Shill LETTER **THE HUDDLE**

Volume XLVIV • The official newsletter of the University of Georgia Football Lettermen's Club

Georgia Football Lettermen's Club

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Letter from the President

Dear Lettermen,

Congratulations to Coach Dooley and his family on the naming of Dooley Field at Sanford Stadium. We were honored to celebrate with Darrell Huckaby, our Ole Faithful Dawg recipient, and his family as well. This year's reunion was simply the longest and most enjoyed by the lettermen and their families. A big thank you to all who made it possible especially our leader, Jim Baker.

We look forward to our 31st Vince Dooley Open and Hartman-Dukes Classic this spring. To each of you, have a happy holiday season and we wish the 2019 Bulldogs continued success this fall.

Sincerely,

Moch H. Guad Th

Mack H. Guest, III President

Important Dates to Remember

> April 15, 2020 **Board Meeting** UGA Lettermen's Club

April 16, 2020 31st Annual Vince Dooley Open Lettermen's Reception Athens Country Club

April 17, 2020 31st Annual Hartman-Dukes Classic Athens Country Club

April 18, 2020 Wally's Boys Breakfast Athens Country Club Alumni Flag Football Game **G-Day Game** Sanford Stadium

> August 15, 2020 **Board Meeting** Lettermen's Club

September 26, 2020 Lettermen's Tailgate & Reunion UGA vs. UL-Monroe **Oconee Hill Cemetery**



Fall 2019



Dooley Field Dedication

Lettermen that played for Coach Dooley were treated to a special evening on Friday, September 6, 2019. The reception was held at the University of Georgia Tate Center and featured a number of special guest speakers including Coach Kirby Smart, Governor Brian Kemp, Frank Ros, and Herschel Walker. Coach Dooley closed out the night with all guests ready to celebrate the upcoming dedication. On Saturday, September 7, 2019, before the UGA vs. Murray State football game, Coach Dooley along with his family were joined on the field with his team captains for the official unveiling of Dooley Field. Thank you Coach Dooley for all you have done for the University of Georgia Football Program!!! It indeed was a special weekend.





Dooley Field Dedication











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2019 Lettermen's Reunion

What an amazing day we had celebrating with Coach Dooley with the naming of Dooley Field and having our annual tailgate and reunion party. It was a perfect day enjoying each other's company while feasting on a delicious lunch. We must thank Jim Baker and his entire crew who worked extremely hard to prepare our wonderful tailgate. Be sure to mark your calendar for next year- **September 26, 2020**. You don't want to miss it.











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By Loran Smith • Posted Jul 30, 2019

When the members of the Wally's Boys Association, long-in-the-tooth and gimpykneed, gathered last spring, Coach Kirby Smart payed tribute to Treasurer Bill Saye for his enduring and tireless labor of love in managing the annual breakfast.

When you capsule Bill's life, it has always been about Georgia. Never loud, but always proud. Home grown and blessed with an attitude of appreciation and gratefulness, he managed the rigors spawned by his coach, who experienced a love-hate relationship with his players, as is often the case. It was the purview of Butts that to win in football one "must pay the price." Bill never had any quarrel with that.

Bill had grown up in the Classic City with the storied traditions: the Athens YMCA, Athens High football, the Varsity, Poss' barbecue, silver britches and the chapel bell ringing into the night after Georgia prevailed in the afternoon between the hedges.

Of all the Bulldog lettermen I have known over the years, none had more ungrudging loyalty than Bill. The work ethic was a badge of courage and playing for Georgia and Wallace Butt was high honor. When the dust settled on his college career, he would have a degree.

Today, with all the emphasis on the National Football league, its glory and its riches, we often lose sight of the fact that there has never been a greater trade-off in our society than to be able to play a sport for an education in return.

While there were many exceptions, the players of Bill's era never considered that they never came to campus without a degree being foremost on their mind. With Bill, it was a given that he would not squander this golden opportunity.

He would give every ounce of himself on game day to help ring the chapel bell, but he would proudly wear his cap and gown on the day of graduation.

A three-year letterman during the Butts era, Bill became a Marine following graduation. "Semper Fidelis," "Fortitudine" and courage, Corps and Country; "The Blood Stripe" down the legs of his trousers meant something to Bill, same as wearing silver britches between the hedges.

Before embarking to California for basic training, Bill became a football season ticket buyer. He has remained one since. If Bill were to paraphrase John Fitzgerald Kennedy from his 1961 inaugural address, he would say: "Ask not what your university can do for you, ask what you can do for your university."



After serving his country, Bill became a coach at Hart County. He is still revered in Hartwell today. He didn't just coach. He was a teacher who invested into his community. His leadership skills, which he learned from football and the Marine Corps, brought him high standing in Hartwell.

He would call on parents who were eager volunteers to assist him in "fixing," mending and jerry rigging so that all competitions would go on as without a hitch. Adjustable wrenches, haywire and athletic tape complimented ingenuity, hard work and a "can do" attitude. He made it fun for the kids he coached and for their parents as well.

His teams were successful. He made friends in Hartwell, which is best reflected by the decision of Hart County Schools to name the baseball stadium for Bill a few years ago. Hartwell kids enjoyed playing for Bill because he was good at teaching fundamentals, which led to success on the field.

Coaching, however, is not a profession that insures financial stability—at least it wasn't in the late fifties and early sixties. Bill and Margaret had a growing family and made a prudent decision. When his former teammate, Bill Young, offered him a job in sales and management at General Wholesale in Atlanta, Saye made the move to better provide for his family. However, he will always hold a special place in his heart for the coaching residuals that came from his years in Hartwell.

