

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE | SPRING 2008

# beacon

**PUT ON YOUR  
THINKING CAP**

The THINK Together  
Tutoring Center

**ALL THE  
RIGHT MOVES**

The MC Kinesiology  
Program

**BOB DOLE FOR  
SPEAKER**

An American  
Hero Visits MC

# beacon



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

LEE GARDNER ROYCE

**M**ississippi College's vision is to be known as a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ. An important step toward fulfilling that vision is following Christ's own example of loving service to others.

In this issue of the *Beacon*, you'll meet alumni, faculty, and students who have taken Christ's message of servanthood to heart. Whether it's creating an after-school tutoring center for children, facing challenges on the mission field, providing material gifts to those in need, or pursuing a life-long career based on helping others, these members of the MC family have discovered the genuine reward that comes only from serving others.

John 13 recounts the story of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. This scene is dramatically displayed on our campus in the Servant Savior sculpture by Samuel Marshall Gore installed just west of Provine Chapel and dedicated to the life and memory of Robert and Sara Hederman. I hope you will reread this compelling Scriptural account. In Christ's time, the unpleasant task of washing feet was usually performed by the lowest ranking person in the room. And yet, Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, knelt humbly to perform it, telling His disciples, "If I then, the Lord and Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you" (vv. 14-15).

As Christ showed us, the best way to teach is by example. It is my prayer that Mississippi College and the members of our MC family will continue to act as humble servants to those in need and to demonstrate in a tangible way our commitment to the cause of Christ.

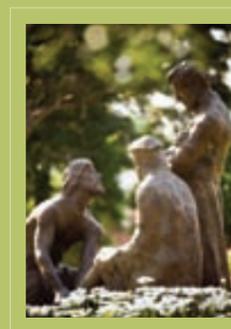
*Lee Royce*

## BY THE BEACON'S LIGHT

The Mississippi College *alma mater* includes the memorable line, "Clear beams thy beacon of virtue and truth."

As a Christian university, MC shines brightest when our programs, activities, and people clearly reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ. In John 13, Jesus told His disciples, "If I then, the Lord and Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." This directive to serve is an integral part of life at Mississippi College.

As the following pages reveal, MC's students, alumni, faculty, and friends have been inspired to serve as individual beacons of virtue and truth in a dark and lost world. Through their humble service to others, the members of the MC family are not only fulfilling earthly needs, they are glorifying God, and by doing so, they are helping to fulfill the vision of Mississippi College.



*On the Cover:* The moving sculpture "Servant Savior" depicts Jesus Christ washing the feet of His disciples just prior to The Lord's Supper.

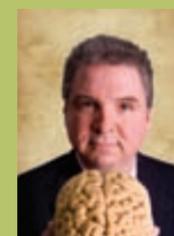
Created by master sculptor Samuel Gore, "Servant Savior" was given to Mississippi College by the children of Robert and Sara Hederman.



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# LESLIE SOUTHWICK GETS BENCHED

The MCSOL adjunct professor joins the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Judge Leslie H. Southwick is getting rave reviews early during his tenure on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Judge Rhesa Barksdale of Jackson says he's "overjoyed" to have Southwick join him on the federal bench.

"Leslie Southwick has long and varied experience as an appellate judge and in other legal positions," Judge Barksdale says. "He brings a great deal of talent and energy to our court."

Judge Southwick has served as an adjunct professor at the Mississippi College School of Law (MCSOL) since 1998, most recently teaching courses in evidence and professional responsibility (ethics). He also taught at MCSOL from 1985-1989.

"We are very proud to have one of our adjunct professors confirmed for a position of this importance, and congratulate Leslie Southwick on this recognition of his abilities," says MCSOL Dean Jim Rosenblatt. "To have someone of Judge Southwick's caliber affiliated with our law school is an honor for Mississippi College."

Based in New Orleans, the Fifth Circuit hears appeals from the federal district courts of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. About 8,500 cases are filed with the court annually. Each of the judges with the Fifth Circuit maintains an office in New Orleans and in the city in which he or she resides. Working out of an office at the Eastland Federal Courthouse in downtown Jackson, Southwick is already tackling a heavy caseload.

"Every judge is extremely busy," Judge Barksdale says. "Leslie Southwick is a terrific judge who will make an immediate impact."

U.S. Senators Thad Cochran and Trent Lott and others from Mississippi and around the nation have been in support of Southwick for the federal judgeship in recent years. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate for the prestigious post in late 2007.

"Leslie Southwick stuck with it and got through a confirmation process that's always challenging given the political

dynamics," says MCSOL Professor Michael McCann, one of Southwick's colleagues. "It speaks to him that he was able to secure the nomination at a time when there were many critics of the president."

Judge Southwick brings an extensive record of public service as a judge and a military officer. A graduate of Rice University and the University of Texas law school, Southwick clerked for the presiding judge of the Texas Court of Appeals and then for Judge Charles Clark of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. He was an associate and later a partner in the Jackson, Mississippi-based law firm of Brunini, Grantham, Grower and Hewes.

Southwick entered government service in 1989 as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice, and in 1994, was elected as one of the original 10 judges on the Mississippi Court of Appeals. Judge Southwick remained on the court with the exception of a military leave of absence from August 2004 until January 2006. In 2005, he served as the Deputy, then as the Staff Judge Advocate for the 155th Brigade Combat Team in Iraq.

Judge Southwick points to his role as an MCSOL adjunct professor as having helped shape his judicial career and prepared him for his new position.

"It was surprising to learn in my years on the state court of appeals how much my thinking in any particular area of the law was affected by becoming immersed in the subject while teaching it at Mississippi College," Judge Southwick says. "Also of great importance to me was the opportunity to become, at least briefly, a colleague with outstanding law professors. My discussions with them on legal topics were challenging and rewarding, and I made friendships with professors whom I admire for their intellect and for their commitment to teaching and to their students. That association made me a better visiting professor, and will make me a better judge."

# MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

When he's not working hard on behalf of Mississippi College, you might find new MC trustee Alan Nunnelee fielding questions from radio talk show callers. A Mississippi state senator and chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, Nunnelee is a frequent guest on SuperTalk radio and other media outlets.

Senator Nunnelee is one of eight new trustees welcomed into the MC leadership ranks in 2008. Other new board members include the chief of staff at a university hospital, a retired medical educator, a south Mississippi pastor, and a furniture store owner. These newcomers to the diverse, 29-member MC board hail from hometowns throughout Mississippi and across state lines.

Working closely with President Lee Royce, Board Chairman Roy Ward, and other administrators, MC's trustees help make critical decisions impacting every aspect of life at the university. With an enrollment of 4,600 students and growing and an annual operating budget of more than \$50 million, Mississippi College relies on the leadership and commitment of these dedicated men and women to keep the university moving in the right direction.

"The trustees of Mississippi College care deeply about our students and the mission of the university," said Ron Howard, vice president for academic affairs. "They are truly engaged in virtually every aspect of what we do, and the university is all the stronger for their devotion and support."

The board of trustees has seen MC through good times and bad for more than a century, providing critical leadership during the Civil War and Reconstruction, yellow fever epidemics, and economic depression. In 2008, MC trustees inherited the positive challenges of rapid growth, including record-level enrollment, packed campus residence halls, and a \$65 million fund raising drive. Terms for the new board members expire in 2010.

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES INCLUDE:

**TROY BRAND**, a furniture store owner from Hickory, Mississippi. Brand has been in the furniture business for 45 years. He and his family operate Troy Brand Furniture, a 22,000-square-foot store in downtown Hickory, as well as a smaller store in Forest, Mississippi. Brand is a graduate of Mississippi State University, but has strong family ties to Mississippi College. His wife, the former Billie Ruth Westbrook, and three of their four children are MC alumni.

**DR. CYNTHIA G BRUMFIELD**, the chief of staff at the University of Alabama-Birmingham hospital. A 1974 graduate of MC and the University of Mississippi Medical School, Brumfield is also a professor in the University of Alabama-Birmingham hospital's division of maternal-fetal medicine. Dr. Brumfield describes serving on the Mississippi College board as an honor and a chance to "give back to the school that prepared me so well for my medical career."



TROY BRAND



DR. CYNTHIA G BRUMFIELD



GAYE FLYNT



FRED HAHN



BEN MCKIBBENS



DR. JASPER MCPHAIL



SENATOR ALAN NUNNELEE



DR. RANDALL WARREN TURNER

**GAYE FLYNT**, a tireless community leader. A former high school teacher and mother of four, Flynt brings a passion for education and volunteerism to her new position on the MC board. The Oxford resident is a longtime volunteer for many causes, including service as president-elect of the Jackson Symphony League and with the board of the North Carolina School of the Arts. A 1969 MC graduate with a master's degree in English from Louisiana State University, Flynt proudly claims she's more Choctaw than Tiger.

**FRED HAHN** of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, owner of Industrial Warehouse Services, Inc. Hahn is a 1952 graduate of Mississippi College with a bachelor's degree in business and holds an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Alabama. He is a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa and serves on the executive board of the Business Council of Alabama.

**BEN MCKIBBENS** of Point Clear, Alabama. McKibbens is the executive director of Healthcare Outreach Network, an organization that acquires and ships medical equipment to developing countries. For 25 years, he was president and chief executive officer of Valley Baptist Health Systems in Harlingen, Texas. McKibbens is board chairman of the family-owned Camp Hollymont for Girls in Asheville, North Carolina. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from MC in 1962 and 1967.

**DR. JASPER MCPHAIL**, retired physical and medical educator. Dr. McPhail received a B.S. in chemistry from MC in 1952 and graduated in the top 10 of his class from Baylor

School of Medicine. He served for decades as a physician and medical educator and as a medical missionary in India before retiring to Clinton in 2004. Dr. McPhail is currently working on a number of book projects. Members of his family originally enrolled at MC in the 1870s. "We are deeply rooted at Mississippi College," McPhail said. "Serving on the board is one of the highest honors I've ever received."

**SENATOR ALAN NUNNELEE**, District 6 lawmaker for Lee and Pontotoc Counties. A member of the Mississippi Legislature since 1995, Senator Nunnelee is chairman of the Appropriations Committee and vice chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee. In addition to his public service, he is vice president of Allied Funeral Associate Insurance Company in Tupelo. A 1980 graduate of Mississippi State University, he has strong family ties to Mississippi College. Senator Nunnelee's son, Reed '06, attended MC on a Presidential Scholarship and was a member of the Choctaw baseball team. Nunnelee's sister and daughter-in-law and several extended family members also graduated from MC.

**DR. RANDALL WARREN TURNER**, pastor at First Baptist Church in Laurel. Dr. Turner is a 1976 graduate of MC and received his master of divinity from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Turner has been active in mission work, including trips to South Africa, Guatemala, Mexico, and Honduras. His civic involvement includes work for Habitat for Humanity and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Laurel.

# CUE THE MC HIGHLIGHT REEL

THE 2007-08 SPORTS SEASON AT MC BROUGHT PLENTY OF NAIL-BITING, HEART POUNDING, AND TRIUMPHANT MOMENTS. THE HAPPENINGS BELOW ARE DEFINITELY WORTHY OF THE CHOCTAW HIGHLIGHT REEL.

## ALLEN GOES TO GREEN BAY

Mississippi College wide receiver Jake Allen will get a shot at the National Football League next season after signing a free agent contract with the Green Bay Packers. The Packers flew Allen to Green Bay, Wisconsin, in April for rookie orientation and the launch of the All-American wide receiver's professional career.

"I can't tell you how excited I am to get this chance," Allen said. "It's a long way from home, but that's not a concern right now. I have an opportunity to prove that I belong there and I'm going to make the most of it."

Allen finished his career with the Choctaws as the career leader in pass receptions, receiving yards, and touchdown receptions. In 2007, the Shubuta, Mississippi, native caught 61 passes for 1,254 yards and 12 touchdowns and earned First Team All-America honors from D3football.com and the American Football Coaches Association.

"We're obviously thrilled for Jake to get an opportunity to play at the highest level," said MC head football coach Norman Joseph. "He was a huge boost to our football program and we appreciate all he did for us. I'm proud to see him get a shot at the NFL."



## HOOPLA, ON AND OFF THE COURT

Both the MC men's and women's basketball teams posted winning records for 2007-08. The men's team finished with a 19-6 mark, and the Lady Choctaws ended at 15-11. Off the court, both teams boasted players who were also stars in the classroom. Lady Choctaws Portia Boyd, Casie Hilton, LaTrisha Matthews, and Emily Younger and men's senior forward Tyler Winford were all named to the American Southwestern Conference All-Academic team.

MC athletic director and men's basketball coach Mike Jones is on the mend after triple bypass surgery sidelined him from coaching for much of the 2007-08 season. Jones *was* feeling up to a little baseball in April, when he tossed out the ceremonial first pitch for the inaugural Mississippi College Night at Trustmark Park in Pearl, Mississippi's premier professional baseball stadium. Mississippi College Night brought the MC faithful together for food, fellowship, and the chance to see the Mississippi Braves take on the Huntsville Stars.

### SEASON RECORD ROUND-UP

- Football 8-2
- Women's Soccer 13-6
- Men's Soccer 12-5-1
- Volleyball 14-15
- Men's Basketball 19-6
- Women's Basketball 15-11
- Softball 19-21
- Baseball 24-17
- Men's Tennis 13-5
- Women's Tennis 8-9



**SADDLE UP** The MC women's equestrian team saddled up against college teams from Texas, Tennessee and Kentucky during their inaugural season. "It's been a great first season," Coach Mandi Callaway Powers said. "This is a wonderful group of girls who have tried to excel and are very eager to learn about the sport." Team member Meredith Guider of Utica won her class at the Zone 5 Finals and qualified for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Nationals in Los Angeles, California on May 9. Only the top two riders from each of the nine zones qualify to participate in the prestigious Nationals. Meredith finished in fourth place among the top 18 riders nationwide. The equestrian team's home base, 9,000-acre Providence Hill Farm in Madison County, will host horse shows featuring MC's team in the coming months. The opening show on September 6 will be open to the public. The only varsity equestrian collegiate team in Mississippi, MC will compete against nine other colleges and universities during the 2008-09 season.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO KICKOFF

Could the Mississippi College football team win the American Southwest Conference championship in 2008? Last season's 8-2 record was the best for the Choctaws in more than a decade, and fans can't wait for September's opening kickoff to see if 2008 will be *the* year.

"We're excited about the possibilities for this season with over 80 players returning," said Coach Norman Joseph. "Our players now believe it is attainable."

That's not just "coach-speak." The Choctaws fell just one victory shy of seeing post-season NCAA Division III playoff action last fall. There's been steady improvement during the Joseph era. "It took us three years to rebuild the program into championship caliber," the MC coach said.

MC not only hopes to excel in on-the-field play, but will also try to repeat its recognition for good sportsmanship. In 2007, the Choctaws earned the American Southwest Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Team Sportsmanship Award for football.

## BACKYARD BRAWL 2008

Diehard Choctaw fans are already looking ahead to the 2008 Backyard Brawl, the Choctaw's annual football matchup with archrival Millsaps College. This year's game is slated for September 6 on the Millsaps campus in Jackson.

The 2007 Brawl left the Millsaps Majors reeling over MC's amazing 27-26 comeback win in the final seconds of the game. Several members of 2007's never-say-die Choctaw team are back in 2008, including quarterback Adam Shaffer.

MC leaders tied last year's Brawl to a good cause—raising funds and promoting awareness for Community Animal Rescue & Adoption (CARA), a Jackson no-kill animal shelter. Another fund-raiser may be in the works for 2008. The Backyard Brawl kicks off a season that includes four home games in Clinton as well as tough on-the-road matchups in Kentucky and Texas. With the improved football team as a positive spark, Choctaw fans are also predicting success when soccer, cross-country, volleyball, equestrian, and other fall sports resume in the August heat. Make plans now to come out and cheer on the Choctaws.

## 2008 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
9/6/2008	Millsaps College	Jackson, MS	7:00 pm
9/13/2008	Cumberlands	Williamsburg, KY	1:30 pm
9/20/2008	<b>*McMurry</b>	Clinton, MS	6:00 pm
9/27/2008	*Hardin-Simmons	Abilene, TX	2:00 pm
10/4/2008	<b>*Louisiana College</b>	Clinton, MS	6:00 pm
10/11/2008	Open		
10/18/2008	*Mary Hardin-Baylor	Belton, TX	1:00 pm
10/25/2008	<b>*East Texas Baptist</b>	Clinton, MS	6:00 pm
11/1/2008	*Howard Payne	Brownwood, TX	1:00 pm
11/8/2008	<b>*Sul Ross State</b>	Clinton, MS	1:00 pm
11/15/2008	*Texas Lutheran	Seguin, TX	12:00 pm

Home Games are in bold. \*Denotes a conference game.



## ON THE RIGHT TRACK

MC senior Al Winsley was named the 2008 U.S. Track & Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association field male athlete of the year for Division III. The Lady Choctaws cross-country team wrapped up their best season in school history, finishing with a conference championship and the first ever top 10 finish in the NCAA Regionals.



## The former Senate Majority Leader wows the crowd at MC's first scholarship banquet.

American political legend, war hero, and tireless advocate for millions of veterans, Bob Dole brought down the house at a March 31 appearance at Mississippi College.

The keynote speaker at MC's first annual scholarship banquet, Dole tossed in plenty of one-liners as he addressed more than 500 guests at MC's Anderson Hall. Dole spoke of traditional values of courage and sacrifice and touched on the lasting contributions of World War II soldiers from America's "Greatest Generation." The former Senate Majority Leader also offered his up-to-the-minute take on the lively 2008 race for the White House.

Dole's remarks focused on the need for Americans to return to the core values he learned growing up in the Midwest and later clung to as a soldier wounded during the final days of World War II. Suffering spine and shoulder injuries on a battlefield in Italy on April 14, 1945, Dole received two Purple Hearts for heroism. He encouraged members of the MC audience, from 20-something undergraduates to senior citizens, to make service to others a priority, pointing out that serving others can be as simple as visiting a nursing home or hospital to shake the hands of veterans and thank them for their service.

"Bob Dole brought home the importance of the timeless values of courage, sacrifice, and leadership to our MC audience," MC President Dr. Lee Royce said.

Touching on the 2008 political scene, Dole described Senator John McCain's race against either Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama as "very winnable" for the Republicans. Dole has been a McCain supporter for decades, well before the two knew each other on Capitol Hill. At a press conference

at Alumni Hall, Dole said, "McCain is a friend. I proudly wore the P.O.W. bracelet bearing his name while he was still a guest at the Hanoi Hilton," referring to McCain's five-plus years as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam.

Following Dole's remarks at the banquet, Dr. Royce served as moderator for questions from the audience. When Royce asked what Dole would have done differently in his unsuccessful 1996 run for the White House, Dole didn't miss a beat, replying, "I would have won it." The 84-year-old Dole also offered a remedy to concerns that 71-year-old John McCain might be a bit old to serve as president, saying, "I'll run as his vice president."

