HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PAW PRINTS

FALL 2026 | VOLUME 41 – ISSUE 2



Always a Bulldog **BULLDOGS, THEN & NOW**

The memories remain. The connection continues. Join us for Homecoming October 22, 2026.

Come be part of it! WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

















1. Coach Convertino with former soccer player Rashad Willams at the 2026 Sports Hall of Fame.

2. Classmates come together for the centennial celebration at the 2026 Sports Hall of Fame. (L to R:) Linda Walker, Clarence Harmon, and Brenda Willis.

3. The Yazoo County carpool crew at the 1975-1980 class reunion.

4. At the 2026 Sports Hall of Fame ceremony, Bobby "Monkey" Grantham poses with Bully in front of a throwback photo from his college days.

5. Earline Williams and classmate Wesley Myles at 1975-1980 class reunion in July.

6. The 1975-1980 class reunion was well attended in July. The classmates gathered on the goal line to celebrate their scholarship they established as a class this year.

7. 2026 Sports Hall of Fame recipients Neil Hitchcock, Chelsea Raines-Germany, Dr. Charlie Smith, Rashad Williams, Deloise Macon (on behalf of Daryl Macon) and Terry Seals.

8. Former Holmes softball player and 2026 HCC Sports Hall of Fame recipient Chelsea Raines-Germany stopped by to speak to our girls during practice.

ON THE COVER:

Photos of Bulldogs past and present include (top left to bottom right) Cherrie Winter ('99), Wirt Hayes ('67), Walter Jones ('94), Amanda Lindsey ('02), Tommy Worthey ('66), Derek Starling ('85), Gene Richardson ('67), Jesse Leverette ('67), Rashawn Sayles ('23), and Joe Adams ('68).

Homecoming 2026

ALWAYS A BULLDOG

Coming Home. Staying Connected. Making a Difference.

8:30 **Visual Arts Show** View art from Holmes' Visual Arts Students. Library closes at kick-off. Location: McMorrough Library.

9:00 **Baseball / Softball Highlight** Watch an open practice. Alumni and families are encouraged to attend. Location: Baseball & Softball Fields.

9:15 **Women's Basketball Practice** The Lady Bulldogs kick off their season with an open practice. All are invited to visit the newly renovated Frank Branch Coliseum for a glimpse of what you'll see this season. Location: Frank Branch Coliseum.

9:30 **Career & Transfer Fair** Grow with us and explore your future! For all Holmes students. Hosted by Academic Programs and Career Technical Education. Location: In the grove under the white tent.

10:00 **Major's Truck Expo** Check out the big trucks that Holmes' Workforce Development programs use for training. Location: Chapel parking lot.

10:00 **Honoree Recognition** We will honor recipients of Alumnus of the Year, the Distinguished Service Award, Young Alumnus of the Year, and Veteran of the Year. Location: McDaniel Auditorium.

10:20 **Coachmen & Connection! Performance** Watch the Coachmen & Holmes Connection! - an energetic pop ensemble that loves entertaining on stage. Location: McDaniel Auditorium.

11:00 **Fun & Games In The Grove** Activities for all ages! Location: The grove.

11:00 **Lunch** Three great lunch options:
Carrol Cafeteria
Lorance Student Center
Food Trucks (in front of McDaniel Hall)

Noon **Basketball Alumni Game** Former basketball players put on a show. Location: Branch Coliseum.

12:15 **Concert Chorale Performance** The Chorale performs music from all periods and styles. Location: Chapel on the Hill

1:00 **Tailgating Experience** Gather your class, department, or Alumni group and tailgate with us. The loading station closes at 1:00. Location: Football practice field.

1:00 **Port City Blues Players Take the Stage** The Port City Blues Players deliver a dynamic performance blending delta blues with jazz, soul, and funk. They perform at major venues and festivals throughout the delta. Their mission is centered on "Keeping the Blues Alive." Location: Football practice field.