For years, the Wally's Boys Association was managed, at least conceptually, by the four founders—Ed Pope, Sam Bailey, John Rauch and Jack Bush, getting help from the Georgia Bulldog Club and also from Coach Bill Hartman, Chairman of the Georgia Student Educational Fund.



DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

It needed more structure which came about when Coach Hartman agreed to become involved. The main project was the annual breakfast with any shortfalls financially being covered by GSEF. The breakfast pretty much paid for itself. Postage was picked up by the Athletic Association.

When Bill Saye became involved, the organization got a kickstart and began to run much smoother. He gave the quarterly newsletter priority. That became a bonding influence. There were times when former players would note that they did not have the best experience in Athens, but Bill's response became: "We can't do anything about that, but come enjoy fellowship with your old teammates." That message resonated. Attendance and participation picked up significantly.

Those early morning sessions with the newsletter details were quite enjoyable. It gave us an opportunity to recall old times with former players and to catch up with the troubles of those who had fallen on hard times.

We talked about the down times and the fact that Coach Butts had been so dominant in the forties, but were sad that the fifties were not good to "The Little Round Man." We swapped vignettes about Sinkwich and Trippi. Bill saw Trippi play and it was a high point in his life to become a friend of Charley's. He, like the rest of us, was saddened when Charley's health precluded him from attending the breakfast.

Bill played for a Butts disciple, Weyman Sellers, at Athens High which meant that he played in Sanford Stadium on Friday nights, a treasured memory. (As a boy, he also played in the culvert underneath the field in Tanyard Creek, which flows the length of the stadium.)

When he finished high school and signed with Georgia, he and his good friend, Willie Fowler were invited to scrimmage against the Varsity, an exercise not exactly compatible with the rules. Nonetheless, they worked tirelessly and were often making head turning plays to the assistant coaches' delight. "Look," they would say to varsity players, "you are letting those little ole high school boys knock you on your (anatomy)." Many players back then complained and carped about the long and burdensome scrimmage sessions. No player who wore the Red and Black appreciated his scholarship more than Bill. He learned the value of the work ethic from all that hard-nosed scrimmaging and, all the time, expressed undying love and loyalty to alma mater.



Photos courtesy of Rob Saye

Bill didn't just give the Wally's Boys an organizational touch, spending countless hours to make the association better, he found time to volunteer in the community. In addition to the hospital, he became a volunteer for the Touchdown Club of Athens and the Georgia chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame.

With another season starting and the high expectations surrounding the Georgia team, I am swooning, like the rest of the populace, with heightened anticipation. I want it to be a memorable season for former lettermen like Bill Saye.

Bill didn't make it into the NFL. His name is on no wall (but his art is.) His reputation is unblemished, he did not enrich his family, but he taught them to be self-sufficient. He always tended to his own knitting and he gave of himself. The flag and alma are indigenous with him.

Now in his sunset years, he can look back and be proud that he helped build the tradition Georgia enjoys today. I want Georgia to win for Georgia and its loyal brethren. I want Georgia to win for Kirby Smart. I also want Georgia to win for friends like Bill Saye who has given of himself and has never found fault with those who ran the show.

*** Bill Saye passed away on September 10, 2019 at his home in Watkinsville, GA.





2019 Reunion Team Recognition

To top off an exciting weekend, we had the privilege of honoring our teams of 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 and 70 years as well as all lettermen at halftime of the UGA vs. Murray State game on September 7, 2019. How extraordinary was it to have Ed Greenway, one of our oldest living lettermen from the 1949 team, on the field with us that day.



2019 REUNION - FIELD RECOGNITION





Featured Letterman

JOHN MESHAD — 1995-96



Tell us a little bit about your job as Director of Football Equipment. How long have you been in this role?

I started out in the football equipment room working for the late great Dave Allen serving as his assistant from 2004 to 2006. In the summer of 2006 I accepted the position as the Director of Football Equipment. I am responsible for 2 full time assistants, one intern, 2 head set techs, and 18 student managers. Our job is to ensure that all our players, coaches, and staff members are fully equipped with all the gear they might need throughout the season. All equipment transportation, Nike orders, practice field equipment purchases, wireless communication coordination, locker room set up, and sideline set up are the responsibility of our department.

Share with us about your family.

I have been married for 8 wonderful years to Nichole Lee Meshad and we have 2 boys Michael (6) and John Wallace (3). We love to go fishing, playing golf, and watch movies together.

Describe what it is like getting ready for a home and away game. What all is involved?

Getting ready for football games is a process that starts in the summer time. All the trunks and road cases must be cleaned out and updated. The truck has to be inspected, the head sets must be maintained and updated, all the coaches' and players' gear must be organized and distributed. We have an inventory control system that keeps us constantly tracking and improving our distribution methods. As the games get closer, it takes a great deal of coordination between all departments to prepare as we do a great deal of transporting most all departments' equipment and game day needs. Everything that one can see on our sideline is everything we are responsible for. The headset communication is an important aspect to our job. The list of duties is really endless and makes this job hectic and fast paced through the entire year not just the season.

The weather for the UGA vs. Kentucky game was challenging. How did you keep the balls dry?

When it rains during a game it is impossible to keep the footballs completely dry. We use trash bags and ball bags with plenty of towels to try and keep the balls dry. Our student managers serve as the ball boys during games so we add an extra manager to each sideline to help keep the balls as dry as possible.

How important is it to you and your staff to stay contacted with former players?

