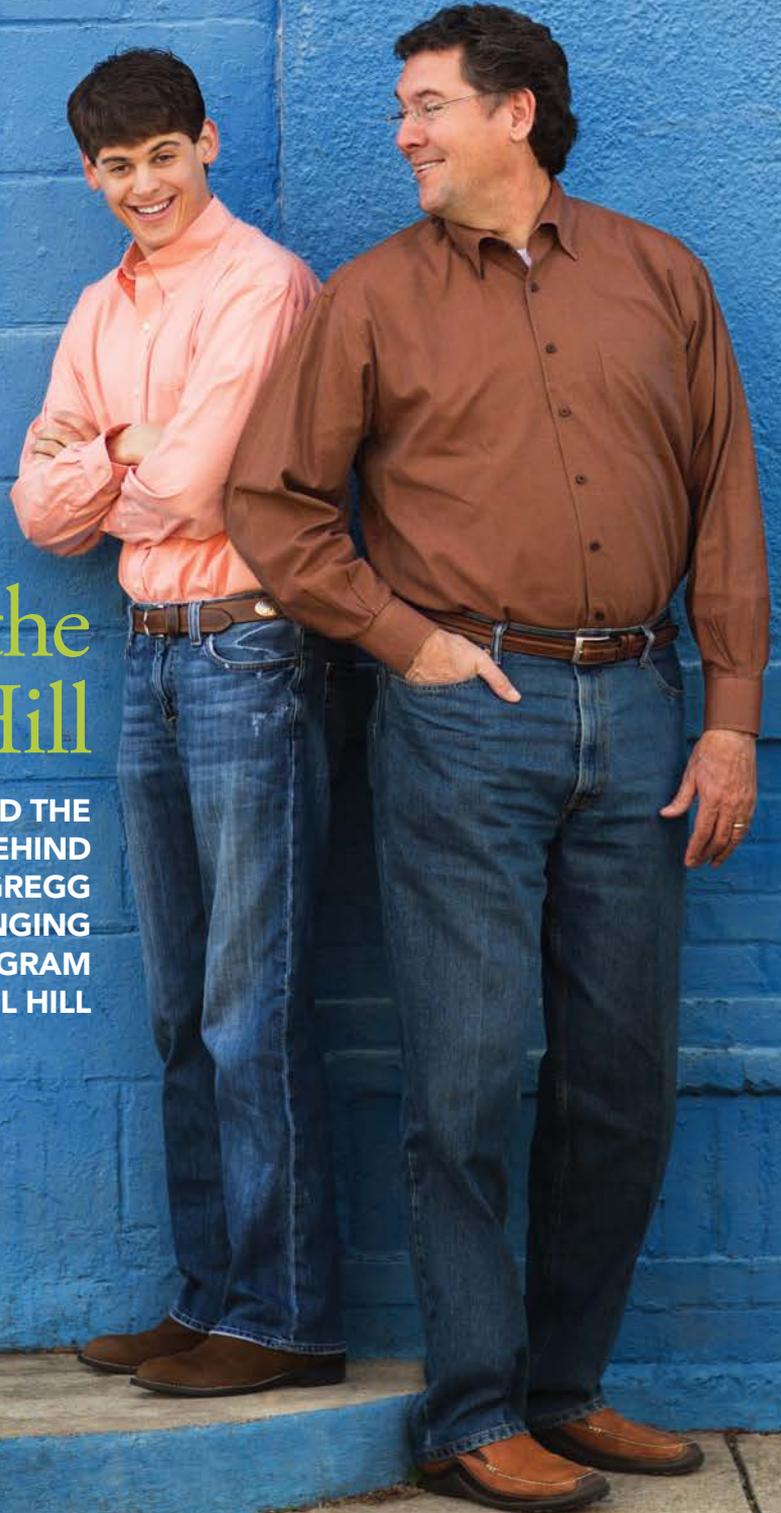


MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE | SPRING 2013

beacon

From the Valley to the Hill

THE STRUGGLE AND THE
INSPIRATION BEHIND
CONGRESSMAN GREGG
HARPER'S LIFE-CHANGING
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
ON CAPITOL HILL



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

LEE GARDNER ROYCE

This issue of the *Beacon* focuses on some notable “firsts” and on the Mississippi College alumni and faculty members who have achieved them.

The “firsts” in these pages cover many areas, from the first art program of its kind in Mississippi to the state’s first female federal district court judge, from an internship program that offers new opportunities to the developmentally disabled to scientists who’ve been the first to make important discoveries in their fields.

Whether they were driven by a desire to see justice done, to enhance the lives of others, or to uncover information that can change our world, the people behind these remarkable “firsts” were all motivated by something greater than personal satisfaction. Mississippi College and those connected to the university have achieved many great works over the years. Yet I believe that any success we celebrate is because we seek first to be a university (and persons) committed to the cause of Christ.

Few of us will make headlines for being the first person to implement a life-changing idea, to make a groundbreaking scientific discovery, or to set a new standard in our profession. But as Christians, surely we are each inspired to seek first the kingdom of God. We know that once we actively seek His Kingdom, we will measure our accomplishments according to His purpose and offer our work to His glory.

Lee Royce

BY THE BEACON’S LIGHT

So do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. — Matthew 6:32-33

In the book of Matthew, Jesus tells us that if we seek first the things of God rather than the things of earth, we will find what is truly of great value.

This doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t take care of our families, our jobs, or of the many details we need to attend to every day. Instead, Jesus is telling us that if we make seeking God’s salvation, living in obedience to Him, and sharing His Good News with others our priority, He will take care of our other needs in the way He knows is best.

In the following pages, you’ll meet people who have achieved significant “firsts,” in terms of their careers, their contributions to the world, or their service to others. While each of their “firsts” is unique, what all of the people behind them have in common is a history of first seeking God, then trusting Him to provide the way.



On the Cover: Congressman Gregg Harper’s son, Livingston, was the inspiration for a program that puts developmentally disabled young adults to work as interns on Capitol Hill.



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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.



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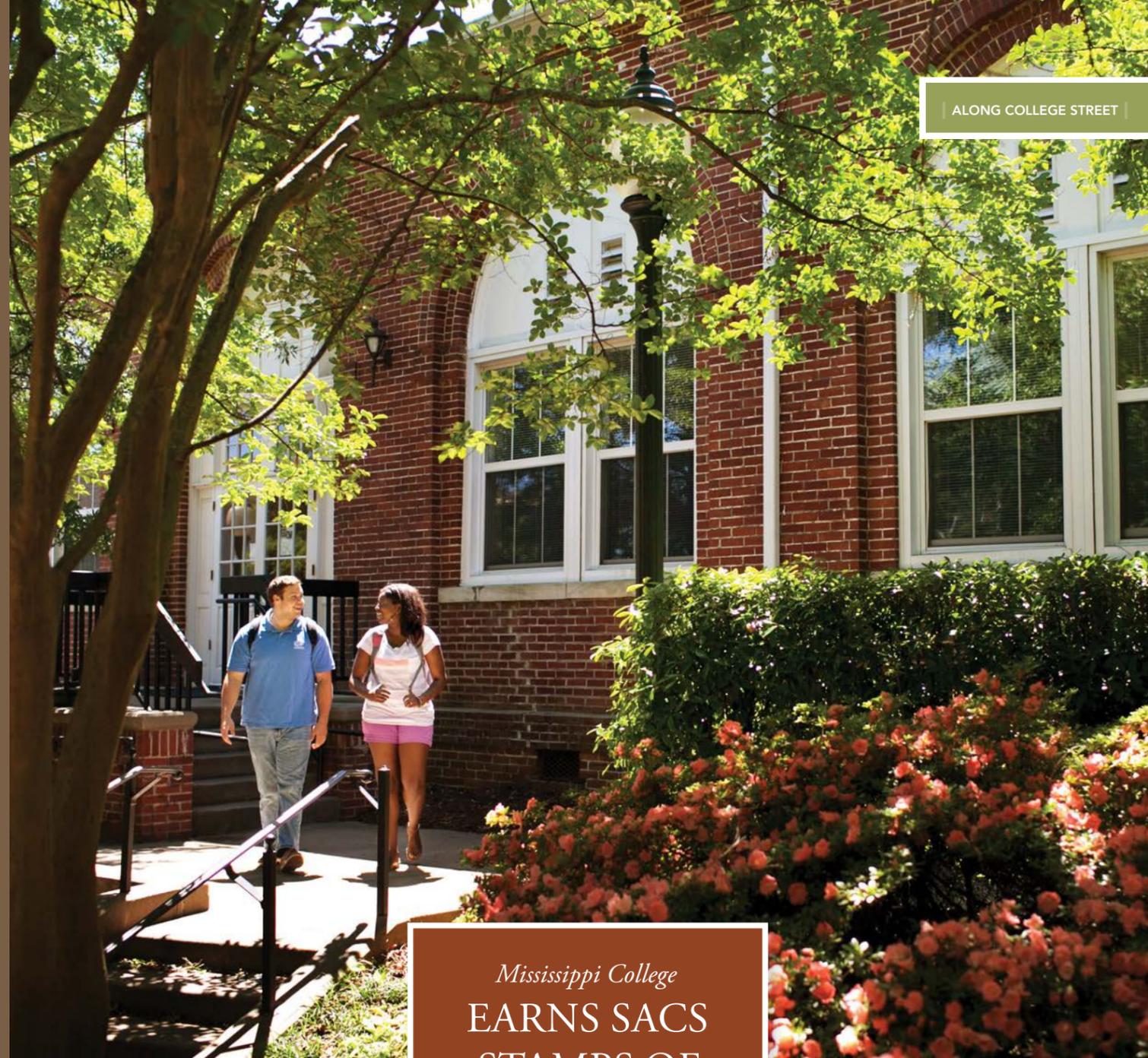
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ALONG COLLEGE STREET

Mississippi College
**EARNS SACS
STAMPS OF
APPROVAL**

On December 11th, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) gave MC a stamp of approval in the form of a reaffirmation of MC's academic programs.

SACS OFFICIALS REVIEW PROGRAMS AT EDUCATIONAL institutions in the South every 10 years. The process involves an in-depth review of written information as well as an all-important site visit.

"Reaffirmation by SACS confirms the strong quality of the university's programs," says Debbie Norris, graduate school dean and vice president, who guided the MC staff, students, and alumni through the intense process.

Susan Newman, a reference librarian at the Leland Speed Library, was among the leaders of MC's Quality Enhancement Plan. A component of the SACS process that stresses university research, the Quality Enhancement Plan was a key component of the reaffirmation process.

"The preparation for the SACS onsite visit was labor-intensive and challenging, but we've already seen improvements in teaching and student learning as a result," Newman says.



GOVERNOR JEB BUSH

HEADLINES THE SPRING SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

The annual event raised \$313,000 for Mississippi College



“I THINK WE NEED TO BE MORE POSITIVE, MORE HOPEFUL, MORE OPTIMISTIC, MORE EMBRACING OF THE DIVERSITY OF OUR COUNTRY, AND WE NEED TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE AND ENGAGE.” – JEB BUSH

IN HIS KEYNOTE SPEECH AT MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE’S ANNUAL spring scholarship banquet, Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush managed to sound very much like a presidential candidate without tipping his hand as to whether or not he’ll seek the Republican nomination in 2016. Mississippi College President Lee Royce was the latest to pose the question at the March 26th banquet, which raised \$313,000 for scholarships to Mississippi College.

“It’s best to make a decision at the proper time,” Bush said at a news conference prior to the March 26 banquet.

The younger brother of former President George W. Bush and son of former President George H. Bush, Jeb Bush served as Florida’s 43rd governor from 1999 to 2007. In his remarks at the banquet, Bush made a strong pitch for America to strengthen its schools.

“It’s obvious that America needs to ramp up its schools at a time when only one-third of the nation’s high school graduates are ready for college or careers,” Bush said. “That’s not a definition of a great country.”

Introducing the prominent Republican to the large crowd at Anderson Hall, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant noted that Bush has benefitted Mississippi by sharing his ideas about charter schools and other education reforms that proved successful in Florida. Many of those concepts now

appear in Bryant’s “Education Works” initiatives before the state Legislature.

Governor Bush also touched on immigration, the future of the Republican party, and his famous political family. Earlier in the day, Bush spoke to hundreds of MC students at Self Hall, home of the Mississippi College School of Business.

“All of his points were interesting topics that need to be addressed in a future election,” said sophomore Megan Kaye Donahoe.

Speaking to the future of the Republican party, Bush said, “I think we need to be more positive, more hopeful, more optimistic, more embracing of the diversity of our country, and we need to listen to people and engage. We can’t just be against the president’s policies, for example. We have to be *for* things.”

Governor Bush is the latest in a lineup of luminaries headlining the annual scholarship banquet. Other speakers in the series have included former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, magazine executive Steve Forbes, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, and former Vice President Bob Dole. Collectively, the scholarship dinners have raised more than \$1.6 million to help academically talented students with financial need receive a Mississippi College education.

The younger brother of former President George W. Bush and son of former President George H. Bush, Jeb Bush served as Florida’s 43rd governor from 1999 to 2007.



Moving from Division III to Division II would allow MC to grant athletic scholarships to its student athletes, give the university higher visibility both inside and outside Mississippi, and renew rivalries with other Division II schools, including Delta State University.

Choctaw SPORTS ROUND-UP



IT'S TIME TO BE II

Mississippi College athletic teams have applied to make the move to NCAA Division II play and rejoin the Gulf South Conference (GSC). MC is awaiting the NCAA's response to the proposal, with a decision from the NCAA expected sometime in late summer.

Moving from Division III to Division II would allow MC to grant athletic scholarships to its student athletes, give the university higher visibility both inside and outside Mississippi, and renew rivalries with other Division II schools, including Delta State University. The move would also reduce travel time for MC students who participate in the university's 15 NCAA sports, and who are often required to travel long distances to play Division III competitors.

MC left Division II in 1996 following 23 seasons as a respected Division II competitor. Following a 2012 visit to the MC campus, Gulf South Conference leaders invited MC to rejoin the GSC if the NCAA approves. The GSC includes public and private universities. Other teams in the GSC include West Alabama, North Alabama, Christian Brothers in Memphis, Valdosta State, Shorter University in Georgia, West Florida in Pensacola, and Union University in Jackson, Tennessee.

Constituent groups at Mississippi College, including students, faculty, coaches, staff, and alumni have expressed solid support for the move. As alumnus Fred McAfee, a New Orleans Saints Hall of Fame member and former Choctaws football star, noted, switching back to Division II would provide greater media visibility to his *alma mater*. On cable TV, CSS airs Gulf South Conference football games of the week throughout the South.

CHOCTAWS KICK THEIR WAY TO THE TOP 25

An outstanding season for the MC men's soccer team led to a conference championship and national media attention. For the first time in MC history, the Choctaws captured the American Southwest Conference (ASC) Championship and finished the 2012 season ranked in the NSCAA Division III Top 25. The Choctaws were ranked #22 in the NSCAA poll and finished at 23 in the D3Soccer.com poll. The team closed the season with a 13-5-3 record.

The season highlight came when MC soccer fans rushed onto Longabaugh Field to celebrate with the team moments after the thrilling 5-4 triumph over Texas-Dallas to win the ASC title. Kevin Johns was named ASC Coach of the Year and seven Choctaws were selected to the all-conference team, with Julio Cesar Espinal, Robert Jackson, Daniel Lang, and Brian Vasquez earning first-team honors.

