William Hunter Harris  
 Mrs. Doretha L. Leak  
 The Honorable Johnny M. Lunsford  
 Dr. William Bruce McMillan, Jr.

**CLASS OF 1959 - \$6,810**

*Class Agent - Reverend Lloyd B. Morris*  
 Mrs. Geraldine Helton Clyburn  
 Mr. James Edwards  
 Mr. James E. Farmer, Jr.  
 Mrs. Bernice S. Ferguson  
 Ms. Lucille Joyner  
 Reverend Lloyd B. Morris  
 Ms. Evelyn Robinson  
 Mr. Joe L. Simmons  
 Mrs. Neutrice Quick Townes  
 Reverend George Murray Wilson  
 Mr. Harold B. Winston

**CLASS OF 1960 - \$6,450**

*Class Agents - Mr. Lamonte F. Mitchell*  
*Mrs. Beatrice A. Redfern*  
 Mrs. Bernice Corbett Smith  
 Mr. John T. Crawford  
 Mr. John P. Cureton  
 Ms. Edith Strickland DeLaine  
 Ms. Verona Davis Gibson  
 Dr. Argie Knox Johnson  
 Mr. Johnny H. Johnson  
 Mr. Lorenzo Steele, Sr.  
 Trustee McKinley Washington  
 Mrs. Amanda H. Wright

**CLASS OF 1961 - \$6,000**

*Class Agent - Mr. Talmadge W. Fair*  
 Mrs. Garnell D. Bailey  
 Mr. Frank Edney Gadsden\*  
 Mr. George K. Johnson

Ms. Anna M. Vernon  
 Dr. Ernest M. Wade  
 Mr. Russell Young

**CLASS OF 1962 - \$3,375**

*Class Agents - Mrs. Jeannette Dozier*  
*Mr. James Walker*  
 Mrs. Mary Roberts Bailey  
 Mr. Charlie S. Dannelly  
 Mrs. Queen A. Davis  
 Mrs. Lucy A. Hamilton  
 Reverend Carnell Hampton  
 Mrs. Eva B. Irby  
 Mr. Theodore Collins Johnson  
 Mr. Willie L. Little  
 Mrs. Hannah A. Miller  
 Mrs. Nancy Springs Morris  
 Ms. Judith E. Washington

**CLASS OF 1963 - \$13,320**

*Class Agents - Mrs. Jean W. Graham*  
*Mrs. Queen Esther Whaley*  
 Ms. Barbara B. Clarkson  
 Estate of Samuel Johnson, Jr.  
 Mr. John N. Faxio  
 Mr. Sidney Glee  
 Mrs. Jean W. Graham  
 Mrs. Laura Green Granville  
 Mrs. Shannon Belk Hilton  
 Mrs. Flora Sampson Johnson  
 Mr. Luther C. Jones  
 Ms. Barbara Ferguson Kamara  
 Mr. Fred Lewis  
 Mr. Douglas C.E. Loftin  
 Mrs. Viella Hollaway Mason  
 Ms. Carolyn Robinson-Nix  
 Mrs. Joann McIlwain Standifer  
 Mr. Cornelious W. Williams  
 Ms. Maxine Dunn Woods

**CLASS OF 1964 - \$19,300**

*Class Agent - Mrs. Dorothy Counts-Scoggins*  
 Dr. Boisey O. Barnes  
 Mrs. Veronica Bynum Bethel  
 Dr. Leonard L. Bethel  
 Mrs. Bettye Garrick Byrd  
 Mr. Freddie Sinclair Clinton  
 Ms. Willie Beatrice Colson  
 Mrs. Ellen L. Doiley  
 Mr. Palmer T. Doiley  
 Mr. Paul D. Faulkner  
 Mr. Timothy Freeman, Jr.  
 Mrs. Janice Tate Gresham  
 Mr. George T. Hall

Ms. Ellaree Hampton  
Mrs. Vivian Jones Honor  
Dr. Lonnie Keith  
Mrs. Mae White Little  
Dr. Shirley Wilson Logan  
Mr. Ezell A. Long  
Ms. Vertelle D. Middleton  
Mrs. Brenda Long Sanders  
Mrs. Mamie B. Thomas  
Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy  
Mrs. Barbara Y. Young

**CLASS OF 1965 - \$15,838**

*Class Agents - Mrs. Shirley M. Hunter*

*Mrs. Doris M. Wilson*

Mrs. Ida Kearns Adams  
Mrs. Margaret Love Brandon  
Reverend Franklin D. Colclough  
Dr. William C. Flythe  
Mrs. Carrie E. Hampton  
Mrs. Shirley M. Hunter  
Mrs. Rosa Kearns-Smith  
Mrs. Ossie H. Martin  
Mr. Leon McClinton  
Mrs. Johnnie Steward McCray  
Ms. Alice F. Mitchell  
Ms. Kathleen J. Pressley  
Mr. Richard Blackout Reeves  
Dr. Horace R. Rice  
Dr. Robert E. Shortt  
Representative Evelyn A. Terry  
Ms. Martha Tate Warren  
Mrs. Barbara M. Watkins-Sohan  
Dr. Kenneth Whitted  
Mrs. Pearlie Ann Williams  
Mrs. Doris M. Wilson

**CLASS OF 1966 - \$29,496**

*Class Agents - Mr. James A. Gaither*

Mr. Samuel H. Reid  
Ms. Emma M. Barnes  
Dr. Venton Lee Bell  
Mr. Johnny R. Bowen  
Mr. James W. Brandon  
Dr. Samuel L. Cunningham  
Ms. Barbara J. Foster  
Mr. James A. Gaither  
Mrs. Lucille Garrick Gaither  
Ms. Annette P. Graham  
Ms. Marguerite D. Greene  
Mr. Norman T. Little  
Mr. Marion Herman Massey  
Ms. Shirley Mills-Harris  
Mr. James Ray  
Mrs. Carolyn C. Ray

Ms. Ida B. Reid  
Mr. Samuel H. Reid  
The Honorable Sandra Townes\*  
Mr. Chester R. Trower, Jr.  
Mrs. Brenda E. Twigg

**CLASS OF 1967 - \$21,473**

*Class Agent - Mr. James Lee Greene*

Mrs. Sarah E. Bellamy  
Mrs. Jeannie Frasier Bryant  
Mrs. Gayle B. Crawford  
Ms. Florence J. Day  
Dr. Ronald K. Gray  
Mr. Matthew J. Green  
Mr. James Lee Greene  
Mrs. Carole Coles Henley  
Mr. Larry G. Hunt  
Mrs. Melba D. Mobley  
Mrs. Gretta Moorhead  
Mrs. Carrie Smith Newman  
Mr. Troy C. Newman  
Ms. Claudia Nichols  
Mrs. Virginia W. Peterkin  
Mrs. Trudelle G. Stroman  
Ms. Vivian Reed Terry  
Mr. Michael Walker, DDS  
Ms. Margo Judge Watts  
Ms. Betty Jones White  
Ms. Betty Wilcox  
Ms. S. Marie Williams  
Mrs. Frances Wofford-Schley

**CLASS OF 1968 - \$90,455**

*Class Agent - Reverend Calvin Lewers*

Mrs. Ann Austin  
Mr. Guy Barnes  
Mr. Horace Donald Black  
Mrs. Carolyn Bridges-Graves  
Mr. Joel N. Brockman\*  
Ms. Rebecca Dortch Brown  
Mrs. Candace Bynum Currence  
Mr. Rhenn T. Darensburg  
Dr. Barbara Dawson Dilligard  
Mrs. Gayle M. Dixon  
Ms. Yolanda Ford  
Mr. Frank Franklin\*  
Mrs. Evelyn Gentry-Howie  
Mr. William Geter  
Mr. Jesse B. Goode, Jr.  
Mr. Edward T. Holloway  
Mrs. Barbara M. Howell  
Ms. Michele Evon Hutchinson  
Ms. Judy Dowell Ingram  
Mr. Johnny C. James, Sr.  
Ms. Vivian V. James

Ms. Gladys James  
Mr. Johnny J. Jenkins  
Ms. Deidre G. Johnson  
Mrs. Rosemary Lunn Lawrence  
Mrs. Lucy Dupree Lee  
Reverend Calvin Lewers  
Mrs. Fran Lewis-Steiner  
Reverend Tyler C. Millner  
Ms. Viola B. Myers-Williams  
Mr. Thomas Nizer  
Mr. Stewart T. Oatman  
Ms. Irvette Celeste Penn Cowan  
Ms. Gloria A. Pickett-McNeill  
Mrs. Betty Rivers  
Mr. Stephen J. Schley  
Mrs. Carolyn Y. Shortt  
Mrs. Queen Elizabeth Thompson  
Ms. Marilyn Gaither Thompson  
Mrs. Vernie Lee White  
Mrs. Willitta A. Whitted\*  
Ms. Patricia D. Williams  
Mr. Jackie L. Wilson

**CLASS OF 1969 - \$23,884**

*Class Agents - Mr. Calvin Banks*

*Mrs. Shirley Means Greene*

Dr. Stephen Kwasi Agyekum  
Mr. Calvin Banks  
Mr. Hubert I. Davis  
Ms. Jo Ella Cooper Ferrell  
Mrs. Veronica Seabrook Fountain  
Mrs. Dorothy G. Franklin  
Ms. C. Dianne Freeman  
Mrs. Daphne Jones Graves-Smith  
Mrs. Shirley Means Greene  
Mr. James F. Harris  
Mrs. Bertha Harris  
Mrs. Denise McDaniel Henderson  
Mr. James Truman Humbert  
Mrs. Carolyn Blount Johnson  
Mr. Raymond Johnson  
Mrs. Saundra Ross Johnson  
Mrs. Sallie Boulter Johnson  
Mrs. Vivian Wallace Mathewson  
Ms. Portia E. McCollum  
Mr. James I. Melvin  
Mr. William Earl Minor  
Ms. Daisy Oatman  
Mrs. Patricia Patterson Owens  
Mrs. Carolyn Y. Reese  
Mr. Derrick B. Reese, Sr.  
Ms. Helen Beatrice Reynolds  
Mr. Robert G. Seabrooks  
Mr. Fred L. Tatum  
Dr. Julie Brown Williams



Ms. Yvonne Glymph Williams  
Mrs. Sandra T. B. Williamson  
Mr. Otto Wingate

**CLASS OF 1970 - \$18,805**

*Class Agent - Ms. Gloria Jean Tiller*  
Captain Parks G. Adams  
Dr. Theodore Allen  
Mrs. Deborah Marioneaux Allen  
Mrs. Carole A. Bell  
Mrs. Florence Bennett-Jiles  
Reverend Dr. Arthur William Canada  
Mr. Mack Daniel Canady, Jr.  
Mr. William Dusenbery  
Dr. James Benjamin Ewers, Jr.  
Mrs. Juanita D. Floyd  
Dr. John E. Floyd  
Ms. Clara McMillan Foster  
Mrs. Anna Martina Froneberger  
Reverend Dr. Lloyd Green, Jr.  
Mrs. Bessie Meeks Green  
Mrs. Barbara Guess  
Mrs. Jacquelyn C. Hammond  
Mr. Gregory Jenkins  
Ms. Comatha Boyette Johnson  
Mrs. Juanita Reid Jordan  
Mr. Albert L. Jordan  
Mrs. Nellie Dunn Kennedy  
Ms. Verta Witherspoon Looper  
Ms. Ollie Mae Mack  
Mrs. Tommye M McMillian  
Reverend Mack L. McRae  
Mrs. Carrie R. Murray  
Reverend Dr. Lonnie Jones Oliver  
Dr. Melvin T. Pinn, Jr.  
Mr. Johnny C. Pridgen, Jr.  
Mr. Delano R. Rackard  
Mr. Charles Thomas Robinson  
Mrs. Sandra Simmons  
Mrs. Cheryl Oglesby Sullivan  
Ms. Gloria Jean Tiller  
Mrs. Jo Ann Townsend  
Ms. Forestine D. Vaughn  
Ms. Janice Carolyn Vaughn-Johnson  
Mr. Elijah Washington  
Mr. Edward G. West  
Mr. Thomas Williams  
Mrs. Theodosia C. Williams  
Ms. Juanita Yates