It is important for me to stay in contact with as many former players as possible. When a team undergoes a change in coaches and staff, often times the players don't really have a relationship with any of the new coaches or staff members who take over. So, when a player comes back in town to stop by and visit, they realize that there may only be a few people left on staff that were here when they played so it's important to me to stay in contact and be a welcoming face when they do come back to Athens to let them know that we are here for them and that we do still care about them.

You were an equipment manager in the mid-1990s so you have been around UGA football for a while. What changes have you seen with football in general, players, etc.?

I started out working as a student manager for Dave Allen in

1995 when we had six student managers. Today we have 18 student managers, an intern, and 2 assistants so the department has grown exponentially over the years. The staff size has increased, the team size has increased, and the amount of time spent on recruiting has also increased significantly. The players have gotten bigger faster and stronger. The departments staff sizes have grown and the facilities are also growing to keep up with the demands that the sport brings the athletic department.





Glenn Creech

By: Loran Smith

Glenn Creech, who was among those anxious players wondering what their football life would be like when Vince Dooley arrived in Athens in December of 1963, was a down home boy who often exhibited an "Aw Shucks," bent, but he had a keen mind and was appreciative that his scholarship was paying for his education.

He would discover that it was easy to identify with the "Dooley-Way." He was eager to follow the leader because he saw that Saturday afternoons would be more fun. Winning would be the end result to what Dooley and his staff were bringing to the table.

Football was hard work, and he didn't mind that because he had fun playing the game and appreciated the fellowship that came about with his teammates.

When he passed away recently, he left a void with those overachieving guys who were the first to wear the new helmet with the sparkling "G" that ushered in a new era in 1964.

Creech was a lanky end with canny eyes and a perpetual grin. You never knew what he was thinking, but he had a disarming giggle that endeared him to everybody and a positive attitude which would serve him well when he became a savvy banker. Customers and deal-makers alike, enjoyed being around Glenn who used the principles of leadership and management he learned at Georgia to enhance an enviable business career.

He was about appreciation and loyalty. He was understandably proud when his son Glenn Jr. walked on and lettered for the Dogs in 1986. He wanted his son to know the pride that came with wearing the "G." He wanted him to experience the ultimate in emotional feelings from being a Dog with a "Hedges pedigree."

Born in Reidsville, Creech graduated from Claxton High School where he was an all-state Class B end (lineman of the year class B in 1961). He was also a sprinter on the track team.

At Georgia in 1962, he was the starting left end, catching five passes for 43 yards in the freshman three game schedule. The coaches immediately realized he had potential. He was eager for varsity action in 1963 and was getting established as a seasoned player, but a knee injury sidelined him late in the year.

The disappointment in not being able to play on Saturday brought frustration, but that meant that he would spend more time with his academic pursuits. He once said insightfully: "I didn't come to college just to play football. I wanted to earn a degree. "It was as important to me to go to class as it was to play His teammates had a high regard for him. They admired and appreciated his selfless team attitude and that he always made them laugh. That is why those with whom he was closest showed up for his funeral—including Randy Wheeler, Preston Ridlehuber, Marvin Hurst, Pat Hodgson, Kirby Moore, David Freeman and his roommate, Wayne Brantley.

"Glenn," Brantley said, "fought a long battle in his effort to overcome his illness. Randy and I went to see him three weeks prior to his passing. His determination showed then, even though his prognosis for treatment was not favorable. His plans were to start a routine walk to the lake, about 50 yards, and back to build up his reps and his body through nutrition.

"Hearts were sad at the end but we appreciated the celebration of life at his final service. We lettermen appreciated the family giving us a place of honor at the service. There was a lot said, including some the pranks he was known for. We loved the light side of his life, but also appreciated his serious side. I will miss my ole Georgia roomie."

A fellow end, Wayne Ingle, remembers the famous flea-flicker play versus Alabama in 1965 between the hedges. (Georgia came from behind to defeat Alabama and Bear Bryant, 18-17). "The substitution rules were limited back then," Ingle says. "We usually had at least four players at every position. Pat Hodgson came in for me and Glenn was the other end. When I see the replays of that game on "YouTube," I always chuckle. You see Bob Taylor scoring the touchdown after taking a lateral from Pat Hodgson. Then, you notice that the first person to run and jump in Bob's arms when he crossed the goal line was Glenn, No. 89. I'll never forget that autumn day in 1965 and Glenn's exuberance over the famous flea flicker touchdown."

Hodgson remembers that Glenn "was a great teammate, intense competitor and excellent student.

"We were freshmen in 1962 and learned to play offense and defense in the old one platoon days of that era. As freshmen, we spent most of our practice time scrimmaging as the Saturday opponent for the Varsity. I remember that Glenn had the biggest hands that literally enveloped the ball. We all remember that very contagious, unforgettable laugh.

"He was very good, and I will always believe that he might have had a truly outstanding career if he had not suffered that bad knee injury although he never let that get him down. He practiced hard, played the game hard and was a great teammate."

When your teammates remember you for being a "Damn Good Dog," it suggests that you could not enjoy greater tribute. Glenn Creech will always be remembered by his teammates as a selfless team-first-advocate.

No Bulldog I can remember had a greater "thumbs-up" rating when it came to being the model teammate.



