

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE | FALL 2007

beacon



PRESIDENT'S REPORT
**HOMECOMING
AND ALUMNI
AWARDS**

ALUMNI NEWS



beacon



FROM THE PRESIDENT

LEE GARDNER ROYCE

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

The same is true of a university. Without a vision that reaches beyond teaching classes and awarding diplomas, a university will stagnate.

Mississippi College's vision is to be a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ. Our vision not only captures what we believe and aspire to become, but also energizes us and influences the actions we take on a daily basis.

This edition of the *Beacon* includes a Five-Year President's Report – a roster of milestones reached, new programs launched, goals set, and goals attained. Each high point described has moved us closer to our ultimate vision. As you review the five-year report and the other stories in the *Beacon*, you'll see that everything Mississippi College undertakes is inspired by and in step with that vision.

In a world in which academics and Christianity are often at odds, our vision is what sets Mississippi College apart. At Mississippi College, academic excellence and Christian values go hand-in-hand. After all, what better place could there be to make sense of the many disciplines – from liberal arts to professional degree programs – than at a Christian university that brings together *all* kinds of knowledge under the banner of Jesus Christ.

May God continue to guide us and bless us as we work together to be known as a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ.

Lee Royce

BY THE BEACON'S LIGHT

Welcome to the Mississippi College *Beacon*, the bi-yearly magazine for students, alumni, staff, faculty, and friends of Mississippi College. The *Beacon* takes its name from the college's alma mater, which includes these lines:

*When in the future, our hearts may be yearning
For the bright scenes of our dear college youth
Back to thy portals our memories turning
Clear gleams thy beacon of virtue and truth.*

As the following pages reveal, Mississippi College's beacon of virtue and truth not only guides students, faculty, and friends to our campus, but also continues to guide them in the world and through the years beyond our grounds. No matter how far from Mississippi they may travel, no matter what they choose to pursue, the excellent education and Christian values of Mississippi College continue to inspire our students, alumni, faculty, and friends for a lifetime.

Each story recounted in the *Beacon* is a reflection of the virtue and truth embodied in Mississippi College, and the commitment to the virtue and truth that lives in every member of our close-knit community.



On the Cover: Originally installed in 1948, the clock overlooking the MC campus has since become a beloved campus landmark.



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ALONG COLLEGE STREET

MC Cracks the Top 20

U.S. News & World Report Ranks MC Among the South's Best Universities

Mississippi College gained ground in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* annual ranking of America's colleges and universities.

Published in August 2007, the magazine's "America's Best Colleges" report shows MC climbed to 20th place in overall quality among the South's best universities at the master's degree level. That's up nicely from last year's ranking at number 29. When it comes to best value for a master's university in the South, MC held on to last year's ranking at number six.

In compiling the list, *U.S. News & World Report* looks at schools' retention rates, alumni giving, class size, faculty resources, graduation rates, ACT scores,

and the percentage of students in the upper 25 percent of their high school class.

The report hit newsstands the same day MC officials announced that enrollment had surpassed last year's record of 4,124. The fall 2007 enrollment of 4,520 includes more than 1,000 graduate students.

"We are gratified to be rated so favorably and to see our position climb in the overall rankings," Dr. Lee Royce, president of Mississippi College, said. "This is the culmination of hard work by our outstanding faculty, staff, and students. We hope to continue to make progress in the eyes of *U.S. News & World Report* and other national publications that evaluate higher education."



THOU SHALT NOT MISS "MOSES AND THE LAW"

“Moses and the Law,” a powerful, 2,700-pound bronze sculpture by artist Samuel Gore, will soon be unveiled on the campus of the Mississippi College School of Law. Depicting Moses carrying the Ten Commandments written in stone, the sculpture is expected to become a destination point for visitors to the downtown Jackson area.

The 12-foot high, 8-foot-wide creation is the largest of MC art professor Samuel Gore’s distinguished career, which spans more than a half-century. The MC graduate began teaching at his alma mater in Clinton in 1951.

Gore finalized sketches of the magnificent sculpture aboard an airplane somewhere over South Carolina more than a year ago. During the summer of 2007, he put the finishing touches on the artwork at a Memphis foundry.

The sculpture will be visible to the public from the sidewalk on Griffith Street. Mississippi College School of Law Dean Jim Rosenblatt anticipates a formal unveiling this fall.

“We are so honored to have the renowned artist Dr. Sam Gore create a sculpture for the Mississippi College School of Law,” Rosenblatt said. “Moses as the Law Giver is a theme that fits well with our institution. This work will allow us to reflect on the role that rules play in governing one’s conduct today as well as in Moses’ time.”

Gore is revered within the MC community, but his work is also recognized in art circles around the globe. Visitors to the MC main campus in Clinton are blessed and inspired by his sculpture “Servant Savior,” which depicts Jesus washing the feet of a disciple. First Baptist Church in Clinton is



Renowned Artist, Dr. Sam Gore

NOW THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, “Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give to you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction.” — Exodus 24:12

home to his bronze “Jesus and the Children.” Once “Moses and the Law” is installed at MCSOL, Gore hopes to create a second piece for the law school. The next sculpture will depict the Savior in a work titled “Jesus, the Fulfillment of the Law.”

For those who don’t have the opportunity to see the original work at the MCSOL this fall, similar sculptures could soon be on display in other locations in Mississippi and beyond. Gore is working on at least a half-dozen miniature versions of “Moses and the Law.”

A native of Texas and the son of a well-traveled preacher, Samuel Gore grew up in Calhoun County. He vividly remembers sculpting his first work from clay as a second-grader in Bruce, Mississippi. The definition of “humble genius,” Gore frequents the MC cafeteria and makes a point of greeting new students, alumni, and anyone else in sight with a Choctaw connection.

Gore says his work at MC, MCSOL, and other locations is all “for the glory of God.”

SADDLE UP!

MC
WOMEN'S
EQUESTRIAN
PROGRAM
BEGINS

The rolling green pastures, tranquil lake, and modern stables for three dozen horses at Providence Hill Farm, a scenic, 9,000-acre equestrian facility near Clinton, have become the home turf for Mississippi College's new, nine-woman equestrian team. Led by Coach Mandi Callaway Powers, the women saddled up for their first taste of intercollegiate competition this fall.

"This is a fantastic place to ride, and these are great horses," says junior Meredith Guider of Utica, Mississippi. A business administration major, Guider transferred to MC from Virginia Intermont College, where she was a member of the riding team.

"I grew up in 4-H, and I've been riding horses my whole life," she says as she mounts a Dutch warmblood horse named Kassaria. "This is my favorite sport, so I jumped at the chance to join an equestrian team in my home state."

Guider and her teammates are riding into school history, the first MC students to participate in a sport that's grown tremendously over the past decade. In 1998, the NCAA designated equestrian an emerging sport. Today, there are more than two-dozen intercollegiate programs, including riders at Baylor, SMU, West Texas A&M, Kansas State, and Oklahoma State.

If the MC women's team rides to victory in regional competition, they'll qualify for the national competition in Los Angeles in May 2008. While it's not yet as popular as big-time NCAA football or basketball's March Madness, major

networks are beginning to cover college equestrian events.

Even if no one were watching, MC students like Camille Wood, a sophomore from Waynesboro, would be practicing on the magnificent Providence Hill Farm. Wood, who competed as a child in shows at the Mississippi State Fair, is simply hooked on horses, as is sophomore Sara Mellado of Dallas, a political science and Christian studies major who began riding as a four-year-old.

"It has to be your passion," says Coach Mandi Powers. "You have to breathe horses."

For Powers, "breathing horses" is a literal description. She and her husband, their two-year-old son, and their three dogs live at Providence Hill Farm. In addition to coaching the MC team, the former Rice University equestrian coach also teaches horsemanship as an MC physical education class.

Providence Hill Farm's owners, E. B. and Jamie Martin, are excited to serve as hosts for the new equestrian program. A nationally-ranked rider, Jamie Martin not only offered the use of the Martins' premier facility, but also prepared a comprehensive plan detailing how MC could launch and maintain its equestrian program. An attorney, Martin also handled the legal work necessary to make the program a reality.

"We named the farm 'Providence' because we knew it was a gift from God," Jamie Martin says. "To be able to share our farm with a college that puts God first is a privilege for us. We can't wait to see MC compete in the college equestrian circuit, and we're so excited to be a part of their success."

BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN When freshmen Camille Wood and Hannah Cunningham approached Dr. Lee Royce about launching an equestrian team at MC, he didn't tell them to hold their horses. In his previous position as president of Anderson College, Dr. Royce was instrumental in getting Anderson's equestrian club off the ground. "Offering this sport makes sense for MC as we are in an area of the country with intense interest in equestrian activity," Dr. Royce says. "This program will attract students who would not otherwise consider MC. It's not only an exciting sport; it's a great recruiting tool."



ABOVE: The MC equestrian team practices at scenic Providence Hill Farm.

LEFT CENTER: Junior Meredith Guider is one of the team's original members.

RIGHT CENTER: Prancing topiaries grace the grounds of Providence Hill Farm.

BELOW: Sophomore Camille Wood, junior Meredith Guider, Coach Mandi Callaway Powers, and sophomore Sara Mellado shown with one of their equine partners.



The MC equestrian team is seeking business sponsors and the donations of horses to make the new equestrian program a success. For more information on the MC women's equestrian team or becoming a sponsor, please contact the MC Athletic Department or Jamie Martin at jmartin@providencehillfarm.com.

FOR INFORMATION ON EQUESTRIAN PROGRAMS AT MC, VISIT:
www.campusequestrian.com
or www.ihsainc.com.



Good-Bye —to— Danny Rutland



In October, the Mississippi College family said good-bye to a gifted leader and loyal friend in Danny Rutland, MC's vice president for advancement for more than a dozen years.

"MC is losing not only a great fund-raiser, but also a person who loves MC through and through," said Mike Jones, the college's athletic director and men's basketball coach. "Danny is a very special individual, and we'll miss him very much."

Rutland, a 1975 MC graduate, left the college to become vice president/chief development officer at Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, Inc., Mississippi's largest private hospital. Rutland was executive vice president for the trust at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center from 1989 to 1995 before leaving the hospital to join Mississippi College.

At MC, Rutland oversaw fund-raising at the main campus in Clinton and the School of Law in downtown Jackson, as well as directing the public relations department and the alumni office. But Rutland's love for MC wasn't limited to his job description. He has been a strong supporter of the college's academic and athletic programs and has always been willing to lend a hand whenever and wherever he was needed. Whether he was promoting the Backyard Brawl football game against archrival Millsaps, attending an alumni gathering in Tupelo, or helping to lead the "Growing the Vision" campaign, Rutland has been a positive force for his alma mater.

"Danny has been supportive of MC as a whole," said Jones, who has known Rutland since both were students at MC in the 1970s. "He's done a phenomenal job, and he's very loyal to MC. You hate to lose that type of person, but we wish him all the best in his new position."

"MC is losing not only a great fund-raiser, but also a person who loves MC through and through. Danny is a very special individual, and we'll miss him very much." — MIKE JONES

Among his top accomplishments at MC, Rutland lists the ongoing "Growing the Vision" campaign, which has reached \$50 million, and the university's \$80 million "New Dawn" campaign, which concluded in 2001 after raising more than \$100 million. Rutland can also be proud of a dramatic increase in donor giving. Under his watch, the number of donors giving \$1,000 or more has nearly doubled, jumping from 230 in 2001 to a record 414 in 2007.

Former Vice President for Alumni and Student Affairs Doc Quick joined those praising Rutland's service to MC.

"Not only is this a tremendous loss to the school, but it is a tremendous loss to me personally," Quick said. "Danny is one of my closest friends. He's so well-liked by everyone, and he truly loves MC. I wish we had more people like him."

Rutland has long been active in the community, including service as a deacon at First Baptist Church in Jackson and as a member of the board of Hillcrest Christian School. He and his wife, the former Melesia Williams, have two daughters, Mandy and Meredith, and one grandson.

"I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to serve MC," Rutland said. "I may be leaving the campus, but the relationships I've built and the memories I've made here will always be with me. No matter where I report to work, a part of my heart remains at MC."

"Danny has played an integral role in helping us fulfill our vision for MC. He has cultivated many important relationships for MC over the years and has helped raise a great deal of money to support our mission," Dr. Lee Royce said. "He is a man of the highest integrity with a great love for the Lord, MC, and its alumni and friends. Even though he will no longer be a Mississippi College employee, Danny Rutland will always be a beloved member of the MC family."



"GROWING THE VISION" HITS \$50 MILLION

Launched in October of 2006, Mississippi College's "Growing the Vision" campaign to raise \$65 million has already reached the \$50 million mark. In remarks to MC's fall convocation, MC President Lee Royce announced the campaign's early success.

"Reaching the \$50 million mark less than one year after our launch is a significant accomplishment," Dr. Royce says. "I am very grateful to the MC family for showing its whole-hearted support for all we have accomplished and hope still to accomplish at Mississippi College. I am also very proud to be a part of a close-knit community that shares in a united vision and is committed to seeing that vision fulfilled."

Funds raised through "Growing the Vision" will support new construction and renovation, enhance academic programs, increase professorships, and grow the MC endowment.

Planned facility improvements include a new, \$3 million international center to serve as a hub for admissions and student services, counseling, and intensive instruction of English as a second language, and the construction of a new, \$3 million theatre to enhance the performing arts and replace a facility the school has outgrown.

Other funds will be used to continue an ongoing \$1.1 million makeover for Self Hall, home of the School of Business, where renovations include eight new classrooms,

improvements to the auditorium, and a financial services lab with a ticker streaming the latest news from Wall Street.

"Growing the Vision" will also enable MC to increase its number of faculty professorships and to grow its endowment, which currently stands at \$50.7 million.

The campaign is also providing a boost of about \$7 million for the School of Law in downtown Jackson, with about \$3.7 million raised so far. Improvements to date at the School of Law include an 18,000-square foot, \$2 million classroom addition and a \$1 million new student center.

Every goal encompassed in the "Growing the Vision" campaign is in keeping with the MC vision statement: "To be recognized as a university known for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ." The "Growing the Vision" logo features a pear, symbolic of a campaign to uplift Christian higher education and to bear fruit.

"We cannot fulfill our vision alone," Dr. Royce wrote in a letter to campaign friends. "For the vision to succeed, we must have your support, which is why, with John 15:8 on our hearts, we prayerfully launched the 'Growing the Vision' campaign."

"This is to my father's glory," that passage reads, "that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

DONORS TO MC ARE GROWING IN NUMBER AND

are becoming even more generous. New reports show the number of donors contributing \$1,000 or more climbed to 414 in 2007 — nearly double the 230 \$1,000-or-more donors in 2001.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SUPPORTING MC OR

help in planning your gift to the "Growing the Vision" campaign, please contact Thorne Butler at 601.925.7172 or tbutler@mc.edu.

Mississippi College with Pride

Mississippi College's history is detailed in a new book that traces the Christian university's roots in 1826 as Hampstead Academy, examines the upheaval of the Civil War era, and looks at the school's rapid growth during the early 21st century.

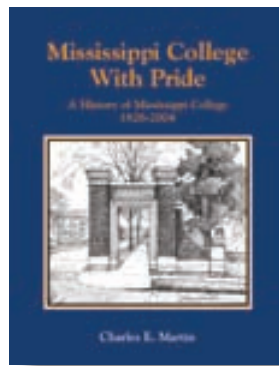
Mississippi College with Pride was penned by the late Dr. Charles E. Martin, who retired in 1996 after 38 years as an MC professor and administrator. Published by Quail Ridge Press in Brandon, the 273-page book will sell for \$25 and will be available for purchase at the university in mid-October.

Martin, whom admirers called the true epitome of a Christian scholar, died in July 2004. He left the book in draft form, with family members adding a few sentences to finish the work.

"This is Charles's book," said his widow, Anne Martin, an MC graduate who lives in Clinton. "This was his life."

Martin embarked on the project at his "retirement office" at the Leland Speed Library.

"I started digging into MC history without a clear plan for writing the book," Martin wrote in his notes, which are now part of the book's preface. "I just wanted to tell all I could,



with a focus on the human-interest view of that history."

A Mantee native and 1951 MC graduate, Martin lived through much of that history on the Clinton campus. He was a Spanish professor from 1957 to 1969, and from 1969 until 1996 served as vice president for academic affairs. The Martins' two daughters and son are MC graduates.

"This book has been crafted by an author who was a scrupulous researcher," says

Dr. Ron Howard, MC vice president of academic affairs. "Charles wanted alumni and friends to know more about MC and historians to understand the school's many contributions to education across the state and nation."

In addition to capturing the essence of the university in prose, *Mississippi College with Pride* includes 156 photos. Proceeds from sales of the book will go back to Mississippi College. About 3,000 copies will be printed and will be available through the MC campus bookstore.

Just in time for Christmas, Charles Martin's *Mississippi College with Pride* is a must-read for alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of MC.

Broadcasting Their Love for MC

THE HOLLIS AND JULIA TODD SCHOLARSHIP

Listeners to Star 93.5 were the first to hear the breaking news. Hollis and Julia Todd, late faculty members and co-founders of the campus radio station, had left the MC Department of Communications a gift of \$500,000 – the largest in the history of the department.

Station announcer Russ Brashear spoke of his deep respect and affection for the Todds, distinguished faculty leaders for decades in the MC Department of Communication. Brashear was a student under the Todds, who served at MC for a combined 60 years before retiring in the early 1980s. Radio station WHJT is named in their honor.

"The Todds gave me my first job in broadcasting, as the first announcer for this station back in 1975," Brashear said. "They took a chance on me, and, as a result, I've been able to enjoy a long career in communications. I know a lot of other students who benefited from their guidance and

have gone on to productive careers in this field. Their gift is in keeping with everything they've done for the Communications Department at MC."

"The Todds were at the heart of what this station is about," added Traci Maughon, current MC student and Star 93.5 station manager.

The generous gift from the Todds' estate will be used to create the Hollis and Julia Todd Scholarship for students in communication, drama, radio and television, and speech. Recipients will be eligible for half-tuition scholarships for all four years as undergraduates. The first four need-based scholarships will be awarded in fall 2008.

Andrew Jones, an MC graduate who represents the Todd estate, presented the donation to President Lee Royce, saying, "The scholarship this gift will fund is the fulfillment of the Todds' dream."

"I am touched by this generous gift, not only because of what it will mean to the department, but because I knew the Todds personally and know how they felt about MC," said Department of Communication Chair Cliff Fortenberry. "The Todds were like mentors, role models, and parents to me during my undergraduate years, as they were to so many students. Through this scholarship, their wonderful legacy will live on."

PUT YOUR GAME FACE ON

— MC FALL AND WINTER SPORTS —

Mississippi College sports fans should have plenty to cheer about this year with the Choctaws' basketball team shooting for their fourth consecutive "Sweet 16" trip. The MC men finished the 2006-2007 season with a 27-3 record, the second best in school history. Men's basketball coach Mike Jones is just the man to guide the team to another NCAA Division III post-season journey.

"Mike Jones is definitely well-respected across the country," says Robert Wilson, editor of *Victories in Metro Jackson* magazine. A summer issue of *Victories* featured a profile of Jones that not only applauded his outstanding coaching career, but also spotlighted his 18 years as a deacon and Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church in Clinton.

"Mike Jones has made a difference in hundreds of young people's lives," the *Victories* article reads. "He has been very successful as a basketball coach...but more than the wins, Jones has been a tremendous influence to his players."

Jones pulls double duty at MC; in his role as the college's athletic director, he's helped build one of the premier athletic programs in the American Southwest Conference and in NCAA Division III. Jones, a 1975 MC graduate, is entering his seventh year as athletic director. He's coached basketball for 19 years, piling up an impressive 427 victories. Off the court, Jones helped raise more than \$400,000 through the annual Billy Joe Cross Wild Game Dinner. This year's event will be Nov. 5 at B.C. Rogers Student Center. Special guest will be Jeff Brantley, former major league baseball pitcher (an All-Star in 1990) and All-American at Mississippi State, where he led the Bulldogs to the College World Series.