**CLASS OF 1971 - \$25,220**

*Class Agents - Mr. Thomas E. Baldwin*  
*Dr. James Phillip Jeter*  
Mr. Thomas E. Baldwin  
Mr. Timothy C. Beamer

Mr. Daniel Boulbrick  
Dr. Curtis W. Branch  
Mr. Frento M. Burton, Jr.  
Mr. John W. Costner  
Dr. Harold S. Dawkins  
Ms. Betty L. Dawson  
Mrs. Anita Garcia  
Mrs. Priscilla Green-Davis  
Mr. Charles Harvey  
Mrs. Elease Jackson Holmes  
Mr. Charles Howard  
Mr. Lewis J. Isaac  
Mr. Charles N. Jackson  
Mrs. Jacquelyn M. Jenkins  
Mr. Willie C. Martin  
Mrs. Emma Y. Martin-Goodman  
Ms. Ivy A. Metz  
Mr. Nolan L. Nolley  
Dr. Warner L. Pinchback  
Ms. Julia Rose Shepherd  
Reverend James E. Simmons  
Mrs. Kaffie H. Sledge  
Ms. Lolita Sherard Turner  
Mrs. Phyllis P. Wade  
Mrs. Alberta Wilson-Anthony

**CLASS OF 1972 - \$24,867**

*Class Agents - Mr. William H. Gunn*  
*Mr. Matthew H. Holland*  
Dr. John J. Brown  
Ms. Iris B. Brownlee  
Mr. William Coles  
Ms. Gloria Alston Davis  
Dr. Bobby G. Dawkins  
Trustee Parran L. Foster III  
Mrs. Patricia C. Foster  
Mr. William H. Gunn  
Mr. Malloy T. Harris, Jr.  
Mrs. Gerald E. Hatcher  
Mr. Matthew H. Holland  
Mrs. Carlenia G. Ivory  
Mr. Peter S. Jones III  
Dr. Edward L. Jones  
Mr. Thomas Latimer  
Dr. Michael L. Lindsey  
Mr. Robert N. Logan, Jr.  
Mr. Jeffrey Marshall  
Mrs. Lillian Everson McRae  
Mr. Ronald L. Nelson  
Ms. Patricia N. Robinson  
Mrs. Gwendolyn Smith  
Mrs. Kutricia Hubbard Spann  
Ms. Georgia E. Thomas  
Ms. Gwendolyn Olivia Whitsell

**CLASS OF 1973 - \$19,170**

*Class Agents - Mrs. Cassandra Reynolds Jordan*  
*Ms. Dorothy A. Prioleau*  
Ms. Beverly Mitchell Atkinson  
Mrs. Willa Martin Bailey  
Mr. Donald Beamer  
Mr. James Bishop  
Mr. Ozzie L. Black  
Mrs. Joyce Pressley Blakeney  
Mrs. Debora S. Blakney  
Ms. Claudean Cooper  
Mr. Charles J. Cutler  
Ms. Daisy L. Davis  
Ms. Charlotte Edwards  
Mrs. Margaret A. Faust  
Reverend Patricia Coley Ford  
Ms. Wanda B. Foy-Burroughs  
Ms. Sharon Gilbert  
Mr. Solomon Hilliard, Jr.  
Mrs. Metter C. Hodges  
Ms. Ophelia Howard  
Ms. Angelia M. Jenkins  
The Honorable Philemina M. Jones  
Mr. Edward Richard Jordan, Jr.  
Mrs. Cassandra Reynolds Jordan  
Mr. Stephen W. Joyner, Sr.  
Ms. Gayle Smith Logan  
Mrs. Jennifer Simmons McDowell  
Ms. Genova McFadden  
Mrs. Yolanda B. McGraw  
Ms. Linda M. Newkirk  
Mrs. Jeanette McLean Praylor  
Ms. Dorothy A. Prioleau  
Mr. Clayton S. Reid  
Reverend Mark R. Royster, Sr.  
Mr. Mickel Singleton  
Mr. Ozie Smith  
Mr. Todd Smith  
Ms. Janet L. Springs  
Mr. Roddy P. Starr  
Mrs. Brenda Shepard Tyrance  
Mrs. Lovieree L. Warren  
Mrs. DeLois Walker Washington  
Ms. Vicki Gilchrist Weathers  
Ms. Sidonie Raglin Webber  
Ms. Faye Wright  
Ms. Harriet W. Wyatt

**CLASS OF 1974 - \$13,855**

*Class Agents - Dr. Lucinda Bowen Blue*  
*Dr. Rhonda O. Covington*  
Dr. Lucinda Bowen Blue  
Dr. Rhonda O. Covington  
Ms. Darlene Earle

Mr. Kenny H. Faulkner  
Reverend Charles Douglas Keeling  
Mrs. Dorothy Baldwin Latimer  
Ms. Constance Lesesne  
Ms. Glenda L. Pyant  
Ms. Blenda D. Younger

**CLASS OF 1975 - \$20,243**

*Class Agents - Trustee Christy Shelton Bryant*  
*Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins*  
Ms. Geraldine Dawson  
Ms. Brenda K. Allison  
Ms. Brenda P. Ballard  
Mrs. Pamela Fuller Brown  
Trustee Christy Shelton Bryant  
Ms. Kathy Carter\*  
Mr. Luther Carter, Jr.  
Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins  
Ms. Geraldine Dawson  
Ms. Carolyn McClain Ellis  
Mr. Mallory D. Felder  
Mrs. Barbara McFarlan Gillespie  
Mr. Claude Green  
Mrs. Mildred G. Hudson  
Mrs. Cheryl Keno Muhammad  
Mr. Alton P. Myers  
Ms. Billie D. Nichols  
Mr. Ronald Thomas  
Mr. Anthony K. Tolbert  
Mr. Gregory L. Woods

**CLASS OF 1976 - \$4,740**

*Class Agents - Ms. Jacqueline Glover*  
*Ms. Shelia D. Harvey*  
Ms. Joyce Ryals Bynum  
Mr. Jerry Clark  
Reverend James R. Covington, Jr.  
Ms. Donnell Crowder  
Mr. Wallace H Davis  
Ms. Barbara Jean Fuller  
Mrs. Ann Gupton-Jones  
Reverend James W. Hallums  
Ms. Gisele V. Hamilton  
Ms. Shelia D. Harvey  
Ms. Angela R. Jacobs  
Mr. Barry T. Johnson  
Mr. Steffen C. Knight  
Mrs. Diane Wilson Proctor  
Mr. Harold Talley  
Ms. Robbie J. Thompson  
Mrs. Gail W. Tolbert  
Ms. Deborah A. Wadsworth  
Ms. Agnes Whittle

**CLASS OF 1977 - \$32,626**

*Class Agent - Mr. Johnny L. Headen*  
Mr. Marvin E. Adams  
Mrs. Sadie Mae Allen-Haney  
Mr. Hyde Anderson  
Mrs. Donna Atkinson-Travis  
Mr. Wayne V. Banks  
Mr. Frederick Van Douglas Barnes  
Dr. Priscilla L. Batten  
Mrs. Vivian B. Beamer  
Dr. Angela B. Bell  
Ms. Maxine T. Benjamin  
Mr. Ronald Benjamin  
Mrs. Carlise Joyner Blakey  
Mr. Gerald M. Blakey  
Mr. Leonard E. Bodrick  
Ms. Fontella Boone  
Ms. Shermane Bowden  
Reverend Phillip C. Brickle, Jr.  
Trustee Sheila Renee Brown  
Mrs. Cheryl L. Bursh  
Mrs. Dawn Carter  
Ms. Marie Carter-Calvin  
Mr. Albert Tim Catlett  
Mr. Earl A. Clipper  
Ms. Deltha J. Cousar-Jeffries  
Mrs. Sharon Tucker Daniel  
Mrs. Deotis J. Bragg Davis  
Reverend Frederick A. Davis  
Ms. Loretta E. Dawkins  
Mr. James Lawrence Drake, Jr.  
Mr. Bill Drake  
Mrs. Jacqueline Denise Duke  
Mr. Leslie J. Egleston  
Ms. Constance G. Fisher-Mallory  
Ms. LaFrieda Flack  
Mr. Drucilla Fogle  
Mr. Lewis Frederick  
Ms. Mary N. Funderburk  
Mr. Lloyd Beaver Gibson  
Mrs. Jacqueline C. Green  
Mrs. Sandra Nance Grier  
Mr. George Griffin  
Mrs. Sadie Haney-Morgan  
Mr. Timothy Harkness  
Ms. Carolyn Hawkins  
Mr. Johnny L. Headen  
Mrs. Gwendolyn A. Henderson Gethers  
Dr. Delores Hicklin-Lee  
Ms. Joni Mills Hicks  
Ms. Helen Hinton  
Mr. Stevenson Hogan  
Mrs. Geraldine B. Hogan  
Mrs. Bernice Lewers Irby  
Mr. James Robert Jackson

Mr. Gerald Leon Jackson  
Ms. Melinda L. Johnson  
Mr. Tyree Johnson  
Mr. Gerald L. Johnson  
Mr. Warren D. Jones  
Mrs. Juanita Jones-Hall  
Ms. Amanda Kealon  
Mrs. Emma H. Kurtz  
Mrs. Deborah W. Lanier  
Mrs. Catherine Laster-Cook  
Reverend Warren J. Lesane, Jr.  
Ms. Latrecia D. Lester  
Mr. Clarence E. Lewers  
Mr. Alphonso Lide  
Mr. Wallace E. Loggins  
Mr. Larry V. Mackins  
Dr. Vincent D. Mallory  
Ms. Antonia Martin  
Mr. Larry F. Matkins  
Ms. Marie Worsley Matthews  
Mrs. Catherine McCoy  
Mr. Timothy McCoy  
Mrs. Jeannie L. McLucas-McCree  
Ms. Theresa Y. Morris-Brown  
Mrs. Cheryl Legette Myrick  
Mr. Bill Parrott III  
Mrs. Germaine Patterson-Smith  
Mrs. Treva G. Pettis  
Ms. Essie Wallace Pierce  
Ms. Brenda Pridgen  
Progressive Business Solutions  
Ms. Phyllis Watkins Ratliffe  
Mr. Edward Earl Richardson  
Mr. Phil Richardson  
Dr. Leon Rodgers, Jr.  
Ms. Mamie Rogers  
Mr. Andrew Rogers III  
Ms. Verida Arnell Sarratt  
Mrs. Vonshier V. Simpson  
Ms. Brenda Henderson Spraggins  
Mrs. Pansy P. Steele  
Mr. John K. Stokes  
Ms. Pinkey Ann Sullivan-Vernon  
Ms. T. Diane Phillips Surgeon  
Mrs. Blanche E. Talley  
Mrs. Gwendolyn P. Thigpen  
Ms. Peggy Timberlake  
Mr. Michael A. Travis  
Mrs. Marilyn M. Watkins  
Ms. Muriel Weatherspoon  
Ms. Gayle Williams  
Ms. Edith Worsham  
Reverend Johnnie Lee Wright  
Ms. Darlene Wright