RIDING HIGH WITH TINA DAVEY

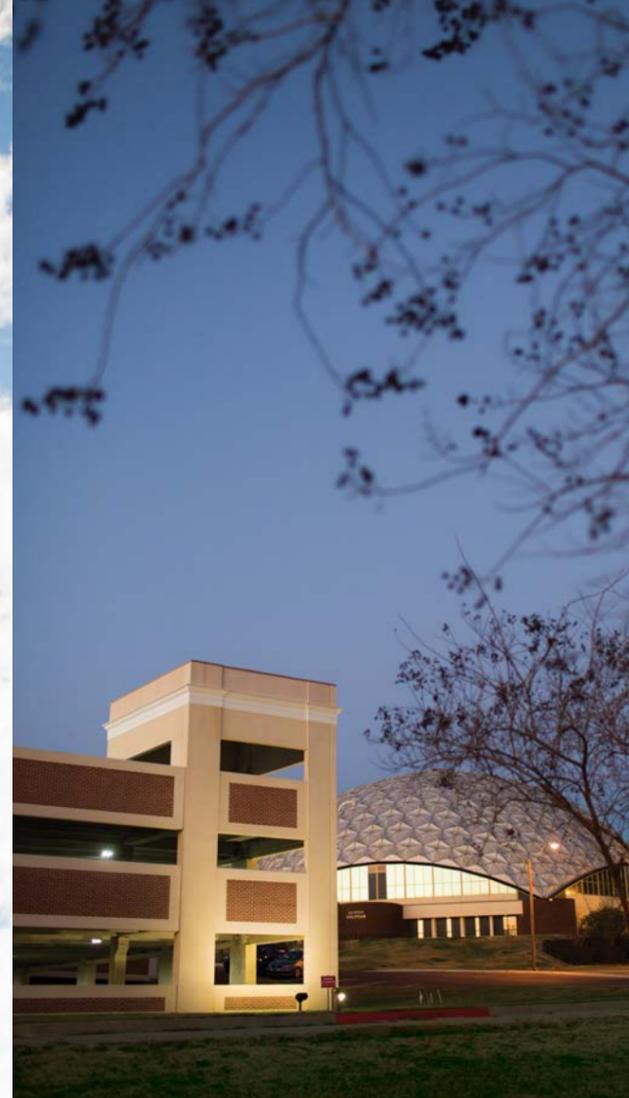
Tina Davey relocated from California to become Mississippi College's new equestrian coach in 2012, and the move has paid off both for Davey and for MC. Under Davey's leadership, the Lady Choctaws were ranked third in the region entering spring competition in 2013. The former captain of the University of California at Santa Cruz equestrian team, Davey also served as the founder and coach of the University of California-Irvine equestrian squad.

Davey's MC equestrian team includes 24 skilled riders. Those riders and a stable of donated horses, have taken the program to a new level in its sixth season.

A CONSTRUCTION *Renaissance*



INCREASED ENROLLMENT AND NEW PROGRAMS HAVE GENERATED A CONSTRUCTION RENAISSANCE ON THE MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE CAMPUS.



THE BOOKSTORE AND PIMENTO'S CAFÉ The bookstore has been relocated from Alumni Hall to the corner of West Madison and Jefferson Street. Located in the heart of Olde Towne, the bookstore building also houses Pimento's Café and includes upstairs lofts for MC graduate students.

PARKING GARAGE A new parking garage just west of the A.E. Wood Coliseum and south of the Robinson-Hale Stadium offers spaces for 557 vehicles. The garage is equipped with security cameras, lighting, and emergency telephones and is open 24/7.

MEDICAL SCIENCES BUILDING The 20,000-square-foot medical science facility includes a 4,800-square-foot gross anatomy laboratory, two large classrooms, a histology laboratory, and 2,700 square feet of office and research space.



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



EQUIPPING
THE CUSTODIANS

Of The

CULTURE

MC OFFERS THE STATE'S ONLY MFA IN GRAPHIC DESIGN

"We have to be conscious of design trends and position ourselves to respond to them in ways that reflect our Christian worldview... Graphic designers are the custodians of culture. This program is an opportunity to make a more significant impact for Christ within the entire field of design." — Dr. Karlos Taylor '97



“I LOVE TYPOGRAPHY. IF YOU WERE TO ASK MY FRIENDS ABOUT MY LOVE FOR TYPE, THEY WOULD TELL YOU THAT I ALWAYS TALK ABOUT IT. I LOOK AT LOGOS AND TELL THEM OUT LOUD WHAT FONT WAS USED. I’M A NERD.”

— DEREK WALKER ’12, MFA CANDIDATE

love graphic design. It’s my God-given talent and it’s given me a passion for creating that surpasses everything else,” says Derek Walker ’12. “I love what I do too much to keep it to myself, so I want to teach graphic design on a college level. When MC was considering offering the MFA in graphic design, I let my art professors know that if they started it, I would come.”

Walker’s dream was realized in 2012, when Mississippi College launched the state’s first and only master of fine arts in graphic design program.

“The idea for the program began with the MC art faculty, whose members saw a need for the program in Mississippi,” Dr. Randy Miley, chairman of the MC art department, says. “Many of our graphic design students wanted to teach, and you must have a terminal degree to teach at the university level. Other students wanted to learn new technical skills. We saw an opportunity for MC to be the place that helped them achieve those goals.”

While there were several associate and bachelor’s degree programs in graphic design offered in Mississippi, the state was losing those students who wished to pursue an advanced degree. With fewer than 10 universities in the Southeast offering an MFA in graphic design, the potential for creating a successful program at Mississippi College was clear.

Following more than a year of extensive research and curriculum development, MC launched the MFA program in the fall of 2012 with eight enthusiastic students, including Derek Walker. The program benefits students who enroll immediately after completing their bachelor’s degrees, as well as graphic design professionals returning to the classroom.

“Traditional students have the opportunity to hone the skills they’ve already acquired and continue learning new ones. Their portfolios can become industry-ready with a broader range of work, and they have the opportunity to

place a more guided foot into the field,” says Dr. Karlos Taylor ’97, an MC art alumnus who returned to his *alma mater* to lead the program. “Professionals already in the field can add to their skill set and take advantage of high-level critiques by their peers that they may not get in work settings.”

The program will benefit not only those who complete it, but also the graphic design industry in Mississippi as a whole.

“Our MFA program will serve as a new conduit for graphic design professionals trained to the highest academic level,” Dr. Taylor says. “We believe our program could help make Mississippi’s graphic design culture more competitive with those of other regions.”



Dr. Karlos Taylor ’97, returned to MC to lead the MFA graphic design program.

Kellye Lewis ’10, graphic design coordinator at the Mississippi Children’s Museum, is one of the eight students in the MFA program’s inaugural class.

“I chose to pursue this program for several reasons,” Lewis says. “I’ve always enjoyed working with our art department professors. Each one of them shows such a dedication and passion for their field, and I knew I still had a lot to learn from them. I also wanted to stay close to home in order to continue to support my state and help our community grow and

prosper. Through the program, I’ve been able to make networking connections with companies in the Jackson area, where I hope to continue working for years to come.”

According to Dr. Taylor, the biggest challenge moving forward is making sure the curriculum remains relevant to the design industry. A key component of the program is connecting students with experienced design professionals already working in the field.

“Last semester, I had the students critique the work of a guest design professional,” Dr. Taylor continues. “Not only did the students express their thanks for the opportunity to critique a designer with more exposure and experience, but the guest professional also told me how valuable it was for him to be critiqued by other designers. The graphic design profession asserts that satisfying the client’s needs is your only measure of success, but the substantive fellowship of design peers is the best example of ‘iron sharpening iron’



“We have very competitive students in this program. We have to work hard and put in a lot of time and energy to be able to keep up with one another. This is a good challenge, though. You have to fight to stay on top in the graphic design field. The sooner you get used to that idea, the better.”

KELLYE LEWIS ’10, MFA CANDIDATE

that I know. That experience showed me the value our program can bring to the professional world, and that a more dynamic interaction with the field is what has been missing in graphic design education.”

Dr. Taylor sees a higher purpose for the program beyond just equipping its students for the professional world.

“We have to be conscious of design trends and position ourselves to respond to them in ways that reflect our Christian worldview,” Dr. Taylor says. “Graphic designers have a great responsibility to their cultures. The social media phenomena, for example, is only one of the more recent aspects of the field that challenges our ethics as well as our technical know-how.”

“The biggest challenge for me so far has been trying to answer some questions of my own about my art through this process,” Walker says. “Sure, I’m getting my MFA so I

can teach, but I am also creating and designing a breadth of work that is going to communicate a message. I wrestle a lot with, ‘What am I trying to say?’ with these projects, and whether my work is a true reflection of me even though it’s representing an idea bigger than me. As artists, we communicate a message with our work, and I want to make sure that the message I create is powerful and effective.”

“With this program, we want to revolutionize the ways that the corporate world interacts with higher education. Together, we can become more accountable for the direction of the graphic design industry,” Dr. Taylor says. “Graphic designers are the custodians of culture. More importantly, we are the bearers of God’s word in our responsibility for making it visible and tangible. This program is an opportunity to make a more significant impact for Christ within the entire field of design.”

a
**BENCH
MARK
APPOINTMENT**

JUDGE SHARION AYCOCK '80, MISSISSIPPI'S FIRST FEMALE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Sharion Aycock was hip-deep in a Canadian marsh when her duck hunt was interrupted by the ringing of her mobile phone. Aycock fished the phone out of her waders and saw a 202 area code. A member of U.S. Senator Trent Lott's staff was on the other end of the line. < "Judge Aycock?" the staffer said. "I'm calling to let you know the Senate is going to vote on you tomorrow." < Within 24 hours, Aycock would become the first female United States District Court Judge in Mississippi history.



"COURT IS SERIOUS BUSINESS,
BUT IF YOU'RE THERE ALL
DAY YOU NEED SOME LEVITY.
OTHERWISE, IT WILL TAKE A
TOLL ON YOU. IT'S OKAY TO
LAUGH FROM TIME TO TIME."

JUDGE SHARION AYCOCK

SHARION AYCOCK IS WARM AND GRACIOUS, WITH A READY, 100-WATT SMILE THAT PUTS PEOPLE AT EASE.

When friends and neighbors in her home community of Fulton, Mississippi, try to address her as “Your Honor,” she insists, “No, I’m just Sharion.” But as attorneys who’ve argued before her will confirm, when Judge Sharion Aycock slides her glasses to the tip of her nose and peers at you over the rims, you’d best have your facts in order.

As a U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, Aycock adjudicates felony cases, as well as significant civil cases, all argued by some of the best attorneys in the country. Cases brought before Judge Aycock have included the largest drug trafficking case in the history of northern Mississippi, which included 26 defendants and quantities of cocaine so large that the smell of the evidence made the jurors ill, a health-care fraud case that required 56 attorneys and paralegals and shaped future law, and numerous other complex cases. The stakes in Judge Aycock’s courtroom are always high and the pressure is intense; she’s even had an attorney suffer a heart attack during the proceedings.

“My job is like starting a new novel every Monday and finishing it by Friday afternoon,” Aycock says. “The attorneys who argue in federal court are very good. I’m privileged to hear the best from both sides. To see those legal theories presented so well is not only interesting to me, it’s also fun.”

Aycock’s journey to the federal bench began when she took the LSAT at the suggestion of one of her professors at Mississippi State University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in economics. Once she enrolled in MC Law, Aycock discovered a new passion. Not only did she realize she loved the law, she graduated second in her class. Aycock practiced with a firm and in private practice in Fulton, Mississippi, and also served as the Itawamba County prosecuting attorney.

In 2003, Aycock ran for Circuit Court Judge for the First Circuit Court District, which included seven counties in northern Mississippi. She was the first woman to run for circuit court judge in the history of the district.

“When I was campaigning, women would come up to

me and say, ‘I’m so proud of you,’” Aycock recalls. “I was surprised how much women felt they needed to see a female on the bench. I received cards, letters, and calls of encouragement from people I didn’t even know.”

Aycock won the election, and quickly earned a reputation as a tough but fair judge. She had been sitting on the state court bench for five years when U.S. District Court Judge Glen Davidson took senior status, a form of semi-retirement that essentially vacated his seat. When the search for his replacement began in 2006, Aycock heard from a colleague that she was being considered for the lifetime appointment to the federal bench.

“I had no idea,” Aycock recalls. “It had never even crossed my mind. When a month or so passed and I didn’t hear anything, I decided it must have been a rumor.”

But a few months later, Aycock received a call from Senator Thad Cochran’s office, asking if she would be interested in being nominated. When Aycock said yes, the next step was an interview with Senator Cochran.

“I was so scared,” Aycock says frankly. “At one point during the interview, Senator Cochran asked if I was nervous and I said, ‘I am scared to death.’ He said, ‘Let me tell you about the time I was most scared,’ and told me a personal story about a time he had faced a challenge. That calmed me, and we went on to have a great conversation.”

Weeks later on December 19 – Aycock’s birthday – Senator Trent Lott phoned to tell Aycock she could expect to be summoned to Washington soon. Two days later, Aycock arrived at the White House for an intensive interview with White House counsel and representatives from the Department of Justice.

“In my habit of southern hospitality, I tried to shake hands with the guards at the door,” Aycock says with a wry smile. “They didn’t even acknowledge me. So, I was already embarrassed and flustered when I walked into the interview.”

The five-member panel grilled Aycock for almost three hours.

“The interview questions are confidential, but I can tell you that you subject yourself to anything they want to ask,” Aycock says. “They asked legal questions designed to gauge my knowledge of the law and my philosophy of the law, as

“I MET SHARION AYCOCK WHEN SHE WAS A COUNTY PROSECUTOR, AND I WAS VERY IMPRESSED. YEARS LATER, WHEN HER NAME CAME UP FOR THE FEDERAL BENCH, I DID MY DUE DILIGENCE, CHECKING HER REPUTATION AS AN ATTORNEY AND AS A JUDGE. I HEARD NOTHING BUT RAVE REVIEWS ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE, HER PERSONALITY, AND HER DEMEANOR. JUDGE AYCOCK HAS DONE A FABULOUS JOB ON THE FEDERAL BENCH. SHE DOES FAIR, STEADY, GOOD WORK, BUT HOW DO I REALLY KNOW SHE’S DONE A FABULOUS JOB? BECAUSE SHE’S NEVER MENTIONED IN THE NEWS MEDIA.”

FORMER U.S. SENATOR TRENT LOTT



HOLDING FAMILY COURT Off the bench, Judge Sharion Aycock enjoys gardening and spending time with her son, Martin Richardson, daughter-in-law Leah, and two-year-old granddaughter, Vivian Ruth. The family lives just a block away from Judge Aycock and her husband, Randy, in Fulton, Mississippi. While her family is proud of her achievements, Judge Aycock can honestly say that none of them has ever referred to her as, “Your Honor.”

well as a lot of personal questions about my background. Looking back, I understand why it’s important they know *everything* about the candidate under consideration. I was the last nominee of President Bush late in his term, and they wanted someone they were confident could stand up to scrutiny in the Senate confirmation.

“I wanted them to understand that I could do the job, but I’m a very candid person rather than a ‘polished’ person,” Aycock continues. “If they asked me a question I wasn’t sure about, I replied, ‘I don’t know. I’d have to consider that.’ When I got up to leave, I was certain I’d blown it. I don’t remember leaving the White House or walking back to my hotel. I was convinced I was a one-trip-to-Washington girl.”

But the panel was clearly impressed with Aycock’s candor, as well as with her legal expertise. On March 19, she received word that she would be President George W. Bush’s nominee for the federal bench.

“I can show you the exact spot on Highway 25 between Fulton and Iuka where I pulled over, took the call, and sat in my car and cried,” Aycock says.

The next step was a Senate confirmation hearing.

“That was a wonderful experience,” Aycock says. “Senators Lott and Cochran both made personal appearances and presentations on my behalf. At one point Senator Lott said, ‘Judge Aycock will be the first female district court judge in Mississippi,’ and I heard Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas say, ‘And may I add, it’s about time.’”

Aycock and her husband, Randy, already had a vacation to Canada on their calendars. Aycock considered canceling the trip, worried that her confirmation might come up for the Senate vote while she was out of the country. Assured the vote would not come up that soon, Aycock and her husband headed north.

“And that is how I came to be standing in a marsh in waders when the call came that I would be voted on the next

day,” Aycock says with a laugh. “Randy and I watched the voting on C-Span from our hotel room in Canada. I didn’t realize there was a 90-second delay on the broadcast. Senator Lott called while we were still watching to tell me that I had been confirmed by a unanimous vote, and I asked him, ‘Are you sure?’ He said, ‘Yes, Sharion, I was here and I voted.’”

