

THE LIGATURE

THE TIE THAT BINDS

WINTER 2015

Official Publication of the
John A. Gupton College Alumni Association

Letter from the President

Dear Gupton Alumni,

What an honor it is to serve as the Alumni President 2014-2015 year. It was truly an honor to attend the 2014 Graduation. I had the opportunity to meet many of the newest alumni at the Graduation Banquet.

With the holiday season behind us, we can turn our attention to the New Year. On behalf of the Association, I would like to extend a 'Thank you' to Aurora, Batesville, Matthews Casket Companies, and Nashville Wilbert Vault for their support to the College and Alumni Association. You should have received the Endowment Letter in the mail recently and I encourage each person to play an active role within the association. The accrediting agency for the college looks at the participation level of our alumni as a whole. We strive to achieve 100% participation within our association, regardless of the amount. Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your President and this great institution.

Best Regards,

Greg Greene

Greg Greene
Class of 2008



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cook@guptoncollege.edu

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JOHN A. GUPTON
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Tag photos, leave
comments find old friends

Or check out our website:

www.guptionalumni.com

NFDA Convention



The NFDA International convention and expo took place in Nashville's new **Music City Center** from October 12th– 15th. Below are some photos from the event.



Robert Helms ('82) and Brandon Yarbrough ('03)



Mack Woods ('78) and Jeff Murphy ('86)



Bob Arrington ('79) and his wife Judy

Alumni Reception



From left: Fralisia Jefferson ('12), JAG President, Steve Spann and Owner of New Generation Funeral Home, Tonya Haynes ('03)

During the NFDA Convention, an Alumni reception was held at the college. The reception was designed to welcome our Alumni back to Nashville, allow them to tour the recently remodeled college, and facilitate comradery among those JAG Alumni in attendance. Shown below are pictures taken during the reception.



Whitfield Miles ('52) and guest Lyvonne Estes



Co-owner of Music City Mortuary, Jeff Murphy



Class Notes

Stephen Maples Chenault - Class of 1968 -



Semi-retired from funeral service in March, 2014 after 50 years of service to others. Steve lives in Florence, Alabama where he worked at and was Manager of the Elkins Funeral Homes in Florence and Center Star, Alabama.

Steve is active in community affairs, was appointed twice to the Alabama Board of Funeral Service (1989 & 1991), and served in each office of the Alabama Funeral Directors Association (as its' 100th Secretary-Treasurer and as President 1998-1989).

During the year he spent in Nashville, he worked at Roesch-Patton Funeral Home on Broadway and developed a friendship with Milton Austin and his family which he proudly maintained until their deaths.

Bobby W. Cook - Class of 2013 -

Bobby accepted a position as Manager of Anderson & Garrett Funeral home located in Joelton, TN effective February 1st. He is also proud to announce that he is becoming a grandfather in June 2015.

Joel W. Daugherty - Class of 1996 -

Made his first tandem skydive at the young age of 63 on August 28, 2014 at Skydive Tennessee in Tullahoma.

Do you have an announcement you would like included in the class notes section? This could include awards, achievements, births, weddings, travel, or any significant event that you would like to share. Please forward your contributions to Bobby Cook at cook@guptoncollege.edu by April 10, 2015 for inclusion in the next issue.

School News

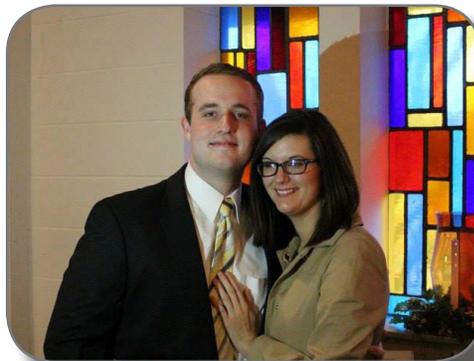
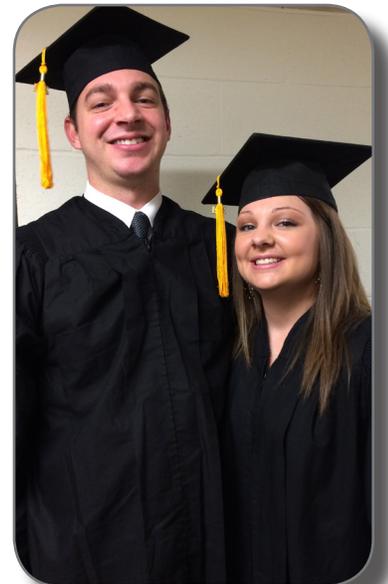
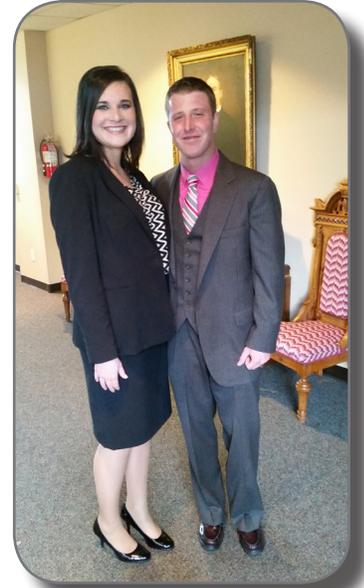
Congratulations to the top 10%, Fall semester:

