

The Bulletin

A Magazine From Johnson C. Smith University | 2018 – 2019



Light the World
A New Era Begins



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The Bulletin

A magazine from Johnson C. Smith University

2018 - 2019

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

Opposite page: President Clarence D. Armbrister holds the ceremonial academic mace of Johnson C. Smith University, which was presented to him as part of the Investiture during his Inauguration Ceremony on April 5, 2019.

President's Message

As we embark on a new era at Johnson C. Smith University, I want to thank the students, faculty, staff, alumni and community for the support they have given to me. Most importantly, I want to thank my predecessors who helped lay the foundation for the illustrious University that I have the honor of leading.

Transforming lives through education is my top priority and because this is a value shared by the JCSU community, I am privileged to serve as your 14th President. During my tenure, I will continue to promote JCSU and our students who have been prepared, among other things, "to demonstrate not only competence, but excellence in their chosen field."

During my inauguration activities which took place in April 2019 and are chronicled in this issue of *The Bulletin*, I announced three initiatives that will be important focal points for JCSU in the near term:

- A scholarship program for local area students that will increase significantly the probability of these scholars improving their upward economic mobility.
- The retooling of our career and postgraduate readiness program so that every student will have meaningful external experiences beginning in their sophomore year that will inform their career and postgraduate school options.
- A goal to increase the endowment to \$100 million to have sufficient resources to fund programs and initiatives to support our students.

My mission is to advance JCSU to the next level and I cannot do it without the support of everyone at this institution. Collectively, we help educate, guide and mentor our students. It is my hope that every dean, professor, staff member and employee continues to influence the lives of students who choose JCSU.

Sincerely,



Clarence D. Armbrister
President





President Armbrister holds the sword of Captain Henry J. Biddle, a member of the staff of General George McCall, Pennsylvania Reserves, V Corps, Army of the Potomac, and the man for whom Biddle Memorial Institute was named. Capt. Biddle's sword was presented to him as part of the Investiture during his Inauguration Ceremony. The sword was donated to JCSU by the Biddle family and is housed in the JCSU Archives.

A new era begins at JCSU

Now that the baton has been passed, a new era is underway at Johnson C. Smith University. April 5, 2019, Clarence D. Armbrister was officially inaugurated as the University's 14th President. Armbrister celebrated during a week of festivities that coincided with Founder's Week, which he acknowledged, made the inauguration more special.

"I know this is not all about me. So much of this is really honoring and celebrating the 152-year legacy of this institution," Armbrister stated during his speech at the Inauguration Gala.

From April 3 - 7, 2019 faculty, staff, students, alumni and the community were invited to a number of events including Armbrister's official inauguration ceremony, a symposium, gala, community service project, cookout, and Founders' Day Convocation.

"I am deeply humbled to stand here today as the 14th President of Johnson C. Smith University," Armbrister said during his inauguration ceremony. He emphasized his gratitude by sharing personal stories of his upbringing, educational background and JCSU's

promise to students, which states the university, will produce graduates who think critically, communicate effectively and work independently – and demonstrate not only competence, but also excellence in their chosen field. He added, "It is the essence of our commitment".

During the Community Symposium and Luncheon, panelists from community organizations and corporations gathered in the Mary Joyce Taylor Crisp Student Union to share their views on Charlotte's economic mobility, which ranks last in comparison to 50 other major cities according to the Equality of Opportunity Project.

While speaking at his Inauguration Gala, Armbrister said, "I do really look forward to working with each and every one of you to make Charlotte a place where all of our youth have the education and support they need to climb the economic mobility ladder."

Since taking on his new role, Armbrister has emphasized his strategic agenda of the "Four R's" for JCSU; resources, recruitment, retention and rigor, which he said are



President and First Lady Armbrister present the Arch of Triumph Award to Michael Nutter.



“inextricably linked” to the University’s success. He has also introduced his scholars program, aimed at recruiting Charlotte-Mecklenburg students to JCSU and helping them get an education and ultimately a job in the Queen City as a means to improve upward mobility. In making sure his plans succeed, Armbrister is actively seeking partnerships with local organizations and businesses.

At the annual gala, which typically honors university partners, all eyes were on Armbrister. His good friend and former mayor of Philadelphia, Michael A. Nutter, was the guest speaker. Nutter, who refers to Armbrister as “Clay,” shared kind words with the audience about his family, character, and work ethic. “This is a guy who knows about success and knows about teamwork,” Nutter told the audience when speaking about Armbrister’s accomplishments as a Chief of Staff during his term as Philadelphia’s mayor. He added, “I never had to wonder where Clarence D. Armbrister was during our tough times and you won’t either, because you’ll see him leading the charge.”

Armbrister is also focused on actively getting involved with the community, especially the Historic West End neighborhood, where JCSU is located. Accompanied by First Lady Denise McGreggor Armbrister and a handful of students, Armbrister teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to install drywall in a home that was being built off Beatties Ford Road, close to the University. “Charlotte is worth making sure community interests are met, and it is our commitment to the community that we will continue to be a leader and partner in all of that.”

The week of festivities also included students. During the Celebration of Arts, students from the Visual and Performing Arts program gathered on the block to celebrate the Arts through dance, spoken word and music. Armbrister and the First Lady, faculty, staff and students also celebrated on the block during

Bulls and Barbecue, a cookout with music, dancing, and performances by the band, and the Luv-A-Bulls cheerleaders.

Inauguration events wrapped with Founders’ Day Convocation commemorating JCSU’s 152-year existence. Congresswoman Alma Adams, Ph.D. was the guest speaker. Adams, founder of the Bipartisan Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Caucus, highlighted the many accomplishments JCSU has achieved in its existence.

“I work to defend and protect in Congress not just for Smithites, but for HBCUs throughout this country, because it’s not only important to me that these schools survive, but that they thrive,” she told the audience. She added, “Some of the most gifted, most talented students, faculty and staff are on our HBCU campuses.”

Armbrister echoed Adams’ words during convocation and affirmed his vision for JCSU. “My heart is full, my direction is clear, and the one thing I know is I have a wonderful cadre of friends and colleagues who will be with me every step of the journey,” Armbrister said.





Commencement speaker Ralph H. Groce III addresses JCSU's graduating class

Commencement speaker exhorts graduates to continue rising above obstacles

"If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

Commencement speaker Ralph H. Groce III, Chief Information Officer at Everest Reinsurance Company, began his speech to the graduating class of 2019 with a powerful quote from the philosopher Sun Tzu. The excerpt, first written in the book 'The Art of War,' encourages people to learn themselves and the enemy in order to succeed.

Graduates honed in as Groce detailed the new journey they will soon face; highlighting the struggles of persons of color, the tragic events reported in the news, and the many obstacles life will bring. "You all need to leave this place understanding your new journey has only just begun" adding, "If you get nothing else out of this message today. The primary point is this. You are facing enormous challenges. If you know yourself and know your circumstances, you need not fear the outcome of any encounter."

During the Commencement exercise, Groce received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from JCSU.







President Armbrister was the keynote speaker at the Homecoming Church Service

JCSU celebrates connection with First United Presbyterian Church

Johnson C. Smith University President Clarence D. Armbrister delivered a powerful keynote at the Homecoming worship service of First United Presbyterian Church (USA) on Nov. 11, 2018.

Homecoming at church is traditionally the time of great gatherings, when we share stories of how we came to be. JCSU and the church have deeply entwined roots. In 1866, the Rev. Samuel C. Alexander purchased the land on which the church was originally established. The same reverend, with the help of others, saw the need to establish an institution in the South to educate newly emancipated African Americans as they advanced into freedom. Their vision manifested in an institution eventually known as Johnson C. Smith University. Together, JCSU graduates and

members of First United Presbyterian Church became leaders in Charlotte's African-American community and beyond.

The service was themed "Loving our Past, Living our Present, Faith in our Future." The JCSU Concert Choir performed and members who are also JCSU alumni stood up and testified to the value of their experiences.

Etta Lynn '69 gave the Old Testament reading of Psalm 77:11-14. Jane Stratford '71 presented JCSU with a gift from the Jazz Ministry. Clement Bowman '13 compared JCSU's historic Biddle Hall to a lighthouse. "The motto is Sit Lux, let there be light. Biddle Hall was for me a beacon of hope and guidance. JCSU gave me

one of the greatest opportunities of my life, to grow," he said. Trustee Emerita Mattie Grigsby '48 acknowledged the presence of First Lady Denise McGregor Armbrister and had high praise for President Armbrister, whom she introduced. "He came in as the 14th president with a willing spirit and worked very hard," she noted.

Armbrister was visibly moved as he spoke of the "mutual reaffirmation of our common kinship" and shared the story of his maternal grandfather, Rev. Henry Higgs, who was born in the Bahamas in the late 19th century and moved to Coconut Grove, a small enclave outside of Miami. Higgs was active in fighting for Black people's political and civil liberation through Marcus Garvey's U.N.I.A. movement. For this he was nearly lynched and run out of town.

"His belief in equality and justice for his people laid the foundation for my own beliefs," Armbrister said. "Because of him I have the responsibility to stand up and do the best I can."

Today's societal problems of police violence, discrimination, economic disparities and environmental woes were created by humans, and therefore can be solved by humans, Armbrister stressed. "We have the moral conviction to educate a new generation of critical thinkers—the best historians, political scientists, and educators—and train them to think critically and morally. The future is in the hands of our grandchildren, and we must prepare them to face problems we never have before."

The Homecoming celebration was a joyous reminder of the bond shared by two of Charlotte's oldest African-American institutions.



President Clarence D. Armbrister with Rev. Lorenzo R. Small Sr., pastor of First United Presbyterian Church



Former Congressman Edolphus Towns (center) served as the keynote speaker for the newly established lecture series named after Dorothy I. Height during Social Work Month

School of Social Work Celebrates Social Work Month

Social work month was celebrated throughout March 2019 on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University. There were panel discussions, special guests and acknowledgement of JCSU's School of Social Work.

On March 27, a number of experts gathered in the New Science Center Auditorium for the panel discussion "Voting is Social Work: Charlotte Public Discourse Town Hall Meeting," that examined the importance of democratic participation.

The panel included local experts in social work, like Deronda Metz, who is a director at Charlotte's Salvation Army, and Dr. Lori Thomas, director of research and faculty engagement at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte Urban Institute, as well as, Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry McFadden '82.

It also included academics like Dr. Melvin Herring from JCSU's social work program as well as JCSU alumnus Dr. Chad D. Lassiter '95, who is the current president of the Black men at Penn School of Social Work, Inc. The panel was rounded off by Dr. Charles Lewis Jr., founder and president of Congressional Research Institute of Social Work and Social Policy.

During a roundtable discussion, panelists touched on a variety of topics, including the role of cultural competence in saving our democracy and homelessness in Charlotte.

Following the discussion, Lewis met with students in the Master of Social Work program and took to social media to acknowledge them as "social justice warriors".

For students like Ebony Wilson, a second year Master of Social Work student, being considered a "warrior" is a title she wears proudly.

"As a social worker, this job is not for everyone, you must get your mind together before you prepare yourself for getting into the

mind of others. Check yourself and continue to check yourself," she emphasized.

The program celebrated the end of Social Work Month on March 28, JCSU celebrated a new lecture series named in honor of legendary social worker Dorothy I. Height.

Height was a social worker who acted as a leader, becoming president of the National Council of Negro Women in 1957. In addition, she served as a leading figure of the civil rights movement and organizer of the March on Washington. She stood on stage with Martin Luther King Jr. when he delivered his "I have A Dream Speech."

Her other accolades include, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded to her by Bill Clinton, and she earned the Congressional Gold Medal. President Barak Obama called her the "godmother of the Civil Rights Movement." Height died in Washington D.C. in 2010.

Bright shades of red made up much of the audience as members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. gathered in Biddle Hall Auditorium to celebrate Height, the longest serving president of the sorority from 1947 until 1956.

Tina Terry, reporter for Charlotte's local ABC affiliate, WSOC-TV Channel 9 Eyewitness News, hosted the event. Guests were welcomed by delegates from the social work program, Dr. Lisa Pullin, chair of the Bachelor of Social Work program, and Dr. Melvin Herring, director of the Master of Social Work program before keynote speaker, former Congressman Edolphus "Ed" Towns took the podium.

The school of social work intends to continue to honor her name with this annual lecture series.

Black Ink Monks return to Hebrew Academy; influence students through Spoken Word

The Black Ink Monks, Johnson C. Smith University's oldest non-greek organization, returned to the American Hebrew Academy (AHA) in Greensboro, N.C. in January of 2019. Their annual trip educates AHA students about spoken word – using oratory skills for self-expression, anger management, and education.

Monks spent the weekend participating in Shabbat, immersing themselves in the Academy and rekindling bonds with AHA students.

"I have been doing this for a while, so I sometimes don't realize the impact it has on me and other people. But seeing these kids use writing as a medium to express themselves inspires me and always teaches me this is beyond just being a good poet or writer. It's about the influence you have as a writer; the responsibility you have to tell your audience they are going to be okay," said Tawnada Nyahasha '20.

JCSU alum, Andrew Smith '15, supported Nyahasha's point, adding "Each year I go to AHA, I am amazed at the impact that not only the [Black Ink Monks] has on the kids, but the impact the kids leave on us.

That impact, influenced the monks to induct three honorary members. AHA students, Leo Kramer, Adeena Seltzer and Brian Brandwein were given poet names, a tradition each new Monk experiences when he or she is inducted into the group. These three students have been participating in and performing with the Black Ink Monks since their first visit.

"Leaving with three new honorary Monks reflects all that this organization is about: leadership, compassion, and poetry," said Smith.

Smith, a former JCSU VPA-Film major, is so inspired by these annual trips; he is working on a documentary about the relationship he has developed over the years.

"The way the kids come together during Shabbat, the Coffee House, their free time, and their willingness to be unapologetically themselves are constant reminders that, as adults, we sometimes lose sight of the importance of just slowing down and taking life in," Smith added.



JCSU's Black Ink Monks educate students on spoken word at the American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro, N.C.

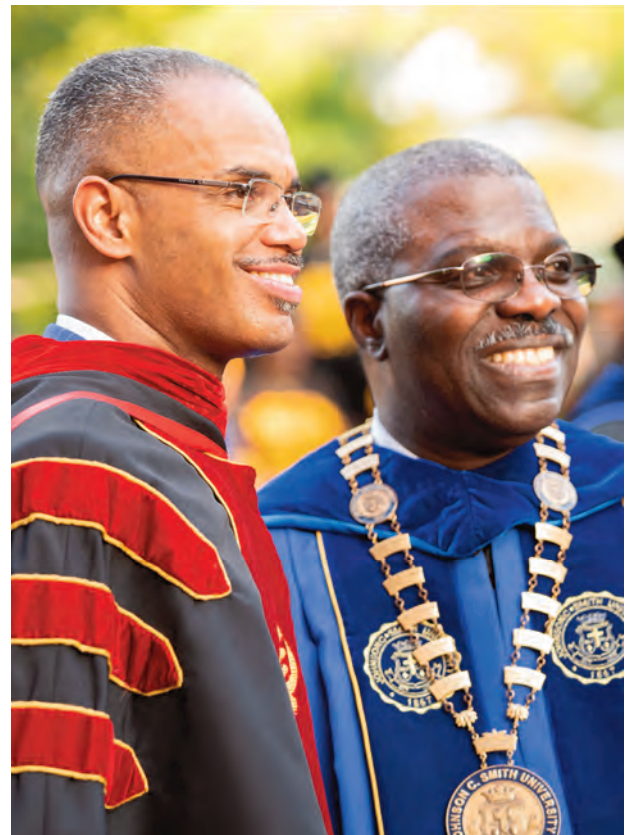


Rev. Dr. Robert C. Scott addresses students, faculty and staff at Baccalaureate

Baccalaureate speaker tells graduates to turn a troubled world into a better world

Reading from the book of John, Rev. Dr. Robert C. Scott highlighted the importance of God in a young person's life. "I'm glad to know, that in spite of these troubles, the God I serve is not connected to any type of party. God is not a Democrat, God is not a Republican, God is not an independent, and God is not a member of the Green Party or any other party. Can I tell you what God is? God is love, and love requires justice. God is the only way that we as Black folks have made it."

Scott, senior pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Charlotte, focused his sermon on opportunities in the midst of obstacles; sharing the many troubles and triumphs, our nation is facing. "Our world is really in a mess, but it is filled with opportunities for you to make it better."







Cindy Gantt, wife of former Charlotte mayor Harvey Gantt and Sally Robinson, philanthropist and community leader, with First Lady Denise McGregor Armbrister

First Lady Denise Armbrister welcomed to Charlotte with an afternoon tea

On November 17, 2018, an intimate gathering of local women met for a Ladies Tea at the Smith House to formally welcome First Lady Denise McGregor Armbrister to Charlotte.

This was a significant occasion for many reasons, and especially exciting given there has not been a "First Spouse" at the University for over 20 years.

Invited guests included women who have supported Johnson C. Smith University either financially or with social capital, their advocacy, volunteerism, and in-kind contributions.



First Lady Denise McGregor Armbrister with Phyllis Baldwin



First Lady Denise McGregor Armbrister with Tami Simmons, vice president of Institutional Advancement, Angela Foster, Wanda Foy-Burroughs, director of Alumni Affairs, Melissa Davis, director of Foundation Relations

Johnson C. Smith University nabs two nominations for the HBCU Digest Awards



Dr. Terza Lima-Neves

Congratulations are in order for Johnson C. Smith University associate professor of political science, Dr. Terza Lima-Neves and the student-run Sustainability Village. Both were recognized as finalists for the 2018-19 HBCU Digest awards.

"I felt proud and excited that my commitment to teaching, mentoring and scholarship has been recognized by a respected national platform such as HBCU Digest and also to be in the company of distinguished women scholars who work as hard as I do in ensuring our students experience a well-rounded college education, which to me means, among other things, learning in and outside of the classroom, and personal growth," said Lima-Neves, who was nominated for HBCU Female Faculty of the Year Award. "I am so grateful to this University for always supporting my vision as a professor, mentor and scholar."