On October 8, 2007, Sharion Aycock was sworn in as a United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

“Senators Cochran and Lott took great pride in the confirmation, and the media really focused on the fact that I was the first woman in Mississippi to serve as an Article III federal judge,” Aycock says. “Personally, it took me a long time to get my head around the idea of being a federal judge. It was such a blessing just to be singled out and considered, and then to be confirmed. Being the first female Article III judge to sit on the federal bench was secondary to that honor.”

For Aycock, even more moving than her Senate confirmation or her swearing in was her investiture, a formal ceremony held at Itawamba Community College. Every federal judge and magistrate judge in Mississippi was in attendance, as well as hundreds of family members, friends, and well-wishers. It was there that the significance of being “first” finally hit home.

“I remember standing there surrounded by all those people in my hometown and thinking, ‘There is only one person, on one occasion, who will experience this, and that person is me. It was a pretty awesome moment.’”

In the nearly six years since she was sworn in, Judge Sharion Aycock has experienced many more awesome moments on the bench. Her responsibilities will increase in 2014, when she becomes the chief judge of the Northern District. And no matter how many landmark cases unfold before her, Judge Sharion Aycock will always have the distinction of having been the first woman in Mississippi to be in a position to hear them.

MAKING MOM AND DAD PROUD Judge Sharion Aycock’s parents, Darrell and Ruth Harp, are successful small business owners, but didn’t know a lot about the legal or judicial fields. “When I told them I was being considered for a position as a federal judge, they had only two questions,” Aycock says. “‘Are you sure you want to do this?’ and ‘Will you make as much money as you do now?’ I was able to assure them the answer to both questions was yes.”

LORD *of* THE

STONEFLIES

IN THE PURSUIT OF HIS PASSION, DR. BILL STARK, PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY AT MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, HAS LEFT NO STONEFLY UNTURNED.

Dr. Stark is one of the world's leading experts on the order of insects known as stoneflies (Latin name: *Plecoptera*). More than 3,500 species of stoneflies are found worldwide, with new species still being discovered. Dr. Stark has personally identified some 390 new species, as well as another 27 soon to be catalogued, making him the first person on earth to have discovered 400 species of this diminutive, winged insect.





THE CLINTON COMMUNITY NATURE CENTER Dr. Stark has served on the board of directors of the Clinton Community Nature Center since the center's founding in 1993. The nature center includes 33 acres of woodlands, wildflower gardens, and nature trails open to the public. A volunteer staff offers programs on nature, gardening, and natural history. "I'm very pleased to be a part of the Clinton Community Nature Center," Dr. Stark says. "Not every city has a nature area that citizens have set up for other citizens to enjoy."



FROM STONEFLIES TO SASQUATCH

One of the areas where Dr. Bill Stark has collected stonefly specimens is Willow Creek, California, famous as the reported domain of Sasquatch, also known as Bigfoot. While Dr. Stark has never encountered Sasquatch on an expedition, he has posed for photos with a local carving of the legendary creature.



STONEFLIES RANGE IN SIZE FROM ONE-QUARTER INCH TO THREE INCHES LONG. THEY ARE TINY, BUT AS DR. STARK PUTS IT, "THEY'RE VISIBLE TO THOSE OF US WHO SPEND OUR LIVES CHASING THEM." DR. STARK'S CLASSROOM LABORATORY AT MC IS HOME TO AN IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION OF BETWEEN 75,000 AND 100,000 STONEFLIES, EACH PRESERVED IN ITS OWN SMALL VIAL, EACH CAREFULLY LABELED AS TO SPECIES AND THE LOCATION WHERE IT WAS FOUND.

Dr. Stark has had the privilege of naming several of the species he discovered. Some of the stoneflies have been christened in honor of celebrities who support environmental causes, including *Anacroneturia taylori* (James Taylor) and *Anacroneturia carole* (Carole King). He has also named stoneflies after other scientists, the geographic areas where they were collected, and creatures from mythology. His scientific colleagues have recognized Dr. Stark by naming six stoneflies in his honor, including *Allocapnia starki*, *Taeniopteryx starki*, *Agnetine starki*, *Neoperlastarki*, *Suwallia starki*, and *Anacroneturia starki*.

Dr. Stark was one of the first biologists to develop and popularize new techniques for studying stonefly eggs, and has recorded some nearly inaudible sounds of male and female stoneflies communicating by tapping their tails. He is the co-editor of the journal *Illiesia*, the *International Journal of Stonefly Research*, has authored three books on the species, and has published more than 200 articles on stoneflies in scientific journals. In recognition of his achievements in the field, Dr. Stark received the 2004 International Association of Plecopterologists Lifetime Achievement Award.

So, how did Bill Stark come to catch the stonefly bug?

Stark grew up on a family farm outside a small town in rural Oklahoma. His interest in insects began when he was

charged with protecting the family's crops from the ravages of hungry bugs.

"We grew potatoes, corn, and tomatoes without using any pesticides, not because we were enlightened about their hazards, but because pesticides were so expensive," Dr. Stark recalls. "Insects were a real danger to the crops, so one of my jobs was collecting bugs from the fields. I would go up and down the rows picking up Colorado potato beetles and other harmful insects, drop them in a Folger's coffee can, and pour alcohol on them. After awhile, I learned the bugs' behaviors, and realized I could 'herd' them away from the potatoes by tapping on the ground near them."

When Stark was in high school, he met a group of college students who were earning extra cash by catching rodents for the Southeastern Oklahoma State University research laboratory. Stark saw a way to help pay for his own college education – after all of those years catching bugs, Stark figured he was equally qualified for the rodent-catching job.

"You had to be a biology major to get that job as a college student," Stark says with a smile. "That's why I majored in biology – so I could land a job catching mice."

Stark's interest in insects, however, never waned. He chose the University of North Texas for his graduate work because the university had a professor on staff that special-

LOVE BUGS
Occasionally, students who accompany Dr. Stark on field expeditions find more than just bugs. Students Brian York '93 and Heidi Klinschmidt '93 were stonefly hunting when they kicked up a rock shaped like a valentine heart. It proved to be a foreshadowing; the couple went on to get married.

ized in dragonflies; when that professor moved on to the study of stoneflies, so did Stark. By the time he completed his Ph.D. at the University of Utah, Stark had found his passion.

"I was drawn to the stoneflies in part because they were a more obscure species," Dr. Stark says. "There are fewer than 100 biologists studying stoneflies today, so there is plenty of room to work and opportunities to make significant discoveries about the species."

Dr. Stark also confesses that the habitat of the stonefly played a role in his choice. Stoneflies are found only in ecosystems surrounding the cleanest possible water supply, including pristine mountain streams and rivers. As a result, most of Dr. Stark's fieldwork is conducted in unspoiled locations of stunning natural beauty. The tiny insects have little tolerance for pollution, so their presence or absence is a reliable indication whether the area's water quality is good or bad. Since fish and birds eat the stoneflies, any decline in their population can have an adverse effect on the entire food chain.

While the scenic settings in which Dr. Stark works are lovely, they are not without their hazards. Dr. Stark has faced down his share of rattlesnakes and weathered bouts of giardia, an intestinal infection triggered by drinking water that was clean enough for the stoneflies, but not for

human consumption. But a few inconveniences haven't dampened his enthusiasm.

"I love being outdoors collecting," Dr. Stark says. "It would be easy for me to spend all my time in the field and never write up the results."

Dr. Stark balances his fieldwork, laboratory research, and writing with teaching ecology, entomology, and zoology at Mississippi College. One of the accomplishments he prizes most as a professor has been inspiring his students to share his enthusiasm.

"I've been pleased that so many students have been interested enough in my work to conduct research with me, and to spend their spring breaks catching bugs," Dr. Stark says.

At home with his wife, Lida, Dr. Stark works on the "catch and release" program – any bugs caught in the house are set free. The Starks' adult daughters, René Roberts and Edith Kennedy, both work in banking, although Dr. Stark did take them stonefly hunting when they were younger. But while the bug for stoneflies can be contagious, it is apparently not hereditary.

"Edith's name is on the labels of some of the vials in my collection," Stark says. "But I suspect she went because she had a boyfriend at the time who was interested, not because she had inherited a great love of stoneflies."

THE WRONG KIND OF STONED Dr. Bill Stark's most memorable experience during a field expedition came in 1987, when he was collecting stoneflies near the Hoopla Indian Reservation in California with a professor and two students from Brigham Young University. "My collection vial was full, so I went back to our van to get another one," Dr. Stark recalls. "Just as I got to the road, this guy came roaring up on a motorcycle and lost control. He laid the motorcycle down on the asphalt and it slid right past me and skidded under our van. Some people from the Indian reservation came out and loaded the driver up and took him away, we assumed to a hospital. "Someone called the California Highway Patrol and when they arrived, they found a bag of marijuana under our van. They asked if this bag of 'Mendocino gold' was ours. My only response was, 'You've got a Mississippi College professor and a group from Brigham Young University here. We don't even know what that stuff is.'"

FROM THE VALLEY TO THE

Hill

THE STRUGGLE AND THE INSPIRATION BEHIND
CONGRESSMAN GREGG HARPER'S LIFE-CHANGING
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ON CAPITOL HILL



GREGG AND
SIDNEY HARPER

GREGG HARPER AND HIS WIFE, SIDNEY, WERE DEVASTATED WHEN THEY LEARNED SOMETHING WAS VERY WRONG WITH THEIR BEAUTIFUL SON, LIVINGSTON.

But rather than dwell on their grief or accept the limitations others placed on their child, the Harpers chose a different path. Their unplanned journey led not only to a bright life for the Harper family, but also to a first-of-its-kind program on Capitol Hill and a blessing for other families facing similar challenges.

AN UPHILL BATTLE

Gregg Harper '78 confesses he chose Mississippi College because he knew his high school sweetheart, Sidney Hancock, also planned to attend MC. The couple married in 1979, when Gregg was in law school at Ole Miss. The Harpers settled in Rankin County, Mississippi, where Gregg opened a law office and Sidney '79 worked as a labor and delivery nurse. When their son, Livingston, was born in the summer of 1989, the Harpers' fairytale romance seemed complete.

But Sidney and Gregg soon began to suspect that something was wrong with their baby. Livingston wasn't hitting the normal childhood milestones, and his overall development seemed alarmingly slow. Their pediatrician initially reassured Sidney and Gregg that everything was fine, but the Harpers remained uneasy. By two years old, Livingston was displaying other disturbing signs, from a heightened sensitivity to sound and touch to uncontrollable crying.

By the time their doctor agreed that something was wrong and Livingston should be tested, Sidney was expecting the couple's second child. Months of tests yielded several possible diagnoses from cerebral palsy to autism, each more frightening than the last. Something was definitely wrong with Livingston, but no one in the medical community seemed to be able to pinpoint its cause. Faced with dire prospects for their son and filled with worry that the unidentified condition might also affect their unborn daughter, the Harpers prayed for strength. The couple experienced some relief when Maggie Harper arrived in the fall of 1991 beautiful and apparently healthy, but the mystery surrounding Livingston's condition continued.

Two worry-filled years later, the answer finally came from an unexpected source. Livingston was four years old when

the Harpers' neighbor, who worked with special needs children in the Rankin County Schools, attended a workshop that referenced a rare condition called Fragile X Syndrome. The symptoms described in the workshop also described Livingston Harper. Specific tests confirmed that Livingston had Fragile X. After years of uncertainty, the condition affecting Sidney and Gregg's child had a name. But the diagnosis brought no relief.

"It was a terrible blow," Gregg says. "The prognosis was very negative."

Fragile X is a genetic condition that causes a wide range of problems, including mental retardation, learning disabilities, and autism-like disorders. There is no cure, only an intense regimen of therapy and training to help those with Fragile X achieve as normal a life as possible. Nearly 20 years later, the memory of hearing the diagnosis, "Fragile X" still brings tears to Sidney Harper's eyes.

"It was tough," Sidney says, "It was really, really tough."

But while the Harpers grieved for the future their child would not have, they realized that Livingston would still have a future, just a different one than the one they had imagined. Together, Sidney and Gregg decided they would not place limitations on Livingston. Instead, they would work to help their son reach his full potential, whatever that potential might be.

When the literature on Fragile X was not encouraging, the Harpers threw that literature away. When an acquaintance suggested they save themselves some heartache and "go ahead and put him somewhere now," the Harpers ended that acquaintanceship. When doctors said Livingston would never learn to swim or ride a tricycle, the Harpers said, "We'll see about that."

WHILE THE Harpers grieved for the future their child would not have, they realized that Livingston would still have a future, just a different one than the one they had imagined.

The TEAM Act

More than 30,000 students with intellectual disabilities graduate from public high schools annually, but only about 2,500 of those students go on to college. As Congressman Gregg Harper puts it, "They make it through high school, then just drop off the educational face of the earth." That sad situation motivated Congressman Harper to introduce a series of three bills called the Transition toward Excellence, Achievement, and Mobility (TEAM) Act that would help people with intellectual disabilities transition from secondary education into a college experience or into the workforce. The TEAM Act bills have been referred to the appropriate committees of jurisdiction, where they await consideration.

“NEITHER THIS MAN
NOR HIS PARENTS
SINNED,” SAID JESUS,
“BUT THIS HAPPENED
SO THAT THE WORKS
OF GOD MIGHT BE
DISPLAYED IN HIM.”

John 9:3



GREGG, MAGGIE,
LIVINGSTON AND
SIDNEY HARPER

“We were on a journey, and it was a different journey than the one we had planned,” Gregg says. “But we always treated Livingston as though he was ‘normal,’ whatever that means.”

The Harpers’ determination didn’t mean the journey would be easy. Livingston was slow to learn basic skills, cried constantly, and sometimes could not bear to be touched or held, no matter how much his parents longed to comfort him with a hug. The family’s routine included days filled with therapy sessions and long nights spent driving Livingston around in the car while singing endless choruses of “Old MacDonald” to try to lull him to sleep. Through it all, Gregg continued to practice law and Sidney continued to work as a nurse while also caring for baby Maggie, who was tested and found not to have Fragile X.

“I’d pull Maggie out of her crib and take her along to Livingston’s therapy sessions,” Sidney recalls. “It wasn’t easy on anyone, including Livingston. We pushed him very hard. We never treated him as though he had a disability. Every time they said he wouldn’t be able to do something, that was what we tried to get him to do next.”

Their persistence paid off. Livingston learned to swim and to ride a specially equipped tricycle. When it was time for kindergarten, the Harpers enrolled Livingston in a mainstream school, where he took both regular classes and special education classes. The day Livingston learned to write

his own name – a fairly challenging name for any kindergartener to learn to spell – his teacher called the Harpers to share the good news.

“We don’t have that piece of paper with ‘Livingston’ printed on it because his teacher kept it, framed it, and hung it on her own wall,” Gregg says with a smile.

In addition to learning new skills, Livingston displayed a knack for making friends. While shyness can be a marker for Fragile X, Livingston proved to be something of a comedian, entertaining his friends with jokes and making others laugh not *at* him, but *with* him. The Harpers recall only one time when another child in elementary school teased Livingston about his disability.

“The child doing the teasing made the mistake of doing it in front of one of Livingston’s buddies. It never happened again,” Gregg says. “Livingston has always been blessed with great friends who treat him as just one of the group.”

“The best therapy of all has been Maggie,” Gregg continues, explaining that while Maggie loves her brother fiercely, “She shows him no mercy and gives him no quarter. We’ve read that siblings of special needs children tend to either resent the sibling or embrace the sibling, and Maggie embraced Livingston.”

Livingston continued to be mainstreamed into high school. As a student at Pearl High School, he sang with the

performance choir and worked part time at a local restaurant. Livingston enjoyed a full and productive life, largely because the Harpers never gave their son a reason to think that he shouldn’t.

The Harpers’ experiences prompted them to reach out to other families with intellectually disabled children. Gregg Harper began employing interns from Pearl High School’s special education classes to work at his law firm, handling filing, stuffing envelopes, and providing general

assistance in the office.

“For many of them, it was the first job they had ever had,” Gregg says. “I saw that we were not only giving them a small paycheck, we were also giving them hope and an opportunity to be productive. They would come in a little shy, but working gave them so much confidence. It was good for everyone in the office, too. It wasn’t just me. Everyone on my staff had met Livingston, and the entire office had a heart for these interns.”

