

Alumni Association
John A. Gupton College
1616 Church Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Fall 2009



**Please Send all
donations to:**

John A. Gupton College
Endowment Fund Drive
1616 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37203
Tel. # (615) 327-3927

Did you know?

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

www.guptionalumni.org

ALUMNI NEWS

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THE LIGATURE

THE TIE  THAT BINDS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
JOHN A. GUPTON COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FALL

VOLUME 3

2009

Inside this Issue...

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*Past Presidents of
John A. Gupton
Alumni Association*



Alumni President
MR. JEFF MURPHY

First let me express to you what an honor it is to serve the John A. Gupton College Alumni Association as President for the coming year. There are some big shoes to fill, if I will represent the Alumni as well as so many of the others who have held this position, but I will do my best.

I want to thank Greg Arnold for a fine job this past year.

Our Reunion, this past year was very well attended, with one of the largest participants from the class we were honoring, the Class of 1959. I could not help but notice that so many of the folks, who were members of that class, included so many of today's leaders in our profession. I had the chance to visit with many of them, some I was meeting for the very first time, others I have admired and looked up to throughout my career in funeral service. In talking with many of them, I heard not only interesting stories, from their days at the College, but I also heard interesting and well thought out plans to deal with many of the changes we all face as funeral professionals. What a great time. If you missed this year's Reunion, I encourage you to consider making plans to attend next year.

I encourage all of you to consider giving to the Endowment Fund, appropriately named in honor of Dr. Harris O. Yates. All of us would agree that giving something back is important. I know of no greater way of supporting the College than through giving to the Endowment, or Honorariums to the library, or in any other way you may choose.

Finally, I welcome any suggestions that you may have regarding ways that our Alumni Association may work to serve both the College or you, the Alumni better.

Jeff Murphy
Class of 1986

CHECK IT OUT!!!
WWW.GUPTONALUMNI.COM

New Property Addition

The college recently purchased an adjacent property from Stansell Electric Company. This addition comes as a great advantage for the college to advance in growth. The new building will continue



Pictured:
NEW PROPERTY PURCHASED.

with its current lease holder till 2010 with option to renew. The new addition brings the property to 2.11 acres that the college owns.

College News: John A. Gupton College Top 10% Summer 2009

Jennifer Davis Columbia, TN
Andrea Hobbs Antioch, TN
Trena Jones Nashville, TN
Richard Kittell Franklin, KY
Jeffrey Liggett Murfreesboro, TN



Kenneth McDonald Brentwood, TN
Steven Mischke Trenton, TN
Clifford Oliver Fountain Run, KY
Charity Purcell Lebanon, TN
Rebecca Smith Hermitage, TN

Graduation Exercises Set

The location and date of the 2009 graduation has been finalized. The 2009 graduation exercises for John A. Gupton College will begin at 2:00 on Friday,

December 4, 2009 at Immanuel Baptist Church, 222 Belle Meade Blvd., Nashville, TN. All Alumni are welcome to attend.



Alumni Reunion 2009

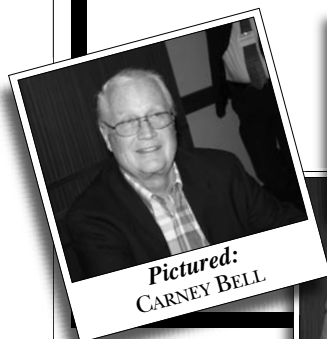
WILBERT RECEPTION AND ALUMNI ROAST

Nashville Wilbert, namely Tommy Hurt and Danny Hurt, once again provided a fantastic evening for the alumni on Friday night. The Wilbert Reception has become an Alumni Annual Meeting and Reunion Tradition. Good food, drink and fellowship, this

reception gave those present an opportunity to meet new friends and renew old friendships. For several Years Batesville and Aurora Casket Companies have Sponsored Breakfast. We appreciate all the support these companies offer us.



