U.S. News & World Report ranks Johnson C. Smith University 14th among HBCUs
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On the cover L to R: Octavia Cannon ’88, Chad Lassiter ’95, Darius Melvin ’11, Brian Jackson ’96, Christy Bryant ’75

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**The Bulletin**

A magazine from Johnson C. Smith University

2012 - 2013

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**Opposite page:** Former Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx waves with President Ronald L. Carter during the processional into Irwin Belk Complex for the 141st Commencement Exercises. Foxx, who received an Honorary Doctorate degree, became the U.S. Secretary of Transportation in July 2013.
President’s Message

How Do We Measure Success?

In response to the era of disruptive change in which Johnson C. Smith University now finds itself, we have committed ourselves to a radical transformation of our beloved institution so it will not only survive the tumultuous times ahead, but thrive.

Much of that transformation has to do with the way we operate and the way we teach our young people. We are constantly striving to integrate the liberal arts with business, the sciences and technology in innovative, socially-conscious ways to empower our students, so that they will become tomorrow’s diverse entrepreneurial citizens and leaders.

But we are also transforming our campus. The past year has seen the completion of several defining projects that not only update the campus, but also improve the diversity and quality of our students’ campus experience – encompassing both living and learning.

In this issue of the Bulletin, you’ll read about:

- Mosaic Village, the off-campus apartment complex and mixed-use facility on Beatties Ford Road;
- The Science Center, which will be built to meet LEED Silver Certification standards and made possible by the largesse of The Duke Endowment;
- Sustainability Village, an innovative living-learning prototype integrating academic coursework, research, service learning and experimental education opportunities; and
- The HealthPlex, where students, faculty, staff and nearby neighborhood residents can enjoy – and benefit from – access to exercise and wellness programs, including practical nutrition classes.

We are also proud to feature stories about five of our outstanding alumni. But their success is not only measured in their professional accomplishments; it is also in the ways they have served their communities. The wide range of their fields – medicine, international business, computer engineering, banking and academia – demonstrates the value of a JCSU education in preparing students for the plethora of job opportunities in today’s world.

I urge all of you to come visit the campus and see for yourself the power exuded by the physical changes occurring on campus. The buildings are indeed impressive. But even more powerful and more impressive is what is going on inside these gleaming new structures. It is there that JCSU is providing our future leaders with the knowledge, skills, thinking ability and moral compass to change the world.

Ronald L. Carter, Ph.D.
President
Who Is JCSU?

OUR BRAND PROMISE:
Johnson C. Smith University is an independent, close-knit, urban university with a growing national reputation for integrating the liberal arts with business, the sciences, and technology in innovative, socially conscious ways to empower tomorrow’s diverse entrepreneurial citizens and leaders.

Johnson C. Smith University has more than 6,500 alumni who personify our brand promise. Our alumni represent the very best of JCSU as they take their education into the world and become agents of change. They create a culture of community beyond the campus gates and remain socially conscious in their endeavors. Many continue their thirst for learning by earning the highest academic and professional degrees in their field. Others expand their horizons on a global scale.

The five alumni who are portrayed in this cover story represent the thousands of graduates who are at work dedicating their lives to making a difference in the world. A common thread of Gold and Blue runs throughout their stories of success in medicine, banking, computer engineering, teaching and international business. They are JCSU.

Trustees Exemplify the JCSU Brand Promise

L to R: President Ronald L. Carter, Trustee Argie K. Johnson ’60, Trustee Monroe Miller, Trustee Shirley J. Hughes, Trustee Tom Baldwin ’71, and Chairman Parran L. Foster III ’72 share a bittersweet moment following a luncheon to celebrate the retirement of Trustee Knox and Trustee Baldwin from the Board of Trustees in April 2013. Trustee Obie Patterson ’65 (not pictured) also retired from the Board.
As a female physician who is also African American, Dr. Octavia Cannon ’88 is serving a call that often goes unanswered in the U.S. According to a University of Michigan study, minorities make up only about seven percent of practicing physicians. Furthermore, there are fewer women than men in higher academic ranks at medical schools, particularly among minority populations.

For these reasons, Cannon stands out as a pioneer and partner in Charlotte’s only all-female medical practice – Arboretum Obstetrics and Gynecology. “We’re still among a small fraction of minority physicians in the U.S,” she says.

During the late 1980s, Cannon was in an unusually large group of students at JCSU who went on to careers in the medical field. Reflecting on her years at JCSU, she notes, “I think the thing that made the group of docs from JCSU so unique is that there was no pre-med program. We had to find our own way.” As a chemistry major and first-generation college student, Cannon bonded with this group of friends with similar interests and developed the confidence to pursue her dreams. Her friends included:

- Dr. Jimmie Smith ’90, former assistant to the U.S. Surgeon General
- Dr. Sonya Buchanan ’88, occupational medicine
- Dr. Paula Eaton Orr, ’88, OB/GYN
- Dr. Ward B. Wall Jr. ’85, trauma surgeon
- Dr. Herman C. Gore III ’87, physical medicine and rehabilitation

After graduating from JCSU, Cannon returned to her home state of Michigan and audited classes at Michigan State University in her hometown of East Lansing for a year before enrolling at the NOVA Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Miami.

Her career is clearly a labor of love. On a recent workday, she delivered five babies, had two surgical procedures, held afternoon office visits and made hospital rounds – all on two hours of sleep. In total, she has delivered an estimated 5,000 babies including several of her college roommates’ babies. Cannon is proud to point out that three babies have been named after her. “I feel blessed to have the opportunity to help bring life into the world,” she smiles. Many of her patients are also JCSU employees, graduates and students.

As a physician serving patients of diverse backgrounds, Cannon finds that her foreign language skills come in handy, particularly Spanish, which she started learning in elementary school.

Before joining the practice eight years ago, she was Director of Women’s Health at the Gaston County Health Department. There, she supervised six midwives and two nurse practitioners at the clinic and literally “served people off the streets.” One of the most memorable deliveries for Cannon at that time was a post-mortem emergency cesarean section in Gaston County. The mother had died in a car wreck, but Cannon and her team were able to save the baby by doing the cesarean immediately after the mother was declared dead by the ER doctor.

Such heart-wrenching experiences continued to fuel her desire to help others with compassion and empathy. Shortly after joining the private practice,

“Treat people the way you want to be treated in life and try to find a career that you love.”

The Bulletin
Brian Jackson ’96 is on the cutting edge of new technology, designing hardware for voice and data protocols at Alcatel-Lucent (formerly Lucent Technologies, formerly AT&T Bell Laboratories). “I love it,” said the computer engineer of the job he landed in 2006. “I get to communicate with my peers and people who are smarter than me and with people overseas in the United Kingdom, China and Germany.”

Jackson has the smarts too. He holds not only a bachelor’s degree from JCSU in mathematics and a degree in electrical engineering from UNC-Charlotte, but also earned a master’s degree in electrical engineering and a Ph.D. in computer engineering. Both graduate degrees were earned at Virginia Tech.

Before JCSU had its own engineering program, students who wanted to pursue engineering traveled between JCSU and UNC-Charlotte for classes.

When he returns to campus to reunite with friends, he notices the progress made over the past 17 years as the University grows its STEM programs. “When I first came to JCSU, there were no girls in my major,” said Jackson. “You had to go outside of your major to date.” Now nearly 50 percent of STEM majors at JCSU are female, which far exceeds the 12 percent national average.

From his early years in elementary school and later at Brooklyn Technical High School in Brooklyn, New York, Jackson knew he wanted to study engineering. He set his sights on JCSU for its size and location. “The campus wasn’t too small and not too big,” said Jackson, who is the first in his immediate family to attend college. He joined the track team and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Those two alliances have kept him in close contact with classmates who he sees during Homecoming celebrations. “It’s good to see old classmates, and for the most part, they’re doing well,” he said.

During his eight years at JCSU, Jackson was mentored by Dr. Peter Halland, and Dr. Magdy Attia, dean of the College of STEM, who contacts Jackson for guidance as the College of STEM expands its programs. Jackson is especially excited about the University’s new program in cyber security.

From his perspective working in the telecommunications industry, Jackson sees huge opportunities in this field. “Smith is in a good position, and I see great potential if it stays the course. In general, you can’t lose with the cyber security field. You can make a great career out of that.”

Jackson, who works in Murray Hill, N.J., is passionate about design and working on the crest of the wireless communication wave. “The industry is huge – at times it hits me just how big this concept is.

It’s when I’m not in the office, but out in the street.” Jackson recently observed his wife’s young niece manipulating her smartphone during a family wedding. “That little girl is utilizing the fast-growing voice and data network and these are our customers – the little kids. And, if she’s on the network, I can only imagine what adults are doing,” he said.

Jackson is working on 3G design protocols and will start on 4G next year, which he adds, will meet capacity needs for the future. “The bandwidth requirement grows every day,” said Jackson. If that is the case, Jackson will continue on a career path to unimagined possibilities.

Cannon started mentoring students from JCSU and other local universities to help them formulate their life plans. Because she had no mentor to guide and support her aside from receiving financial support through The Duke Endowment, Cannon is eager to help the next generation. In her straightforward way, Cannon advises students to “treat people the way you want to be treated in life and try to find a career that you love, and then it won’t seem like work.”

Her work spills over into the community as she speaks to kids in afterschool and church groups about pregnancy issues and sexually transmitted disease prevention. As a board member of Florence Crittenton Services, she supports single mothers and their babies by providing them with comprehensive medical and prenatal care. Cannon offers medical advice regularly on the weekly TV news segment “Charlotte’s Professionals” on WCNC. She volunteers as a member of the Junior League of Charlotte and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

“There’s a reason,” she says, “why God doesn’t bless me with kids…perhaps there’s another purpose for me. My ministry is to help people take good care of themselves and help young people figure out what they want to do.” Cannon has found her calling.
College is not just about learning a discipline. It’s also about discovering one’s intellectual potential and building confidence. For Chad Dion Lassiter ‘95, Johnson C. Smith University was a turning point in his journey to self-discovery. It’s a journey that eventually led him to an Ivy League institution where he graduated top in his class and received national recognition in his field of social work.

The Philadelphia native enrolled at JCSU on the recommendation of his high school teacher, and Marla Davis ’80 for whom he worked as a volunteer. The Philadelphia Alumni Chapter of JCSU also gave him the nudge he needed to apply.

He gets teary when he thinks back on the impact JCSU made on his life at a time when he was unsure of his potential. One critical juncture came when his best friend, Keenan J. Smith, who made Dean’s List every semester, pointed out Lassiter’s abilities. “While at JCSU, I didn’t realize my vast potential,” he said. “Keenan looked me in the eye one day in Biddle and said ‘you’re wasting your potential. You’re a bright guy and an intellectual.’” That comment encouraged Lassiter to take academics more seriously. He decided on social work as a major and was taught “in the intellectual footsteps” of Dr. Helen Caldwell and Professor Juanita Davidson. “When I wanted to quit, it was Dr. Caldwell who would not let me quit, who saw the possibilities in me,” he said.

His life then began to take shape with a purpose in mind. One of his favorite quotes is from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who said “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing to help others?” “I wanted to be a social change agent and dedicate my entire life to alleviating the suffering of others,” said Lassiter. “I decided I would no longer be well-adjusted to injustice.”

After JCSU, Lassiter applied his background in research, sociology and ethnography to work with youth whose parents were incarcerated either in a state or federal prison. He studied the prison industrial complex and its impact on the family unit and the community at large. He then went on to the University of Pennsylvania and graduated with honors, earning a master’s degree in social work. Today he serves as a professor of race relations at the University of Pennsylvania where he taught Vice President Joe Biden’s daughter Ashley Biden. He also teaches at West Chester University.

When he’s not in the classroom he is providing regular commentary for Ebony magazine, Essence magazine, Fox News, MSN and Comcast along with various other national and local media outlets. In fact, Ebony named Lassiter one of the “Young Leaders of the Future Under 30” in 2003.

Nationally recognized in the fields of American race relations and violence prevention among African-American males, Lassiter also serves as a Trustee to the Philadelphia Prison System and the Community College of Philadelphia. He has traveled to Senegal and Israel to work on poverty and race-related issues through Operation Understanding. On those trips he looked at the dynamics between the Jewish Holocaust and the middle Atlantic slave trade. Another trip took him to Haiti where...
he served as a trauma counselor after the earthquake with Project Medishare and the Clinton Foundation.

As president of the Black Men at Penn School of Social Work, Inc., Lassiter is encouraging other black males to join the profession and offers training on anti-racism and violence prevention for schools around the country.

Speaking on his accomplishments, Lassiter added, “all of this is a credit to my mother, my mentors at JCSU and elsewhere who taught me to believe in myself, and to have a moral compass and moral imperative.” He is also guided by the works and teachings of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ida B. Wells.

Mandarin Leads Darius Melvin to China

From the time he was in secondary school, Darius Melvin has wanted to learn Mandarin, the most spoken language in the world. After transferring from Morehouse College to Johnson C. Smith University, he found what he was looking for – an opportunity to take classes in Mandarin as an interdisciplinary studies major focusing on international business and computer engineering. As a bonus, he was able to obtain a free passport through the University’s Go Global program.

After graduating in 2011, Melvin decided to pursue opportunities overseas and applied for a Berry Claytor Scholarship to continue studying Mandarin in China for two months. He was the only one selected in the nation to receive the scholarship. One opportunity led to another, and over the span of a year, he was able to study for two months in China, then serve as an intern for a month in a company that trained the Chinese in western business etiquette and practices. After returning to the U.S. to work with Yellowbook in 2012, he was able to land a job back in China as a client relationship manager with ZDL books in Beijing serving foreigners from all over the world.

Living and working in China feels like “you’re part of history while it’s happening,” says Melvin. He observes that China is becoming more open to the world, yet starting a business is still a slow process. Melvin has experienced this fact firsthand while working for a start-up company there that makes custom suits and shirts for customers in the U.S.

As an American working in China, Melvin has experienced the challenges and frustrations of learning a new culture. He has learned to use both hands when presenting his business card, which is printed in English on one side and Chinese on the other. To show respect, the recipient should always accept the card with both hands and look down at it before putting it away, says Melvin. Because the language is still difficult to master, he practices with a friend each week, taking turns to talk in Mandarin and then English.

One way Melvin is giving back as an alumnus is by inspiring other JCSU students to consider foreign language as a pathway to a career. Back in 2011, he returned to campus after his first trip to China to work on a documentary titled “Superpower” which he presented on campus. When a group of JCSU students visited Beijing in July 2013 on a summer
Over her 34-year banking career, Christy Bryant ’75 has seen more women assuming leadership roles in her field, yet little change in the number of minority females in top management. While there is still work to be done in that area, Bryant serves as an inspiration to her peers and community by showing that with opportunity and confidence new ground can be broken.

When Bryant was growing up in Ashland, Va., she attended Upward Bound which is geared for first-generation college-bound students. She remembered her counselors, who were JCSU graduates, talking with pride about their alma mater. It was the first time she heard about the University. “I knew I wanted to do something in math,” she said of her career goals. “I had excellent math teachers even though schools were pretty segregated.” Bryant did not attend an integrated school until her junior year of high school. Once there, “I faced challenges but I felt prepared,” she said. “Only two or three minorities got into the math courses in high school.” She joined the band which offered a solid network of friends.

After high school, she set her sights outside her comfort zone. “In Virginia, my options were to attend Hampton and Virginia State universities, but I wanted to go someplace different. And, my counselors were so positive.” She applied to JCSU as a first-generation college student and received a full academic scholarship.

Bryant made the most of her college experience. She brought her flute with her and joined “The Nifty Fifty” band, and she plunged into the swim team as a backstroke competitor. She became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the math club (the University had just opened its first computer center).

After graduating, Bryant found the job market challenging, but was able to land a position in paying and receiving at First Union Bank. After a year and a half, she realized she wanted to move beyond an administrator’s position, so she entered the application programming program at North Carolina National Bank. “You had to take an entrance exam, and I did really well,” she remembered. Her career took off from there.

She has since grown up with Charlotte’s banking industry and after 34 years, “retired” in 2010 as a senior vice president with Bank of America. During her career she earned a Six Sigma Black Belt and Professional Project Manager (PMP®) Certification.

Christy Bryant Breaks Ceiling for Minority Women

As Melvin’s story shows, it doesn’t hurt to have an adventurous spirit. “I have traveled to the Great Wall five times,” he says. “It’s incredible.” The Rochester, N.Y., native has also covered new ground in his family as the first to graduate from a four-year college or university.
Bryant wasn’t ready to hang it up. Her next move as a consultant at Wells Fargo Bank forged a relationship that led to a full-time position as a senior project manager. As a mother of two, Bryant has inspired her daughters, Kelly, a graduate of Winston-Salem State University and the University of Phoenix, and Erin, a graduate of UNC-Charlotte. “I have a left brain daughter and a right brain daughter, both of whom are critical thinkers,” Bryant said proudly. As a noted philanthropist, Bryant enjoys helping students financially with their college education. She recently started an endowed scholarship for STEM students at JCSU as a way to give back. Perry Science Hall has a SMART classroom named in her honor, thanks to her support in 2008. The classroom provides students with a state-of-the-art facility that enhances learning. “I love the school,” she said of her alma mater. “It was one that could give those with potential the skills and support they needed to be great. I feel JCSU is ready for the 21st century by helping students to acquire the critical thinking skills that were reinforced for me as a student.”

Many of her classmates went on to notable careers, including a friend who is a provost of a university. Another became a vice president at First Union (now Wells Fargo) and a third friend became an internationally recognized educator. “I met some of my lifelong friends at Smith,” said Bryant. “It’s a small school but professors really pushed you to be your best.”

Bryant stays in touch with her classmates through her leadership with the JCSU Alumni Association. She served on the National Alumni Association board for 16 years, local chapter president for five years and continues to serve as a class agent. Through her volunteer work with Altrusa International, Inc., Bryant supports the organization’s community service projects, traveling to such destinations as New Zealand as the local club delegate and vice governor for the district. She also serves as international parliamentarian for the Urban Financial Services Coalition, a non-profit trade association which offers financial literacy and economic development education to underserved minority populations.

Closer to home, Bryant extended a hand by sharing her expertise on Charlotte-Mecklenburg’s Technology Advisory Council and is an active member of Charlotte’s Little RockAME Zion Church.

She also established the Christy Shelton Bryant Endowed Educational Scholarship to support outstanding students who are pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at JCSU.

“... professors really pushed you to be your best.”
Class of 2013 Goes Forth as Tomorrow’s Leaders

Johnson C. Smith University awarded 252 degrees during the 141st Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2013 on May 19. Twelve of the graduates were in the charter class at Metropolitan College.

Ambassador Andrew Young delivered the Commencement address to the graduates, family and friends who packed Irwin Belk Complex. The Class of 2013 contributed a combined 13,346 hours of community service during their education at JCSU and nearly half of the students (121) graduated with honors.

Valedictorian Hanoi Darden of Norristown, Penn., earned the highest GPA of a senior having matriculated all four years at JCSU. The business administration major served as president of the Student Government Association and president of the Gamma Delta Chapter the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. After graduation, she entered the Leadership Development Program at BB&T.

Salutatorian Kirashae Graham earned the second highest GPA of a senior having matriculated all four years at JCSU. The Memphis, Tenn., native majored in information systems engineering and has accepted a position with AT&T in the Project Management Department where she will be a network design engineer.

The Commencement ceremony awarded the Honorary Doctorate degree to former Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx for serving as a staunch ally to the University and the Northwest Corridor, as well as for his work in helping to bring the Democratic National Convention to Charlotte. Foxx now serves as the U.S. Secretary of Transportation in Washington, D.C.