A Moving Duet

Daniel Rodríguez is an operatic tenor and former New York City police officer known as “The Singing Policeman.” In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York City, Rodríguez’s moving performances of “God Bless America” at memorial events earned national acclaim and led to a new career as a recording artist and touring entertainer. Rodríguez and Livingston Harper met before one of the singer’s performances in Atlanta. Rodríguez introduced Livingston to the audience that night in Georgia, describing him as “the most amazing young man. Life has handed him a curve ball, but he is dealing with it in an inspirational way.” Rodríguez went on to promise Livingston that he would someday sing at Pearl High School. Rodríguez made good on his promise, performing a special concert at Pearl High School in March of 2007. When a tuxedo-clad Livingston Harper joined the Singing Policeman on stage and the two performed an emotional duet of “God Bless the U.S.A.,” there was not a dry eye in the house. They finished to a standing ovation from the wildly cheering crowd, prompting Rodríguez to write on his website, “It was one of the most satisfying, inspirational moments of my life. Mere words could not describe the overwhelming sense of love that filled that auditorium.” Livingston Harper said simply, “This was the greatest day of my life.”

“I AM SO HAPPY AND EXCITED TO BE HERE. IT’S AN HONOR, AND IT’S A HUGE STEP UP FOR ME. SOMETIMES I HANG OUT WITH MY FRIEND, BUT I TOLD HER, ‘I’M NOT GOING TO BE THERE, BECAUSE I’M GOING TO BE ON CAPITOL HILL.’”

Jordyn Dannenbaum, Capitol Hill Intern

LIFE ON CAPITOL HILL

In 2008, Gregg Harper was elected to represent Mississippi in the United States Congress. Congressman Harper took the concept for the internship program he had begun in Mississippi with him to Washington, D.C. One year into his first term, Congressman Harper partnered with the House Administration Committee and Virginia’s George Mason University to establish an internship program for intellectually disabled college students on Capitol Hill.

The interns are students in the George Mason LIFE (Learning into Future Environments) program, an educational program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. LIFE offers instruction in life skills as well as academics, with the goal of helping students find productive employment and live independently. The LIFE program was the first of its kind on a four-year, public university campus.

Interns in the Capitol Hill program have disabilities including Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, and other conditions that result in intellectual or developmental disabilities. The internship program launched in 2010 with three interns placed in six congressional offices. The program has since placed dozens of interns in some 70 offices, and continues to grow with every congressional term. In a time of extreme partisan divisiveness, both Republicans and Democrats participate in the program, and Congress-

man Harper is pleased to note that there is now a greater demand for interns than there are students to meet it.

The interns’ responsibilities include filing, entering information into computers, stuffing envelopes, and showing visitors around the Capitol. Many of the interns take public transportation to work, and all must learn to navigate the many hallways and underground tunnels of the Capitol complex with confidence, a task any newcomer would find challenging.

Candace McTeer, an economics major at George Mason University, helps place students in the LIFE program in appropriate internships.

“I wake up every day looking forward to going to work,” McTeer says. “Seeing these students succeed is so rewarding. On orientation day at the Capitol, I sometimes have to nudge them into the door, but by the end of their internships, they walk in like they own the place.”

Jordyn Dannenbaum, a 20-year-old intern from Philadelphia serving in the offices of South Carolina Congressman Joe Wilson and New York Congressman José Serrano, began her internship in February of 2013.

“I am so happy and excited to be here. It’s an honor, and it’s a huge step up for me,” Jordyn says, a broad smile lighting up her face. “Sometimes I hang out with my friend, but I told her, ‘I’m not going to be there, because I’m going to be on Capitol Hill.’”



“THE ASPIRATIONS OF SPECIAL NEEDS INDIVIDUALS ARE THE SAME ASPIRATIONS SHARED BY EVERY AMERICAN – TO GET A JOB THAT ALLOWS THEM TO GAIN FINANCIAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND TO LIVE THE AMERICAN DREAM. THIS INTERNSHIP PUTS CONRAD IN A POSITION THAT ALLOWS HIM TO PUT A PUBLIC FACE ON ALL OF HIS PEERS’ HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS.” — CHRIS WNUK, FATHER OF CAPITOL HILL INTERN CONRAD WNUK

Conrad Wnuk has cerebral palsy, but that hasn’t stopped him from serving three semesters as a Capitol Hill intern. As an experienced team member, Conrad had some advice for those interns reporting to Capitol Hill for the first time.

“It’s the work that’s important,” Conrad said. “You should be prepared for what they want you to do. If you need more work, you have to ask them, ‘Do you have more work for me?’”

The program fosters independence, and teaches interns workplace skills that can translate to permanent employment. Perhaps more importantly, the program shows “normal” people what those with disabilities are capable of achieving when given a chance.

“It was a little different for my own office staff because they had all had experiences with Livingston,” Congressman Harper says. “But for some of the people on the Hill, their intern was the first person they had ever met with an intellectual disability. Being a part of this program has opened their minds and their hearts.”

“This internship gives Conrad an opportunity to do what he does best – advocate for individuals with disabilities by showing that individuals with disabilities have a lot to contribute to society if they are given a chance,” says Chris Wnuk, Conrad’s father. “We asked Conrad why he liked working on the Hill, and he answered that he was a part of the team. The staff treated him with respect and valued his input and contributions.”

Mary Jane Gutkowski’s son, Ryan, was one of the first interns in the program and has served on Capitol Hill ever since. Ryan has a chromosomal abnormality that affects his speech and cognitive skills, but his disability hasn’t prevented him from making meaningful contributions on Capitol Hill. Ryan has worked in 10 different offices, including those of Mississippi Congressman Gregg Harper and Mississippi Senator Thad Cochran. His work ethic has made

him a favorite of Republicans and Democrats alike.

“It is a joy to know that Ryan is respected and acknowledged for what to most may seem like simple tasks, but for Ryan and those like him, can be hard to master,” Mary Jane

Gutkowski says. “This internship is an amazing opportunity to have our kids on Capitol Hill, where they see and are seen by those who make policies that affect their everyday lives.”

Carol Wheeler’s son, Max, has Williams syndrome, a genetic condition characterized by medical problems and developmental delays that occur side-by-side with exceptional verbal abilities and highly social personalities. The Capitol Hill internship was a perfect match for Max’s personality and skill set.

“When his internship came to an end, Max received cards and notes from the staff he worked with saying, ‘It’s been awesome working with you,’ and ‘We’ll miss you in the office,’” Carol Wheeler says. “I’m sure some of those notes were written by people who would never have imagined how much Max had to offer if they hadn’t met him through this program. This program is good for the interns *and* for the people they work with. Congressman Harper and his staff deserve huge kudos for making it happen.”

“From listening to Conrad and talking with his friends, we are reminded again and again that the aspirations of special needs individuals are the same aspirations shared by every American – to get a job that allows them to gain financial self-sufficiency and to live the American dream,” says Chris Wnuk. “This internship puts Conrad in a position that allows him to put a public face on all of his peers’ hopes and aspirations.”

Jordyn Dannenbaum agrees.

“I’m on Capitol Hill and I’m in my second year of college,” Jordyn says. “I am more independent than people know.”

PERHAPS MORE importantly, the program shows “normal” people what those with disabilities are capable of achieving when given a chance.



Meet the Interns

CONRAD WNUK, SEAN CROSS, JORDYN DANNENBAUM, AND CHRIS WALKER ARE FOUR OF THE INTERNS WHO REPORTED TO WORK ON CAPITOL HILL THIS CONGRESSIONAL TERM.

From left to right: Conrad Wnuk, Sean Cross, Jordyn Dannenbaum, and Chris Walker

CONRAD WNUK is completing his third internship on Capitol Hill. Conrad votes in every election and has enjoyed experiencing the process of governing first-hand in the halls where it happens. “We never see Conrad smile more than when we ask him how his day went at work,” says Conrad’s mother, Lynn Wnuk. “He excitedly tells us who he met and what he did. Even over the phone, you can tell he has a smile on his face. What parent could ask for more?” ● SEAN CROSS has never let Down syndrome stand in the way of his dreams. Sean has participated in several summer camp programs and enjoys working on computers. His latest achievement was reporting to work as an intern in the office of Congressman Pete Sessions of Texas. “My parents and my grandparents are so proud of me. They told me congratulations.” ● JORDYN DANNENBAUM was all smiles talking about her work as an intern in the offices of South Carolina Congressman Joe Wilson and New York Congressman José Serrano. “I am so happy and excited to be here. It’s an honor, and it’s a huge step up for me... I’m on Capitol Hill and I’m in my second year of college. I am more independent than people know.” ● CHRIS WALKER reported to work in Congressman Gregg Harper’s office, where he hoped to perform his favorite task, computer data entry. Chris wore a suit his first day on the job, explaining how important it was to look professional in the office.



CLIMBING THE HILLS AHEAD

While Sidney and Gregg Harper always encouraged him to live up to his full potential, Livingston has surprised even his parents with all that he has accomplished.

“Our goal was for Livingston to graduate from high school,” Congressman Harper says. “That was hard to imagine, and when it happened, it was like a dream come true. We had tried never to put limits on him, but we had put a limit on him by never imagining what he would do *after* high school.”

Livingston, it seemed, had bigger plans.

“He came home from high school one day when there had been a college fair on campus and announced, ‘I’m going to Hinds,’” Sidney says. “I said, ‘Okay, we can think about that,’ but from that day on, when people asked him what he was going to do after high school, he would tell them, ‘I’m going to Hinds.’ And after a while, I told Gregg, ‘Livingston is going to Hinds.’”

Livingston successfully completed his studies at Hinds Community College, commuting from home and earning Bs and Cs in his classes. Then Livingston went on to do something that even his incredibly supportive, faith-filled parents could never have imagined. The Harpers’ son went away to college.

Livingston enrolled at Mississippi State University (MSU) as the second of five students in MSU’s ACCESS program, a curriculum geared toward helping students with intellectual disabilities learn life skills and prepare for a productive, independent life beyond college. Congressman Harper helped launch the program by connecting MSU staff with staff at George Mason University’s LIFE program. The LIFE program served as a model for ACCESS, which launched in 2010 with Livingston as one of its first students.

“It’s so special to see Livingston go to Mississippi State because he is living out of the house,” Congressman Harper says. “He has to have the social skills to function in college, he has to get from class to class, he has to survive there on his own. We’ve seen that he actually does better without us there. When he has to do things for himself, Livingston finds a way to get them done.”

Today, 23-year-old Livingston and his 21-year-old sister, Maggie, are both students at Mississippi State. Livingston lives in the dormitory, takes regular academic courses as well as courses designed for ACCESS students, and attends sporting events and other typical college activities with his many friends.

“Livingston is better known in Starkville than I am, and that’s my congressional district,” Congressman Harper says with a smile.

Livingston plans to graduate from Mississippi State University in 2014. Like many other college students, he isn’t quite sure what life holds after graduation.

The Harpers hope that Livingston will find a job that will allow him to support himself and to live independently. But while his parents are realistic in discussing their son’s future, they have also learned not to place limitations on Livingston, and through their experiences with their own son, on any other person with intellectual disabilities.

“There’s no doubt that *anyone* can do better if they’re pushed, encouraged, and given an opportunity,” Congressman Harper says.

The Harpers acknowledge that they still wonder from time to time how things might have been different if there had been no Fragile X.

“When Livingston was young, it hurt me knowing he wouldn’t be able to play or participate in sports, and then when he got older and I realized he wouldn’t be dating, I would worry, ‘Will he always be alone?’” Sidney says. “Realizing the things he wouldn’t be able to do made me

sad, not for me, but for him. But then a friend said, ‘God made Livingston that way. He is special, and one day we’ll know why.’

“This is Livingston,” Sidney continues. “God gave him to me, and He gave him to me this way for a reason. I look at the way Livingston has affected people and what he has accomplished. He is unique. And I don’t ever think of Livingston any other way.”

“Livingston is great,” Congressman Harper says simply. “I don’t want him to be different for me. There are some things that *I* want for *him*, but that’s not for me to control. We have John 9:3 as our promise. When Jesus healed the blind man, he told people who asked why the man was blind, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that works of God might be displayed in him.’ He was born blind so the power of God could be demonstrated.”

Congressman Harper pauses. His eyes fill with tears, yet he breaks into a smile as he says, “We love our ‘normal’ child, Maggie, so much, but it’s hard to articulate how we love Livingston.”

“THERE’S NO doubt that anyone can do better if they’re pushed, encouraged, and given an opportunity.”

Gregg Harper

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

FROM THE CLASSROOM
TO THE LABORATORY *to the* ATHLETIC FIELD,
DR. JOSEPH HAMILTON IS ALWAYS IN HIS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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STUDENTS AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY FILE INTO THE AUDITORIUM,
A FEW STIFLING YAWNS AS THEY TAKE THEIR SEATS.

When the class opens with a high-action clip from the Nick Nolte/Eddie Murphy classic *48 Hours*, the yawning stops. When the lights go up and their 80-year-old professor strolls into the classroom costumed as Billy the Kid, the students break out in smiles, and when the same professor blasts himself out of the classroom on a go cart propelled by what looks like a fire extinguisher and leaves a sweeping vapor trail, the students applaud while laughing out loud. *MAYBE PHYSICS WON'T BE SO DULL, AFTER ALL.*

Students in this “physics for non-science majors” class are lucky enough to be studying under Dr. Joseph “Joe” Hamilton ’54. Dr. Hamilton is not only an outstanding instructor with a 55-year track record at Vanderbilt University, but is also one of the world’s most brilliant nuclear physicists.

According to a former Vanderbilt University chancellor, “We don’t *count* Joe Hamilton’s publications. We *weigh* them.” Dr. Hamilton has published more than 1,000 papers and articles on nuclear physics, as well as articles on general scientific topics. He is the co-author of 14 research books, an undergraduate physics textbook, and *How Things Work*, a book for middle and high school students released by *National Geographic*. He has directed the Ph.D. theses of 62 graduate students and the postdoctoral training of more than 100 Ph.D. graduates, and has also given lectures at K-12 schools designed to interest young people in science.

Dr. Hamilton has delivered more than 500 lectures and has been featured at research seminars at universities and conferences in 49 countries worldwide. He has served as a visiting or adjunct professor at universities in Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, China, Russia and France.

Dr. Hamilton’s office at Vanderbilt is crammed floor-to-ceiling with books, papers, and memorabilia from his groundbreaking work and extensive travels. A plaque proclaiming him the winner of the International Scientific and Technological Cooperation Award of the People’s Republic of China shares space with footballs, baseballs, and basketballs autographed by members of the Vanderbilt Commo-

dores, Tennessee Titans, and Los Angeles Dodgers teams. Between framed photos of Hamilton at the Dodgers Fantasy Baseball Camp (he made the hit that scored the winning run), certificates proclaiming his scientific achievements, and his eight honorary doctoral degrees from universities in the United States and abroad, there is scarcely an inch of wall space left.

In addition to his academic work, Dr. Hamilton was the driving force behind the establishment of major nuclear research facilities in Tennessee, and spearheaded that state’s emergence as a world center for research in nuclear physics.

Oh, and in his spare time? Dr. Joe Hamilton has co-discovered not one, not two, but three new elements that will soon be added to the periodic table. Not too bad for a man whose original career goals never included science.

“I would have loved to have been a professional baseball player, an opera singer, or a cowboy,” Hamilton recalls.

“When I enrolled at Mississippi College, I had never taken a course in physics.”

At MC, Hamilton played baseball and football and also performed in 42 concerts with the traveling choir, earning letters in football and in music. He began his college career as a history major, but soon switched to math, which came to him so easily that he had completed a major in mathematics by the end of his sophomore year. When a professor suggested he pick up a minor in physics, Hamilton discovered his true calling. He graduated from MC with a double major in math and physics, then completed his master’s degree and doctorate in physics at Indiana University.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

Dr. Hamilton met his wife of 53 years, Jannelle, at an MC Baptist Student Union conference in Canada. Several MC graduates have completed their Ph.D. thesis work and seven MC seniors did their honors thesis work with Dr. Hamilton at Vanderbilt, and two of his Vanderbilt Ph.D. students have gone on to teach at Mississippi College. Years ago in Nashville, Dr. Hamilton taught Sunday School classes to MC President and Vanderbilt alumnus Dr. Lee Royce.

