

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# PAW PRINTS

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## Alumni Spotlight: Carlton Baylis

Carlton Baylis is a Jackson native and a product of the Electrical Lineman Program at Holmes Community College. In 2016, when he started the lineman program, he had already been working for Divinity Construction crew



**Carlton Baylis ('16).**  
*Emphasizes that hard work is the key to success.*

cutting limbs from around distribution lines and storm work. In addition to already being in the workforce, he had acquired his CDL license. Baylis attributes the Holmes lineman program for his successful professional career, especially as a lineman.

On day two of the lineman classes, Baylis thought to himself he was going to quit. It was August and very hot; so hot that water coolers would be made with just ice and Gatorade mix because the ice would melt so quickly.

Mr. Lamar, one of his lineman instructors, encouraged him to stay and complete the course. By the

end of the next week things started to change for Baylis. He began to excel in the course and emerge as a class leader.

Baylis completed the program in 2016 and went to work for Highlines doing transmission work. Soon after, he took a job with Powersecure, Inc. in Texas that another lineman told him about. He has worked his way around the United States taking on new adventures at each job assignment.

"It was the best move I ever made," Baylis

said. "The reward from all the hard work is the paycheck."

Even though Baylis travels a lot for his job, working a couple of weeks on and then off, he still finds time to mentor in his community in Jackson. Baylis shows youth that getting a job is important. He shows them his paycheck and explains to them hard work is rewarding.

"Prayer and faith will take you a long way," Baylis said.

Baylis gives back to his community as he is thankful for what he has been given and hopes that he will be a good example for other youth. His desire is that they too might find a youth in need and try to help them become successful if they are willing to put in the work.

Today Baylis is working for Allan Briteway Electrical Contractors in New York.



**Dr. & Mrs. Franklin Branch, Jr.**  
*Alumni of the Year*

*"We enjoyed our time spent at Holmes Jr. as we went to school with so many outstanding students. We had excellent teachers at Holmes and made lifelong friends with wonderful memories."*

### The Holmes Community College 2019 Alumni of the Year recipients are Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Branch, Jr. Dr. Branch (Frank) is a native of Goodman and Mrs. Branch (Dixie) is a native of Pickens.

Dr. Branch is the son of Frank and Lennie Branch and attended Holmes Agricultural High School in Goodman then attended Holmes Jr. College, graduating in 1963. After Holmes, Branch attended one semester at Mississippi State to complete his pre-veterinary requirements before attending Auburn University. He received a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1967 and was the youngest to graduate Veterinary School. From 1967-1969 he attended the University of Georgia where he was named the Mark L. Morris Foundation Fellow and received an M.S. in Veterinary Pathology. Branch practiced veterinary medicine in Cleveland from 1969-1972 until he established Branch Animal Clinic in Boyle where he practiced for 40 years.

Mrs. Branch graduated from Holmes Agricultural High School in 1963 and attended Holmes Jr. College, graduating in 1965. She accompanied the Holmes choir for five years, three in high school and two in college. She even played the piano for her own graduation ceremony in 1965.

After Holmes she continued on to Delta State University where she received an artist scholarship. After earning a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Delta State she followed her passion of music at many levels from teaching elementary school to directing musical productions. She also worked as an office manager for Branch Animal Clinic for 40 years. Mrs. Branch has served as an accompanist and organist in many of the churches in the area.

After losing their son, Ben, in a tragic car accident in 2001, they established the Ben Branch Memorial Scholarship at Holmes. They have also recently established the Lennie Barnett Branch Scholarship in memory of Dr. Branch's mother.

# 2019 Alumni Association Awards



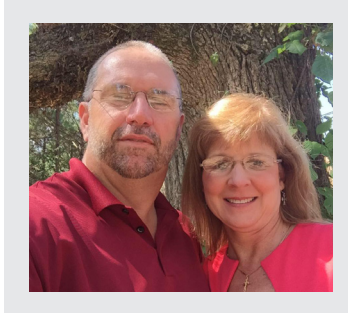
**Sherman Lane Miller**  
*Young Alumnus of the Year*

Holmes' 2019 Young Alumnus of the Year is Ethel native Sherman Lane Miller.

Miller was part of the graduating class of 1994. He excelled at Holmes, receiving the W.Y. Suddeth Social Science Award, making the President's and Dean's lists and being a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

After Holmes, Miller earned a Bachelor of Science in Poultry Science from MSU. He continued to succeed as he received the poultry science departmental scholarship, earned a spot on the President's List, received the Gamma Sigma Delta scholarship and was a member of the Gold Key Honor society.