Members of the MC Board of Trustees, including planning committee chairman Bill Sones of Brookhaven, received help from an army of student volunteers, staff, and others in the MC family in organizing and staging the event. Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant, an MC graduate who will teach classes in political science at MC this summer, introduced Dole to the enthusiastic crowd, which responded with a standing ovation.

Dole's visit to the MC campus attracted reporters from Jackson television stations, *The Clarion-Ledger*, Mississippi Public Radio, and American Family Radio. After the banquet, Dole signed autographs, posed for pictures, and chatted with audience members. The high-profile evening is the first in what will likely become an annual spring event for Mississippi College.

"Bob Dole's visit to MC is an honor for us," Dr. Royce said. "The opportunity to welcome one of America's leading statesmen, who remains as witty and wise as ever, was truly an extraordinary evening in the 182-year history of MC."

**"Bob Dole brought home the importance of the timeless values of courage, sacrifice, and leadership to our MC audience."**

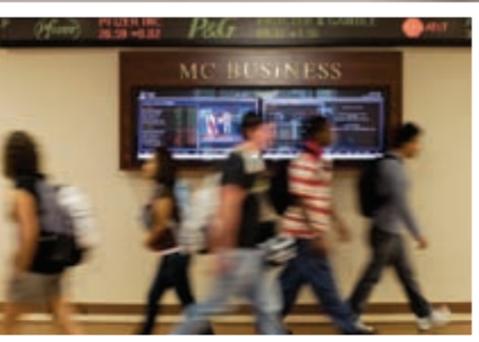
**DR. LEE ROYCE**  
MC PRESIDENT



### A BIG NIGHT FOR GROWING THE VISION

The \$125-ticket Bob Dole event raised \$218,000 designated for scholarship support in MC's \$65 million "Growing the Vision" campaign. Platinum sponsors who contributed at least \$25,000 to the event included Ruby Boyd Parker of Jackson, trustee Dr. Sharon Martin of Jackson, Hattiesburg businessman Bobby Chain, and the Life-Share Foundation led by CEO and Chairman Wayne Parker, an MC trustee.

"I was pleased to hear Senator Dole speak in person. I have always been impressed with his military service and the sacrifices he made, and his comments on the presidential political campaigns in which he was involved brought back memories of the issues that stirred us in that era. Senator Dole's wit and humor were crowd pleasers." — DEAN JIM ROSENBLATT, MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW



# FORGET BUSINESS AS USUAL

THE MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS CELEBRATES AN ENHANCED FACILITY, AN ATTENTION-GRABBING MARKETING CAMPAIGN, AND A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM.

Self Hall, home of the Mississippi College School of Business, is in the final stages of its \$1.2 million extreme makeover. Work to transform the 1960s-era building on College Street with modern classrooms, the latest equipment, a new auditorium, and up-to-the-second financial news from Wall Street is expected to wrap up in August.

Since 2002, the School of Business has received \$2.78 million in gifts and pledges to its Continued Excellence Campaign. Much of the money raised has fueled the Self Hall renovations. With more than 900 students enrolled, the School of Business is the largest program at MC.

"This renovation is much more than a facelift for our facilities. The new look for Self Hall symbolizes the progressive business education we offer through the MC School of Business," said School of Business Dean Dr. Marcelo Eduardo. "The renovation's success is due to the remarkable support of our alumni and friends. Our ability to complete such an aggressive project demonstrates the active interest our supporters have in our school's future."

Last fall, the School of Business dedicated the J. L. Holloway Business & Technology Center in honor of successful businessman J. L. Holloway, a longtime MC supporter and donor. Holloway has played a lead role in growing and advancing the Mississippi College M.B.A. program, the largest and oldest in the Jackson area. Holloway provided funding for an M.B.A. marketing campaign and established

the J. L. Holloway M.B.A. Scholarship, MC's first M.B.A. scholarship program.

As of early May, work on eight of the 11 classrooms targeted for renovation was complete. Many of the classrooms were named in honor of donors who made generous gifts to support the renovation. Other Self Hall enhancements include improvements to the auditorium and a financial services lab with a ticker streaming the latest news from Wall Street. This fall, the School of Business plans to dedicate the new Trehern Family Management Education Center in honor of the family of Ed Trehern, a 1969 School of Business graduate. An open house this fall will showcase the new and improved facility to School of Business donors and friends. This new center will include a state-of-the-art lecture hall with seating for approximately 200 students and will finalize the renovation of all classroom space in Self Hall.

The renovation project isn't the only exciting development for the School of Business. A new Mississippi College M.B.A. marketing campaign launched in the spring, is complete with TV commercials, print ads, new recruiting brochures, and an updated School of Business website. In the fall of 2008, the M.B.A. program will expand to include a concentration in management information systems as well as finance and accounting.

From construction to marketing to new programs, the MC School of Business is definitely booming.



"This renovation is much more than a facelift for our facilities. The new look for Self Hall symbolizes the progressive business education we offer through the MC School of Business. Our ability to complete such an aggressive project demonstrates the active interest our supporters have in our school's future."

DR. MARCELO EDUARDO  
DEAN OF THE MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

## Growing the Vision Tops \$58 million

Mississippi College's \$65 million "Growing the Vision" campaign is sprinting to the finish line. To date, the campaign has raised more than \$58 million, surpassing initial expectations despite a downturn in the U.S. economy.

Launched in October of 2006, "Growing the Vision" is scheduled to wrap up in 2011. Given its success to date, MC President Dr. Lee Royce is optimistic the campaign will top its original \$65 million goal.

"In the fall of 2007, our campaign stood at \$50 million," Dr. Royce said. "To reach that \$50 million mark just one year after launch was a significant accomplishment. I'm pleased to announce that giving has continued at a strong pace. I know I speak for the entire MC family when I say that I am very grateful to our alumni, faculty, friends, and supporters who have shown such tremendous support for our vision for MC."

In addition to generous donations from individuals and businesses, a series of special events have benefited the campaign. Scholarships received a nice boost on March 31, when the first annual scholarship banquet featuring keynote speaker Senator Bob Dole brought in \$218,000. A golf tournament set for May at Patrick Farms in Rankin County is expected to raise about \$40,000 more for the campaign.

Funds raised through "Growing the Vision" will support new construction and renovation, enhance academic programs, increase professorships, and grow the MC endowment. Planned facility improvements yet to be constructed include a \$3 million international center to serve MC's 330-plus international students, \$3 million for a new performing arts theatre to replace a facility the school has outgrown, and finishing the \$1.2 million project to update Self Hall, home of the School of Business. The campaign will also provide some \$7 million to the Mississippi College School of Law in downtown Jackson. As of April, the law school effort had topped \$4 million.

Every goal in the "Growing the Vision" campaign is designed to uplift Christian education and to bear fruit, a reflection of MC's vision statement, "To be recognized as a university known for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ."

### DON'T LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH.

An out-of-the-ordinary gift to "Growing the Vision" was a horse named Hale Bopp. Anne Hormel of Charlottesville, Virginia, gifted Hale Bopp to the new MC equestrian program.

Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of this historic fund raising campaign for MC. For more information or help in planning your gift to the "Growing the Vision" campaign, please contact the Office of Advancement at 601.925.3257.

# GET WITH THE PROGRAM

Mississippi College continues to build on its reputation for academic excellence with new programs geared toward traditional and non-traditional college students. Academic programs launched in 2008 are custom-made for aspiring engineers, hardworking nurses, and educators eager to learn something new.

## ENGINEERING PHYSICS PROGRAM

The new engineering physics program will enroll its first students in August 2008. This challenging program will combine the fundamentals of classical physics, chemistry, and mathematics with engineering applications. Undergraduates who complete the program will be well prepared for immediate careers or for graduate studies in electrical or mechanical engineering and/or physics. Job opportunities for graduates range from supervising production in factories to electrical circuit design to developing industrial robots.

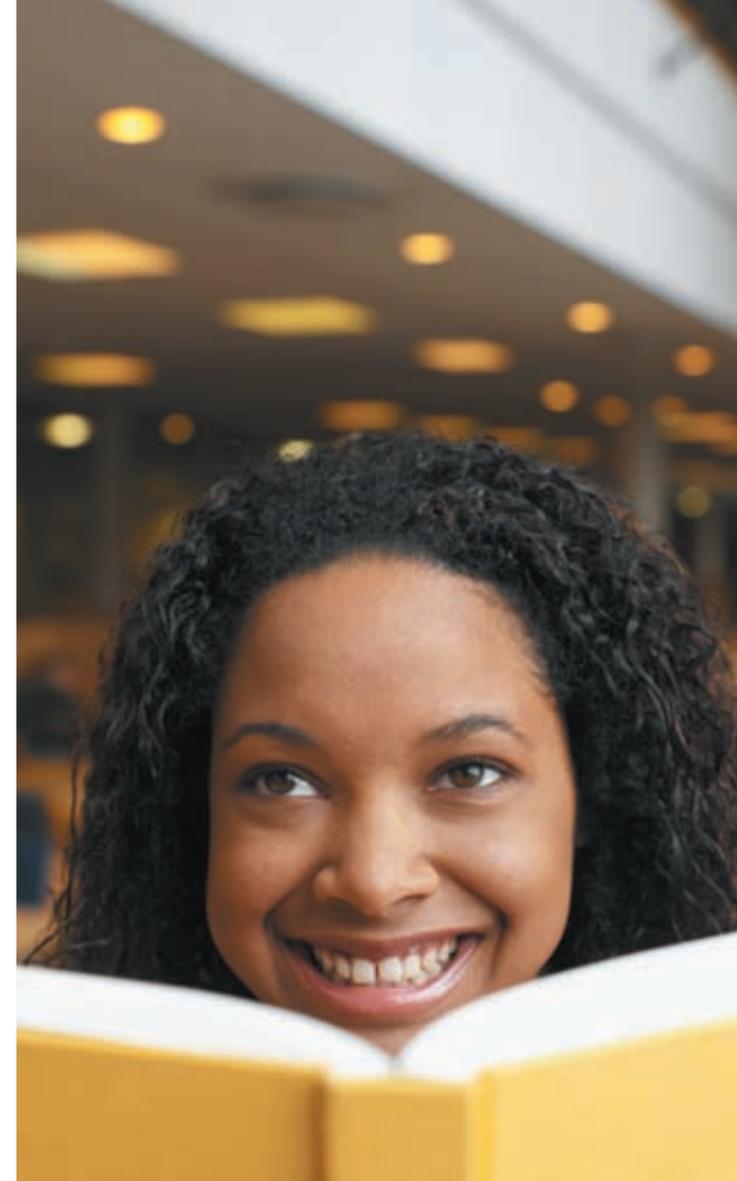
Dr. Stan Baldwin, dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, predicts graduates of the program won't have a problem finding employment, and the latest job forecasts seem to back him up. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, engineering employment is expected to grow by some 11 percent from 2006 to 2016, with starting salaries for engineers among the highest of all college graduates.

## ONLINE RN TO B.S.N. COMPLETION TRACK

In keeping with its commitment to providing opportunities for educational advancement for working nurses, the MC School of Nursing now offers an online bachelor's of science in the nursing track. The online courses allow registered nurses to earn their bachelor's degrees without leaving their jobs in order to attend class. This flexible program allows students to complete the required nursing courses and earn an advanced degree in as little as 12 months.

## THE DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

In 2008, MC launched its first doctoral program on the Clinton campus, the doctor of education (Ed.D.) in educational leadership degree program. The program's first



19 students enrolled in January. Courses in this program for professional educators include faith, ethics, and social issues in educational leadership, legal structures, and issues pertaining to school operations.

Other new academic programs at MC include an online higher education administration master's degree and an M.B.A. with a finance concentration.

In January of 2008, the Mississippi College School of Law launched an executive degree program geared toward business people, educators, real estate professionals, medical personnel, and other professionals who wish to earn a law degree without quitting their day jobs. Students in the executive degree program earn a J.D. over five years rather than in the traditional three years.

These newest programs are the latest in MC's long tradition of outstanding academics taught in a Christian atmosphere. MC is a place where every student, from the traditional undergraduate to the working professional, is encouraged to grow.

# IF THE TITLE FITS... MC's Newest Deans

Dr. Gary Mayfield and Dr. Wayne VanHorn can drop the word "interim" from their job titles. After serving as interim deans for a little more than a year, both have been named permanently to their positions.

Dr. Mayfield is now dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Dr. VanHorn is dean of the School of Christian Studies and the Arts. The two join MC's six other deans, who head the School of Business, Graduate School, School of Education, School of Law, School of Nursing, and School of Science and Mathematics.

Dr. Mayfield, who is also the chairman of MC's sociology department, returned to work on the Clinton campus from a post at Louisiana College. As dean, he is quickly winning over his colleagues.

"It is a pleasure to work with Gary Mayfield. He's very approachable and easy to work with," says Dr. Kirk Ford, chairman of the Department of History and Political Science. "He's not a micromanager. He lets us do our jobs. Chairs and faculty members appreciate that."

Dr. Mayfield holds a B.A. in sociology from Louisiana College, an M.A. in sociology from Stephen F. Austin State University, an M.Div. in psychology and counseling from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in sociology from Emory University. Dr. Mayfield's field of interest is geriatrics and aging issues. He teaches courses in health care, aging, research methods, the sociology of education, and global sociology.

A native of Virginia, Dr. Wayne VanHorn received his bachelor's degree from Christopher Newport College, then a part of the College of William & Mary in Virginia. He received a master of divinity degree and a doctor of theology degree from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he also served on the faculty. Dr. VanHorn has pastored churches in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi and has written for noted publications including *The Baptist Record* and *The Theological Educator* of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. VanHorn served as pastor at First Baptist Church in Columbia, Mississippi, from 1993 until 2005, and was president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from 2001-2002.

The School of Christian Studies and the Arts is diverse, including programs from Christian studies to music, art, and communication. VanHorn describes it as "a conglomeration of small departments." While he looks forward to the challenges of serving as full-time dean, VanHorn does point out one drawback to assuming the position.

"Being dean is murderous on your golf game," he joked.



# WELCOME BACK, BILL Alumnus Bill Townsend Named New MC Vice President

Dr. Bill Townsend is thrilled to be returning to Mississippi College as vice president for advancement and legal counsel to the president.

Townsend will assume leadership of the \$65 million "Growing the Vision" campaign for scholarships, academic enhancements, and building projects. He will also oversee alumni affairs, public relations, and advancement activities and work closely with MC President Dr. Lee Royce.

"It's a great privilege to serve my alma mater and I'm honored by the opportunity," Townsend said. "I look forward to working alongside the strong leadership team at MC."

Townsend is a native of Louisiana and spent some of his boyhood years in Arkansas, but considers Jackson, Mississippi, home. A graduate of Jackson's Jim Hill High School, Townsend earned his B.A. from Mississippi College in 1979 and his J.D. from Mississippi College School of Law (MCSOL) in 1990.

Townsend has held key campus leadership posts in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He was most recently vice president for external relations at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas, one of MC's athletic rivals. Townsend oversaw the offices of alumni relations, marketing, and public relations and was responsible for all aspects of fund-raising at the 2,700-student school.

Prior to joining Mary Hardin-Baylor, Townsend held an administrative post at Louisiana College in Pineville, Louisiana. He has also served as acting director of the National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law at the University of Mississippi School of Law in Oxford and as assistant dean for professional services at MCSOL. His prior experience with three Baptist-affiliated schools in the South will help Townsend in his new role at 4,600-student MC.

"Dr. Townsend brings strong credentials as he fills a key leadership post at MC," Royce said.

In addition to his B.A. and J.D., Townsend holds a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and received a Ph.D. in higher education leadership from the University of Mississippi. Townsend is married to Cindy Malone Townsend, who holds two degrees from MC and a master's degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. They have two children, a 15-year-old daughter, Taylor, and 12-year-old son, William.

"MC has a great past and exciting future," Townsend said. "I'm excited about reconnecting with friends and colleagues at MC and around the state and I'm looking forward to helping MC accomplish its goals and plans for the future."

Patti Gandy, director of the Mission First Legal Aid Office and Jim Rosenblatt, Dean of the Mississippi College School of Law, see public interest law as a form of Christian outreach.



# AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI ON THE CHALLENGES, SACRIFICES, AND ULTIMATE REWARDS OF PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

At Mississippi College School of Law (MCSOL), students gain more than just a by-the-book knowledge of the legal system. In keeping with Mississippi College's vision to become known as a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ, MCSOL brings a unique focus on the law as a means of serving others.

"I see assisting others in a caring and supportive manner as a Christian calling," says MCSOL Dean Jim Rosenblatt. "MCSOL's emphasis on public interest law and the value of pro bono work reaffirms the fact that all of us are made in God's image and are worthy of Christian love and outreach."

The law school's emphasis on pro bono and public interest work is earning MCSOL recognition nationwide. Last fall, *preLaw Magazine* named Mississippi College School of Law as one of 16 outstanding law schools at which to study public interest law.

"Our students realize that a large portion of our population doesn't have the means to secure the representation or legal advice needed to participate in the legal justice process," Dean Rosenblatt says. "If we can get the concept of pro bono service instilled in our students while they're still in law school, they'll have an expectation that pro bono service will be an integral part of their professional lives when they enter practice."

Many MCSOL graduates go beyond pro bono service, electing to pursue full time careers in public interest law. Attorneys who choose this path make many trade-offs, not the least of which is a smaller paycheck. But as MCSOL alumni Patti Gandy, Tasha Thompson, and Crystal Utley can attest, public interest law isn't just a career you choose. It's a calling that chooses you.

## THE CHALLENGES

MCSOL's Legal Aid Office provides services to residents in the Jackson, Mississippi, area who meet certain

income requirements. Established in 2006, Legal Aid is a partnership between MCSOL and Mission First, a multi-faceted neighborhood outreach ministry.

Patti Gandy (B.S.B.A. '88, J.D. '98) gave up a prestigious partnership track position at Butler Snow O'Mara Stevens & Cannada, the largest law firm based in Mississippi, and took a 50 percent pay cut to become the director of the Legal Aid Office. Gandy went from handling multi-million dollar asbestos litigation to assisting clients best described as "the working poor" – people who are struggling to make ends meet and would not otherwise have access to legal representation.

"I was at a Christian Legal Society meeting and they were talking about the need for a director for the new Legal Aid Office," Gandy recalls. "I had just turned 50 and I was evaluating where I wanted to be and what I really wanted to be doing. I visited Mission First and felt a peace come over me. I knew this was the place where God wanted me to be."

That place is a tidy office on the Mission First campus, a renovated apartment complex in west Jackson. It's an area in which modest but well kept homes stand next door to dilapidated ruins, where crime is always a concern, and where the needs can seem overwhelming – in short, it is a mission field.

"On my first day of work at Butler Snow, they gave me a plant for my office," Gandy says with a wry smile. "On my first day of work here, they gave me a club for my steering wheel."