Young also received an Honorary Doctorate degree as a lifetime advocate for basic civil and human rights. In his remarks to the students, Young recalled his anxiety about the future as a new college graduate. “Sixty-two years ago, after I graduated from Howard University, I was driving back to New Orleans scared to death,” he said. After passing through Charlotte, he stopped at Crowders Mountain and ran up the trail to the top. Once there he said his mind and spirit opened up. “As

Golden Anniversary Class (1963) takes part in Commencement Exercises during Alumni Reunion Weekend.
I looked out from the top I couldn’t escape the fact that everything was there for a purpose. It then hit me that God must have a purpose for me. I quit worrying about a job and realized the most important thing for me was to get a life.

That trail took Young to 152 countries during his varied career in global and national leadership as Congressman, United Nations Ambassador and Mayor of Atlanta. As he dispensed his dose of wisdom to the students, Young noted that most of the success in his life came one day at a time. “How I did my work today determined how it would be tomorrow.”

In his special tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he said, “We are redeemed by the martyrs who have gone before.” He challenged the students to be aware of poverty in the world and use technology to help solve it.

Young advocated investing in Africa as he has done with GoodWorks International for over a decade.

(continued on p. 12)
“You’re going to have to be the generation that opens up Africa to the world,” he said. “Africa includes some of the fastest growing countries in the world and a population of middle class people who may outnumber China and India. The future resources of the world are in Africa.”

In closing, he told the students, “You are coming out in a world that people see as troubled, but trouble is opportunity.”

Thirty-two members of the Class of 1963 were recognized at Commencement as they celebrated their 50th reunion.

The first graduating class of Metropolitan College stands proudly as they prepare to join the processional into Irwin Belk Complex on May 14. The inaugural class had 12 graduates.

Ambassador Andrew Young delivers the Commencement address amid the pomp and circumstance of the ceremony. Young inspired the graduates to make a difference as global citizens.

President Ronald L. Carter congratulates graduate Eniola Johnson.

Highlights of the Graduating Class

- Highlights of the Graduating Class
- Total degrees conferred: 252
- Bachelor of Arts: 112
- Bachelor of Science: 129
- Bachelor of Social Work: 11
- 48 percent of the Class of 2013 graduated with honors
- Highest number of degrees awarded in academic programs include Business Administration, Communication Arts and Criminology
- 65 percent of students graduated in a four-year period
- Nearly four percent of the students studied abroad in Argentina, China, Egypt, Israel, Senegal and Spain
- Female graduates: 62.1 percent
- Male graduates: 37.9 percent
Pfleger Delivers Rousing Baccalaureate Message

In his Baccalaureate address on May 17, Rev. Michael Pfleger of Chicago’s Archdiocese advised the Class of 2013 to use their diplomas to make America a better world. “There are people across America who want to see if you will come out and change the world and make it what it’s supposed to be,” he said.

Pfleger has been recognized nationally by the media for his activism on social issues. He is also the founder of the Employment Resource Center, the Ark Youth Center and Samaritan House for the homeless. Since 1968, Pfleger has lived and ministered in the African-American community on the west and south sides of Chicago.

During his highly charged delivery, Pfleger shared sobering statistics about poverty and violence in the nation, noting there are more people in poverty today than in 1968 when the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. started a war against poverty. “Something is wrong with a nation that creates beggars and sends children from second class schools to first class prisons,” he said. “The quality of education still relies on your race, your class and your zip code.”

Pfleger went on to say 1.2 million children are lost to the streets each year. In 1997, he became a foster father to Jarvis Franklin, who was tragically killed as a result of gang crossfire the following year. He called violence “a business in America,” noting in the past six years, more than 500 children have been killed in Chicago. “To the NRA, I am tired of you making money off the blood running down the streets of Chicago,” he said.

He left the students with a challenge to “become the conscience of the world and to make the systems of the world nervous.”

L to R: Dr. Elfred Anthony Pinkard, executive vice president and COO; Rev. Michael Pfleger; and President Ronald L. Carter. Rev. Pfleger moved graduates and parents to stand and clap as he spoke about social injustices and urged graduates to be global change agents.
As part of its mission to transform education in the sciences, Johnson C. Smith University held a ceremonial groundbreaking on Oct. 25, 2012 for a 62,000-square-foot Science Center that will house innovative programs in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The center will be built between the James B. Duke Memorial Library and the Jane M. Smith Memorial Church.

Funded by a $25 million grant from The Duke Endowment, the new center will house programs that will prepare students for emerging fields in renewable energy, medical informatics, homeland security, analytics and bioinformatics, in addition to electronics, cyber security and robotics programs offered at the STEM complex. “As we continue to build this unique new model for colleges and expand beyond the traditional STEM education, we will ensure our graduates have the contemporary curriculum that provides the expertise they need,” said Dr. Magdy Attia, dean of the College of STEM. Such a curriculum, he said “will give students a chance to compete more effectively for admission to graduate schools and for jobs.”

Designed by Gantt Huberman Architects, the Science Center will enable the College of STEM to increase admission from 300 to 450 students by 2016. “The JCSU leadership has worked for months with architects to create an optimal learning environment for interaction among students, faculty and visitors,” said Dr. Ronald L. Carter, JCSU president. When complete,
the three-story building will be the largest on campus. Special features will include a common atrium, teaching labs, offices and a 250-seat tiered lecture hall/auditorium to accommodate guest lectures, conferences and other multipurpose events. Not only will the new Science Center benefit University students, the Charlotte community will be able to use the center as a resource through the JCSU STEM Innovation Center, providing training, mentoring, think tanks and STEM summer camps for students, teachers and professionals.

In 2012, Diverse Issues in Higher Education magazine ranked Johnson C. Smith University 18th in the nation in graduating African Americans in computer and information sciences. The University also ranks well above the national average in the number of female students in STEM.
146th Founders’ Day Convocation

Founders’ Day Convocation on April 21 featured Dr. Nat Irvin II, executive in residence and professor of management at the University of Louisville College of Business. Convocation also honored Astrid Chirnos, president of the Latin American Chamber of Commerce, with a Presidential Citation.

Chirnos has promoted the economic development, growth, sustainability and success of the Latino business community in the Charlotte Region. Much of her work began on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University.

Dr. Nat Irvin II, delivers the Founders’ Day Convocation address. Irvin is the Woodrow M. Strickler Executive-in-Residence and professor of management at the University of Louisville College of Business.

Founders’ Day Convocation features a presentation of the Presidential Citation to Astrid Chirnos, president of the Latin American Chamber of Commerce.

The JCSU Concert Choir performs under the direction of Dr. Shawn-Allyce White, assistant professor of music and director of choral activities.
The carillon in the Biddle Hall clock tower peals with the Loyalty Song as the Class of 2013 lines up for the processional to Jane M. Smith Memorial Church for the 146th Founders’ Day Convocation Service.

L to R: Dr. Philip Otienoburu, assistant professor of biology; Dr. Carol Davenport, assistant professor of English; and Dr. Matthew DeForrest, associate professor of English, enjoy fellowship before the processional to Jane M. Smith Memorial Church for the 146th Founders’ Day Convocation.

The interactive display chronicles the stories of the citizens of Clarendon County, S.C., who fought for civil rights and equality in education in their community. The glorious and hideous moments of the Civil Rights Movement are highlighted in the exhibition through the De Laine family and other residents of Clarendon County, S.C. “This exhibit has a meaningful connection with JCSU, given Reverend J.A. De Laine’s son, B.B. De Laine ’60, and daughter, Ophelia De Laine Gona ’57, are both JCSU graduates,” said Dr. Ronald L. Carter, president of Johnson C. Smith University. “During the Civil Rights Movement, University alumni played an imperative role as activists for change,” said Carter. “The exhibit functions as a memorial and inspiration to the legacy of the University.”

“COURAGE” first came to Charlotte to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision and has also toured other institutions and cities across the country. The exhibit includes photographs by James Gibson Peeler, whose collection was recently donated to the University. “The board and staff of Levine Museum of the New South are delighted that the “COURAGE” exhibit has found a Charlotte home at Johnson C. Smith University,” said Emily Zimmern, president of the Levine Museum of the New South. “It is our great hope that the exhibition will be a source of inspiration and a catalyst for activism for years to come.”

The “COURAGE” exhibit is open to the public and students during regular library hours and admission is free. Group tours may be scheduled by calling the library at 704-371-6740.
Johnson C. Smith University officially opened Sustainability Village in April 2013 as the focal point for its sustainability initiative on campus. The innovative living-learning prototype funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina and The Duke Endowment incorporates academic coursework, service-learning activities and applied research that can benefit the campus, the surrounding community and beyond.

Students, faculty and staff take part in maintaining the village’s community garden plots and composting area, while working in the greenhouses and aquaponic garden. The village’s community garden extends its reach beyond the University gates to neighbors in the Beatties Ford Road/Northwest Corridor area in an effort to help alleviate the area’s food desert. The gardens provide kale, lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, peas and herbs for the campus and surrounding community. They also benefit recycling and waste reduction efforts by employing composting and loop system strategies as part of the University’s campus-wide sustainability initiative.

“In the Beatties Ford Road corridor, roughly 30 percent of residents do not enjoy easy access to full-service food stores,” said Brad Wilson, CEO, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. “Fortunately, Johnson C. Smith University recognizes that and is doing something about it. We at Blue Cross are pleased that we can be a part of that solution.”

In another greenhouse, the aquaponic garden portion of the village combines growing crops and cultivating tilapia fish in a closed loop environment. The system in place at JCSU serves as a prototype of technology that will be transferred to Mahanaim Village in Haiti during the summer of 2014 in partnership with Joseph’s Exchange, a Charlotte-based nonprofit. “We appreciate the generous contributions of partners that have enabled us to create a prototype for living sustainably as a campus community,” said Dr. Ronald L. Carter, president of Johnson C. Smith University.

Four students presented the Sustainability Village project in April 2013 at the Clinton Global Initiative University meeting in St. Louis. Students Christopher Fatton and Sandy Mathurin of Haiti, Omar Cossio of Asheboro, N.C., and Shaquana Jackson of Greensboro, N.C., attended the annual meeting hosted by President Bill Clinton. The students joined more than 1,000 other students from around the country to hear from specialists in the field of global development and brainstorm ideas.

“This opportunity complements our University’s role in the community by preparing a cadre of students who are solutions driven and prepared to solve a myriad of global development challenges,” said Philip Otienoburu, assistant professor of biology at JCSU. “As a member of the Clinton Global Initiative University network, JCSU is part of a rapidly growing consortium of academic institutions committed to contributing sustainable solutions through student-driven, action-oriented projects,” he said. “We are working to alleviate our most pressing global concerns such as poverty, food security, environmental sustainability and conservation.”
Denim Day Invites Men to “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes”

On April 22, JCSU’s male students, faculty and staff participated in the first Walk a Mile in Her Shoes as part of Denim Day, a national observance by all Historically Black Colleges and Universities. More than 100 men donned red, black and orange high heels and walked an uncomfortable four laps around the practice track to raise awareness about the causes, effects and remedies for sexual assault and domestic violence. Participants ranged from members of the football team to high ranking administrators.

Layla F. Bluefort ’11, violence prevention case manager, described the walk as “a way for them to stand up and show they are against domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault.” The University received a $150 mini grant from The Wright Group to support, honor and promote Denim Day during national Women's Health Week.

Denim Day kicked off with an event in the Mary Joyce Taylor Crisp Student Union where students learned about the concept of “having my sister’s back.” The presentation focused on how bystander intervention and sisterhood can assist with sexual assault prevention. Each attendee received a Denim Day t-shirt to show solidarity.

University Communications and Marketing Awarded for DNC-Related Activities

The North Carolina Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (NCPRSA) has awarded Johnson C. Smith University’s Communications and Marketing Department for excellence in planning and producing a press conference and a JCSU media kit related to events around the Democratic National Convention. The University received the 2013 Bronze InSpire Award of Excellence for its innovative approach to developing a press kit designed to bring attention to the University during the DNC. The NCPRSA also issued a 2013 Bronze InSpire Award with Honorable Mention for the press conference.
Announcing UFUtude: A Summit for Innovative Thinkers.

The press conference was held in partnership with the Congressional Black Caucus Institute in May 2012 to build momentum and media interest in the UFUtude cyber summit that would take place in September. The press conference offered interviews with actress Alfre Woodard, U.S. Congressman Mel Watt and others who would be participating in the September event.

“Our goal was to build relationships with reporters early, so we could maximize coverage of UFUtude when they returned to cover the DNC,” said Sherri Belefield, director of communications and marketing for Johnson C. Smith University. “The exposure we received from the press conference also helped draw attention to the University’s growing reputation as a new urban university that is committed to social responsibility.”

The NCPRSA annual awards program honors communications programs that have achieved great success and inspired others across the state.

Arsenio Hall Makes A Pit Stop in Charlotte

Arsenio Hall stopped in Charlotte during a national tour to promote his return to late-night television as host of “The Arsenio Hall Show.” Hall was the titular king of late-night for the hip crowd in the early 90s. His nationally syndicated show was revived on September 9, 2013. The Charlotte VIP event sponsored by WAXN TV64 was held at the Ritz Carlton in July. Hall reminisced about his former show, pumped up his new show (yes, the fist pump is back) and answered questions from guests. Hall discussed how late night has changed since the 90’s and how his show can appeal to a new generation as well as his former viewers.

Students Get in Gear for Careers in NASCAR

Students at JCSU tried out for possible careers as NASCAR pit crew members when the 2013 NASCAR Pit Crew Member Development Combine came to campus. The students participated in speed and agility tests for male and female athletes. The event was revved up by a national program called Drive for Diversity, which was created by NASCAR to engage women and people of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds in all facets of the industry. All nine students who participated in the Combine were selected to participate in NASCAR’s Summer Program that started June 1.

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Sherri Belfield (l), director of University Communications and Marketing, and Joy Paige (r), vice president for Institutional Advancement, are pictured with Hall during the promotional event for his show.
JCSU Embraces Opportunities with DNC

Even though the start of the fall 2012 semester was delayed until September 11 due to the Democratic National Convention events on campus, the University was still buzzing with activity as a hub for key convention security operations, partnering with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department.

To capitalize on the historic event, faculty had been preparing students to be knowledgeable about civics and government while becoming engaged in the political process. Meanwhile, a core group of staff worked with the Congressional Black Caucus Institute to present *UFuture: A Summit for Innovative Young Thinkers* on campus September 4, 2012.

The event drew more than 300 students from nearly 20 area colleges and universities, who came prepared to ask questions about science, technology and finance in the global marketplace to a panel of elected officials and experts from the fields of business and technology. Hosted by actors Hill Harper, Alfre Woodard and Nicole Ari Parker, the summit featured Johnson C. Smith University President Ronald L. Carter, Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute; Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus; Congressman James E. Clyburn; and Melody Barnes, chief executive officer of Melody Barnes Solutions, LLC.

Students tweeted their questions and asked questions live before the panel. They also heard from the White House in a letter sent by First Lady Michelle Obama and a tweet from the Obama campaign asking students to respond about what makes them optimistic about the future.

In addition to being streamed live on the internet, several national and local media covered UFUTURE, including Black Entertainment Television, National Public Radio, NoMore DownLow-TV, and *The Charlotte Observer*. WUNC radio interviewed Dr. Ronald L. Carter, state Senator Malcom Graham ’85, and two JCSU students for a follow-up to UFUTURE on “The State of Things” show, which aired on public radio stations around the country.

JCSU’s involvement reached beyond the campus gates. The University was featured at the Legacy Village in Uptown Charlotte, the JCSU marching band opened the CarolinaFest parade, students served on the Convention floor, and faculty and staff networked at numerous events around the city. President Ronald L. Carter and student Charles Hauser were featured panelists in a youth town hall presented by National Journal, The Atlantic and Microsoft.

The DNC experience proved inspirational and motivational and put JCSU in the spotlight.

HealthPlex Opens to Campus and Community

On October 26, 2012, the HealthPlex officially opened its doors to the campus and surrounding community. Located next to Jack S. Brayboy Gymnasium, the 5,600-square-foot facility houses the University’s Applied Health Research Center and Wellness Department.

“The primary focus of the HealthPlex is to provide health and wellness services that promote positive attitudes, healthy lifestyles and responsible self-care for the JCSU campus and surrounding community through applied research in health, human performance and sport,” said Victor Romano, wellness director. Romano has earned certifications in personal training, strength and conditioning, corrective exercise and primary group exercise instruction. He has more than 10 years of experience in the field of exercise science and his research has been published by the National Scholastic Sports Foundation.

The HealthPlex includes a fitness center equipped with free motion fitness cardio and strength equipment, a multi-purpose room equipped with a teaching kitchen, Yoga/Pilates studio, wellness programs, group exercise classes, aquatic programming, locker rooms, storage and offices.

JCSU collaborated with Charlotte city officials and various corporate partners on the construction of the new facility, which provides preventative wellness programming, such as weight management, health coaching, healthy living seminar series and healthy cooking demonstrations. All services are free.

Did you know?

Six Olympic swimmers, including Cullen Jones, practice in the pool at the JCSU HealthPlex.
Mosaic Village Opens in Historic West End

Mosaic Village, the latest jewel in Charlotte’s crown, opened Oct. 4, 2012, in the historic West End as the latest sign of revitalization in the Northwest Corridor. Johnson C. Smith University President Ronald L. Carter joined former Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx, city officials and business leaders in a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the 124,000 square-foot facility on West Trade Street.

The $25-million project funded by public-private partnerships among the University, the Griffin family of Griffin Brothers Tires, Inc., and the city of Charlotte, features 80 apartment-style suites serving 300 student-tenants, street-front retail space and a parking garage. Mosaic’s fully furnished suites are equipped with kitchens, washers/dryers, dishwashers and sitting areas.

The opening ceremony, which drew more than 200 members of the community, started with a procession of the JCSU marching band, a proclamation by Charlotte City Council member James Mitchell, as well as entertainment by the JCSU Concert Choir and students from Northwest School of the Arts.
“We are proud to partner with the Griffin family of Griffin Brothers Tire, Inc. and the city of Charlotte as we carry out the mission of the West Trade Street/Beatties Ford Road Task Force to revive the soul of the Northwest Corridor,” said Carter. “We are grateful to all who have helped make Mosaic Village become a catalyst for positive change.”

During his remarks, Foxx called Mosaic Village “a down payment on the future,” made possible because of the University’s vision to extend beyond its gates into the community. Businessman Mike Griffin called the development a “great investment inspired by a passion that will keep moving the Northwest Corridor forward.”

In his remarks preceding the ribbon cutting, Carter cited a religious lyric by the prophet Habakkuk, which has been the motivational force behind “pricking the collective conscience of this Queen City about the imperative to build and sustain assets in the Northwest Corridor.” Carter thanked supporters for their prayers and encouragement, adding “let this day be a demonstration that, through vision, passion, perseverance, courage and sense of purpose, we can continue to phase up to other possibilities.”

Student-tenants celebrated the opening of Mosaic Village with suitcases in hand as they began moving into their 2, 4 and 5-bedroom apartments. Senior Yolanda Babb chose Mosaic Village for the convenience and savings. “Moving to Mosaic will cut down on the commute to campus, save on gas, rent and utilities,” she said. “It will make me feel more a part of the campus environment and enjoy the on-site amenities, such as study rooms, in-suite washers/dryers and workout room.”

Mosaic Village has also served student-tenants from other institutions such as Davidson College, Charlotte School of Law and Central Piedmont Community College.