The Sustainability Village, nominated for best student organization, integrates academic coursework, research, service learning and experiential education opportunities to enhance student understanding of sustainable development, community food systems and alternative lifestyles that promote conservation.



JCSU's Sustainability Village

Mentor Spotlight: Dr. Anand Gupta and Christina Jones '19

Christina Jones' acceptance into the inaugural cohort of JCSU's McNair Scholars program was a leap toward her goal of earning a Ph.D. in a STEM discipline. Cheering her through the many steps leading up to that accomplishment was her mentor, Dr. Anand Gupta.

Gupta, who is the faculty laboratory coordinator for the Department of Natural Science and Mathematics, noticed Jones' dedication early.

"She was a student of mine in a class, and a very good student," Gupta said. Always on time, never absent, always engaged. She always asked questions after class and would come to my office hours for help. She's very inquisitive, she follows up, and is reliable. Of course she earned an A."

When Jones approached him about the McNair Scholars, she was already working at Davidson College in a summer research program. He was more than happy to write her recommendation letter.

During spring 2018, she was one of 26 students accepted into the first cohort of the McNair Scholars Program at JCSU. She presented her research entitled "Effects of colored light on Phenotypic growth in the fruit fly," which she conducted with Gupta.

Jones, a biology major with a minor in chemistry, is thankful for this strong mentoring bond.

"Dr. Gupta allowed me to come by his office or email him whenever I needed help with something and was extremely helpful every time," Jones said. "He also helped me get opportunities outside of campus, which has given me the advantage of being able to apply my experience to the methods used in other labs."



JCSU McNair Scholar Christina Jones '19 and Dr. Anand Gupta

The McNair Scholars Program is helping her push new ideas and shape the path to her career. Upon graduation, Jones hopes to attend a Ph.D. or M.D program and become a pediatrician. She encourages her fellow Smithites to investigate the resources available during their undergraduate years and to seek help from JCSU faculty members, to help and support them in reaching their goals.



Smithities and community members experiencing the RCLM 37 Art Exhibit located on the first floor of the James B. Duke Library

James B. Duke Library takes action to preserve Historic West End

Charlotte has become one of the fastest growing cities in the United States over the last decade. As many long-time West End residents are getting older, and the area faces rising concerns of gentrification and social change, the James B. Duke Memorial Library has been one of the leading institutions preserving community's history.

The Historic West End is a network of neighborhoods that grew up around Johnson C. Smith University, and it is the only historic black community in Charlotte that was relatively untouched by urban renewal policies in the 1960's and 1970's.

Digital Smith Library Archive Revamped

In March, the James B. Duke Memorial Library launched its revamped Digital Smith website, allowing students, researchers, and the community to gain digital access to materials held by and created by the JCSU archives.

Digital Smith provides access to over 10,000 images, documents, audio and video recordings, oral histories, exhibits, and digital projects that tell the history of Johnson C. Smith University and the historic African American communities that surround it.

The revamped site provides information about the RCLM 37 exhibit, a collaboration between the James B. Duke Memorial Library and the Levine Museum of the New South which was funded by Culture Blocks and the Arts and Sciences Council. It launched in April 2019.

It also links to a digital mapping website built by the library that serves as a resource center for collected and curated digital content about the Historic West End.

Mapping the Historic West End: A digital and oral history resource site

The James B. Duke Memorial Library initiated this interactive map as part of a grant project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The map provides a platform for publishing location-based content including historical photographs, documents, and oral histories that tell the story of a vibrant 150-year-old African-American community that surrounds Johnson C. Smith University.

There are relatively few accessible resources about this area, and this project seeks to change that.

Most of the photographic images used in the map come from the James G. Peeler Collection, donated to Johnson C. Smith University in 2011. Active from the 1950's until the 2000's, Peeler recorded the wide variety of black families and black-owned businesses in the West End, including banks, barber shops and beauty salons, dry cleaners and funeral homes, and nightclubs and restaurants.

Peeler's photos combine with photographs and documents held at universities, museums, government agencies, and private

collections that are brought together through the digital map in a centralized location for the first time. These are combined with the words of the people who lived in the neighborhoods, and still do, those who experienced this history firsthand.

The oral histories recorded and collected for this project allow these communities to speak for themselves, to tell the story of the West End in their own voice.

This platform also offers the chance to those who weren't reached by the project to discover this map and provide additional stories and images that can further enrich this story. The stories recorded for this project are all held at Digital Smith and available online.

The project seeks to not only tell the story of who and what existed here, but of what remains and what will become of it in the future. It seeks to understand the divisions of the past, but not to focus on them or repeat them. It seeks to bridge the gap between communities by connecting old residents and new arrivals through the rich legacy of their shared location, to seek to pilot the West End into a new era of change and vitality.

RCLM 37: JCSU art exhibit combats gentrification

In spring 2019, Johnson C. Smith University unveiled a new art exhibit paying homage to Northwest Charlotte's Black history in the face of ongoing gentrification.

RCLM 37 (pronounced Reclaim 37 – referring to the Beatties Ford exit off Interstate 85) is an experiential history project series created in partnership with the JCSU James B. Duke Memorial

Library and the Levine Museum of the New South. It narrates the past through archived photos and oral histories, music and film, captures the present-day tone and reimagines the future stories of Black spaces within the Beatties Ford Road corridor using Afrofuturism – the creative movement of centering around Black people in the future. The project was funded through Arts and Science Council's (ASC) Culture Blocks partnership.

Monika Rhue '91, director of Library Services and Curation at JCSU, served as project director. "We hope to change the attitudes of individuals on the important role in preserving, sharing and displaying positive narratives of the Beatties Ford Road/Biddleville corridor," she said. "We would like to give voices to long-time residents and provide a historical perspective to new and incoming residents as this community transforms culturally."

The creative team of audio and visual artists and designers, was led by Janelle Dunlap, a mixed-media social justice creative. Dunlap, was the brain child of the 2018 "Manifest Future" mural located at 1600 W Trade Street, across from the Mosaic Village.

JCSU has been preserving Northwest Charlotte's history and culture. This project was years in the making. The Beatties Ford Road Corridor Preservation and History Project began in 2016 and offered opportunities for residents from the community to get involved by participating in oral history projects and photo preservation workshops. The oral history interviews were transcribed and are archived in the Digital Smith online archival repository at the James B. Duke Memorial Library.

The RCLM 37 exhibit is located on the ground floor of the James B. Duke Memorial Library and is open to the public.



Dean Jones examines higher education on Charlotte Magazine's #discussCLT panel



On Oct. 17, 2018, Dr. Brian M. Jones, dean of the College of Arts and Letters, joined a panel of representatives to discuss the state of education in Charlotte.

Charlotte Magazine hosted the discussion, part of a series called #discussCLT that brings local leaders and thinkers together to focus on the city's defining issues.

Despite remaining the largest U.S. city without a four-year medical school or law school, Jones doesn't think Charlotte has a higher education deficit.

"The diversity of the higher educational experience, the centrality of the location, the reach into both North and South Carolina, the job opportunities, the cultural and sports scene all represent Charlotte and the metro area quite well," Jones said. "An increase in STEM opportunities at JCSU in our new Science Center bodes well for the future of STEM jobs in town, as does our focus on reaching students who either want the HBCU experience or who

might not have opportunities at other institutions. Our tradition and culture at JCSU makes our humanities, social science, and social work areas increasingly valuable to the New South City. All of this serves directly the interests of a place seeking to expand economic opportunity across the spectrum."

Jones said he'd like to see the city continue to expand its roots in higher education, especially at JCSU where that strong connection to the city, largely lacking in the past half century, serves all parties involved.

"Personally, I work hard daily to forge greater connections among the institutions in the city, to leverage our expertise and resources, our perspectives and traditions, and to support our students," Jones said.

Along with Jones, panel members Joan Lorden, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Keith Kelly, vice president of local and regional government for the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce; and Tony Zeiss, former president of Central Piedmont Community College, weighed in.

CASE Summit HBCUs take aim at disrupting digital divide

Johnson C. Smith University hosted the fifth annual Carolinas Alliance for Success in Education (C.A.S.E.) Summit on November 15-17, 2018. The summit brought together faculty and administrators from Historically Black Colleges and universities (HBCUs) in North and South Carolina with industry, government, and the community leaders to discuss and solve common problems.

The summit addressed how broadband connectivity on HBCU campuses and in the surrounding urban and rural communities can promote local economic development. The agenda featured discussions about improving broadband access and affordability, as well as innovation at HBCUs.

Speakers included Mignon L. Clyburn, formerly of the Federal Communications Commission; Johnathan M. Holifield, executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and City Councilman James E. Mitchell, Jr.



The fifth annual C.A.S.E. Summit featured (left) Jonathan M. Holifield, executive director of the White House Initiative HBCUs, (second from right) Mignon Clyburn, former FCC Commissioner and (right) Maureen Lewis, director of the NTIA with Diane Bowles, vice president for Government Sponsored Programs and Applied Research

There was also a panel of presidents from Allen University, Benedict College, Fayetteville State University and Elizabeth City State University.



JCSU continues outreach to Latino community

Culture of community and global education are two attributes of Johnson C. Smith University. As part of JCSU's belief in diversity and inclusion, it developed and continues to build on its partnerships and collaborations with Charlotte's Latino community.

According to the United States Census, the population growth in North Carolina from 2010 to 2016, shows that the Latino sector is growing at a more than double rate as the general population, indicating that the Latino growth is 14% versus 6% for the general population.

JCSU held first Latino Open House

In December 2018, JCSU held its first open house specifically targeting Latino students and families interested in attending college. During the event, guests benefitted from information sessions, on-site admissions and a casual dinner. The activity was designed to be a family-oriented conversation in a friendly environment.

The goal was to connect Latino students who are considering continuing their education with a strong network of JCSU faculty, staff, alumni and students. These Golden Bulls offered practical advice on navigating college inside and outside of the classroom, and shared their own experiences at JCSU. The session included invaluable information on financial aid, scholarships, the admissions process, and the different career programs offered at JCSU. Onsite admissions were conducted at no cost.

"This was a great opportunity to showcase the personalized attention, great programs and resources that our students can find at JCSU. We are thrilled to continue supporting the talent and educational goals of our fellow Latino students and their families and look forward to continuing this collaboration," said Vory Billups, director of Admissions.

JCSU Trustee Astrid Chirinos also joined the session and highlighted the positive impact that JCSU is making by granting the Latino community access to education. Chirinos took the opportunity to congratulate our students and alumni for their excellence and leadership.

WFAE interviews student leaders

As the organizing team worked diligently to finalize all the details around the first Latino Student Open House at JCSU, student leaders Brenda Montanez and Juan Carlos Contreras made some time in their tight finals week schedule to share some of their experiences as JCSU students with WFAE 90.7 FM's reporter, Jessa O'Connor. WFAE is Charlotte's National Public Radio affiliate.

O'Connor, from the "All Things Considered" radio features show, covered the open house and had a few questions about Brenda's and Juan's experiences at the University. Both students agreed that their present and future looks bright and promising because of the opportunities that JCSU has granted them and hundreds of other Latino students throughout the last eight years.

Since 2011, JCSU has opened its doors to Latino students who otherwise would have faced insurmountable obstacles mostly because of immigration issues. But that was not the case at JCSU, as Brenda and Juan share how they felt a huge burden was lifted from their backs the moment they received their acceptance letter from JCSU. They both said they will never forget that day that literally changed their lives. Brenda, who will graduate in 2020 plans to become a pediatric surgeon and Juan, a computer science major, already finished his degree program and has accepted a job offer from Bank of America.

Campus Briefs



Bannister moderates student panel at ANTSHE Conference

Dr. John Bannister, instructional designer at Metropolitan College of Professional Studies, moderated the non-traditional student panel discussion at the Association of Non-Traditional Students in Higher Education (ANTSHE) Conference. The event was held in Orlando, Florida April 4 – 7, 2019.

The panel, sponsored by Pinnacle Honor Society, focused on the journey of this group of non-traditional students, who shared their experiences and best practices to succeed. Bannister serves on the Board of Directors of ANTSHE as the Scholarship Officer and has been recognized nationally for his work supporting non-traditional learners.

Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor

Two student officers and the chapter advisor from the JCSU chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta, the National Honor Society for First-Year Success, represented the chapter and University at the 2018 National Leadership Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 19-21, 2018. Carrie Lowe '20, Krysta Wilson '20, and Dr. Marsha W. Rhee received a Delta Silver Award for the chapter's recruitment and sustainability efforts from 2016 to 2018.



Alpha Lambda Delta

The National Honor Society for First-Year Success

Counseling Center MSW Intern at High Point University

Johnson C. Smith University Counseling Center MSW Intern Sharika J. Stroud '19 received a personal invitation to the North Carolina Campus Consortium Biannual Summit in May 2019.

Stroud received the invitation after participating in the 2019 HBCU Campus Equity Project Summit held at Shaw University in February. The attendees at the HBCU Project Summit were "blown away" by her report of the student response to the healthy relationships event also held in February in partnership with the Gamma Lambda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., on campus. Stroud was able to share her programmatic and social work expertise to help inform best practices on student engagement and strategies around improving student support.



Sharika J. Stroud '19



ESL program celebrates 15 graduates

A group of 15 women graduated from JCSU's program teaching English as a second language, "Caminos Hacia el Éxito." This modality of the program, coordinated by Metropolitan College of Professional Studies, was developed in partnership with Novant Health's The Solomon House and PNC Bank.

In 2018, Caminos Hacia el Exito focused on serving Latino women seeking to advance their education and become role models for their families and communities. "Our overall goal has been to equip the students with tools that will give them access to more and better opportunities," said Irene Sandoval Arce, coordinator of the program.

For eight weeks, the students worked under the guidance of their instructor, Cristina Schwaba, to improve their English reading,

writing, speaking and comprehension skills. The curriculum also included exposing the students to topics of leadership, health and financial education. PNC Bank conducted interactive financial fitness workshops; Novant Health offered its premises at The Solomon House and provided health related resources; and JCSU's Metropolitan College of Professional Studies provided the coordination and educational components, including guest speakers.

On November 7, 2018, the graduates received their certificates of completion during a ceremony held on campus in Grimes Lounge. The evening was full of camaraderie and emotions. The graduates invited their family members and friends and had an opportunity to share their excitement and sense of accomplishment with the program's partners.

Campus Briefs

JCSU was partner institution for the 2018 HBCUgrow LEAD Conference

Director of Admissions Vory Billups, and student Essence Mayhew '22, a business administration major with a concentration in marketing, represented JCSU at the HBCUgrow LEAD Conference and Awards event in November at the Gastonia Conference Center. Billups served as a guest on the student recruitment panel.

"This was a great opportunity to learn from both the challenges HBCUs are experiencing and best practices they are applying, as well as to share what has worked for us," Billups said. "It is important to make sure that we at JCSU are proactively bringing together the best tools and strategies to further strengthen our institution with a focus on students and their experience with us."



Vory Billups



Tidwell participates in State Department panel

Terik Tidwell, managing director of the Smith Tech Innovation Center, was one of 40 U.S. State Department alumni selected to participate in the Alumni Thematic International Exchange Series (TIES) in Kansas City, Missouri from March 18-23, 2019.

Alumni TIES brings together an interdisciplinary network of State Department exchange alumni over a four-day period to discuss

and develop policies and strategies of national significance. This year's theme focused on "Strong American Cities: Building Entrepreneurial Ecosystems."

As part of the forum, Tidwell presented on inclusive innovation as an approach for economic development.



Faculty partner to create global health interdisciplinary symposium

Classes led by Karen L. Butler, Ph.D. and Terza Lima-Neves, Ph.D., partnered to celebrate the interdisciplinary symposium entitled “A Conversation on the Politics of Global Health: Perceptions and Understanding Disease Across International Communities.”

The Global Health class (HED 438), led by Butler, and the International Relations class (POL 334) by Lima-Neves, brought in special guests that included Philip Otienoburu, Ph.D., director of the Center for Renewable Energy & Sustainability, and Muriel

Samuels, a chef from Sierra Leone who works with communities in the United States and West Africa. Samuels focuses in working with women to bring awareness of healthy diets to combat diabetes and other illnesses.

“The unique perspectives that emerged from our dialogue inspired us to consider the different ways in which we approach learning and the value of cultural context,” said Butler.

Kohli makes presentation at international conference

In May, Jasleen Kohli, Ph.D., assistant professor of Spanish, presented her work, “At the Altar of Hybrid Storytelling” to a group of global scholars at the Forms of Migration Conference at the University of Graz in Graz, Austria on May 3, 2019.

Her presentation, which was part of her participation in the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-funded “Think Tanks on Problem Solving in the Interdisciplinary Humanities,” covered both the increasing opportunities to engage in digital storytelling in the Department of Languages and Literature and the Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead altar displayed and interpreted in the James B. Duke Memorial Library during October 2017 and October 2018.





Dr. Felesia Stukes with her data science students stand in front of Brayboy Gymnasium

Stukes introduces data science to JCSU through new grant

By 2022, the sports analytics market is expected to skyrocket to four billion dollars. As top international players are duking it out for industry supremacy, an assistant professor of computer science at Johnson C. Smith University is poised to make just as big an impact on the future of sports using data science, an interdisciplinary field that utilizes computing to create or extract insights from data in various forms to derive social and economic value.

Dr. Felesia Stukes, assistant professor of computer science, differentiates herself from traditional computer scientists by putting storytelling at the center of her work. “That’s what makes data science so unique,” she explained. “You can’t just throw numbers at your target audience. That’s statistics. You have to be able to tell a story with the data.” She believes that students across different majors at JCSU stand to benefit from having a data science skill set.

In the summer of 2017, Stukes attended the National Society of Blacks in Computing Conference. That is where she discovered a tech tool for making data science accessible: ShotTracker, a sensor-based system popular with NCAA Division 1 college basketball programs that delivers real-time stats and analytics to an easy-to-use app. Featuring shot charts and zone maps, ShotTracker made it easy to tell stories about data that enhance team performance and drive competition.

