

# PAW PRINTS

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## THE GROWL

Mississippi's Best Junior College Publication

VOLUME 7

GOODMAN, MISSISSIPPI, OCTOBER 31, 1934

NUMBER 2

### Homecoming Day To Draw Big Crowd

#### Alumni Association Will Be Organized On Homecoming Day

Many Former Students Expected To Be Present For Initial Meeting

One among the distinct plans to feature Homecoming Day on November 2, is that of forming a Holmes Junior College Alumni Association.

This has been contemplated for some time and comes at the request of former students themselves, who desire some better means of keeping in touch with the school and its work, and to give it their interest and assistance in whatever way possible.

Since November 2 is Homecoming Day for all former students, it has been decided upon as the most opportune time for the perfection of the plans now in hand. A large number of former students is expected to be present to voice opinions of the association.

#### SWINGS OF KNOWLEDGE

Legends tell us of the springs of knowledge, searched for by the ancients. Neither the Fountain of Youth, nor the waters of Lethe was more celebrated.

The world no longer believes that youth, forgetfulness, and knowledge may be gained by partaking of magic waters. Youth is a matter of cold creams and face liftings; forgetfulness is gained by way of the flagon of wine, and knowledge has all been written down in books. The people who have read these books and absorbed their contents are the favored possessors of the world's knowledge. And at Holmes Junior College the people of this class have sat so long and so consistently in a certain swing on the upper campus that this swing has come to be a "Swing of Knowledge."

At six-thirty in the morning, or thereabout, Dean Everett may be seen gently rocking to and fro in the quiet of the almost deserted campus. At any hour of the morning we may look up the hill and see some member of the faculty reviewing life from the depths of a swing.

At their shop talk, their discussions, they bring to the faculty their thoughts under the moonlight in the quietude of the world. We hope that their departments too shall believe as we do, and may the faculty swing through the years until our grandchildren come to H. J. C."

Sometimes on Sunday afternoon some poor student on a holiday may take his girl for a stroll over the pocket-handkerchief expanse of the upper campus; and, perhaps if he's lucky, he can find a resting-place in the faculty swing—the faculty is away from the campus or taking siestas, perhaps, on Sunday afternoon. There, where Knowledge usually holds court, Romance gets a break. Some day when we're old we think we'll write some statistical studies on the troths which were plighted or broken here. This might even be a fit subject for an M. A. thesis. And we're sure that all students would be eager to give us information. This is a day when people, particularly H. J. C. students, like to bear one another's burdens.

Personally, we're getting too old to want to follow the habit of Stevenson, who liked "to go up in a swing, up in the air so blue." We're growing far too dignified for such ventures. Neither do we wish to regain the "Grapevine Swing."

If we were to write a beautiful "Swing," or if we'd write a "Grapevine Swing" would rival the "Grapevine Swing" got to go to the faculty swing.

"Many the c... Mr. and Mrs. Al... Everett, are spooning... and may the faculty swing... through the years until our grandchildren come to H. J. C."

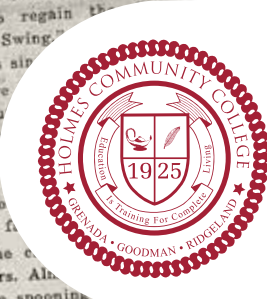
#### 1934 Homecoming And Dad's Day Comes Nov. 2

Dr. Wirt Williams, Holmes County Native, Delta State Professor, To Speak

"On to Goodman!" This is the cry that is heard all around us. "On to Goodman to Homecoming and Dad's Day on November 2!"

Holmes Junior College has felt the necessity of having a day set aside for the fathers of the students. Friday, November 2, has been set aside especially for the fathers of both the boys and girls, and these visitors are to be entertained on that day.

The program begins at one-thirty Friday afternoon, in the college auditorium. The first thing on the program is a band concert under the leadership of the band director, Mr. Caldwell. The membership of the band has greatly increased over last year, and we feel sure the audience will fully appreciate the



Holmes Community College's 2024 Homecoming is Thursday, October 31<sup>ST</sup> on the Goodman Campus.

