

# **Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service**

A Pierce Mortuary College

5141 Snapfinger Woods Drive  
Decatur, Georgia 30035-4022  
404-593-2257

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **GUPTON-JONES COLLEGE HOLDS GRADUATION EXERCISES**

Commencement exercises were recently held for the August, 2008, graduating students of Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service at the Berean Christian Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia. The graduation speaker was Ms. Dana Lemon of McDonough, Georgia. Ms. Lemon a co-owner of W.D. Lemon and Sons Funeral Home in McDonough. She is also a Board Member of the Georgia Department of Transportation. Her speech, "The Best of Times During the Worst of Times" was very inspiring and enjoyed by all.

Gupton-Jones President, Patty S. Hutcheson, presented awards to the students having the top two scholastic averages during their quarters of study. The Valedictorian Award was presented to Ms. Kelsa L. Jones of Sacramento, California. The Salutatorian Award was presented to Mr. Apollinair Darius Miller of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The Bill Pierce Award was presented by the Board of Trustees Vice Chairman, Mrs. Nancy Pierce Barber, to that graduate who, by vote of the members of the graduating class, best represents the funeral service profession in terms of professionalism. The honored recipient was Mr. Apollinair Darius Miller of Sacramento, California.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented by Gupton-Jones College President, Mrs. Patty S. Hutcheson, to Ms. Dana Lemon for her outstanding contributions to the funeral service profession.

The Academic Achievement Awards were presented to those students who maintained a 93 percent or above average. The following were recipients of this award: Anthony Eugene Brooks from Fayetteville, Georgia; Kelsa L. Jones of Sacramento, California; and Apollinair Darius Miller of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

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The Mu Sigma Alpha Award went to the top ten percent of the graduating class. These honored individuals were: Anthony Eugene Brooks of Fayetteville, Georgia; Kelsa L. Jones from Sacramento, California; and Apollinair Darius Miller from Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Other outstanding students were honored also. The Academy of Graduate Embalmers awarded their Richard Stewart Award to Mr. Anthony Eugene Brooks of Fayetteville, Georgia. In addition, the Russell Millison Award went to Mr. Apollinair Darius Miller of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

During the ceremony, certain members of the graduating class, who distinguished themselves throughout the school year, were recognized with Perfect Attendance Awards. These awards were presented to: Kelsa L. Jones of Sacramento, California, and Howard R. Sherrill of Kannapolis, North Carolina.

During the ceremonies, thirty-one students were recipients of the Associate of Science Degree in the Funeral Service ceremony. They were: Jennifer Altimirano of Jasper, Georgia; Shareeta Lavasha Beatty of Canton, Georgia; Anthony Eugene Brooks from Fayetteville, Georgia; Samuel Chase Croft of Buchanan, Georgia; Amber Nicole Deyton from Dahlonga, Georgia; Walter Dion Files, Sr. of Newport News, Virginia; Patricia Fountain from Locust Grove, Georgia; Michelle R. Furbert from Sandys, Bermuda; and Marshall Arnold Garrett, Jr. of Columbus, Georgia.

Also included were: Mitchell Hammond from Atlanta, Georgia; Brandy McDaniel Holbrook of Atlanta, Georgia; Sylvia Jetaun Johnson from Chicago, Illinois; Kelsa L. Jones of Sacramento, California; Spencer A. Knotts of Sanford, North Carolina; Cedrick LeTron Lawson of Columbia, South Carolina; Apollinair Darius Miller of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Romas Lamont Mitchell from Omaha, Nebraska; and David Phillip Poole, Jr. of McRae, Georgia.

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In addition to the above, the following were also graduates: Carl LeRhaun Powell, Jr. of Beaufort, South Carolina; Matthew W. Powell of Decatur, Georgia; Mack Louvianacheck Rice from Laurens, South Carolina; Brandon Craig Roberts of Mountain City, Tennessee; Howard R. Sherrill from Kannapolis, North Carolina; Jessycah Michal Shoemaker of Sacramento, California; LaToya Mechelle Stephens of Cartersville, Georgia; and Belinda J. Strickland from Palmetto, Georgia.

Others included: Ryan James Swann of Winter Haven, Florida; Arthur J. Terry, Jr. of East Point, Georgia; Brandon Elliott Thornton of Atlanta, Georgia; Jodie Wesley Turner from Broadway, Virginia; and Derwin Tremayne Williams from Battlesboro, North Carolina.

March, 2009



Gupton-Jones College graduation.  
Academic Achievement, and Mu Sigma Alpha  
recipients, l. to r.: Apollinair Miller,  
Kelsa Jones, and Anthony Brooks.