This new technology is now used in JCSU classrooms. In 2018, The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Johnson C. Smith University \$149,466 to fund the development of a minor in data science. The award is under the direction of Stukes. She developed a strategic approach to enhance the computer science curriculum and increase student recruitment, retention and success.

"With the rapid growth of data sets in various industries such as healthcare, sports, government and business, there is unlimited career potential for undergraduates with this high-demand expertise," Stukes said. "JCSU is in a great position to build the needed expertise in response to the big data challenges faced by our region."

April 12-13, 2019 Stukes took the Data Bulls Research Group, which consists of Bryiah Clark '21, Alexis Washington '20, Winstongabriel Douglas '20, Lance Latta '20 and Amyr Washington '19, to the SPEIA Basketball Analytics Summit in Durham, North Carolina. Students engaged with and explored the best practices of leading basketball experts, and attended networking session with representatives from companies such as the Charlotte Hornets, STATS, ESPN, IBM, SAS and area analytics start-ups.

"This is an exciting time to become involved with data science," Stukes said. "Our students will have the opportunity to use data science to solve new kinds of social or business problems and impact their communities in a powerful way."

In addition to helping students, Stukes is also making sure faculty members are trained in data science. Some of JCSU's STEM College faculty, including Dr. Dawn McNair, Dr. Rosalyn Lang, and Dr. Tracy Brown, attended the 2018 DataUp Program. Faculty trained on the campus of Georgia Tech University from November 6 - 7, 2018. As part of the DataUp program, this faculty team also hosted a

two-day Data Science workshop on the campus of JCSU on October 18 - 19, 2018. During the campus workshop, JCSU faculty, staff, and students learned how to use Git, Unix Shell, and Python to analyze various datasets.



Curtis participates in policy academy to help military communities prevent suicide



Johnson C. Smith University was the only four-year institution of higher learning from North Carolina chosen as one of the 14 stakeholder agencies to participate in a policy academy designed to help prevent suicide in military communities.

Mecklenburg County sent those stakeholders to Arlington, Virginia, in March 2019 to participate in the Mayor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families (SMVF) Policy Academy as one of seven communities to participate.

Dr. Cheryl Curtis from JCSU's Metropolitan College of Professional Studies was the only four-year institution of higher learning represented from the state of North Carolina. Other sites included

Kansas City, Mo.; Truckee Meadows, Nev.; Suffolk County, N.Y., Oklahoma City, Okla.; Tulsa, Okla.; and Clarksville, Tenn.

The key objectives of the mayor's challenge included strengthening the capacity of the interagency military and civilian team of leaders to prevent and reduce suicide among SMVF as well as deepening the development of the local implementation plan to align with the National Strategy for the Prevention of Veteran Suicide.

The group also sought to acquire a deeper familiarity with the issues surrounding suicide prevention for SMVF and to increase knowledge about the challenges and lessons learned in implementing strategies by utilizing community to community sharing. They also worked to employ promising, best and evidence-based practices to prevent and reduce suicide at the local level and in defining and measuring success, including identifying assignments, deadlines and measurable outcomes to be reported.



JCSU students sightseeing in Jerusalem.

Students study abroad in Israel

JCSU students had an opportunity to experience the sights, sounds and culture of Israel June 2019. Traveling with chaperones Dr. Cindy Kistenberg and Dr. Kendal Mobley, the group saw Caesarea, a Roman city built by King Herod the Great in honor of Augustus, enjoyed rafting on the River Jordan, and visits to Nazareth, Capernaum, and traditional sites of the Sermon on the Mount and the feeding of the 5,000.

The trip was a once in a lifetime experience for many of the students and an opportunity for professors to teach outside of the classroom. "As a minister of the gospel and a scholar, I've been studying biblical history for more than 35 years, but leading students on this study abroad opportunity reminded me that personal experience is the best teacher of all," said Mobley. Cambrea Freeman, second year MSW student added, "Experiences from this trip will most definitely help in the classroom when acknowledging one's diversity and comprehending human behavior."

The group also experienced camel rides and a visit to the Temple Mount's Western Wall, but the most memorable part of the trip was the River Jordan, where Mobley baptized students. "This experience was meaningful for the group as a whole—even for those who were not baptized," said Dr. Kistenberg. "I also enjoyed watching the students bond as we were challenged throughout the trip via rafting and hiking. Also, seeing the group come

together to support those who did not know how to swim, helping them float in the Dead Sea, was also meaningful."

The trip gave students a reality check. They were able to see Israel for what it is and not just as portrayed in the media. "Israel is an area where because of the constant fear of war, the people tend to not be as welcoming as some other locations. As we learned about the years of warfare, mostly due to religion and land, I understood more why it is a people who are always on the defense," said Dawn Arvelo '20. "We also visited the Holocaust museum, and the tour guide who impressively researched JCSU and what an HBCU is, helped correlate the struggle for Jewish people at that time to that of black and brown people in the U.S."

"The only way to challenge these perceptions is for students to experience the people and the culture, which is why we try to make sure the students interact with all the people who call Israel their home. If nothing else, it is my hope that the students become more critical consumers of the stories they hear," said Kistenberg.

Israel provided experience and education, allowed new friendships to form, and offered perspective for students and faculty. "There is so much to see in the world, and learning in a different country is a once in a lifetime opportunity. It is imperative, as an advisor and mentor, that we provide opportunities to not only enhance their experiences at JCSU, but help them to grow as individuals," Kistenberg said.

NSF grants open doors for research opportunities to JCSU students

The National Science Foundation awarded two major grants to JCSU this year—one to fund new research courses and the other to increase rigor in an existing research class.

In July 2018, JCSU was awarded \$399,911 to support the “Targeted Infusion Project: Innovating the Research Educational Experiences in Johnson C. Smith University’s lower/upper level Chemistry courses.”

Under the direction of Dr. Tracy Brown-Fox, assistant professor of chemistry, the grant will help JCSU’s Natural Sciences and Mathematics faculty integrate new polymer chemistry courses such as Research in Polymer Science and a Thermal Analysis Certificate into the curriculum.

Dr. M. Todd Coolbaugh, assistant professor of chemistry, is serving as co-principal investigator on this grant, and Dr. Roderquita Moore of Forest Products Laboratory supplied cellulose nanomaterials.

Exposure to polymer science will better prepare students to pursue employment and graduate studies in an area that has strong employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, but has a low representation of minorities.

“Most importantly, this project will increase the institution’s research capacity, and provide more opportunities for students to participate in active research projects,” said Brown-Fox.

The grant ends April 30, 2021.

Dr. Philip Otienoburu, director of the Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainability, was instrumental in securing a grant of \$114,279 for support of a project entitled “NSF REU Site: Examining the Intersection of Food, Housing, and Healthcare.”

Otienoburu was principal investigator on the three-year grant, which expires March 31, 2021. The project places students in research settings alongside faculty members and key community partners to creatively address social problems in the neighborhoods surrounding JCSU.

“We are building research capacity for the community good,” Otienoburu said, “conducting research along the corridor and reporting our findings to advise policy, make recommendations on change and highlight challenges that communities in the West End corridor are facing.”

Funded for collaborative research, the program’s first cohort consisted of 16 students from JCSU, Davidson College and UNC-Charlotte, as well as other institutions. The scholars researched and implemented tools such as surveys, focus groups, interviews, questionnaires and observational checklists to collect and measure data.

JCSU has already declared its commitment to cultivating a culture and curriculum for undergraduate research through these and other projects and the Quality Enhancement Plan. Through these means, the University will produce even more scholars who are prepared to enter graduate school or the workforce.



Dr. Tracy Brown-Fox, assistant professor of chemistry, Dr. Roderquita Moore of Forest Products Laboratory, and Dr. M. Todd Coolbaugh, assistant professor of chemistry, are collaborating on a grant awarded to JCSU from the National Science Foundation worth nearly \$400,000



NBA players Jayson Tatum (top) Ben Simmons (bottom left) and Kyrie Irving (bottom right) hear shoe design ideas from JCSU students

King and students share sneaker designs with Nike and NBA All-Stars



Professor Jemayne King, instructor of English and Communications at JCSU and sneaker expert, participated in the 2019 NBA All-Star weekend held in Charlotte, North Carolina. King, who served as a Nike House of Hoops consultant, allowed students to participate in an exclusive workshop where they were given the opportunity to pitch sneakers designs for NBA players.

own designs for NBA stars Jayson Tatum, Ben Simmons, Kyrie Irving, Russell Westbrook and PJ Tucker.

Irving showed an interest in five student's designs and is considering them for production.

King also provided the Golden Bulls women's basketball team the opportunity to test the new Nike Adapt BB, a self-lacing sneaker released by the shoe company in February 2019. The student-athletes were also given the opportunity to sit on a panel with Simmons and women's professional basketball player A'ja Wilson.

Fifty students, passionate about sneakers and sneaker design, were chosen to participate in the workshops. These exclusive design sessions afforded students the opportunity to create their

In addition to King's work with students, he is also the author of "Sole Food: Digestible Sneaker Culture".

Casper stages 'Home' for Fall theatrical production



Christian Casper, assistant professor of theater, led JCSU thespians in a production of "Home," Nov. 1-4, 2018. But outside of the Arts Factory's Black Box theatre, he can be seen on commercials airing on local cable networks, in billboard and internet ads, and the 2017 film "An Act of Terror" starring Denzel

Washington's daughter, Olivia Washington.

Casper shares knowledge from his experience as a working actor and director with students, pushing them to stretch their talent and craft every day. He even brings in professional actors to perform with and mentor students.

"It's magical seeing students interact with professional actors, because they soar," Casper said. "Theater is so important at any educational institution; it can change students' lives. It makes them more aware of themselves and each other. That's the goal of theater—to tap into our own humanness. They really get that and blossom and shine."

"Home," by Samm-Art Williams, was originally performed by the Negro Ensemble in 1977 in New York City and focuses on Cephas Miles, an orphan who inherited a farm. He loves the land but loses it and moves to the big city, before returning home to North Carolina and a mysterious benefactor.

"It's a very lyrical, poetic play. I've been wanting to do it since I got here," Casper said. "I wanted them to fail in a good way and learn and grow from it, and I finally had the actors."

"Home" called for two female leads and a male lead, portrayed by Tyson Hamilton, a Charlotte-based actor. Los Angeles native Kaelynn Cotton '21 was one of the female leads, in only her second production at JCSU. She landed her first big role in Spring 2018, when she played Ophelia in "When Shakespeare's Ladies Meet." She's excited to bring "Home" to life.

"The role was loaded with dialogue and poetry, which is the cherry on top for me," Cotton said. "I've taken theater classes back home with other instructors who are professional actors as well. But working with Professor Casper has been such an adventure, to experience his passion and love for theatre. He has definitely built up my skills as a theatre major."

"I loved my character," said Zainab Kabia '20, the other lead. "I feel as though her storyline is parallel to a situation that occurred in my life and we have some of the same characteristics. It made me



question my actions and sympathize along with others."

Kabia has been performing onstage since the age of 5 and attended a performing arts high school in Maryland. She's grateful to have worked with Casper on her first JCSU performance.

"Here is someone who has the

experience and is currently an active participant that is willing to prepare you and help structure your foundation for what you desire to do for the rest of your life," she said. "Most of us college students look for that. He provides the kind of push that I need in accomplishing my goals here at JCSU and outside of school."

Casper hails from Idaho Falls, Idaho and has been involved in theater since he was eight years old. He came to JCSU six years ago with an impressive resume: Actor's Theater of Charlotte, CAST Theater, Davidson Community Players, Central Piedmont Community College and Theater Charlotte. In addition to commercial work, he continues to direct productions, does voice-over work and is the spokesperson for Comporium internet in South Carolina. He teaches Shakespearean literature at JCSU as well.

"Shakespeare's my guy, so whenever I get the chance to read him I do," Casper said. "I make it more of an analysis of the scripts. I want the students to see it more from a performance angle, because plays are meant to be seen on their feet. We do a lot of character breakdowns: Why is the character saying or doing this? Students start speaking it and realize it's not as difficult as they thought it would be."

His favorite Johnson C. Smith University theater experience is always the next show—"The memories are what make it amazing."



Dr. Nicola Bivens, associate professor of criminology (left), Chancellor Lee Adams (center) with his grandmother Saura Adams (right)

Adams shares powerful story of forgiveness and raises awareness of domestic violence

Saura Adams and her grandson Chancellor Lee Adams shared their story with JCSU students in a lecture about honoring the victims of crime during the criminology department's Crime, Justice and Law Week.

Before she spoke, the audience watched a video recapping the events that occurred in November 1999 when Adams' daughter, Cherica, pregnant with Chancellor, was fatally wounded by a gunman allegedly hired by her boyfriend, Rae Carruth, who played for the Carolina Panthers at the time of the shooting.

Carruth allegedly pulled his car in front of Cherica's while the gunman, Van Brett Watkins, shot four times into Cherica's car. She was able to hang on to life long enough to call 911, leaving a haunting testimony of the events that had just happened to her. She was rushed to the hospital where she had Chancellor via c-section and died a few weeks later.

Carruth was convicted of conspiracy to commit first degree murder, shooting into an occupied vehicle and using an instrument to destroy an unborn child, his son, Chancellor. He served 18 years of his prison sentence and was released in 2018.

"She put her trust in this person. Thank goodness she had strong determination and willpower but, most of all, she had strong faith. She knew she had to save her child," said Adams.

Chancellor has cerebral palsy, a condition that affects muscle control, muscle coordination, balance and posture. Saura retired early to raise him and take care of him. He has ongoing physical therapy due to his condition. According to Adams, it has changed their lives forever because it is not curable.

"But he is doing absolutely amazing. He is not just surviving, he is thriving in every sense of the word. It's because of his determination too. He is so strong and so determined and so full of life, just like his mom," said Adams. "Chancellor understands what strong faith is and that God has kept him here for a purpose. He is living in his purpose everyday."

Adams' goal is that Chancellor learns to live as normally as possible and she has already seen him accomplish so much.

She explained that everyone needs to be cognizant of their choices because they affect everyone around you. Decisions affect you, your family and your community.

"My daughter lost her life. My grandson lost a thriving life he would have known. Rae lost his life in jail. My family lost, she was not only a daughter, she was a granddaughter, she was a sister, she was an aunt, she was a cousin, she was a friend. She was a great co-worker with a thriving career," said Adams pausing momentarily before continuing slowly. "I don't like to think a lot about what I lost, but I lost some of my hopes and dreams that I had as well."

Sandra says domestic violence stems from an identity problem because people who commit acts of violence often do not get enough attention, or have low self-esteem or feel insignificant.

She suggests being careful of believing what you see on social media because what you see online is only the best parts of people's lives. She warns that you shouldn't compare your life to what you see on social media because that seed of negativity can affect you and become bigger and deeper.

She told the audience that domestic violence has become a worsening and deepening problem that affects everyone, regardless of affluence, race or class. According to her research, an act of domestic violence happens every three seconds and 20 people are killed per minute. In fact, said Adams, every 18 months in the U.S. more people are lost to domestic violence than died in the 9/11 attack.

Sandra also spoke out against the many acts of violence portrayed through the media and that these can be especially hurtful.

"It's fine to send your child off to watch TV and get some quiet time but you better know what they're watching," she said.

Adams wanted her audience to know that there is hope because people can stand up to domestic violence and make good choices for themselves and their communities.

"I always say that people who are hurting do hurt other people. So if you are around angry people in an environment where there is arguing, you eventually make a pact with yourself that you will never let that happen to you," she said.

While this is a normal feeling, Adams said that you need to make sure that you do not keep the bitterness and hatred in your heart to let it become something worse.

"It's like being on an airplane," explained Adams. "You can carry the baggage on but now you have to pay for it. That's what happens when you let hatred grow and fester inside you. Baggage is fine but know that the more you have, the more you're going to have to pay."

She also warns you cannot allow yourself to have a victim mentality saying that early on she decided she would refuse this mindset.

"Early on I decided that I can be the victim or the victor. I can be pitiful or powerful. And I decided that I'm going for the powerful instead," said Adams.

She says she has made a choice to forgive and move on and she gave her pain a purpose.

"This was a senseless, horrendous act that was meant for evil towards us and God has turned it around and, in a sense, he has made it really good," she exclaimed talking about her life now with Chancellor.

She admits that getting to this point was hard and painful, and she still gets angry about it, but she has chosen to focus on what she has left. She works on living her life and giving Chancellor the best life he can have. It is her mission to help other people. Her daughter's voice speaks on through her and her actions.

She also touched on forgiveness.

"I could not love Chancellor Lee Adams unconditionally and say that I hate his father. The two don't go together," Adams said. "Forgiveness doesn't mean that I think you shouldn't have justice, because I do."

Adams believes every human being is redeemable and her daughter's killers do not have to be defined by the stupid decision they made that night. She feels they can learn and move on so they will not make those mistakes again.

"I think that the power of love is transformative and the power of love and forgiveness is the legacy that I want to leave for my child and my grandchild. He's both, I don't get to be just grandmom, I get to be mom and grandmom."





The Bookshelf

A number of faculty members at JCSU published scholarly papers, articles and books during the 2018-19 academic year. Below is a list of some of their works in print and digital media.

Rundholz, Adelheid, Ph.D., professor, director, Center for Integrated Studies and Study Abroad. "Language Nomads: Literature of Migration and (Altermodern) Poetics." In: *Multicultural Narratives: Traces and Perspectives*. Cambridge Scholars, Newcastle, United Kingdom, July 2018.

