2014 Alumnus of the Year

Big hair, vinyl records, and Rubik’s cubes served as the inspiration as Snead State Community College celebrated the decade of the 1980s during the annual Alumni Homecoming event on Friday, May 2. The 2014 Alumni Homecoming wasn’t just a time to pay tribute to the 1980s. It was a time to recognize the significant contribution of a Snead alumnus. The 2014 Alumnus of the Year award was given Mr. Pat Courington Jr. of Albertville.

“Mr. Courington is someone who supports the College and the Alumni Association in so many ways. If he knows of a need we have, he will find a way to fill it. We can always call on him, and he never hesitates to help. He is someone who has supported me, personally, over the years, so it was my pleasure to present this honor to Mr. Courington,” said Snead State Alumni Director Shelley Smith.

After graduating from Albertville High School, Mr. Courington attended Snead Junior College in 1959 and 1960. He transferred to Birmingham Southern College where he earned a Bachelor degree in Business Administration in 1970. That same year, he received the Wall Street Journal Award in Business. His education and skill for business led him to pursue ventures in a variety of fields, including broadcast media and real estate.

Mr. Courington is currently the President of Courington Real Estate and of Sand Mountain Broadcasting Services, which includes WQSB and WAVU radio stations in Albertville and WKXX in Gadsden. He was once the President of Sand Mountain Publishing, which printed The Sand Mountain Reporter. He was also formerly president of Al-Bo Travel Agency.

He currently serves as the President of the Snead State Foundation. He has established two scholarships through the College in honor of his parents, Dorris Williams Courington and Pat M. Courington Sr.

Mr. Courington was on active duty with the United States Army from 1962-64. He was then part of the Active Reserves from 1964-66 and Inactive Reserves from 1966-68.

The list of civic organizations for which Mr. Courington has served include the Albertville Chamber of Commerce, the Albertville Rotary Club, American Cancer Society, the Boy Scouts of America, the Marshall County Leadership Challenge.
Alumni Walk Dedication

A project that began a year ago reached a critical milestone on Friday, May 2. The Snead State Alumni Association celebrated the dedication of the new Alumni Walk as part of the annual Alumni Homecoming festivities.

The Snead State Alumni Association launched the Alumni Walk paver project at the 2013 Homecoming event. The project was a means for the Association to raise money to boost the scholarship fund.

“The Alumni Walk project began as a conversation between me and my Assistant Barbara Kilpatrick. From that conversation and after a lot of research, we started what we hoped would be an ongoing fundraiser that would significantly boost the Alumni Scholarship Fund, so we could help even more students,” said Alumni Director Shelley Smith.

“The first goal for the project that we set for ourselves was to raise $10,000 before we broke ground. We actually raised over $12,000 before the ground breaking, and that total continues to rise as we accept new paver orders. My next goal is to reach $25,000 in our scholarship fund by the 2015 Homecoming event. Our ultimate goal is to raise $100,000 from this project. With the alumni we have scattered throughout the world, we can achieve these goals, but it will take us all working together to do so,” said Mrs. Smith.

The Alumni Association partnered with the Snead State Foundation, which was the underwriter for the project’s construction. The Alumni Association Board of Directors also voted in April to invest the Alumni Scholarship Fund with the Foundation, which will secure investment opportunities to provide optimal growth of the scholarship fund.

“Because of the Foundation’s willingness to underwrite the cost of constructing the Alumni Walk, all of the proceeds we’ve raised so far went directly into the scholarship fund,” said Mrs. Smith. “This partnership demonstrates how our two groups are committed to providing means for students to receive a quality education.”

The Alumni Association worked closely with Krebs Architectural Firm in developing plans for the Alumni Walk, and the construction was completed by Jeremy Robinson and Eric Waldrop with Robinson and Waldrop Landscape Group.

