



# THE GREEN & GOLD

## Defeating Sports Bias at SHS

By Jaylin Roberts

Special Point of Interest  
10 Reasons Why You Shouldn't Date a Jerk!



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Which sport is the most popular? In 2012, in The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Globalization, Richard Giulianotti states, "soccer [was] the world-wide most viewed sport," which is definitely still true today, but for our small-town high school, football is most definitely the talk of the town. Many of the sports teams at Suwannee High School produce amazingly talented athletes who, sadly, don't get quite the same amount of attention as football. Four athletes and two coaches from our school have expressed their person-



Varsity player showing off his new jersey.

al stance on the amount of school support and recognition for sports. Jordan Esco, an athlete of volleyball, soccer, and tennis, states, "sadly there is not a lot of support for all three sports I play." In fact, she says "tennis and soccer

have the least amount of support." So Mr. Giulianotti's statement that soccer is most popular definitely does not apply to Suwannee High School. Track and tennis athlete, Brenden Richard, contrastingly comments that he believes the "trophies

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## New Year New Band

By Kailey Greene

Friday night lights, the smell of French fries and cheeseburgers, the thumping and banging of the drums, the crash of the cymbals. Without the band, football games would be so much less enter-

taining! Suwannee High School's band does a phenomenal job at bringing everyone together to sing and dance no matter what the occasion. This year, SHS has a new

band director who is incredibly passionate about his job. Mr. Alex Franklin, who is originally from Lakeland, FL. Being a musician runs in Mr. Franklin's family.

Continued on page

## Defeating Sports Bias at SHS Cont'd

**“If it’s not football, it doesn’t matter.”**  
- Coach Rayanna Johnson

and announcements in the morning” fairly recognize all sports achievements and supports them. While Brenden definitely makes a valid point, some would argue that a morning synopsis of sporting events and old trophies would not count as support and recognition in recent time. Current football and baseball athlete, Ronnie Layton points out “when swim gets recognized for winning a meet no one really listens or understands their achievements, but when football or baseball gets recognized for winning a game the whole school is talking about it”. So what steps can be taken to change this issue? How do we get fair recognition for all sports? Elexxis Davis, current track and volleyball athlete, feels “more pep rallies and attention to all sports” would solve this issue. The overall Bulldog Pride of Suwan-

letes need that connection with fans to succeed. So to become better athletes all around, school support for all sports, not just football, is a necessity. Both Coach Johnson and Girls Basketball coach, Brian Bullock, believe a reward system for students will get them to the games. Coach Bullock remarks that “the overall support and recognition for sports at our school is adequate but many steps could be taken to strengthen it”, and he states, “a reward system such as extra credit for students who stay and cheer the entire game” would be very effective in getting the excitement going. Both feel the general school spirit would be lifted tremendously.

nee High needs to increase in order to give more support to the overlooked sports in the school. Our head volleyball and track coach, Rayanna Johnson strongly recognizes the lack of recognition for many sports at our school. Coach Johnson states that “if it’s not football, it doesn’t matter”. Recently she brought up many concerns she had for volleyball before the season started which were not addressed until mid-season when the ability to address said issues had already passed. For example, Coach Johnson attempted to buy uniforms for both JV and varsity over the summer and her request was denied because funds were simply not there, although the team completed many fundraisers in the past three years. Coach Johnson said “I’ll get

Coach Johnson actually carried out this reward, and there was a positive effect. Many students came and supported the game who would usually not be at any game other than football. Coach Johnson also suggests a student athletic advisory council. A student from each sport could create a council to discuss and plan active student sections for all sporting events at Suwannee High School. We should take this initiative and build on it to create a supportive environment for the school’s diverse athletes. Suwannee, let’s shed

back to you’ was the standard rebuttal” when brought up during the school year. This issue was then assessed four weeks late into the season, which was too late to even be dealt with. Also, after the hurricane, many games had to be rescheduled and football ended up having games the same day as volleyball. Coach Johnson says her athletes feel “they will never be able to have a crowd to really support them, even when they are making gains Suwannee High volleyball hasn’t made in years”. When asked about the importance of support for her athletes, Coach Johnson said, “it’s very crucial to the attitudes of my athletes. The more they feel important to their peers the better they strive to impress them”. She states how the energy in a crowd is kinetic and all ath-

light on the amazing talent of ALL sports at our high school, and bring our school spirit to an all time high!



