

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE | WINTER 2012

# beacon

## Growing the Vision Tops \$87 Million

**PRESIDENT LEE ROYCE AND  
THE CAMPAIGN LEADERS ON  
MAKING THE VISION A REALITY**





FROM THE PRESIDENT  
LEE GARDNER ROYCE

Strong leaders share certain traits, including the ability to realistically assess a situation or organization, develop a vision and a plan for achieving it, and motivate others to action.

But strong leadership also depends on context. Different organizations demand different leadership skills during different times. The unique abilities required to lead troops into battle, for example, are very different than those required to lead a church congregation in worship. The skills needed to guide a fledgling start-up company are not the same as those required to lead the same company years later once it has reached a level of success.

When I assumed the presidency of Mississippi College a decade ago, the university was experiencing a period of crisis. MC carried significant debt, income was down, and enrollment was low in comparison to overhead. In that context at that time, the role of the MC leadership was to *push*. MC moved forward with new academic programs and launched an ambitious capital campaign. Motivated by a sense of urgency and energized by the possibilities, the MC family responded decisively and with enthusiasm.

Today, 10 years later, we have retired a great deal of the university's debt and raised more than \$85 million through the "Growing the Vision" campaign. We've made tremendous improvements to our physical plant and strengthened our endowment, and enrollment is at an all-time high.

This success brings new challenges for me and for others in leadership positions at MC. Now that the crisis mode has passed, our role is to maintain the energy, motivation, and sense of urgency that brought us to this point. Over the past decade, we've created a culture of innovation and responsiveness at MC; maintaining that momentum in positive times is our next challenge.

Obviously, there are many differences between leading troops into battle and leading our university into its next phase. But with your support, we will capitalize on the momentum we've built and continue to pursue our shared vision to become a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ.

*Lee Royce*

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## BY THE BEACON'S LIGHT

*For lack of guidance a nation fails, but victory is won through many advisers. — Proverbs 11:14*

This issue of the *Beacon* celebrates the successful conclusion of the "Growing the Vision" campaign at Mississippi College and the leadership that made that success possible. While any great endeavor requires the hard work of many people, it takes strong leadership to articulate the vision, communicate it with others, and inspire participants at every level to push toward the common goal.

More importantly, great leadership requires sacrifice, humility, and the ability to put the needs of others above one's own. In the following pages, you'll meet MC alumni and faculty members who serve as leaders. Some have led prominent efforts like "Growing the Vision," a campaign that will enhance facilities and programs at Mississippi College for many years to come, while others act as advocates for those who have no power of their own. Some are instructing the leaders of the future, while others still are leading quiet lives of service that shape the world around them for the better.

What all have in common is their desire to use their gifts of leadership to serve others and ultimately, to further the cause of Christ. Their stories are a reminder of the words of Jesus, who said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

*On the Cover:*

Dr. Lee Royce and campaign leaders, donors, and students share their perspectives on the "Growing the Vision" campaign and its impact on pages 22-41.



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\$87.4 MILLION

Growing the Vision Exceeds the Goal



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



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# 5,270 and Counting

MC'S ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO SOAR.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE CONTINUES TO SHATTER ENROLLMENT records with 5,270 students taking classes last fall, a significant gain of 262 students over the 5,008 headcount from just one year ago.

New academic programs, including the physician assistant program; the addition of the MC Flowood Center; and a challenging economy that has prompted more people to return to college to bolster their job skills have all contributed to the impressive growth in enrollment. MC continues to be a top choice for many students seeking an outstanding education in a Christian atmosphere.

"The main reason I came here is because Mississippi College is a Christian university," says junior Rebekah Way, who enrolled in MC following her graduation from Hinds

Community College. "And at MC you definitely get your money's worth. I love it so far."

## COUNT THEM IN

MC's enrollment has climbed steadily over the past decade. Enrollment in 2002 – 3,300 • Enrollment in 2011 – 5,270

The current total enrollment includes:  
3,238 Undergraduates • 1,457 Graduate Students  
575 Law School Students

Launched in the spring of 2011, MC's new physician assistant program attracted 29 students.



## KEEPING THE FAITH IN BUSINESS

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE WILL FOCUS ON FAITH IN BUSINESS during the L.D. Jordan Business Through the Eyes of Faith Week event, a special series of programs held on campus February 20-23.

Sponsored by the MC School of Business, the event focuses on equipping MC business students with Christian principles that will guide them throughout their personal and professional lives. February 20-21, the business faculty will incorporate faith and ethics teachings and exercises into their lesson plans. On February 22, MC alumni and business leaders will participate in classes, sharing their real world experience in incorporating their faith into their careers and businesses. The event will conclude on February 23 with a luncheon featuring keynote speaker Mike Drucker, COO of FedEx, a company recognized worldwide for maintaining the highest standards of ethics and professionalism.

The L.D. Jordan Business Through the Eyes of Faith Week is named in honor of Don "Papa" Jordan '51, a prominent Tennessee businessman and entrepreneur. Jordan made a generous gift to the MC School of Business, specifying that the money be used to establish an endowment for developing programs and attracting speakers focused on integrating faith in the workplace. It's Jordan's hope that the program will inspire future business leaders to integrate their faith into every aspect of their lives, including their professions.

"Life is like a three-legged stool," Jordan explains. "One leg represents the professional, one the spiritual, and the third family and friends. If all three legs are not in balance, the stool will topple, but if all three are given equal attention, the stool – your life – will be stable. Most business people grow that business leg too long, but I've never known a truly happy person in my life who didn't have three equal legs."

### L.D. JORDAN BUSINESS THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH WEEK

February 20-23, 2012 • For information about attending L.D. Jordan Business Through the Eyes of Faith Week events, please contact Katrina Pace at 601.925.3421 or [kpace@mc.edu](mailto:kpace@mc.edu).

## WHERE DO YOU GO WHEN GOOGLE DOESN'T HAVE IT?

THE INTERNET HAS MADE PEOPLE A LITTLE LAZY. Type in a question, and the answer appears.

But what to do when you can't find the information you need online or you aren't sure what's popping up on your screen is the whole story? How do you know the information is accurate, and if it is, do you really know the best way to use it?

The answer to those questions lies in U-Research: Engage. Empower. Enhance.

U-Research is a new program designed to improve MC students' information literacy skills. Incorporated into regular classes and other activities, U-Research teaches students how to recognize when information is needed, how to find the right information, and how to put that information to good use.

U-Research is Mississippi College's Quality Enhancement Plan, or QEP. All universities accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS), including MC, are required to create a QEP that enhances the educational experience. U-Research will be one of the many things leaders with the SACS will look at during a reaccreditation site visit to MC April 17-19, 2012.

"Information literacy includes critical thinking skills that are crucial not only for academic success, but also for success in the workplace," says Susan Newman, the Leland Speed Library reference coordinator, who is co-chairing the U-Research project. "Information literacy ranges from gathering relevant information to asking appropriate questions – all skills graduates need to compete in a knowledge-based workforce."

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT U-RESEARCH?

Begin online at [mc.edu/qep](http://mc.edu/qep). But don't stop there.

If you dig a little deeper, there's no telling what you could turn up.



Engage. Empower. Enhance.

## A NEW DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE

PROFESSOR KENNETH QUINN IS OFFICIALLY DR. KENNETH Quinn. The gifted MC art professor received an honorary doctorate at Mississippi College's graduation ceremony on December 16.

"Kenneth Quinn has been an ambassador for MC and the art department for many years," said MC Art Department Chairman Randy Miley. "He deserves this honor based on the amount of work he's done. He's completed the equivalent of a doctoral degree and we're so happy to be able to officially refer to him as 'Dr. Quinn.'"

Quinn received his bachelor's degree in art from MC in 1961 and earned a master of education in art from Illinois State University in 1964. An art teacher at Whitten Junior High in Jackson for 30 years, the gifted artist taught at MC for 15 years. In 2006, Dr. Quinn received the Mississippi College Order of the Golden Arrow Award, which honors



alumni or friends of the college who have made outstanding achievements in their professions, businesses, or careers.

In January 2010, the Gore Galleries hosted a month-long exhibit showcasing 40 of Quinn's watercolors, many of which featured MC landmarks. Quinn described his beautiful paintings of Nelson Hall, the bell tower, and other campus buildings as a "thank-you note to the MC faculty and staff."

## CONDOLEEZZA RICE TO SPEAK AT 2012 SPRING SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET



FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE Condoleezza Rice will be the keynote speaker for Mississippi College's spring scholarship banquet to be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

Born in segregated Birmingham, Alabama, Rice earned her bachelor's degree in political science, cum laude and Phi Beta

Kappa, from the University of Denver; her master's from the University of Notre Dame and her Ph.D. from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

From 1989 through March 1991, Rice served on President George H.W. Bush's National Security Council staff. She served as director; senior director of Soviet and East European Affairs and, special assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. In 1986, while an international affairs fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations, Rice also served as special assistant to the Director of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In 1993, Rice became the first woman and first African American to become a Stanford University provost. As Stanford's provost, she was responsible for a \$1.5 billion annual budget and the academic program involving 1,400 faculty members and 14,000 students.

She was appointed National Security Adviser by President George W. Bush in 2001 – the first female to hold that position – and served as the 66th Secretary of State of the United States from January 2005 through 2009. Today Rice is currently a professor of political economy in the Graduate School of Business and the author of *No Higher Honor: A Memoir of My Years in Washington* (November 2011).

"Condoleezza Rice is an American renaissance woman with notable accomplishments in the fields of academia, administration, diplomacy, and the arts," says MC political science professor Glenn Antizzo, a specialist in international relations. "She served with effectiveness as national security adviser and Secretary of State during turbulent times for America immediately after the terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon, and helped keep the United States safe after 9/11."

Rice will be making her second speaking engagement at Mississippi College; she served as keynote speaker during MC Law graduation ceremonies in 2003. As speaker at the spring scholarship banquet, Rice will join an all-star roster of prominent guests, including former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, magazine publisher Steve Forbes, and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee. The annual event has raised more than \$1 million for scholarships at MC.

### SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Mississippi College offers several sponsorship opportunities that help support Mississippi College. Sponsorships begin at \$1,500. Individual tickets to the scholarship banquet are \$200. For more information, please contact Amy Rowan at 601.925.3257 or [rowan@mc.edu](mailto:rowan@mc.edu).

# Choctaw SPORTS ROUND-UP

## THIRTEEN MC SOCCER PLAYERS NAMED TO ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

The MC soccer season kicked off with a bang with the dedication of the new Robert G. W. Girling III Soccer Center and continued to soar with 13 players named to the American Southwest Conference (ASC) All-Conference Teams. Choctaws recognized as ASC stars included Brian Vasquez, who was named Offensive Freshman of the Year after leading the league with 35 points, and Hannah Langley, who was named ASC Soccer Sportsman Athlete of the Year. Congratulations to all 13 outstanding players who made the All-Conference Teams.

Robert Watson, who co-chaired the Circle of Champions campaign with Don Phillips.

“The Circle of Champions project reflects the generosity of our alumni and friends in helping transform the entrance of Robinson-Hale Stadium to make it among the finest facilities in the American Southwest Conference and all of NCAA Division III sports,” says MC Athletic Director Mike Jones. “We appreciate the support from these major donors who’ve helped our program step up in a significant way in 2011.”

## MC SAYS, “ROLL TIDE!”

The annual MC athletic department dinner featured former Alabama head football coach Gene Stallings as the keynote speaker, attracting both Choctaw and Crimson Tide fans to the MC campus. Stallings led the Crimson Tide to a national championship in 1992, the last national championship claimed by Alabama prior to the Nick Saban era.

Previously billed as the Billy Joe Cross Wild Game Dinner, the 2011 event was modified to feature a less exotic menu and was rechristened the MC athletic department dinner. Over the years, the annual fall event has raised more than \$1 million for Choctaw athletic programs. Previous speakers have included Colorado Rockies player Seth Smith, former University of Mississippi Chancellor Robert Khayat, and former Major League Baseball pitcher Jeff Brantley.

Attracting more than 500 sports enthusiasts, this year’s MC athletics dinner raised more than \$160,000.

## MC UNVEILS CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS

Major supporters of Choctaw athletics are immortalized in granite in the new Circle of Champions, a lasting memorial to the generous donors who funded a much-needed facelift for Robinson-Hale Stadium. Improvements to the stadium include a new entry driveway featuring decorative brickwork, a new ticket booth, iron fencing and an entrance gate.

The names of those who contributed are permanently engraved on the driveway near the football stands. Inaugural members of the Circle of Champions were also recognized at halftime during the MC Homecoming game last October.

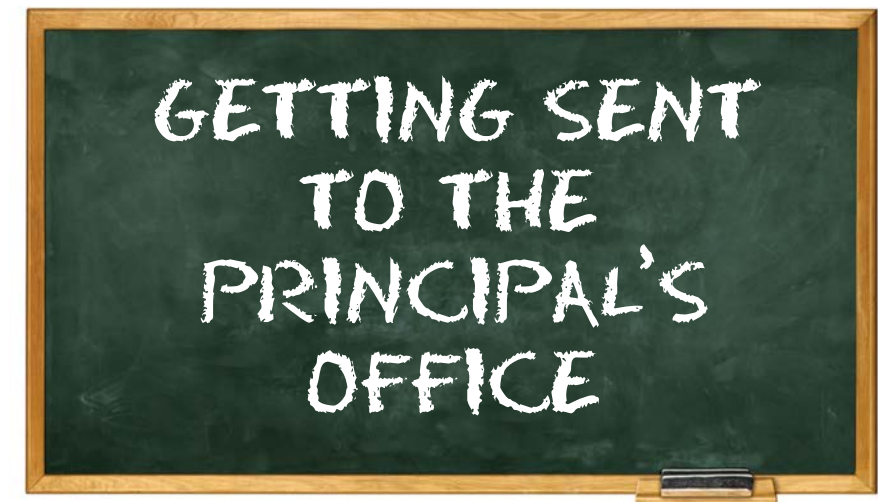
“I’m very proud to be part of the stadium renovations at Mississippi College,” said MC trustee and businessman



THE 2011 ATHLETIC DINNER ATTRACTED 500 GUESTS AND RAISED \$160,000 FOR CHOCTAW SPORTS.

SOCCKER SEASON  
KICKED OFF WITH THE  
DEDICATION OF THE NEW  
ROBERT G. W. GIRLING III  
SOCCER FIELD HOUSE.





#### THE MC EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

“We sometimes hear complaints about the effectiveness of the K-12 schools in Mississippi,” says Ruthie Stevenson, doctoral program coordinator for Leadership K-12 in the MC Department of Teacher Education and Leadership. “But we cannot have effective schools without effective leaders.”

Training those future, effective leaders is the goal of the Mississippi College educational leadership program. Open to K-12 educators who wish to assume leadership roles as school principals or school system administrators, the program offers a master’s degree, specialist’s degree, or doctoral degree in educational leadership. A second doctoral program launched in 2011 offers a concentration in curriculum and instruction for those who wish to work on curriculum at the school district level.

The program prepares candidates to become strong, ethical leaders capable of guiding K-12 schools to new levels of success in an environment that’s becoming more and more challenging. Schools have always been a reflection of society;

some current societal issues, including the breakdown of the family, lack of parental involvement, changing moral beliefs, and the evolving definition of “diversity,” are magnified in the classroom. Today’s school principals and administrators face challenges that their predecessors could not have imagined.

