

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE | WINTER 2015

beacon



**MISSION
POSSIBLE**

Stan Buckley
BRINGS HOPE TO HAITI

beacon



FROM THE PRESIDENT

LEE GARDNER ROYCE

“**W**ith man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

As a university president, I have seen things that seemed to have come as the result of a divine blessing – gifts that arrived in a time of need, decisions that went the way I had hoped they would go, and reconciliations between people I never thought could happen.

Many of us have witnessed inexplicable happenings when we have said, “This would have been impossible without God’s help.” But Matthew 19:26 also applies to daily events that we have come to take for granted, and serves as an important reminder not to reduce our expectations of God down to our own human level of experience. Yes, when God shows up *extraordinary* things happen, but anything in this world that is good, worthy, kind, noble, or uplifting comes from Him.

Since I believe God is the author of Creation, I believe human life is impossible without Him. We could not be thinking, breathing, or talking without His presence in the world. That alone is a tremendous example of the impossible made possible through God.

But perhaps the best example is God’s unfailing grace. The fact that wretched sinners of every kind can enter into the Kingdom of Heaven is proof enough to me that with God, all things are possible.

Lee Royce

BY THE BEACON’S LIGHT

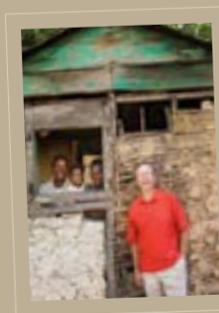
Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

— Matthew 19:26

The Bible is filled with dramatic accounts of miracles that happened when God intervened in human events. The Red Sea parted. A virgin gave birth. The dead lived again.

When we’re faced with what seems to be an impossible situation, we’d all like for God to show up with a dramatic miracle that changes everything in an instant. But sometimes, God shows Himself in quieter ways, sending small signs of encouragement or gentle nudges in the right direction. Like the sunsets He created, God’s fiery displays and His quiet light are both signs of His presence in our lives.

In the following pages, you’ll meet people who faced circumstances or followed callings that seemed impossible. Their stories are tales of faith, small encouragements, determination, and in some cases, events that seem only to have happened through divine intervention. What all of these stories have in common is one underlying truth. With God, all things are possible.



On the Cover:

When others said, “Hopeless,” Stan Buckley said, “But God...”

For more on But God Ministries’ work building sustainable communities in Haiti, see page 26.



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The *Beacon* is available online with videos, on-camera interviews, in-depth details, and more web-exclusive content. Look for the **b** symbol, which indicates an article with online content, then visit www.mc.edu/beacon for the rest of the story.

U.S. News & World Report's "Great Schools, Great Prices" list ranks Mississippi College #4 among the South's regional universities.

ALONG COLLEGE STREET



ENROLLMENT *and* RANKINGS ON THE RISE

ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO BE A MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE success story. Last fall, enrollment reached 5,050 students attracted by the university's academic programs, extracurricular offerings, and Christian emphasis.

The strong appeal and exceptional value of a Mississippi College education has been recognized in several national publications, including *U.S. News & World Report*. The magazine's September 2014 issue ranked MC as No. 4 among the South's regional universities in its "Great Schools, Great Prices" category. Christian Universities Online ranked Mississippi College 8th in a survey of America's most affordable Christian colleges.

In August, MC welcomed 580 freshmen to campus, including Chandler Brown, who set his sights on MC when he heard about the university's clay shooting program. The No. 1 junior trap shooter in the state of Tennessee and a 2014 All-American, Brown is a standout on the shooting course and in the classroom.

"The main things that led me to MC are the excellent science programs and the sporting clays team," says Brown, a biology major who hopes to become a dentist.

Lucas Scarborough, a freshman from West Monroe, Louisiana, considered schools in his home state before choosing Mississippi College as the ideal location to major in Christian studies. Scarborough describes his choice of MC as simply a matter of "the Lord opening doors."

Doors at MC also opened to a record 377 international students, as well as the largest number of graduate students in university history. Additional housing units are under construction on the East Campus (the former Clinton Junior High School property) in anticipation of increased enrollment in 2015.



ENROLLMENT AT A GLANCE

Total Enrollment: 5,050
Freshmen: 580
International Students: 377
Graduate Students: 1,614

In The GARDEN



LIFE ON EARTH BEGAN IN A PERFECT GARDEN, many of Jesus' parables relate to nature, planting, and growth, and one of the most powerful scenes in the Bible describes Christ's anguished prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane.

In keeping with these powerful images of man seeking God in a garden, Mississippi College created a scenic campus garden with a special purpose. Dedicated in the fall of 2014, Mississippi College's new prayer garden gives students, faculty, staff, and visitors a beautiful setting in which to relax, meditate, and draw closer to the Creator.

Built through a generous anonymous gift from a couple that grew up in Clinton, the garden is an oasis of tranquility on the front lawn of Alumni Hall. The tree-shaded garden features four graceful fountains, attractive lighting, and comfortable benches that beckon to those in need of a peaceful retreat.

"MC's campus is already beautiful, but having a designated prayer garden adds yet another wonderful feature to the university," says MC student Megan Donahoe. "The prayer garden provides a perfect setting for students to escape stress and spend time in God's creation."

The theme of the Mississippi College garden comes from 2 Chronicles 6:40, and is inscribed on a rock surrounded by roses, boxwoods, and Japanese maple trees. The verse reads, "Now, my God, may your eyes be open and your ears be attentive to the prayers offered in this place."



"Now, my God, may your eyes be open and your ears be attentive to the prayers offered in this place."

2 CHRONICLES 6:40

To preorder, go to mc.edu/gorebook



BLESSED

— with TIRED HANDS —

SAMUEL GORE'S INSPIRATIONAL WORKS ARE CAPTURED
IN A NEW COFFEE TABLE BOOK.

A MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE ICON for more than six decades, sculptor and painter Samuel Marshall Gore's inspirational work and career are the subject of a new coffee table book.

Blessed With Tired Hands is scheduled for publication by the University Press of Mississippi in August 2015. Written and documented by award-winning former *Clarion-Ledger* photographer and MC photography instructor Barbara Gauntt, the book spans Gore's 60-plus year career as an artist. The title refers to Gore's hands, which are marked by broken, stained nails and typically covered in a thin veil of dried clay, a physical testimony to his life as an artist.

"It all started because I was amazed by Dr. Gore and his work," Gauntt says. "I saw him as an absolute treasure, a gift from God, a man of



faith giving back by sharing the talent with which he was blessed."

Dr. Gore thanked Gauntt for spearheading the project, and also expressed gratitude to one of his former MC students, renowned painter Wyatt Waters, who penned the book's introduction.

A 1952 graduate of MC, Dr. Gore taught in the university's art department for more than 60 years. His work graces both the MC main campus, where his sculpture of Jesus and the disciples inspires students and visitors, and the MC Law campus in downtown Jackson, where a statue of Moses and the Ten Commandments speaks to the laws given to man by God.

Despite his illustrious career, Dr. Gore remains humble, adding to his comments about the upcoming book, "I'm still learning."

IS THERE A SPEAKER IN THE HOUSE?

AN AMERICAN POLITICAL LUMINARY AND former U.S. House Speaker, Newt Gingrich will serve as the keynote speaker at Mississippi College's 2015 scholarship dinner scheduled for April 7 at 6:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall.

A CNN contributor and the author of 24 books, Gingrich was first elected to Congress in 1978, and went on to represent Georgia with distinction for two decades. Gingrich was elected Speaker of the House in 1995 after orchestrating a "Republican Revolution" on Capitol Hill, and was recognized as *Time* magazine's 1995 Man of the Year. Despite partisan differences, Gingrich worked with former Democratic President Bill Clinton to reform the nation's welfare system, cut the capital gains tax, and balance the federal budget.

Fourteen of Gingrich's fiction and non-fiction books have appeared on *The New York Times* bestseller list. An astute political commentator, he has served as a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., and as a distinguished visiting fellow at the Hoover Institute at Stanford University. Gingrich has helped raise millions of dollars for charities, including Habitat for Humanity, United Cerebral Palsy, the American Cancer Society, and Zoo Atlanta. Gingrich and his wife, Callista, host and produce historical and public policy documentaries. The couple lives in McLean, Virginia.

Mississippi College leaders are confident Gingrich will provide his audience with plenty of political food for thought with the United States' 2016 presidential elections fast approaching.



"Newt Gingrich is a giant in U.S. political history and an icon of American conservatism," says Mississippi College political science professor Glenn Antizzo. "During his tenure as Speaker of the House, Gingrich's power and influence eclipsed that of the president himself."

Gingrich joins an all-star lineup of scholarship banquet speakers. Previous keynote speakers have included Dr. Benjamin Carson and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, both potential candidates in the 2016 presidential election, as well as former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee. The annual event has generated more than \$2 million for MC student scholarships since former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole kicked off the series in 2008.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SPRING SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

APRIL 7, 2015 • 6:00 P.M.

Tickets are \$200 per person.
Sponsorship packages are available
at many levels beginning at \$1,500.

For more information or to purchase tickets,
contact Amy Rowan at 601.925.3257
or rowan@mc.edu, or purchase tickets
online at mc.edu/banquet.

"Newt Gingrich is a giant in U.S. political history and an icon of American conservatism."

MC POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR GLENN ANTIZZO

learn more at:
mc.edu/tabletennis

2014 USA COLLEGIATE
 TABLE TENNIS SINGLES
 CHAMPION, CHENG LI

WHEN THE SAINT CAME MARCHING IN

New Orleans Saints Hall of Famer Fred McAfee '91 helped raise \$170,000 for Mississippi College at the university's annual athletics dinner. The former Choctaws football standout began by claiming he was not a gifted speaker, but his heartfelt message left the crowd inspired and the future of MC athletics even brighter than the days when McAfee took the field.

McAfee broke school records as a Choctaws football star from 1987-90, then went on to enjoy a successful career in the NFL. He now serves as director of player personnel for the New Orleans Saints. During his 16 years on the NFL field, McAfee played for renowned coaches including Sean Payton, Lovie Smith, and Tony Dungy, yet he said his greatest memories and most valuable lessons came from the MC football staff who coached him nearly three decades ago. McAfee concluded by saying he is as much "on fire for the blue and gold" as he was during his playing days for the Choctaws. McAfee expressed excitement about MC's move back to NCAA Division II and return to the Gulf South Conference, adding, "I'll help in any way I can."

McAfee predicts a future filled with thrilling wins under the leadership of Coach John Bland, noting that, "Hard work trumps everything."

MC'S CHENG LI CAPTURES THE 2014 USA COLLEGIATE TABLE TENNIS SINGLES TITLE

MC student Cheng Li of China defeated all challengers at the 2014 Collegiate Table Tennis Championships held near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, last April, bringing home the Men's Singles Title. Cheng Li knocked off several outstanding opponents before defeating his MC teammate, tournament runner-up Yichi Zhang, to win the championship.

The coach and captain of the MC table tennis team, Cheng Li is determined to see the entire squad take the 2015 championship at the national tournament in Wisconsin April 10-12. MC's table tennis team has finished No. 2 nationwide the past three seasons in a row, earning a higher ranking than teams from Princeton, Southern California, UCLA, Ohio State, Penn State, Harvard, Duke, and Columbia.

BULLSEYE MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Last fall, MC students fired the shot needed to launch Mississippi's first collegiate archery team.

Waldo Cleland, the 1995 world archery champion

and four-time national archery champion, serves as the new team's coach. The MC archers will take aim in the U.S. Collegiate Archery Association's Southern Division, competing against teams from Texas A&M, the University of Florida, and Georgia Southern.

Following MC's lead, Mississippi State University has formed the second collegiate archery team in Mississippi. Archery is also catching on at Mississippi high schools, with more than 53,000 students in 426 high schools participating.

Archery is the latest MC sport to fall under the direction of Jim Turcotte, vice president for enrollment services and dean of students. Turcotte also oversees the MC equestrian team, bass

fishing, and clay shooting squads.

"I grew up in an outdoors family that enjoyed archery and bow hunting," said MC archery team member Parker Battista of Talmadge, Ohio. "It's always been a part of my life and I'm happy to continue to hit the bullseye at Mississippi College."

MEN'S SOCCER TEAM CLOSES OUT SUPER 2014 SEASON

The 2014 men's soccer team closed out a superb 2014 season with a trip to Florida to compete in the national championships.

The Mid-East champions of the National Christian College Athletic Association, Mississippi College was the No. 1 seed heading into the December 3 championship. The Choctaws were making the transition back into NCAA Division II and were not eligible to compete in post-season NCAA play, but shined in NCCAA games. After holding onto a tie score against Palm Beach Atlantic for the first 43 minutes of the game, the Choctaws lost a 1-0 heartbreaker to the Sailfishes. MC finished with a strong 12-6-2 record to wrap up its initial season back in the potent Gulf South Conference.

Individual players were also recognized. Senior Brian Vasquez of Houston, Texas, was named an NCCAA Division I All-American. Over his four-year career with the Choctaws, Vasquez set an MC school record with 40 assists, and recorded 17 helpers during his senior year. MC soccer standout Francisco DeAnda of El Paso, Texas, was named an Honorable Mention All-American, while Josh Barrera was a third team selection.

The stellar season left Mississippi College in good shape for recruiting, with Coach Kevin Johns hearing from interested student-athletes across the United States and abroad.

Choctaw
SPORTS
 ROUND-UP

when the WORDS don't make sense

MC HELPS THOSE HELD BACK BY DYSLEXIA MOVE FORWARD IN LIFE

Imagine that you can't read. You can tell a story that keeps your audience riveted and you can spell challenging words out loud, but when it comes to reading or writing, the words on the page just don't make sense to you. You're very bright and you try very hard, yet you're labeled as lazy, "not trying hard enough," or even dumb. As your classmates move ahead, you struggle, fall behind, and spend every day wondering, "What's wrong with me?" This is life for a child – and quite often, an adult – with dyslexia.

Dyslexia is a learning disability characterized by problems identifying speech sounds and processing how they relate to letters and words. The most obvious symptom of dyslexia is trouble learning to read and spell. Often mistaken for a lack of intelligence, dyslexia affects between five and 10 percent of the general population and is one of the most common language-based learning disabilities.

Recognizing the need for therapists to help those affected by dyslexia, Mississippi College launched the first master's of education in dyslexia therapy training program in Mississippi. Geared primarily toward teachers, the program trains therapists who help dyslexics succeed in school and in life.

"I became interested in dyslexia through friends whose children were diagnosed with the disability," says Don Locke, dean of the MC School of Education. "They turned to me as an educator since they were having trouble in school, and I became aware of the very limited resources available to help them."

Founded in 2004, the MC program remained the only master's of dyslexia therapy training program in the state for several years. The state of Mississippi followed MC's lead by establishing the United States' first teaching license endorsement in dyslexia therapy. The MC program was the first in Mississippi to be accredited by both the Academic Language Therapy Association and the International Dyslexia Association.

"In- and out-of-state specialists consider the MC program the gold standard by which all Mississippi dyslexia

programs are measured," says Locke. "Through our program, dyslexic children in Mississippi have the opportunity to be helped by the best-trained therapists in the United States."

The curriculum was designed to include a strong clinical component that would allow therapists-in-training to work with dyslexic clients through the public school system. Two years after the master's program launched, MC received a grant from the Phil Hardin Foundation that allowed the university to establish its own dyslexia evaluation and therapy center.

Housed in a cozy, renovated residence on the MC campus, the MC Dyslexia Education and Evaluation Center provides comprehensive testing that identifies dyslexia, as well as one-on-one therapy for dyslexic clients. Since opening, the center has performed more than 260 evaluations. At any given time, the center typically has 25 to 30 clients enrolled for therapy.

DYSLEXIA IN MISSISSIPPI

Since 2012, approximately **124,000** students across Mississippi have been screened for dyslexia through various programs.

Some **1,667** students were identified as needing dyslexia services.

Mississippi has **127** licensed dyslexia therapists.

Jan Hankins '75, '77, '79, '13, director of the MC Dyslexia Education and Evaluation Center, was an elementary and middle school teacher for 36 years before graduating from the MC dyslexia program in 2013 and making the move to her current position. Hankins has seen first-hand the tragic effects of dyslexia on children.

"People write dyslexic children off. These children can be so smart, but their self-esteem and sense of self-worth is very low," Hankins says. "Even as young as kindergarten, children look at their peers and ask, 'Why am I having to work so much harder?' They don't feel as smart as the other children or they think there's something wrong with them. They're ashamed of something they can't help. They act out. They shut down."

"Then they come here," Hankins continues. "They learn to think outside the box and find new skills that make things work for them. After a few days, they're so excited and so relieved. That's when they say, 'There's nothing wrong with me. I just learn a different way.'"

Clients come to the center through referrals from doctors, teachers, the Mississippi Department of Education, and desperate parents who Google "dyslexia therapy" online. Clients have come from all over Mississippi and as far away as Texas for testing to confirm suspected dyslexia. Once dyslexia is confirmed, the center provides a detailed report the family can take back to the school system, along with a recommended program of therapy. Not every school is equipped to provide that therapy; the lack of therapists was one of the catalysts behind the establishment of the MC program.

"Parents have to be committed to finding a good therapist and getting that child to therapy several days a week," Hankins says. "Sometimes that means driving a considerable distance to get to the closest trained therapist."

While the average age of clients is between nine and eleven, the MC center screens children as young as kindergarteners. Hankins stresses that while age five is the *earliest* age MC accepts for testing, it is never too *late* to begin.

"Learning to read with dyslexia is almost like learning Braille," Hankins says. "We have to retrain their brains to process language correctly. Time is the dyslexic student's best gift. But according to state law, children must learn to read by third grade. Unfortunately, you can't put a time limit on dyslexia."

Therapy includes direct instruction with alphabet, review of letters, review of sounds, reading, cursive handwriting, spelling, verbal expression, and listening. Clients typically work with a therapist at the center for one hour a day, three to five days a week. Therapy typically requires two and a half years of steady, hard work.

Dr. Twila Rawson is a developmental psychologist who has spent the past 30 years with the child development clinic in the University of Mississippi Medical Center's department of pediatrics. Dr. Rawson evaluates children referred to the clinic for a variety of disorders, including development delay and intellectual and learning disabilities. She enrolled in the MC dyslexia program and is fulfilling her clinical requirements by providing therapy for children in the dyslexia center.

"I was seeing a fairly large number of children with reading difficulty through my work at UMMC, and wanted to find some way to help with those difficulties after I diagnosed them," Dr. Rawson says. "The training program at MC has enhanced my skills as a clinician in my present position and as a reading therapist. I hope to move into more of a therapist role in retirement in the future."

Perhaps the best testimonial for the MC dyslexia program comes from the families whose lives it has changed. Cliff '89 and Leigh '90 Johnson's son, James, is a former client.

"Following a trying and confusing period of not understanding why our otherwise bright son could not pass spelling tests, we learned in James's third-grade year that he is dyslexic," Cliff Johnson says. "Through his work at the MC dyslexia center, James developed the tools that helped him become a successful student. While he continues to be a poor speller and a relatively slow reader, he uses technology and study strategies that enable him to overcome these challenges. The center can't 'cure' dyslexia, but it does provide students with knowledge and skills that enable them to gain confidence in their ability to take on any challenge."



"Learning to read with dyslexia is almost like learning Braille. We have to retrain their brains to process language correctly."

Jan Hankins

THE MC DYSLEXIA PROGRAM AT GLANCE

142 graduates have completed the master's of education in dyslexia therapy since the program launched in 2004.

Program participants have come from or are now living and working in Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. • Graduates work in a variety of schools and clinics throughout Mississippi and other states. Twelve program graduates have opened their own dyslexia therapy businesses in Mississippi, Alabama, Iowa, North Carolina, and Tennessee. • Since 2006, the MC Dyslexia Education and Evaluation Center has performed more than 260 dyslexia evaluations for clients from Mississippi and from out of state. At any given time, the center provides therapy for 25 to 30 dyslexic clients. • Since 2011, MC has offered dyslexia therapy training at Blue Mountain College as well as on the Mississippi College campus in Clinton.