**CLASS OF 1978 - \$12,286***Class Agents - Mrs. Shelia Bethune Petty**Mrs. Annette Graddick Wright*

Mr. Armenous Adams  
 Mr. James Allen  
 Ms. Michelle Andrews  
 Ms. Carolyn D. Austin  
 Mr. Johnny L. Bailey, Jr.  
 Ms. Betty Wilson Baker  
 Mrs. Delores Ferrell Brown  
 Mr. Tommy Brown  
 Mr. Marconi Buchanan  
 Ms. Pamela Burton-Steele  
 Dr. Denton Carter, Sr.  
 Mr. Marquis Cauthen  
 Mrs. Miriam Butts Choice  
 Mrs. Sharron McKnight Clipper  
 Dr. Valencia P. Covington  
 Ms. Runita Daviston-James  
 Mr. John E. Dixon, Jr.  
 Mr. Charles Dupree  
 Mrs. Georgette M. Edgerton  
 Ms. Adrienne C. France  
 Ms. Barbara Randolph Frederick  
 Mr. Micheal W. Giles  
 Mr. Duane L. Griffith  
 Mr. Chet Lee Grimsley  
 Mr. Wyatt E. Grove  
 Mrs. Chrislyn P. Hallums  
 Mr. Curtis Hallums  
 Mrs. Catherine Harrington  
 Mr. William Hart III  
 Mr. Reginald S. Hayes  
 Ms. Leola Hill  
 Mr. Lonnie W. Hutchinson  
 Mr. Wallace B. Hyman  
 Ms. Gloria M. James  
 Mr. Randy Lee  
 Mrs. Gloria B. Locke  
 Mrs. Sandra Lutz  
 Mrs. Joan F. Manns  
 Mr. Ron L. Matthews  
 Ms. Dorothy A. Mayo  
 Ms. Jacqueline McCall  
 Mr. Michael A. McClinton  
 Dr. DeLores McGhee-Jones  
 Mr. Willie McMahan, Jr.  
 Mrs. Rita Wray Miller  
 Ms. Kathy L. Mitchell  
 Mrs. Sharon Thompson Moorer  
 Ms. Debbie Morant  
 Mrs. Cathy Murray  
 Mr. Kevin Michael Paige, Sr.  
 Mrs. Susie H. Parrott  
 Mr. Kimmie Patterson

Mr. Michael Peoples  
 Mrs. Shelia Bethune Petty  
 Mr. Dwight Pinson  
 Ms. Gail Deavers Reed  
 Mr. Orrin K. Reeder  
 Ms. Carolyn Robinson  
 Mr. Terry N. Robinson  
 Mr. Mickel L. Roseborough  
 Mr. Kelvin L. Rumph  
 Mr. Addison Shepard  
 Mrs. Nedra Burns Snow  
 Lieutenant Colonel Reginald E. Spivey  
 Ms. Julia M. Spraggins  
 Mrs. Nora Ramseur Steed  
 Ms. Charlene L. Strong  
 Mr. Robert Terry  
 Mr. James Vanderhall  
 Ms. Lynne Walker  
 Mrs. Yvonne Edwards Washington  
 Ms. Margaret E. Watkins  
 Mr. Kenneth Whitmire  
 Mr. Alvin B. Wideman  
 Mr. Lee Mac Williams  
 Mrs. Annette Graddick Wright

**CLASS OF 1979 - \$6,685***Class Agent - Mrs. Peggy McCloud Lide*

Trustee Steven L. Boyd  
 Mrs. Siclinda Canty-Elliott  
 Mr. Erwin Blair Costner  
 Ms. Shallary F. Simmons Duncan  
 Mr. Tommi Garris  
 Mrs. Joyce Gottlieb  
 Ms. Anita Barber Ingram  
 Mr. Larry Darnell Kelly  
 Mrs. Peggy McCloud Lide  
 Mr. Jason Lowe  
 Ms. Debra E. Massey  
 Ms. Rose M. Memminger  
 Ms. Rita Ann Mickey  
 Mr. Kenneth Myers  
 Ms. Cynthia Peters  
 Ms. Heather F. Philpott  
 Mr. Roy J. Rivers  
 Mrs. Helen Turner  
 Ms. Valerie R. Wade  
 Mr. Nathan R. Walker

**CLASS OF 1980 - \$1,051***Class Agents - Mrs. Maxie C. McRae*

*Mrs. Cynthia McAfee Smith*  
 Ms. Karen E. Watson  
 Mr. Ronnie J. Armstrong  
 Mr. David Gottlieb  
 Dr. Phillip Michael Green

Mr. William T. Harper  
 Mr. Anthony C. Hayes  
 Ms. Carol D. Jones  
 Mr. Tony E. Legette  
 Mrs. Maxie C. McRae  
 Mr. Alfred Owens  
 Mr. Donald Quarles  
 Ms. Michelle R. Thompson  
 Ms. Karen E. Watson  
 Mrs. Cynthia Zorn-Pettigrew

**CLASS OF 1981 - \$3,190***Class Agent - Mr. Dennis K. Branch*

Mr. Dennis K. Branch  
 Ms. Andrea Clayton  
 Mr. Jeffery Coan, Sr.  
 Mrs. Blessyng Mychele Conway  
 Ms. Lisa L. Durmo  
 Ms. Sylbria Brown Graves  
 Reverend Kevin C. Ingram  
 Mrs. Barbara Jean Massey-Arnold  
 Mr. Garry Leonard McFadden  
 Mr. Dwight S. Miller  
 Mr. Robert A. Owens  
 Ms. Janice Squirewell Paige  
 Ms. Anderia Denise Sowell  
 Ms. Fernanda G. Tate-Owens  
 Ms. Linda Tucker  
 Mr. Keva and Mrs. Juanita Walton  
 Mrs. Betty Montgomery Williams

**CLASS OF 1982 - \$5,335***Class Agent - Ms. Stephanie M. McLeod*

Mr. William Greg Bowen  
 Mrs. Jewel Y. Coan  
 Ms. Katherine J. Curtis-Fleming  
 Ms. Joanne Marie Donaldson  
 Mr. Theol A. Fleming  
 Mrs. Cheryl Tripp Gill  
 Mr. Johnnie C. Goodlett  
 Mr. Johnny Hall  
 Ms. Brenda J. Hammond  
 Reverend Richard C. Harkness  
 Dr. James H. Harris  
 Ms. Andrea Rochelle Johnson  
 Ms. Teresa A. Kale  
 Mrs. Iantha Maness  
 Mrs. Gail McFadden-Roberts  
 Ms. Stephanie M. McLeod  
 Ms. Bleu Oliver  
 Mr. Reginald Pincham  
 Mr. William Lee Roberts  
 Mrs. Yvette H. Smith  
 Mrs. Carolyn Burns Speller  
 Mrs. Natalie Stockton Johnson

Mrs. Phyllis T. Thibodeaux  
Mrs. Kathy Thomas McFadden  
Ms. Pamela Tinson

**CLASS OF 1983 - \$5,748**

*Class Agents - Mrs. Leanna M. Rogers  
Mrs. Deborah Byrd White*

Ms. Winifred Battle-Cozart  
Mr. Kwame N. Bing  
Ms. Veverly Blassingame  
Mr. Darryl A. Broome  
Ms. Pamela Y. Brown  
Mr. William Davis Butts  
Dr. Linda Callahan  
Ms. Cathy Carter  
Mr. Dwayne K. Chambers  
Mrs. Tracey Childs-Motley  
Mrs. Patricia C. Dean  
Ms. Juanzia Sabrina Dewalt  
Ms. Ordella Dunn  
Ms. Lisa B. Fewell  
Mrs. Sherry Ford-Ellis  
Mrs. Valencia Jones High  
Dr. John D. Jones  
Mr. Raymond Knox, Jr.  
Mrs. Charylene Anita Laster  
Mrs. Anita McAfee Lee  
Ms. Helen D. Lindsey  
Mrs. Deidre Lyles-Williams  
Ms. Nancy E. Mark  
Mrs. Brenda L. McMurray  
Mrs. Rosalyn Merriweather  
Mr. Charles E. Merriweather  
Mr. Cary C. Mitchell  
Mr. Carl E. Muldrow  
Mr. Francis L. Pendergrass  
Mrs. Phyllis A. Pope  
Mrs. Leanna M. Rogers  
Ms. Robin Lyn Simmons Blackwell  
Mrs. Marilyn Wallace  
Ms. Phyllis Anita Washington  
Mrs. Deborah Byrd White  
Mr. Reginald M. Wilson  
Ms. Lillie King Wyman

**CLASS OF 1984 - \$2,063**

*Class Agents - Ms. Elizabeth Anthony  
Mrs. Jane E. Wallace-Black*  
Mr. Timothy L. Alston, Jr.  
Ms. Elizabeth Anthony  
Dr. Detra Henry Brooks  
Mr. Stephone Darby  
Mrs. Cheryl McCullough Davis  
Mr. Michael Maxwell  
Mr. James Everett Morrison, Jr.

Ms. Kim Celeste Peterson  
Ms. Gina L. Sammons  
Mr. Clyde Ashley Sherman  
Ms. Phyllis Throckmorton  
Mr. Ricky G. Wade  
Mr. Herbert L. White, Jr.

**CLASS OF 1985 - \$3,810**

*Class Agents - Ms. Deborah A. Hayes*

*Mrs. Felicia C. Morgan*  
Mrs. Kimberley Dawson Munn  
Mr. Anthony M. Bright  
Mr. Walter A. McAllister  
Ms. Unithia Banks McGruder  
Mrs. Felicia C. Morgan  
Mrs. Cynthia A. Murray  
Mrs. Sherri Jackson Paysour  
Mr. James Erwin Saunders II  
Mr. Darrel J. Wesley  
Ms. Veronica Williams-Mosley

**CLASS OF 1986 - \$905**

*Class Agent - Ms. Deedra O. Wright*

Ms. Ella Mae Hairston  
Mrs. Dellene Williams Maybin  
Ms. Deedra O. Wright

**CLASS OF 1987 - \$1,405**

*Class Agent - Mr. Craig A. Bell*

Mr. Billy M. Banks  
Dr. Walter J. Hill  
Mrs. Miriam T. Jordan  
Ms. LaShun Lawson  
Ms. Kathryn McKenzie-Zeigler  
Ms. Selita Cross Weathers

**CLASS OF 1988 - \$54,094**

*Class Agent - Mr. Kenneth Griffin*  
Mrs. Demetrice Andrews Griffin  
Mrs. Deborah Easterling Baldwin  
Dr. Octavia M. Cannon  
Ms. Tiffany Eastman  
Mr. James Ely III  
Mrs. Kim McLean Graham  
Mr. Kenneth Griffin  
Mr. Irvin W. Jackson  
Ms. Rosanna Bernice Johnson  
Mr. Douglas G. Jones  
Ms. Bridget Lightner  
Mr. David Moncree  
Mr. Ned Sergew

**CLASS OF 1989 - \$1,997**

*Class Agent - Mr. Gregg P. Hankins*  
Colonel Morris L. Bodrick  
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Mr. Martin L. Cox  
Mrs. Lynnette Helene Harris-Scott  
Mrs. Gwenarda Medley Isley  
Mrs. Jamela Middleton Wintons

**CLASS OF 1990 - \$2,295**

*Class Agents - Ms. Velda G. Fludd*

*Mrs. Wanda Holloway Jones*  
Ms. Iris G. Blackshire  
Ms. Felice Hightower Britt  
Mr. Tracy Chamblee  
Mr. Sebastian Nigel Farmer  
Mr. Hugh D. Scott  
Dr. Jimmie H. Smith, Jr.