“It takes ethics and courage to be a leader and to make difficult decisions,” says Tommye Henderson, assistant professor of teacher education and leadership, who guides the doctoral program with concentration in curriculum and instruction. “In some school districts, that courage is gone.”

The educational leadership program attracts teachers with the courage to make a difference and a clear vision for where they believe K-12 schools should and could be.

“Our vision as a department is to produce the best prepared educational leaders in the history of the state of Mississippi,” says Doris Smith, who coordinates the master’s degree program. “We really work at being the best at meeting the challenges of today’s society.”

#### “THE MOST REWARDING PART OF THE PROGRAM

is the relationships you make along the way. From the fellow cohort members to the professors, lifelong relationships are forged through this process. Every time we met with Dr. Doris Smith, she allowed a time for prayer requests and then we would lift each other in prayer. Those times are what made this program special.” — *Keith Reed '10*

## A PROGRAM THAT'S EARNING AN A+ MC program participants perform well



on required tests and certification exams, but the best measure of the educational leadership program's success is how those who complete it perform on the job. "Our graduates move into leadership positions very quickly," Ruthie Stevenson says. Of the first group of doctoral program participants in 2008, nine of the 10 cohort members have been promoted into administrative positions; the tenth chose to decline an offered promotion. In August of 2011, Kathleen Grigsby made history as the first MC student to complete the doctoral program in educational leadership. A former teacher and assistant principal, Grigsby assumed a new role as principal at Marshall Elementary School in Jackson during the 2011-12 school year. Of course, receiving a promotion means that a leadership position must be available; in some school districts, that means waiting until an administrator retires or transfers. Even in areas in which leadership positions are limited, program participants have been given increased responsibilities as a result of completing the MC program. "When I began the program, I was a teacher and football coach. I still hold the same title, but since completing the program I have taken on increasingly more administrative responsibilities at my school," says Brett Robinson '09. "I am in charge of our school safety plan and procedures, and I've been chosen to serve on numerous committees within our school and at the district level. After just two months in the program, I knew that I was going to return to school a better teacher and overall educator. My school even named me Teacher of the Year."

The master's degree program combines class work, seminars presented by respected practitioners in the educational field, team building exercises, and in-depth presentations and projects. Each master's degree candidate must also complete an internship in the school in which he or she currently teaches. MC program coordinators work with the principal in each candidate's school to design an internship during which the candidate progressively acts more and more as the principal. For example, the candidate might handle disciplinary issues, run a parent/principal conference, or serve as "principal for the day."

The MC program is selective; of the 58 applicants who applied for the session that began in June 2011, only 18 were accepted. The master's degree candidates are referred to individually as "cohorts" and collectively as "a cohort" and complete the program together, relying on one another for input, insight, and encouragement.

"As leaders in a school, these candidates won't work alone, so they don't work alone here," Smith says. "Cohorts become each other's best friends and support systems."

"Your cohorts are always looking for ways to help, from offering to babysit your kids to walking you through their areas of expertise where you might not be as strong," says

DeSean Dyson, a teacher and coach at Clinton High School who graduated from the master's degree program in 2011. "I remember us having these exciting combination conversation-and-study sessions. We threw ideas around and fed off of each other's knowledge and energy."

Those who earn master's degrees continue to be an integral part of the program, with previous cohorts returning to campus to teach successive groups.

"What makes this program good – and I believe it's the best in the state – is what we've done together," Smith says. "We have tremendous support and input from practitioners in the field, including principals and supervisors. Students

in one cohort share ideas for the next cohort. Once a year, we hold a review and invite all of our graduates to come back and get involved in the planning and tweaking of the program. This program belongs to its participants and to the people who are going to hire them."

The specialist and doctoral programs in educational leadership build on the foundation laid in the master's degree program. Participants include not only teachers, but also principals and administrators who already hold leadership positions, but wish to earn degrees that will prepare them for further advancement.

"WE ARE PREPARING LEADERS FOR operating a 'new' type of leadership – one that focuses on academic achievement and one that holds all stakeholders accountable for their work or lack of it." — *Dr. Gerald Hasselman, Director of Educational Leadership*

"ONE OF MY CLASSMATES, STEVE MCCARTNEY, GAVE AN ADDRESS at our final luncheon, and I remember thinking if the future of our state is in the hands of individuals like Steve, we have some good days ahead of us. Steve is just one of many examples of the greatness I saw in my classmates. I was really proud to be a part of that group. Every single one of them will be a great leader." — *DeSean Dyson '11*



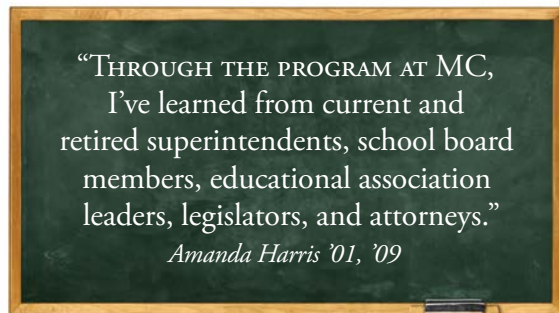
TOMMYE HENDERSON, DORIS SMITH, AND RUTHIE STEVENSON ARE EXPERTS IN EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS.

## THE OTHERNESS PROJECT



“When I came into the classroom as a teacher in the 1970s, I had Caucasian and African American students,” Ruthie Stevenson recalls. “Today, diversity is no longer just about race. It’s about sexual orientation, obesity, religious beliefs, ethnicities, and language – some students don’t even speak English. Teachers have to deal with students who are not like them, situations they can’t personally relate to, and beliefs they don’t share or might even disagree with.” To help better prepare teachers to deal with differences in the classroom, Stevenson developed the “Otherness Project.” Doctoral students in the multiculturalism and diversity class put themselves into situations in which they become the “other.” For example, a participant might attend a church in which the primary language spoken is Spanish, sit in on support group meetings for people suffering from addictions, or attend gatherings for people of different religions or different sexual orientations. Stephanie Henderson earned a specialist in educational leadership degree in 2006, has since been promoted to district-level administrator, and is currently a doctoral candidate. For her Otherness Project, Henderson, an African American Baptist, attended a Bar Mitzvah, a ceremony held when a Jewish boy turns 13. “This was a very different experience for me,” Henderson says. “The majority of the ceremony was in Hebrew, but the sacredness of the ceremony broke all language barriers. Those seated around us assisted us in the portions that involved the audience and specific readings. The experience reminded me how important it is to make people feel welcomed in our homes, churches, neighborhoods, and schools.”

“The most rewarding part of the program has definitely been the instructors,” says doctoral candidate Amanda Harris ’01, ’09 who earned her bachelor’s degree and her specialist in education degrees from Mississippi College and currently works as a technology coordinator for the Rankin County School District. “Not only are they experienced with educational issues that school leaders across Mississippi face, but they are well connected to current educational leaders and bring them in to talk with us in class. Through the program at MC, I’ve learned from current and retired



“The exchange of ideas with my classmates has shaped my philosophy of education,” Harris says. “We all come from different backgrounds and different districts, and hold various positions. We have a curriculum director, special education director, technology coordinator, teachers, coaches, and several school-based administrators – it’s almost like we have our own ‘school district’ as a group.”

“My view of ‘school’ used to revolve around my classroom. I never thought of anything outside my four walls. Now my view of ‘school’ includes every classroom and office on our campus,” says doctoral candidate Brad Johns, who teaches math in the Rankin County School District. “Collaborating with others in the program makes me a better teacher and future administrator as I ‘borrow’ the best ideas and teaching methodology from my peers and translate them into my own practice. As a result, my students experience best practices from around the state of Mississippi.”

One thing all students from the master’s through the doctoral level agree on is the intense, demanding nature of the educational leadership program.

“I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OUR GRADUATES DEVELOP NEW SOLUTIONS to old problems related to student achievement and motivation, drop out issues, teacher training and retention, community involvement, and the perception of our education system by the public. I would like to see our graduates develop schools that use technology that reflects the interests and learning styles of today’s students. And I would like to see our graduates serve as role models in life-long learning, ethical leadership based on Christian principles, and Christ-like service for their respective communities.” — Dr. Tom Williams, Chair, Teacher Education and Leadership

## HEAD OF THE CLASS

Instructors in MC’s educational leadership program know the ins and outs of running schools firsthand. Ruthie Stevenson was previously regional director for the Academy for Educational Development in New York, New York, and also served as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, and assistant superintendent with public schools in Louisiana and Mississippi. Tommie Henderson was formerly superintendent of the Clinton School System, while Doris Smith was formerly superintendent of Winona Public Schools.



Other faculty members in the Department of Teacher Education and Leadership include former department chair Dr. Tom Williams, who worked in the Jackson Public Schools for 25 years as a teacher, coach, and principal, and Director of Educational Leadership Gerald Hasselman, who brings experience as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, and director of secondary curriculum for the Warren County and Oxford School Districts and as the director of school improvement and associate state superintendent with the Mississippi Department of Education.

“A great strength of the ed leadership program is experience,” Hasselman says. “Between us, the faculty has more than 200 years’ experience as teachers, coaches, assistant principals, principals, superintendents, and associate state superintendents.”

“Every professor I’ve had in this program is a former superintendent,” says doctoral candidate Brad Johns. “The trials they faced during their time in office gives us perspective on what will come our way when we’re walking in their shoes. You cannot put a price on that experience.”

“I feel it’s our responsibility to deliberately develop other people to take our places,” Henderson says.

“And,” Stevenson adds with a smile. “We’re telling them to hurry.”



“The most challenging aspect was staying on top of the work load,” says Brett Robinson, a teacher and coach at Clinton High School who earned his master’s degree in educational leadership in 2009. “Being a teacher, coach, father, husband, administrative intern, and grad student could be extremely overwhelming. But this was a great lesson to learn because it’s just like being in an administrative position at a school. It’s a constant battle of doing things for others, handling student issues, handling teacher issues, and still finding the time to get your own work done.”

The program’s benefits are clearly worth the effort. In an era when educators are often overworked, underpaid, and underappreciated, educators are willing to make the sacrifices needed to succeed in the rigorous MC program.

“Our students have extreme internal drive,” Henderson says. “Typically, some experience or person in their lives has motivated them to want to make a difference in education.”

“My daughter is in first grade, and I have made it my responsibility to make sure she and her classmates have the best education possible,” says Keith Reed, who graduated from the master’s program in 2010 and has since been promoted from a teacher at Brandon Middle School to assistant principal at Puckett Attendance Center. “This program gave me the foundation I needed to lead people and students in creating a positive school environment.”

“My long-term goal is to serve God in the field of education,” Dyson says. “Having been through this program, I feel much more equipped to do so in a leadership capacity. I’ve met and seen like-minded individuals who have turned their passion into action, and now I have better insight into what leadership can and should do.”

“It’s my goal to influence the educational system from the inside out so that I can help all children and so that my own children have a successful system in which to learn, grow and develop,” Johns says. “My goal of becoming a school principal is more than just a position to me. It is the placement I need to create beneficial change for Mississippi’s children.”



A young woman with dark hair, smiling broadly, is looking out from the open window of a yellow school bus. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with greenery and a building.

# IT'S

FROM THE SCHOOL BUS TO THE STATE BAR,

# IN THE

AMANDA GREEN ALEXANDER HAS ALWAYS HAD

# GENES

WHAT IT TAKES TO LEAD THE WAY

Amanda Green Alexander first heard the call to advocacy as a petite eight-year-old riding the school bus. One of little Amanda's fellow passengers was a 17-year-old boy named David\* who suffered from a learning disability.

"The other kids picked on David, so I starting sitting on the seat beside him and taking up for him," Alexander recalls. "Even at eight years old, I knew this was an injustice. Defending David against the other kids, I would sometimes get really close to advocating myself into a fight. Fortunately, my older brother, Bernard, was big enough to protect me."

Alexander came by her strong sense of justice naturally. Her father, Rev. Arthur Green, was an emergency medical technician, Army staff sergeant, and pastor who had served as president of the local chapter of the NAACP, and her mother, Debora, was a teacher and administrator with Project Head Start. Both Greens had been active in the Civil Rights Movement and were respected leaders in the Kokomo, Mississippi, community where Alexander grew up.

"My father always told us, 'Don't be one of the masses. Be a leader by example,'" Alexander says. "When I told them at the age of eight that I wanted to be a lawyer, they encouraged me to follow that dream. Actually, what I wanted to be was a judge, but I knew I had to be a lawyer first."

Years later as a freshman at Tougaloo College, Alexander posted a list of goals on her dorm room door, a road map for her life ahead. One of those goals was to own her own law firm within 10 years. Alexander graduated cum laude from Tougaloo, then earned her master's degree in public policy and administration from Jackson State University (JSU). While she was still enrolled in JSU, Alexander began working as an executive assistant with the Mississippi Bar Center, Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program, gaining her first in-depth exposure to the legal profession.

"Many people may not know how thoughtfully Amanda came to her decision to be a lawyer," says Betty Daugherty, a leader in the program at the time Alexander worked

there. "Our program included working with lawyers who were experiencing problems with their physical and mental health. Amanda saw that not every person who had gone to law school – including many lawyers who seemed to be very successful – was in reality well-suited for the practice of law. Amanda prayerfully considered whether practicing law was what God was really calling her to do. Once she made the decision to pursue a legal career, she was fully committed to being the best."

In 2000, Alexander enrolled at MC Law. To say she had the support of her family would be an understatement. The Greens called a family meeting, complete with a Power-Point presentation Alexander prepared for her father, mother, and brother outlining the financial and emotional support she would need to succeed in law school and including a slide, "explaining why I would not have the time to attend all of the family functions."

During her time in law school, Alexander married and relocated to Hattiesburg. For a full year, she clerked in a Hattiesburg law firm and commuted to Jackson every day for class; she later clerked with the U.S. Department of Justice. Following her graduation from MC Law, Alexander served as election protection coordinator for the Mississippi Center for Justice; as a judicial law clerk for Chief Judge Leslie King of the Mississippi Court of Appeals; and as the deputy city attorney for the City of Jackson, where she was responsible for handling all of the city's worker's compensation and employment cases.

While she enjoyed the challenges each position presented, Alexander never lost sight of her goal to open her own law firm. Her former Tougaloo College and MC Law classmate, Edward Watson, shared that goal. The two friends had often discussed opening their own practice together, and in 2005, Alexander decided the time had come.

"I was working at a larger firm when I told Amanda, 'Okay, I'm in. Let's do it,'" Watson recalls. "I thought I'd have some time to make the transition. But before I knew it, Amanda was calling me to tell me she'd found office space to lease."

**"My parents raised us to be leaders, and today when a challenge is set before me, my mother still reminds me, 'You are a Green. You can do it.' Clearly, my mother has shaped who I am today. My best example of standing firm and being confident comes from her, and as I work to balance faith, motherhood, and career, she is my inspiration."**

**STANDING TALL** Edward Watson, Alexander's law partner, has known Alexander since their days at Tougaloo College. "My first impression of Amanda was, 'Wow, she is tall,'" Watson (who himself stands five-foot-ten) recalls with a laugh. "I think people can be intimidated by that, and by the confidence Amanda exudes." At six feet, two inches tall, Alexander has a commanding presence. She confesses she sometimes uses her height as an advantage in the courtroom; on days when she's facing a tough legal adversary, Alexander dons high heels (her "kick butt" shoes) and adds another four or five inches. But Alexander wasn't always so comfortable with her stature. As a teenage girl towering over all of the boys her age, she wore flats to minimize her height. "Then one night I overheard my father telling my mother, 'The baby doesn't like being tall, and I feel so bad because she gets that height from me,'" Alexander recalls. "From that point forward, I wore heels every day. My daddy's feelings were way more important than those boys who teased me."