2017 Boys Cross Country Team

## New Year New Band Cont'd

He said, "I calculated it up the other day and I would be about the ninth musician in the family." Mr. Franklin joined his school's band, The Harrison Arts Center, in the sixth grade. He described himself as "a closed off person, shy, and sheltered." He mentioned that his only friend was his band teacher, Mr. Hawks. Mr. Franklin looked up to Mr. Hawks, the man who looked out for him and made him the person he is today. He had the realization that he too wanted to become a band teacher when Mr. Hawks committed suicide. The death of his teacher and friend opened his eyes and inspired him to one

day inspire others. Mr. Franklin went on and joined the marching band at the University of Florida, where he acquired a degree in music education. It was at the University of Florida that Mr. Franklin was introduced to Suwannee High School. He had local connections to Live Oak and was looking for a position, and SHS was hiring. So, they offered him the job, and he was warmly welcomed into the family of the SHS band. Mr. Franklin and the band students decided to make the theme for this year "Made in America." He described the theme by stating, "it features patriotic songs and moreover, the depth of mean-

ing behind what the patriotic songs mean." They want to get more into the meaning of the songs that have always just been sung and played. They hope to recognize veterans and make people think more about the words instead of just the melody. Mr. Franklin believes that the band has already improved from the beginning of the year in terms of "musicality and maturity." He mentioned that he makes band a "priority" and wants to make it feel like a family. Junior, Daniel Hendrick who plays in the brass section, stated that "we are playing more difficult music, we are playing more



**Band playing under the Friday Night Lights**

difficult music, we are playing more together as a band and we are able to do more visuals as a band together." He gives this credit to the new band director. Trevor Eddings, a senior who has been playing since the seventh grade, feels like the new band director is dedicated and that "he gives us a strong sense of leadership." Both band students agree that they would like to see more confidence and dedication in themselves and their peers this year in band. Mr. Franklin, Daniel, and Trevor all believe that

attitudes and stereotyping is the reason why band doesn't get a lot of support and recognition. An opportunity to support the band is at their competitions. They are participating in two this year, October 22nd in Santa Fe and also October 28th in Lake City. The band is progressively improving this year with a new band director and new attitudes, and it needs the support of the community to continue to thrive!

## National Honor Society: A Tradition of Success

By Victoria Marshall

National Honor Society (NHS) has been a tradition here at Suwannee High School and many other high schools and colleges throughout America for years. Currently, the sponsor of National Honor Society is Neena Brown-Thomas, who is a math



National Honor Society sponsor, Mrs. Neena Brown-Thomas.

sions." With these big and successful projects, these projects create joy and pride. "I am most proud of the Service project that we start several years ago the Collection of items, food and blankets and towels, for the Animal Shelter in Wellborn, They are so appreciative of all of the items

teacher here at Suwannee High School. NHS has a strong student membership with dedicated officers, including president Abigail Gregory, vice president Jaylin Roberts, historian Alexandria Jackson, recording secretary Caileigh Croft, corresponding secretary Alyssa Howard, and treasurer Kenzie Reigel. Getting into NHS requires hard work and dedication. Members of NHS must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 on a

that we collect and they even send us pictures of the Animals that we are helping." NHS not only helps people in their community, they also help animals and local businesses. The NHS has been busy and continues to be busy with helping the com-