While a student at MSU, Miller was the High Overall winner at the National Poultry Judging Competition. After college, Miller was an intern with Choctaw Maid Farms in Walnut Grove in 1995 and Cal-Maine Food in Edwards in 1996. In 2011, after several transfers (and promotions) with Cal-Maine, Miller was named Chief Operating Officer and appointed to the company's Board of Directors. In 2017, the Board promoted Miller to President of the company.



**Mr. & Mrs. Charles Allen Putnam II**  
*Distinguished Service Award*

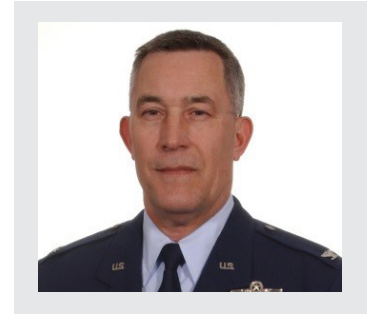
The 2019 Distinguished Service Award recipients are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allen Putnam II ('83, '85). Natives of Eupora, Chuck and Janice both graduated from Eupora High School, but attended Holmes Community College on different campuses.

Chuck played offensive lineman in Goodman and also served as a kicker for the Bulldogs. Janice attended the Grenada Campus before going to work at Sunburst Bank Operations Center.

Upon graduation, Chuck continued onto Mississippi State University where he earned a degree in business administration in 1989. The Putnams then moved to Nashville where Chuck entered the management trainee program for Champs Sports and Janice joined the electrical industry. In 1997, they relocated to Memphis, TN where Chuck took a management position in the electrical industry.

They now work together for Consolidated Electrical Distributors out of Starkville.

Avid supporters of Holmes, they established the Janice and Chuck Putnam Endowed Scholarship to support their alma mater.



**Donald Sims**  
*Veteran of the Year*

Holmes Community College is proud to honor Donald (Donny) Sims as the 2019 Veteran of the Year.

As a student at Holmes, the Kosciusko native attended on a football scholarship. Sims graduated from Holmes in 1974. After completing his studies at Holmes, he later graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He also earned a master's degree from Delta State University in Commercial Aviation Management.

Sims completed a 30 plus year career with the United States Air Force and the Mississippi Air National Guard.

While serving in the military, he flew numerous combat missions and served during the Kosovo Campaign, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sims retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Colonel and was awarded a State of Mississippi promotion to Brigadier General for his military service in the Air Force and MS Air National Guard. He is currently serving as a Department of Defense/Air Force contractor with the MS Air National Guard in Jackson.

*"Many times, sacrifices given by families of veterans are overlooked," Sims said. "I accept this award as a representative on behalf of all veterans and their families for their dedication, patriotism and the many sacrifices given by all for the freedoms God has blessed us with as citizens of the United States of America." - Donald Sims '74*

Read full alumni articles at [www.holmescc.edu/alumni/outstanding.aspx](http://www.holmescc.edu/alumni/outstanding.aspx)

# HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE


# Homecoming


## 2019

--> OTA Fun Run Route

 Road Closed  
(Foot traffic only)