\* The student's name has been changed to protect his privacy.

Alexander launched Alexander & Watson, P.A. in downtown Jackson with Watson as a silent partner; he joined the practice full-time in 2007. In March of that year, Alexander and Watson celebrated their ribbon cutting surrounded by family, friends, and dozens of well-wishers. It was a bright day for Alexander; she and her husband were expecting a baby, she had reached her 10-year goal of opening her own firm in just eight years, and her beloved father was on hand to deliver the opening prayer. But just one month after the ribbon cutting, Arthur Green died unexpectedly.

"I was grief-stricken and six months pregnant, and coming back from the funeral, I remember telling my brother that I might want to take some time off," Alexander recalls.

"Bernard said, 'Dad would want you to go to work. You are a Green.' It was just like when I was an eight-year-old who wanted to become a lawyer. It was up to me to make it happen."

Make it happen she did. Alexander & Watson has grown to become one of the premier employment and worker's compensation firms in Mississippi.

"Employment law and worker's comp defense aren't areas in which young law firms typically practice or become successful," Alexander says. "People have an idea that their lawyers should look a certain way or be a certain age, and Edward and I don't always fit that picture. But because we're a smaller, younger firm, we, the partners, are actually doing the work, and our clients seem to appreciate that."

In addition to building a successful practice, Alexander has emerged as a leader in the legal profession. She is the first Mississippian to serve as a member of the executive board of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations. Her long list of service also includes roles as the president of the Mississippi Women Lawyers Association, the first African American editor of the Mississippi Lawyer magazine, the vice chair of the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, and the chair of the Women in the Profession Committee of the Mississippi Bar.

"My work space is divided into the desk in front of my chair, which is devoted to paying work, and the credenza behind my chair, which is pro bono and volunteer work," Alexander says. "The back often outweighs the front. But that's okay. Lawyers who are leading aren't doing it sitting solely at their desks. They're out in the community."

Alexander has served on several committees of the Missis-

issippi Bar; many of her activities with the Bar involve mentoring young attorneys, helping them realize both success in the profession and their potential to impact their communities.

"Amanda motivates lawyers of all ages to be their best, to work hard and smart, and to be humble servants," says Alexander's colleague Tiffany Graves, general counsel for the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. "Amanda has accomplished so much at such a young age. She is the epitome of grace under pressure and a real inspiration."

"Amanda loves to connect people with one another for the benefit of others. It's never about personal gain or recognition for her. It's always about uniting people for a common goal or a good cause," Alexander's law partner, Edward Watson says, then adds with a laugh, "and as a bonus, I've been an honorary member of all the women's organizations she's led. My job is usually to bring in the food."

Alexander's volunteer efforts have earned the appreciation and recognition of her legal colleagues. In 2011, the Mississippi Bar Association presented her with its Distinguished Service Award; she is the youngest recipient in the award's history. *The Mississippi Business Journal* named her to its list of "Top 10 Lawyers in Mississippi" in 2011. She has also been recognized as MC Law's 2010 Young Lawyer of the Year and as the law school's Black Law Student Association 2009 Young Alumna of the Year.

"I am so proud of Amanda," Alexander's former boss, Betty Daugherty, says. "I've seen firsthand her adherence to the highest ethical standards and personal integrity. I would like to take credit for her special gifts, but Reverend and Mrs. Green get that honor."

"There aren't enough words to describe how proud I am of my little sister," Bernard Green says. "Defending David on the school bus was only the beginning, but it's still a great example of how Amanda faces tough challenges, stands up for others, and acts on faith." Green adds with a smile, "Including the faith that I would not let those bullies beat her up."

For Amanda Green Alexander, serving as an advocate and as a leader remains as exciting today as she dreamed it would be on that school bus decades ago.

"I wake up every day excited to come to work," Alexander says. "Even if I'm not having such a great day, seeing my name on the building gives me an extra edge. After all, if I'm not here to make it happen, who will?"

## HOW SHE DOES IT

**Amanda Green Alexander is the only lawyer from Mississippi with an essay featured in the new book *The Road to Independence: 101 Women's Journeys to Starting Their Own Law Firms*. Published by the American Bar Association, the book is a collection of essays by successful female attorneys on how to balance owning their own firms with family life and civic involvement.**

**AMARI'S DEFENSE** When she and her ex-husband divorced and he relocated out of state, Amanda Green Alexander essentially became a single mother to their daughter, Amari. Friends and colleagues know not to call Alexander between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. No matter how demanding her work life and volunteer schedule become, Alexander sets those hours aside as strictly "Amari Time." Even at four years old, Amari is very aware of the ins and outs of her mother's career. During a recent program at her school, Amari shed a few tears during her speaking part. Afterward, when Alexander gently asked her daughter what had been wrong, Amari replied, "I got nervous, Mommy. Don't you get nervous when you have to talk in court?"



## THE ALEXANDER FILE

*Service to the Legal Profession*

Executive Board Member,  
National Conference of Women  
Bar Association (2010-12)

Editor, *Mississippi Lawyer Magazine*  
(2011-12)

Vice-Chair, Mississippi Volunteer  
Lawyers Project (2011-present)

Capital Area Bar Association,  
Diversity Committee Chair (2011-12)

Mississippi Bar Association,  
Ethics Committee (2010-12)

Committee Chair and Member, Capital  
Area Bar Association (2009-present)

President, Mississippi Women  
Lawyers Association (2008-09)

Mississippi Bar Strategic Planning  
Committee (2008-present)

Vice-President, Mississippi Women  
Lawyers Association (2007-08)

Vice Chair and Executive Board Member,  
Worker's Compensation Section of the  
Mississippi Bar (2006-present)

Chair and member, Women in the  
Profession Committee of the Mississippi  
Bar (2005-09)

Metro Jackson Black Women  
Lawyers Association

Judge, National Moot Court Competition

Magnolia Bar Association  
Mississippi Bar Association

District of Columbia Bar Association

## AWARDS AND HONORS

2011 Distinguished Service  
Award presented by the  
Mississippi Bar Association

Named to *Mississippi Business Journal's*  
"Top Ten Leaders in Law" 2011

2010 MC Law Young  
Lawyer of the Year

2009 Young Alumna of the Year  
presented by the R. Jess Brown  
Black Law Student Association

Miss Tougaloo College 1997-98

# JOINING THE BOOK CLUB

*Susan Lassiter '75, '89*

ON LITERATURE AND REAL LIFE

(AND WHERE DID SHE GET THAT OUTFIT?)

“AS A TEACHER OF LITERATURE, I’M SOMETIMES QUESTIONED ABOUT ITS RELEVANCE. It’s one of those subjects that makes students ask, ‘Why do I need to know this?’” Susan Lassiter, MC associate professor of English, says. “I believe that literature is relevant because it teaches us empathy. As a young reader, I loved a variety of books and identified with many characters – Jo in *Little Women*, Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice*. Those characters and how they react to adversity, injustice, and relationships become a part of our conscious and subconscious. “LITERATURE GIVES READERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE HOW OTHERS HAVE DEALT WITH THE CRUSHING PAIN AND THE ULTIMATE JOY OF LIFE,” Lassiter continues. “That’s why we reach for the Bible to know we aren’t the first to hurt or feel abandoned, or for the Nancy Drew book to know we need to begin to figure our way out of trouble. When I teach literature, I try to make it relevant to situations students might experience in their own lives.” STUDENTS AND COLLEAGUES WHO MEET SUSAN LASSITER FOR THE FIRST TIME ARE STRUCK BY HER LIVELY, OUTGOING PERSONALITY, QUICK WIT, AND READY SMILE. Listening as Lassiter chats about her favorite books and authors and recalls adventures from her previous career in high fashion, it’s hard to imagine that her own biography would include tragic loss and a life-threatening illness. But taking her cue from the characters in her well-worn book collection, in times of trial, Susan Lassiter has always looked to the chapter ahead.

After earning her bachelor’s degree in English, confirmed bookworm Susan Lassiter applied for a position with McRae’s Department Stores as an assistant buyer in the retail chain’s book department. But like the novels Lassiter enjoyed most, the interview took an unexpected twist.

“I had always loved fashion, and I went to the interview dressed the way I imagined the people I saw in *Vogue* magazine might dress,” Lassiter recalls with a laugh. “I must have made an impression, because instead of putting me in the book department, they hired me to be the assistant to the special events director, planning fashion shows.”

Lassiter was soon promoted to fashion coordinator, a position that found her styling McRae’s advertisements, catalogs, and TV commercials. Five years later, she became a corporate buyer, traveling to New York City several times a year to meet with the world’s premier fashion designers.

“I remember walking down Seventh Avenue on my way to meet with Calvin Klein or Oscar de la Renta, and thinking to myself, ‘How did I get here?’” Lassiter says. “I had



read books about models and the fashion industry as a little girl, but I never dreamed I would have my own career in that world. It was a very exciting time.”

Lassiter worked for McRae’s for a decade while also juggling a busy home life that included her husband, Larry, and their young son, John. While she loved the fast-paced world of high fashion, the travel required meant spending several weeks at a time away from her family. When she

and her husband began discussing having another child, Lassiter realized the time had come to change careers. In 1985, she left McRae’s and returned to graduate school at MC with plans to earn her master’s degree in English and become a teacher.

Lassiter’s passion for literature had never waned. She enjoyed the challenge of returning to school

and the freedom to spend more time with four-year-old John. While she was studying and teaching as a graduate assistant, Lassiter and her husband learned they were expecting a baby girl. Their life together seemed headed for a storybook ending.

PROFESSOR LASSITER’S READING LIST  
Susan Lassiter’s favorite books include:  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
*The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald  
*The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett  
The vintage Nancy Drew mystery series by Caroline Keene

## WINDOW SHOPPING

SUSAN LASSITER’S children, John ’03, ’06 and Emily ’09, are MC alumni; John is also an alumnus of MC Law. John Lassiter’s law offices are located in a building in downtown Jackson that once housed Kennington’s Department Store, where his mother worked as a teenager. Susan Lassiter vividly remembers creating a candy display in the large window that now looks in on her son’s office.



**ALWAYS IN FASHION** Susan Lassiter's eye for fashion pre-dates her days as a buyer for McRae's. When she was just 11, Lassiter staged her first fashion show for parents and friends of her Girl Scout Troop, also serving as mistress of ceremonies for the event. A few years later as a high school student, she wrote a fashion column for the school newspaper. Lassiter traded the world of fashion for the classroom more than 25 years ago, but she still retains some haute couture-oriented skills. Lassiter can take one sniff of a leather jacket and tell if it's real or faux, accurately count the number of plies in a cashmere sweater, tie a scarf in a dozen different ways, and transform an ordinary sock into a stunning gown for a Barbie doll.



**NANCY DREW TO THE RESCUE** Susan Lassiter teaches several courses in American literature, but her specialty is detective fiction. Her interest in the genre began as a child with Nancy Drew books and has grown to include the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, P.D. James, Dashiell Hammett, and other masters of the genre. "I think people are drawn to detective fiction because we crave a sense of order," Lassiter says. "We need reassurances in this world of chaos that there will be justice and that when something bad happens, someone will pay." Lassiter's fascination with Nancy Drew prompted her to write a paper titled, "Nancy Drew to the Rescue," a look at the famous girl detective as a reflection of the culture of the 1930s, when the character was originally created. The paper won the Earl Bargainnier Award for best paper presented in the mystery/detective fiction category at the 2009 National Popular Culture Association Conference. Lassiter's favorite Nancy Drew adventure? "Mystery at the Ski Jump," Lassiter replies without hesitation. "Nancy cracks a case dealing with smuggled fur coats. It's mystery and fashion in one story – how could that not be my favorite?"

**T**he story changed with a knock on the door on a cold night in December of 1986. Lassiter answered to find the police waiting with devastating news. Her 33-year-old husband had been killed in a car accident. Numb with grief and shock, Lassiter found comfort in her friends and family, her faith, and in the literature she had always loved.

"My favorite poem by Emily Dickinson, whose work I read all through school and went back to after Larry died, describes the process of dealing with grief: *This is the hour of lead / Remembered if outlived / As freezing persons recollect the snow / First chill, then stupor, then the letting go.*" Lassiter says. "The realization that some of us don't outlive our grief was so evident in some of the people who came to comfort me – their pain was so overwhelming, they could not see the joy in their lives. I was not going to be one of those people. The line I kept remembering was 'then the letting go.' My grief was at times overwhelming, but I was not going to let my children grow up thinking life ends when it doesn't turn out as you planned. I had to let go of my dreams of the past and work on new ones with them."

Three weeks after Larry Lassiter's death, his daughter, Emily, was born on what would have been the Lassiters' wedding anniversary. A few weeks later, Susan Lassiter returned to the classroom. She continued to teach as a graduate assistant, earning her master's degree in 1989. When a fulltime teaching position opened at MC that same year, Lassiter accepted it, and was eventually promoted to her current position as assistant professor of English.

In 1992, Lassiter married Jim Temple, a fellow member of Epworth Methodist Church who had fallen in love not only with Susan, but also with John and Emily Lassiter. But just when it seemed they would live happily ever after, the family was thrown another twist. In 1997, Lassiter was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy. Once again, Lassiter's comfort came in the support of her family, her faith, and in the pages of her favorite books.

"Books taught me that grief is not reserved for a loss of a loved one," Lassiter says. "Humans grieve over the loss of love, the loss of dreams, the loss of dignity, and untold other reasons. The way we deal with loss comes from all the pieces that make us who we are. I was determined and positive because I never knew any other way to be."

More than a decade later, Lassiter is fully recovered and celebrating her twenty-sixth year as an instructor at MC. Over the course of her career, she has become one of the university's most well-loved and popular professors. Most of her students are unaware of the tragedies she has overcome in years past, but they do sense in Susan Lassiter an empathetic quality that makes her not only an outstanding teacher, but also a trusted friend and inspirational role model.

"Professor Lassiter is simply the best teacher I have ever had, not just at MC, but at any school I have ever attended," says MC junior Danielle Ashley. "She is extremely intelligent, but she teaches in a way that surpasses the academic level. She makes literature come to life and relates it to real life. In her class, I've learned about relationships, life, death, communication, and so much more. Realizing how much I've learned about life and literature from her,

I've even considered becoming a professor myself. To say I'm blessed to have her as a teacher is an understatement. Because of Professor Lassiter, I'm a better person."

Far more important than teaching her students how to interpret passages from poems or write a research paper, Lassiter has helped her students find the same empathy, the same connection, and the same comfort in literature that she herself has discovered.

"I had a student who really struggled to get through one

of my sophomore literature classes. Six years later, he showed up at my office door, and told me he was coming back to school to take more English courses. I asked him why." Lassiter pauses, her eyes filling with tears. "He said, 'I've been in the military, fighting in the Middle East. When it was dark and I was lonely and scared, I could hear your voice, reading those poems. That was what got me through.'"

As Professor Susan Lassiter well knows, literature doesn't get any more relevant than that.