The Legal Aid Office staff includes Gandy, Amanda Kisner, a recent MCSOL graduate, a paralegal who also took a pay cut to join Mission First, and an office manager. Legal Aid relies on volunteers to serve a seemingly endless number of clients. More than 120 practicing attorneys and 35 MCSOL students donate their time to cases related to family law, consumer law, government benefit programs, housing, and debtor/creditor issues.

**“SPEAK UP FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL WHO ARE DESTITUTE. SPEAK UP AND JUDGE FAIRLY; DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND NEEDY.” — Proverbs 31: 8-9**

Some of the most heartbreaking cases involve family law. Gandy is still moved to tears when she recalls the young woman who came in seeking custody of her younger brothers and sisters because their mother could not take care of them.

“These people are so sad. They feel hopeless and they’ve gotten the runaround everywhere else,” Gandy says. “We want to be their last stop, the place where they get help and get plugged in where they need to be.”

“The first thing I ask a new client is if he or she would like to pray with me,” Gandy continues. “We pray for the client, for the client’s family, for the attorney who will represent them, for the judge who’ll hear the case, for everyone involved – even that mean old ex-spouse and his or her lawyer. We’re not counselors, but we are their Christian brothers and sisters.”

If anyone understands the challenges Gandy faces every day, it’s Tasha Thompson. As an attorney with South Carolina Legal Services, Thompson ’06 provides civil legal representation to low-income people from seven counties in South Carolina.

“We work long hours and see clients during the workday, then meet with neighborhood groups in the community after hours,” Thompson says. “We also see homebound clients, elderly clients, and people with severe mental illnesses.”

Thompson handles cases from many practice areas, including individual rights, housing, employment, education, elder, and consumer law. The work is stressful, sometimes dangerous, and never-ending.

“When people come to us they are at their lowest points and are extremely frustrated. I have had clients who yelled at me, clients who cursed me, and clients who have just sat in my office and sobbed.”

“At first, this made me feel tremendous pressure to make sure I didn’t make a mistake. Over time, I’ve come to understand that our clients want someone to listen, someone to care. So in my interviews, even though I want to narrow my questions and get the information I need to

proceed with the case, I allow them to vent, even if that means yelling and cursing. Once they get it all out, I can explain to them what we can do legally.”

Crystal Utley ’05 has also heard her share of cursing and crying. An attorney with the Mississippi Center for Justice, Mississippi’s only statewide, nonprofit public interest law firm, Utley organized a pro bono program that matches volunteer attorneys and law school students with Hurricane Katrina victims in need of legal aid. Utley has assisted clients with a variety of issues arising from Katrina, from disputes with FEMA and insurance companies to disagreements with contractors to fraud. To address the massive volume of cases, Utley works with more than 540 pro bono attorneys and law school student volunteers nationwide.

“I literally could not do my job without the ongoing support of volunteer students and attorneys,” Utley says. “It’s overwhelming when we have hundreds of new cases, but I try to keep chipping away. The massive need motivates me, and I believe that when God wants me to switch gears, He’ll let me know.”

#### THE SACRIFICES

There’s a good reason why lawyers who pursue a career in public interest are described as altruistic – the first sacrifice they make is in their paychecks.

“When I enrolled in MCSOL, I didn’t want to pursue a career in public interest law,” Tasha Thompson says. “Those were the poor lawyers. But then I realized how much of a difference I could make in the community and how much others, particularly in the African American community, looked up to me. All I had been concerned about was having a certain lifestyle. When I realized that I had the power to really affect and touch people’s lives, I decided I wanted my focus to be serving people and the community. If I can do that, I consider myself a success.”

When she made the move from Butler Snow, three of Patti Gandy’s four children were still living at home. Gandy

and her husband, Johnny, knew the entire family would have to make sacrifices in order for Patti to take the job.

“We all had to tighten our belts and we have to plan and save for things more than before, yet it hasn’t been a hardship,” Gandy says. “I know I’m exactly where God wants me to be at this time in my life, and I’ve learned to have faith that God will provide.”

But while they don’t go into public interest work expecting to get rich, MCSOL alumni are quick to point out that public interest work is not synonymous with starving to death; it is possible to work for the public good and still make a comfortable living.

“I would love to make more money, but I manage to live comfortably on the salary that I have,” Thompson says. “Money isn’t everything. At the end of the day, you get more out of a job you’re proud of. That’s true in any career field. And if you’re passionate about what you do, you won’t have to worry about money. The money will come. I live in a nice area and I haven’t had to give up my shoe and purse shopping habit.”

“I have faith that if you do what you believe you are intended to do, then everything else will fall into place,” says Utley, who relocated from Jackson to Ocean Springs in order to be closer to her clients. “I’m able to pay my bills, own my own house, and spend too much money on clothes, eating out, and good coffee, all while sleeping peacefully at night.”

#### THE REWARDS

Public interest work does bring significant professional benefits. The job market in public interest law is larger than the typical legal market and covers a broad array of legal practice areas, providing attorneys with a wide range of experience. Newly-minted attorneys often find themselves taking cases and practicing law virtually on the first day on the job.

“My second week, I was given files,” Thompson recalls. “No one told me what to do or how to do it. There were senior attorneys there to assist me if I really needed help, but I was pretty much on my own. As scared as I was of messing up, that was the best way to learn.”

Public interest attorneys also make valuable contacts that could come in handy if they ever want to move into private practice or another type of law.

“I’ve made fabulous connections and friendships with

international law firms and national nonprofits,” Utley says. “If I ever feel that I need to make a transition out of public interest, I’ll have the experience and the network to help me do so.”

Professional benefits aside, these MCSOL alumni agree the greatest reward of public interest law is seeing firsthand that justice really can be for all.

“There is nothing more rewarding for me than to know that I have really effected meaningful change in my clients’ lives,” Thompson says. “They are at their lowest points when I see them. They are angry, frustrated, and depressed. Most of them are hardworking, honest people who are without opportunities or have suffered a tragedy beyond their control. After all the crying—and sometimes fussing and cussing—when I have successfully resolved their issues and they give me a hug, send a card, or bake a pie for the office, it’s the best feeling.”

“I’m giving a voice to fellow community members who would otherwise be ignored and left out. That feels really good,” Utley agrees. “So many of my clients are special to me. We have gone through each phase of this ongoing disaster hand-in-hand. They care about me as much as I care about them.”

One of those clients is Lydia Easterling, who turned to Utley for help after a contractor took Easterling’s \$57,000 insurance settlement and never completed the repairs to her Katrina-damaged Gulfport home.

“Crystal Utley is an angel in disguise,” Easterling says. “I felt like a fool because I had trusted this person with my money. I came to Crystal at the lowest point I’d ever been in my life. Crystal prayed with me, calmed me down, and matched me up with a lawyer who could help me. It felt so good just to have someone like Crystal in my corner.”

While Patti Gandy’s paycheck comes from MCSOL, she sees her position with the Legal Aid Office as an opportunity to represent God.

“Every phone call is an opportunity to minister, not only to the clients, but to the attorneys who volunteer,” Gandy says. “I don’t think of public interest law as law that helps the general public interest. Instead I’m helping that particular person at that particular time.”

“Thanks to God for using Mission First to deliver me and my son from a very difficult situation,” one of those particular people wrote in a letter to Gandy. “I shall never forget the great service you provided for me. May the Lord continue to smile upon you and your agency.”

#### THE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW GROUP LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

The MCSOL Public Interest Law Group (PILG) boasts some 100 student members, all of whom are dedicated to finding opportunities for MCSOL students to participate in public interest work, now and after they graduate.

A key project spearheaded by the PILG is the creation of a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) for students who choose a career in public interest work. Many law school graduates who want to work in public interest law find doing so difficult because the pay is too low and their student loan debt is too high. An LRAP program would help close the gap between a career that pays the bills and a career they find personally meaningful.

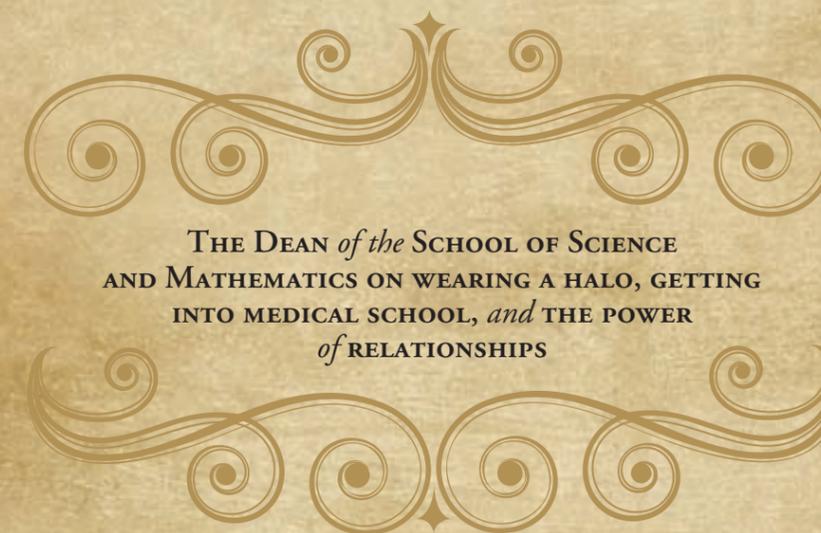
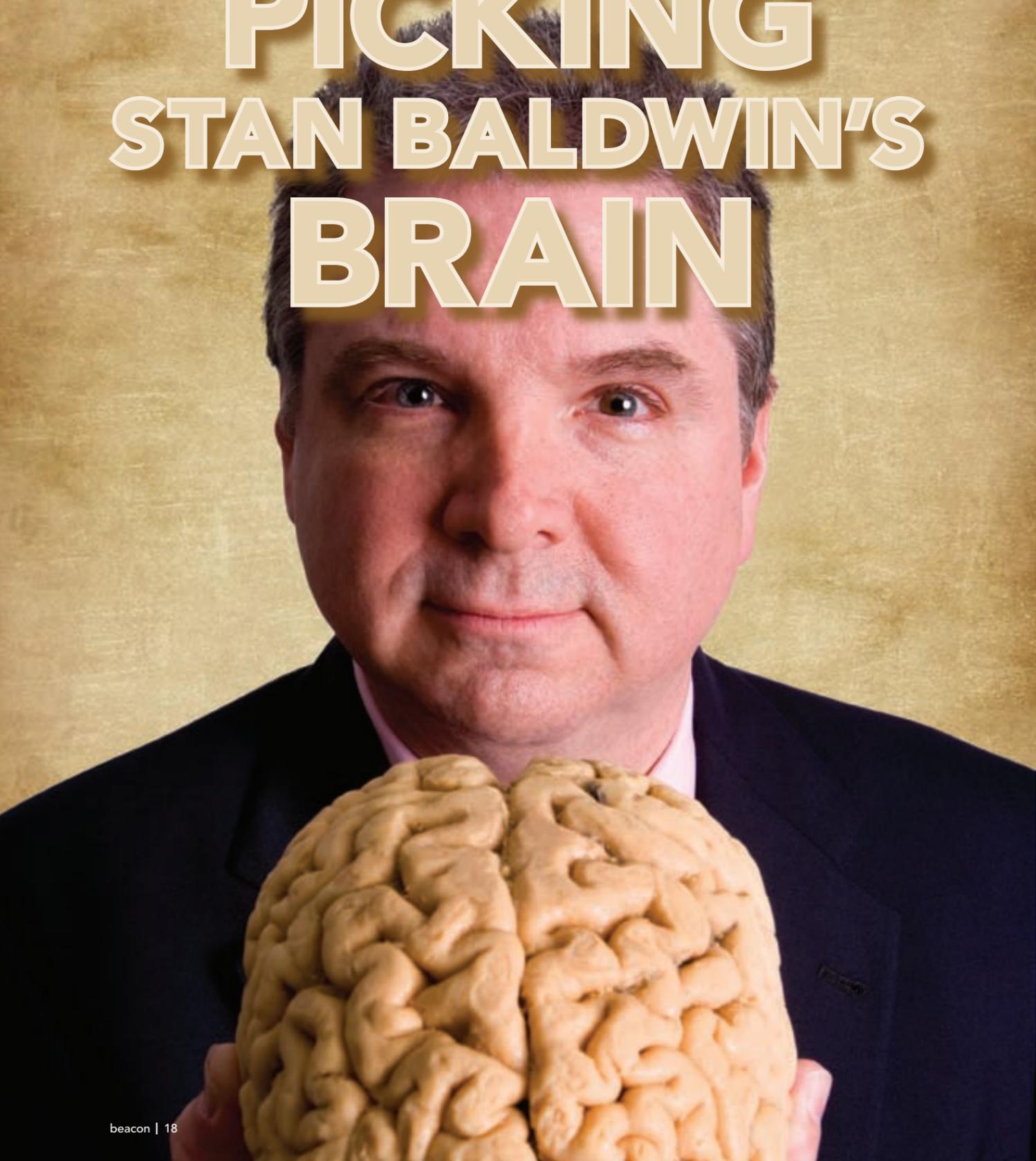
MCSOL has contributed \$25,000 in seed money to set up the LRAP. The PILG is seeking donors and grants and is exploring other avenues for much-needed funding. If you or your firm would like to contribute to the MCSOL Public Interest Law Loan Repayment Program, please contact Thome Butler in the Advancement Office at MCSOL at 601.925.7172 or tbutler@mc.edu.



#### RECOGNITION FOR A SELFLESS EFFORT

While public interest lawyers don’t go into the work for personal glory, their efforts don’t go unnoticed. In recognition of her tireless work for Hurricane Katrina victims, Crystal Utley ’05 received the 2007 Spirit of Service Award presented by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Utley was one of 11 people selected to receive the award out of 358 nominations nationwide.

# PICKING STAN BALDWIN'S BRAIN



THE DEAN *of the* SCHOOL OF SCIENCE  
AND MATHEMATICS ON WEARING A HALO, GETTING  
INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL, *and* THE POWER  
*of* RELATIONSHIPS



STEP INTO DR. STAN BALDWIN'S OFFICE IN THE HEDERMAN SCIENCE BUILDING AND THE FIRST THING HE'LL DO IS SHOW YOU HIS BRAIN.

The organ is, of course, preserved, but it isn't floating in a jar of formaldehyde or displayed behind a locked glass case. Instead, Dr. Baldwin will ask you to hold this human brain in your hands while he points out the optic nerve, the frontal lobe, and the mysterious swirls of tissue that once held a person's memories, thoughts, and dreams.

It's a fascinating experience, a complicated piece of science and anatomy brought to vivid life. His ability to take biology out of the textbook and make it come alive for his students is the reason Dr. Baldwin is one of MC's most respected and beloved instructors, and why the MC biology program is among the strongest in the Southeast.

#### HOW DR. BALDWIN TRAINED HIS BRAIN

Dr. Baldwin is the dean of the School of Science and Mathematics and chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at Mississippi College, and is also an assistant adjunct professor of anatomy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMC).

"As far as the classes, there's not a big difference between what I teach at MC and what I teach at UMC," Baldwin says. "There is a difference, though, in teaching at a medical school versus teaching at a small college. In medical school, professors only work with the students for a limited amount of time. At MC, I have the pleasure of continuity. I take students right out of high school and I get to have a four-year conversation with them. I have the privilege of watching teenagers become young adults and possibly playing a small role in their maturation process. The continuity of that relationship gives me a tremendous sense of satisfaction."

Baldwin's educational and professional background is as colorful as his style in the classroom. He earned an undergraduate degree in mathematics from Asbury College in Kentucky, a master of divinity degree in philosophical theology from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Kentucky. As a seminary student, Baldwin spent a semester working as a prison chaplain, and after earning his M.A., taught high school math and chemistry and spent a summer training in crisis counseling in a hospital. By 1989, two years after earning his master's degree, Baldwin was describing himself as "a 31-year-old who still didn't know what I wanted to be when I grew up."

“Then I came up with a crazy idea,” Baldwin says. “Going to medical school and getting a Ph.D. in neuroscience. The brain had always fascinated me and I knew I could make a career with that degree. One problem, though. The degree would take six years to complete, and I was feeling my age, concerned that I would be 37 years old when I finished. Then my wife, Cathy, said, ‘Stan, in six years, you’re going to be 37 years old anyway. Time doesn’t care what you do with it. If this is your dream, then chase it.’”

Baldwin earned his Ph.D. in neurobiology and anatomy from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine in 1995, then worked as a scientist conducting spinal cord injury research in the university’s department of neurosurgery. The following year he accepted a research position at the Ohio State University School of Medicine, where he hoped to pursue his interest in spinal cord injury.

It was a job that would soon become frighteningly personal. Just before he left for Ohio, Baldwin had surgery to correct a herniated cervical disk. A few weeks later, he twisted his head in just the wrong way and broke his neck. He spent the next 10 months in a halo brace secured to his skull with steel pins and connected to a hard plastic case around his chest. Wearing the halo meant 10 months of never looking down, 10 months without a shower, and 10 months of learning how it felt to be different.

“It was the most difficult and profound experience I’ve ever had,” Baldwin says. “Going out in public elicited uneasy glances. I learned what it was like to be stared at, pointed to, and discussed in whispers. I gained a profound empathy for people who have physical limitations.

“My major coping mechanism was humor. One day I was walking through Jackson Square in New Orleans, and I passed a group of young people with every kind of piercing you can imagine. One of them looked at my halo and said, ‘Cool headgear, man.’ I just looked back and said, ‘Thanks...amateur.’”

#### BRINGING SOMETHING NEW TO MC

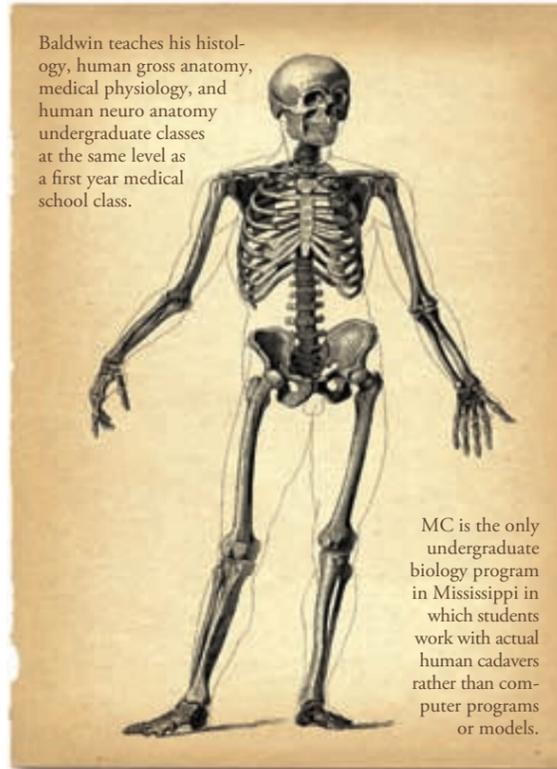
During his research time in Ohio, Baldwin realized how much he missed teaching.