2019 Campaign Update

Our goal of \$35,000.00 is in sight but we still need your help. As of October 25, 2019, we have had 201 donors contribute \$31,201.00 to our 2019 Annual Campaign. If you have not contributed, it is not too late. Please complete the 2019 Campaign Card and mail it in along with your check. Remember that when you contribute \$100.00 or more to the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club, you will automatically receive a 200 point credit towards the William C. Hartman Jr. Fund for your 2020 ticket priority. Thank you to all of the lettermen who have already given. Your names are listed below:

Abram. John Adcock, Matt Allen, Donald Allen, Ed Allison, Dave Anderson, Charles Baker. Jim Barber, Fred Belue, Buck Blakewood, Jim Bodine, Alvin Boshears, Willis Box, Aaron Brantley, Wayne Brice, Billy Broadway, James Brvan, Mac Bulloch, C.W. Burt, William Callaway, Tim Camp, John Chapman, Tim Childers, Clyde Clark, Dicky Clarke, Lee Clemens, Robert Cole, Bill Collier, Steve Collins, George Collins, Pat Conn, Dick Coram, John Creamons, Joe Culpepper, Knox

Curington, Jim Daniel. Lee Daniels, Juan Darby, W.S. Darden, Joel Davis, Doug Davis, Jack Dennard, Anthony Dickens, Pete Dooley, Daniel Dukes, David Evans, Torrey Faircloth, Mac Fales, Charles Fincher, R.L. Fletcher, John Franklin, Neal Freeman, David Garrett, Daniel Ghedine, Scott Ghertner, Andrew Gilbert, Paul Goodwin, Robert Goolsby, Barrington Greenway, Ed Greer, Steve Griffin, John Guest, Jud Guest, Mack Gurley, John Guthrie, Carlton Guthrie, Gus Hamil, Jason Hamilton, Richard

Hansen. Brett Harber, William Harmon, Steve Harper, Jeff Harrison, Glenn Hawk, Jacob Herndon, Steve Hines, Hap Hodge, Mark Hodgson, Pat Honeycutt, Robert Hooten, Jake Horton, Chuck Horton, Dwight Hudson, Harry Ingle, Wayne Jackson, Jerone Jackson, Kevin Jacobs, Wes James, Josh James, Randy James, Skip Jennings, John Johnson, Brad Johnson, Randy Johnson, Sandy Jones, Robert Kavouklis, Michael Kelly, Phil Kelly, Robert Kimsey, Bucky King, Horace Kinnebrew, Chuck Kohn, Larry

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Snellings, Paul Stickel, Robert Stinson, Les Story, Al Tarpley, Ted Taylor, Spafford Tedder, Stan Terry, Gordon Thomas, John Tidmore, Ronald Tomberlin, Don Tsiklistas, Tony Tucker, Mayo Ullrich, Andy Vann, Kenneth Vella, Lennv Wadley, Loring Watson, A.D. Weeks, David Whittemore, Charley Williams, Clark Williams, Kelvin Williams, Scott Williams, Todd Willis, Garv Wilson, Buck Wood, Jimmy Yawn, Bruce Zimmerlink, Thomas

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2019 Annual Campaign

THE GEORGIA FOOTBALL LETTERMEN'S CLUB 1070 Lake Wellbrook Dr. • Athens, GA 30606

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Enclosed is my gift of:

- □ \$250
- □ \$100
- □ \$50
- other: _____



Lettermen News

2015: Marshall Morgan is currently a Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch. His baby boy is named Maddox Morgan and he's 7 months old.

Email Address: marshallmorgan323@gmail.com

2014: Jack Loonam has been serving as an Active Duty Army Officer since being commissioned through UGA's Army ROTC program following graduation in May 2015. He has been stationed at Fort Lee, VA; Fort Hood, TX; as well as a deployment to the Iraq Kuwait Border for 9 months in 2017. Jack has been serving as a logistics officer on the front lines for the highest operational tempo and successful tank-unit in the world with the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Calvary Division. He is currently doing a transition internship in his last months of active duty service with the University of Texas in their development/fundraising arm for athletics, The Longhorn Foundation. Jack is recently engaged and looking for job opportunities in his next step after service when it ends in early December.

Email Address: jloonam47@gmail.com

1997: Harris Patel has been named to Team USATF's medical staff for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Harris will serve on his fourth Olympic Games staff and currently works at Sports Medicine South in Atlanta, Georgia. He started his health care career as an athletic trainer in 1998 and his experience includes care to the University of Georgia's football and track & field teams, the University of Alabama's football and softball teams, the Indianapolis Colts, and the New York Jets. He has also been a part of the medical staff for the NFL Scouting Combine and multiple college football championship bowl games. Patel has been on multiple USATF Medical Staffs since 2003, including the 2005, '09, '11, and '19 IAAF World Outdoor Championships and the '14, '15, and '17 IAAF World Relay Championships, among others.

Email Address: hpatel53@gmail.com

1996: Brian Smith's daughter, Hannah, will be signing her national letter of intent to ride at the University of Georgia on November 13, 2019. She will start as a student athlete on the UGA Equestrian Team in August of 2020.

Email Address: bsmith@gapgi.com

1984: Kevin Butler and his wife, Cathy, welcomed their first grandson, second grandchild, on September 17, 2019 - Ethan Andrew Joseph Sugar. Proud parents are Katie Scarlett and Patrick Sugar! Drew and Jacqui Butler are expecting their second daughter in March 2020.

Email Address: foot4cash@aol.com

1983: Joe Creamons is currently working with ENGS Commercial Equipment Finance providing financing and leasing to construction, mining, forestry, and environmental

companies. If your company finances or leases, be sure to give him a call or email him.

Email Address: jcreamons@engsfinance.com

1982: Jim Broadway and his son Jim Jr. (Ole Miss 2012) established an independent office through Raymond James Financial Services in Roswell, GA. The Broadway Financial Group, LLC began in April 2018.