**SHH! QUIET, PLEASE.**

SUSAN LASSITER was instrumental in the planning and construction of Clinton's Quisenberry Library, which opened its doors in 2010. Lassiter's crusade to build a new library began in 2000, when she noticed the lack of space and facilities at the existing Clinton Library. Lassiter wrote a guest column in *The Clinton News* rallying support for a new facility, asking, "What message are we conveying to our children?...The library, a place where our retired citizens go to read the paper, where children gather to find their own love for books, where those who cannot afford computers in their own homes learn to use modern technology, remains underfunded and neglected." As the chair of the Clinton Library Advisory Board, Lassiter created the New Library Task Force Committee, which worked to raise the public support needed to construct the Quisenberry Library. Lassiter worked with the architect in planning the building and coordinated the opening gala and a month's worth of programs to celebrate the library's opening. Looking ahead to future needs, Lassiter also established the Clinton Library Foundation Fund, an endowment that provides ongoing funding for innovative programs at the library. "From senior adults who use the computers and read periodicals to students who occupy the study rooms to children participating in story hour, the Quisenberry Library is a gem for our community," says Clinton Mayor Rosemary Aultman. "Susan was instrumental in the library's planning and remains dedicated to making certain the library serves the community."

For more on this story, visit [www.mc.edu/beacon](http://www.mc.edu/beacon).



87.4  
MILLION

GROWING THE VISION EXCEEDS THE GOAL

## MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

wrapped up its “Growing the Vision” capital campaign at homecoming, exceeding the \$80 million goal by more than \$7 million.

**T**he campaign to raise funds for capital improvements, scholarships, academic programs, operations, and the endowment launched publicly in 2006 with an original goal of raising \$65 million. In September of 2008, the MC board of trustees voted unanimously to raise the goal to an ambitious \$80 million, largely due to the confidence and leadership of MC alumnus, trustee, and president of the MC Foundation board of directors Don Phillips '54, who chaired the campaign steering committee, and Leland Speed, longtime member of the MC board of trustees and the “Growing the Vision” campaign chairman.

“Having respected business and community leaders of the caliber of Leland Speed and Don Phillips leading the campaign attracted significant interest and made people want to get involved,” says MC President Dr. Lee Royce. “Don Phillips was especially invaluable in motivating the members of the steering committee. At critical points in the campaign,

Don came up with new strategies to keep things moving forward. He never let the committee forget that while our goal was \$80 million, his personal benchmark for the campaign was \$85 million. In all of my experience in college fund-raising, I have never worked with anyone who was more attentive or effective than Don Phillips in leading the way.”

“There are just so many good things going on at MC that I felt other people might want to be a part of, not just through raising money, but through getting involved in planning for MC’s future,” Phillips says. “My greatest pleasure came from working with the MC staff and the MC family of supporters. The can-do spirit of the people at MC and the feeling of success we all shared have been the most memorable parts of the experience.”

“I was very proud to be a part of this effort,” Leland Speed agrees. “I consider MC something special in this secular world. It’s refreshing to see an institution that describes itself first as a Christian university. There is a huge need in our community, our state, and our country for the philosophy that MC stands for. And as far as delivering value, I believe the rest of higher education in America could learn from Mississippi College.”



“THE MOST MEMORABLE PART OF ‘GROWING THE VISION’ WAS MEETING SO MANY MEMBERS OF THE MC FAMILY. It’s important to note that the vast majority of our supporters were individuals who made small donations. Obviously, it’s nice to receive a large donation from a benefactor who is able to support MC at a high level, but we could not have met our goal without the generosity of thousands of people who gave smaller, but equally heartfelt gifts. To everyone who supported ‘Growing the Vision,’ thank you.” — *Dr. Lee Royce*

## THE VISION REALIZED

A few of the many enhancements made possible through “Growing the Vision” include:

A \$1 MILLION RENOVATION OF SELF HALL, home of the School of Business, including new classrooms, equipment, and a lecture hall made possible through gifts from many donors, including J. L. Holloway, Ed Trehern, Eddie Kinchen, Tony Huffman, and John Brock III

RENOVATIONS TO AVEN HALL, including music practice rooms, new instruments and equipment, and a complete remodeling of the performance auditorium, which was renamed the Jean Pittman Williams Recital Hall in honor of its primary benefactor

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SAMUEL MARSHALL GORE GALLERIES, a spacious, modern facility in which student and professional artists can display their works

NEW RESEARCH LABS IN THE HEDERMAN SCIENCE BUILDING, including the Snazelle Microbiology Lab donated by trustee Dr. Sharon Martin and named in honor of Dr. Ted Snazelle, professor of biology

A RENOVATION TO THE LELAND SPEED LIBRARY that transformed the library into a gathering area for students

RENOVATIONS TO LOWREY HALL, home of the School of Education

ATHLETIC FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS, including a new scoreboard, entrance, and synthetic turf installed at Robinson-Hale Stadium; a new track built with generous donations from Dr. Jim Parkman and his son, Jim Parkman, Jr.; renovations to the cross-country course funded by trustee Robert Watson; renovations to the A.E. Wood Coliseum, including the Quick Rebounders Room, named in honor of Doc and Shelley Quick, and a new basketball court named in honor of athletic director and former coach Mike Jones; new soccer fields named for major benefactor Robert Longabaugh, father of MC women’s soccer coach Darryl Longabaugh; and a new soccer field house provided by alumnus Robert G. W. Girling III

A SIGNIFICANT RENOVATION TO THE CAMPUS CAFETERIA, which was renamed the Ray and Betty Hannah Food Court in recognition of its donors

SEVERAL IMPROVEMENTS TO ALUMNI HALL, including an expansion of the M Club Room made possible with the help of donor, alumnus, and steering committee chair Don Phillips; a board room renovation funded by Billy Joe and Robbie Cross; and improvements to the third floor reception area made possible through a gift from Betty Jean Dowdle

THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW BUILDINGS AND MULTIPLE ENHANCEMENTS TO THE MC LAW CAMPUS IN DOWNTOWN JACKSON funded by generous donors including MC Law alumni Jeb Jeutter, Hunter Lundy, Dennis Miller, and Sam Millette, and Jackson law firms including Butler Snow, Watkins & Eager, and Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis

SEVERAL CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS, from landscaping to the installation of two new sculptures by Dr. Samuel Gore, “Jesus the Servant Savior” and “Jesus and the Children,” in the Quad

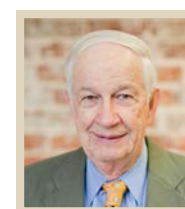
THE LAUNCH OF MISSISSIPPI’S FIRST AND ONLY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

MORE THAN \$1 MILLION RAISED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS through the annual Spring Scholarship Banquets

THE LAUNCH OF A NEW FAITH IN BUSINESS LECTURE SERIES made possible through a gift from alumnus Don Jordan

### BUILDING ON THE VISION

While the “Growing the Vision” campaign has concluded, there are still several exciting projects in the works at MC. Projects planned for 2012 include the construction of a new medical sciences building adjacent to Hederman Hall, a new campus bookstore, and new student gathering space in Alumni Hall.



“I’VE ALWAYS LIKED A CHALLENGE. Every time the \$80 million goal was mentioned, I’d say, ‘But my *personal* goal is \$85 million.’ I guess I’m just an optimistic kind of guy, but it’s been my experience that we can usually do better than we originally think we can. I was happy to be a part of the campaign, but all of the credit for its success goes to God.”  
— Don Phillips ’54, Chair of the Campaign Steering Committee

**MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE**  
 thanks the following people for their generosity,  
 leadership, and dedication.

**“GROWING THE VISION”  
 STEERING COMMITTEE**

Don Phillips, *Chair*  
 Eddie Briggs  
 Bobby Chain  
 Robbie Cross  
 Gaye Flynt  
 J.L. Holloway  
 Eddie Kinchen  
 David Landrum  
 Wayne Parker\*  
 Ronnie Smith  
 William P. Smith III\*  
 Roy Ward  
 Robert Watson  
 \*deceased

**MC LAW COMMITTEE**

Hunter Lundy, *Chair*  
 Richard Bennett  
 Rogen Chhabra  
 La’Verne Edney  
 X.M. Frascogna  
 Kristie Hightower  
 Herman Hines  
 Reeve G. Jacobus  
 Trey Jones  
 Don Ketner  
 Michael Maloney  
 Melissa Malouf  
 Harold Miller, Jr.

Dennis Pantazis  
 Gordon Sanford  
 Joseph Sclafani  
 Katherine Ann Smith  
 Nina Tollison  
 Keith Turner  
 Michael White  
 Martin Willoughby  
 William Winter  
 James Wyly III

**MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE  
 FOUNDATION BOARD  
 (Members during the  
 campaign period)**

Don Phillips, *Chair*  
 Leland Speed,  
*Vice Chair*  
 Sam Anderson  
 Bobby Chain  
 Billy Joe Cross  
 Robbie Cross  
 Kane Ditto  
 Charles Evans  
 Ray Hannah  
 Robert Hederman  
 J.L. Holloway  
 Michael Howard  
 Ginger Moskau  
 Mike Moskau  
 Lloyd Roberts

Joe Robison  
 Lee Royce  
 G. Dale Smith  
 Bill Townsend  
 Ben Walker  
 Roy Ward

**MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE  
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
 (Members during the  
 campaign period)**

Ralph Barnes  
 Troy Brand  
 Cynthia Brumfield  
 Finis Calvert  
 Beth Clay  
 Barry Corbett  
 Robbie Cross  
 George Dale  
 Bill Dye  
 La’Verne Edney  
 Major Everett  
 J.W. Fagan  
 Gaye Flynt  
 Larry Franklin  
 Frank Gunn  
 Fred Hahn  
 Jane Hederman  
 Gene Henderson  
 Dan Jones  
 Eddie Kinchen

David Landrum  
 Landrum P.  
 Leavell II\*  
 Tom Lee  
 Charles E. Lofton\*  
 Hunter Lundy  
 Sharon Martin  
 Ben McKibbens  
 Jasper McPhail  
 Paul Moak, Jr.  
 Alan Nunnelee  
 Wayne Parker\*  
 Don Phillips  
 Mike Rice  
 Jay Richardson  
 Mary Ellis Smith  
 William P. Smith III\*  
 Bill Sones  
 Leland Speed  
 Chip Stevens  
 Andy Taggart  
 Ed Trehern  
 Randy Turner  
 Phil Walker  
 Roy Ward  
 Robert Watson  
 Ken Weathersby  
 Gayle Wicker  
 Jean Williams  
 \*deceased



“I AM EXHILARATED BY WHAT’S HAPPENING AT MC NOW. Our job is to continue that momentum. We have an opportunity to invite friends and potential friends of MC to come out and visit, to see and feel the energy and the growth. It’s not a question of ‘Are we going to grow and succeed?’ It’s a question of ‘How fast?’” — *Leland Speed, Chair of the “Growing the Vision” Campaign*



## SELF HALL, HOME OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Self Hall has undergone a multimillion-dollar overhaul that included a renovated auditorium, modernized classrooms, and state-of-the-art technical equipment.

“If we wanted to remain a premier business school, we had to have facilities consistent with the educational experience we were giving our students,” says Dr. Marcelo Eduardo, dean of the School of Business. “The ‘new’ Self Hall is an asset in recruiting new students and faculty members. There is an inherent pride in being part of a place that’s leading edge.”

“This is the kind of facility a prospective student expects for a business program of MC’s caliber,” says MC trustee and alumnus Eddie Kinchen ’59. “The renovated building has also been a drawing card for the business community. We can invite a business leader from a local firm or an international company to campus to speak or conduct a seminar with pride.”



“The enhancements to Self Hall have definitely raised the awareness of MC in the business community. That increased awareness of the school and its business program also makes companies more apt to hire MC students.” — Art Stevens ’86, ’89, president of the Mississippi Region of Trustmark National Bank



“Library use is the final and best assessment in determining our value to the MC community. We’ve heard many wonderful comments on our attractive and appealing new look, but the best response is a 43 percent increase in library usage. What better compliment could we get than that?” — Kathleen Hutchison, *Library Director*

#### THE LELAND SPEED LIBRARY

Renovations to the Leland Speed Library included the addition of a coffee shop (a feature described by Library Director Kathleen Hutchison as “wildly popular”), new gathering areas and small group study rooms (“even more wildly popular”), additional wireless nodes and electrical outlets for laptops, new carpeting, and fresh paint. As a result, the library is more welcoming and conducive to study, and has been transformed from a place to keep books to a gathering spot for students. As one faculty member put it, “It’s like the library has come to life.”





“The renovations at MC Law benefitted not only the law school, but also all of downtown Jackson. By investing in downtown, MC Law helped build confidence in the area as a prime location, and the economic impact of the law school and its students on downtown is tremendous. We consider MC Law a stellar partner in our efforts.”— Ben Allen, *president of Downtown Jackson Partners, which works to create a vibrant downtown area*

#### THE MC LAW CAMPUS IN DOWNTOWN JACKSON

“There is a direct connection between our construction program and our increased enrollment,” says MC Law Dean Jim Rosenblatt. “The expanded facilities have allowed us to offer new programs and greater student comfort. In addition to providing the physical space needed to accommodate more students, the enhancements have made our campus more attractive to prospective students and increased interest in our school. The American Bar Association now comments favorably on how our facilities support a quality program of legal education.”

“Unquestionably, the location of the downtown campus and the facilities there are an asset to the capital city and to the state’s legal community,” says William Waller, Jr., Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court. “MC Law has hosted a number of bar and community activities in its facilities. The location lends itself to interaction between the students and the surrounding legal community. Students can take advantage of many extern opportunities with the appellate and trial courts located in the area. The location also allows judges and attorneys to speak at special events or serve as adjunct professors at the law school. This is my fourth year to serve as an adjunct professor. The location of MC Law allows me to do so.”



### JEAN PITTMAN WILLIAMS RECITAL HALL

Renovations to Aven Hall included a complete remodeling of the performance auditorium, which was renamed the Jean Pittman Williams Recital Hall in honor of its primary benefactor.

“I saw my first MC music theatre production in the Jean Pittman Williams recital hall in 2007. It was then that I decided to come audition for the MC Department of Music,” says Katie Boles ’12. “As a senior music major, I have since performed in that hall numerous times. This fall, I appeared in my last production as a student at MC, “Guys & Dolls.” It was an incredible feeling to take my last bow, looking into the audience where I once sat, and being so incredibly grateful that the Lord had led me to MC and allowed me to perform in the very place I made the life-changing decision to come to Mississippi College. The recital hall speaks to the caliber of the music department and carries the traditions of many generations. I will never forget what it felt like to stand on that stage.”

“The Gore Galleries themselves are incredible and to have my photography hanging in the same gallery as renowned artists was unbelievable. As an artist, having your work displayed in a gallery of this caliber gives your work credibility, and makes you feel as though your art is truly something special. On a personal and professional level, it was simply overwhelming.” — Cyndi Brown ’92, visual artist

### THE SAMUEL MARSHALL GORE ART GALLERIES

With the construction of the Gore Galleries, MC gained a premier art space for displaying work by students, alumni, and visiting artists.

“I remember being proud when my work was shown in the ‘old gallery,’ which was a little room on the fourth floor of Aven Hall. But the Gore Galleries pull people in from all around the community,” says Gayle McCarty ’81, ’07, whose work was exhibited in the Gore Galleries last fall. “Everything from the facilities themselves to the management of the gallery is so professional. The whole experience of showing there was incredible.”





“Whether they’re looking at our athletic facilities or our academic facilities, having a physical plant of this caliber is a ‘wow’ factor for everyone who steps on our campus.”  
— Mike Jones, MC Athletic Director

#### ENHANCEMENTS TO ATHLETIC FACILITIES

“Growing the Vision” funded multiple improvements to Robinson-Hale Stadium and the A.E. Wood Coliseum, a new track, renovations to the Watson Cross-country Course, and new soccer fields and a new Girling Soccer Field House.

