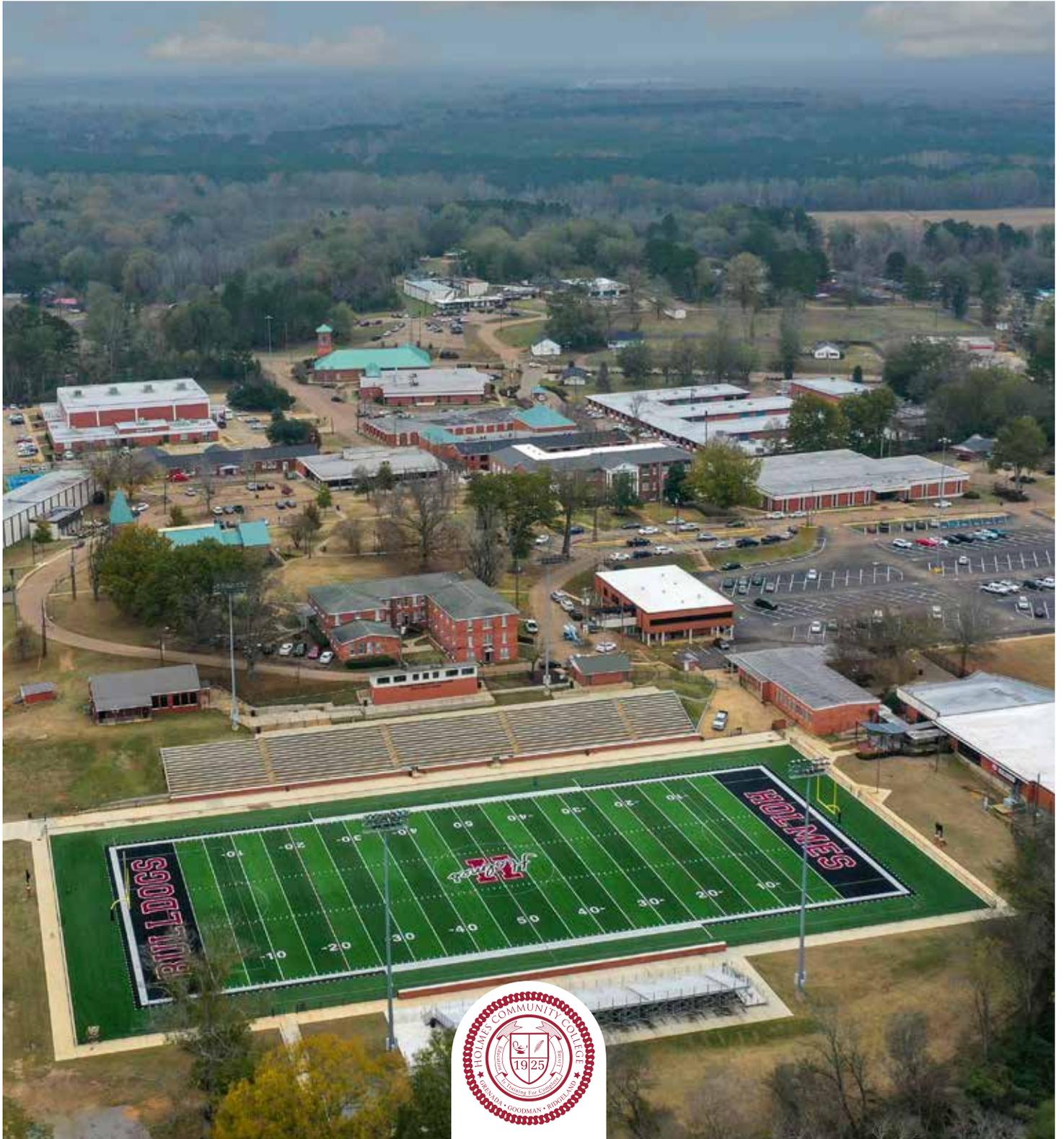


HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PAW PRINTS

SPRING 2026 | VOLUME 41 – ISSUE 1



Alumni Happenings

1. 2000 CLASS REUNION TAILGATE

The Class of 2000 reunited at our Homecoming Tailgate, allowing them to reconnect with their classmates. They enjoyed the day's festivities, They cheered on the football team, then capped off the night with an unforgettable concert.



2. ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME

The Holmes Men's basketball hosted an alumni game. "Old School" Alumni Bulldogs defeat the current Bulldogs 75-65 in the Alumni Game. They celebrated together at the Homecoming tailgate.



3. HOMECOMING TAILGATE 2025

The alumni tailgate celebrated the college's 100th year since its establishment in 1925. The college welcomed back alumni and friends of the college.





Holmes Community College will induct six new members into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame on Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m. in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus. The inductees will be recognized during an in-person banquet following a full day of celebration in Goodman.

ORDER YOUR TICKETS HERE!



RASHAD WILLIAMS

Rashad Williams, a Jackson native and Callaway High School graduate, will be inducted into the Holmes Community College Sports Hall of Fame for his achievements on and off the field. Williams was a standout player on one of the first soccer teams at Holmes, earning titles like Co-Offensive MVP and Best Forward. He led the team in assists and ranked second in goals scored, while excelling academically as a Dean's Scholar and athletic scholarship recipient.

A memorable highlight for Williams was the team's pre-season training, where he felt immediately welcomed. After Holmes, Williams earned a business degree magna cum laude from Belhaven University and an MBA from Jackson State University.

Williams continued his soccer career with Jackson Chargers and GAFFA FC, staying active in Mississippi's soccer community. Professionally, he has worked in finance and public service, holding roles with the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Community Bank, Trustmark National Bank, the FDIC, and the Community Health Center Association of Mississippi.

His leadership and community involvement include serving as Financial Literacy Instructor of the Year and holding various positions in local organizations. Williams is married to Jana, and they have two children, Gabriel and Madelyn. They live in Jackson and are members of Mt. Helm Baptist Church.



CHARLIE SMITH

Charlie Smith, a native of Canton, will be inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame for his athletic achievements and legacy of service. Smith played football at Holmes in 1971-72 under Coach Tommy Davis, earning All-American honors. He also excelled in track, helping the relay team win the 1973 state championship and setting a state record in the 220-yard dash.

After Holmes, Smith played football at Abilene Christian University, where he helped his team win an NAIA national championship. He credits Holmes for shaping his life, saying the coaches instilled discipline and leadership.

Smith's connection to Holmes spans generations; his son, Landon, played football at Holmes in the 1990s, and Smith's relay team was later recognized by the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame.

Beyond sports, Smith has been active in his community. He has received leadership honors and served as a superintendent adviser for the Canton Public School District. Smith, a former pastor, holds a Doctor of Theology degree and has worked for Pride Refinery and Cardox.

He and his wife, Regina, live in Madison and have six children. Smith's induction reflects his lifelong dedication to athletics, faith, and community.



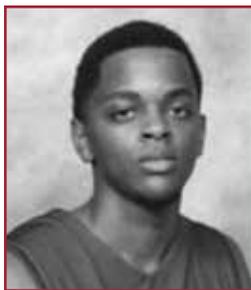
CHELSEA RAINES-GERMANY

Chelsea Raines-Germany, a former softball star from Ackerman, will be inducted into the Holmes Community College Sports Hall of Fame for her standout junior college career. Raines-Germany played at Holmes from 2007 to 2009 under Coach Ricky Casey, earning Second-Team All-State honors as a freshman with a .298 batting average, five home runs, and seven stolen bases.

Her sophomore year saw even greater success, as she earned All-State and All-Region honors, was named Region MVP, and posted a .427 average with nine home runs, setting a Holmes single-season record. She finished her career with 14 home runs and 50 RBIs.

Raines-Germany continued her career at Mississippi State University, earning Academic Athletics Awards and graduating with a degree in kinesiology. On the field, she earned All-Tournament Team honors and led the Bulldogs with 13 doubles in 2011.

Now residing in Senatobia, MS, she works as a district manager for Planet Fitness, overseeing 11 facilities across Miss., Tenn., and Ark. Raines-Germany's induction recognizes her athletic prowess, academic achievements, and leadership both on and off the field.



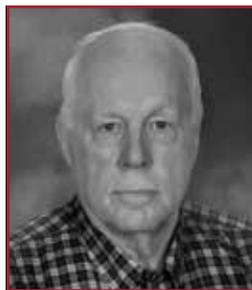
DARYL MACON JR.

Daryl Macon Jr., a standout guard from Little Rock, Arkansas, will be inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame. Macon made an immediate impact at Holmes, averaging 23 points per game as a freshman, ranking fourth nationally in NJCAA. He earned junior college All-American honors and shot 88.9% from the free-throw line.

