

OCTOBER 21, 2017



OMECOMING

## GOODMAN, MISS.

#### SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- **9 a.m.** Alumni Reunion Brunch for Classes 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 in Library
- 9:30 a.m. Softball Alumni Game
  - **10 a.m.** Football Class of 1965 Reunion (Mississippi Room in Library)
- 10:30 a.m. Baseball Inter-Squad Game,

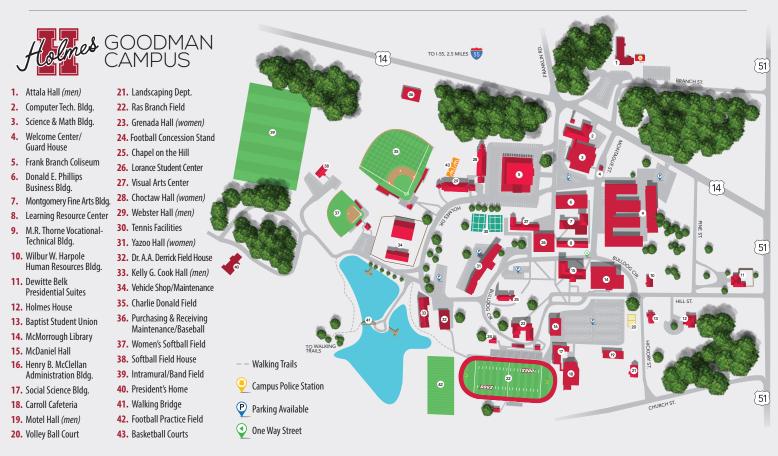
Art Department Opens (until 2:00 p.m.)

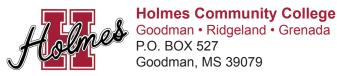
- Coliseum Opens
- Basketball Scrimmage
- 11 a.m. Honoree Recognition in McDaniel Auditorium
- **11:30 a.m.** Coachman & Connection! Performance in McDaniel Auditorium
  - Noon Lunch in the Grove (until 1:15 pm.)

**Need a cool place to sit?** Or a minute away from the crowd? The McMorrough Library will be open to all guests! Come visit and enjoy a cold glass of water and light snacks on us!

Noon	Little Bulldog Zone (for kids) opens in the Grove
	Steel Band Performance in the Grove
	Honorees Lunch with the President in the Grove
12:45 p.m.	Concert Choir Performance in Chapel on the Hill
1 p.m.	Annual Alumni Meeting in the CCN Room of Library
1:30 p.m.	Parade Begins at Cook Dorm
2 p.m.	Pep Rally Held in Main Parking Lot
2:30 p.m.	Band Enters the Football Stadium
2:45 p.m.	Honorees Recognized on the Football Field
2:55 p.m.	National Anthem Performed by the HCC Chorale
3 p.m.	Kick-off!!
Halftime	Presentation of the Homecoming Court and Crowning of the Queen

**For our SEC fans**: The games will be on in the lobby of Grenada Hall so you don't have to miss one minute of any game! We also have a free wifi to check game updates: HCC-Football.





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







### **CLASS REUNION INFORMATION**

The Alumni Reunion Brunches will start at 9 a.m. in the McMorrough Library. A check in table will be set up just behind the computer lab in the main area of the library. We will serve a light brunch to give you a good start for a day filled with Homecoming activities. There will be a sign in for each reunion class that will be gathering this year (1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000). Once you have signed in you are free to mingle in the library. For more information please contact Katherine Ellard at kellard@holmescc.edu or 662-472-9134.

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## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT GENE RICHARDSON PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again, that special time of year has arrived, where family and friends come together to renew memories, to share in one another's life events, to make new acquaintances, and to experience that sense of belonging- IT'S HOMECOMING!!! There is not another day at Holmes quite like it. Aside from the individuals and groups that will be recognized, the events of the day made possible by the planning and hard word of the HCC staff make a Holmes Homecoming something memorable every year, and 2017 will be no exception. We all look forward to seeing you on campus. Whether it's visiting with former classmates, chatting with former teachers or walking through some of the buildings that conjure up vivid recollections of our days as students at Holmes, WELCOME HOME and enjoy your day.

#### NEW HOLMES SHADOWING PROGRAM

Give back to our Alma Mater - be a part of an exciting new shadowing initiative with Holmes! Mentor a Holmes student in your field of expertise, and help them shape their future.

FOR MORE INFO, Contact Jim Thompson at 662-472-9164 or jthompson@holmescc.edu.