Pictured:
SARAH WALKER
& VIKKI THURMAN



Pictured:
CARNEY BELL



Pictured:
DONNA COLLARD



Pictured:
JAMES REGAN



Pictured:
JOHN YOPP



Pictured:
JUDY GUPTON



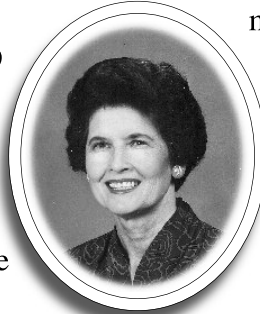
Pictured:
MORRIS MOORE, DONNA COLLARD
& OPIE PADGETT



Pictured:
MADISON SPANN
& KEITH STAPLETON

*In Memory
of Alumni Friends
and Family*

M**R. MARTH A REID CASEY**, age 83, died Sunday, August 16, 2009 after an extended illness. Mrs. Casey was the wife of **FENTRESS CASEY**, former owners of Casey Funeral Home in Henderson, TN. Mr. Casey is also a Honorary Past President of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Past President of the John A. Gupton Alumni Association and Honorary



MRS. MARTHA REID CASEY

member of the Alumni Association. Visitation was held Tuesday, August 18, 2009 from 3:00 PM until 8:00 PM and until time of funeral service Wednesday, August 19, 2009, at Shackelford Funeral Home, Casey Chapel. Funeral Services were held at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at Shackelford Funeral Directors, Casey Chapel in Henderson, TN.

M**R. JERRY O. LOWERY, SR. '72** age 60, died Monday, August 17, 2009. Jerry was Vice President and Manager of Woodfin Funeral Chapel, Inc., 1488 Lascassas Pike, P.O. Box 636, Murfreesboro, TN 37133 VISITATION: Visitation was held from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Thursday, August 20, 2009 at



MR. JERRY O. LOWERY

Woodfin Funeral Chapel, Inc., Murfreesboro, TN. Funeral Services were held, 11:00 AM Friday, August 21, 2009 at Woodfin Funeral Chapel, Inc., Murfreesboro, TN.

WANTED:

COLLEGE PICTURE'S FOR A 1986 COMPOSITE PHOTO

THE CLASS OF 1986 DOES NOT HAVE A COMPOSITE PHOTO IN THE HALL. THE REASON WAS THE PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO, BURNED PRIOR TO IT BEING DONE. ALL OF THE STUDENTS DID HAVE THEIR PICTURES TAKEN SO IF WE COULD ASK THE FOLKS THAT GRADUATED IN 1986 TO SEND THEIR GUPTON PHOTO TO JEFF MURPHY, '86, OR THE COLLEGE, WE WILL SEE ABOUT GETTING A CLASS PICTURE UP.

Faculty Profile

TRACY HAMM, '98

has joined the staff at John A. Gupton College as the Director of Mortuary Science and Alumni Relations. Tracy graduated from Perry Co. High School in 1993. She attended Columbia State Community College from 1993-1995 where she played for the college's ladies softball team. After graduating from Gupton College in 1998, Tracy was employed by Alexander Funeral Home in Gallatin, TN in 2000 (owned by the Loewen Group). In 2001, the Alderwoods Group (formerly the Loewen Group) transferred her to Spring Hill Funeral Home & Cemetery in Nashville where she worked in various roles such as funeral director, embalmer,

funeral home administrator and cemetery administrator. She advanced in various roles with the company such as Market Administrator, Regional Administrator, and eventually took on the role of Market General Manager. In 2006, the Alderwoods Group and SCI merged and she accepted the position of General Manager for the Middle TN area. Tracy graduated from Trevecca University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 2003. She will be attending Liscomb University in the spring of 2010 to earn her Master's Degree in Business Administration.