4.0 scale, or equivalent standard of excellence. Members of NHS must be resourceful, good problem solvers, and idea contributors, and maintain a clean discipline record. Mrs. Brown shared details about NHS's future plans for this year and their achievements throughout the years. "The National Honor Society is an organization that is to establish to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated

excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. These students learn what it means to serve others through service, learn how to be a good leader, and have an admirable character." The members of NHS organization show excellence and leadership and help their community and school by completing many successful projects, donations, and food drives throughout the year. "We completed a number of service projects throughout the year but are two biggest ones are the Animal Shelter and Food drive for Vivid Vi-

munity through numerous projects and donations. "We are currently collecting items for the Animal Shelter in Wellborn Florida." Members in the National Honor Society help the people of their community through many donations, food drives, and service works. National Honor

Society is all about recognizing students for their outstanding scholastic and community achievement while improving the lives of others in their community. It's definitely a membership for which more students should strive!

## More Than a Sport

By Jordan Owens

The JV volleyball team started the season with a new coach, Deborah Cathey. Coach Cathey was chosen by Mr. Hines to lead our lady dogs. Given that Coach Cathey played volleyball from middle school through her high school gradua-

tion, she was eager to teach the team. When asked about the best part of coaching the JV volleyball team, Coach Cathey revealed that for her it was simply guiding the girls to success. A common denominator in the SHS JV Volleyball team is friendship, even through a loss, the team

remains as one. Many of the girls on the team were originally inspired to play the sport by their friends and family. Olivia Stuart has been playing volleyball for the past three years, and the first step she took in that direction was making memories with her friends. Although Olivia



JV Volleyball takes on Baker

## More Than a Sport Cont'd

started her journey to become closer with friends; she comes back year after year to improve the skills she has worked for, and perhaps pave the way for her future. Much like Olivia, volleyball is more than a sport. It is an opportunity for Mckay Graham. "I've been to several colleges and scouts are looking at me" says Graham, when asked what volleyball has done for her. Volleyball was merely a game for Graham until it developed into a goal, something to work for in hopes of one day it becoming a profession. Getting noticed

by a college is no small feat, Mckay and many of the girls playing on SHS's JV volleyball team dedicate hours of personal time to hone their skills. Playing volleyball gives Timya Wiggins a sense of pride, each day that she practices instead of being lazy in bed is an achievement. With steady encouragement from her family and her team, Timya goes to her personal volleyball net to practice often. Even if volleyball is not a long-term idea for the girls it has a positive impact on all the players lives; volleyball has taught

the girls how to keep a schedule, responsibility, humility, and it has created lasting bonds with other incredible young ladies.

**"Volleyball was merely a game for Graham until it developed into a goal, something to work for in hopes of one day it becoming a profession."**

## Coach Doug Morgan: A Coach Who Believes in His Sport

By Audrey Marshall

The Suwannee High School swim team has had a strong start to their 2016-2017 season. According to Coach Doug Morgan, who has coached for at least 15 years, he coaches because swimming was his first love. Morgan, who also teaches science at the high school, claims that although the sport is hard and demanding, he has a true love for it. Coach Morgan's goals for this season are to qualify for swimming regionals, which will be held in the middle of October. He is hoping to have at least six swimmers qualify to compete. He believes his team has a good shot, as the team has strong swimmers, especially team leaders Lilly Lamb and Hunter Merola. When speaking to Coach Morgan about his team and sport, his passion for

coaching is apparent, especially when he recalled the most exciting meet the swim team had participated in so far this year. "Our most exciting meet was against the Yulee Yellow Jackets. They had beaten us the week before, but we have beaten them twice since then." His greatest accomplishment as a coach, Morgan says, has been "pushing them (the swimmers) to success if the players improve and watching the kids become better" swimmers. With a dedicated coach who is focused on the swimmers' success and believes in positively motivating his team to improve, there is no doubt the Suwannee High Swim Dogs will finish their season at the top of their game!



