

# Alumni Spotlight: Brian Lothridge

The district invites you each week to meet a Laurens Alumni who has joined as faculty and staff in Laurens County School District 55. The alumni has taken some time to look back on memories from high school, favorite teachers and faculty, and give us an opportunity to learn more about them and their accomplishments thus far.



The dedication and loyalty of Laurens alumni in the school district are legendary. Laurens alumni make extraordinary things happen in the classrooms and schools. If you see any alumni in the hallways or grocery stores, please stop and thank them for coming back to make a difference. This week's "Alumni Spotlight" shines on Brian Lothridge.

**What year did you graduate?** I graduated in 2003.

**What is your overriding memory from high school?** The greatest part about high school to me was the lasting friendships that I made. I started at LDHS with close to 500 freshmen. By the time I graduated, I had made some connection or friendship with probably over 50 percent of them. As far as an overriding memory, there are too many to recall with so many close friends.

**Who was your favorite teacher/faculty member at the high school?** I had several teachers that I enjoyed, but

my most favorite by far had to be Coach Dale Nelson. Coach Nelson was always throwing underlying jokes during his lessons. He was also one of the best that I have ever seen at relating content to real-life situations. I learned more about life in his classes than I did content, but the life lessons still stick with me today.

**What activities were you involved in at the high school?** I played four years of football (3-year letterman), I was a four-year member of the Building Construction program, member of the Beta Club (4-year academic letterman), and I was involved in countless other activities such as FCA, etc.

**Details of further / higher education (e.g., place of study and qualifications gained):** In 2005, I earned an

Associate in Arts degree from Piedmont Technical College (with honors). In 2008, I received a Bachelor's of Science in History from Lander University (with honors). I have highly qualified S.C. teaching certification in Social Studies (9-12), Gifted and Talented endorsed, Read 2 Succeed endorsed, and trained through the Social Studies AVID program.

**Where do you teach? What subject and grade level do you teach?** LDHS (10th year); I also coach football (just finished 16th season), I have also coached boys tennis (four years), softball (five years), and boys track (one year) and U.S. History (11 years).

**What do you think your greatest accomplishment is thus far?** My greatest accomplishment so far is becoming a college graduate. I am the only one in my family to have a college degree. I am a firm believer that everyone is born with a set of skills. Some of these skills do not require a degree to turn out a success. Even though I firmly believe this, I will never forget the pride that ran across my parent's faces after I earned my degree. All that I have ever wanted to do was to make them proud, and on that day, it showed.

The "Alumni Spotlight" is a joint service of LCSD 55 and the Alumni Association of Laurens 55.



**THOMPSON RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP** — Piedmont Technical College (PTC) recently held a Scholarship Luncheon to recognize student recipients of dozens of PTC Foundation scholarships for 2019. This year's winner of the Jane B. Burgdorf Realtor Scholarship is Tamera Thompson of Waterloo, right, pictured here with Gus Burgdorf. Mr. Burgdorf, former executive director of the PTC Foundation, established the scholarship in 2008 to honor his wife, Jane. The scholarship is available to a student enrolled in the Cardiovascular Technology or Respiratory Care program.

## Bob Jones releases president's list

The following students are among approximately 540 Bob Jones University students named to the President's List for high academic achievement during the Spring 2019 semester.

To qualify for the President's List, students must earn a 3.75 or higher grade point average for the semester. Among those named were: Daniel Quigley, a Junior Cinema Production major and Shelby Ziemer, a Junior Mathematics Education major, both of Fountain Inn.

Located in Greenville, Bob Jones University provides an outstanding regionally accredited Christian liberal arts education purposely designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of learning, loving and leading. The University offers over 100 undergraduate and graduate programs in religion, education, fine arts and communication, arts and science, health sciences, and business.

## Copeland graduates from The Citadel

Brandon Copeland of Enoree, earned a Chemistry degree from The Citadel. Copeland graduated during the South Carolina Corps of Cadets commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 4 in McAlister Field House.

Graduates accepted their diploma from Citadel alumnus Gen. Glenn W. Walters, USMC (Ret.), who was officiating as president for the first

time. The Citadel Class of 2019 includes 528 cadets, veteran students and active duty students. The graduates come from 32 states and seven countries. About 35 percent of the class accepted commissions as U.S. military officers in all branches of service just prior to graduation.

The ceremony followed three days of the Corps' commencement-related activities, which included an awards convocation, commissioning ceremonies for cadets becoming military officers and The Citadel's iconic Long Gray Line parade.

The top academic programs for the Class of 2019 included business administration, criminal justice, mechanical engineering, civil engineering and political science.

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