**CLASS OF 1991 - \$2,291**

*Class Agents - Mrs. Malacy*

*Taylor-Williams*  
Ms. Patricia Wilson  
Mr. Marvin M. Maynor  
Mr. John M. Norris, Jr.  
Ms. Monika Rhue  
Ms. Thelma K. Thompson  
Mr. David K. Washington  
Ms. Patricia Wilson

**CLASS OF 1992 - \$12,804**

*Class Agents - Reverend Adrian Harper*

*Ms. Nina La Dawn Newton*  
Mrs. Demetria Michele  
Alexander-Grissett  
Dr. Joy M. Barnes-Johnson  
Mr. Edwin O. Benjamin  
Ms. Latrena Bynum  
Ms. Kathryn L. Goins  
Reverend Adrian Harper  
Mr. Charlton J. Harris  
Mr. Benjamin C. Heatley  
Mr. Shedrick D. Kirkpatrick  
Ms. Chrystal Kyler  
Ms. Tonya Willis Lockhart  
Ms. Angel Manago  
Ms. Janea D. Matchett  
Ms. Severa McCollum  
Ms. Nina La Dawn Newton  
Mr. Randy Lamont Noel  
Mr. Mwami Pecou  
Ms. Jeannette Robinson  
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**CLASS OF 1993 - \$5,010**

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*Ms. Kia Hilton*  
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 Mrs. Rhonda Able-Foster  
 Mrs. Darlene Simmons Boles  
 Mr. James Brantley  
 Mrs. Hope Brown  
 Ms. Latissa Simmons Brown  
 Mr. Aaron Cheeks  
 Ms. Sonja Greene Chicot  
 Mrs. Adrienne Chisolm-Cox  
 Mr. Carl H. Christian  
 Mr. Julian Coaxum  
 Ms. Sonia C. Glover  
 Mrs. Barbara D. Grant-Kelly  
 Ms. Stephanie R. Hills  
 Ms. Kia Hilton  
 Mrs. Kimberly F. Ifill  
 Ms. Raquel S. Jackson  
 Ms. Juana Renee Jordan  
 Ms. Angela Theresa Kinloch  
 Mrs. Vereatta A. Lowe  
 Ms. Lisa Renee Miller  
 Mr. LaMonte Richardson  
 Mrs. Tara Foster Robinson  
 Dr. Pamela L. Taylor  
 Mrs. Eraina Briggs Tinnin  
 Ms. Jennifer Snow Webster  
 Ms. Nannie Priscilla Willingham

**CLASS OF 1994 - \$3,433**

*Class Agent - Ms. Tifferney Michelle White*  
 Mrs. Tonya Mack Aiken  
 Mr. Ernest Aiken II  
 Mrs. Kimberly Watkins Baker  
 Mr. William Bullock  
 Ms. Catherine Council  
 Ms. Spamveta Edwards  
 Ms. Jennifer Robinson  
 Mr. Keenan J. Smith

**CLASS OF 1995 - \$2,202**

*Class Agents - Ms. Jeannine*  
*Frances Hunter*  
*Dr. Brian L. Johnson*  
 Ms. Rasheda L. McMullin  
 Ms. Jeannine Frances Hunter  
 Mr. Robert Johnson  
 Mr. Chad Dion Lassiter  
 Trustee Damian Johnson  
 Mrs. Cynthia D. Richardson  
 Ms. Regina Smith

**CLASS OF 1996 - \$2,389**

*Class Agent - Ms. Tonya L. Johnson*  
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**CLASS OF 1998 - \$1,714**

*Class Agent - Ms. Petrina M. Smith*  
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**CLASS OF 1999 - \$5,505**

*Class Agent - Ms. Rashida Lawrence*  
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 Mr. Travis Smith

Mr. Glenston Thom  
 Mr. William S. P. Watkins  
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*Class Agents - Mr. Derrick Dillard*  
*Mr. Herman Brian Gloster*  
 Ms. Steftia Antoine  
 Mr. Derrick Dillard  
 Mr. Antonio Henry  
 Dr. Kristene Brathwaite Kelly  
 Ms. Lauakia Richburg  
 Ms. Shamika Scott Morris

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 Mr. James Curry  
 Ms. Anitra Goshea  
 Mr. Omari Greene  
 Mr. Stephen W. Joyner, Jr.

**CLASS OF 2002 - \$1,275**

*Class Agents - Mrs. Unique N. Morris*  
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 Captain Karl Butler, Sr.  
 Mr. Eric B. Jackson  
 Ms. Talathia S. Joyner  
 Ms. Kimberley A. Knight  
 Mrs. Unique N. Morris  
 Ms. Markeshia N. Ricks  
 Mrs. Shayla Jackson Ward

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*Class Agent - Ms. Kristin E. Hicks*  
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 Ms. Michele D. Clark  
 Ms. Gwendolyn Eaton  
 Ms. Kristin E. Hicks  
 Ms. Cayce Ivey  
 Ms. Voneisa McBride  
 Ms. Sharifa McKerson Morris  
 Ms. Lauren Marion Scott

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 Ms. Lynette R. Collier  
 Mrs. Jessica Gay  
 Mr. Larry Holmes  
 Ms. Chalita Nicole Jackson  
 Ms. Kerri C.L. McCullough

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Ms. Ivori A. Smith  
Ms. Jessica Nichelle Williams  
Mr. Quincy Youmans

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*Class Agent - Mr. Alexis Bibbs*  
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Mr. Christopher Blackshear  
Mr. Steven Copelin  
Mr. Terrence Daniels  
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Ms. Tiffany Gill  
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Ms. Barbara J. Hamilton  
Ms. Farah Lauture  
Ms. Danielle Newsome  
Ms. Donna Marie Paul  
Mr. Anthony D. Tindall  
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**CLASS OF 2006 - \$1,224**

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Mr. William Utley*  
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Mr. LeVar Terrell Crooms  
Mr. Kory Davis  
Mrs. Rhonda Lynn Dorsey-Prude  
Ms. Dakeela M. Dunlap  
Ms. Jimmia Hart  
Mr. John Holmes III  
Mr. Antoine Jackson  
Ms. Tiffany R. Minter  
Mr. William Utley

**CLASS OF 2007 - \$363**

*Class Agents - Dr. Daryl D. Jackson  
Ms. Aisha Nicole Lide*  
Mr. Floyd Bates  
Mr. Matthew Becoate  
Mr. Travis Burgin  
Mr. Jarrett Clipper  
Mr. Tariq Evans  
Ms. Aisha Nicole Lide  
Ms. Shammara Martin  
Ms. Melissa McClairen  
Ms. Sheena Lynn McFadden  
Mr. David Eugene Neal  
Ms. Erica Rambus  
Mr. Brian Reed  
Ms. Lakira Brown Santos  
Ms. Mariah Janette Smith

**CLASS OF 2008 - \$622**

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Mr. Tony Antwaun White*  
Mr. Aljamon Davis Alexander  
Mr. Efrem Jerome Baker  
Mr. Curtis Clifford Cain  
Mrs. Asisa Chanel Chiles-Dickerson  
Ms. Shana Johnell Collins  
Ms. Zena E Conway  
Mr. Ibn G. Dinkins  
Mr. Michael McClelland Dodson  
Mr. Gregory Armond Gatewood  
Ms. Shakara Nikita Hinds  
Ms. Stefanie LaTrice Holloway  
Ms. Allona Jo'van Hutchinson  
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Mr. Darren Jerome Ramsey  
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Mr. Tony Antwaun White

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Mr. Brandon Christopher Benjamin  
Ms. Sarah Helen Caldwell  
Ms. Angelica Denise Clark  
Mr. Reginald Vance Cooper  
Ms. Trenita Craig  
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Mr. Mark A. Gibson  
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Ms. Laurie Jenene Kemp  
Ms. Kelly Malloy  
Ms. Michella Marie Palmer  
Ms. Ashley Nichole Hughes Ross  
Mr. Michael Brandon Sainte  
Ms. Ashley Patrice Smith  
Ms. Ashley Nicole Taylor  
Mr. Christian Donvall Wallace  
Ms. Brittany Nicole Wiggins  
Mr. Jonathan Clifford Young

**CLASS OF 2010 - \$460**

*Class Agents - Ms. Octoria  
Bonet Ridenhour*  
Ms. Ariel Danyette Watts  
Ms. Ashlynn S. Boler  
Mr. Justin Louis Burch  
Mr. Darius M. Burgess  
Ms. Valeria Passion Carmichael  
Ms. Rashonda L. Davis  
Ms. Marian Callinia Drayton  
Ms. Jaikia Rachele Fair  
Ms. Danielle Maxine Ferguson  
Ms. Ahdiya Naajah Hart  
Ms. Dominique Armeda Jones  
Mr. Antonio Martin Kenyatto Lawrence  
Ms. Alyssa Michelle Leonard  
Ms. China Shadae McRae  
Ms. Anjelecia Danillie Meadows  
Mr. Allen Adam Owens, Jr.  
Ms. Asia Pleasants-Shannon  
Mr. Julien Donald Polk  
Ms. Rannidi R. Reed  
Ms. Octoria Bonet Ridenhour  
Mr. Matthew Alexander Robertson  
Ms. Alexandria Marie Sullivan  
Ms. Avis Jayne' Thompson  
Mr. John Andre' Tolbert  
Mr. Kenneth Tyrell Washington  
Ms. Morrigan J. Williams

**CLASS OF 2011 - \$84**

*Class Agents - Ms. Gernae Adele Chase  
Ms. Erica N. Hilton*  
Ms. Holisha Alexander  
Ms. Zubida Omer Bakheit  
Ms. Gernae Adele Chase  
Mr. Ryan Spencer Cotterell  
Miss Jasmine Bianca Davis  
Ms. Beverly Elam  
Ms. Cassie Grice  
Ms. Maya Jamelia Hicks  
Ms. Jasmine Nicole Hill  
Ms. Erica N Hilton  
Ms. Christina Roselia Hyppolite  
Ms. Nicole Elaine Jenkins  
Ms. Sapphira Emmanuelle Martin  
Mr. Andrew S. Milden  
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Ms. Davika J. Simmons  
Mr. Ernest Eugene Simms III  
Ms. Ellecia Nicole Sims  
Ms. Quadasia Nefertiti Walker-Moss  
Ms. Raisa Louise White  
Mr. Robin Dion Williamson