“The new facilities will obviously help MC in recruiting student athletes and coaches, but the improvements will also help in recruiting students who don’t play sports and faculty who don’t coach,” says MC Athletic Director Mike Jones.



#### SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships provided by “Growing the Vision” are making the Mississippi College experience possible for students who might otherwise not be able to afford MC or a college education.

“If I had not received the LifeShare Scholarship, I could not be at Mississippi College,” says Suzanne Campbell, a junior elementary education major. “The scholarship has not only helped me financially with my education, but has also changed my life through the lasting friendships I’ve made at MC. At Mississippi College, I’ve met people who have shaped my spiritual growth and made me the person I am today.”





"It means everything to have this program available in Mississippi. There is a huge need, and my classmates and I hope to fill it." — Stephen English, PA program student

#### THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

MC launched Mississippi's first and only physician assistant program in 2011. A physician assistant is a licensed healthcare professional who practices medicine under the supervision of a physician. Working as part of a team, a physician assistant diagnoses and treats illnesses and can offer a broad range of healthcare services traditionally provided by doctors.

"Many people say that the medical field interests them because it will allow them to 'serve others,'" says PA program student Stephen English, who relocated to Mississippi from Florida to enroll in the program. "I would go a step further in stating that my desire is to love others through my profession. I can't think of a better field to be in where I have the opportunity to follow Philippians 2:3 and 'consider others better than myself' and, in so doing, love them, than in medicine."

"While having the PA program offered in Mississippi means a great deal to me personally, the state of Mississippi is the real winner in having this program available," says Hannah Herrington, a member of the PA program inaugural class. "The MC program will produce more healthcare providers in an area that is so greatly underserved."



# LEADERSHIP, INTEGRITY, *And* DEDICATION

Dr. Rory Lee '71, '73 • Mississippi College's 2011 Alumnus of the Year

AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, RORY LEE DREAMED OF A CAREER INVOLVING MATH OR science. Maybe, he thought, he would attend Mississippi State University and become an engineer, or head to the University of Mississippi and become a pharmacist. But when Lee heard the call to ministry, he knew exactly where he would go to pursue it.

“As soon as I felt that call, I knew I would be going to Mississippi College,” Dr. Lee recalls. “I knew MC was the place to go to prepare to be a minister, but at that time, I didn't really understand the breadth of what was possible as far as a career in ministry. As a student at MC, I realized there were so many other ways to perform ministry besides being a pastor.”

In the four decades since his graduation, Dr. Rory Lee has dedicated himself to ministry in many forms. He spent 33 years in Christian higher education guiding the paths of hundreds of young people, and preached and counseled as a bi-vocational Baptist minister. He served his *alma mater* as interim president during the most challenging days in

MC's history, and led not one but two other Christian universities into new eras of success. And today, Dr. Lee provides children and families with life changing, loving assistance as the executive director of the Baptist Children's Village (BCV).

In recognition of his dedicated service to his *alma mater* and tireless work on behalf of others, Dr. Rory Lee was named Mississippi College's 2011 Alumnus of the Year.

“This honor is particularly meaningful because so many of my most significant relationships were formed at Mississippi College,” Dr. Lee says. “The opportunity to be part of a college and a community that value faith, work, and honor prepared me for every position I was called to fill.”

## 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.



Lacey Lee, Janet Lee, Dr. Rory Lee, and Lauren Lee Ryan

**L**

ee's long history of service to MC began when he was a student. In 1971, while he was still three months shy of earning his bachelor's degree in Bible, Lee accepted a position as an MC admissions counselor. He continued to work in

admissions by day while completing his master's degree in counseling at MC at night, and somehow also found the time and energy to take summer classes at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

In 1973, Lee was named MC's dean of men, and soon after added a second job title as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. Lee continued to serve as a bi-vocational pastor at the church for the next 17 years, while also earning his doctorate from the University of Mississippi and holding a number of high-profile, high-responsibility positions at MC, including dean of admissions, director of development, vice president for development, and vice president for institutional advancement.

Dr. Lee's greatest time of service to his *alma mater* came in 1993, following the resignation of university president Dr.

Lewis Nobles. At the request of the MC board of trustees, Dr. Lee stepped in to serve as interim president, a role that saw him providing capable leadership and boosting university morale during a challenging time. Dr. Lee's service to MC did not come without personal and professional sacrifice. In order to devote his full attention to leading MC, he resigned his position as pastor at Antioch Baptist Church.

#### I'M WITH THE BAND

Rory Lee made his first visit to the Mississippi College campus in 1961, when he participated in a statewide concert competition as a sixth grade member of the Prentiss High School band.

Lee's most vivid memory of the occasion was not his own rousing performance on the drums, but his impression that the Mississippi College campus was "just huge."

ana College experienced tremendous growth, including the construction of new facilities on campus, two new sports added to the athletic program, and an increase in the number of faculty members holding terminal degrees.

In 2004, Dr. Lee assumed his current position as executive director of the Baptist Children's Village, a statewide ministry

"Few alumni ever reach the level of loyalty and service to their *alma mater* that Dr. Rory Lee has achieved," says Ron Howard, MC's vice president for academic affairs. "As MC's interim president and vice president for institutional advancement, Rory exhibited exceptional leadership to the university during very challenging times."

Dr. Lee left MC in 1996 to serve as president of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, a position he held until 1997, when he was named president of Louisiana College. During his seven-year tenure as president, Louisi-

### DR. RORY LEE

*A Career in Service and Ministry*

2004 – Present  
*Executive Director*  
The Baptist Children's Village

1997 – 2004  
*President*  
Louisiana College

1996 – 1997  
*President*  
William Carey College

1989 – 1996  
*Vice President for*  
*Institutional Advancement*  
Mississippi College

1984 – 1989  
*Vice President for Development*  
Mississippi College

1981 – 1984  
*Director of Development*  
Mississippi College

1978 – 1981  
*Dean of Admissions*  
Mississippi College

1976 – 1993  
*Pastor*  
Antioch Baptist Church  
Hazlehurst, Mississippi

1973 – 1978  
*Dean of Men*  
Mississippi College

1971 – 1973  
*Admissions Counselor*  
Mississippi College

Dr. Lee is a past president of the Baptist Child Care Executives, the national association of chief administrative officers from childcare facilities supported by Southern Baptists in 19 states and the District of Columbia. He has also held leadership positions on the boards of several Christian education associations and civic and charitable organizations.

"DEAN RORY LEE, as I still call him, is one of a handful of people who should be given the permanent title of Mr. Mississippi College. Rory exemplifies all that is best about MC, and his legacy of service and devotion will continue to pay dividends for good well into the future."

*MC Trustee and Alumnus Andy Taggart '79*

that provides safe group homes for children and psychological and spiritual counseling for families. BCV provides short-term care for children whose parents have financial, health, or behavioral problems that make caring for their children temporarily impossible, and also offers long-term care for children who have been neglected, abused, or abandoned.

"Working here, you see things that can make you very sad and very angry," Dr. Lee continues. "But we've learned not to dwell on those negative feelings. Instead, we focus on showing Christ's love not only to the children, but also to their families. This is a healing ministry."

BCV cares for approximately 100 children ages two to 20 at any given time, and serves an average of 300 children each year. Headquartered in Ridgeland, BCV operates eight residential campuses throughout Mississippi and counting; Dr. Lee's ultimate goal is to have a BCV campus within one hour's drive of every child in Mississippi. While the work can be stressful and emotionally draining, Dr. Lee points to hundreds of success stories of reunited families and once troubled children who have grown into productive, Christian adults as what makes it all worthwhile.

"Without a doubt, I was led to this job," Dr. Lee says. "I very much enjoyed my days on college campuses, but most of the college students I had the privilege of working with were going to be great people regardless of the education they received. Our children at BCV have not had the advantages most of those people had. Working with them is a real opportunity to add value and direction to their lives."

"My goal is to have no repeat customers," Dr. Lee continues. "When children leave our care, I want to see them come back to visit as Christian adults who are achieving all that's possible in their spiritual life, professional life, and family life. In fact, my ultimate wish is that someday, there will not be a need for a place like the Baptist Children's Village."

Over the past 40 years, Dr. Rory Lee's life of ministry has taken many forms, from guiding college kids to preaching at funerals, from leading educational institutions to providing hope for the weakest among us, but Mississippi College was his preparation for it all.

"The delicate balance of imparting knowledge and instilling values is a Mississippi College hallmark," says Dr. Lee. "The academic lessons I learned at MC were significant, but the virtues of integrity and service to God and mankind that I learned there were far more important."

**PSYCHED OUT** Rory Lee's wife, Janet, is also an MC alumnus. The two had one class together at MC, "Introduction to Psychology." Rory Lee had never before been able to squeeze the introductory class into his academic schedule. As a result, he was one of the only seniors in a class filled with freshmen. "The teacher told me not to talk or participate much in class since I had already completed several advanced psychology courses," Lee recalls. "I believe Janet thought I wasn't too bright." Fortunately, Janet realized Rory might be worth a second look. Rory and Janet Lee have been married for 38 years; their daughters, Lauren and Lacey, are also MC alumni.





## Holding Court Together

CHRIS THURMAN '93, '95 AND KIM  
DERDEN THURMAN '92, '94

Chris and Kim Thurman share a passion for basketball, two beautiful children, a blessed life together, and most recently, the honor of receiving the Mississippi College Young Alumnus of the Year Award.

“Kim and I are so proud to be a part of the MC family and are humbled to be honored with this award,” Chris says. “We’ve been blessed by Mississippi College in so many ways beyond just obtaining our degrees. We’re grateful to MC for providing the academic and spiritual foundation that’s helped us become who we are today.”

“When I think of MC, the first word that comes to mind is ‘family,’” Kim says. “We both have so many memories of the special relationships we built at MC.”

Chris and Kim’s own relationship began with a game of hoops. Both attended MC on basketball scholarships, and in their case, “courtship” took on a double meaning.

“We found ourselves practicing on the court at the same time,” Chris recalls. “So I challenged Kim to a game of one-on-one, with the loser buying the winner dinner. I lost the bet, but as I tell the story, that was because I spotted her eight points.”

“He has a selective memory,” Kim replies with a smile.

While their recollections of the final score differ, Chris and Kim agree that from the first date on, they were inseparable. The Thurmans married in 1994 and have since built

### WHO CALLS THE SHOTS?

As standout basketball players at MC, Chris and Kim Thurman were both team captains and both played point guard, a leadership position that involves directing action on the floor. It stands to reason that when two people with such driven personalities marry, there’s bound to be a foul called every now and then.

“Kim and I make a great team, although we do run into moments when we both want to lead the charge,” Chris says. “We teach an adult Sunday School class together, and as we tell the class members, ‘We don’t argue. We just have intense moments of fellowship.’”

a successful life together. After earning his bachelor’s degree in business and his M.B.A. from MC, Chris also graduated from the Louisiana State University Graduate School of Banking. Today he is a senior vice president and senior credit officer with Trustmark Bank in Jackson.

Kim Thurman earned her bachelor’s degree in mathematics and her master’s degree in math and computer science. Kim experienced both sides of MC athletics, serving for a year as assistant women’s basketball coach and head tennis coach of the Lady Choctaws. In 1995, Kim joined the staff of the Mississippi Department of Transportation, where she now serves as the environmental division director.

In addition to holding leadership positions in their church, community, and professions, the Thurmans remain involved at MC. Chris serves on the Billy Joe Cross Athletics Dinner Committee (formerly the Wild Game Dinner Committee) and is a former member of the alumni board of directors. Chris and Kim are both active members of the M-Club, with Kim serving as the club’s vice president. Kim is also a member of the MC Sports Hall of Fame. The Thurmans have two children, 10-year-old Tanner and three-year-old Anne Rylea.

In light of their shared memories and accomplishments at Mississippi College, it seems only fitting that the Thurmans would also share the Young Alumnus of the Year Award.

“I’m honored not only to have received this award, but also to be sharing it with my best friend,” Chris says. “Although I truly believe Kim deserves it on a standalone basis.”

“Sharing the award not only makes it more special for us, but also makes it that more exciting for our children and our extended families,” Kim agrees.

One thing the Thurmans *don’t* share is the same opinion as to who would win a rematch of that one-on-one basketball game today.

“There’s no question I’d win,” Chris says. “I can still shoot.”

“Oh, please,” Kim says with a laugh. “He still has his touch but he has no legs. I’d win because I’d outlast him.”

### 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.



## A Family Affair

ROY FOUNTAIN '74, '75

Roy Fountain grew up working in Fountain Ace Hardware, the Forest, Mississippi-based business his father began in 1946. Young Roy’s job description covered everything from stocking shelves to sweeping the floors to running the cash register. Along the way, he learned not only the value of hard work, but also what it meant to be an integral part of his community.

Today, Roy Fountain still works at the family business, but his title is now president, and he has become one of Forest’s most respected business and community leaders. In recognition of his achievements, Roy Fountain received the 2011 MC Order of the Golden Arrow Award.

“To be honored in such a special way by the university I dearly love is a wonderful gesture,” Fountain says. “MC provided an outstanding educational experience that’s been an indelible influence on my life and the lives of many of my family members.”

Fountain’s family ties to Mississippi College include his mother, aunt, and brother, who are all proud MC alumni. Fountain met his wife, Valerie Hewes Fountain '76, in the MC cafeteria. The couple’s older daughters, Amy Fountain '02 and Katherine Fountain Reigelman '04, are loyal Choctaws, and their youngest daughter, Marianna, is a member of the class of 2012.

“Valerie and I were very excited about our daughters attending MC,” Fountain says. “We knew they would receive an outstanding education and it gave us a secure feeling knowing the Christian atmosphere they would find

### THE ROYAL FAMILY

Roy Fountain’s wife, Valerie, was the 1975 MC Homecoming Queen. The Fountains’ youngest daughter, Marianna, followed her mother’s footsteps onto the football field as the 2011 MC Homecoming Queen. MC Homecoming weekend 2011 was a memorable event for the Fountain family, as Roy was presented with the Order of the Golden Arrow on Friday night and escorted his daughter onto the field on Saturday to receive her crown.

on campus. All three have been very successful at MC – they’re smart like their mother.”

Fountain’s contributions to MC began during his enrollment and continue into the present day. As a student, Fountain served as president of the Student Senate and as vice president of the Student Body Association. As a graduate assistant conducting marketing research for MC, Fountain came up with an innovative idea for an academic competition that would bring outstanding high school students to the MC campus. Fountain’s concept evolved into today’s Mississippi High School Academic Competition, an event that his own daughter, Marianna, participated in as a member of a championship team. More recently, Fountain served his *alma mater* and reconnected with old friends as a past president of the Mississippi College National Alumni Association.

Like MC, Fountain Ace Hardware is a family affair. Roy Fountain has helped run the business since 1978, working alongside his brother, Carl '65, and later, his nephew. Under their leadership, Fountain Ace Hardware has grown from a small hardware shop to a large store serving both do-it-yourselfers and professional contractors, all while maintaining the “hometown touch” valued by customers but hard to find in the modern business world.

A respected leader in his community, Fountain is the past president of the Forest Area Chamber of Commerce, a trustee with the Mississippi Baptist Children’s Village, and a deacon at Forest Baptist Church, where he has also served as interim music director. Given his service to the community, it’s not surprising that the town of Forest is celebrating his Order of the Golden Arrow along with Fountain.

