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Mississippi College

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Dr. Thompson Joins Intramural Team, The Tropics



Image Source: Jacob Holden

TIFFANY STRAIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

"Would you like to join my intramural basketball team? I was looking for someone with exceptional ball handling skills and a killer mid-range game. You were the only person I could think of with that level of diversity and experience," read the email

that was sent by sophomore, Jim Holland to Blake Thompson. Holland sent this email in hopes that MC's president would join Holland's team to participate in intramural basketball this season.

"I felt like I was drafted, like the No. 1 pick," Thompson said.

Founded by Holland, The Tropics intramural basketball team got their name from the

famous Will Ferrell movie, Semi-Pro.

"I saw a lot of potential in Dr. T. He adds a lot of insight to the team with his experience on and off the field. He is the leading scorer on the team, and he is never afraid to call for the ball," said Holland.

Thompson plays all positions, whatever is needed. He has plenty of go-to moves when he is on the court, but

he did not want to reveal any secrets to tip off any of their opponents.

Although the team has not had a win yet, Thompson knows their win is coming soon.

"I compare myself to a young, agile LeBron James, and Dr. T is like an older Michael Jordan, still a good play-

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Former MC Student Saves Life Through Bone Marrow Transplant

MEREDITH STRATMANN
NEWS EDITOR

The United States Department of Health and Human Services estimates that each year roughly 17,500 people could "benefit from a potentially life-saving bone marrow transplant."

Carol Barnes, a professor in the Kinesiology depart-

ment, has witnessed two such of these life-altering transplants. Roughly five years ago, Barnes' husband needed a bone marrow transplant. She saw the need for donors and took the initiative to get more people on the bone marrow registry. At the time, the biology department was hosting a drive to get MC students to join the registry. Barnes told her students that if they joined,

they would receive extra credit.

One student that took advantage of this opportunity was Trey Freeman. Freeman, who attended MC from 2013-2017, said that the whole process was "quick, maybe 20 minutes. The longest part was just waiting in line." In order to join the registry, there's a form to fill out and then a buccal swab is taken. "That was about it,"

Freeman stated. "It was real quick and easy. They said if we matched with anyone we would get an email and a phone call and try to go from there."

For Freeman, it only took about a month until he received the email stating he was a possible match. In most cases, matching that quickly doesn't happen. It could be years later when the email or call comes in.

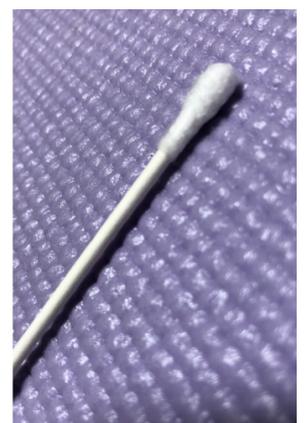


Image Source: Meredith Stratmann

Freeman decided to follow through. There are a number of ways to collect the stem

See TRANSPLANT • Page 2

Career Services Looks to Increase Participation in Career Day

JEZ MASSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"The overall purpose of our event is to help students learn how to engage professionally with employers and find a career path that will lead to a successful and happy future," said Associate Director of Career Services, Taylor Ormon. "In addition, this is a time for our students to become more familiar with different companies and become occupationally literate of the jobs that are out there."

Career Day is hosted by MC's Career Services. This department aids students in preparing for potential job opportunities through resume reviews, practice interviews, and the like.

On Feb. 12, 2019, MC students have the opportunity to attend Career Day, which will have over 80 employers on campus. These employers are looking for students to hire as employees or interns. "We chose companies based on the needs of our students. Our office does our best to cater to each academic school to provide a wide variety of organizations," said Ormon. Prior to the event, a campus-wide email went out to students about Career Day. Included in the message was an interview packet that helps to prepare students to present their best during the event.

"This year, we have created two new events leading up to the big event. One of them includes us partnering with JCPenney in North Park Mall for an event called Suit Up. Students will be able to come

into the store and receive 40 percent off select men's and women's career dress apparel and shoes," said Ormon. She added, "There will be trained sales associates there to measure students, so they have the correct suit measurements. There will be refreshments and a raffle drawing as well."

Students from all majors are encouraged to participate and network during this event. "I haven't been to any of the other career days because I didn't see them as useful to me. But I plan on checking out this one because I'm a senior this year. So I think it's more relevant," said MC student, Zack Smith.

This year's Career Day will be a little different than previous years. In addition to the Suit Up event, there will

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ANDERSON HALL
FEBRUARY 12TH, 2019
10AM-2PM



CONTACT US:

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MC CAREER SERVICES @MC_CAREERS



Team, cont.



Image Source: Blake Thompson

er but needs back and elbow surgery," said Holland.

Thompson amps up his game by proudly wearing his KD sneakers out on the court. They are blue and gold, representing MC's colors. Thompson is hopeful that students of MC will recognize how great his shoes are, so he can win Kicks of the Week for the second time this year.

Students have put forth a lot of effort on the court when competing against the President, and it hasn't gone unnoticed. He said it has been tough, but his team knows how to motivate him before a game. He and the

team are very hopeful they will make it to the championship.

"We are all in this together," said Thompson.

He said the team has really bonded, and he gets the energy he needs for a game from his teammates. While indulging on a peanut butter Snickers before or after a game and hydrating with a refreshing lime La Croix, Thompson knows this is his secret weapon to help his game.

Thompson's children are very excited about this endeavor in his life, but not his wife Jana.

"We have a healthy rivalry when it comes to basketball," said Thompson.

He said the two of them have been scrimmaging each other for a couple of decades now, and one time she even broke his elbow. Basketball is a sport that is close to his heart. Since his dad was a basketball coach, he has played the sport ever since he was young, and he has big plans for his future career.

"I plan to finish this season strong with The Tropics, and I hope next year I can try and join a women's team and play in the women's league," said Thompson.

Transplant, cont.

cells, the most common being aphaeresis. This is a process in which blood is taken out of one arm, the stem cells are filtered out, and the rest of the blood is returned into the other arm. Barnes recalls that Freeman felt "a bit worn out. It's a somewhat laborious process, and can take up to three hours, but he rested up and was back in class the next day."

But for Freeman, he is thankful he went through with it. "It's a once in a lifetime thing if you do get

matched. Look at it as you can save someone's life; it might not ever happen again. It's probably one of the best things I've done in my life." Barnes echoed this, stating that Freeman had "saved a life, literally." She encourages students at MC to consider joining the registry.

A few weeks ago, Freeman got a call asking him if he was still interested in connecting with the recipient of his bone marrow. It took three years for the two to get connected after some

paperwork was misplaced under new management. When the pair finally talked on the phone, Freeman said that it was "one of those moments I'll never forget." The recipient of his bone marrow is a married entrepreneur from outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has three kids. Freeman and the recipient remain in close contact and talk regularly.

In order to learn more or join the bone marrow registry, visit www.bethematch.org.

Career Day, cont.

be a Race to Career Day event. "This event is a one-mile fun run and the winner of the race will win an Apple Watch," said Ormon. She continued, "We will have Smoothie King there as well as several other healthy snack options. This event is designed to raise awareness for Career Day, and hopefully in turn increase our student participation."

Increasing the number of students that attend Career Day is one of the main goals for this year. With over 5,000 students on MC's campus, "normally we have 300 students attend, but we are hoping to increase those numbers this year," said Ormon.

Preparing for an event like Career Day is no easy feat. "Career Services have been preparing for this event since this summer. We work throughout the semester to make and maintain connections with employers to provide the best organizations to our students," said Ormon. She added, "It takes a great deal of time to prepare for this event, but the result is well worth it."

All About Commuter Connections

commuter connection



JEZ MASSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"I've been to a few of the Commuter Connections. The pizza is always good, so I'll probably attend the upcoming one," said MC student Chandler Abney.

It is no secret that at times, commuters can feel distanced from activities and events happening on campus. Commuter Connection was formed as a way to bridge that gap. "The purpose of Commuter Connection is really to connect with commuters," said Director of Student Engagement, Becca Benson. "The initial goal is to provide one monthly, in-person, connection point and establish regular communication of opportunities for commuters to be involved on campus," she added.

For the month of February, commuters have the opportunity to actively participate in a few on-campus, commuter-only events. Included in these events is a town hall session with MC's President, Dr. Thompson. The purpose of this town hall is for commuters to have an opportunity to speak about what works well for commuters and what things should be improved.

"The name, Commuter Connection, is very intentional. My goal is for this to be a connection point for our students who commute," said Benson. "Each Commuter Connection event, such as the free lunch each month, is held in the same location to build some consistency in hopes of being easily recognizable and accessible for these students."

When leaving class and driving straight home instead of to a dorm on campus, it's difficult for commuters to feel involved and connected on campus. Commuter Connection is one way to for students to not only feel a part of MC, but it's also an opportunity for students to connect with each other in ways they probably wouldn't.

"As a commuter, I don't always feel included. Commuter Connection doesn't necessarily make me feel more included. But it definitely helps some," said Abney.

Commuter Connection is relatively new to MC. "I started looking at the services we provide for our commuter students in the spring of 2017. In the fall of 2018, I sent out a survey to commuter students to get some ideas of what they would like to see on campus in terms of programming, communica-

tion, and improvements." She continued, "In the fall of 2018, I launched Commuter Connection. It began in September, and along with the free lunch, I usually attempt to include a giveaway, comment cards, short surveys and upcoming dates."

Not all of the commuters on campus participate in Commuter Connection, but Benson says, "Each month, I have had the opportunity to connect with roughly 100 to 125 commuter students. I would call that a success for our first few months."

With anything, it takes time for something new to catch on. As the years progress, Commuter Connection will remain a solid opportunity for commuters to feel involved and even more valued on campus. "I want commuters to feel valued and cared for as students. I also hope that these connection points will allow for greater feedback from this group of students, so we can serve them better," said Benson.

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Department Features

“The last office I was in... everything was orange,” he said. Chair of the Art Department, Randolph Miley shared his love for the color orange as he explained the decor in his office. Remembering the people who had given him orange gifts through the years, including a coffee maker and a calculator, he said, “My secretary gave me an entire orange desk set.”

When he returned from his most recent semester as an art teacher in London, Miley’s coworkers filled his office with orange streamers and balloons. “And I still haven’t gotten tired of it,” he said with a smile. “It’s a feel good color.”

Miley’s intense love for orange pales in comparison with his love for the students and faculty at Mississippi College. After teaching art for more than 40 years, he has greatly enjoyed the past 20 years at MC with both teachers and students. “I work with the greatest group of young people you could find anywhere. And that’s the honest truth,” he said.

Emily Fleming, a freshman graphic design major, said, “Art is my way of relaxing and fueling my creative outlet, and the art department does a fantastic job of fostering an open environment for those type of activities.”

Concerning the art de-

partment and its new developments, Miley said, “We have changed our program considerably since I first came.” After adding two new master’s degrees in fine arts, the art department continues to expand into online classes and degrees.

“We’re just doing so many different things right now,” he added. The interior design program recently became accredited again, and a jury art competition is fast approaching in March. Students can enter their art pieces for a chance to win a scholarship or cash prize.

For students not majoring or minoring in art, there are still opportunities in which they can get involved within

the department. One-fourth of Miley’s students are non-art majors. He enjoys working with students of any major as they learn in the ceramics, basic design, and drawing classes available to all students.

Miley welcomes anyone to join the fun. He is passionate about working with students, finding encouragement all around him to further the Christian mission of Mississippi College. “When these students come here, they reinforce this a lot of times. I have several of them that will give me a Scripture or tell me they are praying for me or the department,” he said “And that just means so much.”