The Alumni Association will continue to sell the brick pavers in the courtyard to interested patrons who want to become a permanent part of the College campus. The pavers come in two sizes – 4x8, which are sold for $125, and 8x8, which are sold for $300. Patrons have used the pavers to commemorate their time as students of Snead State, to honor the memory of a loved one, to show their business’ support for Snead State and the students, or to honor faculty members who have made an impact on their lives.

For more information about the Alumni Walk project or to become a member of the Snead State Alumni Association, contact the Alumni Office at alumni@snead.edu or (256) 840-4103. Membership to the Alumni Association is $10 annually or a one-time cost of $100 for a lifetime membership.
Alumni Walk

the Legacy you leave is the Pathway for future generations

INITIAL GOAL
$100,000 for scholarships

RAISED TO DATE
$13,861
Alumni Walk

Special Thanks to our recent participants in the Alumni Walk:

- Paragon
- Presidential Scholars
- Warren Distribution
- James Lambert
- Patricia Bates
- Bob Wilbanks
- Shena Hill
- McPherson Oil
- Mary Cook
- Libby Bates

Would you be willing to sponsor a paver?

As part of the Alumni Walk, the Snead State Alumni Association would like to include pavers to honor specific individuals who are an important part of Snead’s history and legacy. If you would like to support the Alumni Walk scholarship fundraiser as well as help us to honor these individuals, please contact the Alumni Office about purchasing a paver (alumni@snead.edu, (256) 840-4103).

- President Dr. Fielder
- President Dr. Conway Boatman
- President Dr. Broyles
- President Dr. Cook
- President Dr. Tyson
- Coach Emmett Plunkett
# Alumni Walk Paver Program

## ORDER FORM

- I would like to purchase _____ 4”x8” Engraved Brick Paver(s) at $125 each.
- I would like to purchase _____ 3.5”x1.75” miniature replica(s) for an additional $15 each.
- I would like to purchase _____ 8”x8” Engraved Stone Paver(s) at $300 each.
- I would like to purchase _____ 3.75”x3.75” miniature replica(s) at an additional $25 each.
- I do not wish to buy a paver now but would like to make a donation of $__________.

**PRINT CLEARLY AND BE SURE TO DOUBLE CHECK YOUR SPELLING.**

### 4X8 PAVERS: Maximum of 3 lines and 17 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line 1</th>
<th>Line 2</th>
<th>Line 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 8X8 PAVERS: Maximum of 5 lines and 17 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line 1</th>
<th>Line 2</th>
<th>Line 3</th>
<th>Line 4</th>
<th>Line 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAIL ORDER FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT TO ALUMNI OFFICE, P.O. BOX 734, BOAZ, AL 35957.

**NAME:**

**ADDRESS:**

**EMAIL:**

**PHONE:**

**PAYMENT:** □ Cash □ Check (Payable to Snead Alumni Association)

*All proceeds go to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. Payments are non-refundable and will be treated as donations to the Snead State Alumni Association. Individuals ordering pavers will receive a letter verifying the order which also serves as a receipt for the donation. For questions, contact alumni@snead.edu or (256) 840-4103 or (256) 840-4128.*
More from Alumni Homecoming
Alumni Night at the Theater

Friday, November 21, 2014
7 p.m.
Bevill Center
More details to come!

Summer Alumni Mixer
Hosted by the Snead State Alumni Association

Tuesday, August 5
5-6:30 p.m.
Jules Berta Vineyard & Winery
1409 Darden Ave., Albertville

Cost: $15 per person
Includes brick oven pizza & tea or lemonade

Come for fun, music, prizes, & fellowship
Wine tasting available

RSVP
alumni@snead.edu
(256) 840-4103
Snead State Community College Presents

42nd Gerhart Music Festival

Thursday, October 23, 2014
GERHART CONCERT
7PM Fielder Auditorium

featuring the Gerhart Musicians
(Jeffrey Cohen, Michael W. Davis,
Wayne Roden & Bion Tsang)

Sunday, October 26, 2014
GERHART CHILDREN’S CONCERT
2PM Fielder Auditorium

featuring the Boaz Intermediate School Honor Choir

ADMISSION IS FREE

The Gerhart Chamber Music Festival began in 1972. Named for the late Russell Gerhart, the Huntsville Symphony conductor and well-known string teacher, the festival was hosted by Snead State Community College for the first time in 2006.
The annual Spring Commencement Ceremony at Snead State Community College brought students, faculty and staff, family and special guests together to share in the successes and accomplishments of the approximately 260 graduates participating.