Students aren’t the only ones living in Mosaic Village. The facility is open to the Charlotte community and its 7,500 square feet of retail space on the first floor is leased to small businesses, including No Grease barbershop, which opened in spring 2013. Other retail includes Perkins Management Services-owned Red Mango Frozen Yogurt, Salad Works and Blu Bayou, which are slated to open in fall 2013.

Mosaic also features a public garage open to non residents. The rooftop terrace on the top of the garage offers a full view of the uptown Charlotte skyline and is available to host events.

The colorful design of Mosaic Village is inspired by the area’s rich history and unmatched resilience, according to Darrel Williams, principal of Neighboring Concepts which designed the facility. “Mosaic Village becomes an architectural composition that respects its history, while chartering a new path for the Historic West End community.”

Mosaic Village’s exterior wall mural by local artist Abel Jackson is the latest addition of artwork in the West End. In addition, “Passing Through Light,” public art at the West Trade Street and I-77 underpass serves as another visual and dynamic gateway for vehicles and pedestrians going into and out of the area. A dedication ceremony with artist Erwin Redl also highlighted the Mosaic Village opening event.

Drum major Michael Coote ’13 leads JCSU’s marching band and excites the crowd during the grand opening celebration for Mosaic Village.
Just a little off the top

Damian Johnson ’95 gives Dr. Ronald L. Carter a trim at No Grease Barbershop. Opened in April, the shop is the first business to locate at Mosaic Village. Johnson, a noted entrepreneur in Charlotte, is co-owner of No Grease, Inc., with four locations in the Charlotte area.
JCSU Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

“Everything, and I do mean everything, changed when I was offered the James B. Duke Scholarship here at Johnson C. Smith University,” said junior Luis Dominguez. Since the age of 14, Dominguez has known he wanted to become a doctor. His decision was influenced by his father who was cured of kidney cancer through the medical care of urologists and surgeons. The experience of his father’s recovery gave him the desire to bring that same happiness to other families. Although he wanted to become a doctor, Dominguez was uncertain how he would accomplish this goal because he is an undocumented citizen. Through the help of scholarships from the University, Dominguez is now working toward his dream of becoming a doctor.

Similar stories were heard throughout the night at a welcome reception and scholarship awards event in October 2012 hosted by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. The reception awarded 18 Hispanic students with leadership and diversity scholarships sponsored by Coca-Cola Bottling Consolidated and FDY, Inc. Other sponsors at the event included Wells Fargo and Food Lion. Latino students and their families were recognized at the reception for their decisions to attend Johnson C. Smith University and for their outstanding academic efforts.

“I am ever grateful to Johnson C. Smith University,” said Enrique Garcia-Garcia, “for helping me pursue my education, which I will use to become an asset to this community.”

The Duke Endowment Awards Student Resiliency Grant

Dean Cathy Jones

The Duke Endowment has awarded a two-year, $150,000 grant to help the University enhance and expand student support initiatives. The student resiliency grant will help minimize the impact of mental illness or emotional distress on the academic, physical and personal pursuits of JCSU students. In addition to the director, administrative assistant and part-time counselor in the counseling center, the University will add a case manager/community liaison and an alcohol/substance abuse case manager.

The grant will support student resiliency initiatives through June 30, 2015. “This grant will further enhance other University initiatives aimed at increasing student persistence and graduation rates,” said Cathy Jones, dean of Student Success. “It also will enable us to better equip students with the essential resiliency skills to guard against adverse life outcomes.”

“This is a pivotal moment in higher education as we focus on getting students to and through colleges and universities by strategically and intentionally understanding interplay of personal characteristics and institutional factors which support persistence to graduation,” said Dr. Elfred Anthony Pinkard, executive vice president and COO for JCSU.
Dr. Ronald L. Carter participated in a symposium in March at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte presented by Black Enterprise and sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The symposium titled “Today’s Business Crisis: Educating Tomorrow’s Workforce,” was part of an educational series aimed at cultivating a conversation between the academic and business communities. The Charlotte symposium focused on how postsecondary schools must meet the needs of students of color and prepare them for careers in corporate America.

Dr. Charles J. Ogletree Jr., the Jesse Climenko Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, moderated the one-on-one conversation with Dr. Carter and panelists from Bank of America, MDC, Inc., the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Duke Energy and others. Charlotte’s former Mayor Anthony Foxx also participated in the symposium.

According to the 2010 report by the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University, 63 percent of all job openings over the next eight years will require postsecondary education or training. The symposium dialogue covered the challenges faced by large numbers of African-American students – especially those from low-income families – advancing from a college education to becoming valued members of the global workforce.

Johnson C. Smith University continues to move to the next wave in the Blue Ocean Strategy process after exploring early findings around the themes of student retention and graduation rates. The University is the only HBCU in the nation selected by the White House as a model to employ the principles of the Blue Ocean Strategy. Used in the for-profit sector for several years, Blue Ocean is an analogy for new, untapped market space where demand is created rather than fought over with competitors. It provides an analytical framework and the tools for examining a range of organizational challenges, including many that are found in the educational sector.

Based on the international bestseller book by W. Chan Kim and Renée Mauborgne, the Blue Ocean Strategy is about seeing what everybody else has seen and thinking what nobody else has thought. With this concept in mind, the Blue Ocean Strategy team on campus worked during the 2012-2013 academic year creating strategies to improve student retention and graduation rates.

During the first phase, or Visual Awakening Phase, the project identified major factors in students’ abilities or desires to continue at JCSU, including cost of attendance, access to academic support, as well as job and graduate school prospects after graduation compared to anticipated college loan debt.

During the Visual Exploration Phase, which ended in May 2013, the team developed solutions using the six paths framework to explore key dimensions that have hindered improving student retention and graduation.

Faculty and staff and members of the University’s Board of Trustees who serve on the Blue Ocean Strategy team presented their findings and strategies to the JCSU family on Sept. 25, 2013. The strategies fall into categories of technology, workforce development and operational efficiency. After the presentations, the JCSU family voted on the strategies they believe could best move the University forward.

As preparatory reading for the meeting, the campus community was encouraged to read the book College UnBound: The Future of Higher Education and What It Means for Students, by Jeffrey Selingo, to review the data presented in the book and think about its concepts.

The Blue Ocean project is funded by a $950,000 grant from The Duke Endowment.
The University recognized three faculty members for excellence in teaching at the annual Faculty Staff Appreciation Awards Luncheon in May 2013. Johnson C. Smith University congratulates the following individuals for outstanding work in their disciplines, providing intellectual rigor in their classrooms and for excellence in customer service.

The Cato Par Excellence Teaching Award went to Alexa Rosypal, assistant professor of biology, for her significant continuous and personal contributions to the pursuit of teaching excellence during the academic year. The award comes with a $5,000 cash stipend and financial assistance for professional development opportunities.

The Sit Lux Award was presented to Thanh-Thuy Nguyen, math lab coordinator, in recognition of significant scholarly research and publications during the academic year or highest student evaluation scores during the academic year.

The Par Excellence Teaching Award honored Perumal Thirumurthy, assistant professor of business, for his significant continuous and personal contributions to the pursuit of teaching excellence during the academic year.

Staff members were awarded for a variety of outstanding services provided to the University:

- **Sara Stewart Distinguished Service Award** - Monika Rhue ’91, director of library services
- **Moses S. Belton Distinguished Service Award** - Terry McPherson, coordinator of housing services and business operations
- **Lonnie T. Parker Pinnacle Service Award for Caring** - Doris Burns, administrative assistant II
- **Lonnie T. Parker Pinnacle Service Award for Quality** - Vernika Foster, accounting manager

Trench Worker Award Winners (recognized for their heavy lifting)

- Sandra Brown, residence hall coordinator II
- Hang Chen, associate professor of computer science
- Dawnita Gilmore, program analyst
- Katrina Gordon, data analyst
- Cathy Jones, dean of student success
- Cindy Kistenberg, associate professor of theatre and communication arts
- Renea Kirkpatrick-Killian, administrative assistant II
- Lisa Lowery, transcript clerk
- Belinda Meads, administrative assistant I
- Michelle Orr, digitization librarian
- Janelle Stowe, administrative assistant I
- Cassandra Wynn, assistant professor of journalism

**Service Awards** (for years of serving the University)

- Dr. Timothy Champion, professor of chemistry and department chair, 25 years of service
- Dr. Thomas Priest, professor of sociology, 30 years of service
- Stephen Joyner Sr. ’73, athletic director and head men’s basketball coach, 35 years of service
- Barbara Carr, cataloger, 40 years of service

The University honored five retirees who have collectively served 149 years.

- Dr. Thomas Priest, professor of sociology
- Dr. Patricia Roberson-Saunders, BB&T endowed professor of management
- Annie Strong, administrative assistant I
- Giles Strong, groundskeeper
- Dr. Joseph Turner, dean, College of Arts and Letters

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Professor Creates Mural for Arts Factory at JCSU
For Hasaan Kirkland, associate professor of fine art, art has always been second nature. He started taking an interest in his craft at a young age, drawing cartoons and race cars with his older brother on paper, but now his new canvas is a wall outside of the Arts Factory on West Trade Street near campus.

The mural represents the University’s visual and performing arts program, which includes dance, graphic design, film and video production, studio art and theatre art. Kirkland commented, “The mural is a visual depiction of what happens in the program. It’s something that I really wanted to contribute to the school.”

This project is completely different from anything he has done in the past because it is his first public art piece. He stated about the assignment, “This is my first large outdoor wall mural. I had to scale the wall before I started painting and deal with the elements of the outdoors.”

As an artist, Kirkland describes his style of painting as Neo-Abstract Expressionism. “It is a newer form of imagery that can be representational or abstract,” he said. “Neo-functionality doesn’t follow the necessary order. Murals are a part of the curriculum for studio art majors because they provide the opportunity for them to develop their own style.”

Kirkland has a special interest in civil rights, and his work has been included in various local museums and galleries. Specifically, he has a piece dedicated to the legacy of Medgar Evers, titled “For Evers Hope.” The piece represents learning about and acknowledging that period. “It details the perspective that he (Evers) had on civil rights, said Kirkland. “It also promotes the words that he said came true in one day having a Black president.”

Kirkland completely dedicates himself when it comes to producing his work, and each piece that he does tells its own story. He said, “Art has always been an outlet of creativity for me. Even as a child, I had a heightened sense of interest in creativity.” It is because of this outlook that there is now a unique and captivating work of art outside the Arts Factory.

- by Morgan McRae
Communications Intern
Turner Reflects and Bids Farewell After 37 Years

After 37 years of service to higher education and Johnson C. Smith University, Dr. Joseph Turner, dean of the College of Arts and Letters, made humble remarks on his extensive career in English education and deanship at his retirement reception in May 2013. He reflected on colleagues and students alike while referencing events unique to Johnson C. Smith University’s rich history.

“Seriously, though, a few may have nodded off now and again,” he said of his students. “But the vast majority taught me as much or more than I ever imparted to them,” remarked Turner. “I started to make a mental tour of the campus buildings, quickly realizing that there are really only a few locations on these grounds where I have not taught and learned.”

During his tenure, Turner studied the effects of the computer on reading and writing, content and style. His recent, notable project, “Cavell at Work: On The Senses of Walden,” assumed two forms: the one, straight exposition; and the other, twisting and turning into hypertext.

Well-known and liked by his students, Turner started as an English professor before becoming dean of the University’s largest college. He ended his farewell remarks with nods to President Ronald L. Carter, and Executive Vice President and COO Dr. Elfred Anthony Pinkard. “So you never know how lives will interconnect or how the slightest act leads on from way to way,” he said. “For the marvelous web of life that brought and kept me here, I am grateful.”

CMC-Biddle Point and JCSU Partnership Offers Opportunities for Minorities in Medicine

Students are getting a sneak peek into the medical and allied health professions through the CMC-Biddle Point Mentoring and Shadowing Program. The pilot program offers e-mentoring and group mentoring for freshmen and sophomore students. Juniors and seniors who meet eligibility requirements may participate in a shadowing opportunity at the Biddle Point Family Medical Center near campus.

The Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS) at JCSU sponsored a kick-off during the spring semester to announce the partnership founded by Dr. Nicole Johnson, M.D. ’06. Johnson is participating as a mentor along with 15 third-year residents.

(continued on p. 33)
Most of JCSU’s 150 science majors enrolled in the College of STEM are interested in medicine or allied health fields. Over half of the students are female, which is above the national average. This is one reason why the partnership with a family practice like Biddle Point makes sense, according to Dr. Sunil Gupta, JCSU professor of biology and faculty medical advisor. “Family medicine is an aspect of medicine dominated by females, partly due to its nurturing role,” he said.

Camille Grimsley ’11, student success coach at JCSU who manages the program, said: “Shadowing and volunteer opportunities are often required in the professional school admissions process. We hope many students take advantage of this opportunity for direct contact with professionals so they can learn about the field of healthcare early on.”

JCSU Hosts Statewide Psychology Conference

Johnson C. Smith University hosted the 22nd Annual Central Carolinas Conference in Psychology in March for more than 80 faculty and students from UNC-Charlotte, Queens University, Belmont Abbey University and JCSU. Attendees gathered in Grimes Lounge of the Mary Joyce Taylor Crisp Student Union to enjoy a breakfast provided by psychology clubs and Psi Psi chapters of Queens University, Belmont Abbey College, UNC-Charlotte and JCSU. Alumni hosted a panel where they shared their experiences about careers and graduate school.

Dr. Robert Sellers delivered the keynote address, titled, “The Role of Racial Discrimination in the Lives of African American Youth in the 21st Century.” He is the Charles D. Moody Collegiate Professor of Psychology and research associate at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan where he also chairs the Department of Psychology. Sellers is one of the founders of the NSF-funded Center for the Study of Black Youth in Context. He is also a fellow of the American Psychological Association and the Association for Psychological Science.

NSF Awards $616,000 for STEM Scholarships

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded Johnson C. Smith University $616,000 in scholarship support for students studying science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The award will provide 96 scholarships to close the financial gap for students for whom college affordability presents a challenge. The scholarships will be administered through the University’s ASPIRE program, which supports academically talented students who demonstrate financial need in attaining STEM degrees.

“We know that college affordability continues to be a challenge for underrepresented minorities in STEM,” said Dawn McNair, principal investigator for the NSF ASPIRE Program. “Because of the financial challenges, students often pursue other means of financial support. Some may work full time while juggling a full STEM course load. Others may stop attending for short periods in order to make enough money to pay tuition, transfer to another institution or drop out.”

In addition to providing scholarship aid to ease the financial burden, the ASPIRE program offers students a STEM mentoring network of peers, faculty, alumni and local industry professionals. It also presents opportunities for them to be involved in undergraduate research early in their college years. “This combination of financial assistance and support services in many cases shortens the time it takes to earn a degree,” said McNair.
Rainey Appointed as Dean of Academic Support Services

Johnson C. Smith University announced the appointment of Kelli S. Rainey as Dean of Academic Support Services, effective July 1. She replaced Dr. David Eubanks. Rainey joined Johnson C. Smith University as Director of Student Activities in 2004 and was appointed Director of Institutional Research in 2006. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication from Lynchburg College, a Master of Arts degree in applied psychology from Fairfield University and graduate certification in institutional research from Pennsylvania State University. Rainey is currently completing an approved dissertation, *Succession Planning—Ensuring Leadership Continuity at Historically Black Colleges and Universities*, at Benedictine University for an Ed.D. in higher education and organizational change.

As Dean of Academic Support Services, Rainey serves as Chief Administrative Officer of the division. She oversees the management of the academic support division, including information technology; library services; and institutional planning, assessment, effectiveness and research. She reports to the Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer Dr. Elfred Anthony Pinkard, and serves as a key advisor to the President and other members of the senior administrative team on technology strategies and initiatives to support student learning, service delivery, workplace efficiencies and organizational effectiveness. She also continues to serve as the SACS liaison for the institution.

“It is indeed an honor to continue serving the University in this new capacity,” said Rainey. “Support services are vital to students, faculty and staff as we continue with the University’s transformation into a new urban university that provides a high quality education and a vibrant campus experience for all who learn, live and work at JCSU. I am eager to work with the dedicated staff members within the Division of Academic Support Services, and I am firmly committed to leading this team forward according to the Mission-in-Vision of Johnson C. Smith University.”

In May 2012, Rainey received the Moses S. Belton Award for Distinguished Administrative Service to Johnson C. Smith University. She is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society and the Association of Institutional Research.

Jones Appointed as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Letters

Dr. Brian Madison Jones has been appointed Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, replacing Joseph Turner, who retired in May. Jones is a native of Charlotte, N.C., and joined Johnson C. Smith University in 2007 as an assistant professor. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from Appalachian State University, a Master of Arts in history from UNC-Greensboro and a Ph.D. in history from Kansas State University.

“I am honored that the President and the Board of Trustees have entrusted me to lead the largest college on our campus,” said Jones. “I am both excited and humbled to work alongside such an accomplished and dedicated faculty and equally eager students. I take quite seriously the vital work Arts and Letters does as part of our general education program and in pursuit of the University’s mission, and I am committed to doing everything possible...
to support, enrich, and strengthen our faculty in pursuit of those goals."

Jones is the 2011 recipient of the Cato Par Excellence Teaching Award and is the author of *Abolishing the Taboo: Dwight D. Eisenhower and American Nuclear Doctrine, 1945-1961* (2011). In July, he presented on “Eisenhower’s Nuclear Philosophy,” at the Eisenhower Academy: A Summer Institute for Teachers, Gettysburg College and National Historic Site. He also accompanied students in May on a study abroad trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia.

### JCSU and Microsoft Form Education Alliance

Johnson Smith University teamed up with Microsoft Corporation to improve teaching and learning through information technology as part of an innovative partnership available to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The University announced the partnership on Oct. 25, 2012 during the groundbreaking ceremony for the University’s new Science Center, scheduled for completion in 2014.

“The power of information technology for education lies in its ability to provide a cost-effective platform for helping learners and educators to realize their full potential,” said Reggie Isaac, senior director for Microsoft’s Charlotte Campus. Isaac will work with the University over the next year to significantly enhance opportunities and training in the field of technology on a variety of fronts at JCSU, including:

- **Enhancing faculty and student education resources through the Microsoft IT Academy and DreamSpark.** These programs offer access to e-learning courses and special pricing for courseware, certification exams and designer tools.

- **Fostering local innovation at JCSU’s Innovo Laboratory and College of STEM, through Microsoft BizSpark, which provides business skills development software and a virtual incubator for entrepreneurs.**

- **Opening job opportunities through a Microsoft recruiting day and providing job hunting, networking training and internship possibilities through the student ambassador program.**

- **Offering students direct exposure to executives in the IT field through the JCSU Leadership Lecture Series and Visiting Students Series.**

“Microsoft has been a great friend of the University by providing software in the past for our laptop program for students,” said Dr. Ronald L. Carter, president of Johnson Smith University. “We are grateful for its support in this multi-faceted partnership that will add relevance to our technology programs and tremendous opportunities for our students and faculty.”

Dr. Ronald L. Carter and Reggie Issac of Microsoft shake hands to formalize a new alliance during the Science Center groundbreaking ceremony.
JCSU students at the Arts Factory performed “Ain't Misbehavin” at the Black Box Theatre during Founders’ Week. The musical revue featuring the songs of jazz legend Fats Waller was directed by Knoxville, Tenn., pianist and composer Wendel Werner. Dr. Wanda Ebright, associate professor of dance, directed the choreography with Jill Jackson, Mimi Kimble and Onastasia Ebright. Samuel Guine III served as technical director.

