

# THE LIGATURE

THE TIE  THAT BINDS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
JOHN A. GUPTON COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SUMMER

VOLUME 2

2009

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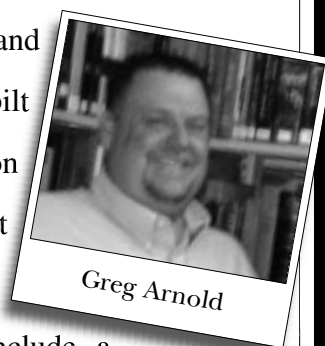
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I hope each of you are making plans to attend our annual Alumni Meeting and Reunion to be held this year on Friday, July 31st and Saturday, August 1st, 2009 in Nashville at the Vanderbilt Marriott on West End Avenue. This year's reunion promises our usual slate of events, with the Wilbert Reception on Friday evening. In addition, we hope you will stay with us for Saturday's events, which include a breakfast that morning, followed by our meeting at the college. I encourage everyone to attend and visit the campus as well as become informed on the state of the alumni association and the college. Saturday night, we will gather for our annual banquet and installation of new officers. As has become our "tradition", entertainment will be provided. This banquet has become one of the highlights of the weekend and hopefully, this year will be no exception.



In conclusion, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as an officer in the association. I have been pleased to see our school not only continue in the traditions I have been familiar with but, also is growing and improving under its outstanding leadership by the board of directors, faculty and staff. I look forward to many more years of association with each of you and the college. We look forward to seeing each one's smiling face soon. Be sure and make your plans to attend. See you in Music City!

*Greg Arnold '02*

*Alumni President 2008-2009*

**CHECK IT OUT!!!**  
**WWW.GUPTONALUMNI.COM**

# Annual Meeting & Reunion 2009

## July 31st & August 1st, 2009

**I**t is time to start planning your return to Nashville, Tennessee for the Gupton College Alumni Annual Meeting and Reunion to be held July 31st & August 1st at the Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt. Registration will be held from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm on Friday July 31st. The Wilbert Reception, Alumni Meeting & Reunion and Tradition, will be from 5:30 pm until 8:00 pm Friday evening. Saturday morning from 7:30 am until 10:00 am, enjoy breakfast sponsored by Aurora Casket Company and Batesville Casket Company. The business meeting will be held at 10:30 am at the college. Saturday afternoon will give you time to share moments and stories with other Gupton Alumni and friends. Saturday evenings' reception will begin at 6:30 pm with the banquet starting at 7:30 pm, there will be a delicious meal and lots of entertainment. A few awards, a new set of officers and who knows what else thrown in along the way. Make your room reservations directly with the Nashville Marriott at

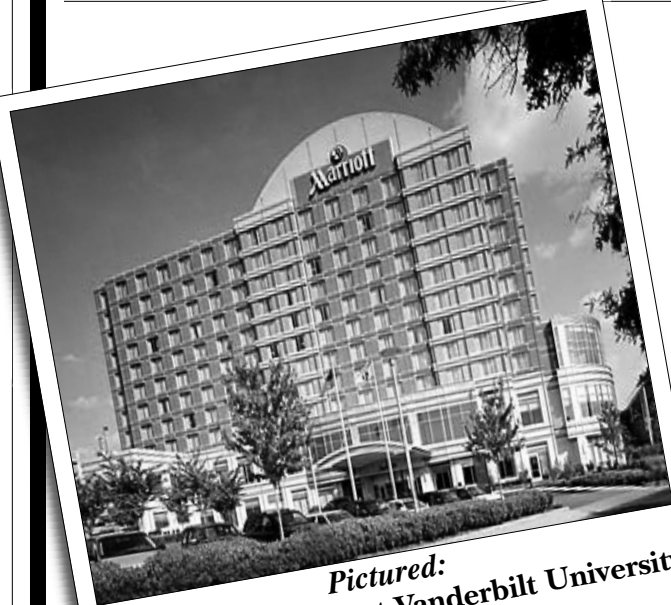
Vanderbilt by calling: 1-800-285-0190 or (615) 321-1300. A special rate of \$139.00 per night is extended to you when you mention the Gupton Alumni Association, prevailing rates at the hotel range from \$229.00, and reservations need to be made by July 13, 2009. Have your credit card ready to guarantee not only a room but a fun weekend in Nashville with the Gupton Alumni. All Alumni dues, banquet tickets and Gifts to the Endowment and Roast will be part of Registration.

### HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

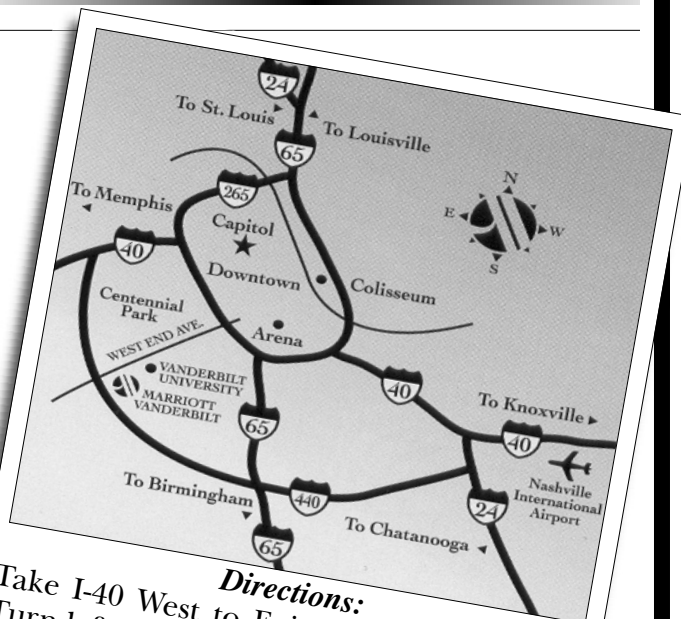
*Alumni President Greg Arnold,*  
(931) 260-3897

*Morris Moore,*  
(404) 255-8511

*John A. Gupton College,*  
(615) 327-3927



**Pictured:**  
**Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt University**  
2555 West End Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203



**Directions:**  
Take I-40 West to Exit 209A to Broadway.  
Turn left on Broadway, and straight to West End Avenue.

**PLEASE CALL FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION & TO MAKE RESERVATIONS.**

**1-800-285-0190**

# Past-Presidents of John A. Gupton Alumni Association:

Sterling McCarty .....	1972	John H. Wice .....	1986
William Appleton .....	1973	Gene Burris .....	1987
T. Edgar Couch* .....	1974	W. Adrian Holman .....	1988
Hugh D. Moore .....	1975	William Perry .....	1989
Eugene M. Pike, Jr. ....	1976	Thomas A. Cargile .....	1990
Gary Walker .....	1977	Hank Spikes* .....	1991
Ronald T. Giddens .....	1978	Bruce Thomas .....	1992
Orvel Musgrove* .....	1979	Tommy North .....	1993
Albert J. Atchley .....	1980	Morris Moore .....	1994
Sharon Turnbull .....	1981	Keith Stapleton .....	1995
R. Fentress Casey .....	1982	Thomas L. Howell .....	1996
Robert Thurman .....	1983	William Puckett .....	1997
Bobby C. Compton/Tommy Howell ..	1984	Robert P. Helms .....	1998
Tommy Howell .....	1985	Wayne Day .....	1999
		William T. Nash* .....	2000



John A. Gupton College

Billy Yarbrough .....2001-2002  
Two Consecutive Terms

L. Winston Brown .....2003  
Jeffrey Shackelford .....2004  
Bob L. Arnold .....2005  
Steve Murphy .....2006  
Stan Hatmaker .....2007  
David Bentley .....2008  
Greg Arnold .....2009

## College News: John A. Gupton College Top 10% Spring Semester 2009

**Brad Birge** Scottsville, KY  
**Sabrina Clark** Winchester, TN  
**Jennifer Davis** Columbia, TN  
**Jennifer Ellis** Waverly, TN  
**Andrea Hobbs** Maryville, TN



**William Jenkins** Madison, TN  
**Trena Jones** Nashville, TN  
**Steven Mischke** Trenton, TN  
**Brian Myers** McMinnville, TN  
**Rebecca Smith** Hermitage, TN

### WILBERT VAULT

#### HOSTS GUPTON STUDENTS

As always, Danny and Tommy Hurt and staff spared nothing while providing over 60 John A. Gupton students a fabulous lunch buffet at the Marriott Hotel at Vanderbilt on Thursday, May 12, 2009. An excellent presentation followed which served to provide inside

product knowledge and technical information. An extensive tour of the Nashville Wilbert Vault plant followed. John A. Gupton College would like to offer out deepest gratitude to Danny & Tommy Hurt and all the Wilbert Vault team for taking the initiative to invest in the future students and the marketing program.

### BATESVILLE CASKET COMPANY

#### HOSTS GUPTON STUDENTS

The Marketing class of each summer semester gets a special treat in visiting the Batesville Casket Company Manchester, Tennessee assembly plant. Students were shuttled to Manchester courtesy of Batesville on Thursday, June 25, 2009 and treated to lunch at the plant. Students were then given a presentation of the operations of the Manchester plant,

which consist mostly of 18 and 20 gauge steel caskets for all of Batesville Service Centers. Students were then given a tour of the plant: from stamping, molding, painting, hardware, interiors, and final inspection. John A. Gupton College would like to express our gratitude to Batesville Casket Company and their staff for the opportunity to allow students firsthand knowledge of the merchandise they manufacture.

### AURORA CASKET COMPANY

#### HOST GUPTON STUDENTS

John A. Gupton College Marketing and Merchandising class took a trip to Aurora Casket Company, Aurora, IN on Thursday June 18th, 2009. Aurora Casket Company provided students with transportation on a tour bus and was treated to a buffet style lunch. After lunch, the

students took a tour of the manufacturing plant in Aurora, IN gathering a different viewpoint of casket merchandising and marketing concepts from another leader in casket manufacturing. John A. Gupton College offers sincere appreciation to Aurora Casket Company and their staff for making students welcome in Indiana.