Cindy H. Sparkman, the Director of the Marshall Cancer Care Center, served as the Commencement speaker for Thursday’s ceremony, held in the Plunkett-Wallace Gymnasium. She provided the graduates with advice of making the most of the opportunities they will have with their lives.

“Be true to yourself. Set your own goals for your life, and never let anyone talk you out of your dreams. Don’t settle for less than what you’re capable of becoming. Don’t be afraid to take a risk. Without risk, there are no rewards. Admit your mistakes, and then forgive yourself and move on. And the second part of that is to realize other people make mistakes too. Forgive them even if they don’t ask for it,” she said.

Mrs. Sparkman also recognized those in the graduating class who were battling, had overcome or had a loved one to battle cancer. “I’m fortunate to be the director of the Cancer Care Center and be a part of making people’s dreams of quality cancer care become a reality. I never aspired to this position. I aspired to work hard, be a good wife and mother, and to love God above all else.

“As I prepared to speak to you today, I tried to remember all of the graduation speakers I had heard, and I couldn’t remember a thing. So I asked my children…and others about their graduation ceremonies and what the speakers shared with them. Most couldn’t remember. What they could remember were those who celebrated with them that day. So when you look back on today, it won’t be me you remember. It’ll be your parents…your brothers and sisters, your aunts and uncles, all of your friends and loved ones who are here today to celebrate with you – the people you love most who are proud of what you have accomplished.”

Snead State Community College President Dr. Robert Exley chose this year’s Commencement ceremony as an opportunity to present an honorary Associate Degree to a former Snead student. Zadie Nell Wells Amberson of Boaz attended Snead as part of the Class of 1944 but married her husband, Bill, before she could receive her diploma.

“There are very few people I have met during my time as President who have cared more about Snead than Zadie Nell Amberson. In honor of her love for this college and her lifelong commitment to service to others, I present to her this honorary degree,” Dr. Exley said.

Dr. Exley also recognized a few of the graduates for their accomplishments while dealing with challenging circumstances. Emily Cravens

Continued on Page 12
New Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program

Opportunities for high school students interested in career technical fields were unveiled Thursday, May 29, at a special press conference hosted by the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education and Snead State Community College.

The approval of the Legislature of the new Alabama Future Workforce Initiative creates a $10 million scholarship program for high school students to participate in career-technical dual enrollment programs in the Alabama Community College System.

The individuals and businesses that donate to the scholarship program will receive a state income tax credit of up to 50 percent of their total contribution. Donating businesses or individuals are allowed to direct up to 80 percent of any contribution to a specific career-technical dual enrollment program or course at any two-year institution. The remaining 20 percent will be allocated at the discretion of the Department of Postsecondary Education.

“We will now be able to significantly expand and accelerate the education and training of high school students for the high-demand, high-wage jobs in our state. We know this program will be a success because of the partnership and cooperation that we share with K-12,” said Terry Waters, Executive Director of Economic and Workforce Development with the Alabama Community College System.

Students enrolled in dual enrollment programs have the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit concurrently. With the certifications and degree options available through the career technical programs, students could be certified in a career technical field by the time they graduate high school.

In 2013, only 2,100 students participated in Alabama’s career-tech dual enrollment scholarship program just 6.7 percent of the 31,500 students eligible. This was largely due to a lack of funding. Even with this program many students, parents and caregivers will still be partially responsible for tuition and other costs related to taking dual enrollment classes.

“We applaud these legislators...for including in the FY15 Education Trust Fund Budget a new $5 million line item appropriation for the career-tech dual enrollment program and for enacting the Alabama Future Workforce Initiative that potentially could add significant additional funding,” said Mr. Waters.

