

# THE LIGATURE

THE TIE THAT BINDS

SPRING 2016

Official Publication of the  
John A. Gupton College Alumni Association

## Letter from the President

Dear Alumni,

After seven decades of honorable tradition and impeccable service to the funeral service industry, 2016 marks the 70th Anniversary of John A. Gupton College. This is no simple mention on the calendar in the life of our beloved John A. Gupton College, but a remarkable achievement and a time honored milestone that celebrates not only the success and exemplary professionalism of the College, but also the timeless dedication of each and every alumni. I salute John A. Gupton College, Mr. and Mrs. Gupton, the superb faculty, and the dedicated staff for remaining faithful to the professionalism, academic excellence, and honorable heritage that is demanded by our profession. I congratulate each alumni on being a part of such an outstanding academic institution and for carrying the torch of professionalism as we continue to move forward in our individual careers and collective identity as John A. Gupton College alumni.

The John A. Gupton College Alumni Association will celebrate our annual reunion in Nashville on August 5-6, 2016. I am genuinely excited to once again join each of you for our annual gathering, and I am especially excited to be celebrating the 70th anniversary of John A. Gupton College this year during our reunion. As you will discover throughout this newsletter, we have scheduled special festivities to mark the 70th anniversary and add a little Music City flavor to this year's celebration. I look forward to seeing each of you here in Nashville, and I sincerely hope you can join us for this exciting celebration.

John A. Gupton College hosted its first "Information Day" at the College recently. This is an event designed to introduce new and prospective students to the industry in general, and John A. Gupton College in particular. I was honored to be a facilitator during this first ever event, and I was amazed at the enthusiasm expressed by the new students, and the level of interest this event generated. Another Information Day is schedule in June, and I am confident it will be as well attended and as beneficial for our new and prospective students who are seeking to be a part of our honorable profession and our beloved heritage as John A. Gupton College graduates.

The newsletter is filled with interesting news and important information regarding our upcoming reunion, and many other exciting events. I am honored to serve as your President of our John A. Gupton College Alumni Association, and I look forward to seeing each of you at our August Reunion.



Jeff L. Duffer  
Class of 1986



Want an electronic  
version of The Ligature?

Send us your  
email address!

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Email us:

[allen@guptoncollege.edu](mailto:allen@guptoncollege.edu)  
[cook@guptoncollege.edu](mailto:cook@guptoncollege.edu)

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Check us out on FaceBook

JOHN A. GUPTON  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Tag photos, leave  
comments find old friends

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Or check out our website:

[www.guptionalumni.com](http://www.guptionalumni.com)

# 2016 Alumni Reunion

August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 2016

John A. Gupton is celebrating 70 years

## Friday, August 5th

(1715 Broadway, Nashville)

A reception will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn from 6pm-8pm. This event is being sponsored by Wilbert Vault Company.

The logo for Wilbert, featuring the name in a stylized, cursive script font with a registered trademark symbol.

## Saturday, August 6th

7:30 A.M. : Breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn – Sponsored by Matthews-Aurora & Batesville



10:00 A.M. : JAGC Alumni Association Business Meeting at the Harris O. Yates Lecture Hall located on the John A. Gupton College campus.

## Night Event

Dinner and Entertainment at the George Jones Museum in Nashville.

**Ticket Price: \$80 per person**

*(Ticket price includes: venue, food, and entertainment – Guests will have access to the Museum, as well as, the rooftop bar.)*

6:00 P.M.: Happy Hour begins

6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.: Dinner

7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.: Entertainment



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The Hilton Garden Inn has a block of rooms reserved for JAGC Alumni for \$179 plus tax per night. These rooms **MUST** be reserved by July 5<sup>th</sup> for the rate to apply. Contact them at (615) 369-5900 to reserve a room.

Anyone planning to attend the Saturday night event – **MUST** register in advance by calling JAGC and sending ticket money. Checks should be made payable to: **Gupton College.**



**Class of 1966 – 50 year pins**

**25 & 50 Year Pins to be awarded**

Each year at our Saturday morning **business meeting**, pins are awarded to the individuals from classes celebrating **25** and **50** years as members of the **Alumni**.

If you are in contact with any member of the class of **1991** or the class of **1966**, please encourage them to attend.