In his sophomore season (2015-16), Macon averaged 23.9 points, earning Third-Team All-American honors. He transferred to the University of Arkansas, where he became a leading scorer and earned Second-Team All-SEC honors in 2018.

Although undrafted in 2018, Macon signed a two-way contract with the Dallas Mavericks, playing in both the NBA and G League. He later joined the Miami Heat and Sioux Falls Skyforce. Macon's international career includes stints with Galatasaray in Turkey, AEK Athens in Greece, and Panathinaikos Athens, where he was named EuroLeague Round 6 MVP in 2021-22.

Macon won the 2023 VTB League championship with UNICS Kazan and played in China with the Shenzhen Aviators. He joined the Shanghai Sharks in 2025. His induction honors his scoring ability, perseverance, and global basketball success.



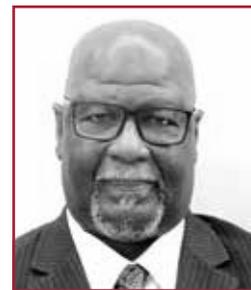
ARTHUR HITCHCOCK

Arthur Hitchcock, a 1973 Holmes Community College alumnus from Grenada, is being inducted into the school's Sports Hall of Fame. He earned All-State honors in football and the 1972 RAS Branch Memorial Award. At Holmes, Hitchcock was active in the Civitan Club and student government, serving as vice president and president.

After Holmes, he continued his football career at Delta State University, earning All-Gulf South Conference honors and recognition in Who's Who of American Colleges. Hitchcock then embarked on a 35-year coaching career in Mississippi public schools, coaching at schools like Kosciusko, Hattiesburg, and Madison Central.

He's proud that many of his former players went on to play at Holmes, and four of them have been inducted into the college's Sports Hall of Fame. Hitchcock was named Coach of the Year by The Meridian Star in 1985 and earned MAC Football Coach of the Year honors in 1988-89.

Now residing in Mendenhall, Hitchcock remains a passionate sports fan. He has two sons, Jay and Blake, and five grandchildren.



TERRY SEALS

Terry Seals, a former offensive lineman whose football career spanned Kosciusko High School, Holmes Community College, and Delta State University, will be inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame. A Kosciusko native, Seals helped lead the Whippets to a perfect 12-0 season in 1977, which featured Mississippi's first live high school football broadcast.

Seals continued his career at Holmes, earning honorable mention All-America honors in 1980. He was named Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman, All-State, and selected to start in the All-Star game. That year, he was also named the state's Best Offensive Lineman, sharing the honor with Jerry Stewart.

After transferring to Delta State, Seals' career was cut short by injury. He later attended a free-agent tryout camp with the Houston Oilers. Seals also earned a machine shop certificate at Holmes, leading to a successful career in the workforce, including roles at Williams-Sonoma, FedEx, and Builders Transportation Co.

Currently employed by Milwaukee Tool, Seals resides in Memphis with his wife, LueDella. Their children are Garon, and Danielle, with their son Kenny Merrit having passed away.

Read the full stories about our Holmes 2026 Sports Hall of Fame inductees at www.holmescc.edu/alumni/shof.aspx.



Waggener to be Inducted in the MCCHOF

Stephen Waggener of Madison will be inducted into the Mississippi Community and Junior College Sports Hall of Fame on April 28 at the Clyde Muse Center. Waggener excelled in baseball at Holmes Community College from 2001-2002, playing for Coach Kenny Dupont before transferring to the University of West Alabama (UWA). At UWA, he served as team captain, earned Best "Team" Player honors, and graduated with a BBA.

After completing a master's degree in sports science from the United States Sports Academy, Waggener gained coaching experience at Southeast Missouri State and the University of Indianapolis. He returned to Mississippi in 2008 to join the Delta State University coaching staff.

Currently, Waggener is in his ninth season as head coach at Young Harris College, where he has turned the program into a Division II contender. Under his leadership, the team won the 2019 Peach Belt Conference championship and made its first NCAA Tournament appearance. Waggener was named 2024 Conference Carolinas Coach of the Year and 2025 Young Harris Coach of the Year.

He resides in Blairsville, Ga., with his wife and two sons.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: HALLIE WESTBROOK BUFKIN



Hallie Westbrook Bufkin, a 2019 alumna of Holmes Community College, is a shining example of academic excellence and leadership. During her time at Holmes, Bufkin demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her studies and a passion for serving her community.