SHS Swimmers diving into the water

**"He coaches because swimming was his first love"**

# Homecoming is More Than Just Football

By Victoria Marshall

Homecoming is more than just a football game. Homecoming is a time when students, athletes, parent, and people of all ages come together and reconnect with people, show their spirit and pride for their school, and celebrate the homecoming court. Here, in Suwannee County, homecoming is no joke, from the



Senior Princess Ashton Harrell

homecoming court attendance down to the dress up week to show support of homecoming. Suwannee High School 2017

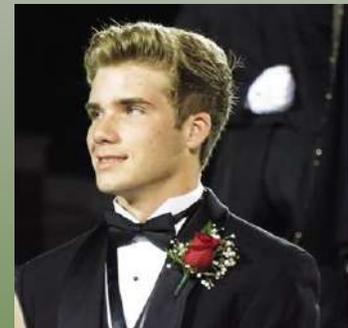
homecoming that is very well-intentioned is the "half-time presentation. The half-time presentation is always fun and entertaining to me." Next to be interviewed was Brenden Richards, Brenden is in the 12 grade and part the homecoming attendance this year, along with Ashton Harrell. "I was pretty shocked and proud to be announced that I was on court." Being on the court takes time and commitment into homecoming. "I have spend about 6 hours of preparing into running for homecoming." Even though it takes time and commitment, there's a volume

-2018 Homecoming attendance is 9th grade Homecoming attendance: Talynn Cameron. 10th grade Homecoming attendance: Paola Castillo. 11th grade Homecoming attendance: Mackenzie Driver. 12th grade Homecoming attendance: Logan Gray, John Fry, Cailleigh Croft, Kailey Greene, Bryce Puckett, Ashton Harrell, Brenden Richard, Alyssa Howard, and Brenden Richard. Ashton Harrell, Brenden Richard and the Homecoming sponsor Kimberly Tuvell were interviewed about their hopes and show their opinions about homecoming. The first to interview was Mrs. Tuvell the homecoming sponsor. "When I first

amount of stuff to look forward to. "I can't wait to see how much fun homecoming will be." The last to be interviewed was Ashton Harrell, who also in the homecoming attendance, and in 12th grade. Being on the homecoming court and being a senior is very exciting. "It's a great experience to do and leave the high school with a bang." Homecoming is a night to remember that will leave everyone is a blazing Suwannee sprite. "It's a honor to represent my class and to be running with my friends for my last year." During homecoming you're bound to see something you

started working here, I started doing SGA (Suwannee Government Association) for 4 years then I stopped for a while, then the new sponsor of the SGA left and I took back over the SGA and the administration asked if I wanted to do homecoming and I said yes." Thanks to Mrs. Tuvell, Homecoming wouldn't be fun, up beating, and as memorable as possible. The week of homecoming brings back memories to everyone here in Suwannee. One of the many fun activities that is known to be well-intentioned is "dress up week, I remember doing dress up week when I was at school here." Also another event of

haven't seen before. It is a chance to meet people and have a good time.



Brenden Richards, Senior Prince

# Thinking with Someone New

By Jordan Owens

This year the Suwannee High School Brain Bowl team will start with not only new members but a new leader. For 28 years, Mr. Michael Pate had been the advisor for Brain Bowl; with his retirement as a teacher came time to leave the



Brain Bowl member Daniel Hendrick

Brain Bowl team in the hands of another, Mr. Isaac Chandler. In his junior year of high school, 1986, Mr. Chandler formed a Brain Bowl team with his peers at Hamilton High School. The team trav-

we came really close last year". Hardly stumbled by their unfortunate loss, Lord looks forward to competing in Brain Bowl her senior year. The purpose of these competitions is for the students to have valuable experiences, expand their natural talents, and prove that each topic is worth learning about. The expectations for this team are high, each of the members are working their