**Class of 1991 – 25 year pins**

Last	First	Street	City	ST	Zip
Bames	Calvin				
Bates	Roger	3600 West Road	Park Hills	MO	63601
Bradford	Anthony	707 Riverside Dr	Columbia	TN	38401
Buckner	Terri	PO Box 1005	Manchester	TN	37355
Burdette	Charles	11954 Coal River Rd	Whitesville	VA	25209
Carter	Steve	PO Box 190	Huntington	TN	38344
Cook	Amy				
Crow, Jr.	James	476 Sandy Road	Dover	TN	37058
Cunningham	Allen	301 Oxner Road	Simpsonville	SC	29681
Davis	Kenneth				
Donnelly	Patrick				
Gray	Henry	3644 Senior Place	West Lafayette	IN	47906
Guthrie	Dawn				
Hudson	William	611 Ridgestone Dr	Cincinnati	OH	45255
Johnson	Monte	727 Waughtown St	Winston-Salem	NC	27107
Rowland	Marty	200 Hunt Road	Henderson	TN	38340
Rust	Paul	1077-A Northside Rd	Elizabeth City	NC	27909
Sherrill	Kimberly	PO Box 589	Leighton	AL	35646
Stafford	Jack	194 Poston Ridge Ln	Gainesboro	TN	38562
Stevens	William	2765 Crown Lane	Lake Charles	LA	70605
Williams	Jeanie				

Last	First	Street	City	ST	Zip
Adams	William				
Allen	Edward				
Baker	Walter	13343 157 <sup>th</sup> St.	Jamaica	NY	11434
Barfield	Lawrence	3076 Williams Switch Rd	Henning	TN	38041
Barnes	James	PO Box 965	Stateboro	GA	30459
Benboe	Dan	416 W Wright St.	Pensacola	FL	32501
Bottoms	Jimmy				
Bowen, III	Jess	111 Beverly Hills Dr	Waverly	TN	37185
Boyd	James	2018 W 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ct.	Panama City	FL	32405
Bradley	Jerry				
Brown	L	PO Box 336	Roberta	GA	31078
Burrage	Peter				
Burrell	Winfred				
Campbell	Clarence				
Carden	Harold				
Carver	Jackey	111 Jefferson Ave W	Carthage	TN	37030
Christian	Dennis			VA	
Coffey	Wayne	PO Box 175	Tazewell	TN	37879
Colbert	Donald				
Cross	James				
Dalton, Jr.	William				
Davenport	Douglas				
Davis	James				
Davis, III	Felix	9463 GA Highway 62	Blakely	GA	39823
Deadman, Jr.	Fred				
Deaton	David	PO Box 438	Red Bay	AL	35582
Downs	Robert				
Exum	Chas				
Fain	James	5910 Houston Rd.	Macon	GA	31216
Fisher	John				
Fitzgerald	Richard				
Fouche	Keith	133 Timberlane Drive	Athens	GA	30606
Galloway	Timothy				
Gardner	Robert	118 Becky Ln	Sharon	TN	38255
Gilmore	Cynthia	1609 N. Liberty St.	Wins-Salem	NC	27105
Glenn	Joseph				
Griffin	Lary				
Harris	Geoffrey	14408 Sheba Rd	Orlando	FL	32832
Hay	Jimmy	813 Riverside Circle Box 145	Celina	TN	38551
Headrick	Richard	1131 Greenslake Road	Chattanooga	TN	37412
Helms	Gerald				
Holt	Jerry				
Home, Jr.	Harold				
Hover, Jr.	Ernest				
Jacobs	Horace				
Jenkins	Evans				
Johnson	Dearthur				
Johnson	John				
Kennedy	Dewey	PO Box 612	Metter	GA	30439
Kennon	William	217 Forest Hills Dr	Greenville	TN	37745
Lacy	George				
Lanier	Mark				
Lathan	Herman	PO Box 895	Jackson	AL	36545
Lehman	Joe				
Mayes	Ronald				
McCormick	James				
McLaughlin	Holmes	PO Box 1314	Hot Springs	VA	24445
McLaurin	Jimmy				
Mitchell	Kenneth	501 Fairvilla Rd	Orlando	FL	32808
Paschal	Frank				
Patton	Ronnie	1280 State Route 93 S	Eddyville	KY	42038
Phillips	Gilbert	262 Cricket Lane	Alpharetta	GA	30009
Redwine, Jr.	Harry				
Rockco	Billy	PO Box 44	Montevallo	AL	35115
Salyers	John				
Sauls	Kenneth	PO Box 299	Sussex	NJ	
Searcy, Jr.	J	309 Red Cliff Cir	Enterprise	AL	36330
Skinner	David				
Smith	Aaron				
Smith	Edward	PO Box 681	Leachville	AR	72438
Smith	Harold	PO Box 775	Wadesboro	NC	28170
Southerland	William	100 E 19 <sup>th</sup> St	Panama City	FL	32405
Stanley	John				
Stottlemeyer	Donald	4675 Milford Ct	Jefferson	MD	21755
Strickland, Jr.	Thomas	PO Box 295	Springfield	GA	31329
Sullins	Tony	PO Box 817	Denton	NC	27239
Thurman, Jr.	Thomas				
Waters	Jerry				
Whitlock	Jerry				
Williamson	Edwin				
Wilson	Walter	PO Box 2093	Ft. Oglethorpe	GA	30742
Wyatt	Carrell				

