

# PAW PRINTS

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: CHRIS COCHRAN

Chris Cochran of Kosciusko graduated from Holmes Community College in the spring of 1997. He completed his B.M. in Music Education, Instrumental and Vocal, from the University of Mississippi in 1999 and continued on to William Woods University to complete his master's in secondary administration. Today, Cochran is the Director of Bands at Willow Springs Schools in Willow Springs, Mo.

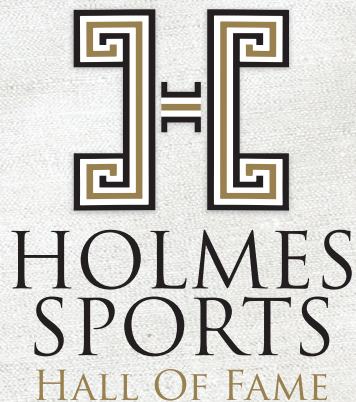
Some of his fondest memories of Holmes are running the sound for Connection! and performing with Coachmen and Concert Choir. While he was a student

at Holmes he was also involved with the Bulldog band and jazz band.

"These experiences created friendships that I have carried on until the present," Cochran said.

Cochran's hobby, training British labs, led him to his career: He is the owner and operator of Cochran British Labs. The kennel is a family affair—he, his wife Kim, and their three children, Caleb (14), Tate (12) and Karis, (10) run the kennel. Cochran is currently the featured trainer on the Outdoor Channel's "Gun Dog TV".





## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018

**1:30 P.M. – 2 P.M.**

### **PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION AT HOLMES HOUSE**

Honorees will check in and visit with head coaches, cheerleaders, and Ambassadors.

**2 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.**

### **WELCOME BY DR. JIM HAFEEY, PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE**

Comments from: Andy Wood, *Athletic Director*, Gene Richardson, *President of Alumni Association* and Katherine H. Ellard, *Coordinator of Alumni Affairs*

**2:15 P.M. – 3:15 P.M.**

### **CAMPUS TOUR WITH STOPS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

Members of the Athletic Department will accompany and serve as tour guides.

**3:30 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.**

### **TOUR TRAVELS TO MCDANIEL HALL**

Honorees will meet family members and invited guests at McDaniel Hall.

**4 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

### **CONNECTION! & COACHMEN**

Performance in McDaniel Hall Auditorium

**4:45 P.M. – 5 P.M.**

### **HONOREES, FAMILY MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS TRAVEL TO COLISEUM**

Honorees to meet and socialize with Alumni and general public

**6 P.M.**

### **BANQUET & AWARDS PROGRAM**

The Honorees will be introduced and inducted into the Holmes Community College Sports Hall of Fame.

## MORE THAN A FRESH COAT OF PAINT

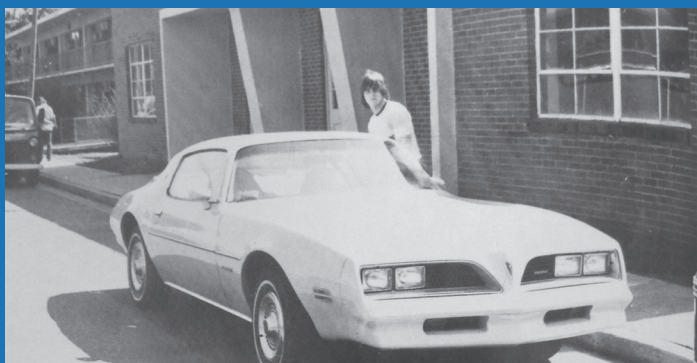
COME SEE THE NEW AND IMPROVED INTERIOR OF FRANK BRANCH COLISEUM!  
The Branch Coliseum features a brand new gym floor with updated graphics, remodeled lobby with contemporary new interior design, interactive Hall of Fame, and sleek fixtures displaying Holmes' proud athletic history.