“I ran across an ad for a position in biology at a school I’d never heard of, in a state I’d never been to – Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi,” Baldwin recalls. “I came down and interviewed. I was impressed with the strong science tradition at MC and how nice the faculty and students were.”

Before accepting the position, Baldwin asked if could bring more than textbooks to the job.

“I asked if I could teach some medical school-type courses at a medical school level, and also if I could procure human cadavers to use in those courses. MC agreed, and I signed the contract.”

Baldwin began teaching at Mississippi College in January 1999. In 2000, he was also hired at the University of Mississippi Medical Center to teach a summer course in gross anatomy to accepted medical school applicants. In 2002, he

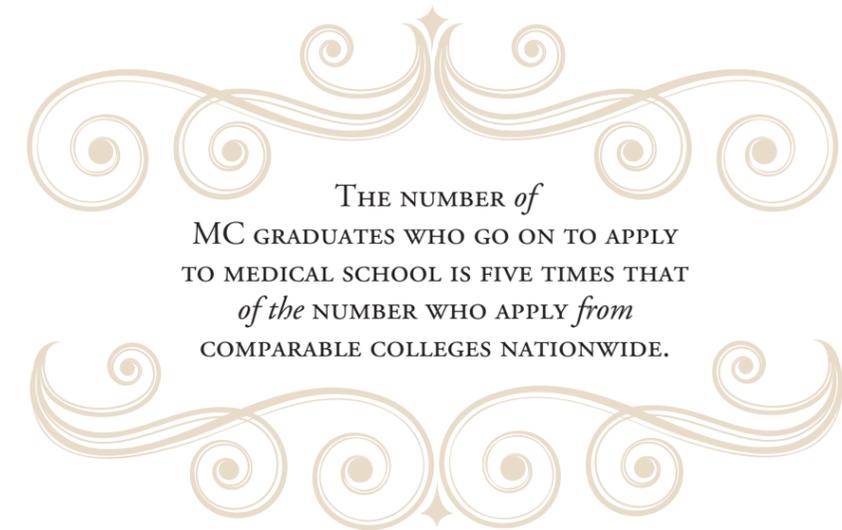


became chair of the MC biology department and in 2004, was named dean of the School of Science and Mathematics.

“Someone who knew a bit about my life’s journey asked me if I had to do it all over again, would I go straight from undergraduate to medical school to pursue neuroscience,” Baldwin says. “The answer is no. Each phase of my journey, each twist and turn through the decade of my twenties, each theology book, each prison inmate, each high school math student, each terminally ill patient, each person with a physical disability has been woven into a surprising tapestry that guides me daily as I work with students at Mississippi College.”

The work he does with those students is impressive. Baldwin teaches his histology, human gross anatomy, medical physiology, and human neuro anatomy undergraduate classes at the same level as a first year medical school class. MC is the only undergraduate biology program in Mississippi in which students work with actual human cadavers rather than computer programs or models. MC students even use the same textbooks used in the first year of medical school.

“My experience in medical school hugely affects what I do in the classroom at MC,” Baldwin says. “At the time I took many of the science courses at medical school, I had absolutely no background in medical science. I remember asking a professor in gross anatomy to help me find the carotid artery. I mispronounced the term ‘carotid’ and he gave me that look like, ‘who let you in the course?’ It really made me feel dumb. I made up my mind that if I ever had a chance to work with students who were planning on going to medical school, I would do my best to make sure they were prepared.”



Baldwin has followed through on that pledge.

“Dr. Baldwin teaches his undergraduate courses on a medical school level,” says Dr. Lamar Davis ’01, who is completing his pediatric residency at UMC. “You not only get a sense of the amount of work and the pace in medical school, but you see the commitment that’s going to be involved. In class, he made it clear that he meant business and that you needed to be prepared. After all, you were going to be asking people to put their lives in your hands.”

In the competitive world of medical school admissions, that level of preparation makes a real difference. The University of Mississippi Medical Center receives about 300 applications to its medical school each year, and accepts about 110.

“Dr. Baldwin’s classes at MC are a wonderful dress rehearsal for those who survive them,” says Dr. Steven Case, associate dean for medical school admissions at UMC. “It’s not just the coursework itself. The fast pace and heavy volume of the work mimics the first year of medical school. When we look at applicants from MC who’ve taken Stan Baldwin’s courses, we know that person has already completed work at the medical school level.”

Those MC students who are accepted often find themselves better prepared than first year medical school students from other colleges and universities.

“I had a student in the first year gross anatomy class tell me that the students from MC were, quote, ‘kicking butt and taking names’ here at UMC, and that he couldn’t wait for

the second year ‘when the playing field would level out,’” Dr. Case continues. “Many of our first year students have complained about the ‘advantage’ MC students have in some medical school courses, and premedical advisors in our state are being asked by their alumni enrolled in medical school why similar courses weren’t available at their schools. Stan deserves a lot of credit for making a profound impact on MC students who want to attend medical school.”

#### THE MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM

Baldwin also saw an opportunity for MC to serve students who applied to medical school but were rejected. In 2005, under his leadership, MC launched a new graduate-level program within the biology department. The one-year master of medical science degree program is designed for students who plan to apply to medical or dental school and want to improve their chances of admission, and for students who applied to medical school immediately after undergraduate school but were rejected.

The program averages 60-70 students from colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada, as well as a number of physicians from India who study at MC before taking the medical boards that allow them to practice in the United States.

Jay Songcharoen applied to medical school at UMC immediately after earning his physics degree from Vanderbilt University, but his application was denied. Jay reapplied

*Sincerely, Dr. Stanley A. Baldwin*

Dr. Stan Baldwin has recruited hundreds of high school students to attend Mississippi College and has written letters of recommendation for dozens of MC graduates applying to medical school. “I can honestly say that Stan Baldwin’s evaluation letters are among the most respected we receive,” says Dr. Steven Case, associate dean for medical school admissions at UMC. “If an applicant can walk on water, he says so, and if he or she can’t swim, he tells us that as well. He’s honest and we respect his opinion. On a personal note, I admire his work ethic and teaching style. Stan teaches with tough love. He’s compassionate, but he always expects his students to perform.”

after completing the masters of medical sciences program and is now in his first year of medical school.

“The class helped in every way possible, not just academically,” Jay says. “I don’t think I would have gotten in without Dr. Baldwin’s inspiration and encouragement. Medical school takes a lot of drive and focus. Dr. Baldwin pointed out weaknesses in my application and offered a lot of guidance in how to strategically apply. He knows the nuances of what they look for in a medical school applicant.

“When I took tests in undergraduate school, I’d sometimes think I wanted to do well for myself or for my parents,” Jay continues. “At MC and now in medical school, I go into tests thinking I don’t want to let Dr. Baldwin down.”

Sruthi Veerisetty graduated from Emory University with a major in neuroscience and behavioral biology. After a pre-admission counseling session at UMC, she too enrolled in the masters in medical sciences program.

“UMC suggested I take more upper level sciences to improve my chances of getting accepting,” Sruthi explains. “At MC, I’m taking classes I never had in undergraduate school at Emory. Dr. Baldwin makes sure you understand the material, and if the material isn’t really interesting, he finds a way to make it interesting. He energizes his students. In all honesty, Dr. Baldwin is the best teacher I have ever had.”



RIGHT BRAIN. LEFT BRAIN.  
WHY CHOOSE SIDES?

Individuals are often described as “left brain” or “right brain” people, a reference to the left side of the brain as logical and analytical, while the right side of the brain is creative and intuitive.

Dr. Stan Baldwin seems equally gifted on both sides. One of Dr. Baldwin’s pastimes is writing poetry. In this excerpt from the poignant ode, “Cadaver Hand,” Baldwin makes the dissection of a human hand seem almost romantic, writing:

*the atlas does not mention  
the wedding band  
on his fourth digit  
Or the nimbus faced bride who slipped it on  
in the hopes that life with him  
would round Eden’s green lush  
and no bramble vine dare grow  
or why – now  
she still calls out his name  
at night  
when the cat jumps on the bed*

#### INSPIRING FUTURE BRAINIACS

When he’s not in class or meeting with his students at MC or UMC, Stan Baldwin is often visiting a middle school or high school, looking to inspire the next generation of doctors and medical researchers.

“One of the things I enjoy the most is giving the students a ‘brain talk,’” Baldwin says. “I carry some cadaver brains to their class for them to hold. It’s so much fun to watch the spark in their eyes as they touch a human brain for the very first time. I hope that by doing so I can fire the imagination of some young child to pursue science as a career.”

Matt Maready ’07 was once one of those high school students. By the end of his senior year of high school in Olive Branch, Mississippi, Matt had received full scholarship offers from multiple universities in Mississippi and out of state, including Duke University; Harvard University had also requested that he apply. Matt had no plans to attend college in Mississippi until he met Stan Baldwin at a recruiting reception.

“Dr. Baldwin started telling me about the classes at MC and the opportunity to do medical school-level work and cadaver dissection while I was still an undergraduate,” Matt recalls. “He convinced me to visit the MC campus and I was hooked. I would’ve had a full ride elsewhere, but I prayed really hard about it and I ended up going to MC on a partial scholarship. It was absolutely everything I had hoped it would be.”

Matt is now a first year medical student at UMC, where his professors acknowledge that MC graduates seem consistently prepared for the rigors of medical school.

“On one of the first days of class at UMC, the professor stood up in front of the class and he actually said, ‘Now you’ll have to study really hard. This will be very difficult for you – unless you came here from Mississippi College and you’ve already taken this class there,’” Matt recalls.

But while Matt was well prepared for medical school, he gained more than just a knowledge of biology from Dr. Stan Baldwin.

“Dr. Baldwin wanted what was best for me, not just to be able to say that another one of his students had been accepted to medical school,” Matt says. “He encouraged me to take other classes and explore all of my options before I racked up \$150,000 in student loan debt and then realized I didn’t really want to be a doctor. Dr. Baldwin wanted to be sure it was my heartfelt desire and my God-directed path to do this. He cared more about me as a person than as a biology student.”

“If after four years with a student all they’ve learned is biology, I’ve failed,” Baldwin says. “Building relationships with the students is the best part of the job here. It’s about more than class. It’s about spending time talking and counseling students about life. When I was an undergrad, I remember forming personal relationships with professors who made me feel safe and guided my trajectory. I guess I wanted to return the favor.”

It seems that while Dr. Stan Baldwin is very knowledgeable about brains, he knows even more about the heart.



Mississippi College said good-bye to one of its star student athletes when Tyler Winford accepted his diploma in May. Tyler’s next challenge is medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where he’ll begin classes in August.

“I’ve always wanted to become a doctor,” Tyler says. “Even when I was very young and knew nothing about medicine, I knew I wanted to be in a position to affect people in a positive way.”

Tyler has certainly had a positive effect at Mississippi College, where he’s been a standout not only in the classroom, but also on the basketball court. The 2007-08 ASC Eastern Division Preseason Player of the Year, Tyler lived up to his billing. As a senior forward, he swept the ASC East Division Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year awards while also earning All-ASC honors. Tyler averaged a team high 13.7 points per game for the Choctaws and was one of 10 finalists for the 2008 Jostens Trophy, which honors the Division III men’s and women’s basketball outstanding athletes of the year.

During his four-year basketball career at MC, Tyler was a two-time Street & Smith Preseason All-American, the ASC East Division Freshman of the Year, and the Choctaw’s leading scorer his freshman and sophomore seasons.

Tyler was also an academic achiever at MC, earning a spot on the President’s List and in the National Honor Society. He was also named to the ESPN The Magazine first team all-academic team.

In April, Tyler received a prestigious NCAA post-graduate scholarship that will provide \$7,500 toward his medi-

cal school education. Tyler was one of only 58 winter sports participants to earn the honor among student athletes in Divisions I, II, and III.

Tyler first earned a reputation as an outstanding scholar athlete as a high school student at Jackson Academy. He was offered basketball scholarships to other colleges, but Mississippi College was his first choice.

“I chose MC because I felt it was the only place I could succeed in basketball and in academics,” Tyler says. “I would have the opportunity to play all four years and to receive an outstanding education in a premier pre-med program. The coaching staff and teachers like Dr. Stan Baldwin were a great influence in convincing me that MC was the best place for success in my college years and in my future career.”

While he’ll miss the down-to-the-buzzer thrills of Choctaw basketball, Tyler is looking forward to the challenges and rewards of medical school.

“Since MC’s biology program presents material in a way that reflects medical school classes, I feel extremely prepared,” Tyler says. “My teachers at MC have been very good about personally supporting me in my efforts. They all knew my name, what my future goals were, and were very involved and willing to help in whatever way they can. My teachers in the biology and chemistry departments were genuinely interested in my success, that’s the most important source of motivation a student can receive.”

“It always makes you proud as a coach to see your players succeed on the court and off,” says MC head basketball coach Mike Jones. “Tyler was a great player for Mississippi College and we’ll miss him on the court, but his best days are still ahead of him.”

“I chose MC because I felt it was the only place I could succeed in basketball and in academics. I would have the opportunity to play all four years and to receive an outstanding education in a premier pre-med program. The coaching staff and teachers like Dr. Stan Baldwin were a great influence in convincing me that MC was the best place for success in my college years and in my future career.”

PUT  
ON  
YOUR

# Thinking CAP



*How*  
THINK  
TOGETHER

*And*  
MISSISSIPPI  
COLLEGE

are matching  
kids with mentors  
and changing  
the lives of both

At 3:15 sharp, the door to the THINK Together Tutoring Center bursts open and 20 children ages five to nine crowd inside, screaming with delight as they throw themselves at the young man waiting to greet them.

“Charlie!” a petite girl with pigtails cries. “Guess what I learned in school today?”

“Where’s my book?” a boy demands. “You promised to read *Robin Hood* to me, remember?”

“Charlie, what are we having for a snack?”

“Where’s Andy and Russ?”

“What are we going to learn today?”

The first 10 minutes after the children’s arrival is a time of controlled chaos, a chance for little ones to release some pent-up energy and greet their friends. Then it’s down to

Students in kindergarten through third grade come from 3:15 until 4:00, fourth through sixth graders come from 4:15 until 5:00, and seventh through twelfth graders come from 5:15 until 6:00.

The program is the brainchild of Sam Anderson, a 1957 graduate of MC who bought the apartment complex for the express purpose of creating a tutoring center for the school-aged children who lived there. Anderson joined forces with Mississippi College to make the program a reality. THINK Together is run through the MC Community Service Center, which is part of the Office of Christian Development.

When Anderson bought Hunter Oaks in 2006, the property was marked by low occupancy, poorly maintained

buildings, and increasing crime and drug use. An attitude of hopelessness seemed to literally hang in the air. Today, Hunter Oaks is filled with families, the grounds are neat, the buildings are in good repair, and the complex is marked by a close-knit spirit of community.

The renovated apartment that houses THINK Together is furnished with sturdy tables and chairs for studying. Shelves overflow with books and the children’s vivid artwork cover the walls. The converted bedrooms house a small computer lab, a music room, and a reading room. Cheerful posters remind children to “Love one another,” and that



business, as volunteer tutors from Mississippi College settle into child-sized chairs around child-sized tables and begin calling out spelling words, explaining long division, and maybe, just maybe, changing lives, one child at a time.

**H**oused in a converted three-bedroom unit in the Hunter Oaks apartment complex in Clinton, Mississippi, THINK Together is a free after school tutoring program. Every Monday through Friday, THINK Together welcomes between 20 and 35 children in three shifts organized by grade levels.

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.”

A wall in the center’s main room is covered by a banner reading, “Our Family.” Beneath it, dozens of construction paper stars bear the names of children and what they want to be when they grow up. Keisha\* wants to be a pediatrician. Sarah\* dreams of playing in the WNBA. Multi-talented Malika\* hasn’t decided whether she’ll become a dermatologist or a zoologist. Practical Jeremiah\* plans to become a bus driver, and Cassidy\* wants to be a ballerina. Thanks to THINK Together, those dreams have a better chance of becoming reality.

\* The names of the children have been changed to protect their privacy.

## The “THINK” in THINK Together stands for Teaching, Helping, Inspiring, and Nurturing Kids.

### THE POWER OF THINKING TOGETHER

“The tutoring program is designed to connect these students to tools, resources, and people who can help them develop educationally,” says Dr. Eric Pratt, MC’s Vice President for Christian Development. “Our desire is to develop a program that can be used as a model for communities, churches, colleges, and other agencies to follow in meeting the academic needs of underserved children across Mississippi.”

Each student receives 45 minutes of individual instruction, including help completing homework assignments, studying for tests, and working on math and reading skills. The results are impressive. On average, students participating in the program have experienced a 25 percent improvement in their grades.

Charlie Floyd is a 2006 MC graduate working for AmeriCorps, a national agency that serves as a domestic Peace Corps. As the THINK Together program director, Floyd recruits MC students to serve as tutors and manages day-to-day operations at the center, but his primary focus is the children.

“We do it because we love the kids,” Floyd says. “Showing them they’re loved is the most important thing.”

The volunteer tutors are primarily students from Mississippi College, but also include teachers, former teachers, and residents from the community. Some of the students are fulfilling class requirements, but many are volunteering simply for the reward of helping the children.

“The kids, especially the ones from single parent homes, are looking for people they can build relationships with, so consistency is important,” Floyd says. “That said, we don’t ask volunteers to commit to a certain number of visits; it’s not a ‘have to’ situation. We just encourage them to come for as long as they can, as often as they can.”

Children must be formally enrolled and have their parents’ permission to participate in THINK Together. Currently the center has 45 children signed up. Since THINK Together launched in September of 2006, approximately 70 children have passed through its doors.

“It’s made a difference in their grades and in their enthusiasm for going to school,” says Diethra Williams, whose three children are enrolled in the tutoring center. “The peer pressure at the tutoring center is positive peer pressure – the children actually challenge each other to do well in school.”

While most children who participate have seen dramatic improvements in their schoolwork, changes aren’t limited to academic performance. Instead, THINK Together is making a difference for children inside and outside the classroom.

*“I was driving Tommy\* to school today,” Charlie Floyd wrote in an August 2006 entry in a journal shared by the THINK Together tutors. “He was telling me about all that was happening at the apartment complex. He said he finally got the chance to be a kid, to achieve his goals, because they had kicked out all the bad guys and violent guys and drug dealers.”*

The program has also served as a link between parents in the apartment complex, helping families get to know one another and encouraging them to look out for one another’s children.

*“The apartment moms are all banding together to mentor the teenage girls,” one of the tutors wrote in the journal. “Shuretta, Angela, and Felicia were sitting on the stairs together, talking and counseling and loving the girls in their own tough love, strong women ways.”*

“If we ever move out of this apartment, the thing we’ll miss the most is the tutoring center,” Diethra Williams says. “It keeps everybody going around here.”

### MENTORING THE MENTORS

The problems the children of THINK Together face reach beyond two plus two. Volunteers soon realize they are being called to become more than tutors. They are mentors and role models, and it’s not always an easy job.