"AS A CHILD, I STRUGGLED WITH DYSLEXIA AND BELIEVED I WAS A FAILURE UNTIL THE FOURTH GRADE.

I then had a wonderful teacher, Mrs. Henley, explain to me I simply did not see the letters on the page like other children. I had to practice my reading and work hard to keep up, but I had a desire to succeed. I did what was expected of me and soon began to see the world of the written word, and in doing so, learned to love reading. Thanks to the love of that wonderful teacher and the support of my parents, I have obtained three college degrees, have served as a professor of American government, and have been honored with a successful career in public service. Reading is personal for me, and I want every child in Mississippi to have that same opportunity." — GOVERNOR PHIL BRYANT '88, 2012 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

By the time he graduated from high school, James was not only comfortable talking about his dyslexia with teachers and other students, he was also a member of the National Honor Society and had scored a 30 on the ACT, including a 34 on the reading section. Today, James is a junior at Appalachian State University majoring in mathematics.

As a tangible expression of their gratitude for the assistance their son received at MC, Cliff and Leigh Johnson established a scholarship that provides financial assistance for other dyslexic children who need the same therapy from the center that benefitted their son.

"We realized that many dyslexic students simply cannot afford the cost of assessment and therapy," Cliff Johnson says. "The notion that there are bright children out there who don't reach their full potential due to economic limitations is heartbreaking. We wanted to do what we could to help those students get the help they need, and a wonderful place to get that help is Mississippi College."

SUPPORTING THE CENTER

The Mississippi College Dyslexia Education and Evaluation Center is funded entirely through grants and donations. If you would like to support the center, contact Jan Hankins, director, at 601.925.7766.

Donors include: Community Foundation of Greater Jackson
Dollar General Foundation • Gannett Foundation
Phil Hardin Foundation • Robert M. Hearin Foundation
Cliff and Leigh Johnson (James Johnson Scholarship Fund)
Rachel Smith • Ware Foundation

WARNING SIGNS OF DYSLEXIA

Ask the average person to describe dyslexia, and they think of someone who reads "dog" instead of "god." But dyslexia is not just "reading backwards."

Studies show that people who are dyslexic process information in a different area of the brain than people who are not. CAT scans of the brain before and after therapy show a clear difference in the way language is processed.

SYMPTOMS OF DYSLEXIA INCLUDE DIFFICULTY:

- Learning to speak
- Learning letters and their sounds
- Organizing written and spoken language
- Memorizing number facts
- Reading quickly enough to comprehend
- Completing and comprehending longer reading assignments • Spelling
- Learning a foreign language

IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR CHILD MIGHT BE DYSLEXIC,

please contact the Mississippi College Dyslexia Education and Evaluation Center for a professional evaluation. Contact Jan Hankins, director, at 601.925.7766.

DYSLEXIA DIDN'T STOP THEM

Dyslexia affects people in every walk of life, but doesn't have to hamper success. High achievers with dyslexia include:

Ansel Adams	Richard Branson	Thomas Edison	Andrew Jackson	Ted Turner
Muhammad Ali	Jim Carrey	Albert Einstein	Steve Jobs	Andy Warhol
Hans Christian Andersen	Agatha Christie	F. Scott Fitzgerald	Kiera Knightley	George Washington
Alexander Graham Bell	Tom Cruise	Henry Ford	John Lennon	Woodrow Wilson
Orlando Bloom	Leonardo da Vinci	Whoopi Goldberg	Jay Leno	William Butler Yeats
	Walt Disney	Tommy Hilfiger	Pablo Picasso	
			Steven Spielberg	

HIGH FIVES

ALL 'ROUND



DEAN EMERITUS JIM ROSENBLATT LOOKS BACK ON 11 YEARS LEADING MC LAW, AND LOOKS FORWARD TO A NEW CAREER IN THE CLASSROOM.



WHEN STUDENTS AT MC LAW PASS DEAN EMERITUS JIM ROSENBLATT STROLLING ON THE LAW SCHOOL'S DOWNTOWN CAMPUS, THEY AUTOMATICALLY LIFT A HAND FOR THE ENTHUSIASTIC HIGH FIVE THEY KNOW IS COMING.

"That's my trademark," Rosenblatt says. "The high five is my way of acknowledging the energy I get from our students." Rosenblatt left his post as dean of MC Law in August of 2014, ending an 11-year tenure that saw incredible growth in virtually every facet of the law school, from enrollment to donor support to facilities improvement. But while Rosenblatt stepped down as dean, he hasn't stepped away from MC Law. Instead he returned to the classroom as a law professor, beginning yet another chapter in a dynamic life story that includes farming, the U.S. Army JAG corps, and a well-worn MC Law nametag.

Raised on his family's farm in Wilkinson County, Mississippi, Jim Rosenblatt, like many little boys, wanted only to follow in his farmer father's footsteps.

"As a child, all I knew about my father's occupation was that he was a farmer," Rosenblatt says. "Then, when I was 11, I served as a page in the Mississippi Senate, where my father was a senator and served on the Judiciary Committee. As a page, I learned that lawyers served on this committee and that my own father was, in fact, a lawyer. I was mystified as to why someone with a law degree would farm.

"But as I grew older, I observed my father negotiate hunting and mineral leases, deal with the state on right of way questions, prepare timber management contracts, borrow money, and buy or sell land. In all of these transactions, my father extolled the value of his legal training. I watched with pride as he dealt with the big-city attorneys with their fancy shoes and shiny cars who sat with him on our front porch. Those attorneys likely thought they were going to overwhelm him with their thick contracts and their legal phrases, but I knew they would be in for a surprise. One reason I attended law school was because of my father's consistent comment that law training was helpful no matter what vocation one chose."

Instead of following his father into farming, Rosenblatt followed him into legal work, graduating *cum laude* from Vanderbilt University and then from Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York. Rosenblatt worked for the Small Business Administration in New York, resigning his position in 1973 when he reported for active duty in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps. His 30-year military career included posts in Virginia, at the Pentagon in Washington,

D.C., in Hawaii, and in Germany, where he was stationed in 1989 and had a front row seat to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Rosenblatt retired in 2003 as a Colonel after earning the Distinguished Service Medal and three awards of the Legion of Merit.

GOLD STAR FOR ATTENDANCE

In his 11 years as dean of MC Law, Jim Rosenblatt never took a single sick day. "I'm proud of that durability," Rosenblatt says. "I credit my Depression-era parents."

"I had the opportunity to see the Army transform itself into one of the most respected professions in the United States," Rosenblatt says. "Around the Vietnam years, morale was low and the Army was dealing with issues from race relations to drug problems. But over those 30 years I served, I saw the Army gain professionalism and true devotion from its members. I saw the opportunities the Army gave people to learn new skills, to travel, and to develop professionally. Being a part of that made me so proud."

In 2003, with his retirement date from the military approaching, Rosenblatt and his wife, Lauren, were contemplating their life after the Army. When Rosenblatt's brother, Steve, an attorney with Butler Snow in Jackson, Mississippi, told him that the Mississippi College School of Law was looking for a new dean, the news proved providential.

"I sent a resume, and four weeks later, I was offered the job," Rosenblatt says. "I don't claim to be a scholar or a deep thinker, but that's not what MC Law needed at that time. Organizations have different needs at different times, and the timing was right for what I brought to the law school."

What MC Law needed was a dynamic leader who would aggressively move the law school forward, and Rosenblatt proved to be the man for the job. His many successes as dean included injecting fresh energy into an already-underway, multi-million dollar capital campaign. The successful fundraising drive led to a debt-free transformation of the MC Law campus.

Under Rosenblatt's leadership, MC Law broadened its scope to include foreign study programs in China, Korea, Germany, France, Mexico, and Cuba; added a new LL.M. in American Legal Studies; created renowned centers for bioethics and health law, litigation and dispute resolution, family and children's law, business and tax law, public interest law, and international law; and launched legal clinics, including the MC Law Adoption Legal Clinic, which has helped create hundreds of new families, and the Mission First Legal Clinic, which provides low or no-cost legal services to the poor.

Rosenblatt is also credited with raising the law school's profile, not only in Mississippi, but also nationwide. The dean worked to attract noted speakers and signature events to campus, as well as recruiting top faculty and staff members from around the world. MC Law hosted high-profile political debates in elections for mayor, governor, and the U.S. Senate, and earned a national reputation as a formidable moot court competitor.

Rosenblatt became a well-known figure in the legal and business communities, serving on the Access to Justice Commission and as president of the Mississippi chapter of the Federal Bar Association, as well as a director of the Jackson Rotary Club. No matter where his work or volunteerism took him, Rosenblatt was sure to share the MC Law story.

"There's a longstanding joke that whenever two or more lawyers are present, you can count on me to show up wearing my MC Law nametag," he says with a chuckle.

Rosenblatt spent as much time working in the trenches as he did in the public eye. He and his wife spent many weekends cleaning up the MC Law campus, applying fresh coats of paint to the buildings, picking up litter, and even cutting the grass. Twice the winner of the Chief Justice Award presented by the Mississippi Supreme Court and among the nation's longest-serving law school deans, Rosenblatt leaves an impressive legacy of progress and growth at MC Law.

But while he's earned a reputation for leadership in legal circles, among MC Law students, Rosenblatt is better known for the genuine interest he took in every student. Every individual admitted to MC Law received a letter of acceptance that included a handwritten, personal note from Dean Rosenblatt penned with just that student in mind.

"I always felt that personal attention and focus on the student were emblematic of our law school," Rosenblatt says. "It was our belief that if we could get a prospective student to visit our campus, he or she would see a special school with a wonderful culture. That culture and personal attention are what allow us to be competitive in the recruiting process."

At MC Law, Rosenblatt witnessed student transformations that reminded him of those he had seen in the Army.

"Army recruits report for basic training, and nine weeks later, they're crisp, full of vigor, and working seamlessly together. During my time in the service, I heard so many parents say, 'I'm amazed by what the Army has done for my son or my daughter.' We do the same thing at MC Law. The first year of law school is a lot like basic training. I've seen the transformation in students who go from not speaking confidently to shining as polished professionals in moot court. I've seen that same pride in parents whose sons and daughters grow and acquire confidence, and go on to become successful attorneys."

Typical of Rosenblatt's generous nature and genuine concern for students, his most treasured memories from his time as dean aren't a celebration of his own accomplishments, but of his students' successes.

"My most memorable moments as dean were the 11 graduation ceremonies I attended in First Baptist Church Jackson," Rosenblatt says. "The majestic setting, the stirring music, and the proud families and friends, along with the opportunity to 'hood' the graduates, are things I won't ever forget."

Today Dean Rosenblatt has made the transition to Professor Rosenblatt, teaching courses including financial compliance, military law, and government contracts.

"I enjoy the opportunity to interact more with the students," Rosenblatt says. "I also enjoy the increased flexibility I have as a professor and the greater control I have over my schedule. And I have to say that the greatest proponent of this change was my wife, Lauren. She has been so supportive because she knew how much I loved being the dean, but she's enjoying the fact that we have more time together these days."

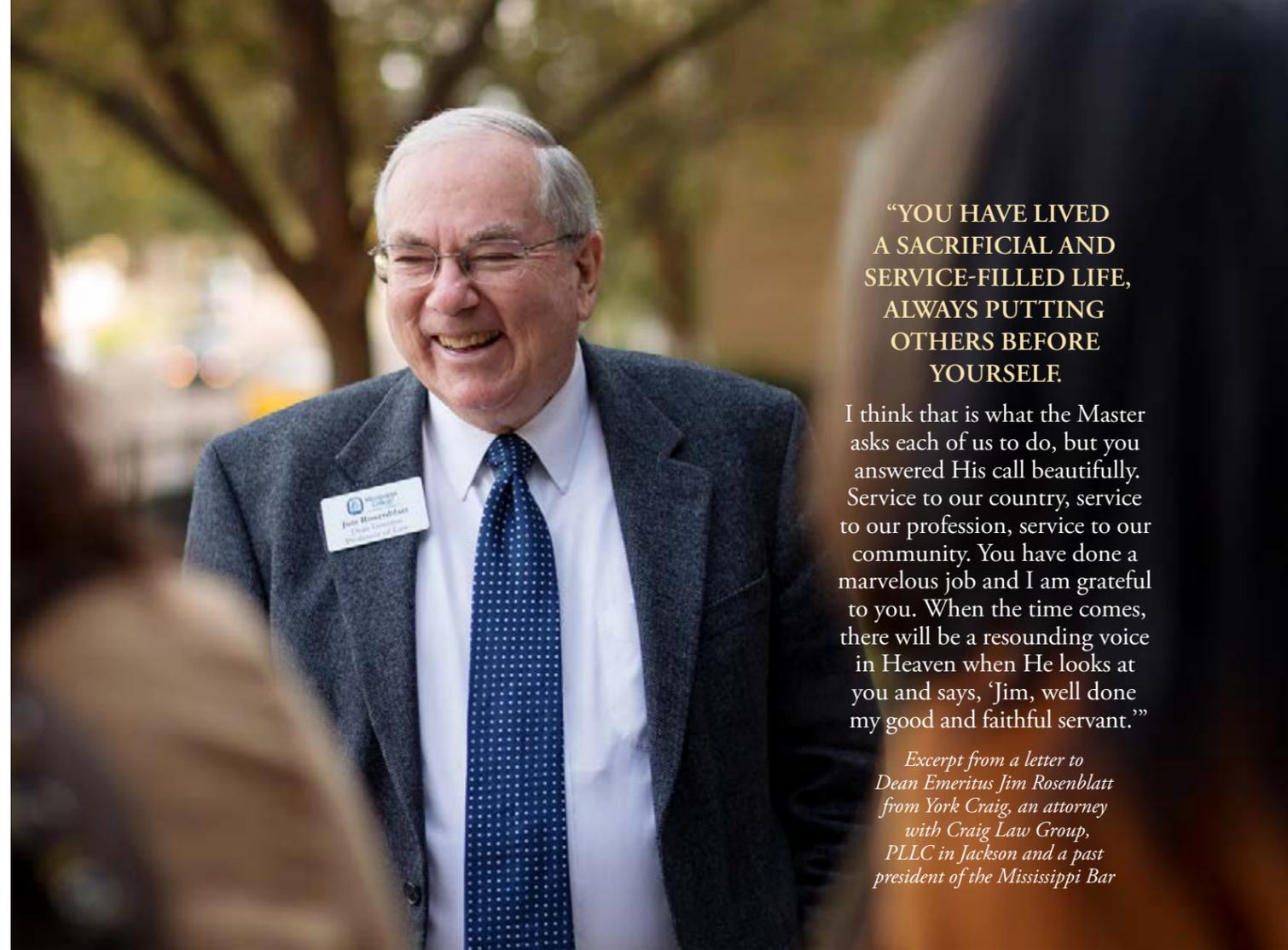
When he announced he was stepping down as dean, Rosenblatt received bags filled with notes and cards, expressions of gratitude from dozens of students, their parents, alumni, members of the legal community, and others whose lives he has touched.

"You have been an enormous blessing in both my and my family's lives," wrote MC Law student John Brooks Griffin. "It has been a personal honor to have met you and have received your guidance over the past year...I am convinced that I will love being an attorney one day. That alone tells me



FAMILY TREE

Jim Rosenblatt and his wife, Lauren, have four sons—Frank, an Army Major assigned to the JAG Corps at Camp Smith, Hawaii; John '11, who works for the TEC firm in Jackson, Mississippi; Drew, who works in construction in Richmond, Virginia; and Paul '12, an attorney with the Butler Snow law firm in Ridgeland, Mississippi.



"YOU HAVE LIVED A SACRIFICIAL AND SERVICE-FILLED LIFE, ALWAYS PUTTING OTHERS BEFORE YOURSELF."

I think that is what the Master asks each of us to do, but you answered His call beautifully. Service to our country, service to our profession, service to our community. You have done a marvelous job and I am grateful to you. When the time comes, there will be a resounding voice in Heaven when He looks at you and says, 'Jim, well done my good and faithful servant.'

Excerpt from a letter to Dean Emeritus Jim Rosenblatt from York Craig, an attorney with Craig Law Group, PLLC in Jackson and a past president of the Mississippi Bar

that this is what the Lord has planned for my life. I am *absolutely* convinced of this, though, when the Lord provides people like you to help His plan for my life come to fruition."

First year law student Darby Phelps wrote a heartfelt note of thanks when she learned that Jim Rosenblatt had personally recommended her for an MC Law scholarship.

"I see you often at school and have even had the chance to give you a couple of really great high fives, but until recently I didn't know the extent to which you have personally helped me," Phelps wrote. "You changed my life. Less than a year ago, I was a 28-year-old cocktail waitress with an infant child and no idea what was to come for me. I had always dreamed of going to law school, but it didn't seem feasible for me. You have made my dream a reality."

Perhaps a note from York Craig, an attorney with Craig Law Group in Jackson and a past president of the Mississippi Bar, best summarizes Jim Rosenblatt's tenure, not only as dean of MC Law, but as an outstanding example of humble service.

"You have lived a sacrificial and service-filled life, always putting others before yourself," Craig wrote. "I think that is what the Master asks each of us to do, but you answered His call beautifully. Service to our country, service to our profession, service to our community. You have done a marvelous job and I am grateful to you. When the time comes, there will be a resounding voice in Heaven when He looks at you and says, 'Jim, well done my good and faithful servant.'"

DURING DEAN JIM ROSENBLATT'S 11-YEAR TENURE, MC LAW:

COMPLETED A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR capital campaign that led to the construction of a new classroom building, the renovation of the existing facilities, and an overall expansion of the MC Law downtown campus

LAUNCHED INTERNATIONAL study programs in China, Korea, Germany, France, Mexico, and Cuba

CREATED LAW CENTERS FOCUSED on bioethics and health law, litigation and dispute resolution, family and children's law, business and tax law, public interest law, and international and comparative law

LAUNCHED NEW LEGAL CLINICS, including the Adoption Legal Clinic and the Mission First Legal Clinic

EARNED A #4 NATIONAL RANKING in moot court competition

INCREASED LOCAL AND NATIONAL awareness of the law school



Meet

DEAN WENDY SCOTT

“WHEN I STARTED THINKING ABOUT becoming a dean, one of the first things I did was pray about it,” Wendy Scott says. “I was interested in a small law school in the South. In MC Law, I found a small, southern, caring institution. My prayers were answered in abundance.”

On August 11, 2014, Wendy B. Scott became the eighth dean of MC Law. Dean Scott brings a record of exceptional service to the law school, having distinguished herself as a lawyer, teacher, legal scholar, administrator, and community leader.

“Dean Wendy Scott will carry MC Law forward,” says Dean Emeritus Jim Rosenblatt. “She has incredible experience in legal education and is well known on the national legal scene. Dean Scott has the energy, wisdom, judgment, and background to be an effective leader.”

A graduate of Harvard University and New York University School of Law, Dean Scott taught at the North Carolina Central University School of Law for eight years, where she served as the associate dean for academic affairs. She previously taught at Tulane Law School for 17 years, where she also served as the vice dean for academic affairs. Dean Scott’s scholarship has focused on constitutional theory and school desegregation; her work on the desegregation of public colleges and universities has been widely cited.

Early in her career, Dean Scott served as a staff attorney for the Legal Action Center of the City of New York, worked as an associate for Vladeck, Waldman, Elias & Engelhard, and directed litigation as the associate counsel for the Center for Law and Social Justice in Brooklyn, New York. She



“DEAN WENDY SCOTT WILL CARRY MC LAW FORWARD. She has incredible experience in legal education and is well known on the national legal scene. Dean Scott has the energy, wisdom, judgment, and background to be an effective leader.”

*MC Law Dean Emeritus
Jim Rosenblatt*

and access to justice for the citizens of Jackson and of Mississippi. We are a private institution, but we have an obligation to serve our community.

“I’m excited about building on the foundation laid by my predecessor, Jim Rosenblatt,” Dean Scott continues. “I inherited a very good place.”

is a member of the New York bar and has been admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court.

Dean Scott’s impressive background leaves her well-equipped to handle the challenges of leading MC Law.

“We face the same challenge every law school is facing right now – encouraging students to consider law as a career path,” Scott says. “I’m optimistic that we can compete in recruiting. MC Law is on the cutting edge in many of the areas in which we specialize, for example, intellectual property, healthcare, labor and employment, and international law. We’re able to offer students course work in growing areas.”