The Visual and Performing Arts Program offers:
- Film, video production, editing and post production
- Graphic arts, design, photography and animation
- Theatre, acting, playwriting, technical theatre and directing
- Studio art with courses in drawing, design, painting and clay sculpture
- Dance with a strong foundation in classical ballet, modern jazz and African dance.

Five Johnson C. Smith University students enjoyed a rare opportunity to merge creative arts with teaching skills on a recent trip to the American Hebrew Academy (AHA) in Greensboro, N.C. Dr. Cindy J. Kistenberg, associate professor of theatre and communication arts and faculty advisor for the Black Ink Monks, arranged the April trip with her former high school English teacher – now the chair of the AHA’s English Department.

Tyran Greene ’13, Jamie Hendricks, DiaShanna Logan, Sarah Jackson, and Nyquan Johnson, of JCSU’s Black Ink Monks, performed spoken-word and conducted poetry workshops for students during their visit. The sprawling 100-acre AHA campus is the only pluralistic Jewish boarding school in the U.S., serving approximately 150 students from around the world. The Black Ink Monks, a poetry slam group, is JCSU’s oldest student organization.

The students gained valuable, enriching cultural experiences during the trip. For Jackson, the environment was pleasantly new. Jackson commented, “AHA was like a poetry retreat for me. Everything was so refreshing. Great talent, good food and good people made me want to come back for years to come.

I enjoyed the cultural experiences that I had never had before.”

David Press, director of programming at the AHA, praised the poets for their contributions. “While we were certainly hopeful that the workshop and poetry slam would have a positive impact, we were most definitely surprised by the incredible creativity and passion that was on display throughout the program,” he said.

The weekend culminated with a Saturday night program where several AHA students and Monks performed for an audience of 20 students, faculty, staff and guests.
National Science Foundation Grant Funds Cyber Security Scholarships

The College of STEM, in partnership with the College of Computing and Informatics at UNC-Charlotte, has been awarded the National Science Foundation Cyber Corp. Scholarship for Service grant. Johnson C. Smith University will receive $339,189 for the five-year grant, which will provide support for students to study in the field of cyber security.

The Scholarship for Service is designed to increase and strengthen the cadre of federal information assurance professionals that protect the government’s critical information infrastructure. This program provides scholarships that fully fund the typical costs that students pay for books, tuition; and room and board while attending JCSU. In addition, students will receive an annual stipend of $20,000.

“The U.S. loses approximately $500 billion a year because of cyber security glitches, including the loss of intellectual property and physical damage,” said Dr. Magdy Attia, dean of the College of STEM. “The College of STEM’s emphasis on undergraduate applied research in market-driven areas, such as cyber security, is designed to prepare students for jobs or graduate school if they choose.”

Dr. Hang Chen, chair of the Computer Science and Engineering Department, heads the University’s cyber security program. She also leads the Duke Energy-funded Cultivating Women in Technology Program, which seeks to broaden participation and increase retention of women and minority students in computing disciplines. Her efforts have helped to raise the number of female students who have chosen a STEM-related major. Half of the students in the STEM College are female, which is significantly higher than the national average of 12 to 15 percent.

The cyber security program is housed in the recently completed undergraduate research center which includes a laboratory, software and summer research programs.

Students Immerse in Chinese Language & Culture

Four students from JCSU traveled to China on June 28, 2013, as part of the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad: An Advanced and Intensive Training Program in Modern Chinese Language and Culture.

The students studied at Capital Normal University in Beijing until July 20, then flew to Guangzhou where they joined a program at Guangdong Baiyun University.

Seven students from Queens University, four from UNC-Charlotte and one from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools joined the China contingent led by JCSU’s Xia Cao, with the Government Sponsored Programs and Research department and Xiaosong He, professor of Chinese.

The collaborative effort is administered by the College of Arts and Letters at JCSU.

(continued on p. 38)
Mecklenburg Schools,” said Adelheid Eubanks, director of liberal education and international studies. “This language immersion experience falls in line with our mission to offer a global education experience to every student.” JCSU provides students with a free passport and an opportunity to study abroad at 11 countries around the world.

“Students Experience Russia”

Students meet at the opening of Chinese Summer Camp for American College students at Guangdong Baiyun University.

and managed by the University’s Smith Institute Center for Excellence in Global Education. The program will be available for the next two summers to students from JCSU, Queens University and institutions in the Charlotte area.

“We look forward to this unique global opportunity to collaborate with our University partners and Charlotte-

Students take a break inside the Moscow Kremlin in front of Assumption Cathedral, a Russian Orthodox church.
Charlotte School of Law and JCSU Partnership Offers a Pathway for Pre-Law Scholars

A collaborative effort between Johnson C. Smith University and Charlotte School of Law enables students to attend three years at Johnson C. Smith University and three years at Charlotte School of Law to earn a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree and a Juris Doctor degree. The 3+3 Pre-Law Scholars Program began during the fall 2012 semester. Currently, seven high-performing JCSU students with an interest in law are a part of the Pre-Law Scholars program. They will enter the law program at Charlotte Law the end of their junior year.

"Johnson C. Smith University endeavors to produce graduates who are able to communicate effectively, think critically and learn independently as well as collaboratively," said JCSU President Ronald Carter. "We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with Charlotte School of Law in a program that combines a quality liberal arts education with a concentrated study in the field of law, so our graduates will be well prepared for successful careers."

The two institutions share a mission to serve the community and reach out to diverse cultures. Charlotte School of Law believes strongly that tomorrow’s leaders must reflect and interact effectively with an eclectic collective of people and cultures. Consequently, the school places strong emphasis on serving the underserved through community service and pro bono work in an inclusive environment that fosters a demanding yet supportive educational setting for a richly diverse community.

Similarly, the University provides an outstanding education for a diverse group of talented and highly motivated students from various ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographical backgrounds. A majority of students are heavily involved in community service.

JCSU Bids Farewell to Dr. Bessie Gage

Dr. Bessie Gage, associate professor of education at Johnson C. Smith University, passed away on July 21, 2013. She dedicated more than 40 years of service to teaching and education, including 35 years at JCSU. She served in more than five service positions, including chairman of the Department of Education. She had valuable input into program advising, curriculum development, departmental honors procedures and teacher education compliances. Her experience brought continuity and direction to the department.

The Union, S.C., native graduated from Sims High School in 1969. Dr. Gage earned a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics and preschool education from South Carolina State College in 1973, a Master of Arts degree in early childhood education from Atlanta University in 1976 and a Ph.D. in curriculum and education from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1989. Dr. Gage earned the NationsBank Par Excellence Teaching Award in 1997.
Over time, each poet has acquired a cult-like following by producing legendary works that have been analyzed by theorists while at the same token, inspiring future poets. However, individuals within the respective following have been as baffled and alienated as they have been impressed. Each poet comes across as an enigma.


**Abstract:** Within the world of poetry, one would have a difficult time identifying two poets who are as complex and contradictory as Emily Dickinson and Nasir “Nas” Jones.
Abstract: This paper examines the determinants of bank net interest margin (NIM) and non-traditional banking activities (NII). A system estimation approach is employed to control for the simultaneity between NIM and NII for commercial banks in a group of 28 financially liberalized countries during the period between 1997 and 2004. We find a statistically significant negative relationship between NIM and NII for the period between 1997 and 2002. A generally positive but statistically insignificant association between NIM and NII is found for the subsequent period (2003–2004). Banks’ increasing involvement in non-traditional activities is negatively correlated with risk-adjusted profitability measures in the former subperiod, suggesting no obvious diversification benefits. However, the share of noninterest income is positively related to the return on assets (ROA) and the return on equity (ROE) for the latter subsample.


Abstract: The study examined the exercise induced oxidative stress response among 12 healthy male and 12 female students ranging in age from 18-32 years. The subjects from a university in the southern United States completed a 30-minute treadmill run at 75-80% of maximal oxygen consumption (VO2max). Blood samples were obtained in a post absorptive state before and immediately after exercise for measures of reduced glutathione (GSH), lipid peroxidation end-products detected by assaying plasma thio barbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS), lipid hydroperoxides (malondialdehyde, MDA), and oxidized glutathione (GSSG) levels (continued on p. 42)

Lima-Neves Shares Expertise on Cape Verdan Music and Culture with Oxford University Press

An article by Dr. Terza A. Silva Lima-Neves, assistant professor of political science at Johnson C. Smith University, describing the African traditional music of Cape Verde was recently published by Oxford University Press.

Lima-Neves is a contributing writer to the Oxford Dictionary of African Biography, edited by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, which offers a comprehensive summary of the lives of Africans who shaped its history. She is the managing editor for FORCV.com, an online Cape Verdean newspaper that serves the Cape Verdean diaspora worldwide. In addition, she writes articles for FORCV.com on political and social matters related to the Cape Verdean community.

Born and raised on the Cape Verde Islands, Lima-Neves teaches courses on African, international, comparative and gender politics.

In spring 2013, she traveled to Wellesley College in Massachusetts to meet with Pedro Pires, former president of Cape Verde, and recipient of the prestigious Mo Ibrahim Award for excellence in African leadership. He was a freedom fighter and served as Cape Verde’s president from 2001 to 2011. The meeting was part of a research project by Lima-Neves on Cape Verde’s transition to democracy and development. She is also working on a book project that explores the political history of Cape Verdean women in the United States.
and GSSG/TGSH (whole blood total glutathione) ratio. For indices of antioxidant defenses, blood TGSH level was also obtained. Exercise induced significant increases in blood GSSG (in male, 41% and female, 39% increase) and GSSG/ TGSH ratio in both male (50%) and female subjects (40%). Males showed no significant increase compared to females. There were a significant decrease in post-exercise GSH levels in both males (23%) and females (22%), yet there was no difference in the response to exercise in GSH comparing males and females. These changes suggest that males and females have similar responses when relative intensity of exercise is controlled. These data suggest that a 30 minute run of moderate-intensity exercise in male and female subjects can result in mild oxidative stress as indicated by blood glutathione status and that there was no gender difference when assessing responses to exercise-induced oxidative stress.

Dr. Nicola Bivens Davis, assistant professor of criminology, “‘Gangster B*@&’ or ‘Ride or Die:’ Sexual Scripts and Accepted Criminality and the Incarceration Rates of Black Women,” Paradigm Shift: An Interdisciplinary Journal on the African American Experience 1(1), 2012.

Abstract: This essay examines sexual scripts of Black women and the Hip Hop phenomenon of the “ride or die chick” as a plausible explanation of the disproportionate number of Black women incarcerated in the United States criminal justice system. The term is increasingly popular term in the popular media and is largely used to describe a woman, who is expected by her male partner and peers to be devoted to her man (or dedication to her cause or beliefs), no matter the consequences, including engaging in criminal activity. The “ride or die” is depicted in books, song lyrics, and movies (often of the same name). Media portrayal of the Hip Hop culture encompasses value and belief systems and general expectations of behavior (Stephens & Few, 2007). Because Black women pay attention to the manner in which they are represented in Rap lyrics and videos (Reid-Brinkley, 2008), the incarceration rate of Black women may be influenced by their desire to attain that status depicted in popular media.


Abstract: This article describes a service-learning project and its impact. It was designed to provide undergraduate physical education majors with a concentration in sport management at Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) an opportunity to use and strengthen their professional skills while organizing, planning, and implementing a research project courtesy of an entertainment company located in Charlotte, NC. The objectives of the project were to: 1) enable students to apply their knowledge of physical education and sport management concepts in a practical sport setting; 2) expose students to the intricacies of conducting research relevant to the sport industry; 3) foster the development of physical education students who are cognizant of the issues and trends that affect the sport industry; 4) prepare competent, global-minded, and well-rounded future physical educators and sport professionals; and 5) promote the development of students’ professional skills in management, organization, and customer-service. The project also enabled students to forge positive relationships with the broader Charlotte community.


Abstract: When we consider the influences upon W. B. Yeats’ A Vision, we normally think of the humanistic inspirations: the literary, metaphysical, and philosophical sources that are regularly cited in analyses of his poetry. Yeats, however, did not limit his interests and inspiration exclusively to the humanities. He also considered the then cutting edge theories of the New Physics. We should not be so surprised that Yeats reached for contemporary scientific theories to try and understand what was being revealed to him through George Yeats’ mediumship – a system he characterized in one letter as “a form of science for the study of human nature, as we see it in others.” (L 709) Yeats had worked with the Society of Psychical Research to establish scientific evidence for supernatural events. Likewise, he had been asked to leave the esoteric section of Madame Helena Blavatsky’s Theosophical Society for taking an experimental approach to confirm the teachings of that group. Such scientific explorations of occult phenomena were part of the spirit of the age, as is evidenced not only by Yeats’ work but by the work of many others who anticipated a scientifically based confirmation of their beliefs.
King Has Strong Foothold in Sneaker Culture

The Philadelphia Inquirer interviewed JCSU English instructor Jemayne King on August 12, 2013, in an article titled “A Look at Philly’s Sneaker Culture.” In addition to mentioning King’s book “Sole Food: Digestible Sneaker Culture,” the article included a phone interview with King who explained his infatuation with sneakers. The former Philadelphian shared in the article the greatest moment in his life which was “opening the box and touching the cushiony royal blue fabric, accented with macaroni orange eyelets and a sewn white signature of the 11-time all-star, Patrick Ewing.”

The sneaker is king, the article notes “riding another high on the ‘surge of ’80s and retro fashion that has been swelling over the last several years.’ They are ‘more than shoes, they’re the center of a subculture of style. Each silhouette and color carries a symbol of status – the flashier the better.’

King, is a self-proclaimed “sneakerhead” who notes in the article that he “once sold a pair of LeBron South Beaches for $500 at a convention to help pay for an engagement ring.” He intends to be married in his most-coveted pair, Ewing Athletics 33 Hi, which he picked up as an adult – he had pined for them since age 12. He hasn’t walked them down the aisle yet, but he says the day is coming.

His sneakers have gained him popularity on campus and some students take his classes for his stylish feet.

He told the Inquirer he “has so many kicks, he can go more than a year without wearing the same pair twice.” King went on to note that “there’s not a corner of this country not affected by sneaker culture.” Johnson C. Smith University is no exception.

Sneakers are “more than shoes, they’re the center of a subculture of style. Each silhouette and color carries a symbol of status – the flashier the better.”
It takes hard work and ambition to turn a great idea into a viable business, but more and more college students aren’t waiting to graduate before they apply lessons learned in the classroom to their own start-up businesses. According to the website PayScale, entrepreneurship studies is the third most popular major for Generation Y students. Meet Jason James, one of those students who has brought an entrepreneurial spirit to JCSU.

James Swings Education and Entrepreneurship

It pays to have a back-up plan in life. This is a lesson Jason James learned from his mother and one he is now putting into practice. From the age of four, James has played baseball with the goal of becoming a pro ball player. He continued the sport in high school and as an architectural design student at the New York Institute of Technology. After playing semi-pro in New York, James was picked up by the Baltimore Orioles.

But things didn’t go exactly as planned. “I was in their farm camp for about eight months and then I got cut,” he said of his stint with the Orioles. At age 22, James needed a “plan B” so he entered a business venture with his cousin, Andre Jacobs. He is now a partner in a company that makes custom wooden baseball bats. Incorporated in 2008, NYStixs bats are made in his cousin’s garage in New York. “We used to make them by hand lathe and it took 25 minutes per bat,” said James. “We have since upgraded to a CNC lathe and can produce a bat every two minutes.”

The company is able to differentiate from its competitors on price and by customizing each bat by size, weight, cutting the bat for balance and personalizing with name and color. While his cousin makes the products, James visits area baseball leagues to generate sales. “I carry about 50 cards on me to give out as I talk with people,” he said.

Once the bat business was in full swing, the two decided to expand and sell custom baseball gloves. They found a manufacturer in Japan, and the gloves took off. “We also do uniforms and don’t limit ourselves to anything,” said James. Their website blog serves as a customer service outlet, saving them overhead costs.

After moving to Charlotte with his girlfriend two years ago, James decided to go back to school so he could build a more solid business background. He enrolled at JCSU as a transfer student where he became the Belk Scholar which awarded him a $5,000 scholarship and internship opportunity. James, a junior, is already applying some of the practices he is learning in his marketing class to his business.

“I am tweaking some of my marketing strategies,” he said. “I’ve also been able to use real examples from my business in class.” At age 32, James plans to keep growing his business while he earns his degree in business administration with a focus on marketing and retail management.

Ultimately, he and his cousin plan to obtain a license to sell their products to professional teams. Since the company started selling internationally, sales in Korea have started to take off. In the meantime, James is getting a big hit out of his new venture as well as his time at JCSU where he also serves as a presidential intern.

And, to keep up with the sport he so loves, James can frequently be found using his own bat and glove playing centerfield with the Carolina Orioles in the Charlotte Adult Baseball League.
Phasing Out Leads to Phasing Up for Mitchell and Other Foster Care Students

For sophomore Danyell Mitchell, college was not always an option. As a youth growing up in foster care in Cleveland, Ohio, she had little or no guidance about how to get into college, let alone pay for it. Even the application process proved daunting. “College was not an option in my head because I knew I couldn’t afford it,” said Mitchell. But in the back of her mind was a nagging desire to become the first in her family to attend.

It was during her junior year in high school when she decided to turn her aspirations into action. She moved to California to live with her aunt and uncle who were able to provide her with the encouragement and support she needed. When she heard about a national tour of HBCUs, she knew the cost was beyond reach so she came up with a way to raise funds for the tour. “I wrote a sponsorship letter and sent it to friends, church members and family back in Ohio,” she said. Her resourcefulness paid off, and she joined the tour.

Her first choice at the time proved disappointing. “The area and the campus were not what I expected,” she said. When the tour stopped at another school, Johnson C. Smith University, a school she hadn’t heard of, Mitchell didn’t want to get off the bus at first. But once she stepped foot on campus, it all changed. “The tour guide made me fall in love with the school,” she said.

As a new student, Mitchell described herself as a “kid in a candy store,” taking advantage of every opportunity she could find—from academic scholarships to tutoring support and jobs on campus.

Academic challenges and financial obstacles are constant reminders of the need to keep looking for avenues of support wherever she can find them. Some of these resources were made available to Mitchell through a budding program on campus for students who have aged out of the foster care system. “They reached out to me in the beginning,” she said.

The Foster Village Network Center, a JCSU initiative for current and former foster care students, helped Mitchell when she thought she would (continued on p. 46)
be unable to return after freshman year due to tight finances. Through this program, Mitchell was able to find additional funding to help her continue with her studies. “My first year was a struggle financially, but this year was better,” she said. “I kept my grades up, so I received four or five scholarships plus a job as a resident assistant that pays for room and board.”

As part of her extracurricular activities, Mitchell participates in the Guardian Scholars Program to help create an academic environment of success for other students who come from foster care backgrounds. The theme of the Guardian Scholars Program is “Phasing Up to New Possibilities.” Serving as a student mentor, she meets with high school students to provide guidance and encouragement.

“If you have so much as a thought of college,” Mitchell advises to students, “reach out for support. A lot of people are scared to ask for help because they don’t want to be rejected.” She also likes to share her favorite quote from Ghandi: “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

With two more years to go, Mitchell already has her sights set on graduate school and recently became interested in physical therapy as a profession. She has moments of amazement over how far she has come. “Every day I walk around and say I still can’t believe I’m in college.”

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Lipscomb Returns to Finish College After 23 Years

It’s been over two decades since Michael Lipscomb ‘13 was a student the first time at Johnson C. Smith University. In 1989, with help from the Methodist Children’s Home in Winston-Salem, he enrolled in college. But, after two years and less than satisfactory grades, the funding was no longer available. He decided to enlist in the Army and then the Marine Corps, which led to serving two tours of duty in Iraq.