“It’s not just about homework or a program, it’s about the kids,” Floyd says. “For the mentors, that means having an endless supply of patience and compassion and love.”

Volunteers must also be prepared to hear and see things they may never have had to deal with in their own lives. Tutors soon realize that while it’s easy to give advice to kids about “doing the right thing,” these children live in a world where that’s easier said than done. But as an entry in the THINK Together journal proves, it’s sometimes the children who teach the tutors an inspiring, life-changing lesson.

*Jake\*, Richard\*, and Dwayne\* were beaten up for going to the aid of a girl who screamed. They were defending her against older guys twice their size. They were able to make the guys leave her alone. Charlie has studied with Jake about standing up for what*



THINK Together joins children, their parents, and volunteer tutors in an effort to improve academic performance and make dreams come true.

*is right and being a part of peace and nonviolence. They have talked about being men of love, no matter what the cost. Jake chose to put action to those thoughts.*

*We often do not realize what it is we are asking of these kids. The things we teach are truth, yet we do not see them in our daily lives as often as they encounter. What we ask is scary and sometimes dangerous, but they are listening and heeding the call. We should be careful to pray hard and look for wisdom in guiding their paths we know little about.*

*p.s. Jake later went back, forgave the guys who beat him up, and befriended them. Awesome!*

“I grew up in a stable home with two parents. Hanging out with these kids has shown me a different side of reality and opened me up to see life in new ways,” says Andy Stubblefield, THINK Together co-director. “All they want is to interact with people who care about them. THINK Together brings the kids happiness and fun, and it brings me real joy.”

Shawn Thomas\* would seem to share that feeling. When asked what he likes best about THINK Together, the bright fourth grader points to Charlie Floyd and says, “Hanging out with this guy. And the snacks.”

“At THINK Together, we teach the kids to love each other well,” Charlie Floyd says. “That’s the most important lesson.”



For information on volunteering at THINK Together, please contact Shari Barnes at 601.925.3267 or sbarnes@mc.edu. Volunteers must consent to a background check.

### Cool Stories from the Tutoring Center

Volunteers at THINK Together are encouraged to record funny moments, key turning points, and their own observations in a journal they’ve labeled “Cool Stories from the Tutoring Center.” Excerpts from the journal reveal a mission that’s sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes humorous, but above all, inspirational.

*Jake\* was pretty upset, obviously not himself. He said he was hurting because he doesn’t know his dad. He also said he had trouble knowing God is real. I asked him what he’d ask God for, and he said that he just wanted to know that somebody cares about him.*

*Marissa\*, Monica\*, and Jason\* were talking with Charlie about how we are all brothers and sisters, we all came from the same dirt, and we all need to love each other. They were not concerned about skin color. It was cool.*

*Talked to David\* about inner strength, proactive love, and nonviolence. We sympathized with each other about our weaknesses in this area, but decided we’d try to let God change us.*

*I was sitting with Khari\* doing homework and talking about family. Somehow we mentioned that Charlie’s dad and Khari’s grandmother had died. Kahari said, “Don’t worry, Charlie. Our family is alive in Heaven. Just pray and you can see them. I didn’t learn that. I knew it. God is telling me.”*

*According to his teacher, Darryl\* – a student to whom it seems nothing gets through – talks all the time about Charlie and the other tutors. We do make a difference! Very encouraging. His teacher said that Darryl really just needs a father figure, and we provide that. Thanks be to God.*

On average, students participating in the THINK Together program have experienced a 25 percent improvement in their grades.

# IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS

## SAM ANDERSON'S VISION FOR THE CHILDREN OF MISSISSIPPI

It would be true to say that Sam Anderson is the brains behind the THINK Together Tutoring Center in Clinton, but it would be even more accurate to say he's the heart.

A 1957 MC graduate now living in Newport Beach, California, Anderson drew upon his experience with THINK together in California to expand the program into his home state of Mississippi. Fourteen years ago, Anderson's church was part of a coalition that launched the first THINK Together program in Costa Mesa, California. That first tutoring center was founded in a neighborhood overrun with drugs, gangs, and violent crime. People there were desperately poor, often living as many as 20 to an apartment. Children rarely finished high school and seemed doomed to a lifetime of hopelessness and crime. The neighborhood was so dangerous that parents were afraid to let their children walk two blocks to a separate building. The first tutoring center was set up in a vacant apartment with the idea that it would serve the children living in the complex.

Sam Anderson had just retired from a successful career as the CEO of a pharmaceuticals firm. With time on his hands and a desire to serve the community, he volunteered as a THINK Together tutor.

"I had no idea I had anything to offer," Anderson says, "But after seeing the complete lack of help these kids were receiving, I found myself spending several hours a week not just helping them with their homework, but talking to them about careers and challenging them to imagine that they could *be* something. I realized that I could make a difference. I had the great pleasure of seeing what could be done to change the lives of young people when a group of dedicated individuals makes it their business to get involved."

The California THINK Together program now includes 180 centers in four counties serving 20,000 students per day. Its graduates have gone on to attend colleges and universities statewide and enjoy successful careers that once seemed out of reach; many have returned to their old neighborhood to volunteer as tutors in the program themselves.



"The program has dramatically improved the lives of a lot of children and has given tutors like me a wonderful sense of satisfaction," Anderson, now a member of the THINK Together board of directors, says. "After seeing first hand how lives could be changed, I was inspired to try to accomplish the same thing in Mississippi."

Anderson already owned several apartment complexes in the Jackson area, but none were large enough for what he had in mind. In 2006, he purchased the Hunter Oaks apartments for the express purpose of opening Mississippi's first THINK Together Tutoring Center within the complex.

With the property in place, Anderson teamed with Mississippi College to make his vision a reality. Anderson paid for the renovation of the apartment that houses the tutoring center, and continues to provide funds for utilities, supplies, and other ongoing needs. Mississippi College recruits the volunteer tutors and manages the program through the MC Community Service Center, which is part of the Office of Christian Development.

"Mississippi College and all of our dedicated tutors have taken ownership of the program," Anderson says. "Instead of just providing some kind of ricochet contact with these kids, they have an ongoing understanding of their needs and are the program's hands-on leaders. I am so thankful for Mississippi College and for those students who are out there doing God's work."



Sam Anderson helps a student with homework at the THINK Together Tutoring Center in California.

As a student at MC in the 1950s, Anderson was vice president of the Student Government Association and a member of the Student Senate and played on the Choctaw football team. He earned a degree in chemistry and attended medical school for two years at the University of Mississippi Medical Center before entering the pharmaceutical industry. Anderson held management level positions with many companies, eventually retiring as CEO and Chairman of the Board of TRAN-CEL Corp., a company researching a cure for diabetes.

In addition to an excellent education that prepared him for a successful career, Anderson credits Mississippi College with inspiring him to serve others.

"At Mississippi College, I was surrounded by individuals who had a heart for service," Anderson recalls. "The atmosphere at MC was the embodiment of 'Whatever you have done for the least of these you have done for me.'"

A native of Magee, Anderson returns to Mississippi about four times a year, often making a stop at the Hunter Oaks complex to see the program he founded in action.

Anderson is happy with the progress of the Clinton program, but longs to see a bigger vision fulfilled.

"My hope is that this idea will catch on and that other organizations will want to create similar programs

"Mississippi College and all of our dedicated tutors have taken ownership of the program. Instead of just providing some kind of ricochet contact with these kids, they have an ongoing understanding of their needs and are the program's hands-on leaders. I am so thankful for Mississippi College and for those students who are out there doing God's work."

— SAM ANDERSON —

statewide," Anderson says. "We have a large number of public and private colleges and universities and community colleges in Mississippi. If MC and THINK Together show measureable benefits and set a strong example for what can be done, maybe we can inspire those organizations to take up the mantle and open similar programs in their immediate areas. Then maybe the churches would follow. If that happened, I think that within a few years we'd see measureable changes in

the dropout rate, the teen pregnancy rate, crime, and drug use statewide.

"It's a big vision," Anderson acknowledges, "But I'm hopeful that someday it will be realized – that individuals and organizations will see that challenge as an opportunity to give something back to the most needy children of my home state."



Dr. Christopher Washam

ALL  
THE  
RIGHT

# MOVES

MC'S  
KINESIOLOGY  
PROGRAM IS  
GROWING BY  
LEAPS AND  
BOUNDS

Students in the MC Department of Kinesiology are on the move, literally and figuratively. Established just six short years ago, kinesiology is MC's fastest-growing program; the department already boasts some 220-plus students preparing for rewarding careers in the exploding health and fitness industry.

"To go from zero students to 200-plus in less than eight years is a strong testament to the program and to the growth of opportunities in our field," says Dr. Christopher Washam, chairman of the Department of Kinesiology.

The study of the art and science of human movement, kinesiology is an excellent degree track for individuals interested in exercise science, physical education, professional athletics, or sports ministry. Working environments for graduates can range from a fitness center to a classroom,

from a hospital to a cruise ship.

"Health, fitness, and wellness is one of the most popular vocational trends in society today," Washam says. "Over the past 20 years, we've seen an explosion of interest in preventive medicine and in physical activity as a key contributor to health and well-being.

"The aging of our population is generating an increased demand for physical therapists, fitness personnel, and other professionals who can help people be more healthy, fit, and

productive as they enter the senior decades of their lives," Washam continues. "The emergence of sports not only as a recreational or entertainment-oriented pursuit but also as an economic force is also producing new jobs in our field."

The majority of MC's kinesiology students are interested in one of two areas of study, exercise science or physical education. The exercise science track is geared toward careers in physical therapy, sports medicine, or exercise rehabilitation. The physical education program prepares students for careers teaching physical education in the classroom or coaching student athletes.

"Mississippi College definitely prepared me for UMC," says Randi Moak, a 2007 graduate who is now enrolled in physical therapy school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. "The kinesiology department curriculum gave me a thorough understanding of the human body, and included classes that are similar to the ones I'm taking in physical therapy school. The program gave me a head start on some of my classmates and made it easier for me to dive into the material because I had such a strong foundation."

Other kinesiology degree tracks include sports management, ideal for individuals who bring both an interest in athletics and a head for business, and sports ministry, a unique degree designed for those who feel a calling to Christian service through the medium of sports. In the fall of 2007, the department launched its first graduate program, a master's of science in athletic administration. The quality of the department's academic program is matched only by the dedication of its faculty.

"The kinesiology department here has been great for me," says senior Rachel Blackledge. "The professors are more than teachers, they're friends. If I need prayer or advice, I know I could go to any one of them and be real with them, and they'd take their teacher faces off and be real with me."

"I considered other schools but after a lot of prayer, I chose MC," says senior kinesiology major Kristen Clark, who plans to become a physical therapist. "The department here is small but growing, with a lot of heart. The teachers are fantastic and I've built lasting relationships with my classmates. I love, love, love the MC kinesiology department."

## A DEGREE FOR MOVERS AND SHAKERS

MC offers five tracks for students pursuing a degree in kinesiology, each geared toward a specific career path.

### Exercise Science

Provides the theoretical, research, and clinical experience required for careers in preventive and rehabilitative health settings, including hospitals, health and fitness centers, industry, education, and government agencies

### Fitness and Sports Science

A track with broad applications in the fitness, wellness, and sports industries

### Physical Education K-12

Prepares students to teach K-12 physical education and/or to coach school sports

### Sports Management

Combines liberal arts, kinesiology, and business to prepare individuals for jobs in the sports industry. Possible careers include athletic directorship, sports team management, fitness center management, or sporting events coordination.

### Sports Ministry

Created in association with the Department of Christian Studies, this kinesiology major/ministry minor degree is designed for individuals who wish to work in churches or Christian organizations with sports ministry programs. Graduates might manage church basketball and softball teams, youth sports programs, golf tournaments, and other sports ventures used as ministry or outreach tools.

### Careers in Kinesiology

Activities Director for a Resort or Cruise Ship  
Athletic Director  
Athletic Team Manager  
Athletic Trainer  
Aerobics Director/Choreographer

Church Sports Ministry Director  
Coach  
Corporate Wellness Manager  
Exercise Physiologist  
Fitness Club/Sports Facility Manager  
Fitness Instructor

Golf/Country Club Management  
Military Fitness Professional  
Outward Bound Instructor  
Personal Trainer/Fitness Consultant  
Physical Education Instructor

Physical Therapist (requires an advanced degree)  
Spa Director  
Sports Agent  
Sporting Events Coordinator  
Sports Official  
YMCA/YWCA Management  
Youth Program Coordinator



# MAKING A NATIONAL SPLASH

## MC'S WATER FITNESS PROGRAM IS THE BEST IN THE UNITED STATES.

Sometimes, "being all wet" is a compliment.

In January of 2008, the U.S. Water Fitness Association (USWFA), a Florida-based educational organization created to promote water fitness, named MC the nation's number one college water fitness program and the overall best water fitness program in the state of Mississippi. USWFA also recognized Pamela Milling, MC's aquatic director and supervisor, as one of the top aquatic directors in the United States.

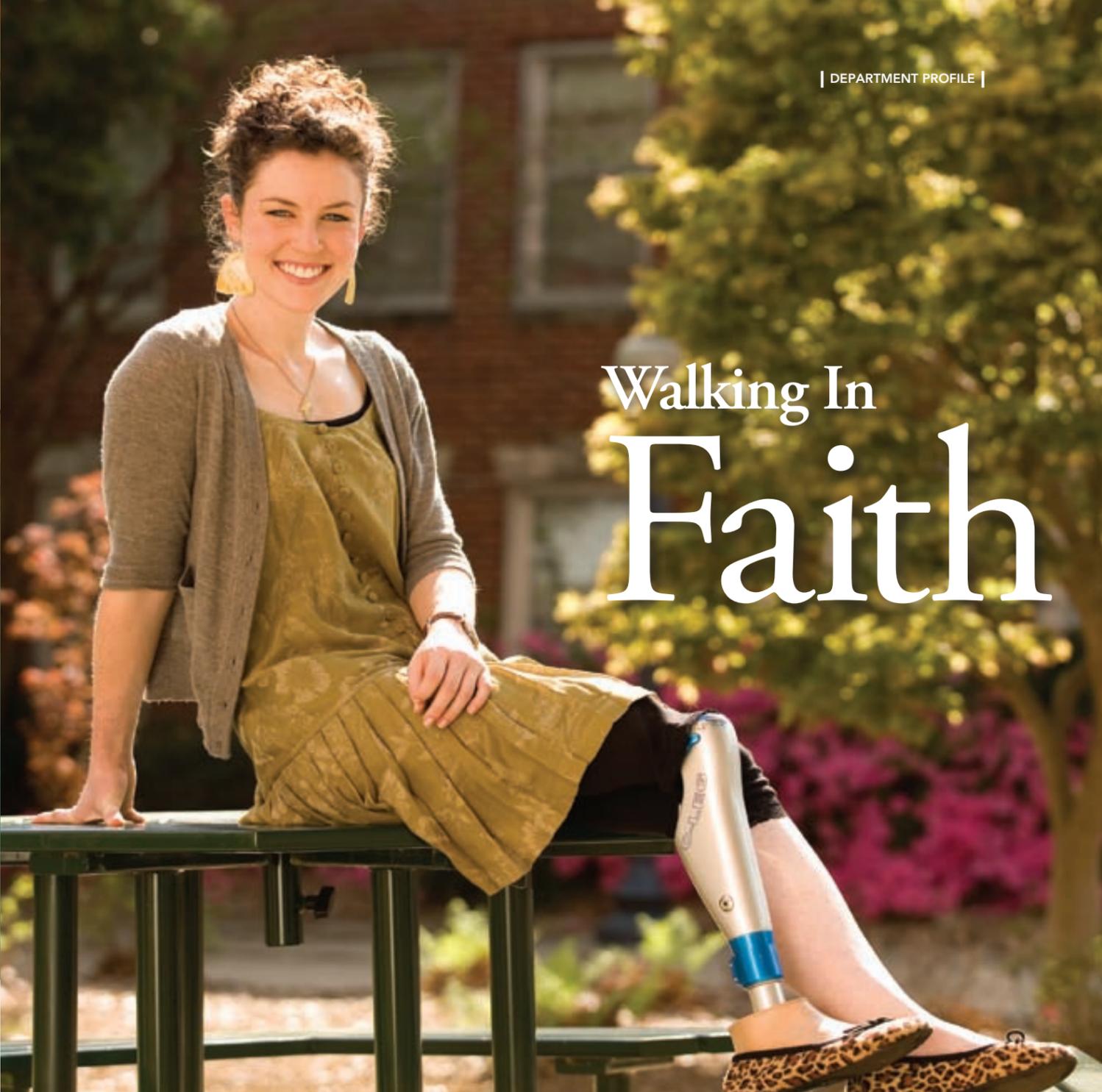
"This is terrific recognition for a program that means a lot to our students and to me personally," Milling says. "It takes time and effort to design, teach, and manage a pro-

gram like this, but it also takes a lot of love."

When MC originally began competing in the USWFA awards program in 1994, its water fitness program ranked among the nation's top 100. MC landed the number one spot in 1998 and has held onto its top ranking every year since. Criteria for the awards include the number and types of water fitness classes offered, innovations in teaching methods, and hosting special water fitness events.

"Our water fitness classes at Mississippi College are constantly being monitored, evaluated, and updated," Milling says. "This is the best of education, and is the reason that MC's water fitness program is a model for universities and colleges nationwide."

**A part of the Department of Kinesiology, MC's water fitness program has been ranked the #1 college water-fitness program in the nation for 10 consecutive years.**



# Walking In Faith

## HOW TRAGEDY PUT RACHEL BLACKLEDGE ON THE PATH TO A NEW CALLING

FOR RACHEL BLACKLEDGE, MAY 22, 2005 BEGAN AS A SUNNY, blue-sky day full of promise. An 18-year-old senior at Madison Central High School, Rachel was looking forward to graduating with honors the next Saturday, then heading to Samford University in Birmingham to study graphic design in the fall. On that picture-perfect Sunday, Rachel and her good friends Lanie Kealhofer, Jonah Gunalda, and

Ben Busching headed to Lake Caroline for an afternoon of fun in the sun on Ben's family's ski boat.

"We were just cruising around, tubing, having the kind of harmless fun you're supposed to have in high school," Rachel says. "Lanie and I were sitting in the front of the boat talking and enjoying the breeze."

In an instant, everything changed.

The boat hit a wake and Rachel and Lanie were thrown overboard. Rachel felt the boat slam into her leg and pass just over her head as she sank in the murky water.

“My immediate thought was that I’d broken my leg,” Rachel says. “I remember thinking very clearly, ‘I’m underwater with a broken leg.’”

Rachel struggled to the surface and saw the boat stopped far across the lake. As she cried for help, both boys jumped into the water. Jonah swam toward Rachel, and she realized that Ben was searching for Lanie.