“We rejoice with Roy Fountain and his family on receiving such a prestigious award from Mississippi College,” says Forest Mayor Nancy Chambers. “Roy has spent his entire life being of service to his family, his church, his community, and his fellow man. It’s only fitting that he would be honored by his *alma mater* with the Order of the Golden Arrow. As friends, family and residents of his hometown, we celebrate this honor with him.”

### 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.



## Making MC History

DAVID SANSING '56, '59

Professor David Sansing is both renowned as a noted historian and beloved as a gifted, caring professor. During his 35-year career, he has helped shape generations of scholars and has documented and shared Mississippi's history in a way that makes the past come alive. In recognition of his achievements as a scholar and as a teacher, Professor Sansing has made Mississippi College history as a 2011 recipient of the Order of the Golden Arrow Award.

"It's an honor to be recognized by Mississippi College. MC and my professors there left a lasting impression on me," Dr. Sansing says. "When I visit the campus today, I am so impressed by the marvelous enhancements to the physical plant, but I'm even more impressed that I can still feel the same spirit of community that I loved there as a student."

An expert in Mississippi and American history, Dr. Sansing has been published in many historical journals and has delivered lectures on topics including the Civil War, the writings of William Faulkner, the Civil Rights Movement, and other eras and figures in history. Books by Dr. Sansing include *Making Haste Slowly: The Troubled History of Higher Education in Mississippi*, and *The University of Mississippi, A Sesquicentennial History*. His most recent is *A Place Called Mississippi*, a textbook scheduled for release in 2012.

Dr. Sansing's many awards include a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, the University of Mississippi's Teacher of the Year Award, the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award presented by the Mississippi Legislature, and the Dunbar Rowland Award presented by the

### HE JUST KEEPS ROLLIN' ALONG

Dr. David Sansing was a featured lecturer on the *Mississippi Queen*, *Delta Queen*, and *American Queen*, offering colorful commentary for passengers aboard the luxury riverboats as they cruised along the mighty Mississippi River. His colorful retelling of General U.S. Grant's campaign to capture Vicksburg, vivid descriptions of the Battle of Shiloh, and stories of Abraham Lincoln introduced enthralled passengers from around the world to the unique history of the American South.

Mississippi Historical Society. He is a past president of the Mississippi Historical Society.

Sansing enrolled in Mississippi College in the early 1950s with plans to become a Baptist minister. Following his MC graduation and one year of seminary, he opted instead to pursue a career as a history professor, inspired by memories of his own gifted teachers at MC.

"I could not have found better professors at Harvard, Yale, or Princeton than those who taught me at MC," Dr. Sansing says. "Those professors were premier intellectuals who transformed and broadened my mind. The only problem was choosing a major. Every time I took a class under one of these teachers, I wanted to major in that subject. I'd take a sociology class and think, 'That was amazing. I'm going to major in sociology.' Then I'd take a botany class, and think, 'I'm going to major in botany.' Or English, or whatever course I took next.

"I finally chose history because of Mrs. Nell Thomas, my high school history teacher, who made the subject spellbinding. She gave me a love for history that transformed my life. And quite possibly saved me from the penitentiary," Sansing adds with a smile.

Sansing earned his master's degree in history at MC and his Ph.D. at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Sansing taught history at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College for a decade before joining the faculty at the University of Mississippi in 1970, a position he would hold until his retirement in 1994.

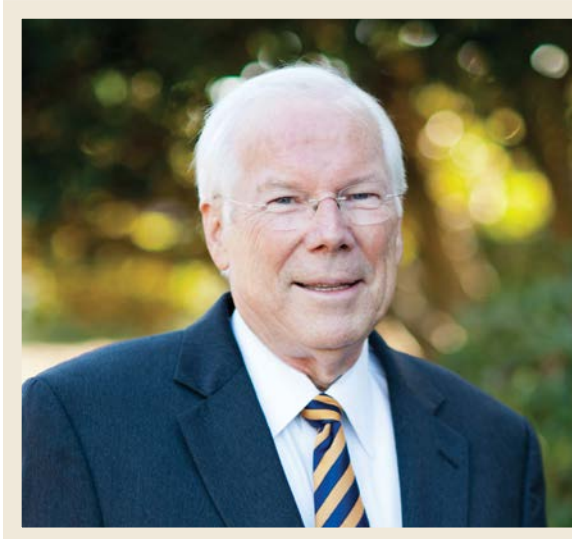
"The most wonderful thing about being a college professor is that you're always in search of the truth," Dr. Sansing says. "For me, being a professor was the ultimate quest for knowledge and wisdom."

Today, Dr. Sansing is revered as professor emeritus of history, and continues to work with the next generation of scholars on an occasional thesis project. He and his wife, Elizabeth, retired in Oxford, where he still runs into former students upon occasion.

"I'll be in the Grove or at a football game or in some other public place and someone will say to me, 'I took your class 15 years ago and it interested and influenced me so much,'" Dr. Sansing says. "Inspiring those kinds of comments from my students is the professional achievement I'm most proud of."

### 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.



## Leadership MC Can Count On

ROY WARD

In recognition of his outstanding leadership and his many years of faithful service to Mississippi College, noted businessman Roy Ward received the MC Award of Excellence. Ward originally joined the MC board of trustees in 1996, and is currently serving his third term as chairman.

"I didn't graduate from MC, but I got here as quickly as I could," Ward, an alumnus of the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), says with a smile. "When I was asked to serve on the board, I was thoroughly honored. I had seen the quality of the administration and faculty, and the university's commitment to reaching young people for Christ. I'm certainly not the first and I won't be the last person who didn't attend MC, but who has come to love the university and want to be involved. Mississippi College becomes special to anyone who gets to know it."

The business acumen and leadership skills Ward brings to MC are also showcased in the success of HORNE LLP, the accounting firm he helped guide to prominence. When Ward joined the HORNE CPA Group in 1966, the company had five employees. Under his guidance as a partner and eventually as president and CEO, HORNE LLP grew to become one of the top 10 accounting and business advising firms in the Southeast and one of the top 50 in the nation. Ward retired from HORNE in December 2008 after serving for more than 42 years.

Ward has relied on the experience and people skills he

### LIKE SON, LIKE FATHER

Roy Ward originally became interested in Mississippi College when his son, Rob, chose to attend MC.

"Being a Baptist, I knew a little about MC," Ward says, "but during Rob's time at the university, I came to know the excellence in teaching and the Christian environment at MC first-hand."

It seems that once the Ward men truly got to know MC, neither of them wanted to leave. Roy Ward has served on the university's board of trustees for many years and Dr. Rob Ward is an MC professor of psychology.

built with HORNE to provide MC with skilled leadership during pivotal periods in the university's growth, including throughout the "Growing the Vision" Campaign.

"Roy has given so generously of his time and expertise," says fellow MC trustee Andy Taggart. "The entire MC community owes a great debt of gratitude for Roy's leadership."

In addition to lending his expertise to MC, Ward has held volunteer leadership positions with a number of organizations, including the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi, Andrew Jackson Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Goodwill Industries, Jackson Rotary Club, Junior Achievement of Mississippi, Mississippi Business Hall of Fame, Mississippi Economic Council, Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, Mississippi Society of CPAs, Metropolitan Bank, Federal Reserve Advisory Board (Atlanta), University Club, and United Way. A deacon at First Baptist Church Jackson, Ward has served as a delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention. In recognition of his business and civic contributions, the grand hall in the University of Southern Mississippi's College of Business was named in honor of Roy Ward and his wife, Mary Evelyn.

In a life marked by service, Ward considers his work for Mississippi College a highlight.

"Serving at MC has been a blessing and a benefit to me that far exceeds what I've given," Ward says. "What I've enjoyed the most has been the opportunity to associate with such remarkable people and to have been a small part of Mississippi College's history. Being asked to serve as chairman of the board not once but twice was an honor, and the second honor came when I received the Award of Excellence. I am so humbled to be included as a part of the Mississippi College family."

"When I think of how a strong trustee would be defined, I think of Roy Ward," says School of Education Dean Don Locke. "His presence at events and his support of MC in so many ways is obvious to our faculty, staff, students, and administration. We are so glad that Roy Ward is one of us."

### THE AWARD of EXCELLENCE

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



## Departmental Distinguished Awards

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

### Art

CYNTHIA BRYANT BROWN '92

Cynthia Bryant Brown is the owner of and lead interior designer for The Cupboard Gifts and Interiors, a home décor and gift shop in Clinton. Her interior designs have been featured in the St. Andrew's Designer Show House and she served as lead designer on the Old Capitol Inn Designer Showcase project. Brown's original paintings have been exhibited in local art galleries, including the Southern Breeze Gallery in Ridgeland, Mississippi.

### Biology

DR. MAC H. ALFORD '97

Dr. Mac Alford is associate professor of biological sciences and curator of the herbarium at the University of Southern Mississippi, which houses more than 25,000 plants. In 2011, Dr. Alford received a prestigious Fulbright Foreign Scholarship, which will allow him to teach and conduct research in tropical biology and botany at the University of Novi Sad in Serbia in 2012. Prior to joining USM, Dr. Alford served as program coordinator in the herbarium at Ohio State Univer-

sity and as a database manager with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, as well as completing internships with the Smithsonian Institution and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He is a summa cum laude graduate of MC and holds advanced degrees in botany and plant biology from Duke University and Cornell University.

### Chemistry

DR. DAVID H. MAGERS '82

Following his graduation from MC, Dr. David Magers completed his doctoral work in theoretical chemistry at the University of Florida and a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University. In 1989, Dr. Magers returned to MC as a professor. He has been honored as Chemist of the Year by the Mississippi Section of the American Chemical Society, a Distinguished Lecturer of the College of Arts and Sciences at MC, and the Distinguished Professor of the Year at MC. Dr. Magers has published 30 articles in peer-reviewed journals and delivered 29 invited lectures, but his greatest strength is mentoring research students. More than 55 students have worked with Dr. Magers in his computational chemistry research group; these students have delivered over 310 presentations at scientific conferences and symposia, and many of his students have earned Ph.D.s and MDs from top institutions nationwide.

### Christian Studies

DR. CHARLES "PUDDIN" DAVIS '58 (posthumous)

A star athlete who earned 13 letters at Mississippi College in the 1950s, Dr. Charles "Puddin" Davis proved he was equally extraordinary off the field, serving his *alma mater* as a devoted Bible professor for nearly three decades. Members of the MC family described him as one of the greatest athletes in MC sports history, and as a teacher who never missed an opportunity to help his students. Dr. Davis's positive spirit, remarkable intellect, warm generosity, and great faith enriched the lives of all his students and colleagues.

### Communication

LOUIS KENNER "KENNY" BIZOT III '93

A four-year basketball letterman at MC, Kenny Bizot completed his master's degree in communication while working as a graduate assistant for the MC basketball team. Bizot served as head basketball coach at Porter's Chapel Academy in Vicksburg and at Hillcrest Christian School in Jackson before returning to MC as assistant basketball coach. Bizot helped lead the Choctaws to the ASC championship, three appearances in the national tournament, and two appearances in the Sweet 16. Bizot left MC to serve as head basketball coach at Jackson Prep, then relocated to The University of Texas at Tyler, where he has served as head basketball

coach for four years. In his first season in Texas, Kenny was named ASC Coach of the Year; in his third season, UT Tyler posted the most wins in school history. Bizot is a member of the Mississippi College Sports Hall of Fame.

### English

DR. LEE EMLING HARDING '73

Dr. Lee Harding is recognized among students and faculty as a gifted and inspiring professor and an asset to the MC Department of English. A professor at MC since 1975, Dr. Harding earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from MC and her Ph.D. from the University of Southern Mississippi. Her areas of expertise include Southern literature, 19th century American literature, 20th Century American and British literature, African American literature, and contemporary literature. She has published numerous essays and book reviews in literary journals and serves as a copy editor for *Portico* magazine.

### Kinesiology

CHRISTOPHER A. GILLESPIE '80

Chris Gillespie is the founder of TEAM 413, a ministry created to share the message of Jesus Christ with runners and endurance athletes. TEAM 413 attends races and shares the Gospel with event participants. The organization takes its name from Philippians 4:13, which reads, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." In addition to his work through TEAM 413, Gillespie serves as director of athletic training education at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. A certified athletic trainer, Gillespie speaks at athletic training and sports medicine seminars nationwide and has served on numerous athletic training committees at the state, district, and national levels. Gillespie was an athletic trainer for track and field and the marathon at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. His many awards and honors include induction into the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame and the Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame.

### Master of Health Services Administration

JAMES ROBERT WARE II '86, '95

BOBBIE KIBBLE WARE '87, '06

Robert Ware is director of clinical improvement at Baptist Medical Center, where he has previously served as the clinical director of emergency services, a nurse manager in many areas, administrative director of oncology services, and assistant nurse manager in the ICU. Prior to joining the staff at Baptist, Ware served as a nurse at Oxford-Lafayette Medical Center and at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Ware's professionalism and commitment to the patients he serves has been well recognized. His awards include the

2011 Mississippi Nurses Association's Community Service Nurse of the Year Award and recognition as MC's Nursing Alumnus of the Year.

Bobbie Ware is vice president and chief nursing officer at Baptist Medical Center. Her previous service with Baptist includes positions as vice president, cancer and support services; administrative director of oncology services; and director of Baptist Home Health Services. She has also served as an operating room nurse at Baptist and as an ICU nurse at Oxford-Lafayette County Hospital. Ware's honors include recognition in the *Mississippi Business Journal's* Top 40 Under 40 and as the Mississippi Nurses Association 2010 Nursing Administrator of the Year.

### Mathematics

JERRELL R. "JERRY" BALLARD, JR. '87

Dr. Jerry Ballard is associate technical director, military engineering at the U. S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, where his research projects include physics of remote sensing, geospatial modeling and analysis of natural resources systems, scene simulation and scene synthesis, geospatial accuracy assessment, landscape thermal modeling, geospatial environmental characterization, and smart weapons modeling and simulation. Dr. Ballard's many awards and honors include the U.S. Army Research and Development Award; the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Director's Research and Development Award; and the U.S. Army Superior Civilian Service Award. He was a finalist for the Service to America Award. Dr. Ballard is the author or co-author of over 70 technical reports, journal articles, and conference presentations.

### Music

WAYNE H. GOODINE '80, '82

Wayne Goodine began playing the piano in church at the age of nine and has been involved with music ever since. Goodine has served as a music pastor with churches in Florida, Arizona, and Texas and as chair of the music departments at Christian Life College in Stockton, California, and International Bible College in San Antonio, Texas. Today, Goodine and his wife, Elizabeth, serve as music pastors at Christ Life Church of the Highlands in Ridgeland, Mississippi, and work together in songwriting and a nationwide concert ministry. Songs written by the Goodines have been recorded by Selah, the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, the Gaither Vocal Band, and many others. The Goodines have also written two musicals, "Called To Go," a musical about missions, and "He Came To Us," a Christmas musical that has been translated into various languages and performed worldwide.



### Music Young Alumnus

DANIEL J. FENN '02

As a music major at MC, Dan Fenn served as the choral accompanist for the Chorale and Singers and the assistant conductor of the Chamber Choir. Following his graduation, Fenn earned a master's degree in organ performance from the University of Houston. While in Houston, he served as the organist and associate director of music at Grace Presbyterian Church, one of the largest Presbyterian churches in the country, and was also active as an accompanist and vocalist in several ensembles. Feeling a call to the seminary, Fenn relocated to Minnesota, where he completed a master of sacred music degree shared between Luther Seminary in St. Paul and St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Today, Fenn is the director of music at St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield. In addition to his church duties, Fenn gives organ recitals, lectures on church music, and leads hymn festivals for other groups and churches.

