First, on behalf of the Officers of your Alumni Association, let me wish you and your families the warmest of Holiday Greetings!

I had the opportunity to represent the Alumni at the graduation banquet on the Thursday before the Graduation Ceremony. It was very interesting and at times moving to hear the graduates’ comments to their teachers and classmates.

At Graduation, we had a number of Alumni present, and one of our own, Bill McDonald, Class of 1975, delivered the Commencement address. I know it was special for Bill, as his son Ryan was one of the graduates. Bill did an outstanding job.

Over the past few weeks, you should have received your pledge card for the Endowment Fund. So far we have had an outstanding response to this year’s pledge drive. If you have not yet sent yours in, let me encourage you to take a minute and fill out the card and return it to the college today.

Your officers have been considering ideas to make our Association better, in the coming weeks I hope to be able to offer the Alumni some items with the College logo, as way for us to show our support, and with the proceeds benefiting the Endowment.

Finally if you make New Year’s resolutions, here’s one to keep in mind: Why not resolve to attend the 2010 Reunion? Mark August 6th and 7th on your calendar. I’ll see you there.

Jeff Murphy ’86
Alumni President
In Memory of Mr. Charles L. Harrison, Sr.
Donor: Harrison’s Funeral Home, Memphis, TN

In Memory of Mr. Melton Austin
Donor: Mr. Jim Brewer

In Memory of Mrs. Mary Evelyn Greer Oliver
Donor: Mr. Clayton L. E. White

In Memory of Mrs. Lee Gallant
Donor: Donald & Paula Lucas

In Memory of Mr. Rick Austin
Donor: Mr. Stephen Chenault

In Memory of Mrs. Virginia Campbell Hayes
Donor: Mr. Jim Brewer

In Memory of Mr. Elliott R. Baker
Donor: Mr. James M. Ragan, Jr.

In Honor of (On Her 90th Birthday) Ms. Carmen Cunningham
Donor: Mr. Jim Brewer

In Honor of (Their One Hundredth Anniversary) Taylor Funeral Home, Inc., Dickson, TN
Donor: Mr. Jim Brewer

In Memory of Mr. Clyde H. McNeely
Donor: Mr. Billy G. Yarbrough & Yarbrough Mortuary Services, Inc., Jackson, TN

In Memory of Mr. William Marshall Bracey
Donor: Hooper-Huddleston & Horner LLC, Cookeville, TN

In Memory of Mr. William B. Worrell
Donor: Mr. Jim Brewer

The John A. Gupton College Alumni Association
Mr. James M. Ragan, Jr.

In Memory of Mr. Eugene Brooks Quigley, Sr.
Donor: Mr. Morris V. Moore

In Memory of Mr. Jerry O. Lowery
Donors: Mr. Carney Rickman Bell & Bonnie D. Bell
David & Mary Ann Bentley
Mr. Jacky Carver, Jr. & Sr., and Sanderson Funeral Homes, Inc., Cartage, TN
Hooper-Huddleston & Horner LLC, Cookeville, TN
Mr. Steve Murphy & Music City Mortuary, Nashville, TN
Mr. Andy Bond & Bond Memorial Chapel of Mt. Juliet, TN
Mr. Billy G. Yarbrough & Yarbrough Mortuary Services, Inc., Jackson, TN

In Memory of Ms. Catherine (Biggs) Hudson
Donors: John A Gupton College Alumni Association
Steve & Mary Spann

In Memory of Mrs. Martha Reid Casey
Donors: John A Gupton College Board of Directors
Steve & Mary Spann
Mr. Jacky Carver, Jr. & Sr., and Sanderson Funeral Homes, Inc.
Hooper-Huddleston & Horner LLC, Cookeville, TN
Mr. Steve Murphy & Music City Mortuary, Nashville, TN
Mr. Billy G. Yarbrough & Yarbrough Mortuary Services, Inc., Jackson, TN

In Memory of Mrs. Mildred Bohannon
Donor: Mr. Jacky Carver & Cumberland Family Services, Inc., Carthage, TN

In Memory of Mr. Junior Purcell
Donors: Mr. Steve Murphy & Music City Mortuary, Nashville, TN
Mr. Billy G. Yarbrough & Yarbrough Mortuary Services, Inc., Jackson, TN