“I knew it had taken me a long time to surface, and that Lanie should have surfaced by then, too,” Rachel says. “I also remember thinking that I couldn’t swim, my only source of rescue was the boat, and now we were all in the water.”

As Jonah held her up in the lake – a feat both would later attribute solely to the strength of God – Rachel saw a pool of blood forming around them.

Rachel and Jonah’s rescue came in the form of two fishermen who would later say they were catching plenty of fish on the other side of Lake Caroline, but that something compelled them to move their boat to the spot where the two teenagers were struggling to stay afloat.

“One of the men pulled me into the boat and as I came up out of the water, he gasped,” Rachel says. “That caused me to look down, but only for a split second. I saw enough to know it was really bad, then thought, ‘Okay, don’t want to look at that anymore.’”

The men laid Rachel in the boat, used a shirt to fashion a tourniquet for her leg, and called 911. As they headed their boat toward the levee where a rescue vehicle would meet them, Jonah kept Rachel awake, talking to her, praying with her, and forcing her to keep her eyes open.

“Jonah just kept praying and telling me, ‘Look at me, look at me,’” Rachel recalls. “All I wanted to do was close my eyes. I wonder sometimes now if that’s what dying feels like.”

As her rescuers struggled to carry Rachel up the steep, rocky levee on a stretcher, she took a last look back at Lake Caroline. She saw her friend Ben Busching sitting alone in his boat, soaking wet and weeping.

RACHEL DIDN’T REALIZE HOW SERIOUS HER INJURIES WERE UNTIL SHE REACHED THE EMERGENCY ROOM AND ASKED THE DOCTOR IF HE WOULD HAVE TO AMPUTATE HER LEG.

“I’m sorry, honey,” he told her. “But they couldn’t find your leg.”

The boat propeller had severed Rachel’s right leg diagonally through the knee.

“I cried for about 10 seconds, then I knew God was in control,” Rachel says. “I don’t say that to bring glory to myself, or to make it sound like I was such an awesome Christian that losing my leg didn’t bother me. I just heard the

Lord say, ‘I’m in control of this situation.’”

And while no one at the hospital officially broke the news to her, Rachel instinctively knew she had an even greater loss with which to come to terms. Her close friend, 16-year-old Lanie Kealhofer, had died in the accident.

Rachel remained in the hospital from May 22 until June 15, enduring 10 surgeries to treat her grievous leg wound, as well as multiple, painful procedures to clean and close deep cuts the propeller had left on her back. The steady stream of family and friends who came to visit during the day lifted Rachel’s spirits, but the dark, quiet nights were a struggle.

“I had nightmares about the accident,” Rachel says, “and I was stuck in bed to dwell on things. It was actually worse right after I got out of the hospital. I had been so focused on getting better physically that I was a month behind emotionally. All of my friends were moving on, but I was still grieving for Lanie.”



In the end, it was not only her own faith, but Lanie’s faith that helped Rachel work through the terrible loss. Like Rachel, Lanie Kealhofer had dedicated her life to Jesus Christ.

“The Lord is all knowing. Lanie was gone and I was still here for a reason,” Rachel says. “I didn’t want to disappoint God, and I didn’t want to let Lanie down. I knew that she would’ve said, ‘Rachel, please let something good happen out of this. Find a way to share our story and be a vessel for the Lord through this.’”

At first, that “something good” was elusive. Rachel’s days were filled with phantom pains, tough physical therapy sessions that left her physically and emotionally exhausted, and a series of awkward prosthetic legs.

“I went through a phase of not wanting to wear a prosthetic,” Rachel recalls. “It seemed like wearing it meant I was accepting what had happened and that I’d never be the same again.”

“I don’t remember a day when I consciously decided, ‘Okay, I’ll be positive now,’” Rachel continues. “It wasn’t a choice I made. It was just what I had to do for God, for

Lanie, for my family, and for me. I was too young to just shut down. By the end of the summer, I was walking again.”

Rachel even found some humor in her situation. “When I went to renew my driver’s license, I listed my new weight minus my leg. Much lighter.”

As she continued to heal, Rachel began to see the accident and all that she’d lost not just as a tragedy, but also as an opportunity.

“A tragedy that you never would have wished for closes some doors, but it opens others you never would have opened yourself,” she says. “After awhile, you begin to look for the doors that God is opening.”

One door that closed for Rachel was attending Samford University. In the fall of 2005, Rachel was still recovering physically and emotionally from the accident; the need to be close to her doctors and her family prompted her to enroll in Homes Community College. While attending



classes at Holmes and continuing her physical therapy, Rachel saw another, unexpected door open wide.

“Physical therapy was demanding, but I actually loved going,” Rachel says. “I had wonderful physical therapists and became very close to them. One of those therapists suggested that I think about a career in physical therapy myself. That didn’t seem like a good idea at first – I still thought I wanted to study graphic design – but my therapist kept pushing me to consider it. She told me I would bring a vantage point no one else would have.”

The more she considered her therapist’s advice, the more Rachel saw a purpose behind her accident. In 2006 she enrolled in Mississippi College, drawn by MC’s excellent kinesiology department.

“It’s been hard academically –I was always more of an artsy, creative person than a science-oriented person,

and I’m out of my comfort zone,” Rachel says. “But I’ve realized that my calling is to work one-on-one with other amputees, and I’ll do whatever it takes to make that happen.”

In December 2008, Rachel will graduate from MC with a degree in kinesiology. She plans to apply to physical therapy school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she spent so many hours as a patient.

“I was on a different path before. Going to Samford, studying design – those were things that Rachel had chosen,” she says. “God turned me around and put me on this path. Would I have wanted to do it this way? No. But if I had to go through it all again to get to this place, would I? Yes.”

Rachel pauses then adds with a smile, “Although I might ask God if this time we could please skip the gory parts and just move on to the nice, clean parts.”

Jonah Gunalda, the boy who saved Rachel’s life by holding her up in the water and praying with her in the boat that day, is now a junior majoring in pre-med at Mississippi College.

“Rachel’s faith is unwavering,” Jonah says. “What’s most impressive about her is her ability to see the big picture. Her faith and hope in the future has never changed, and she’s full of joy that’s contagious. I would love to be in Heaven looking down on all of this. The story of what happened to us that day and everything that’s happened since then is God’s story.”

The same girl who once dreamed of a bright future on a sunny day in a ski boat now dreams of a future that’s different, but even brighter than before.

“I know I’m not the author of my life. It’s not up to me to decide whether or not a tragedy is going to happen,” Rachel says. “But I believe if you open up and allow God to do what He intended to do by allowing something like this to happen, the results can be tremendous.”

“The Lord orchestrated everything that day, from Jonah having the strength to hold me up in the water to the fisherman coming to save us, and He’s orchestrated everything since,” Rachel continues. “Did God do all that and allow this to happen so I could just sit around doing nothing? I don’t think so.”

Rachel’s blue eyes light up and she breaks into a wide smile.

“I can’t wait for the day when I’m in practice and a young girl comes into the therapy center with an amputation. She’s me, coming in as another girl. And I roll up my pant leg and tell her my own story, and I say, ‘I know you can do this, because I’ve been where you are. And if I can do it, you can do it.’ That’s the day I’m looking forward to. That’s the day it will all come to fruition.”

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.” — II CORINTHIANS 1:3-4



**"WE SHOULD GO, UNLESS FOR SOME REASON GOD CALLS US TO STAY."**

Into the mission field with **Megan Fraiser**



"If you had told me four years ago that I would be going to the Philippines as a missionary, I wouldn't have believed you," Megan Fraiser says. "For so long, I had been wanting to know God's will for my life, but once I turned it completely over to Him and said 'yes' to whatever He wanted me to do, I knew that I wanted to spend my life telling others about His love."

Immediately following her graduation from Mississippi College in May, Megan left the United States bound for Iriga, Philippines, where she will spend the next six months to one year serving with the International Mission Board (IMB). Megan will work with other missionaries to plant churches, record audio versions of Bible study lessons, coordinate volun-

teer projects for short-term mission groups from the United States, and assist with community development projects.

Megan's interest in mission work was born the summer after her freshman year at MC, when she participated in a mission trip to Mexico, an experience she described as "opening my eyes to the world around me." Her eyes – and heart – were opened even wider when Megan met Jess Jennings, an International Mission Board missionary serving in the Philippines, at a mission conference two years later.

"Jess said, 'We have all been called to go and we should go, unless for some reason God calls us to stay,'" Megan recalls. "I knew then that God was calling me to go and share His love."

**"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." — Matthew 28:19**



RECENT GRADUATES OF MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE NOW INVOLVED IN LONG-TERM MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE INCLUDE: Mitch McCaskell – Africa, Haley Boone – South Asia, Shelly Pinkerton – South Asia, J. J. Yount – Ivory Coast

In the summer of 2007, Megan served with Nehemiah Teams, an organization that coordinates short-term mission trips for students, on Camotes Island in the Philippines.

"I had the opportunity to see God move in incredible ways and truly came to understand God's heart for the nations," Megan says. "I fell in love with the people and the place, and I saw first hand how much need there is for people to come, not just for a month or two, but for a longer amount of time – long enough for relationships to be formed and nurtured and new believers to be discipled."

Megan applied through the IMB and was officially appointed to a long-term position in the Philippines. She spent the spring of 2008 raising support, assembling a team to pray for her, and preparing through prayer and Bible study for the challenges of her new role. Beyond the basic differences in lifestyle – lack of air conditioning, constant Internet access, and a coffee pot – Megan is preparing for the emotional and spiritual challenges of long-term mission work.

"In some parts of the Philippines, isolation and loneliness are a personal challenge for missionaries because there's no corporate worship with other believers available," Megan explains. "The main challenge as far as the ministry work itself is the animistic religion that's so prevalent in that area. This is an ancient religion based on the people's traditional and

cultural beliefs. It includes belief in evil spirits and the idea that the spirits of the people's ancestors are actively at work in their lives today. Sometimes it includes idol worship or wearing bracelets and necklaces as protective charms.

"With that background, it can be hard to help the people truly understand the Gospel message," Megan explains. "Missionaries must communicate the Gospel clearly, challenging people to trust in Christ alone and nothing else. New believers may also face opposition from their families, so missionaries must challenge them to put their faith in Christ despite the possible consequences."

Megan expects her background as a Christian studies major and psychology minor to serve her well in the mission field.

"During my time at MC I've learned so much, both in and out of class. Through my classes, I've gained a better understanding of the Gospel message, and through my relationships I've learned how to better relate to people. My faith has been both nurtured and challenged.

"I've come to understand that missions are so much more than a one or two-week trip, it's a lifestyle," Megan continues. "We are all called to share God's love and truth with everyone. As Christians, our heart should be in line with God's, and God's heart is for all people to live in relationship with Him and for His truth to be preached in all nations."

**In the 2006 International Mission Board's listing of the top 25 schools from which missionaries graduated and are currently under appointment, MC ranked fourth nationwide.**



PHOTOS: Megan Fraiser, shown on the MC campus last spring and with friends on a previous mission trip to the Philippines.

# Promised Land Realized

SNOOKIE WEATHERLY'S  
*gift*

TO MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

A GRAVEL ROAD WINDS THROUGH THICK FORESTS, PAST AN ANCIENT INDIAN MOUND, and seemingly into another era altogether, finally coming to an end at a log cabin tucked deep into the Mississippi wilderness. Visitors to this secluded hideaway are announced by sharp barks from Sheba, an alert border collie, and the gentle baaing of sheep grazing in a pasture at the edge of the woods. Behind the cabin, the land gives way to rolling hills and meandering creeks, a tranquil setting far removed from the hustle and bustle of modern life. Built in 1883, this rustic retreat is the home of MC alumnae Joan “Snookie” Weatherly ’57, and was the source of her generous donation to Mississippi College.

**T**

The cabin is packed to its wooden rafters with books. Hardbound copies of classics from *Pride and Prejudice* to *The Hobbit* share space with dog-eared Bible study guides, paperback bestsellers, and a small library of books on football strategy collected by Snookie's late husband.

Tucked amid the hundreds of novels, nonfiction titles, and reference works is a well-worn copy of *The Tribesman*, the Mississippi College yearbook from 1957. Snookie pulls the annual from a shelf and points to the opening page, which features an image of an attractive co-ed walking with a friend in a grassy field where Whittington Hall now stands.

"There I am," Snookie says with a smile.

The yearbook is filled with images of Snookie McMillan as Campus Favorite, Friendliest Girl, and Nenamoosha President. When Snookie shares her favorite memories of Mississippi College, it's clear this former campus leader had something of a mischievous streak.

"As a joke, someone signed my name on an audition list that Mercer McCool, an upperclassman minister, had posted to get volunteers for his popular weekly TV program. They listed my talent as 'comb playing,'" Snookie recalls. "When I learned that I could get out of the dorm on a weeknight, I decided to go ahead with the audition. My rendition of 'In the Garden' was awful. Mercer very kindly told me that the sound wouldn't carry sufficiently in a studio setting."

Snookie paints a vivid picture of the Mississippi College of the late 1950s, an era when the girls' dorms were under strict supervision and women had to wear raincoats to avoid showing a glimpse of their legs as they walked across campus. Her favorite memories include rushing out of a chemistry lab—leaving her Bunsen burner aflame—to infiltrate the Millsaps campus and recover the Choctaw tom-tom stolen by the MC arch-rivals on homecoming eve; gathering around the only television set in the dorm to watch Elvis Presley swivel his hips on "The Ed Sullivan Show;" being falsely suspected of rolling a tree in the Jennings courtyard; and working in the MC public relations office on the 1950s version of *The Beacon* magazine. Some 50 years after the incident, Snookie still remembers her most scandalous infraction as an MC student — lighting a cigar in the dorm.

"When the dorm mother, Mrs. Cooper, caught me, I explained that I was only doing it to scare away mosquitoes," Snookie says. "She just shook her head and said, 'Snookie, I am so disappointed.' Oh, the demerits I got for that one!"

But Snookie's fondest recollection is meeting her fellow MC student and future husband, Jim Weatherly, beneath the tree in front of Alumni Hall.

"We were married in the Clinton home of the retired pastor of my family's ancestral church on the Saturday before exam week in 1957," Snookie recalls. "The only drawback was that I made a 'C' on my Shakespeare exam later in the week."

Following their wedding day, the newlyweds hit the books together. Snookie and Jim earned their bachelor's degrees the same year they were married, then went on to earn master's degrees from MC, hers in English and his in education. The couple then earned doctorates from the University of Alabama and began long careers as educators.

In 1965, the Weatherlys purchased the little cabin in the woods, using it as a weekend retreat from their demanding jobs as professors at Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis), where Snookie was a member of the English Department and Jim taught health classes just across the urban campus. In 1972, Jim Weatherly joined the health and physical education department at Mississippi State University and moved to the cabin fulltime, commuting to Starkville until both Weatherlys retired to the rural retreat in the 1990s.



Jim Weatherly died in 2001, but reminders of the couple's life together fill the log cabin. An MC afghan draped across the sofa and Jim's carefully preserved, 1950s M Club sweater speak to the couple's enduring affection for their alma mater.

"Jim loved Mississippi College, especially his memories of playing football for the Choctaws," Snookie says. "He liked the idea of having an athletic program that was not a big business, of a school where they still played for the fun of the game. It was Jim's idea for us to leave a gift to Mississippi College."



"Jim loved Mississippi College, especially his memories of playing football for the Choctaws. He liked the idea of having an athletic program that was not a big business, of a school where they still played for the fun of the game."

Following Jim's death, Snookie came up with a novel way to fund that gift. Rather than a donation of cash, the retired professor gave Mississippi College 740 acres of the prime timberland surrounding the cabin. The college will use proceeds from the cultivation of the land to establish the Weatherly Scholarship Fund, which will provide financial aid to future MC students.

Snookie has also established a second endowment in Jim's memory at Mississippi College. The Dr. James H. "Jim" Weatherly Memorial Endowment for Athletic Training pro-

vides funds for athletic training, supplies, and equipment, including support for the Choctaw football program of which Jim Weatherly was so proud to have been a part.

By sacrificing a part of the land they loved, Snookie and Jim Weatherly will help make a Mississippi College education possible for future generations of students. Perhaps someday, two of those students will join hands beneath a tree in front of Alumni Hall and take their own first steps toward a life filled with learning, laughter, and love—a life that has its roots in Mississippi College.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Snookie pictured outside her cabin in rural Mississippi. ABOVE: Snookie McMillan and her future husband, Jim Weatherly. BELOW: Snookie and a friend featured in the 1957 *Tribesman*. / Snookie sitting in her library with Jim's sweater in the background. / The "M" Club. Jim Weatherly is pictured on the 3rd row, 1st from left.



# Class Notes

**40s** Dr. Albert Gore (BA '47) was honored as 2006 Alumnus of the Year by Hinds Community College.

**50s** Rev. James T. Dunnam (BA '52) celebrated his 60th year in the ministry on January 11, 2008. He was ordained at the age of 18 by Calvary Baptist Church in Pascagoula and for the past 60 years has served as pastor in Florida and Mississippi churches. In 2001, he retired and moved back to his native Greene County, Miss. where he has been serving as interim pastor and supply preacher. Rev. Dunnam and his wife, Betty Sue, have three children and three grandchildren.

Dr. Joseph H. Hamilton (BS '54) was awarded two honorary Doctor of Science degrees, one in February 2006 from Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India, and the other in December 2007 from Berea College in Kentucky. Considered one of the world's foremost experimental nuclear physicists, the distinguished professor of physics at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee now holds eight honorary degrees.



Dottie Leavell Hudson

Dottie Leavell Hudson (BA '54) has written and published *He Still Stands Tall*, a book on the life story of her father, Dr. Roland Q. Leavell. Dr. Leavell served as president of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary from 1946-58. Dr. Leavell is noted as an outstanding leader in the Southern Baptist Convention and a pioneer in personal evangelism.

Rev. Jodie E. Jackson, Sr. (BA '54) has been installed as senior minister of First Christian Church in Salisbury, Mo.

Dr. William "Jim" Borsig (JSLW '55) was named assistant commissioner for governmental relations for the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.

Frances Gipson (BS '57) was inducted into the Pearl River Community College Sports Hall of Fame.

Johnny L. Sanders (BA '59) has written a series of verse-by-verse studies on various books of the Bible. In the Bible notebook, *Living By Faith, Studies in Romans*, Sanders dedicates the study to Dr. Sam Gore, ambassador for Christ and Mississippi College art department head for 42 years. These studies can be found on the PastorLife.com web site, an official site of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Rev. William P. "Bill" Smith (BA '59) was selected as the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus in the Department of Christian Studies at Mississippi College.

**60s** George Pollock (BS '60) and nine other members of Mississippi College's Moon Watch Team searched for America's first satellite, *Explorer I*, 50 years ago. January 31, 2008 marked the 50th anniversary of America in space. Pollock said he was "fortunate to be part of the MC Moon Watch Team during those exciting times."