"Our athletic department at MC owes much of our success directly to the Wild Game Dinner," Jones said. "We are blessed to have the level of support we receive from our alumni and friends and look forward to another great year."

The men's upcoming hoops season tips off against Pensacola Christian in the friendly confines of A.E. Wood Coliseum on November 16, followed by a road contest against Concordia Texas in Austin on November 29.

Jones has an outstanding counterpart in MC Lady Choctaws coach Paul Allen Duke. Duke enters his 13th season at the helm with a winning percentage of nearly 74%, placing him among the best Division III coaches in America; his teams average more than 18 wins per season. The Lady Choctaws open the 2007-2008 season against rival Millsaps in Jackson November 17.

Of course, Choctaw sports hoopla isn't limited to basketball. The MC Choctaws' football team – survivors of a nail biting, against-all-odds, 27-26 comeback win against Millsaps in the season opening Backyard Brawl – is gearing up for a November match against Howard Payne. In early October, the new MC women's equestrian team made their debut against Sewanee in Tennessee. MC's men's and women's soccer teams, volleyball, and cross country squads are also looking for winning seasons this fall.



The 2006-2007 Men's Basketball Team



Men's Basketball Coach, Mike Jones



Women's Basketball Coach, Paul Allen Duke

Also notable in the MC sports world was the tenth anniversary of the Baptist Healthplex on the MC campus in Clinton October 8. The Healthplex hosted a number of activities to mark this milestone and to celebrate those members of the MC community who regularly work out, walk the indoor track, gather for civic meetings, or just relax with a cup of coffee in this first-class fitness facility.

Grab your pom-poms and head out to the games this fall and winter. Go Choctaws!



“Like all of the milestones reached during MC’s rich, 182-year history, the accomplishments we celebrate today are possible only through God’s help and the unceasing support, commitment, and prayers of our faculty, staff, alumni, students, and friends.”

— from the —
PRESIDENT

The job description of president of Mississippi College presents a wide spectrum of responsibilities. In the five years since June, 2002, I’ve had the privilege of meeting with MC supporters nationwide, the excitement of overseeing the launch of new academic programs and an ambitious capital campaign, and the dubious honor of evicting a raccoon from one of the men’s dormitories.

As I begin my sixth year at MC, the institution is blessed to be a growing Christian university with record-breaking enrollment, new academic programs, new and enhanced facilities, good financial health, and increased service initiatives from Mississippi to points around the globe. Our relationship with the Mississippi Baptist Convention remains strong. In addition to providing MC with financial support, the MBC has proved an invaluable partner in our recruiting efforts.

On a personal note, I have been moved by the depth of the relationships and the openness of the people at Mississippi College. MC is more than a school; it is a close-knit community. Many of the people who work here went to school here and grew up nearby, but as a newcomer, I can honestly say that MC is warm, welcoming, and open to anyone who wishes to become a part of all for which Mississippi College stands.

Like all of the milestones reached during MC’s rich, 182-year history, the accomplishments we celebrate today are possible only through God’s help and the unceasing support, commitment, and prayers of our faculty, staff, alumni, students, and friends.

I look forward to building on the achievements of the past five years and to working together to be known as a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ. When it comes to Mississippi College, I truly believe the best is yet to come.

Lee Royce



D
Snapshot
— DR. LEE ROYCE —

DR. LEE ROYCE BECAME PRESIDENT OF MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE ON JULY 1, 2002.

Dr. Royce came to MC from Anderson College in Anderson, South Carolina, where he served as president. Prior to assuming the leadership role at Anderson, Dr. Royce was vice president for university relations at Belmont University in Nashville. He holds a doctorate in higher education administration, a master’s degree in business management, and a bachelor’s degree in history from Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Royce and his wife, Rhoda Russell Royce, have been married for 32 years. Rhoda Royce is a former editor of *Open Windows* and other publications for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. A magna cum laude graduate of Belmont University with an M.A. from the University of South Carolina, Rhoda Royce is an

adjunct instructor of English and business communications at MC. The Royces’ 24-year-old son, Mark, is working on a master’s degree in international relations at American University in Washington, D.C., and working as an intern in Congressman Roger Wicker’s office.

In his spare time, Dr. Royce enjoys racquetball, gardening, lunch in the courtyard at the Old Capitol Inn, and travel, including exploring Mississippi’s small towns and hidden treasures.

“Calling on our alumni and supporters statewide, I’ve had the opportunity to visit most of the state of Mississippi,” Dr. Royce says. “Even as a native Southerner, I must confess that Mississippi in the summertime is hotter than I expected. But I must also add that Mississippi is by far the friendliest place I’ve ever lived.”

— ACADEMICS THAT ARE ANYTHING BUT TEXTBOOK —

Across the board, Mississippi College's academic programs enjoy an excellent reputation among potential employers and graduate and doctoral program admission officers nationwide. Over the past five years MC has built on that strong reputation, adding several new undergraduate and graduate programs and launching new programs geared toward non-traditional students.

EXPANDED UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Undergraduate and graduate programs added since 2002 include a major in kinesiology, a major in interdisciplinary international studies, a new education specialist degree program in elementary education, and a master of science in biology-medical sciences. Others new to MC include: a master of science in higher education administration, a master of science in athletic administration, and an MBA in finance. In 2005, MC became the only university in Mississippi and one of only four universities in the nation to offer a master's degree in dyslexia training therapy so educators can help children with learning disabilities.

PROGRAMS FOR NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS

In 2003, MC launched the Accelerated Degree Program for adult learners. This program offers twice-weekly evening classes in eight-week sessions, allowing adults to earn degrees in business management, accounting, marketing, and public relations while working full time. Accelerated Degree Program courses are offered not only on the MC main campus in Clinton, but also on satellite campuses at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, and in the former First Baptist Church building in Brandon. In Fall 2007, enrollment in the Accelerated Degree Program reached 407.

In 2002, MC was home to nine international students. As the result of a targeted International Program launched in 2004, today 330 international students from 24 countries are enrolled at MC. Most international students are drawn to the university by the strength of its 14 graduate

programs, and have contributed to its enrollment jump from 555 in 2002 to 1,016 in 2007. MC now operates a recruiting office in China.

In keeping with plans to serve non-traditional students, MC added an online master's degree in higher education administration. In January 2008, the Mississippi College School of Law will launch an executive degree program, a five-year course of study, rather than the traditional three years, geared toward professionals who wish to earn a law degree. MC will also begin offering its first research doctorate program, a doctoral degree in educational leadership, in 2008.

RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The quality of the MC academic program remains exceptional. *U.S. News & World Report* consistently ranks Mississippi College in the top tier of universities offering master's degrees. In 2007, MC ranked 20th in overall quality among the South's best universities at the master's degree level, up from 29th place in 2006 and sixth in best value for a master's degree in the South for the second consecutive year.

Among private universities not granting a doctoral degree, MC ranks in the top eight percent of such schools whose graduates go on to earn doctorates—a testimony to the strength of MC's undergraduate and graduate programs.

Mississippi College is a close-knit community of faith and learning, and the two points of emphasis harmonize one another. MC has made the Honor Roll of Character Building Institutions of the John Templeton Foundation for a decade.

Future academic plans include expanding non-traditional offerings, including the addition of more online courses; finding fresh ways to package existing programs for new types of students; and launching new undergraduate and graduate degrees that complement the vision of Mississippi College.

The university's excellent academic platform has already earned MC national respect. In the future, that reputation will only grow stronger.



Visionary Learning

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE MILESTONES / 2002-2007 / The accomplishments highlighted here are just a few of the many milestones Mississippi College celebrated over the last five years. Each represents another step toward achieving our vision — to be recognized as a university known for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ.

Dr. Lee Royce officially begins his service as Mississippi College's 19th president on July 1, 2002.

02-03

MC creates the new position of vice president for Christian development. Dr. Eric Pratt accepts the position and is charged with leading the campus to more fully develop its Christian life and witness.

02-03

MC launches an accelerated degree program for working adults. The new program offers degrees in business management, accounting, and marketing.

02-03

milestones



“Outstanding academics in an atmosphere of Christian caring have always set Mississippi College apart. The MC experience encourages students — whether they be undergraduates, graduates, international students, or adult learners — to grow academically and spiritually. That combination is producing tomorrow's leaders.”

DR. DEBBIE NORRIS, *Vice President for Planning and Assessment and Graduate Dean*

— AN INTENTIONAL FOCUS ON CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT —

Visionary
Faith

Over the past five years, Mississippi College has greatly enhanced its Christian development program, adding full-time staff positions and expanding campus ministries and community service initiatives.

Perhaps the most critical development was the creation of the new position of vice president for Christian development in 2002. Establishing a position focused solely on further developing the MC Christian community has resulted in a more intentional approach to maintaining and enhancing MC's commitment to the cause of Christ.

ENERGIZING THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

The results of that intentionality have been nothing short of amazing. Over the past five years, MC has recorded 278 professions of faith in Christ.

Time that students volunteered for community service and missions increased dramatically, jumping from 2,000 hours in 2002 to more than 40,000 hours in 2007. In fact, through gifts and grants, the Office of Christian Development has created a director of community service position to help coordinate student service projects.

The Office of Christian Development also added a staff position to work specifically with the 330 international students at MC. The university launched two new campus ministries – the Upper Room Campus Fellowship, a ministry outreach to Pentecostals, and Glorify God, a ministry outreach to African Americans.

The enhanced focus on Christian development doesn't stop with students. MC faculty and staff are offered three hours off each month to participate in community service projects and can take part in university-related mission trips for up to five days without dipping into their vacation time.

TAKING THE GOOD NEWS WORLDWIDE

MC students continue to be involved with mission projects worldwide. Since 2002, the MC Baptist Student Union has sent more than 200 students to mission fields in Belarus, Burkina Faso, China, Honduras, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Wales, and various locations within the United States.

In recent years, many of our students chose to continue pursuing mission work after graduation. In the 2006 International Mission Board's listing of the top 25 schools from which missionaries graduated and are currently under appointment, MC ranked fourth nationwide.

HOSTING LIFEWAY SUMMER CAMPS

MC has become the premier national host site for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual Centrifuge, CentriKid, and Super Summer camps. Attendance at the camps has soared from 4,146 children through teens in 2002 to almost 9,000 young people in 2007. Attracting students from more than 350 churches in 14 states, the camps saw 684 professions of faith, 2,717 rededications, and 267 commitments to ministry and missions over the past five years.

Campers and their adult supervisors have the opportunity to visit the MC campus and experience first-hand the people and atmosphere that set the university apart. The campers also give back to the Clinton and Jackson communities, serving in soup kitchens, shelters, and churches and helping build homes for needy families in the area.

PARTNERING WITH THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

MC continues to enjoy a strong relationship with the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) and the more than 2,000 churches that belong to the MBC. In addition to providing MC with financial support, the MBC has proved an invaluable partner in our recruiting efforts; more than 50 percent of MC students are Baptists. All of MC's trustees are approved by the MBC.

Of course, the creation of a specific position or office doesn't mean that Christian development at MC is limited to a single entity. Instead, it's a process that touches every program, every department, and every person at MC. Following Christ is an intimate and personal journey. Mississippi College cannot tell students, faculty, or staff exactly what to do, but we can expose them to more opportunities to understand and follow Him.



“Mississippi College has always had a strong Christian heritage and a deep commitment to the cause of Christ — that’s never been a question. But there was no central person or office responsible for maintaining and enhancing that commitment. Now we have an intentionality about Christian development at MC that’s making a difference on our campus and beyond.” — DR. ERIC PRATT, *Vice President for Christian Development*

milestones

The \$6 million building campaign for the Mississippi College School of Law (MCSOL) launches with a \$500,000 gift. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice speaks at the MCSOL graduation. Col. James H. Rosenblatt is named dean of the MCSOL.

02–03

The inauguration of Mississippi College President Dr. Lee Royce is held on Friday, March 21, 2003.

02–03

The Mississippi College Foundation is established to enhance ongoing giving to the university.

03–04



— LEADERSHIP —
IN THE CLASSROOM
AND IN THE
WORLD BEYOND

Teaching

Visionary

Many outstanding men and women have been called to teach at Mississippi College and have been recognized not only as exceptional instructors, but also as outstanding professionals in their fields. These talented scholars, performers, and leaders could pursue any number of career opportunities. They choose to teach at MC because they share a passion for their students and a belief that their highest calling is to the classroom.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. James Sclater has received the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers Award, an award recognizing the prestigious value of a composer's catalog and number of compositions, for 15 consecutive years. Dr. James Meaders, chair of the music department, was chosen to be guest conductor by Mid-America Productions of New York City for their Carnegie Hall series.

Dr. Bill Stark became the second American in history to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Lifelong Work and Contributions to Plecopterology, the study of the stonefly.

Dr. Marcelo Eduardo, dean and professor of the School of Business, has been recognized over the past four years by

leading business education professional organizations. The dean received "Best Paper" honors in each case. Recognition for two of the papers also goes to business colleagues Dr. Lloyd Roberts and Dr. Bryan Hayes, who share co-author honors with Eduardo.

The Mississippi Legislature presented Dr. Gerald Lee, an MC professor of business and director of the university MBA program, with its Working for Academic Excellence Award.

Dr. Steve Glaze, a professor in the art department, was awarded the commission for a B. B. King sculpture by the city of Indianola for the art work saluting the blues legend, and Mike Hataway, a professor in the art department and the university's graphic design coordinator, was named Who's Who Among American Teachers and Educators for the seventh time. Dr. Randy Miley, professor and chair of the art department, was chosen as the 2005 Art Educator of the Year by the Mississippi Art Education Association. Miley also received a national award of excellence for his work as a newsletter designer and editor for the Mississippi Art Education Association.

Professor emeritus and retired chair of the biology department Dr. Prentiss Cox received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mississippi Science Teachers Association.

Dr. David Magers, professor of chemistry/biochemistry, was named Mississippi's 2003 Chemist of the Year.

Dr. Beth Dunigan, assistant professor of biology, was selected for Who's Who Among American Teachers and received the 2006 Outstanding College Science Teacher Award presented by the Mississippi Science Teachers' Association. The same organization named Dr. John Hunt, associate professor of education, the Higher Education Science Teacher of the Year.

Mississippi College School of Law Dean James H. Rosenblatt received the 2006 Chief Justice Award at the annual Mississippi Bar Convention. The award recognizes people whose work improves the judicial system.

Professor Michael McCann, assistant professor of law, is writing a monthly online column at Sports Illustrated.com.

Many of our Mississippi College School of Law professors have contributed articles to law review journals nationwide; several contributed chapters to the *Encyclopedia of Mississippi Law*.

These are but a few examples of the individual achievements of our talented faculty. Collectively, these gifted men and women are responsible for the excellent reputation Mississippi College enjoys in academic programs across the board.

SUPPORT FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Mississippi College supports the ongoing professional development of its faculty, and commits significant funds toward faculty research and continuing education programs. Funds are available for research trips, professional meetings, reference materials, and other programs that allow our faculty to remain up-to-date on the latest technologies and developments in their areas of specialty and to bring that knowledge into the classroom. Money invested by MC in faculty development has increased by more than 10 times as much as 2002.

A portion of the funds raised through the \$65 million Growing the Vision campaign is earmarked for faculty professorships, which will enable MC to continue to attract and retain the top instructors in their fields.

A university is only as strong as its faculty. MC is blessed to have such strong leadership in the classrooms and has made a commitment to provide instructors the tools that will help them grow not only in their own fields of study, but as role models for the students they teach.



"From our undergraduate programs to our law school, Mississippi College is fortunate to have talented, dedicated faculty whose primary concern is teaching students and assisting their learning. That being said, many of our professors are world-class scholars, widely recognized artists, and musical performers, and they are very much engaged in professional and civic organizations." — DR. RON HOWARD, Vice President of Academic Affairs

milestones

Jim Brackenridge is hired as MC's first executive director of international programs. MC establishes an international center.

03-04

The College of Arts & Sciences is restructured into three separate schools, each with its own dean. The three new schools include Christian studies and the arts, humanities and social sciences, and science and mathematics.

03-04

Graduate student enrollment for the fall of 2004 reaches 711, the largest graduate school enrollment since 1999.

03-04

An electronic link is added to the MC Web site allowing online applications and electronic downloads to the main admission software.

03-04

MC launches a recruitment program for international students.

04-05

MC establishes a north campus at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, Mississippi, to host accelerated degree program classes.

04-05

With the establishment of the master's degree in education in dyslexia training therapy, MC joins only four other universities in the nation offering a graduate degree in dyslexia training therapy.

04-05

milestones

All departments begin implementing tutorial labs for students who need assistance. The goal is to establish a campus-wide tutorial system over the next two years.

04-05

The number of mission trips organized and sponsored by the university increases by 15%. There is a 7% increase in student mission/ministry involvement.

04-05

The Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board honors MC for its number of student missionaries mobilized during 2005. MC ranks #4 in the nation.

05-06

LEFT TO RIGHT CLOCKWISE:
 Nelson Hall, the focal point of the MC campus
 The graceful architecture of Alumni Hall
 The Todd Memorial near Alumni Hall
 Lowery Hall, home to the School of Education
 The tree-shaded MC campus
 Dr. Stan Baldwin, dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, and Dr. Lee Royce



The tribal council of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians passes a resolution supporting Mississippi College's use of the name "Choctaw" and related symbols. Following an NCAA ruling in the university's favor in February 2006, Dr. Lee Royce says, "Mississippi College is honored to continue to be known as the Choctaws."

05-06

Mississippi College opens the Dyslexia Training and Education Center to identify children who need dyslexia training therapy. The School of Education's master's degree program in dyslexia therapy receives AA Licensure, becoming one of the first programs in the country to receive this accreditation.

05-06

milestones

Dr. Sam Gore's life-sized statue "Servant Savior," which depicts Jesus washing the feet of a disciple, is installed in the quad.

05-06

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi College students coordinate supply drives and travel to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to work. Thirty-eight students displaced by Katrina enroll at MC; 20 MC students lose their homes to the hurricane.

05-06

The new James E. Parkman Track and Robert P. Longabaugh soccer field are unveiled and a new, synthetic playing surface is installed in Robinson-Hale Stadium.

05-06

— THE VISION EXEMPLIFIED IN OUR STUDENTS —



Visionary

Achievers

Mississippi College has 11 international programs located in Austria, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Korea, Mexico, Spain, and the UK, with the newest, Costa Rica, added this fall.

06-07

The Office of Christian Development conducts four trips to the Mississippi Gulf Coast during which students, faculty, and staff provide relief assistance. MC alums give \$135,000 for Hurricane Katrina relief assistance for students affected by the hurricane.

06-07

Renovations to the Alumni Conference Center and Jean Pittman Williams Recital Hall are completed.

06-07

milestones

Mississippi College's students consistently achieve excellence in the classroom, on the athletic field, and in the community. Over the past five years, our students have been recognized at the state, regional, and national levels for their outstanding accomplishments in many arenas.

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Rebekah Staples, a 2007 MC graduate, is the reigning Miss Mississippi Hospitality and Governor Haley Barbour's deputy press secretary. The 21-year-old Laurel native graduated summa cum laude with a major in French and minor in political science.

Jacob Graham, also a 2007 MC graduate, scored a 42 on the MCAT, the medical college admission test, to rank in the 99th percentile in the nation. Jacob's 42 was the highest score ever achieved on the MCAT by an MC student. He's now a first-year student at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.

As a student at MC, Jalin Wood was known as the campus "chemistry nerd." Today Jalin is better known as a summa cum laude graduate and as Miss Mississippi 2004. Also key to Jalin's chemistry is a heart for young people. She was a spokesperson for Students Against Destructive Decisions for Pontotoc County and executive director of the group for Wayne County. Her goal, she says, was "to show teens they have the power to make good choices."

USA Today recognized 18-year-old MC freshman Kimberly Phares for her contributions to Habitat for Humanity and her academic accomplishments while she was still a high school student in Alabama. Kimberly started a Habitat club and helped raise \$100,000 to build homes for two needy families in her home state—all before earning her high school diploma. A nursing major, Kimberly is now active with the MC Habitat chapter.