Email Address: jim@broadway-financial.com

1978: Neal Franklin's youngest daughter, Ivey, has passed the bar and is now a lawyer in Charleston, South Carolina. Email Address: nfranklin1955@gmail.com

1970: Jim Massey greatly appreciates all of the prayers, thoughts, and concerns as he and Madelyn traveled through her illness journey. Madelyn fought to the end never giving up continuing to do physical therapy when they said it was over. Madelyn showed the fighting strength of a true Bulldog. He and Madelyn had 45 wonderful years together. You can't feel cheated at all because they were blessed in so many ways through the years! However, just get out there and do it! "Life is not a dress rehearsal except for getting to Heaven!"(He hopes he is remembered for this 200 years from now.) Jim is doing fine but like all husbands lack that little bit of guidance. He just returned from a cruise out of Quebec to visit Newfoundland and the maritime provinces of Canada and the New England Coast of New York City. The fall foliage was spectacular at several of the ports. Hopefully soon, an all football lettermen and families cruise could be organized. It is certainly the way to go and the food on Norwegian was good. A cruise gives you ample time to visit and party for those who still have the spirit and energy. "Keep the Faith!"

Email Address: jmassey22@verizon.net

1969: Michael Boyd's (1968-69) daughter, Celia Boyd Myers, has been selected as one of the Top 20 Under 40 Leaders in Anderson County, SC. She is the Assistant Director for Community Development. She is the granddaughter of Carl Willard "Red" Boyd (1942).

Email Address: boyduga@yahoo.com

1962: Paul Holmes' son, Sam Holmes, was recently appointed to the Board of Regents by Governor Brian Kemp. Sam and his wife, Lara, live in Atlanta where he is Vice-Chair of CBRE the world's largest real estate firm. They are both UGA grads as are their son Sam and daughter Susan.

Email Address: jpholmes692@bellsouth.net

1957: Buck Wilson's daughter, Dr. Natalee Kay Wilson, was elected as a board member of CCMS. She was featured in *Scripts, A Journal of the Cobb County Medical Society.* She practices at WellStar Kennestone Regional and her specialty is Internal Medicine.

Email Address: airdawgwilson@gmail.com

The 1980 National Championship

ICAM was recognized along with Herschel Walker and Vince Dooley at the Lighthouse Foundation event on October 10, 2019. The team was celebrated for the first time at the College Football Hall of Fame that evening.

* Photos courtesy of Rob Saye









Prior to the Notre Dame game at the UGA Lettermen's Club, we had a surprise visitor-Shawn Braue, a registered member of the Leprechaun Society. He dropped by in an attempt to work his magic!! He is the uncle of the Stephen Braue (2009).

2019 SEC Legend

Congratulations to Coach Vince Dooley who was recently selected for the 2019 Southeastern Conference Football Legends Class. He will be honored at the SEC Football Weekend of Champions that will take place December 6-7, 2019 in Atlanta, GA. Congratulations Coach Dooley on this great honor.

Nine UGA football lettermen (including the groom) attended Ty Frix's (2009-12) wedding in Marbella Spain on July 6, 2019. The bride, Rocio Sanchez Lobato, is a UGA letter winner in golf, and several of her teammates also attended.

Pictured: Aaron Murray, Dustin Royston, Trent Frix, Mitch Frix, Ty Frix, Christian Robinson, Matt DeGenova, Artie Lynch, Kolton Houston





University of Georgia Football Alumni Meet in Gainesville for Luncheon of Memories



The Gainesville Times Aug. 28, 2019 By: Nathaniel Berg

Former University of Georgia wide receiver Don "Stumpy" Tomberlin started organizing his annual get together of Bulldog football alumni a dozen years ago to keep the program's multi-generation camaraderie alive. What started as a lunch between six to eight former teammates has since grown to a gathering of around 50 Georgia football alumni from all walks of life.

Tuesday's luncheon marked the first year the event has come to Gainesville.

The gathering was held at Ashton Senior Living, an assisted living facility owned by UGA Hall of Fame member and Gainesville native Curtis McGill, and brought Georgia alumni from all over the state together.

"I live in Sandy Springs, and some people come as far away as Fayetteville," Tomberlin said. "But we're proud of just being able to come on down and see what's going on. We're happy to be in Gainesville."

Tomberlin first had the idea for the annual meetups during a funeral in Macon for former teammate Ray Clark. Tomberlin and Clark were both part of the UGA freshman class of 1958, and Clark's passing reminded Tomberlin that the teammates he had come to know as family would not be around forever.

In the beginning, Tomberlin would meet with fellow teammates from the Wallace Butts era of UGA football — a group that came to know themselves as the Wally Boys. But over the years, the Wally Boys decided to be inclusive of all Georgia football alumni hoping to participate.

"We're trying to include everybody that played football during the era from when we started in the 50s all the way up to the 2000s players," he said. "Hopefully it will just continue to grow."

Wednesday's event even extended beyond former Georgia athletes.

The guest of honor at the gathering was former Southern University football player Devon Gales, who was paralyzed after suffering a fractured vertebra while playing against Georgia in 2015.

"The spirit that he has is the same kind of spirit we have of being a Bulldog and just being tenacious," Tomberlin said. "We just admire the kid."

Gales has been embraced by the Georgia

photo by cook Rogers

football community in the years since his injury. Earlier this summer, he moved into a wheelchair-accessible house paid for in large part by Georgia alumni and donors.