## CLASS 1963 SPRING GATHERING

The class of 1963 is our most active alumni class at Holmes Community College. This particular class gathers each semester to reminisce about the good ole days at Holmes Junior College. This spring the event was held on March 8, hosted by Billy and Janice Strawbridge at Lake Tiak-O'Khata near Louisville. Alumni gathered around mid-morning and had a long lunch together. Twenty members of the class attended.



## UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

The classes of 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1980 will be having a reunion this summer. They will be gathering in the Frank Branch Coliseum on Saturday, July 28 from 9 a.m. to noon.

For further details, please contact Lawrence K. Thornton: 252-268-4380.

# LEONARD TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPORTS HALL OF FAME

On April 24, Wayne Leonard will be inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame at a special ceremony in Pearl.

Leonard came to Holmes in 1957. The French Camp Academy graduate was coached by Horace McCool and Billy Mustin. These two coaches watched their protégé in 1958 become a UPI All-American, the first Holmes player to ever garner such an honor. Atop this honor was his designation as a Williamson All-American, the only Mississippian in 1959 to win the designation.

"All the memories of Holmes are good," said Leonard. "They were the best two years of my life."

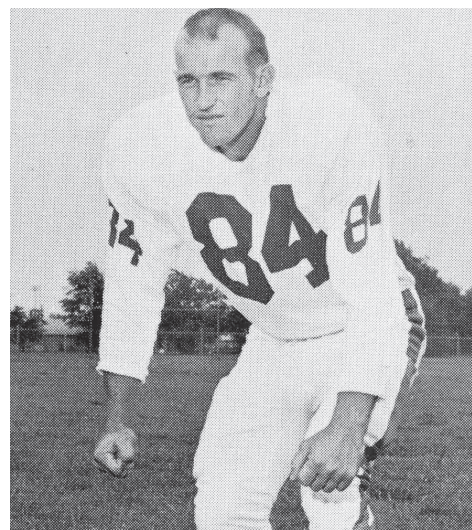
Certainly the memories he made on the playing field remain as some of his favorite memories. Leonard's time on the field while at Holmes led him to be inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame in 1999.

After Holmes, Leonard transferred to Delta State College. There his playing continued to attract acclaim. Recognition of his skills as an athlete led to his induction into Delta State's Sports Hall of Fame in 1996.

Out of Delta State he signed a professional contract with the Dallas Texan's organization that evolved into what is today the Kansas City Chiefs. A pre-season injury abruptly ended his pro career.

Leonard looks back upon his junior college career with great fondness. It, along with his Delta State athletic activities, helped provide the foundation for his post-collegiate professional career, even though it was short.

Leonard has four daughters, Jodi, Barbara, Conni and Wanda. Three of which went to Holmes. He also had three nephews, Ralph, Tommy and Travis Leonard,



who are all football alumni of Holmes.

Today Leonard resides in his hometown of French Camp. He is now retired from a successful insurance business. He remains a loyal Bulldog fan.

# 2018 HOLMES SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



**ASHLEY  
HOWARD**

Ashley Howard had no shortage of success when she played for the Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs under Coach Chanda Rigby from 2004-2005. She was named to the All-State and All-Region teams and was named Co-MVP of the All-Star Game in 2005.

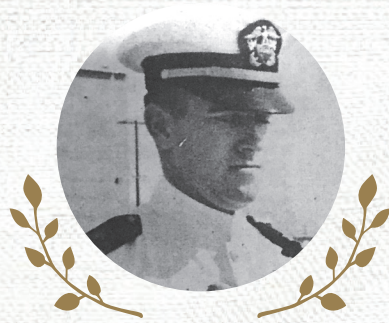
Howard's love of basketball began as a child and grew with each passing year. "I love basketball because I grew up playing in our backyard with my mother," Howard said.