Lacey Kennedy became the American Southwest Conference's career leading basketball scorer during the 2006 season, racking up more than 1,700 points. This Lady Choctaw also excelled in the classroom, earning not only Fourth Team All-America honors on the court, but also Second Team Academic All-America honors.

Joey Smith '06 works as special assistant and personal aide to Dirk Kempthorne, U.S. Secretary of the Interior. While still a political science major at MC, Joey served as a White House intern. During his five months with

the White House, Joey traveled the globe, with stops in New Delhi, India; Saint Petersburg, Russia; and Beijing, China. His current position with the Department of the Interior sent the 23-year-old to Guam and Midway Island in June.

Karen Ray, a 2004 cum laude graduate in business administration, is the new executive director of the Republican Party of Arkansas. Prior to accepting the leadership position in Little Rock, she worked in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. Karen was active in student government during her years at MC and is a former Miss Mississippi College.

Other recent graduates include WLBT-TV 3 reporter and weekend morning anchor Cheryl Lasseter, and Choctaws baseball players Bo Edmiston, who was drafted by the Houston Astros in 2003, and Derek Tillman, who was selected by the Florida Marlins in 2004. Al Winsley brought national recognition to MC last year when he was named Division III National Field Athlete of the Year, competing in the high jump, long jump, and triple jump.

COLLECTIVE SUCCESS STORIES

Over the past five years, 77 MC graduates have been accepted to medical school. Graduates of MC's Kinesiology Department have earned a 100 percent acceptance rate to physical therapy programs. In December 2006, the NCLEX (National Council of Licensure Examination) pass rate for MC nursing graduates was 100 percent.

Graduates of MC's teacher education programs have posted a 97 percent passage rate on state licensure exams for the past two years.

The Mississippi College School of Law (MCSOL) won the inaugural Mississippi Trial Competition in 2007. In the 2007 American Bar Association Appellate Advocacy Competition, MCSOL was honored as regional champion, and its team supplied the third best brief in the nation.

As MC gains recognition as a university known for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ, the greatest measure of our success is the exceptional lives of our students. Whether they excel in the courtroom, on stage, in the operating room, on the playing field, at the pulpit, or in any other venue, their achievements, service to others, and their exemplary lives is the fulfillment of the Mississippi College vision.



"MC combines strong academics with a Christian commitment to our students that not only trains them for a successful career, but also equips them for a successful life. I think that balance is the reason we see so many success stories in our students and our alumni." — DR. JIM TURCOTTE, *Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs*



Visionary Campus

— THE VISION WRITTEN IN MORTAR AND BRICK —

A campus that prepares our students to be capable, Christian leaders is critical to fulfilling the Mississippi College vision. Over the past five years, the MC campus has seen impressive new construction as well as many improvements to existing buildings.

The spacious Samuel Marshall Gore Art Galleries opened to the public in 2007, showcasing the Mississippi College permanent collection and creating new space for visiting exhibitions. The galleries also offer an impressive facility in which to display student and faculty work.

The 48-year-old Jean Pittman Williams Recital Hall was completely renovated. With raked theatre seating, high-tech lighting, and three grand pianos, the recital hall is the ideal venue for musical performances.

Improvements to Robinson-Hale Stadium in 2005 included a state-of-the-art synthetic playing surface and the addition of the eight-lane Dr. James E. Parkman Track. A powerful recruiting tool, the new track is one of the top facilities of its kind in the region.

The renovation of the Ray and Betty Hannah Food Court improved the atmosphere, seating capacity, and traffic flow of this vital area, making the food court a popular gathering place and enhancing MC's sense of community. The university also added two new restaurants—Jazzman's, a coffee, pastry, and sandwich shop located on the lower level of the B.C. Rogers Student Center, and Hampstead's Sky Ranch Grill, a casual dining restaurant located on the upper level of the Healthplex.

Mississippi College's School of Business is in the midst of a \$1.1 million renovation of Self Hall, the most ambitious makeover in the building's 45-year history. In addition to a new foyer, corridors, and enhanced lighting, eight classrooms will be modernized to include stadium seating and cutting-edge presentation technology – all part of the J.L. Holloway Business and Technology Center. Perhaps the most exciting enhancement is the addition of a financial services lab, which will feature a ticker streaming up-to-the-minute news from foreign exchange and stock markets.

Phase two of the renovation is almost complete; the third and final phase is expected to be complete by summer of 2008.

Renovations to the third floor of Alumni Hall created a new meeting and gathering facility for alumni with the Cross Board room and Dowdle Reception room, while renovations to the business office in Nelson Hall will allow students to pay bills, request transcripts, and take care of other school-related business in a one-stop, student-friendly location.

MC is also taking steps to enhance campus security. In the event of a crisis, a new system will alert students and faculty via cell phone, e-mails, and warning sirens.

The Mississippi College School of Law in downtown Jackson has undergone a complete transformation, includ-

ing the addition of a 10,000-square-foot student and conference center and an 18,000-square foot classroom building, and the renovation of the administration building.

More facility enhancements are in the planning stages. The \$65 million Growing the Vision campaign includes plans for the construction of a \$3 million International Center and a \$3 million theatre for the performing arts.

A strong infrastructure and an attractive campus are key to recruiting and retaining students, faculty, and staff at MC. Improvements to our campus not only support our academic programs, but also enhance the MC sense of community. Our campus is an appealing, physical symbol of all for which MC stands.



“Maintaining state-of-the-art facilities is an important component of academic excellence. Whether it’s a recital hall or a classroom, an excellent venue enhances the learning experience. Students tend to feel more inspired when they’re proud of and feel complemented by their facilities.” — DR. STEVE STANFORD, *Vice President for Administration and Government Relations*

Coached by Mike Jones, the MC men's basketball team plays in the NCAA's "Sweet 16" for the third consecutive year. The team achieves the highest regular season ranking in MC history, reaching #3 in the nation in the NCAA Division III. The women's softball team achieves its first national ranking in MC history, ranking #16 in the AFCA Division III poll.

06-07

MC launches a \$65 million, comprehensive capital campaign. Funds generated through the "Growing the Vision" campaign will support academic programs and scholarships, increase faculty professorships and endowment, and support new construction and renovation.

06-07

The Samuel Marshall Gore Galleries open to the public in April 2007. Salvador Dali, Marc Chagall, and Rembrandt are among the international artists represented in our permanent collection, as well as Mississippi artists including Walter Anderson, William Dunlap, and Tracy Sugg.

06-07

The Ray E. and Betty Hannah Food Court is renovated and two new restaurants, Jazzman's and the Sky Ranch Grill, open on the MC campus.

06-07

MC launches an online master's degree in higher education administration.

07-Present

milestones

Visionary

Stewardship



“Having sufficient resources means we’re able to hire the highest caliber staff and faculty, maintain and enhance our campus, provide the best possible learning resources, and support a variety of student activities. Our big picture vision is in place. Good stewardship is the key to making it a reality.”
— DONNA LEWIS, *Chief Financial Officer*

— KEEPING THE VISION IN THE BLACK —

Mississippi College is in good financial health, which positively impacts every aspect of the university’s operation.

More than half of MC’s operating revenue comes from tuition. Over the past five years, MC has significantly increased its enrollment without a major increase in institutional scholarships. The increase in enrollment came primarily from non-traditional students, including adult learners in the Accelerated Degree Program and international students. These groups of students typically do not rely as heavily on scholarships as traditional undergraduates.

From 2002-2007, MC’s overall enrollment increased by 1,300 students. That total includes 600 additional traditional undergraduate students, with 250 more students living on campus today than in 2002. In fact, on-campus housing at MC is filled to capacity.

MC has also experienced a dramatic increase in donor

giving. In recent years the number of donors giving \$1,000 or more has nearly doubled, jumping from 230 in 2001 to a record 414 in 2007. The past five years saw a steady increase in the value of the Mississippi College endowment, which grew from \$33 million in 2002 to more than \$50 million in 2007. Future returns from the endowment will allow the university to reduce its dependence on tuition revenues. MC’s relationship with the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) remains strong, with the MBC Board contributing more than \$3 million to the university in 2007.

Since 2002, MC’s overall debt has been reduced by almost 59 percent—a significant milestone in the long-term financial viability of the university.

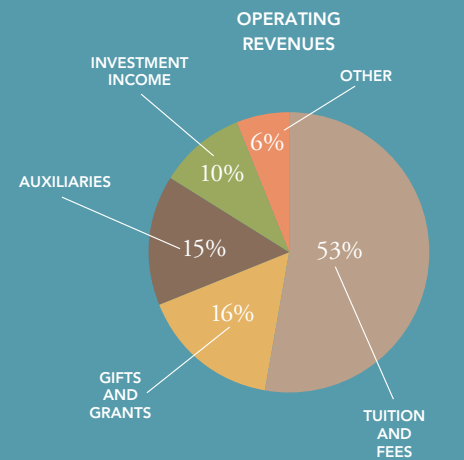
As a Christian university, we see our financial health not only in terms of the bottom line, but also in the larger context of being good stewards of all that God has given us.



“The MC community has been very generous in its giving over the past five years. We are very grateful to alumni, friends, and other supporters who not only share in our vision for MC, but have made personal sacrifices in order to see that vision fulfilled. I am proud to have been a part of such a generous community.”
— DANNY RUTLAND, *Former Vice President for Advancement*



As a Christian university, we see our financial health not only in terms of the bottom line, but also in the larger context of being good stewards of all that God has given us.



Mississippi College breaks enrollment records every academic year since 2002. MC is currently home to 4,520 students, up from 3,227 in 2002.

07–Present

MC establishes a campus in Brandon in the former First Baptist Church building to provide classes in the accelerated degree program.

07–Present

Based at Providence Hill Farm near Clinton, MC’s new women’s equestrian team competes in its first intercollegiate event in October.

07–Present

milestones

MC announces plans to launch a new doctorate program in educational leadership in January.

07–Present

The Mississippi College School of Law announces the January 2008 launch of an executive degree program, a five-year course of study geared toward professionals who wish to earn a law degree.

07–Present

In 2002, MC was home to nine international students. As the result of a targeted International Program launched in 2004, today some 330 students from 24 countries are enrolled at MC.

07–Present



Visionary

Recruiting

— ENROLLMENT THAT'S BREAKING ALL THE RECORDS —

Mississippi College has broken enrollment records every academic year since 2002. MC is currently home to 4,520 students, up from 3,227 in 2002.

With the launch of the Accelerated Degree Program and the International program, the MC student body has not only grown, but has added new demographic groups. In addition

to fresh-from-high-school undergraduates, MC's enrollment now includes working adults, international students from 24 countries, and the highest number of graduate students in the college's history. Enrollment by freshmen and transfer students has also increased, and enrollment in the Mississippi College School of Law is at an all-time high.



"The growth in our enrollment is especially impressive for a private university operating in a lightly-populated state with eight public universities and a strong system of community colleges. A limited number of applicants and a wide choice of many institutions make growing enrollment in our situation a significant challenge. MC has met that challenge not only by recruiting higher numbers of traditional students, but also by creating new programs for different types of learners. This kind of outside-the-box thinking has led to record-breaking enrollment." — DR. JIM TURCOTTE, *Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs*

TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY YEAR

02-03	03-04	04-05
3,227	3,406	3,553
05-06	06-07	07-08*
3,907	4,038**	4,456**

*Enrollment at beginning of term. **Enrollment information captured on October 15, except for 2007-08, which was captured at beginning of term. Beginning in 2006-07, IEP students no longer counted in official enrollment numbers because of federal reporting standards. 2006-07 IEP enrollment: 86. 2007-08 enrollment: 64.

TOTAL ENROLLMENT BY NUMBER / PERCENTAGE OF UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE, AND ACCELERATED DEGREE PROGRAM STUDENTS

Fall	02	03	04	05	06*	07*
ALL UNDERGRAD	2269	2367	2387	2555	2632	2905
% OF ENROLLMENT	70%	69%	67%	65%	65%	65%
ALL GRADUATES	555	612	711	857	878	1016
% OF ENROLLMENT	17%	18%	20%	22%	22%	23%
ALL LAW	376	427	455	495	528	535
% OF ENROLLMENT	12%	13%	13%	13%	13%	12%
TOTAL	3227	3406	3553	3907	4038	4456
ADP	0	81	187	289	371	407
% OF ENROLLMENT	0%	2%	5%	7%	9%	9%
IEP					86	64**

*IEP (Intensive English Program) students not counted in official enrollment in 2006-07; 2007-08. **Number is low, all IEP students had not registered on time.

TOTAL ENROLLMENT BY NUMBER / PERCENTAGE OF FRESHMAN STUDENTS

Fall	02	03	04	05	06	07
FIRST-TIME FRESHMAN	412	425	360	395	453	542
% OF ENROLLMENT	13%	12%	10%	10%	11%	12%

TOTAL ENROLLMENT BY NUMBER / PERCENTAGE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Fall	02	03	04	05	06*	07*
INTERNATIONALS	9	17	6	98	153	266
% OF ENROLLMENT	1%	1%	1%	3%	4%	6%
IEP					86	64**

*IEP (Intensive English Program) students not counted in official enrollment in 2006-07; 2007-08. **Number is low, all IEP students had not registered on time.

TOTAL ENROLLMENT BY NUMBER / PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS LIVING ON CAMPUS / COMMUTER STUDENTS

Fall	02	03	04	05	06	07
ON-CAMPUS	1463	1517	1455	1531	1568	1646
ON-CAMPUS %	65%	65%	61%	60%	59%	56%
OFF-CAMPUS	778	826	930	1007	1104	1294
OFF-CAMPUS %	35%	35%	39%	40%	41%	44%

Undergraduate Only. IEP included.

MC is currently home to 4,520 students, up from 3,227 in 2002.

Since 2002, MC's overall debt has been reduced by almost 59% — a significant milestone in the long-term financial viability of the university.

07–Present

MC continues to serve as the premier national host site for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual Centrifuge, CentriKid, and Super Summer camps. Attendance at the camps soars from 4,146 students in 2002 to 9,000 students in 2007. Campers come from 355 churches in 14 states.

07–Present

Since 2002, MC has seen 278 professions of faith in Christ.

07–Present



| FACULTY PROFILE |

FROM TORTS TO SPORTS

AT COURTSIDE OR IN THE COURTROOM, MICHAEL MCCANN IS A MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Michael McCann is discussing the finer points of a case as the TV cameras roll. The pace is fast and the pressure is on, but McCann, an assistant professor at the Mississippi College School of Law, knows his topic well. The last question is the biggie – a tough query that demands McCann put aside his legal training and go with his gut. The interviewer leans in for the kill. “Michael,” he says. “What do you think about those Celtics?”

Michael McCann turned his passion for sports into his legal specialty and in the process, has built a career that’s part Atticus Finch, part Jerry Maguire, with a little Bob Costas on the sideline. An expert in sports and entertainment law, McCann is often asked by the media to comment on high-profile issues – but instead of Court TV, viewers are likely to find McCann on ESPN.

“I’ve had a strong interest in sports since I was a kid,”

McCann says. “Sports law just seemed to click with me more than any other area of the law.”

McCann began law school at the University of Virginia School of Law in 1999, the same year the school launched a new law review devoted to sports law. When he was asked to join the *Virginia Journal of Sports and the Law*, McCann knew he’d found his niche. He was also encouraged to pursue the legal specialty by his sports law class instructor, Donald Dell, the former agent for basketball superstar Michael Jordan.

“Professor McCann can make any topic relevant and intriguing – two hours in his class seems like 20 minutes. But even more important, he has a sincere concern for our professional and personal development.” — CAROLYN GRAMLICH

McCann received the highest grade in the class, and by the end of his second year of law school, had been made editor-in-chief of the law review. Following his 2002 graduation, McCann joined a Boston law firm as an associate, soon moved to another Boston firm as a partner, and went on to earn his LL.M. from Harvard Law School, where he received the highest grade in Harvard Law School’s sports law class.

But it was a 2004 law review article titled “Illegal Defense: the Irrational Economics of Banning High School Players from the NBA Draft” that put McCann on the sports law A-Team. The article revolved around the National Basketball Association’s (NBA) policy against drafting players directly out of high school.

“Illegal Defense” argued there should be no minimum age limit for player eligibility. McCann cited data proving that players who skip college and matriculate directly to the NBA were, as a group, the NBA’s best players in terms of average points, rebounds, and assists. McCann’s article also appealed to fairness, pointing out that the NBA and National Football League (NFL) were the only two major sports organizations that prohibited players from entering immediately after high school. Major League Baseball, the National Hockey League, NASCAR, and professional tennis and golf had no such rules; neither did professional acting, theatre, nor music, not to mention the U.S. armed forces.

“And yet, basketball players must first play in college and make tons of money for the NCAA, universities, coaches, and sneaker companies,” McCann argued, “pretty much everyone except the players themselves.”

This position came to be known as “the McCann Theory,” and it thrust its author into the national spotlight. “Illegal Defense” was discussed widely by members of the media with NBA Commissioner David Stern and with representatives of the National Basketball Players’ Association, and was studied by sports agencies representing NBA players. When a writer from the Associated Press referenced the article in a national column, McCann woke up to phone calls and e-mails from around the country.

Less than three years out of law school, McCann was recognized as a sports law expert, and was interviewed in

dozens of newspapers and magazines and on national sports radio and TV programs, including Bob Costas’ HBO show, *Costas Now*.

“Illegal Defense” also led to McCann’s involvement in a high-profile sports law case. When running back Maurice Clarett brought suit against the NFL and its age eligibility rule, Clarett’s lead attorney invited McCann to join the legal team.

“I never imagined anything like that happening when I was in law school,” McCann recalls. “I just wanted to get good grades and get a job.”

In 2005, McCann left private practice to join the Mississippi College School of Law (MCSOL), where he teaches courses on today’s hottest legal topics, including health-care, immigration, food and drug law, and sports and entertainment law. McCann also serves as a faculty sponsor for the MCSOL Sports and Entertainment Law Society. Through his many connections in the industry, McCann has brought notable speakers to the MCSOL campus, including Alan Millstein, attorney for NBA star Allen Iverson, prominent sports agents, and other major players in the world of professional sports.

“We are truly fortunate to have Michael McCann,” says Amos Maley, third year law student and Sports and Entertainment Law Society president. “Every time he appears on ESPN or MSNBC to discuss a sports law issue, the law school gets nationwide attention. His notoriety has attracted students to our school specifically interested in sports law.”

“Professor McCann is known and respected nationwide as a great legal mind in the area of sports law,” third year law student Diandra Hosey agrees. “This is an area of the law that is becoming more and more popular and intriguing to the public, and Professor McCann’s insight on controversial issues in the area is highly sought after. His presence here contributes to the recognition of our law school.”

In addition to his position as a professor, McCann maintains a working relationship with Harvard University. McCann teamed with Harvard Law School Professor Jon Hanson to co-find the Project on Law and Mind Sciences at Harvard, which focuses on the connection between psychology and legal theory. McCann and Hanson are currently co-authoring

a number of works, including a book titled *Situationist Sports* that explores the link between sports psychology and the law.

McCann continues to appear in the national media as a sports law expert. He is a regular contributor to the popular Sports Law Blog on blogspot.com, and writes a monthly online column on sports law for *Sports Illustrated*.

“I would concede that sports law typically doesn’t address the big issues of the day,” McCann says. “You probably won’t see a sports lawyer talking about the Iraq war, or some topic that might be raised in a presidential debate. Then again, sports law can delve into topics that are debated by lawmakers. For instance, I recently published a law review article that addresses how sports law has changed in light of terrorism threats to stadiums.

“Moreover, I find it revealing that so many Americans care so passionately about sports. I think whether people care deeply about a topic is a revealing sign of that topic’s importance.”

McCann’s students definitely find his work meaningful. In 2006 and 2007, his students honored McCann with the Mississippi College School of Law Professor of the Year Award for First Year Courses, and in 2007, also voted him Professor of the Year.