**CLASS OF 2012 - \$1,116**

*Class Agents - Ms. Sabrina Davis*  
Ms. Christina O. Onunu  
Ms. Trajana C. Wright  
Ms. Jockuela J Ballard  
Ms. Lynette Bradford  
Ms. Brittany Renee Bratcher  
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Mr. Cardell K. Smith  
Ms. Dymond Spain  
Ms. Jennifer M. Williams  
Ms. Sequoia J. Young

**CLASS OF 2013 - \$366**

*Class Agents - Ms. Janelle M. Clarke*  
Ms. Nikefa Karima Salter  
Ms. Chantal Aponte  
Mr. Clement Ray Bowman II  
Ms. Kianna Culver  
Ms. Kristin A. Edwards  
Ms. Desiree S Forbes  
Ms. Regjinique F. Harris  
Ms. Alicia F Hokett  
Ms. Erica Camille Logan  
Ms. Crystal Mansel  
Ms. Janelle S Martin  
Ms. Janae McCants  
Ms. Tazekqua Manquavia McIntyre  
Mr. Malcolm Passley  
Ms. Jasmine S Pruden  
Ms. Candiance Elaine Riddick  
Ms. Portia S Rouse  
Mr. Ishmial Ibn Samad  
Ms. Faith Angeleik Shore  
Ms. Brionna Spells  
Ms. Chassidy Alize` White

**CLASS OF 2014 - \$509**

*Class Agents - Ms. Pamela Bailey*  
Ms. Kanetra LaChelle Jamison  
Ms. Pamela Bailey  
Mr. Michael D. Bailey  
Ms. Alexis Renee Brockington  
Ms. Lauren Bianca Carodine  
Mr. Joshua Chasse  
Ms. Janaye Rebbecca Cofield  
Ms. Kneisha Renae Gabriel  
Ms. Seiko Chanel Havis  
Ms. Kanetra LaChelle Jamison  
Mr. Quintin Jernigan II  
Mr. Jonathan Lamar Kelly  
Ms. Karitsa N. Kerns  
Mr. Christopher Deion Kohn  
Ms. Keiana Y. Love  
Ms. Shaun Nicole Miller  
Ms. Jenne Ashyia Norris  
Ms. Bowanna T Pharr  
Mr. Aristides C. Ramos  
Mr. Barry Charston Smith  
Mr. Justin Daniel Smith  
Ms. Shakya Monet Taylor  
Miss Angelique Simonne Willis

**CLASS OF 2015 - \$593**

*Class Agent - Ms. Nora L. Williams Bittle*  
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Ms. Wantese Laveina Bratcher  
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Ms. Jahyra Caprise Catala  
Ms. Charlene Montas  
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Ms. Orianna Paige Thomas  
Ms. Stephanie Michelle White  
Ms. Angeline Marie Woods

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Ms. Nashawn Latressa Davis  
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Ms. Vanessa J. Fanis  
Ms. Ariana Kamilah Foster  
Mrs. Natasha Renee Grant Dean  
Mr. Austin Michael Jacques  
Mr. Jason James  
Mr. Kelvin L. Jamison  
Mrs. Theresa Wilhelmena  
McCormick-Dunlap

Ms. Jasmine Victoria Riddick  
Ms. Alexys Brionna Scott  
Mr. Isreal Devon Spencer  
Ms. Kiana Desiree Thomas  
Mr. Christopher Lamont Waller, Jr.  
Ms. Kamauri Daijah Whitmore

**CLASS OF 2017 - \$160**

*Class Agent - Office of Alumni Affairs*  
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Ms. Shaquese A. Bradley  
Miss Laurice Bryant  
Ms. Antonet Marie Davis  
Ms. Djaris Santita James  
Ms. Norsharra Isanea James  
Ms. Dominique Patrice Julius-Williams  
Mr. Kenneth E Mabry  
Ms. Dulce Rocio Martinez  
Ms. Tinyiko Vallerie Nicole Maswanganye  
Ms. Lesa McIver  
Ms. Brooklyn Danyell Miller  
Ms. Gail Raven Mills  
Miss Ayanna Perry  
Mr. Derrick Xavier Robinson  
Ms. DeVondia Regina Roseborough  
Ms. Keyatta Aishea Smalls  
Mr. DaRon W Spence  
Mr. Johnta Tyrone Wilson

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*Class Agent - Office of Alumni Affairs*  
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Mr. Tasean David Amir Baldwin  
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Ms. Katherine Angelica Bartholomew  
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Ms. Shayla Monique Blanding  
Ms. Whitney Janea Brown  
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Ms. Tatianna Sadia Watts  
Ms. Ajeenah Nicole White  
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Ms. Kayla Elizabeth Williams  
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Dr. Dolores Finger Wright  
Mrs. Annette Wright



# GIVING BY ALUMNI ORGANIZATIONS

Alumni organizations serve as the catalyst for alumni engagement around the nation. We applaud all alumni chapters and organizations for continuously holding high the Gold and Blue.

<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Giving Total</b>
JCSU 100 Club	25,250
JCSU Alumni Chapter of Groove Phi Groove	600
JCSU Charlotte Alumni Chapter	8,783
JCSU Columbia Alumni Chapter	3,600
JCSU Detroit Alumni Chapter	1,000
JCSU Durham Alumni Chapter	324
JCSU Eastern NC Alumni Chapter	250
JCSU National Alumni Association	18,994
JCSU Philadelphia Alumni Chapter	3,500
JCSU Pittsburgh Alumni Chapter	5,567
JCSU Raleigh Durham Chapter	3,000
JCSU Sumter Regional Alumni Chapter	1,050
JCSU Washington Metropolitan Chapter	1,277
JCSU Winston-Salem Alumni Chapter	300
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$73,495</b>

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Ms. Serena Lynn Morris  
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Mrs. Cynthia A. Murray  
Mrs. Cathy Murray  
Ms. Rita W. Murrell  
Mr. Kenneth Myers  
Mr. Daryl Raymon Napper  
Mr. Maurice A. Neal  
Mr. David Eugene Neal  
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Ms. Brielle Renay Newton  
Mr. Thomas Nizer  
Mr. Randy Lamont Noel  
Ms. Janice Norman  
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Ms. Rebecca A. Oats  
Emeka Okereke  
Olive Grove Baptist Church  
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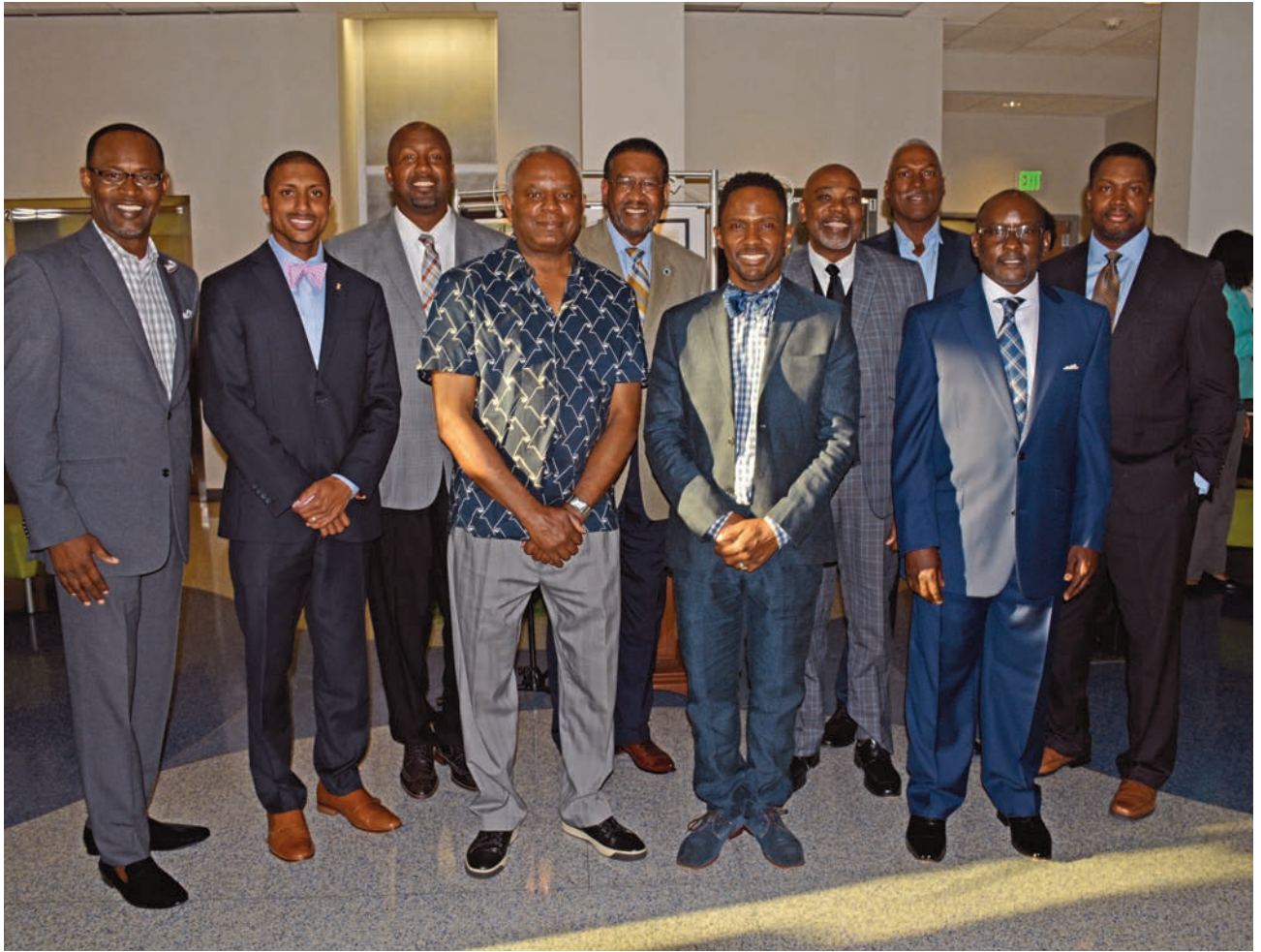
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Ms. Tamika Yeadon  
Mr. Quincy Youmans  
Ms. Tiffany Latoya Youmans  
Ms. Sequoia J. Young  
Mr. Jonathan Clifford Young



Community champions featured in the book "Ten Men" gathered for the book launch

## Ten Men celebrates life on Charlotte's West Side

"When we look at our strengths, we increase. When we know our weaknesses, they decrease," President Ronald L. Carter told the crowd gathered at Johnson C. Smith University Sept. 19, 2017, at a book launch for a stirring new volume showing Black men in the Northwest Corridor in a strong, positive light.

"Ten Men" is an insightful oral history told from the perspective of ten of Charlotte's most dynamic change-agents working to strengthen Charlotte's oldest African-American community.

Included, among others, are the voices of civil rights champion Charles Jones '58; visionary architect

Darrel Williams; Trustee and entrepreneur Damian Johnson '95; dedicated civil servant Alvin Austin; and grassroots organizer Colin Pinkney.

The book focuses squarely on Charlotte's West Side and is a literary antidote to the sobering statistics plaguing Black men in America.

Edited by award-winning journalist and author Ron Stodghill, the work blends glimpses of the community's storied past with discussions of present-day dramatic shifts: gentrifying neighborhoods, an imminent Gold Line streetcar, and new business and commercial construction.