Alabama House District 29 Representative Becky Nordgren, a Snead State alumna, said, “The Alabama Future Workforce Initiative has the potential to fill unmet workforce needs. Without qualified employees to fill these workforce needs, our state’s hard-earned economic progress could be lost,” said Rep. Nordgren. “In other states that have implemented similar programs, the dropout rates have plummeted, and the employment rates has risen.”

Sponsors hope that with an additional $10 million in scholarship funds, 9,542 new students could participate in the program.

Snead State offers dual enrollment career tech programs in Business Management, Computer Science Technology, Electronics Engineering Technology, Office Administration, Child Development, and Nursing Assistant. The College partners with local businesses and industries to provide internships for career technical students, so they earn practical training that enhances their learning.

“We have used over a dozen IT interns from Snead. They are motivated and want to learn. They are talented workers who want to stay in our area,” said Kim Bunch, the Director of Information Technology for Marshall Medical Centers. “We couldn’t ask for a better source of quality interns than Snead State.”

Twin brothers Cody and Riley Dennis were dual enrollment students while attending Arab High School. They studied Computer Science Technology and earned their short-term certificates in 2011, when they graduated high school. They enrolled full-time at SSCC to earn Associate degrees in Computer Science Technology. They both serve as IT Technicians for Arab City School System.

Continued on Page 13
Ledbetter Gets 500th Win of Snead Career

Snead State Baseball Coach Gerry Ledbetter was recently recognized for winning his 500th baseball game.

Ledbetter was recognized at the last regular season home game of the 2014 season against Calhoun Community College.

His 500th win came on Feb. 18 against Shorter College. The Parsons defeated Shorter 10-1.

“Winning 500 games is great. It means I have been here long time,” said Coach Ledbetter. “It wasn’t me; it was the boys that got me to 500. I’ve enjoyed being around the kids all these years.”

Coach Ledbetter has been at Snead State since 1992. During his tenure at Snead State, he has had eight players sign professional contracts and over 135 players sign four-year scholarships.

“The biggest difference between when I started coaching and now is we have the full support of the administration. They’ve done a lot to help our facilities. This makes it easier to recruit good kids,” said Coach Ledbetter.

Current Snead State Assistant Coach Casey Underwood has not only coached alongside Coach Ledbetter since 2005 but is also a former player of Coach Ledbetter’s.

“In 2003, Coach Ledbetter gave

Continued on Page 11

2014 Alumnus of the Year

Continued from Page 1

Program, the Marshall County Retired Senior and Volunteer Program, the Marshall County Sports Hall of Fame, and the Mountain Valley Arts Council. In 1994, he was named Albertville’s Citizen of the Year, and in 1978, he was named a Paul Harris Fellow. He has also been involved with quite a number of professional organizations such as the Alabama Press Association and the Alabama Broadcasting Association.

Inspirational comedian David Ferrell provided the entertainment for the 2014 Alumni Homecoming, and the event also included the annual business meeting. Officers were elected to serve the 2014-2015 year: President Gary Don Webb of Boaz, Vice President Cherri Barnard of Geraldine, Secretary Dianne Alldredge of Oneonta, and Treasurer Malarie Allen of Boaz.

The Alumni Association also recognized its outgoing president, Morgan Willis of Albertville, who has served the Board since 2009 in the positions of secretary and then president.

SAVE THE DATE!

2015 Alumni Homecoming
Friday, May 1, 2015

It’ll be a DISCO INFERNO as we celebrate the 1970s!
Snead State Names New Dance Team Coach

Snead State Community College has named Hannah Blackmon as its new dance team coach. Hannah graduated from Snead State in 2012. She was a member of the SSCC dance team for two years and captain her sophomore year.

“We are excited to have Hannah back on campus at Snead State,” said Athletic Director Mark Richard. “Hannah has experienced first-hand our philosophy of high academic standards, community involvement and developing young student-athletes into mature adults.”