1:45 **Annual Alumni Meeting** If you are an alumnus, we would love for you to join us at the Tailgate area in the Alumni Tent. Location: Alumni Tent, Football practice field.

2:00 **Pep Rally** Get fired up for the game with the cheerleaders and band. Location: Football practice field.

2:25 **Band Enters Stadium** Ras Branch Field.

2:30 **Homecoming Court** Presentation of Homecoming Court and crowning of the Homecoming Queen. Location: Ras Branch Field

2:45 **Honorees Recognized** Location: Ras Branch Field.

2:55 **National Anthem** Performed by the HCC Chorale. Location: Ras Branch Field.

3:00 **Kickoff!** Location: Ras Branch Field

See homecoming details at
events.holmescc.edu/homecoming
Map, tailgate info, food trucks, live music & more!

Alumni Association **Awards**



Allison McBride Schuler ('97)

Alumna of the Year

Allison McBride Schuler, a Durant native and longtime Kosciusko resident, began her nursing career at Holmes Community College, earning an associate degree in pre-nursing and graduating with honors. A member of Phi Theta Kappa and The Holmes Connection!, Schuler says her Holmes experience instilled the strong work ethic that has guided her career.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and later a master's degree in nursing and health care administration from The University of Mississippi Medical Center. Her career includes 11 years at UMMC, followed by leadership roles at Montfort Jones Memorial Hospital and Baptist Memorial Hospital-Attala. In September 2026, she was named CEO and chief nursing officer of Baptist Attala.

Schuler also serves as president of the Kosciusko School District School Board and on advisory boards for Holmes nursing programs and the Kosciusko-Attala Career Tech Center.

Her journey reflects a commitment to nursing, education, leadership and community service.



Margaret Monteith Davis ('66)

Distinguished Service Award

Margaret Monteith Davis, a Grenada native, has devoted her life to education, community service, faith and developing young people.

A Holmes Community College alumna, she earned an Associate of Arts degree with honors and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She continued her education at Mississippi State University and The University of Mississippi, earning bachelor's, master's and specialist degrees.

Davis began her teaching career in Huntsville, Alabama, before returning to Mississippi in 1969. She taught at Batesville Elementary School, then relocated to the Grenada School District where she was principal of Lizzie Horn Elementary School and Grenada Junior High.

Her service extends beyond education. Davis has been active in civic, agricultural and faith organizations, including the Grenada County Farm Bureau Board and Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Since 1995, Davis has represented Grenada County on the Holmes Board of Trustees, continuing her lifelong commitment to the college that helped shape her career.



Col. James Thomas Bridges, USAF, Ret. ('68)

Veteran of the Year

Retired U.S. Air Force Col. James Thomas Bridges, a Kosciusko native, has built a career defined by military service, leadership and national security. He attended Holmes from 1966-68, earning an Associate of Arts degree and being named to Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.

Bridges earned a bachelor's degree from Delta State University and postgraduate degrees from Northern Arizona University. He also graduated from The Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy.

After beginning his career as a speech teacher, Bridges entered the U.S. Air Force in 1970. He served as an officer and aviator from 1971-98 and is a Vietnam veteran. He later commanded The Trent Lott Combat Readiness Training Center.

After retiring from the Air Force, Bridges served as director of the Southern Anti-Terrorist Regional Training Academy from 2003-10.

Bridges credits Holmes with developing communication skills that guided his professional career and leadership.



Dr. Dudley Jacarious Moore ('12)

Young Alumnus of the Year

Dr. Dudley Jacarious Moore, a Goodman native, began his journey in mechanical engineering at Holmes Community College, where a physics instructor sparked his interest in the field.

Moore earned an Associate of Arts degree in general studies and was recognized as a HEADWAE honoree and Holmes Plus participant. Also, he also was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the MACJC All-Academic Team for football.

He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from The University of Mississippi in 2015 and master's and doctoral degrees from The University of Alabama in 2022.

Moore began his career through research and engineering internships before joining Solar Turbines in 2022. He became a principal combustion fuels specialist in 2023, serving as a subject matter expert on fuels and technical issues for projects worldwide.