In Memory of Mrs. Cora Denton
Donor: Mr. Steve Murphy & Music City Mortuary, Nashville, TN

In Memory of Mr. “Rat” Marvin
Donor: Mr. Steve Murphy & Music City Mortuary, Nashville, TN

In Memory of Mr. John Brandon Padgett
Donors: Ms. Donna Collard
Steve & Meryl Spann & Staff of John A. Gupton College
John A. Gupton College Alumni Association

In Memory of Mr. Charles Collins Foster, IV
Donor: Mr. Morris V. Moore

In Memory of Mrs. Blanche Elizabeth Knight Ayers
Donors: Mr. Clayton L. E. White
Mr. Jacky Carver, Jr. & Sanderson Funeral Homes, Inc.

In Memory of Mrs. Syble Marie Holt
Donor: Mr. Billy G. Yarbrough & Yarbrough Mortuary Services, Inc., Jackson, TN

In Memory of Mr. Robert P. Shackelford, II
Donors: Mr. Jacky Carver, Jr. & Mr. Jacky Carver, Sr., and Sanderson Funeral Homes, Inc., Cartage, TN
Ms. Donna Collard
Hooper-Huddleston & Horner LLC, Cookeville, TN

In Memory of Mr. Roy E. “Toad” Farrar, Jr.
Donor: Hooper-Huddleston & Horner LLC, Cookeville, TN

Memorial certificates are notices of donations made to the John A. Gupton College Library Memorial Fund. The Fund is used for the purchase of books and other items needed for the library. The memorial certificate is presented or mailed to a member of the grieving family of the deceased. To request a memorial certificate, contact the librarian, Pepper Bruce at the College. Donations can be made from $20.00 or more for the purchase of books.

Attn. Pepper Bruce • John A. Gupton College • 1616 Church Street • Nashville, TN 37203-2954 • (615) 327-3927
FOSTER, MR. CHARLES COLLINS, IV ’89 of Gainesville, Georgia, died October 31, 2009. He was a former co-owner and operator of Roswell Funeral Home, Roswell, Georgia. Mr. Foster was preceded in death by his parents Charles (Sonny) Foster, also a graduate and former board member of John A. Gupton College and Dorothy Reed Foster. Private funeral services for the family were held.

AYERS, BLANCHE ELIZABETH KNIGHT, age 94, passed away on November 16, 2009 at Adams Place. She was a native and lifelong resident of Rutherford County. She was the wife of Edwin F. Ayers the owner of Jennings & Ayers for 65 years. She is the mother of Eddy Ayers and Donald Ayers, ’03. She was the grandmother of Chip Haynes, Chad Haynes, Donny Ayers Jr. and Jessica Edwina Ayers, ’07. Memorials may be made to The First United Methodist Church or the charity of your choice. Visitation was from 4:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at Jennings & Ayers Funeral Home. A chapel service was held 11:00 A.M. Thursday at Jennings & Ayers Chapel with burial to follow in Evergreen Cemetery.

PADGETT, JOHN BRANDON, age 33, passed away October 23, 2009 in North Carolina. Mr. Padgett was the brother of James R. “Opie” Padgett, CFSP, ’01, College Historian and Editor of The Ligature, Official Publication of the John A. Gupton Alumni Association. Funeral Services were held at 2 PM Tuesday, October 27, 2009 from Cookeville First Assembly of God, Cookeville, TN. Burial was in the Good Hope Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Cookeville Teen Challenge c/o Cookeville First Assembly of God, John A. Gupton College, or the Diabetes Association.