## School News

A luncheon for the students enrolled in the Comps class took place on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. The guest speaker was current **Alumni President, Jeff Duffer ('86)**.

The Comprehensive Review class is a massive undertaking, as well as, an irreplaceable and necessary class when preparing for the National Board exams.



## Guess Who's Turning 70!



# JOHN A. GUPTON COLLEGE

A Professional Tradition Since 1946



Front Entrance

**John A. Gupton College of Mortuary Science** held its first class on **September 27, 1946** with an enrollment of 26 students.

Many changes have taken place throughout the 70 year history of the college. Among these changes are the relocation to a 20,000 square-foot facility in the fall of 1992 and the recent remodeling that took place between 2012 and 2013.

The college averages **100 students** per semester now and is reaching out in new ways to attract students. This is a significant milestone for **JAGC** and we look forward to seeing everyone at this years reunion.



Harris Oliver Yates Lecture Hall



Front Lobby



Upstairs Hallway leading to Lecture Hall

## Visitor!



**Tracy Hamm-Allen**, Director of Mortuary Science and Alumni Relations is pictured here with 2012 JAGC graduate **Brett Jarman**. Brett visited recently from his hometown of Fort Collins, CO. It's always great to see our Alumni visit and catch up!



## Marketing class takes a trip to Wilbert Vault

Every year Tracy Hamm-Allen takes her Marketing class on a series of field trips designed to introduce them to some of the major suppliers who they will rely on as a future member of the funeral profession. These trips include a trip to the Batesville Casket Company, the Aurora Casket Company, and the Wilbert Vault Company.

The trip to Wilbert Vault took place on May 9th this year. The Marketing class enjoyed a fabulous breakfast at the Holiday Inn West End/Vanderbilt before touring the facility.

John A. Gupton College would like to thank Wilbert Vault for allowing our students to see the inner workings of their plant. A special thanks to Jackie Purcell and Danny Hurt for the kindness they show to all of our students and Alumni.



**2016 JAGC Marketing Class**

## John A. Gupton Information Day

On April 2, 2016, **John A. Gupton College** invited those interested in learning more about the programs offered at Gupton College to attend an information forum.



Todd Van Beck

During the presentation, guests had an opportunity to meet the **staff**, current **students**, and some **alumni**. They learned about the history and success of the College, in addition to current curriculum standards.

The audience had a chance to tour the college and get an idea from students and alumni regarding what it would be like to be a **funeral professional**.

The faculty and staff wanted to thank the alumni and board members that were in attendance that day to show support.



Jeff Duffer, Jim Brewer, Jeff Murphy



Randy Nash & Sherrod Kimmins



Steve Spann

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The next Information Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2016. We look forward to continued success with this program and will continue to update our Alumni.