Adventures in the Art Department by ABIGAIL COLE

The Chemistry and Biochemistry Department by NICOLE SKELTON

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is celebrating its 125th year at Mississippi College. The department was founded by the first chemist in the state of Mississippi to earn a Ph.D. in 1894. The department is also celebrating 150 years of the periodic chart. “2019 is a great year for chemistry here at Mississippi College,” said Clinton Bailey, chair of the department.

The Department Chemistry and Biochemistry is made up of five faculty members, four of whom have received training on the Ph.D. level. The department also consists of several adjunct professors.

In order to obtain a bachelor of science in Chemistry and Biochemistry, students must complete all coursework requirements, obtain a 2.0 GPA, and participate in an internship or other types of research experiences. The department offers a program called Research Experience Undergraduate, or REU, that is sponsored at the top 100 research universities.

Bailey has been the chair of the department for 10 years, and he attended Mississippi College as an undergraduate. He explained that the emphasis on research is what sets this department apart from the rest. “We develop students’ skills in

attacking a novel problem,” said Bailey.

David Magers, a chemistry professor at MC for 30 years, encourages students to major in chemistry, because it offers a “career path to help them learn how to solve problems.” Magers studied chemistry as an undergrad at MC from 1978 to 1982.

The department has made its mark on the MC campus and the town of Clinton. The 2nd head of the department was also a former mayor of the town. The Moody Adams Field House was named after a former student who majored in chemistry at Mississippi College. John William Provine, the founder of the

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was also the President of Mississippi College. Provine chapel, one of the first buildings constructed on campus, was named after him.

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry offers an annual Math and Science tournament to high school and a few junior high school students across the state of Mississippi. This tournament awards MC scholarships to the winners. “It is a great recruiting opportunity, and it has helped further science education in Mississippi by introducing necessary learning objectives to math and science teachers,” said Magers.

“You don’t have to be an English major to take an English class,” says Peyton Pope, a junior at Mississippi College studying English. One of her favorite things about the English department is the strong focus on writing and studying on personal interests. She comments on the fact that teachers make it a point to connect classwork with outside issues and ideas.

Pope says that teachers such as Kerri Jordan have met with her at Cups to review papers. She loves how approachable the teachers are and their well thought out advice. Another benefit of being an English major is a one-on-one mid-program review with teachers and advisors.

The review with students is a friendly and supportive evaluation for students to see what courses they have taken and have left as a requirement. They also suggest certain classes for each student that they feel will help them with what they want to do for their career.

With a classroom environment as “come as you are,” the teachers value students’ contributions immaculately. Providing a comfortable environment for students is a priority for teachers. “The sound of the fountain in Jennings is one of the best things for English majors. It is so peaceful to listen to during class,” says Pope.

The three English areas

are literature, writing, and secondary english education. Steven Price says, “I learn a lot from our students.” His class environment involves interactive activities, group work, and collaborations. Price also comments on how closely the faculty works together and how everything they do is centered for the students’ best interest.

Although the English department is adequately distinguished, it’s not all seriousness. This department is filled with humor and fun among faculty, and between the faculty and students, which makes the English department a “welcoming and wonderful place to work,” says Jonathan Randle, the English department chair.

Randle says, “Being able

to spend time, each day of the week, thinking together with students about great works of human expression, about critical thinking and research, and about how best to use the written word to communicate our thoughts and ourselves... this is really a dream job.”

Recent graduate, Robert McMahon says that the English department at MC gave him so many opportunities. “The English program and its courses allowed me to really explore the areas and topics I was most interested and passionate about. It also allowed me to feel extremely confident stepping into my career,” says McMahon, an 8th grade English teacher at Clinton Junior High.

English Department by NIKKI MERCHANT

Trailblazing Biology by CHANDLER ABNEY

The Mississippi College Biology department is among the top ranked in the state. Mississippi College consistently provides 20 percent of the entering medical school class to the University of Mississippi Medical Center while accounting for only five percent of the applicants.

The department consists of 17 professors, which is quite a few considering there were only four when Bill Stark, professor of biological sciences, started his career at Mississippi College in 1976. Stark is an accomplished biologist, having published more than 250 journal articles, books, and book chapters and has described and named more than 400 stonefly species.

According to Stark, the biology department began with a professor named William Sadler. Sadler earned a Ph.D. from Cornell University and began teaching biology in the 1920’s at Mississippi College. Sadler continued to teach at Mississippi College for the following 40 years.

The Biology department has four areas of emphasis. These subsections are Medical Sciences, Research, Science Education, and General Biology. Stark said, “There are usually anywhere from 130 to 150 freshman biology students, and the majority of them are pre-med.” One of the advantages of the Mississippi College undergraduate Biology program is the wet cadaver lab.

Located in the 20,000

square foot Hederman Medical Sciences extension, the wet cadaver lab offers its students the opportunity to work with the real thing instead of plasticized or computerized models. The 2,800 square foot cadaver lab can hold up to 21 cadavers at a time, giving students plenty of opportunity for hands-on learning. This is a rarity among undergraduate biology programs, and is the only cadaver lab of this caliber in the state.

Another advantage of the Mississippi College undergraduate biology program is they are the only university in the nation to offer undergraduates the opportunity to take National Board of Medical Examiners sub-ject board exams, or “shelf

exams.” These exams are given to students after each course to determine how they stack up against other medical students. Students can then take those courses and use them as leverage to help with their chances of getting accepted into medical school.

Out of the 17 professors, most of them have some type of specialized research interests that students can get involved in. The biology department has two labs dedicated to its professors’ special research interests.

The alumni of the Mississippi College Biology department are pursuing prestigious careers in medicine and research, and making a difference as educators and healthcare professionals.



“We teach them that truth is not relative. There is only one absolute truth, and that is Jesus,” said department chair, Burn Page.

The Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy at MC is a department that offers several areas of concentration for students including: Bible, Biblical Languages, Missions, Ministry Studies, and Philosophy. Students at MC, regardless of their major, are required to take Old and New Testament classes along with chapel.

For students that are passionate about Christian studies and religion, the Christian Studies and Philosophy Department offers a wide array of classes to take which educates and prepares students for a lifetime of success.

“Our students come to MC to prepare for a lifetime of ministry. All of our professors have both earned doctorates and personal ministry experience they can share with their students,”

said Page. “The study and teaching of God’s Word has both a temporal and eternal impact on the lives of people,” he continued.

From classes like Discovering the World of the Bible to Teaching of Jesus, this department finds ways to challenge its students. “We challenge them to be as diligent in their study as you would expect a medical student to be. Medical doctors treat physical illnesses that occur in one’s lifetime. Our students will be proclaiming and teaching the Good News that Jesus brings eternal healing for a fatal illness called sin,” said Page.

One of the department’s professors, Wayne VanHorn added, “We also challenge our students to become devoted students of God’s word. We challenge them to take Hebrew and Greek, the two primary languages of the biblical text. These courses are among the most demanding on campus, but they pay rich dividends to the students who

will do the work.” He continued, “Our curriculum is laid out to maximize student choices with five concentrations within their major, and with five different minors.”

Spiritual development and opportunities for exploration of Christian ministry is important to this department. Ethical reflection, theology, and leadership are key components to what makes this department stand out. Students that are a part of the Christian Studies and Philosophy department are encouraged to develop themselves in ways that will be useful in higher pursuits.

“Most students in our department continue their ministerial training by attending a graduate school at another university or seminary. Many of our students will serve on staff in local churches. Some will serve at Christian camps, and many will serve on the mission field in inner cities or other countries,” said Page.

Although the focus for

students in this department is Christianity, other religions are taught to help students understand, compare, and affirm their faith. “In every course, there is some awareness or comparison of Christianity with Judaism, Islam, atheism, etc. Dr. John Meadors teaches a comparative religion course as well,” said Van Horn. He continued, “To be effective witnesses, Christians have to be able to interact peaceably with people of other religions.”

With over 80 undergraduate majors and more than 50 graduate areas of study, the department of Christian Studies and Philosophy stands out. “Christian Studies and Philosophy is tasked with teaching Old and New Testament Intros to every student. That comprises about 75 percent of our work,” said VanHorn. He continued, “This task enables us to advance the university mission and vision of being known for our commitment to the cause of Christ.”

Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy
by JEZ MASSEY

What to Know about the Kinesiology Department
by REBECCA LEWALLEN

The Kinesiology Department is one of 17 departments within the schools of Mississippi College. Kinesiology is the “study of human movement to improve the quality of lives of individuals” said the department’s associate professor, Carol Barnes.

This department hosts just over 300 students studying in a variety of majors all under the department chairman, Christopher Washam. Those majors include Sports Management, Exercise Science, Pre-Physical Therapy along with a few others that can be found on their MC webpage.

A student studying Kinesiology typically follows the completion of their undergraduate program by entering a certification program. Work fields such as physical

therapy and occupational therapy are the most common interest among the Kinesiology students at MC. The department’s placement rate for PT and OT school is considerably high for it is usually up to 90 percent.

According to Barnes the department believes strongly in community service and that it is their “mission as Christians to reach out to those less fortunate.”

The department stays busy by continuously completing research and grant opportunities to broaden the study of their program. They previously joined forces with Hinds Community College, which was given a large grant to work with intercity children of Jackson on their health and nutrition.

Last spring the Kinesiology students contributed to the Pinelake sports camp by coordinating all of their programming. Currently, MC’s assistant professor and athletic representative, Keith Ranazzo, is working with MC students in collaboration with Penn State on the programming of a community center in the Ninth Ward of New Orleans.

The department’s faculty is involved in committees throughout campus, as well as giving their students the opportunity to be involved in many organizations too. The department offers its students an honors society known as Phi Epsilon Kappa. They also offer the Kinesiology Student Association and Pre PT – Pre OT Club.

In efforts to reinforce the

brand of the department, a social media committee was put together. This committee works to highlight the student’s accomplishments, give insight on what the department is like and what they hope to be in the future.

“We’re like a family here in the department and so much of what we hope to be depends on what the students achieve,” said Zack Vosen, an instructor in the department. They not only want to appeal to prospective students, but also encourage their current students and show them what they are capable of.

These social media pages can be found on Facebook under ‘Mississippi College Kinesiology Department’, as well as on Twitter and Instagram both as ‘mc_kinesiology’.

Jennings Hall stands one of the oldest buildings on MC’s campus. Built as a dorm in 1907, it now serves as the seat of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Situated on the second floor and overlooking the quaint courtyard below is the Department of History and Political Science.

Many think students who call this department home spend all of their time reading and writing papers that will have no impact once the tassel is turned. While the Department of History and Political Science does require its students to work in the past, the faculty within equips its students with unique skills to work in the future.

“We can’t understand who we are, the world we’re in, the issues we face without knowing history,” said Patrick Connelly, the chair of the department. He believes his department to be different from those at other schools because “We encourage analysis, moral reflection, public engagement, and experiential learning.”

Sam Kinslow, a sophomore history and pre-law major, said history “teaches people how to put themselves in the position of others and get a different scope on the world.” Kinslow said people within the department “have their own unique personal histories” that bring unique perspectives to every class.

Abbie Hunter, a sophomore political science major, said “There is so much to learn and it’s very interesting.” Hunter thoroughly enjoys learning political theories and ideologies from Glenn Antizzo, who “knows each of us by name and does whatever he can to encourage and help us.”