### Nursing

NANCY C. AYCOCK '87

Nancy C. Aycock is the palliative care coordinator at St. Dominic Hospital. Aycock helped develop St. Dominic's hospital-based palliative care program and provides administrative and clinical coordination of the program. She was previously an oncology and chemotherapy nurse with St. Dominic, and has also served as a radiation therapy nurse and nurse coordinator, as well as an oncology nurse with hospitals in Jackson and Tupelo, Mississippi, and in New Orleans. Aycock is in demand as a featured speaker on a variety of healthcare topics. She has been recognized as one of St. Dominic's top 30 employees.

### Psychology

DR. DAMIEN J. THOMAS '02

The center coordinator with Region 8 Mental Health Services, Dr. Damien Thomas provides day-to-day clinical and administrative supervision to the mental health and clerical staff. As a psychotherapist, Dr. Thomas has provided professional, compassionate therapy to children and adults. He has counseled in settings including the Mississippi State Hospital, Rankin County Schools, Rankin County Youth Detention Centers, Rankin County Jail, Mississippi Department of Human Services, and the Oakley Training School. Prior to joining Region 8 Mental Health Services, he served as a counselor at Brentwood Behavioral HealthCare of Mississippi in Flowood. Dr. Thomas currently serves as an adjunct instructor in counseling and psychology at Mississippi College.

### School of Business

L. DON JORDAN, JR. '51

Don Jordan graduated from MC in 1951 and received a scholarship to the Harvard Business School. He received his M.B.A. from Harvard in 1953, and following service in the U.S. Army, launched a successful business career. Jordan assumed management positions with several high-profile companies, including Proctor & Gamble and Bristol Myers. In 1974, Jordan purchased one of the first Wendy's franchises and enjoyed a second career as an entrepreneur. Twenty years later, he and his son, Trey, launched a small chain of restaurants called Holiday Ham & Deli, which Trey continues to operate today. Recipes for many of the dishes served in Holiday Ham & Deli, including its renowned pimento and cheese, are Don Jordan's own creations. In addition to his involvement with Holiday Ham & Deli, Jordan is active in his church and community and enjoys spending time with his family.

### Business Young Alumnus

JAMES "BRAD" SULLIVAN '92

Brad Sullivan is president of Premier Nationwide Lending in Flower Mound, Texas, one of the state's largest mortgage lending operations. Since its founding by Sullivan and his partners in 2002, the company has grown to include more than 300 employees and funds approximately \$1 billion per year, operating under the motto, "Where our customers are family." Sullivan began his mortgage career in 1992 as a customer service representative and loan officer. He attributes his remarkable success to a business philosophy that has never changed: "You do the right thing. You treat others as though they were family, and you take care of your employees and their families."

### Sociology and Social Work

DR. ROBERT L. "BERT" MONTGOMERY '93

Bert Montgomery is an adjunct instructor in the departments of sociology at Mississippi State University and East Mississippi Community College, teaches courses in religion at Mississippi State, and serves as a part-time pastor at University Baptist Church in Starkville. Dr. Montgomery earned bachelor's degrees in religion and philosophy from Union University, a master's degree in sociology from MC, and a master of divinity from the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. His diverse career has included service as a senior pastor, youth minister, and probation counselor. Dr. Montgomery's freelance columns appear in the *Starkville Daily News* and online at TheFaithLab.com and BurnsideWriters.com. He



is the author of the books *Elvis, Willie, Jesus & Me: Mutterings from a Church Misfit* and *Psychic Pancakes & Communion Pizza: More Misfit Musings*. His third book, *Jungian Jambalaya: Post-Katrina Reconnections & Recollections*, will be released in 2012.

### Teacher Education/Leadership

TIMOTHY L. MARTIN '92, '94

Tim Martin was working as a youth minister when he began substitute teaching in the Jackson Public School District. His newly discovered passion for teaching prompted him to pursue a degree in elementary education from MC. Martin made the switch from full-time church ministry to education, and has since considered working with parents and students as his ministry. Today, Martin is the assistant superintendent for the Clinton Public School District. His previous experience includes service as a public school principal, assistant principal, and teacher. In addition to his bachelor's degree, Martin holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Mississippi College and an educational specialist degree in educational leadership from Delta State University. He also serves as an adjunct professor in the MC educational specialist degree program.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE  
SCHOOL OF LAW AWARDS

### Lawyer of the Year

LUCIEN L. BOURGEOIS '80

Lucien Bourgeois is a member of the public finance and incentives group at the law firm of Butler Snow. He concentrates his practice in the areas of municipal bonds, public finance, and economic development incentives. Bourgeois' prior work experience includes nine years with the Governor's Office of Federal-State Programs, four years as the senior attorney for the Mississippi Department of Economic Development, and service as secretary of the Mississippi Board of Economic Development. Bourgeois is a member of the National Association of Bond Lawyers and the Mississippi Economic Development Council, and has made several presentations to the Mississippi Association of County Board Attorneys.

### Young Lawyer of the Year

MICHAEL J. BENTLEY '07

Michael Bentley is an associate at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Jackson, where he maintains a commercial litigation practice with a focus on appellate work. As a stu-

dent at MC Law, Bentley served as articles editor for the *Law Review* and was a member of the moot court board. After law school, he completed a clerkship with Judge Leslie Southwick of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Bentley has remained involved with the law school, serving as an adjunct professor of legal writing and coaching several moot court teams, including the Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship Team. Bentley is a member of the board of directors of the Jackson Young Lawyers, and has served as a volunteer attorney for the Stewpot Legal Clinic, the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project Legal Line, and the Mississippi Center for Justice's Education Advocacy Project.

### BLSA Lawyer of the Year

JAMIE DEON TRAVIS '99

Jamie Travis is a shareholder in the Jackson law firm of Page, Kruger, and Holland, P.A., where he practices in the areas of commercial and general civil litigation, including premises liability, products liability, automobile liability, tort claims liability, insurance bad faith, municipal/governmental liability, and residential and commercial real estate matters. Travis is a member of the Mississippi Bar, Magnolia Bar Association, Hinds County Bar Association, Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association, and Defense Research Institute.

### BLSA Young Lawyer of the Year

DENITA NICOLE SMITH '09

Denita Smith is a staff attorney with the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project (MVLV), where she provides *pro bono* legal services to low-income clients. She also serves as an adjunct pre-law professor at Tougaloo College. Prior to joining the MVLV, she was an associate at Daniel, Coker, Horton and Bell, P.A. As a law student, Smith completed internships with the United States District Court, Mississippi Supreme Court, Office of the Governor, and Mississippi Attorney General's Office. She was a dean's list scholar and member of the moot court board. Smith is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Tougaloo College and was the Tougaloo College Rueben Anderson Pre-Law Society's 2010 Alumnus of the Year.

# Class Notes

**50s** Dr. Paul Brown (B.A. '53), former president of Hannibal-LaGrange University, was honored for his leadership to the university. The college named Memorial Hall, the newest of the women's dormitories, in honor of two of its former presidents, Brown and Dr. Larry Lewis.

Rev. Burnis Barrett (B.A. '55) published *A Legacy of Love and Laughter*, a book about his life as an orphan, his call to the ministry, and his service in churches in Mississippi and Maryland. Since his retirement in 1994, Barrett has served as interim pastor at several churches in Maryland and Pastor Emeritus at First Baptist Frederick.

Harry Vickery (B.S. '57), former Mississippi College trustee and longtime Mississippi businessman, received the 2011 School of Business Distinguished Service Award.

Rev. Tom Lee's (B.A. '58) sermon entitled "Our Call to Conquest" was selected for publication by the Center for Congregational Health in *Preaching in the Interim, Volume 2, 2011*.

Dr. Connie McCaa (B.S. '58), an ophthalmologist who practices at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson as well as the LASIK Laser Eye Center in Flowood, has been ranked for the 14th consecutive year as one of the "Best Doctors in America" by Best Doctors, the most widely recognized medical peer review organization. McCaa received her medical degree and a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Mississippi.

**60s** Charles Wicker (B.S.Ed. '60) retired from his position as oboist with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. With a career that spanned some 50 years, Wicker was one of Mississippi Symphony Orchestra's longest tenured musicians.

Carlene T. Kelley (B.S.Ed. '64) retired as food service supervisor for the Huntingdon Special School District in Huntingdon, Tennessee, after 28 years of service. Carlene is married to Huntingdon Mayor Dale Kelley, and is the mother of three children and the grandmother of seven with an eighth on the way.

Parker Dykes (B.S.Ed. '65, M.Ed. '70) was inducted into the Jones County Junior College Sports Hall of Fame.

Dr. Jerry Houghton (B.A. '65) is pastor at New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Southaven, Mississippi. He has had 10 books electronically published by Amazon Kindle, including two novels and eight non-fiction books on the nature of the Christian life.

Dr. Michel Simoneaux (B.M.Ed. '65), longtime Georgia Baptist educator, has been named president at Brewton-Parker College. He had served as interim president since March.

Dr. Oliver Young (B.S.Ed. '66) retired in June as president of Southwest Mississippi Community College.

Catherine Hill (M.Ed. '67) celebrated her 100th birthday on March 17 at a party at Peachtree Village. Family and friends attending included members of the Chief Red Jacket Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, to which Hill belongs.

David Howie (B.S.Ed. '67, M.Ed. '71) was inducted into the 2011 Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame. In addition to numerous coaching awards spanning 34-year career, he is one of the founders of the Crossroads Diamond Club and the originator of the Mississippi High School All-Star baseball game, now named in his honor, and has served as an umpire for 56 years. Howie has been assistant baseball coach at Tougaloo College for the past four years.

Marijane Whitfield (B.S.Ed. '67, M.Ed. '86) has retired after 29 years as the eighth grade art teacher at Clinton Junior High School. Whitfield has more than 33 years total teaching experience.

Jimmy Barrentine (B.A. '69) retired at the end of October as the Baptist Convention of Iowa's executive director-treasurer.

Dr. Tom Burnham (B.S. '69, M.S.S. '75) delivered Mississippi College's spring commencement address to the Class of 2011.

Jain Hite (B.A. '69) and her husband, J.R., have moved to Florida, where J.R. is a pastoral counselor on the staff at Thomsville Road Baptist Church in Tallahassee.

**70s** John Baker (B.S. '74) serves as president of the board of directors for the Mississippi Postal Employees Federal Credit Union. He was recently inducted into the Mississippi Credit Union Hall of Fame.

Bobby Bouchillon (B.S.Ed. '75) retired in June from Itawamba Community College after 14 years of service.

Janet Hankins (B.S.Ed. '75, M.Ed. '77, Ed.S. '79) retired from the Eastside Elementary School in Clinton. Her 36 years of teaching experience included 11 years in the Clinton Public School District and 25 years in Jackson Public Schools teaching ESSA, kindergarten, grades 2-5, and sixth grade language arts.

Norma Fairchild (B.S.Ed. '76, M.Ed. '90) retired from Clinton Park Elementary School, where she was hired after graduating from MC and where she taught for 35 years.

Russell (B.M.Ed. '76) and Melinda Kyzar (B.M.Ed. '76) are serving their 25th year with the International Mission Board. Cluster coordinators for work among the European Diaspora peoples, they live in Prague, Czech Republic.

Deborah Caldwell (B.S.B.A. '77) was inducted into the Hinds Community College Sports Hall of Fame.



## MC ALUMNUS PHIL BRYANT TAKES THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

MC ALUMNUS PHIL BRYANT '88 ASSUMED LEADERSHIP of Mississippi as the state's 64th Governor. Bryant, a staunch Republican, received 61 percent of the statewide vote to succeed former Governor Haley Barbour.

A Moorhead, Mississippi native and former deputy sheriff, Bryant earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Southern Mississippi and his master's degree in political science from Mississippi College. The contributing author of three books, Bryant has also served as an adjunct professor of government at MC. In recent months, he's been an active supporter of the university's new physician assistant program, pushing to create scholarships to enable members of the Mississippi National Guard to become P.A. students.

"We look forward to working with the Bryant administration on his proposal for a healthier Mississippi," said Dr. Bob Philpot, chairman of the Mississippi College Department of Physician Assistant Studies.

"Phil has mighty big shoes to fill following Haley Barbour," says MC Student Government Association President Taylor Stringer, who joined the election night victory party with fellow MC students who served as Bryant campaign volunteers. "However, he has been taught by the best. His experience as state auditor and lieutenant governor will help him skip the learning curve and go straight to work. I believe Phil Bryant is ready to take charge and make Mississippi a better place for everyone."

Dr. Elton Scifres (B.A. '77) received the 2011 Teaching Excellence Award at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Wynona Winfield (B.A. '77, M.S.C. '85) retired in June as the director of South Mississippi State Hospital in Purvis. She has dedicated more than 30 years to helping shape the face of the mental health care system in Mississippi.

Pete Hurt (B.S.Ed. '78) was named as new head football coach and athletic director at Northwest Rankin High School in Brandon, Mississippi.

Frederick G. Slabach (B.S. '79) was inducted into the South Pike Alumni Hall of Fame in 2011.

**80s** Dr. Mark McComb (B.S. '80) was named the 2011 Outstanding Professor of the Year by the Mississippi College School of Business. This is his second time to receive the honor.

Dr. Jeannie Lane (B.S.Ed. '81, M.Ed. '87) was selected as the Mississippi College 2011 Distinguished Staff Member of the Year.

Ann Speyer (B.S. '83) serves as president and chief strategy officer of A+ Government Solutions, an information technology consulting company based in Alexandria, Washington.



Stephen Steward

Stephen Steward (B.S. '84) has written more than 200 worship songs and hymns over the past 24 years. His latest single, "Sing Alleluia," has just been released and he is working on an album, *Something Special*, which is scheduled for release next spring. For more information, visit [www.stephenbsteward.com](http://www.stephenbsteward.com).

Robin Arnold (B.S.Ed. '87) received her master's degree in elementary education from Grand Canyon University.

Paula Shelton (B.S. '88) joined the business development team at Staffers, Inc.

Eugene Stockstill (B.A. '89) was ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church by the Mississippi Conference.

**90s** Herbert Davis (B.S.Ed. '90) has been named offensive coordinator at Ocean Springs High School.

Robert Samples (M.B.A. '90) has been named vice president of sales and marketing at Farmer John in Vernon, California, by Hormel Foods Corp.

Fred McAfee (B.S. '91), former All-American at Mississippi College and NFL running back, was inducted into the Division II Football Hall of Fame in December. Now in his fifth year as director of player development for the New Orleans Saints, McAfee played 16 seasons in the National Football League with New Orleans, Arizona, Pittsburgh, and Tampa Bay from 1991-2006. He was a Pro Bowl selection in 2002 and played with the Steelers in Super Bowl XXX. He is the only player in Saints franchise history to be on the roster for three (1991, 2000, 2006) of the team's division titles.

Michael Hess (B.A. '92) returned to Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, as a member of the firm's health law department and its drug, device & life sciences industry group.

Paul Jones (B.A. '92) was appointed in June as the executive director/chief operating officer of the Mississippi Association of Habitat for Humanity Affiliates. He has more than 10 years of experience leading nonprofit organizations. He previously served as president/CEO of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Mississippi. After receiving his undergraduate degree at MC, Jones attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received his M.A. in Christian education and administration and a master of divinity specialization in Biblical languages and Christian ethics.