Although particulars are different for different countries, the history of literature of migrants and its reception have unfolded in similar ways. In addition to the creation of a conflicted relationship between national and migrant literatures, terms like the German *Gastarbeiterliteratur* have not only created a separate and distinct category for migrant literature, but have also served to limit its authors to a single dimension such as feelings of loneliness, loss of home, a sense of isolation, etc. Texts by writers such as Diome, Ganbo, Miano, Tawada, Zaimoglu, Ozdamar, and Schami serve to focus on language instead of plot or content. The authors are different in terms of their (or their parents') countries of origin and in terms of their current homes and languages. The intentional reference to such variegated works serves to illuminate that despite the authors being subject to different first and second languages, individual life stories and the fact that they are embedded in different local/national contexts (and challenges) in their current place of residence, they nonetheless have in common the translinguistic character of their texts. Importantly,

the translinguistic aspects of the texts do not constitute the encounter (of even clash) between two given cultures (homeland and country of residence). Rather, each of the texts presents instances of the linguistic and creative potential when any two cultures 'meet' to inform each other and, in the process, both emerge as changed. One of the effects on the reader/recipient of the text or texts is defamiliarization with his or her native language; she or he is thus invited not only to encounter something (another culture/country) or someone (the narrator) Other but to also experience the assumed 'normal' (his or her native language, i.e., the language in which the author writes) as Other. In this sense, the texts reveal that alterity is not far away, but that it exists where one might not expect it: at home, in one's native language.

"Two Tales of a City: Istanbul in Kulin and Zaimoglu." In: *Comparative Literature Studies*. Kriter, Istanbul, Turkey, March 2019.

Typically, the literature of migration that thematizes encounters between Turks and

Germans narrates the fates of Turkish migrants in their adopted homeland, that is, Germany. Two recent novels, however, take readers back to Turkey in the 1930s (and onward). Both German (of Turkish descent) writer Feridun Zaimoglu's *Sieben-turmeviertel* (2015) and Turkish novelist Ayse Kulin's *Kanadi Kirik Kuslar* (2016) organize their works around refugees from Nazi Germany who find a new life and rekindled hope in Istanbul. Although the texts are profoundly different in scope, style, and authorial perspective, both novels depict the young republic and Kemalist reforms. They also recall how thousands of Germans—especially academics—found employment in Turkish institutions and how, by virtue of their work, they became part of the modernization efforts. Each novel constitutes an 'episode' in this 'chapter' of Turkish history. Above all, however, read together (and against each other), the novels form a 'plot' that reveals, probes, and questions the very concept of modernity in terms of its goals, inherent tensions, challenges, and opportunities.

Dr. Awatif Amin, assistant Professor. "Educational Data Mining," Proceedings of the ASEE Southeastern Section Annual Conference 2019. Data mining uses pattern based queries, searches, or other analyses of one or more electronic databases/datasets in order to discover or locate a predictive pattern or anomaly indicative of system failure, criminal or terrorist activity, etc. This paper discusses success stories of data mining to predict student retention.

Dr. John Bannister, Competency-Based and Social-Situational Approaches for Facilitating Learning in Higher Education, "Mentoring at Minority Serving Institutions." This book incorporates teachings for educators on diversity and inclusion in higher learning, specifically when it comes to designing education models for adult students.

Tara Bengle, Ph.D., community research manager, Sorensen, J., and Xiang, W.N. Editorial: Ecological wisdom inspired practice research for building resilient communities in socio-ecological systems. *Journal of Urban Management*, 7(13), 121-123. 2018. Through this Special Issue, the authors aim

to make a compelling case for an emerging and promising research direction on the construction of an overarching framework of practice research focused on building resilient SES communities with a variety of transdisciplinary approaches.

Tara Bengle, Ph.D., and Schuch, C. Integrating participatory action research into graduate geography studies: a tale of two dissertations. *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 42(4), 617-629. 2018. This article helps to fill this gap by exploring the impacts of Participatory Action Research constraints on our dissertations, the factors that contributed to the success of our projects, and the benefits (both academic and non-academic) based on our experiences from the student perspective.

Anita Bledsoe-Gardner, Nicola Davis Bivens, M. Miller, J.T. Mills, "Space, Place and the Evolution of the Policing of Black Bodies," In Esmail, A. & Eargle, L. On These Mean Streets People Are Dying, Police and Citizen Brutality in America. The chapter provided an interdisciplinary perspective of the history of the policing of Blacks and the intersection of protest, policing, biopolitics, and structural racism.

Lucinda Blue, Ph.D, CBCP, CRISC, assistant professor of business. "College and Life Success for the Adult Learners," The Nontrad Journal, October 2018. The Nontrad Journal published an article that included Dr. Lucinda Blue's perspectives on opportunities and challenges for the adult student to thrive. Blue discusses in her piece that "adult learners are change agents, who apply their knowledge to everyday living for themselves, their families, and their communities. Their learning implications are extremely profound for engaging and networking to pursue lifelong academic trajectory."

Matthew M. DeForrest, Ph.D., professor of English. "(En)gendered There: Apocalyptic Women and Their Questions," *The Yeats Journal of Korea: An International Journal of Yeats and Modern Literature*. Sejong City and Seoul, South Korea: The Yeats Society of Korea 57: 45-64. 2018.

Matthew M. DeForrest, Ph.D., "(En)gendered There: Apocalyptic Women and Their Questions," *The 2018 W. B. Yeats International Conference: (Post)Modernism, (Trans)Nationalism, (Post)Colonialism: The 27th Anniversary of The Yeats Society of Korea*. Ed. Young Suck Rhee. Seoul, South Korea: 40-55. Hanbit Publishing 2018.

Matthew M. DeForrest, Ph.D., "The bundle of accident and incoherence that sits down to breakfast': Symbolic Time Underpinning the System in the Vision Papers," *The Yeats Journal of Korea: An International Journal of Yeats and Modern Literature*. Sejong City and Seoul, South Korea: The Yeats Society of Korea 55: 91-104. 2018

Alexa von Dohlen, Ph.D., professor of biology, D. Scott, J.P. Dubey, and D.S. Lindsay. Prevalence of sarcocysts in the muscles of raptors from a rehabilitation center in North Carolina. *Journal of Parasitology* 105: 11-16. 2019.

Alexa von Dohlen, Ph.D., Dubey, J.P., C.K. Cerqueira-Cézar, F.H.A. Murata, J.D. Mowery, D. Scott and D.S. Lindsay. Confirmation of *Sarcocystis jamaicensis* sarcocysts in IFN- γ gene knock out mice orally inoculated with sporocysts from Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). *Journal of Parasitology* 105: 143-145. 2018.

Alexa von Dohlen, Ph.D., K. Tiwari, S. Harrison, and R. Sharma. Seroprevalence of antibodies against *Trypanosoma cruzi* in brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) from Grenada, West Indies. *Journal of Animal Research* 8: 955-958. 2018.

Alexa von Dohlen, Ph.D., N. Cheatham, K. Tiwari, and R.N. Sharma. Prevalence of antibodies against visceralizing *Leishmania* spp. in brown rats from Grenada, West Indies. *Veterinary World* 11: 1321-1325. 2018.

Anand P. Gupta, laboratory coordinator, **Jonathan Smalls, Christina Jones, Antonio Henley**. Preliminary observations of colored light effects on *Drosophila virilis* phenotypic traits. *Dros. Inf. Serv.* 101: 41-42. 2018.

Jemayne Lavar King, Loren Collins. Toothbrush and Laces: A Survey of Economics Within Sneaker Culture. Toothbrush and Laces: A Survey of Economics within Sneaker Culture was created to increase the economic literacy and business acumen of youth, using sneaker culture as a means of communication. The work introduces the reader to economic terms by relating them to sneaker culture.

Jemayne Lavar King, Mikel Brabham. Thank Me Later. Thank Me Later addresses trauma and utilizes comedy as therapy. The text includes narratives that offer fresh perspectives and pragmatic approaches to life's hardships and tribulations.

Jemayne Lavar King, Black History Month Op-Ed: The Evolution of Sneaker Culture, *Footware News*. February 1, 2019. Jemayne Lavar King explains Sneaker Culture's origin and its subsequent matriculation and evolution from the 1960s to present time.

Terza A. Silva Lima-Neves, Ph.D., associate professor of political science and chair of Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. "Navigating Between Worlds: (Re)Defining My Identity in the Context of an All-Girls Private Elite School," in *Pan-African Spaces: Essays on Black Transnationalism*, December 2018. (Chapter 7). This autobiographical essay explores the complex dual environments a newly arrived African immigrant girl finds herself navigating, between her Cabo Verdean household and an elite same sex independent school. She is quickly confronted with (white) privilege, racism, blackness, gender inequalities, feminism, immigration policies while also learning about herself, a teenager in a new cultural space.

Terza A. Silva Lima-Neves, Ph.D., Joao Rosa. *Journal of Cape Verdean Studies*; Volume 4; Issue 1. 2019.

This edition of the *Journal of Cape Verdean Studies* centers Cabo Verdean women's voices, knowledge, scholarship, activism and experiences. The objective is to alter the single story and redirect the present discourse in order to rebrand the image of Cabo Verdean women, from objectified victims of their circumstances to empowered beings who also have agency of their decisions. This movement is already in motion via community efforts of organizations like *womenise.it* (Cabo Verde), *Criolas Unidas*, *Criolas Contra Cancer* and *Deputadas Milionarias*, (United States), in academia via the works of Cabo Verde-based scholars like Roselma Evora and Euridice Monteiro as well as US-based scholars such as Aminah Fernandes Pilgrim and Dawna Thomas. In addition, *Poderoza: An International Conference on Cabo Verdean Women* held biannually in the United States is the first conference of its kind that values both community and academic spaces in understanding the unique set of challenges we face therefore centering Cabo Verdean women's voices, experiences and knowledge. This issue includes the multidisciplinary work of Kriola scholars in academia as well as community advocates. Callie Watkins Liu, Aleida Cristina Mendes Borges, Anna Lima, Eunice Ferreira and Janine de Novais represent a diverse group of women whose vast experience and level of expertise transcends geographical boundaries, disciplines and community work. The featured scholars offer critical interventions in the areas of performance arts and African liberation, questions of ethnic and racial identity, self-identification, youth, political participation and democracy, genealogy, immigration and beyond. Their work comes together beautifully in this issue with the hope of inspiring the reader to truly "see" Cabo Verdean women as active agents of change with powerful stories that must be shared with others, in our own voices.

Dr. Melita Pope Mitchell, assistant dean and director of Evening and Online Programs. "Dreams Deferred Are Not Dreams Denied", *HBCU Times*, Fall 2018 Edition. The success of students through Johnson C. Smith University's Evening and Online Pro-

grams is explored. Highlights of Mrs. Angela Silver's journey through trial, tribulations and triumph is shared.

Kendal P. Mobley, Ph.D., associate professor of religion and Spiritual Life Center Coordinator. "Immigration and Nativism in William David Upshaw's Americanism," *American Baptist Quarterly* 36, no. 4: 367-386. January 2019.

William David Upshaw, a Southern Baptist lay evangelist, editor, and champion of Prohibition, represented Georgia's 5th district in the United States Congress from 1919 to 1927. Mobley's essay offers a brief biographical sketch of Upshaw and locates him in the religious and political context of the 1920s. Mobley presents Upshaw's Americanist rhetoric of Christian nationalism, anti-immigrant nativism, and his defense of the resurgent Ku Klux Klan as evidence that Upshaw represented a variety of white evangelical populism that viewed white Protestant control of American society as essential to the divine destiny of the nation. Although Upshaw is almost forgotten today, the religious and political sentiments he articulated are still echoed in the views and pronouncements of the Christian Right.

Sabina Otienoburu SD, Suay I, Garcia S, Thomas NV, Srisutham S, Björkman A, Humphreys GS, Malar J. "An online mapping database of molecular markers of drug resistance in *Plasmodium falciparum*: the ACT Partner Drug Molecular Surveyor," *January 18, 2019*; 18(1):12.

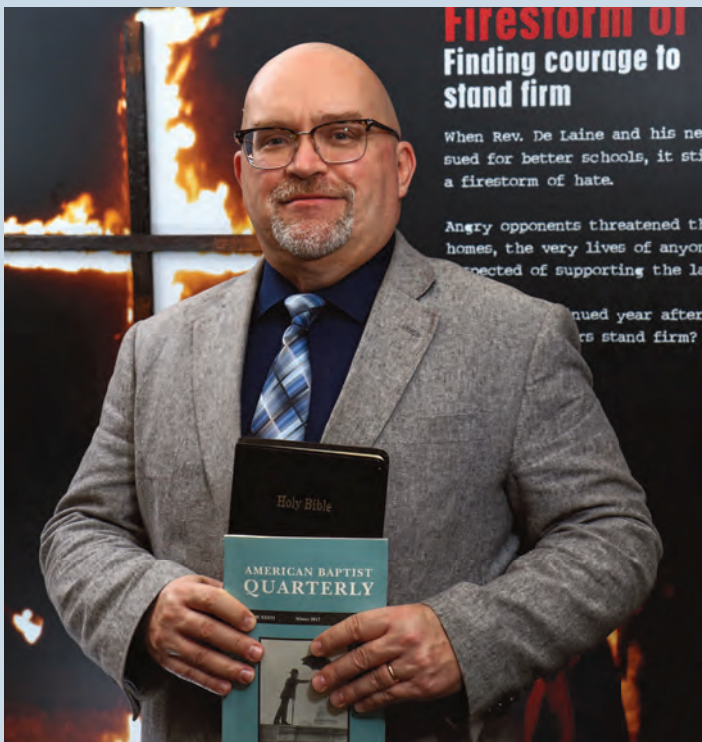
Prior to this project, only a handful of online visualizations existed for exploring the published literature on molecular markers of antimalarial drug resistance, and none specifically for the markers associated with *Plasmodium falciparum* resistance to the partner drugs in artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT). Molecular information is collected in studies with different designs, using a variety of molecular methodologies and data analysis strategies, making it difficult to compare across studies. The purpose of this project was to develop a free online tool, which visualizes the widely published data on molecular

markers of antimalarial drug resistance, starting with the two genes *pfprt* and *pfmdr-1*, associated with resistance to the three most common partner drugs; amodiaquine, lumefantrine and mefloquine

Sabina Otienoburu SD, Silva M, Ferreira PE, Calçada C, Ngasala B, Björkman A, Mårtensson A, Gil JP, Veiga MI. *J Antimicrob Chemother.* July 2019, 1;74 (7):1890-1893. "Plasmodium falciparum K13 expression associated with parasite clearance during artemisinin-based combination therapy".

This book focuses on Delayed parasite clearance and, consequently, reduced efficacy of artemisinin-based combination therapies have been linked with Plasmodium falciparum K13 gene SNPs in South-east Asia. In Africa, significantly, prolonged clearance has not yet been observed and the presently restricted variation in parasite clearance cannot be explained by K13 polymorphisms.

Harriette W. Richard, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, Whitten, L., Fairchild, H., & Richard, H. *Teaching Integrating Multiculturalism and Intersectionality into the Psychology Curriculum: Strategies for Instructors* (Third Edition). Washington, DC: The American Psychological Association. 2019. This chapter helps psychology instructors incorporate the African American perspective into their classes.



Mobley explores religion, race and politics

Dr. Kendal Mobley is sharing his knowledge of religion in an essay titled *Immigration and Nativism in William David Upshaw's Americanism*. Mobley, a Professor of Religion, focuses on Upshaw, a Southern Baptist lay evangelist, editor, and champion of Prohibition, who represented Georgia's fifth district in the United States Congress from 1919 to 1927.

Upshaw, known for spewing racist rhetoric, defended the resurgent Ku Klux Klan a century ago, to protect the power of the white Protestant majority. During that time, politician's restricted immigration, used strategies to limit the political rights of minorities, and enforced a social separation of races.

Mobley said it is satisfying to share his knowledge of religion with others, especially on Upshaw, who he has been researching for the last decade.

"Finally, publishing my work is a way to reaffirm my vocation as a scholar and a teacher. While learning is a personal delight, sharing what I learn with the world helps me to fulfill my calling, and that is always satisfying," Mobley explained.

During research, Mobley kept discovering new dimensions to explore and new connections to current issues.

As Mobley emphasized, "The expressions of racism and nativism that are increasingly common today sound remarkably like those of a century ago because they come from the same sources and are affected by the same forces." He added, "Racism permeated every institutional expression of American life then, just as it does today—only more openly."

Mobley hopes his work teaches people that human intentions and motivations are often complex.

"This human complexity is a reason to hope that we can connect with people despite our disagreements and move toward a shared understanding of the common good—if we can find the right relational approach," Mobley said.



Chamberlyn Smith '21 (center right) with President Clarence D. Armbrister, First Lady Denise McGregor Armbrister, CIAA Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams

Chamberlyn Smith: Four to Finish

Chamberlyn Smith '21 enrolled at Johnson C. Smith University straight out of high school, but arrived already possessing sophomore-level credit hours.

The English major began taking college-level courses concurrently with her regular curriculum in 11th grade at Middle College High School in Memphis, Tenn.

"My first-period English class was at 9 a.m., then at 10:50 I'd take college-level English at Christian Brothers University," Smith said. She graduated high school in May 2017 and by the time she set foot on JCSU's campus that fall, had amassed over 30 credit hours.

She did it through hard work. Raised by a single mother who worked hard to ensure the middle child of three attended the best schools, Smith made straight A's almost her entire high school career.

"Education was really important to my mom. She didn't ask anything of me other than to do my school work. People thought she was strict," Smith says. "Mom had two jobs, went to school and worked full time. She didn't have time for us to be slacking off—she doesn't play."

Being active in Debate Club, a student ambassador and a high school cheerleader, Smith earned her first B in a college-level history class. She doubled down and was valedictorian of her 2017 graduating class.

"I had worked four years to get that spot. I tried really hard and I thought the ACT defined me. But that B my senior year reshaped my outlook on life. I thought I had to hang it up, but my mom was in my ear. She said I would always

be No. 1, and not anybody's No. 2—not in relationships, academics, my career, or anything else."

She suffered another blow at the height of success when her estranged father, who had accepted an invitation to her graduation, was a no-show.

"Even though he'd had no parts in my success, I'd wanted him to be a part of my day," Smith said. "I have no resentment toward him; my mom picked up the slack pretty well. But I realized I'd let him define my image of success. It was about envy; my friends had double-parent homes. But it took that to make me see I'd secretly been putting him before my mom the entire time. It validated what my mom said—I have everything I need to be successful, inside of me."

Her graduation speech, which Smith describes as "epic," is still played on Shelby County Schools' website.