“I never thought I would view sports or issues that arise from sports with an analytical mind,” Diandra Hosey says. “Prior to taking Professor McCann’s class, I took happenings in sports at face value. Today, when I listen to the commentators on ESPN, I listen not only from a sports standpoint, but also from a legal standpoint.”

But while his subject matter is interesting, most of his students point to McCann’s teaching style and genuine concern for them as the qualities that make him an outstanding teacher.

“Professor McCann is a master at teaching,” says third year student Ke Yuan. “He demonstrates a graceful, professional manner that makes students desire to copy him – I am one of those copycats. He puts effort into bringing real knowledge into the classroom, telling us real life stories outside of the casebooks and inviting carefully selected guest speakers to our classes. He is a wonderful asset to the students and to the school. The law school would not be the same without him.”

“Professor McCann can make any topic relevant and intriguing – two hours in his class seems like 20 minutes,” student Carolyn Gramlich agrees. “But even more importantly, he has a sincere concern for our professional and personal development. He does his best to provide opportunities for us not only to survive law school, but also to prosper and to be successful. My life is richer because of his influence.”

Despite his success in private practice and in the media spotlight, McCann points to teaching as a career highlight.

“I think being a law professor is the best job around,

especially at a school like MC’s law school,” McCann says. “If I were to go back into private practice at some point, it would probably be as a consultant to sports litigation. I can’t foresee giving up my teaching gig.”

That’s winning news for MCSOL. For as any of his students would gladly testify, in Michael McCann’s case, “MVP” stands for Most Valuable Professor. 🏆

MICHAEL MCCANN'S CAREER STATS

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Law, Mississippi College School of Law (2005-present)

Legal Counsel, U.S. Congressman Marty Meehan (2004-2006)

Visiting Scholar/Researcher, Harvard Law School (2004)

Counsel to Maurice Clarett (Clarett vs. NFL, 2004)

Partner, Paragon Law Group, Boston (2003-2004)

Associate, Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault, Boston (2002-2003)

Hardy Cross Dillard Fellow, University of Virginia School of Law (2000-2001)

EDUCATION

LL.M. Harvard Law School (2005)

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law (2002)

Editor-in-Chief, Virginia Sports and Entertainment Law Journal

B.A., Georgetown University (1998)
Magna Cum Laude

TEACHING AWARDS

2006-2007 Professor of the Year (voted on by all MCSOL students)

2006-2007 Professor of the Year Award for First year Courses (voted on by first year MCSOL students)

2005-2006 Professor of the Year Award for First year Courses (voted on by first year MCSOL students)

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

Co-founder, The Harvard Law School Project on Law and Mind Sciences

Chair-Elect, Association of American Law Schools’ Section on Sports and the Law

Executive Board Member, College Sport Research Institute

Columnist, SportsIllustrated.com (SI.com)

Co-founder and Contributor, The Situationist

Contributor, Sports Law Blog

Diehard fan of the Boston Celtics, New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox, and of course, the Mississippi College Choctaws

JOINING A SPORTS LAW TEAM A student specializing in sports law might become an agent (think Jerry Maguire), a sports litigator (McCann’s specialty when he practiced law), or a compliance officer at a college, or could pursue a number of other sports law-related careers. McCann’s advice for students interested in sports law includes more than just which classes to take. “A basic understanding of sports business and sports marketing is helpful,” he says. “In terms of personality traits, humility and patience are invaluable, since breaking into sports law often entails many rejections and a long wait. Like sports, sports law is competitive. The best jobs are often hard to get.”

Believing *in* Miracle

| STUDENT PROFILE |

A gift for music, a scholarship from
LifeShare, and an unwavering faith in God bring Miracle Buckley
to Mississippi College

Pearl Buckley was four months pregnant when she heard the voice of God.

"I was standing on the steps of my church," Pearl recalls, "and I heard Him say, 'name the baby Miracle.'"

But when Pearl and Clevie Buckley's baby girl arrived on April 6, 1989, it looked as though she would need a miracle just to survive. Miracle Buckley was born with a rare condition called sacral agenesis, a deformity of the spine. The tiny newborn was missing vertebrae and ribs, her nerves were impaired, and her non-functioning legs were webbed together. Doctors predicted a future filled with unbearable pain and overwhelming limitations.

But Miracle lived up to her name. Today, 18 years later, she is a gifted pianist, a multiple scholarship recipient, and a confident freshman at Mississippi College.

"I had always loved the environment and the people at Mississippi College," Miracle says. "I was determined to go to school here. I just had to find a way to make it happen."

"Making it happen" has been the story of Miracle's life.

"Miracle Buckley is going to be a star. She'll stand out not only because of her musical talent, but by what she's been able to do with her life. This young lady is an incredible inspiration to others. I feel sure we'll hear Miracle Buckley's name connected with marvelous things in the years to come." — WAYNE PARKER

At the age of seven, she underwent a complicated, dangerous surgery to partially correct her birth defects. Her non-functioning legs were amputated; bones from her legs were transplanted into her back. Miracle was given a 50/50 chance of surviving the surgery; if she lived, doctors warned her mother, Miracle would face a long and painful recovery.

"The doctors gave my baby a 50/50 chance," Pearl Buckley says. "But when God is on your side 100 percent, that's all that matters."

Miracle not only survived, but thrived. She left the hospital in less than two weeks, was back in church in a body cast the third week, and never had to fill her prescription for painkillers. Miracle's biggest challenge was enduring four months in a medical halo and eight months in a full body cast – a

form of torture for the energetic seven-year-old.

"Recovering from the surgery was hard, but not because I'd lost my legs," Miracle says. "I'd never been able to walk with them, so I didn't really miss them."

"And you know what?" Pearl Buckley adds with a proud smile, "God knew she wouldn't need legs to play the piano."

Miracle was nine years old when she began composing her own songs on a toy keyboard. When the minister of music at the Buckleys' church heard Miracle play, her advice to Pearl was, "Get that girl some lessons. You've got a Chopin on your hands."

Her gifted piano playing is just one entry on Miracle's long list of achievements. As a popular student at Murrah High School, Miracle maintained a 3.5 grade point average while performing in four choirs. While she does use a wheelchair on campus, Miracle can walk almost as well on her hands as most people can on their feet, and drives a car with the help of a crutch. She even taught herself to swim.

"I went to the Geyser Falls water park with some friends this summer," Miracle says with a mischievous smile. "I think some of the other people in the pool were surprised to see me coming down the water slide."

When Miracle announced her desire to study performance piano at Mississippi College, her parents began praying for yet another miracle. A good student, Miracle received schol-

arships for her academic performance, ACT score, and musical abilities, but it still wasn't enough to pay full tuition. Realizing that Miracle would be an asset to the college, Jim Turcotte, MC's vice president for student affairs, introduced Miracle to representatives of the LifeShare Foundation. A scholarship from the Foundation closed the gap, making it possible for Miracle to attend Mississippi College.

"The LifeShare scholarship was a prayer answered," Pearl Buckley says. "God put Miracle in the path of people who wanted to bless her. We can't thank Him – or them – enough."

"Miracle Buckley is going to be a star," Wayne Parker, founder of the LifeShare Foundation, says with confidence. "She'll stand out not only because of her musical talent,

but by what she's been able to do with her life. This young lady is an incredible inspiration to others. I feel sure we'll hear Miracle Buckley's name connected with marvelous things in the years to come."

For now, Miracle is making new friends on campus, excelling in her piano classes, and enjoying her first semester of college.

"I'm going to do my best to live up to the expectations of the LifeShare Foundation," Miracle says. "I am so grateful for the opportunity to go to Mississippi College. Piano

is my calling, and getting an education from a school with such a strong music program is going to unlock so many doors for me.

"My dream is to perform piano concerts, but my plan is to keep praying about it. In the end, I'll do whatever God wants me to do. I know He has something special in store for me."

And with that, the girl who was not expected to have a future gives a brilliant smile – another reminder that when God is at work, miracles do happen. 🙏

"The Greatest Blessing of My Life"

THE LIFESHARE FOUNDATION

"When I was about 45 years old, I began to wonder what kind of legacy I would leave," Wayne Parker recalls. "I had been blessed with a wonderful family and a successful business, but I began to feel that my life wasn't complete. I knew that God wanted me to do something with my resources and my time – something that was His will."



That something turned out to be the LifeShare Foundation. Founded in 2000 by Wayne and his wife, Zeita, the LifeShare Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Mississippi's children and young adults. From providing computers that help disabled children communicate to assisting families struggling with poverty to building new facilities at the Mississippi School for the Blind, LifeShare is changing lives statewide.

One of the Foundation's most recent initiatives is the LifeShare Scholarship, which assists promising high school graduates who want to attend Mississippi College but would not be able to do so without financial aid. The Foundation provides renewable scholarships in varying amounts to 8 to 12 Mississippi College students

each academic year. A committee screens students and selects outstanding candidates who show promise for leadership and service, as well as a heart for giving to others.

Wayne Parker originally became involved with MC when he was asked to join the Board of Trustees.

"Mississippi College is committed to making a difference in this world, which is what LifeShare is all about," Parker says. "At MC, I saw students and faculty praying and talking about what it is to be a Christian. I was impressed with that, and I wanted to help give that experience to other students."

The benefits of a LifeShare Scholarship don't end with its recipients.

"The money that goes to the students is a blessing that's multiplied so many times," Parker says. "These young people are our future leaders. I hope that they'll remember someone cared about them and helped them, and that in turn, they'll want to help others. The money makes an impact, but the feeling grows and grows."

Parker also points to a personal return on his investment.

"Every day, I think of Miracle Buckley, and of the children at the Mississippi School for the Blind, and of the other families we've been privileged to serve, and I know that I'm getting more out of this than they are," Parker says. "It was a leap of faith establishing the Foundation and the rewards have been tremendous. LifeShare has given me lasting peace and joy, and has been the greatest blessing of my life."

BRINGING THE WORLD TO MC, TAKING THE MC MESSAGE TO THE WORLD

The International Center provides education and creates disciples worldwide.

It seems appropriate that the Mississippi College International Center is headquartered in a former residence. More than just an administrative building, the International Center is a place where the more than 300 international students enrolled at MC can come to seek advice, meet one another, and relax in a welcoming environment that feels like a home away from home. Here, students can gather in the living room to watch movies, prepare foods from their native countries in the cozy kitchen, or simply relax while Security, the center's resident cat, takes a leisurely nap in their laps.

The level of activity here is impressive, especially considering that just five years ago, the International Center didn't exist.

"When I came here in 2002, we had nine international students and I wondered why we didn't have more," Dr.

Lee Royce, president of Mississippi College, says. "We're the oldest college in Mississippi, we're located in the state capital, and we offer 20-plus graduate programs, including a law school. I thought Mississippi College was in an ideal position to launch a targeted international program."

With that goal in mind, Dr. Royce brought Jim Brackenridge and his wife, Diana Brackenridge, on board in 2004. Jim Brackenridge was hired as MC's first Executive Director of International Programs; Diana Brackenridge joined the college as the International Program Administrator. Before joining the MC staff, the Brackenridges had launched successful international programs at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, and at Dallas Baptist University, and welcomed the challenge of establishing a similar program at MC.

"An International Program ties in perfectly with the Mississippi College vision," Jim Brackenridge says. "It's all about the Great Commission. Not only are we providing



The Great Commission is the instruction of the resurrected Jesus Christ to his disciples to spread the Christian faith to all the nations of the world.



AND JESUS CAME UP AND SPOKE TO THEM, SAYING,
"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

MATTHEW 28:18-20

these students with the opportunity to receive a wonderful education, but we are going into the world and making disciples for Christ.”

COMING TO AMERICA

Mississippi College’s relationship with an international student begins before that student ever steps foot on American soil.

“In the beginning we recruited overseas, but now most of our international students hear about MC through word of mouth,” Diana Brackenridge says. “The best recruiting agents are the international students who are already here. They feel comfortable and welcome, they’re getting a great education, and they tell their friends and family back home that Mississippi College is a wonderful place. It’s a real indication of the strength of the school and how much they love it here.”

Working via telephone, snail mail, and e-mail, Diana Brackenridge assists international students who wish to

their way around – others may come as a surprise. For example, many of the Chinese students bring all of the money they will need for an entire year in cash, in their pockets. In their homeland, only wealthy people have bank accounts; learning that they are eligible to open a checking account is an unexpected surprise.

“It’s a 24/7 job, helping these young people adjust and making sure they have someone they can come to with questions or concerns,” Diana Brackenridge says. “Jim and I are mother, father, and best friend. Unless their grades slip – then we’re their worst enemy,” she adds with a smile.

Slipping grades are rarely a problem. Most of the internationals are graduate students who appreciate the academic atmosphere at MC.

“The college culture here is very different,” says 24-year-old Song “Suki” YuanYuan, who came to Mississippi College from Qingdao, a busy city in coastal China, in August of 2006. “The classes are smaller and more active, with a lot of discussion between the teacher and the student.

The International Center fostered the education of five outstanding students from China and Russia who have been accepted into prestigious Ph.D programs nationwide. These students are now pursuing doctoral degrees in chemistry, biology, and mathematics.

study at MC complete a daunting amount of paperwork, including government forms and student visa requests.

Once a student has been accepted, Jim and Diana greet him or her at the airport, bring the student back to campus, and help the student adjust to life in America. That can include everything from providing students with comfortable pillows to helping them learn how to drive, from help obtaining a social security number to explaining that “yes, you will have a bathroom in your dorm.”

While some cultural adjustments are expected – coping with homesickness, adjusting to new foods, and learning

The teachers are friendly and respect the students.”

Suki is completing graduate work in international business and economics, and public relations and corporate communications. When she returns to China next year, she hopes to land a public relations job with an international company.

“I will have so many opportunities because I have studied at Mississippi College,” Suki says. “When I go back to China, I will miss ‘here’ very much. Mississippi College has become another home for me. Mr. and Mrs. Brackenridge are like a grandfather and grandmother. If I succeed in my career, I will come back to Mississippi to visit.”

“Most of our international students come to love not only MC, but Mississippi,” Diana Brackenridge says. “Many of them come from large, crowded cities with a lot of pollution. For the first several days here, they can’t stop looking at the sky. All of them talk about how friendly the people in Mississippi are. I had to smile when one of our students spent part of her summer in Kansas. She came back and said she could tell she was ‘not in Mississippi anymore.’”

THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT MC HAS GROWN FROM NINE IN 2002 TO 330 IN 2007.

MC IS HOME TO STUDENTS FROM 24 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING: AUSTRIA, THE BAHAMAS, BELGIUM, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BRAZIL, CANADA, CHINA, ECUADOR, ENGLAND, ETHIOPIA, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, INDIA, JAPAN, KOREA, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, SCOTLAND, SERBIA, TAIWAN AND VIETNAM

FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION

In the three short years since its launch, the International Program has become an integral part of Mississippi College’s vision to be recognized as a university known for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ.

“We are very upfront about our Christian influence, so there are no misunderstandings,” Jim Brackenridge says. “Even if they are coming from a country that doesn’t encourage religious freedom, the students and their families usually respond positively. What they do know about Christianity tells them that we will be kind and fair; even if they aren’t Christians themselves, they often have a positive perception of what a Christian university will be like.”

While most of the international students are not Christians when they arrive in America, many do come to know Christ during their time at MC.

“The people who communicate the Christian message best to them are their American peers,” Brackenridge says. “For many MC students, this is their first opportunity to meet someone from another country, and perhaps an opportunity to be the first person to talk to that international visitor about Jesus. It’s a life-changing experience not only for the international student, but for the U.S. student as well.”

Before she came to Mississippi College, Suki YuanYuan was among the small minority of Christians living in China. Her time at MC has only made her more eager to share her faith with people in her native country.

“When I return to China, I will tell my friends about Mississippi College and that the people, the environment, and the academic program are all very good,” Suki says. “I will encourage others to come here and I will tell their parents not to worry. The Christian atmosphere at MC is a very good thing. If they come here, MC will take care of their children and God will bless them.”

THE FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CENTER



MC’s Growing the Vision capital campaign includes plans for a new, \$3 million International Center to meet the needs of young men and women who come to MC from countries around the world. The proposed International Center will serve as a hub for international admissions and student services and counseling, and will offer students a place outside their classrooms and dorm rooms in which to study, relax, or gather with friends.

The planned International Center is further proof of Mississippi College’s commitment to an International Program that offers academic excellence and shares the Good News of Jesus Christ with students from around the world.

TO BE A LEADER IS TO BE A SERVANT

BILL SONES '81 | MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Bill Sones' resume is filled with references to leadership, but the key to his success has been his willingness to serve.

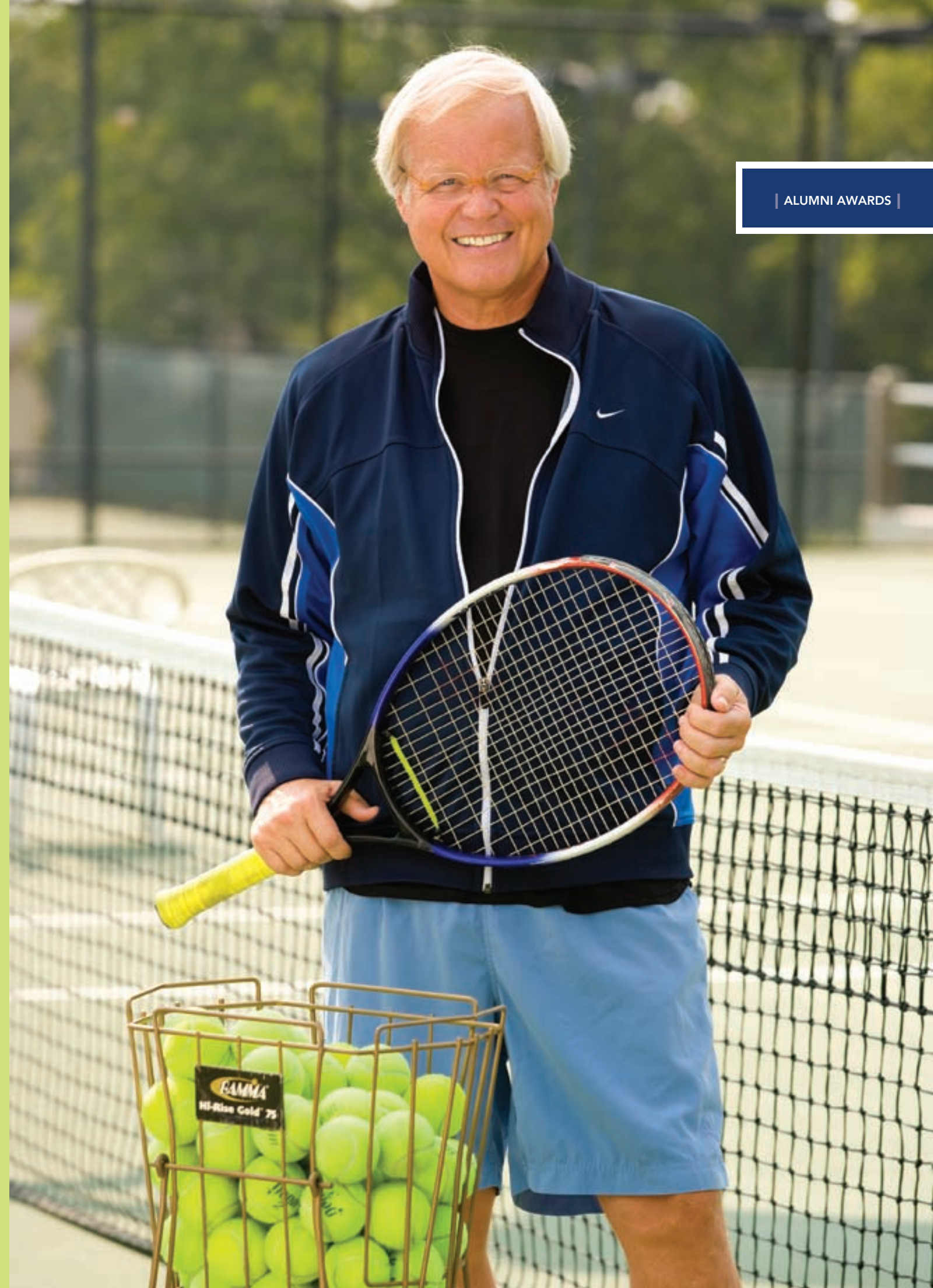
"For more than 35 years, Bill Sones has dedicated his time, talent, and resources to his profession, his community, his church, and his family," Dr. Lee Royce, president of Mississippi College, says. "He has served MC in a variety of positions over many years, currently serving as our Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Bill is a great advocate for MC, recruiting students from across the state. His outstanding business achievements and his countless contributions to his community have brought tremendous honor to Mississippi College. We are proud to name Bill Sones as our Alumnus of the Year."