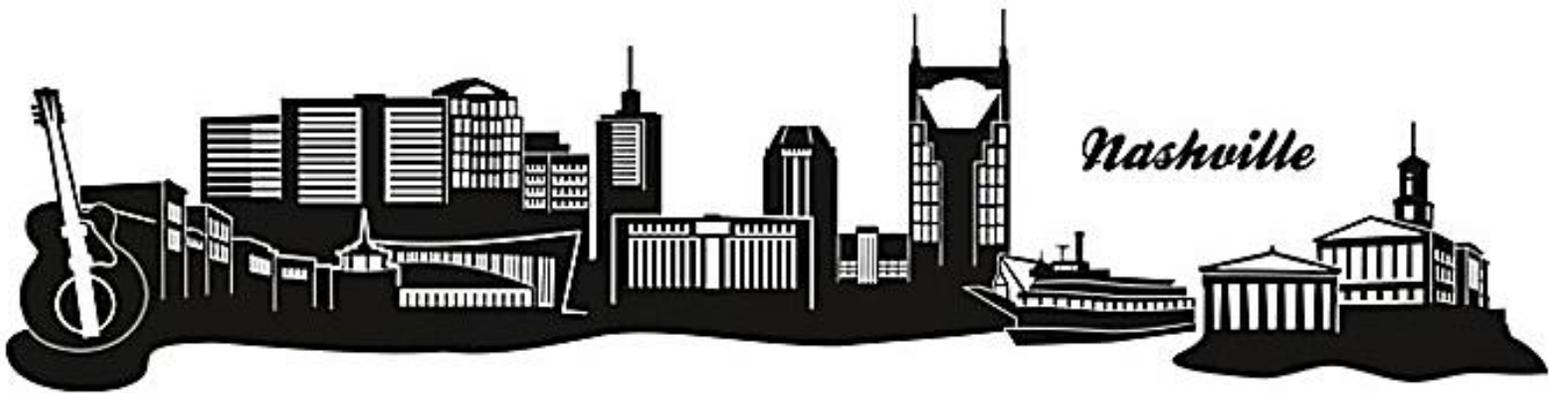
## PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

YOU AND YOUR GUESTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE  
JOHN A. GUPTON COLLEGE INFORMATION DAY

Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon

### AGENDA:

- Your career in Funeral Service
  - Academic Studies at John A. Gupton College
  - How to apply for admission
  - Financial Aid
  - State Licensing requirements
- ...and much more!



**JOHN A. GUPTON COLLEGE**  
A Professional Tradition Since 1946



## Spring 2016

Melissa Bond  
James Byrd  
Corina Carrasco-Cox  
Ashlee (AJ) Gordon  
Kristen Hawkins  
Tara Henson  
Andrew Kennedy  
Josh Kidd  
Lillian Nichols  
Marina Poisal



Nashville, TN  
White Bluff, TN  
Knoxville, TN  
Taft, TN  
Kingsport, TN  
Columbia, TN  
Lancing, TN  
Harriman, TN  
Franklin, KY  
Henning, TN

Congratulations to the Spring semester 2016 top 10%. These students have put in the necessary study time to rise to the top!

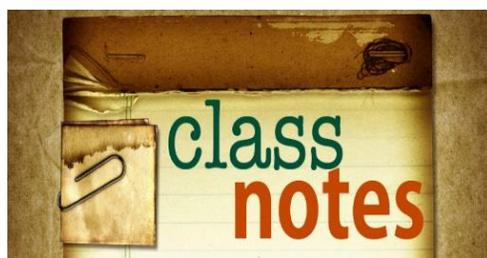
## REUNION REMINDERS

- Reserve your room at the **Hilton Garden Inn** by **July 5<sup>th</sup>** for a **Special Rate**.
- Register in advance to attend the Saturday Night event at the **George Jones Museum**.
- Don't forget about the **reception** on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- If you're in town for the reunion, stop by **JAGC** to see the newly remodeled facility.



In each Newsletter we like to "Spotlight" an Alumni member. If you are interested in writing an article, sharing your thoughts, or just in general writing a short biography about yourself and your career – Please let us hear from you.

Anyone interested in being featured in the "Alumni Spotlight" section of a future newsletter, please contact Bobby Cook at [cook@guptoncollege.edu](mailto:cook@guptoncollege.edu)



Do you have anything you would like to share with your fellow Alumni? The "Class Notes" section of the Newsletter is the perfect place to do so. All we need are the details e-mailed to us along with a photo if you have one to include. You can announce things such as:

Weddings, Vacations, New Births, Accomplishments, Promotions, New work location.