# Faculty Profile

## DONNA S. COLLARD

Having worked at Gupton for eight years, she started as the Administrative Assistant. Her title then changed to Business Manager, since she was doing the accounting. In the summer of 2002, she began teaching the Comprehensive Review class, the Marketing class, and picked up much of the Gupton Mortuary Service side of the college.

In 2007, she started teaching Embalming 1 and

managed Gupton Mortuary Service. Last year she moved into the position of Director of Funeral Service Education. Her primary function is to ensure that the students have the academic resources to complete the program and are able to pass the National Board Exam. Since coming to Gupton she has completed her BA Degree in Management and Human Relations and completed the MS in Management and the MBA.



*Pictured:*  
Donna S. Collard

## Food for Thought

Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year - it brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul.

~ *Author Unknown*

"Many public-school children seem to know only two dates: 1492 and 4th of July; and as a rule they don't know what happened on either occasion."

~ *Mark Twain*

"Grass is the cheapest plant to install and the most expensive to maintain."

~ *Pat Howell*

"Our fear of death is like our fear that summer will be short, but when we have had our swing of pleasure, our fill of fruit, and our swelter of heat, we say we have had our day."

~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*



My wife's a water sign. I'm an earth sign. Together we make mud.

~ *Rodney Dangerfield*

"A summer's sun is worth the having."

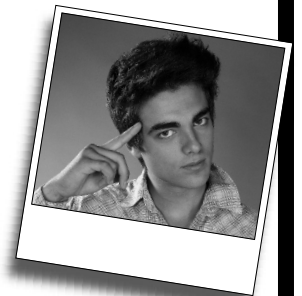
~ *French Proverb*

The summer night is like a perfection of thought."

~ *Wallace Stevens*

"A life without love is like a year without summer."

~ *Swedish Proverb*



# In Memory of Alumni Friends and Family

## **J**OHN C. (JACK) ATKINS, 49'

age 80, died March 9, 2009. He was a native of Russellville, Al. He graduated from Russellville High School in 1946 and John A. Gupton School of Mortuary Science June 27, 1949. He worked for many years at Highsmith Funeral Home as a embalmer and a funeral director. He was the owner of Atkins Marble and Granite Works and Franklin

Memory Gardens both in Russellville, AL. Entombment was at Franklin Memory Gardens Mausoleum on March 11, 2009. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Martha (Dot) Atkins; daughter, Carolyn Atkins Porter; son, John Grant Atkins and four grandchildren. Both of his businesses will continue to be family owned and managed by his children.

## **E**UGENE B. QUIGLEY SR., 48'

age 82, of Nashville, TN, passed away on June 8th, 2009. He was a native of Florence and was formerly a resident of Huntsville, where he was a funeral director at Berry Hill Funeral Home and Spry Funeral Home. Visitation with the family was on Wednesday June 10th

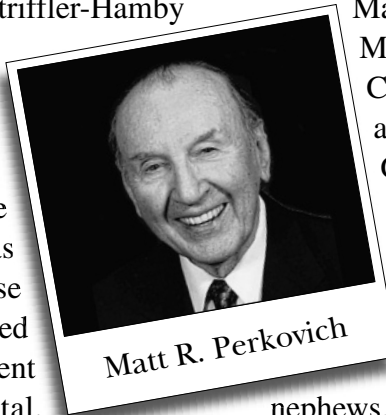


Eugene B. Quigley Sr.

from 6 to 8 p.m. at Greenview Funeral Home, 3657 Old Chisholm Road, Florence. Services were conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home with burial in Greenview Memorial Park.

## **M**ATT R. PERKOVICH, 56'

age 79, February 3, 1929 - March 15, 2008 of Columbus, GA died Saturday March 15, 2008 at his residence. Funeral services were held 11:00 am Wednesday, March 19, 2008 in the Striffler-Hamby Mortuary, Macon Road Chapel with burial to follow in South View Cemetery, Thomaston, GA at 2:00 pm. The family received friends from 6:00 to 8:00 pm Tuesday at the funeral home. Mr. Perkovich was preceded in death by his wife, Eloise Thompson Perkovich. He was a retired Manager of the Pathology Department with the Medical Center Hospital, Columbus, GA a U.S. Army Korean War veteran & member of Evangel Temple Assembly of God.



Matt R. Perkovich

Survivors include his loving and devoted wife, Dolly O. Perkovich of Columbus, his sons and daughters-in-law, Matt Roden (Lynette) Perkovich, Joseph L. (Marsha) Perkovich of Macon, GA, James R. Perkovich of Macon, GA, Thomas D. and Irma Courtney of Columbus, his daughters and sons-in-law, J. Denise & Ray Gunn, Donna L. (Rusty) Heath, his sisters, Ann Harris & Rose Catron, 17 grandchildren and four great grandchildren; a very special nephew, Gerald (Judy) Perkovich and several other nieces and nephews. Matt was loved by his family and admired by all who knew him and those whom he came in contact and associated.

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

Summer 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](http://www.guptionalumni.org)

**ALUMNI NEWS**

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