Events like Wednesday's luncheon remind Gales of the brotherhood he's come to feel for what he called "the Georgia family."

"I'm blessed just to be able to see these guys, see where they came from and hear their stories," Gales said. "I'm just honored to be here."

Passing on stories from one generation to the next is what the annual meeting of former Georgia players has come to be about, each year's crop of graduates carrying with them tales of triumph and hardship that make up the collective Georgia football story.

It's a tradition that McGill—who hosted the event at his Lawrenceville assisted living facility for five years before moving the gathering to Gainesville this year—hopes to continue long into the future.

"These guys can tell story after story," McGill said. "The story gets bigger every year."



Loran Smith: Rakestraw's Passing Brings Back Fond Memories

August 6, 2019

In 1960 the Georgia football team began its season with promise, mainly because Fran Tarkenton and Pat Dye were seniors who had led the Bulldogs to the Southeastern Conference championship and victory over Missouri in the Orange Bowl the year prior.

Those two stars would be leaving at the end of the '60 season but then head coach, Wallace Butts, was actually salivating with regard for the future. The Little Round Man, as Butts was often referred to, was given to "po-mouthing" about his team when it came to talking about its prospects. The press (media was not in vogue in those days) described him as "Weepin' Wally."

In fact, he lamented that his team was so inferior to Furman in 1946 that the sports editor of the Greenville News actually picked the Paladins to upset the Bulldogs. The final score: Georgia 70, Furman 7. However, in fall practice in 1960, Butts became so overwhelmed with the raw ability of his freshman quarterback, that he even waxed positively for a change.

With Butts penchant for the forward pass, he saw in Larry Rakestraw an ability he hadn't seen since John Rauch and Zeke Bratkowski. Rakestraw had a fine arm and a no-holds-barred running style. Alas, Butts would never coach his prized quarterback. Butts resigned at the end of the '60 season but remained as athletic director.

Rakestraw would become a three-year starter for Johnny Griffith who replaced Butts as head coach in January 1961. Those were not the best of times. The only thing Georgia partisans agreed on was to disagree which certainly was not good for the football team.

The Bulldogs fielded three losing teams, but there was a memorable game which has lost its luster with the passing of time. Any historian doing his homework with the facts would have to agree with the notion that the 1963 Georgia-Miami game has to have been one of the greatest games ever for the Bulldogs.

It came in the midst of a so-so season at best. As it turned out, the Bulldogs were going nowhere. The game did not segue into a championship. It did not propel Georgia into a New Year's Bowl game.

But, for a one-time performance, no team has ever played more brilliantly. Consider the circumstances. With a backdrop of strident turmoil, Georgia had posted back to back records of 3-7 and 3-4-3. (The highlight of those two seasons was Rakestraw leading his team to a 30-21 victory over Auburn which brought about Sports Illustrated naming the Georgia quarterback national back-of-the-week.) The 'Dogs were 2-1-1 when they flew to Miami to play the highly favored Hurricanes in a Friday night game, Oct. 18, 1963 at the Orange Bowl. The host team, led by All-America quarterback George Mira, was favored to send the Dogs back home with another loss.

In fact, this blip of encouragement, with a classic upset, would end with intense frustration. Georgia would win only one more game.

That Friday night victory, however, was a blockbuster. The man behind the "Massacre in Miami" was Rakestraw, who died last weekend.

To put in perspective his personal performance of 25 pass completions in 38 attempts for 407 yards, all you have to do is peruse Mira's stats. The Hurricane QB broke his own personal record with 20 completions in 44 attempts for 342 yards. After the game, Mira congratulated Rakestaw and said: "You're the greatest player I have ever seen."

Receiver Pat Hodgson enjoyed a memorable night as well, making nine catches for 192 yards which tied the school record then held by the late Harry Babcock.

"It was an unbelievable night," Hodgson remembers. "Everything Larry threw, we caught. One time he heaved the ball downfield, just throwing it away and I caught up with the ball. It was one of those nights."

Rakestraw starred in three sports at West Fulton in Atlanta: football, basketball and baseball. When he turned 70, he could shoot his age in golf. He was a member of the State of Georgia Sports Hall of Game and played three seasons with the Chicago Bears.

I will always remember Rakestraw as an exceptional athlete, but just as noteworthy—that he was truly a nice guy.

Circle of Honor

Congratulations to **Kevin Butler (1981-84)** on his upcoming induction into the University of Georgia Circle of Honor on Friday, February 7, 2020 in the West End Zone area of Sanford Stadium.





Darrell Huckaby and UGA

My introduction to Georgia football came from stories my daddy told, of Wally Butts, Charlie Trippi, Frank Sinkwich and George Poschner. My earliest memory—about anything was when I was five years old. It was 1957. Georgia was tied with Georgia Tech, who had beaten us for 8 straight years. My mama bundled me up and walked me down to the gate of the Osprey Mill, where my daddy was working, and told the watchman she needed to see him. He came out to the gate and we listened to the final drive, where Theron Sapp scored a touchdown and broke the drought, on a Philco radio in the guard house. It's the only time I ever saw my daddy cry. I knew then I'd be Georgia for life, and I have been.

We couldn't afford tickets to the game, but sometimes, when he didn't have to work Saturdays, Daddy would take me to Athens and we would sit on the railroad track and watch the games. Mama would fix us a tailgate—mayonnaise sandwiches and dill pickles wrapped in wax papers. She would fix me sweet iced tea in a fruit jar. I guess my daddy was drinking water because his fruit jar was clear. We would listen to Ed Thelinius on an old transistor radio. Daddy swore that once Thelinius was gone there would never be anybody as good as him to broadcast Georgia games.