Dean Scott also plans to build on the law school’s culture of service, expanding opportunities for MC Law and its students to offer free or low-cost legal services to individuals who would otherwise have no access to the justice system.

“Service is especially important since we are a Christian law school,” Dean Scott says. “We want to train people to think differently, to take a fresh approach to problem solving, and to realize that as attorneys, we are committed to serve as guardians of the legal system. Through our legal clinics and curriculum, MC Law has an opportunity to be viewed as the provider of services

THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING — Dean Wendy Scott is best known at MC Law for her leadership skills and legal prowess, but her husband of 21 years, Eddie, and the couple’s 16-year-old son, Christian, would probably say that Dean Scott’s greatest talent is her culinary skill. Descended from generations of excellent cooks, Dean Scott prepared her first full Thanksgiving dinner at the tender age of 16, and has been cooking ever since. Her family’s hands down favorite? Dean Scott’s homemade corn pudding, made from a recipe passed down by her mother.

TEACHING BEHIND BARS

PROFESSOR OTIS PICKETT
AND THE PRISON-TO-COLLEGE
PIPELINE PROGRAM

IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT OTIS PICKETT HAS A PASSION FOR AMERICAN HISTORY.

Pickett grew up on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, an idyllic coastal community in the shadow of Ft. Sumter, where the Civil War began. When Pickett's family home was swept away by Hurricane Hugo, he lived for a time with his grandfather, a caring community physician who received the Palmetto Award, South Carolina's highest recognition for civilian service to others. • Years later, Pickett's fascination with history, his grandfather's model of compassion, and a chance meeting at a faculty orientation led him to an unexpected ministry, an unlikely group of students, and a summer spent at the Mississippi State Penitentiary, also known as Parchman Farm.

PICKETT'S LOVE OF HISTORY AND HIS DESIRE TO serve are reflected in his educational background. He holds bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in history from Clemson University, the College of Charleston, and the University of Mississippi, as well as a master's degree in theological studies from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

Following a calling to teach, Pickett joined the faculty of the University of Mississippi. At a new faculty orientation, Pickett met Assistant Professor of English and African American Studies Patrick Alexander, an Ohio native and Duke University graduate who spoke about his previous experiences with critical prison studies and community-based education. As a graduate student at Duke, Alexander taught college preparatory courses at Orange Correctional Center in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

"I saw education as a component of the prison ministry I was a part of at Orange Correctional Center," Alexander says. "I kept in touch with some of the men who had completed the class, and more than one of them told me, 'The job and the life I have today go back to that class I took in prison.' Just the fact that someone had believed in them had made a difference. I wanted to continue working in prison education in Mississippi."

Drawn to the idea of using his teaching skills to minister to the often-forgotten men in prison, Pickett approached Alexander before the orientation ended.

"Otis came up to me and said, 'Brother, I want to applaud you for the work you do, and I want to give you my phone number because I don't want this moment to pass,'" Alexander recalls. "We became friends and prayer

partners, and realized that not only were we going to build a relationship, but that some good work was going to come out of it."

Pickett and Alexander began meeting and praying together once a week, then began connecting with others experienced in prison ministries and prison education.

"It's easy for academics to sit around and talk about issues related to incarceration, but Patrick and I wanted to actually *do* something," Pickett says. "We had heard a lot about the 'school-to-prison pipeline' in Mississippi. Our thought was, why not create a prison-to-college pipeline?"

Pickett and Alexander's vision was a college-level course for prisoners who held high school diplomas or GEDs that would be designed around the inmates' interests. Prisoners who participated in the course would have the opportunity to earn college credit, and to prove to themselves that they had the ability and the intelligence needed to pursue a college education after their release.

The two presented their plan for the Prison-to-College Pipeline Program to the University of Mississippi, and received a grant from the College of Liberal Arts to implement the program at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. Shortly after the grant was awarded, Pickett left the University of Mississippi to join the Mississippi College faculty, but his partnership with Alexander and his participation in

the Prison-to-College Pipeline Program continued with the blessings of Mississippi College.

In June of 2014, the pilot course for the program launched at Parchman. The professors' first students were the inmates of Unit 25, a pre-release unit that included prisoners incarcerated for murder, armed robbery, and drug-related offenses.

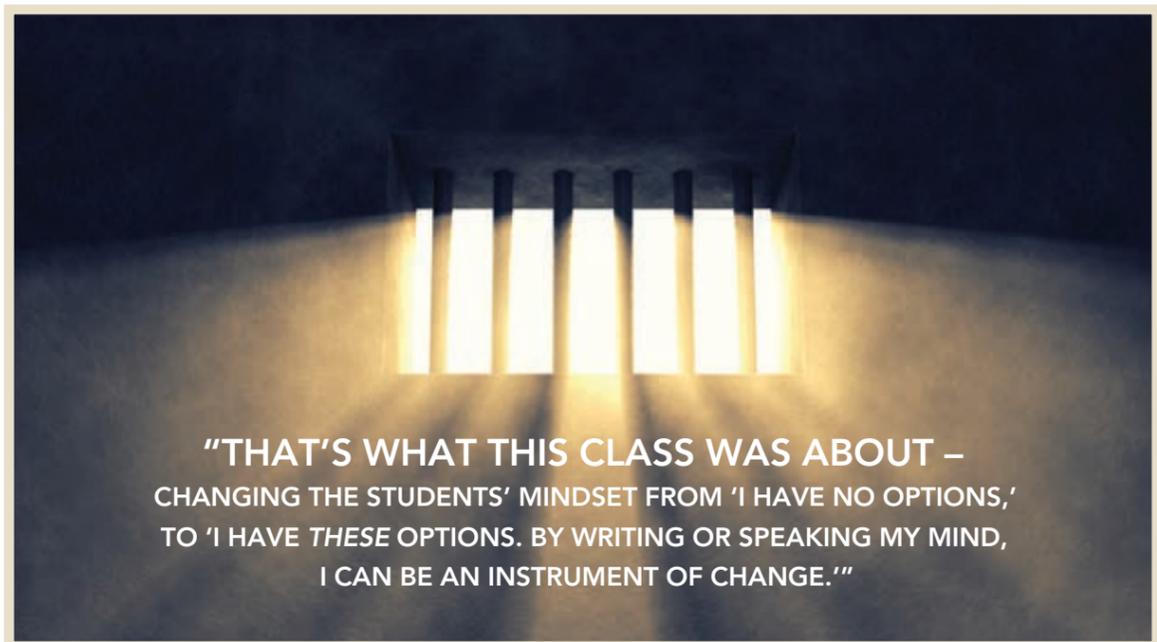


MISSISSIPPI HAS THE SECOND-HIGHEST INCARCERATION RATE BY POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES. ONLY LOUISIANA INCARCERATES A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF ITS POPULATION.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



"[D]espite falling way short of the ideal, America has attempted and America is still attempting to solve her social ills. Granted, she hasn't always been successful, and granted, change is often too slow in coming, but she has tried and she continues to try. Certainly something is to be said for that. I believe it was President Clinton who said, 'Nothing is wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America!' Such an attitude and such a spirit would inspire more voices to speak, more ears to listen, more hearts to be sympathetic, and more hands to be offered in the name of brotherhood and for the common good of one and all." Excerpted from an essay by Barry Cutrer, a 2014 graduate of the Prison-to-College Pipeline Program.



**“THAT’S WHAT THIS CLASS WAS ABOUT –
CHANGING THE STUDENTS’ MINDSET FROM ‘I HAVE NO OPTIONS,’
TO ‘I HAVE THESE OPTIONS. BY WRITING OR SPEAKING MY MIND,
I CAN BE AN INSTRUMENT OF CHANGE.’”**

“I was incredibly fearful of going into the prison,” Pickett says. “These are places that are very unpredictable. If there’s any violence across the state, the whole system goes on lockdown. The first time Patrick and I went to the prison, we sat in his car outside and prayed that the Holy Spirit would be with us, that we would not have fear. Then we walked into Parchman. I have never felt safer anywhere than in that classroom. The men knew we were there for them. They knew that we cared about them. They were warm and genial, and they didn’t take the opportunity to learn for granted. After that first experience, I never felt fear again. Instead, when we left after classes, I missed them.”

The first step in the Prison-to-College Pipeline Program was an interest inventory, which gave the students an opportunity to recommend topics they would be interested in studying. Based on their responses, Pickett and Alexander created a history- and literature-based course they titled, “Justice Everywhere,” which focused on the Civil Rights Movement, race relations, and the justice system. The class met every Monday for 10 weeks. The course included not only lectures by Pickett and Alexander, but also guest speakers they recruited from Jackson State University and the University of Mississippi.

“When you’re in prison, visitors are very important,” Pickett says. “Having visitors means someone in the outside world is thinking of you and values you enough to come and spend their time with you.”

The course also involved classroom discussions and presentations by the 11 African American and six white students. Pickett, who is white, and Alexander, who is African American, found their different races to be an asset to teaching a class on race relations and justice.

“Otis and I wanted to emblemize what it meant to have an interracial coalition for social justice,” Alexander says. “The classroom brought these men together in a way they never would have come together otherwise in a prison space, and the conversations we had included black and white students speaking in ways in which I don’t know they would have spoken had we not been teaching the class. The students had candid discussions with each other and with us, and they supported each other even when their perspectives were different.”



**IN RECOGNITION OF
HIS WORK IN PRISON
EDUCATION, PROFESSOR
OTIS PICKETT RECEIVED
THE 2014 COMMISSIONER’S
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
COIN PRESENTED BY THE
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTIONS.**

“It enhanced the class experience to have a white man and a black man not only working together, but also praying together,” Pickett agrees. “It would have been a different dynamic if either of us had taught the course alone.”

As the students rose to meet new challenges in the Parchman classroom, they also challenged their professors. A student asked Pickett what role he might have played had he been an adult living in Mississippi during the Civil Rights Movement.

“I’d like to think I would have risked my life, but I don’t know,” Pickett replied honestly. “I’d like to think my presence here with you today reflects my heart and what I would have done then.”

The students’ deep engagement in the course was never more clear than when a prison lockdown resulted in a cancelled class that was to have featured the students reading their original poetry aloud.

“They came to the next class saying, ‘I worked very hard on my poem. *We are* going to get to read them today, aren’t we?’” Pickett says. “This was a prison lockdown they had just experienced, not a snow day, but all they could talk about was their eagerness to share their work. When they



BROTHERS BENEATH THE SKIN

THEIR WORK IN PRISON EDUCATION AND their shared Christian faith have helped Otis Pickett and Patrick Alexander build a relationship that feels like family.

“If I hadn’t met Otis, I wouldn’t be doing this work,” Alexander says. “It’s important to find someone not just with skills and abilities, but with the same heart for the work. This program would not exist and its spirit would not exist without Otis, my brother from South Carolina.”

“God put Patrick and I together, and then He opened all the doors,” Pickett says. “As Christians, this is what we are called to do. We showed up and God opened all the doors. Patrick and I can’t take credit for it. God did it all.”

Pickett and Alexander’s bond includes their extended families. At the Prison-to-College Pipeline Program graduation ceremony, Alexander’s mother pulled Pickett aside and told him as they embraced, “I think of you as Patrick’s brother.”

EBONY AND IVORY

OTIS PICKETT AND PATRICK ALEXANDER believe their different races were an asset when they taught a class on race relations and justice at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. While they take the issue of race relations seriously, Pickett and Alexander have also found that a white professor and an African American professor jointly teaching classes in a prison are bound to have some humorous moments. Alexander recalls the time his mother called when the two were en route to their first visit to Parchman.

“When I told my mother Otis was a white man wearing a bow tie, my mother said, ‘You are going to Parchman prison? With a *white* man named Otis?’ Then she paused and said, ‘Well, maybe you’ll come back out, then.’”

read their poems, there was so much excitement and so much pride in each other as a community. When they read, we heard *their* versions of Martin Luther King, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Barack Obama.”

In addition to potential college credit after their releases, participation in Pickett and Alexander’s course earned the students respect inside the prison walls. Students shared some of what they learned with their fellow inmates, telling them, “Maybe in the future, you’ll have the opportunity to take this class.”

In August 2014, the 17 scholars graduated from the Prison-to-College Pipeline Program. At the commencement ceremony at Parchman, several of the students again read aloud from their work. The audience of college professors and administrators and prison staff gave the graduates a prolonged standing ovation.

Program graduate Robert Lindsey summed up the feeling of all the graduates when he said, “The most important lesson I learned in this class is that my mind is brighter than I thought it was.”

Upon their release, former inmates must make a new life within a 50-mile radius of the location where they were arrested. For many, this means leaving prison only to return to the same difficult situations that led to their criminal behavior.

“We told the students, ‘When you get home, it is incumbent upon you to teach others,’” Pickett says. “One of the students said, ‘I never thought of myself as a teacher.’ That’s what this class was about – changing the students’ mindset from ‘I have no options,’ to ‘I have *these* options. By writing or speaking my mind, I can be an instrument of change.’”

Eight of the pilot course students have since been released from Parchman.

“Recidivism was one thing we wanted to change,” Pickett says. “We wanted these men to see themselves as scholars, and have the confidence to believe they could go on to college.”

Pickett points out that an average cost of around \$17,000 per year to house an inmate, the state would save some \$289,000 a year if these 17 students never returned to prison.

Pickett is committed to prison education for the long term. He and Alexander hope to teach another course at Parchman in 2015, and Pickett is also exploring the possibility of developing a course for Mississippi College students that would include visits to the prison for joint classes with the inmates. Pickett sees his work in prison education not only as a way to minister to the incarcerated, but also as a way to carry on his grandfather’s legacy.

“My grandfather made suffering in this world a little easier to bear,” Pickett says. “For me, I can honor his legacy by teaching. I can bring hope into a place where there is very little hope.”

A photograph of the proud 2014 Prison-to-College Pipeline Program graduates hangs on the wall in Pickett’s office at Mississippi College.

“The photo reminds me how powerful this experience was,” Pickett says. “I pray for those men every time I see that picture. I miss them, and I hope to see them again someday outside the prison walls. My experience at Parchman was what every teacher wants. It was true teaching, the reason I was put on this earth.”

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WHERE OTHERS SAID, "HAITI IS HOPELESS,"
STAN BUCKLEY '91 SAID, "BUT GOD..."

STAN BUCKLEY DID NOT WANT TO GO TO HAITI.

IN 2010, BUCKLEY '91 WAS THE SENIOR PASTOR AT 4,650-MEMBER First Baptist Church Jackson, and his hands and his calendar were full.

WHEN A REPRESENTATIVE OF A MISSION PROJECT IN HAITI CONTACTED BUCKLEY in the wake of a catastrophic earthquake that had left the already-impooverished nation in chaos, Buckley's first response was less than enthusiastic.

"I DIDN'T WANT TO MEET WITH HIM," HE SAYS.
"First Baptist already had a lot of ministries and we didn't need another one."

Buckley agreed to see the man only as a courtesy. But when the representative produced photo after photo of hundreds of thousands of people living in unspeakable squalor and pain amid the ruins, Buckley could not look away. "I told this man I'd pray for Haiti and said 'bye,' but the Holy Spirit would not let me forget those people," Buckley says. "I couldn't stop thinking about them. I decided I had to go to Haiti."

Just one year later, Stan Buckley resigned his position at First Baptist Jackson. The pastor who did not want to go to Haiti surrendered his heart, his career, and his life to work in one of the most desperate, miserable places on earth, and in the process, has seen first-hand that with God, all things are possible.

AN IMPOSSIBLE CHALLENGE

The Republic of Haiti occupies a portion of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, sharing the island with the Dominican Republic. But while the Dominican Republic has become popular as a tourist destination, Haiti remains an isolated country marked by extreme poverty, a severe lack of infrastructure, the absence of a national educational system, and a historically dysfunctional government that has hindered progress for more than two centuries.

Haiti occupies 10,700 square miles on the map – a space less than a quarter the size of the state of Mississippi – but is home to more than 10 million people, the majority of whom live on less than \$2 per day. Haiti was already near the top of the list of the world's poorest countries in January of 2010, when a 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked the capital city of Port-au-Prince. The earthquake killed as many as 230,000 people, left 1.6 million people – a tenth of Haiti's population – homeless, and brought the entire country to the brink of collapse.

Concrete buildings caved into the streets, houses slid down the mountainsides, and rubble and garbage rose seven feet high with no resources available to remove it. Mass graves were hastily dug and filled; many victims were never identified. Hundreds of thousands of people took shelter in makeshift tent cities with no access to clean water or sanitation. When food ran out, they resorted to eating dirt. The unspeakable conditions led to an outbreak of cholera that infected some 185,000 people and claimed thousands more lives.



In August of 2010, 10 months after the earthquake, Stan Buckley arrived in Haiti, accompanied by a small group from First Baptist Church Jackson. Their first stop was a tent city for amputees. Thousands of people missing arms, legs, hands, or feet huddled beneath ragged tarps in the sweltering heat. There was no electricity or running water. The overpowering odor of raw sewage and human waste filled the air and garbage choked the narrow paths through row after row of tents and tarps.

"I've never seen such utter hopelessness and despair," Buckley says. "We were surrounded by throngs of people. There was no breeze, just this stifling humidity and putrid smells. And all of these people, trapped in this situation with no power to change their circumstances. I stepped away from the group to pray and try to process what I was seeing."

When Buckley looked up, a young man was standing before him. Buckley learned that his name was Thomas, he was 19 years old, and he had fled to the tent city with his mother after his father was killed in the earthquake and the family's home was destroyed. He had been living there for eight months.

"I asked Thomas what had to be the dumbest question anyone could have asked," Buckley says. "I asked, 'If you and your family could leave this tent city and live somewhere in a house, with clean water and food, and you could go to school or to work, would you like to move there?' Thomas said, 'Of course. *But that's impossible.*'"

"In that instant, I thought, 'But God,'" Buckley says. "I thought of all the times God has shown up when things are impossible. The Red Sea, the fiery furnace, the lion's den, the dead walking. Those times, the *impossible* times, are the times when God does His best work."



“I CANNOT IMAGINE MY MOTHER LIVING LIKE THIS, MY WIFE LIVING LIKE THIS, MY CHILDREN LIVING LIKE THIS.

I cannot imagine them entering into this flimsy structure at night to somehow get some rest. I cannot imagine what happens when it rains. What I do know is that [the people who live in this house] are loved by God. They are created in His image. And God has blessed you and me to be in a position to help them. No, we can't help every person in this world who is living in poverty. But we can help some.” – STAN BUCKLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BUT GOD MINISTRIES

“BUT GOD...”

Upon his return to Jackson, Buckley began praying for direction, asking God, “What can I do? I’m one pastor, in one church, in a poor state. What can I do?”

The answer to Buckley’s prayers was a vision of a community that would not only house and heal suffering people, but would empower the Haitians to help themselves and each other. Buckley’s vision included a medical clinic, a worship center, and a school, and, perhaps most likely to be deemed “impossible,” a plan for sustainability that would allow the Haitians to create a viable economy from virtually nothing.

“What I saw wasn’t a ‘parachute’ mission, where an outside group comes in and takes charge,” Buckley says. “It was something that the Haitians would be invested in. It was something that would *last*.”

In October, Buckley shared his vision with the First Baptist Church membership in a sermon, complete with a prototype of the houses he envisioned building.

“I explained that in March, First Baptist Jackson would take up a *single offering* to build a sustainable community on an island in the middle of nowhere,” Buckley recalls with a wry smile.

That single offering came in at \$600,000, including \$100,000 raised from outside First Baptist Jackson through word of mouth and people who had seen the televised sermon.

“Once again,” Buckley says, “I had the thought, ‘But God.’”

In May of 2011, construction began in Haiti on 17 acres near the village of Galette Chambon, 18 miles from the devastated city of Port-au-Prince. The project became known as the Hope Center.

Buckley traveled to Haiti as the work began. During a previously scheduled sabbatical from First Baptist Jackson in June and July, Buckley realized he was being called to minister to the country and its people fulltime, explaining, “Originally, I had envisioned building this ministry through First Baptist Jackson, but now I was sensing that God had a different plan.”