"There have been some phenomenal men over the decades who focused attention on the Northwest Corridor," said Austin, former director of Development at JCSU and now the HBCU Outreach director for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. "I'm happy to be among the number to embrace the fact that we need to do something."

The second volume in a series inviting readers into a new era of civic engagement, "Ten Men" follows 2014's "Let There Be Light" and takes readers on a journey with some of the city's most exceptional leaders who have leveraged the power of community groups, book clubs,



churches, athletic teams, and barbershops to build a Charlotte where all citizens have a voice and a chance at a prosperous future.

"I'm from Charlotte. I grew up in this community and when I went off to school to get my doctorate what motivated me was this community," said Dr. Jonathon Livingston, who wrote the book's foreword. The North Carolina Central University professor and senior research fellow at JCSU now lives in Raleigh, N.C.

"After Charlotte's riots [following the police killing of Keith Lamont Scott in 2016], I realized I wouldn't be worth a grain of salt if I didn't come back and help my own people," he said.

Developed under the auspices of the Smith Institute for Applied Research, "Ten Men" leads from a perspective of strengths when discussing Black men in Charlotte and beyond.

It articulates Carter's vision of providing records so future generations have an alternate lens from the traditional

narrative to view the factors shaping their lives.

"So often, I hear deficit perspectives of the area—what we cannot do. We have to change the narrative of the Northwest Corridor," Carter said. "This is our narrative, built on competencies that go back years. We want to tell those stories."

"Ten Men" provides a platform for celebrating Charlotte's Black male leadership. The book is available on Amazon.com and in the JCSU bookstore, as well as digitally in Kindle, Nook, and iPad formats.



(Left) Dr. Ur Aua Hehimetu Ra EnKamit

## Black History Month celebration looks at Ghana's kingship model as roadmap to success

Johnson C. Smith University kicked off Black History Month with an exciting and engaging program Feb. 9, 2018, at the James B. Duke Memorial Library.

Guests were treated to a discussion on the groundbreaking book, "Divine Kingship of Asante: A Model for Sustainable Development of Self and Community," by Dr. Ur Aua Hehimetu Ra EnKamit. The author spent years

compiling the work, which studies the ways in which the traditional model of Asante kingship in Ghana offers a sustainable blueprint to improve the quality of leadership for disenfranchised communities worldwide. It was a powerful presentation on how our history can provide a pathway to a greater future. Additionally, guests enjoyed food, an African-style marketplace for cultural jewelry and

other items, drumming, dancing, and jazz music by A Sign of the Times.

Proceeds from the donation-based event went toward building JCSU's MakerSpace, an interactive lab where patrons can access cutting-edge technology such as 3-D printers and CAD design to bring their ideas to life.



## Maker Conference helps bridge digital divide

The James B. Duke Memorial Library partnered with Discovery Place Education Studio, Makerspace Charlotte and Apple to host a full-day Maker Conference April 13, 2018. The event gave Charlotte and particularly African-American entrepreneurs the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with cutting-edge digital equipment and concepts. Guests heard expert panel discussions with designers, makers, and hackers. They also took coding classes and saw demonstrations of 3D printers, laser cutters and milling devices.

Discovery Place instructors provided individualized 15-20 minute “speed-sessions” so attendees could collaborate on designing and producing their own items to take home—these could be used as tchotchkes or as prototypes to aid in fundraising. Dr. Chantell McDowell, JCSU’s collection development librarian and instructional tech coordinator, was the conference’s principle organizer.

“If you know technology, you can build anything,” she said. “Charlotte is among the highly technological cities in our country and we want to make sure our students have the edge to be competitive.”

Michael Gathers ’21, a computer science major, took Apple’s Swift Coding workshop for students before coming to the maker area, intrigued by a laser-cut 3-D cardboard T-Rex on display.

“In the coding workshop, they told us about the 3-D printers down here and said we could come and create some stuff, so I came to check it out,” he said. “I don’t have anything particular in mind but the possibilities are fascinating.”

Kenan Jones ’19, also a computer science major, came to learn as well as network. “I wanted to see what the 3D printers were

about, but also talk to some of the instructors. I got one of their business cards so I can apply at Discovery Place this summer after I complete my research program,” he said.

Jones has a few business ideas but didn’t know how to go about realizing them, so he was happy to learn about the entrepreneurship hub, a recently debuted resource that works in tandem with JCSU’s Makerspace. Students come to the hub with business ideas and find the guidance to develop them—several students’ businesses have even secured micro-grant funding through the hub.

Dani Brockington, a Charlotte-based graphic designer and visual arts entrepreneur, said the day was a boon for the entire community.

“I definitely see how I can apply this in my art,” Brockington told Spectrum News, which was onsite covering the event. “I’ve always been into tinkering and putting things together, so this is a cool way to learn about these things.”

In addition to being a learning space, the Maker Conference also offered a valuable opportunity for guests to grow and build connections.

“It gives us a community of other makers to bounce ideas off and learn from,” Brockington said. “It helps when you push forward with other people.”

This was a day of priceless learning, networking opportunities and enrichment for educators, students, alumni and community members. Everyone got caught up in the joy of making!



# 'Chairman Jones' film connects educational struggle, past and present, across the South

On Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 6 pm, JCSU's New Science Center auditorium was filled to near capacity for a free screening of "Chairman Jones—An Improbable Leader," which tells the story of James Henry Jones, a self-educated farmer who emerged as a trailblazer during the 1969 school desegregation crisis sparked when Northampton County, North Carolina refused to implement the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 decision to fully integrate the public schools.

After freeing himself from Jim Crow sharecropping in the 1950s, Jones launched a personal campaign to free black children from Jim Crow education, placing his own children on the front lines of the desegregation fight. Jones brought Blacks and whites together for dialogue and, as North Carolina's first Black school board chairman, transformed the educational landscape for everyone.

Guests were amazed by this story of not-too-distant history, captured in archival footage as well as anecdotes and first-hand accounts from those who struggled alongside Jones.

WBTB reporter Steve Crump moderated a post-show dialogue, where panelists including director Anna Jones and Dorothy Counts-Scogins '64 took questions and comments from the audience.

"We wanted to bring people together to share the experience of watching this beautiful, inspiring film of the life and leadership of James Henry Jones and then to engage in conversation around the themes of leadership and education that the film brings up in today's context, particularly here in Charlotte," said Minda Brooks of Wild Acres Leadership Initiative, which sponsored the program. "We are tremendously grateful to Johnson C. Smith University for hosting us on their campus at the New Science Center. Their commitment to civic engagement and cultural outreach is a great asset to the Charlotte community. And, the New Science Center provided the perfect, high-tech venue."

Director Anna Jones, who is also the granddaughter of James Jones, shared her thoughts on the relevance, now, of a film like this.

**FREE SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION**

A HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY FILM

# CHAIRMAN JONES

AN IMPROBABLE LEADER

"I discovered a movement of a people from segregation to cooperation around education for the children of Northampton County, NC."  
—ANNA JONES, Producer & Narrator

**Wildacres Leadership Initiative**  
Presents a WILLIAM C. FRIDAY DIALOGUE

**THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 6PM**  
New Science Center, Johnson C. Smith University, 100 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte, NC  
Event is FREE, but space is limited. Register @ [www.fridayfellowship.org/event/ChairmanJones](http://www.fridayfellowship.org/event/ChairmanJones)

"Every educator in North Carolina should see this film."  
—DR. DIANE FROST, 2012 North Carolina Superintendent of the Year

CHAIRMANJONES.COM

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In researching the film, "I discovered there was a movement of a people fighting to go from segregation to cooperation around education for the children of Northampton County," she said. "Today, together, we can reflect on how this story of citizen leadership, education inequality, and race relations during the Jim Crow and School Desegregation eras can help us see the present more clearly and move us into a new tomorrow."



Garry McFadden '82

## Alumnus Garry McFadden keeps CIAA Tournament safe for participants and fans

Garry McFadden '82, a retired Charlotte-Mecklenburg homicide detective and star of the TV show "I Am Homicide," is one of the most decorated law enforcement officers in the history of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. What many do not know is that McFadden is also responsible for keeping millions of Charlotteans and visitors safe at one of the biggest events of the year: The CIAA Tournament.

McFadden is the CMPD liaison for the CIAA's local organizing committee. He works with both entities to enact proper safety measures and ensure traffic patterns were not overwhelming. He was pleased that there were no instances of violence associated with tournament week festivities in 2018, and offered a few tips on public safety.

"People can make my job easier by staying within guidelines of venues and the law," McFadden said. "Generally be mindful of your surroundings, alcohol intake and the venues you go to. Check out the websites and look at who is going to attend parties."

The death of iconic evangelist Billy Graham, just days before the 2018 CIAA opening ceremonies, could have choked Charlotte's streets, but McFadden was unfazed.

"My team looked at the gaps in planning and made contingencies for potential crises," McFadden said. "We discussed the routes, touched base with the hotels, and confirmed so nothing would interfere with or disrupt the CIAA. We wanted no surprises this year." McFadden is also a lead on CMPD's Dignitary Protection Unit, so he does much of the planning when notable public figures such as former President

Barack Obama and former President Bill Clinton come to the city.

In his 34 years with CMPD, McFadden investigated more than 800 homicides and racked up an astounding solve rate of 90 percent. He retired in 2011 and was re-hired by the City of Charlotte to work in the Office of the Chief, where he worked in the Community Relations Unit, the Dignitary Protection Unit, and the Intelligence Unit for the 2012 Democratic National Convention.

In addition to his many contributions, McFadden is also a community advocate and mentor to youth. When not running his firm, he travels from city to city, creating a platform for communities of color and law enforcement to have more conversations instead of confrontations. He says there is a crisis in America with Black males being killed in officer-involved shootings.

"Definitely. But become educated before getting emotional," he cautioned. "Look, I get emotional too. But in these cases the facts remain, and that's where you get involved. Learn to analyze the entire situation and see the breakdowns in protocol. We'll not get justice by focusing on black and white, racism, or profiling. That's why I'm so passionate about people getting their rights and getting justice."

McFadden is currently working in the community with I Speak Now, Cops and Barbers, Council of Elders and was honored with the "Always Believe" community service award by NBA legends Muggsy Bogues and Larry Johnson. After the 2018 CIAA Tournament, he ran a successful campaign for Mecklenburg County sheriff.



# Lumber Company Tailgating Crew feeds Golden Bulls Pride

Around JCSU, people talk about the Lumber Company—but until recently it had little to do with hardwood. The Lumber Company Tailgating Crew, a group of gridiron alumni, are famed for supporting JCSU football and providing some of the best tailgating to be found at the University's Homecoming celebrations. Now, they've expanded their philanthropy to JCSU basketball and the entire athletics department.

Morton Copeland '89, a former linebacker, spoke candidly about the group's past and their plans for the future.

"As teammates, we formed a unique bond that has carried over to this day," Copeland said.

The Lumber Company name was given to the group in the mid-to-late 1980s because of their hard-hitting defense.

"We laid the wood to people," Copeland said with a laugh. "We worked hard on the field and when we left, we retained a bond of brotherhood."

After graduating, the men regularly came together. The biggest base live here in Charlotte but members in Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia and other states returned for Homecoming and the

CIAA Tournament. When they couldn't, they contributed monetarily to fundraisers and events year-round.