I was raised in a four room mill village house. We didn't have a bathroom in our house until I was in the fifth grade. Actually getting inside Sanford Stadium or going to college never crossed my mind when I was a kid, but when I went to the consolidated Newton County High School I made friends with kids who lived in houses with light switches on the wall instead of pull chains in the ceiling—and showers and central heat. They started inviting me to games, as did my high school basketball coach, Ronald Bradley, and I began to dream.

When I graduated from Newton County High School, I received a basketball scholarship to UGA. I was a manager. The Southeastern Conference has changed in 50 years, but

not THAT much. Georgia has been a part of the fabric of my life. My education has opened doors and allowed me to go places, meet people and do things that I never dreamed of, in my wildest imagination—and it taught me to dream and make my imagination as large as the world.

Now I have graduated twice from UGA. I have three great kids and told them all that they could go to Georgia or any school they could afford to pay for. My daughter Jamie has a Doctor of Pharmacy from Georgia. My son, Jackson Lee, has a BSED and MSED from Georgia and my youngest daughter has a degree from the Grady School with a. Leadership Certificate from the Terry School.

During the fall, we are wherever Georgia is and the University remains the tie that binds us together, going all the way back to the stories my dad told me. Rest assured, they know who Butts and Trippi and Sinkwich were, as well as the current breed of Dawgs and it is not a coincidence that my new grandchild, due in February, will be named Walker Lee Huckaby.

Submitted Respectfully,

Darrell Huckaby









2019 OLE FAITHFUL DAWG

On September 7, 2019, the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club was pleased to recognize **Darrell Huckaby** as our 2019 Ole Faithful Dawg. The presentation took place at halftime of the UGA vs. Murray State football game. The Ole Faithful Dawg Award is given by the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club to an individual who is not a football letterman but who has been a loyal and dedicated supporter of the Bulldog football team throughout their time.







"OLE FAITHFUL DAWG" AWARD RECIPIENTS

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HFUL DAV

2019	Darrell Huckaby	Conyers, GA
2018	Dwayne Gilbert Hix Mizell	Griffin, GA Atlanta, GA
2017	Loran Smith	Athens, GA
2016	Norma Haynes	Newnan, GA
2015	Charles Seiler & Family	Savannah, GA
2014	Charlie Horton	Athens, GA
2013	Claude McBride	Athens, GA
2012	Tom Oglesby	Elberton, GA
2011	Claude Williams	Athens, GA
2010	Jack Davis	St. Simons Island, GA
2009	Lewis Gainey	Athens, GA
2008	Tom Murphy	Atlanta, GA
2007	Dick Copas	Athens, GA
2006	Aaron Cohn Richard Hecht	Columbus, GA Columbus, GA
2005	Judd Farr	Greenville, SC
2003	Dan Whitmire	Atlanta, GA
2002	Lamar T. Wansley	Athens, GA
2001	Candler Meadors	Athens, GA
1999	John Terrell	Athens, GA
1998	Bill Bruckner	Atlanta, GA
1997	Bogger Selley	Albany, GA
1996	Herschel Scott	Monroe, GA



www.bulldoghaven.org

As UGA football lettermen, we take immense pride in the University of Georgia and its traditions. To continue the University's exceptional heritage, the UGA Football Lettermen's Club has started a new tradition



among those for who UGA has been more than an alma mater, but a way of life.

Bulldog Haven is а designated section of the historic Oconee Hill Cemetery that is open exclusively UGA to football lettermen, their spouses and families. Located adjacent to Sanford Stadium, Bulldog Haven offers a unique resting place in the heart of the University Georgia campus. of This is Athens' only cemetery designated to honor and celebrate the lives of UGA football lettermen. We invite you to consider supporting Bulldog Haven by deciding

now to invest in a plot for yourself and your loved ones.

Bulldog Haven is a non-profit venture that will support the maintenance and restoration of historic Oconee Hill Cemetery. In addition to the noteworthy University of Georgia personalities interred there, Oconee Hill Cemetery is also the resting place of many important figures in Georgia's history.

Private tours of Bulldog Haven are available by calling **General Manager Don Smith** at (706) 543-6262.



LETTERMAN INFORMATION

First Name:
Middle Name:
Last Name:
Physical Address:
City: State: Zip:
Home phone:
Mobile phone:
E-mail:
Preferred Method of Contact (please choose one)
□ Mail □ Phone □ E-mail
Year(s) Lettered at UGA:
Total Number of Plots Requested:
Plot Numbers:
(listed on landscape plan at www.bulldogbaven.org)
Number of Plots Requested:
$x $3,000^* = (total)$
Rates will increase to \$4,000 per plot beginning January 1,2020.
Mail Checks and Correspondence to:
Bulldog Haven
C/O MACK H. GUEST, III

INFO@BULLDOGHAVEN.ORG

18



Lost Lettermen! The following lettermen do not have a current address with us. If you have any information of their whereabouts, please contact Sally at sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com or mail information to 1070 Lake Wellbrook Drive, Athens, GA 30606. Thanks for your help!