With the support of his wife, Jewell, and their three children, Buckley announced his resignation from First Baptist Jackson and became the fulltime executive director of the nonprofit organization he aptly christened “But God

Ministries.” Buckley divided his efforts between travel to Haiti at least one week out of every month and spending his remaining time in Mississippi fundraising and directing the ministry, which grew more quickly than he ever could have imagined.

“Because the ministry began at First Baptist Jackson, it had credibility,” Buckley says. “Almost from the beginning, other churches began sending teams to help with the construction.”

By February of 2012, the impossible had been achieved. Where before there was only bare land tainted by tragedy and despair, there were now a medical and dental clinic and dorms for the hundreds of volunteers who would bring new hope to Haiti.



AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM REALIZED

For the first year of its existence, there was no fulltime staff at the Hope Center. Buckley and members of the But God Ministries board traveled to Haiti at least once a month overseeing activities and building relationships with the residents of Galette Chambon, and short-term mission teams kept the construction projects on track.

Like Buckley, Tony West ’97 was called to Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake. A registered nurse and former instructor in the MC medical health sciences program, West was driving to work when he heard God say in an audible voice, “You are going to Haiti.” Four weeks later, West was on a plane as a member of a church mission team.



"ONCE AGAIN, I HAD THE THOUGHT, 'BUT GOD.'"

STAN BUCKLEY



"It was so hard to see how these people lived," West recalls. "You see it on TV, but to experience it was something entirely different. The people love to laugh and be loved on. Then you see that they live in mud and stick huts. When I came back to the States, a part of me was left there in Haiti."

West found himself drawn to Haiti again and again, returning to minister to the people he had come to love. On his fifth trip, something happened that caused West to reconsider his entire life's purpose.

"A young couple tried to give me their child," West says. "His name was Jeffy. They loved their little boy, and they thought I could provide a better life for him in America than he would ever know in Haiti. That trip was the hardest one to come home from. I wondered, was God trying to tell me to adopt Jeffy? I went home and prayed about it. Two or three nights later, God woke me up with a vision of a community. I saw a clinic, a school, a soccer field. And I realized it wasn't about helping just *one* child."

Feeling they were being called to fulltime mission work, Tony and his wife, Mickie '88, '00, a former Mississippi College English instructor, began researching mission programs in Haiti. Their search led Tony to a meeting with Barbara Gladney, a member of the But God Ministries board of directors.

"I told Barbara that I'd had a vision of a community where I could run a medical clinic," Tony West recalls. "Then Barbara pulled out some renderings of the planned Hope Center, and there it was. Those drawings were *exactly* what I had seen in my dream."

Before committing to But God Ministries, Tony and Mickie and their sons, Jacob and Jonathan, made a trip to Haiti to tour the construction site that was to become the Hope Center. On that first visit they met Estima Vil, a respected local leader who served on a six-member advisory committee formed to act as a liaison between But God Ministries and the residents of Galette Chambon.

"This man, Estima, came out of a tent, walked up to Tony, and said, 'One day, someone is going to come here and provide healthcare to our village,'" Mickie West says. "Tony looked at him and said, 'I think that's me.' Estima started crying. That was the moment we knew for sure. This was the place that God was leading us."

ON THE GROUND IN GALETTE CHAMBON

Mickie West is lively and energetic, a gifted storyteller who never stops talking. In short, she's the perfect missionary "hostess" for But God Ministries' Hope Center, which welcomed nearly 600 volunteers for short-term missions in 2014 alone.

In addition to the medical and dental clinic and dorms for visiting mission teams, the Hope Center includes a school, a church, an orphanage, and two missionary residences, one occupied by the Wests, who relocated permanently to Haiti in 2012. The second residence houses Charles and Hannah McCall and their two small daughters. Charles McCall is an agricultural missionary who is teaching the Haitians about sustainable farming practices that will enable them to grow produce not only to feed their own families, but also to sell. McCall also helped launch a chicken-and-egg program that led to the construction of 30 chicken coops owned by individual families, who eat and sell the eggs.



STAN BUCKLEY

IMPOSSIBLE CHALLENGES, IMPOSSIBLE VICTORIES

THE CHALLENGES

While exact numbers have never been confirmed, the 2010 Haiti earthquake killed as many as 230,000 people, injured 300,000, and left 1.6 million homeless.

Damages from the earthquake were estimated at \$8 billion, approximately 120 percent of the gross domestic product.

Haiti occupies 10,700 square miles on the map – a space less than a quarter the size of the state of Mississippi – but is home to more than 10 million people.

According to the World Bank, 80 percent of Haiti's population lives on less than \$2 per day. Other statistics point to an average income of around \$600 per year.

UNICEF estimates Haiti is home to more than 430,000 orphans.

More than five years after the earthquake, approximately 100,000 Haitians are still living in tent cities.

THE VICTORIES

Since 2012, more than 27,000 patients have been treated at the Hope Center medical clinic and remote clinics.

But God Ministries has moved 60 families out of tent cities and into newly built homes.

But God Ministries sponsors school scholarships for more than 200 children.

In 2014 alone, the Hope Center hosted 590 mission trip participants.



PERHAPS MOST MIRACULOUS, THE HILLTOP RISING ABOVE THE HOPE CENTER IS DOTTED WITH 60 HOUSES IN BRIGHT SHADES OF TURQUOISE, YELLOW, GREEN, AND PINK. EACH COTTON CANDY-COLORED RESIDENCE HOUSES A FAMILY THAT ONCE SPENT MONTHS LIVING IN THE TENT CITY.

As Mickie West walks the winding paths through this new community known simply as “the Hill,” small children run to take her hands, and smiling men and women greet her with friendly cries of, “Mickie!” and “Where is Papa Tony today?” Mickie introduces visitors to the hillside’s residents, including a little boy named Jacob. “We delivered him in the clinic,” she explains. “He’s named after our son.”

The 60 homes were built by hundreds of But God Ministries donors and short-term mission team members, who not only raised the \$5,500 to fund a house, but also provided the manual labor needed to raise its walls.

“The team members get to know the family they’re building the house for,” Mickie West says. “The team prays with them and works alongside them. By the end of the team’s week here, the house is complete and the family’s life is changed.”

The houses are modest, one-room, 18-foot-by-12-foot structures that come with a bed and a month’s supply of beans, rice, and oil. Four or five family members may live in the small space. The houses have electricity, but no running water, which is in short supply in Haiti. Residents cook their meals in outside kitchens, pump water daily from a community well dug by But God Ministries, and share responsibility for maintaining communal outhouses. Ambitious future plans for the Hill include additional wells and the construction of a communal bathhouse with showers.

It’s far from the American standard of comfortable living, but for those who relocated here from a tent city, their new homes are a piece of comfort and security they never thought they would experience this side of Heaven.



At 84, Madam Marta is one of the Hill’s oldest residents. It’s difficult to imagine petite, delicate Marta, with her neat gray braids and her infectious smile, enduring the horrors of the tent city. Marta welcomes each new mission team into her home, insisting that they sit down while she shares what the Hope Center has done for her. The only time the warm smile fades from Marta’s face is when she extends her weathered, empty hands to her visitors and says in lyrical Haitian Creole, “I am sorry. I have nothing to give you.”

“No, Madam Marta, you have joy,” Mickie West says, wrapping her arm around the fragile woman.

“Yes,” Marta says, her smile returning. “I have *plenty* of joy to give.”

Marta’s neighbor, Macquil, was also left homeless and unemployed by the earthquake. Thanks to But God Ministries, Macquil now has a steady job in construction, building homes for other families like his own.

“I have a totally different life, a better life,” Macquil says. “I have a home and a job. My children go to school. When I was in the tent city, I prayed for the grace and the blessing of God, that the Lord would not leave me there. I had hope in Jesus. I never gave up my hope. And I saw that the more you pray, the more hope you have. Now, my hope is that the Hope Center will get even bigger, that it will spread out all around this country.”

But God Ministries *has* spread its housing program to other areas of Galette Chambon. Jocelyn, a 36-year old mother of four, mentioned during a Bible study at the Hope Center that she had a problem with rats in her house. When team members visited Jocelyn’s home, they found the decrepit shelter so overrun with the aggressive rodents that the house was barely livable. Jocelyn’s children could not sleep through the night because the rats were chewing on their fingers and toes. In 2014, Jocelyn, her children, and her newborn granddaughter moved into a safe, new home built by But God Ministries. The newborn baby’s mother said simply, “I am thankful my daughter will grow up in a good house.”

In the shadow of the Hill, the medical clinic Tony West dreamt of is now a bustling reality, staffed by West and Shubert Cornelius, a local doctor who was born, raised, and attended medical school in Haiti.

“When we first moved here, we weren’t sure when the clinic would open,” Mickie West says. “But when people started banging on the gate, we knew it was time.”

The clinic sees an average of 30 patients a day, seven days a week; Tony West is on call 24/7 in case of emergencies. Conditions treated include respiratory infections, skin issues, gastrointestinal ailments, complications of malnutrition, pregnancy, and injuries ranging from broken bones to gaping wounds. It’s impossible to predict what might come through the door. The Wests have seen everything from a man who walked in with a machete embedded in his skull to

an 11-year-old girl with a broken femur bone that had been protruding from her skin for more than three years. Patients travel from miles away to receive care; a pregnant woman once walked for two days to get to the clinic to deliver her baby; two hours after the delivery, she gathered up her newborn and began the long journey home, telling Tony and Mickie West, “God will give me strength.”

In addition to treating patients in the clinic, the medical team regularly visits churches in nearby communities, bringing care to people who can’t travel to the Hope Center.

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

“GOD HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED WHAT WE NEED, WHEN WE NEED IT,” MICKIE WEST SAYS.

The Wests have plenty of examples to illustrate that point, but perhaps none better than the story of the unclaimed baggage. At one time, the Hope Center medical clinic was in desperate need of children’s medications. Tony West made due as best he could with adult-sized pills carefully broken into halves or quarters, but with so many little ones as patients, the need was dire. “We prayed one night for children’s medicines,” Mickie West says. “The very next day, a team came in to serve, and a suitcase came in with them from the airport. No one claimed it as their bag. When we opened it there was no identification inside, but the bag was full of children’s meds and Cheerios.”

The remote clinics are organized chaos, with patients lining up hours in advance for the opportunity to see a nurse or doctor. Clinic “hours” are determined by the number of visiting doctors and nurses available to work and volunteers on hand to assist. A remote clinic with four doctors or nurses at the ready can treat approximately 125 patients in a day. Throngs



MICKIE AND TONY WEST



of people gather as the local pastor hands out appointment cards, each person passionately arguing his or her case as to why they should receive what could be life-saving treatment.

Non-medical volunteers entertain the dozens of waiting children with songs, craft projects, and games, a makeshift Vacation Bible School. The Haitians who visit the remote clinics have come to know they will receive not only medical care, but also encouragement from But God Ministries volunteers who have come to Haiti to share the love of Christ.

Twenty-eight-year-old Leanite brought her four-year-old and two-year-old daughters to a remote clinic seeking help for their persistent coughs.

“Thanks to Hope Center, my babies will have the medicine they need to get better,” Leanite says. “God sent Hope Center here, to this village. Everywhere Hope Center goes, they help people not just to be well, but to have God.”

Philemise is 45 years old, but the harsh life in Haiti appears to have aged her beyond those years. When the pain in her back became excruciating, she walked to a remote clinic for help.

“IN THE HOPE CENTER, I SEE GOD.”

“If the Hope Center were not here, I would have nowhere to go for this pain,” Philemise says. “Hope Center came to help people like me in the countryside. The people here bless the name of God for the Hope Center.”

The years of care fall from her face as Philemise breaks into a bright smile. “I have no expression to explain how happy I feel that Hope Center is here. I have believed in God for a long time, but in the Hope Center, I see God’s work being done. In the Hope Center, I see God.”

The Hope Center orphanage was not a part of Buckley’s original vision, but is one of the many “impossibilities” that have become a reality.

“Two church groups from Pensacola came here to volunteer, and they kept talking to me about starting an orphanage,” Buckley says. “I told them, ‘I don’t want to build and fundraise for an orphanage. But I do want to partner with someone who does.’”

Built by those churches, the orphanage currently houses 13 children and can accommodate as many as 32. The children who live there are not truly “orphans;” they have living family members in the area who could not adequately care for them. Like the rest of the But God Ministries projects, the orphanage is operated with the future of Haiti and its people in mind. The children are not available for adoption. Instead, they are raised with love and Christian values, provided with an education, including a college fund, and encouraged and inspired to become leaders in their home communities.

“Things here happen *tipa tipa*,” Mickie West says. “That means step by step, little by little. But people here see progress, and they say, ‘You are doing what you said you would

THAT OLD BLACK MAGIC

VOODOO IS AN ANCIENT PRACTICE AND BELIEF THAT HAS, OVER TIME, BECOME INTERMINGLED WITH OTHER RELIGIONS IN HAITI.

It’s estimated that some 85 percent of the Haitian population practices or believes in some form of voodoo or “black magic,” including some Haitians who identify themselves as Christians.

As missionaries in Haiti, Tony and Mickie West have witnessed celebratory parades on Good Friday, stumbled across makeshift altars littered with offerings to the spirits, and shared their Christian testimony with a voodoo priest who brought his family to the Hope Center medical clinic for treatment.

Tony has also treated several patients who believed their health was compromised by voodoo spells or arrived at the clinic with visible burns they claimed were caused by “voodoo powder.”

“I don’t know what’s in voodoo powder, but it does cause burns, and the people here are very afraid of it,” Tony says.

Mickie West describes the unforgettable day when a local Haitian woman was cleaning the restroom at the Hope Center.

“She ran out of the bathroom screaming, saying someone had sprinkled the room with voodoo powder,” Mickie says. “I went inside to look, and I saw the powder, too. My first thought was that someone had actually tried to harm us. Then I took a closer look, and I had to laugh. Someone else had started to clean the bathroom and walked away in the middle of the job. What she thought was voodoo powder was actually Ajax.”

do.’ That’s a big deal to these people. The members of the liaison committee have told us how important it is that the people believe in the Hope Center.”

The Hope Center also believes in the Haitian people. Despite – or perhaps because of – the harsh realities of daily life in Haiti, the Haitian people are faith-filled and optimistic, hard workers willing to give their all when presented with an opportunity. True to Buckley’s original vision, the Haitian people have invested of themselves in But God Ministries. A Haitian pastor leads the church, a Haitian doctor treats patients in the clinic, and a Haitian contractor oversees construction projects. The Hope Center staff includes 33 fulltime Haitian employees who work as drivers, translators, cooks, security officers, and childcare providers.

Over the three years since Stan Buckley resigned his job to launch But God Ministries, there have been many memorable milestones. But for Buckley, those milestones aren’t measured in dollars raised or buildings erected.



"GOD ALWAYS BRINGS THE RIGHT PEOPLE AT THE RIGHT TIME."

STAN BUCKLEY



"THE GREATEST MOMENT FOR ME HAS BEEN WHEN WE'VE WALKED INTO A TENT CITY FILLED WITH FILTH AND DESPAIR, HELPED A FAMILY GATHER THEIR FEW, MEAGER BELONGINGS, THEN TAKEN THEM TO THEIR NEW HOME AND HANDED THEM THE KEYS," BUCKLEY SAYS.

"It's more than just a house. When they stand on that front porch with the keys in their hands, they know they have a school, medical care, the hope of a job, and a new life. Another great moment is when a baby is born at the Hope Center. We know that because he or she was born in this community, that baby has the hope for a better life."

"WITH MAN, THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT WITH GOD..."

From March to October, the Hope Center hosts a new mission team every week, with volunteers working in health-care, construction, business development, agricultural development, and children's ministries.

"God always brings the right people at the right time," Buckley says. "When we needed wiring done, a team came in that included an electrical engineer. When we needed cabinets built, the president of a national cabinetry association got off the plane."

"We'd been here a year and we'd never delivered a baby," Mickie West says. "One Saturday, I picked up a team at the airport that included an OB GYN and a labor and delivery nurse. That week, Tony and I helped them deliver our first two babies. We've delivered more than 100 babies since then."

"That's how God trains us down here," Tony West says. "I had no dental experience at all. Then a team came that included a dentist, and he taught me how to perform extractions. Since then, I think I've pulled at least 500 teeth."

"Most people think that if you aren't a doctor or nurse or an engineer, you aren't needed," Buckley says. "But that's not true. We need teachers. We need businessmen and businesswomen. And we need people who don't know what their gifts are, but find out when they get here."



"Everyone finds their niche, and that's what they pour into," Mickie West adds.

One of the people who found a niche with the ministry was Jim Gorrie, the owner of Brasfield & Gorrie, one of the Southeastern United States' largest construction firms. Buckley's son, Neal, and Gorrie's daughter, Alie, became friends as students in the Belmont College musical theatre department. When Alie signed up for a mission trip through But God Ministries, her father came along.

"I like to tell people that God connected us through musical theatre," Buckley says. "Jim Gorrie and his company have since become an integral part of our work in Haiti."

Gorrie has not only supported But God Ministries financially, but also began offering Brasfield & Gorrie's 3,000 employees the opportunity to serve at the Hope Center. An Auburn University alumnus, Gorrie also recruited professors and students from Auburn's building science and agricultural programs to lend their expertise to the ministry.

BUT GOD, BEING RICH IN MERCY,
BECAUSE OF THE GREAT LOVE
WITH WHICH HE LOVED US, EVEN WHEN
WE WERE DEAD IN OUR TRESPASSES,
MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST.

EPHESIANS 2:4-5



For more on this story, visit mc.edu/beacon

“But God Ministries gives me an opportunity to do more than just write a check,” Gorrie says. “This is a place where I know our people’s talents can be put into action almost immediately. When you donate to a large organization, you might know your money is going to a good cause, but you don’t see the immediate results the way you do here. For example, when the church was being built, we had the opportunity to help with the design details. That’s not something you get to do with UNICEF. I’ve been here four times, and every time I come, I see so much progress.”

Gorrie was one of the many guests on hand on November 12, 2014, when But God Ministries dedicated its second Hope Center in the mountainous village of Thoman, about an hour’s drive up the mountain from Galette Chambon. Built with donations of \$300,000 and designed by Auburn building science majors as their thesis project, the Thoman Hope Center includes a medical and dental clinic, missionary house, and dormitories to accommodate visiting teams. Pastor Jean Mathurin Merystal grew up in Thoman and leads the church there, supported by resident missionaries Terry and Kathy Warren.

The joyous dedication celebration featured a blue-robed choir performing traditional Haitian worship songs, inspirational speeches by Stan Buckley, Pastor Mathurin, and other guests, and a soul-stirring rendition of “Amazing Grace” sung simultaneously in English and Haitian Creole by hundreds of Thoman residents and a small group of American guests. The dream of Macquil, the Galette Chambon resident who hoped that “the Hope Center will get even bigger, that it will spread out all around this country,” was coming true.

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

While two Hope Centers completed in less than four years on “an island in the middle of nowhere” might seem a remarkable achievement, But God Ministries is only beginning its work in Haiti. In addition to expanding the clinic in Galette Chambon, Buckley envisions constructing a small hospital for treating more serious cases and performing surgeries. There are also plans to expand the Hope Center school, which currently teaches students through seventh grade, to twelfth grade, greatly enhancing educational opportunities in a part of the world where many children do not attend secondary school.

Additional long-range plans include the establishment of a garment factory that would employ local workers and manufacture products for sale in the United States, as well as the launch of a coffee industry that would allow farmers in Thoman to grow, harvest, and sell coffee beans to companies in the United States.

Perhaps most exciting is a plan to bring the But God Ministries model to America. The organization’s board of directors has approved preliminary research into building a similar, sustainable community in an impoverished area of the Mississippi Delta.

“We all need spiritual guidance, sound education, clean water, food, and good jobs,” Buckley says. “Every town in America needs those things. The leaders of But God Ministries are native Mississippians, and we’re uniquely positioned to take the model we used in Haiti and use it to make a difference in our home state.”



FINDING YOUR MISSION POSSIBLE

You can support But God Ministries’ remarkable work in Haiti through hands-on work as part of a short-term mission team, praying for the ministry, or donating money or supplies. For more information, visit butgodministries.com.

