

# THE LIGATURE

THE TIE  THAT BINDS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
JOHN A. GUPTON COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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**Alumni President**  
MR. JEFF MURPHY

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 years 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**

# 2009 Library Memorial Donations

**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 Mr. Milton C. Austin**

Donor: Mr. Stephen Chenault

**In Memory of Ms. 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., Carthage, 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 & Meryl Spann

David & Mary Ann Bentley

**In Memory of Mrs. Martha Reid Casey**

Donors: John A Gupton College Board of Directors

Steve & Meryl 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**

Donor: 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., Carthage, 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



# In Memory Of Alumni Friends and Family

**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.



BLANCHE AYERS

**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.



BRANDON PADGETT

**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.



ROBERT SHACKELFORD

# COLLEGE NEWS

## 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.



STEVE SPANN

## 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  
\* Devoni 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

# Food for Thought

**TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE:** Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, 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

# Class of 1960

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

|             |                 |                                    |              |    |            |    |     |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------------|----|------------|----|-----|
| Akins       | Pat             | Box 338                            | Blairsville  | GA | 30512      | 60 | NCA |
| Bass        | James Robert    | P.O. Box 63                        | Gordonsville | TN | 38563      | 60 |     |
| Billingsley | Ralph Dillon    | 59 N. Jefferson Ave.               | Cookeville   | TN | 38501      | 60 |     |
| Callahan    | Edgar Gene      | 3822 Reese Road                    | Columbus     | GA | 31907      | 60 |     |
| Chandler    | Madison Edward  | P.O. Box 1111                      | Rainesville  | AL | 35986      | 60 | DEC |
| Coursey *   | Betty Sue       | P.O. Box 483                       | Smyrna       | GA | 30080      | 60 | NCA |
| Croy        | Claude Irvin    | 315 Byron Plantation Rd.           | Albany       | GA | 31707      | 60 | NCA |
| Cummins     | Bobby Joe       | 310 Railroad Ave.                  | Princeton    | 56 | 42445      | 60 | NCA |
| Gallimore   | John C.         |                                    | Gleason      | TN |            | 60 | NCA |
| Hayes III   | Charles Phillip | Box 387                            | Elba         | AL | 36323      | 60 |     |
| Hizer       | James T.        | 410 North West                     | Somerville   | TN |            | 60 | NCA |
| Hobson      | Douglas         | 201 Logan                          | Monett       | -  | 65708      | 60 |     |
| Hodges *    | Bobby Gene      | 108 W. Watauga Ave.                | Johnson City | TN | 37601      | 60 | NCA |
| Holt        | James Dalton    | 10565 Main Street                  | Fairfax      | VA | 22030      | 60 |     |
| Jackson     | Horace James    | Box 396                            | Jefferson    | GA | 30549      | 60 | NCA |
| Lakin       | Donovan C.      | 501 Elm                            | Pierce City  | -  | 65723      | 60 |     |
| Lindsey     | John Martin     |                                    |              |    |            | 60 | NCA |
| Lolley      | Raymond O.      |                                    | Clanton      | AL |            | 60 | NCA |
| Mackery     | Frank Nick      | P.O. Box 37064                     | Jacksonville | :/ | 32205      | 60 | NCA |
| McCord      | Donald R.       | Chattanooga Funeral Home, PO Box ( | Hixson       | TN | 37343-0009 | 60 |     |
| Melton      | Luther A.       |                                    | Eatonton     | GA |            | 60 | NCA |
| Mims*       | James R.        | 3025 Saint Helena Dr.              | Tucker       | GA | 30084      | 60 | NCA |
| Norris      | David Murphy    | 45355 Easley Lane                  | Bay Minette  | AL | 36507      | 60 | DEC |
| Sanders     | Elmer Ross      |                                    | Knoxville    | TN |            | 60 | NCA |
| Sheppard    | Lawrence A.     | 123 E Ware ST                      | Waycross     | GA | 31501-7636 | 60 |     |
| Stewart     | Charles C.      |                                    | Lawrinburg   | NC |            | 60 | NCA |
| Tillery     | Larry R.        | 2119 N Farm Rd 197                 | Springfield  | -  | 65802-9285 | 60 |     |
| Vines       | Ralph           | P. O. Box 86                       | Clanton      | AL | 35046      | 60 | DEC |
| Webb        | William Cook    | Box 128                            | Guthrie      | 56 | 42234      | 60 |     |

## 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**

**Batesville Casket Company**

**Dodge Chemical Company**

**Frigid Fluid Company**

**Independent Funeral Group**

**Southland National Insurance Co.**

**Wilbert Vault of TN**

## 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 traditional 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

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



**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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