 VENDOR Parking Area

 Concert Venue

 Fun and Games  
in the Grove

 Serving Lunch

 Food Truck Circle

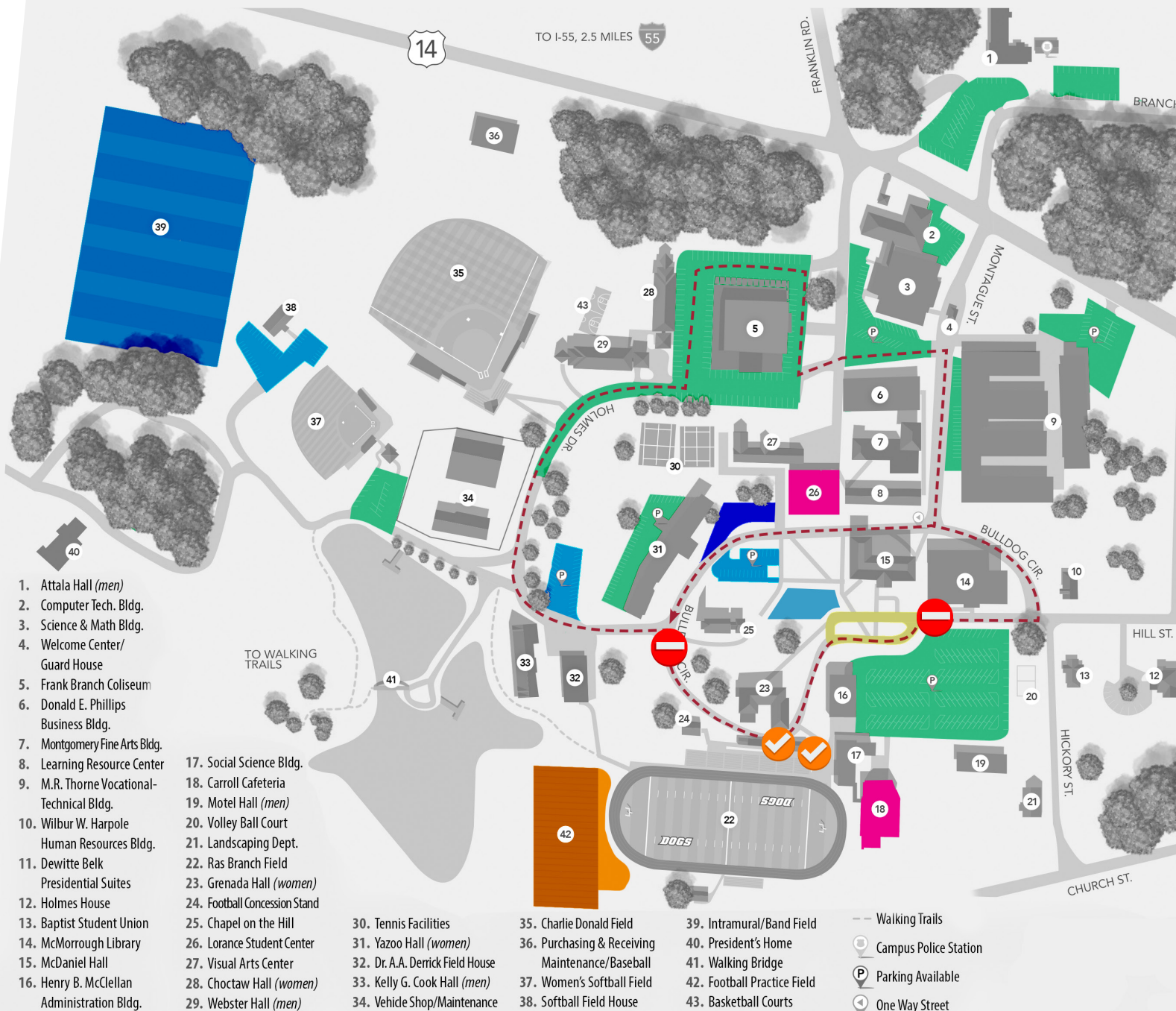
 Career & Transfer Fair/  
Major's Truck Expo

 Concession Stand  
(Open for food during  
the football game)

 Concert Entrance  
(Alumni & Students  
w/ School I.D.)