PawPrints is a publication of the Holmes Community College Alumni Association. It is entered as Third Class mail at the Jackson, Mississippi Post Office. The publication is designed for the alumni and friends of the college. The views, opinions and letters appearing herein do not necessarily reflect those of Holmes Community College's Board of Trustees, administration, faculty or staff. All alumni news or letters to PawPrints should be directed to PawPrints, P.O. BOX 527, Goodman, MS 39079 or faxed to 662-472-9059 or e-mailed to alumni@holmesc.edu. Holmes Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or age in its educational programs and activities, employment, or admissions. Our Compliance Officer has been designated to handle inquiries and grievances regarding non-discrimination, compliance policies, and procedures for the College and can be reached by phone at (662) 472-9429. Written inquiries can be emailed to: compliance@holmesc.edu or mailed to: Compliance office, 412 W. Ridgeland Ave., Ridgeland, MS 39157.

# HANKINS NAMED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

The Holmes Community College 2017 Alumnus of the Year recipient is Grenada native Albert "Al" Burton Hankins, Jr.

Al began working full-time for his family's business, Hankins Lumber Co., Inc. in Grenada, right out of school. Following his father Burton's death in May of 2001, he took over the company as CEO and president. He credits his father for instilling a strong work ethic in his children from an early age.

Al is quick to contribute the business' continuing prosperity to the solid foundation his father and uncle established. He and his younger brother Lee, who serves as vice president of the company, have worked in the shops, boiler rooms and mills. "Every facet of this mill, I have been in," Al said.

In addition to his work for the family business, Al also serves as a commissioner for the Mississippi Forestry Commission; a position that entails a six-year term of leadership in forest protection, management, inventory and information distribution.

As hard work seems to run in the family, Al is not the only Hankins who has accomplished great things. His sister Clara is also a Holmes alum, and both of them believe in the impact the school has made on the lumber industry. To show their appreciation, the Hankins donated \$75,000 to the Holmes Forestry Technology Program on the Grenada Campus in 2015.

Al recalls that his father served on the Holmes Board of Trustees years earlier and contributed quite a bit to the school.

"Many of our employees at Hankins Lumber, including myself, have attended some of the evening programs offered at

the college," Al said. We want to invest in our industry's future, and we appreciate how Holmes prepares their students for the workforce."

Hankins Lumber also hosts a few of

#### "Holmes helped me so much and I can see how it helps the younger people as well; especially our future foresters.

Holmes' Forestry Technology classes each year, allowing students to tour the facilities and experience first-hand what they learn in the classroom.

Al and his wife, Jewel Mooney Hankins, have two children: Mandy McCormick, 39, who works at Hankins Lumber Co., and Amber Lee, 33, a registered nurse. The Hankins also have two grandchildren: Stephanie Davis, 18, and Ashlyn Lee, 13.

# BRANSCOME NAMED 2017 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

The Holmes Community College 2017 Distinguished Service Award recipient is Edward Hayes Branscome of Grenada.

A lifelong resident of Grenada, he was elected to serve on the Grenada Bank Board as a director in 1982. When it became Grenada Sunburst Bank, he served in several roles during his tenure. When Grenada Sunburst merged with Union Planters, Branscome served as a member of the board for the Grenada Region until 1997.

When James "Jimmy" Robertson passed away in 2012, Branscome became a trustee of Robertson's Trust. Robertson was a veteran banking executive from Grenada for over 45 years.

"Jimmy was a dedicated supporter of the Grenada community and instructed me to use a large portion of his estate to help Holmes Community College," Branscome said.

On Sept. 15, 2014 the Robertson Trust provided \$205,600 through the sale of 20,000 shares of Regions Bank stock to establish the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Holmes. On April 22, 2015, 2015, the Robertson Trust donated \$100,000 to establish scholarships for the program and an

additional \$75,000 on Sept. 27, 2016, bringing donations to a total of \$380,600 from Robertson's Trust.

Branscome earned his bachelor's degree in agriculture from Mississippi State University upon graduating from John Rundle High School. A class of '60 alumnus, he served as a member of the

#### "I am honored to have been a part of establishing the PTA program at Holmes."

MSU Alumni Board from 1993-2015. He is also a member of the Grenada Rotary Club, past director of the Grenada County Chamber of Commerce and is an active member of Grace Baptist Church.

Branscome and his wife, Martha Faye, have two children: Beth McGaugh, CFO of Pinnacle Trust in Madison, and Brad Branscome, president of Guaranty Bank and Trust in Grenada. The Branscomes also have three grandchildren: Jonathan and Elizabeth Stevens, and Josh Branscome.

# BARKSDALE NAMED YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Former Holmes Community College Bulldog and pro baseball player turned author, Xan Barksdale (class of '02), is the college's Young Alumnus of the Year.

A native of Madison, Barksdale played for the Bulldogs in the 2001 and 2002 seasons, where he was a two-time All-State selection and All-Region XXIII after the 2002 season. Outside of baseball, he majored in engineering and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

After earning his associate degree at Holmes, he played two seasons at the University of Mississippi while pursuing his bachelor's in business administration. Barksdale helped the team host their first regional in 2004 and was named "Most Dedicated Player."