Smith has interned in the Athletics Department since Fall 2017, and each year they request her again. She facilitates game set-up, fills in at the will-call ticket booth, and keeps track of paperwork for student athletes in golf, softball, track, volleyball, football, and most other JCSU sports. She's also been tapped as President Clarence D. Armbrister's athletics liaison, so she assists him in whatever he needs at games.

Overall, she's happy she chose JCSU—and glad she will be graduating in under four years.

"It's a bit tougher to challenge yourself that way, but the pay-off and satisfaction is worth it," Smith says with a smile.

Braxton takes a shot at wildlife

Kaleyah Braxton '21 spent Fall 2018 sharpening her photography skills as an intern in the Department of University Communications and Marketing, capturing images at sports, academic and social events. She took her craft to another level with a two-day wildlife and bird photography course limited to a dozen professional nature photographers at the Carolina Raptor Center.

Prior to stepping into the raptors' natural habitat, Braxton and the other wildlife photographers listened carefully to how they should maneuver around the birds. She noticed that the birds became fearful and that they would flap their wings to protect themselves from danger.

She was able to capture photos of a hawk, an owl, and a golden eagle in flight.

"The hawk didn't like people being behind her and she became flustered when we would try to get up close to take a photo. I was able to get up close to a small baby owl and golden eagle with a wounded wing," she said. "I've had pets growing up, but nothing like a giant eagle or black vulture a few feet away from me," she continued.

One of her favorite moments was taking a photo of the hawk in flight. The hawk's eyes left her in awe. "The intensity of the hawk's gaze amazed me. This was truly something to see," she said.

Alongside professional photographers, Braxton learned how to operate camera equipment effectively and improve her camera angles to get the best photo.

She met John, a wildlife photographer, who admired that she was a student at Johnson C. Smith University who had an interest in wild life photography. He allowed her to use some of his equipment.

"John let me use his 18-400mm on the first day and the next day he let me use his 28-300 mm Tamron lens."

Prior to attending the wildlife photography course in November 2018, Braxton attended PhotoWild, a two-day event that allows bird lovers and wildlife photography enthusiasts to photograph the birds without instruction. She enjoyed the October experience so much that she was excited to have the opportunity to take the class and learn from a wildlife photography expert.

Sherri Belfield, director of University Communications and Marketing, recommended Braxton.

"Kaleyah is a dependable and reliable student who listens carefully and I knew that she would take advantage of this opportunity," she said. "This was an engaging way to begin building our partnership with Carolina Raptor Center." Braxton is thankful to have mentors on campus that encourage her to try new things.

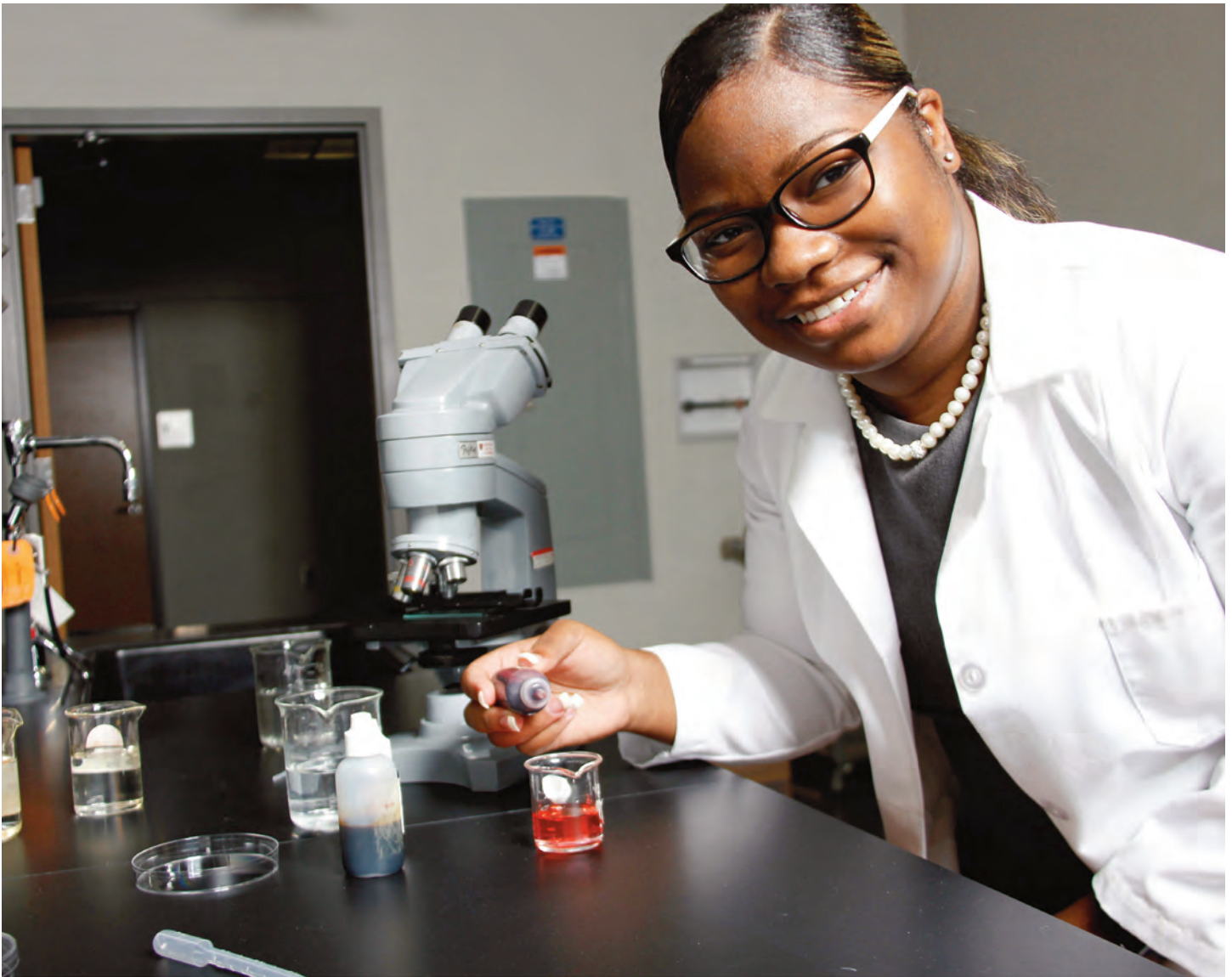
"Having people who support me at Johnson C. Smith University is why I chose to stay here," she said. "Knowing someone is in your corner is a blessing," she continued.

Braxton's artwork sold at Carolina Raptor Center's Talon to Table Gala on June 1, 2019. She was invited to submit her photos by the center's executive director, Jim Warren, as a reward for embracing CRC's opportunities for growth as a photographer and developing an affinity for raptors. Braxton's three photos were purchased at the auction, which helped raise \$119,000 for CRC.

In the future, she hopes to work with the Carolina Raptor Center's rehabilitation program and take photos of new raptors.



Kaleyah Braxton '21 participated in a two-day wildlife and bird photography course at the Carolina Raptor Center.



Taneva Bush '20 was awarded third place for her research on Genetic Identification of Putative Muscle Nociceptors'

Bush wins acclaim in symposium presentation

Taneva Bush '20 earned third place in an oral presentation for her research on Genetic Identification of Putative Muscle Nociceptors at the 11th annual Virginia-North Carolina Alliance Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Fostering Innovation and Excellence in STEM" was held at Virginia Tech University in conjunction with the HBCU/MSI Research Summit on October 14-15, 2018.

Nearly 500 individuals, including 20 JCSU students, were in attendance over the two days of activities. Bush and Kaitlin Santos '20 presented a poster each on 'Relationships between Depression and Experimental Pain' and 'Double Stranded DNA Breaks and Repair' respectively that received a lot of critical acclaim and was very well received.

The VA-NC Alliance, now in its 12th year, is successful in many ways due to the collaboration and contribution by Co-principal investigators, managing team, directors, faculty, administrators, staff, governing board and others who provide support. The alliance is now further strengthened with another NSF grant for 'Bridge to the Doctorate' program. The primary purpose of the VA-NC Alliance is to provide opportunities to underrepresented minority undergraduates seeking STEM degrees. These include research experiences, presentation opportunities, travel to national research conferences, mentoring, tutoring, professional development workshops and financial support, among others.

Two JCSU students named as University Innovation Fellows

Business administration major Tymier Farrar '21, and computer engineering major Anthony Edwards '21 were selected as University Innovation Fellows for the 2018-19 school year. These student leaders from schools around the country create new opportunities that help their peers develop an entrepreneurial mindset, build creative confidence, seize opportunities, define problems and address global challenges.

For six months, the Farrar and Edwards worked on several projects to enhance the university's innovative and entrepreneurial landscape. After completing their training, they were pinned, joining a global network of changemakers and innovators.

"We are excited about the students' commitment to enhance the campus by helping their peers become more entrepreneurial, connected, and innovative. We look forward to the great work ahead," said Terik Tidwell, managing director of the Smith Tech Innovation Center.



Tymier Farrar '21 and Anthony Edwards '21 named University Innovation Fellows

The Campus Champions for the program included Professor Kareema Gray from the School of Social Work, Yvette Hall from the Department of Business Administration and Economics, and Ciara May from the Smith Tech Innovation Center.

JCSU honors veterans and recognizes the Coast Guard on Veterans Day

Johnson C. Smith University students celebrated Veteran's Day on Nov. 12, 2018, by recognizing veterans and writing appreciation notes for active duty military members. The university also hosted officers of the Coast Guard who introduced students to additional resources that can enhance their college experience.

Captain Adrian West, Lieutenant Commander Quinton DuBose, Ensign Blair Ogujiofor and Ensign Aarica Carrington shared their service stories, dispelling common misconceptions of military life, and highlighted the Coast Guard's College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI) program, which pays up to two years of undergraduate tuition. West, who took advantage of the program when he was an undergraduate student, encouraged students to look into it. He is one of only 51 African Americans in the 228-year history of the Coast Guard to attain the rank of captain. Currently, he's one of only ten active duty African-American captains.

Two JCSU students who are associated with the armed forces also sat on a panel with the Coast Guard members. Landry Frison '19, who is active duty South Carolina National Guard, and Sameerah Williams '19, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, offered their perspective on military life to interested students.

Afterward, more than 50 students gathered to write inspiring and uplifting notes to active-duty service men and women as part of Coca-Cola Bottling Company's "Message in a Bottle" campaign. The campaign was launched to honor those who inspire and serve every day.



Landry Frison '19, an active duty service member in South Carolina National Guard, along with Coast Guard members



Anthony Lewis'19

Lewis learns entrepreneurial skills at HBCU@SXSW

Anthony Lewis, Jr. '19, a computer engineering major was selected as one of five JCSU students to represent the university during the HBCU@SXSW Conference, March 8-11, 2019 in Austin, Texas.

Over the three days, students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions and Predominantly White Institutions experienced all that SXSW has to offer.

Students participated in a technology and entrepreneurship boot camp, panels on coding, and direct engagement with recruiters.

Lewis was thrilled about the opportunity to engage with peers and network with industry professionals around the globe.

"It was a dream come true," Lewis said. "I knew that the hard work that I put in would land me a permanent seat."

Lewis is the brand ambassador for SXSW's Opportunity Hub (OHUB). He is responsible for providing student recruitment with the intentions of increasing JCSU student participation. These students had the opportunity of creating an experience that facilitates connections and relationships resulting in immediate summer internships, career opportunities or startup acceleration.

"I wanted to create opportunities for more students to attend the conference. I have found that by attending a conference such as this, it would allow students to get exposure and network with professionals in their fields," he said.

The OHUB provides year round online and on-site engagement between students, faculty, tech companies, startup, and investors to ensure that students are ready to take advantage of opportunities in innovation, entrepreneurship and investment.

Companies recruited more than 275 students during the conference. Lewis worked on developing his entrepreneurial skills. "I would like to learn how to operate a business with other diverse individuals," he said. "The percentage of African Americans within the tech industry is very low compared to other races and I hope to increase that percentage with my experiences," he continued.

Other students that were selected are Yasmine Parker '19, Tremell Parker '19, Tahj Spivey '19, Quintavious Coleman Sr., '19 and Anthony Edwards '21.

Broadway and opera star teaches master class to JCSU Concert Choir students

In January 2019, opera singer Alyson Cambridge traveled to Charlotte to perform the title role of Georges Bizet's "Carmen." The JCSU Concert Choir participated in a master class conducted by the star in partnership with Opera Carolina. Cambridge's personal mission to give back made her more than willing to work with two JCSU students on diction, interpretation, language, stage presence and vocal

style. Following the class, choir members attended the final performance of Carmen at the Belk Theater that evening.

The master class was a special moment for choir members because Cambridge sang the role of Bess in Porgy & Bess in Charleston, S.C., during the Spoleto Festival 2016 when the JCSU Concert Choir performed.



Dr. Barbara Buck, Jewel Holmes '22, Broadway performer and opera singer Alyson Cambridge, Jaaven Middleton, '22 and Dr. Shawn-Allyce White, associate professor of Music

Computer science and engineering students attend the Tapia conference

Computer science and engineering majors Jesus Izquierdo '20, Anthony Edwards '21, and Winstongabriel Douglas '20, as well as Dr. Felesia Stukes, assistant professor of computer science, attended the 2018 ACM Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing on September 19 – September 21, 2018, in Orlando, FL. The goal of the Tapia Conference is to bring together undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, researchers, and professionals in computing to celebrate the diversity that exists in computing, as well as connect communities beyond the conference and make contacts with computing leaders in academia and industry.

"Students can benefit greatly from attending diversity conferences like this one," Stukes said. "They meet hundreds of other students from diverse backgrounds who are on the same journey as them, and create lifelong connections with other students for years to come."

Stukes also cited opportunities to interview for internships, jobs, and graduate school assistantships on site; and to network with faculty and industry professionals, receiving practical guidance and insight into the many future career paths in computing.



JCSU students took time off from their spring break activities to assist with tornado disaster relief efforts in Alabama

JCSU students pause trip to help with disaster relief

JCSU students delayed their spring break during a civil and voting rights historical tour to volunteer to help out with tornado disaster relief on Monday, March 11, 2019.

The students were participating in a Student Support Services trip during spring break to learn about civil and voting rights when they stopped for a few hours to volunteer with the Opelika, Alabama Red Cross unit. Students assembled bagged lunches, replenished snack items, and loaded tools and supplies for Red Cross volunteers working at the recovery and cleanup sites.

“One of the expected takeaways from the tour is for students to become familiar with and understand and appreciate the sacrifices, which included the loss of lives, that so many people made to end segregation and secure voting rights for African Americans,” said Student Support Services Director James E. Saunders II. “Therefore, it was extremely important and

appropriate for our students to offer their services and time to the relief efforts.”

The highlights of the trip, outside of volunteering, included meeting Joanne Bland, who shared a personal and intimate eyewitness account of the civil rights movement. Bland was 11 years old in 1965 when she became involved in the voting rights movement in Selma, Alabama. She witnessed the uncivil events leading up to “Bloody Sunday” on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, during which armed policemen attacked and brutally beat demonstrators as they attempted to march to the state capitol.

Students also met Dr. Quinton Ross, the president of Alabama State University, who spoke to them about the contributions that ASU faculty and students made to the efforts of civil and voting rights during the Montgomery Bus Boycott. He also informed the students about ASU’s graduate programs.

JCSU student's film showcased in international 100 Words Film Festival

When Marlon Newman '19 learned his work would be showcased in the 2018 100 Words Film Festival, it was a bit of a surprise. That's because the Columbia, S.C., communication arts major didn't submit his work— Sitara Sadler, associate professor of video and film production, did.

"I was pretty hesitant due to only knowing how to create YouTube videos," Newman said. "But Prof. Sadler told me I'd come out a better director with increased credibility. She walked me through what to expect."

Sadler has a reputation for pulling the best out of film majors. Through her elective course, students produce "The Drop on Bull Street," a web-based news and variety show with blog and podcast components. When resources for her students come up short, Sadler makes a way, calling in favors from the community to ensure JCSU graduates leave with as comprehensive a film background as she can provide.

Three years ago, she established a relationship with the 100 Words Film Festival, a Charlotte-based festival showcasing independent short movies from all over the world. Each entry at the annual event must have exactly 100 spoken words, with a small ticker in the corner of the screen keeping track. Previously the festival screened in Charlotte, but this year it went international: the festival ran Oct. 14, 2018, in Toronto, Canada.

Sadler picks a student each year to partner with film industry professionals, and they create a short work focused on a Charlotte-based nonprofit organization. Newman chose WINGSforKids, an after-school program he has been involved with for five years which teaches children social and emotional learning so they can excel in school. Sadler submitted his film project as an entry in 100 Words.

"I chose Marlon because he's a beast—he has a passion for this work and he lives and breathes creativity," Sadler said.

Early on in his college career, Newman sought out a mentorship relationship with Sadler, taking time to introduce himself to her even before he'd taken any of her classes

"He said, 'You're going to be tired of this face but I have things to accomplish.' And he's right, I do get tired," she joked. "But what he doesn't pick up in class, he goes and studies on his own. He's constantly learning, working on his craft. I go hard for those who go hard for themselves. If you prove that this is what you want to do and put your heart in it, I'm going to go in and support your passion. The ones who are editing in their spare time, working on projects that aren't class assignments—the minute I hear

about an opportunity, those are the ones I call first," she continued.

The 100 Words Film Festival's selection process was rigorous. Only two students in Charlotte had work in the lineup—Newman and a student from UNC Charlotte.

"The writing component had to be the hardest," Newman confessed. "Fitting in an exact number of words at just the right time was much more difficult than I thought, but once I built storyboards and had concrete ideas it seemed to flow easier."

Newman is the founder of his own production company, GenreBeatProd, which handles all aspects of film, video, or photo shoots. He oversees a staff of makeup artists, writers, production assistants, and shooting crew. Currently he is directing another short film called "Agree," a dramatic thriller which he wrote, and is putting to use all the knowledge gained from his mentor, Prof. Sadler.

"Without her, I literally wouldn't be where I am," Newman said. "I have the utmost appreciation for all she's done for me."