One of those most engaged in But God Ministries’ future is Billy Van Devender, a Jackson businessman who, like Stan Buckley, initially had no interest in an effort in Haiti.

“I had been on mission trips with Stan before, but when he approached me about Haiti, I said, ‘I’m not going to Haiti and I’m not giving you any money for Haiti.’ I had looked at Haiti before and decided it was hopeless,” Van Devender says. “But Stan had a vision that I’ve seen become a reality. And now, I have a heart for this place.”

“What I love the most about But God Ministries is that every day here is different,” Mickie West says. “We never know what we’ll face, but in some way or another, every single moment is a ministry. I’m not going to work just hoping for an opportunity to share Christ or to be used by Christ. I know I’ll have that opportunity every day.”

“I love the work we do, but what keeps us here is that we are part of this community,” Tony West says. “It’s very easy to give when you’re loved on the way we are.”

That is not to say that there haven’t been frustrations, setbacks, and heartbreaks along the way. To have a ministry in Haiti is to deal daily with an inefficient, sometimes corrupt government; a system of local “rules” that constantly changes; a lack of infrastructure that complicates logistics, makes planning difficult, and hampers progress; and the crushing burden of centuries of hopelessness.

“That is why so many people go to Haiti and then end up quitting,” Buckley says. “If you asked the most brilliant minds to go to a white board and draw the definition of ‘dysfunction,’ they couldn’t come close to drawing Haiti.”

But the harsh reality of Haiti itself is also proof that with God, all things are possible.

“We’ve been able to accomplish so much so quickly through God’s providence,” Stan Buckley says. “He has connected us with Haitians we could trust, sent people with the skills we needed just when we needed them, and provided the resources we had to have when we had to have them. Looking at what God has allowed us to accomplish in three years is what helps us during the difficult days. He has provided and will continue to provide. There is a reason we say, ‘But with God, all things are possible.’”



DON AND SUE PHILLIPS

FINDING HIS

Jerusalem



Don Phillips '54 on what inspires him to give, Mississippi College as a mission field, and the importance of not being nosy

“IN MATTHEW CHAPTER 28, JESUS TELLS HIS DISCIPLES TO GO AND MINISTER IN JERUSALEM, JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND THE OUTERMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH,” DON PHILLIPS SAYS. “MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE HAS BEEN *My* JERUSALEM.”

THERE ARE MISSION FIELDS AROUND THE WORLD, BUT I feel I'm just as involved in mission work here. MC provides a caring, Christian environment for young people and teaches them lessons that will serve them for a lifetime. *That* is an important mission.”

For nearly six decades, the Mississippi College community has been blessed by Don Phillips' loyalty, leadership, and generosity. In 2014, the rest of Mississippi realized the magnitude of Phillips' philanthropic efforts when the Mississippi chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals named Don Phillips its Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year. The award honored the person in Mississippi who has worked the hardest and given the most of himself for the benefit of others.

“We treasure the extraordinary service that Dr. Don Phillips provides as an influential leader at Mississippi College,” says MC President Lee Royce. “Don has worked tirelessly for many years to raise money to build student scholarships, strengthen the university's endowment, grow academic programs, and construct campus facilities. We applaud the Association of Fundraising Professionals for selecting Don Phillips as its Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year. He is certainly an excellent choice for this prestigious statewide honor.”

Phillips has built a long and storied history of service to his *alma mater*, including work as a trustee and as a mem-

ber of no less than 11 boards and committees at Mississippi College alone. Phillips was instrumental in the formation of the MC Foundation, an organization that manages the MC endowment fund and engages in fundraising activities. Phillips has served as chairman of the Foundation's board since its establishment in the early 2000s, prompting him to joke that his role as chairman is “like a Supreme Court appointment – it's a lifetime position.”

Phillips served as chair of the steering committee for MC's Growing the Vision campaign, which began as a drive to raise \$65 million for facilities, programs, and scholarships and concluded by raising more than \$87 million. He has played leadership roles with the annual MC athletic dinner and spring scholarship banquet, as well as co-chairing the Circle of Champions committee and serving on the Sports Hall of Fame selection committee. Phillips has also been active in recruiting efforts for Mississippi College, encouraging dozens of young people to attend MC.

“When you retire, you retire not only *from* something, but to something. That has been my experience here at Mississippi College,” Phillips says. “Sometimes I joke that I need to go back to work so I can take weekends off.”

“The biggest challenge has sometimes been realizing when I'm *not* needed. There's a fine line between being engaged and being nosy,” Phillips says with a chuckle. “Over

FAMILY TIES TO THE BLUE AND GOLD Don and Sue Phillips' daughter, son-in-law, and three of their grandchildren attended Mississippi College. Sue Phillips is a graduate of Blue Mountain College, but as Don Phillips notes, “The new president's house is called the Don and Sue Phillips House, so I suppose she has become a Mississippi College fan.”

THROUGH VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP ROLES AND NUMEROUS DIRECT GIFTS, Don Phillips has helped generate more than \$100 million for Mississippi College, Holmes Community College, and other nonprofit organizations.

“DON PHILLIPS IS A SUPERB BUSINESSMAN WHO IS DEDICATED TO GIVING BACK AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS. HE EMBODIES THE BEST QUALITIES OF THE TERMS ‘CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN’ AND ‘PHILANTHROPIST.’ MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE IS SO VERY PROUD TO CALL HIM ONE OF OUR MOST OUTSTANDING ALUMNI.”

Ron Howard, Mississippi College Vice President for Academic Affairs

the years, I've tried my hardest to be of service and to avoid the nosy part. I try not to overstep the line or interfere with the affairs of the school, and I'm very careful not to offer more help than MC is seeking.”

Phillips' latest gift led to the construction of a new landmark on the Mississippi College campus. He and his wife, Sue, made the generous lead gift for the construction of the new president's house. Appropriately christened “the Don and Sue Phillips House,” the gracious, two-story home was dedicated last fall.

“There's a country music song that says, ‘It's not what you take when you leave this world behind you. It's what you leave behind you when you go,’” Phillips says. “My wife and I felt this new home would be a lasting benefit for MC, and also for the city of Clinton, for many years to come.”

THE PHILLIPS FILE

Phillips came from a humble background, graduating from Gore Springs (Mississippi) High School in a class of just 14 members before enrolling in Holmes Community College, where he played on championship basketball and baseball teams and was voted Mr. Holmes Community College. Phillips continued to play basketball after enrolling in Mississippi College as an accounting major. Phillips was drawn to MC by the university's Christian values and personal attention to every student.

“You are *somebody* at MC. Every student is important to the university,” Phillips says. “I don't know anyone who has gone to school at MC and didn't come away a better person.”

Following his MC graduation, Phillips taught and coached at the high school and community college levels before launching an impressive business career. He spent 29 years with International Minerals and Chemical Corp., where he served as president of the company's industry group and of its animal health products company, Pittman-Moore. Phillips served on the boards of directors of several major companies in the United States and Canada, where he quickly became known for his leadership skills and business acumen.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of Mississippi College, Phillips has served as a tireless volunteer for multiple professional, civic, and charitable groups. His leadership roles at his original *alma mater*, Holmes Community College, include service as the president of the board of the Holmes Community College Foundation, on the executive committee of the alumni association, and as the chair of the steering committee for an \$11 million capital campaign.

Phillips has also put his skills and experience in educational leadership to work as a member of the boards of trustees of Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Lake Forest, Illinois, Graduate School of Business. Other organi-

“THERE'S A COUNTRY MUSIC SONG THAT SAYS, ‘It's not what you take when you leave this world behind you. It's what you leave behind you when you go.’” My wife and I felt this new home would be a lasting benefit for MC, and also for the city of Clinton, for many years to come.”



THE NEW MC PRESIDENT'S HOME

zations that have benefitted from Phillips' leadership skills include the Mynelle Gardens Botanical Society, R.E.A.L. Christian Foundation, and Community Place Nursing Home. Phillips is a deacon at First Baptist Church Jackson.

In recognition of his outstanding and unflinching service to MC, the university presented Phillips with an honorary doctorate. He also holds an MBA from the University of Mississippi.

Phillips is proud of the strides MC has made over the years, including building a campus whose facilities he describes as “not taking a back seat to those of any university, anywhere” and launching new programs, including the physician assistant program, that “weren't even a dream when I was a student here.” But while he is impressed with the many enhancements to MC, Phillips is even more impressed that the strong commitment to Christian principles upon which MC was founded have remained the same. In addition to receiving his business education, Phillips is grateful for the lasting life lessons learned at MC that reached far beyond the classroom, and for finding in Mississippi College his own Jerusalem.

“At Mississippi College, I saw that regardless of what you do or where you are in your own life, you can make a difference for the good of others,” Phillips says. “Those times when I have been in a position where I could help Mississippi College, I have considered it a privilege to do so. Over the years, what was once my desire to become a part of MC has changed to MC becoming a part of me.”

AWARDS AND HONORS — *Don Phillips' many awards and honors include:* Holmes Community College Sports Hall of Fame • Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame • Holmes Community College Alumnus of the Year • Holmes Community College Distinguished Service Award • Mississippi College Distinguished Service Award • Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, Mississippi College • Mississippi Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year 2014

Still FEEDING THE SPIRIT

Don Jordan '51, Alumnus of the Year

DON "PAPA" JORDAN HAS BUILT A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AND A FAR-REACHING CHRISTIAN MINISTRY ON RELATIONSHIPS, A THREE-LEGGED STOOL, AND A HEAPING HELPING OF PIMENTO CHEESE.

Jordan's commitment to Christ, his family, his profession, and Mississippi College led the university to choose him as the 2014 Alumnus of the Year. "I had to read the letter telling me I had been named Alumnus of the Year twice," Jordan says. "I was just so surprised." Jordan might have been surprised by the recognition, but those familiar with all that he has accomplished and his long record of service certainly were not.



DON JORDAN HAS ALWAYS HAD A HEAD FOR BUSINESS.

As a boy growing up in Kosciusko, Mississippi, he operated a fruit stand, delivered newspapers and groceries on his bicycle, and sold leftover Easter candy to his classmates. Years later as a student at MC, Jordan launched a used textbook exchange program that eventually became a university-run operation and a model for other colleges. When an ice storm shut down the MC cafeteria, Jordan and his roommate bought all of the meat, cheese, and bread in the local convenience store and operated a temporary sandwich shop in their dorm room.

Despite his business acumen, it came as a complete surprise to Jordan when Harvard Business School offered him a scholarship for graduate studies.

“I didn’t understand it,” Jordan says. “I had never applied to Harvard.”

When Jordan shared the letter from Harvard with his accounting teacher, Mrs. Frances Skulley, the mystery was solved.

“She told me that she had applied for me,” Jordan says, still tearing up at the memory some 60 years later. “I could never thank her enough.”

Jordan became the first MC graduate to study at Harvard. Following his Harvard Business School graduation and service in the U.S. Army, Jordan launched what would become a stellar business career. Over the next several decades, he held high-profile positions nationwide with Proctor & Gamble, First Mississippi Corporation, Bristol Myers, and Plough. Jordan and his wife, Marlene, and their three children, Cyndi, Jen, and Trey, eventually settled in Memphis, Tennessee, where Jordan became a leader in his church and in the community.

With so many demands on his time and energies, Jordan developed a “metaphor for life” to remind himself to maintain a healthy balance between his work, his family, and his faith.

“Life is like a three-legged stool. One leg represents the professional, one the spiritual, and the third family and friends. If all three legs are not in balance, the stool will top-

ple, but if all three are given equal attention, the stool – your life – will be stable,” Jordan explains. “Most business people grow that business leg too long, but I’ve never known a truly happy person in my life who didn’t have three equal legs.”

“In the years when we were growing up, Dad might be out of town on business all week long, but when he was home,

he was devoted to his family, church, and ministry,” Trey Jordan recalls. “He started Bible studies in Memphis, and our house was always open to people in need.”

In 1974, Jordan saw yet another opportunity in a new and as-yet-unheard-of fast food operation called Wendy’s. He bought a Wendy’s franchise in Waco, Texas, and put his relationship skills to work to make the eatery a success. Despite commuting back and forth from Tennessee to Texas, Jordan became an integral and beloved part of the Waco community. The Waco franchise became one of the top Wendy’s franchises in America. Jordan not only won virtually every marketing award presented by Wendy’s International and the Wendy Award recognizing the top franchisee of the year, but was also named an honorary alumnus of Baylor University.

In the early 1990s, Trey Jordan approached his father about going into business together, and in 1993, Holiday Deli & Ham was born.

The Memphis-based, family friendly deli is known for its pimento cheese, which is made from Don Jordan’s own recipe.

The Jordans focused on creating a warm atmosphere at Holiday Deli, down to the family photos that grace the walls and the company’s slogan, “We’ll feed you like family.” Once



WHAT’S IN A NAME?

One of Don Jordan’s favorite verses is Proverbs 22:1, which reads, “A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.” “The only thing you can take with you to the grave and leave behind for your children is a good name,” Jordan says.



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR DON JORDAN AND MC PRESIDENT DR. LEE ROYCE

again, the idea of a business based on relationships proved successful for Don Jordan. He and his son now operate multiple Holiday Deli locations, as well as a second restaurant concept called Pimento’s Café & Market. A Pimento’s Café on the campus at Mississippi College offers students and visitors a taste of the foods that made Papa Jordan a success, served up with that same sense of home.

“We like to think of ourselves as the non-alcoholic Cheers,” Jordan says. “We’re not just selling food here. We’re selling the feeling of family and creating a welcoming atmosphere for our customers and our employees.”

In 1996, Jordan sold his Wendy’s franchise. In 2004, he retired, remaining with Holiday Deli & Ham as an advisor but turning ownership of the company over to his son.

Since his retirement, Jordan has devoted his time to enhancing his Christian ministry. Today, he serves as a mentor and prayer partner for some 40 business leaders, entrepreneurs, and pastors he has come to call his “Barnabas Group.” Jordan named the group after a Biblical follower of Christ known for his care and concern for others. The apostles called him Barnabas – the “son of encouragement.” According to Acts 11:24, “[Barnabas] was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.”

In addition to the Barnabas Group, Jordan stays busy with service to his church and the Memphis community and

time spent with his family – which includes his second wife, Cynthia, whom he married after Marlene’s death, and their children and grandchildren. He serves on the board of the Baptist Hospital Foundation, one of the largest healthcare organizations in the country.

Jordan has also supported his *alma mater*, establishing an endowment at the Mississippi College School of Business for developing programs and attracting speakers focused on integrating faith in the work place. Jordan served as the keynote speaker at the 2013 Mississippi College commencement ceremony.

In September of 2014, Don Jordan celebrated his 85th birthday. While he’s learned many lessons over the course of his long and successful career, Jordan still finds his greatest happiness through his service to Christ, the relationships he cherishes, and his three-legged stool approach to life.

“I know how important family, friendships, and a relationship with the Lord truly are,” Jordan says. “As you get older, you have more time to reflect on these things.”

“If I had to give advice to business students at MC today, I’d tell them about the three-legged stool,” Jordan continues. “Then, I’d remind them to always act with integrity in everything you do. As it says in the Bible, approach whatever you do with all your heart, soul, and might. Do the best you can and give it your all, and never forget why you are really there – to serve the Lord.”

ALUMNUS of the YEAR

The Alumnus of the Year honors a Mississippi College or Hillman College graduate who has rendered distinguished service to his or her college, church, and community. The award is limited to those who, through a long period of years, have worked with marked intelligence to promote the higher interests of the college, and who have, through their character and deeds, brought honor to Mississippi College by virtue of their alumnus status.



SWEETS FOR THE SWEETHEARTS — Don Jordan meets regularly with a group of prominent businessmen, reminding them to spend as much effort building a spiritual life and relationships with their family and friends as they do building their careers. As a reminder to the men never to stop “courting” their wives, Jordan recently handed each man a box of candy with instructions to present the fancy chocolates to their spouses and formally ask their surprised wives out on a romantic date.



BUILDING FAITH FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

KATY THOMPSON '02, '05

IN RECOGNITION OF HER EFFORTS TO HELP YOUNG ADULTS grow their faith and her love and dedication to her *alma mater*, Mississippi College recognized Katy Thompson '02, '05 as the Young Alumna of the Year.

Thompson is the enrollment manager for Chick-Fil-A's Impact 360 gap year program, a Christian leadership program for students 18-20 years old who commit to spending a school year focused on deepening their faith. Students come from around the nation to spend nine months in Pine Mountain, Georgia, studying current faith-based topics, serving in the community, and participating in leadership training. The program also includes a one month-mission in Brazil.

"My job as a member of the Impact 360 team is to recruit and select students who are leaders and want to be change agents for Christ in their generation," Thompson says. "Our faith is real, it's deep, and it's relevant to every part of our life. I want students to know this and have hope while living in a culture that is increasingly dark and hopeless."

Thompson develops recruiting and communication strategies, connects with schools, churches, and ministries to find program participants, and walks students and their parents through the application process. Over the past eight years, some 20 of the program's alumni have enrolled in Mississippi College. Thompson hopes those current and future Choctaws gain as much from the MC experience as she did.

"OUR FAITH IS REAL, IT'S DEEP, and it's relevant to every part of our life. I want students to know this and have hope while living in a culture that is increasingly dark and hopeless."

"Working with college students for the last decade has helped me to see that the college years absolutely lay the foundation for the rest of your life," Thompson says. "As long as I can remember, Mississippi College has had an impact on my life. Teachers, youth workers, ministers, and family friends who graduated from MC invested in me all

along the way. I was blessed to have professors, bosses, and friends during my time as a student who challenged me in my faith and stirred up a thirst for knowing God and His Word more and more. The more time I spend with different people and cultures away from home, the more I cherish the deep culture of community, hospitality, and relationship that was instilled in me at Mississippi College."

When asked to describe Mississippi College in one word, Thompson doesn't hesitate before responding.

"Home. Every time I come back to the MC campus, I feel the most like myself. This is where I discovered so many of my passions and gifts, and built so many lifelong relationships. I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to attend Mississippi College. Any time I meet an alumnus from MC, it's like meeting family. Whether we went to MC at the same time and haven't seen each other in years or it's someone I've never met who graduated 50 years ago, there is an instant camaraderie that comes with being a Choctaw. And to the faculty, staff, and administration a big 'thank you' for investing in a place that molds so many lives."

YOUNG ALUMNA *of the* YEAR

This award honors men and women who have rendered distinguished service to their college, church, and community. Mere prominence is not the criterion. The award is limited to those who, through a long period of years, have worked with marked intelligence and success to promote the highest interest of Mississippi College and their home communities.



SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES

FRED HAHN '52

ASK MC TRUSTEE AND RESPECTED BUSINESSMAN Fred Hahn to describe his most vivid memory from his time as a student at Mississippi College, and his reply is a surprising one.

"It would have to be the time I was kicked out of class," Hahn says with a laugh. "I was in a literature class, and the professor was describing a poet who wrote about asking a tree if it was really a tree. The professor said, 'Mr. Hahn, what do you think of that?' and I said, 'I think he was crazy. I know a tree when I see one.' The professor's next comment was, 'You're dismissed.' I'll bet that professor would turn over in his grave if he saw that I was on the Mississippi College board of trustees."

Fred Hahn's fellow trustees value his sense of humor almost as much as his business acumen. Hahn serves on the board's business affairs and building committees, and is a key supporter of the MC spring scholarship banquet and the School of Business.

Hahn is a self-made, successful businessman and entrepreneur who left a comfortable career with the Illinois Central Railroad to launch his own trucking company, later expanding into waste disposal, chemical shipping and storage, and other ventures. His many successful companies have included Service Express, Inc., Tuscaloosa Warehouse, Inc. (later renamed Industrial

Warehouse Services, Inc.), Indec, Seapac, Inc., and IWS Trucking Co. His wife, Helen, and the couple's three children have all worked in the family's businesses.

"The opportunities just came up," Hahn says of his diverse ventures. "The good Lord had a lot to do with that. I started small and kept growing."

"ATTENDING MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE helped me mature and learn Christian values. I think Mississippi College does a better job of that than any other university. Those Christian values are what make Mississippi College stand out from the rest."