Herman Bell Illya Berry Terreal Michael Bierria Larry Bowie Ramarcus Brown Robert Burns Charles Carswell Quincy Carter Tyler Catalina Anthony W. Clincy Antonio Cochran Vance Ervin Cuff West Davis Reuben Faloughi Michael Hall David Hargett Gerald Wayne Hearin Albert H. Hollis Robert Allen Hope Willie K. Jackson Emarlo Stanza Leroy Thomas McKinnon

Jesse Murray Michael Robinson Will Sanchez Ricky Styles Lemonte Donzell Tellis Ralph Cecil Thompson Odell Thurman Michael Arthur Wallace Thomas Michael Wallace Damon Ward James Edward Warner Evan J. Wells Michael W. Willis





and to be sure your reservation gets in the assigned block of rooms. The room rate will be \$118.00 per night. Athens Country Club will be our host for the tournaments.



40 Under 40 Class of 2019

Congratulations to **Demetric Evans (1998-2000), Malcolm Mitchell (2011-2015), Cory Phillips (1999-2002), and Ryan Schnetzer (2003-05)** who were named to the University of Georgia Alumni Association 40 under 40 Class of 2019. The 40 Under 40 program recognizes alumni under the age of 40 for their professional accomplishments and contributions to their communities.

2020 Georgia Football Lettermen's Club Directory

Advertising Packages will be available for the **"2020 Georgia Football Lettermen's Club Directory"**. This will be a great opportunity to support our club as well as promote your company among our lettermen.

Please contact Skip James at barneyjames92@yahoo.com or call (706) 988-3161 for questions.

Send us your ad and make checks payable to the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club and mail to 1070 Lake Wellbrook Drive, Athens, Georgia 30606.



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- \$125 Quarter Page
- \$75 Business Card



Younger Lettermen's Tailgate @ Bulldog Laundry on Baxter Street



Pictured: John Courson, Ty Frix, Trent Frix, and Matt Herzwurm

Send a Memorial

You can send a memorial gift to the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club in memory or in honor of a loved one. This is a special way to honor those people who you loved. Gifts can be sent to 1070 Lake Wellbrook Drive, Athens, GA 30606. For more information, please contact Sally at <u>sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com</u>. Thank you to those people who have taken part in this opportunity.

Jim & Becky Baker in memory of Dr. Harvey Simpson Jim & Becky Baker in memory Coach Warren Morris Mack Guest, III in memory of Dr. Harvey Simpson Mack Guest, III in memory of Mrs. Barbara Simpson Mack Guest, III in memory of Coach Warren Morris Jim & Becky Baker in memory of Mrs. Barbara Simpson Steve Lammert in memory of Coach Warren Morris Jim & Becky Baker in memory of Bill Cliatt Jim & Becky Baker in memory of Barbara Culpepper Mack Guest, III in memory of Larry Rakestraw Jim Baker in memory of Larry Rakestraw Jim Baker in memory of Melanie Cobb Lou Perno in memory of Bill Saye Mack Guest, III in memory of Bill Saye Mack Guest, III in memory of Donnie McMickens Phil Kelly in memory of Coach Warren Morris Bobby Poss, III in memory of Bill Saye Bobby Poss, III in memory of Tom Griffith Jeff & Beth Hicks in honor of Ernest Ponder and family Hugh & Vicki White in memory of Richard A. Hecht

Huddle Sponsor / Advertising Packages

Advertising packages are available for the Lettermen Huddle Magazine. This is a great opportunity to promote your company to all of your fellow lettermen. Listed below are the packages that are available. Please contact **Sally** at **sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com** for questions. Send us your ad and make your check payable to the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club and mail to 1070 Lake Wellbrook Drive, Athens, GA 30606.

Top Dawg: \$500

Full page ad in the Huddle newsletter

Between the Hedges: \$250

1/2 page ad in the Huddle newsletter

Silver Britches: \$125 1/4 page ad in the Huddle newsletter

Dawg Pound: \$35

Business Card in the Dawg Pound

- The Dawg Pound is a special section of the Huddle solely devoted to business cards. Everyone needs to take advantage of this.
- Discounts will be given on multiple Huddle editions for full, ½ and ¼ page. No discounts on the Dawg Pound.
- You are responsible for designing your own ad.
- You don't have to be a letterman to advertise.

Jimmy Payne Hardship Fund

The Jimmy Payne Football Lettermen's Hardship Fund has been established by the Georgia Football Lettermen's Club for the purpose of providing financial assistance to needy football lettermen who find themselves under hardship conditions. The Jimmy Payne Hardship Fund recently provided assistance to Greg Waters. For an application, please visit our website- www.ugalettermensclub.com.

Georgia-Florida Hall of Fame

The Georgia-Florida Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held at the West Club at TIAA Bank Field on Friday, November 1, 2019. Congratulations to UGA lettermen **Rennie Curran** (2007-09) and **Jarvis Jones** (2011-12) on their induction this year.

<u> </u>

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Return Service Requested



Lettermen, What's Your News?

Change in address? Promotion? Transfer? Family News? We want to publish your news in THE HUDDLE. Just fill out the following form and submit to **Sally Haugabook**, 1070 Lake Wellbrook Drive, Athens, GA 30606 or email her at **sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com**. Letters and suggestions for THE HUDDLE are also welcome. CALLING ALL LETTERMEN! Send THE HUDDLE your current e-mail address. You and all of your teammates will be able to keep in touch!

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Business Title	
Business Address	
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My news is	
·	



LETTERMEN CONTACT INFORMATION

MOVING? CHANGE IN JOBS?? NEW EMAIL ADDRESS??? Please be sure to contact Sally Haugabook at sallyhaugabook@ugalettermensclub.com with any change in your contact information. It is important for us to have the current mailing address for you. Also, if Sally does not have your email address, please send it to her. She periodically sends out emails concerning lettermen, tailgating, golf tournaments, and shirt sales. Thanks for your help!