After his military career, Lipscomb worked in a logistics job for Honeywell Corporation in Germany but kept thinking about how a degree would help him advance with the company. He returned to the JCSU campus two years ago to pick up where he left off, only this time he was determined to finish.

Armed with the maturity and discipline he had developed over time, Lipscomb stepped back on campus as a veteran student to earn a degree in criminology. On May 19, he graduated with a degree that he took back to Honeywell in Germany, where he says the job market in the logistics field holds promise for him.

When comparing his first time in college to the past two years, Lipscomb found learning easier with better study habits, today’s technology and resources like the writing center. “In 1989 only honors students had access to computers,” he said. College life presented fewer distractions for Lipscomb as an adult student, even as a resident of Mosaic Village living with the younger students. He occasionally played the father role, advising students about their grades. “I would say to the younger students: those are nice shoes, did you pay for them? And when they said ‘yes’, I would say, well, you see that D you just got in your course? You are paying for that too.”
George Curtis, a sophomore, shared a Veteran’s Day story in November 2012 with two television stations in Charlotte. Curtis is a veteran himself and father of five who enrolled at JCSU after serving in the U.S. Army for 20 years, including tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although he had already earned a degree in computer science, Curtis decided to pursue a degree in psychology after visiting a veteran’s hospital and talking with others like himself who are battling post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). “I served with some good guys,” Curtis said. “The guys that I served with are my brothers. They will be my brothers forever. I will never forget them. The guys tell me the story of the hard times they are having adjusting to civilian life, and it hurts.”

Inspired by the desire to help his peers, Curtis plans to someday go on a tour of duty to support vets. First he plans to volunteer at local VA hospitals to help them better prepare for adjusting from life on the battlefield to life at home.

Education is a team effort at home for the Curtis family. George’s wife, Cheryl, is enrolled in a doctoral program online and his daughter is a student at UNC-Charlotte. “I want him to fulfill his passion and help people. He’s a helper,” said Cheryl. The family members take turns with chores to allow enough study time for all. During the daytime Curtis spends most of his time on campus in class or at the library. He offers a constant smile and encouragement for his classmates, most of whom are half his age.
Ntabana Brings Unique Perspective as a Survivor of Genocide in Rwanda

During the past year, an outdoor space on campus has taken on a new look that draws attention to an increasing emphasis on global education. The exterior wall of the student union displays the words “The World is Your Home” as a testament of the growing diversity at JCSU. Two banners outside the bookstore display information about foreign countries as students mingle nearby at outdoor seating areas. Welcome to JCSU International Way.

With 29 countries represented on campus, JCSU students come from a variety of religious, socio-economic, ethnic and geographic backgrounds. It’s a place for students like Umuhir Ntabana to build a new life. After losing both parents and three sisters as a young child during Rwanda’s most gruesome civil wars known as the 1994 genocide, she was left in the care of her godmother. When she became a teenager, with help from the Genocide Survivors Support Network, she received a scholarship to travel to the United States to study in Boston. This past year, she transferred to JCSU on another scholarship.

The world has in fact become Ntabana’s home. With siblings in Africa, Europe and India, friends in Boston and a host family in Charlotte, she has expanded her horizons with new life experiences and her new family of friends at Johnson C. Smith University. “You cannot allow what has happened in the past to hold you back because it has already happened,” Ntabana explained of her childhood.

As an international student living in Mosaic Village, Ntabana enjoys spending time with her friends from JCSU and her host family in Charlotte. She also receives support from the University’s Foster Village Network Guardian Scholars program.

The sophomore biology major looks forward to earning a graduate degree in dentistry, so she can follow in the footsteps of her parents who worked in the medical field. Her father was a dentist and her mother a nurse. “From experience I think I can help,” she smiles.

When she looks up at her country’s flag on the poster at International Way, Ntabana feels proud of her homeland as she thinks back to her roots. Her smile lights up when she thinks about her future and her homeland. “I was surprised to see the Rwandan flag up there, but it makes me feel happy,” she says.

Mom Earns Degree, Inspires Daughter

When Metropolitan College opened its doors three years ago with a grant from The Duke Endowment, the college served just 11 students. Twelve of those students from the charter class graduated on May 19, 2013.

Standing proudly with her classmates in her cap and gown was Lavaris Nelson ’13, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in social work. It has been a long road toward earning her diploma. Nelson started out at Georgia Military College, but life and family soon got in the way. A few years later, after moving to Charlotte, she decided to finish her degree.

Over the past two years, Nelson has succeeded in juggling her job at Carolinas Medical Center with her family responsibilities while taking evening classes at Metropolitan College. Determined to graduate on time, she took nine classes during her last semester and had her second child without interrupting her studies. Nelson joined the social work honor society and planned to work at Crisis Assistance Ministry after graduation.

Like many Metropolitan College students, going back to

(continued on p. 49)
school required juggling job, family and classes. For Nelson, the 5:30 p.m. class time fit in with her daytime work schedule. She could pick up her baby from day care, go home, cook dinner, help her kids with homework, then get the babysitter and head to class. “When I left class I would stay up until 2:30 a.m. sometimes and do my homework,” she said.

With family to cheer her on, Nelson graduated cum laude with honors, having served as a member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society, Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society as well as the National Association of Black Social Workers.

“My whole family is so proud of me since I’m the first to graduate in my family,” she said. “I wanted to lead by example.”

Metropolitan College now enrolls more than 200 students who, like Nelson, are enhancing their opportunities for career advancement and success.

Smith Performs with the HBCU National Choir

In September 2012, Dominique Smith ’13, performed with the 105 Voices of History HBCU National Concert Choir for the Student Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

In celebration of their Fifth Year Leadership Concert, the choir performed musical selections with gospel performing artists Wintley Phipps and Trmaine Hawkins. They also attended a leadership summit that highlighted leadership skills, financial literacy, professional appearance and health. One of the sessions included a vocal performance, “Demonstration of Commitment to Preparation for Excellence,” by the U.S. Navy Presidential Chorus. Smith was invited to visit the Washington National Opera where he met the conductor and members of the Opera Chorus.

Smith expressed his gratitude to Johnson C. Smith University and said, “JCSU has helped in many ways, such as providing me with transportation to rehearsal locations. If it weren’t for my advisor, Dr. Shawn-Allyce White, I would not have had the opportunity to be a part of this great national choir.” Smith earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music and sacred music in May. He performed as a baritone singer in the JCSU Concert Choir. He was also vice president and student director of the choir. In February 2013, he performed at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., as a member of the National Choir. “Participating in the 105 Voices of History HBCU National Concert Choir has been a great experience for me,” he said.

*Dr. Shawn-Allyce White is assistant professor of music and director of choral activities at JCSU.*
Gabriel Selected for Nestlé USA Symposium

Kneisha Gabriel ’13, was among 30 students selected for the 2013 Nestlé USA Leadership Symposium for Diverse Leaders of Tomorrow. She was able to attend the fifth annual symposium in April at the Nestlé USA headquarters in Glendale, Calif.

During the four-day program, Gabriel had the opportunity to meet with Nestlé senior executives, take a customized leadership training course, volunteer in the Los Angeles community, and network with key representatives for Nestlé’s internship and full-time programs. “I took the Nestlé Leadership Symposium as a learning opportunity,” Gabriel said. “I can always use what I learn through this experience in my everyday life and in the future.”

Gabriel is a business major with a minor in retail management and marketing. In order to qualify for the leadership symposium, she wrote an essay describing how to use leadership to impact the community. “I wrote about all my activities as president of a student organization and what it takes to be a student leader on campus,” she said. Gabriel, who is active in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, returned from the symposium with skills that will help her grow as a leader and motivate others to get involved on campus and in the community.

Gabriel also worked at GE Aviation in summer 2013 as part of the Systems Services team. She learned about repair and service contract capabilities as well as pricing, terms and special guarantees for select parts on the fit list of GE Systems components.

Born and raised in Charlotte, Gabriel is one of three triplet girls.

CIAA Links Employers with Students and Alumni

Students from CIAA schools and other area colleges and universities browsed 65 booths representing a myriad of businesses at the eighth annual Career Expo coordinated by Johnson C. Smith University during the CIAA Tournament in Charlotte. The February expo welcomed more than 400 students to the Charlotte Convention Center who came to explore opportunities for employment and internships.

Eighty-seven percent of the attendees were students and alumni from CIAA schools. Among employers represented were Aerotek, BB&T, Belk, Coca-Cola, Novant Health, Duke Energy, Enterprise Rental, Food Lion, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, NASA, Verizon, and various military and law enforcement agencies.

“The expo provided another opportunity for students and alumni from 12 CIAA-member institutions to connect with employers and graduate schools to explore full-time opportunities,” said Barbara Wilks, director of the Center for Career and Professional Development, who coordinated the expo.

More than 400 students were among those who explored job and internship opportunities with 65 businesses, agencies and organizations at the CIAA Career Expo which was held during the CIAA Tournament.
Eight Students Intern with LPL Financial

Eight students spent their summer getting a leg up on the job market through a new internship with LPL Financial. The company offered paid summer internships to 20 local college students who were selected to participate in the Lift People Locally Internship Program in Charlotte and San Diego. The new internship is part of the company’s ongoing community outreach to provide economic empowerment to individuals in the local communities it serves through the LPL Financial Foundation.

The summer internships provided students with a workplace experience designed to enhance their educational and professional goals. In addition to the 12-week paid internship, students attended weekly mentoring and career workshops for additional training and enrichment.

“These students are working hard to earn their college degrees, with several students overcoming significant challenges to achieve their personal success,” said Victor Fetter, chief information officer for LPL Financial. “As a company, we are committed to encouraging our student interns to reach for their goals and achieve their aspirations.”

“I am grateful for the opportunity to work for LPL Financial as a summer intern,” said JCSU student intern Keneasha Johnson. “During my time at LPL Financial, I grew professionally and personally. My mind has been opened to new career paths, and I am learning that my skills and passion can be utilized in areas I never knew existed.”

Johnson joined other JCSU students selected for the program, including Steven Reneau, Reya’onna Milsap, Lashaundra Long, Michelle Cade, Victor Lopez, Louisa Taylor and Kia Brewington. They all attended a kickoff luncheon in Charlotte on May 31 to be officially welcomed to the company. During the event, the group learned about the different roles each student performs within LPL Financial. “This innovative new program meets a business need while supporting the goals of the LPL Financial Foundation and strengthening our support of our local charitable partners,” said Fetter. “Internships can be a valuable part of career development, and it is our intention to provide these students with meaningful development opportunities.”

Several other businesses and organizations opened their doors to welcome JCSU student interns over the summer including: Ally Bank, American Product Distributors, GE Aviation, NCDOT, Time Warner Cable, United Health Group and Wells Fargo.

L to R: Student interns Steven Renue, Michelle Cade and Kia Brewington
Wilson Named Associate Athletics Director

Johnson C. Smith University Department of Athletics announces the hiring of Natasha Wilson as the Associate Athletic Director, Compliance Coordinator and Senior Woman Administrator. Wilson will serve in a senior leadership role and report directly to the Director of Athletics.

Wilson comes to JCSU after serving six years in athletic administration at fellow Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) institution, Lincoln University of Pennsylvania. She began as the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and the department’s Senior Woman Administrator in 2006. Wilson was elevated to the role of Associate Athletic Director in 2010.

While at Lincoln, Wilson served as a sport administrator for sports including bowling, women’s tennis, men’s tennis, women’s soccer, baseball, softball and cheerleading. She was instrumental in revamping the compliance policies and procedures, as well as successfully transitioning the athletic department from NCAA Division III to Division II.

Wilson helped to develop a Gender Equity Plan for the department as well as the creation of a five-year strategic plan. During her tenure at Lincoln, she established the first ever Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and launched the NCAA CHAMPS/ Life Skills program for athletics.

“We’re thrilled to have Natasha Wilson joining our athletic administrative team here at JCSU,” said Director of Athletics Stephen Joyner Sr. ’73. “She brings a wealth of knowledge pertaining to compliance and NCAA rules and regulations. I’m confident that this will be an environment for her to continue flourishing as an athletic administrator, and she’ll be a valuable component for our athletic programs to continue growing.”

“I am very excited and thankful for this new opportunity with Johnson C. Smith’s Department of Athletics,” said Wilson. “Everyone on campus has been so helpful in assisting with my transition into the position, I really feel at home. I look forward to working with all the University constituents: student-athletes, athletic staff, campus community, alumni and program supporters.”

Wilson represents the Atlantic Region as a member of the NCAA Division II nominating committee. She was recently elected President of the CIAA Compliance Officers Association. Wilson is also an active member of the National Association of College Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and a 2009 graduate of the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators (NACWAA) Hers Institute.

Wilson has earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sports Management from Winston-Salem State University. Prior to accepting the position at Lincoln, Wilson interned with the athletic departments at Minnesota State University-Moorhead and Wake Forest University.

Men’s Track & Field Has Top GPA in Division II

The men’s track and field team had the best grade point average among the Division II institutions recognized by the U.S. Track & Field Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) with All-Academic honors. A total of 42 institutions earned the distinction as a result of earning a cumulative team GPA of 3.00 or higher.

JCSU was the top team in Division II with a cumulative team mark of 3.448, followed closely by Sioux Falls at 3.424 and Bentley at 3.33.

In terms of conferences, both the NSIC and GLIAC were represented by six teams apiece. The GNAC and GLVC each had five teams earn All-Academic Team honors, while the RMAC had four. The Golden Bulls were the only CIAA team to receive all-academic honors.
Jamaica’s Williams Sisters Fuel Sibling Rivalry

Their global profile pales in comparison to Venus and Serena, but Jamaica’s version of the Williams sisters is on track to carve out their own sibling rivalry on the international stage.

Shermaine and Danielle Williams, separated by age but glued by blood and competition, were on course to clash over the 100 meter hurdles in Moscow, Russia at the 2013 IAAF Outdoor World Championships in August. Not even those closest to them risk picking which sister will do better from there.

“We don’t have a pecking order,” explained former national hurdler, Lennox Graham, who guides 20-year-old Danielle, a student at Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU), and Shermaine, 23, a former JCSU star now running professionally.

“I coach each athlete to win and it’s always been competitive (between Danielle and Shermaine). It’s a challenge, but you have to make sure each knows she can win.”

While Shermaine has compiled more distinguished athletic credentials so far, including silver medals at World Junior (2008) and World Youth (2007) championships, plus a semi-final berth at last summer’s Olympics, Danielle is improving at a threatening pace. She beat her sister into third to win Jamaica’s national trials in May 2013 in a personal record time of 12.69 seconds, faster than Shermaine’s personal record of 12.78 set in 2012.

Neither sister’s best makes them medal favorites in Russia. That doesn’t take the edge off their personal rivalry, which plays out at training sessions and the few occasions they’ve faced each other at meets. Yet potential conflicts linked to sibling competition have remained surprisingly uncomplicated so far.

“It’s not actually tough at all,” said Danielle. “When you line up to race, (your sister) is just another competitor.”

Out the Door

“Once they get on the track, the sister thing goes out the door,” confirmed Graham. “I guess they’ll wish each other the best before and after (the race), but they don’t give any quarter.”

It’s one thing the sisters have in common. “They’re not like twins,” explained Graham. “You won’t see them walking around together.”

Shermaine and Danielle have the same father, but different mothers. According to Danielle, Shermaine spent her early years in Clarendon, while she lived in Kingston. Later, Shermaine moved in with Danielle, but they again separated before big sister went to JCSU.

“I wouldn’t say that exactly,” Danielle said when asked if they are “tight.”

But they are “friends”, she added, and get along well. They talk and exchange text messages. The Williams sisters also have a brother, Shane, a former athlete, who lives in Charlotte, N.C. Yet, they have separate interests and hang out with different people. Big sister is introverted.

Shermaine Williams ’11

“She is only aggressive when she’s racing or getting ready for the most important race,” explained Graham, who started coaching Shermaine when she was a 12-year-old attending Alpha Academy. “She pretty much wants to be in her own space.”

But Danielle rarely backs down. “She speaks her mind, to a fault,” said Graham, who began coaching Danielle after she left Queens for JCSU.

Age differences have previously prevented Danielle and Shermaine from clashing regularly at meets. But the competition between them is notoriously fierce in training. Yet Graham said they trade tips and enjoy each other’s success. There’s no animosity.

“I’ve never seen any envy,” said Graham. “Not even a bit of it.”

The coach has heard Shermaine compliment Danielle as “the talented one” and the younger Williams concede that the 100 meter hurdles final at trials was “Shermaine’s race
to win". Yet, similar to the power shift which propelled Serena ahead of Venus in tennis, it appears the younger sibling is shifting gears.

"This is the first year Danielle has actually caught up to her sister," said Graham.

Her times in the 100 meter hurdles and the 200-meter dash.

She finished third in the 100-meter dash after winning the 100-meter hurdles of the most outstanding performer. Danielle has no competition before the WCA. Her last race was at the World University Games earlier this month. But, according Graham, she is not easily flustered.

"The little sister is good at just taking things in stride," he explained. "She doesn't get ahead of herself."

Graham coached Jamaican hurdlers at JCsu. She is not easily flustered.

She is good at just taking things in stride, "he explained. "She doesn't get ahead of herself."

Danielle Williams (13.65), sophomore Monique Lovelock (14.49), and senior Naffene Briscoe (14.51). Those four finishes tallied 27 points for the team.

Elliott and Williams led JCSU to six victories in the women's events. Williams won the 100m dash (11.43), and Briscoe (23.56) in addition to Elliott winning both hurdles races. Williams is ranked No.1 in the nation for the 100-meter and unbeaten in the event this season. The Golden Bulls had 23 team points off the four competitors in the 200-meter.

Freshman Tovea Jenkins placed fourth in the 400-meter with a time of 55.29, adding five points.

The foursome of Briscoe, Jenkins, Richards, and junior A'Tyan Kennedy placed third in the 4x400 relay with a time of 3:53.31. Those two events contributed 16 team points to the total.

This is the second women's outdoor conference championship and the first since 2011.

**Women's Track and Field Wins CIAA Outdoor Championship for Second Time in Three Years**

The women's outdoor track and field team captured their second crown in three years on the final day of the 2013 CIAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships held in Rogers Stadium at Virginia State University on April 20.

JCSU scored 146.50 points to claim first place. Winston-Salem State was second with 108 points and Virginia State came in third with 101 points.

Sophomore Samantha Elliott was the most outstanding performer after winning the 100-meter hurdles and the 400-meter hurdles. She also finished third in the 100-meter dash and the 200-meter dash.

The Golden Bulls produced 29 team points on day one from field events. Sophomore Imeshia Jones, senior LaQwesha Gamble, and junior Shaquitta Anderson finished first, second, and third, respectively in the javelin throw. Jones won the event with a throw of 38.55m in the final. Their finishes added 24 team points to the total score.

Jones also took fourth place in the shot put with a toss of 11.81m, collecting five more team points.

In the high jump, Xahnn-Georgia Reid '13 added eight points with a jump of 1.58m for second place overall. Gamble finished tied for sixth in the same event, measuring in at 1.43m. Her sixth place finish earned 1.5 towards the team score.

JCSU dominated the 100-meter hurdles with finishes of first, second, fourth, and fifth. Elliott took first (13.44), followed by junior Danielle Williams (13.65), sophomore Monique Lovelock (14.49), and senior Naffene Briscoe (14.51). Those four finishes tallied 27 points for the team.