After his playing days at Ole Miss, he spent time with the Atlanta Braves organization. In 2007, he retired from professional baseball to accept the position as assistant coach at the University of Louisville. While there, they won the College World Series and were Big East Champions for three consecutive years. Barksdale also served as a recruiting coordinator/ assistant coach for East Tennessee State University and a USA Baseball Catching Coordinator.

In 2008, he started Xan Barksdale Baseball, LLC, which is an

online-based business offering baseball-related products, software, books and information. He is now fully focused on his position as CCO (Chief Catching Officer) of his company, and will soon release his fourth book, "The Art and Science of Calling Pitches." Barksdale also travels to conduct speaking engagements and has been the featured guest on a number of baseball podcasts.

> As a result of his numerous accomplishments, he was inducted into the prestigious Holmes Community College Sports Hall of Fame in April of 2013.

#### "I didn't realize it at the time, but going to Holmes was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

"I think giving back is really important," Barksdale said. "Because of my coaching career, I haven't been able to come back to Holmes as much as I wanted to over the past few years. Now that I have a little more free time, I plan to spend more time on campus and spend more time with the players and do as much as I can. I want to let them know that Holmes is a great place to be. I'm proud of coming from here and like to come back here."

# FOSTER NAMED VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Holmes Community College is proud to honor Kosciusko native Corporal James Cline Foster, Sr. (Class of '49) as the 2017 Veteran of the Year.

Cpl. Foster served in the U.S. Marine Corp during World War II in the Southwest Pacific islands of Peleliu and Okinawa. During the Okinawa campaign, which was the last and largest of the Pacific island battles, he was wounded in combat by a sniper and medically discharged. It was just a few short years later that he enrolled in Holmes.

While at Holmes Junior College, as it was called in the '40s, Cpl. Foster was an active member of the College Agriculture Club. His experience at Holmes served him well as he continued his studies at Mississippi State University, earning a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's in education.

After teaching agriculture for nine years, then serving as a teacher and basketball coach for 10 years in Leake and Attala counties, Cpl. Foster took on the role of principal for McAdams High School for eight years. Following his position at McAdams, he was voted Superintendent of Education; a position he held for 16 years in Attala County before retiring in 1987.

Always proud of serving his country, Cpl. Foster was a longtime member of the American Legion, a state commander and local DAV (Disabled American Veterans) commander for five years. He has also been a member of VFW Post #1983 since 1947 and member of DAV since 1968. Cpl. Foster has also been a part of the Military Order of the Purple Heart since 1990, and served on

#### "One thing I always say is, Holmes is close to my heart."

the Mississippi State Veteran Affairs Board as chairman from 1992-2000. He was even instrumental in the Martha Jo Leslie State Veterans Home being built in Kosciusko and a longtime elder of the Thomastown Christian Church.

Cpl. Foster and his late wife, Edna Earl Foster, who he was married to for 63 years, have two children: Jamie Foster, 66, and Tommy Foster, 70. He also has seven grandchildren: Cherri Hunt, Barry Foster, Chase Foster, Dylan Foster, Anna Foster, Abby Talkington and Arin Foster.



### DISTRICT DOG ALUMNI LUNCHES

The Holmes Alumni Association visited all nine counties in Holmes' district over the course of July and first part of August. These events were organized to help alumni network and socialize with other alumni in the area. All Alumni were invited including recent graduates.

The events were held at the following locations: Grenada County Lunch at 333 Restaurant in Grenada; Attala County Lunch at Outfielders in Kosciusko; Yazoo County Lunch at Tom's on Main in Yazoo City; Montgomery County Lunch at Tracks in Winona; Carroll County Lunch at Tutti's in North Carrollton; Holmes County Lunch at Gladys' in Lexington; Madison County Lunch at Culinary Cowboy in Canton; Webster County Lunch at Pepper Race's II Eupora and Choctaw County Lunch at Pap's in Ackerman.

We want to stay in touch with alumni as there are many opportunities for former students to remain involved with Holmes Community College. The feedback from alumni about the lunches was positive and we plan on having the District Dog Lunches again next summer.



### 1965 FOOTBALL REUNION

The class of 1965 Football Team will be reuniting for another meeting. The fellowship will start at 10 a.m. in the Mississippi Room of the McMorrough Library. Once you enter the main doors of the library there will be a Holmes library representative to direct you in the right direction. There will be fruit and coffee for your fellowship! For more information please contact Bill Henderson at 662-392-2181.





### JOIN HOLMES' FITNESS CENTER

Alumni can now join the Holmes CC Fitness Center in Ridgeland, conveniently located off of the I-55 frontage road.

The center offers a large area with free and fixed weights, cardio equipment, a shallow depth pool and various fitness classes. Rates for alumni are \$20 per month.

Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 7:00pm and Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call Keshia Williams at 601-605-3329 or email kewilliams@holmescc.edu