Gerald Hood Love (BA '61) was appointed by Alabama Governor Bob Riley to two juvenile justice boards. He is chairman of the Alabama Advisory Council and was appointed to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention board.

Lomer Edsel Cliburn (BS '62) is a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service in Walterboro, S.C. Cliburn works as a wildlife specialist, providing aid for farmers in the low country area of South Carolina.

George Dale (BSEd '62, MEd '66), former Mississippi Insurance Commissioner and former MC trustee, has joined the law firm of Adams and Reese LLP. Dale serves as a senior governmental affairs advisor and member of the firm's governmental relations team. The law firm has offices in Jackson, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Birmingham, Houston, Nashville, and Washington, D.C.

Hon. Tom S. Lee, (BA '63) a U.S. District Judge, was inducted into the 2007 Mississippi College Sports Hall of Fame. Lee played basketball from 1959 to 1963.

Diane Dunagin Speed (BS '64) has been named executive director of the Mississippi Counseling Association. After receiving her masters and specialist degree from USM with emphasis in counseling, she served as a counselor at Collins Jr. High, Collins High School, and Bay Springs Middle School. Speed has worked at Jones County Junior College since 1989 as a counselor, director of admissions, and counseling center director.



Diane Dunagin Speed

Troy Greer (MEd '65) was inducted into the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Sports Hall of Fame.

Gary Anglin (BMed '67), minister of music at First Baptist Church of Pascagoula, was selected by Sounds of the Sea organizers to lead the Singing River Chorale, a 40-member auditioned group sponsored by the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra, in a performance of "Gloria" in November 2007.

Mack Fanning (BS '68) was inducted into the Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame.

James D. Shannon (BA '69, MA '74) of Hazelhurst has been appointed to the Mississippi Ethics Commission. He serves as Hazlehurst Municipal Court Judge and attorney for the Copiah County Board of Supervisors.



## THE ART OF RECOVERY

Dr. Randy Miley (M.Ed. '82), chairman of the Mississippi College Art Department, and his wife, Vicky (M.Ed. '82), an art teacher at Pearl High School, understand the healing power of art. The Mileys played major roles in Operation Art Lift, an award-winning program that's bringing art back to Mississippi Gulf Coast schools devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Vicky Miley was president of the Mississippi Art Education Association (MAEA) in 2005 when Katrina struck. Moved by a desire to help and a belief in the uplifting power of art, Vicky Miley and the members of the MAEA launched Operation Art Lift, a drive to provide art supplies, funding, and renewed hope to the art teachers and students of the Coast.

"Art is therapeutic," Vicky Miley says. "It can be a release of personal expression like no other. We knew these teachers and students needed to express themselves, and you can say things through art that you cannot say in any other way."

MAEA identified those Gulf Coast schools with art programs impacted by Katrina, then worked to get the message out statewide. Soon boxes filled with sketchpads, brushes, art history books and textbooks, art prints, lesson plans, and even puppets made their way from art instructors throughout Mississippi to teachers and schools in need on the Coast.

Dr. Randy Miley designed the Operation Art Lift logo and volunteered the Mississippi College Art Department to serve as the receiving address for many of the supplies, which were then driven to the Gulf Coast schools.

"We knew we couldn't replace what was lost, but we wanted our fellow art educators and their students to know that we care and that we were going to help," Dr. Randy Miley says. "These were acts of love in keeping with the vision of Mississippi College. Any program that sincerely and spiritually reaches out to people in need promotes the cause of Christ."

When Vicky Miley presented the program to the National Art Education Association (NAEA) in 2006, Operation Art Lift went national. NAEA members and more than 300 vendors and art suppliers reached out to help, adopting individual art teachers and entire art programs on the Coast.

"Opening that box of crayons and construction paper was like Christmas," says Amy Rodriguez, a fourth and fifth grade art teacher at St. Martin's Upper Elementary School in Biloxi. "Creating art was a step toward recovery for my students. Immediate needs like food and water pass, but the emotional needs go on and on. My students needed an opportunity to express their feelings, and those supplies let them do that."

This spring, the NAEA honored the Mississippi Art Education Association and Operation Art Lift with its prestigious Presidential Citation. The award recognizes outstanding work by a state organization.

"It means a great deal to us to see the art educators of Mississippi recognized with this award," Vicky Miley says. "It encourages our teachers to keep reaching out to other teachers, and proves what we've always known – that art is the perfect way to share and touch a soul."

**70s** Dr. S. Randall Easterling (BS '73) has been named chairman of the Mississippi State Medical Association Board of Trustees.

Dr. Gary H. Nowell (BS '73) is employed as chief of staff at St. Dominic's Hospital in Jackson, Miss.

Dr. Mary Jean Padgett (BSN '73) was named 2007 Dean of the Year by the Mississippi Association of Nurses. She was chosen on the basis of her support for the Student Nurses Association, her actions as a role model, and participation in community activities. Dean Padgett currently serves as dean for MC's School of Nursing.

John Patrick (BSEd '73, MEd '80) was promoted to vice-president of school services at JBHM Education Group. Patrick formerly served as superintendent of education in the Columbus Municipal School District and Rankin County School District.

Randy Wallace (BS '73) has been promoted to general manager of Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association. He previously served as manager of accounting and financial services.

Dr. Martha Catlette (BSN '74) has been named director of nursing education by the Board of Trustees for the State Institutions of Higher Learning. With more than 30 years experience in nursing, she will oversee nursing programs at the state's community colleges and universities.

Dr. Ernest "Ernie" B. Myers, Jr. (BA '74) is director of planned giving and denominational relations for GuideStone Financial Services, Southern Baptist Convention. For the past nine years, he worked as a senior executive capital stewardship consultant with Resource Services, Inc. He and his wife, Joyce, were field missionaries with the International Mission Board for 11 years.

Terry McMillan (MEd '74) has been promoted to city president and bank sales manager of Regions Bank in Brookhaven.

Ronald P. Davis (MBA '75) has been named director of human resources for the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Mary Edith (Hobgood, BSEd '77) Butler has been named dean of communications and library services at Waubonsee Community College in Sugar Grove, Illinois. She has worked in higher education for more than 10 years, having recently served as interim vice president for academic affairs at Eastern Oklahoma State College. Butler received her master's degree in library science from the University of Mississippi.

Dr. B.J. Bennett (BA '78) is pastor of First Baptist Church of Ridgeland. He has served as pastor in Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky, and Georgia. Since 2001, he served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Indianola.

Nancy Renfroe (BS '78, MS '98) has been promoted to vice president of the Southern Division of Applied Research Associates. The Vicksburg resident previously served as the company's manager. She is a member of American Society of Industrial Security.

Dr. Larry McDonald (BA '79) has been promoted to associate professor of Christian Studies at Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga. and received Truett-McConnell's 2006-07 Faculty Excellence Award.



Judge Sharion Aycock

**80s** Judge Sharion Aycock (JD '80) was confirmed to fill an opening on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi. Aycock is Mississippi's first woman confirmed to the federal district court bench. Judge Aycock finished second in her graduating class at the Mississippi College School of Law and was co-editor

of the *Law Review*. Before becoming a federal judge, Aycock had served as a circuit court judge for the First District of Mississippi since 2003.

Bill D. Sones (BSBA '81) has been elected vice chairman of the Mississippi Bankers Association.

J. Carter Thompson, Jr. (BA '81) has joined the law firm Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell and Berkowitz as a shareholder.

Thomas French (MM '81) was promoted to full-time choral leader at Alexander Junior High School in Brookhaven.

Alan Dedeaux (BSEd '83) was elected Hancock County's new superintendent of education in 2007. He spent the past 24 years in the education field as a teacher, coach, and administrator in Hancock, Harrison, and Pearl River counties.

Chuck Barlow (BA '84, JD '89) was appointed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administration to the National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. Barlow is assistant general counsel for Entergy Corporation. Prior to joining Entergy, Barlow served as general counsel for the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and worked for Phelps Dunbar, LLP. Barlow, who previously served on the governing council of the American Bar Association's Section on Environment, Energy and Resources, is a published author and has taught courses at Lewis & Clark Law School and the Mississippi College School of Law.

Robbie Brown (MBA'85) has joined the Mississippi Municipal League as a research assistant.

Jim Estrada (BA '85) has joined Bancorp South as vice president of the Gulf Coast division in Gulfport.

Gerald A. "Jeb" Jeutter Jr. (JD '85) opened his own law firm in Raleigh, N.C. He handles corporate and real estate cases as well as bankruptcy filings. For the past 16 years, Jeutter was an attorney with Kilpatrick Stockton.

Susan Lindsey (MEd '85) was recognized for her work in education by the *Mississippi Business Journal*. Lindsay is the head of school for Jackson Preparatory School.

Gregory Kelly (BSEd '87) has been named principal of Chastain Middle School in Jackson.

David E. Rozier, Jr. (JD '87) joined the firm Robinson, Biggs, Ingram, Solop and Farris as the partner in charge of the Oxford office.

Beverly Moon (BA '89, MA '91) has been named associate dean for assessment and planning of Delta State University's Department of Education.

Gary L. Taylor, (EdS '89) former director of Tishomingo County Vocational Technical Center, has retired after 40 years in public education.

**90s** Mazie B. Williams Whalen (BSN '90) was appointed by Governor Haley Barbour to the Mississippi Board of Nursing, which oversees the practicing and licensing of nursing in the state.

Dr. Melinda Gann (MCS '90) has been selected College Teacher of the Year by the Mississippi Council of Teachers of Mathematics. She is an associate professor of mathematics at MC.

John R. Dickerson (BSBA '91) has been named dean of the Simpson County Center in Mendenhall.

Tammy Phillips (BSBA '91) was recognized for her contributions to the field of banking in the *Mississippi Business Journal*. Phillips serves as the deputy president for Community Bank of Mississippi.

Stacey Adcock (BSEd '92) has been named principal at Northside Elementary School in Clinton.

Elizabeth Byrd (BS '92) has been promoted to assistant vice president and legal officer for Trustmark National Bank in Jackson.

Robby Channell (BS '92) has been named an at-large board member for the Mississippi Hospital Association's Society for Health Care Marketing and Public Relations.

## FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Mississippi College National Alumni Association, I invite you to re-connect with the MC vision to be known as a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ.

The Alumni Association works to fulfill this vision by developing geographical, college and career based, and special interest alumni chapters. Organizing alumni around experiences that affected their lives when they were students is a natural way to provide meaningful connections between alumni and with MC.

### OUR MC ALUMNI CHAPTERS:

- offer opportunities for Mississippi College to communicate regularly with graduates and for graduates to communicate with Mississippi College,
- provide an organization through which alumni who pursued a common academic program, participated in a common interest group, or now live in the same geographical area can come together on a regular basis for intellectual, service, and social enrichment, and
- encourage support for Mississippi College through activities including development, student recruitment, career networking, and professional expertise and advocacy.

Representatives of the Office of Alumni Affairs, along with President Lee Royce, travel to alumni gatherings in different areas of the state and the nation. Please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 601.925.3257 or email [alumni@mc.edu](mailto:alumni@mc.edu) if you have an interest or would like further information.

Ross Aven III, B.S.B.A. '04, M.B.A. '06  
Director of Alumni Affairs  
[aven@mc.edu](mailto:aven@mc.edu)

Dr. Web Drake (BS '92), MC assistant professor of communication, published a collection of monologues entitled "Joseph's Story," in the fall issue of *Let's Worship* magazine.

Todd Fuller (BSBA '92), director of Atmos Energy in Cleveland, was elected as a trustee of the Cleveland School Board of Trustees.

David Maron (BS '92) has been named Attorney of the Year for Baker Donelson Pro Bono.

David Higgs (MA '92) was awarded the Barry M. Goldwater Award at the 2007 Arizona-New Mexico Joint History Convention. The award is given to those who present the best paper written on any aspect of Arizona or New Mexico history. Higgs also received Phi Theta Kappa's 2007-08 Faculty Scholar Award at Copiah Lincoln Community College.

Amanda Kitchens Boyanton (BSN '93) has joined the clinical staff of Family Medical Clinic of Crystal Springs, Miss. Boyanton previously worked at River Oaks Hospital.

Cheri Turnage Gatlin (BS '93, JD '96) joined Burr and Forman as a partner in the firm's construction and litigation practice groups.

Shannon Garrett (BSBA '94), defensive back for the Edmonton Eskimos, is retiring from his athletic career. He will return to his off-season job as bank manager in Pass Christian.

Madelene Loftin (BS '94, MEd '06), science coach at Wingfield High School in Jackson, Miss., has received the Milken Educator Award, a prestigious national education honor received by only 75 outstanding K-12 teachers from across America. Loftin was presented a \$25,000 check during a gala held in Los Angeles, Calif., hailed as the "Oscars of Teaching" by *Teacher Magazine*.

Helen Hoggart Price (MCP '94) has been named head counselor at Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Robin Crotwell (BS '95) is a math teacher at Bruce High School. Crotwell teaches advanced math, geometry, AP calculus, and physics.

John Mullins (BSBA '95) has been named vice-president of Entergy Mississippi.

Alice Nicholas (BSBA '95) has authored a book entitled *Talk Football – Written By a Woman for Women Who Want to Speak America's Gridiron Language*.

Joey Smith (BS '95, MSC '96) is the partner relations manager at Mission to the World, the mission-sending and church-planting agency for the Presbyterian Church in America.

Sherry Spille (BSBA '95) has been named staff accountant for the Mississippi Hospital Association.

Ben Wynne (MA '95) has written *Mississippi*, the latest in Interlink Publishing Group's On-the-Road Histories series. The guidebook introduces visitors to Mississippi's unique present-day identity as it sketches the state's history and development through historical and cultural facts. Wynne is a native of Florence, Miss. and author of a number of works regarding his home state and the South.

Matt P. Brown (BSBA '96), CFP, has been promoted to vice president of financial planning for Mascagni & Company Inc. in Clinton. He has been with the firm since 1996.



Carla Lewis

Carla Lewis (BS '96) was recently promoted to director of applications development with Cellular South. As director of applications, she is responsible for all aspects of applications development including strategic planning, design, implementation, and ongoing support of applications systems projects. She previously held positions at Cellular South as a systems analyst and manager of applications development. Lewis joined the company in 2000.

Dr. Greg Paczak (BS '96, MEd '01) completed a doctorate in education leadership from the University of Mississippi in December 2005. He serves as a school counselor at Rosa Scott School in Madison, Miss. Paczak has been selected as a member of the Leadership Madison County Class of 2008.



Jarrod Ravencraft

Jarrod Ravencraft (MSC '96) has been elected president of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi (PRAM). Ravencraft is the strategic planning director of Mississippi State Hospital in Whitfield. He is a member of the adjunct faculty for MC's Department of Communications. Recently, he was elected president-elect for the Mississippi Hospital Association Society for Health Care Marketing and Public Relations. Ravencraft was named one of the *Mississippi Business Journal's* Top 40 under 40 in 2004.

Andrea La'Verne Edney (JD '96) was recognized for her work at Brunini Grantham Grower and Hewes in the *Mississippi Business Journal*.

Kara Dulaney (BS '97) is a sales associate with Bob Leigh & Associates Realtors of Senatobia.

Andrew L. Alford (MBA '97) was selected by Pike County supervisors as the county administrator. Alford has previously served as supervising auditing accountant for the Office of the State Auditor's County Section.

Byron Flood (MBA '97) has been named budget director of the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Kelly R. Breland (BSBA '98, MBA '01) has been named director of support services with the Mississippi State Hospital. He had served as director of support services at the State Department of Mental Health's juvenile rehabilitation facility in Brookhaven.



Rhonda Lowe

Rhonda Lowe (BSBA '98) has joined the client services team at Pinnacle Trust, a financial planning company in Ridgeland, Miss. Prior to joining Pinnacle Trust in 2008, Lowe worked as a chief operations officer in the insurance industry.

Olivia Taylor Rowe (BS '98) has joined Leatherwood Walker Todd and Mann, P.C. as an associate attorney practicing in real estate.

Meta Copeland (JD '98) has been named director of professional development for Mississippi College School of Law.



Tommy Joyner

Tommy Joyner (MBA '98) has been named chief financial officer at Rankin Medical Center. Rankin Medical is operated by Health Management Associates, Inc. (HMA). Joyner joined HMA in 2005 as controller at Central Mississippi Medical Center.

Martin Willoughby (JD '98) co-founded a consulting company, CIM Consulting Group. The group is designed to better communication and public speaking skills.

Andy Gipson (BA '99, JD '02) has been elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives representing Simpson, Smith, and Rankin counties. He and his wife, Leslie (BA '00), have two sons, Joseph (3) and Benjamin (2).

B. Heath Gordon (BS '99, MSCP '01) received his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from West Virginia University. He is employed as a psychology postdoctoral fellow specializing in geropsychology at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health Care System in Gainesville, Florida.

Cindy Hampton (BSBA '99) was the recipient of the Mississippi College Outstanding Staff Award for 2007.

Kimberly Joiner (BS '99) has received her CPA certificate of licensure from the State Board of Public Accountancy.

**00s** Dr. Stephanie L. Coker (BA '00) earned her doctorate degree in French from Louisiana State University in December 2007. Her dissertation examined Joan of Arc's legend in French literature and how this legendary figure shaped national identity in France. Coker has accepted a teaching position with the Department of Modern Languages at Ole Miss.

Glenn Hengst (BSBA '00, MBA '02) is a certified public accountant with ProAssurance Corporation in Alabama.



Richard Freshwater

Shane (BSBA '00) and Marcie (BSEd '02) Tapper have opened the Mississippi Cheerleading Academy in Flowood, Miss.

Dr. Jesse Daron Clark (BS '01) received his DMD during the University Medical Center's 51st commencement held May 25, 2007.

Richard A. Freshwater (BA '01) has joined the McGlinchey Stafford PLLC law firm in Cleveland, Ohio. His practice will focus on civil litigation with an emphasis on consumer finance, commercial, and business litigation. Freshwater received his J.D.

from the University of Dayton School of Law in 2006, where he was a member of Law Review and Intellectual Property Moot Court. Prior to joining McGlinchey Stafford, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Thomas Phalen in the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Administrative Law Judges.

W. Brett Harvey (BS '01) has joined Phelps Dunbar's regional labor and employment practice group as an associate in the Jackson office.

Constance Baldwin (EdS '01) was promoted to director of curriculum, professional development, and test generation for K-12 public schools in Rolling Fork, Miss. Baldwin had served as assistant principal since 2006.

Marcus D. Evans (JD '01) has opened his own law office in Waynesboro, Miss. He was previously with Burr and Forman, LLP in Monroe, La.

Renee Harrison (JD '01) was awarded the Volunteer Attorney of the Year by Mission First Legal Aid, a joint effort of First Baptist Church of Jackson and Mississippi College School of Law.



John E. Pearce Jr.

John E. Pearce, Jr. (BSBA '02) CPA, has joined The Koerber Company, PA. Pearce previously worked with the PEER committee of the Mississippi Legislature.

