

# THE FALCON FORUM

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## Falcons rally around injured student

By Sterling Raynor

When Saint Augustine's University students left for Spring Break, everyone was thinking about fun and relaxation. Who would have imagined that an individual from our institution would be critically injured during the break?

Howard Boone, a junior criminal justice major from here in Raleigh, North Carolina, was shot in the back of the neck outside a nightclub in Columbia, South Carolina, where he had gone to visit friends.

The incident happened on March 18, 2018, around 2 a.m. During an altercation in which Boone was an innocent bystander, a shooting left Boone and two other victims critically injured. He was seriously injured and remains hospitalized.

The incident has caused Boone's Falcon family to rally around him.

"The university continues to pray for Mr. Boone and his family," President Everett B. Ward said in a statement

after the incident. "Mr. Boone is a model student and well respected among his peers."

Boone's campus activities include being a member of the ROTC Army program, serving as Mister Junior for the Student Government Association and being a member of Superior Sound Marching Band.

Josh Daye, a senior in the ROTC program, said, "We are saddened by the news of our friend Howard Boone. We give our deepest thoughts and prayers to him and his family. We will lift them up in the time of sadness."

Cymone Grant, another ROTC program member, added, "It is very unfortunate and devastating within the ROTC community cause he is a good cadet and person. I continue to keep him in my prayers every single day."

Devin Hayes, a band member, said, "From cracking jokes to beating drums, Boone has been a great friend and brother of mine. I know that Boone is strong. I



The Falcon family is united in prayer for Howard Boone (above, at right dressed for ROTC), who suffered a severe injury during a shooting in which he was an innocent bystander during Spring Break. To contribute to his GoFundMe drive, visit [www.gofundme.com/howard-boone-jr](http://www.gofundme.com/howard-boone-jr)



know that he is blessed and highly favored and I know that God will see him through this struggle. With love, high hopes and many prayers I'm sure that Howard will walk out of the hospital the same way he was before he entered with a little extra wisdom and a different mindset."

Members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity started a campaign on GoFundMe to raise money for Boone and his family. As of April 7, it

had raised \$4,500.

"When a situation like this occurs, we're all family, so we want to be able to jump in," said Grady Bussey, a member of Omega Psi Phi. "It was that commitment to his fellow students that made Boone a prospective member of the fraternity," Bussey said. "The fraternity has always looked at young men with leadership and community involvement, and he showed that with the ROTC, and tutoring and being a lead-

er on campus."

It is unclear how much Boone will be able to recover from his injuries. Before the incident, he clearly was not only extremely active but courageous.

In a promotional video made by the ROTC program, Boone talks about his experience at the Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

"I was the only African-American male cadet that was there out of about 60 cadets that were

there, so in my head I was like, 'There's no way I can fail. I knew I had to come back with my airborne wings,'" he said.

Boone completed five parachute jumps and earned his wings.

Hayes encouraged students to be optimistic. "Please, don't walk around sad and distraught," he said. "Remember as soldiers in the army of the Lord we cannot pray and worry. Continue walking in faith and remember it's in God's hands."



Saint Augustine's University held an Open House April 7 to welcome new or potential students. As you can tell from these photos, everyone had fun — including current students.  
Photos by Alyana Williams

### Student Spotlight:

## For this aspiring actress, college is only Act I

By Lorraine Henderson

When Briana Snipes was in high school in Mount Vernon, N.Y., she had big dreams of being an actress, and she knew going to college would help her achieve those dreams. But she wasn't sure how to get started on her journey to success.

"Getting to college was an obstacle," Snipes said. "I am a first-generation college student."

Her family tried but was unable to give her all of the help and guidance she needed. Snipes turned to her high school guidance counselor and to a theater teacher who was a mentor. She ended up at Saint Augustine's University, where she is a junior and a mass communications major.

The journey was not smooth at first,



Briana Snipes

Snipes recalled. "Building self-confidence and gaining the courage to do certain things was my next goal," she

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### Faculty Spotlight:

## Luck and hard work help professor achieve goals

By Breana Gambrell

For Assistant Professor Dan Holly, earning a good salary and living a balanced life were both important goals. But he had never been able to really achieve both until a chance conversation in a bathroom at his church in 2011 changed his life.

The friend, Benjamin Money, knew that Mr. Holly had been an editor and columnist at the News & Observer, the local newspaper in Raleigh, and was a skilled writer and editor. Mr. Money was the CEO of a health-care company. He told Mr. Holly that his company needed some help with writing tasks and would pay him for his services.

Mr. Holly worked for the News & Observer, where he was an editor and columnist, for 10 years. At the newspa-



Dan Holly

per, he earned a good salary but worked extremely long hours, and he eventually decided to leave. At the time of that conversation with Mr. Money, he

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