She has taken studio dance for 17 years, including jazz, hip hop, tap and clogging. She has taught and choreographed studio dance for six years, also including jazz, ballet, hip hop, tap and clogging routines.

“I’m really looking forward to working with the girls and getting to know each of them. I enjoyed being a student and dance team member at Snead State and am so excited to be part of the Snead State community once again,” said Blackmon.

Dance team tryouts will be held June 28 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. in the Plunkett Wallace Gymnasium. More information, including the tryout packet, can be found at snead.edu/dance.

Ledbetter Gets 500th Win of Snead Career

Continued from Page 10

me the opportunity as a walk on from Florida to play baseball at Snead State. Eventually, I earned a scholarship. He gives everyone that plays for him an opportunity. It doesn’t matter if they’re a walk on or a scholarship player. Everyone gets the same opportunity,” said Coach Underwood.

“It’s been a pleasure to spend the last 11 years with Coach Ledbetter. He’s a father-figure to me and every kid he coaches. He and Mrs. Led take care of our team like we are all family. He sets a great example to everyone that’s around him.”

This year, Coach Ledbetter’s team excelled not only on the field but in the classroom as well. For the first time ever, each sophomore on the baseball team graduated with their Associate degree from Snead State. There were 20 sophomores this year.

“Coach Ledbetter has been a tremendous role model for the hundreds of young men that have passed through Snead State,” said Snead State Athletic Director Mark Richard. “He spends a lot on the field, in study hall and in his office assisting these young men and helping them mature. It has been a true honor to be associated with a man of such high character as Gerry Ledbetter.”

He has been involved in sports camps and numerous community service activities as the leader of the Parsons. He is a member of the Marshall County Sports Hall of Fame.

Ledbetter graduated from Boaz High School in 1965. He is a 1969 graduate of Jacksonville State University. During his high school career, Coach Ledbetter played football, baseball and basketball for the Pirates. He signed a baseball scholarship to Jacksonville State University.

At JSU, Coach Ledbetter was one of two Gamecock players to be named to the NAIA Little All-American Team. In his Little All-American year, he excelled on defense and batted .406 for the season. He hit .320 or better each year of the four years he played at JSU, a school record.

Upon graduation, Coach Ledbetter accepted a coaching position at Sardis High School. He also had a brief stint at Cleburne County High School and taught at Douglas High School from 1972-1992.

At Douglas, his varsity boys’ basketball team won the area tournament four years and finished in the finals three more years. He also coached football and initiated a new varsity baseball program.

He is married to his wife, Carolyn. They have two sons, Stephen and Luke. They have one grandson, Dalton. Coach Ledbetter attends First Baptist Church Boaz.
2014 Commencement Ceremony

Continued from Page 8

and her brother, Adam Cravens, both graduates of Albertville High School, were honored for their devotion to excellence while at Snead. Dr. Exley shared with the audience and the graduates Emily’s own words about her time at Snead:

“Working two jobs and taking six classes each semester was by far not easy, there were many times where I thought I could not do it. Then I started to think about my lifelong dream of being a pediatric nurse. I could not let discouragement and hard times make me fail. My brother and I applied to the University of Alabama In Huntsville’s nursing program. This is a very competitive school to get into; however we did it!”

Dr. Exley also shared the words of a parent who wanted to thank a faculty member, Science Instructor Deborah Rhoden, for showing her children support during their time at Snead.

“I have two daughters graduating Snead State this evening...Rebecca told me recently...how you guided her to complete the tough program. You encouraged Lina and gave her the most useful information when she was so discouraged a year ago because she did not get into the RN Program at SSCC. I always prayed that my children will have a good teacher like you so that they will have the right tools to develop themselves at school...My husband and I would like to thank you for everything you did for our children while they were students of SSCC.”

Honoring success and achievement continued not only with the presentation of certificates and degrees but also with the presentation of student awards.

