President’s Letter

My fellow Gupton alumni,

I can’t think of ever wanting Spring to get here quicker than I have this year. I hope that everyone is staying warm and enjoying the cold while looking forward to warmer temperatures.

This past December, I had the opportunity to represent the alumni during the Graduation Banquet, which is held the night before graduation. It was very promising to see these young individuals that are the future of funeral service. The graduation was held on Friday, December 6, 2013 with the guest commencement speaker being Randy Earl. Mr. Earl is a Past-President of the NFDA and we were proud to have him in attendance as well as hear him share his knowledge of funeral service.

Over the past few weeks, you should have received your pledge cards for the endowment fund. If you have not sent in your pledge, please let me encourage you to complete the card and donate to the John A. Gupton Endowment Fund.

I want to encourage each of you to stop by the school and take a tour of the new facility. In addition to the renovations, the student lounge has recently been remodeled to accommodate the number of students that are enrolled at Gupton College.

In the coming weeks, the alumni officers will be meeting to discuss plans for the Alumni Reunion which are set for August 1 & 2, 2014. For latest news and information regarding the reunion, please visit the Alumni Association’s website for details. (www.guptonalumni.com)

Best Regards,

Tim Bond
Class of 1989
Alumni News

Plans are being made for the annual Alumni Reunion for August 1 & 2, 2014. Please mark your calendars to attend the annual event.

We are asking all alumni to visit our website (www.guptonalumni.com). Please use the site to update your mailing addresses and provide the college with your email addresses. The current project is to get all alumni information entered into the electronic database at Gupton College.

Donations to Gupton Library

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

Recent Memorials Include

In Memory of Mr. Charles Leo Donnelly
Donors:
Mr. Robert M. Martin
Martin Funeral Home, Inc.

In Memory of Mr. Carney R. Bell
Donors:
David and Jill Horner and Hooper-Huddleston & Horner LLC
Mr. Morris V. Moore
The Carver Family and Sanderson Funeral Homes, Inc.
Mr. James M. Ragan and Lunsford Funeral Home
Ms. Cindy Milam

In Memory of Mr. Richard Oliver Gilliam, Jr.
Donor:
Perry Funeral Home, Inc.

In Memory of Mr. Fentress Casey
Donors:
Mr. Morris V. Moore
The Carver Family and Sanderson Funeral Home
Mr. James M. Ragan and Lunsford Funeral Home

In Memory of Mr. Grady L. Murphy
Donors:
Mr. Tim Raley
The Staff and Employees of Music City Mortuary
The Staff and Employees of Medina Funeral Home
Mr. Clayton White
Mr. Timothy B. Bond
Mr. Seth L. Presley
Mr. Andy Bond and Bond Memorial Chapel
Mr. James M. Ragan and Lunsford Funeral Home

In Memory of Ms. Irene Marie Yarbrough
Donor:
Mr. Clayton White

In Memory of Mr. Bobby G. Yarbrough
Donors:
Mr. Clayton White
Ms. Donna Collard
The John A Gupton College Alumni Association
Mr. James M. Ragan and Lunsford Funeral Home

In Memory of Mr. Wayne Solomon
Donors:
The Carver Family and Sanderson Funeral Homes, Inc.

In Memory of Mr. J. W. Slattion
Donors:
The Carver Family and Sanderson Funeral Homes, Inc.

In Memory of Ms. Virginia Mayes
Donors:
The Carver Family and Sanderson Funeral Homes, Inc.

In Memory of Mr. Don W. Tetrack
Donors: The Carver Family and Sanderson Funeral Homes, Inc.

In Memory of Mr. Bradley Sorensen
Donors:
Mr. James M. Ragan and Lunsford Funeral Home

In Memory of Mr. Robert Clyde Allen
Donors:
Mr. James M. Ragan and Lunsford Funeral Home

In Memory of Dr. Oliver Yates
Donors: Mr. James M. Ragan and Lunsford Funeral Home

In Memory of Ms. Conner Neal
Donors:
Mr. James M. Ragan and Lunsford Funeral Home

In Memory of Kelly Woodward Minyard
Donors:
Wayne & Barbara Day

In Memory of Mr. Billy Joe Jordan
Donors:
Mr. James M. Ragan and Lunsford Funeral Home

In Honor of Mr. Jim Brewer
Donors:
Mr. Edgar W. Stuart
Martin Funeral Home, Inc.