The tailgating tradition started simply: a few hamburgers and hotdogs. Some members brought grills, then a tent. Tailgating with the Lumber Company became a huge hit, one of the main draws outside of the Homecoming game itself, because they turned no one away. Their tent became so popular, they began holding tailgates every year, even at regular season games. Since JCSU began holding the MasterBull Griller contests during Homecoming in 2013, the Lumber Company has taken the top spot in the ribs or burgers category every year. The crew's ribs were so good that they won the inaugural "MasterBull Griller Champion" title.

The crew has decided to lend their grilling skills to support events during the seasons of other JCSU sports.

"Eventually, we all recognized that we needed to do more to give back to our school and support other sports besides football," Copeland said. "A few members also played basketball, so we decided to support that program."

Head Basketball Coach Stephen Joyner Sr. and Assistant Basketball Coach Mark

Sherrill met with the crew and invited the Lumber Company to JCSU's basketball alumni reunion during the game against St. Augustine's, on Jan. 20, 2018. The initial goal was to feed about 100 people, but the Lumber Company ended up feeding 150 basketball players, cheerleaders, alumni and their families.

"The players were happy to have a home-cooked meal, but we just wanted to say thank you," Copeland said. "We love our school and each other and take a great sense of pride in our university. We want the new generations to have the same love, support and experience we did."

Luckily it happened to be a recruitment weekend for JCSU Football, so those coaches and their recruits ate as well.

"They saw a bunch of old football players tailgating for the basketball team," Copeland said proudly. "For student-athletes considering our school, seeing that kind of family unity does make a difference."

The Lumber Company Tailgating Crew is now under the umbrella of the JCSU 100 Club. Donations to the 100 Club can be made in the Lumber Company's name, and 100 percent of those gifts support JCSU Athletics.





## JCSU Alumni teach at medical training program in Nigeria

U.S. podiatrists, emergency room physicians and certified nurse anesthetists participated as instructors in the fourth annual Podiatry Initiative of Nigeria in Lagos, Nigeria. This five-day workshop and training program, opening Aug. 21, 2017 was a collaboration of the World Diabetes Foundation, The Podiatry Institute, and Rainbow Specialist Medical Center to train Nigerian medical professionals on diabetic foot care and amputation prevention.

During this conference, strides were made to establish podiatric medicine/surgery as a much needed medical specialty in Nigeria in sight of the alarming rates of complications associated with diabetic foot ulcers.

Dr. Kevin Adeleke is an emergency room physician at Queens Hospital and is a graduate of Morgan State University;

Dr. William Harris IV is the president of the South Carolina Podiatric Medical Association and is a Johnson C. Smith University graduate along with Dr. James Fullwood '04 who is the chief of staff at Seabastcook Valley Health and vice president of the Maine Podiatric Medical Association. He is also a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Dr. Rhan Ravenell is a graduate of Florida A&M University and board member of the South Carolina Podiatric Medical board and trustee member of the Podiatry Institute of America. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Dr. Abiola Oki is a graduate of Howard University and resident podiatrist in Miami, Fla., with a focus in limb salvage and foot and ankle reconstruction, who has traveled to many countries on medical missions.





Johnson C. Smith University

A photograph of a male graduate in a black cap and gown with a colorful sash, raising his right arm in celebration. Other graduates are visible in the background.

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# Golden Class presents \$157,000 to university during 2018 Alumni Reunion Banquet

On May 19-21, 2018, Johnson C. Smith University alumni from the classes of 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, and 2013 returned to Beatties Ford Road to celebrate the joyous occasion of Reunion Weekend.

Golden Bulls gathered on "The Block" in front of the historic Biddle Memorial Hall to recount experiences and milestones gained at the University.

The class of 1968 held high the Gold and Blue, celebrating their Golden Anniversary and the class of 1993 celebrated their Silver Anniversary. Later that evening, alumni dressed to

impress for the annual Alumni Banquet at the Sheraton Airport Hotel. Each class gathered at tables with their peers to fellowship with one another.

Wanda Foy-Burroughs '73, director of Alumni Relations, presided over the event, and Commencement speaker Mark Morial made a guest appearance ahead of Sunday's exercises.

After dinner, David Julian, executive director of development, gave a short video presentation. Class agents presented their five-year giving totals to President Clarence D. Armbrister and Board of Trustees Chair Shirley J. Hughes. As of that evening, the Reunion Class

year-to-date total was \$223,640.18. Since 2013, the classes that were in reunion have donated \$857,093.04 to the University. Of that amount, the Class of 1948 gave \$114,852.81, the Golden Class of 1968 gave \$157,185.62, and the Silver Class of 1993 gave \$13,063.72.

Lauren Scott, Miss JCSU 2002, spoke warm words in remembrance of Smithites who have passed away. DJ Tut provided musical melodies and Smithites danced the night away, full of Golden Bulls pride.











Members of the Golden Class of 1968

## Classes of 1968 and 1948 share breakfast and memories during Alumni Reunion Weekend

The Class of 1968 returned to JCSU in force on May 19, 2018, for the traditional Golden Breakfast. Fifty years of ambition, achievements and nostalgia brightened the top floor of the New Science Center, filling the room with stories of times past. Educators, early tech pioneers, fashion buyers and more opened up about pivotal moments in their lives at Johnson C. Smith University.

Rosemary Lawrence, who made history as the City of Charlotte's first revenue manager, was resplendent in the pink and green of her sisterhood, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Though she had majored in history with a minor in English, she learned quickly that she wasn't suited for the classroom. So she switched tracks completely, working in banking for 15 years before spending 25 years as Charlotte's first revenue manager, a Black woman.

"It was the right choice, because I loved numbers," Lawrence said. "Also, I thought I would be more impactful in that field because I had the chance to hire a number of African

Americans, so I was able to affect some people's lives that way. I feel good about that," she said.

The assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. was a visceral moment in many of the Golden Class' minds. It changed the course of America and left an indelible mark on their senior year. Most could recall exactly what they were doing April 4, 1968, when they heard the news.

"They sent us home," recalled Yolanda Ford, who had marched that year with the Poor People's Campaign. "Oh yes, they closed Smith down. It was a Friday and they knew there was going to be turmoil."

Guy Barnes, a French and history major, was cruising around with friends when the announcement came over the radio.

"We were riding in a car on the wrong side of town, in an economically depressed area," he said. "And I realized where we were and what had happened and I told my friend, 'We've got





to get out of here.' It was the wrong place for us to be. I always remember where I was and what I was doing. It was that devastating."

Stewart 'Big Bob' Oatman had a similar story. The former JCSU quarterback who majored in "economics, clowning and funning" said he was working a shift at the Charlotte Country Club at the time.

"Somebody overheard someone in the club make a statement about King, saying he was glad that they'd got him, and we all left," Oatman said. "They had to scramble for staff to clear the dishes, find someone to serve and all that. You gotta put yourself in the mindset of being 19 or 20 years old and to have that happen. We were young and we were angry. It gave you a new perspective on how things really are in this country."

Of course, not all of the memories were so painful. In fact Johnny James of Columbia, S.C., remembered many good times on the football team before graduating to work at Sears, Roebuck and Company.

"I played football with a lot of these guys, and had a lot of roommates in this room, probably because people couldn't get along with me," he joked. "What's emblematic of the Class of '68? Love. For some reason, we always did and still do love each other and for me over the years that's been a big deal."

At the same time on the other side of campus, a very special 70th reunion was taking place in the Mary Joyce Taylor Crisp Student Union. Members of the class of '48 gathered to talk, meet with President Clarence D. Armbrister and staff of Institutional Advancement, as well as Board of Trustees Chair Shirley J. Hughes—and secretly honor former Board of Trustees Chair Clarence W.R. Wade '48.



Chair Hughes presented Wade with an award and announced the start of a Chair Emeritus Committee, made up of past leaders of the Board of Trustees.

Wade was shocked at the surprise honor, but recovered his gravitas immediately.

"JCSU has a strong faculty and staff, and the University is on an upward trajectory," he said. "That's why I'm back here today."

Mary Chastain '48 of Mt. Olive, N.C., summed up the emotion on campus that day. As she maneuvered her electric scooter across The Block, she beamed the brightest smile at everyone she passed.

"I am ecstatic to be here," she said. "I have really been blessed and although I'm not walking anymore, I'm just glad to be back on the yard again."





# HOMECOMING IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Bright smiles and excitement filled the air as Johnson C. Smith University celebrated Homecoming 2017. Each and every Golden Bull who returned, as well as those who wished they could, were in our hearts as we feted our long and storied tradition of excellence.

JCSU family and friends shared hours of fun and fellowship on the unseasonably warm late-October day, cheering the Golden Bulls on to victory, reminiscing at the Greek plots and dancing the night away. Alumni leaders renewed their commitment to supporting and strengthening the University's legacy, and community members saw first-hand the undeniable progress of JCSU.

One of the highlights of the day was meeting Clarence D. Armbrister, the new president-elect, and his wife, Denise McGregor Armbrister. It was great to see the man who will become our 14th president start getting to know the Golden Bulls family.



To all of our fabulous students, faculty, staff, alumni and donors, as well as those generations to come who will build on our rich legacy, JCSU thanks and salutes you.







# 2018 REUNION WEEKEND

Classes ending in 8 and 3 came together in celebration for Reunion Weekend 2018, held May 18-20. The years fell away as friends reconnected at the alumni banquet and members of the Golden Anniversary Class of 1968 were resplendent in gold robes for Sunday's Commencement Exercises.



Class of 1948



Class of 1968





**Class of 1973**



**Class of 1978**



**Class of 1993**



## 40's

### Class of 1944



**Mrs. Catherine R. Hawkins '44** visited campus on April 14, 2018. Mrs. Hawkins was the proud wife of **Dr. Reginald Hawkins '44**, a civil rights activist in Charlotte, N.C. Mr. Hawkins fought to desegregate Charlotte schools and businesses and was the first African American to run for governor of North Carolina. Mrs. Hawkins' trip back to campus was one to remember and she was greeted by Mrs. Wanda Foy-Burroughs, director of Alumni Relations.

## 60's

### Class of 1963

The Wilmington Journal reported on a school in Liberia named for **Barbara Ferguson Kamara '63**, who became a consultant in early childhood education to the nation's government. To learn more, visit <http://wilmingtonjournal.com/school-named-for-williston-class-of-59-pioneer/>

**Sadye Beatryce Curry '63** is the first African-American woman to become a gastroenterologist in the United States, and the first African American to pursue postgraduate studies at Duke University Medical Center.

### Class of 1964

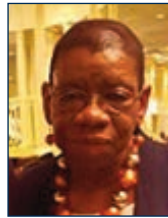


Former President, **Dr. Dorothy Cowser Yancy '64** was inducted into the 2018 CIAA John B. McLendon Hall of Fame at the annual CIAA Hall of Fame Breakfast on March 2, 2018.

### Class of 1968



**Sergeant Major Jackie L. Wilson '68** received the Humanitarian Award from Jimi Holloway Production Inc. for his commitment to community service on February 3, 2018. Along with the award, Wilson received citations from the borough president, state, assemblywoman, and a proclamation from the congressman of his New York district.