“I WAS DR. HAMILTON’S GRADUATE STUDENT IN 1965.

He was my mentor and my ‘scientific father,’ so to speak, and we’ve remained colleagues and friends ever since. What impresses me most about Joe today is that at 80 years old, he is still at the center of the action in nuclear physics research. He continues to play a leadership role in the research community, he keeps reinventing himself to stay on the leading edge of physics, and he publishes at the pace of someone who is trying to make it in the field instead of someone who has long ago proven himself. Joe is as driven at 80 as he was at 40. The only negative thing I can say about Joe Hamilton comes from the perspective of a former student. It galls every one of us that at some point, we all started looking older than Joe.” — *Dr. Lee Riedinger, Professor of Physics, University of Tennessee*

Following a fellowship in Sweden, Dr. Hamilton joined the staff at Vanderbilt University in 1958. His 55 years in service make him the longest-tenured professor at Vanderbilt. Over those five-plus decades, Dr. Hamilton has taught physics at every level, from basic courses for non-science majors to supervising the complex work of graduate students.

His engaging teaching style includes live demonstrations that bring physics to life. Dr. Hamilton uses a shoot-out scene from “48 Hours” to teach students that every force is met with an equal and opposite force. His Billy the Kid costume is part of an example illustrating how the recoil from a gun acts upon the shooter, and his “rocket cart” demonstrates principles of momentum conservation.

“The demonstrations help students visualize the concepts they’re trying to learn,” Dr. Hamilton says. “It’s so important even for non-science majors to understand how physics works. These students will go on to become businessmen, doctors, lawyers, and political leaders. Learning the principles of physics helps cultivate and hone the critical thinking skills they’ll need for success in any field.”

Another trait Dr. Hamilton tries to instill in his students is persistence. One of the textbooks he authored includes a quotation from Calvin Coolidge, which admonished, “Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.”

Although his wife often says he “has taken persistence from a virtue to a vice,” Dr. Hamilton’s persistence was the

key to making Tennessee a world center in nuclear research. He worked tirelessly to create never-before-modeled partnerships between the state of Tennessee, the federal government, and public and private universities that led to the 1971 founding of the University Isotope Separator at Oak Ridge (UNISOR). Ten years later, Dr. Hamilton founded the Joint Institute for Heavy Ion Research (JIHIR) in Oak Ridge. UNISOR and JIHIR were the first major nuclear physics research facilities of their kind in the United States, and continue to attract scientists from around the world to Tennessee to conduct research. Dr. Hamilton’s persistent, ongoing efforts to secure university, state, and federal funding and state-of-the-art equipment for JIHIR earned the facility the nickname, “the Hamilton Hilton.”

When Vanderbilt University staged a symposium in 2008 commemorating Dr. Joseph Hamilton’s 50 years on the faculty, the speakers included colleagues, scientists, and former students who credited Dr. Hamilton with bringing together hundreds of scientists from around the world, and for his lasting contributions to international cooperation, education, and research.

Dr. Hamilton again received international acclaim between 2010 and 2012, when he and a team of international colleagues co-discovered new elements 113, 115, and 117. Discovered through extensive laboratory work, these new elements provide confirmation of long-standing theoretical predictions of their existence, and are valuable as potential new sources of energy and for other, as-yet-unimagined scientific applications. More than 250 newspaper articles worldwide described the discovery of



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



element 117, and the *McGraw-Hill Yearbook of Science and Technology 2012* touted its discovery as among the most important scientific happenings of the year. As one of its primary discoverers, Dr. Hamilton will have the privilege of naming element 117 once the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry approves the new element for addition to the periodic table.

Dr. Hamilton is a strong supporter of Mississippi College and has returned to the MC campus a number of times

as a guest lecturer, where he wowed the next generation of scientists. But despite his many achievements, even this brilliant physicist admits there are some technical skills he hasn’t attempted to grasp.

“I have never quite mastered the art of putting together PowerPoint presentations,” Dr. Hamilton says, “and for my eightieth birthday, some of my colleagues gave me an iPad Mini. Fortunately, I have learned to use it, but I am still no expert.”



As a result of the experiment, the Commodores switched to gold jerseys for early season games, and the Vanderbilt athletic department presented Dr. Joe Hamilton with a framed gold jersey of his own emblazoned with the words, “Hamilton #1.”



SCIENCE AND RELIGION Dr. Joe Hamilton is living proof that brilliant scientists can also be men of faith. Dr. Hamilton, in cooperation with his wife, Janelle, has published multiple articles on science and the Bible, and has lectured extensively on the topic of science and religion, speaking at universities and conferences throughout the United States and in China, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Thailand, and the Philippine Islands. • Recently, Dr. Hamilton heard from a woman who had read one of his articles on science and religion when she was struggling with the issue as a college biology student in the 1980s. The article had convinced the woman that she could be a scientist and still believe in God. Thirty years later, she contacted Dr. Hamilton, explaining, “I want to share your article with my son, but I have to know that you still stand by what you wrote.” • Dr. Hamilton assured her she could share the article with her son in good conscience. While his knowledge of science had grown exponentially in the nearly 30 years since he wrote the article, so had his faith.

SERVICE

Before

SELF

Dr. Dan Jones '71 • Mississippi College's 2012 Alumnus of the Year

"THE DESIRE TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OTHERS IN OUR STATE HAS BEEN THE DRIVING FORCE OF my professional life," said Dr. Dan Jones. "I want Mississippi to be all that it can be, and I've tried to use every professional opportunity I've been blessed with to work toward that better future."

Fostering a culture of service in the organizations and institutions he has led has been Dan Jones's signature. In recognition of his outstanding leadership and service to Mississippi College, the University of Mississippi, the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), and the medical profession, MC honored Dr. Dan Jones as the Alumnus of the Year.

"Seldom in our history have we had the opportunity to honor an alumnus who has made so many contributions in so many fields," said Lee Royce, president of Mississippi College. "We are grateful for Dr. Jones's service to the state and nation, to his *alma mater*, and especially, to God."

In July 2009, Dr. Jones became the 16th chancellor of the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). He is responsible for a four-campus university with a student enrollment of 20,844,

including the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.

Prior to becoming chancellor, Dr. Jones served as vice chancellor of the University of Mississippi Medical Center and dean of the medical school. While at UMMC, Dr. Jones assisted in the development of the new physician's assistant program at Mississippi College, arranging for students in the MC program to perform their clinical work at UMMC.

Dr. Jones served as a medical missionary to South Korea with the International Mission Board from 1985-1992, and periodically returns to South Korea to conduct humanitarian work. His volunteer leadership positions have included serving as president of the American Heart Association from 2007-2008 and as a member of the Mississippi College board of trustees.

ALUMNUS *of the YEAR*

The Alumnus of the Year Award 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.





FOUND IN TRANSLATION Dr. Dan Jones served as a medical missionary to South Korea from 1985-1992. While he made many memories and formed many relationships there, one stands out. "I shared the gospel with a patient in my limited Korean, and he told me he would like to pray to receive Christ. I asked a Korean friend to ask him again, just to be sure the language barrier hadn't been an issue. The translator spoke with him, the patient replied, and then the translator said, 'He told me he'd been waiting all his life for someone to tell him that story – the story of Christ.'"

A

native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Jones graduated from MC with a degree in chemistry.

"My time at Mississippi College prepared me in more ways than I can count," Dr. Jones said. "Like many people graduating from rural school systems in the 1960s, there were some gaps in my academic preparation. The professors at MC helped me fill in those gaps and prepared me for medical school, while MC's focus on Christian life strengthened my faith."

Under Dr. Jones's leadership, the University of Mississippi has posted record enrollment and earned national accolades. *Forbes* magazine named Ole Miss one of America's best value colleges; *Reader's Digest* named the university's Honor College as one of the top three in the nation; *Fiske Guide to Colleges 2013* recognized the university as one of the best and most interesting universities in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain; *The Chronicle of Higher Education* named Ole Miss one of the top 10 colleges at which to work; and *Newsweek* magazine ranked the university "Most Beautiful" for its campus and its student body.

"My most memorable moment since becoming chancellor might be surprising," Dr. Jones said. "I'm proud of our students, our Honors College, and the accolades the university has received. But the other part of our university is providing access to higher education for students from poor backgrounds. We have a responsibility to help those students who are vulnerable."

"I recently had a conversation on the steps of the Lyceum with a first generation college student who is now a sophomore here," Dr. Jones continued. "Freshman year was very difficult for her, and she felt so accomplished to be a sophomore. She didn't have an outstanding GPA, but she had confidence that she was going to make it, that she would become the first person in her family to earn a college degree."

Transforming lives like hers is our role as a great American public university in a poor state."

As chancellor, Dr. Jones has made service to others an integral part of the university's mission, vowing to make service leadership "a part of the Ole Miss DNA."

"A key thought for me when I was considering leaving UMMC to become chancellor at Ole Miss was tied to my feelings about the root cause of poor health in our state," Dr. Jones said. "The root cause of poor health is poor education. As I contemplated making the move to chancellor, I saw the possibility to attack the challenges of poor health from the broader perspectives of education and business."

"As Mississippi's flagship public university, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to move beyond the transformation of individual lives. We must participate in transforming our state, the nation, and the world."

In February of 2013, members of the senior class of the University of Mississippi honored Dr. Jones's lifetime of service leadership by creating a scholarship fund in his honor. According to senior class president Jon Daniel McKiever, the Daniel W. Jones, M.D. Service Before Self Scholarship Fund will be the "living legacy" of students who were freshmen when Dan Jones began his tenure.

"We wanted to leave Ole Miss a gift that would be both sustainable and meaningful," said McKiever. "What made Chancellor Jones a perfect candidate for the naming of our scholarship is his great passion for serving the students and the university."

"Anything that embeds a commitment to service in our students and in the university moves us forward," Dr. Jones said. "It makes me very happy that there will be a scholarship, not because it bears my name, but because it is a scholarship focused on service."

"Service is a privilege," Dr. Jones said. "Those of us who have been blessed in many ways have an opportunity to serve, and service is a part of my own life because I've been so blessed. It's very heartwarming to see others willing to share the same heart."

GO REBELS OR GO CHOCTAWS?

WHEN ASKED IF HIS BLOOD RUNS MC BLUE AND GOLD OR OLE MISS RED AND BLUE, DAN JONES'S REPLY IS, "YES."

"AT MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, I FOUND MY BEST FRIEND AND WIFE OF 41 YEARS, LYDIA. Like others who were fortunate enough to find their spouses at MC, Lydia and I have shared a life built on the principles of faith found at Mississippi College. That is more than anyone should expect from a college experience." — CHANCELLOR DAN JONES



Jeremy Cox

TAKING BROTHERLY LOVE WORLDWIDE

JASON COX '95 AND JEREMY COX '96

Born to parents working in cross-cultural ministry, Jason and Jeremy Cox spent much of their youth in West Africa, often living in communities with no electricity or running water and hunting for food with slingshots. It was a lifestyle Jeremy Cox describes as, “giving us a heart for working overseas.” Both brothers followed in their parents’ footsteps, pursuing careers that have taken them to destinations around the globe in service to others. In recognition of their work, Mississippi College honored Jason Cox and Jeremy Cox as the Young Alumni of the Year.

Jason Cox and his wife, Kelli '96, have worked in business and leadership development in various capacities in the Middle East and North Africa since 2004, and are currently living with their four daughters in Jordan.

“We live in a volatile region still rocking from the ‘Arab Spring,’” Jason Cox says. “War in one country created a refugee crisis that has provided us with opportunities to engage in relief work and get close to people who have suffered unspeakable horrors and have dire needs. Whatever my day job, the extraordinary opportunities we have had to be the hands and feet of Jesus has been a daily reminder of why I’m here.”

Jeremy Cox and his wife, Kimberly '96, live in Oxford, Mississippi, where Jeremy is earning a Ph.D. in political science at the University of Mississippi. Jeremy and Kimberly

returned to the United States in 2011, after more than a decade conducting humanitarian work in the United Kingdom, France, and Sudan. The couple provided logistical support for a variety of projects, including disaster relief, medical assistance, educational projects, and a program that provided goats to displaced persons from Darfur.

“One of our most memorable projects was providing the initial relief that allowed earthquake victims in central Asia to survive the first winter after the disaster. We handed out

blankets and stoves, and we saw the immediate effect that had on people,” Jeremy Cox says. “In the course of our work, we have the opportunity to put forth that we are followers of Christ, and to minister to both physical and spiritual needs. And wherever we’ve been, we’ve found that people are people, and we’ve made lasting friendships.”

After living in more than 10 countries, Jeremy Cox is happy to be back in Mississippi, but does not rule out the possibility that he and his family may again work overseas once he has completed his degree.

“My heart says find a way to use this degree overseas, but my head says that’s really not my decision,” Jeremy Cox says. “Kimberly and I have open minds. The Lord has never shown us too far in advance what He wanted us to do. If we get too far ahead of ourselves, we risk losing focus on being faithful today.”

DOWNTOWN ABBEY MEETS THE DEEP SOUTH

While moving from country to country with three little girls in tow can be stressful, their daughters have provided Jeremy and Kimberly Cox with some comic relief. “While they were going to school in the U.K., the girls developed English accents. Right after we moved back to Mississippi, there was a period when they were speaking with two different accents and in two different dialects at the same time. It was pretty funny to hear them say, ‘Oh, Mummy, where are y’all?’”

YOUNG ALUMNUS *of the YEAR*

This award honors Mississippi College 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.



AN INSPIRATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

DR. SAMUEL MAXWELL '69

A radiologist with St. Jude Medical Center in Fullerton, California, Dr. Sam Maxwell has made it possible for other aspiring doctors and scientists to pursue their dreams at MC. In recognition of his success in the medical field and his support of his *alma mater*, Mississippi College presented Dr. Sam Maxwell with the Order of the Golden Arrow award.

As a high school senior, Maxwell turned down scholarship offers from many universities, including Harvard and Yale, opting instead to attend Mississippi College on a Hederman Scholarship.

“I always wanted to go to MC,” Dr. Maxwell says. “Yes, Harvard and Yale had some prestige value, but what would it *really* have meant to go there? I knew that MC had the core values and academic program that would be a good fit for me. I would not have chosen MC if I hadn’t been certain I could accomplish my goal there, which was to get into medical school. I had a fantastic experience at Mississippi College and I have never once regretted my decision.”

Following his graduation from MC, Maxwell did choose Harvard, graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1973, where he later taught radiology courses. Today, in addition to his work as a staff radiologist at St. Jude, Dr. Maxwell chairs the hospital’s credentials committee, vetting the credentials of prospective doctors who wish to join the hospital staff.

The inspiration behind Sam Maxwell’s academic and career success was his father, Lowry Maxwell, who taught his son the value of hard work. In honor of his late father, Dr. Maxwell created the Lowry Maxwell Memorial Scholarship at Mississippi College. The scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding chemistry or pre-med student.

“Receiving the Hederman Scholarship helped me attend Mississippi College, and I wanted to give something back to MC,” Dr. Maxwell says. “It was my hope that the scholarship would help MC attract

and retain academically talented students. I couldn’t think of any institution more deserving.”

Since the first scholarship was presented in 2010, Dr. Maxwell has heard from scholarship recipients expressing both their gratitude for the financial help and their love for Mississippi College.

“It’s always gratifying to know that real people are receiving real benefits from the scholarship fund,” Dr. Maxwell says. “In my acceptance of the Order of

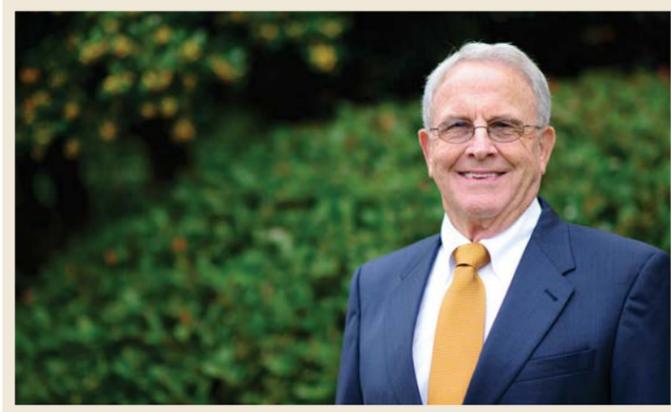
EXTRA! EXTRA!