Many believe students of humanities departments will have a hard time finding a job, the idea of a classically minded barista or waiter hanging in the front of their minds like a storm front. Connelly said he believes otherwise and said history and political science “cultivate research, analytical, and communication skills that open a vari-

ety of vocational pathways.” He cited recent employment data and confirmed students who study in his department “are well prepared for a wide range of careers and do indeed get jobs.”

Aside from history and political science, the department offers degree programs in administration of justice and paralegal studies.

Whatever the field of study, a student of the Mississippi College History and Political Science Department will receive a quality and multifaceted education that will prepare them to work in any field they choose (the author of this article is a history major and can heartily attest to that).

Looking Forward by Looking Back: History and PoliSci
by KYLE HAMRICK

School of Business
by MEGAN GILES

The Mississippi College School of Business is one of the best at the University, according to its dean. The school offers various majors including Accounting, Marketing, and the newest addition, Entrepreneurship. The dean of the school, Marcelo Eduardo, is passionate that the school is unique to any other School of Business.

Eduardo said, “Our distinctiveness is the excellent business education you earn in the context of a Christian environment. And that Christian environment is manifested through our classes and our activities as a

consistent emphasis on ethical behavior and a sense of service to others.”

Caroline Burlingame, a senior accounting major, is beyond pleased with her experience at the school. Caroline said, “I came into college with no interest in accounting whatsoever. It seemed boring, impersonal, and too technical for me. Through my accounting professors, I gained an excitement and passion for the subject that has led me to pursue accounting beyond my bachelor’s degree. The School of Business has not only shaped my understanding of busi-

ness, but it has given me the tools and confidence to succeed. I am incredibly grateful for the School of Business for investing in me from the first day I got here until now.”

Eduardo encourages a minor in business for any student at Mississippi College. He said, “Short of majoring, it’s the perfect complement for any degree.”

The school is also very excited about its new Entrepreneurship program. They have completed building the innovative space that can be found in Self Hall’s basement. These classes are more hands on than other business class-

es. Dr. Eduardo said, “We are characterized across all our business curriculum with courses that combine theory and practice. The entrepreneurship courses certainly follow this format but an emphasis on idea generation and business planning, which are at the center of the degree, are certainly hands on.”

Eduardo said he hopes that all graduates from the School of Business will be “a graduate that can attain any career goal that they set to pursue with utmost integrity and with a constant sense of service to others both of which are grounded on their faith.”



Mathematics at Mississippi College
by **KATE WINSTON**

Say “I’m a math major” to most people and you will be met with an instant response of disgust. Most everyone will say “Oh, I hate math,” or “I barely scraped by in contemporary math.” But that is okay! Math is not for everyone, and John Travis, the head of the mathematics department at MC recognizes that.

Dr. Travis has been at MC for 31 years and says the best job at MC is being a professor. He was named the head of the mathematics department in 2004. “Since the beginning, math has been around. Our goal for students is to have them learn logical reasoning, ab-

stract reasoning, and problem solving,” says Travis about the department.

He has seen growth in the department since he started his career at MC. The department has become more technologically advanced by adding online homework to the curriculum, they have moved to their own building and gained office space in MCC, and enrollment has increased. The math department strives to push student to learn the necessary skills for success in the mathematics world outside of MC.

Emma Rae Castanedo, a junior mathematics major, says that “The MC math department is truly special.

The professors in the math department not only want to see you grow and learn as a student, but as an individual. As a member of the math department, all of my professors know me by name and have taken a genuine interest in my life.” She has learned how to defend arguments and process her thoughts from different classes.

Castanedo has found a home in the math department from forming relationships with other students and professors. “All of my professors have an open-door policy and I think that just strengthens our family-like bond in the math de-

partment,” she said.

MC offers two undergraduate mathematics degrees, four tracks for graduate students, and two possible mathematics minors. Students may pursue routes in applied, “regular” math, or secondary education.

Castanedo is proud to be in the math department. “Being a math major has made me more outspoken about my thoughts and opinions. It has made me more confident in who I am as a person, because I have been taught by people who not only believe in me but will do everything in their power to help me succeed.”

“Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” aren’t words that are typically used in nursing school. Aside from learning the clinical aspect of nursing, Mississippi College School of Nursing incorporates what it means to serve Christ in the nursing profession through the Fruits of the Spirit.

Kimberly Sharp, the dean of the school, says that MC’s nursing program is unique because of the Christian values. “Many other schools have a strong focus on clinical competency and the sorts of proficiency and technical requirements that are all a part of the expectations of

a new grad, but we have the added dimension of Christian caring that we are intentional about going through,” said Sharp.

In each of the clinical courses required each semester, the nursing students journal about how they are able to incorporate the Fruits of the Spirit during clinical hours at various medical facilities. The first aspect they are taught to begin with is love.

“One of the first courses they take is a transitions to nursing course where they learn about caring and love. Once they get to their leadership class their last semester, they end with learning about love,” said Sharp.

The semesters in the mid-

dle incorporate in some way each of the other Fruits of the Spirit. “For example, in the mental health course, we focus on self-control,” Sharp said.

Tiffany Patt, a fourth semester nursing student, said that MC School of Nursing is “based on the values of Christian caring.” Since Patt began nursing school in August of 2017, she has learned “so much about how to treat a patient physically, mentally, and spiritually.”

“The nursing school has taught me how to care for a person in a holistic way and show the Fruits of the Spirit in all aspects of my life,” said Patt.

Makiah Lemmer, a third semester nursing student, said, “They encourage us

to exhibit the Fruits of the Spirit in our care and journal about those experiences.”

The professors also encourage each semester of students to have a devotional time each morning to begin the day. Before each test, the nursing students are also prayed over by a professor.

Prayer is encouraged in the classroom, but prayer is also encouraged in other places. “If appropriate, they encourage us to pray with our patients,” said Lemmer.

“Love is like the bookend that holds everything together because we don’t do this unless we care about our patients,” said Sharp.

Galatians 5:22-23:
MC School of Nursing
by **JOELLE**
YOUNGBLOOD

The Music Department
by **JARED**
VARDAMAN

For those who are not accustomed to the ways of Mississippi College, The Aven Fine Arts Building can be very intimidating. Loud and obnoxious communication students bustle their way to the basement, stopping to talk to everyone in sight. Art majors struggle to carry their half-finished painting up multiple flights of stairs to the art department on the fourth floor. Graphic Design students type away anxiously as they try to finish up a project due in 13 minutes. Yet the heart and soul of Aven is apparent as the second floor’s double doors swing open wide.

In the distance, a piano belts out the tones of Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata” while a soprano goes over her piece for 055 that afternoon. You see the tear stains of a young music theory student who has failed Lewis

Oswalt’s test (again), and hear the triumphant cry of a senior who has realized that in a few short months, they will never have to hear the 1-3-5-1 notes of MacGAMUT opening ever again. It is magical place, filled with wonder, mystery, and students who rarely have time for social lives. It’s the Mississippi College Music Department.

With a faculty of loving, devoted teachers and some of the most academically dedicated students on campus, MC’s Music Department ranks with some of the greatest music programs in the country. A member of the National Association of Schools of Music since 1951, the Music Department prepares students for jobs in every field of music, including vocal and instrumental performance, music education, choral and orchestral leader-

ship, and most recently, worship leadership.

The Music Department at MC boasts a variety of vocal and instrumental ensembles, such as the MC Singers, the Choctaw Chorus, Symphonic Winds, the Choctaw Pep Band, Jazz Band, and Worship Collective.

Will Bishop, assistant professor of worship leadership, said, “MC’s Music Department serves our campus and community in so many ways. From the pep band at football games, beautiful choral singing at the holidays, jazz on the brick streets, to worship events throughout the year, MC’s music department enriches the culture of our campus and community.”

Robert Knupp, Coordinator of Organ Studies, said, “To me, the music department is a close-knit community of musicians who strive to achieve excellence in performance,

scholarship, and support. It’s important for students on this campus to have creative outlets, and the music department provides those opportunities, whether as an audience member or performer.”

Angela Willoughby, the chair of the Music Department, had this to say, “Having been associated with the music department as a student, a faculty member, and now in an administrative role, I am blessed to experience the influence of the music department from all vantage points. The combination of academic strength and sincere concern and encouragement from the music faculty combine to form the basis of my musicianship and my career. The music department and its various performing ensembles are active in the community, in recruiting, and in service to the university.”

Being one of the many departments at Mississippi College, the Department of Physician Assistant Studies at Mississippi College is Mississippi’s only physician assistant program. It’s a 30-month program for students who are seeking a master of science in medicine degree.

Physician assistants (PAs) are health professionals who practice medicine as members of a team with their supervising physicians. They conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and prescribe medications.

The PA program admits a group of 30 students at the beginning of the summer semester. At the completion of the program, students will have to take the Physician Assistant National Certifica-

tion Exam (PANCE) giving them licensure as a PA in all 50 states.

The main goal of the department is to give students specialized knowledge and skills to prepare them to serve in health care services in Mississippi and surrounding states.

The program curriculum is advanced science-based. Students in the program are assigned to faculty-mentored learning teams. Problem-based learning, team-based learning, lecture, clinical experiences, lab exercises, and supervised clinical experiences are supported by technologic innovation and service. The program encourages facilitating personal and professional growth and promotes lifelong learning.

PA second-year student Hannah Brown states that,

“The first-year coursework is basic sciences and the second year is clinical training, and second year is the most rewarding because you get to be hands-on.”

“I’ve learned that you have to be really focused and dedicated towards this program because the instructors want you to succeed,” expressed former PA student, Jonathan Wilson.

First year PA students take courses that include but are not limited to: Gross Anatomy, Physiology, Pharmacology, Pathology, and Biochemistry. While the second-year students would get experience in different fields such as: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, OB/GYN, Surgery, and Radiology.

Program director and department chair director of the

physician assistant program, Steve Martin, believes that the most compelling part of the program is “watching our students enter our program with such a strong interest in helping others and watching them grow as they learn medicine to the point that they are caring, competent, and compassionate PAs when they graduate.”

These health professionals perform a wide range of medical duties, formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive healthcare services, as delegated by a physician. Working as members of the healthcare team, they take medical histories, examine patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and x-rays, and make diagnoses. Physician assistants always work with the supervision of a physician.

Mississippi’s Only Physician Assistant Program
by **AMANDA**
GRIZZELL



“We have lots of exciting things going on,” said Amy Williamson, a professor and chair of the Modern Languages Department at Mississippi College. The Modern Languages Department is housed in the historic building, Jennings and offers a wide variety of majors and minors. The department houses many students and programs while fostering a sense of academic integrity that is a common thread found throughout Mississippi College.

Among the most popular majors are Foreign Language International Trade (FLIT), French, International Studies, and Spanish. In addition, students can choose to minor in many modern lan-

guages like, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish. These programs are extremely popular and promise an enlightened educational experience and background.

This department follows the creed that “the purpose of foreign language/ second language study is to acquaint students with a culture, a language, and a literature other than their own.” This creed would not be made possible if it was not for the faculty members that invest in the lives of the students and programs they teach. There are six instructors, Ashley Krason, Agnes Man-Bourdon, Katrina Pace, Margarita San Ricardo, Beth Stapleton, Amy Williamson. In addition,

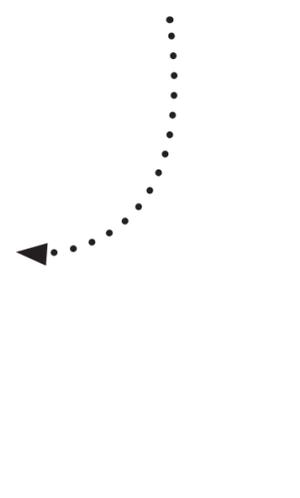
there are three adjunct professors, Wun-Jyun Wang, Deborah Good, and Akiko Ashton.