For more information, visit the 2024 homecoming website by scanning the provided QR code inside the newsletter.

ils Present edge In Talk

Holmes Band To Have Uniforms

Immediately after the address all itors will go to the football field to nness one of the many advancement the college—a drill by the Physical I ntion department. Since this dep ment has been added to the institu





## Alumni Spotlight *Fall 2024*

### Jessica Wolverton AA, AAS

*Alum 2015 & 2016*

Jessica Wolverton, a North West Rankin graduate (2012) and Brandon native, discovered her mother had cancer right out of high school, which delayed her immediate college plans. She was researching nursing school programs when she came across the Surgical Technology program at Holmes Community College.

Wolverton was intrigued that the surgical technology program was only a 12-month program compared to the longer nursing school programs she was researching, so she applied. It was not long before she found out she had been accepted into the program.

"I am forever grateful for the positive impact the program had on my life and that I could go to school then come back home to help my mom during a tough time in our family's lives," Wolverton said.

Earning both an AA and AAS, Wolverton immediately entered the workforce. Her first job was in the St. Dominic's operating room. It was there that she honed her skills over the next three years.

"I loved the action in the surgery world," Wolverton said. "The surgical tech program taught me how to be independent, responsible and how to take care of patients on a different level."

Qualified graduates may apply to the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) to take the Surgical Technologist Certifying Examination to become a Certified Surgical Technologist.

"Shea Coleman, our Surgical Technologist instructor, gave us a good idea of what the program was about," Wolverton said.

The Holmes Surgical Technology program's mission is to produce surgical technologists to meet the needs of hospitals and other health facilities in the nine-county region as well as surrounding

counties. The program provides education in the applied roles of all aspects of surgical technology, including the role of second assistant and circulator, to both traditional and non-traditional students to serve as a member of the surgical team to assist in delivering patient care and to assume appropriate responsibilities before, during and after surgery.

"The most applicable information I took away from the Holmes program was the basics and soaking up as much of the hands-on experience in the clinical setting," Wolverton said.

Since 2020, Wolverton has been working with Dr. William North at Runnels and North Outpatients Plastic Surgery Center. Dr. North, MD, FACS brings the latest techniques and unparalleled experience from the prestigious University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital in Lexington. He focuses on providing the latest in surgical and non-surgical techniques for cosmetic procedures of the breast, body and face, in addition to providing general plastic surgical services for breast reconstruction after mastectomy, skin reduction after massive weight loss and facial reconstruction after cancer removal.

"Wolverton has been working alongside me for four years now," Dr. North said. "She was able to use the foundation of surgical procedures and knowledge that she received at Holmes and apply it to clinical use. It is obvious that her success is a combination of a good educational background and her own willingness to succeed at a high level. She cares about succeeding and providing quality assistance in both the pre-operative period, the surgery itself and the post-operative time period. In healthcare, we all have to go to school to learn our trade and use that background to perfect our craft through our own drive."

Wolverton resides in Brandon and is married to Tanner. They have one son (Bodie) together and their second arriving in the fall.



Holmes Men's Soccer Coach, Matt Convertino, was proud to welcome back some of our most influential Men's Soccer former players to the **Holmes CC Master's Alumni Game** at the Ridgeland campus on August 3.

## NEW Heavy Civil Construction Program Receives Help from Alumni, Michael Ellis

Holmes Alumni and Sports Hall of Fame member, Michael Ellis, has been on campus this fall helping Workforce with their Heavy Civil Construction Program. He has been sharing knowledgeable experience attained from his career at Lehman-Roberts, a granite company.

As vice president of Project Management, Ellis will preserve a culture of total project ownership, exhibition of core values, stewardship in the community, and continuation of safety excellence within the project management (PM) department. This includes management of all aspects of the PM team including strategic bidding, maintaining a healthy backlog, project coordination, and more.



# LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT



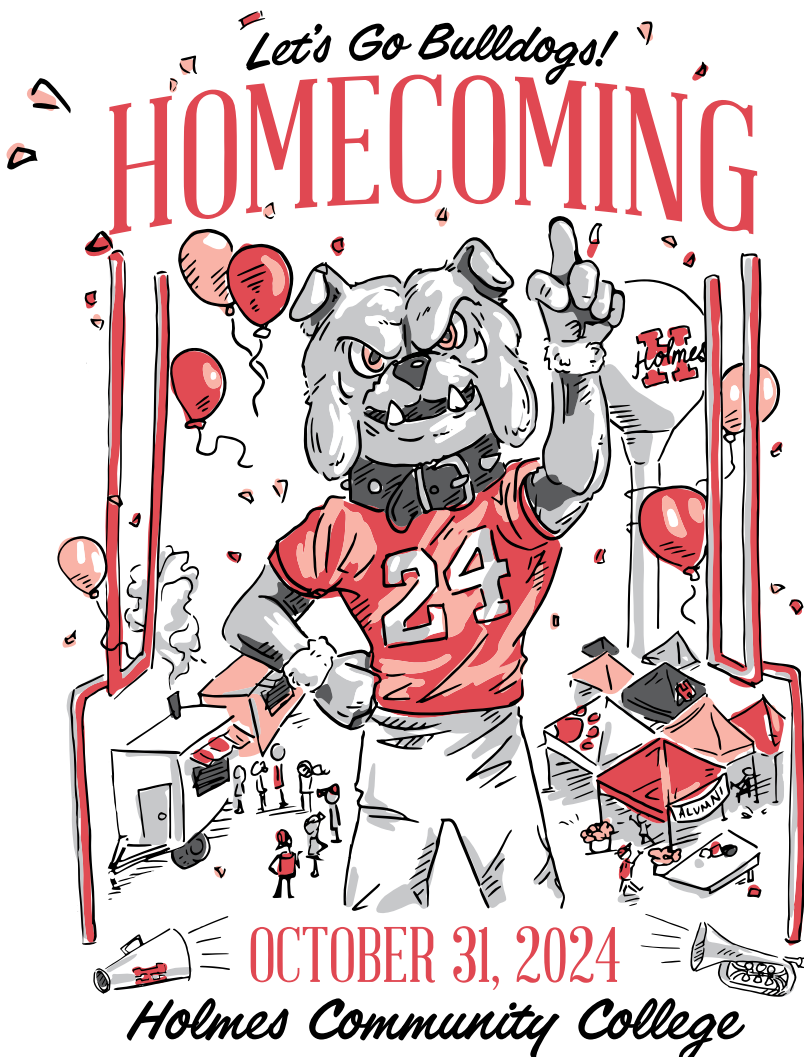
As my time serving as the Alumni Association President comes to a close, I have found myself reflecting on the impact of Holmes Community College on my life. As a 17-year-old kid, I started my college career with no way of knowing how important Holmes would become for me. From the lessons learned on the football field, to the lifelong friendships, to meeting the love of my life, Ryan, who has blessed me with three beautiful children, to being honored to serve as the president of our Alumni Association, Holmes continues to impact my life 18 years later.

During my tenure, I have had the honor of witnessing firsthand the powerful network that is the Holmes Community College alumni community. Our alumni continue to excel in every field imaginable, carrying with them the values and lessons instilled by our institution. This sense of pride and accomplishment is a testament to the strength of our shared experiences and the lasting bonds formed here.

While my time as president is coming to a close, my commitment to Holmes remains as strong as ever. I look forward to continuing to be a part of this extraordinary community, and I am certain that Holmes will continue to positively impact the lives of individuals for years to come under the leadership of President, Jim Haffey, and the staff at HCC.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve, and for all that you do to support our beloved alma mater. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Katherine Ellard and the rest of the Alumni Association for your unwavering support during my time as president. Your collaboration and hard work have been invaluable in fostering a thriving relationship between the institution and its alumni.