**Elaine Lane '68** was a recipient of the Phi Beta Kappa National Sorority Award of Excellence.

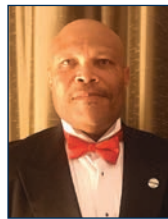
## 70's

### Class of 1973



James Stephens, executive director of South Carolina Aeronautics Commission, presented a \$16,700 grant to **Willa Martin Bailey '73**, president of the Challenger Learning Center Foundation. The grant will provide the center with flight simulator upgrades and aid in the creation of a drone program.

### Class of 1977



**E. Tyree Johnson Jr. '77** was selected to receive the Presidential Citation from Toastmasters International during the organization's 86th International Convention in Vancouver, Canada, on August 24, 2017. The award, which is one of Toastmasters' highest honors, was presented in recognition of his outstanding

achievements in representing the goals and ideals of Toastmasters International.

## 90's

### Class of 1998

**Dr. Davida Loren Haywood '98** has been selected as a member of the inaugural cohort for the Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) Aspiring Leaders program sponsored by the Pennsylvania Center for Minority Serving Institutions.



### Class of 1999



**Leandra Hayes-Burgess '99** has been selected as the vice president of Institutional Advancement for Benedict College in Columbia, S.C. Hayes-Burgess has a proven record of accomplishment as a successful fundraiser and advancement professional for a number of higher education institutions.

The Tallahassee Democrat (part of the USA Today network) reported that veteran reporter **Rory Sharrock '99** has joined the paper's sports team and will provide coverage



on Florida A&M University, Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College athletics across digital and print platforms. To read the full story, visit <https://www.tallahassee.com/story/sports/2018/06/04/sharr-ock-joins-democrat-sportsteam/668854002/>

## 2000's

### Class of 2007

**Aisha Lide '07** has just launched a new business, Ear Fetish. Ear Fetish is an online earring and accessories boutique. See more at [www.myearfetish.com/](http://www.myearfetish.com/)

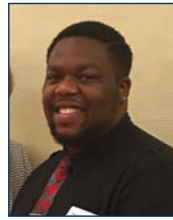
### Class of 2009



**Ashley Nicole Hughes '09** was married to Justin Lamar Ross on Friday,

April 28, 2017. Angelica Clark '09, Michella (Waters) Palmer '09, Ashley Taylor '09, Ashley Bellony '09, Demetria Bell '10, Christina Hypolite '10, Jamil Harmon '09, Kendreous Adams-Johnson '09, and Kevin Ransom attended the wedding in Paris, France. Each of the named guests met at JCSU and have been close friends.

### Class of 2011



**Darril Marshall '11** was awarded the 2016-2017 "Rookie Teacher of the Year

Award." Marshall teaches eighth grade English at Martin Luther King Middle School in Charlotte, NC.

**Tirrell Anderson '11** received his master's degree in Social Work with a concentration in Leadership from Fordham University in May 2017.

### Class of 2012

**Kadeisha West '12** earned a juris doctorate from Emory University School of Law in May 2017.



**Alicia (Reed) Hill '12** and **Eric Hill '13**, college sweethearts, were married in Boston,

Mass. on April 28, 2018. Among the invited guests were their families, loved ones, and a host of other JCSU alumni.

### Sharika Comfort '12

had a private screening and panel discussion of "Quarter Life Consciousness," a mini-documentary about her life journey to 25 through art on February 15, 2017. The mini-documentary was produced by Yamani Smith-Murrell '11 and managed by Marietou Agne '12.

### Class of 2013



**Alexa Brown '13** graduated from the Education Policy Fellowship

program in association with Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education.

### Tierra Sanders '13

graduated from Keller Graduate School with a master's degree in Human Resources Management.

**Alicia (Reed) Hill '12** and **Eric Hill '13**, college sweethearts, were married in Boston, Mass. on April 28, 2018. Among the invited guests were their families, loved ones, and a host of other JCSU alumni.

### Class of 2014

### Levi Williams Jr. '14

graduated from Full Sail University with a Master of Science degree in Entertainment Business and Sport Management in 2017.

### Yasmine Gray '14

graduated from New York University School of Professional Studies with a master's degree in print and digital media publishing.

**Louisa Taylor '14** placed third at the Sing Out Loud talent competition presented by RollingOut magazine during the 2017 CIAA Tournament Fan Fest Live.

### Class of 2015

**Alliecia Butler '15** graduated from Purdue University with a Master of Science degree in strategic communications in May 2017.

**Lindsey Laster '15** graduated from North Carolina State University with a Master of Arts in Teaching in 2017.

### Class of 2016

**Craig Cannon '16** graduated from American University with a master's degree in Journalism and Public Affairs with a concentration in broadcast in May 2017.

**Elaine Cadichon '16** graduated from Johnson C. Smith University with a Master of Social Work degree on Sunday, May 21, 2017.

### Nashawn Davis '16

graduated from Johnson & Wales University with a Master of Business Administration degree in May 2017.



## Stephen Joyner Sr. inducted into Mecklenburg County Sports Wall of Fame

On May 17, 2018, Stephen Joyner Sr. '73. was inducted into the Mecklenburg County Sports Wall of Fame in the Coach/Manager category for his accomplishments as a coach and sports administrator at Johnson C. Smith University. The award was presented to Joyner by Mary Foxx Johnson '77.

Joyner, who serves as JCSU's head men's basketball coach and director of athletics, was one of six local sports figures inducted as the Class of 2018. He is the winningest basketball coach in JCSU history and the winningest active coach in the CIAA.

The Sports Wall of Fame, located at Revolution Park Sports Academy, serves to honor outstanding Mecklenburg County athletes, coaches, and teams who have contributed significantly either to the development of athletes or to the excellence of sports programs in our area or brought national and/or international recognition to Mecklenburg County. The Sports Wall of Fame is a project of the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department.

Joyner's plaque on the Sports Wall of Fame denotes the following accomplishments:

- 2005 – Present: JCSU Director of Athletics
- 2018 Winningest Men's Basketball Coach in JCSU History and CIAA Winningest Active Coach, 10 CIAA Division Titles, JCSU Record 540-346 (Men) & 622-418 (Men and Women) as of February 27, 2018
- 2015 Joined Mike Kryzyzewski, Roy Williams and Larry Hunter as only coaches in NC with 500 or more career wins
- 2014 John B. McLendon Jr. CIAA Hall of Fame Inductee
- 2009, 2008, 2001: Coached JCSU to CIAA Tournament Championships
- 2001, 1997, 1992: CIAA Coach of the Year
- 2001 Coached JCSU to NCAA Elite Eight Tournament Finish and 10 Ranking.
- 2001 NCAA Division II South Atlantic Region Coach of the Year



# 'American South' film uncovers unsung heroes of Civil Rights

Award-winning film "The American South as We Know It" screens August 28, 2018 from 6-8 p.m. at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts and Culture. The documentary was written, directed and shot by Frederick Murphy, a former JCSU staffer, and Andrew Smith '15, JCSU's first graduate to major in film. The feature-length film paints a picture of the African-American experience from slavery to the 1960s through the eyes of people who lived it—everyday American heroes.

Murphy graduated from Tennessee State University and Bethune Cookman College before working at JCSU from 2010-2015 as director of Counseling Services and assistant dean of Health and Wellness. He describes himself as "HBCU to the bone."

"I was always drawn to researching black history," Murphy said. "I knew there had to be more to my history than Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks."

Murphy and Smith charted their route based on tips from history buffs, elders and scholars, researching well-known people in the towns and building an organic network of sources via word of mouth. JCSU graduate Edith Strickland DeLaine '60 was one such resource. She sent the pair to Mound Bayou, Mississippi, an all-black town founded by freedmen that had been enslaved by Jefferson Davis' brother.

In all, the two traveled 12,000 miles through small towns in Mississippi, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Alabama. It took a year and a half to film the documentary. Although Smith and Murphy had the opportunity to interview some well-known people, their real focus was uncovering the stories of unsung civil rights heroes.

"We sought stories of local activists," Murphy said. "We didn't want big-names, but people who were fierce in their own community. Every town had their own little MLK." But sometimes, the stories didn't have happy endings.

The two were filming in rural Alabama and needed to refuel their vehicle. They had been recording 60-second shorts of residents speaking about why history was important to them. An older Black woman working at the gas station volunteered to speak on camera. Three white men intervened.

"They were in their 60s or 70s, all in overalls and dipping snuff. I understood the rules of engagement," Murphy said, "so I asked the guys if they'd like to take part in the interview too, knowing I probably wouldn't use their portion."

The men replied, "We don't and she doesn't either." One of them looked like he had a gun in his pocket. The woman dropped her head immediately. Retelling the story still makes Murphy angry.

"This was probably how it had always been; she had no voice. Inside the store she had all the agency and gumption in the world, but the second she stepped outside I saw her hesitation. They shrunk her," he said. "That's why I'm telling these stories. I owe these individuals, to amplify their voices. I'm trying to spread the message for our ancestors."

Smith edited the documentary and handled the bulk of the filming. It was one of the first major projects by his company, Nova Initia Productions. Coming from Largo, Md., in Prince George's County, this was the first time he'd ever traveled through the Deep South. He found the journey eye-opening.

"During the process of filming this documentary, I learned that many blacks who grew up in the Jim Crow era did not necessarily have it 'bad,' based on the area in which they lived. Many lived pretty comfortable lives," Smith said. "This spoke to me because all too often, blacks are seen to have only suffered in America and never prospered. The other thing I got from that is even the blacks who didn't face the blatant racism that many others did were still aware of what was going on in their country. They were still activists, striving to fight to make America great for all disenfranchised groups. It just goes to show that even if your struggle isn't the same as your brother's or sister's, the ability to empathize and mobilize was still strong across the South among blacks. We have always had a fighting spirit and will continue the fight."

Learn more about the project at [www.americansouthfilm.com](http://www.americansouthfilm.com).



# Johnson C. Smith University Alumni Attend and Receive Awards at Night of Impact

**R**aheem Roberts '10 and Israel Spencer '16 were among other male educators of color who were recognized at Profound Gentlemen's Night of Impact on Saturday, March 11, 2018 at Sedgefield Middle School in Charlotte, N.C. Profound Gentlemen, a national non-profit, works to build a community of male educators of color.

At the Night of Impact, Roberts took home the most prestigious award of the evening: the Black Apple Award, which is awarded to four educators, out of the 300-member organization, who have had a significant impact on their students and community. Roberts has been an elementary school teacher in Charlotte since he graduated and a part of the founding staff at the Movement School.

Spencer is a first-year high school math teacher at Charlotte Learning Academy. At the Night of Impact, Spencer won New Educator of the Year for his commitment to learning and developing into the best teacher he can be.

Other JCSU alumni in attendance were Darril Marshall '11, middle grade English teacher at Martin Luther King Middle



Israel Spencer



Raheem Roberts

School, Stephen Graddick '16, environmental educator, and Douglas Jones '88, Executive Director of Strategic Planning at Project L.I.F.T, and Sabrina Davis '12, Alumni Relations Program Officer and Profound Gentlemen Board Member.





# homecoming 2019

**Saturday, Oct 26  
Irwin Belk Complex  
Vs. Shaw**

**GOT**  
*Good*  
**NEWS?**

*Tell us about it!*

Please send your wedding and birth announcements, anniversaries, promotions and accomplishments to:

**ALUMNI@JCSU.EDU**





# Welcome

President Clarence D. Armbrister







# Johnson C. Smith University

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