SHACKELFORD, MR. ROBERT P. JR., age 78, died Monday November 23rd, 2009 at his home in Savannah, TN. Mr. Shackelford was the owner and director of Shackelford Funeral Directors of Savannah. Mr. Shackelford was also a Board Member Emeritus of John A. Gupton College and a TFDA Past President (1971-1972). Mr. Shackelford also served as Region IV District Governor from 1989 to 1992 under the former governance structure of the National Funeral Directors Association. Mr. Shackelford was also the father of TFDA Past President Robert Shackelford, III (1996-1997), of Shackelford Funeral Directors of Selmer, and Lisa Thomas of Shackelford Funeral Directors of Savannah. Visitation was from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Saturday November 28th, 2009 and from 10:00AM until 12:30PM Sunday November 29th, 2009 at Shackelford Funeral Directors of Savannah. Visitation continued at the Savannah Church of Christ, beginning at 1:00PM until the hour of service. Funeral Service was held at 2:00 PM Sunday November 29th, 2009 at the Savannah Church of Christ, with Interment to follow in Memory Gardens, Savannah, TN.
PRESIDENT SPANN APPOINTED
B. Steve Spann, President of John A. Gupton College has been appointed to serve a three year term on the Committee on Accreditation with the American Board of Funeral Service Education. The Committee meets twice each year to review accreditation status of ABFSE colleges. We wish to congratulate President Spann on his appointment.

FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR CHANGE
Al Oliver, Financial Aid Director, will be passing the torch of his position, December 31, 2009. He will be staying on part time with the college. Ms. Josephine (Jo) Inthirath, will be the new Financial Aid Director, effective January 1, 2010. We would like to welcome Ms. Inthirath to her new position. We would like to express our appreciation to Al for his years of Dedication to our College, and his commitment to continue on our staff.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES HELD
John A. Gupton College’s 63th Commencement exercises were held on Friday, December 4th, 2009 at the Immanuel Baptist Church, in Belle Meade. This year there were 44 students awarded an Associate of Arts Degree in Mortuary Science. The Guest Speaker for this year’s graduating class was Mr. Bill McDonald, owner of McDonald Funeral Homes, Centerville, TN. The Dodge Company award is given to a student who had no embalming skills when they entered college and has excelled over time. This year's award was given to Mr. D.J. Plunk, Dresden, TN. The Valediction Award is given to the graduate with the highest grade point average within their coursework. This year’s Valedictorian was, William Jenkins, Madison, TN. Dr. Yates presented the class to President Spann. In attendance, was a great support of alumni, family and friends, showing encouragement for the graduates.

2009 GRADUATES
(*These Students will complete the course of study as prescribed in the college catalog and are scheduled to graduate in the Spring semester 2010.)
Robert Cain Allen - Morristown, Tennessee
Brad A. Birge - Scottsville, Kentucky
* J. Craig Bledsoe - Fayetteville, Tennessee
William H. Bull - Tazewell, Tennessee
Rachel Camille Burns - College Grove, Tennessee
Heather Nicole Cansler - Hopkinsville, Kentucky
Sabrina A. Clark - Winchester, Tennessee
* Charquita N. Coats - Nashville, Tennessee
Desirea’ Lauren Coleman - Nashville, Tennessee
Tony B. Conant - Kingsport, Tennessee
Jennifer Ann Davis - Columbia, Tennessee
* Robert G. Degnan - Nashville, Tennessee
Jennifer Bowen Ellis - Waverly, Tennessee
Lauren P. Gardner - Santa Fe, Tennessee
Michael A. Green - Benton, Kentucky
* Anthony Greene Cannon - Pulaski, Tennessee
Kaitlyn Leanne Gribble - Manchester, Tennessee
* Andrea M. Hobbs - Maryville, Tennessee
William A. Jenkins - Madison, Tennessee
Trena Payne Jones - Nashville, Tennessee
Priscilla H. Jordan - Epworth, Georgia
* Nathan Andrew Light - Bluff City, Tennessee
Bryan Paul McAdams - Maryville, Tennessee
* Kenneth Ryan McDonald - Centerville, Tennessee
* Misty Rose Minks - Ellington, Missouri
Steven e. Mischke - Jackson, Tennessee
* Rebecca Claire Mitchell - Nashville, Tennessee
* Devon Solita Mooneyham - McMinnville, Tennessee
Micah Rex Morris - Provo, Utah
* Brian K. Myers - McMinnville, Tennessee
* Rachel Grey Parker - Lebanon, Tennessee
David James Plunk - Dresden, Tennessee
* Jamela L. Ramsey - Knoxville, Tennessee
Amanda LeeAnn Reeves - Harriman, Tennessee
Carter Tanner Schumacher - Maysville, Tennessee
Rebecca Kathleen Smith - Hermitage, Tennessee
* Cynda Mychelle Spann - Dickson, Tennessee
* Amber Leigh Thacker - Johnson City, Tennessee
Chase Michael Thomas - Jackson, Tennessee
* Erica Marie Toombs - Muskegon, Michigan
* Lewis Bradley Tuttle - Lafayette, Tennessee
* Brian W. Welker - Charlotte, Tennessee
* Bradley W. Wilkey - Dayton, Tennessee
* Chelsey M. Wilson - Harrodsburg, Kentucky
TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. If we think on these things, there will be born in us a Savior and over us will shine a star sending its gleam of hope to the world.

~ Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933), American president. Presidential message (December 25, 1927)

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.

~ Oren Arnold

HANUKKAH
May the lights of Hanukkah usher in a better world for all human kind.

~Author Unknown

Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

~Chinese Proverb

NEW YEAR’S DAY
Be at war with your vices; at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.

~Benjamin Franklin

People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas.

~Anonymous

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY
Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope... and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

~Robert F. Kennedy

The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker.

~Helen Keller

VALENTINE’S DAY
Without love, the rich and poor live in the same house.

~Anonymous

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

~Mother Theresa

My most brilliant achievement was my ability to be able to persuade my wife to marry me.

~Winston Churchill

ST. PATRICK’S DAY
For each petal on the shamrock this brings a wish your way - Good health, good luck, and happiness for today and every day.

~Author Unknown

A best friend is like a four leaf clover: hard to find and lucky to have.

~Author Unknown
The alumni association is trying to locate members of the Class of 1960, which we have no current addresses. We would like them to attend this coming year’s reunion. If anyone knows how to contact them please contact the college.  NCA: Indicates no current address. DEC: Deceased

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<td>Hodges * Bobby Gene</td>
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Mark Your Calendars!
The annual Alumni Reunion is only a few months away, August 6th & 7th 2010
Endowment Fund Donors

On behalf of the entire alumni association we wish to express our gratitude to those who support our institution through the endowment fund. This year’s Donor’s are listed below:

Steve Spann, Woody Davenport, Don Gibson, Steve Murphy, Jeff Murphy, Carney Bell, Gene Pike, The Independent Funeral Group, Jackie Carver Sr. Jackie Carver Jr. Ellis Galyon, Morris Moore, Carl Barker, Alan Beard, Carney Bell, Al Colley, Robert Corely, Jeff Duffer, Greg Greene, Tracy Hamm, Adrian Holman, Thomas Hudgens, Edwin Ayers Jr., Donald Ayers, Dale Layne, Jimmy Martin, Tom Creech, James Ragan, Barry Self, David Shannon, Dorothy Spikes, Willis Swain, Robert Thurman, Mike Turner, Phillip Upchurch, Jerry VeHaun, Andi Wenzler

Special Thanks to our 2009 Alumni Association Supplier Supporters:

Aurora Casket Company
Dodge Chemical Company
Independent Funeral Group
Wilbert Vault of TN

Batesville Casket Company
Frigid Fluid Company
Southland National Insurance Co.

Congratulations!

Great Grandfather Dan Ewton, Father Daniel Ewton, and the Ewton Family, Ewton Funeral Home, Dunlap, TN would like to announce the arrival of Daniel Howard Ewton, IV. Daniel was born Monday, September 28th, weighing 7 pounds 1 ounce and is 20 inches long. He is the son of Daniel Ewton,’05. The family is looking forward to a wonderful Holiday and wishing you the same.

Congratulations can be sent to:
The Ewton Family
Ewton Funeral Home
6936 Highway 28
P.O. Box 98
Dunlap, TN 37327

WANT TO GO GREEN?
~Notice to All Alumni ~

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email as opposed to tradional U.S. Mail, you can opt out by sending me your email address and we can adjust this in our mailing process.

Thanks!

Opie, Newsletter Editor • jamesrpadgett@gmail.com
Winter 2009

Did you know?

- John A. Gupton Alumni Association is a non-profit organization.
- Donations are tax-deductible, financial benefit to those who can be given in your will.
- Each donor will be recognized in the newsletter at the end of each year.

www.guptonalumni.org