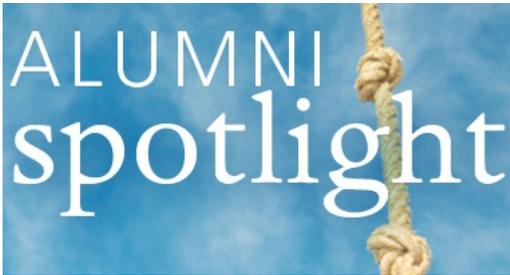
Jacqueline Anderson
Cody Bell
Lisa Clark
Emma Davis
Richard Gallois
Eric Hughes
Jack Jones
Tyler Matney
Markea McKendree
Matt Mott
Kellie Rice
Melena Smith
Latricia Springer
Christy Stice

Manchester, Tennessee
Westmoreland, Tennessee
Clarksville, Tennessee
Englewood, Tennessee
Antioch, Tennessee
Centerville, Tennessee
Brentwood, Tennessee
Williamson, West Virginia
Benton, Kentucky
Cane Ridge, Tennessee
Nashville, Tennessee
Rogersville, Tennessee
Smyrna, Tennessee
Brownsville, Kentucky

Graduation 2014

The John A. Gupton graduation ceremony took place on Friday December 5, 2015 at Blakemore United Methodist Church. Congratulations to all of the 2014 graduates.





*In this edition, we spotlight **Bob Arrington**. Bob graduated in 1979 and is the founder of **Arrington Funeral Directors and Crematory** in Jackson, TN.*

Bob Arrington, CCO, founder and president of Arrington Funeral Directors in Jackson, TN, is the 2014-15 president-elect of the National Funeral Directors Association. Bob became interested in funeral service when his grandfather died in 1963. His neighbor owned a funeral home, and he spent time there helping out after school and on weekends.

After completing mortuary science school, he received his funeral directors license in 1978, and his embalmers license in 1979. In 1995, he founded Arrington Funeral Directors.



Bob has served his profession by taking on leadership roles with the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association (TFDA) and NFDA. He has served on numerous TFDA committees and the association's Board of Directors; his service on the TFDA Board of Directors included terms as secretary/treasurer, vice president and president.

On a national level, Bob served as Tennessee's representative to the NFDA Policy Board. For the past two years, he has served as an at-large representative, secretary and treasurer on the NFDA Executive Board. He has served as a member of NFDA's Governance, Audit, Budget, Spokesperson and Pursuit of Excellence committees.

He is a member of The Heritage Club, a supporter of the NFDA Political Action Committee and served as Tennessee's fundraising chair for the Funeral Service Foundation.

John A. Gupton College Endowment Fund



John A. Gupton College is currently working on an accreditation report for the SACS accreditation in 2016. The ABFSE visited the college in November with great praise to the school, staff, and alumni. Both accrediting agencies require your institution to remain fiscally sound; thus the Endowment campaign was initiated by the Alumni Association. The fund will not only provide stability for the institution, but the interest will fund scholarships for future students. Accrediting agencies always look at the percentage of participation from alumni more than the amount of the gift. Therefore, the Alumni see 100% participation by both the Alumni and the Board. Please remember as you consider your contribution, that John A. Gupton is a private non-profit entity and owned and operated by its alumni. Therefore, your donations are tax deductible. Your support will be greatly appreciated and we look forward to hearing from you.