Another way in which students can completely acquaint themselves in a culture and language is the Study Abroad Program led by Beth Stapleton. This program offers trips to London, Spain, France, Costa Rica, Argentina, Peru, Austria, Germany, China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Brazil, and Colombia. Her advice to students wishing to study abroad is “Just do it!” She claims that going abroad changes your life, shows insight into others and yourself, and shows you how you fit into God’s world. In addition, Stapleton says that

studying abroad “changes perspective, your culture, and provides you with something you can’t learn by staying at home.”

Alexis Rachita, a student at Mississippi College, studies Education but with a minor in TESOL or teaching English as a second language. She loves her time in the Mississippi College Modern Language Department and claims her trip abroad changed her life and ultimate perspective on the world. She studied abroad in the spring of 2018 in Spain. She says that trip was one of the most exciting things in her college career. She eventually would like to return but gives all credit to the modern language department.

Modern Languages
by **EMMIE FUSON**



Engineering
by **MEGAN HENDRICKS**



“One crisis at a time,” Chris Maggio said. The associate professor and chair of the engineering, computer sciences, and physics department lives by that quote from the television sitcom *The Office*. Maggio believes that everyone is always faced with struggles whether its dealing with school or personal issues. But if we can just handle one struggle at a time and not stress ourselves with so much, we will survive.

Maggio started teaching at Mississippi College in January 2008 and has been at the school for 12 years. “When I started, we had a physics program, and we were about to start an engineering pro-

gram, so I was able to teach classes in both of those programs,” Maggio said.

The department is expecting to hear news from the accreditation board of engineering (ABET) in July to decide if they can promote the electrical engineering program as an accredited program. “We had a review last fall back in October, and they will write a report that we will expect to review sometime this month. Based on that, they will make a decision and vote on our accreditation status in July,” Maggio said.

It can be challenging for some who might not know what they want to pursue in

college, but engineering offers a wide range of opportunities. He believes that for students who are struggling to find what they want to do, engineering is a great field. “Engineering is a great field to go into if you don’t know what you want to do because it can open up so many other opportunities even if you decide that you might not want to be an engineer having critical thinking and problem-solving skills can translate to many other fields,” Maggio said.

For Maggio he knew his senior year in college that his passion was to teach electrical engineering. “Around my senior year in college, I

was researching for what I wanted to do. I was an electrical engineer major, and that’s when I decided to stick around in college and teach,” Maggio said.

Maggio understands the struggle of being a college student, and he often can relate to his students from when he was a college student. “Engineering and physics can be tough fields to be in. I’ve been in some of those struggles, so I can put myself in their shoes, Maggio said. He believes that the faculty, staff, and students are truly amazing and that’s what makes his job so rewarding. “This is a great job and MC is a great place to be,” Maggio said.

“When you’re leading people, you’re trying to evoke change and progress. It’s a challenge.” Martha D’Amico is the department chair for teaching education and leadership. She wears here title proudly even though she’s only been at Mississippi College 18 months. She teaches courses and sees herself among equals in regard to her faculty. She is no stranger to Mississippi College, for she taught here from 1996 to 2001.

“I came back,” she said when mentioning her return in 2017. Prior, she was a principal in Madison.

D’Amico has a desire to know the heartbeat of her

department. She said, “I have made sure that every semester I have been here that I have taught a different class because one way for me to truly understand the plight of my faculty is to invest in each of their programs.”

She does this to understand the struggles and frustrations of her faculty, and she wants to updated the key courses. Her interest is always in the students benefit. Her responsibilities mostly entail trying to stay within guidelines developed by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. She said, “We are a professional school. We are teaching students and

training them for a profession in teaching or in educational leadership. We have to be nationally accredited. Accreditation really drives most of everything we do.”

At the end of the day, D’Amico hopes that she has prepared her students well. She wants her students to leave this college as, “life long learners...because change is the only thing they will be able to rely on.”

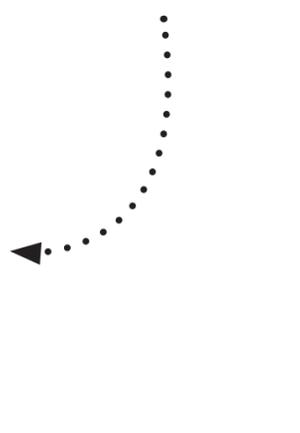
Change energizes D’Amico, and she proudly admits he quirk. She has a push and a drive for creativity and she applies it to her job. It affects her leadership and the development of the program. She said honestly, “I am an

odd person. I love change. I thrive on change.”

This change has an advantage in her department specifically. The classroom and teaching styles are constantly needing updated accreditation.

“We are trying to prepare students for the future. We’re trying to prepare teachers to teach students that we have no idea what they’re going to be preparing them for. We can’t prepare our students for today’s classroom. We have to prepare them for tomorrows,” she said. “The only way we can do that is to force ourselves to look to the future and not to the past.

Teaching Education and Leadership Department
by **JACOB HOLDEN**



Sociology and Social Work
by **TYLER CHAMBLISS**



The Department of Sociology and Social Work of Mississippi College considers its programs to be a valuable vehicle for discovering truth, as claimed on the Mississippi College department web page. Essentially, students in this department are guided to examine culture, social organization and human personality in an effort to explore their own selves, the social environment, and the interaction between an individual and a community.

Madelyn Martin, a Mississippi College senior obtaining a bachelor’s degree in Social Work, is currently seeing this vision play out as she embarks on a new adventure in the big city of New York.

Martin is in her last semester of her degree and was able to take an opportunity at the Sauti Yetu Center for African Women as her internship requirement for her degree.

“Being in New York City is cool,” said Martin, “but having the opportunity to use the knowledge I’ve been taught to help these immigrant women have an easier time in the United States and to have a positive impact on real world issues has been the real blessing.”

Sauti Yetu Center for African Women is a social work agency that offers direct services, public education, policy and advocacy programs regarding the issues that African Women are often faced with. Martin will be serving

there for the next semester as she gains valuable real world experience for class credit.

Emily Malone, another Mississippi College social work major, is spending her hours in internship working with children who have suffered neglect and abuse throughout their lifetimes. With skills learned in the Mississippi College classes, she leads play therapy and wilderness therapy sessions to help these children come to terms with what they have experienced and begin the process of healing.

“My work is difficult to say the least,” said Malone, “but the assurance of knowing that at the end of this dark tunnel is a silver lining and I can help lead these kids

to it is the definition of success to me.”

The profession of social work seeks to improve the quality of life for individuals and to effect system-wide change through the pursuit of social justice. These social justices can range anywhere from human and civil rights to abuse cases to the foster and adoption system.

The majority of people working within this field have a heart for changing the world for the better, and Mississippi College is equipping them to do so. Mississippi College students who graduate from the Department of Sociology and Social Work go on to be case workers, lobbyists, and lawyers among other successful professions.



Psychology and Counseling Department
by ANNA CLAYTON NAGLE

There are many things about the building to the left of the quad on Mississippi College's campus that people don't know. Lowery is the home to our Educational, Psychology, and Counseling classes.

The Psychology department is a large and well-known major on campus and is a part of the School of Education.

The Psychology department's website states that, "The Department of Psychology & Counseling teaches students to become effective scientist-practitioners who can model and apply psychological principles from a Christian per-

spective." They offer both Bachelor and Master degrees for both on and off-campus students. Some courses in the undergraduate programs are Psychological Statistics, Abnormal Psychology, and Developmental Psychology.

Each class is taught by a professor who has experience and knowledge in the field they are teaching in, and each course teaches Psychology majors something new about the program, gaining them experience to prepare for the business world outside of school.

Michael Mann, the chair of the department said, "My goal for students in this department is we want students

to think critically and start to think critically in the future with Psychological knowledge. We want you to be able to analyze whatever life situations come up for you."

Mann and the other professors in the department take pride in their department and want to see their students succeed. "About a half of our graduates go on to become school counselors, mental health counselors, marriage and family counselors, and even Psychologists. We want our students to help people."

Something that many students don't know is that the Psychology Department takes a study abroad trip al-

most every year. The trip is centered around learning about Psychology but is open to any majors. Places they have been are Germany, Paris, London, and Amsterdam. "Usually the minority of the students that go are Psychology majors. We tend to get many students in the History or Education departments," said Mann.

The students who graduate from Mississippi College with their degree in Psychology are great examples of how well the Psychology department equips its students to prepare for the future, teaching them to think critically, use their knowledge, and think psychologically.

Arts & Entertainment

Capturing Beauty in Reality

KYLE HAMRICK
A&E EDITOR

Humans are visual creatures, and society today is full of blown-up, hi-gloss images that are unrealistic and false. Like pretty weeds, these ad campaigns sprout across the nation and try to choke out every ounce of contentment and happiness from the soul, one camera shutter at a time. But appearances are deceptive indeed as MC students, Brent Shows and Ridge Pickering, know. They are using their talents in videography and photography to endorse honesty and natural beauty to send a message of hope to a world trapped by the mirror.

Brent Shows, a sophomore, discovered his passion for filmmaking at age 10 in 2009. Growing up homeschooled in Vanleave, Miss., Shows wasn't good in athletics and said he didn't have many friends. While most boys would spend their time hanging out or playing football, Shows would spend "four hours everyday watching videos on YouTube," learning how to take his photography to the next level. As he learned and practiced more, Shows decided he wanted to do more than take still pictures. He wanted to move his subjects around and capture them in a larger narrative. Shows wanted to make film.



Image Source: Kyle Hamrick

In 2015 at his home church in Vanleave, Shows met Mark Ruffin, a career wedding videographer who gave Shows the working experience he wanted. As a backup cameraman, Shows said, "I got the experience of getting the shots I need." He filmed his first wedding in the summer of 2016 and absolutely loved it. Since then, Shows has filmed countless weddings with Ruffin and still works with him to this day.

Ridge Pickering, a freshman, realized his passion for photography later than Shows. He only really got into it because he enjoyed taking pictures of his girlfriend in high school. After they broke up in November 2017, Pickering sold his camera for cash, but he'd had an eye for pictures as a pre-teen. His older brother had a camera

growing up, and Pickering remembers being "in charge of the image" even as a model. After breaking up with his girlfriend, Pickering realized he still wanted to take pictures. He then upgraded his iPhone 6 to an iPhone 8 for the portrait mode feature and gave photography a second chance. In December 2018, Pickering started an Instagram account called "ridgeallenphoto," focused on his rekindled interest. After that, people came out of the woodwork wanting Pickering to take their pictures in professional shoots. Business has been booming ever since.

Shows and Pickering met in fall 2018 in a class called Business Skills for Life. Pickering was seated near Shows, and he turned around when Shows mentioned his experience filming weddings. Pick-

ering knew immediately that Shows could help him turn his high-quality phone images into professional work, so they started hanging out, and Shows soon took Pickering under his wing. They discovered they had some photography background in common, but their processes and styles couldn't be more unique. Pickering, a natural romantic, wants to capture "happy moments" in warm golden tones. Shows prefers bluer and whiter lighting to achieve more dramatic shots and shadows when filming. As they've worked in their own fields, they've been able to come together and grow through their different approaches, styles, and experiences.