Elliott and Williams led JCSU to six victories in the women's events. Williams won the 100m dash (11.43), and Briscoe (23.56) in addition to Elliott winning both hurdles races. Williams is ranked No.1 in the nation for the 100-meter and unbeaten in the event this season. The Golden Bulls had 23 team points off the four competitors in the 200-meter.

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This is the second women's outdoor conference championship and the first since 2011.

**Professional competition**

While her sister was training at JCSU, Shermaine sharpened up on the pro circuit. Danielle has no competition before the WCA. Her last race was at the World University Games earlier this month. But, according Graham, she is not easily flustered.

"The little sister is good at just taking things in stride," he explained. "She doesn't get ahead of herself."

Graham coached Jamaican hurdlers at the WCA.

- by Gordon Williams,

The Gleaner Company Limited 2013

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Graham Earns 2013 Women’s Outdoor National Coach of the Year Honor

Head track and field coach Lennox Graham was named the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) 2013 National Coach of the Year for the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field season. George Williams of Saint Augustine’s University was named the Men’s National Coach of the Year. The two CIAA standouts were chosen in a vote by the nation’s coaches.

Graham, in his sixth season with the JCSU program, led his team to its highest outdoor national finish in program history in a narrow runner-up finish at the NCAA Outdoor Championships with 54 team points, just eight entries behind Academy of Art’s winning total of 60. His Golden Bulls made a marked improvement in National Championships performance from a season ago, when they finished in a tie for 13th with just 16 points.

The Golden Bulls won four events – three individual events and the DII-record-setting 4x100 relay at 44.05 seconds – and finished second and third, respectively, in two others. Junior Danielle Williams set an all-time DII record at 200 meters in 22.64 seconds and the No. 4 time in DII history at 100 meters in 11.24, while sophomore Samantha Elliott ran the second-fastest 400 hurdles race in DII history at 56.38.

Graham guided the Golden Bulls to a CIAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships title behind six event titles. He has also been named USTFCCCA Atlantic Region and CIAA Outdoor Track and Field Women’s Coach of the Year for the 2013 season. In addition, Graham won coach of the year honors from the USTFCCCA Atlantic Region and CIAA for the women’s indoor season.

In addition to coach of the year honors, Graham was selected to join the coaching staff for the Jamaican National Team at the 2013 International Association of Athletics (IAAF) World Championships in Moscow, Russia. He worked with the Jamaican hurdlers on technique during their preparation.

“This is a great honor and a privilege to join the coaching staff for the (Jamaican) national team,” said Graham. “I value this chance to share my knowledge with the athletes, as well as gain coaching experience. This is truly an invaluable professional development opportunity.”

JCSU Tops CIAA Schools in Athletics Program Rankings

Johnson C. Smith ranks 66th out of 255 schools

Johnson C. Smith University finished first among CIAA schools in the final Division II standings for the Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup, an award given annually to the top collegiate athletic program each year.

The Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup was developed as a joint effort between the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (continued on p. 56)
the nation with 90 points. The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) had 10 institutions ranked in the final standings led by JCSU. The other CIAA institutions had the following rankings and points:

- Saint Augustine’s (70th – 260 points)
- Winston-Salem State (108th – 194 points)
- Virginia State (113th – 182.75 points)
- Bowie State, Chowan, and Fayetteville State tied (232nd – 25 points)

The winner is determined by the aggregate low score over the four days of play.

Junior golfer Johanan Edmeade was selected to the U.S. Virgin Islands’ Amateur National Golf Team by the Caribbean Golf Association. Edmeade competed on a team of five for the Hoerman Cup at the 57th Caribbean Amateur Golf Championships hosted in the Virgin Islands by the U.S. Virgin Islands Golf Federation August 6 -12, 2013. He finished 16th out of 57 players.

The Caribbean Golf Association (CGA) was formed in 1987 and exists for the purpose of promoting and conserving, throughout the Caribbean Region, the best interests and true spirit of the game of golf as embodied in its ancient and honorable tradition.

Edmeade, an international business major with a grade point average above 3.0, shot 11 rounds of golf in seven events during the 2013 season. He averaged a score of 86 on par 72 courses throughout the year. Edmeade finished third at the second CIAA Roundup held in Chesterfield with a score of 80 (+8).

“This was an exciting opportunity to represent my home and gain some valuable golfing experience,” Edmeade said about the Caribbean Amateur Golf Championships. “I enjoyed competing and putting forth my best effort, while measuring my game against some elite competition.”

The Caribbean Amateur Golf Championships began in 1957 when Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago competed in the inaugural Hoerman Cup, which was donated by Dr. Erick Hoerman of Jamaica. In 1964, Puerto Rico joined the competition, followed by the Bahamas in 1965, the Dominican Republic in 1968, Barbados in 1970, the OECS in 1986, the Cayman Islands in 1994, the Turks & Caicos Islands in 1996, and the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1998.

For the first seven years of the Hoerman Cup, the format was match play. When Puerto Rico joined in 1964, the format was changed to teams of six men competing at stroke play. As a result of the introduction of a Mid-Amateur division in 2003, this was reduced to four men and subsequently increased to five. Each side counts the best four 18-hole scores in each day of a 72-hole competition.

Learfield Sports manages the multimedia rights for more than 50 collegiate institutions, conferences and associations and is deeply integrated in collegiate ticket sales. Today, Learfield Sports’ exclusive sports programming reaches more than 50 million television households nationally and delivers nearly 17,000 hours of radio programming on more than 1,000 radio stations.
Joyner Awarded for Coaching Legacy and Commitment to Charlotte Community

The Legacy of Coaching Awards honor local youth sports coaches who have positively impacted the lives of Charlotte kids and teens through athletics and mentoring programs. The event featured keynote speaker, Max Siegel, founder of Revolution Racing and NASCAR's Drive for Diversity.

“I was truly surprised when the organization notified me that I would be recognized; I had no idea,” stated Joyner. “I’m certainly pleased and honored that they (YMCA) chose me to represent them. It’s my goal to be an exemplary figure for the Stratford Richardson YMCA and all coaches.”

Joyner is approaching his 26th season as head coach of the JCSU men’s basketball team. A native of Winston-Salem, N.C., Joyner’s success in basketball began at Atkins High School where he was the second leading scorer on the 1969 undefeated North Carolina State 4-A Championship Team. With a stellar high school career, Joyner became the star point guard for the Golden Bulls from 1969-73.

After a stint as an assistant coach at Virginia Union University, he received his first head coaching position at Johnson C. Smith University with the women’s basketball team in 1980, building the Golden Bulls into one of the CIAA’s most competitive programs.

He guided the women’s team to its first appearance in the NCAA South Atlantic Regional Tournament. To get there, JCSU won its first CIAA Southern Division Championship and finished second in the conference tournament. After compiling a 92-87 record with the women’s team, Joyner took over as the head men’s coach in 1987. For over two decades, he has taken the men’s program to unprecedented levels, establishing JCSU as one of the most feared teams in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association. His career record is 449-271. Joyner holds the mark for most wins of any active coach in the CIAA.

In all, Joyner has taken the Golden Bulls to an “Elite Eight” appearance, three CIAA Tournament Championships, seven divisional titles and produced 26 all-conference performers and six All-Americans.

At JCSU, where academics are always priority, Joyner is an advocate for education first for all student-athletes. Joyner earned a bachelor’s degree in health and physical education from Johnson C. Smith University and a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from Virginia State University.
Hinson Named CIAA SiD of the Year

Lamont Hinson was named the 2012-13 John Holley Sports Information Director of the Year by the CIAA Sports Information Directors Association. This is the first time Hinson has been elected to receive this honor.

Hinson recently completed his fourth year as Director of Sports Information at JCSU, serving as the institutional representative to the media for the 15 varsity sport programs and all athletic activities. He also produces marketing communications for sport programs, maintains the JCSU Athletics website and compiles teams’ statistical information.

“T’m extremely humbled and grateful to receive this honor,” said Hinson. “It wouldn’t be possible for me to receive this honor, “ said Hinson. “I’m extremely humbled and grateful to receive this honor,” said Hinson.

A native of Fayetteville, N.C., Hinson graduated cum laude from Fayetteville State University in 2003 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration (marketing concentration). He earned a master’s in business administration and a master’s degree in sports management from Barry University in 2006.

Hinson is a member of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), the Black College Sports Information Directors Association (BCSIDA) and serves as the vice president for the CIAA Sports Information Directors Association (CIAA-SIDA).

Student-Athletes Recognized for Achievements

Trevin Parks and Danielle Williams Named Athletes of the Year

Team award winners and 100 student-athletes were acknowledged for academics across all 15 varsity sports and support groups (cheerleading and dance team) at the 2013 Athletics Awards Ceremony on May 6.

Guard Trevin Parks ’13 (men’s basketball) and junior sprinter Danielle Williams (women’s track and field) were named the 2013 Pettis Norman Award recipients. The Pettis Norman Award is the highest honor awarded by JCSU Athletics to recognize the outstanding performance in the field of competition by a male and female student-athlete throughout the academic year.

Parks, a native of Hickory, N.C., earned selection to the All-CIAA Team, the All-Atlantic Region First Team, and the Daktronics All-American Team this season. He ranked third in the NCAA Division II and led the CIAA for total points and points per game with 674 points and 25 ppg. He scored 30 or more points in eight games this season, including a new career-high of 41 points. This was the third time Parks received the Pettis Norman Award during his career at JCSU.

Williams, hailing from St. Andrew, Jamaica, had a superb year in both indoor and outdoor track and field. She was named the women’s most valuable athlete at the 2013 CIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. Williams won the 60-meter dash, 60-meter hurdles and 200-meter dash at the indoor conference championship.

Williams won the 2013 NCAA Division II Indoor national title for the 60-meter hurdles. She also placed second in the 200-meter dash with a JCSU record-setting time of 23.43 at the national indoor championships. Williams earned All-American status in three events (60-meter H, 200-meter, and 60-meter).

At the 2013 CIAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Williams helped the team win their second team championship by individually winning the 100 (11.43) and the 200 (23.56).

Williams is currently ranked No. 1 in the nation for the 100 and remained unbeaten in the event this season.

“We want our student-athletes to have a wonderful experience they will treasure throughout life,” said Stephen Joyner Sr., director of athletics.
“One of our goals within athletics is to help each of our student-athletes maximize their potential as well as help them develop into the best student, the best athlete and the best person they can be.”

- Stephen Joyner Sr. ’73
  Director of Athletics
Arch of Triumph Gala Honors Four Icons

Johnson C. Smith University presented the Arch of Triumph Award on April 20 to four icons who have made great strides in the areas of civil rights, education, entertainment, philanthropy and healthcare. More than 900 attendees packed the Charlotte Convention Center for the celebration honoring John Lewis, U.S. Representative for Georgia’s 5th Congressional District; Sheryl Underwood, comedienne, actress and philanthropist; JCSU alumna Eva Green Donaldson, ‘48, retired educator; and JCSU alumnus Melvin T. Pinn Jr., M.D., ‘70, senior medical director of Virginia Commonwealth University Health System.

The annual gala honors outstanding achievements of individuals in their fields and recognizes those who have supported the University’s JCSU Fund which provides financial support for scholarships, teaching and learning initiatives. Wells Fargo, Carolina HealthCare Systems and Synder’s-Lance, Inc. served as presenting sponsors.

The signature black tie event during the University’s 146th Founders’ Week served as the public kick off of the President’s Gap Scholarship Fund with a $100,000 contribution from the Board of Trustees. This initiative of the Board of Trustees will provide support to students who are lacking the adequate resources to complete their education after exhausting all financial aid options. Contributions to the fund may be made by contacting Al Austin in the Office of Institutional Advancement at 704-378-1110.

L to R: Trustee Parran L. Foster III ’72, Dr. Ronald L. Carter, Trustee Kevin Henry, Trustee Monroe Miller. The Trustees present a $100,000 check to Dr. Carter for the President’s Gap Scholarship Fund.
In 2013, the Arch of Triumph Gala grossed $267,025 to benefit scholarships, teaching initiatives and campus operations. Since its inception, the event has raised $1,144,016.
Big Hitters Celebrated for Generous Contributions

Guests enjoyed the annual Big Hitters reception in Grimes Lounge following the Homecoming football game on Oct. 27, 2012. The Division of Institutional Advancement sponsored the event to thank alumni and friends who gave $1,000 or more to the University during the 2011-2012 year. Guests also included members of the 1867 Society, which is comprised of those who have given more than $10,000 since the year 2000.

Sharon Harrington, assistant vice president for Institutional Advancement, recognized the group for its steadfast support of the University. Among those in attendance were Johnny Jenkins ’68 and Jacqueline Jenkins, ’68 who met on campus 45 years ago. In his remarks, Johnny told the group why he and his wife give to the University. “Giving to Smith,” he said “is our way of giving back to students who are like we were 45 years ago.” The couple are members of the 1867 Society and have given more than $25,000 to the University over their lifetimes. Johnny is a retired General Motors executive and Jacqueline is employed by Wells Fargo.

President of The Duke Endowment Addresses Scholarship Luncheon

Eugene Cochrane Jr., president of The Duke Endowment, addressed students and donors at the annual Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon on April 18. The luncheon recognizes donors who have established scholarships and students who are scholarship recipients.

President’s Championship Saturday Reception Acknowledges Supporters

JCSU’s CIAA Tournament week festivities culminated on Saturday, March 2 with the annual President’s reception for some of the University’s alumni, donors and friends. More than 200 people enjoyed food, fellowship and entertainment at the event, which was coordinated by the Division of Institutional Advancement. President Ronald L. Carter updated guests on the exciting progress at JCSU and thanked alumni and donors for their generous contributions. Students mingled among the crowd to speak with donors and alumni about how the University’s “Tomorrow is What WE Make It” fundraising campaign is helping them reach their dreams and helping create a brighter tomorrow for JCSU.

Carolina’s HealthCare System, Perkins Management Services and Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina sponsored the event.
Felicia Walton Gray ’92 is one of the many dynamic women leading the way and making a significant contribution to name a classroom in the new 62,000-square-foot Science Center on JCSU’s campus. Felicia holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics with a minor in computer science.

She has worked in the information technology field for 20 years. The IT Testing Manager for Bank of America Corporation manages end-to-end system integration testing of Consumer and Small Business Banking initiatives. At Bank of America, Felicia has held previous roles as a test environments manager, business continuity consultant and process designer. Prior to coming to Bank of America, she worked for Duke Energy for 12 years as an application developer and production support analyst.

Felicia and her husband, Herb Gray, are noted philanthropists in the Charlotte community. They are founders of the Gray Classic Golf Tournament Weekend, an annual golf tournament and weekend of events that supports 100 Black Men of Greater Charlotte, Inc. and other local charitable organizations. In her spare time, Felicia enjoys reading, shopping and serving the community with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Herb has served on the JCSU Board of Visitors for the past two years and is a graduate of North Carolina A&T University with a degree in political science. He owns a behavioral healthcare company called Life Enhancement Services with offices across the nation. His involvement with JCSU is a natural one. It was through Felicia’s involvement that Herb also became interested in joining the Board of Visitors, which he describes as a “collective body of individuals who want to see JCSU thrive.” His service on the board has placed him in an advocate role promoting the continued growth of the University through the Arch of Triumph Gala and by supporting physical improvements such as the construction of Mosaic Village and the new Science Center.

Herb hasn’t traveled far from the colors blue and gold or the Golden Bulls. His own alma mater also has the same colors and his high school in Fayetteville, N.C., has the Golden Bull as its mascot. “I’ve traded the Blue and Gold for another Gold and Blue,” he laughs.

When choosing to make their naming gift to JCSU, Felicia and Herb expressed their excitement in knowing that they are making an investment in the next generation of leadership in the STEM fields. Felicia shared: “I love my alma mater and the rewarding professional life I have experienced because of Smith. We have an outstanding track record of success in producing leadership in the STEM fields, and I am proud to be a donor to the new Science Center and uphold this tradition. I am certain that this new science facility will provide an optimal learning environment for our STEM majors to excel in the workforce and in graduate and professional schools.”
In celebration of the 25th year since his graduation, James Ely, III ‘88 recently expanded his philanthropic support of Johnson C. Smith University to not only include annual giving, but also to make a planned gift listing JCSU as a beneficiary in his will. Ely has long since recognized that bequests, charitable remainder trusts, insurance policies and other planned gift instruments have had especially powerful impacts on the revenue stream of JCSU. They have often provided an infusion of funding at major gift levels during critical times in the history of the University.

Giving in this way is a no-brainer for Ely. In fact, the role of philanthropy at JCSU resonates deeply as he often recounts the transformative impact JCSU had on his rewarding career. After learning about JCSU from his civics and history teacher, Rosa Wells-Garris ‘63, Ely, who is a Portsmouth, Va., native, applied to JCSU and was accepted. His parents could not afford to send him to college so he petitioned the Office of Admissions for financial aid. Shortly after, Moses Jones contacted Ely to inform him that JCSU could offer him a full four-year academic scholarship based on his academic achievement in high school.

Ely entered JCSU that August 1984 as part of the Honors College and flourished. He was an active member of the student body, providing service leadership through his fraternity, the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi and other campus-wide initiatives. He graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and, within one month, started a job at Proctor & Gamble.

After successful career transitions and promotions over the years, Ely was recently appointed to the position of General Manager, Walmart for Johnson & Johnson Sales and Logistics Company. He gives JCSU much of the credit for the rewarding career he is experiencing. “JCSU made it possible for me to have a great post-collegiate career…I often tell people that if not for the benevolence of Johnson C. Smith, I don’t know where I’d be,” he said. To continue his education, Ely earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Boston University. He ardently shared his feelings about his affinity for the Gold and Blue. “I’m very proud of being a part of the JCSU legacy,” he said. “Thank you, JCSU, for the contribution you made to my life, and for your continued commitment to providing a best-in-class education for current and future students. It is my pleasure indeed to provide ongoing support to my alma mater.”

Join the Johnson C. Smith Legacy Society

Established in 1997, the Johnson C. Smith University Legacy Society is a special group of people who have made provisions for future gifts to the University from life insurance policies, retirement trusts, real property, stock and wills.

To make a gift to JCSU contact:
Sharon Carr Harrington, JD, CFRE
Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement
704.330.1437; sharrington@jcsu.edu

Or visit
www.jcsu.edu/plannedgiving
Luncheon Features Cato Institute’s Daniel J. Mitchell

Dr. Daniel J. Mitchell, senior fellow at the Cato Institute in Washington D.C., addressed students, faculty and staff at the sixth annual BB&T Free Enterprise and Capitalism Luncheon in March. Dr. Pat Roberson-Saunders, former BB&T endowed professor and retired chair of the Department of Business Administration and Economics, was honored for her years of service to this initiative.

Electrolux Supports Hometown Students

Electrolux and Johnson C. Smith University have joined forces to create scholarships for students entering the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The scholarships will total $100,000 over the next four years and preference is given to West Charlotte High School graduates. The renewable scholarships provide a maximum of $5,000 annually. The funds are designed to support entering first-year students and current students who encounter a gap in funding that can derail progress towards graduation. In addition to the scholarships, recipients may be eligible for internships with the company during or after their junior year.
Comprehensive Campaign Gains Momentum with Transformational Gifts of $20,000 and Up

The “Tomorrow is What WE Make It” comprehensive Campaign continues to gain momentum towards reaching the $150 million goal, with $93.5 million raised so far to support innovative initiatives that meet the needs of current and future students. Launched in 2010, the Tomorrow Campaign will empower JCSU to address four major components: Scholarships, $42 million; Vibrant Campus Experience, $60 million; Academic Resources, $41 million; and, Ongoing Unrestricted Support (JCSU Fund), $7 million.