Graduation Banquet 2014





LONDON "GRUMP" BYARS YARBROUGH

Landon "Grump" Byars Yarbrough, Jr., 81, passed away on the afternoon of October 11, 2014. Mr. Landon graduated from Byars Hall in 1951, joined the United States Army and spent two years in the military and then preceded to go to the John A. Gupton College in Nashville to obtain his Funeral Directors and Embalmers licenses in 1959.

After finishing school Landon worked for Maley Funeral Home in the sixties before purchasing the funeral home in 1970.

During his lifetime he has served as the Tipton County Sheriff twice when the active sheriffs passed away. He also served as the Tipton County Coroner for an extensive period of time. Mr. Landon was the owner of Maley-Yarbrough Funeral Home and the Covington Memorial Gardens. He was a member of the Shriners and Masons. Landon was a man that cared passionately for his family, always being there to support them and love them. He also cared deeply about his community, always wanting to be there for families in need. Mr. Landon was the biggest Tennessee Volunteers fan around and even attended the National

Championship game in 1998 to see Tennessee win its last championship. He loved to travel and camp with his wife Martha. Mr. Landon was survived by his wife, Martha Vincent Yarbrough of Covington; step-sons, Charlie (Becky) Moss and Leonard (Brenda) Moss of Covington; grandchildren, Charley Morgan (Gabe) Rivers of Atlanta, GA, Houston (Ginny) Moss and Allie Carol Moss of Covington; and a brother, Marion (Gail) Yarbrough of Covington.

A memorial service was held for Mr. Yarbrough on Wednesday, October 15, at 11AM at the Maley-Yarbrough Chapel. Visitation for Mr. Yarbrough was held on Tuesday night October 14th from 4-7.

KENNETH "KENT" KRESSENBERG

Kenneth "Kent" Kressenberg, of Chattanooga, went home to be with his Lord on Thursday, September 11, 2014. Kent was 61 years old.

Kent was born in Pulaski, Tennessee on March 24, 1953 the son of the late beloved newspaper columnist and Editor Bernice Kressenberg and one of Giles County's respected physicians Dr. Kenneth M. Kressenberg.

He was a 1971 graduate of Giles County High School. Kent worked in radio, and enjoyed being a photographer for the Pulaski News. He also owned and operated his own photography business. Kent received his AS Nursing Degree in 1984 from Columbia State Community College and was a dedicated nurse in Columbia and Chattanooga. He was a strong believer in the teachings of the Bible and sharing The Word to everyone. Kent was full on kindness and compassion and never met a stranger. He was a member at Woodland Park Baptist Church where he enjoyed taking medical mission trips to the Papa New Guinea Islands and all over the world. Kent then became a fully certified deacon in the Missouri Synodical Conference. He was a past member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and currently a deacon at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church where he fills in for the pastor at times. Kent continued his education by finishing Mortuary College at John A Gupton in Nashville in 2010. He has been employed with Chattanooga Funeral Home since 2009 where he has touched so many lives. Kent was a Ham Radio Operator, loved trains, and always had his camera for just the right moment. We will all miss our friend, his uplifting jokes, and words of cheer.

Kent was survived by his wife of 25 years, Regena Guy Kressenberg; his father, Dr. Kenneth M. Kressenberg and wife, Margaret; siblings, Karen Kressenberg and spouse Judy and Keith Kressenberg and spouse Gerri Lynn; nephew Brian and niece Heather.

The family received friends from 3 to 6 pm on Sunday at the North Chapel of Chattanooga Funeral Home and again from 1 to 2 pm on Monday at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 3204 Hixson Pike, Chattanooga, TN 37415.

A celebration of Kent's life followed at 2pm on Monday at the church with his Pastor Barry Hildebrandt officiating. Kent was buried in Hamilton Memorial Gardens.



NELSON MOFFITT

Nelson Moffitt, age 83, died November 25, 2014 after an extended illness. She is the mother of Lisa Moffitt, Registrar for John A. Gupton College and also the wife of Maurice "Coach" Moffitt, who retired from John A. Gupton College after many years. Services for Mrs. Moffitt were held Saturday, November 29th at The River Nashville. Burial followed at Hermitage Memorial Gardens. Mr. & Mrs. Moffitt were married for 66 years.

Proverbs 31:10-12

- ¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.
- ¹¹ The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
- ¹² She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.



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