He also mentors aspiring engineers and supports STEM outreach. Moore and his wife, Brittany Crump, live in San Diego.

Full honoree articles at events.holmescc.edu/homecoming

Alumni *Spotlight*



Markel Bell ('23)

Offensive Tackle, Philadelphia Eagles

Bell played at Holmes in 2022 and 2023 where he earned All-NJCAA All-Region honors. Bell was ranked as the number one offensive tackle junior college transfer in 2023 and transferred to the University of Miami, where he played two seasons.

After his time in Miami, Bell was selected by the Philadelphia Eagles in the third round, with the 68th overall pick of the 2026 NFL draft. In 2026, Bell officially signed his four-year rookie contract.



Jasmine Newman ('23)

Architectural Designer CDFL Architects + Engineers

Holmes Alumna Jasmine Newman has been added to the team at CDFL Architects + Engineers in Jackson, Mississippi.

Upon her graduation from Holmes in 2023, she transferred to the University of Southern Mississippi, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering Technology.

Today, she's excited to work with CDFL, contributing to the Jordan-Hare North End Zone Expansion at Auburn University.



Duane Starks ('95)

Cornerback, Punt Returner University of Miami

Congratulations to former Holmes Bulldog and Miami Hurricane Duane Starks on his induction into the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame. Starks played for the Bulldogs from 1994-95, where he earned Second-Team All State Honors. He was inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame in 2013.

His outstanding resume made Starks a top draft pick. In 1998, he was chosen 10th overall by the Baltimore Ravens. He played ten seasons in the NFL.

New Fall QEP *Seminars*

The Holmes Goodman Campus hosted the first of the seminar series "Navigating the Unknown" for the fall semester. A part of Holmes' quality enhancement plan, Career Compass, the seminar is the second in a series of presentations aimed at helping students with undecided programs of study discover career possibilities in our communities. The panel discussion was held September 10, 2026 in the McMorrough Library, Sponsored by Millsaps College. The next event will be on Ridgeland Campus October 14, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at the McGowan Workforce Building. For future event announcements and recordings of previous seminars, please visit holmescc.edu/careercompass.

If you would like to invest in the next generation of Bulldogs, we would love for you to volunteer as a student mentor. Please reach out to Bethany Miller, bmiller@holmescc.edu for more information.



The Seminar Panelists included: Stan Fisher, Chief of Police, Holmes Ridgeland Campus; Allison Schuler, CEO & CNO, Baptist Memorial Hospital Attala; and Bethany Miller, Director of Quality Enhancement Plan, Holmes Community College. Nikki Boutwell, Holmes Goodman Campus Recruiter, served as moderator.

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Goodman | Ridgeland | Grenada
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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.

FACEBOOK
@holmesccmississippi
@HolmesCCAlumni
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OFFICIAL HASHTAG
#NoPlaceLikeHolmes

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JOIN THE ONLINE ALUMNI COMMUNITY
Scan here to join!



ALUMNI EVENTS ARE GROWING

68%↑ 2025 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETING PARTICIPATION

33%↑ 2025 SPORTS HALL OF FAME ATTENDANCE

From the *Alumni President*



It has been my honor to work with and serve alongside the Holmes Community College Alumni Association this year. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with fellow alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Holmes as we continue to strengthen the bond between alumni and our beloved college. Together, we can create meaningful opportunities for fellowship, engagement, and service while supporting the continued growth and success of Holmes.

The Alumni Association continues to provide each of us with an opportunity to give back to the institution that has given us so much. I encourage each reader to stay connected, participate in our events, support our efforts, and invite fellow Bulldogs and friends alike to become involved themselves. Your commitment makes a difference, and together we can help ensure a bright future for Holmes Community College.

Thank you for your continued support of the Holmes Alumni Association. We look forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming events and working together to ensure that we have yet another memorable year. There truly is no place like Holmes!

With Bulldog Pride,

Matt McCrory,
Alumni Association President