Laboratory Suite in New Science Center Will Honor Webber Family

Jean Webber has pledged one of the largest gifts by an individual to Johnson C. Smith University for the “Tomorrow is What WE Make It” comprehensive campaign. Her gift will name the Webber Family Lab Suite in the new Science Center in honor of her late husband, Dr. Spurgeon Webber Jr., and the entire Webber family. “It is easy to give to Smith because we have experienced so many wonderful opportunities with the school,” said Webber.

Those opportunities span generations as both parents of Dr. Webber, the late Spurgeon Webber Sr. and the late Dorothy Webber, attended JCSU. After receiving her degree from JCSU in 1943, Dorothy taught at Lincoln Academy, a school started by the Mission workers. In 1929, Spurgeon Webber Sr. had to leave college after his father passed away to return home to work their 100-acre farm.

For Jean Webber, JCSU fulfills a dream that her family sought generations ago. “Our family believes in education, for if you can help a child earn an education, that child will go back to the community and help inspire others to learn,” she said. The Webber family has served as loyal supporters of JCSU, including the establishment of the Spurgeon Sr. and Dorothy Webber Endowed Scholarship.

As the University embarked on its $150 million campaign, Jean expanded her support of JCSU and its students. “We made Smith the first priority among our charitable causes because I can appreciate the growth JCSU has made since we first engaged with the University,” she said. “We want to help JCSU continue on this pioneering path.”

Jean was named North Carolina’s Small Business Person of the Year for her leadership of American Minority Industries, Inc., in the mid-70s, a computer tabulating company in Charlotte which she and her late husband founded.

Recognized for her civic leadership, Jean is former program director of the Metrolina Lung Association and also served as health analyst with the City of Charlotte. The Webbers were the 2010 recipients of the Harvey B. Gantt Center Award and were major donors to the center’s Founders Society Capital Campaign. Jean earned a nursing degree from Meharry Medical College. She is the mother of Spurgeon III (Sterlin) and Deidra Webber Humphrey (Hubert), and grandmother of two, Symphonie Webber and Tolison Humphrey.

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The Tomorrow Campaign is slated for completion in 2017, which coincides with the 150th Anniversary of the University’s founding. During the fiscal year 2013, JCSU benefited tremendously from transformational lead gifts of $20,000 or more. The individuals, corporations and foundations who donated these gifts, are recognized below:

An anonymous donor has awarded $825,000 to support the President’s Gap Scholarship Fund for students.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina established the Blue Cross Blue Shield Impact Fund. This fund, a program of the Center for Applied Leadership and Community Development, supports the Growing Healthy Communities Initiative and the Sustainability Village in the Northwest Corridor of Charlotte.

The Board of Trustees at JCSU presented a $100,000 check at the Arch of Triumph Gala to support the President’s Gap Scholarship Fund.

Carolinas HealthCare System (CHS) served as a presenting sponsor of the 2013 Arch of Triumph Gala.

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association donated funds to provide scholarships for scholar athletes at JCSU.

Christy Shelton Bryant ’75 established the Christy Shelton Bryant Endowed Educational Scholarship to support outstanding students who are pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at JCSU.

The Coca-Cola Foundation established a scholarship for first-generation students at JCSU.

The DCI Group, LLC of Washington, D.C. donated to the JCSU Fund, to provide resources for campus operations and student needs.

David L. Hunter, Ph.D. ’55 and The Jocelyn Hunter Charitable Foundation (his daughter’s foundation) named a classroom in the new Science Center.

Ronald L. Carter, Ph.D., president of JCSU, committed funding to the JCSU Fund to support ongoing and emerging University needs.

Floyd D. Young of FDY, Inc. contributed funding to the FDY Annual Scholarship Fund.

Felicia ’92 and Herb Gray named a classroom in the new Science Center.

The JCSU 100 Club made a contribution to provide scholarships for scholar-athletes at JCSU.

The JCSU National Alumni Association supported the JCSU Fund, The Men’s Tipoff Classic, the Arch of Triumph Gala and the Student Emergency Fund.

Jessie Cook established the Dr. Ladda B. Cook Endowed Scholarship in honor of her late husband, Ladda. Dr. Cook is a graduate of the Class of 1957.

LPL Financial supported the JCSU Foster Care Initiative to assist youths who have aged out of the system and are enrolled at JCSU.

Project LIFT entered its second year of a two-year grant to establish a technology mentorship initiative at JCSU for rising 9th and 10th graders from West Charlotte High School.

Robert and Joan Zimmerman established the Joan and Robert Zimmerman Entrepreneurial Endowed Scholarship to help students earning degrees in business administration become business owners.

Sarah B. Stevenson established the Sarah and Sammy Stevenson Endowed Scholarship in memory of her son, Sammy.

Snyder’s-Lance, Inc. served as a presenting co-sponsor for the 2013 Arch of Triumph Gala.

The Belk Foundation created the Belk Retail Management Endowed Scholarship, awarding scholarships to juniors pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree with a concentration in retail management.

The Cannon Foundation, Inc. awarded a grant to support the restoration and renovation of the historic George E. Davis house.

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation provided support to the Center for Applied Leadership and Community Development for its Midas Program serving youth in the Northwest Corridor.

The Duke Endowment committed additional support to JCSU initiatives to benefit students and the Northwest Corridor community through the Growing Healthy Communities Initiative and Sustainability Village.

The Presbyterian Church USA donated funds to the Presbyterian Unrestricted Endowment.

Trustee J. Frank Harrison, III of Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated pledged support to ensure necessary renovations and repairs are made to the Jane M. Smith Memorial Church.

Trustee J. Porter Durham Jr. established the Durham Family Annual Scholarship Fund to provide financial assistance to JCSU students.

Trustee Kevin Henry, chair of the Board of Visitors, supported the JCSU Fund to ensure the University can respond to emerging student and campus needs.

UNCF, Inc. continued its annual funding for student scholarships.

Wells Fargo served as a presenting co-sponsor of the 2013 Arch of Triumph Gala.

Wilhelmina Page Kimpson ’56 increased her commitment to the William and Ethel Page Endowed Scholarship in honor of her late parents.

The William T. Morris Foundation continued to provide scholarship support to approximately 20 students each year.

The Xerox Corporation provided the University with a gift to support its Xerox Annual Scholarship.
Simmons Suits up Students for Success

When Mark Simmons was growing up, he noticed that his father enjoyed fine clothes and was a stylish dresser. “My Dad loved clothes and that is where I get my deep appreciation for what I call my hobby,” said Simmons. Today, he follows in his father’s footsteps, wearing custom-fit suits and dress shoes, which are his favorite attire. As Vice President of Future Consumption with Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated in Charlotte, he believes his “hobby” contributed to his professional success.

“Having the correct and appropriate attire for the right business situation is important,” Simmons emphasized. “Packaging is part of what attracts consumers to new products, and clothes are a form of packaging. They can also be a confidence booster. If I look good and I feel good, I’ll more than likely do well.”

Because he appreciates the ability to build his own professional wardrobe, Simmons wanted to contribute to JCSU male students to make sure they were also well-suited for success as they graduate and head for the workplace. He and wife, Tami, a JCSU Trustee who serves as secretary of the Board of Trustees, decided during the 2013 spring semester to help two senior male students get outfitted for job interviews. The couple took the students to Jos. A. Bank clothiers where they were fitted for suits with matching shirts and ties. The two students, Robert Hodges and Michael Coats, both accounting majors, were preparing to begin interviewing for full time employment opportunities prior to graduation.

“I know the average college student may not have the means to purchase that brand new suit, shirt and tie,” Mark explained. “I was fortunate to have several mentors in my life who took the time to help me in many ways, so it is my responsibility to reach back and to pull up whoever seeks to be helped.”

Speaking of her husband, Tami noted, “He understands the value and self-confidence you derive from dressing well and looking well, and the appropriateness of attire in the workplace.”

After the couple outfitted the students, Mark left them with an assignment. “Finally, what I asked of the two young men before we parted was that when they got in positions to help someone in this way or another, that they do so,” Mark said. “That is how to return the favor to me.”

“The University appreciates Mark and Tami Simmons and the generosity of many others who support the success of our students,” said Barbara Wilks, director of the Center for Career and Professional Development. The center accepts donated business attire for both males and females, to ensure students are dress-ready for interviews, business occasions and other University events. It also assists with all aspects of career planning, focusing on holistic career and professional development as students seek to prepare for prestigious career opportunities and gain admission to graduate programs.

“Robert and Michael both utilized the services of the career center throughout their collegiate years and established a promising network as a result,” said Wilks. “The transition from college to professional employment is not an easy one, but with a little help, students can feel more confident when they are dressed for success.”

Barbara Wilks, director of Career and Professional Development, helps senior Quintin Jernigan select a suit at the clothing closet.

To donate business attire to the clothing closet, please contact Wilks at 704-378-1042.
Time to give back. Mark Simmons, at left, shows his father’s antique pocket watch to Maurice Hall. The watch is among the many keepsakes Simmons has to remind him of his father’s influence on his own style and the importance of giving back to help future generations.
Dream of Education Leads Tin from Burma to JCSU

At the age of 19, many young people today are thinking about the best way to spend their weekend or how to buy a car, but for Peter B. Tin ’63, obtaining a college education was his top priority back in 1958.

At that time, he left his home in Rangoon, Burma, now Myanmar, to pursue a degree in political philosophy from Johnson C. Smith University. He came on a scholarship that was offered by the dean of the university, Theophilus McKinney, whose son was a Fulbright Scholar in Burma. When the dean went to Burma to visit his son, he met Peter and told his grandfather that he could have the scholarship “if he was smart enough.”

Tin valued education so much that at a young age, with only $5 in his pocket, he left his family and his homeland behind to follow his dream. Despite the fact that he was one of the very few Asian students to attend the University, Tin did not let that affect the enjoyable experience he had. He participated in extra-curricular activities, such as the University choir, and joined Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. Regardless of his participation on campus, he was surprised to find that a country so advanced was still segregated. He strongly believed in helping to make the world a better place and did not think that could be accomplished by mistreating others.

“I remember my dad as an independent and principled thinker who understood the value of an education,” said son, Noell Tin, about his father. “My dad’s greatest accomplishment was raising a family and getting his sons through college and graduate school.”

After graduating from JCSU, Tin went on to The Ohio State University to study political philosophy. He aspired to return to Burma so he could help his country become more democratic. Sadly, he was told by his father a few years later that, because of political changes, he would not be able to do anything to help Burma.

After putting down roots in the U.S., Tin began his career selling tires and eventually became president of Concorde Tire Distribution Company. He worked for several tire companies over the years before starting his own business in Columbus, Ohio, in 1991.

Tin serves as an inspiration to other international students who have also made the decision to leave their homeland to pursue an education. Education is not something to take for granted, because not everyone in the world is provided with the same opportunities. Today, Johnson C. Smith University has doubled its enrollment of international students with nearly 30 nations currently represented on campus.

Peter B. Tin passed away in 2001 and is survived by his wife, Peggy, and two sons. Son, Noell, is a lawyer in Charlotte with Tin Fulton Walker & Owen PLLC law firm. Son, Jonathan, is head of financial reporting for Swiss Re in Zurich, Switzerland.

The family of Peter Tin is pleased to announce the establishment of the Peter Tin Endowed Scholarship Fund to encourage international students to study at Johnson C. Smith University.

Did you know?

International students comprise 3.5 percent of JCSU’s population.
JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY

Invest in **Tomorrow** by giving today.

[Image of a graduate hugging a family member]

www.jcsu.edu/tomorrow
Johnson C. Smith University is partnering with the Northwest Corridor Indaba on a public opinion project to help residents understand and influence effective political leadership and representation of the Northwest Corridor. The Indaba is a community forum representing 30 neighborhoods and businesses in the Northwest Corridor. The group works with elected officials representing the area and civic leaders throughout Charlotte.

The project, called “Giving Voice to the Northwest Corridor,” kicked off with a leadership audit for residents to complete online at www.jcsu.edu/nwc. The project is described in a video produced by JCSU international student Zwelabo Mandela, grandson of Nelson Mandela and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. It may be viewed at: http://youtu.be/DhK9l6FFfVo.

Results from the survey will help the community prepare for upcoming elections by engaging, educating and empowering residents to get more involved in recruiting leaders and providing candidates with information. Specifically, the research will help:

- Determine what residents want from their elected leadership
- Create a job description for political candidates
- Provide each candidate with the information needed to determine if a particular political office is the best match

Results from the study were presented August 31, 2013, at a public forum held at the University. Candidates for the fall elections were invited to attend the forum and participate in an open dialogue about their platforms and community issues. The project will create a clear set of performance measurements for candidates to help them reach their goals.

“This project is part of our ongoing commitment to giving voice to the people of the Northwest Corridor,” said Dr. Ronald L. Carter, president of Johnson C. Smith University. “Our results will help future leaders focus on matters that affect the quality of life and build up our assets as we work together to create a vibrant community.”

LaConteau Williams (l) is among the JCSU students administering a leadership audit (survey) to Northwest Corridor residents at their homes and at businesses. Survey results will be used to help leaders focus on issues that affect the corridor.
Bus Shelters Pay Artistic Tribute to JCSU

As part of the City of Charlotte’s Beatties Ford Road Business Corridor Project, public artwork by North Carolina artist David Wilson has brightened up the glass windcreens on six bus shelters leading to JCSU. The shelters tell the story of Charlotte’s Historic West End. Two shelters capture the history of JCSU in colorful mosaic-like depictions of Biddle Hall, the Arch of Triumph and other campus landmarks.

Designed to strengthen the business community along the Northwest Corridor, the project includes new and upgraded pedestrian crossings, wider sidewalks, decorative lighting and trees along streets and sidewalks.

Wilson is best known in Charlotte for the large, colorful architectural glass mural he designed for the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts and Culture.
Grant Expands Community Development Programs

The Center for Applied Leadership and Community Development (CALCD) received a $210,000 grant from the North Carolina Community Development Initiative. The funding will enable the University to expand the Women’s Entrepreneurship Program, workforce development activities and services in partnership with Men Who Care Global, Inc., along with other asset-building and wealth-creation programs in the Northwest Corridor.

The grant is part of a $5.85 million award to 28 North Carolina nonprofits over the next three years to spark economic growth and job creation in some of the state’s most distressed areas.

CALCD serves to connect the University’s faculty, students and staff, as well as academic and research capacities, with leaders in the business, local government, nonprofit, education and faith-based sectors of the Beatties Ford Road/Northwest Corridor and greater Charlotte-Mecklenburg region. It develops constructive approaches to resolving the human, economic and social crises found throughout the area.

University Donates Windows to Habitat for Humanity

Old windows will find new homes at Habitat for Humanity ReStore. Greg Cook, (left) director of facilities with National Management Services, is shown at Duke Hall with Brian Henry, procurement director for Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte’s ReStore. The residence hall is undergoing a $5.5 million renovation funded by The Duke Endowment which entailed removing 100 windows from the building and donating them to Habitat. Duke Hall is scheduled to re-open in spring 2014 and will house 70 students in 36 residential suites.

Technology Mentoring Program Celebrates First Year

Charlotte’s Web held its first annual banquet in May 2013 to showcase how far West Charlotte High School students have progressed in this innovative technology mentorship initiative. The program’s mission is to help at-risk males in grades 6 through 12 develop self-confidence and skills as they learn how to deconstruct and reconstruct computers. Partnering agencies are: Men Who Care Global and Project LIFT, which provided the $172,000 grant to start Charlotte’s Web. At the end of the program, the students will earn their “A Plus” Certification.
Joint Study Examines Effects of Land-Use Regulations on Housing Affordability

The effect of new regulations on the affordability of housing in Charlotte is the focus of a study released in June 2013 by Johnson C. Smith University. The study, commissioned by the Piedmont Public Policy Institute, is titled “The Economic Consequences of Land-Use Regulations on Jobs, Families, Communities and Housing Affordability in Mecklenburg County.”

“The availability of housing that is within reach of all citizens is a critical indicator of the economic health of any metropolitan region,” said Collin Brown, chair of the Piedmont Public Policy Institute. “Housing affordability has been and will continue to be a topic of interest for all who want to assist Charlotte in becoming a world-class city.”

The study notes that housing costs are impacted by a variety of factors, including the supply of buildable land, the price of labor and materials, the cost of capital, as well as government regulations. It specifically looks at the effects of government regulations on housing affordability and includes several metrics that can be used to review the effects of such regulations.

University faculty members Dr. Nick Desai, professor of economics, and Dr. Linette Fox, assistant professor of management and faculty senate president, conducted research for the study along with Sherrill Hampton, former special assistant to the president and director for the Center of Applied Leadership and Community Development, and Dr. G. Donald Jud of Jud & Associates.

“This study is intended to help drive future discussions as the Charlotte community works together to tackle the challenge of providing housing for all citizens,” said Dr. Ronald L. Carter, president of Johnson C. Smith University.

University Recognized for Community Service

Johnson C. Smith University is among more than 600 institutions across the nation honored in 2013 by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Department of Education for improving their communities through community service and service learning.

The University was admitted to the Honor Roll for 1,135 of its students completing 21,831 hours of community service during the 2011-2012 academic year on programs such as the Soul of the Northwest Corridor Initiative and others that promote learning for kids. A major part of community engagement focuses on revitalizing Charlotte’s Northwest Corridor which covers more than 34 historic neighborhoods.

Another community service project at JCSU promotes learning for children of various age groups through tutoring, parent advocacy and mentoring. Special services offered include a Saturday Academy, a tutoring program for children in grades three to five, writing workshops for high school students and a West Charlotte High School mentoring program.
Chris Canty Foundation and JCSU Partner for Community Enhancement

In April, the Chris Canty Foundation partnered with Johnson C. Smith University for the second annual Neighborhood Clean-Up in the Historic West End. The event garnered more than 200 volunteers, including JCSU faculty, staff and students. As part of its continuing relationship based on service and community, the foundation returned to JCSU on July 8 to host its annual Summer Leadership Institute.

Designed to prepare high school students for successful college careers, the three-week program incorporates leadership workshops, team development, communication skills and mentorship into daily curricula. The selection process is rigorous and competitive, with only 25 high school students selected to attend. Upon completion of the program, students are eligible for $1,000 college scholarships.

The Chris Canty Foundation has already begun establishing relationships with members of the local business community, representatives of local government and state agencies to support the project, which consists of 20 beautification and clean-up sites including local parks, streets and neighborhoods.

The foundation emphasizes and adheres to a strict set of core values: hope, service, respect, justice and compassion, making them ideal partners with JCSU for community events in West Charlotte. The foundation seeks to enhance the total development of youth by working with families and neighborhood programs synergistically to provide avenues for youths to develop their talents and gifts.

Original artwork by renown artist J. Stacy Utley celebrates the partnership between the Chris Canty Foundation and JCSU. The mixed media work was commissioned by the Chris Canty Foundation and donated to the University.

Campus Hosts Youth Summer Enrichment Program

Firm Foundations of the Carolinas, Inc., and Pride Entrepreneur Education Program presented Teens TOGETHER Summer 2013: The PEEP Experience on campus in July. The eight-week program, supported by PNC Bank and designed for students ages 10 to 14, provided interactive business, finance and entrepreneurship activities as well as education. Fun-filled daily curricula included career exploration, service learning financial literacy, entrepreneurship and guest speakers.

PEEP partners with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, parents, churches and other community organizations to identify African-American youths who have demonstrated a skill, talent or interest in becoming an entrepreneur. PEEP’s mentoring program pairs the youths with skilled workers and career professionals who impart valuable expertise and knowledge.