In Memory of Mr. Jim Rush
Donors:
David and Jill Horner and Hooper-Huddleston & Horner LLC

In Memory of Mr. Micah Morris
Donors:
Ms. Suzanne P Short and the Systems Engineering Organization of Raytheon
Ms. Donna Collard

In Memory of Mr. Bob Arnold
Donors:
David and Jill Horner and Hooper-Huddleston & Horner LLC

In Memory of Tom Donnelly
Donor:
Martin Funeral Home, Inc.
New Staff Member

Gupton College has recently added a new staff member. Joanna Hayes Dickens is the new Financial Aid Director. Joanna began with Gupton in October 2013. Joanna has worked in financial aid for over eight years. Joanna resides in Nashville, TN with her husband Mark. They have three children and four grandchildren. They have two birds, four dogs, four horses, and about seventeen cats that are ready for adoption. All of their animals have been rescue animals.

Welcome to Gupton College, Joanna!!

Congratulations to the Top 10% of the Fall 2013 semester

George Benuska Nashville, Tennessee
Ariel Boyle Destin, Florida
Lisa Clark Clarksville, Tennessee
Bobby Cook Portland, Tennessee
Melinda Crawford Nashville, Tennessee
Dana Gerecke Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Caleb Leach Speedwell, Tennessee
Jodi Liermann Fort Campbell, Kentucky
Ryan Price Cleveland, Tennessee
Brandy Warner Sneedville, Tennessee

NBE Pass Rates for 2013

2013 – Arts 88% Sciences 97%

Graduation Awards

Congrats to Caleb Leach of Speedwell, TN for receiving the Valedictorian Award. Caleb achieved a perfect 4.0 grade point average during his time at Gupton. Caleb successfully passed his National Board Exams and returned home to work for Holley Gamble Funeral Homes in Clinton and Lake City, TN.

Also, each year a Dodge Award is presented to a graduate that has excelled in the preparation room. This year’s recipient was Matthew Tuck from Lafayette, TN. Since graduation, Matt successfully passed his National Board Exams and is working at Alexander Funeral Home in Lafayette, TN.

2013 Graduation List

The following is a list of those that participated in the John A. Gupton Graduation Ceremonies on Friday, December 6, 2013. Those with an asterisk (*) will complete the program in the current Spring semester.

Christopher J. Adams Hopkinsville, Kentucky
Karen L. Angelico Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Katherine Elizabeth Arnold Nashville, Tennessee
Jim Benuska Nashville, Tennessee
Jamie Jean Bergeson Fairview, Tennessee
Heather Birdwell Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee
Zachary Austin Bunch Union City, Tennessee
Melissa Marie Bush Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Jim Benuska Nashville, Tennessee
Karen L. Angelico Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Katherine Elizabeth Arnold Nashville, Tennessee
Jim Benuska Fairview, Tennessee
Jamie Jean Bergeson
Heather Birdwell
Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee
Zachary Austin Bunch
Union City, Tennessee
Melissa Marie Bush
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Jim Benuska
Fairview, Tennessee
Karen L. Angelico
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Heather Birdwell
Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee
* Melissa Marie Bush Murfreesboro, Tennessee
* Jim Benuska Nashville, Tennessee
* Karen L. Angelico Murfreesboro, Tennessee
* Katherine Elizabeth Arnold Nashville, Tennessee
* Jim Benuska Fairview, Tennessee
* Jamie Jean Bergeson
* Heather Birdwell
* Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee
* Zachary Austin Bunch
* Union City, Tennessee