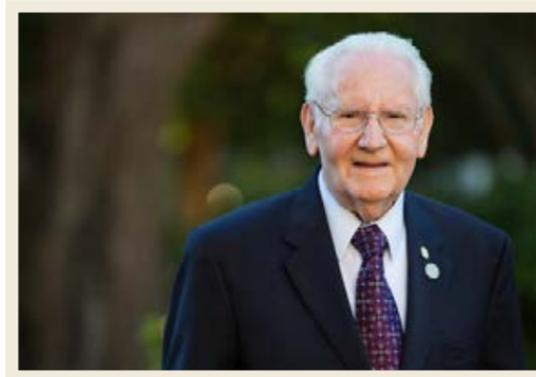
Hahn has also made a commitment to serve others. He has held a number of volunteer leadership roles, including service on the boards of Hospice of West Alabama, Associated Industries of Alabama, Business Council of Alabama, the Industrial Development Authority, Boys Club, Boy Scouts, and the YMCA.

A longtime Tuscaloosa, Alabama, resident, Hahn is a member of the Alabama Business Hall of Fame and the Civic Hall of Fame of Tuscaloosa County. He holds an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Alabama and is a die-hard Crimson Tide football fan. Despite his passion for the University of Alabama, Hahn considers his diploma from Mississippi College among his greatest blessings.

"Attending Mississippi College helped me mature and learn Christian values," Hahn says. "I think Mississippi College does a better job of that than any other university. Those Christian values are what make Mississippi College stand out from all the rest."

THE ORDER *of the* GOLDEN ARROW

This award honors alumni or friends of the college who have made outstanding achievements in their professions, businesses, or careers. The Order of the Golden Arrow recognizes exceptional performance or leadership beyond the ordinary.



LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

WAYNE BURKES '55, '74, '88

THE SIMPLE TASK OF ADDRESSING WAYNE BURKES CAN BE a challenge. Burkes' many leadership roles have earned him the titles of Major General Burkes, Pastor Burkes, Representative Burkes, Senator Burkes, and Commissioner Burkes. In recognition of his outstanding history of leadership, faith, and service, Mississippi College has bestowed upon him yet another title – Order of the Golden Arrow Recipient Wayne Burkes.

Burkes holds bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from Mississippi College. He is also a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the Air University's Air War College, and the Transportation Executive Institute of the University of Virginia, and also completed graduate work at the University of Southern Mississippi. While he gained valuable knowledge at every institution at which he studied, Burkes credits Mississippi College with instilling in him a lesson that reached beyond the classroom.

"Mississippi College taught me about human relationships and how to get along with others," Burkes says. "At MC, I learned that you can't be a leader unless you have followers."

Burkes learned that leadership lesson well. A longtime Air Force and Air National Guard pilot, Burkes logged some 7,000 flying hours piloting eight different types of aircraft prior to retiring in 1989 as a major general with the Mississippi Air National Guard. Burkes saw military action in Vietnam and also served in Japan and Europe.

"Folks think I got to see all of these fascinating places, but the truth is the airport in Madrid, Spain looks a lot like the

airport in Jackson, Mississippi," Burkes says with a laugh.

In addition to serving his country, Burkes served as pastor of Bolton Baptist Church, on the faculty and staff at Hinds Community College, as a member of both the Mississippi House of Representatives and the Mississippi Senate, as the elected transportation commissioner for Mississippi's Central District, and as the vice-chairman

of the three-member U.S. Surface Transportation Board, a position to which he was appointed by the President of the United States. Upon accepting the appointment, Burkes pledged, "I will not forget who I am, where I came from, and that I will serve in a position of public trust for our entire nation."

Burkes' many volunteer leadership and public service roles include serving as the president of the National Guard Association of Mississippi and the Rotary Club and on the board of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. Burkes also served on the Mississippi Baptist Convention board and on the convention's executive, personnel, and budget committees. He was named Clinton, Mississippi's Outstanding Citizen and Hinds County Farm Bureau's Man of the Year. Burkes is now retired, but still enjoys working on the farm he and his wife, Ann, own in Scott County.

"I made a lot of friends at Mississippi College, including some of the professors who I thought were hard on me but later became my good friends," Burkes says. "Mississippi College also helped instill in me the values of honor and integrity, which are *always* valuable life lessons."

"MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE taught me about human relationships and how to get along with others. At MC, I learned that you can't be a leader unless you have followers... Mississippi College also helped instill in me the values of honor and integrity, which are *always* valuable life lessons."

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TANGIBLE SERVICE, INTANGIBLE REWARDS

RALPH BARNES

RALPH BARNES HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT A simple gesture of hospitality would lead him to serve on the Mississippi College board of trustees.

"Danny Rutland was working as MC's vice president of advancement, and also served as interim pastor at my church, First Baptist Church in Canton," Barnes says. "Danny stayed in our guesthouse on the weekends. We got to be good friends, and he asked if I would have an interest in serving on the board."

Barnes was already familiar with MC; his wife, B.J. is an alumna, and two of the couple's three children attended MC. Impressed with what he already knew about the university, Barnes accepted the role of trustee, also serving on the Mississippi College Foundation board. In recognition of his tireless work on behalf of the university, Mississippi College presented Barnes with the Award of Excellence.

A graduate of Mississippi State University, Barnes is the president, owner, and managing partner of AdCamp, Inc., a Jackson-based company that specializes in asphalt construction projects, and also serves as the president-elect of the Mississippi Asphalt Pavement Association. His experience and leadership in the construction industry

made Barnes the ideal choice to serve as the chairman of the MC board of trustees building committee. Barnes has been heavily involved in recent construction projects on the MC campus, including a new science building, parking garage, dining venue, and residential units.

In addition to his service on the board, Barnes has contributed to the university's annual scholarship dinner, the Circle of Champions outside Robinson-Hale Stadium, and other significant projects at MC. Despite his many contributions to the university, Barnes is adamant that he has gained more from his service to Mississippi College than he has given.

"I have had the opportunity to meet so many godly men and women on the board of trustees and on the MC staff," Barnes says. "So many of them seemed to have a feeling of peace that I wanted to have, too. As a result, I began to examine my spiritual life and refine it in a way that has helped me grow as a Christian. I have received more blessings from this service than any amount of time or effort I've contributed. What I've received from being associated with Mississippi College is an intangible reward greater than anything I could ever repay."

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THE AWARD of EXCELLENCE

This award honors men and women who have rendered distinguished service to Mississippi College. Mere prominence is not the criterion. The award is limited to those who, through a long period of years, have worked with marked intelligence and success to promote the highest interests of Mississippi College. The Award of Excellence expresses recognition and gratitude to them for their efforts.



DEPARTMENTAL DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

The following alumni have brought exceptional honor to the departments in which they studied.

Art

JOHNNIE GILBERT MABERRY '89, '01

MC's first master of fine art graduate, Johnnie Maberry is currently a graduate student in the renowned Institute of Doctoral Studies in Visual Arts in Portland, Maine. As a part of her graduate studies, she has participated in residences in Tuscan, Venice, Berlin, Paris, Istanbul and New York. A member of the Tougaloo faculty and administration for 25 years, Maberry was appointed curator of the Tougaloo Art Collection in 2013 and serves as director of the Tougaloo Art Colony. She is mother of seven children and the "adopted" mother of hundreds of students.

Young Art Alumna

MONICA RENEE STEEN '11

Monica Steen is a *cum laude* graduate of the MC interior design program. Steen's internship experience at Baptist Hospital prompted her to pursue a career in healthcare design. She joined St. Dominic Hospital in 2011 as a design assistant and was recently promoted to project design coordinator. Steen frequently hosts MC interior design students for job shadowing and often returns to the design program as a guest speaker. She has held a volunteer position as American Society of Interior Designers Mississippi District Finance Chair since 2011. Monica is an National Council for Interior Design Qualification exam candidate and will sit for the exam in the spring.

Biology

DR. ROD CUTRER '72

Dr. Rod Cutrer has fulfilled his lifelong dreams of becoming a doctor and serving young people. Following his graduation from MC and the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, Dr. Cutrer practiced family medicine in Hattiesburg for 25 years, building lasting relationships with his patients. He also served as the president of the Petal, Mississippi, Rotary Club, and as a deacon in his church, where he taught and disciplined youth for 25 years, including leading mission trips. Today, Dr. Cutrer is once again working with young adults, this time teaching them the art of medicine as the medical director and a faculty member with the MC physician assistant program. The physician assistant class of 2013 selected Dr. Cutrer the Didactic Faculty Member of the Year, also honoring him with the Spirit of MCPA Faculty Award. Dr. Cutrer and his wife, Carol, have three children and five grandchildren.

Chemistry and Biochemistry

DR. SCOTT TYNES '84

Called to become a "country doctor," Scott Tynes has served as an emergency room physician and director of rural health

clinics in Alabama, and a family practice physician in Mississippi. He is currently a family practice physician with the Internal Medicine Clinic in Meridian, Mississippi. Tynes describes welcoming new life into this world and escorting life out of this world as a privilege, and sharing Jesus as the best medicine he has ever prescribed. Dr. Tynes and his wife, Angi, have two children and two grandchildren.

Christian Studies

DR. GRADY C. COTHEN '41, '63

Dr. Grady Cothen has served the Southern Baptist Convention for more than 40 years in many capacities, including as a pastor, state convention executive-secretary, university president, and seminary president. Following his service as a U.S. Navy Chaplain from 1944-1946, Cothen pastored Baptist churches in Chattanooga, Oklahoma City, and Birmingham. Dr. Cothen further distinguished himself as a strong Christian leader with service as president of Oklahoma Baptist University and of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. During his time in Oklahoma, Dr. Cothen was appointed by the Governor to the Oklahoma Commission on Education, a commission formed to advise on the future of education in the state, and was voted the chairman of that commission by the other members. Dr. Cothen's faithful service has been recognized with many honors and awards, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, the Mississippi College Order of the Golden Arrow, the E.Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award, and a listing among Who's Who in America.

DR. JOSEPH H. COTHEN, JR. '49

Joe Cothen served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy during World War II, completing five campaigns in Pacific Theater aboard the destroyer *USS Charles S. Sperry*. Dr. Cothen pastored Baptist churches in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, and helped guide the next generation of Christian leaders as a professor of communications, professor of pastoral work and preaching, and vice president of academic affairs at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and then as an adjunct professor at William Carey College and at Mississippi College. He has also served as a trustee of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, Mississippi College, and Louisiana College. Dr. Cothen and his late wife, Hazel, had two sons, both of whom became pastors, and one daughter, who are also loved by Dr. Cothen's current wife, Vivian.

Communication

D. BENJAMIN INGRAM '03

Ben Ingram has served as a baseball broadcaster for the Atlanta Braves Radio Network since 2011. Ingram has also been heard

on the air as the play-by-play voice of the Jackson Senators, the Eugene Emeralds, and the Mississippi Braves, where he was named Southern League Broadcaster of the Year. Ingram now hosts the pre-game and post-game show for the Braves Radio Network and calls play-by-play for selected games during the regular season. Ingram also calls Braves play-by-play each season during spring training, and is the team's correspondent for the MLB Network, making several appearances throughout the season on "The Rundown." While at Mississippi College, Ingram called play-by-play for Choctaws football, baseball, and basketball, and later hosted a sports-talk radio show in Jackson from 2007-2010.

Computer Science

DR. C. THOMAS GRAY '88

Thomas Gray graduated first in his class at MC in 1988 in computer science and mathematics with minors in physics and engineering science. He earned his Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering at North Carolina State University, where he was awarded a semiconductor research corporation fellowship for his graduate studies. Gray has held leadership positions at several leading companies in the Research Triangle Park area of North Carolina, including IBM, Cadence, ARM, and NVIDIA. His work focuses on the design and architecture of integrated circuits for high-speed digital communication. He has published more than 20 conference and journal papers, and received the Best Paper Award at the 2013 International Solid States Circuits Conference. Gray has been awarded six U.S. patents. In addition to his fulltime work, Gray has served as a guest instructor at the college and high school level and as a church deacon. Gray and his wife, Pamela, have three children, including a junior at Mississippi College.

History and Political Science

MICHAEL ERIC BROWN '02, '08

Michael Brown is an assistant public defender with the Hinds County Public Defender's Office. Brown joined the MC faculty as an adjunct professor 11 years ago, while also attending law school at MC Law. Following his graduation from MC Law, Brown practiced criminal and civil law with Coxwell & Associates and served as an adjunct professor at MC Law, where he taught mock trial, critical thinking and the law, legal research, and legal writing. Brown was the first public defender for the city of Byram in the Byram Municipal Court, winning his first case less than two months after the position was created. Brown continues to serve as an adjunct professor at MC Law, teaching mock trial and coaching the MC mock trial competition team. He is a member of the Mississippi Public Defender's Association and the National Association for Public Defense. Brown and his wife, Gabriella, have one son.

Kinesiology

GEN. JAMES "JIM" COLEMAN '50

Coach and Brigadier General (Ret) James "Jim" Coleman is a proud member of the Greatest Generation. Coleman served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 until 1946, enrolling in MC following his discharge. At MC, Coleman played football and baseball and ran track. One of his fondest MC memories is of scoring five rushing touchdowns in the Choctaws' 43-6 victory over the Millsaps Majors in 1949. Coleman served as recreational director at Crystal Springs High School and as a teacher and coach at Senatobia High School, where he taught history and science and coached varsity and junior high sports. During his

15 seasons at Senatobia High School, the football team was the Chickasaw Conference Champion or Co-Champion seven times. Coleman's 1963 Senatobia baseball team won the Mississippi State Baseball Championship. In 1965, Coleman joined MC as associate professor of physical education and assistant football coach, also serving as head baseball coach in 1967 and 1968. In 1971, Coleman returned to full-time military duty as the state aviation officer on the General Staff of the Mississippi Army National Guard. He held that assignment until his retirement in 1985 with the rank of Brigadier General. BG (Ret) Coleman was the recipient of numerous military awards, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, and Mississippi Magnolia Cross. In 1986, Coleman returned to Mississippi College, where he served in administrative positions until May 1995, retiring as dean of men. Coleman was inducted into the Mississippi College Sports Hall of Fame in 2001. In addition to his undergraduate degree from Mississippi College, Coach Coleman earned a master's degree in education from the University of Mississippi and a doctoral degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. Coleman and his wife, Jaunie, have two children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Master of Health Services Administration

CHRISTY MORGAN '01

Christy Morgan is the chair and program director of occupational therapy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She is a *cum laude* graduate of the University of Mississippi and a *summa cum laude* graduate of MC's master of health services administration program, and received her Ph.D. in clinical health sciences from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Morgan was the founding program director for the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Holmes Community College, where she received the Lamplighter Award for Teaching Excellence. She was the groundbreaker for a new occupational therapy clinical program at Forest General hospital in the previously underserved areas of acute care, neonatal intensive care, and home health. Morgan has also served as president of the Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association, and serves as a reviewer for the American Occupational Therapy Association's Evidence Exchange. She was inducted into the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Nelson Order for Teaching Excellence in 2013.

Master of Higher Education

DR. PAMELA K. SCOTT-BRACEY '07

Dr. Pamela Bracey is an assistant professor in the College of Education at Mississippi State University. Bracey led a collaborative effort with other MSU colleagues and was awarded a \$90,000 Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning grant. The project provided MSU with funds to host a 20-day Global Academic Essentials Teacher Institute in 2014, which was also directed by Dr. Bracey. Dr. Bracey was elected secretary of the Mississippi Business Education Association for the 2013 - 14 academic year, and was appointed to the strategic planning committee of the Association for Research in Business Education-Delta Pi Epsilon for the 2014 - 15 academic year. She was the 2012 recipient of the Academy of Career and Technical Education Research Nexus Award for Outstanding Research. Dr. Bracey serves as faculty advisor for the National Business Education Teacher Honor Society - Pi Omega Pi, and often serves as a regional and national judge for student competitions of organizations including Future Business Leaders of

America, Business Professionals of America, and the Technology Student Association. She has published a variety of journal articles and book chapters and presents her research at national and international conferences. She and her husband, Rudy, have a son.

Mathematics

DR. JOHN PAUL TRAVIS '82

John Travis is a math professor and the chair of the Mississippi College Department of Mathematics. He was formerly a senior research mathematician with the Army Corps of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, and has also served as an instructor, assistant professor, and associate professor in the MC Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Dr. Travis has also served MC as supervisor for the MC Community Service Center, a member of the Faculty Council, Faculty Club President, and a Mortar Board Advisor. He is a member of the board of governors of the Mathematical Association of America and serves on the executive committee of the association's Louisiana/Mississippi Section. In 2013, Dr. Travis was honored with the Louisiana/Mississippi MAA Distinguished Teaching Award.

Modern Languages

REV. CHRIS HARBIN '89

Chris Harbin is associate pastor for Latino Ministries at the First Baptist Church of Huntersville, North Carolina. Harbin teaches, preaches, and prepares written materials in English and Spanish. Teaching has been central to his life since he served as an interpreter for his first grade classmates in Recife, Brazil. Harbin has served as a pastor with other Baptist churches in Virginia, as a medical interpreter with Central Health in Virginia, as a missionary in Brazil and Mexico, and as a seminary professor in Brazil. He is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish, and also speaks French, German, Italian, Greek, Hebrew, and Latin, as well as several computer programming "languages." He is a graduate of Pan American Christian Academy in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Mississippi College, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky. Harbin and his wife, Karen, have two children.

Music

ANNADAIRE INGRAM '97

Annadaire Ingram is a lyric coloratura soprano who brings a wealth of southern charm to all of her performances. While earning her bachelor of music in voice performance from MC, she performed as Baby Doe in "The Ballad of Baby Doe," Adele "Die Fledermaus," Alice in "Alice in Wonderland," and Pedro in "The Christmas Gift," an opera by longtime music professor and noted composer James Sclater. Ingram's career highlights include singing Frasquita from "Carmen" with the Mississippi Opera and appearing as soprano soloist with the Morelia, Mexico, Chamber Orchestra and the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. Ingram has delivered memorable performances of "Ein Deutsches Requiem" by Brahms, "The Messiah" by Handel, "Gloria" by Poulenc, "Christmas Oratorio" by J.S. Bach, "King David" by Honneger, and "Gloria" by Vivaldi. Ingram is currently performing in her 12th season with the Washington, D.C., National Opera Chorus. She will make her WNO role debut in the spring of 2015 as one of the nuns in "Dialogue of the Carmelites." When she is not entertaining audiences, Ingram enjoys running, traveling, and art collecting.

Young Music Alumnus

WILSON BARTELL WISE '03

Wilson Wise is the flight commander and assistant conductor of the United States Air Force Band of Mid-America, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. The band and its members serve as musical ambassadors in 10 mid-western states, strengthening military-civilian relations through the power of music. Lt. Wise commissioned from Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, in August 2013. Wise earned his doctorate of musical arts in instrumental conducting from the University of Oklahoma, and also holds a master's degree in saxophone performance from OU and a bachelor's degree in music education from Mississippi College. Prior to joining the Air Force, he served as director of bands at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. During his time as a graduate teaching associate with the University of Oklahoma Bands, Wise guest-conducted the OU Wind Symphony, instructed the "Pride of Oklahoma" Marching Band, and co-taught music education classes. Wise also held the graduate teaching position in the saxophone studio from 2005-2007. He taught high school band in Mississippi for five years, including three years as director of bands with the Poplarville School District. Wise has had the opportunity to conduct noted bands in 10 states and the District of Columbia.