In addition to completing a rigorous pre-med program, Sam Maxwell served as the editor of the MC student newspaper. He describes his senior year as “a blur. I stayed up all night at least one night a week.” On a recent visit back to the campus, Maxwell praised enhancements at MC, but confessed to feeling a bit nostalgic. “I was impressed by the renovated interiors of Nelson Hall and the B.C. Rogers Student Center, although it is a little sad that the old *Collegian* office, where I stayed up all night on many occasions getting the paper ready for publication, is no more.”

the Golden Arrow, I encouraged my fellow alumni to support and invest in the future of our great school. One of the lessons reinforced at MC was that hard work leads to good results. I still believe in a day’s work for a day’s pay and I am so pleased to be in a position to help students who share that belief.”

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.



A LIFE SPENT LIVING FOR CHRIST

REVEREND GOWAN ELLIS '57

In recognition of his long and faithful service and leadership, Mississippi College presented Rev. Gowan Ellis with the Order of the Golden Arrow award.

Rev. Ellis retired 15 years ago from First Baptist Church in Terry, Mississippi, after more than 40 years' service as a minister. Ellis felt the call to preach as a young man, making a public commitment to the ministry at his home church in West, Mississippi, as a high school senior. That calling also led him to Mississippi College.

"In addition to what I learned in the classroom, I learned valuable life lessons at Mississippi College," Rev. Ellis says. "At MC, 'truth' and 'virtue' are not just words. They are values instilled at Mississippi College."

Following his graduation from MC, Ellis continued his preparation for the ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. His career as a minister led him to six churches in Mississippi before his final position at First Baptist Terry. Rev. Ellis also served as pastor at Noxapater Baptist Church, Sherman Baptist Church in north Mississippi, Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Chickasaw County, Shiloh Baptist Church in Lawrence County, Duncan Hill Baptist Church in Calhoun City, and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Grenada County.

Since retiring from the ministry, Rev. Ellis and his wife

of 52 years, Kay, have relocated to Clinton, where Rev. Ellis continues to serve others, including holding volunteer leadership positions at Mississippi College. He is a past president of the Mississippi College National Alumni Association and the MC 50-Year Club, and a longtime member of the alumni association board.

"Serving on the alumni board has given me the opportunity to meet so many other MC graduates who have gone on to do so well," Rev. Ellis says, adding with a smile. "I think only Doc Quick has more years on the alumni board than I do."

Rev. Ellis occasionally serves as a guest pastor, but also enjoys the free time retirement has given him to spend with his wife and their children, Fran Mitchell '83, '94, Harvey Ellis '85, and Selwyn Ellis '87, '89, as well as their six grandchildren and their great grandchild. Rev. Ellis is quick to point out that all three of his children also graduated from Mississippi College.

"Mississippi College has been a good influence on a lot of people for many years, and continues to be a good influence today. Every place I go, I meet outstanding graduates of MC. My first thought when I hear the words, 'Mississippi College,' is 'a Christian institution.' That is what sets Mississippi College apart."

HERE COMES THE BRIDE

Over his 40-year career as a minister, Rev. Gowan Ellis has performed dozens of wedding ceremonies, and was especially proud to have married all three of his children. Over the course of all those weddings, there was bound to be at least one slip up. Rev. Ellis confesses that he once told a bride to repeat the vow, "I take thee to be my lawful wedded *wife*," the line clearly intended to be spoken by the groom. "That's not the worst part," Rev. Ellis says with a sheepish smile. "The bride was my daughter, Fran."

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.



HONORING A DECADE OF SERVICE

LEE AND RHODA ROYCE

The Mississippi College family showed its appreciation to President Lee Royce and his wife, Rhoda, for their decade of leadership by presenting them with the university's prestigious Award of Excellence.

"I was surprised and actually taken aback that the alumni association would recognize us in this way," Lee Royce says. "We are honored that the association sees that Rhoda and I care for and deeply love MC and its alumni, and believes that we understand the culture of Mississippi College and embody it in some way."

Lee Royce assumed leadership of MC 10 years ago; Rhoda Royce has taught a course in the business school every semester since the couple arrived on campus. Under Dr. Royce's leadership, MC's enrollment has grown from 3,200 to 5,200. The campus in Clinton has undergone multiple enhancements, as has the MC Law campus in downtown Jackson. The university has launched new degree programs, including the physician's assistant program, which has the potential to impact not only MC and its graduates, but also the health of the people of Mississippi. Interest and enthusiasm for happenings on campus has also grown, with new activities added each year and attendance at MC events increasing.

Married for almost 38 years, the Royces credit each other for the successes they've helped MC achieve.

"I am impressed not just by Lee's accomplishments, but

because he is such a good person," Rhoda Royce says. "His all means *his all*."

"My wife has provided invaluable service not only to me, but also to Mississippi College," Lee Royce says. "She attends so many activities and events at MC, often representing both of us, and in doing so, has connected with hundreds of students, alumni, and friends. She makes calls on prospective donors and helps foster those relationships. Because Rhoda teaches in the business school, she has connected me to the classroom experience from the faculty and students' point of view. She is a reservoir of great ideas on how we can do things better."

As they look ahead to the next decade, Lee and Rhoda Royce are confident the future is bright for Mississippi College.

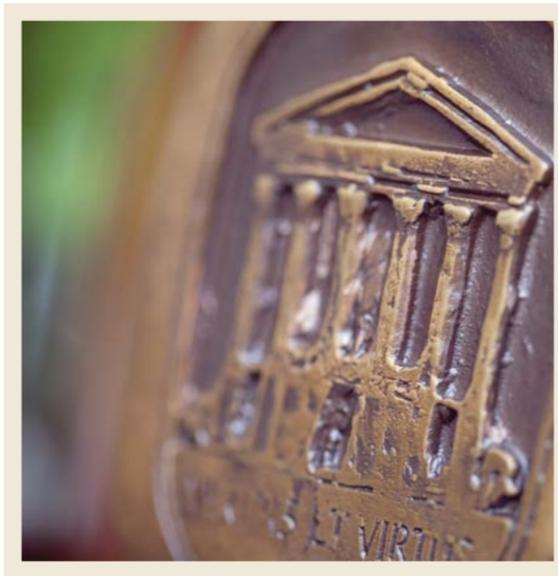
"I am continually impressed with the capacity of MC to innovate and to design new programs and add value to the educational experience, and I'm optimistic that we'll continue to prosper," Lee Royce says.

"There are always opportunities and MC has an uncanny knack for finding them."

"I believe God sent Dr. and Mrs. Royce to Mississippi College for such a time as this," said Eddie Kinchen, a member of the MC board of trustees. "On every occasion that finds Lee Royce representing Mississippi College, he speaks to the cause of Christ as the MC mission."

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

MICHAEL JAY WHARTON '80

Mike Wharton's career as a graphic designer began during his senior year in high school, when he joined Godwin Advertising in Jackson as a production artist and designer. Following his graduation from Mississippi College, Wharton served as a designer and art director at several advertising agencies and in-house design departments in the Jackson business community before launching a freelance design business in 1994. He now practices as a portrait artist in the medium of graphite drawing. Wharton is a member of MC's Department of Art graphic design advisory board and has served as a judge in several advertising awards competitions.

Art Young Alumnus

CHARLES PALMER "CHASE" QUARTERMAN '03

Chase Quarterman earned a bachelor's degree in graphic design from Mississippi College and a master's degree in art direction from the University of Texas at Austin. Quarterman paints professionally; his work is featured in the collections of numerous individuals and museums, includ-

ing the permanent collection of the Mississippi Museum of Art. Quarterman also teaches art and design classes at the Art Institute of Austin and the University of Texas at Austin, instructing over 20 different courses with subjects ranging from the principles of graphic design to observational drawing.

Biology

DR. J. MARK REED '85

Dr. Mark Reed is a third-generation graduate of Mississippi College, where he earned his biology degree. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, he completed his residency in otolaryngology (ear, nose, and throat medicine) at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and a fellowship in pediatric otolaryngology at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, then returned to Mississippi, where he became the first pediatric otolaryngologist in the state. Dr. Reed serves in leadership roles at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, including chairing the Blair Batson Children's Hospital Perioperative Committee and the Physician Relations Committee. In his free time, Dr. Reed started a photography business that donates all proceeds to Christian charities.

Business

LEE MILLER '94

Lee Miller is president of Miller Transporters, Inc., a family-owned and operated tank truck company headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi. In his 33 years with the company, Miller has held a variety of roles, including working in the field as a dispatcher and terminal manager, and in the corporate areas of quality, recruitment and retention, and information services. He has served on several committees within the American Chemistry Council's Responsible Care Initiative and is a member of the executive committee of the National Tank Truck Carriers Association. Miller holds a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and an M.B.A. from Mississippi College. He serves as an adjunct instructor at MC and also serves on the College of Business Advisory Boards for both Mississippi College and Mississippi State University.

Chemistry

DR. C. GLENN BARNES '76

Glenn Barnes completed his doctoral work in chemistry at the University of Florida in 1980, then joined the Dow Chemical Company. As a member of the analytical sciences group, Dr. Barnes solved complex research, manufacturing, and client problems using a broad range of instrumental techniques. He served as the technology steward for optical

microscopy, chairman of the microscopy and surface characterization analytical technology team, and as a member of the synchrotron steering team. Dr. Barnes left Dow in 2009 to become analytical advisor for microscopy and X-ray at Albemarle Corporation's process development center. He is a member of the Microscopy Society of America and past president of the Louisiana Society for Microscopy.

Christian Studies

DR. BRADLEY J. POPE '54, '69

Bradley Pope brings a long record of Christian service, including positions as the Mississippi College director of religious activities for 20 years, a marriage and family counselor for 23 years, and serving as the pastor of three churches. He has also been involved with Northside Baptist Church, Clinton Community Christian Corporation, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Pope earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi College, and also holds advanced degrees from Southern Seminary and San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Communication

LISA HOLIFIELD SHOEMAKER '03

Lisa Holifield Shoemaker began her communications career as an intern in Governor Ronnie Musgrove's communications department. Following her graduation from Mississippi College, Shoemaker accepted a position as the director of marketing and public relations for the Meridian/Lauderdale County Tourism Bureau. She also began a master's degree program at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she earned a graduate degree in public relations. Shoemaker went on to serve on the communications staff of East Mississippi Electric Power Association, as the director of communications for State Auditor Stacey Pickering, and on the campaign staff of U.S. Congressman Steven Palazzo. Shoemaker heads her own consulting firm, Southern Strategies, LLC.

English

THEODORE B. ATKINSON '96

Ted Atkinson is an associate professor of English at Mississippi State University (MSU). Prior to joining the MSU faculty in 2009, he was an assistant professor of English at Augusta State University in Georgia. Atkinson is the author of the book *Faulkner and the Great Depression*, and has also published several works in essay collections and in regional and national literary journals. He is currently working on a book titled *Anywhere South: Mississippi in the American Imaginary* that explores representations of Mississippi in American culture. In addition to his master's degree from

MC, Atkinson holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University.

Health Services Administration

DEBORAH G. LOGAN '76, '88

Deborah Logan is project director with the Mississippi Office of Nursing Workforce, which researches solutions to nursing workforce issues. She previously served as administrative director of patient care with Mississippi Baptist Health Systems. Logan is a recipient of the MHA Nurse Executive of the Year Award, is listed in Who's Who in American Nursing, and was Mississippi College's 1996 Distinguished Alumna from the School of Nursing. She has published numerous articles in healthcare magazines, served on the strategic planning committee of the American Organization of Nurse Executives, and has spoken at statewide and national workshops. Logan serves on the advisory board of the Faith InDeed Foundation and is active in Ridgcrest Baptist Church.

Kinesiology

WOODY BARNETT '76, '77

Woody Barnett's passion for young people has contributed to his success as a teacher, coach, and administrator. This year marks Barnett's 37th year working in education, including service for the last 16 years as athletic director at Pearl High School. During his tenure as athletic director, Pearl has won 47 state championships. Under his leadership as a coach, Barnett's teams have won 43 state championships. Barnett has also earned numerous regional and state "Coach of the Year awards." In 2012, he was named the National High School Coaches Association's National High School Boys Track and Field Coach of the Year. He is a member of the Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame.

Mathematics

JENNIFER CARNES WILSON '93, '04

Jennifer Wilson has been an educator for 20 years, including 16 years teaching mathematics at Northwest Rankin High School in Flowood, Mississippi. President Obama named Wilson a recipient of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Four of her former students have nominated Wilson for the Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program, and she is a national instructor and author for the Texas Instruments Teachers Teaching with Technology program. Wilson holds bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from Mississippi College.



Modern Languages

DR. SAMUEL DRUMMOND '77

MARGARET DEAN DRUMMOND '75

Sam and Margaret Drummond served as International Mission Board missionaries for more than 15 years, working in Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Spain. Sam also taught in the IMB Seminaries in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Spain. After the couple returned to the United States, Margaret taught Spanish at Hinds Community College, Piney Woods High School, and Clinton High School, as well as serving as a Spanish interpreter for Saks Fifth Avenue credit services and in her current position as an interpreter for Saks Fifth Avenue online. Sam taught as an adjunct professor at Mississippi College and also taught at Hinds Community College, as well as working with the InStaff staffing agency. Sam is currently with a law office in Jackson.

Music

CAROL DICKEY AULTMAN '78

Carol Aultman is an adjunct professor of voice at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. She has also served as director of the Clarion Choir of First Baptist Church in Dallas, as well as offering private voice lessons in Dallas and Fort Worth. Before relocating to Texas, Aultman served as an instructor of voice at the University of New Orleans, an adjunct professor of voice at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and as coordinator of the children's choir and director of the singles ensemble and ladies ensemble at First Baptist Church of New Orleans. Aultman and her husband, Jerry, are members of First Baptist Church of Dallas, where Jerry serves as organist and Carol is a soloist. The Aultmans have presented sacred concerts and served as conference leaders at events throughout the United States and South America.

Music Young Alumnus

THOMAS CHRISTOPHER CROOK '96

Thomas Crook is minister of music and worship at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas. Crook oversees a music ministry that includes more than 400 children, youth, and adults who participate in 15 ensembles. He conducts tours with the ensembles throughout the United States and in Europe. Crook founded the St. Andrew orchestral program and founded and oversees the St. Andrew Academy of Music, which employs seven teachers and has an enrollment of more than 100 students. Prior to joining St. Andrew, Crook served as director of music with churches in Texas and Mississippi. As a music student at MC, Crook was

named a Presser Scholar, the highest honor awarded by the MC music department. He also won the Waggoner Award in Church Music and the Burnett Award in Church Music and served as president of the MC Singers. In addition to his bachelor's degree from MC, he holds a master's degree from Baylor University.

Nursing

DR. KRISTI A. HENDERSON '95

Dr. Kristi Henderson is the chief advanced practice officer and director of telehealth for University of Mississippi Health Center (UMHC) based in Jackson, Mississippi. Dr. Henderson's focus is improving the healthcare delivery system through telehealth, the delivery of health-related services and information via telecommunications technologies. Dr. Henderson also serves as an associate professor at the University of Mississippi School of Nursing. She serves on the National Quality Forum steering committee on regionalized emergency care and on the Mississippi Blue Cross & Blue Shield Nurse Practitioner Advisory Committee, and volunteers at Mission First, a health clinic for low-income families. In addition to her bachelor's degree in nursing from MC, Dr. Henderson holds a master's degree from Mississippi University for Women and a doctoral degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Psychology and Counseling

DR. BAINE B. CRAFT '01

Dr. Baine Craft is an associate professor in the School of Psychology, Family, and Community at Seattle Pacific University, where he received a joint appointment in psychology and biology. In addition to teaching, Craft collaborates with researchers in biology, fulfilling his career goal to teach and conduct research at a Christian liberal arts university. Craft developed the Learning and Cognition Laboratories at Seattle Pacific University. He was named the 2012 School of Psychology, Family, and Community Teacher of the Year, as well as the Seattle Pacific University Teacher of the Year. He was also the recipient of the 2011 Seattle Pacific University Junior Faculty Servant Award, which recognizes service to the university. Craft has received several grants that focus on teaching, including a grant he used to develop a course that helps students discern God's calling for them as psychologists. A *cum laude* graduate of Mississippi College, Craft holds a master's degree and Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of Montana.