Marcos Cruz of Collinsville received the Civitan Best All-Around Student Award. The Civitan Award is presented annually to the Best All-Around Student of the graduating class. To be eligible for this award, the student must have attended Snead State Community College for at least three semesters and attained a minimum cumulative academic average of 3.0 on a four-point scale. In addition, the student should have participated in extracurricular and community activities. The student is elected by a vote of the faculty from a list of eligible graduates who are participating in the graduation ceremonies.

Glorie Zirkelbach of Albertville was awarded the James B. Allen Award presented annually to the Outstanding Student of the graduating class. This award is a gift of the late James B. Allen, United States Senator from Alabama. To be eligible for this award, the student must have exhibited outstanding qualities of leadership and service, attained a minimum cumulative academic average of 3.5, and attended Snead State Community College for at least three semesters. The student is elected by a vote of the faculty from a list of eligible graduates who are participating in the graduation ceremonies.

Daniel Garcia of Albertville and McKayla Edmonds of Grant were recognized as this year’s members of the All-Alabama Academic Team. The All-Alabama Scholarship program is a complement to the All-USA National Academic Team Program, which is sponsored by USA Today, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Congratulations, Snead State Class of 2014!
New Membership Cards Coming in September!

The Alumni Office is in the process of updating the discounts available to active members of the Snead State Alumni Association. The discounts will be listed on new membership incentive cards that will be distributed to current members in September and October.

We appreciate all of the businesses who have participated in our incentive program for Alumni Association members.

If you have a business or know of a business who would like to participate in the Membership Incentive Program sponsored by the Snead State Alumni Association, please complete the form shown here and mail it to the Alumni Office at P.O. Box 734, Boaz, AL 35957. You may also e-mail the information to the Alumni Office at alumni@snead.edu.

The Alumni Association has hundreds of active members who will see the card and be eligible to benefit from the discounts listed on the card. Discounts will be valid from Oct. 1, 2014, to Sept. 30, 2015. The discounts may be determined by the participating business. There is no cost for the business to participate.

If you have any questions about the Membership Incentive Program, please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@snead.edu or (256) 840-4103. The deadline to participate for the 2014-2015 year is Aug. 8, 2014.

New Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program

Continued from Page 9

“So many opportunities opened up for me because of dual enrollment. With the opportunity to enroll in the dual enrollment program, I saw a shining moment to excel. When I graduated from high school, I had already taken a large step forward in my career,” said Cody Dennis.

“Dual enrollment gave me an opportunity to change my life,” said Riley Dennis. “Because of dual enrollment, I was not an onlooker watching my dreams go by. When I was younger, I spent time breaking computers just so I could learn how to fix them. I definitely do more fixing now than breaking. Being a dual enrollment student at Snead and learning from the Computer Science instructors prepared me for the workforce more than I hoped for.”

“Our challenge and mission here at Snead is to be thought of more often as a college with necessary career technical programs, and our goal is to add to the partnerships we already have as we grow. We have committed to help students stay enrolled until they complete their Associate degree, and the fact that we can now partner with business and industry to increase completion rates – that’s success,” said Snead State President Dr. Robert Exley.
Membership Drive

From Now Through July
Join As A Lifetime Member
For Half the Price - $50!

Members receive:
Discounts from participating businesses
Updates about Snead through newsletters
Invitations to special events

Already a member?
Recruit a new member and
receive $25 off a 4x8 paver
for the Alumni Walk!

www.snead.edu
alumni@snead.edu
(256) 840-4103
In Memorium

The Snead State Alumni Association extends our deepest sympathy to the families of alumni who recently passed away:

- Linda Worthy Teal (July 2013)
- Scott Ely (November 2013)
- Danny R. Griffin (March 2014)
- Jaimey Hornsby (May 2014)
- Martha R. Huie (May 2014)

Please let us know

The Snead State Alumni Association would like to honor the memory of those of our alumni who have passed away. We appreciate any of our alumni who take the time to notify us of the loss of anyone within our Snead family. Please feel free to contact the Snead State Alumni Office with the information at alumni@snead.edu or (256) 840-4103.