One thing is for sure, Shows and Pickering want what they do to have an im-

pact. Pickering values pictures of people over pictures of objects and wants to capture a person's "real beauty." He values honesty and genuine looks, recalling when he told a girl who loved playing piano to sit down and play while he shot. "It is what it is," said Pickering, and the desire to achieve sincerity and truth in his subjects is manifest in the images he creates. Shows said, "I just love being able to tell a story through an image and meet a need for people." He wants to "connect with the world and tell a powerful story" through film, still or moving. This is more than a hobby or pastime to them; it's a career goal.

"I can see myself doing this, it's something I'm passionate about," said Pickering, "I can't see myself sitting at a desk doing business. It hurts me. There's so much world to explore."

Shows, who is the current videographer for Mississippi College, said, "At the end I don't want to just do film. I see God using film later on." He sees himself as a producer, helping artists like Pickering become the best they can be.

Brent Shows and Ridge Pickering tell stories beyond words on a page. Humans will continue to be visual creatures, and Shows and Pickering tell the stories of life in ways words on a page cannot. When eyes look their way, hearts will hear what they say.



Image Source: Megan Hendricks

Cultivation Food Hall

MEGAN HENDRICKS
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

The food hall trend has finally made it to The District at Eastover in the capital city of Jackson. Cultivation Food Hall is bringing people from all over the Metro to Mississippi's first food hall. Bringing in eight boutique restaurants and one coffee shop gives people a variety of foods in a single location. Open from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., the food hall serves breakfast for a slow crowd, but by lunchtime the crowd is booming. The food hall is becoming Jackson's new hot

spot because it allows everyone to choose from a variety of foods while enjoying the environment with friends and family.

The unique and modern food hall concept is based off of St. Roch Mar in New Orleans. Jackson native Mary Sanders Ferris, who designed the restaurant Fine & Dandy, was the design consultant for The Cultivation Food Hall. The space includes a living room that will accommodate private events while being able to relax in a soothing atmosphere.

Sheila Steward, a local resident in the Jackson area, is excited about the new food hall, and she believes that this

will put the city of Jackson in a more positive light. "The food hall brings a very pleasant feel to the city of Jackson, and I had the best time ever trying different vendors. I had never even heard of a food hall before this, so it brings something new to the city too," Steward said.

Hot muffulettas and shrimp are served at the Fete au Fete. Chef Micah Martello gives the Southern comfort food a Louisiana twist. This is a perfect spot for those looking for some Cajun to spice up their foods. Martello's restaurant is getting back to soul cooking and bringing

Hall, cont.

a taste of Louisiana to Mississippi. Martello also brings to the food hall a restaurant called Local Honey, serving salads, steel-cut oats, and smoothies, which he calls “healthy food redefined.”

If anyone is interested in making their own sushi, “Poke Stop” allows the guests to make their own. Rachel Phuong is the creator, and she calls her dishes “Hawaiian with a Japanese flair” while giving a fresh and healthy offering.

Whisk, a Creperie by La Brioché was based off the French bakery in Fondren. Whisk serves savory crepes for breakfast and Italian influenced dinners for lunch. The crepes create a sweet and savory combination when combined with the Italian dishes, which are inspired by traditional French in-

gredients such as ham and Gruyere.

A Mississippi native, Chef Enrika Williams, offers a “bohemian-chic” cuisine, and an Argentina native Austin Lee and his wife offer Neapolitan pizza. For the coffee lovers, il Lupo Coffee serves espresso and milk-based drinks. “Il Lupo” means wolf in Italian and pays homage to Mississippi-born legend Howlin Wolf.

While the Cultivation Food Hall is making tremendous moves, so is the crowd. Terrence Ford, for instance, has been coming ever since they opened. “I come to get coffee, but the best part is the crepes for breakfast - and the friendly customer service you get is a plus too,” Ford said. The Cultivation Food Hall is here to stay, and if you’re still deciding whether to go or not, just go.



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Fyre: The Greatest Party that Never Happened

SADIE WISE
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Maybe you’ve heard, maybe you haven’t, but there’s a new Netflix documentary about the Fyre Festival. The brainchild of Billy McFarland and Ja Rule started out as an idea that would showcase some of the world’s most well known talent, all while giving guests the treatment of a lifetime. It ended a complete disaster.

This festival was set to take place in 2017 on an island previously owned by Pablo Escobar and was promoted through social media by some of the most popular influencers in pop culture today. Some of those influencers include Kendall Jenner, Hailey Baldwin and Bella Hadid. In a promotional video for the event, these models, along with some others, can be seen riding on yachts, frolicking in clear blue ocean water and sipping on drinks. That was just a little taste of what guests could experience if they purchased a ticket.

In the documentary, details about the planning of the festival are revealed, from the beginning to the end.

Personally, I had never heard of Fyre Festival, until about two weeks ago when one of my friends posted about it on Instagram. So, I started doing my research, read up a little bit on the festival and then realized that it never actually happened. When I discovered that there was a documentary on Netflix revealing all the secrets, I had to watch.

I got a snack, sat on the couch, looked up Fyre: The Greatest Party That Never Happened and hit play. The documentary introduced the mastermind behind the festival, Billy McFarland. McFarland at first seems like a genius entrepreneur with a great idea to give fans the ultimate festival experience complete with a weekend on a private island in the Bahamas. But, as the hour and a half long show progresses, we see just how corrupt this man and his plans really were.

One of the most heartbreaking parts of this story is the fact that hundreds of Bahamian natives were taken advantage of. McFarland recruited the Bahamian people to help build the festival grounds in the short time frame they were given. They worked day and night

to make the festival the best that they could for the guests. But once the idea went up in flames, they were not paid for their hard labor, and McFarland simply had no remorse.

The biggest reason I liked the documentary is because it showed the hurt that McFarland’s greed caused other people. One of the natives it affected the most was Maryann Rolle. Rolle was the restaurant owner on the island, who worked extremely hard to be able to provide the amount of food needed to accommodate the thousands of people that were to arrive on the island. Once the festival proved to be a fraud, Rolle realized she and her employees were not getting paid. Rolle took it upon herself to pay her employees out of her personal savings account, which was a total of about \$50,000.

Without revealing too much, or spoiling it for you, you should know that McFarland is selfish and only cares about money, but to see for yourself, you should definitely watch the documentary. If you want insight on just how messed up the Fyre Festival was, look no further than this show.

This Netflix show is bring-

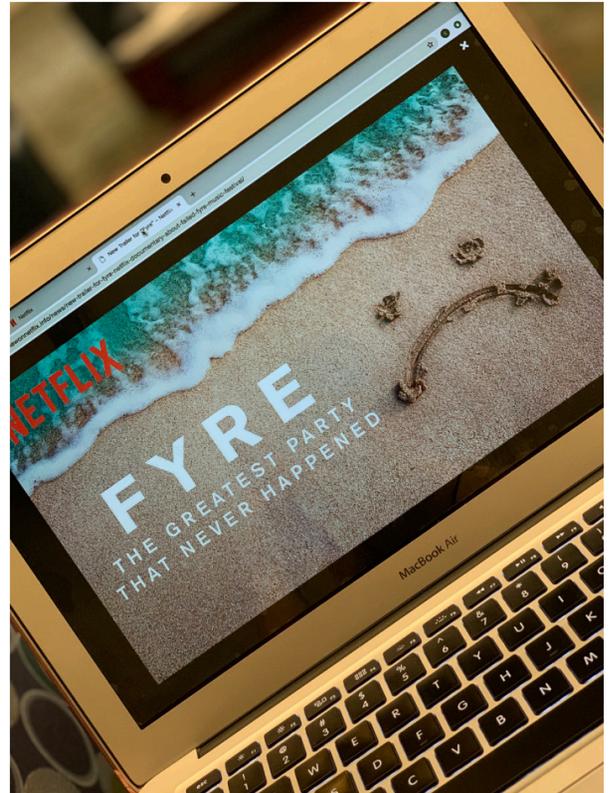


Image Source: Sadie Wise

ing awareness to the schemes of Billy McFarland and is empowering people to help those negatively affected by him. A GoFundMe page has been set up to help Rolle and the other Bahamian natives who were never paid.

Overall, I feel that this documentary is helpful and

very insightful. It paints a picture of how important it is to know that things aren’t always what they seem, but it also reveals just how much pop culture can cloud the judgement of people who are just looking for a good time, which honestly is a little scary.

Steel Magnolias Rehearsing at MC

KYLE HAMRICK
A&E EDITOR

Rehearsals are currently underway for the Spring 2019 Mainstage Production of Robert Harling’s iconic drama Steel Magnolias, directed by Phyllis Seawright and sponsored by the MC Communication Department.

The play revolves around the friendship of six women who meet regularly at a Louisiana beauty parlor to gossip and commiserate away from the men. The 1989 film of the same name starred Julia Roberts, Sally Field, and Dolly Parton, and it became a Southern cinematic staple. The stellar performances and witty repartee that mark the film make it a tough act to follow, but this student production of Steel Magnolias should not be nipped in the bud just yet.

“I can’t help but get something from the movie,” said Seawright, “but I haven’t watched it again because I wanted to look for the characters myself.” Seawright recently saw a performance of the play at Jackson’s New Stage Theatre that inspired her to “look at the characters in a new way.” Since day one, she’s encouraged her actors to do the same.

Sophomore Alex Thomson is Seawright’s assistant director. He said he and Seawright are “taking a few ideas from the movie,” but for the most part are sticking to the original script.

Lexi Monceaux, a senior, plays Annelle, the meek newcomer who “prays at the drop of a hat.” She’s approaching her character with an even portion of the stage play and the movie. “Annelle’s a little bit of an oddball,” she said. A self-described “oddball,”

Monceaux said she tries to channel her “weird side” when getting into character.

Junior Emmie Fuson said she’s been acting her whole life and has been frequently type-casted similar to her role as Truvy, the bright and brassy beautician made memorable by Dolly Parton. “It’s quite a legacy to live up to,” said Fuson, “I’m trying to take little pieces of Dolly that people love.” She doesn’t want to completely replicate Parton’s performance; rather, she wants the audience to think “That’s Emmie doing justice to a Dolly part.”

Madeline Osgian, a sophomore, plays the character of Shelby, a diabetic who tries to have a child despite her medical issues. Osgian has acted in community theater since she was eight and owes her acting ability to her

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Image Source: Kyle Hamrick



Magnolias, cont.

hometown theater director, Mr. Pete Wilson. Although she sees parallels in Shelby's personality to her own, the biggest challenge for Osigian is "to imagine what a diabetic feels like."

Playing Shelby's very protective mother M'Lynn is senior Kat Tate. "This is not the first time I've played a mother role," Tate said, recalling her high school acting years where she routinely played mom characters. With regard to the role of M'Lynn,

Tate said, "When I sit down, I try my best to think how my mom would think."

The catty, grouchy, and infinitely quotable Ouiser is played by Carly Claudia, a senior. This is her first time acting in an MC production and also her first encounter with her infamous character. "I didn't know what Steel Magnolias was at first. I had no idea what I was getting into," said Claudia. A Pittsburgh native, Claudia's only experience with Southern

culture were the days she spent in Kentucky with her grandmother. "Southern isn't completely foreign," she said, "but it's an interesting concept." According to Claudia, what makes Ouiser such a great character is her honesty, which Claudia considers to be distinctly "un-Southern."

"What's so great about this play is it has some good Southern humor, but also serious elements," said Thomson.