Sociology and Social Work

DR. LAURIE SMITH LAWSON '83

Dr. Laurie Smith Lawson serves as assistant professor and program director of the social work program at Mississippi College. Dr. Lawson is also a licensed clinical social worker and dually serves as the executive director of Clinton Community Christian Corporation, where she implements community programming and services for the elderly. The recipient of multiple awards for community service, Dr. Lawson was honored in 2008 at "Laurie Lawson Day" for 25 years of service to the Clinton Community Christian Corporation. She has also been recognized as Parent of the Year by the Hinds County School District. Dr. Lawson is a member of the boards of the Hinds County Dropout Prevention program and Jackson Habitat for Humanity, and was a graduate of the inaugural Leadership Clinton class. Dr. Lawson earned her master's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and her Ph.D. from Tulane University.

Teacher Education and Leadership

MICHAEL JOSEPH COCO '74, '77

Michael Coco is an instructor in the Mississippi College Department of Teacher Education and Leadership. Coco joined the MC faculty following 38 years of service in public education. He dedicated the previous 24 years to service with the Jackson Public School District, working as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, and principal. Prior to joining Mississippi College, he served as principal of Oak Forest Elementary School. A native of Yazoo City, Coco received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Mississippi College.

Lawyer of the Year

JAMES M. "JIM" ANDERSON '78

A *cum laude* graduate of MC Law, Jim Anderson is the managing member of Anderson Crawley & Burke, PLLC, a Ridgeland, Mississippi-based law firm representing businesses and government entities statewide. A founding member of the Workers' Compensation Defense Institute, Anderson has built a national reputation as an educator and reform advocate for workers' compensation. He is the immediate past president of the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Educational Association, and has served as chairman of that organization's annual conference since 2008. Anderson has been recognized as a "Leader in Law" by the *Mississippi Business Journal* and as a Mid-South Super Lawyer, and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 1995. Anderson was named the MC Law 2011 Volunteer of the Year.

Young Lawyer of the Year

KENTRAY "TRAY" KEINSA HAIRSTON '09

Tray Hairston is counsel and policy advisor to Governor Phil Bryant in the areas of economic development and public finance. Prior to joining Governor Bryant's staff, Hairston was an attorney at Balch & Bingham LLP. He has also served as law clerk to federal Judge Henry T. Wingate. Before beginning his legal career, Hairston was a member of the global business division of the Mississippi Development Authority, where he assisted companies interested in locating new businesses in Mississippi. Hairston received dual degrees from Tougaloo College in English and philosophy, graduating *magna cum laude*. He also spent a year as an exchange student attending Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and New York University in New York City. In addition to his bachelor's degree from Tougaloo and his J.D. from MC Law, Hairston holds an M.B.A. from Belhaven College.

BLSA Lawyer of the Year

JUDGE WINSTON L. KIDD '91

Winston L. Kidd has presided over civil criminal cases as Hinds County Circuit Judge since 2001, as well as serving as the presiding judge for the Hinds County Circuit Drug Court. Judge Kidd has also served as an adjunct professor at MC Law. He graduated *cum laude* in respiratory therapy from the University of Mississippi in 1987. After working as a respiratory therapist for one year, he enrolled at MC Law, where he received his law degree in 1991. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Kidd worked as an attorney with the Walker and Walker law firm in Jackson. He is a past president of the Magnolia Bar Association and is also a past treasurer and past vice-president of the Jackson Branch of the NAACP. Judge Kidd is committed to mentoring youth, and is a frequent speaker at schools and churches.

BLSA Young Lawyer of the Year

DAMON STEVENSON '08

Damon Stevenson practices civil defense, family law, and general civil litigation with his own firm, the Stevenson Legal Group. Prior to founding his own practice in 2010, Stevenson put his legal expertise to work in positions with the Mission First Legal Aid Office, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the United States District Court in Jackson. He is a graduate of Tougaloo College with a degree in economics and accounting and holds his J.D. from MC Law.



Class Notes

20s Catharine Monroe (Hillman '28, B.A. '30) celebrated her 102nd birthday on August 19, 2012. She lives in Washington, D.C.

50s Dr. Edward "Ed" McMillan (B.A. '50) retired as executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission.

Rev. James Smith (B.A. '57) retired as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Collins, Mississippi, on August 15, 2010, after 56 years of Baptist church ministry in Mississippi and Kentucky. He and his wife, Helen James Henderson, have moved back to D'Lo, Mississippi. Smith has several family members who attended and graduated from MC, including his grandfather, father, brother, sister, four children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, and one grandson. Two of his grandsons currently attend MC.

Rev. Thomas R. Lee (B.A. '58) is acting director of the Norton Institute for Congregational Health, a ministry of Carson-Newman College.

60s Lottie Boggan (B.S.Ed. '62) was named a semi-finalist at the 2012 Pirate's Alley Faulkner Wisdom Competition. Boggan's novel, *Mr. Honeycut*, and her short story, "The Chosen," were semi-finalists in the annual competition.

Dr. Ennis Proctor (B.S.Ed. '64, M.Ed. '68, Ed.S. '79) was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in July 2012.

Dr. Carolyn Cole (B.A. '65) retired from Oklahoma Baptist University in 2012 after 25 years of service.

Thomas Florey (B.S. '65) was inducted into the 2012 Wesley College Hall of Fame.

Judy Renick (B.S.Ed. '66) has released her first devotional book published by CrossBooks, a division of LifeWay. *Muscadines and Daffodils* is a daily devotional for women that follows one woman, Angela, from birth throughout her life. Renick lives in San Marcos, Texas with her husband, Oren (B.A. '66, M.A. '67, J.D. '83).

Leon Enzor (B.S.Ed. '66, M.Ed. '70) retired in May from Blue Mountain Schools after 45 years teaching kindergarten through ninth grade. The lifelong educator is now an adjunct instructor at Blue Mountain College.

Lydia Martin (B.S.Ed. '69, M.Ed. '73) has been promoted to vice president with Trustmark in Jackson. Martin is a regional sales manager for the Northeast Mississippi region. She previously served as the marketing director for Trustmark in Columbus.

70s Richard "Ricky" Herzog (B.S.Ed. '73) is the new defensive backfield coach at the University of West Georgia.

Steve Newsome (B.A. '73) began working in the mental health field in the 1970s, and joined Counseling Associates Inc. in Conway, Arkansas, as CEO in 1998. The center, which serves six counties, celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2012.



Freddie Bagley

Freddie Bagley (B.S. '74) has been elected treasurer of the Mississippi Bankers Association (MBA). Bagley is also a member of the board of directors, which governs the 123-year-old association. MBA's membership includes commercial banks and savings institutions, which hold 95 percent of the bank deposits in Mississippi.

He serves as president and chief executive officer of Community Bancshares, Inc., the parent company of Community Bank. He has been with the bank for 36 years.

Janet "Jan" Hankins (B.S.Ed. '75, M.Ed. '77, Ed.S. '79) has been named interim director of Mississippi College's Dyslexia Education and Evaluation Center.

Dr. Robert Heritage (M.M. '76) was named the Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium Boychoir Director in Anderson, South Carolina. Dr. Heritage holds a bachelor of arts in music education from Louisiana College and a Ph.D. in music education from the University of Southern Mississippi. He served as associate professor of music at Mars Hill College in North Carolina from 1999-2002 and as choral director for Wade Hampton High School in Greenville, where he served as Fine Arts Department chairman and conducted four separate choral ensembles.

Michael Wallis (B.S.Ed. '77) has been inducted into the 2012 Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame.

J. Henry Stovall (B.S. '79) was selected by Sacred Heart Health System as the new president of Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola.

80s Dr. David Braden (B.A. '80), a pediatric cardiologist with Mississippi Children's Heart, has joined the medical staff of Baptist Health Systems. A native of Brookhaven, Braden earned his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, where he completed his internship followed by a residency in the Department of Pediatrics. He then completed a fellowship in pediatric cardiology at the Medical College of Georgia. He also served in the Naval Reserve as a lieutenant commander in the Medical Corps.



J. Carter Thompson, Jr.

J. Carter Thompson, Jr. (B.A. '81) of the law firm Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, has been named to the International Who's Who of Product Liability Defense Lawyers 2012. He is one of only five Mississippi attorneys to be selected for inclusion in this list, which recognizes the world's leading product liability defense lawyers based on feedback from clients and peer attorneys.

Chuck McIntosh (B.S.B.A. '82) is returning to the editorial cartoonist's desk for the *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal*. McIntosh puts his serious side to work as vice president of corporate communications at BancorpSouth. The Belden, Mississippi resident is the illustrator of nine children's books and has written and illustrated two comic books.

Mickey Stokes (B.S.B.A. '82) was inducted into the East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) Sports Hall of Fame. In his third decade of service to East Mississippi Community College, Stokes currently serves as EMCC vice president/director of athletics. Stokes began his athletic career as an all-conference football player for head coach Billy Brown at West Kemper High School in DeKalb. He then went on to earn all-state honors as a tight end for East Mississippi head coach Randall Bradberry before moving on to become a two-year starter at Mississippi College. Stokes joined EMCC's full-time staff in 1988, and assumed his current athletic administrative duties in 2007. During the past five years as the school's AD, he has

been associated with six NJCAA Region 23 championships and nine MACJC North Division titles, highlighted by last year's NJCAA national football championship and three consecutive regional titles in men's basketball.

Terrence Winschel (M.S.S. '84, Ed.S. '90) retired after 35 years in federal service, most of it spent at the Vicksburg National Military Park, where he rose to become one of the senior historians in the National Park Service and sexton of the National Cemetery.



Jeffrey Richardson

Jeffrey "Jeff" Richardson (B.S.B.A. '85) has been named vice president of customer advocacy for C Spire Wireless. In his new role, Richardson will be responsible for customer retention and oversight of customer feedback programs.

Jack Brown (B.M.Ed. '86) is the new middle/high school choir director at Korea International School near Seoul, South Korea. He directs five choirs and runs two guitar clubs. He plans to continue his music and performing career internationally and in the U.S.

Patricia Herrington (M.H.S. '87), corporate compliance and safety officer for Baptist Health Systems, completed the certified healthcare compliance examination, earning the CHC designation. She also completed the master level as a certified healthcare safety professional. Herrington, a medical technologist certified by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, has been employed at Baptist for 29 years and was previously Baptist's pathology and clinical laboratories director.

Don Skelton (B.S.Ed. '87) has been named the Northwest Mississippi Community College head men's basketball coach for a second time. Skelton previously served as head coach at Northwest from 1998-2006.

Jeff James (B.A. '89) has been promoted to director of network and technical services at Sta-Home. James has worked at the Jackson-based home health care and hospice agency since 1999. He has been designated a Microsoft certified system engineer.



BRANSON CHRISTMAS TOUR

The Alumni Association partnered with Trek Travel to take 53 alumni and friends to Branson, Missouri, in November of 2012. Highlights of the trip included attending the nostalgic *Andy Williams Show* and the spectacular *Joseph the Musical*. Good food, great fellowship, and awesome entertainment made this holiday trip one to remember.

90s David Bixler (M.H.S. '90) has been named chief executive officer at Daviess Community Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Gale Ray (B.S.B.A. '91, M.B.A. '96) is the Mississippi Valley Division/Headquarters internal review chief at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg and is also a certified defense financial manager.

Cheri Gatlin (B.S. '93, J.D. '96) has been named one of the 2012 *Mississippi Business Journal's* 50 leading businesswomen in Mississippi.

Dr. Daniel Hey (B.S. '93) of Parkway Medical Group, passed the certification exam and is board certified in sleep medicine. Along with his practice in family medicine at Parkway Medical in Black Mountain, North Carolina, Hey is the medical director of Asheville Sleep Center at Parkway Medical Group.

Heather (Floyd, B.A. '93) Newell is a senior product manager with capital markets with Caliber Funding, Irving, Texas. Newell also started a new outreach program, Single Moms of Irving.

Thomas "Lane" Burroughs (B.S. '95, M.S.S. '96) was named the head baseball coach at Northwestern State in Natchitoches, Louisiana.



Carla Lewis

Carla Lewis (B.S. '96) has been named senior vice president of information technology of C Spire Wireless. Lewis is accountable for the development and implementation of long and short-range information technology plans to ensure the company meets strategic goals for applications development, technical infrastructure, and quality assurance.

Dr. Eddie Peasant (M.Ed. '98), principal of Clinton High School, was chosen as the 2012 Mississippi High School Principal of the Year.

Mary "Nicole" Ketchum (B.S.B.A. '99, M.B.A. '01) has been promoted to assistant vice president at Trustmark in Jackson. She is involved in the administration of executive benefit plans.

Nadriene Lynn Cheeks Jackson (B.S.Ed. '99, M.Ed. '02) has been named principal at Whittle Springs Middle School in Knox County, Tennessee.

00s Rebecca J. Bozarth (B.S. '01) graduated from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary at Liberty University with a master's degree in children's ministry. She is the associate to the director of children's ministry at First Baptist Church, Atlanta.

Cameron Coleman (B.A. '01) is the new boys head basketball coach at Blake High School in Tampa, Florida.

Richard "Stephen" McAdory (B.S. '01) joined Surgery Associates, P.A., in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Dr. Tracy Anderson (B.S. '02, M.Ed. '05, Ed.S. '07) has been named principal of the Canton School of Arts and Sciences. She serves on the board of directors for Jackson State University's New Teacher Induction Program.

Dr. Jonathan Carroll (B.S. '02) finished his residency at Louisiana State University (LSU) Health Center, Shreveport, in general surgery in June 2012. He works as an assistant professor in the surgical department of LSU Health Center, Shreveport, in the area of trauma and critical care.

Dr. Benjamin Burkett (B.S. '03) joined Wesley Medical Group at their location in Petal, Mississippi. Dr. Burkett earned his medical degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He completed his residency in both internal medicine and pediatrics.

Joshua Kyle (B.S. '03) has been hired as assistant vice president of Legal, Litigation, at Barclays in New York, a major global financial banking services provider.

Dr. April Turnage (B.S. '03) opened Turnage Family Dentistry in Clinton in August of 2012.

Dr. Benton Kilman (B.S. '04) is a new provider at Fulton Medical Clinic, Fulton, Mississippi. He and his wife, Nicole (Thomason, B.S. '04), have two children, two-year-old Will and four-year-old Ava.

Laura (Ford, B.S. '04) Rose, an attorney with Adams and Reese, has been accepted into the 2012-2013 class of Leadership Madison County, a program offered through the Madison Chamber of Commerce and designed to develop potential leaders through workshops involving education, government, law and order, diversity, and economic development. At Adams and Reese, Rose focuses her practice on commercial and employment litigation and is licensed to practice law in Mississippi and Tennessee. She is a member of the Mississippi Bar Association, Capital Area Bar Association, Jackson Young Lawyers Association, Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, and the Christian Legal Society.

Dr. Ryan Fortenberry (B.S. '06, M.S.C. '07) was awarded his doctor of philosophy in chemistry from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VT), Blacksburg, Virginia, in May 2012. His research in theoretical astrochemistry was recognized with the VT Chemistry Department Research Award. Ryan and his wife, Lauren Fix Fortenberry, who received her master's in public health from VT on the same day, currently reside in San Jose, California, where Ryan has begun a postdoctoral fellowship in theoretical astrochemistry at NASA Ames Research Center. His work serves to inform NASA science missions and ongoing research. Ryan is the son of Mississippi College professors Dr. Cliff and Melanie Fortenberry.



FROM THE RING TO THE WORLD

World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) star Teddy DiBiase '06 is using his fame in the ring as a platform to share the love of Jesus Christ with others. The star wrestler launched the Ted DiBiase Foundation to provide hope to people in times of darkness and need. The foundation treats special needs children, disabled veterans, and the terminally ill to fun-filled outings at World Wrestling Entertainment events. The foundation also offers youth leadership programs and raises funds to help feed and clothe those in dire need.