Despite his many accomplishments, Sones' most impressive trait is his humble nature. Whether he's serving

the shareholders and employees of the bank he founded, recruiting the industries that provide jobs in his community, working with the youth in his church, or serving as a role model for his children and grandchildren, Bill Sones insists he's getting more back than he gives.

"I think everyone wants to be a good citizen, and that involves service," he says. "When you help others, the payoff is your own feeling of having done something worthwhile. Serving gives life meaning."

Sones is a respected leader in the banking and finance industry. He accepted his first banking position with Bank of Prentiss in 1972; within a decade he was named president of State Bank and Trust Company, a position he would hold for almost 20 years. Today Sones is Chairman, President, and CEO of the Bank of Brookhaven, an institution he co-founded in 2000.



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.

During his 35-year banking career, Sones has served his industry on the state and national levels. Early in his career, he served on the Young Bankers Council and as president of the Mississippi Young Bankers Association. He is a long-time member of the Mississippi Bankers Association and currently serves as vice chairman. Nationally, Sones was chosen as chairman of the Independent Community Bankers Association of America, which represents more than 5,500 banks nationwide.

Sones' contributions aren't limited to his profession. A 30-year member of First Baptist Church Brookhaven, he has served as chairman of the deacons and of the personnel and finance committees. He has been involved with the church's youth ministry for more than 25 years, and is a former president of the board of trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village.

"I've had so many opportunities to serve and I've been blessed by each one." — BILL SONES

Sones has devoted countless hours to serving his city and state. He is president of the Industrial Development Foundation and a past president of the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Lincoln County. He is also the president of the Mississippi Business Finance Corporation, which provides incentive financing for new industries in Mississippi; president of the Mississippi Development Bank, which assists local governments in capital projects financing; and president of the Mississippi Home Corporation, which administers low-to moderate-income housing programs.

"Bill Sones is one of the most committed, dedicated men I know," says Bob Massengill, mayor of Brookhaven. "He has been vitally involved in economic development efforts in Lincoln County. When people in this area think of growth in our community, they think of Bill Sones."

"I've had so many opportunities to serve and I've been blessed by each one," Sones says. "To be able to give my

shareholders a good return on their investment, to help meet my employees' needs, to look at a company providing jobs in our community and know that I played a role in bringing that company here – these are all things I'm so gratified to be a part of."

While he's received numerous accolades for his professional and civic achievements, the Mississippi College Alumnus of the Year Award comes as an especially significant honor for Sones, whose status as an alumnus came more than a decade after he began college.

In 1971, Sones was a 22-year-old senior at MC just two credits shy of earning his degree when he was offered a job with General Motors based in Prentiss, Mississippi – an excellent opportunity in the midst of a national recession. Soon after leaving MC to accept the position, Sones married his sweetheart, Theresa Krone, and the two began a family. Less than a decade later, Sones was a successful banker.

But while his lack of a degree had not hampered his career, Sones had made a promise to his wife and to Doc Quick, who was then vice president of student personnel, that he would someday complete his college education.

Two credits and 10 years after he left Mississippi College, 32-year-old Sones crossed the stage and accepted his MC diploma. The only people more excited than Sones himself were his four children, whose joyous shouts of "Hey, Daddy!" rang through the coliseum during the graduation ceremony.

Sones may have opted to put his graduation on hold for a decade, but since his return to Mississippi College, he's never really left. He has served for 12 years on the MC Board of Trustees and for the past five years as chairman. As past president of the Alumni Association, he has hosted countless alumni and student recruitment events. He and Theresa are long-time financial supporters of MC, and all five of the Sones' children – Sunday, Sicily, Bill, Jr., Ben, and Sam – the only child younger than his father's diploma – are MC alumni.

"Our family has established deep roots at Mississippi College," Sones says. "I can truly see the MC heritage in each of my children. They teach Sunday School, they're involved in their communities, and they're raising beautiful families. They're active, productive adults and Theresa and I are so proud of them."

"God has blessed Bill with the gift of leadership," Theresa Sones says, "He has been a blessing not only to our family but also to so many others. I admire him so much, and appreciate how generous he is with himself in serving others."

"If anyone deserves recognition, it's my wife, Theresa," Sones says. "In everything I've undertaken, she has been my biggest supporter and prayer partner."

When he's not busy at the bank or wrapped up in a church or community service project, Sones enjoys reading, playing tennis, and spending time with his close-knit family, which has grown to include ten grandchildren, with number eleven expected in January. When all those Choctaws – and

future Choctaws – get together, the conversation invariably includes some reference to MC.

"When I think of Mississippi College, I think of a warm family tradition," Sones says. "I'm grateful for the wonderful experiences my children and I enjoyed at MC, and I truly hope our grandchildren will go to school there as well."

"The Christian culture of MC is in harmony with the idea of servant leadership," Sones continues. "As Christians, we are to emulate Christ, who is the ultimate servant-leader. I have been richly blessed by God, and anything I do to serve others is part of my effort to be a good steward of all that He has given to me." 🙏

THE SONES STORY

CAREER

Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO of Bank of Brookhaven

Organizing Director, Mississippi National Banker's Bank

CHURCH SERVICE

First Baptist Church of Brookhaven

Board of Deacons, Finance Committee, Youth Sunday School Teacher

SERVICE TO MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Past President, Mississippi College Alumni Association

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Board President, Mississippi Home Corporation

Board President, Mississippi Business Finance Corporation

Board President, Mississippi Development Bank

Past Advisory Board Member, Entergy Mississippi

Trustee, King's Daughters Medical Center

Past Director, TCM Bank

Past Director, Bancard, Inc.

Past Director, Community Banking Network

Past Director, Business and Industry Political Education Committee

INDUSTRY SERVICE

Vice Chairman, Mississippi Bankers Association

Past President, Independent Bankers Association of America (IBAA)



The Sones family, Christmas 2006

Past Chairman, Long Term Planning Committee, IBAA

Past Chairman, Policy Development Committee, IBAA

Past Vice Chairman, Independent Bankers Political Action Committee

Past Trustee, Mississippi School of Banking

Past President, Mississippi Young Bankers

Past Executive Committee, Mississippi Bankers Association

Community Bankers Council – American Bankers Association

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Chairman, Industrial Development Foundation

Past President, Board of Trustees, Mississippi Baptist Children's Village

Past Chairman, Mississippi Economic Council

Past President, United Way of Lincoln County

Past District Chairman, Andrew Jackson Council, Boy Scouts of America

Past President, Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce

Past President, Brookhaven Beautiful

Past President, Morton Chamber of Commerce

Past Executive Committee, Mississippi Andrew Council, Boy Scouts of America

Past Advisory Committee, Mississippi Children's Cancer Clinic

Delegate, Leadership Mississippi Consultant, Project Business, Division of Junior Achievement

Past Chairman, United Way Campaign

Past Chairman, Mississippi Family Council

FAMILY

Married for 35 years to Theresa Krone Sones

Five children – Sunday Sones Holmes, Sicily Sones Green, Bill Sones, Ben Sones, and Sam Sones

10 grandchildren, soon to be 11

HOBBIES

Reading (fiction, motivational books, classics)

Tennis (4.0 player)

Family beach vacations ("I'm a better beach bum than I am a banker.")



Making Beautiful Music Together

GRAHAM AND ALICE SMITH

Music brought them to Mississippi College, Mississippi College brought them together, and music and Mississippi College have been their shared passions for the more than 46 years since.

In recognition of Graham Smith's professional successes in music ministry, Alice Smith's professional contributions to Mississippi College, and the honor they've both brought to MC, Graham '61 and Alice Smith are 2007 recipients of the Order of the Golden Arrow.

"Graham and Alice Smith are committed to their professions, their callings, and to each other," says Dr. Lee Royce, president of Mississippi College. "Their deep Christian faith, their willingness to serve, and their love and loyalty to Mississippi College make the Smiths the ideal recipients of this honor."

A graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Graham Smith has served as the director of the music department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention since 1988. In his 40-plus years of music ministry, Graham has brought the joy of praise and worship to churches statewide. He credits Mississippi College with preparing him to fulfill his calling.

"I was led to Mississippi College as the place that God would use to prepare me for service using music as the main tool," Graham says. "The atmosphere of the campus, the other students and professors were very supportive of Christian service. When I think of Mississippi College, I think of commitment to Christ in every area of life."

A native of Gulfport, Graham spent his freshman year of college at Vanderbilt University majoring in chemical engineering. A summer serving as the youth minister of music at First Baptist Church Gulfport, combined with a letter from a high school friend who was studying at MC, prompted Graham to transfer to Mississippi College in the middle of his sophomore year and switch his major to music.

"I have been so proud and thankful to lift Mississippi College up as my alma mater," Graham says. "I am very glad to say that I really believe that the high level of support that I felt at MC has only grown over the years. MC continues to prepare and point its students to the highest level of excellence in whatever field of endeavor for which our Lord has called them."

Alice McCann Smith attended Mississippi College from 1959-60. She returned to MC in 1981 as a staff member and held a number of positions at the university, including director of public relations, editor of *The Beacon* magazine, and media relations coordinator, until her retirement in January of 2007.

"Alice's colleagues deeply appreciated her personal warmth, coupled with her passionate Christian witness," says Dr. Royce. "Alice is a burden-bearer, one who takes up more than her share of the load and carries it with grace."

"My work enabled me to share the message and mission of Mississippi College – a responsibility I did not carry lightly," Alice says. "I believe in MC. Its combination of academic excellence and Christian commitment has no equal."

"I enjoyed my time as a student and all of the years I worked at MC, but my favorite memory is still of when I saw Graham Smith for the first time," Alice continues. "I knew I was seeing a very unusual and special man. The feelings are as real today as they were then."

Alice and Graham met as students at MC in 1959. Alice was playing the piano in a practice room in Aven Hall – ironically, the tune she was practicing was "Can't Help Loving that Man of Mine" – when Graham walked in.

"He said, 'I believe you have my practice room,'" Alice recalls. "I told him I was sure it was mine. He said, 'Don't worry, I'll check it out. By the way, how about going to the talent show tonight with me?' and the rest is history."

Forty-eight years later, Graham confesses that he knew the practice room was Alice's – the "mix-up" was simply a ruse he employed to meet the "beautiful freshman I had seen in the lunch line."

Alice and Graham were married on June 11, 1961. Their duet soon became an ensemble with the addition of two children, and in time, MC became a family affair. The couple's daughter, Alicia Smith Wilbanks '84, and son, Louis Graham Smith '87, also graduated from MC, as did their spouses. The Smith's five grandchildren have heard about MC since the cradle.

"From meeting my husband to the great privilege of working at MC to watching my children graduate, Mississippi College and the relationships forged there have shaped my life in profound ways," Alice says.

"When I heard we had received the Order of the Golden Arrow, Alice and I were both surprised and humbled," Graham says. "Once I accepted this honor as a real happening,

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.

I realized how perfectly appropriate it is that Alice and I would receive it together. It was MC that God used to bring us together and prepare us for a lifetime of service. It was MC where Alice poured her heart and soul into 25 years of work. MC is totally intermingled with our lives and our service to the Lord."

"I firmly believe that the secret hand of God that is at work in all of us was working through Mississippi College to bring Graham and I together," Alice adds. "Our lifetime of ministry together has been rich and full and complete, and it all began at Mississippi College."



"This Was Our Way of Saying, Thank You, God."

BETTY JEANE WEEKS DOWDLE

When Betty Jeane Dowdle donated the money needed to renovate the third floor of Alumni Hall, Dr. Lee Royce, Mississippi College's president, suggested that the reception area be named in her honor.

Dowdle wouldn't hear of it.

"I wanted it named after my late husband, John," she explains. "He loved the Lord, he loved his church, he loved his children, and he loved me. John knew that I loved Mississippi College, so he chose MC as a place we would support. Whatever I've been able to do to help Mississippi College, John made it possible for me to do it."

In recognition of her family's longtime support of her alma mater, Betty Jeane Dowdle has been named a

recipient of the Order of the Golden Arrow.

"Mrs. Dowdle has been a faithful, humble supporter of Mississippi College for many years," Dr. Royce says. "We are pleased that she has agreed to let MC recognize her contributions and those of her late husband by presenting her with the Order of the Golden Arrow."

"I HAD NO IDEA I'D GO INTO MINISTRY, BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE HELPED PREPARE ME FOR IT."

A native of Crystal Springs, Betty Jeane Dowdle graduated from MC in 1951.

"All my life I'd wanted to go to Mississippi College," Dowdle says, "but my mama wanted me to go to Blue Mountain. I went there for one year, then transferred to Mississippi College – and I took three of my friends from Blue Mountain with me."

Dowdle's memories of her years at MC still bring a smile.

"I remember one girl on our hall who we thought was snooty. We greased every doorknob on the hall except hers so they'd think she did it. Oh, I could be devilish sometimes."

But despite that "devilish" side, Dowdle points to the Christian influence at MC as one of the reasons she chose the college.

"My mama was a dyed-and-dipped Baptist who raised me in the church, so going to a Christian college was very important to me," she says. "I had no idea I'd go into ministry, but there's no doubt that Mississippi College helped prepare me for it."

Following her graduation from MC and from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, Dowdle dedicated herself to ministering to youth. After working with students at the Naval Academy and holding a position in student work for the state of Maryland, she returned to Mississippi to serve as the director of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at Mississippi University for Women.

"I loved working with those young people," she recalls. "My job was to help them and to guide them, but the girls were so good and clever, I think they helped me more than I helped them."

"MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE IS THE HOPE OF TOMORROW."

"We had boys come over from Mississippi State, you know," she says with a conspiratorial smile, "and I let them date."

Dowdle served as director of the BSU from 1956 until 1962, when she married John Dowdle and left the workplace to become a homemaker. Her love for young people made Betty Jeane an excellent mother to John's two children, Alma and John.

"They were never like stepchildren to me," Dowdle says. "I loved them like my own and they made it so easy for me. They loved to have me come to their school and meet their friends. Anytime the teacher asked whose parents could chaperone the dance, my daughter always raised her hand and said, 'my mother will be there.'"

John Dowdle never graduated from high school, but he believed in the value of education. The owner of a successful propane business, Dowdle decided to bless others with the education he had never received. He began by donating money to the Baptist Convention to fund college scholarships; many of the recipients attended MC. Later, the Dowdles began supporting Mississippi College directly, culminating with Betty Jeane Dowdle's most recent gift to the Alumni Hall renovation.

"When you give the Baptists money, they usually want to put your name on something," Dowdle laughs, "but that's not why John and I did things. It was something from the heart. God had blessed John in business, and this was our way of saying, 'thank you, God.'"

Betty Jeane Dowdle lives in Columbus in the house she shared with her generous late husband. Her six dogs, three cats, eight fish, and flower garden keep her busy, but Dowdle stays in touch with many of her college friends and still makes time for occasional visits to the Mississippi College campus. When asked why she has continued to support Mississippi College throughout the more than five decades since she graduated, her answer is simple.

"These young people today need a good Christian education. Mississippi College is the hope of tomorrow."



A Career and a Calling in Perfect Harmony

BRADLEY LITTLEJOHN

"I can't remember a time when I didn't love Southern gospel music," Bradley Littlejohn '97 says. "My parents took me to concerts when traveling groups came through, and I began mimicking what I heard on the vinyl albums I brought home."

Littlejohn went from mimicking other artists to an inspiring career and a ministry in music that he's still pursuing today. Along with two childhood friends and fellow youth choir members – including his future MC roommate and fellow Young Alumnus of the Year award winner Jeff Crews – Littlejohn formed the Southern gospel trio Paid in Full.

"Bradley Littlejohn has dedicated himself to performing for Jesus Christ," Dr. Lee Royce, president of Mississippi College, says. "His commitment to sharing with others through his music and his willingness to make the sacrifices necessary to pursue this kind of calling make Bradley an outstanding choice for the Young Alumnus of the Year award."

Growing up in New Albany, Mississippi, Littlejohn, Jeff Crews, and their friend Lance Moore went to Sunday School together, sang in the same church choir, and were saved at the same altar. Their shared love for the Lord, for music, and for each other prompted them to form Paid in Full while they were still in high school.

"During those early years, it was a fun hobby for me to sing with my friends in churches and concert halls," Littlejohn recalls. "Then, during my senior year at Mississippi College, Paid in Full was recognized by gospel greats Jake Hess and Bill Gaither. I felt God had ordained Paid in Full for full-time service."

For the past 16 years, Littlejohn has devoted himself to that service. Paid in Full has recorded six CDs and performed at nationally-renowned venues including the Grand Ole Opry and Singing in the Smokies, the nation's largest outdoor gospel music festival.

"Singing with Jeff and Lance was a dream come true," Littlejohn says. "We experienced many awesome acts of

**"DURING MY SENIOR YEAR AT
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, PAID IN FULL
WAS RECOGNIZED BY GOSPEL GREATS
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I FELT GOD HAD ORDAINED PAID IN
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God, many open doors, our marriages, and children of our own. We have been through some low valleys together, including the deaths of their fathers. Singing together was the icing on the cake."

In 2007, Jeff Crews left Paid in Full to pursue other opportunities, and singer Brock White joined the trio. Today, Paid in Full performs regularly at churches and festivals throughout the South. In May of 2007, the trio traveled to Fraserburgh, Scotland, where they performed alongside artists from around the world at the 9th Annual Gospel Music Convention Scotland.

"It was so encouraging to see that our style was appreciated by our Scottish brothers and sisters," Littlejohn says. "I was reminded that the type of music we sing is not just a form of entertainment, but music that speaks to the soul. The message of Southern gospel is universal."

While he began singing as a child, Littlejohn sees Mississippi College as the place where music became his career – a calling that could only have come from God, considering that Littlejohn enrolled as a biology major.

"When I graduated from high school, my intention was to go to medical school," Littlejohn recalls. "Mississippi College's pre-med program had the best acceptance rate to medical school among its graduates and that was a big draw to me. A good scholarship offer was also a plus, but ultimately, the Christian influence was the biggest factor in my choosing to attend MC.

"When Jeff and I left for college, Lance was still in high school back in New Albany," Littlejohn continues. "We had a farewell concert, and I thought that was the end of

our little hobby. But because of new connections made at MC, we began singing in the central Mississippi area. Even after Lance enrolled at Mississippi State, God kept opening doors for us every weekend. Rather than ending, our ministry was rejuvenated. During my time at Mississippi College, singing became a calling instead of a side interest."

Littlejohn graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in biology. Today, he lives with his wife Robin and daughter Julianne in his hometown of New Albany.

Paid in Full has come a long way since those three childhood friends first sang together, but Littlejohn believes the best is yet to come. His goal for the group is to bridge the gap between gospel's rich heritage and its expanding future.

"This is an exciting time to be involved in Christian music," he says. "Who knows what great things God has in store for us in the 21st century?"

Looking back over his 16-year career with Paid in Full and his time at Mississippi College, Littlejohn has just one regret.

"If I had known earlier that God was going to lead me down this path," he says with a smile, "I probably wouldn't have worked so hard on my biology degree."



Peace and Love in 4/4 Time

JEFF CREWS

"When I was five years old, I returned from a quartet concert in Tupelo and proclaimed to my parents that when I grew up, I was going to sing tenor in a gospel group," Jeff Crews '97 says. "I recognized early on that gospel tapped into a deeper well of inspiration than other musical forms. The gospel singers presented the love and peace of knowing Jesus in four-part harmony and 4/4 time."