Concurring with her assistant director, Seawright called the play a "tragi-comedy," meaning it's neither a pure tragedy nor a pure comedy but a mixture of both – just like real life. "The message of the play is life goes on," she said, "You must keep going forward."

The cast and crew are very excited to debut their performance. They hope to do the movie justice and stay true to the original work while also adding their own unique

takes on the classic story of love, loss, and friendship.

Steel Magnolias debuts on Valentine's Day, Thursday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. Performances will be held on Friday, Feb. 15, and Saturday, Feb. 16, also at 7 p.m. The final performance will be a matinee on Sunday, Feb. 17, at 2:30 p.m. All performances will take place at Swor Auditorium in Nelson Hall. Tickets for students, MC employees, and senior adults are \$7, while general admission tickets are \$10.

What are Students Binge-Watching?



Image Source: Megan Hendricks

MEGAN HENDRICKS
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Binge-watching television is a normal part of someone's weekly schedule - especially for young adults. To watch more television, viewers are making

sacrifices, such as staying up past their normal bedtime or cancelling plans with friends. The anticipation to know what the next episode will bring is so exciting. A Netflix survey found that 61 percent of users regularly watch between 2-6 episodes of a show in one sitting. That's a lot of people tuning in to watch their favorite shows every week. Most viewers finish a series in one week or less. So, what TV shows are keeping viewers' eyes glued to the screen?

Grown-ish is a spinoff show of the series Blackish that explores the trials and tribulations of the Johnson family eldest daughter Zoey. Zoey is off to college and is facing adult world problems. The series focuses on a typical college student's struggle, and often people can relate to a show that's similar to what their facing. Kristian Brent, a Mississippi College student, often finds herself binge-watching the show Grown-ish because she can relate to the character. "I'm binge-watching like five

shows, including Grey's Anatomy, Black-ish, and Grown-ish. I love Grown-ish because the show portrays actual real-life scenarios that college students face today."

TVTimes's list of the top 20 most anticipated new shows for 2019 polled more than 12 million global registered users to compile a list of the shows everyone is buzzing about. Fan favorites such as Game of Thrones, Billions, and Stranger Things are rumored to bring new episodes this summer. These shows are highly anticipated for 2019 and the fans are gearing up for new episodes. One of Netflix's most popular shows is Marvel's The Punisher, which focuses on a former marine out to punish the criminals responsible for his family's murder. If you're looking for a comedy-drama, the show Grace and Frankie will keep you laughing. Black Earth Rising is a female-conspiracy thriller that already has its viewers on edge to see the next episode; the show is perfect for those who love a thriller with some edge to it.

The documentary Wild Wild Country is demanding a lot of attention from viewers and critics, rating 100% on Rotten Tomatoes.

Summer Fields, a student at Millsaps, loves to binge-watch her favorite shows. She says it's a stress reliever from the daily struggles of college. "I enjoy shows like How To Get Away With Murder and Bloodline. I feel relaxed when I am watching these shows. I love it," said Fields.

Thomas Murray, a student at Tougaloo College, finds himself binge-watching Divorce Court daily on Netflix. "I'm only 23, and Divorce Court is typically an older person's show. I have a old spirit, so I wake up every morning to fix my coffee, and I'm watching it. It really is a funny show. I hope once I decide to get married, we won't go to divorce court, but the show has some humor to it," Murray said. This year is bringing in a lot of exciting new shows to binge, and it's keeping the viewers anxious. What will you be watching?

SPORTS

Being Average is Not an Option for the 2019 Choctaws Baseball Team

COREY RHOLDON
SPORTS EDITOR

Consistency is the hardest thing to have in sports. The Mississippi College Baseball team went from being at the bottom of the GSC to champions in four years. Now this season there are expectations for the Choctaws. MC was picked to win the GSC again and ranked 18th in the country. Coach Jeremy Haworth knows his team rankings really do not mean anything if they do not live up to it.

"I don't want them to be passive or satisfied in whatever they do. Rankings and all of that stuff really do not mean anything unless you prove that you are that guy. You have to instill pressure into your players, and all I am trying to do is to get the most out of them every day. I am not a fan of losing. I hate losing more than I like winning, and losing is not an option," said Haworth.

The baseball program takes after their leader. When Haworth got to Mississippi College the team was 12-34. But his competitive attitude has made the Choctaws into

a championship program. "He is the type of guy that if we played his seven-year-old daughter in soccer, he would not care. But that is what changed the program: There is not a day that he does not come out here and try to make us better. Earlier this week, he was pitching against us in a simulated scrimmage, talking smack to everyone who came up to the plate. He wants to be the best coach in the country, and he does everything he can to do that," said senior first baseman Blaine Crim.

Crim remembers when the team was struggling his first few years in Clinton, but he knows those struggles are what built a champion. "Probably as good as you can possibly see growth. I remember coming here my freshman year not knowing quite what to expect. I know the year prior, they did not do to well, and I did not know what to think. My freshman year we had some struggles, and Coach Hayward told me to stay with it. He told me to trust him, and we were going to win a championship my senior

year. We won one a season early, and that is my first championship I won," said Crim.

Mississippi College had a Cinderella-type season last year. The team won four games in four days including an 11-inning upset over rival Delta State, who won the GSC in the regular season and was ranked 10th in the country at the time. Then the Choctaws went into the NCAA tournament and won three games including defeating Delta State again.

A mark to show how much the program has grown under Haworth, and how it was built in the most challenging times. "It goes back to when we started 2-17 my sophomore year, and we had 5 or 6 guys that were the core guys on this past years team that went through that. Once we stopped caring about who we were playing and who the opponent was, we started winning. We had the mentality that nobody is going to beat us. We did not look back; the postseason was crazy. I remember sitting in Cleveland, Miss. getting ready to play North Alabama, saying if we win this



Image Source: Corey Rholdon

one, let's not look back, and we did. The dawg pile was something special that I will never forget," Crim said.

A key contributor on that team was third baseman Billy Cameron who batted .354 with 6 home runs with the Choctaws. Cameron wants to put that season in the past and focus on this season. "The rankings came off of things that we did last year. We have new players but we have the same goal. It is tremendous and a reflection of hard work. We really started from the bottom. To get some recognition means a lot, but we have a lot of work to do," said Cameron.

Both Cameron and Crim are considered to be the leaders of the baseball team. Haworth believes that they complement each other very

well. "You have two different types of leaders. Blaine has been here with me for four seasons. He is more of that voice of reason, and Blaine is not going to be all up in your face or be the pep talk type guy. He is going to lead by example. When he does say something, the guys listen. Billy is a warrior, and he is a competitor. When he steps onto that field, you know exactly what you are going to get every day. He wants to win at all costs, and that is what I love about him. Those two guys bring different flavors to the team, but it is a good leadership for those two guys," Haworth said.

The 2019 squad wants to be extraordinary, or special. Haworth has been preaching

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Baseball, cont.

to his team about not being average, about fulfilling their potential, and that is what consistent programs do. “We had someone come speak to us, and he challenged us not to be average, and that average people do not do the things that great people

do. We want to strive to be something different from anyone else. Our guys are not focused on the scoreboard. They are not focused on the rankings, and we are going to focus on being who we are. We will focus on being Choctaws baseball. As a team, we

focused on ourselves more than our opponent. If we do that, our objective is to win the Gulf South, be number 1 in the region, play for a chance to get to the World Series, and to hopefully win a national championship,” Haworth said.

MC Softball Back in Action



Image Source: David Nichols

SADIE WISE
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

The Mississippi College Softball team is known for their championship attitude and what they are consistently able to do on the field. The Lady Choctaws were able to claim titles in 2016 and 2017, but they were not able

to keep that streak going last season. After going 19-12 in conference play in 2018, Coach Brooke O’Hair and the Lady Choctaws are ready to get back to business.

Coach O’Hair is entering her 13th season as head coach for the Choctaws. She has had major success in her tenure at MC. Under Coach O’Hair the Lady Choctaws were able to claim a GSC

title in their 2017, after bringing home the national championship the previous year, which was the first in school history for a women’s team.

Keeping that attitude of success is definitely on the agenda for the team this season. “Getting everyone to buy in to what we’re trying to do,” Coach O’Hair said. “Trusting each other, listening, and working together, all towards the same goal,” she said.

Coach O’Hair says that overall, this is the most athletic team she has ever had at Mississippi College. “I think that says a lot, because we’ve had some tremendous teams comes through this program,” she said.

One of those athletes is senior Brianna Caldwell. Caldwell also says that one of the most important components to this team winning a GSC title this season is for everyone to buy in. “We need

to recognize the talent that we have, be able to trust what each other can do on the field, and know our roles.” Caldwell feels that if this team can do those things, they will be “absolutely unstoppable” in the Gulf South Conference.

Caldwell wants to give it her all during her last season as a collegiate athlete, but what she’s looking forward to the most is being a leader on the field. “Outside of stats, I always want to be the best I can be as a leader, so I will be remembered in a positive way,” Caldwell said.

Although Caldwell was a transfer, she said she has never felt like she wasn’t a part of the Choctaw family. “Being new, I was so glad to be a part of a team that is so loving and accepting. Every part of my experience here has been great,” Caldwell said.

“We really try to build a family environment within this program,” O’Hair said.

“Getting to know each other and communicating with one another is important, and just knowing that we’re all in this for the same reasons.” Coach O’Hair says that besides winning games, being able to grow with one another and in their relationships with Christ are top priorities.

This year’s senior class is a special one. “Every kid is unique, which is what makes this group great. They all bring different things to the table. They all understand their roles, and they’ve bought into what it means to be a Choctaw and what it means to be a family,” O’Hair said. “I really don’t think I’ll ever want them to leave.”

The Lady Choctaws kick off GSC play on Feb. 23, as they host the West Georgia

Wolves. The double header begins at 2 p.m. at the MC Softball Complex.

Racing Towards Success

ELLIOT REEDER
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Heading into the 2018-2019 Track and Field season, the Mississippi College Choctaws had high expectations, but they have battled some injuries in the pre-season. The high expectations came from a mix of returning talent, such as Andrea McDonald (who qualified for nationals last year) and several other past conference champions, mixed with numerous incoming talented freshman.

Some injuries in the pre-season and the beginning of the year proved to be an obstacle for the team, but Head Coach Butch Ard believes that his team is getting healthy and starting to put the pieces together. “We had some injuries going into the season that we are kind of working through, but last week at Sewanee, everything kind of came together, and it is showing very good promise as we go to the outdoor season.” Coach Ard says he is looking forward to seeing everybody being able to compete in order to give him a good look of the team before outdoor track season begins.

The team came in with high expectations, and Coach Ard believes that those are still in place. He referenced the good finishes at last year’s conference meet by both the men’s and women’s teams (both teams finished in the top 5) last year, but he expects both teams to “move up significantly” in the final standings at the conference meet. Coach Ard says, “We brought in a bunch of freshman. We have a lot of upperclassmen com-

ing back. And I think we are going to be in the mix for the top 2 or 3 teams this year.”

Sophomore Dalton Dempsey, who was on the men’s 4x400 relay team a year ago, the team that won conference and came painstakingly close to qualifying for Nationals, feels that having numerous newcomers and the team battling some injuries has made it difficult to get a full picture of how good the team is. Because not everyone has been able to compete yet, Dempsey says, “We are still trying to figure out the pieces, but I think it is looking promising coming up for outdoor season.”