"My dream growing up was to become a wrestler. I wanted to perform on that stage and entertain millions," DiBiase said. "Now, all I want is to use that stage as a platform to bring hope to others and glory to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I want to share with the world what the Lord has given me. This foundation will help those in need, bring hope to the hopeless, and share God's love."

Assisting DiBiase in running the foundation is Jordan Ash '04, '08, who met DiBiase when both were students at Mississippi College.

"I've had the privilege and honor to watch a boy who wanted to be a wrestler turn into a WWE superstar who wants to change lives by sharing his faith in Jesus Christ," Ash said. "Teddy has a genuine love for people, and through this foundation, he will be able to share that love with the world."

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

John Lassitter (B.A. '06) is music minister at First Baptist Church in San Marcos, Texas.

Jonathan Simeral (B.S. '06) is a laboratory technician at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans East and is helping to develop the next generation of space flight.

Katherine "Claire" (Waycaster, B.A. '06) Strebeck has been selected as a primary photographer for Millie Holloman Photography.

Elizabeth (Hammon, B.A. '06) Zimmerman has been named assistant editor at dealnews.

Rebekah Staples (B.A. '07) has joined the law firm Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada PLLC as a governmental relations adviser. She served as policy director for Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves' office and as policy adviser to Gov. Haley Barbour.

William Trammell (M.Ed. '07, Ed.S. '09) has been appointed principal of Magee Middle School in Magee, Mississippi.

Tasha Liddell (B.S.B.A. '09) has been promoted to information security officer for Trustmark in Jackson, where she is an information security vendor risk analyst. She is a 2012 vendor management and oversight coordinator for peer bank user groups.



Garrett May

Garrett May (B.S.B.A. '09, M.B.A. '12, J.D. '12) has been named director of risk management at Central Mississippi Medical Center. Two weeks after accepting the position, he learned he had passed the bar exam and was blessed with a daughter.

Carisa Galloway (B.A. '09, M.Ed. '11, M.F.A. '12) won first place in the watercolor category of the 4th Annual Lincoln County Art Competition at the Lincoln County Public Library in Brookhaven, October 2012.

10s Clinton "Clint" Myers (B.S. '10) received a prestigious Chinese government scholarship that allowed him to obtain a master's degree in biology at Huazhong Normal University. He was awarded the scholarship two years ago, after completing two years of Chinese language study at MC, where he was a biology major.

Brandon D. Mitchell (B.S. '12) has been named assistant soccer coach at Hinds Community College in Raymond.

Courtney Nunn (B.S. '12) was named assistant fast-pitch softball coach at East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi.

James “Derek” Walker (B.S. ’12) won the competition for the logo design which will be used for the Mississippi Collegiate Art Competition 2013. Walker also submitted a design that placed second in the competition.

Marriages

Misty Westbrook (B.S. ’97, M.C.P. ’99) and Carey Wallace, April 28, 2012

John Lassitter (B.A. ’03, J.D. ’06) and Angie Vega, July 21, 2012

Charity Gomez and Gabriel Fertitta (B.A. ’04), July 7, 2012

Andrea Denise Lewis and Jazmine O’Neal Eugene (B.S. ’07), October 20, 2012

Mary Sue Strong (B.S. ’10) and Scott Black, August 5, 2012

Laura Schilling (B.A. ’11) and Bryant Kintner (B.A. ’12), May 12, 2012

Births & Adoptions

Olivia (Taylor, B.S. ’98, J.D. ’02) and Mark Rowe (J.D. ’02), Ardsley Elizabeth, June 28, 2012

Meredith (Edrington, B.S. ’00) and Stephen Agostinelli, Evelyn Grace, April 19, 2012

Ashley and Brian (B.S. ’01) Blackwell, Lillian Ruth, February 9, 2012

Rebecca (South, ’01) and Casey (B.M.Ed. ’01) Kirk, Karis Aven, May 30, 2012. Karis is welcomed by grandparents Jerry and Carol Kirk (MC certification secretary for Department of Teacher Education).

Dr. Stacey (Gaines, B.A. ’03, M.A. ’06) and Jason Parham, Julia Rose, June 7, 2012

Wendy (McMillan, B.S.B.A. ’05) and Jay Lomenich, Harper Lynn, July 25, 2012. She is welcomed by grandparents Dale (B.S.B.A. ’80) and Karon (B.S.N. ’81) McMillan and great grandparents Dr. Van (B.A. ’55, M.Ed. ’65) and Shelly (B.S.Ed. ’65, M.Ed. ’70, Ed.S. ’77) Quick and Edward (B.A. ’50) and Carnette (B.A. ’50) McMillan.

Elizabeth (Hammon, B.A. ’06) and Micah Lee Zimmerman (B.A. ’06), Ezra Blais, March 2, 2012

Lauren (Bolton, B.S. ’08, M.B.A. ’11) and Robbie Windmiller, Lucy Ann, May 2, 2012. She is welcomed by grandparents Gary (B.S. ’80) and Jane (B.S.B.A. ’80) Bolton.

LeeAnn (Babb, B.S.Ed. ’08) and Garrett May (B.S.B.A. ’09,

M.B.A. ’12, J.D. ’12), Gracen Corley, September 12, 2012. She is welcomed by grandparents Joey and Donna (Raddin, B.S.Ed. ’79) Babb and Gary (B.S.B.A. ’81) and Tracy May (MC campus coordinator).

Kristi Richard (MC instructor in English department) and Rick Melancon, Nora Lee, June 6, 2012

In Memoriam

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

Alumni

Susan Welch Hurt (B.A. ’38), July 24, 2012

Louise Rose (Hillman, ’38), June 10, 2012

Margaret M. White (B.A. ’40), May 15, 2012

Ned Cary (B.A. ’43), October 11, 2012

Earl M. Wiggs, Jr. (B.S. ’43), October 1, 2012

Dr. Luther White, Jr. (’44), September 2, 2012

James A. Womack (B.A. ’48), October 6, 2012

Wilma S. Cooper (B.A. ’49, M.A. ’67), July 20, 2012

Kenneth E. Crawford, Sr. (’49, J.D. ’72), June 14, 2012

Rev. Julio Silvio Diaz (B.A. ’50), April 24, 2012

Rev. Allen C. Johnson (B.A. ’50), August 29, 2011

Major C. McDaniel, Jr. (B.A. ’50), August 31, 2012

Robbie B. Pettet (’50), July 14, 2012

John M. Curlee, Jr. (B.A. ’51), September 29, 2012

James Garland Kennedy, Sr. (B.S. ’51), August 17, 2011

Dr. John C. McDonald (B.S. ’51), December 31, 2011

Dr. Bill Causey, Sr. (B.A. ’52), September 5, 2012

Robert Travis Hughes (B.S.Ed. ’52), January 25, 2012

Cleda E. Ware (B.S. ’52, M.Ed. ’69), June 14, 2012

Billie Thaggard Berryhill (B.A. ’53), October 19, 2012

Dr. Jack Quin Causey (B.S. ’53), September 9, 2012

Ann D. Pearce (B.A. ’53), March 2, 2012

Martha H. Langford (B.A. ’53), May 29, 2012

Dr. John M. Pearson (B.S. ’53), September 2, 2012

James Franklin Barnes (B.S.Ed. ’54), June 29, 2012

Dr. James Varner Clark (B.A. ’54), July 18, 2012

Bill Lowe (B.S.Ed. ’54), May 9, 2012

Rev. John H. Tucker (B.A. ’55), August 4, 2012

Robert Earl Wilson (’55), October 23, 2010

Dan Dubose (B.S. ’56), June 25, 2012

Dr. Floyd Lamar Lummus (B.S. ’56), October 21, 2012

Rev. Gus Merritt (B.A. ’56), July 17, 2012

Billy Gene Rice (B.S. ’56), January 25, 2012

Glenn Lewis Vernon (B.A. ’56), April 29, 2012

Rev. Rinaldo “Bud” Walker (B.A. ’56), June 15, 2012

James Cal Mayo (B.S. ’57), August 27, 2012

Jones Hamilton Hoskins (B.S. ’58), June 15, 2011



HOMECOMING 2013

OCTOBER 24-26

CLASS REUNIONS

Classes celebrating reunions include 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, and 2008.

50-YEAR CLUB REUNION

Honoring the Class of 1963

The Class of 1963 will celebrate its Golden Anniversary during Homecoming 2013, and the 50-Year Club will welcome new members into the club at that time.

ADDITIONAL HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES

A golf tournament, awards brunch, tailgating on the Quad, parade, departmental receptions, and of course, football will round out this fun-filled, nostalgic week-end. If you’d like to help plan a reunion, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 601.925.3252.

Arvis Cumbest (L.L.B. ’58), September 16, 2012

Nancy Erle Harvey (B.S. ’59), September 28, 2012

Clyde W. “Andy” Bishop (B.A. ’60), September 13, 2012

Betty P. Stockett (B.A. ’60), August 27, 2012

Carl Harris (B.S.Ed. ’61), June 7, 2012

Ada Jean Slay (B.S.Ed. ’61), April 13, 2012

E. Grant Tharpe (B.A. ’62), August 11, 2010

Elsie D. Brindley (M.Ed. ’63), May 7, 2012

Ann Hall (M. Ed. ’63, Ed.S. ’79), June 15, 2012

Dr. Dudley Denton Sumrall (B.A. ’65), June 9, 2012

Dr. Noel Earl Polk (B.A. ’65, M.A. ’66), August 21, 2012

Peggy Coston Jackson (B.A. ’66), December 3, 2009

Jo Anne Abernathy (M.Ed. ’67), June 4, 2012

Wade John Scully (M.Ed. ’67), June 15, 2012

Dr. Harrell Whitten (B.S. ’67), August 22, 2012

Ted W. Cooper (M.Ed. ’70), October 10, 2012

Bernard Wooley (M.Ed. ’70), February 7, 2012

Larry E. Bain (B.S. ’71, M.B.A. ’77), December 27, 2011

Dr. Rodrick E. Conerly (B.A. ’72), December 23, 2010

Stephen “Steve” Phillip Kemp (B.S. ’72, M.B.A. ’74),

May 22, 2012

John Mason (B.S. ’72), October 6, 2012

Martha Ann Durr (M.M. ’73), August 17, 2012

Clarence Boggan (M.B.A. ’74), May 29, 2012

James O. Elliott (M.B.A. ’76), July 5, 2012

Lillye Mae Pete (M.Ed. ’76, Ed.S. ’86), September 4, 2012

Barbara A. Sappington (M.Ed. ’77), September 27, 2012

Matthew Evans (B.S.Ed. ’80, M.Ed. ’93), August 2, 2012

Larry Allen (B.S.B.A. ’83), June 16, 2012

Ginger Gail “Gigi” Hall Wall (B.S.B.A. ’85), June 30, 2012

Linda Goldie Phillips (B.S. ’85, M.B.A. ’91), May 31, 2012

Ross Aven Parker (B.S. ’86), July 2, 2012

Billy Ray Benford (M.C.C. ’86), September 25, 2012

Jannet Ann Douglas Cox (B.S. ’90, J.D. ’93), October 6, 2012

Linda McAlpin (B.S. ’93), August 20, 2012

Jennifer Thompson (B.S.B.A. ’05), June 25, 2012

Friends

Joseph Henry Barber, Jr., vice president of business affairs at Mississippi College from 1973-1993, August 26, 2012

Connie Bobo, longtime employee of Mississippi College, October 7, 2012

Martha Jane Hamilton Hammond, a longtime instructor in English, August 26, 2012

Don Molpus, father of Margaret Cole in enrollment and student services, October 11, 2012

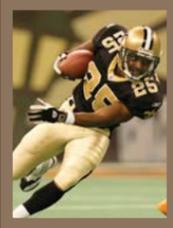
Brad Taggart, son of Andy and Karen Taggart, member of the MC board of trustees and MC alumni, July 10, 2012

Mae Beth (Beth) Walsh, wife of former art department faculty member Louis Walsh, August 11, 2012

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 <http://alumni.mc.edu/classnotes>. Photos submitted should be of professional quality.

WELCOME TO THE SPORTS HALL OF FAME

2013 INDUCTEES INTO THE MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SPORTS HALL OF FAME INCLUDE: Eugene Smith ’80 – Football, Chad Altmyer, ’94 – Basketball and Baseball, Harry Upton ’62 – Athletic Coaching, Administration, and Support Staff, Scott Waterbury ’94 – Track, Renee Brown Sumlin ’01 – Softball, Anthony Hicks ’83 – Basketball, Robert Street ’74 – Football and Baseball, Brenda Phillips Smith ’89 – Softball, Tennis, Basketball. *New members will be inducted Saturday, April 20, 2013 in a 6:00 ceremony at the B.C. Rogers Student Center.*



PORTRAITS FROM THE HALL OF FAME

The Mississippi College Hall of Fame was established in 1960 to annually honor four senior students for their outstanding leadership ability, scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities participation, contribution to student life, and dedication to serving God and their fellowman.

THE BEACON CATCHES UP WITH FRED MCAFEE '91

Fred McAfee still remembers sitting in the locker room during his first week as an MC Choctaw and telling a friend, "You just wait. We're going to be in *Sports Illustrated* someday."

It was a big dream for a young man from Philadelphia, Mississippi, playing college football for a small, private university. But McAfee not only made it into the pages of the legendary sports magazine, he credits the support he found at Mississippi College with helping him get there.

"The Christian atmosphere and family feeling at Mississippi College was important to me," McAfee says. "The people I met at MC made me welcome and at home. I always felt like people at MC really cared about me and encouraged me."

A standout player on the football and track teams, McAfee went on to enjoy a remarkable, 16-year career as an NFL running back. Originally drafted by the New Orleans Saints in 1991, McAfee also played for the Arizona Cardinals, Pittsburgh Steelers, and Tampa Bay Buccaneers before rejoining the Saints to finish his days in uniform.

In 2007, McAfee assumed a new role with the Saints when he was named director of player development, a position that allows him to minister to other NFL players. In addition to scouting for the Saints, McAfee is charged with helping rookie players adjust to life in the NFL, and retiring players adjust to life off the football field.

"Players coming in have usually been in college, where they have classes and a structured schedule, and most of them have never had much money," McAfee says. "All of a

sudden, they have a lot of extra time on their hands and a lot of money in their pockets. Then you have players at the end of their athletic careers that don't have a lot of insight into what they're going to do when they get out. I've seen guys go from making \$30 million a year to \$3,000 a year and vice versa. The rookies and the retirees can both benefit from some guidance."

For the rookies, McAfee offers real life examples of players who've squandered their newfound wealth through bad decisions, and of players who've used their money not only to benefit themselves, but also to help others. For retiring players, McAfee sets up job shadowing opportunities, introduces franchise possibilities, and sends players who want to move into sports media to broadcast boot camp. He also develops programs to help rookies and retirees juggle the changing demands on their families. With the average pro football career lasting just three and a half years, it's a role that keeps McAfee busy, but one that he enjoys.

"When I was a rookie just starting out, I remember it was sometimes difficult to go from being a small town Mississippi boy to an NFL player. But I also remember people who went out of their way to help me. And I told myself, if I ever have the chance to help someone else, I'm definitely going to do it."

McAfee still has one dream of his own left to realize — being inducted into the New Orleans Saints Hall of Fame. Potential members are not eligible for induction while they are still active with the organization, and while he's moved from the backfield to the front office, Fred McAfee isn't planning to leave the game anytime soon.

"THE CHRISTIAN ATMOSPHERE AND FAMILY FEELING AT MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE WAS IMPORTANT TO ME. THE PEOPLE I MET AT MC MADE ME WELCOME AND AT HOME. I ALWAYS FELT LIKE PEOPLE AT MC REALLY CARED ABOUT ME AND ENCOURAGED ME."

FRED MCAFEE • Hall of Fame '91

Kodak All American • First Team Associated Press • 1990 *Clarion Ledger* Player of the Year
Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities; GSC Freshman Player of the Year
College and Conference Record Holder • Harlon Hill Trophy Finalist • Amateur Athlete of the Year, Jackson Touchdown Club • "M" Club • Drug Free Campus Committee





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