*Jacob Black*



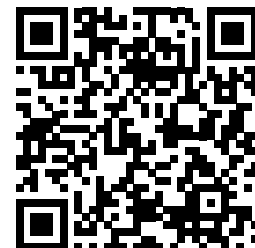
## SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Holmes CC Homecoming is being held on **October 31, 2024**. Join us on the Goodman Campus as we celebrate the day with food trucks, a pep rally, tailgating before the football game, and more!

Scan the QR code below for a link to the Homecoming webpage. Here, you can find the schedule of events, map of the campus, food vendors, and all of the ever-updating content about our big day.

*You won't want to miss this!*

**SCAN  
HERE**  
to visit the 2024  
Homecoming webpage





# 2024 HOMECOMING HONOREES:



## *Alumnus of the Year:*

### **CAROLYN THOMAS**

**Hometown:** Goodman

**Resides:** Ridgeland

**Education:** Holmes Community College

**Occupation:** Retired Post Master

Holmes Community College will honor Carolyn Burrell Thomas of Goodman as the 2024 Alumna of the Year, which is among one of the college's highest alumni honors. Thomas has served on the Holmes Development Foundation Board of Governors.

Thomas was a high school graduate of Holmes Agricultural High School and continued on to complete her AAS in general business in 1953 from Holmes Junior College.

After Holmes, her first job was working part-time at Holmes County Bank. Her first full-time job was for a cotton buyer.

Thomas found her fit with the United States Postal Service. She served for 30 years: 14 of those years she served as postmaster in Goodman.

Since Thomas had three boys (George, Ronnie and Rickie), she started the Cub Scout group in Goodman and served as Den Mother for many years. She also visited most of the schools in Holmes County encouraging children to collect stamps, a Merit Badge requirement for the Boy Scouts.

Among other civic activities, Thomas taught the kindergarten Sunday school class at the Goodman United Methodist Church for 27 years, also serving as Chairman of the Board for the church. She was the Holmes County Cancer Crusade Chairman for many years and her dedication to volunteer work placed her on the State Board for that organization.

Thomas has been a lifelong resident of Goodman. She is preceded in death by her husband George Allen Thomas, Sr. and her son Ronald (Ronnie) Thomas. Her two living sons George and Rickie remain close to their mother. She is also surrounded by five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Thomas' hobbies include looking through old letters, receipts, deeds, and pictures acquired through the years. Some date back to the 1800s. She has filled four albums for preservation for her family to treasure.

*Pictured left: photos of Carolyn, Holmes annuals*



## *Distinguished Service Award:*

### **DR. MACK WOO**

**Hometown:** Belzoni

**Resides:** Jackson

**Education:** University of Mississippi and University of Mississippi Medical Center

**Occupation:** Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at UMMC

Holmes Community College will recognize Dr. Mack Woo as the Distinguished Service Award Recipient for 2024.

A native of Belzoni, Dr. Woo has been a friend of the college for many years. Through his efforts to support the college, Holmes has been able to help many students with their educational dreams.

Dr. Woo earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi and then attended the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). He completed his internship with UMMC in 2006, and did his residency from 2007-2010.

As an anesthesiologist in Jackson, Dr. Woo has been practicing for more than 10 years. He is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including UMMC and St. Dominic's Hospital of Jackson.

Dr. Woo is currently an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology for the School of Medicine at UMMC. He is married to fashion designer, Samantha Woo, and they reside in Jackson with their two children.



## *Young Alumna of the Year:*

### **DR. AUTUMN M. BARRON**

**Hometown:** Possumneck

**Resides:** Kosciusko

**Education:** Holmes Community College, University of Mississippi and University of Memphis

**Occupation:** Clinical Audiologist

Dr. Autumn M. Barron (15), native of Possumneck, will be recognized as the 2024 Young Alumna of the Year for Holmes Community College during the Homecoming festivities on Oct. 31.

Dr. Barron graduated from Kosciusko High School before coming to Holmes. While at Holmes, she excelled and was very involved, serving as a Holmes Ambassador, Dazzler, and MOSAIC member. In addition, she was voted Freshman Homecoming Maid and was on the Spirit Team that helped with sports recruitment.

"I loved my time at Holmes," Dr. Barron said.