Prior to attending Holmes, Howard was a basketball star at Durant High School and also at Tuskegee University in Alabama. In high school, she was All-South State, All-District and on the All-Tournament Team from 1999-2003. She was also part of the Clarion Ledger girls' basketball "Dandy Dozen," as chosen by the Clarion Ledger in consultation with coaches and basketball minds around the state.

Upon graduation from Durant H.S., Howard attended Tuskegee in 2003 and was part of the Southern Inter-collegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) All-Tournament Team. She decided to transfer to Holmes, however, because her father was in the military and she wanted to be close to her family when he was home.

Playing basketball at Holmes was a great experience for her. Working hard on and off the court allowed Howard to continue on to the University of Memphis in 2005. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from University of Memphis in 2007 followed by a Master of Science in Bioinformatics from Mississippi Valley State University in 2009.

Howard resides in her hometown of Durant with her four children: Hailey, 9; Harmoni, 7; Hareley, 2 and Coi, 6 months. She has also returned to Holmes as a student and is enrolled in the Practical Nursing (PN) program at the Holmes Attala Center in Kosciusko.



**JAMES  
WILLIAM BAILEY**

James William Bailey is a 1963 graduate of Holmes Community College. An Attala County native, his love of basketball earned him a spot with the Holmes Bulldogs under Coach Jim Murrell and Coach Jamie Howell.

Bailey averaged 11 rebounds, scored almost 14 points and had a field goal percentage of 45 percent per game. In addition to succeeding in basketball, he was also voted Most Popular.

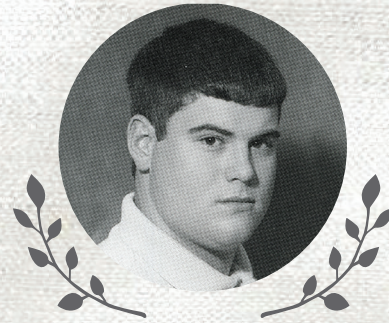
"I thought Holmes was a great fit for me as I graduated from a very small high school," Bailey said. "The friendships I made while at Holmes were the highlight of my years."

Upon graduation, he transferred to the University of Mississippi and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1975. Bailey continued his education at Georgetown University, earning a Master of Science in 1982.

Bailey has a unique story: The time between undergraduate and graduate school, he was a prisoner of war in Vietnam for five years and eight months. Serving as a Naval Officer for 11 years, Bailey was awarded two silver stars, two distinguished flying crosses and two purple hearts. He retired as a Commander.

Among his other accomplishments, he served as vice principal of a high school in Anderson, South Carolina, for 17 years. In 2015, Holmes honored Bailey with the Distinguished Service Award.

Now retired, Bailey lives in Anderson, SC with his wife, Suzanne Bailey of Washington, D.C. They have three children: James, Anne and John.



**JACOB  
PEELER**

Jacob Peeler, a graduate of Kosciusko High School, played football at Holmes under Coach Hugh Shurden for two seasons in 2002 and 2003.

Peeler played center and was on the 2002 State Championship team. He received other accolades including NJCAA All-American, NJCAA Academic All-American and Junior College Gridwire All-American.

Peeler said one of his favorite memories at Holmes was winning the State Championship as a freshman. "We defeated Pear River in the semi-finals and then Jones County in the 2002 State Championship game," he said.

Outside of football, Peeler was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was a Holmes Ambassador.

Upon graduation from Holmes, he continued to play football at Louisiana Tech. He was on the starting lineup at Louisiana Tech and earned a Bachelor of Science in Education with an emphasis in Social Studies in 2007. Peeler continued his studies at Mississippi State University, adding a Master of Science in Kinesiology to his resume.

Peeler and his wife, Tori, live in Oxford, where he is the wide receiver coach at the University of Mississippi. Prior to returning to his home state, he served as WR coach at the University of California.



**JASON  
RUSSELL**

Jason Russell took a unique path to get to Holmes Community College: He graduated from Madison Ridgeland Academy in 2001 and was redshirted at Ole Miss to play baseball. After a year and half in Oxford, he decided to transfer to Holmes so he could start playing.