*Send all submissions to the newsletter editor Bobby Cook at [cook@guptoncollege.edu](mailto:cook@guptoncollege.edu)*

**Alumni,  
Stay in Touch!**

Moved? Changed your name? Different email address? Let us know so we can keep you informed about local events and JAG news that matters to you. We have always asked that you keep your physical address updated with the Alumni Association so that we can easily stay in touch. However, it would be a tremendous help for us to also have your current **E-Mail address** on file. Please take the time to add or update your e-mail address in our records.

# Batesville Trip



On Thursday, May 19th, the Marketing Class took a quick trip to Manchester, TN to visit the Batesville Casket Company. The students enjoyed a tour of the manufacturing plant as well as some instructional presentations from Batesville representatives. The students enjoyed a wonderful lunch provided by Batesville prior to returning to Nashville.

**Thank you Batesville!**



## Trip to Aurora Hardwoods

The 2016 Marketing class visited the Aurora Hardwoods plant in Piney Flats, TN on Thursday, May 26th. The students were treated to a nice lunch at the Foundation Center in Bristol, TN prior to the plant tour. John A. Gupton College is appreciative of this opportunity to provide students a learning environment outside of the classroom for illustration on how wood caskets are made.

**Thank you Matthews Aurora!**

# Obituaries



**David W. Bull**, 71, of Englewood, passed away on Thursday, March 10, 2016, at his residence.

He was of Knoxville, and was a resident of McMinn County for most of his life. He was a son of the late George and Daisy Davis Bull. He was a graduate of John A. Gupton Mortuary School in Nashville and had worked at several funeral homes in the area. He was former owner and operator of Dender Funeral Home in Etowah. Funeral services were 8 p.m. Sunday, March 13, in the chapel of Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with the Rev. Russ Maples officiating. Interment was 11 a.m. Monday in Cochran Cemetery with military honors. Active pallbearers were Brad Moses, Michael Cochran, Jonathan Lee, Steve Lee, David M. Bull, Ryan Lee, and Aaron Lee.

The family received friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home of Athens was in charge of arrangements.

**Tom Thurman Jr.** passed away Friday December 25, 2015.

He was a life -long resident of White County.

He graduated from White County High School and attended Tennessee Tech on a basketball scholarship. He graduated from Tech and began a short teaching and coaching career at East Sparta Elementary School. In 1965 he became involved in the family business and became a John A. Gupton Alumni in 1966, He retired in 2003. He was a life-long member of Central Church of Christ, where he had been active in church leadership. Tom was a great lover of the outdoors and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was also an avid UT football fan. He and his wife Sarah were amateur radio operators. A private service was held at the request of the family.



**Elmer Wylie Adair**, husband of Dorsey Adair, and a resident of Hohenwald, passed away Friday, May 6, 2016 at Maury Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 1:00 PM at First Baptist Church in Hohenwald with Bro. Bert Spann, David Lowry, and Chad Ashmore officiating. Burial followed in Swiss Cemetery with military honors provided by the United States Army. The family received friends for visitation on Monday, May 9, 2016.

A native of Hohenwald, Elmer was the son of the late Robert Adair and the late Mary Galloway Adair. He was a 1956 graduate of Lewis County High School, served his country in the United States Army, and was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church in Hohenwald where he served as a deacon. Elmer worked for Tennessee Center at Hohenwald as a Drafting Instructor where he eventually retired. After retirement, he enjoyed working at Walmart as a greeter.

Elmer also worked at the Lewis County Election Office and was previously an active Jaycee member and a member of the Lewis County Booster Club. He held public office as a Lewis County Commissioner and was part of the chain crew for the Lewis County Panther football team. Elmer was also voted the Best Man of Lewis County. He loved the University of Tennessee Football, but above all, he loved his family and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife of 56 years: Dorsey Hensley Adair of Hohenwald; daughter: Tanna (Jimmy) Anderson of Hohenwald; son: Josh, **2015 JAGC graduate** (Diene, **2013 JAGC graduate**) Adair of Hohenwald; sisters: Mary Howell, Betty Kelly, Margaret Jean King; grandchildren: Maci (Caleb) Toungette and Hensley Adair; and great-granddaughter: Adilyn Grace Toungette.





**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
JOHN A. GUPTON COLLEGE  
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# John A. Gupton Alumni Association

[www.guptionalumni.com](http://www.guptionalumni.com)

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