 Public Parking Areas

 Tailgating Area



# HOMECOMING 2019

## *Schedule of Events*

- 8 a.m. McMorrough Library & Makerspace open** The Makerspace is a new and emerging technology lab where you can scan and build 3D images through printing technologies, use virtual and augmented reality to journey through the bloodstream, bring your ideas to life, and more! (14)
- 9 a.m. OTA / PTA Fun Run** Get the blood flowing with a one mile run around the Goodman Campus hosted by the OTA and PTA programs. Contact: cmontague@holmescc.edu to register.
- 9 a.m. Baseball inter-squad scrimmage**  
**Softball inter-squad scrimmage** Watch the "Dirtbags" scrimmage at Charlie Donald Field and cheer the Lady Bulldogs at the softball field. (35) (37)
- 10 a.m. Basketball inter-squad scrimmage** Frank Branch Coliseum livens up as the basketball teams put on a show during their cardinal vs. white scrimmage. (5)
- 10 a.m. - noon Career & Transfer Fair** Holmes hosts its first-ever combined career and college transfer fair for all Holmes students. **BLUE**
- 10 a.m. - noon Major's Truck Expo** Come check out various trucks that Holmes Workforce Development programs use in training. (39)
- 10 a.m. Honoree Recognition** Holmes honors winners for the Distinguished Service Award, Alumni of the Year, Young Alumnus of the Year, and Veteran of the Year. (15)
- 10:30 a.m. Coachman & Connection! Performance** See the Coachmen & the Holmes Connection! - an exciting and energetic powerhouse pop ensemble that loves entertaining on stage. Performances include a variety of hits from decades worth of music - all ages will enjoy the show. (15)
- 11 a.m. Lecture series I: STEM Career Opportunities** Presented by Dr. Robert Green, Mississippi State University, Bagley College of Engineering, and Dudley Moore, The University of Alabama, Holmes Alumnus, in Fine Arts Auditorium (7)  
**Why Should I Care? Empathy Across the Community** Panel Discussion, Multipurpose Room, Vocational Building (9)
- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Fun and Games in the grove** Fun activities in the grove for all ages! (44)
- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch** Get your fill at Carroll Cafeteria, the Lorance Student Center, or try one of the food trucks parked in the circle in front of McDaniel Hall. **YELLOW PINK** (26) (18)
- Noon Concert Chorale performance** Join us at the Chapel on the Hill to enjoy music from all periods and styles. From classical to popular, there will be something for everyone. (25)
- Noon Lecture series 2: Professionalism in the Health Science** Presented by Curnis Upkins, Jr. CHHR, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, MS Hospital Association in Fine Arts Auditorium (7)  
**STD Prevention for College Students** hosted by Odessa Simon-Hawkins, Nurse Practitioner, Woman's Hospital in Multipurpose Room in Vocational Building (9)
- 1 p.m. Tailgating Experience ORANGE** Set up a tent near the practice field! Gather your class, department, or Alumni group and tailgate with us. Feel free to unload your items until 11:45 a.m.
- 1:30 p.m. Annual Alumni meeting in CCN** (14)
- 2 p.m. Pep Rally at Tailgate ORANGE** Let's get ready to cheer the Bulldogs to victory! The cheerleaders and band will perform on the practice field as we prepare for the big game.
- 2:30 p.m. Band Enters Stadium** (22)
- 2:45 p.m. Honorees recognized on football field** (22)
- 2:55 p.m. National Anthem** performance by the HCC Chorale (22)
- 3 p.m. Kick-Off!** The Bulldogs face off against the Coahoma Community College Tigers. (22)
- Half-time Homecoming Court** Presentation of Homecoming Court and the crowning of the 2019 Homecoming Queen (22)
- 4:00 p.m. Concerts**  
**4 to 6: East of West**  
**6:30: Leith Loftin**  
**Followed by Az IzZ**, nationally known as one of the most versatile, high-energy dance and show bands around. For quite some time, Az IzZ was the top choice for Carnival Cruise Lines Corporate shows and now resides in Atlanta, GA. (42)

## GET YOUR T-SHIRT!

This year's Homecoming shirt was designed by one of our very own art students, Richard Shelton, from the Ridgeland Campus. Purchase your shirt from the student activities office at any Holmes campus the week of Homecoming. Get yours before they sell out!



# HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Goodman / Ridgeland / Grenada  
P.O. BOX 527, Goodman, MS 39079

**Stay in touch!** Helping you stay connected to Holmes Community College and to each other is what the HCC Alumni Association is all about. Update your contact information by sending an email to: [kellard@holmescc.edu](mailto:kellard@holmescc.edu)

**Share your photos on social media with the hashtag:**

**#NoPlaceLikeHolmes** 🐾 📷 📘

## Letter from the Alumni President



Homecoming 2019 will be an exciting time. There are so many things to do on that day and this year, there are even more activities than ever. Some of my favorite events to attend are the musical performances, the football game and the grove to enjoy the good food. Most of all, I just like to walk around on campus and remember.

God gave us the ability to remember and I am thankful for that ability as I have so many wonderful memories at Holmes. Holmes was one of the best things that ever happened to me. I came from a small school, and Holmes was small then. I knew my whole class well. I also knew the teachers well; they were great people. We hope by involving the whole district the students at Holmes will have great memories of Holmes when they become alumni.

James E. Young

### Q: WHERE AM I?

Do you know where this picture was taken? Send your guess to [kellard@holmescc.edu](mailto:kellard@holmescc.edu). We will unveil the location in the next edition of Paw Prints.



**A:** The picture from last issue was taken of the archway on the entrance to the Goodman Campus.



**BLACK OUT!**  
Wear all black to match the bulldogs on the field!