Senior Zairia Brown believes that the team is beginning to take a step forward because the team is “starting to understand what work ethic is and what it means to work hard for your team, and not just for yourself.” Brown also spoke to how the team has focused on getting back in shape after the Christmas break. Brown says the team will focus on “approaching every meet as a meet to be competitive about.”

Both the men’s and women’s teams competed at the Sewanee Tiger Indoor Invitational on Feb. 2 with both teams finishing in the top two. The women’s team finished second overall with a performance highlighted by Zairia Brown’s big day. Brown finished first in three events (55 meter dash, the 200 meter dash, and was on the Choctaws 4x400 team, along with Ezra McCaw, Rebecca Lewallen and Jane Ann Cicco, that took first place). Other podium finishers included Andrea McDonald (2nd in the high jump), Marina Rizk (2nd in pole vault), McCaw (2nd in

the 55 and 200 meter dashes), Meghan Becerra (2nd in the 800 meter), Autumn Frost (2nd in shot put), Lewallen (3rd in the 400 meter dash), Maureen Lee (3rd in the 400 meter dash) and Kiarra Vance (3rd in the weight throw).

The Lady Choctaws distance medley team (consisting of Hailey Brown, Bethany Farias, Mystica Maxie and Becerra) finished 2nd. The men’s team picked up the meet win. The Choctaws had numerous podium finishers, they were Luke Hodnett (1st in long jump, 2nd in the 55 meter dash and 2nd in the 200 meter dash), Rakeem Wilson (1st in both the 55 meter and 200 meter dashes), Dalton Dempsey (1st in the 400 meter dash), AB Williams (1st in shot put), Zach McManus (2nd in the long jump and 2nd in the 55 meter hurdles), Garrett McGregor (2nd in the mile run), Braden Odem (2nd in the 800 meter run), Al Ferrill (3rd in shot put) and Connor Tiffin (3rd in the high jump). The Choctaws also finished 1st and 2nd in the 4x400 relay. The team of Hodnet, Wilson, Dempsey and Justin Jackson picked up the win, while the team of McManus, Joe Thompson, Nate Parker and Allen Fletcher finished 2nd. The Choctaws also picked up a 2nd place finish in the distance medley (with a team consisting of McGregor, Odem, Chris Webber and Osiel Moreno).

With all the newcomers and high expectations, the Choctaws have had several leaders step up on the team. The leaders who were pointed out are Zairia Brown, Ezra McCaw, Jane Ann Cicco, Luke Hodnett, Rakeem Wilson, Dalton Dempsey,



Image Source: Jacob Horton

Al Ferrill and AB Williams. Dempsey says he and Wilson have worked to step up as leaders, even as sophomores, saying, “We are kind of a little older now. We are past our first year, so we can help these younger guys out.” Dempsey pointed out that it has been many people who have stepped up, not just “one or two people.”

Coach Ard believes that several athletes have a good chance of potentially qualifying for Nationals. He pointed to Brown, Rizk, McDonald (who qualified last year), and the men’s 4x400 relay team (where Hodnett, Wilson and Dempsey were on the team that failed to qualify last year by just 2 tenths of a second). The Choctaws will compete on Feb. 9 at the Samford Open in Birmingham. Mississipp-

pi College will host an outdoor season opener event on March 2, and then they will host their annual “Twilight Invitational” on April 5.

The GSC Outdoor Conference Championships will be May 2-4 in Rome Georgia (hosted by Shorter University). If any Choctaws qualify for Nationals, they will compete May 23-25 in Kingsville, Texas (home of Texas A&M-Kingsville). The Choctaws will look to finish the indoor season strong, and take the momentum into the outdoor season. In order to do so, the Choctaws will need to finish getting healthy, and unite the young freshman with the returners. The Choctaws will need to do that and more as they race towards meeting their expectations.

Tennis Teams Look to Improve After an Impressive 2018 Campaign



Image Source: Jacob Horton

THOMAS COTHREN
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

The Mississippi College men's and women's tennis teams are set to begin the 2019 season. The Choctaws look to improve from last year, as they finished the season 8-10. Meanwhile, the Lady Choctaws finished the season with an overall record of 20-3. The women's team hopes to carry that momentum into this season.

Head Coach David Boteler enters his 22nd season at Mississippi College this spring. Boteler is the head

coach for both the men's and women's teams. When coaching two different teams, there are also some different qualities that come along with each team.

"We do the same thing in practice every day for the guys and the girls," said Boteler. "The mindset might be a little bit different. The guys are more pragmatic, while the girls are a little more on the emotional side. Other than that, everything stays the same."

The Choctaws and Lady Choctaws don't only have players from the United States, but also players ranging all the way to Europe.

While these athletes are from around the world, there is no difference in coaching the players. However, recruiting these players internationally requires a different approach.

"We watch about 10-15 videos a week, sent by a recruiting service or the player," said Boteler. "When I was at Belhaven we had international players, so it's something I was used to from years back. A lot of it is word of mouth, and if you treat them well, then word gets around and players like to come. That's the best way to do that."

Junior Aneta Galowska is a third-year player from Gdansk, Poland. Being from Poland, Galowska mentions that tennis in Poland is very different from the United States.

"It is completely different," said Galowska. "The biggest difference is that we don't have public courts. Here in America, you can go to any public park and go hit. In Poland, you have to pay to get a court."

While tennis has been different for Galowska, the relationship that she has with

her coaching staff and teammates remains the same. Having these relationships are important as they can create a winning mentality and generate success.

"Their impact on the team is the most important thing," said Galowska. "They put in so much effort and show that they care. If a coach doesn't show up for practice or put in effort, then it won't go well. I feel that the coaching staff is very important."

The outlook on the season is strong for Galowska and her teammates. The team wants to carry the momentum from last season into this season. "I feel like we're going to do great," said Galowska. "We are destined to reach our goals."

Senior Max Nilges is originally from Mönchenglad, Germany. Nilges also mentioned that tennis in Germany is much more different than it is in the United States.

"It's very different," said Nilges. "We mostly play on clay courts, so the gameplay is different. The balls tend to bounce differently. In Germany, everyone is quiet

during the game, but here everyone cheers during the game. You just have to adjust to that."

This season, Nilges explained that he is taking more of a leadership role on the team. The team has a closer bond and is trying to stay focused.

"Having to experience all of the conditioning together has brought us closer as a team," said Nilges. "We've got to focus in each match, because the games are much quicker now. We're having three or four freshmen in the lineup, so we need to be on point to qualify for the GSC tournament."

Although the Choctaws finished last year 8-10, the outlook for the 2019 season remains positive, and the team is looking to improve from last season.

"It's going to be a tough season," said Nilges. "We may have a few growing pains, but I feel like it's going to be a successful season."

The Choctaws and Lady Choctaws will begin their season against Jackson State University on Feb. 11.

The Grind

DAMON WRIGHT
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Life brings about numerous difficulties and challenges. Despite the copious hours of preparation that we may put in to achieve a goal, some things may not happen as we expect. Shortcomings do not define people; what defines people is the ability to be resilient and fight through tough situations. The Mississippi College men's basketball team has not had impressive season, but they are not going to give up because of the win/loss column.

The men's basketball team found success in early season contests but have hit a wall since the beginning of Christmas break. The Choctaws started the season with a mark of 4-3, which included a win against conference foe Montevallo. However, the Choctaws ran cold and lost the next 10 games. These 10 games came against GSC op-

ponents, putting the Choctaws at a 1-11 mark in conference play. Senior forward Marcus Lytle continues to work despite the hardships.

"I know the season isn't going the way we planned it to, but we have to find a way to stay positive and keep working hard every day," said Lytle. The Choctaws beat the Lee Flames to end their losing streak with a 71-68 road victory on Feb. 2. The Choctaws will wrap up the regular season with five conference matchups, starting with a game against Valdosta State on the road this Thursday. Head Coach Don Lofton knows the team must step up in all phases of the game in order to finish this season on a high note.

"We must play and execute better offensively; the big key for us will be if we can continue to improve defensively," said Lofton. Lofton has been at the helm of the basketball program for 15 seasons, and his years of experience show in his coaching. Lytle, who trans-

ferred from East Central University, has a lot of respect for Lofton and all he does for the team. "I believe he has great experience when it comes to the game, and you can always learn something from someone that's been around the game of basketball as long as he has. Coach Lofton always keeps high positive energy for this team, no matter the situation, which is very encouraging for me and the guys," said Lytle.

The senior class for the Choctaws has provided a lot for the team, on and off the court. As the five seniors on this team leave the program, they know that being a good person always comes before being a good basketball player. Lytle, who averaged 12.5 points per game, knows that off-court characteristics are always the priority. "I want people to remember me as a servant for my Lord and my savior Jesus Christ and a basketball player second. Everything I do, I do to bring glory and honor to God," said Lytle.

Lofton knows that this senior class will be missed for next season, but the five men



Image Source: David Nichols

have left an invaluable mark on this university. "Our five seniors are doing a nice job providing leadership to our team. They have helped us lay a strong foundation for the future," said Lofton. The 2018-2019 campaign was not what the Choctaws were expecting, but the journey to success has been laid out for the next couple of years. The Choctaws will be returning four of the five starters from this year's squad, along with key role players that provide quality minutes off the bench.

The Choctaws are set to have a breakout season in 2019-2020, and Lofton is optimistic about what lies ahead. "We have a young team returning, but many have gotten valuable experience during the year. We will add several difference makers to our group and with the returners and newcomers we plan and will be successful," said Lofton. In the case for the Choctaws, this season's journey will help take this program to new, unimaginable heights. All the Choctaws need to do is stay on the grind.

OPINIONS

Nonpartisanship Solves Political Polarization

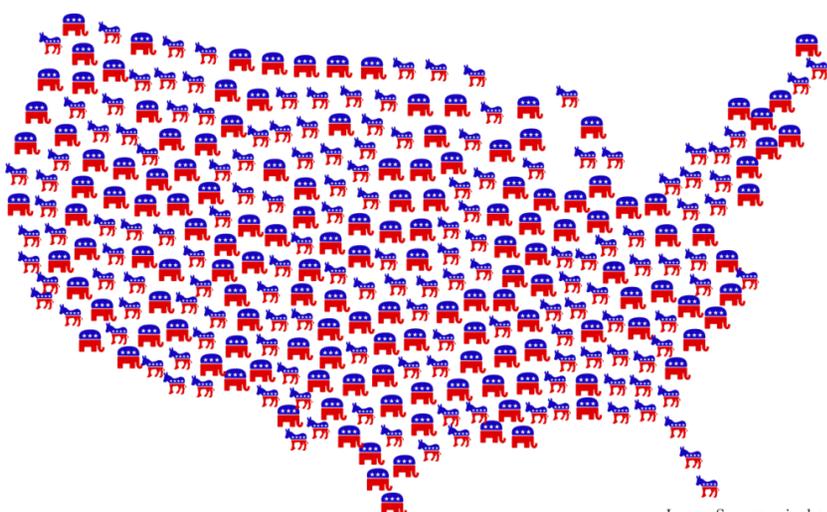


Image Source: pixabay.com

ELIJAH BRAY
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

Abortion. Gun Control. Immigration. These are all issues which have become hot topics on the political scheme, and for each, the battle is highly polarized since a particular political party has fiercely taken up arms for one side or the other. Ever since the early years—but not the founding—of our nation, America has been politically divided and shattered into individual sects which

organize and divide voters and politicians into distinct groups. Numerous political parties exist although historically the largest political battles are typically fought between two superpowers.