After her time at Holmes, Dr. Barron attended the University of Mississippi where she earned a Bachelor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Some of the awards and achievements received while attending Ole Miss were the Dean's Honor Roll and Who's Who. She was also involved with Alpha Kappa Alpha Incorporated, Associated Student Body, the Black Student Union, and served as a Football Recruiter at the University of Mississippi.

In 2023, Dr. Barron earned a Doctorate of Audiology from the University of Memphis. She was a recipient of the Marion Hammett Scholarship (2022), selected for the Student Advocate of the Year Award (2023) and co-author of "Audiologists' attitudes and practice toward referring for psychosocial intervention with cochlear implant patients."

Currently, Dr. Barron serves as a clinical audiologist at the Jackson Ear Clinic in Flowood. On a daily basis, she helps diagnose, manage, and treat the hearing of her patients. Dr. Barron also counsels patients who are losing their hearing and advises on prevention loss programs, along with assisting patients with

the management of ringing in their ear (tinnitus). The workforce training has provided Dr. Barron with an expertise in programming hearing aids, inserting ear implants and assessing listening devices.

Dr. Barron resides in Kosciusko with her husband, Kenneth Barron II, who is also a Holmes alumnus. They have one child Kenneth Barron III (5).



*Veteran of the Year:*

**DAVIS A. RICHARDS, III**

**Hometown:** Canton

**Resides:** Starkville

**Education:** Holmes Community College,  
Mississippi State University & Mississippi College

**Occupation:** Hospital Executive

Davis A. Richards III will be recognized for his service in the United States Navy Reserve at Holmes Community College homecoming on Oct. 31 in Goodman.

Richards graduated from Holmes in 1963 where he lettered in baseball. After Holmes, he transferred to Mississippi State where he earned a B.S. in General Business.

Later, Richards returned to school, earning a Master's of Business Administration in 1975 and a Master of Hospital Administration in 1978 from Mississippi College.

Richards made his career in the medical field as a hospital administrator, mostly in the metro area of Jackson. He served as president and CEO of River Oaks Hospital in Flowood; prior to that he was vice president and COO at River Oaks.

Richards' other experience in administration includes CEO at Rankin Medical Center in Brandon, CEO at Madison County Medical Center, executive vice president of the Mississippi Hospital Association, assistant executive director of the Mississippi State Medical Association and associate administrator at Singing River Health System in Pascagoula.

As far as Richards' military experience, he has 24 years of military service training and is retired as a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Among awards he received were the Navy Achievement Medal, the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Now, Richards is retired and lives in Starkville with his wife, Mary Ann. Together they have three children (Anna, Janet and Eddie) and five grandchildren.

**HOMECOMING ALUMNI GAME**

OCTOBER 31, 2024 | FRANK BRANCH COLISEUM  
12 NOON

For more information contact Coach Jason Flanigan at [jflanigan@holmescc.edu](mailto:jflanigan@holmescc.edu) or 601-503-7460.

## CHECK OUT OUR *Progress* ON CAMPUS

Holmes CC has been updating facilities all over our campuses. Have you stopped by to see these updated locations?



**GOODMAN CAMPUS:**  
*Jumbotron installed for Ras Branch Field*



**RIDGELAND CAMPUS:**  
*Renovations in Ridgeland Hall office spaces*



**GRENADA CAMPUS:**  
*Updated Student Services Center*





# 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).



#### FACEBOOK

@holmesccmississippi  
@HolmesCCAlumni  
@HolmesAthletics



#### INSTAGRAM

@holmes\_cc  
@HolmesCCAlumni  
@holmesathletics



#### OFFICIAL HASHTAG

#NoPlaceLikeHolmes



#### LINKTREE

[linktr.ee/holmescc](https://linktr.ee/holmescc)



## CLASS *Reunion*

1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980

We are happy to feature these classmates who are celebrating their fifth year of coming back together. They gathered in July on the Goodman Campus for a day of camaraderie. During the reunion, they sang, shared their life updates and enjoyed a nice lunch together. They are also working toward establishing a scholarship to help students within our district.