Pictured:
TRACY HAMM

Food for Thought

Remembering the Season and Holidays

AUTUMN

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." ~ *Albert Camus*

"Autumn is a season followed immediately by looking forward to Spring." ~ *Anonymous*

LABOR DAY

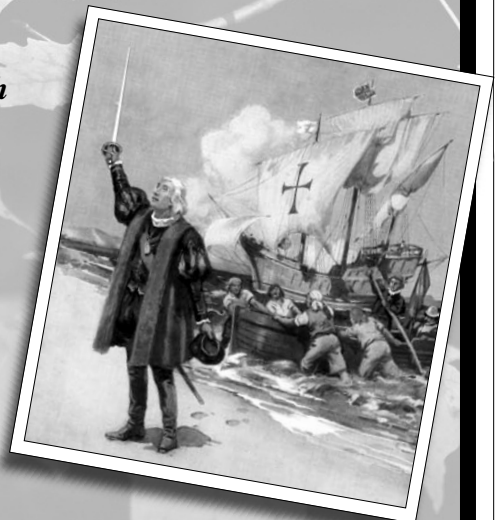
"Without labor nothing prospers." ~ *Sophocles*

"It is labor indeed that puts the difference on everything." ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

COLUMBUS DAY

"Every ship that comes to America got its chart from Columbus." ~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

"Every one of us has in him a continent of undiscovered character. Blessed is he who acts the Columbus to his own soul." ~ *Author Unknown*



NATIONAL BOSS DAY

“By working faithfully eight hours a day you may eventually get to be boss and work twelve hours a day.” ~ *Robert Frost*

“One measure of leadership is the caliber of people who choose to follow you.” ~ *Dennis A. Peer*

HALLOWEEN

“The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown.” ~ *H. P. Lovecraft*

ON HALLOWE'EN THE THING

“you must do, Is pretend that nothing can frighten you. An' if somethin' scares you and you want to run, Jus' let on like it's Hallowe'en fun. ~ *From an Early Nineteenth Century Halloween Postcard*

VETERAN'S DAY

“Freedom is never free.” ~ *Author Unknown*

“I dream of giving birth to a child who will ask, "Mother, what was war?"
~ *Eve Merriam*

“But the freedom that they fought for, and the country grand they wrought for, Is their monument to-day, and for aye.” ~ *Thomas Dunn English*

THANKSGIVING

“The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving.” ~ *H.U. Westermayer*

“Grace isn't a little prayer you chant before receiving a meal.

It's a way to live.” ~ *Attributed to
Jacqueline Winspear*

“Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action.”
~ *W. J. Cameron*

“O Lord that lends me life, Lend me
a heart replete with thankfulness.”
~ *William Shakespeare*



History Corner:

Just Reminiscing: Thomas Puryear Mims

COMPILED BY: James R. "Opie" Padgett, CFSP, College Historian

MIMS, THOMAS PURYEAR

Sculptor, Professor and Artist, was born in 1906 in Durham, North Carolina, to the Late Dr. Edwin & Clara Puryear Mims. In 1906, his family moved to Nashville, Tennessee. He originally studied English, obtaining both his B.A. in 1924 and M.A. in 1928, from Vanderbilt University. However, before pursuing his MA, he studied sculpture in 1927 with Saul Baizerman in New York City and at the Academie Julian in Paris. He would return to his love of sculpture by returning to New York in the 1930s and studying for four years at the Art Students



Pictured:
THOMAS PURYEAR MIMS

League with early American Abstractionists Robert Laurent and William Zorach. He also assisted Gutzon Borglum's Mount Rushmore project for a time in South Dakota. He moved back to Nashville in 1937 and, two years later, received a Rosenwald Fund grant for the creation of representational sculptures documenting the South. Serving in the military during World War II and, upon his return, in 1945, joined the Vanderbilt faculty. In 1948, he became a member of the Fine Arts faculty. He married Miss Helen Moore, and had two children, Catherine and Ella Puryear Mims. In 1946, he began teaching English and Modeling (Restorative Arts) for