Reared in a conservative household and accepting of many liberal perspectives, I always attempt to keep an open mind and objectively examine all issues. While I am discussing political parties, I am not here to delve into the controversial top-

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Nonpartisanship, cont.

ics debated among political groups, nor is my goal not to declare one side superior or one inferior. On the contrary, I hope to circumvent this socio-political construct and show that claiming no political party is the finest choice of all because nonpartisan voters take a stance that doesn't divide Americans and is free from national stereotypes.

By their very nature, lines will divide. They are used to creating division according to race, religion, social class, and every other supposed difference amongst members of the human race. The lines caused by political parties are no different.

George Washington—perhaps America's single greatest and most patriotic leader, general and President—took the mantle of our nation's commander in chief in 1789 and resigned from office in 1797. During his eight-year tenure he was an outspoken, fervent nonpartisan politician; despite being the President during the formation and birth of the first political bands. This fact dissolves any notion that being nonpartisan is unpatriotic or disloyal to our country. Ac-

ording to John Bartlett in *Familiar Quotations*, George Washington made this statement in his farewell address: "Let me now...warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party."

With the addition of political parties into the voting scheme, a political party could merely become a title, a tool of the politician to be used in the same way that religion, ethnicity, or intercultural differences were abused. These titles would affect how Americans laid their votes, as they would seek out the titles toward which they had biases or avoid the titles they had biases against. Titles would be the new criteria for politicians, rather than the character of the man or woman in modern times. Politicians could also seek out these titles throughout and within the party and society and use them to gain resources, such as funding for campaigns, authoritative figures to support their platform, and media to advertise their name.

George Washington knew that by setting ourselves against each other in the manner of political parties, America's legislation would

suffer. By instigating division and by nature of titling, legislators would be fighting a war of agendas. Rather than seeking unity to create proper legislation for the country with laws being viewed as good or bad for the whole country, the political landscape would be a battleground and viewed in terms of "victories" and "defeats" as one party succeeds or fails to pass their respective piece of legislature. By consequence of this warrior mentality, any politician would be likely to support a bill proposed by their own party for the sole reason of supporting that party, and thus their own agenda. The identity of the acting political party would provide the legislation with acceptance and vitality.

Identity of the responsible party could also earn the proposed law automatic disapproval in some cases. One example is Obamacare, which earned disapproval by some Republicans strictly for being a Democratic proposal.

Americans who refuse to claim any political party are also free from whatever stereotypes accompany those parties. Any stereotype pro-

vides a person with a hurtful image solely based on membership in a group, be it one that categorizes by physical traits or mental conceptions. The terms "Republican" and "Democratic" elicit automatic responses for many people, as most members in these political parties have explicitly aligned themselves with a stance on many controversial topics. While this principle is mainly for the "big two" of political parties, it also applies to other parties, such as "Libertarian," or other political terms, such as "Conservative" or "Liberal."

These stereotypes are entirely circumstantial and can change based upon society and cultural needs. For example, as asserted by Natalie Wolchover, journalist for *Quanta Magazine*, the Democratic and Republican parties have gradually switched platforms, each currently standing where the other historically stood. Political pressure accompanies these stereotypes. Now, the freedom to vote and the foundation of our democratic-republic is under attack.

Instead of voters or politicians making a free decision which merely was biased by

title or alliance, they would be pressured to follow the trends of their political party. This pressure exerted onto the citizens and government officials is mainly internal, meaning that members within the party are responsible. This tactic is used to encourage support for fellow party members in an election and acceptance of any bills offered by a fellow party member.

On the other hand, sometimes this pressure can come from external sources, such as opposing political parties or news coverage. In these cases, the pressure may be used to criticize or illegitimize the candidate or politician or to shame an alleged turnout voter.

By placing our political identity within a particular party, we allow that party to have control over part of who we are. Our identity should be as citizens of America, not members of a political party. America's current political condition is one of discord and brokenness. The best way to navigate through this tricky medium and avoid any unnecessary conflict is by joining the ranks of nonpartisan citizens.

Thoughts on the State of the USA



Image Source: pixabay.com

ETHAN COATS
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER

On Feb. 5, 2019, President Donald Trump gave a delayed State of the Union address to both houses of Congress, the Supreme Court, the country, and the world. After the longest government shutdown in the nation's history, many wondered its purpose and how much he would push for his border wall.

However, polling showed that many people liked or even loved the President's speech. How could that be? After 35 days of what the media labeled "Trump's shutdown," you would think that people would not be so fond of a speech by the man. In fact, I believe this is exactly what we needed from the President at this time.

So few people actually care to do research into politics these days, but everyone is teeming with their own opinions on politics. It is because everyone has an opinion on the State of the Union that they listen. Often it is during the speech that many come to realize that they do have something in common with each other: that they are Americans.

We often forget that in this day and age, intersectionality

and deliberate tribalism rule the nation's biases and opinions. One is hard-pressed to find someone they disagree with in every manner. That is the beauty of the American system: everyone is loyal to multiple different things and not just one thing singularly. In short, there is no such thing as a single-issue voter. Many will try to generalize groups of voters as white, black, hispanic, Christian, Muslim, Atheist, Yankee, Southerner, Conservative, Liberal, etc., but not everyone in these groups hold the exact same ideals.

Because of this passion for beliefs, when the President spoke that night on unity and American values, people came together and responded. As a person interested in history, it is amazing to see times when America strives to be all that it can be and remembering times when men and women of all people groups came together and made this country what it is today. We work and make progress off of their progress and their shortcomings. Generations to come will do the same with the foundations we lay for them.

The President's speech was about this idea. He spoke on past generations and their accomplishments and how those work should inspire us

to move in the right direction and continue on their legacies as nation builders. As he pointed out, in the past century the United States has become the leading and last superpower of the world. We are leagues ahead of any and all competition. That kind of role does not come overnight, which is why the policies we make today matter so much. The choices we make as a country define the foundation that will be built upon in the future.

With respect to this timeframe, I think the President did a great job of conveying a message of unity through division. Every point he made could easily be debated and compromised if America decided to sit down and talk about these issues instead of threatening each other over them.

As for the policies he discussed, there were many. Stand outs of the night were prison and legal reform, the border and immigration, foreign treaties and countries, scientific and medical research, and the military. For each of these discussions, he had what some would see as props displaying the points he was making on each topic.

These "props" were people, each of whom are examples of the way the President would like to see many

Americans respond to the circumstances of their life. One lady was in prison for a first offense drug crime, and the President commuted her sentence. One man was an immigrant who now works as an ICE officer. One young woman, who I would say was the most standout citizen of the night, had spent her childhood raising money for St. Jude's Children Hospital. She was diagnosed with cancer herself and eventually went through treatment at St. Jude's. Three men who fought in World War II were honored at the speech. It is through these people that the President made some of his most impactful points, a tradition set by Ronald Reagan.

On the topic of foreign and domestic policies, the President reminded us of our American values that we have held as a nation since our founding. He spoke on how Russian missile treaties were failing because the Russians were not holding up their end of the deal. He condemned the Maduro regime in Venezuela and recognized Guaido as the official president of Venezuela. He also spoke on the heinous abortion bills of New York and Virginia that allow abortion for any reason up to and during birth.

These policy targets

founded a political win for the President, pointing out that America was founded on such principles as honor, truth, and liberty for all. As Americans, we would be remiss if we did not recognize that all Americans have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We are a country that will never be socialized because it is under socialization that our foundations crumble and the mission of freedom for all fails.

Through our common history, we take our proud stances as a country. We need not a unifying figure, for we ourselves are unified already. We do not always get along, and those who profit on such disagreement are often bitter and unpleasant people themselves.

Although we are different, we are still neighbors. Although we struggle, we fight for the common good: that all men are created equal and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These values unite us and bring us together as one nation under God. We are America, home of the free, land of the proud. The State of the Union this year should remind us all that this is who we are and who we should be.



Late Calls in Sporting Events aren't Reason for Loss

TYLER SHAMBLIN
OPINIONS EDITOR

Mississippi College has no shortage of New Orleans Saints fans, given the number of Gulf Coast students enrolled. In the NFC Championship Game, these fans were crushed by the way the Rams gained victory, which included a late, no-call pass interference on a Los Angeles defensive back.

Although a touchdown in the final minutes of the game would have given New Orleans a touchdown lead, there was no guarantee that the Rams would have failed to tie the game. Furthermore, fewer Saints fans would have remembered the incident if it happened early in the first quarter.

My opinion on that one particular play: the play should have resulted in a penalty which would have put the Saints' offense at the spot of the foul with a first down. My opinion as a football enthusiast who knows the game fairly well: New Orleans had plenty of opportunities to clinch a victory on the drives leading up to the final drive of regulation.

This is not an attack at Saints fans as much as it is a request to change perspective on the outcome of all sporting events. In fact, I

empathize with Saints fans on this lack of call.

In the national championship of the 2016 NCAA football season, Clemson scored two goal-line touchdowns resulting from a "pick play," one of which was in the final seconds of the game, which according to NCAA rules is considered offensive pass interference. As an Alabama fan, I was irate; the Tigers took the lead with one second on the clock against my beloved Crimson Tide. If the referees called the pass interference, Clemson starts the play over with one second on the clock and 10 more yards of breathing room for the Tide defense.

However, at one point in the game, Alabama held a 14-point lead, similar to the Saints who had a 13-point margin on the Rams. I'm more upset with the play-calling from the offensive coordinators and the complacency of the defense of Alabama to allow Clemson a spot back in the game.

In addition, I distinctly remember a high school baseball game from my sophomore year in which a 7th inning call played a major role in the outcome of the game. With a 4-3 score, one out and runners on second and third base, our best hitter came to the plate. After a long battle with the pitcher



Image Source: Tyler Shamblyn

featuring many foul balls, he hit a ground ball to the first baseman, who threw the ball to home plate, and the runner on third was called out. We saw the runner clearly slide under the tag from the dugout, but the home plate umpire (who was instantly met with a hostile conference with my coach) stood by his horrible call.

The easy stance is "Well, if he just makes the right call, we wouldn't have lost." However, the person more responsible for the play was the hitter. He could have hit the ball through the infield, hit a

sacrifice fly, or scored a run in many other ways.

Essentially, bad calls from referees are not reasons a team loses a game. They may play a role, but they are not the leading factor. Blaming referees for a loss just takes responsibility away from the player who didn't execute in a different way or the coach who should have called a different play. It is a stance of immaturity and definitely not leadership.

In fact, I remember asking my teammate about the end of that baseball game. Without a verbatim quote,

his answer was "I didn't really see the call; I was upset that I didn't hit that ball out of the park." A senior on the team, this acceptance of responsibility displayed great leadership for the young high schooler I was.

Bad calls late in games irritate me just as much as any other fan, but they shouldn't change the way I evaluate the whole game. As you watch or play sports now, you will save yourself from many headaches if you take this approach: we must worry about what our own teams can control, not what happens externally.

OLDE TOWNE

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People of MC: *What are your plans for Valentine's Day?*



Katelyn Sanson
Major: Art Education
— *My boyfriend is back at home, so he doesn't live here. I'm probably just going to eat a baked potato honestly.*



Sarah Romines
Major: Elementary Education
— *I will probably celebrate Valentine's with some friends and then catch up on homework.*



Verquonda Foreman
Major: Graphic Design
— *I'll probably go out to eat with my boyfriend.*



Dr. Michael Mann
Psychology Professor
— *I'll be trying to find a babysitter, so I can take my wife out for a meal. We will probably go to Walker's in Jackson, if possible.*

Images Source: Nicole Skelton

tic tac toe