Nursing

VICKI BELLIS GERRARD '75

Vicki Gerrard is Baptist Health System's director of organizational accreditation certification. She is responsible for directing Baptist's preparation for and compliance with regulatory standards; providing leadership and facilitating Baptist Medical Center's eight current disease specific certifications; and communicating with hospital leadership. Gerrard has worked with Baptist for more than 39 years, including service as a nurse, nursing administrative coordinator, and nursing quality review coordinator. Gerrard was a charter member and has served as the education chair, webmaster, historian, and president of the Mississippi Association for Healthcare Quality. Gerrard also serves on Mississippi Hospital Association & Health Facilities Licensure and Certification Committee. She has spoken to many professional nursing and healthcare groups in Mississippi and Tennessee, and participated in a Joint Commission national teleconference in 2013. Gerrard has served as a presenter to nursing students at Hinds Community College, and presents a program on nursing's role in quality and accreditation to the Mississippi College nursing students each semester. Gerrard's many awards and honors include recognition as the MBMC Employee of the Month, a *Mississippi Business Journal* Health Care Hero, MBMC Nurse in Non-Traditional Role, and MBHS PATH Caregiver of the Month. In 2010, the Mississippi Association for Healthcare Quality created the Vickie Gerrard Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality Grant for contributions to the organization and healthcare quality.

Physics

DR. CHRISTOPHER GOODIN '04

Christopher Goodin is with the geotechnical and structures lab in the Engineer and Research Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi, where his work focuses on sensor-environment interactions, autonomous unmanned ground vehicle mobility, and radiative modeling and simulation. After earning his bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics from MC,

Goodin earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in physics from Vanderbilt University, where he received the Robert T. Lagemann Award for outstanding work as a first-year physics student. Since joining the Engineer and Research Center in 2011, he has received the Department of the Army Achievement Award for Civilian Service, the Engineer Research and Development Center Research and Development Achievement Award, the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service, and the Army Modeling and Simulation Award.

Psychology and Counseling

TERRY HIGHT '88

Terry Hight's career spans more than 15 years of operational management experience and expertise, including 13 years in the behavioral health and social services environment. In his current role as Chief Operating Officer of Mississippi Children's Home Services, Hight directs daily operations in the company's community-based, campus-based, and educational divisions, all with the common purpose of creating permanent, loving homes for children and families. As COO, Terry also supervises the directors who oversee the quality and evaluation and information technology departments. A licensed psychologist, Hight has been with MCHS since 2001. In addition to a bachelor of science degree from MC, he holds a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Reformed Theological Seminary, a master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a doctoral degree in counseling psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University.

School of Business

REGINA SCHOFIELD '83

Regina Schofield's distinguished career includes years of service to underprivileged communities. Schofield is director of corporate engagement and educational outreach with the Battelle Memorial Institute, a charitable organization with headquarters in Ohio. Schofield successfully redefined the organization's philanthropy priorities across multiple states and communities. She was formerly managing director for public policy with Casey Family Programs, where she designed the company's first comprehensive public policy plan and received the president and CEO's Jim Casey Leadership Award. As a national AMBER Alert coordinator with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, Schofield was instrumental in establishing an AMBER alert infrastructure in Indian country, and helped launch the first comprehensive tribal public safety website throughout the Department of Justice. Schofield is a recipient of the National Youth Service Award presented by the Native American National Advisory Council for Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Schofield has also been an active community volunteer, including chairing the board of directors of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation and service with other organizations serving disadvantaged youth.

Teacher Education/Leadership

DR. TOM WILLIAMS '70, '85

Tom Williams is an energy specialist and director of the energy education program at Mississippi College, where he has also served as a professor and as chair of the Department of Teacher Education and Leadership. Prior to joining MC, Dr. Williams enjoyed a successful career in public education, serving as the principal of Murrah High School, Chastain Junior High School, and Callaway High School, as well as serving as a teacher and

coach at Wingfield High School and Peeples Junior High School. Williams also serves Mississippi College as an adjunct professor, a member of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, Institutional Title IX, and as MC's NCAA faculty athletics representative. Dr. Williams' numerous awards include the Jackson Outstanding Young Educator Award, Mississippi Tennis Coach of the Year, Mississippi Teacher of the Year, and the Parents for Public Schools Distinguished Alumni Award.

Lawyer of the Year

GRANVILLE TATE, JR. '86

Granville Tate is the chairman of the board of directors of the Brunini law firm in Jackson. A member of the firm since 1986, Tate's practice areas include banking, corporate, mergers and acquisitions, real estate, and security law. His awards and recognitions include Best Lawyers® in America: Banking and Finance Law; Best Lawyers® in America: Lawyer of the Year 2013 in Jackson, Mississippi in Banking and Finance Law; and Best Lawyers® in America: Lawyer of the Year 2014 in Jackson, Mississippi, in Business Organizations. The chairman of Brunini's Board of Directors since 2010, Tate has also served as the firm's loss prevention/ethics partner and as chairman of the firm's commercial department. He has represented clients in a variety of industries, including banking, timber, retail, television, polymer, software, and real estate. Tate is actively involved in many professional and civic activities. He served on the board of directors of Habitat for Humanity/Metro Jackson and the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership. He is a graduate of Leadership Jackson, and has served as the chancellor of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi since 2002.

Young Lawyer of the Year

JANA J. EDMONDSON-COOPER '09

Jana J. Edmondson-Cooper is a staff attorney at Georgia Legal Services Program, where she provides bilingual legal counsel and representation to low-income individuals in federal and state administrative forums, as well as courts of law. Her areas of practice include family law, housing law, public benefits, health law, wills and estates, consumer law and education law, with a focus on limited English proficiency/language access issues. Edmondson-Cooper engages in language access advocacy, including contributing to the development of statewide and national curriculums for training attorneys and judges on language access as an access to justice issue. She has been a guest speaker at several legal conferences, including the annual conferences of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. Recognized in 2011 as a "Trailblazing Lawyer for Justice" and an active member of the National Language Access Advocates Network, Ms. Edmondson-Cooper has authored several articles on language access. In 2013, she was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia Commission on Interpreters, which sets the rules, policies, and procedures for regulating the quality of court interpreters in the state. In 2014, Edmondson-Cooper served as co-chair of Georgia's first statewide language access-centered continuing legal education seminar for attorneys and judges. Edmondson-Cooper is a member of several professional organizations, including the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, the State Bar of Georgia (SBG) Access to Justice Committee, SBG Young Lawyers Division Executive Council, and the Leadership and Diversity Committee of the NLADA Civil Policy Group.

Class Notes

50s Jim Powell (B.A. '56) completed chaplaincy training at Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas.

60s Dr. Thomas Lovorn (B.A. '60) and his wife, Janie, were honored for serving 40 years on the Caribbean Christian Centre Executive Board for the Deaf in Jamaica. They were made life members. Dr. Lovorn pastors God's Storehouse Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia, and is a professor of Old and New Testament at Rockbridge Online Seminary.

Dorothy May Davis Miley (M.Ed. '64) received the 2013 Zeta State Achievement Award from Delta Kappa Gamma, an organization of key women educators. She has been a member of the Tau Chapter since 1968 and served as chapter president 1998-2000 and central district director 2001-2003.

Dr. Michael Simoneaux (B.M.Ed. '65) was named president emeritus of Brewton-Parker College. He previously served as a foreign missionary and long-time Southern Baptist educator.

Johnny Franklin (B.S.Ed. '67, M.Ed. '71, Ed.S. '79) has been appointed to the State Board of Education by Governor Phil Bryant.

Fred Womack (B.S.Ed. '67) published his second book, titled *Kim: A Dying Child's Spiritual Legacy*. *Kim* is an account of Womack's six-year-old daughter's battle with cancer, his grief, and how God helped before and after death.

Dr. Thomas Nettles (B.A. '68) is retiring after 38 years in the classroom. He has served as a professor of historical theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1997.

Robert Landrum (B.S. '69, M.B.A. '72, M.Ed. '90) was reappointed to the Mississippi Board of Mental Health. He has served on the board since 1994.

70s Dr. Barney Guyton (B.S. '70) received the Dr. P.K. Thomas Service Award for deserving physicians presented by the Healthcare Foundation of North Mississippi.

Brenda Smith (Sumrall, B.A. '72) is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Social Workers, Mississippi chapter.

Freddie Bagley (B.S. '74) was elected chairman of the Mississippi Bankers Association. Bagley serves as chairman of the board of Community Bancshares, Inc. He has been with Community Bank for 38 years.

Dr. Deborah McAfee (B.S.Ed. '75, M.Ed. '76) joined Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock as a professor of education. She has been employed in education for more than 42 years and has written educational grants garnering millions for school districts.

Dr. Richard F. Wilson (B.A. '75), Columbus Roberts Professor of Theology and chair of the Roberts Department of Christianity in the College of Liberal Arts at Mercer University, has been named interim president of the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Eugene C. Brown, Jr. (B.S. '76) was selected to serve as president of the Mississippi Association of Orthodontists. He served as vice-president for two years. Dr. Brown maintains practices in Grenada, Jackson, and Madison.



Douglas Sills

Douglas Sills (B.S. '76) has been appointed CEO of CHS-affiliated hospitals in the Jackson area. Based in Flowood, he will lead collaborative efforts between Crossgates River Oaks, Madison River Oaks, River Oaks, and Woman's Hospitals, Central Mississippi Medical Center, and River Region Health Systems. He served as CEO of River Region since January 2011.

Dr. Trena L. Wilkerson (B.S. '76) has been elected to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. She is a professor and the director of graduate programs for the department of curriculum and instruction in Baylor University's School of Education.

Debra Ramey (B.M.Ed. '77) was selected as Itawamba Agricultural High School's Teacher of the Year.

Deborah Stahl (B.S. '77) retired as an educator and administrator in December 2012 from Fort Bend Independent School District in Sugar Land, Texas.

Kathy Arnold (B.S.B.A. '79) is a sponsored research financial analyst with Emory University's Office of Grants & Contracts Accounting.

Kim Boone (B.S.B.A. '79, M.B.A. '90) has joined Pinnacle Financial Partners as a senior vice president and trust services advisor. She is based at Pinnacle's Financial Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Rebecca Selman (B.S. '79) is a licensed mental health counselor with Gulf Coast Psychotherapy.

80s Suzanne Farrar (B.M.Ed. '80) was named the director of secondary and adult instructional services for the Bay District Schools, Panama City, Florida.

Roland Leavell (B.S.B.A. '81) has joined Ziegler as a financial advisor. Ziegler is a specialty investment bank and full-service brokerage firm.

Daniel McDill (B.S.B.A. '81) has joined People's Bank as a senior vice president. He will manage the bank's loan production office in Richland.

Mark Hester (B.S.B.A. '82) was part of *The Oregonian* editorial

team that spotlighted efforts to curb rising costs for the state's public pension system, which resulted in the Portland newspaper's eighth Pulitzer Prize.

Dr. Jim Turcotte (B.S.B.A. '83) served as president of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce in 2014. He currently serves at Mississippi College as vice president of enrollment services and dean of students.



Mike Crandall

Mike Crandall (M.B.A. '84) has been named president of Community Bank in Canton.

Gaylon Stockman (B.S. '84) has been appointed chief information security officer for Lifespan. He will oversee Lifespan's information technology security infrastructure.

Wendell Dodd (B.S. '85) has been selected as Chaplain of the Year for Optum Hospice in Birmingham.

Janice Baddley (Gough, B.S.B.A. '87, M.B.A. '98) joined DNA Creative Communication of Simpsonville, South Carolina, as senior account manager.



THE ELEVENTH HOUR SURPRISE

In 2010, the *Beacon* introduced readers to Pastor Allen Hickman '88 and his wife, Amy '88, and the couple's 10 (that's right, 10) sons. At that time, Allen and Amy thought their family was complete. • But God had other plans. In 2012, the family welcomed Matthew, baby boy Hickman number 11. • "I gathered all of our extended family together and said, 'We have some news. We're having a baby,'" Allen Hickman says. "My mother turned to our oldest son and his wife and said, 'Oh, Micah, I'm so happy for you!' and Micah said, 'Whoa, it's not ours!' Then I said, 'No, it's Amy and me. *Again.*'" • Despite the surprise, Matthew was warmly welcomed by his parents and his older brothers, Micah (26), Caleb (25), Jacob (23), Jonathan (22), Benjamin (21), Samuel (19), Josiah (17), Elisha (15), Isaac (12), Nathan (10). • "There really should be full disclosure at the time of marriage," Allen Hickman says with a laugh. "I should have been told in advance that I was marrying the world's most fertile woman. It's also not fair that *she* had 11 kids but *I* gained all the baby weight." • While the couple celebrates the immeasurable joy their 11 sons have brought them and Allen jokes that they are "only one man short of the disciples," the Hickmans swear that Matthew is their last baby. • That doesn't mean, however, that they won't be hearing the pitter-patter of little feet again soon. Number five son Benjamin and his wife are expecting a baby. And this time, it's a girl.

Vicki Darnell (B.S.N. '87) has been elected to Centre College's board of trustees. She currently serves as president and chief executive officer of Ephraim McDowell Health in Danville, Kentucky.

Louis Smith (B.S.B.A. '87), CEO of Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital, was recognized with one of Memorial Hermann's highest honors, the Dan S. Wilford Spirit Award.

Dr. Glenn Boyce (M.Ed. '88) has been appointed associate commissioner for academic affairs by the board of trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. He has served as president of Holmes Community College since 2005.

David Toney (B.S. '89) has been named a shareholder for Copeland, Cook, Taylor, and Bush in Ridgeland. He practices in the area of insurance, litigation, and transportation.

90s Kate Margolis (B.A. '90) received the Outstanding Service Award from the Capital Area Bar Association (CABA) for her service as editor to the CABA newsletter and as director on the board of officers and directors. She also serves as president of the Mississippi chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

Karen Flowers (B.S.B.A. '91) has been promoted to assistant dean of alumni and director of admissions at MC Law. She was also named one of the 50 leading businesswomen by the *Mississippi Business Journal* for 2014.

Dr. Daniel Hey (B.S. '93) presented on rare sleep apnea conditions at the MAHEC Dental Education Conference. He is employed with Asheville Sleep Center.

Bert Montgomery (M.S. '93) has released his third book, *Going Back to New Orleans: Post-Katrina Re-connections and Recollections*.

John Renner (M.B.A. '93) has been appointed senior vice president of finance and business strategy by United Church Homes.

Beau Lee (M.B.A. '96) has joined FSG Bank as a vice president and business development officer.

Harris A. Bell (B.A. '97) earned a master in public health with an emphasis in policy and administration from University of Southern Mississippi. He is currently practice manager for Eye Associates, a service of the Hattiesburg Clinic.

Jason Branning (B.A. '97) has been appointed by Governor Phil Bryant to represent the Second Congressional District on the College Savings Mississippi Board of Directors.

Jackie Pettway (B.S. '98) has been selected as chief of the Navigation Division at the Coastal and Hydraulic Laboratory, U.S. Army Research and Development Center in Vicksburg.

00s Elisabeth Byrd (Wall, B.S. '00, J.D. '03) has been promoted to vice president in the credit administration division at Trustmark in Jackson.

Dr. Stephanie Coker (B.A. '00) has been named an assistant professor at Oral Roberts University (ORU). After teaching at Louisiana State University, the University of Mississippi, and University of Kentucky, she joins ORU to teach French language, literature, and culture.

Benjamin Cohen (B.S. '01, M.S. '06) was named the director of information technology systems division of the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Dr. David Eldridge (B.A. '01) is the senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Clinton.

Lauren Glass (B.S.W. '01) is the preschool minister at First Baptist Church in Brandon.

William Shurtleff (B.S.B.A. '02, M.B.A. '08) has been named vice president at Trustmark. He leads the development, management, and administration of Trustmark's tax credit investment program and oversees daily operations of Trustmark's Community Development Entity, Southern Community Capital LLC.

Aaron Avila (B.S. '03) has been named the head coach for men's and women's soccer at Barton Community College.

Trey Griffith (B.S. '03) has joined Janney Montgomery Scott LLC in their Columbia, South Carolina, office. Janney is a leading full-service wealth management, financial services and investments company.



Dr. Kristen Gunn

Dr. Kristen Gunn (Johnson, B.M. '03) was the Mississippi and Southeast Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Awards winner for 2014. She competed as a national finalist and was awarded the sixth place Louis T. Nicholas Award.

Stan Pickering (B.S.B.A. '03) has joined Citizens Bank as a vice president. He will also serve as president of the Seminary and Jones County Division.



wake up
AND SELL THE
COFFEE

PAUL BONDS' QUEST TO FIND THE PERFECT CUP OF COFFEE LED HIM TO LAUNCH A NEW business that benefits small farmers around the globe. Bonds '05 is the founder and owner of BeanFruit Coffee Company, the only fair trade-certified coffee roaster in Mississippi.

Bonds was a coffeeholic working at Eaton Aerospace when he began a personal search for what he described as "an amazing cup of coffee."

"I was looking for coffee that was palatable without cream and sugar," Bonds says. "Quality coffee is complex, with flavors ranging from fruity to spicy and everything in between. A good cup of coffee is a beautiful and dynamic experience. I began roasting my own coffee as a hobby, and in the process, I learned a lot about where coffee came from and who it affected."

What Bonds learned moved him to quit his job at Eaton Aerospace and launch BeanFruit, not only out of a desire to provide an exceptional product, but also to benefit the farmers worldwide who grow the world's best coffee beans. Harvesting coffee beans takes five to seven years from the time the beans are planted. Farmers have a limited time to sell the beans before they spoil, which often leaves the farmers open to exploitation by buyers who purchase the beans at a low price, then sell the coffee for a high profit. As a fair trade company, BeanFruit ensures that farmers are paid a fair market value for their product.

"Purchasing quality coffee is the best way to benefit the farmers long term," Bonds says. "Even to this day, we don't purchase any coffee if we can't trace where it came from."

BeanFruit coffees come from coffee farmers around the world, including growers in Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, and Guatemala. The company also supports charities with a need that dovetails with the BeanFruit mission; for example, BeanFruit provided some of the equipment in We Will Go Ministries' community coffee house, the Urban Sip.

BeanFruit's efforts to provide a superior product and support coffee farmers were recognized earlier this year when the company was named a winner in the 2015 Good Food Awards, which recognizes food and beverages that "create vibrant, delicious, sustainable local food economies." BeanFruit was one of 148 companies chosen for the award from 1,462 entrants.

"I work a ton of hours for less than I was earning before, but I enjoy what I do a lot more," Bonds says of his venture. "The relationships I've developed over the years have been great, plus the coffee I get to taste is amazing. And how do I take my coffee these days? Black."

BeanFruit coffee is sold in a number of Jackson area coffee shops, as well as at beanfruit.com.

Bethany Bordeaux (Daniel, B.S. '04) released her debut instrumental album, *Songs From Along the Way: A Live Recording*. Based in Nashville, she plays violin for Christian author/songwriter Kelly Minter, and freelances for other artists including Laura Story and Andrew Peterson.

Gabriel Fertitta (B.A. '04, M.Ed. '10) has joined Catholic High School in Baton Rouge as the football offensive coordinator. He will also serve as assistant track coach and a health and physical education teacher.



John William Wallace

Abby Jackson (Riley, B.S.B.A. '04) has been named the finance manager at EBZ SysTec, Inc. in Birmingham, Alabama.

John William Wallace (B.S.Ed. '04, M.Ed. '11) has been named the principal of Sumner Hill Junior High School with Clinton Public Schools.

Laura Johns (Pickard, B.S. '05) is the vice president of marketing and corporate development with Broadband Voice in Jackson.

Chris Moore (B.S. '05, J.D. '08) is the head coach of men's basketball at Jackson Prep.

Hulio Griffin (M.H.S.A. '06) serves as the non-long term care certification and enforcement manager in the Atlanta, Georgia, division of survey and certification with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Justin Holley (B.S.B.A. '06, M.B.A. '08) has been named vice president in the credit administration division at Trustmark in Jackson.

Cameron Pumphrey (Vaughan, B.A. '06) is the public relations coordinator and merchandise manager for Christian band Tenth Avenue North. She and her husband, the band's stage manager, travel the U.S. and Europe with the band.

Autumn Stallings (Skellenger, B.S. '06) is managing interior design and space planning at MISSCO Contract Sales. She previously worked as an interior designer for JBHM architectural firm.

Jenny Tate (B.S. '06) has been named the campus communication officer for the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Park Campus in Long Beach.

Lane Beasley (B.S.B.A. '07, M.B.A. '09) has been named the director of development at Christ Covenant School in Ridgeland.

Joshua E. Dorman (B.S.B.A. '07) is the director of athletics and men's basketball coach with Presbyterian Christian School in Hattiesburg.