Sitara Sadler, associate professor of video and film production, with Marlon Newman '19

Golden Bull ready for her close-up

Jocelyn Stanley '19 is an interdisciplinary studies major who plans to attend graduate school for film. To further that end, she completed a semester-long internship with Susie Films, a Charlotte-based movie production company.

During the internship, in August 2018, Stanley worked as a production assistant.

"I helped out anywhere it's needed," Stanley said. "I did research for productions, I've done voiceover work, and I helped on documentary shoots. I learned everything that goes into the production of a shoot while also picking up different shooting and editing techniques."

She heard about the internship by Googling the company, then learned more from a fellow classmate who works with the company. She's grateful to them, as well as to Sitara Sadler, associate professor of video and film production, and Stanley's mentor in film.

"Professor Sadler helps me understand the fundamentals that are required to be successful in this industry, as well as how I can work more efficiently. In this field, time is money," Stanley said.

The busy senior served as vice president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Gamma Delta Chapter; a member of the Psi Rho Alpha Visual and Performing Arts Honor Society; part of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society; was inducted in Chi Alpha



Jocelyn Stanley '19 (right) on set at her internship with Susie Films

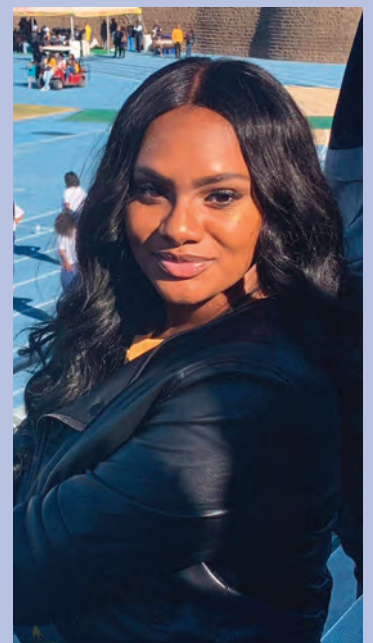
Epsilon Honor Society and Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society; sits on the Pre-Alumni Council and is an Official Student Leader captain.

"I aim to build a network of like-minded individuals while getting hands on experience in the film production industry," Stanley said. "I learned on-set strategies that work in real time, that I couldn't get from a classroom alone."

Stevenson shares the JCSU experience with Tom Joyner Foundation Instagram followers

Alissa M. Stevenson '19 was selected to participate in the Tom Joyner Foundation Game Ambassador Program. She acted as the point of contact between the Tom Joyner Foundation and Johnson C. Smith University, highlighting the Royal Court and National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations, promoting JCSU's athletic program at the Commemorative Classic game on Nov. 3, 2018.

As our game ambassador, Stevenson captured photos and videos of the JCSU football experience and posted on Tom Joyner Foundation's Twitter and Instagram accounts. This included coverage of the band, cheerleaders, dancers, game updates, fan interaction, and crowd shots. It was fun but serious business—Stevenson had to create, edit and post a minimum of 10 photos and 10 videos on Tom Joyner Foundation social media.





Dr. Anita Bledsoe-Gardner and Mary Holiman '19 riding camels in the deserts of Dubai

Senior presents undergraduate research in Dubai

Mary Holiman '19 visited Dubai where she presented her undergraduate research and explored the many facets of the popular Arab emirate.

She traveled to Dubai to present her research on the correlation between early childhood traumatic experiences and delinquency in Black girls at the International Multidisciplinary Academic Conference in January 2019. The conference was sponsored by the International Multidisciplinary Research Foundation. Holiman's research was submitted for consideration by her mentor Dr. Anita Bledsoe-Gardner, associate professor of criminology, who traveled with her to Dubai. Bledsoe-Gardner is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Holiman was one of only a few student researchers selected to present at the conference and the only student selected from an HBCU.

The Dubai trip was a life-changing experience. "This trip was important for me because it gave me a chance to travel beyond the borders of this country and experience new things," she said. "It was my first time flying internationally, and I think the exposure alone has changed my perspective on the world because I was mingling with different people daily."

The trip also helped Holiman enhance her skills and opened her to international possibilities for graduate school and careers. "Preparing for my presentation strengthened my public speaking skills, something that I've struggled with in the past," she said. "The trip allowed me to make several connections and network with students, professors, and other professionals from around the world."

Holiman and Bledsoe-Gardner did not spend all their time engrossed in research presentations. They also explored Dubai's myriad cultural and social offerings. Holiman said she enjoyed belly dancing, riding a camel and savoring a traditional buffet dinner in the desert. She also enjoyed an Arabian coffee and tea tasting. A desert expedition,

riding a dune buggy and enjoying "Dinner in the Sky" suspended 50 meters the air by a crane were among her most memorable experiences.

Having a positive experience in Dubai inspired Holiman to continue her research, embrace international travel and motivate students coming behind her to take advantage of all academic and cultural opportunities. "I am inspired to continue to go above and beyond and never limit myself due to my surroundings or allow myself to be limited," Holiman said. "I encourage all students, especially Black students, to seek out a mentor and take advantage of all opportunities presented to them. I would also like to be to someone else what my mentor is to me."

Holiman said her success as a researcher and her experience in Dubai are proof that hard work and connecting with the right people can help you move beyond humble beginnings. "This trip was definitely one of the highlights of my undergraduate experience and a moment I'll cherish forever," said Holiman. "As a low-income, first-generation college student who grew up in a disadvantaged neighborhood, traveling to Dubai with all expenses paid was beyond my wildest dreams. I feel truly blessed and highly-favored to have had this experience."

Holiman, a senior, was initiated in the Gamma Delta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. at Johnson C. Smith University in Fall 2017. The Hardeeville, S.C., native is an interdisciplinary studies major and is the first undergraduate from JCSU selected to participate in the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Leadership Fellows Program (2018). She is an all-around student who has served as vice president of JCSU's chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, a peer mentor and tutor in Student Support Services and was selected as a Ronald E. McNair Scholar, a federal program that focuses on student research at 151 institutions.



NCAA names Irwin Belk Complex among nation's most scenic stadiums

Johnson C. Smith University's Irwin Belk Complex has always been special—the home of a world-class Mondo track surface, site of the 2016 U.S. Paralympics Track and Field team trials and site of the NCAA Division II Track and Field Championships in 2011 and 2018. Now, the NCAA has ranked it among the most scenic Division II stadiums in the country.

The most beautiful stadiums in DII football, as voted by NCAA staff and fans, offer not just a great gameday experience but breathtaking scenery from the surrounding environment. IBC, with its incomparable view of the Charlotte skyline, was listed among the Top 13, one of two HBCUs to make the list.

Other mentions included Winston-Salem State University's Bowman Gray stadium and Western State's Mountaineer Bowl in Colorado.

"We are very proud that the NCAA recognized the unparalleled view of the Charlotte skyline that is unique to Irwin Belk Complex," said Stephen Joyner Sr., director of Athletics. "Whether students, alumni and fans are in IBC

to cheer on our Golden Bulls football team or to support our Golden Bulls track and field athletes, they experience amazing skyline views that enhance pride in our athletics program and pride in our city."

The NCAA's recognition of Irwin Belk Complex brings an additional accolade to the city of Charlotte for its sports and entertainment venues. In May 2018, BB&T Ballpark, home of the Charlotte Knights Triple-A Minor League Baseball team, was recognized by Baseball America as the nation's No. 1 minor league baseball stadium. The great views of Charlotte's skyline also contributed to BB&T Ballpark's ranking.

"IBC provides a great venue for sports and entertainment events that enhance the quality of life in our city," Joyner said. "This facility has provided a place for residents of Charlotte's west side to exercise, and it has attracted people from across the city for large cultural events."

Joyner sums it up this way: "Irwin Belk Complex is one of the shining jewels in the Queen City's crown."

Stewart and St. Louis Named Athletes of the Year



The Johnson C. Smith University Department of Athletics presented yearly athletic awards at the annual Smitty Golden Awards banquet in spring 2019.

Each sport gave five awards to deserving Golden Bull student-athletes, including Team MVP, Most Improved, Top Newcomer, Top Academic and Coaches Awards. The event concluded with the awarding of the Pettis Norman Male and Female Athlete of

the Year Awards, which are given to the student-athletes judged to have had the best overall seasons.

The Pettis Norman Male and Female Athlete of the Year Awards winners were men's track and field standout Tavian Stewart and women's track and field star Alisha St. Louis.

Stewart was selected as the Pettis Norman Male Athlete of the Year after completing his third year as a Golden Bull. He earned First Team All-America honors during the 2019 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships, while setting a school record 7.72m in the long jump during the NCAA Division II Nationals held in Kingsville, Texas.

Stewart was named CIAA Field Athlete of the Week after competing at the Gamecock Invitational. The Milwaukee native was ranked seventh nationally in the event and had the best mark in the Atlantic Region.

St. Louis earned the Pettis Norman Female Athlete of the Year after completing her second year as a Golden Bull. She finished first in the women's triple jump at the CIAA Indoor Championships while placing fifth in the long jump.

St. Louis was the conference champion in the CIAA Outdoor Championships as she leaped 11.97m to claim the gold medal. She placed fifth in the high jump and finished 11th in the triple jump.

Brooks has stellar rookie season on the volleyball court

Karizma Brooks '22 had a major impact on JCSU's success during the 2018 volleyball season, helping the Golden Bulls jump to the top of the Southern Division standings following sweeps of Livingstone College and Claflin University. In addition to averaging 2.5 kills per set (15 total) in two matches, Brooks recorded five blocks (3 solo) from her middle blocker position.

The right side hitter was named CIAA Rookie of the Week three times, and she was among the four JCSU volleyball student-athletes earning CIAA post-season honors when she was named to the All-CIAA First Team and to the All-Rookie Team.

Brooks, a psychology major from San Antonio, Texas, has been playing volleyball since she was about 8 or 9 years old.

"I knew I had a gift for it when we started hitting in Catholic Youth Organization(CYO), which is something like the YMCA. I always knew I had to play in college because I've always wanted to play on TV," Brooks said.



JCSU Golf Competes in the PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship

The PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship (formerly the PGA Minority Collegiate Championship) stakes its claim as the most culturally diverse competition in sports.

Golden Bulls golfer DeJuan Powell '19 finished 18th in the individual competition in the rain-delayed, 54-hole event. The team placed 10th overall.

A total of 189 student-athletes from 41 colleges and universities competed in the weekend event May 10-12, 2019, in Port St. Lucie, Florida. In addition to competition on the golf course, student-athletes took part in the annual PGA WORKS Career Expo. They also met with representatives of companies from across the golf industry and attended a personal finance seminar.

Golden Bulls Earn Post-Season Honors

Several Golden Bulls student-athletes received accolades for their performance during the 2018-19 season.

Softball standout Evelyn Arguelles led the conference in batting with a .592 average. She started all 26 games for the Golden Bulls accumulating 12 doubles, three triples, four home runs and batted in 42 rbis. On the season, Arguelles' on-base percentage (.613) and slugging percentage (1.014) ranked number one in the CIAA.

JCSU had four student-athletes recognized by the CIAA as part of All-Conference and All-Rookie Teams in football and volleyball.

In football, redshirt freshman quarterback Antonio Wallace was named to the CIAA All-Rookie Team.

Volleyball saw three players recognized. Freshman Karizma Brooks was named first team Outside Hitter as well as being named to the

All-Rookie Team. Freshman Taylor Smith was also named to the All-Rookie Team in addition to earning second team Middle Hitter/Blocker recognition. Gorana Bogdanovic earned first team Outside Hitter recognition to end her senior season.

Men's basketball standout Roddrick Ross was named to the BOXTOROW Division II All-America men's basketball team. Ross was one of nine players selected to the first team. Only sixteen players from around the country were chosen. Ross, the fourth leading scorer in the CIAA, averaged 18.5 points in 28 games. A two-time All-CIAA selection, Ross ranked 10th in the conference in minutes played averaging 31.0 minutes per game.

Ross also captured CIAA All-Tournament Team honors leading the Golden Bulls to two upset buzzer beater, game-winning shots.



Evelyn Arguelles '19



Roddrick Ross '19



Taylor Smith '20

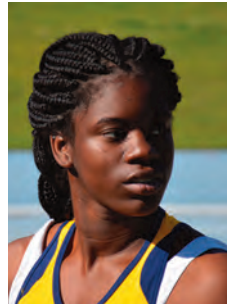


Antonio Wallace '21

Two Golden Bulls Earn Track & Field All-America Honors and 11 named to All-Region Teams



Track and Field Assistant Coach Antione Sidberry with Tavian Stewart at the NCAA Track and Field Awards Banquet



Sah-Jay Stevens

student-athletes who finished in spots 9th to 12th in individual events. Ninth and tenth-place relay teams also earned the distinction.

Stewart finished seventh in the men's long jump with leap of 7.72m (25'4"), setting a new school record for an all conditions mark. Stevens, placed 11th in the women's javelin with a toss of 44.76m.

Eleven Golden Bulls from the men's and women's teams received All-Region honors for the 2019 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field as announced by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA).

The honors go to the top five individuals in each event and the top three relay teams from the NCAA Division II Atlantic Region.

Track and Field student-athlete Tavian Stewart was named to the All-America First-Team for the 2019 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field season. Sah-Jay Stevens picked up Second-Team honors. The selections were made by U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA), following the conclusion of the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Kingsville, Texas.

Student-athletes earned First-Team USTFCCCA All-American honors by finishing among the top eight in their respective events – including as a member of a relay team – at the outdoor championship meet. Second Team honors were awarded to

EVENT STUDENT-ATHLETE

400 Meter Hurdles	Timor Barrett
4x100 Relay	Garnett Jackson
4x100 Relay	Sadiki McFarlane
4x100 Relay	Kelvin Simon
4x100 Relay	Tavian Stewart
Long Jump	Tavian Stewart
Triple Jump	Rayna Graham
200 Meters	Delecia McDuffie
100 Meter Hurdles	Talayna Reed
Triple Jump	Alisha St. Louis
Javelin	Sah-Jay Stevens



Cannon Scores Scholarship

Zachary Cannon '19, defensive tackle, JCSU's 2018 Charlotte Touchdown Club \$1,500 scholarship recipient. Cannon received the scholarship at the club's 24th annual Bronko Nagurski Awards Banquet on Dec. 3, 2018. Jim Harbaugh, head football coach at the University of Michigan, was the banquet keynote speaker.

Cannon came to JCSU in 2016 following a stint at Nassau Community College. During summer 2018, Cannon began

his internship at Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) in the Human Resources department and completed the internship in spring 2019.

An entrepreneurial mindset led Cannon to become a business administration major. He plans to pursue a career in real estate or financial advising and has a personal goal of becoming a business owner. Cannon is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



JCSU students pose with (center) Scottie R. Harris, senior business consultant at LPL Financial

LPL Champions JCSU's Phasing Up to New Possibilities

As JCSU nears the decade milestone of its Phasing Up to New Possibilities program for students who have aged out of foster care and/or who identify as homeless, the University is grateful for longstanding partner LPL Financial Inc. Since Phasing Up's inception, LPL has provided over \$310,000 in funding support, countless employee volunteer hours and invaluable financial literacy education and mentoring support to JCSU students as they matriculate through the University.

Phasing Up, considered the first comprehensive program of its kind for former foster youth at an HBCU, is one of several in the U.S. that are campus-based. But after nearly 10 years, Johnson C. Smith University may still be the only HBCU serving this population. Each year, more than 20,000 youth age out of foster care. Recognizing the growing number of these youths who need help, JCSU provides

Phasing Up students with various supports including academic, life skills, and career readiness training to ease the transition for these youth into adulthood.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, LPL leveraged the support of its African American Employee Resource Group and other community partners to reflect an increase by 34% of first-time volunteers. LPL's volunteer leadership was strategic and focused, as they sought to bring to the table more volunteers and mentors. LPL conducted mock interviews with students, provided financial literacy workshops and facilitated off-site trips to the LPL offices for job shadowing. In addition, LPL offered summer internships that led to full-time employment opportunities after graduation.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

For the first time ever, JCSU participated in the global phenomenon known as Giving Tuesday on November 27, 2018. Part of the informal post-Thanksgiving holidays Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday focuses on supporting nonprofits, philanthropic organizations and institutions that better communities worldwide.

The online campaign focused on raising funds for the President's Gap Scholarship Fund, which covers the financial aid shortfall

many deserving students face. Amounts as little as \$500 have been known to prevent students from completing their education, and the fund was created to address this. University Communications and Marketing crafted a social media campaign that shared some success stories of students who had benefitted from the fund, and the university received overwhelming support from the Smithite Family. As a result of combined efforts, the campaign raised \$10,000 for current students.



Big Hitters Tent

JCSU showed its most generous donors love with the best seat in the house during the Homecoming football game: under the Big Hitters tent on the sidelines. The Division of Institutional Advancement sponsors the gathering each year to thank those who gave \$2,000 or more to the University in the past year, as well as acknowledge members of the 1867 Giving Societies.

JCSU library wins \$100k grant to fund makerspace

The James B. Duke Memorial Library was awarded a \$100,000 grant to be used for a project called “Making Space for Tech @ An HBCU.” The grant will fund the development of an academic Makerspace that will give all users the opportunity to gain proficiency in design and manufacturing technologies, which are becoming more prevalent in the workforce.

“This resource will allow Johnson C. Smith students to gain a competitive edge when entering the job market,” said Dr. Chantell McDowell, Makerspace project manager and instructional technology coordinator at JCSU’s Duke Memorial Library. “The Makerspace will also provide an arena for research and innovation, which we believe will lead to an increase in faculty and student-based research campus-wide, and more effective research.”

Simply put, the Makerspace is a place where students, faculty, staff and the community can come and make things. It’s a place to learn technological skills as well as a hands-on collaborative space where people can come together and trade knowledge in order to build something concrete. It’s access not only to 21st century tools, but to a community of makers and resources necessary for success.

JCSU is collaborating with Discovery Place Education Studio to build curriculum with faculty and staff around making, and will use the grant to pay for more 3D printers, a vinyl cutter, sewing

machines, a vacuum former (which creates molds), and digital fabrication and coding classes. Workshops for community makers, educators and students will also be provided.