John A. Gupton College. Mr. Mims continued his career, being on faculty at Vanderbilt and Gupton until his death. In 1950, with a Belmont Professor, they

founded the Nashville Artist Guild. Mr. Mims served on the faculty of John A. Gupton College from 1946-1975, teaching students the art of reconstruction. He passed away on Sunday, December 21, 1975 at his home in Brentwood, TN. Memorial Services were held 11 A.M. Tuesday, December 23, 1975. His major works include a series of four bronze groups for the Cordell

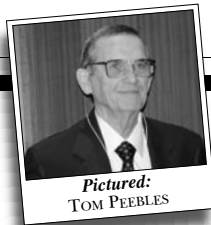
Hull building in Nashville, Tennessee, the bronze Bison at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, 28 Stone shields and 4 Bas Relief portraits for the Memorial Building of The Disciples of Christ Historical Society, in Nashville, Tennessee and the bronzes of eighteenth-century Nashville founders James Robertson and John Donelson, located just north of Nashville's Fort Nashborough in River Front Park.

*****"Puryear Mims, Widely Known Sculptor, Dies," Tennessean, 22 December 1975; Pliancy Holder, Thomas Puryear Mims (Nashville: Tennessee Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center, Inc., 1977), 1-7.***

Reunion

BATESVILLE & AURORA CASKET COMPANIES SPONSORED BREAKFAST

Once again, as an alumni tradition Batesville & Aurora Casket Companies co-sponsored our alumni breakfast.



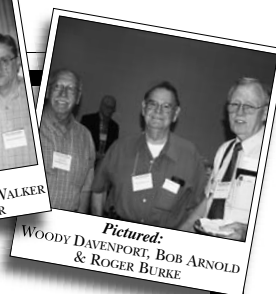
Pictured:
TOM PEEBLES



Pictured:
STEVE SPANN &
WALTER FORD



Pictured:
TRAVIS LINDSEY, SANDRA WALKER
& STAN HATMARGER



Pictured:
WOODY DAVENPORT, BOB ARNOLD
& ROGER BURKE

This was a great way to start our day; we appreciate Batesville and Aurora for their support and generosity.

Fifty Year Pins Presented

This Year we had twelve members from the Class of 1959 show up to receive their fifty year pins.



Pictured Left to Right: DON GIBSON, BRADLEY SORENSEN, BOB ARNOLD, ROBERT HARPER, GENE BURRIS, JAMES REGAN, ROBERT DANIEL, GENE PIKE, CARNEY BELL, GEORGE INGRAM.
Kneeling: WOODY DAVENPORT, ELLIS GALYON.

ALUMNI BUSINESS AND BANQUET

This year, Don Gibson, '59, a member of the Independent Funeral Group made a pledge to the endowment fund for \$10,000, and Jeff Murphy, '86 and Steve Murphy, '89 of Music City Mortuary made a pledge of \$5,000 to the endowment fund. We greatly appreciate the efforts of these gentleman for there generous donations. The annual business meeting was

held at the college, with a strong representation of alumni present. On Saturday evening, the alumni enjoyed a good meal and great musical performance by [name of group still in question]. We encourage each of you to attend the Alumni Reunion every year in August and help support the college, reunite with old friends and make new ones.

New Officers Installed



Pictured Left to Right: New Officers 2009
MORRIS MOORE, TRAVIS LINDSEY, ANDY FOX,
STEVE SPANN & GREG ARNOLD.

Not Pictured: JEFF MURPHY & KEITH STAPLETON

<i>President.....</i>	Jeff Murphy '86.....	Nashville, Tennessee
<i>First Vice President.....</i>	Andy Fox '98	Salem, Kentucky
<i>Second Vice President.....</i>	Travis Lindsay, '01	Nashville, Tennessee
<i>Treasurer.....</i>	Keith Stapleton '78.....	Nashville, Tennessee
<i>Secretary.....</i>	Morris Moore '67	Sandy Springs, Georgia