Collaborations with local and regional colleges and universities maximize the educational process so students can recognize their full potential.

Pauline Feimster ’95 serves as director of PEEP.
Northwest Corridor Welcomes New City Manager

More than 60 community members of the Northwest Corridor Indaba welcomed Charlotte’s new City Manager, Ron Carlee, at a reception on July 10, 2013, in Grimes Lounge. The event offered an opportunity for Dr. Ronald L. Carter and Indaba representatives to share some highlights of University-driven projects in the Corridor including:

- A leadership audit and candidate seminar to give voice to the Northwest Corridor
- Healthy living initiatives through the new HealthPlex and Sustainability Village
- Applied research projects by students that benefit residents

Malcolm Graham ‘85, interim director for the Center for Applied Leadership and Community Development, announced other University projects that support women entrepreneurs, prepare students for college, and support young adult males through a partnership with Men Who Care Global. “Our mission is to build people power and be a critical community partner with the city,” said Graham. He referred to Mosaic Village, the Arts Factory, and Passing Through Light underpass artwork as projects which have helped raise awareness and quality of life in the Corridor. Carlee commended JCSU for reaching beyond its walls, saying, “Not every university takes seriously its responsibility for the community in which it lies…,” he said. “Going forward I have a lot of hopes and dreams for the community.”

The Met Opera Comes to The Smith House

President Ronald L. Carter acknowledges Janinah Burnett, Metropolitan Opera star, following her moving performance at The Smith House as part of the University’s partnership with Opera Carolina. Burnett was in Charlotte to perform in Opera Carolina’s production of The Pearl Fishers in April 2013.

President Ronald L. Carter (r) greets Ron Carlee (l), Charlotte city manager, during a reception for Carlee on campus.
October 1, 2013

My Fellow Alumni,

First, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your National Alumni Association President for more than two years.

Higher education is undergoing considerable changes. Johnson C. Smith University and other HBCU students are being impacted severely by the ongoing recession and changes to federal financial aid requirements. We know the benefits of a college education. The needs of JCSU have never been greater. Alumni and friends must therefore do more to help the University as well as our students.

In helping the University reach its goals, we must partner with the University to ensure that we sustain a sound financial status, maintain our accreditation and transform JCSU to meet the needs of current and future students as the educational landscape continues to change.

We must double our efforts by giving financial support, taking the time to mentor students and giving back to the University in all other possible ways.

Please join me during the current fiscal year, July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, by giving to the JCSU Fund, JCSU Alumni Student Emergency Fund, President's Gap Fund, and any of our endowed scholarship funds. Your support during this time in our history makes a difference in the opportunities afforded to young people today. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Grover Smith Jr. (Smitty)
Class of 1970

P.S. Please remember to ask your corporation to match your giving this year. Your double support is a tremendous help! Also, please consider participating in the “Early Bulls” campaign, which began July 1 and will conclude Homecoming Weekend, October 26. Your early support of our students in fiscal year 2014 makes a difference.

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**Alumna Shares Experiences in Senegal**

During the 24th National African-American Read-In on Feb. 20, 2013, Johnson C. Smith University alumna Pamela Siplin-Brown '75 shared her experiences in Senegal by reading her poem, “I Woke Up in Africa.” The event held at Biddle Auditorium was sponsored by the Xi Lambda Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society.

It focused on the theme “If Your Why is Big Enough, the How Will Take Care of Itself.”

As a featured guest, Siplin-Brown presented her program along with other readings by faculty members, students and members of the Black Ink Monks for Soul Resurrection, the JCSU Writing Studio, the Department of Visual, Performing and Theater Arts, and the Department of Languages and Literature.

Siplin-Brown’s experience in Africa urged her to encourage students to discover their ancestry. She described JCSU as the springboard to other opportunities in life. “If you’re here as a student, you’re in the right place because it will take you to other places,” she said.

In 1995 she took a trip to Senegal, Africa, which she describes as a turning point in her life. A year later she was hired as principal of then Frank C. Martin Elementary School. Founding principal of Florida’s first elementary school with the International Baccalaureate Years Program, Siplin-Brown has won numerous local, state, national and international awards and recognitions. The school honored her by naming its state-of-the-art technology facility the Pamela F. Brown International Media Center, equipped with a SMART board, laptops, LCD projector, teacher resource room and 20 computers.
As the Class of 1963 celebrated its 50th reunion over the Commencement weekend, Charlotte marked the 50th anniversary of an historic “Eat-In” that helped to fuel the Civil Rights Movement. Several alumni from the Class of 1963 remembered taking part in the march from JCSU to downtown Charlotte and participating in activities to protest the unwillingness of lunch counters to serve to Black citizens.

They shared their memories of this historic event that paved the way for equality.

“We marched from here to downtown. I was arrested in Belk for blocking and went to the Charlotte jail. I testified before the Charlotte City Council about the injustice and not being able to sit and eat. I remember my hands were shaking…. We did our organizing at night in Biddle Hall.”

- Barbara Ferguson Kamara

“We took turns over a semester off and on demonstrating at Woolworths, Ivey’s, Kresge, Belk and at the theater. You could go in the stores, but you couldn’t sit down and eat. All of us walked – some were arrested. We invited Malcolm X to speak but they (local business leaders) said if he came they would withhold funds from Smith.”

- Joe Rainey

“We had two students who looked like they were white. They went to the restaurant at Ivey’s, ordered a meal and were able to eat there. We waved to them from outside and they waved back.”

- John Faxio

“Mr. Ivey said over his ‘dead body before blacks would be allowed to come in.’ We were going to send his wife a wreath. Our teacher supported us but didn’t excuse us from classwork. We would sit at the lunch counter to protest while peering into our books so we didn’t miss our work.”

- John Faxio

Class of 1963 alumni Barbara Ferguson Kamara, John Faxio (l) and Joe Rainey (r) take a moment during Reunion Weekend to talk about their participation in Charlotte’s Civil Rights Movement.
2013 Reunion

Classes ending in 3 and 8 reunited and celebrated during Reunion Weekend 2013 on May 17 to 19. The Golden Anniversary Class of 1963 wore gold robes at the 2013 Commencement Exercises. Classmates capped the weekend at the alumni banquet and dance.
Weekend

Class of 1978 celebrates its 35th reunion

Class of 1948 celebrates its 65th reunion
Homecoming 2012 Celebrates “The Smith Way”

Homecoming 2012’s weeklong celebration of “The Smith Way: It’s Contagious,” kicked off on Oct. 24, 2012, with a coronation ceremony for Yolanda Babb ’13 crowned Miss JCSU. Student Government Association officers were also inducted.

On Oct. 26, the community joined in the festivities during the annual parade and FestiVille for family fun.

The annual FestiVille is a combination of arts, culture, food and entertainment.

Leading up to the Homecoming football game, students performed a pep rally and tailgaters enjoyed pre-game food and fun activities. The crowd packed Irwin Belk Complex to cheer the Golden Bulls to a 27-21 victory over St. Augustine’s University. For post game excitement, the
National Pan-Hellenic Council presented a step show and after-party.
The step show featured JCSU teams from Alpha Kappa Alpha (Gamma Delta) and Sigma Gamma Rho (Beta Upsilon), plus a group from the Iota Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma from Shaw University and a group from the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi from Elizabeth City State University.

The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha (Gamma Delta) and the gentlemen of Phi Beta Sigma (Iota) won the contest.
The weekend festivities continued off campus as alumni gathered for a Gold and Blue Alumni Gala at the Sheraton-Airport Hotel in Charlotte. Other events scheduled included a concert jam and Gospel Explosion.
Class Elite ’64

Fantastic Voyage

Class Elite ’64 has lots to share about our fantastic voyages. During September 2012, several classmates (Rebecca James Fulton, Marian Galloway Mathes, Bertha Baker Woods, Clarence Little, Herbert Cunningham, Joy Worthy Graves and Dorothy Gordon Mitchell) hosted a group of family and friends on a 12-day European cruise from Barcelona, Spain, with exciting ports of call: Monaco, Sicily, Sardinia, Rome, Florence, Venice, Pisa and Dubrovnik. Prior to boarding the ship, we spent two exciting, fun-filled days in Barcelona shopping, touring and of course, sipping delicious sangria.

We are proud that we have hosted four cruises that include the Caribbean, with enlightened visits to the Panama Canal and Costa Rica. The incredible Greek Isle cruise and tour included 56 classmates, family and friends and was quite an Odyssey that will be revered forever. We began in fascinating Venice, with side trips to Rome and Florence, where we spent three days shopping, sightseeing, riding water taxis and an unforgettable visit to the Vatican. Our land trips to Charleston, Savannah and Las Vegas were also fun-filled with many planned activities.

We cherish the opportunity to get together and have fundraising fun. The Carnival and Norwegian Cruise Lines, and others, will arrange your cruise as a fundraiser, at your request, when you book a group cruise.

- by Dorothy Gordon Mitchell, Class Agent

Class of 1955 –

Congresswoman Eva Clayton was among the first 12 honorees to be included in the AT&T First Heritage Calendar: Celebrating the N.C. African-American Experience. This publication honored people who have made a lasting difference for African Americans in the state.

Class of 1955 – Rudolph C. Worsley and his wife, Jean, were among educators honored by having their names engraved on the Cato Teaching Discovery Mural at UNC-Charlotte. The couple, retired educators in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system, were nominated by a former student and UNC-Charlotte graduate who credits his success to the “tireless intervention, love and support” of the Worsleys. The couple attended the dedication of the mural on April 22, 2013 at UNC-Charlotte's College of Education Plaza.

Class of 1959 – Willie T. Boyd was honored for his achievements at James Hillhouse High School located in New Haven, Conn. Willie coached the Hillhouse girls basketball team from 1974 to 1996 and compiled a record of 268 -134. During his career he led the Lady Academics to four straight District League titles and four state finals.

Class of 1961 – Talmadge Fair received the prestigious Miami Coalition of Christians & Jews (MCCJ) Silver Medallion Award at the organization’s annual dinner. The MCCJ is a human relations organization founded in 1935 as the Miami Chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Fair also was recognized as one of South Florida’s 50 Most Powerful Black Business Leaders of 2013.

Class of 1963 – Mrs. Viella Holloway Mason and her husband Mr. Robert O.
Mason Sr. celebrated their diamond 60th wedding anniversary on January 20, 2012.


**Class of 1964 – Dorothy Counts-Scoggins** was among the first 12 honorees to be included in the AT&T First Heritage Calendar: Celebrating the N.C. African-American Experience. This publication honored people who have made a lasting difference for African Americans in the state.

**Class of 1965 – Ossie Hamlett Martin** received her Certificate of Achievement Award for her 40th year of dedication, service and loyalty from Belk, Inc. in Columbia, S.C.

**Class of 1967 – Virginia Peterkin** received honors as a Woman of Wisdom in 2013 from the Wisdom Ministry of Grace Christian Church, Columbia, S.C., for her dedication and service to the community and her church. She was also honored as an Unsung Hero at the Little Black Dress Scholarship luncheon for her outstanding contribution and service to youth and families in her community and state.

**Class of 1969 – the Fairfield County Disabilities and Special Needs Board (FCDSNB) of Winnsboro, S.C., dedicated its new facilities to Shirley Means Greene ’69. Greene, chair of the FCDSNB board of directors and chair of the Capital Campaign Committee, spearheaded the campaign, raising over $1.1 million to build the new FCDSNB day and residential treatment facilities.**

**Class of 1970 – Dr. James Ewers** has announced his retirement after a 40-year career in higher education. Ewers was vice president for student affairs and enrollment management at Edward Waters College (EWC) in Jacksonville, Fla. Prior to joining EWC, he served as the associate dean of student affairs and the director of community partnerships at Miami University-Middletown, located in Middletown, Ohio.

**Class of 1972 – Dr. Francescina R. Jackson** was appointed chair and professor of the Education Studies Program at Spelman College.

**Class of 1974 – Shirley Means Greene** received her Certificate of Achievement Award by Lifeshare of the Carolinas. The Chrysalis Award recognizes the similarities between a caterpillar into a butterfly and the transformation the awardees helped make possible for Lifeshare over the past 40 years.

**Class of 1975 – Dr. Phyllis W. Dawkins** has been appointed provost at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. She previously served as provost, senior vice president for academic affairs and professor of education/psychology at Dillard University.

**Class of 1976 – Rev. J.R. Covington Jr.** received the Chrysalis Award by Lifeshare of the Carolinas. The Chrysalis Award recognizes the similarities between a caterpillar into a butterfly and the transformation the awardees helped make possible for Lifeshare over the past 40 years.

**Class of 1978 – Samuel Blackmon** was appointed chief of staff at Voorhees College, Denmark, S.C.

**Class of 1978 – Vera Green Shepard** received a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies from Capital Seminary at Lancaster Bible College, Lancaster, Penn.

**Class of 1978 – Dr. Valencia P. Covington** has been selected to be the first medical director for PACE of the Southern Piedmont. PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) is a Medicare and Medicaid program that helps people meet their health care needs in the community instead of going to a nursing home or other care facility. It is the first such medical facility of its kind in Charlotte.
**80’s**

**Class of 1980 – Cynthia McAfee Smith** was recently awarded the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) award. The award emphasizes the importance of teaching and leadership excellence in institutions of higher education. She was also awarded the 2013 Spring Faculty of the Year by her peers/students at Central Piedmont Community in Charlotte, where she has worked for over 20 years and is currently the discipline chair for health and physical education.

**Class of 1987 – Dr. Herman Gore,** an interventional spine and pain specialist, is the father of TGB (The Gore Boyz), one of the newest and youngest upcoming boy bands in the country. The boys have become celebrities in Charlotte – winning talent shows, creating YouTube videos and performing in several venues. To learn more about the band, visit www.TGBrooks.com.

**Class of 1988 – James Ely** has been appointed general manager, Walmart for Johnson & Johnson Sales and Logistics company. His prior roles included vice president of sales strategy and vice president, customer development - CVS for J&J. James also recently received his Master of Business Administration degree from Boston University in 2012.

**90’s**

**Class of 1991 – Hervery B. O. Young** was sworn in as the Circuit Public Defender for the 10th Judicial Circuit on February 21, 2013, at the Anderson County Court House in Anderson, S.C. Circuit Judge Alexander S. Macaulay presided and administered the oath of office. Young was formerly an assistant federal public defender for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Scranton office, and served as an assistant public defender in Lexington County from 1995 to 2001. He is a recipient of the South Carolina Bar Young Lawyer of the Year award, the S.C. Alpha Man of the Year, the Augustus Witherspoon Leadership Award and the Charles Greene Service Award of Merit.

**Class of 1992 – Ali McBride** made a presentation at the 30th Annual ASCAC International Conference (The Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations) at Howard University on March 16, 2013. She is chief executive officer of the Gully Black Research Group in Newark, N.J.

**Class of 1992 – Michael Powell** is the owner of The Syber Group which was awarded a contract to audit telecom services for Cook County. His business will be instrumental in the development of new business requirements and the implementation of other automation processes that will ensure taxpayer’s monies are not being wasted.

**Class of 1992 – Felicia W. Gray** and her husband, Herb Gray, received the Urban League of Central Carolinas 2013 Whitney M. Young Jr. Award.

**Class of 1992 – Demetria (Dee) Alexander-Grissett,** announced the release of her newly published non-fiction book. “In Sickness and in Health: A Journalized Account of Coping with Multiple Myeloma.” The book takes the reader on a walk in the shoes of a young woman who was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, cancer of the plasma cells/bone marrow. Dee’s personal story of battling cancer may be found on Amazon, Books-A-Million or Barnes & Noble websites.

**Class of 1996 – Dr. Michelle Galloway-Harmani** recently released her first children’s book, “Morning Star.” This colorful, fun-filled, interactive book is geared for all ages and lets the reader discover, “Is the sun a star?” and “What atoms make-up the sun?” Additionally, it offers a hands-on activity to construct an atom that matches national education standards. She is working on her second book for the series, “Tonight’s Light.”

**Class of 1997 – Shemeka Johnson** has built a reputation for delivering quality process and technology projects across several countries. She is currently serving as a program manager at Bank of America, responsible for leading the planning and management of multiple projects in its Global Human Resources Division. Shemeka specialized in executing merger and acquisition projects for several financial services clients while working for Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company.

**Class of 1997 – Melvin Abrams** is the athletic director, head of the post-graduate basketball program and head coach of the boys’ varsity basketball team at Massanuteen Military Academy in Woodstock, Va.

Abrams played seven years abroad in Israel, Lithuania, Croatia, Venezuela and Bulgaria and in the Continental Basketball Association, the National Basketball Development League and the U.S. Basketball League.

**Class of 1999 – Charita Blackmon Eley,** accepted the call to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. She preached her initial sermon on July 20, 2013 at First New Birth Baptist Church in Manassas, Va.
Class of 2004 – Oscar L. Frazier, founder of Sound Decisions RDS, Inc., received a Smart Art: Graffiti Prevention Mural Grant from Keep Charlotte Beautiful. The grant was used to create a mural depicting famous North Carolinians while encouraging youth to take pride in their community and preventing graffiti.

Class of 2007 – Daryl D. Jackson was selected to be director of the Greater Cleveland Drug Court. Jackson will assume full responsibility for Cleveland Municipal Courts’ Drug Court internal and external operations.

Class of 2008 – Kecia Benson participated in the New Voices in Black Cinema Film Festival, presented by BAMcinemathek.

Class of 2008 – Kyeshia Carter, M.Ed is the founder and executive director of STARS (Success through Achievement Regardless of life’s Situations), Inc. STARS Inc. is a nonprofit organization that seeks to positively impact and improve the lives of youth ages 13-18, in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in the City of Houston and ultimately, throughout the world.

Class of 2008 – Venessa Roy has self-published her first book entitled “Shattered Mirrors.” It is a compilation of her poetry over the last 10 years. It is available in paperback on Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites. Venessa is also a Charlotte firefighter as well as a former assistant coach of the JCSU women’s softball team.

Class of 2008 – Alexzenia Davis participated in the New Voices in Black Cinema Film Festival, presented by BAMcinemathek.

Class of 2010 – Jason Stuckey recently graduated from Indiana University Maurer School of Law with a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. Stuckey was active in the IU Black Law School Students Association. He graduated summa cum laude in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science.

Class of 2011 – Leford Green won his fourth consecutive national title in the men’s 400m hurdles at the Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association/Supreme Ventures National Senior Championships on June 23, 2013.

Class of 2011 – Shakira Randolph (former Miss JCSU) created the Sisters Foundation with her older sister, Shakuwra.

Class of 2011 – Shermaine Williams finished in 12.92 seconds for third place at the Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association/Supreme Ventures National Senior Championships on June 23, 2013.

Class of 2012 – Cory Carter, was featured on the UNCF Evening of Stars television broadcast event to raise funds for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Class of 2013 – Trevin Parks former men’s basketball guard had a NBA pre-draft workout with the Charlotte Bobcats.

Please send us your wedding and birth announcements, anniversaries, promotions and accomplishments to RMatthews@jcsu.edu.
SAVE THE DATE

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND
May 2-4, 2014
for classes ending in 4 and 9

http://smithite.jcsu.edu/reunion-weekend

SIXTH ANNUAL
Arch of Triumph Gala
To Benefit the JCSU Fund

Saturday, April 12, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Charlotte Convention Center
Ballroom
501 South College Street
Charlotte, North Carolina
www.jcsu.edu/gala
U.S. News & World Report ranks Johnson C. Smith University 14th among HBCUs