“This is a movement beyond the university ecosystem,” McDowell said. “It is a drive to support entrepreneurship and innovation, and invites community makers into the university space to empower new waves of leaders in liberal arts, business, the sciences and technology.”

This program was supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. These federal funds are investments that help libraries deliver relevant and up-to-date services for their communities.

The James B. Duke Memorial Library received one of the 39 competitive grants awarded to North Carolina libraries from a federal allotment of \$4,428,172. The LSTA grant program administered by the State Library of North Carolina funds library projects across the state that advance literacy and lifelong learning, expand access to library resources and expertise, promote partnerships and collaboration, and digitize materials important to the cultural heritage of North Carolina.





Calvin Banks '69, grants research manager at JCSU, accepts a check donation from members the Gamma Delta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha

Gamma Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority members establish scholarship

The alumnae sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Gamma Delta Chapter, marked the milestone of celebrating their 25th year of membership in AKA by strengthening bonds, remembering old times and giving back to help the sisters coming behind them by establishing the Spring '93 Gamma Delta AKA Alumnae Scholarship. They jump started the fund by presenting a \$650 check to Calvin Banks '69, who cultivates major gifts in JCSU's Division of Institutional

Advancement, on October 27, 2018. The fund will provide scholarships to active members of Gamma Delta Chapter who demonstrate financial need and have a minimum 3.0 GPA. The sisters were definitely pretty girls with a purpose as they proudly wore their t-shirts featuring a large "25" in pink and green bling. Congratulations on reaching your 25th year, joining the ranks of AKA Silver Stars.



President Clarence D. Armbrister's brother, Leo B. Armbrister Jr., and his niece, Dr. Carladenise Armbrister Edwards, addresses the audience at the Inauguration Gala

President's niece starts endowment to honor his brother

Dr. Carladenise Armbrister Edwards shocked a packed room at the Charlotte Convention Center during President Clarence D. Armbrister's Inauguration Gala, when she announced she would be starting the Anthony P. Armbrister Family Endowment at Johnson C. Smith University to honor her father, the President's brother. The endowment will fund annual scholarships to students who require financial assistance.

"My dad was so proud of his younger brother that he wanted to do something to support him and the students of JCSU," Edwards said.

Both of Edward's parents attended HBCUs and know not only the importance the institutions hold for blacks in higher education, but also the financial burdens many students face while trying to receive an education.

After her father passed in April of 2018, Edwards thought a scholarship would be the perfect way to honor his name,

while helping to establish the legacy of her favorite uncle. "We are strong believers in higher education," she said. "The opportunity to name an annual scholarship after my father enables us to create a family legacy and contribute to the development of the young people who will benefit from the scholarship."

Edwards added, "My hope is that the funds will help a talented young person stay in school and that we as a community are able to celebrate that student's success when they graduate and go on to do incredible things in the world."

Since she established the endowment, other family members have been inspired to give.

"I am so happy that my family and I have been blessed with the capacity to give and I am prayerful that our small contribution can make a difference in the lives of students at JCSU," she emphasized.



2019 | 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. Ralph H. Groce III
Mr. Delano R. Rackard '70

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

Mrs. Dorothy G. Franklin '69
Mr. David L. Pugh, Sr. '53

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

Dr. Boisey O. Barnes, Jr. '64
Dr. Leonard L. Bethel '64
Mrs. Veronica Bynum Bethel '64
Trustee Sheila Renee Brown '77
Mr. Claude Green '75
Mrs. Jacqueline C. Green '77
Mr. Malloy T. Harris, Jr. '72
Trustee Michael A. Jones
Reverend Calvin Lewers '68

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Mr. Bernard V. McGraw '71
Mrs. Yolanda B. McGraw '73
Mr. Richard Blackout Reeves '65
Ms. Ida B. Reid '66
Mr. Samuel H. Reid '66

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

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

President and Mrs. Clarence D. Armbrister
Mrs. Pamela Fuller Brown '75
Mr. Rhenn T. Darensburg '68
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Mr. Kenny H. Faulkner '74
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Mrs. Helen V. Henry '53
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Mr. Billy Pitts '69
Mrs. Ruth A. Pitts '71
Mrs. Joy Paige Springs
Mr. Geoffrey L. Wilson

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.

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Mr. Stephen W. Joyner, Sr. '73
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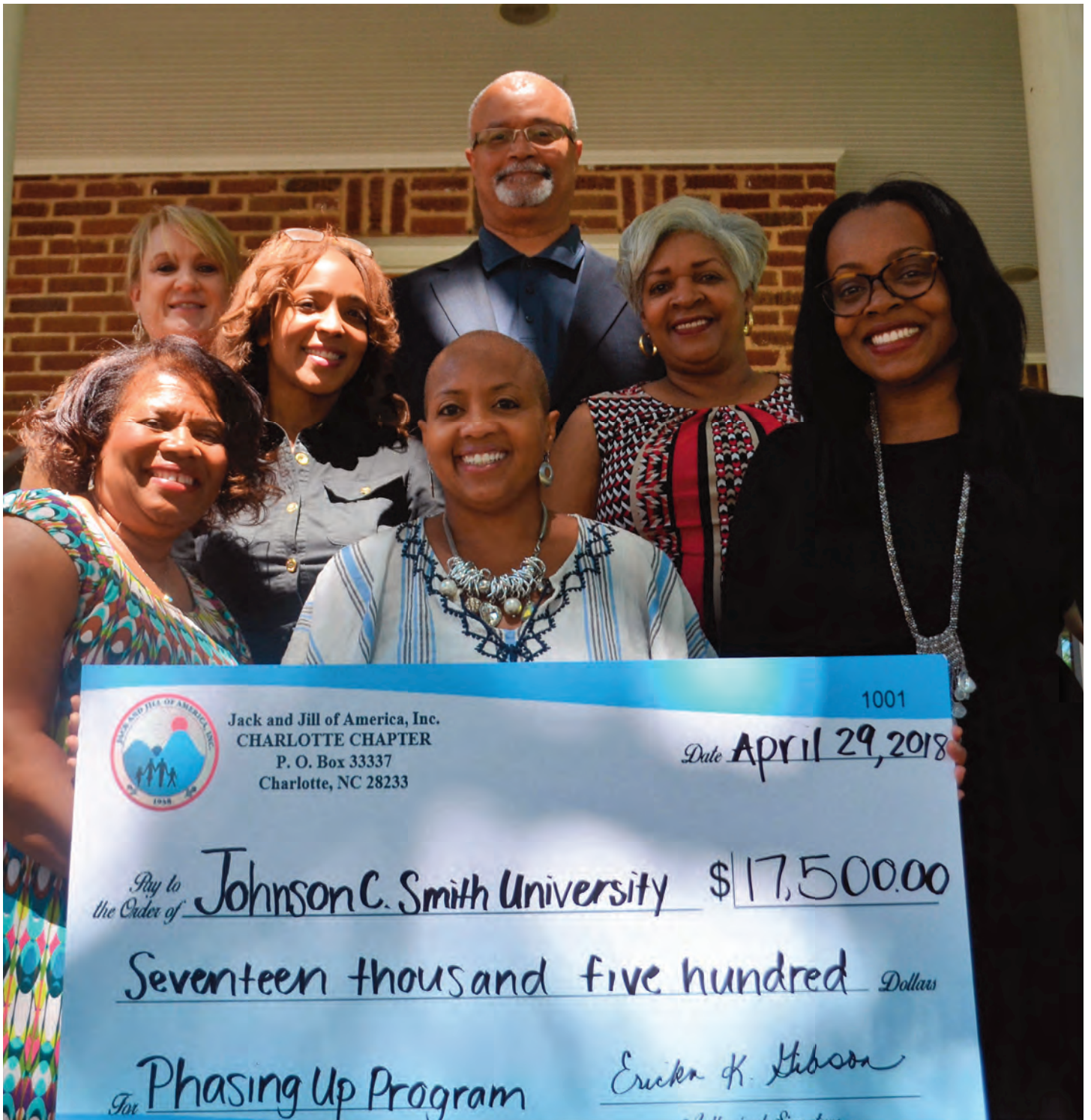
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The Charlotte Chapter of Jack and Jill is a strong supporter of the Johnson C. Smith University's Phasing Up program. The program assists young adults who are phasing out of the foster care system and are in need of extra help. Jack and Jill provides financial support with the goal to help Phasing Up students graduate from college and become successful, productive members of society.

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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.

Organizations	Giving Total
JCSU 100 Club	17,194
JCSU Baltimore Alumni Chapter	2,000
JCSU Charleston Alumni Chapter	1,000
JCSU Charlotte Alumni Chapter	4,450
JCSU Columbia Alumni Chapter	3,500
JCSU Detroit Alumni Chapter	500
JCSU Durham Alumni Chapter	135
JCSU National Alumni Association	20,250
JCSU Philadelphia Alumni Chapter	4,000
JCSU Raleigh Durham Chapter	4,000
JCSU Sumter Regional Alumni Chapter	2,250
JCSU Winston-Salem Alumni Chapter	250
Grand Total	\$59,529

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JCSU hosts On the Table talk

Metropolitan College of Professional Studies hosted an “On The Table Charlotte” session October 24, 2018. On The Table is a community-wide civic engagement initiative that consists of dialogues hosted in workplaces, libraries, homes and other community locations – even in the park. Participants shared their experiences and views about the legacy of segregation in Charlotte and reflected on actions that can be taken to help build a more united and equitable community. This event was the result of the collaboration between Metropolitan College of

Professional Studies, Comunidad Colectiva – a nonprofit local organization – and Janeen Bryant, On The Table project director.

This critical dialogue session also served as the capstone of the “Roots and Raíces” four-week series held by these three partners at Metropolitan College of Professional Studies September through October.



JCSU wins \$100,000 grant through American Heart Association



Brenda Montanez '20 presented the "Grow with the Green" project that earned JCSU a \$100,000 grant

Johnson C. Smith University was the first place winner of the American Heart Association EmPowered to Serve Urban Health Accelerator-HBCU Showcase. The announcement was made April 29, 2019 in Greensboro, North Carolina by broadcaster Roland Martin.

A student team earned a \$100,000 grant for their "Grow with the Green" project, which targets residents in the food insecure area surrounding JCSU in Charlotte's Historic West End. The project will provide residents fresh produce from the Sustainability Village Garden. \$50,000 will be provided over the course of two years to fund the project.

Dana Battle, a sophomore from Bronx, New York who worked on this project, said she wanted to make a difference in a community similar to the one she grew up in.

"Supplying fresh produce will bring us one step closer to increasing food and economic development in our West End community and decrease pressing health disparities impacting this community," Battle explained. She added, "I grew up in a neighborhood like the one that surrounds the university and I feel as if it is my duty to give back to the community and participate in this challenge to help others as I was once helped." JCSU was one of 19 schools that submitted a project for this grant.

Rosa Parks Farmers Market returned bigger and better for third year

The Rosa Parks Farmers Market kicked off its third market season June 2018, returning with more food options, a bigger location and better hours. Every Tuesday from June through September, community members visited the market at its new location on West Trade Street.

Johnson C. Smith University's Sustainability Village returned in the role of produce provider, with organic vegetables and herbs grown and sold by student entrepreneurs. In addition, the Rosa Parks Farmers Market offered locally produced and sourced novelty items such as honey and healthy prepared food. Each market day featured live cooking demonstrations from area chefs, community pop-ups, music and kid-friendly activities.

The "Double Up Bucks" program for Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cardholders provided matching dollars (up to \$20 per day) for EBT customers to use toward the purchase of fruits, vegetables and herbs. This program is one of only two in the



President Armbrister stops by Rosa Parks Farmers Market

County and had the potential to increase the food budget by \$80 per month for each EBT customer.

The Rosa Parks Farmers Market is managed in partnership by Mecklenburg County Public Health, Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte Center City Partners, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Duke Endowment, Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation and the Rosa Parks Farmers Market Community Advisory Council.



Janiya Miller '20 and Neja Ervin '21 perform at Open Streets 704

Dance dreams take stage at Open Streets 704 Fest

The JCSU Repertory Dance Company performed at the Open Streets 704 Festival. Powered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, the event opened a length of city streets for the purpose of encouraging more biking, walking, and exploring with neighbors. The community-building event attracted thousands to Charlotte's West Side, near JCSU's campus.

Repertory dancers Essence Mayhew '21, Janiya Miller '20, and Neja Ervin '21 took the afternoon stage by storm, under the direction of Jaclyn O'Toole, assistant professor of dance. Sound arts major Michaya Mason '19 also collaborated on the production, under the guidance of Dr. Christopher Weise, associate professor of music.

Mayhew, who is majoring in business administration with a minor in dance, was thrilled at the opportunity to perform in front of the community. She felt the performance improved her stage presence.

"Dance is a passion of mine, so when I move I want onlookers to see my heart and feel my movements as part of themselves. I hope I sparked someone's interest at the performance and made them say 'Hmm, that was deep,'" she said.

Dancers performed "Longitude," a collaborative work exploring the use of space, time and dimensions between the dancers and live musicians. O'Toole choreographed the dance with music composition and live mixing by Weise.

"The music and dance coexist on the same playing field, as opposed to one being greater or more powerful than the other," O'Toole said. "The students work in the same fashion. The dancers react to the music, and the musicians watch for specific moments

to add accents. This is then repeated again and again until it has a consistent flow."

Themes of unity and community were emphasized in "Longitude." At times, the dancers moved in unison. At others, a dancer might initiate a movement that the other dancers would pick up and repeat, for an astonishing ripple effect. The dance department prepared students for the show by utilizing hands-on teaching methods and visual examples.

"Professor O'Toole is very helpful with breaking down steps, both verbally and physically, so that I could catch on," Mayhew said. "I never felt left behind during rehearsals."

Although dance has been a part of her life for her entire college career, Mayhew, a transfer student from New York, had not done much performing. Prior to JCSU, most of her dance education came from watching and mimicking other, more experienced dancers. The fact that she was able to perform a choreographed work before a crowd pushed her confidence to new heights.

"Being able to execute movement with an emotional attachment means everything to me and at JCSU I am finally doing that. It really uplifts me and gives me hope that someday I will be on the same level as my fellow company members," Mayhew said.

Aside from her own personal validation, she saw the public performance as a way to draw JCSU and the community closer together.

"JCSU is a staple in the Charlotte community and it was wonderful that the public could see all that the University has to offer, as far as dance diversity and skill set," Mayhew said.

JCSU launches new program to boost jobs and end waste in Charlotte

On October 18, 2018, the City of Charlotte launched Circular Charlotte, a new, regenerative economic model designed to produce zero waste, at Johnson C. Smith University's Sustainability Village.

The circular economy—a buzzword for a system that produces reduced or zero waste—is in opposition to the old linear economic model of make, use, dispose. The new business model is make, use, recover and regenerate. The idea has the potential to generate thousands of jobs and significant revenue, as Charlotte strives to become a global leader in environmental sustainability, balancing economic growth, while preserving natural resources.

JCSU is exploring a potential partnership with Envision Charlotte, which recently received a five-year lease through the city for a barn equipped with hydroponics and aquaponics

facilities. The barn will also serve as an incubator for entrepreneurship. JCSU's Sustainability Village students are well-positioned to play a leadership role. The Sustainability Village program, established six years ago, continues to expand: the Rosa Parks Farmers Market was recently voted the city's best, and a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield NC is funding a major expansion of the campus' greenhouses. Sustainability Village students have already been educated on the theory and trained in best practices at JCSU, and are familiar with low-footprint, high-yield methods of farming.

Circular Charlotte held a media demonstration of five circular business strategies at JCSU's Sustainability Village, with city leaders and stakeholders sharing information and nurturing the vision. It is one more way JCSU is positioning students to be on the growing edge!





Program ignites next generation of Black leaders in Charlotte

Johnson C. Smith University partnered with Next Level Leadership, Inc. to create a space where tomorrow's leaders can grow, develop and flourish. Next Level, a non-profit leadership training organization, is intentionally developing well-informed, knowledgeable Black leaders for the purpose of ushering our communities, cities and state into the future.

"We must continue to be intentional in creating informed and knowledgeable leaders for the ever-evolving futures of our country," said James Mitchell, the organization's president and Charlotte City Councilman At-Large. "The Next Level Leadership initiative will do just that and more."

The five-month intensive program developed a pipeline of African-American influencers dedicated to fostering equity and equality in the Queen City and beyond. JCSU housed the program,

where members studied subjects such as civic engagement, economic empowerment and organizational development. Participants were selected through an application process and included engaged citizens, professionals and students. They gained historical context, direct experience, and connected with seasoned leaders in the region.

JCSU President Clarence D. Armbrister is enthusiastic about Next Level's impact.

"This is engaging the next level of Black leadership, incorporating the curriculum to connect millennials to baby boomers to work within systems to make change in Charlotte," Armbrister said. "I'm excited for JCSU to continue expanding its role as a foundation of leadership."

JCSU is prime location for real estate workshop

JCSU's Metropolitan College of Professional Studies, in partnership with IREM (Institute of Real Estate Management), hosted the workshop, "Introduction to Property Management," that covered key topics for all those interested in pursuing a career in the real estate industry. This is part of the series of certificate programs available through the college.

Dr. Lucinda Blue, assistant professor of Business Administration and academic advisor for Metropolitan College of Professional Studies, led this initiative, jointly with representatives from IREM.

"Through research, we concluded that the real estate field is growing in Charlotte and surrounding areas," said Dr. Blue. "It is a source of great interest among the community, so JCSU decided to get involved to be an asset for change. Through this program, we were able to attract a wide variety of professionals and individuals with different backgrounds, including JCSU's students,

alumni and professors, as well as external individuals from varied fields."

Dr. Laura McLean, dean of Metropolitan College of Professional Studies, added that "we are proud to have been able to contribute in such a relevant way with so many members of our community who are seeking authorized training in real estate. It is a pleasure to continue partnering with IREM."

IREM's Introduction to Property Management is a four-hour, interactive course that provides an in-depth overview of property management. The course is appropriate for realtors, brokers, existing property staff, career changers, and anyone interested in a career in residential and commercial real estate management. The partners plan to repeat the experience and bring the training back to JCSU.