Matthew G. Sullivan (BS '02) is assistant district attorney for the Thirteenth Circuit Court District. The district includes Smith, Jasper, Covington, and Simpson Counties.

Rita Jones, (JD '02) director of Choctaw Legal Defense, was admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court of the United States. She is the first tribal member to be admitted to the bar of the highest court in the nation.

Courtney Taylor (MBA '02) was promoted to executive director of ethics and compliance at MINACT, Inc. She previously served as executive director of fiscal services.

Amberly Wilson Collins (BS '03) has joined the Metropolitan YMCAs of Mississippi as the director of development. Prior to joining the YMCA, she worked with Habitat for Humanity, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the American Lung Association, and Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck's campaign for re-election in 2004.

Paige Welborn Lewis (BS '03) graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a master's degree in marriage and family therapy in 2005 and works as a counselor at the Baptist Children's Village.

## MR. SMITH GOES TO MC

Alumni Association Welcomes New President

Come back to campus.

That's the message the Rev. William P. Smith of Tupelo, the new president of the MC Alumni Association, is delivering to alumni from every decade.

"Some alumni haven't been back to see the recent changes on campus," Rev. Smith said during a recent visit to Nelson Hall, home of the Alumni Office. "Showing alumni what's new and getting them involved in MC activities are key to building more alumni association chapters and increasing alumni participation in student recruiting and fund-raising efforts."

Rev. Smith will lead an association with about 30,000 alumni members. The Portsmouth, Virginia native is a 1959 MC graduate who earned a bachelor's degree in speech and minored in Bible. Smith went on to earn master's degrees at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Mississippi. He has pastored churches in Mississippi and served for 20 years as director of missions with the Lee County Baptist Association before retiring. He and his wife, Mary Ellis '59, are the parents of two children, both MC alumni.

A frequent visitor to MC for football games and other events on campus, Smith stands ready to energize MC alumni and help spread the word that Mississippi College offers a first-rate education with a Christian emphasis.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS OF THE ALUMNI LEADERSHIP TEAM INCLUDE:

Rev. William P. Smith of Tupelo, Class of 1959

PRESIDENT-ELECT  
Nancy Nielsen Davis of Clinton, Class of 1961

1ST VICE PRESIDENT  
William M. Dye, Jr. of Oxford, Class of 1954

2ND VICE PRESIDENT  
Dr. Eddie N. Donahoe, Jr. of Indianola, Class of 1985

PAST PRESIDENT  
John C. McCormick of Brandon, Class of 1965

PAST PRESIDENT  
Jimmy L. Morrison of Madison, Class of 1964

## THE (ALUMNI) DOCTORS WILL SEE YOU NOW

Alumni Association Launches Medical and Dental Alumni Society

Mississippi College has a long tradition of excellence in pre-medical and pre-dental education that keeps MC ranked among the top programs in the Southeast.

Recruiting the top students in these fields gets tougher every year. MC is asking for the help of its alumni to create a program with a unique approach to pre-medical and pre-dental education.

THE NEW MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE MEDICAL AND DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WILL:

- provide a unique approach to pre-medical and pre-dental education, including incorporating clinical skills at the undergraduate level;

- develop lecture series given by alumni and designed to spark interest in specialties at the undergraduate level;
- encourage alumni to provide one to three-day clinical preceptorships for third and fourth year students; and
- develop directed funds, awards, and scholarships specific to pre-medical and pre-dental curriculum.

"These are just a few of many ideas that have been mentioned," says Ed Donahoe, MD '85, second vice president of the MC Alumni Association. "Like all of you, I have been blessed with the opportunity to study and grow at Mississippi College. I hope you'll be willing to help."

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PART OF THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL ALUMNI SOCIETY, PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BELOW TO THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS, BOX 4027, CLINTON, MS 39058.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year graduated/Last year attended \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to serve on the Advisory Board of the Mississippi College Medical and Dental Alumni Association. (Requires one or two meetings a year on campus.)
- I would like to meet with students about my area of specialty.
- I would like to take part in clinical lectures on campus.
- I would like to serve as a preceptor one to three days a year to introduce undergraduate students to my specialty.
- My check is enclosed. I would like to give financially to specific scholarships, awards, or departmental fund raisers supported by the Mississippi College Medical and Dental Alumni Association.



## THE OFFICIAL RING OF MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

The time-honored traditions of Mississippi College now exist in more than just our memories. We are pleased to present an official class ring that identifies the wearer as a proud graduate of MC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING HOW TO ORDER YOUR OWN TIMELESS MC KEEPSAKE, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.MC.EDU/ALUMNI/CLASSRING](http://WWW.MC.EDU/ALUMNI/CLASSRING).

## HOMECOMING

**October 24-25, 2008** Alumni Association members are gearing up for Homecoming 2008, which will also mark the 100th anniversary of Jennings Hall. The building will serve as the central location for class reunions on October 25. Those classes celebrating a five-year reunion will meet on the MC campus for a variety of events. A golf tournament, awards brunch, tailgating on the Quad, football game, parade, and departmental receptions will round out this fun-filled, nostalgic weekend. If you'd like to help plan a reunion, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 601.925.3257.

Cristie Rives (BS '03) has started her first dental practice in Mendenhall, Miss.

Lisa Shoemaker (BS '03) has been named director of communication for the State Auditor's Office. The Taylorsville native recently served as the communications specialist at East Mississippi Electric Power Associates. Prior to joining EMEPA, Shoemaker was director of marketing and public relations for the Meridian/Lauderdale County Tourism Bureau.

Dr. Casey Patrick Sitton (BS '03) earned her MD from the University Medical Center (UMC). She is beginning her residency training in pediatrics at UMC.

Jared W. Eastlack (BA '04) has joined Phelps Dunbar LLP's regional commercial litigation practice group in Tupelo as an associate. After graduating summa cum laude with a degree in economics from MC, Eastlack continued his education at the University of Mississippi School of Law where he received his JD in 2007.

Kevin Gilbert (EdS '04) has been named the president of the Mississippi Association of Educators.

Glenda Silverii (MA '05) was named Outstanding Humanities Instructor for 2007 at Copiah Lincoln Community College.

Crystal Utley (JD '05) was awarded the Spirit of Service Award from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Utley is an Equal Justice Works/AmeriCorps attorney based at the Mississippi Center for Justice.



Eric B. Graham

Eric B. Graham (JD '06) has joined Cellular South as director of government relations. Graham is responsible for Cellular South's overall strategic government relations to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in reaching regulatory and legislative policy and goals. Prior to joining Cellular South, Graham was an attorney with Brunini, Grantham, Grower and Hewes.

Elizabeth Todd (JD '06) has joined the office of the District Attorney for the 15th Judicial District to oversee cases involving child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

Shandra Yates Johnson (JD '07) has joined the firm of Wells Marble & Hurst, PLLC as an associate. She devotes her practice to insurance defense and commercial litigation, including premises liability, products liability, and bad faith cases. A cum laude graduate of the Mississippi College School of Law, Johnson served as case note/comment editor for the *MC Law Review*.

### Marriages

Billie Thatch Curbow (BS '58) and Mike Ponder (BS '60), December 1, 2007

Brian Thomas Gates (BA '97) and Ammi Elizabeth Nunnelee (BSBA '03, BS '06), September 15, 2007

Sarah (Estes, BSEd '04) and John Rollins, June 17, 2006

Christy Lynn King (BSBA '05) and Chris Martin, April 29, 2006

### Births & Adoptions

David (BM '87) and Kathy Taylor, Jackson Thomas on April 16, 2007. Jackson is welcomed by sister Sydney Katherine (April 7, 2006) and brother Dakota.

Revs. Alan (BA '90) and Tiffany Wright, Cayton Beall, December 16, 2007.

Dr. David (BA '91) and Jennifer Eastland, Andrew Charles, February 15, 2008. Andrew was adopted on March 26, 2008 and welcomed home by big brothers Zachary (18), John (5), and Thomas (4), and big sister Mary Clare (3).

Drs. Reid and Kelley (BS '92) Bishop, Elanor Reid. Elanor is welcomed home by big sister Claire and big brother Cole.

Michael and Ashlee (BA '94) Gregory, Ava Hutton, June 14, 2007. Ava is welcomed by big brother Jed Ashton.

Michael (BSBA '95) and Merideth Fancher, Hallie Jean, February 18, 2008.

Joey (BS '95, MS '96) and Jennifer (Roberts, BS '95, MS '97) Smith, Corbin Lee, August 16, 2007.

Greg (BS '96, MEd '01) and Katie (Rives, BSBA '95) Paczak, Millie Ann, December 6, 2007. Millie Ann is welcomed by big brother John Martin.

Matt (BSBA '96) and Paula (Barkley, BSBA '96) Brown, Kellan Patrick, August 3, 2007. Kellan Patrick is welcomed by sister Peyton (23 months).

Tom (BSBA '97, MBA '99) and Donna (Blackwell, BS '99) Rich, William Thomas, August 31, 2005. William Thomas is welcomed by big sister Claire.

Ron and Nicole (Ott, BA '98) Knight, Samantha Grace, September 14, 2007. Samantha Grace is welcomed by brother Brandon.

Kristin (Elbourne, BS '98) and Ron Reynolds, Micaiah James, November 9, 2007.

Davy (BS '99) and Beth (BSBA '00) Durham, Bonnie Rose, November 21, 2007. Bonnie Rose is welcomed by grandmothers Denise Ferriss, teacher in the School of Nursing, and Carol Durham, part-time teacher in the music department. Bonnie is also welcomed by sisters Lily and Julie.

Heath (BS '99, MSCP '01) and Emily (Allenburger, MSCP '02) Gordon, Andrew Heath, April 25, 2007.

Nathan (BS '00) and Caroline Ray, Bradford Thomas, September 28, 2008.

Peter (BSBA '01) and Courtney Marsh, Amelia Reed, October 2, 2007. Amelia joins sisters Molly Abigail (November 30, 2001) and Rebecca McKee (February 24, 2004).

Jeremy and Paige (Welborn, BS '03) Lewis, Truitt Wynn, January 25, 2007.

Kevin (BS '03, MS '05) and Jennifer (Burnham, BS '03) Rutledge, Cole Howard, April 23, 2007.

John and Sarah (Estes, BSEd '04) Rollins, Sophie Dianna, August 13, 2007.

### Friends

Kelly and Rani Wheat, Keziah Grace, September 6, 2007. Kelly is director of the Baptist Student Union at MC.

### In Memoriam

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE EXTENDS SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND FORMER FACULTY/STAFF MEMBERS.

Mary Helen Johnson Dorsett (BA '30) April 27, 2007  
R.B. McRee Costas (Hillman '32, BA '34)

October 30, 2007

Thomas Whitfield (BA '35) October 30, 2007  
Nita G. Musselwhite (BA '37) November 5, 2007  
Antonina Canzoneri (Hillman '38, BA '40)  
August 17, 2007

Anderson Carter Blake, Jr. (BA '41) September 2007  
Joseph Thurman Allmon (BA '42) August 17, 2007  
Billy Thomas Armstrong (BA '42) October 20, 2007  
Eleanor Turner McLaurin (BS '45) September 26, 2007  
Delle P. Hurt (BA '46) August 20, 2007  
Joseph Dale (BA '48) August 1, 2007  
Dr. Claude L. Howe, Jr. (BA '48) November 8, 2007

Lenton V. "Poe" Weatherford (BA '48)

September 10, 2007

Charles E. "Chid" Lofton (BA '50) October 31, 2007  
Dr. Raymond Stratton (BS '50) May 14, 2007

Joyce Kennedy Stratton (BS '50) November 22, 2007  
Frances Potter (BA '51) December 19, 2007

George Dewitt Lewis (BA '52) October 5, 2007  
Leonard J. Macunas (BS '52) August 2, 2007

Betty Jane Fowler (BA '54) January 11, 2008  
Rev. Robert Lee Louk (BA '55) July 28, 2007

Rev. John R. Sartin, Jr. (BA '57, MA '59)  
September 16, 2007

Felton Riddell Leggett (MEd '58) August 15, 2007  
Mary Knight Hill (MEd '58) December 15, 2007

James Everett Rankin (BA '59) June 7, 2007  
William Stroup (BA '59) November 11, 2007

Dr. Robert E. Jones (BSEd '60, MEd '83) August 30, 2007  
Trenton Hughes Shelton (BS '60) November 12, 2007

Royce S. Womack (BS '61) October 29, 2007  
Rev. Charles M. Moody (BA '62) September 19, 2007

Nancy P. Pitchford (BSEd '62, MEd '72) May 1, 2007  
W. Wayne Conerly (BS '63) June 28, 2007

Rev. Walter C. Ballard (BA '64) August 27, 2005  
Nell K. Bishop (BSEd '64) March 1, 2008

Lucy Anthony Felder (BSEd '64) June 18, 2007  
Dr. Charles Cartee (BS '66) December 22, 2007

Dr. L. Russ Bush (BA '67) January 22, 2008  
Hilarie White Owen Tuminello (BA '70, MEd '73)

May 31, 2007

Caraly Moorhead Sumners (MEd '71) October 30, 2007  
Merle M. Crumpton (MEd '71) September 16, 2007

Barbara Herfurth White Moffitt (JD '73) August 24, 2007  
Odis Robertson, Jr. (MEd '75, EdS '79) April 28, 2007

Mark E. McLeod (BS '78, JD '85) December 28, 2007  
Martha Jean Lee Byrd (EdS '78) November 25, 2007

Rev. Gary Gene Davis (BS '81) June 26, 2007  
Janice H. Allen (MBA '82) September 2, 2007

Jacqueline J. Enochs (JD '82) May 21, 2007  
Jon "Mark" Bryan (BSEd '87) May 29, 2007

Belinda Huffman Jackson (BS '91) April 30, 2007  
Anson Abbe Aven (MBA '92) May 15, 2007

Celena Michelle "Misty" Brewer (BSBA '96, MBA '98)  
December 5, 2007

### Friends

Rev. Troy B. Land, August 1, 2007

Rev. Millard Guy Reedy, Jr. ('44), former Baptist Children's Village board president and Baptist pastor, March 3, 2008

### Faculty & Staff

Dr. Kenneth Rainey, former MC teacher and Southern Baptist pastor, September 24, 2006

Dr. Lewis Nobles, former MC president 1968-1993, May 25, 2007

A gift in memory or honor of an individual may be made through the Mississippi College Annual Fund. For more information, contact Barbara King at 601.925.3968 or by mail at Office of Advancement, Box 4005, Clinton, MS, 39058.

**IF YOU HAVE NEWS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE,** please send it to Class Notes, *Beacon* magazine, Box 4003, Clinton, MS 39058 or e-mail to [public-relations@mc.edu](mailto:public-relations@mc.edu). Please provide your class year(s), degree(s) and phone number for verification with each note.

## 2008 SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Paul Brown, J.C. Graves, Shannon Garrett, Kimily Thurman, Parker Dykes, Cooper Pope, and Kenny Bizot

Louis Kenner Bizot III '94, Men's Basketball

Paul E. Brown '53, Cross Country/Track

William G. Wilson '53 (deceased), Football

Cooper David Pope '87, Football

Kimily Derden Thurman '92, Women's Basketball

Shannon Demone Garrett '94, Football

J. C. Graves Jr. '50, Baseball/Men's Basketball

Parker Dykes '65, Football

# ENTERING *and* DEPARTING

TWO BROTHERS REFLECT UPON THE WORDS ADORNING THE GATES  
TO THE MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE CAMPUS.

Enter here to increase in stature, knowledge, and wisdom ✦ Depart to share your culture with all mankind

## ENTERING

During my senior year at Jackson Academy, I made up my mind to attend Mississippi College. This decision made sense for me because both of my older brothers were already thriving and enjoying themselves here. Also – and probably more importantly at the time – I didn’t feel myself being “called to,” or even interested in, any particular area of study, so I didn’t have much of a reason for resisting my parents’ wishes that I attend MC.

I honestly wasn’t very excited when I arrived at orientation before my freshman year. In fact, I still wasn’t excited on move-in day. This lack of enthusiasm had much to do with the fact that I didn’t really have any expectations coming into this place. Although I had decided on a biology/pre-med major, I still didn’t know what I really wanted to do, and I hadn’t come up with any better, more meaningful, reasons for coming to MC.

But over the past two years, Mississippi College has fulfilled or exceeded, any expectations I could have possibly had in coming here. I’ve met more loving, interesting, and fascinating people than I ever could have imagined, and I’m pleased to say that I call many of these people my friends. I’ve had numerous opportunities to pursue my interests, whether academic or extra-curricular, and I’ve already learned much from the astute professors. And thanks to much encouragement from my family and Dr. Stan Baldwin, I have decided that I actually do want to be a doctor some day.

Although I based my decision to come to MC on hollow grounds, I can now say that this was one of the most solid choices I’ve ever made.

*Caleb Graham will begin his junior year at MC this fall. Despite his lack of enthusiasm on move-in day, Caleb now shares the same passion for MC shown by his older brothers, Aaron '08 and Jacob '07, and by his mother, MC board member Dr. Sharon Martin '72. Caleb, Aaron, and Jacob's father, Dr. Bobby Graham, is not an alumnus, but he has been known to cheer on the Choctaws with his wife and sons.*

## DEPARTING

During my four exciting years at MC, I have always felt right in the thick of things, totally immersed in this unique brand of college life. I have dedicated nearly all of my waking hours (and a fair number that should have gone to sleeping) to various campus activities, both academic and extracurricular. But suddenly, as my senior year culminates in graduation, the activities are all but over, and life awaits.

What eludes me now is a sense of closure. During the work and the play of this final year at MC, I have looked forward to the end, when I would have a spare moment or two to reflect upon my time here and to properly thank everyone at this university who has affected my life so profoundly for the better.



Caleb, Aaron and Jacob Graham

But here I am, and those spare moments never arrived. The hustle and bustle carried on to the final days of class and exams, and now that the end has come, I don’t feel ready for it.

One reason that the end feels all wrong is that I can’t bring myself to say goodbye to this special place or to the people here who have meant so much to me. To say that I am having a difficult time letting go of MC, a place that has become my home, is a most egregious understatement.

The other reason is that this isn’t the end at all. A sense of closure is not forthcoming because it does not belong. My time at MC is only the beginning, and there is no chance that I could ever leave this place totally behind me.

I now take my leave from MC, yet I know with certainty that my dear alma mater will never leave me.

*Aaron Graham '08, Student Government Association President for 2007-08, completed his studies at MC with a 4.0 average and a B.A. in English. His next stop is Harvard Law School, where he'll begin classes this fall.*

The “Servant Savior”  
sculpture of Jesus Christ



“So after He had washed their feet and had taken His garments and had reclined again, He said to them, Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me the Teacher, and Lord, and you say well, for I Am. If then I, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.” — JOHN 13: 12-15

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SEEKS  
TO BE KNOWN AS A UNIVERSITY  
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TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.



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