Jeff Crews went on to enjoy an inspiring career and ministry in music that he's still pursuing today. In recognition of his achievements, Crews was named Mississippi College's Young Alumnus of the Year.

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.

“Jeff Crews has a passion for music, ministry, and Jesus Christ,” Dr. Lee Royce, president of Mississippi College, says. “His unwavering dedication to pursuing what God has called him to do makes him the perfect choice for the Young Alumnus of the Year award.”

Crews found his calling as an original member of the acclaimed gospel group Paid in Full. Growing up in New Albany, Mississippi, Crews and his childhood friends Bradley Littlejohn and Lance Moore went to Sunday School together, sang in the same church choir, and were saved at the same altar. Their shared love for the Lord, for

“THAT MY CONTRIBUTION TO GOSPEL MUSIC WOULD BE CONSIDERED WORTHY OF RECOGNITION IS EVIDENCE OF GOD’S GOODNESS AND MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE’S IDEA OF SUCCESS.”

music, and for each other prompted them to form Paid in Full while they were still in high school. Crews’ interest in gospel music as a career only deepened during his years at Mississippi College, which he found to be the perfect university for a young man dedicated to serving Christ.

“I absolutely loved it from the moment I stepped on the campus,” Crews recalls. “MC has an atmosphere all its own. The historic buildings, the quad, and the clock tower give a sense of the historic importance of the campus, but it was the friendly, almost church-camp atmosphere created by the students that really convinced me MC was for me.

“It wasn’t until I was actually in school there that I discovered why I loved MC so much,” Crews continues. “The teachers, administrators and staff make MC what it is. Their love for knowledge and learning was contagious, and their love of Jesus as the Center of wisdom was what made attending MC one of the great decisions of my life.”

Mississippi College became a Crews family tradition in just one generation; after Crews’ first year at MC, his sister enrolled as a freshman. Three years later, their youngest sister joined them as a Choctaw.

Crews’ memories of MC include friendships formed with young men he came to think of as brothers, and the “world of crazy, fun stuff we did that I can’t talk about officially.” But some of his strongest memories are of the support Mississippi College lent his family when his father died.

“When I was a sophomore and my sister Molly was a freshman, our dad died at the age of 47,” Crews recalls. “The students surrounded our dorms and prayed for us.

The teachers did everything possible, and then went above and beyond to help us with anything we needed. Doc Quick and many in the administration came to the funeral, and for years to come, made a concerted effort to be available and supportive in whatever our family was doing.”

After graduation, Crews continued performing with Paid in Full, logging more than 1,600 performances over the next 16 years. The group went on to record six CDs and perform at nationally renowned venues including the Grand Ole Opry and Singing in the Smokies, the nation’s largest outdoor gospel music festival. In 2007, Jeff Crews left Paid in Full to pursue other business opportunities and spend more time with his wife, Lauren, and their children, Charlie and Anderson.

“We’d started out as single high school boys, but now I was a married father of two with an increasing responsibility to meet my family’s physical, financial, and spiritual needs,” Crews says. “I believe there is no higher calling than that.”

Today, Crews works as a lender in New Albany’s Renaissance Bank. But despite his newfound career, he hasn’t given up his passion for gospel music.

“I joined a well-respected gospel quartet called The Landmarks. We perform on a limited schedule that allows me to work at the bank, spend consistent time at home and in church, and continue to sing and minister in an effective and creatively rewarding way,” Crews says. “Only God could have put together such a perfect job for me.”

When he heard he had been named Mississippi College’s Young Alumnus of the Year, Crew’s reaction was gratitude.

“So many of the men and women in my class have gone on to accomplish great things, and make a lot of money to give the college,” Crews says. “That my contribution to gospel music would be considered worthy of recognition is evidence of God’s goodness and Mississippi College’s idea of success.”

PALMER MANNING RECEIVES

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. >>>



“Letting Them Know That Someone Cares”

PALMER MANNING

Palmer Manning never attended Mississippi College himself, but thanks to his financial support and his recruiting efforts, dozens of other students have. A graduate of Millsaps College and the University of Mississippi, Manning has been a generous and enthusiastic supporter of Mississippi College for more than 30 years.

“I believe Mississippi College is the premier school in the state because of the Christian influence there,” Manning says. “The staff, faculty, and students at MC all talk openly about Jesus, and that’s important to me.”

Manning’s family connection with Mississippi College began during the 1950s, when his father began sending donations to the college. Charles Manning specified that the money go to help someone studying for full-time ministry who might not otherwise be able to afford a college education.

“When my father died, the funeral home was full of Baptist preachers I’d never seen before,” Manning recalls. “Every one of them told me he was there because my father had helped put him through Mississippi College.”

Manning never forgot how much those preachers’ presence at his father’s funeral – and the reason behind their attendance – touched him. When his mother passed away in 1975, Manning used a portion of his modest inheritance to create the Charles A. Manning and Carrye P. Manning Scholarship Fund at Mississippi College. He has contributed to the fund established in his parents’ honor every month for the 32 years since. Like the donations made by his father before him, the scholarship benefits students who plan a career in the ministry.

“The college chooses the recipients, but I have met several of them over the years,” Manning says. “One young

man who received the scholarship told me, ‘No one ever cared enough about me to give me anything before.’

“That was the best ‘thank you’ I could have asked for. The money helps pay for part of their education, but letting these kids know that someone cares about them and their futures is the real reason for the scholarship.”

Manning dedicated his own career to showing young people that he cared about them and their futures. Over the years, he served as a teacher, coach, and/or counselor at McComb High School, Whitten Junior High School in Jackson, Provine High School, Murrah High School, and University Christian School in Brandon. Manning received numerous awards recognizing his dedication to his students, including the Outstanding Young Educator Award presented by the Jackson Jaycees, the Mississippi Star Teacher Award, and the WLBT Spirit of Mississippi Award.

In the early 1980s, Manning accepted a position as the guidance counselor at Jackson’s Forest Hill High School, where his primary job was helping seniors with college placement. Manning referred dozens of students to Mississippi College, encouraging them to apply and helping them find scholarships and financial aid. But Manning didn’t stop there. In an era before campus visits were the norm, he physically drove the students to Mississippi College so they could see for themselves all that MC had to offer.

“ONE YOUNG MAN WHO RECEIVED THE SCHOLARSHIP TOLD ME, ‘NO ONE EVER CARED ENOUGH ABOUT ME TO GIVE ME ANYTHING BEFORE.’”

“In those days, kids didn’t do a lot of campus visits like they do now. I would get a group of promising kids together and take them out to Mississippi College myself,” Manning says. “I knew MC was a good school academically, and I knew that MC was a Christian college. I wanted them to see the campus, meet the people there, and experience that Christian influence and atmosphere first-hand.”

Manning has long since retired from teaching and counseling; he and his wife, Becky, divide their time between homes in Colorado and Georgia. Upon learning he had received the Mississippi College Award of Excellence, Manning says he was, “kind of surprised. I thought everyone in Mississippi had forgotten who I was.”

But it’s not likely that the recipients of the Charles A. Manning and Carrye P. Manning Scholarship or the countless students he referred to Mississippi College will ever forget him. Each of those students knows that he or she owes at least a part of his or her diploma to Palmer Manning, the man who was determined that they know someone cared.

DEPARTMENTAL DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

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

Art

TERESA AIKENS '79

Teresa Aikens has made a career of sharing her artistic gifts with young people. An art teacher at Northwest Rankin High School, Teresa created an innovative new class, Art and Community Studio, that pairs the artistic needs of businesses and organizations with the talents of advanced art students. Prior to joining the Northwest Rankin faculty, she was director of admissions and recruiting for the Mississippi School of the Arts in Brookhaven, the state's first public residential high school for the arts. As a fine arts specialist with the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Curriculum and Instruction, she helped shape the fine arts curriculum for Mississippi's public schools. Teresa was the 2002 recipient of the Mississippi Art Education Association's Prism Award for contribution to art education and is also a recipient of the Exemplary Arts Service Award from the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education.



Biology

DR. SHARON MARTIN '72

Dr. Sharon Martin is a psychiatrist at the Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield, where she treats female patients for depression, mental illnesses, drug abuse, and other psychiatric problems. After receiving her Bachelor of Science in biology from MC, Sharon graduated from the Huntsville Cooperative School of Medical Technology in Huntsville, Alabama, and worked as a medical technologist for five years before earning her M.D. and completing her residency in psychiatry at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Sharon began medical school with the intention of someday specializing in oncology. While serving as a contract physician with the Mississippi State Board of Health, she realized that many people seeking medical treatment were actually suffering from stress, depression, and other psychological conditions that were adversely affecting their physical health. Sharon decided to focus instead on psychiatry, a field that allows her to help not only her patients, but also their families. Sharon finds working at



the Mississippi State Hospital particularly rewarding, as she is often able to make a profound difference in the lives of patients with limited resources.

Chemistry and Biochemistry

JASPER MCPHAIL '52

Dr. Jasper McPhail received a B. S. in Chemistry from MC and graduated in the top ten of his class from Baylor School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in surgery at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, where students selected him as the best teaching resident. In 1961, Dr. McPhail was appointed as a medical missionary educator to India, where he helped develop an open-heart surgery program, instructed medical students, and was responsible for establishing a hospital in Bangalore, South India. Upon his return to the United States, Dr. McPhail served as associate dean and associate professor of surgery at the University of Arkansas School of Medicine and founding director of the School of Health Sciences at the University of Central Arkansas. In 1974, he was named the Outstanding Educator of America. In 1981, he became chairman of the surgery department at Oral Roberts University and chief of surgery at City of Faith Hospital, where he was twice named Outstanding Teacher in the School of Medicine. Dr. McPhail practiced in Dallas before retiring to Clinton in 2004.



Christian Studies

BILL SMITH '59

William P. Smith, III, served the Lee County Baptist Association, Tupelo, as associational director of missions for 20 years until his recent retirement. Prior to joining that organization, Bill served as pastor of Baptist churches in Scobey, West Point, Tupelo, and Flora, Mississippi. Active in the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Smith has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Convention Board, chairman of the Christian Action Committee, and first vice president of the Convention. As chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Baptist Student Union



of Itawamba Community College (ICC), he helped to establish a \$50,000 endowment for the ICC BSU to support mission work. Bill graduated from MC with a B.A. in speech and Bible. He earned a Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a Master of Arts in philosophy from the University of Mississippi. He is active in MC alumni affairs and is a member of the National Board of Directors and president-elect of the National Alumni Association. He is serving his second year as a trustee of Mississippi College. Bill and his wife, Mary Ellis, have established a scholarship endowment at MC.

Communications

BARBIE BASSETT '93

Barbie Bassett is the first chief meteorologist in WLBT-TV's 50-year history. Since being named chief meteorologist, Barbie has been awarded "Best Weathercast" by the Associated Press every year. Barbie serves on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation, the Magnolia Speech School, the Mississippi Epilepsy Foundation, the Girl Scout Council of Middle Mississippi, and the Christmas Village, and is a graduate of Leadership Mississippi. She is a Life Member of the Madison-Ridgeland Junior Auxiliary and a member of the Junior League of Jackson. Barbie was selected as the "Volunteer of the Year" for the National Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation for 2004 and has been named one of Mississippi's "Top 40 Under 40." An accomplished opera singer, ventriloquist, pianist, and model, Barbie won the 2000 Mrs. Mississippi International title and reached the top 15 in the Mrs. International pageant. She graduated from MC with a Bachelor of Science in mass communications and received her Master of Science degree with concentration in broadcast meteorology from Mississippi State University.



Foreign Languages

KATRINA PACE '94

Katrina Pace earned a B.A. in German and French from Mississippi College and an M.B.A. in International Business from the University of Memphis. After completing a graduate internship in Dortmund, Germany, she returned to the United States to begin her corporate career with MCI WorldCom, now Verizon. Katrina was responsible for pricing and profitability of the company's \$30 million digital



local service product line before moving on to manage sales operations for MCI's North American Business Markets sales division. After continuing her marketing and management career at Saks Incorporated, she returned to MC, where she has served the School of Business as development director since January of 2006.

Kinesiology

GWEN POST WHITE '58

Gwen Post White's coaching career spans almost 50 years. Girls' tennis coach at Northwest Rankin High School since 1984, Gwen has also coached at Clinton High School (1958-1963), Canton High School (1963-69), Jackson McCluer Academy (1971-74), and Belhaven College (1974-84). Her coaching record includes seven state championships in three different sports. Gwen was the first female coach to join the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the first female coach to speak at the Mississippi Association of Coaches Clinic. She launched Mississippi's first basketball camp for girls and was instrumental in starting the first girls' All-Star basketball and softball games in Mississippi's public and private schools. Gwen has been inducted into the Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame, the Hinds Community College Sports Hall of Fame, and the Belhaven College Sports Hall of Fame. Gwen was a star athlete at Clinton High School and at Hinds Community College. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi College, graduating with honors in 1958, and went on to earn her master's degree in social studies from MC in 1963.



Mathematics

ANGELA MOREMAN '87

Angela Moreman is a mathematics teacher and chair of the Mathematics Department of Creekside Middle School in Carmel, Indiana, where she also coaches the MATH-COUNTS Team and the Science Bowl Team. As a former Teacher in Residence with the Indiana Board of Education, Angela analyzed and made recommendations for the mathematics curriculum for students in kindergarten through pre-calculus classes. Prior to joining the faculty at Creekside Middle School, Angela taught high school mathematics in schools in Indianapolis and Lafayette, Indiana, and in Birmingham, Alabama. She serves on the board of directors of the Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics and has been named to the Teacher Honor Roll for Carmel Clay Schools.



While at MC, Angela served as president of the Student Government Association and was inducted into the Student Hall of Fame. She received her Bachelor of Science in mathematics from MC in 1987 and her Master of Education in curriculum and instruction from Indiana Wesleyan University in 1997.

Music

MARILYN SMITH '73

Marilyn Smith is best known as the editor of the popular monthly magazine *Metro Christian Living*, but what many readers may not know is that Marilyn is also a talented musician. Marilyn began her college career at the University of Mississippi, where she was named Most Outstanding Freshman Musician by the music school faculty. She transferred to Mississippi College in her junior year, studying piano with Dr. Ralph Taylor. Marilyn received her bachelor of music in piano performance in 1973 and her master of music in piano performance in 1975. In addition to *Metro Christian Living*, Marilyn has written for Guideposts and has completed freelance assignments for speakers, Bible teachers, and the Mississippi Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is an award-winning member of Southern Christian Writers. Marilyn is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Jackson, serves on the boards of Goodwill Industries and Fishtale Group, and is secretary of the Mission Mississippi Executive Board. Marilyn was named one of Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women for 2006 by the *Mississippi Business Journal*.



Music

TIM RILEY '92

Tim Riley writes music for television and film in Los Angeles. His music has been heard on numerous network and cable shows including *Survivor*, *The Apprentice*, *The Contender*, *Big Brother*, *Ghost Hunters*, *Shaq's Big Challenge*, and many others. His credits include co-composer duties on the Discovery Channel's *Surgery Saved My Life*, and he has co-written themes for Spike TV's *Pros vs. Joes* and Fox's *The Swan*. Tim has scored numerous short films, including multi-festival-winner *Space Available*, as well as the feature *The Wednesday Night Save the World Society*. His recent credits include additional music for *South of Pico*. Tim graduated from Mississippi College in 1992 with a Bachelor of Music degree in composition after studying with



Dr. James Sclater. He worked as an announcer and producer for public radio in Mississippi before moving to North Carolina, where he completed his M.M. degree in film music composition at North Carolina School of the Arts.

Nursing

CINDY FAULK JOHNS '91

Cindy Johns has worked as a registered nurse for 16 years and is currently employed by the Division of Medicaid as a Medicaid program nurse in Jackson, Mississippi. She has also served as a high-risk nurse for teen mothers, a school nurse, a breast cancer educator, and a staff nurse in an acute care agency. Cindy is active in the Asthma Coalition of the American Lung Association, the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi Board, the McComb School District Health/Wellness Advisory Board, the Search Your Heart Foundation, and the Congregational Health Nurse Association, Mississippi Baptist Health Systems. Cindy and her family are members of Pine Grove MB Church in Summit, where she serves as the director of the church's health and wellness program. Cindy believes that her gift and purpose through Jesus Christ is to provide healing and education through the health and wellness ministry.



Nursing

KRISTY LEE SANDERS '92

Kristy Lee Sanders holds degrees from MC in nursing in and in elementary education. She has worked as a nurse at St. Dominic Memorial Hospital and with private physicians. Kristy is a member of First Baptist Church of Jackson, where she serves on a medical committee that assists with disaster relief. An advocate for autism awareness and research, Kristy participates in autism continuing education seminars and helps facilitate autism support groups. Kristy volunteers for Horses for Handicapped, is an auxiliary member of Son Valley and the Central Medical Alliance, and serves on several committees at her children's schools. As a student at MC, Kristy was on the Dean's List, as well as a member of the Laguna Social Tribe, Concert Choir, and Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society. She represented the Student Nurses' Association at the state convention and participated in a Mexico mission trip with the nursing school. Kristy continues to serve the MC School of Nursing as a supporter of the Mexico mission trip.



Psychology

DR. RISA THOMPSON RICHARDSON '93

Dr. Risa Richardson is a clinical neuropsychologist at Methodist Rehabilitation Center and director of clinical training at Methodist Rehab and at the University of Mississippi Medical Center Postdoctoral Neuropsychology Fellowship Consortium. As a treatment consultant to the inpatient brain injury and stroke programs at Methodist Rehab, she provides neuropsychological evaluation and team, family, and patient education about the course of recovery. Risa has published 22 peer-reviewed publications and logged 65 presentations at state, national, and international professional conferences. She graduated magna cum laude from MC with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology in 1993. Risa earned her master's and doctoral degrees from West Virginia University and completed her psychology internship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and VAMC Psychology Consortium.



School of Business

ED TREHERN '69

Following his 1969 graduation from MC, Ed Trehern joined First Federal Savings and Loan as senior vice president in charge of lending and human resources. He held this position for 12 years before leaving to enter private business. Ed owned and operated several businesses, as well as acting as an associate in the corporate finance department of J.C. Bradford. In 1988, Ed was one of four founding partners of Skyler Mississippi, serving as the company's president and CEO. In 1993, Skyler Mississippi became Delta Health Group (DHG). DHG is a long-term care company operating in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Since 1993, Ed has managed acquisition, development, and corporate and facility debt with DHG. The company employs more than 6,000 and posts revenues in excess of \$350 million. In recent years, Ed has also moved into property development, focusing on projects in Gulf Shores, Alabama, and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



School of Business

FRANK GALLAHER '75

Frank Gallaher holds an M.B.A. from MC, as well as an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in electrical engineering from Mississippi State University. He graduated from the Mississippi College School of Law in 1981 and completed the advanced management program at Harvard Business School in 1988. Frank is president of Gallaher & Associates, LLC, a Florida-based management consulting company serving the electric energy field. Prior to forming Gallaher & Associates, Frank was employed by Entergy Corporation where he served in a variety of positions for 34 years, including manager of planning for Entergy Mississippi; director of engineering; vice president and chief engineer for Entergy Mississippi; executive vice president, fossil operations for Entergy Services; and president, fossil operations and transmission. Frank retired from Entergy and formed Gallaher & Associates in 2003.