Tyler Kemp

Ryan Kelly (M.S. '07) has joined William Carey University as chief advancement officer.

Tyler Kemp (B.M. '07, M.M. '11) has joined the music department faculty of Mississippi College.

Dr. Jeremy Rainey (B.S. '07, M.S. '08) completed medical school as a member of the inaugural class of William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is a resident physician specializing in anesthesiology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Summerann Miller (Shuler, B.S.B.A. '07, M.B.A. '09, J.D. '11) has joined Mississippi College in the new position of coordinator of foundations and legal compliance.

Justin Odom (B.S. '08) was named Clinton Public School's Teacher of the Year for 2013-14.

Amanda Clemmons (M.S. '09) has been named the interim head coach for the LSU Eunice women's basketball team.

Thomas Gray (B.S.B.A. '09, M.B.A. '11) is the men's basketball coach at Southwest Mississippi Community College.

Brandon Webb (B.S.B.A. '09) has been promoted to assistant vice president in BancorpSouth loan operations in Gulfport.

10s Joe Hemleben (B.A. '10, J.D. '13) joined the staff of the Mississippi Court of Appeals as a law clerk for Judge Ceola James.

DeSean Dyson (M.Ed. '11) has been appointed as head of school at the Redeemer's School in Jackson. Redeemer's School began its first school year in August 2014.

J. Trent Marchman (B.S.B.A. '11, M.B.A. '13) has been named corporate treasury services officer by Trustmark Bank. He also serves as a county chairperson for the Mississippi Young Bankers Association.

Ashton Corley (B.S.B.A. '12) has been promoted to customer sales representative for the Community Bank Madison branch.

Sarah Beth Fouts (B.S. '12), a longtime First Baptist Meridian member and graphic designer, won the design contest for the First Baptist Church 175th anniversary logo.

Gus Brand (B.S.B.A. '13) has been promoted to assistant vice president for Community Bank's Brandon office.

Lauren English (M.S.M. '13) has joined Hattiesburg Clinic Connections as a physicians assistant.

Thomas Maley (M.B.A. '13) is a member of the Madison County Business League's board of directors.

Kelsey Kitch (B.S. '14) has been promoted to public relations strategist by The Cirlot Agency.

Marriages

Dr. Wesley G. Ellis (B.A. '56) to Patricia Hill, January 4, 2014

Catherine Jenkins (B.S. '05) to Saul Newsome, March 29, 2014

Laura Pickard (B.S. '05) to Jay Johns, November 15, 2013

Megan Kash (B.S.B.A. '06, M.Ed. '09) to Tony Meyers, March 15, 2014

Lindsey Oswalt (B.A. '06, J.D. '09) to Rion Watson, December 28, 2013

Katy Kash (B.S. '08) to Dave Jeffrey, August 10, 2013

Hayley Fowler (B.A. '08, M.B.A. '09) to Samuel Gregory (B.S.B.A. '10, M.B.A. '13, J.D. '13), August 30, 2014

Jessica Benson (B.S. '11) to Luke Campbell, January 4, 2014

Kenzie Ruth Gaines (B.S. '11) to Ryan Michael Davidovich, May 18, 2014

IF YOU HAVE NEWS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE, please send it to Class Notes, *Beacon* magazine, Box 4027, Clinton, MS 39058, e-mail MC at pr@mc.edu, or submit your news online at mc.edu/classnotes. Photos submitted should be of professional quality.

Births & Adoptions

Samantha and Thomas (B.S.B.A. '98) Jenkins, Sophia Faith, February 4, 2014

Meredith and Stephen (Edrington, B.S. '00) Agostinelli, Samuel "Sam" Paul, February 26, 2014. He is welcomed by big sister Evelyn Grace.

Carrie (Lassetter, B.A. '00, M.A. '04, M.F.A. '05) and Braden (B.S.B.A. '13, M.B.A. '14) Reeves, Liliana Cosette, May 14, 2014

Jessica and Ray (M.F.A. '02) Gregory, Rebecca Susanne, March 6, 2014

Wendy (McMillan, B.S.B.A. '05) and Jay Lomenick, Spencer, April 2, 2014

Carrie (Jones, B.S.B.A. '05) and Clay Nolen, Briley Elise, April 10, 2014. She is welcomed by big brothers, Parker and Cooper.

Laura and Chris (B.S. '05) Sanders, Parker Broadus, May 21, 2014. He joins his sister, Katharine Lane.

Brandi (Brown, B.S. '06) and Justin Chancellor, John Walt, March 18, 2014

Angela (Morella, B.A. '06) and Grant (B.A. '06) Nixon, Whitt Thomas, July 29, 2014. He is welcomed by siblings Maksim, Jude, and Piper Grace.

Jennifer (Wilson, B.S.Ed. '06) and Ryan (B.S. '06) Price, Parker Wilson, March 21, 2014. He is welcomed by big sister Katelyn.

Lindsey (Smith, B.S.B.A. '06) and Parker Wiseman, Graham Parker, April 8, 2014. He joins proud big sister Amelia.

Mandy (Assistant Professor of Art, Interior Design Coordinator) and Josh Berdami, Charlie Kate, May 15, 2014

Dr. Willa (Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry) and Quincy Russell, William Asher, July 23, 2014

Jessica (Todd, B.S. '08) and Robby Followell (B.S. '07), Eden Kaveri, adopted on December 4, 2014. She is welcomed by big sister Meg.

In Memoriam

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

Alumni

Mildred Coleman (B.A. '36), June 16, 2014
 Judge Roy Noble Lee (B.A. '38), January 21, 2015
 Rev. Chapel "Bill" Drummond (B.A. '42), December 11, 2013
 Perley Parr (B.A. '41), November 25, 2013
 Dr. Russell Bush ('42), December 19, 2012
 David Dotson ('42), July 21, 2014
 Dr. John Shepard (B.A. '42), February 1, 2014
 Dr. Martin Wilbur Farrar (B.S. '43), May 3, 2014
 Ruby Salley ('43), April 11, 2014
 Bobbie Foster (B.S. '44), May 17, 2014
 Lou Murphy (B.A. '46), May 25, 2014
 L. Howard Hartzog (B.A. '47), May 14, 2014
 Ollie Mayhall (B.S. '47), August 26, 2014
 Mary Smith (B.A. '48), August 27, 2014
 Jewel Merritt (B.A. '49, M.Ed. '69, Ed.S. '76), June 9, 2014
 Tommie Aden (B.A. '50), January 14, 2014
 Rev. William T. Dixon, Jr. (B.S. '50), January 18, 2014
 Dr. John Hilbun (B.A. '50), April 5, 2014
 Dr. Malcolm Leach (B.A. '50), July 11, 2014
 Dell Mayfield (B.S. '50), March 16, 2014
 Janie Pickering (B.A. '50), April 25, 2013
 Dr. Coleman Pickle ('50), October 5, 2010
 Geneva Reeves (B.A. '50), June 21, 2014
 Dr. Carl Sills ('50), June 17, 2014
 Clyde Talley (B.A. '50), May 8, 2014
 Walter Wilder (B.S. '50), March 22, 2014
 James Clark (B.S. '51), July 8, 2014
 Sara Cole ('51), August 21, 2010
 James Gordon (B.S. '51), December 1, 2014
 Charles Ivy (B.A. '51), March 1, 2014
 Dr. John Jacobs (B.A. '51), January 31, 2014
 Lucille Leggett (B.A. '51, M. Ed. '57), February 16, 2013
 Rev. William Melton (B.A. '51), July 22, 2013
 Jerry Morse (B.S. '51), November 8, 2013
 Nelwyn Dicey Price (B.A. '51), July 6, 2013
 Mary Simmons ('51), March 24, 2014
 Howard Willoughby (B.S.Ed. '53), May 28, 2014
 Barbara Phlegar (B.A. '54), January 13, 2014
 Raiford Crews (B.S.Ed. '55, M. Ed. '59), August 11, 2014
 Frances Gilliland (B.S. '55), December 1, 2013
 Russell Hobgood (B.S. '55), May 31, 2014
 Billy King (B. S. Ed. '55, M.Ed. '61), August 7, 2014
 Mary McPhail (B.S. '55, M.Ed. '55), August 5, 2014
 Dewey Sanford (B.S. '55), June 2, 2013
 Charles Vandecar (B.A. '55), June 25, 2014
 James Goff (B.S.Ed. '56), May 15, 2014
 Rev. Ace McVay (B.A. '56), December 24, 2013
 Dr. Henry Nail (B.S. '56), November 13, 2013
 Dr. Charles Thompson (B.A. '56, M.Ed. '58), April 26, 2014

James Kirby (B.S. '57), July 28, 2011
 James Taylor (B.S.Ed. '57), April 27, 2013
 Dr. Floyd Beeson (B.A. '58), December 16, 2013
 Darleen Dale (B.S.Ed. '58), June 17, 2014
 William Fulton (B.S. '58), December 13, 2013
 Dr. Donald McBryde (B.A. '58), November 26, 2013
 Cecile Chapman ('59), March 23, 2014
 Rev. Jerry Sullivan (B.S.'59, M.Ed. '70), April 2, 2014
 Rev. Joe Chapman (B.S.Ed. '60), March 12, 2014
 Shairod Robinson (B.S. '60, M.B.A. '71), May 14, 2014
 Patricia Ward (B.S.Ed. '60), November 23, 2013
 Rev. Lonnie Anthony (B.A. '61), January 19, 2014
 Dr. Rosemary Harrison (M.Ed. '61), February 27, 2014
 Dr. Lawrence Smith (B.S. '61), February 19, 2014
 Lucy Barksdale (B.A. '62), November 21, 2013
 Barbara Cribb (B.S.Ed. '62), December 24, 2013
 Rev. Gary Fagan (B.A. '62), May 14, 2014
 Ira Kynerd (B.S. '62), February 14, 2014
 Jerry Henderson (B.S. '63, B.S.Ed. '65), May 17, 2014
 Beth McAuley (B.A. '63), December 6, 2013
 Emma Miles (B.M.Ed. '63), July 24, 2013
 James Parks (B.S. '63), July 10, 2014
 Hugh Randall (B.S. '63), December 23, 2012
 Shelby Wilson (B.S.Ed. '63), July 1, 2014
 Dr. Ted Alexander (M.Ed. '64), July 2, 2014
 George Keena (B.A. '64), July 23, 2014
 David Jackson (B.S. '65), April 27, 2014
 Leo Brooks (M.Ed. '66), May 3, 2014
 Rebecca Gaddis (M.Ed. '67), February 11, 2014
 W. Ramsey Huffman (B.S. '67), January 22, 2014
 Barbara Bibighaus (B.A. '68), February 5, 2014
 Van Evans (B.S. '68, M.B.A. '70), June 12, 2014
 Phillip Doiron (B.S. '69), July 4, 2014
 William Womack (B.S. '69), March 14, 2014
 Richard Morgan (B.A. '70), May 4, 2014
 Michael Patterson (B.S. '70), June 15, 2014
 Norman Jay Tullos ('70), March 21, 2014
 Dr. Charles Young III (B.A. '70), July 14, 2014
 Gayle Blankenbaker (M.Ed. '72), March 2, 2014
 Charles Mullen (M.B.A. '72), June 7, 2014
 Dr. Don Sessums (B.S. '76), November 2, 2013
 Georgie Omarkhail (B.A. '78), January 16, 2014
 Paul Perry (B.S. '80, J.D. '85), July 13, 2014
 Joan Sparks (M.M. '80), November 13, 2013
 Timothy Canoy (B.S.B.A. '91), February 13, 2014
 Gloria Lee (B.S.N. '92), February 7, 2014
 Wanda Harrison (B.S. '93), June 16, 2014
 Jonathan Temple (B.S.B.A. '93), December 16, 2013
 Jan Keary (B.S.Ed. '94), June 21, 2014
 Cheryl Quinn (B.S.N. '94), June 30, 2014
 DeJuana Twitty (M.Ed. '94), May 17, 2014
 Julie Tiegs (B.S.Ed. '98), August 11, 2013
 Adrian Allen (M.Ed. '01), June 6, 2014
 Chris Smith (B.S. '02), April 23, 2014
 Terri Brown (B.S.Ed. '09), December 6, 2013
 Lt. Anthony Scardino (B.S. '11, J.D. '14), August 8, 2014

Friends

Dr. James Burnside, retired professor and chair of the mathematics department, December 22, 2013

Dr. Lucy Burnside, retired mathematics and business professor, July 13, 2014

Bobby Chain, member of the MC foundation board, May 31, 2014

Dr. John McCall, retired Christian studies professor and director of church relations, April 8, 2014

Michael Moskau, member of the MC foundation board, July 21, 2014



Van Dyke "Doc" Quick '55 1933 — 2014

For generations, Van "Doc" Quick '55 was the heart and soul and an icon of Mississippi College. A Christian gentleman, friend to thousands of alumni, and long-time MC leader, Quick died last March at the age of 81.

Quick served MC as dean of men, director of admissions, and vice president for alumni and student affairs for nearly 40 years before retiring in 1999. In the months since his passing, alumni and friends have shared endless stories about Quick and his countless contributions to the university he loved.

"I have called Doc Quick an iconic figure, by which I meant that you could see through his life the values that make MC an outstanding institution," said President Lee Royce. "He truly embodied our motto, *Veritas et Virtus*, Truth and Virtue. Few persons have meant as much to Mississippi College as Doc Quick."

"People mattered to Doc," said Tom Washburn '81, '87, senior adult pastor at First Baptist Church Jackson. "He was friends with the 'up and in' and the not so 'up and in' people. Doc cared about the students who were at MC on Presidential scholarships, he cared about the star athletes, and he cared equally about the at-risk students. Not one student ever entered MC that did not find in Doc someone willing to be his or her friend. Doc was all about relationships, and he knew how to look at people and really see them. He saw value and potential that others often missed, and he was big on second chances. He treated people the way that Jesus had treated him—with grace. What a way to live."

Quick enrolled at MC as a freshman in 1951, and soon began working with Choctaw sports teams as a manager and trainer. He was bandaging an injured player's knee

when someone called him "Doc," a nickname that stuck for the rest of his life. He married MC alumna Shelly Smyly '65, '70, '77, and the couple were the parents of twin daughters, Karon McMillan '81, MC's director of financial aid, and Sharon Wilson '81 of Meridian. In addition to his service to MC, Quick refereed Mississippi high school football games for some 38 years.

Honors for Doc Quick at MC include the Doc and Shelly Quick Rebounders Room at the A.E. Wood Coliseum, the Van "Doc" Quick Staff Award, a Doc Quick student scholarship, and a Quick wing in one of the men's residence halls. Following his retirement, Quick continued to serve MC as a traveling goodwill ambassador, embracing alumni and promoting the university all over America and helping with development efforts.

"Doc Quick knew everyone and he never forgot a name," said Danny Rutland '75, MC's former vice president for advancement, who met Quick as a high school student and still refers to Quick as his best friend. "Doc went with me to call on alumni and prospective donors. More than once I'd call to set up a meeting and the person would say, 'I won't see *you*, but I'll see Doc, and you can come along if you want to.' He knew people all over the country. Every car trip, every plane ride, every train ride I ever took with him anywhere in the United States, someone would call out, 'Doc Quick! What are you doing here?' He touched so many lives."

In an article in the *Beacon* written upon Quick's retirement in 1999, he said, "MC will always be home to me and it's a shame I can't be buried here. At the very least, I hope that some of my boys will prop my corpse up in a car and ride me around the campus one more time."

Doc Quick got his wish. Chapel bells rang as the hearse carrying his remains drove through the Clinton campus last spring. Students, alumni, and friends paused in front of Provine Chapel, Alumni Hall, Nelson Hall, and the B.C. Rogers Student Center, saluting as Quick made his final tour of the campus he loved. As the hearse drove past, many of Quick's friends were remembering something else he said in that same article.

"My first question when I get to Heaven will be to ask God why He chose to bless me with all those years at Mississippi College. If I had to do it all over again, I would hope that God would do it the same way."

*"My first question when I get to heaven
will be to ask God why He chose to bless me
with all those years at Mississippi College.
If I had to do it all over again, I would hope
that God would do it the same way."*

VAN "DOC" QUICK, 1933 — 2014

FROM THE TIME CAPSULE

THE WALLS OF MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE'S NELSON HALL ARE ADORNED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMENTOS OF MILESTONES FROM MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE'S STORIED, NEARLY TWO-CENTURY HISTORY. "FROM THE TIME CAPSULE" TAKES A LOOK BACK AT SOME OF THOSE UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS.



11+1

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK GUY

ON A SNOW-COVERED FOOTBALL FIELD IN DECEMBER of 1989, the Mississippi College Choctaws knocked off the Jacksonville State Gamecocks to claim the NCAA Division II National Championship game. But the story of the championship started weeks before the final game with a rainstorm of Biblical proportion, a miraculous upset, and faith that with God, anything was possible.

The Choctaws' excitement over the playoffs was tempered by the fact that their first-round opponent would be the Texas A&I Javelinas, the #1 team in Division II. The previous year, the Javelinas had crushed the Choctaws 39-15, building a five-touchdown lead before halftime. The week before the playoff game against MC, A&I trounced the #2 team in the nation 42-3. The Javelinas brought an 11-0 record into the playoffs. No team had come within five touchdowns of beating them all season. The Choctaws would face A&I on their home field in Kingsville, Texas, where they hadn't lost a game in seven years.

"This was the best Division II football team in the history of the sport. No other Division II team deserved to be on the field with them," Ron Frank '88, the 1989 Choctaw team's wide receiver, recalls. "This was a game that MC simply could not win. The odds were too impossible."

Charged with leading the Choctaws' pre-game devotional, Frank stood in the locker room and shared the story of Gideon, who faced an army of 135,000 soldiers with just 300 men.

"When you look at the story of Gideon, no one would have accepted those odds, either," Frank told his teammates.

"OUR 11 PLUS GOD? WE CAN TAKE THOSE ODDS."

"Yet, with 300 men *plus God*, they won the battle. God wanted the odds to be so stacked against them that the only way to explain the victory would be divine intervention. Our Mississippi College 11 against Texas A&I's 11? No way. But our 11 *plus God*? We can take those odds."

Even before the kickoff, it was clear that *this* game day in Kingsville would be like no other. The town experienced a torrential rainstorm – the first rain on game day in recent history. In the story of Gideon, the 135,000 soldiers became confused and began battling one another. In the story of the 11 + 1, the Javelinas became confused and began committing turnovers, losing the ball to the Choctaws an unprecedented seven times.

The final score? Texas A&I 19, Mississippi College 34.

After the win, "11 + 1" became the Choctaws' battle cry. The team wore shirts printed with the message "11 + 1" under their uniforms as they continued their march to the National Championship. The Mississippi College championship season of 1989 stands as a reminder that any army, any team – in fact, anyone, anywhere – *plus God* can defeat any opponent.

"As that last second ticked off the clock, I remember thinking that I was experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime moment," Frank says. "We played a part in the slaying of a giant. I've shared the 11 + 1 story many times over the years, but I don't think I've ever faced those kinds of odds in my life since. Eleven plus 1 is more than just a football story. It's a God-given testimony that needs to be shared and remembered."

FAST FORWARD

TEN OF THE PLAYERS ON THE 1989 TEXAS A&I TEAM DEFEATED BY MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE WOULD GO ON TO CAREERS IN THE NFL.



For more on this story, visit mc.edu/beacon.



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OCTOBER 22-24

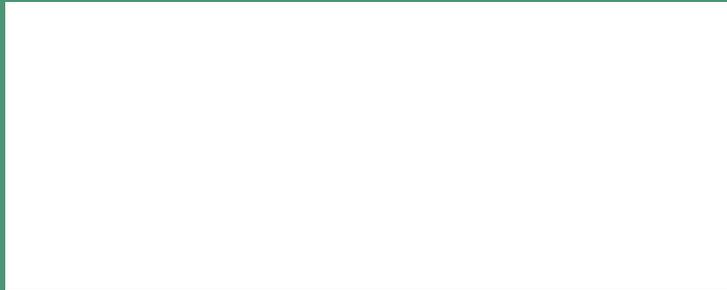




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EXCELLENCE AND COMMITMENT
TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.