Bufkin graduated from Harttown Homeschool Academy before attending Holmes, where she double-majored, earning an AAS in Architectural Engineering Technology and an AA in Accounting while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Her academic achievements were recognized with several honors, including induction into the 2018 Holmes Hall of Fame, and winning the Architectural Engineering Technology Award in 2017, the English Composition Award in 2018 and the Phi Theta Kappa Golden Key Award in 2018. She was also named the 2019 HEADWAE student for Holmes, a prestigious honor awarded by the Mississippi Legislature to recognize top-performing students.

During her time at Holmes, Bufkin was highly active in SkillsUSA and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK). In addition to her academic pursuits, she worked as a work-study student in the Financial Aid Office, where she assisted numerous high school seniors navigating the complexities of financial aid.

After completing her studies at Holmes, Bufkin continued her education at Mississippi College, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

In the spring of 2021, Bufkin interned with Grantham Poole, a well-established accounting firm, before joining the firm full-time. She has now been with Grantham Poole for five years.

See full story on social @HolmesCCA-alumni.

Alumni Participate in Career Seminars



The “Major Decisions: Find Your Fit, Not Just Your Degree”

Seminars, sponsored by Cengage, brought together Holmes alumni to offer real-world advice on careers, challenges, and the rewards of doing meaningful work. Part of the Career Compass initiative, these seminars helped students connect their strengths and interests to future careers.

The Ridgeland Campus seminar, held February 11 at the Pat McGowan Workforce Building, featured Dr. Autumn Barron, audiologist; Dr. Amy Whittington, vice president for Career-Technical Education; and Derek Starling Sr., principal at SOL Engineering Services. Academic Dean Dr. Tonya Lawrence moderated.

A second seminar took place on February 19 at the Grenada Campus, with panelists Paul McCarley, City President at BankPlus; Nicholas Johnson, teacher at Grenada Elementary; and Meghan Welch, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner at Balance Therapy and Wellness LLC. Dr. Tina Garrett moderated.

The final seminar was held in Goodman on February 25, with Dr. Dudley Moore, Senior Engineer at Solar Turbines; Lucas Price, Director of Business Services; and Dr. Lily Fran Guastella, MD. The event was moderated by Sonja Arnett, Holmes English instructor.

Thanks to our alumni for supporting our students and the Career Compass program!

PTK Student Projects Feature *Alumni*

The Goodman Campus Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa’s Honors in Action Project explored the Honors Study Topic “The Power of Stories” with a focus on “Preserving Stories.” The team documented the 100-year history of Holmes Community College (1925-2025) by researching archival materials and conducting oral interviews with alumni, faculty, and administrators.

Our research uncovered a lack of awareness about the college’s rich history and the risk of losing important stories. With no central place to store these memories, the PTK team developed a preservation plan, collecting oral histories, documents, and photographs. These materials were shared publicly through the Kappa Alpha YouTube channel and the four-episode podcast, “Holmes: A Century in the Making.”

Interviews with individuals ranging from young students to a 93-year-old alumnus revealed a deep sense of pride in contributing to HCC’s historical record. The project connected generations, raised awareness of the college’s legacy, and demonstrated how preserving stories strengthens community identity and inspires future students.

At the Ridgeland Campus, Phi Theta Kappa’s Honors in Action project also explored storytelling’s power to build community. As HCC approached its centennial year, we identified a need for a comprehensive narrative. This led to the creation of a 186-page book, combining written records, oral histories, and photographs to reflect 100 years of HCC. The experience enhanced our teamwork, leadership, and appreciation for listening to cultural stories within our community.

**DIGITAL
BOOK**

Click to Read
Ridgeland PTK’s book
*Holmes Community
College: One Hundred*

PODCAST

Listen to
Goodman PTK’s
Honors in Action
Podcast



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.

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 **Official Hashtag**
#NoPlaceLikeHolmes

 **Linktree**
linktr.ee/holmescc

In response of our last *Paw Prints* request to find our oldest alumni, we found four all in their 90s.....
Guess who they are?



Alton Taylor

Faye Dillard

Jack Holmes

Jimmy McBride

THANK YOU to these alumni for their continued support!

Upcoming Events:

Sports Hall of Fame

April 9

Pops Concert

April 30

Graduation

May 14

1975-1980 Class Reunion

July 18 (10 a.m. until 2 p.m.)

Homecoming

October 22