eled to compete with over eight surrounding county Brain Bowl teams. Due to his personal history participating in Brain Bowl and his willingness to help, Mr. Chandler was able to fill the position and provide priceless assistance to the team. When leaving Mr. Pate left his succeeding advisor quite a bit of material to wade through to effectively train the team. As well as leaving Mr. Chandler with masses of information, Mr. Pate left Alexander McMillan with the motto "If you're loud and proud people will believe you". The student members of the team, including Alex, often

hardest to become a ranking Brain Bowl team. "I'm pleased folks are getting the chance to get out and represent their school beyond athletics there is just so much prestige that comes with this" says Mr. Chandler. Generally, football is a school's claim to fame, but the Brain Bowl team is unwavering in trying to make a name for themselves.

set aside personal time to study and broaden the horizons of their knowledge. Preparing for a competition is not always an uncomplicated task. The members must be capable of performing as a team, as well as individually. The team practices answering questions, testing everyone's knowledge, and generally helping each other. The team is constantly learning how to work together and what kinds of situations to prepare for. The material discussed during a Brain Bowl competition is more than just simple trivia questions; it's making sure to know the information inside

With their steady dedication the team has a strong chance to turn their dreams into a reality.

and out. Brain Bowl involves more complicated sciences, literature, and sometimes specific dates or raw hard knowledge the members must know about. With this year's season approaching comes anticipations and high hopes; everyone seems to want to participate in more competitions. In addition to participating they'd like to win. During last year's Brain Bowl experience, the members were able to travel to Walt Disney World and compete for the chance at becoming state Brain Bowl champions. Returning Brain Bowl member, Natalie Lord stated, "I hope that this year we are able to actually win State,



Brain Bowl advisor Isaac Chandler

# Matt Grillo: His Life in a Cajón

By Kailey Greene

Would you go back to the high school where you spent four long years of misery, as some say, to become a teacher? Matt Grillo did just that! Back in 2003 Mr. Grillo, Suwannee High School's new computer animation teacher, graduated from SHS where he loved and excelled in the drumline. He commented, "drumming is my passion, that's still what I want to do when I grow up." Although Mr. Grillo no longer plays in the drumline, he still continues to play on some week-ends. He stated that he actually plays with a group in Jacksonville where he plays drums and sometimes the guitar. His main "gig" however is as a SHS teacher. Mr. Grillo remarked "I never really knew exactly what I wanted to do. I was like, 'I'll figure it out in college' and when college started, I still hadn't figured it out, and I still haven't." Mr. Grillo started off his college career at Florida State where he marched with the Marching Chiefs, the Florida State drumline. He

game design along with ICT essentials. After asking if he enjoyed the middle school or the high school better, he replied with "the middle school is just a different animal." He enjoys the high school more because "the students are a lot more mature and chilled out" and at the middle school, "the students are squirrely, and we're all just awkward in middle school." Mr. Grillo's favorite part about SHS are the students, he said, and his only complaint is that the lunch

loved it, but he knew he needed to move on and start leaning towards a career that was more practical. He transferred to the University of South Florida where he acquired a degree in American Studies. He said that his degree is "completely unrelated to anything in computer science or game design or technology," but it was interesting to him and he thought it would make a good career. However, he soon found out that his degree really wasn't getting him anywhere. He said "I just kind of ran into teaching," but he was also being guided by his parents who were done paying for college and were ready to kick him out! In order for Mr. Grillo to become a teacher he had to enroll in a program and pass three different certifications. He needed to pass a subject area exam, a professional education exam, a general knowledge exam, and then had to take one year of the EPI program through

needs to be longer.... don't we all wish that! Even though life as a teacher is very exciting, Mr. Grillo was asked about his life outside of school, and he actually does have one. What?? Teacher's don't live at the school?! Yes, that's right. Mr. Grillo has a wife and two sons, a five year old and an eight week old who was born July 21st. He loves spending time with his family when he can get away from the school. His wife is currently a stay at home mom for the year while she cares for their newborn. Mrs. Grillo was also a SMS teacher, but has put her teaching on