Russell was a Holmes "Dirtbag" for Coach Kenny Dupont from 2003-2004. During his time at as a Bulldog, he played first base and was a DH. He has some hitting records that still stand today.

"Coach would make the team do anything it took to be able to play baseball," Russell said.

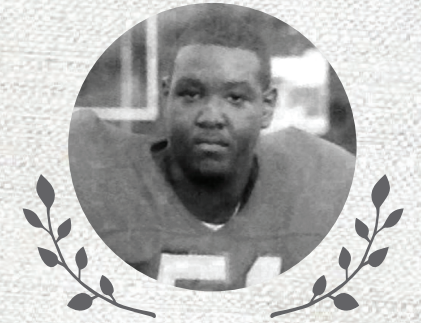
Russell recalls a rainy spring day and the field was soaked, since this was before the days of tarps.

"Coach Dupont gave everyone on the team a cup and the team scooped the water off of the field one cup full at a time until the field was dry enough to play ball," Russell said.

One of the most memorable games at Holmes for Russell was beating Meridian Community College in the State Championship tournament. After Holmes, Russell continued to play baseball at Delta State University for two more seasons while earning his bachelor's degree.

"Baseball at Holmes allowed me to establish some lifelong friendships," Russell said.

In addition to having a successful baseball career at Holmes, Russell also met his wife during his days as a Bulldog. Today he works for his family business, Russell Paving, LLC, in Madison. Russell and his wife, Amy Moore Russell, reside in Madison with their two children, Coleman, 6, and Charlie, 1.



**TERRANCE  
SYKES**

Terrance Sykes graduated from Grenada High School and headed to Goodman, excited to play football for the Holmes Community College Bulldogs. He played under Coach Hugh Shurden for the 1997 and 1998 seasons.

"Playing at Holmes was mostly a family thing as we did everything together," Sykes said.

During Sykes' time at Holmes, he played on the offensive line under Coach Andy Wood. He was part of two All-State teams.

"The work ethic I learned at Holmes helped me reach for the next level by focusing on techniques and fundamentals," Sykes said.

One of Sykes' fondest memories at Holmes was the football spring boot camp. The two-week workout session started each day with a 3 a.m. wakeup.

"The boot camp helped me prepare for each season both mentally and physically," Sykes said.

After Holmes, Sykes continued on to Louisiana Tech University where he excelled on the field and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. He received the Louisiana Tech University James Wayne Smith Award in 2000, which is awarded to the most valuable offensive lineman.

Continuing to follow his love of the game, Sykes played with the Cleveland Browns' practice squad from 2001-2002 then the Oakland Raiders' practice squad from 2002-2003.

Sykes and his wife, Felicia Washington Sykes, reside in Shreveport, Louisiana, and have four children: Xavier, Haley, Jordan and London.



## Holmes Community College

Goodman • Ridgeland • Grenada

P.O. BOX 527

Goodman, MS 39079

Helping you stay connected to Holmes Community College and to each other is what the HCC Alumni Association is all about.

You can also update your contact information by sending an email to: [kellard@holmescc.edu](mailto:kellard@holmescc.edu)

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## SAVE THESE DATES

### SPORTS HALL OF FAME APRIL 26

Frank Branch Coliseum  
Goodman, MS

### THE FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT MAY 9

Deerfield Golf Club  
Madison, MS

### SUMMER ALUMNI LUNCHES

Locations TBA

July 10	Grenada
July 11	Attala
July 17	Yazoo
July 18	Montgomery
July 24	Carroll
July 25	Holmes
July 31	Madison
August 1	Webster
August 7	Choctaw

### REUNION FOR CLASSES 1976 - 1980 JULY 28

Frank Branch Coliseum  
Goodman, MS

### HOMECOMING OCTOBER 20

Goodman, MS

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