Teacher Education

PEGGY CARLISLE '75

As a third grade teacher in the Jackson Public School system, Peggy Carlisle struggled to reach underprivileged students who showed little interest in learning. In 1996, Peggy piloted hands-on science kits for her school district. The instant motivation provided by inquiry science engaged her students in the learning process, and the results were reflected in their test scores. Since that time, Peggy has trained more than 250 teachers in the use of hands-on inquiry science. In 1999, President Bill Clinton presented Peggy with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. In 2001, Peggy transferred to Pecan Park Elementary School, where she continues to receive accolades for her pioneering work. In 2002, she was selected for the All-USA *Today* Teacher First Team, was named the Shell National Science Teacher of the Year, was appointed as a charter member of the Teacher Advisory Council of the National Academy of Science, and traveled to Japan as a Fullbright Memorial Scholar. In 2005, Peggy was one of three teachers nationwide honored with the Butler-Coolley Excellence in Training Award by the Turnaround Management Association, which recognizes teachers who have changed the outcome of their students' lives. In 2006, Peggy became the first Mississippi teacher to be inducted



into the National Teachers Hall of Fame, and in 2007 she received the Exemplary Elementary Science Teaching Award from the Council for Elementary Science International. To date, Peggy has received more than \$91,000 in grants in order to provide hands-on learning tools for her students.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW
Lawyer of the Year
GERALD JEUTTER '85

An attorney with Kilpatrick Stockton LLP in Raleigh, North Carolina, Gerald "Jeb" Jetter practices in all aspects of business law, with an emphasis in the area of creditors' and debtors' rights, and is a board certified specialist in bankruptcy law. Jeb has represented financial institutions, insurance companies, a major regional airline, restaurants, and others in business with distressed situations. Jeb has been listed in the Best Lawyers in America since 2005 and was named to Business North Carolina's "Legal Elite" in 2007. An active member of the Raleigh community, Jeb has served on the Friends Board of Habitat for Humanity, chaired the capital campaign for Allied Medical Ministry, served as president of the American Lung Association of North Carolina, and is an elder in White Memorial Presbyterian Church. Prior to earning his J.D. from Mississippi College School of Law, Jeb earned a B.A. in English from the College of William & Mary and an LL.M. in securities regulation from Georgetown University. In recognition of his generosity to MCSOL, the lobby in the administration building is named in Jeb's honor.



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW
Young Lawyer of the Year
KELLY R. BLACKWOOD '99

Kelly Blackwood is an associate in the general litigation practice group in the Jackson office of Phelps Dunbar. She practices in the area of environmental law, including regulatory matters and litigation. Prior to joining the firm, Kelly worked as a senior attorney at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Kelly is a member of the Mississippi Bar and is the 2007-2008 Chair of the Section on Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law. She is also a member of the American Bar Association's (ABA) Section on Environment, Energy and Resources (SEER) and is the co-author of an article titled "Katrina's Tort Litigation: An Imperfect Storm," which was published in the ABA's *Natural Resources & Environment*. Kelly serves on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Women Lawyers' Association. In 2007, she was recognized by the



Mississippi College School of Law as the Young Lawyer of the Year, was the recipient of the Pro Bono Award from the Hinds County Bar Association, and was selected as one of Metro Jackson's "Top 40 Under 45" by the *Metro Business Chronicle*.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW
BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
Lawyer of the Year
THE HONORABLE WINSTON LEE KIDD '91

Judge Winston Kidd was appointed by Governor Ronnie Musgrove to serve as Hinds County Circuit Court Judge in 2001. He was subsequently elected to his position in 2002 and in 2006 and presides over civil and criminal matters in Hinds County. Judge Kidd is a graduate of East Central Community College in Decatur and a cum laude graduate of the University of Mississippi. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Kidd worked as an attorney with the Walker & Walker law firm in Jackson. He is a past president of the Magnolia Bar Association and a recipient of the Association's Service Award and President's Award. Judge Kidd is also past treasurer and past vice president of the Jackson NAACP. He serves on the adjunct faculty of MCSOL, where he teaches pre-trial practice. Judge Kidd is a strong mentor for young people, speaking at churches and schools, volunteering with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, and coaching the winning Mock Trial Team at Piney Woods Country Life School.



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW
BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
Young Lawyer of the Year
GALE WALKER '03

In addition to practicing law, Gale Walker is a registered nurse. She received her R.N. nursing diploma from St. Dominic School of Nursing in 1979 and earned her B.S. in Nursing and an M.S. in Nursing from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Ms. Walker received her Juris Doctorate degree from the Mississippi College School of Law in 2003, where she was awarded the American Jurisprudence Award in Health Law. Prior to joining Wilkes & McHugh, P.A., in 2004, Ms. Walker was a law clerk for Presiding Judge Leslie Southwick, Mississippi Court of Appeals. She also clerked with Watkins & Eager and Markow, Walker & Reeves as a law student. Gale is a member of the Mississippi Bar Association, the Hinds County Bar Association, the Magnolia Bar Association, and the Mississippi Trial Lawyers Association.



From Hot American Politics to the Great American Pastime

NOTED SPEAKERS COMING TO MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Get ready to wave the Star-Spangled Banner and serve up the apple pie. A political luminary who ran for the White House and a former Major League Baseball star are booked for upcoming visits to Mississippi College.

JEFF BRANTLEY TO HEADLINE THE ANNUAL WILD GAME DINNER

Former Major League Baseball All-Star pitcher Jeff Brantley will be the guest speaker at the Billy Joe Cross Wild Game Dinner on November 5, 2007.

An All-American who led Mississippi State University to the College World Series, Brantley played four seasons for the Bulldogs, racking up an impressive 45 wins while teamed with legendary MSU players Will Clark, Rafael Palmeiro, and Bobby Thigpen. Brantley's pro career spanned five teams, including the San Francisco Giants and Cincinnati Reds. Brantley was a color commentator for ESPN broadcasts of Major League Baseball and a contributor for "Baseball Tonight" from 2002 to 2006 before joining the Cincinnati Reds radio broadcast team.

Of course, words of wisdom from Brantley aren't the only thing on the Wild Game Dinner menu. Come prepared to enjoy a hearty meal including fried venison steaks, grilled frog legs, quail breast, catfish, corn on the cob, and green beans, all prepared by Steve Sizemore, owner and operator of Longhorn's Steakhouse in Newton. The event also features a silent auction.

The Wild Game Dinner is the biggest annual event benefiting MC athletics; over the past five years, the dinner has generated more than \$400,000. This year's event kicks off on November 5th at 7:00 p.m. at Anderson Hall in the B.C. Rogers Student Center.

Individual tickets to the Wild Game Dinner are \$100. Tables for eight are available for \$1,000. For additional information about the Wild Game Dinner or to order tickets, please contact Missa Turman at 601.925.3341.

BOB DOLE TO SPEAK AT MC

Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole will be the keynote speaker at MC's 2008 scholarship banquet March 31, 2008 on the Clinton campus. A Kansas Republican who was his party's presidential nominee in 1996, Dole will headline the event, which is a key part of MC's \$65 million Growing the Vision campaign.

Dole served as a Kansas senator from 1969 to 1996 and was the Republican vice presidential candidate in 1976. Mississippi Senator Trent Lott succeeded Dole as Senate Majority Leader when he stepped down in 1996 to run for president. Twice decorated for heroism, including two Purple Hearts for injuries sustained during World War II, Dole is currently special counsel at a Washington, D.C., law firm. In 2007, President George W. Bush appointed Dole as co-chair of a national commission to investigate problems at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

"We're honored to welcome a former candidate for president, Senate Majority Leader, and advocate for veterans to the MC campus," said Mississippi College President Lee Royce. "We look forward to hearing his legendary wit and wisdom regarding the national and political scenes."

Dole is the latest in a stellar lineup of well-recognized leaders who have visited MC in recent years. The list includes Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who spoke at the MC School of Law commencement, and award-winning CNN news anchor Wolf Blitzer.

For more information about the March 31, 2008 banquet, please call the MC Office of Advancement at 601.925.3322.

Class Notes

50s Rev. James L. Harrell (BA '50) recently became the Wayne County Baptist Association missionary, resigning from Evergreen Baptist Church where he was pastor from 1949 to 1954.

Winnie Vaughan Williams (BA '53) has published her second book, *The Price and Privilege of Being a Woman*. She writes about women who are marginalized in developing countries where she has been involved in missions and humanitarian endeavors. See more at www.winniewilliams.com.

John R. Bradley (BA '59) is the author of *Mississippi Workers' Compensation*, a comprehensive legal treatise published in July 2006 by Thomson/West. A long-time member of the law faculty at the University of Mississippi, Bradley has published extensively on workers' compensation law and frequently has been cited by the courts for his expertise. He is serving for the second time as chair of the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Advisory Council. His co-author on the new treatise is Linda Thompson (JD '85), an administrative judge at the Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission. They co-authored a work published in 2002 in the *Encyclopedia of Mississippi Law*.



Joel "Hap" Hudson

Reverend (BA '59) and Mrs. (BS '59) William "Bill" P. Smith, III, donated to establish the William P. and Mary Ellis Smith Scholarship Fund at Mississippi College.

Joel "Hap" Hudson ('59, MEd '65) was inducted into the Mississippi Athletic Trainers' Association (MATA) Hall of Fame.

60s Jim Megginson, (BA '65) former *Collegian* editor, authored a book entitled *African American Life in South Carolina's Upper Piedmont, 1780-1900*, published by the University of South Carolina Press.

James J. Cooke (BA '65, MA '66) edited a book with the University of Missouri Press entitled *The Sharmrock Battalion in the Great War*. The book details the experiences of Martin Hogan with the 165th Infantry in World War I.

Major Sammie Etheridge (MEd '66) was honored at Alumni Day at Chamberlain-Hunt Academy for serving his country and for his years at CHA.

Gary Anglin (BA '67) was named the 2006 Distinguished Alumnus for the Mississippi College Department of Music. Anglin has performed with the Mississippi Symphony, The Pensacola Symphony, Jackson Choral Society, Saint Andrew, and Singing Men of West Texas.

Gary Walters' ('69, MEd '83) paintings were displayed at the Getrude Mutton building on the Copiah-Lincoln Community College campus. The artist studied with Dr. Sam Gore while attending MC.

70s Dr. Dan Jones (BS '71) will serve as president of the American Heart Association for its 2007-08 fiscal year.



Dr. Dan Jones

Dr. Jay Richardson (BSBA '72), pastor of Highland Colony Baptist Church in Ridgeland, was special guest speaker for the Pastors' Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Grenada County Chamber of Commerce Unity Committee. Richardson is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and has served in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Marilyn Smith ('73, MM '75) was chosen as one of Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women by the *Mississippi Business Journal* 2006.

Sarah Channell Blackwell (BSEd '74) has completed her doctoral degree in elementary education at the University of Mississippi, where she is an assistant professor in the education department. Her husband Doug Blackwell ('73) is associate head coach for men's and women's cross country and track at Ole Miss.

Michael Cameron Catt (BA '75) is the executive producer of the feature film "Facing the Giants," which has been showcased in numerous media outlets throughout the country. The film was produced by Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, GA. He has also recently edited his third book, *Reflections on the Gospels*, by Vance Havner. Catt is editor of www.2prophetu.com with Dr. Warren Wiersbe and has received the Martin Luther King Award for his work in racial reconciliation.

Bill (BS '75) and Alice (BMed '76) Nettles have moved to Jackson, TN, where Bill is professor of physics at Union University. Prior to joining the faculty at Union, Bill taught physics at Mississippi College for 23 years.

Davis Richards (MBA '75, MHA '78) has been named chief executive officer of Health Management Associates Inc.'s River Oaks Health Systems in Flowood, MS.

Dr. Earl Mahaffey (BS '76) has joined the medical staff of Jefferson Davis Community Hospital and has opened his private practice in Prentiss, MS.

Carrie Hodges (BA '76) was awarded the 2006-2007 STAR teacher distinction for the fourth year in a row. She teaches at Indianola Academy.

Angela (Hubbard) Lawrence (BSEd '77) was selected to be a part of the International Textile and Apparel Association (ITAA) Fulbright-Hays Group Project to India. The project, entitled "Fabric of Indian Life," is a faculty development project involving 12 members of ITAA and six K-12 teachers who were chosen in a competitive process. Angie is a design technology for fashion and interiors instructor at Kossuth High School.

Harry Walker (MBA '77) has been appointed chairman of the Mississippi Bankers Association.

William J. Ireland, Jr. (BA '78) received one of 124 nationwide grants in 2005 offered by the Lilly Foundation's National Clergy Renewal Program. Ireland utilized the grant for additional study at Princeton Theological Seminary, Oxford University, and family travel.

Lonnie Graeber (MBA '78, MHA '79) joined the staff of the University of Mississippi Medical Center as director of hospital outreach. He previously served as CEO of Neshoba County General Hospital.

Pete Hurt (BSEd '78) has been named head football coach at Holmes Community College. He previously served as the head coach at Samford University in Birmingham, AL.

Patricia "Tricia" Smith Hamburger (BS '78) has been promoted to the senior executive service position of Deputy Commander, Human System Integration Directorate, & Naval Sea Systems Command. Hamburger formerly served as Naval Surface Warfare Center Corporate HSI director.

Liz (Elizabeth Carlisle, '78, MEd '79) Gullett was named "2006 Teacher of the Year" at Warren Central High School in Vicksburg, MS.

Andy Taggart (BA '79) co-authored his first book with Jere Nash entitled *Mississippi Politics: The Struggle for Power, 1976-2006*. Taggart was chief of staff to former Governor Kirk Fordice and currently practices law in Madison, MS.

80s Dr. Robert Canoy (BA '80) has been named by Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina as new divinity school dean. Canoy has served as associate dean and associate professor of theology for the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb since 2000.

Marsha (Litchfield, BA '80) Powers is coordinator of special projects and publications for the University Honors College at Middle Tennessee State University. She is also the advisor for the award-winning arts and literary magazine of the Honors College.

Sarah O'Reilly-Evans (JD '80) was recognized in the *Jackson Advocate* for her accomplishments in the judiciary field and her position as first black female city attorney.

Sharion Aycock (JD '80) announced nomination by President Bush to fill a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi.

Dr. Carole B. Haney, (JD '81) director of the North Mississippi Regional Center since 1986, announced her retirement from state service. During her career, Haney served as an advocate for citizens with mental retardation and their families, along with those who work in their service.

Rob Fairly (MBA '81) was promoted to president and chief executive officer of the Methodist Foundation. Previously, he was the executive vice president of the United Methodist Foundation of Louisiana.

Ronnie Smith (BSBA '82), regional president of Regions Financial Corp., will now preside over expanded Regions territories in Louisiana and East Texas (186 bank locations).

Mickie Knight ('82, MA '94) was named STAR teacher at Northwest Rankin High School. She has taught English at Northwest Rankin for 23 years.

Ann Tyson Speyer (BS '83) has been named chief information officer for the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Dean Shaw (BSEd '83) is now superintendent of the Picayune Municipal Separate School District.

Mary Johnston (BA '83) and Dr. Beth Stapleton (BA '92) collaborated in a presentation entitled, "Current Issues in Hispanic Culture: Healthcare and Beyond," which they presented at the National Association of Social Workers (MS Chapter) annual meeting.

Tara Kay Holloway (BS '84) was named "2006 Teacher of the Year" at Porters Chapel Academy in Vicksburg, MS.

Janet Spain (BSBA '84) joined the sales team of Prudential Ann Prewitt Realty. Spain has been licensed since 1996 and has become a Multi-Million Dollar Producer.

Diane Kuchman (BSBA '85) of Vicksburg, MS, has written and illustrated a book entitled *Krystal Steps; The Journey Begins*. The book chronicles the spiritual journey of two children.

Debra Carr (JD '85) served as keynote speaker at the 26th Annual F.E. Woodall Spring Conference for Helping Professions. Carr is a licensed professional counselor, a licensed marriage and family therapist, and an attorney.

Brian Caraway (BSBA '86) has been promoted to vice president of customer operations for Cellular South.

Darlene Hill Jezek (BSEd '86) is a certified teacher and interpreter for the hearing impaired. She serves as interpreter at Norman Public Schools in Norman, OK.

Suzanna VanDyke (MM '87) directed the Northwest production of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

Donald G. Buffum (MBA '87) is the new head of procurement policies, procedures, and objectives for Mississippi State University. He previously directed the Office of Purchasing, Travel and Fleet Management at MSU.

Kimble Rene Keyes (MEd '88) has retired after 28 years of teaching at the Mississippi School for the Blind. She plans to relocate to Hattiesburg to take care of her mother.

90s Norman Session (MEd '90) was named Rankin County School District Administrator of the Year. He has served as principal at Pisgah High School for five years.

Tara Lytal ('90, MSC '94) has been hired by the City of Clinton as manager for its Main Street Program, a long-term, incremental, comprehensive approach to downtown revitalization for smaller communities.

Bob Robinson (BSBA '91) received the "Rookie of the Year" award at Frito Lay. Robinson lives in Tuscon, AZ.

Vickie Ham (BSBA '92) was chosen as one of Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women for the *Mississippi Business Journal* 2006.

Chris Payne (BSBA '92) has been promoted to vice president at Trustmark in Jackson. He is a graduate of the Mississippi School of Banking and is a member and former industry co-chair of the Postal Customer Council.

David Higgs (MA '92) was a guest speaker at the Area 50-Plus Club meeting. Higgs is a history instructor at Copiah Lincoln Community College and a martial arts enthusiast.

Dr. Beth Stapleton (BA '92) and Mrs. Mary Johnston (BA '83) collaborated in a presentation entitled, "Current Issues in Hispanic Culture: Healthcare and Beyond," which they presented at the National Association of Social Workers (MS Chapter) annual meeting.

Marc Ransier (BSBA '93) was promoted to vice president of finance and pricing for Blue Cross Shield of MS.

Michele Champion ('93, MM '02) graduated in August 2006 with a doctor of arts degree in music from the University of Mississippi. She is an assistant professor of music at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA.

Chris Burgess (MBA '93) opened a new business, Performance Delta, LLC. The company offers management tools made for businesses focused on customers; the goal of the company is to increase growth in business and profitability by enhancing employee productivity.

Danada F. Johns McMurtry (MEd '93) was chosen as one of Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women for the *Mississippi Business Journal* 2006.

Stephanie Nixon (BSN '93) was recognized by the Women's Pavilion of South Mississippi for her service as Nurse Practitioner in Jones County. Nixon has worked in the Jones County area since 2001.

Angela Miller (BSBA '94), CPA, has been promoted to the position of manager at Collins and Corbin, CPAs in Jackson.

Madelene Loftin (MEd '94) was named Jackson Public School's Teacher of the Year for 2006-07. Loftin is a science teacher at Wingfield High School and has 13 years of experience in education.

Zena Riles Phillips (BS '95) teaches first grade at Vicksburg Montessori Christian School in Vicksburg, MS.

Trey Jones ('95, JD'98), partner at Brunini, Grantham Grower & Hewes, PLLC, was named in the "Top 40 Under 40" by the *Mississippi Business Journal*.

Jason Coutwell ('95, MBA '99) has been promoted to assistant vice president at Trustmark Bank in Jackson and serves as a regional credit administrator. He is an associate member and Mid-South Chapter member of the Risk Management Association, a 2006 graduate of the Southeastern School of Commercial Lending, and president of the Rankin County Forestry Association.

Larry D. Sparks (MBA '95) has been named vice chancellor for administration and finance at the University of Mississippi.

Cindy Lane Dishongh (MHS '95) has been named chief executive officer of Rankin Medical Center in Brandon, MS. Dishongh joined the hospital as associate administrator in June 2005 after working with River Oaks Health System, where she obtained more than 20 years of hospital operations experience. She served as Rankin Medical's chief operating officer prior to being named CEO.

Ben Wynne (MA '95) has written a book entitled *Mississippi's Civil War: A Narrative History*. For more information, visit www.mupress.org/webpages/books/H725.html

John Washburn (BS '96) has written a political thriller entitled *When Evil Prospers*. See a review at www.conservative-monitor.com/books03/when-evil-prospers.shtml

Bradley S. Clanton (JD '96) was appointed shareholder of Caldwell and Berkowitz. He previously served as chief counsel to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on the Constitution.

Val Vickery (MSC '96) was recognized for her work in Educating Africans for Christ. The program provides scholarships as a form of ministry. Vickery serves as the executive director of the organization.

Laura Buelow Jones (MEd '96) was chosen as one of Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women for the *Mississippi Business Journal* 2006.

Jarrod Ravencraft (MSC '96) recently completed the requirements as a graduate of the Mississippi Certified Public Managers program (CPM).