Mr. Grillo in his classroom at SHS

Florida Gateway College which he just recently completed. Once he had the "go" to become a teacher, he chose Suwannee Middle School where he got the job as a game design teacher. Mr. Grillo worked at the middle school for three years and was able to get a feel of the whole teaching feat. This present year, Mr. Grillo moved to Suwannee High School where he teaches

hold until her duty as a stay at home mom stops calling. Mr. Grillo and his family love the holidays the most because they get together and cook out. Though he didn't cite any family traditions, he did mention that his family always cooks out for FSU football games. Once a Seminole always a Seminole it seems, but Mr. Grillo can now call himself a Bulldog once again.

# Did You Know? Teacher Edition

- **Have you ever been detained by the police?**

Eric Rodriguez said Yes, for ticket scalping

- **What is the worst thing your parents had to discipline you for?**

Mike Braun broke into an abandoned house to have lunch with friends

- **What is the most dangerous thing you've ever dared to do?**

Darrel Curls admitted, "I drag raced on two-lane road and, I was on the side facing oncoming traffic!"

- **What would you do if you were invisible?**

Carla Blalock said, "If I were invisible, I would trip up people who bully others."

- **What would your pro wrestler name be?**

Abigail Rodriguez, "Rock Bottom"

## A Degree in Choice

By Jaylin Roberts

Suwannee High School has a new bulldog! Former UCF Knights football athlete, Daniel Skelly, has become a teacher at Suwannee High School. Now many would ask, why would anyone want to move from big city Orlando to little old Live Oak? Well, for Mr. Skelly, the deciding factor was the community. Suwannee High School's new chemistry teacher and former FCA chaplain for UCF, Jerry Jolicoeur, brought Mr. Skelly to visit during homecoming week. Mr. Skelly was amazed when "schools were cancelled and the whole town came together to celebrate", he commented how "that kind of unity in a community just simply isn't found in the city". Living in his hometown, Jacksonville, and in Orlando for college were

some of the best times of his life. In fact, through college he "made long-lasting friendships with people who he still keeps in touch with today". But, the two short, fulfilling years, Mr. Skelly has lived in Live Oak as a former middle school teacher really makes him believe he "will be here for a while". Because of this experience, as a history and economics major, Mr. Skelly's "degree in choice" is what brought him to Suwannee and what keeps him here. Every choice he makes is one that benefits him and his family positively. Outside of school, Mr. Skelly leads one enthralling lifestyle. Not only is he a husband and father, he is also an avid hunter, gardener, and learner. Mr. Skelly has done everything from growing fruit trees, shiitake mushrooms, and

many other vegetables to hunting alligators during his free time. Also, Mr. Skelly loves learning new things. Yes, that's right, people actually like learning. Mr. Skelly dedicates all the time he can to reading and studying new and exciting things about a wide-range of topics. Most of all for Mr. Skelly, being a father is the "most strenuous and most rewarding experience" outside of school. Suwannee should welcome Mr. Skelly to the high school and help turn this former Knight into a true Suwannee Bulldog!



Mr. Skelly participating in Hoco Week

### 10 Reasons Why You Shouldn't Date a Jerk!

1. Your self value will not be to the standards it should, know your value and then add tax!
2. Society will think you are foolish.
3. For many girls dating a jerk can be very stressful.
4. There's plenty of other fish in the sea.
5. He obviously doesn't respect you.
6. There is no future with a boy like him.
7. His actions speak louder than his words, but not in a good way.
8. He is taking you for granted.
9. He blames you for everything!
10. Bottom line he is a waste of

**Suwannee High School**

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**Were on the Web!**  
<https://sites.google.com/scsb.us/bulldoghappenings/home>

## SHS 2017-18 Yearbook Staff



From left to right: Victoria Marshall, Jordan Owens,  
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