Funeral Directors Certificate

* Octavia LaShaun Brooks Nashville, Tennessee
* Teresa Lynn Eads Ashland City, Tennessee
Brad E. Fielden New Market, Tennessee
* Elissanne C. Hammonds Nashville, Tennessee
* Velina Lucette Kemp Pleasant Shade, Tennessee
* Chris W. Lea Brownsville, Tennessee
Benjamin David Lewis Lexington, Tennessee
* Larry R. Parrott Bolivar, Tennessee
Bethany niche Miller Rogersville, Tennessee
* Ann E. Sharfiner Madison, Tennessee
Gary Toothman Springfield, Tennessee
* Octavia LaShaun Brooks Nashville, Tennessee
* Teresa Lynn Eads Ashland City, Tennessee
Brad E. Fielden New Market, Tennessee
* Elissanne C. Hammonds Nashville, Tennessee
* Velina Lucette Kemp Pleasant Shade, Tennessee
* Chris W. Lea Brownsville, Tennessee
Benjamin David Lewis Lexington, Tennessee
* Larry R. Parrott Bolivar, Tennessee
Bethany niche Miller Rogersville, Tennessee
* Ann E. Sharfiner Madison, Tennessee
Gary Toothman Springfield, Tennessee
Obituaries

James “Jim Ed” E. Lawrence

James “Jim Ed” E. Lawrence, of Harrison, Tennessee, died on Monday, November 4, 2013.

Jim was born in Rockwood, Tn. on Sept. 23, 1934, to the late Will Edd and Ruth Ellison Lawrence. He was a 1953 graduate of Rockwood High School and graduated from John A. Gupton College of Mortuary Science in Nashville in 1956. Jim served as a licensed funeral director and embalmer since 1956. He had been a resident of the Chattanooga area for the past 40 years. Jim was a longtime employee with Chattanooga Funeral Home where he retired in 2011. He was a member of Hickory Valley Christian Church.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Jerita S. Lawrence; son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Lisa Lawrence, Jr.; grandchildren, Matthew and Emily and great granddaughter, Faith; brothers, Joseph H. (Rose) Lawrence and Thomas E. Lawrence; and several nieces and nephews.

Graveside services for Jim were held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at Monte Vista Burial Park, 1900 Oakland Ave, Johnson City, Tn. 37601 with Minister Lamar Garrison officiating.

The family has asked that memorial contributions be made in Jim’s name to Hickory Valley Christian Church at 6605 Shallowford Road, Chattanooga, Tn. 37421.

Arrangements are by the North Chapel of Chattanooga Funeral Home, Crematory and Florist, 5401 Highway 153, Hixson.

Tarleton, Rhea Thomas

Tarleton, Rhea Thomas, age 87, died on June 11, 2013. She was survived by devoted husband, Gadson Jack Tarleton Jr., M.D.; son, Gadson Jack Tarleton III, M.D. of Texas; daughter, Rhea Therese Tarleton; 6 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; brothers, Maceo A. (Marjorie) Thomas of New York City and Paul Vincent (Sandra) Thomas of Florida; sisters, Muriel Hanson of Maryland, Ruth McCalla of New York and Elizabeth Pickett of Maryland; nieces, nephews; other relatives and friends. She received National Board Certification from the Funeral Services Board, June 18, 1971 and graduated from John A. Gupton College, June 20, 1971. She passed the State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers on December 6, 1972. Celebration of Life Mass was held June 18, 2013, at St. Vincent de Paul Church. The interment was held in Greenwood Main Cemetery. Those desiring, memorials may be made to the local chapter of the NAACP. J. W. Adkins Funeral Home, 615-292-8367.

Lounge Updated

The student lounge was recently remodeled at John A. Gupton College. The expansion of the lounge took a little over a month to complete. Included in the expansion was also new furniture that includes four high tables, two sofas, and one lounge chair. The students seem very excited for this new area!

Jamie Bergeson receives Mary Margaret Story Scholarship

The late Mary Margaret Story-Yarbrough was a 2001 graduate of John A. Gupton College from Sikeston, MO. She is remembered by both faculty and students as being a fun loving and beautiful person both inside and out. President Spann states that “she had one of those smiles that would radiate the room and make you wonder what she was up to!” Her love for the funeral profession and for John A. Gupton College was evident to all who knew her. Mary Margaret’s family created this scholarship fund and an annual golf tournament in her memory.

On October 1, 2013, Jamie Bergeson, a John A. Gupton student, received the first Mary Margaret Story scholarship award. Since receiving this scholarship, Jamie has completed the program and is now an official John A. Gupton alumni member. We congratulate her award, her accomplishment in graduation, and welcome her to the alumni family. In addition to that, Jamie has successfully located an apprenticeship position in an area funeral home and we look forward to her success.
The alumni association is trying to locate members of the Class of 1963 and 1989, 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.