Theja Tamara Williams (BA '97) received the 32-semester hour graduate Certificate in Management (CM) from Harvard University, with a concentration in managing nonprofit organizations and a citation in nonprofit management.

Caroline "Boo" Crawley Moore (JD '97) announced her candidacy for county attorney in Winston County.

Kelly Shannon (BS '98) joined Mississippi Children's Home Services as development coordinator. She was previously employed as special projects officer in the communication office of the Mississippi Department of Health. She is a Central Chapter member of PRAM, where she has served as service project committee chair and was named PRAM Central's 2001 Emerging Practitioner of the Year.

Tara Mitchell (BSEd '98) was chosen for listing in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. The distinction honors the most respected teachers in the nation.

Kyle ('98, JD '01) and Tina (Stockman, MBA '98) Fulcher moved to Bettendorf, IA, where Kyle works at the John Deere World Headquarters as a senior attorney. He was previously in private practice in Jackson, MS, with the Carroll, Bufkin, Fulcher & Coco Law Firm. Kyle and Tina have two children, Landon (5) and Laurel (3).

Martin E. Willoughby (JD '98), of Willoughby, McRaney, and Randall, has completed his certification as an administrator and facilitator for the comprehensive entrepreneurship-educational program.

Alton Lee (MBA'98) was named Rankin Medical Center's chief financial officer. He previously served as controller at Rankin Medical Center and has more than 25 years of experience in financial administration and healthcare accounting.

Margaret McKee Swarts (MM '98) passed the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

Lieutenant Jimmy Jordan (MSS '98) completed training at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Lt. Jordan was one of only two Mississippi officers selected to attend the school.

Tara L. Tyson Mitchell (BSEd '98) was chosen for listing in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. The distinction honors the most respected teachers in the nation.

Kelly R. Blackwood (JD '99) received the Mississippi College School of Law "Young Lawyer of the Year" award for her contributions to the school.

Brandon Jones (BA '99) announced his candidacy for House District 11. Jones holds a master of divinity degree from Wake Forest University Divinity School. He also attended Mercer University Law School and earned his J.D. in 2005.

Derek Easley (BSBA '99) was appointed as governmental affairs director for the Mississippi Association of Realtors.

Susan Durham McNamara (JD '99) joined the Wells Moore Simmons and Hubbard law firm.



Luvenia Marie Manning

Luvenia Marie (Jackson, BSN '99) Manning serves as a captain in the U.S. Air Force. She and her family are currently stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, AL. While driving through Canada on summer vacation, they visited the famous Signpost Forest in Watson Lake, Yukon Territory Canada. Now on display there among the more than 50,000 signs from across the world is a sign from the Mississippi College Alumni.

00s Chadwick Miller (BSBA '00) earned his license as a certified public accountant. He is employed by Grantham, Poole Randall, Reitano, Arlington & Cunningham PLLC.

Brian Rutledge (MHSA '00) is the divisional administrator for the Division of Cardiology at the University Medical Center in Jackson, MS.

Robert "Rob" C. Ainsworth (BSBA '00) joined the team at Rankin Medical Center as controller. Ainsworth was previously employed by Health Management Associates, Inc.

David Horner (BSBA '00) is boys' basketball coach at Jackson Prep. He previously coached basketball at the Southern Baptist Educational Center for two years.

JeanAnn Bull (BA '00) launched her DRIVE (Dare to Realize your Incredible Value and Excellence) program for teens



JeanAnn Bull

across the nation. Designed for youth and young adults ages 13-19, DRIVE takes a real-life approach to reaching goals and building self-esteem. Bull speaks to youth at schools, churches, and community events across the nation. For more information on No Bull Media Group, LLC, the DRIVE program or Bull's book, visit www.nobullmedia.net.

Troy Arlis Ricks (BS '01) was honored by the Mississippi House of Representatives for his career and accomplishments.

Lauren Glass (BSW '01) has been the assistant director at Camp Hollymont for Girls in Asheville, NC, since September 2005.

Justin Jackson (MBA '01) is a loan officer at Bank of Brookhaven.

Sean Tindell (JD '01) announced his candidacy for the office of county attorney of Harrison County.

Joseph Luby (BA '02) serves as children's minister at First Baptist Church Picayune. Luby graduated from Southwestern Seminary and has served at First Baptist Picayune since January 2006.

Dewayne Richardson (JD '02) is running unopposed for the position of district attorney for the 4th Circuit Court District, which includes Sunflower, Washington, and Leflore counties.

Benjamin P. Sones (BA '03) joined the law firm of Sherrard & Roe, PLC in Nashville, TN, as an associate. He received his J.D. degree in May 2006 from Vanderbilt University College of Law, where he was a Harold Stirling Vanderbilt Scholar and served as student writing editor for the *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law*.

Lisa Shoemaker (BS '03) passed the Accreditation in Public Relations exam, earning the only professional designation for public relations practitioners.

John M. Lassiter (JD '03) is an associate with the Jackson law office of Burr & Forman LLP.

Les Howell, Jr. (MBA'03) was appointed vice president of Delta Industries Inc.

Danny Ruhl (JD '04) joined the firm of Copeland, Cook, Taylor, and Bush as an associate.

Ross Aven III (BA '04, MBA '06) is Mississippi College's new director of alumni affairs. He previously served as the college's coordinator of student development.

Katie Koerber (BSBA '06) is a staff accountant at the Hightower Advertising Agency in Jackson, MS.

Kristen Phillips (MSC '06) has been promoted to copywriter and communications specialist at Hightower Advertising Agency.

Marriages

Granville Tate and Virginia Hamilton Phillips ('54), December 2005

Edgar Burton Kemp IV and Beverly Ann Stubblefield ('74), December 30, 2006

David Grant ('78) and Lynn Warner, January 14, 2006

David W. Ayscue and Erin Marshall ('92), June 24, 2006

Scott and Leigh (Hudnall, '97) Wolfe, 2006

Ron Reynolds and Kristen Elbourne ('98), May 28, 2005

Stephen Agostinelli and Meredith Edrington ('00), August 5, 2006

David Jason Honnoll and Courtney Bolè Kennard ('02), March 25, 2006

Joseph Labonte and Marjo Gill ('02), August 27, 2006

Anthony Roman and Celia Pittman ('03), February 18, 2006

James Hilton Wall III and Jenna Kaye Windmiller ('03), September 30, 2006

Ross Aven ('04, MBA '06) and Brittnye Dickerson ('06), May 26, 2007

Casey M. Smith III and Mandy Honeycutt ('05), December 17, 2005

Jim Webber and Melanie Calkins ('05), June 10, 2006

Mario Niguel Tolliver and Tracy L. Dismuke ('07), April 7, 2007

Births & Adoptions

Kevin ('88) and Stacy (McKay '89) Goins adopted Davidson Andrew on June 11, 2007. David joins their family from Nazareth, Ethiopia. He is welcomed by his new brothers Devin, Destin, and Duncan.

Charles ('90) and Malinda (Walker, '90) Loffin, Lauren Elizabeth, June 7, 2006; welcomed by brother Connor (9) and sister Morgan (8).

Michael and Amanda (Adams, '92) Black, Joshua Henry, February 15, 2005, welcomed by brothers Nathan and Daniel.

William and Barbie (Wiggs, '93) Bassett, William Christian, December 14, 2005; welcomed by sister Grace.

Mitchel ('94) and Carrie (Kuyrkendall '93, '97) Creel, Brody Kendall, April 20, 2006; welcomed by brothers Jackson (5) and Oliver (3).

Edward ('94) and Sarah ('97) Carlisle, Andrew Lee Carlisle, August 11, 2006.

Chad and Christy (Connerley '98) Ball, Kalyn Noor, March 11, 2004; Lamar Chadwick II, February 12, 2006.

Joseph and Susan (Autry '99) Currier, Mason Autry, March 26, 2006.

William "Billy" ('99) and Jauna (Kendrick '99) Royston, Adelyn Grace, April 11, 2006; welcomed by sister Analiese Kyn-dal (5) and brother John Duncan (2).

Nathan ('00) and Jessica (Hitt '01, '03) Bullock, Kaleb Waites, August 22, 2006.

Bryon and Jennifer (Johnston '01) McCorkle, Brayden Charles, May 23, 2006.

Ben and Jessica (VanMatre '01) Myers, Ethan David, June 9, 2006; welcomed by sister Payton Noelle (2).

Wesley ('02) and Lindsay (Hazelwood '03) Quick, Brayden James, September 20, 2006.

Greg and Melissa (McMorris '02) Duncan, Ann Elise, September 15, 2006.

Aaron and Megan (Walley '03) Pritchett, Nathan Andrew, July 2, 2006.

Tim ('04) and Stephanie (Tripp '04) Peabody, Joseph Simon, August 30, 2006.

Michael ('05) and Amy Williamson, Rosemary Carroll, August 7, 2006. Amy is an instructor for the MC Department of Foreign Languages.

In Memoriam

1920s

Griffith Baley Price ('25, LLD '62) November 7, 2006
Emma Lewis Blakeney ('25 Hillman) November 18, 2006
Sarah Trotter Douglas ('28 Hillman, '32) October 28, 2006
Lucille Hollingsworth ('28 Hillman) March 20, 2007

1930s

Jane Pinnix Stone ('33) April 25, 2007
Vera E. Taylor ('33) July 2006
Annelle E. Bailey ('36) September 24, 2006
Lester Franklin ('36) September 17, 2006
Mr. Morgan D. Langston ('36)
Frank Jackson Huffman, Sr. ('37)
Albert David Powell ('37), June 11, 2007
John Mac McGinnis ('38) November 16, 2006
Elgin M. Wells ('38) February 19, 2007
William Haskell Jackson ('38) March 25, 2007
Ione M. Puryear ('38 Hillman, '40) April 8, 2007
Dr. George Bergen Butler ('38) June 7, 2007
Carrey Littlejohn ('39) January 15, 2007
S. Sidney Massey ('39) April 13, 2007

1940s

Julia Todd ('38 Hillman, '40), Retired Professor of Speech, September 13, 2006
Mary Lin Patterson Smith ('38 Hillman) ('40) April 7, 2007
Mary Lin P. Smith ('40) April 4, 2007
William Harrison Ellzey ('42) December 20, 2006
Dr. Louis Dollarhide ('42), Retired Asst. Professor of English and History, January 16, 2004
Frances Jones Finane ('42) October 29, 2006
W. Levon Moore ('42) October 26, 2006
Ruby Glenn ('42 Hillman) January 2007
Dr. James G. Haggard, Sr. ('42) April 29, 2007
J. Troy Prince ('43) November 30, 2006
Edith Maude Byrd Emmett ('43) February 19, 2007
Richard Hobson Boteler ('44) February 14, 2007
Sidney B. Denman ('47) July 26, 2006
Franklin Ward James ('47) June 18, 2006
James B. Bassett ('47) March 24, 2007
Everett S. Cole, Jr. ('48) September 8, 2006
Ray Wayne Carpenter ('49) July 24, 2006

1950s

Norman Glenn Wells ('50) August 19, 2006
William Clyde Howard Jr. ('50) November 3, 2006
J. W. Brister ('52) October 15, 2006
Rev. Charles M. Case, Sr. ('53) March 1, 2007
Dr. Albert Lawrence Clegg ('53) May 7, 2007
Lillian Irene Breland ('55) October 31, 2006
Jerry Dawson ('56) June 17, 2006
Andrew Lamar Thaggard, Jr. ('56) July 26, 2006
Walter R. Johnson, Sr. (JD '56) June 8, 2007
Floyd Dowdy, Jr. ('57) April 12, 2006
Sue Kelley Simpson ('57) September 1, 2006
Kenneth T. Rainey ('57) September 24, 2006
John Merritt ('57) December 29, 2006
R. Rev. G. E. Jolley, Sr., ('57) January 11, 2007
Nancy Elizabeth Frost Howell ('57) April 22, 2007
Rev. Aubrey McLellan ('58) March 15, 2007
Glenn Bolton ('59) December 19, 2006



"I KNEW HER TO BE A WOMAN OF COURAGE... I WAS WELCOMED BY HER BEAUTIFUL SMILE."

MC REMEMBERS LINA SONG

"I knew her to be a woman of courage," Professor of Nursing Beth Twiner said during the moving memorial service for MC student Lina Song. "I also knew her to be a woman of great character and honesty."

A 27-year-old graduate student from China, Song died September 13, 2007, when she was struck by a car as she walked on U.S. 80 in Clinton. A student at MC since August 2006, Song had forged many friendships on and off campus. Hundreds of members of the community joined Song's parents, other family members, and friends in Provine Chapel for an emotional memorial service to offer prayers, mourn Song's passing, and celebrate her life. The service was translated into both English and Chinese.

"You couldn't help noticing how beautiful Lina was," Twiner continued as a large delegation of Chinese students looked on. "For the first three weeks of classes, I was welcomed by her beautiful smile."

Song's legacy of friendship and welcome will continue to live on the MC campus. During the service, MC leaders announced the creation of the Lina Song Memorial Scholarship, which will help Chinese students pay a portion of the costs of their graduate studies. MC enrolls more than 300 international students, 250 of them from China. The first Lina Song Memorial Scholarship will be awarded in the spring of 2008.

"Lina was a superior young woman, outstanding in every way," said Jim Brackenridge, executive director of international programs. "This scholarship is an appropriate way to honor her memory."

Song was enrolled in the graduate program in health services administration. She was slated to graduate from MC in 2008 and had already accepted a position with the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C. Song's funeral was held September 22 in Virginia, where her parents, Lianfang Wang and Xifeng Song, reside. Song's parents spent several days in Mississippi following the accident, meeting their daughter's teachers and friends and visiting the campus Lina Song had come to love.

"Lina's parents are very touched and appreciative of all that MC has done to remember their daughter," says Diana Brackenridge, MC's international program administrator. "They are pleased that her memory will be honored with a scholarship that will assist deserving students in fulfilling their dreams. Her parents value education very highly and find it fitting that this is how Lina will be remembered."

"By establishing this scholarship, we hope to keep the memory of this promising, well-loved young woman alive at MC for generations of students who never had the privilege of meeting her," says MC President Lee Royce. "We hope to encourage other students who share her courage, her character, and her honesty to follow in the footsteps of Lina Song."

DONATIONS TO THE LINA SONG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP MAY BE SENT TO:
The International Center at Mississippi College / Attention: Lina Song Memorial Scholarship / 201 Monroe Street / Clinton, MS 39056

1960s

Jim Spooner Legan ('60) July 25, 2006
William Liles Champion ('60) August 12, 2006
Shirley Hamby Miller ('60) September 8, 2006
Gail Weaver Schenck ('60) September 9, 2006
John R. Tabb ('62, MBA '75) November 8, 2006
Ernest G. Davis ('62) January 23, 2007
Ross Wilson Rogers ('64) April 12, 2007
Anne Wing Kinder ('64) July 20, 2006
Robert E. Pittman ('65) March 13, 2006
Marjean Patterson (MED '65) October 1, 2006
James B. Mason ('66) November 12, 2006
Edwin Chester Hardin ('67) August 3, 2006
Eddie Medlock, Sr. ('67) January 6, 2007
Trudie May Duncan ('67) January 21, 2007
Linda Wynne (MED '67) April 6, 2007
Kenneth Loyd Gordon (MED '68)
October 19, 2006

1970s

Phyllis Herren ('70) January 18, 2007
Mary Frances Gandy ('71) January 27, 2007
Clarence Larry Zachary (MBA '72) August 13, 2006
Alfred Betts (MED '73) January 3, 2007
Robert L. Watts ('74) June 9, 2007
Tim Canterbury ('75) October 24, 2006
Irene Delchamps Moore ('75) February 13, 2007
Vickie Hillman Mims ('76) April 5, 2007
Hudson Lloyd Thomas (JD '77) December 24, 2006
Donald C. "Don" Woods (JD '78) January 27, 2007

1980s

Catherine Peets Davenport Jobin ('80)
February 9, 2006
Carroll Lane Strong (BSBA '80) February 1, 2007
Percy E. Rauls, Jr. (MED '81) September 4, 2006
Dan M. Harrison (MBA '83) September 1, 2006

1990s

Regina Gail Gibbs Rigby ('92) November 10, 2006

2000s

Kirk Conerly ('06) February 10, 2007

Faculty & Staff

Mary Ellen Berner (Music Department faculty member, 1947-1982) October 29, 2006
Ada Sumrall, (Instructor of Library Science and Media Center Librarian from 1961-1979)
December 16, 2006

Friends

Marjean Patterson, former executive director-treasurer of Mississippi WMU, October 1, 2006

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

ENTERING *and* DEPARTING

A FRESHMAN AND AN ALUMNUS REFLECT UPON THE WORDS ADORNING THE GATES
TO THE MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE CAMPUS:

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

ENTERING

I never would have dreamed I'd end up going to the same school that my dad and mom went to – let alone wind up living in the same dorm room Dad occupied 30 years ago – but that's what happened when I chose to call Mississippi College my home for the next four years.

My first thought about MC was that it was too close to home and was way too small for me. As soon as I stepped on campus, I realized how little my initial impression mattered. I chose MC because, just as the words on the gates suggest, it's a place that will help me increase in stature, knowledge, and wisdom.

My stature, or reputation, will increase as I learn the teachings of Jesus and grow in my faith and knowledge in Him. Whether I'm going to chapel or attending a BSU retreat, there is always a place at MC for me to become a better Christian and follower of God.



Rob, Karen and Andy Taggart

My knowledge will increase because of the amazing faculty and staff. The professors here really care about my future and will go out of their way to make sure that I succeed in college.

I will gain more wisdom and make better decisions because of MC. I know that my classmates will make sure that I don't slack off in school and will help me make logical decisions.

MC is the right decision for me. In fact, it might just be the best thing that could ever happen to me. I hope that the next four years will prove to be an adventure of a lifetime and I am looking forward to growing in my stature, knowledge, and wisdom at MC.

Rob Taggart is a member of the Mississippi College class of 2011. He plans to leave his dorm room neater than his father, Andy, did before him.

DEPARTING

Mississippi College allowed me the opportunity to build on the foundations of my faith, offered relationships that led to lifelong friendships, and united me with Karen, my bride of nearly 25 years, who is also an alum. So please, don't expect me to be objective on the topic of the culture of Mississippi College.

But with that disclaimer offered, let me note that I believe my bias – now more than 30 years in the making – is justified. Granted, MC is not a perfect place, and we will never perfectly reflect its cultural ideal. Our school is represented in its students, staff, faculty, administration, and alumni by people with clay feet and frailties just like everyone else.

But by and large, those who have chosen to make MC the place for their study, their service, or the exercise of their leadership view their identity with Mississippi College not as a choice, but as a calling. Many of us believe that the Lord of time and eternity intervened to bring us to this place for appointments that He had prepared for us, and that we have a responsibility to preserve and project a culture that far predated us.

The gates on our campus bid us to “share [that] culture with all mankind.” While my reach hasn't been quite as broad as “all mankind,” the MC culture of academic excellence accompanied and sustained me during three years at Tulane Law School. My profession has taken me all over the country; MC's culture of valuing personal relationships has served me well in my travels and in frequent work in both our nation's and our state's capital cities and Capitol buildings. Our school's cultural commitment to evangelism sent me on a mission enterprise to New York City while I was still in school, and prepared me for mission trips to East Asia and countless efforts in the U.S. as an adult.

I suppose for some, sharing the culture of their *alma mater* means wearing the colors and waving the flag, which is just fine. But I think the words on our gate mean more than just school spirit, and I suspect that most MC students and alums think so, too.

Andy Taggart '79 maintains a law practice in Madison, Mississippi and serves on the Mississippi College Board of Trustees. Visits to his son Rob's dorm room leave him nostalgic, but not enough to move back in.



“The Gates” is one in a series of paintings of the Mississippi College campus by Kenneth Quinn. A 1961 MC graduate, Quinn joined the MC art department faculty in 1994. In 2005, he donated the Kenneth Quinn Mississippi Regional Art Collection to MC. The collection includes works by more than 200 Mississippi artists.

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