Social work students meet with legislators in Raleigh; serve homeless during National Social Work Month



School of Social Work students were involved in several activities to bring awareness to the field and made an impact locally during Social Work month in March 2019. They even made an appearance at the state capital.

On March 6, graduate and undergraduate students traveled to Raleigh to participate in the National Association of Social Workers – NC Chapter Advocacy Day.

Social work students from across the state of North Carolina gathered at the capital to discuss with legislators the NASW-NC legislative agenda, which is designed to support and advance the role of the social work profession and advance sound social policies in adherence to the NASW Code of Ethics. MSW Program Director Dr. Melvin Herring and assistant professor of Social Work Dr. Kareema Gray accompanied the students to the NC General Assembly.

JCSU social work students met the legislators who represent the area where JCSU is located, Senator Jeff Jackson who represents District 37, and with the administrator for Representative Carolyn G. Logan who represents District 101.

Students were also encouraged to meet with those legislators who represent their home districts.

Senator Jackson was impressed with the conversation he had with our students and even posted about the meeting on his official Facebook page.

On March 15, while most students were enjoying the end of their spring break, students from the Social Work Student Graduate Association worked to feed the homeless population of Charlotte. The graduate students gathered in the Davis House to prepare approximately 200 bagged meals, consisting of sandwiches, bags of chips and water. "We decided to give back. We are going to try to feed the homeless. We picked some areas that we can go into where we can find the individuals who don't have anywhere to stay," said Tara Keel '19 one of the graduate students who participated. Members of the group said they have witnessed the homeless problem firsthand and that made them want to lend a helping hand. "When you are walking in uptown Charlotte you're going to run across someone who is homeless, and my heart just goes out to them," said Keel. "I'm sure there are times they don't know when they are going to get their next meal so, for me, it's not so much about where I'm from, it's about helping an individual who needs help at this moment."

Golden Bulls make a way for others at Hispanic Scholarship Fund

JCSU students Juan Carlos Contreras '18 and Maria Fernanda Parra '18 recently served as guest speakers during the Community Session hosted by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF), Enlace Latino and the Mecklenburg PTSA. Juan Carlos and Maria Fernanda presented in English and Spanish during the event held at South Mecklenburg High School.

"Maria Fernanda and Juan Carlos did a great job as our session presenters. They kept the information flowing and the

audience engaged," said Pat Martinez, HSF Advisor Councilmember.

Our students embraced the opportunity to serve the community, motivate others to pursue higher education and to hold high the Gold and Blue.





JCSU students serving others

Johnson C. Smith University students, faculty and staff, demonstrated the holiday giving spirit in a number of ways as the fall semester came to an end.

On November 11, 2018, students gave of their time and energy for Veterans Day with the Message in a Bottle campaign. Students wrote messages of encouragement and support to local active-duty veterans. Landry Frison '19, who is on active duty in the South Carolina National Guard, and Sameerah Williams '19, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, also sat on a panel with members of the Coast Guard who came to speak to students about scholarship monies and opportunities for officer training school.

November 12-16, JCSU for Reproductive Justice and the student chapters of the National Council of Negro Women and Planned Parenthood worked together to gather feminine hygiene products to donate to the Women's Shelter of Charlotte. Dozens of boxes of tampons and pads were collected during the drive. "A woman's menstrual cycle is something she cannot choose to stop, and the right to these products should be easy to obtain just like other services," said Quaneisha Payne '19, president of JRJ and 2nd vice president of NCNW. "Our goal is to help a community of women, rather than just one or two."

On November 20, students made over 100 sandwiches to pass out to homeless and indigent people who congregate Uptown near Charlotte's transportation hub.

The Psychology Club coordinated Baskets for Bruns, where they sponsored entire Thanksgiving dinners for three families at Bruns Academy, the elementary school nearest to JCSU.

Students also supported Pledge a Meal, where a \$7 donation sponsored one meal for a resident at Urban Ministry Center, a nearby homeless shelter, on December 1. "It's important to show local families and individuals that we care about them every day, not just Thanksgiving," said Shakoya Brown '21.

The Office of Residence Life and Student Government Association presented "An Evening with Santa." Dozens of neighborhood children and their families enjoyed an evening with Santa, Mrs. Claus and JCSU students as Santa's elves on December 1. Every child had the opportunity to take a photo with an African-American Santa and receive gifts gathered during a month-long campus toy drive. Guests enjoyed snacks while becoming acquainted with campus and historic Biddle Memorial Hall. The wonder of Christmas was evident as the children's faces lit up like Christmas trees.

On December 3, the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement, University Communications and Marketing and the James B. Duke Memorial Library presented a Holiday Study Break. In addition to having fun, sampling Coca-Cola products and winning prizes, students donated new washcloths and towels for the Queen City Assisted Living Facility only a few miles up Beatties Ford Rd.

Social consciousness is a core value for JCSU students, which was truly evident during the 2018 season for giving, caring and sharing.



Kim Lee Johnson '89, Cheryl Dawkins Pulliam '89 and Tonya Hodges '88

Gamma Lambda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority celebrates Diamond Jubilee

The Gamma Lambda chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., chartered on the JCSU campus in November 1943, marked its 75th anniversary with a grand reunion Oct. 25-27, 2019. More than 350 members registered to join in the weekend of service, fun, and reflection. Each registration included a contribution to the Bertha Maxwell Roddy Endowment Fund, named for the 20th national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., who was initiated in Gamma Lambda.

The campus was lively with chants, songs and strolls as a sea of sisters in crimson and cream overtook the grounds. Upon arrival, the sisters readied for a day of community service with Habitat for Humanity. They also had reunion photo shoots, special tailgate experiences, and a "Violets and Pearls 75th Grand Reunion Celebration" honoring Roddy, the keynote speaker.

But beyond organized activities, the sisters reveled in the reunion, sharing their stories and dreams as well as bonding across the generations.

Cynthia Smith, Gamma Lambda graduate advisor, said the event was highly anticipated. "I know I'll be hoarse

tomorrow from talking and hugging everybody and trying catch up a lifetime of events in five minute conversations," she said with a laugh. "I'm overjoyed that so many people came back and think this much of the University."

Cheryl Dawkins Pulliam '89, from Sandy Spring, Maryland, was happy to make the trip home to JCSU. "For me it's about true memories," she said, locking arms with sorority sisters Kim Lee Johnson '89 and Tonya Hodges '88. The trio, which crossed in Spring 1986, was part of one of the largest DST lines at JCSU, numbering 45. "We all came from Maryland on a bus in 1984. We knew nothing about college or DST, and we learned so many things so quickly. The school itself is a family atmosphere, but we also benefitted from the smaller atmosphere of DST. We spent this weekend sharing those times that made us who we are, the things Delta and the things that JCSU taught us."

Johnson, from Silver Springs, Maryland, agreed. "Sisterhood. That's what being a Delta is all about. It's a special bond, and if not for JCSU, we might not be where we are today. Thank you to JCSU for exposing us to it."

Gibson appointed as Inaugural Lender Faculty Fellow at Syracuse University



Congratulations to Casarae Gibson '07, assistant professor of African American literature and studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at Syracuse University, on being named as the first Lender Faculty Fellow by the Lender Center for Social Justice.

"The ways in which we teach our students in the Information Age about social

justice and how they must be equipped to challenge messages of inequality is vital," says Gibson. "This fellowship is an incredible opportunity to help students and the greater campus community understand the importance of advocacy in research as critical to advancing the mission of diversity and inclusion."

The Lender Faculty Fellowship supports a two-year research project to critically and creatively explore contemporary social issues, develop innovative approaches to these problems, and implement useful and sustainable initiatives.



Dr. Darren Ramsey '07, DDS

Ramsey gives back with free dental care in mobile unit

On Dec. 7, 2018, Metropolitan College of Professional Studies hosted a free community dental clinic led by Dr. Darren Ramsey '07, DDS. Under Ramsey's supervision, guests received teeth cleanings, small fillings, extractions and oral exams inside a mobile unit.

Dr. Laura McLean, dean of Metropolitan College of Professional Studies, thanked Ramsey for bringing his services to his alma mater and added that "Dr. Ramsey is truly a servant leader, and I am proud to call him one of our own at JCSU."

"NC Baptists on Mission" partnered to make the clinic possible. The mobile clinic, located in Brayboy Gymnasium's parking lot on campus, served patients without health insurance and provided many in the surrounding communities an opportunity to keep up with their dental health needs.





Bradford embraces high seas adventure

For more than a year, Chelsea Bradford '17 has been traveling the world as part of Carnival Cruise Line's Entertainment department. Though she works very hard seven days a week, "I get to play even harder," she says.

The Durham, N.C., native majored in dance at JCSU, and says her passion for dance and travel inspired her to work in the entertainment industry.

"JCSU helped expose me to different perspectives of dance around the world and art as a whole. Being able to listen to past and present performers' travel experiences encouraged me to think outside of the box for my career," she says.

In addition to her coursework, Bradford completed two college programs at Walt Disney World in Orlando before signing on to Carnival.

Working on ships has allowed Bradford to gain many cultural experiences and be paid to travel the world. She has seen Belize, Honduras, Jamaica, and many places in Mexico.

"I plan on cruising until I can't anymore! It does become challenging when you're away from your friends and family for



months at a time," she admits. "But you gain a new family onboard and learn so much more about yourself than ever before." Even on the open seas, it hasn't been all about fun and games.

"One of my most profound experiences was during Christmas of 2017, when I and the entertainment department went to visit an orphanage to donate presents for the kids," Bradford shares. "With every beautiful island I visit, there is so much poverty just a street over from the beach or tourist area. It makes me continue to work hard for my future and remain humble."

The recent graduate is still working on her long-term goals, but she feels prepared for whatever comes next.

"I make sure that I am in control of my future—that way I don't leave myself behind," she shares. "Step out on faith and do what you love. Adventure is out there."





Johnson C. Smith University

A photograph of a graduation ceremony. A male graduate in a black cap and gown with a colorful sash is raising his right arm in celebration. Other graduates are visible in the background.

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2018 Christmas Vespers: A reunion of sound

Johnson C. Smith University's annual Christmas Vespers service had a different tune in 2018, as the program featured the combined voices of the JCSU Concert Choir, the newly organized JCSU Alumni Choir and showcased additional community partnerships.

The program opened with a prelude from the Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology orchestra. Notes from the young musicians' stringed instruments sweetened the air as university and community members filled every pew in the Jane M. Smith Memorial Church.

Under the direction of Dr. Shawn-Allyce White, the choirs filled the sanctuary with soul-soothing sounds. Alto soloist Janetta Wall '13 led the first song, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" as the combined choirs entered the church. The ensuing program of classic Christmas music included "Handel's Messiah," and "Oratorio de

Noel," as well as newer favorites "Rockin' Jerusalem," "Children, Go Where I Send Thee" and Kirk Franklin's "Silver and Gold."

The Crown Jewels Chapter of the Links, Inc. Arts Facet were partners in the program, supporting soprano Jewel Holmes '22 and baritone Jaaven Middleton '22.

White was honored by students and alumni, in presentations from DeomunIQUE Abrams '19 and Ron Matthews, former JCSU director of Alumni Relations, who gave her a special gift on behalf of the Class of 1978.

It was an amazing evening of reunions and new relationships along with a celebration of the ties that bind and the spirit of the Christmas season.



Alumni Reunion Weekend increases Golden Bull connections and giving to JCSU

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, the JCSU campus overflowed with Golden Bulls Pride as alumni traveled from near and far to celebrate their classes in reunion. The day was full of smiling alumni reuniting with one another and sharing some of their most memorable experiences at "JCSU."

Later that evening, classes ending in four and nine were recognized for their years of service during the annual Alumni Banquet. This year, the Golden Class of 1969 celebrated 50 years since graduating from the university and the Silver Class of 1994 celebrated 25 years. The classes in reunion have raised more than \$3 million over a five-year giving period.





HOMECOMING: 100% A SMITH THANG

Homecoming 2018 was “Nothing but a Smith Thang,” as Johnson C. Smith University students, alumni, family and friends came together to love on each other. From Sunday’s Gospel Explosion to Saturday’s National Pan-Hellenic Council step show, from the coronation of Miss JCSU to the diamond anniversary of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority’s Gamma Lambda Chapter, Golden Bulls of every kind celebrated Homecoming with style, grace and jubilation.

The fellowship Smith is known for was on full display as we praised each other’s accomplishments and remembered those who could not make it home. The Homecoming highlight was a victory over Saint Augustine’s University in the big football game.





REUNION WEEKEND 2019

Classes ending in 9 and 4 came together in celebration for Reunion Weekend 2019, held May 17-19, 2019. The years fell away as the friends reconnected at the alumni banquet and other gatherings. Members of the Golden Anniversary Class of 1969 were resplendent in gold robes for Sunday's Commencement Exercises.



Class of 1949



Class of 1969



Class of 1974



Class of 1979



Class of 1984

20's

Class of 1929

G.E. Massey '29 was the subject of a Lincoln Times-New report on Newbold School students looking back 50 years since integration. Massey spent about 37 years with the Lincoln County Schools system then worked in the superintendent's office until his retirement, and for whom the school was renamed in 1985.

40's

Class of 1947

Anderson James Williams Jr. '47, a pathologist, left a scholarship for the future doctors who attended JCSU as undergraduates.



Class of 1948

Thomas McPhatter '48 was featured in a Marine Corps mural in Detroit. He was the last of the Montford Point Marines, a group of approximately 20,000 African-American men who trained in Montford Point, N.C., and fought in a segregated Marine Corps from 1942 through 1949, to retire from active duty in 1983.

60's

Class of 1967

Mamie Chisholm '67 a two-time Gaston County Teacher of the Year, began her 50th year in the classroom fall of 2018.

Class of 1969

Dave Burch '69 was recently appointed as the secretary of the Professional Football Researchers Association's Board of Directors.

70's

Class of 1970

Dr. James Ewers '70 graduated from the FBI Citizens Academy in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ewers is also a sports commentator on the Ro Brown Sports Show WBOK AM New Orleans.



Class of 1971

J.W. Smith '71 community servant, had a street named after him in the Bronx borough of New York City, NY.

Class of 1975

Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins '75 was selected as a recipient of the 2019 Villager Award, an



honor bestowed by the Afram Global Organization, Inc.'s Villages Projects Initiative. Additionally, alongside Dr. Diane Bowles, Quaneisha Payne, and Chanel Davis was honored during the 2019 Leading Ladies Luncheon.

Class of 1977

Kelly L. Darden Jr. '77 was appointed to the board of Greenville Utilities Commission.

T. Diane Surgeon '77 an attorney and Goldsboro native, was recently recognized with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, one of the most prestigious awards presented by the governor of North Carolina.



80's

Class of 1980

Sharon Risher '80 authored "For Such a Time as This: Hope and Forgiveness after the Charleston Massacre."



Class of 1983

Dr. John Douglas Jones '83 is the new provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Lincoln University.

Class of 1989

Sharon Nelson Potts '89 is the new principal of Hall Fletcher Elementary School in Asheville, N.C.

Winston B. Crisp '89



Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, retired after more than 26 years of service to the university.

Rev. Lori Snell '89



was named Immokalee's co-Christmas Parade Marshal.

90's

Class of 1993

Anthony Holloman '93 vice president for Advancement at Fort Valley State University, assumed the additional role of interim athletics director.



Class of 1994

Falesha Grasty '94, a Penn Community Bank member, joined the Pearl S. Buck International Board of Directors, helping oversee financial operations of the nonprofit organization.

Catherine Council '94 has established a 501C3 non-profit organization called Present Future Foundation. Their mission is to provide financial support for women seeking to evolve their careers through professional development, training and coaching.

Class of 1995

Brian L. Johnson '95 was appointed vice president of the Mercy College Manhattan Campus.



Class of 1999

Rory Sharrock '99 joined the Tallahassee Democrat (part of the USA Today network) sports department to cover Florida A&M University, Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College athletics across digital and print platforms.



2000's

Class of 2000

Kristene Kelly '00 was appointed the senior associate athletic director for varsity sports and senior woman administrator at Dartmouth College.



Nicki Washington, PhD. '00 was featured in Essence Magazine's March 2019 issue, as part of the article "15 Black Women Disrupting the Tech industry."



Class of 2004

Larry Holmes Jr. '04 was named interim head tennis coach of Bethany College.



Class of 2005

Marcus Scurry '05 completed the Partnership for After School Education (PASE) Emerging Leaders in Executive Nonprofit Management program at Baruch College. He also recently launched his clothing brand: Young, Fearless and Black platform to spread positive messages and imagery for people of color.



Class of 2017

Carmen Knight '16 is the owner of the nonprofit, Be Sisterly, Inc. Knight is using her Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies' Master of Arts in Social Innovation (MASI) from the University of San Diego to further the mission of her business.



Bernard Shaw '17 after attending his first BAM Minority Student Day as a junior in college, Bernard Smith Jr. reflects on how Minority Student Day experience inspired him to come to Microsoft.

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND 2020
MAY 15-17

Johnson C. Smith University

It has been a pleasure being the hometown team for the CIAA Basketball Tournament for the past 15 years.

Thank you so much for all of the amazing memories you have given the Golden Bull family!

JCSU Highlights

CIAA Hall Of Fame
Kermit Blount
Stephen Joyner, Sr
Mark Sherrill
John D. Marshall
Dr. Dorothy Cower Yancy

2017 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

CIAA Men's Champs
2008
2009

CIAA Women's Champs
2009
2017

Player of the Year
Trevin Parks
2011

Coach of the Year
Vanessa Taylor
2011

Stedmon Lemon
2016

CIAA in Charlotte
2006-2020

It's been a great run!

GOT Good NEWS?

Tell us about it!
Please send your wedding and birth announcements, anniversaries, promotions and accomplishments to:

ALUMNI@JCSU.EDU



Johnson C. Smith University

100 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, N.C. 28216

Johnson C. Smith University



ARCH OF TRIUMPH
GALA
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SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2020 • 6:00 P.M.

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER CROWN BALLROOM
501 S. College Street, Charlotte, N.C.