David Maron (B.S. '92) has been named a fellow with the American Bar Foundation. He is a shareholder at the Baker Donelson office in Jackson. Maron's practice specializes in commercial and product liability cases.

Dr. Reid Bishop (B.S. '93) has been hired as associate chemistry professor at Belhaven University. He has been the executive director of the Mississippi River Field Institute for the National Audubon Society and spent six years as assistant professor at Mississippi College. Reid received his Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi Medical Center and is working to complete his M.F.A. at Mississippi College.

Byron Yawn (B.A. '93) published a book, *Well-Driven Nails: The Power of Finding Your Own Voice*, released in October by Ambassador International. His second book, *What Every Man Wishes His Father Would Have Told Him*, will be released by Harvest Publishers in January. Yawn is senior pastor at Community Bible Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

Lucy Hasselman (B.A. '95, M.Ed. '98) is the new principal of Horn Lake Middle School in north Mississippi. She has worked in education for 16 years and holds both a master's and a specialist degree in education.

Mark Jones (B.S. '95) serves as the Salvation Army's public relations director in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. He has worked for the Salvation Army since 2004.

Patrick McCraw (M.B.A. '95) has been named senior vice president in charge of New York Life's South Central Agencies, one of the company's four U.S. sales regions.



Dr. Mac Alford

Dr. Mac Alford (B.A., B.S. '97), assistant professor at the University of Southern Mississippi and curator of the university's herbarium, is recipient of the prestigious and highly competitive Fulbright Foreign Scholarship.

Brannon Costello (B.A. '97), associate professor of English at Louisiana State University, recently published *Howard Chaykin: Conversations* with the University Press of Mississippi. The book is a collection of interviews with the acclaimed comic book writer and artist. In December 2011, University Press of Mississippi will publish *Comics and the U.S. South*, which was co-edited by Costello and includes his new essay on race and region in Captain America comics.

Michael Heindl (B.S. '97) has been named vice president of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Jackson County campus.

Gregory Johnson (B.S. '98) has joined Liquid Creative as a broadcast video developer. He previously worked for Comcast Spotlight.

Mark Ouellette (B.S.B.A. '98), director of affordable housing with BankPlus, has been promoted to first vice president. He has more than 13 years of experience in the banking industry and has been with the bank for 10 years.

Jerry Pitts (B.A. '98) wrote a book titled, *Reflections: My Personal Journey*. The book is his life's testimony and a description of the amazing works God has completed in his life.

Stephen Brown (B.S. '99) received the 2011 Award of Excellence presented by the Association of Excellence in Education. Award recipients are selected by their peers, and represent the commitment, passion, and quality that make an educator special. Brown teaches at West Jones High School. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State University and a master's degree in secondary education from William Carey University.



Michael Scott Jones

Michael Scott Jones (B.S.B.A. '99, J.D. '06), firm associate in Adams and Reese's Jackson office, has been elected to the board of directors of the Capital Area Bar Association, a 75-year-old organization of lawyers in metropolitan Jackson, Mississippi.

Walter Swan (M.M. '99) is assistant professor at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina and directs the choral program.

**00s** James Brown (B.S.Ed. '00, M.Ed. '05) is the new principal of Sumner Hill Junior High School in Clinton.

Timothy Freeny (B.S. '00) received a master of divinity with a specialization in Biblical languages from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and has been named senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Middleton, Tennessee.



Stephen McCraney

Stephen McCraney (B.S. '00) is the new director for the Department of Public Safety at Mississippi College. He has extensive experience in public safety and teaches homeland security classes in the administration of justice program at MC. McCraney is also a lieutenant colonel with the Mississippi National Guard.

Stephanie Jones (B.S. '00, M.S. '08) received the Law-Related Public Education Award from the Mississippi Bar Foundation at their 2011 Annual Meeting and Fellows Induction Ceremony. She works for the Office of the Attorney General in Jackson.

William Harvey (B.S. '01), attorney at Phelps Dunbar in Jackson, is the president-elect of the Fifth Circuit Bar Association. His two-year term as president starts February 2012.

Justin Rhodes (M.B.A. '01) has been named the director of clinic operations for Baptist Medical Clinic (Baptist Health Systems).

Michael Bowen (B.S. '03) was awarded a master's degree in digital media from the School of Communication & the Arts at Regent University in Virginia Beach. He is the director of media at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, Mississippi.



## HATAWAY NAMED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

AWARD-WINNING TEACHER AND VETERAN LAW ENFORCEMENT officer Michael Hataway was named Hinds Community College's 2011 Alumnus of the Year.

Hataway serves as graphic design coordinator and assistant chairman of the Department of Art at Mississippi College. He joined MC as an adjunct graphic arts instructor in 1998, becoming a fulltime member of the faculty in 2004. Hataway's four-decade teaching career also includes service at Hinds from 1971 through 2004 and three years as the head of the art department at Jackson's Central High School.

Hataway earned an associate's degree in fine arts at Hinds and received bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi College. His long list of awards includes Who's Who Among America's Teachers more than a half-dozen times and a National Teacher of the Year Award from the American Vocational Association. MC recognized Hataway as the university's outstanding art alumnus in 1984.

In contrast to his creative side, Hataway has worked as a part-time police officer for Hinds Community College and the Raymond Police Department. He also has a heart for community service, organizing the art department's annual Christmas dinner for homeless families in conjunction with Jackson's Wingard Home.

"Mike is generally regarded as the leading graphic art professor in Central Mississippi," said Ron Howard, MC's vice-president for academic affairs. "His dedication to student learning is exemplary, as his legions of successful graduates will gladly tell you. MC is so very fortunate to have Mike Hataway leading our program."

Clinton Wilkerson (B.S. '03, M.S.S. '09), former assistant coach at Hinds Community College, has been named the new head coach of the Ridgeland baseball program.

Conrad Howell (B.S. '03, M.S.C. '06) is vice president of commercial software at Doozer Software in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. Charles Evans (B.S. '04) earned his doctorate of osteopathy from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He graduated *summa cum laude*, fifth in his class, and received the Internal Medicine Award. Evans will begin his internal medicine residency at the University Medical Center in Jackson.

Gabriel Fertitta (B.A. '04) was named the head football coach at St. Stanislaus High School in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

Rebecca Jolly (B.S. '04) is a staff attorney for AutoZone, Inc., a Fortune 500 company.

Dr. Melinda Laughter (B.S. '04) has been promoted to manager of physical therapy at Campbell Clinic Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee. She has worked at Campbell Clinic for more than three years.

Mark Coleman (M.H.S.A. '05) has been named director of operations for Central Medical Group of Danville, Virginia. Coleman is a board-certified medical practice executive with more than 15 years experience in practice management, leadership, and medical practice consulting.

Jim McCarty (B.A. '05) was named head football coach at Brookhaven Academy in Lincoln County, Mississippi.



Heather Parker

Heather Parker (M.B.A. '05) was promoted to brand supervisor for GodwinGroup, Mississippi's largest and oldest marketing communications firm. She works in the firm's Jackson office.

Joni Tillman (B.S.Ed. '06) was chosen Teacher of the Year for Forest Elementary School in Scott County, Mississippi.

Mitchell Pate (B.S. '06) is the new defensive line coach at Mississippi College.

Jonathan Adcock (B.S.B.A. '07, M.B.A. '09), a CPA with Hadcox Reid Burkes Calhoun, has been promoted to the senior level in the firm's tax division.

Philip Buchanan (J.D. '07, M.B.A. '08) has joined the Elder Law Firm. He is licensed to practice in all Mississippi courts, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi, and U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit. He is working on his Legum Magister in Elder Law from Stetson University College of Law, and upon completion, he will be one of only a few attorneys in the United States with this specialized degree.

Laura Finch (B.S.N. '07, M.H.S.A. '09) has been named Nurse of the Year for Baptist Health Systems.

Jordan Kemp (B.S.E.D. '07) is the new assistant principal at Forest Elementary School. The Louisville native previously served as an intern and assistant principal in Meridian.

Dr. Kathleen Grigsby (Ed.S. '07) was MC's first doctoral graduate in the educational leadership program. She has also been named the new principal at Jackson's Marshall Elementary School.

Andrea Jones (M.Ed. '09) founded the Toot, Teach and Roll bus, a mobile learning lab designed to foster creativity among students through technology and the arts. Since its launch in March, the Toot, Teach and Roll bus has serviced more than 1,700 children and adults through tutoring, exploratory field trips, arts and crafts, and professional and leadership development. Jones is Jackson Public School's instructional technology facilitator, a post she's held for seven years.

**10s** Karen Lindsey-Lloyd (M.S.C. '11), director of retention and career services at MC, was named to the "50 Leading Business Women" list by the *Mississippi Business Journal*.

Emily Vines (M.F.A. '11) is the new art instructor and gallery director at Northeastern Junior College in Colorado.

## Marriages

Rebecca Michelle Grace (B.A. '01) and John William Davis, July 25, 2009

Monika Kandace Maehlmann (B.S. '01) and Benjamin Russell Whittenburg, April 2, 2011

Kristen Lynn Cockrell (B.S. '03, M.S.C. '08) and John "Jay" Martin Mooney III (B.S.B.A. '05, M.B.A. '08), May 14, 2011

Lindsey Joan Gilbert and William Marvin Watkins, Jr. (B.S. '04), May 28, 2011

Elizabeth Blythe Matthews (M.Ed. '10) and Cayce Wallace (B.S. '05), July 23, 2011

Kristen Nicole DeMoney (B.S.Ed. '06) and Destin Ray Dell, March 12, 2011

Karley Ann Williams (B.S. '08) and Lance Corporal Joshua Taylor Little (B.S. '10), June 4, 2011

Emilee Jayne Peeples (B.S. '09) and Matthew Carlton Milling (B.S.N. '09), June 25, 2011

Carolita Belle Yoder and Russell Dallas Heritage (B.A. '10), September 25, 2010

Sarah Margaret Branning (B.S.Ed. '10) and Jeremy Rowan (B.S.B.A. '10), June 4, 2011

Jennifer Joy Bird and Jason Gregory Horne (B.S.B.A. '10), August 6, 2011

Amanda Barstow (B.S. '11) and Garrett Barber (B.S. '11), July 22, 2011

Heather Michelle Palmer (B.S.N. '11) and Cody Ryan Little, May 28, 2011

## Births & Adoptions

Bethany (Sauls, B.S.B.A. '99) and Matthew Magnus, Marilyn Bethany "Mary Beth", June 22, 2011

Christi (Neal, B.S. '00) and Timothy Freeny (B.S. '00), Jami-syn Ivy, April 18, 2011

Emily (Wilson, B.A. '06) and Mark Metcalf (B.S.B.A. '03), Alden Gentry, July 6, 2011

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

## In Memoriam

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

### Alumni

Daisy Belle Caulfield (B.A. '32), June 28, 2011  
 Genevieve Lassetter (Hillman '35, B.A. '37), March 25, 2011  
 Dr. C. Lamar Wallis (B.A. '36), April 15, 2011  
 George Denley (B.A. '37), March 17, 2011  
 Leema Holloway (Hillman '37), July 29, 2010  
 Nona Fortenberry (B.A. '40), March 31, 2011  
 William Ford "Billy" McGehee (B.A. '40), February 28, 2011  
 George Purvis (B.A. '41), July 2, 2011  
 Dr. David Byrd, Jr. (B.A. '43, D.D. '81), May 18, 2011  
 William H. Cole ('45), March 14, 2011  
 James M. Jackson (B.A. '46), June 2, 2011  
 Loyette Chance (B.A. '47), June 23, 2011  
 Dr. Stancil Douglas (B.A. '48), April 10, 2011  
 George Estes, Jr. (B.A. '48), April 23, 2011  
 Eva Harris (B.A. '48), July 22, 2011  
 Rev. Richard Miller (B.A. '48), May 11, 2011  
 W. B. Rives (B.S. '48), April 19, 2011  
 Terry Hatchett (B.A. '49), March 18, 2011  
 Robert Ross, Jr. (B.A. '49), May 28, 2011  
 Bill Welch (B.S. '49), March 21, 2011  
 John White (B.A. '49), March 1, 2011  
 Dr. James Booth (B.S. '50), June 17, 2011  
 Edwin Bush (B.A. '50), June 9, 2011  
 Rev. James Harrell (B.A. '50), July 9, 2011  
 Mary Burns (B.A. '51), July 16, 2011  
 Dr. Charles Lee (B.S. '51), April 23, 2011  
 Rev. Robert Foy (B.A. '52), February 23, 2011  
 Anita Polk (B.S. '52, M.Ed. '70), April 24, 2011  
 Betty Jackson (B.A. '53), August 8, 2011  
 Rev. Stanley Barnett (B.A. '54), June 4, 2011  
 Rev. Leroy Callahan (B.S.Ed. '54), February 2, 2010  
 Jimmie Hartfield (B.A. '54), January 31, 2011  
 Rev. Rex Henderson (B.A. '54), July 6, 2011  
 Rev. Donald Wainwright (B.A. '55), May 1, 2011  
 F. Earl Barfield (B.S. '56), March 20, 2011  
 Dr. Jack R. Farmer (B.A. '56), March 19, 2011  
 William Morgan (B.S. '56), May 25, 2010  
 Robert "Bob" Riley, Jr. (B.A. '56), July 19, 2011  
 Dr. Bobby Thornton (B.A. '56), July 28, 2011  
 Rev. William Counselman (B.A. '57), April 11, 2011  
 Donald M. Cross (B.S. '57), December 10, 2010  
 Wallace Lammons (B.S. '57), February 28, 2011  
 Rev. Harris Counce, Jr. (B.A. '58), April 14, 2011  
 Harvey Fleming (B.S. '59), June 25, 2011  
 Walter Hollingsworth ('59), July 18, 2011  
 Myrtila Kirk (B.S.Ed. '59), June 23, 2011  
 Dr. Richard Brogan (B.A. '60), April 25, 2011  
 Rowena Carlock (B.S. '60), March 1, 2011  
 Elton Chalk ('62), June 23, 2011  
 Colonel John Poates (B.S. '62), March 7, 2011  
 Lorraine Caldwell (B.S. '63, M.C.C. '85), March 16, 2011  
 Ellen Little (B.S.Ed. '63), July 22, 2011  
 Sue Litzenberger (B.A. '63), April 26, 2011  
 Jean Muirhead (L.L.B. '67), July 15, 2011  
 Rev. Allen Parnell (B.S. '67), December 25, 2010  
 Dr. Ned Barrett (B.S.Ed. '68), May 4, 2011  
 Paula Craft (B.S.Ed. '68, M.Ed. '70), April 23, 2011  
 Dr. James Boswell (B.S. '69), June 25, 2011  
 Joan Rutland (B.A. '73), June 22, 2011  
 Gary Fontenot (B.S. '74), July 24, 2011  
 Wanda Parkman (B.S.Ed. '77, M.Ed. '88), March 28, 2011  
 Lloyd Sullivan (M.M. '79), March 8, 2011  
 Lanae McCormick (B.S.B.A. '82), August 7, 2011



## FROM THE DANUBE TO THE ALPS MARCH 8-18, 2012

EXPERIENCE THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS, AND FLAVORS  
OF AUSTRIA, GERMANY, AND SWITZERLAND

Join MC instructors Dr. Beth Stapleton, Emily Fokeladeh, and Katrina Pace on the Danube to the Alps tour during MC's spring break, March 8-18, 2012. This once-in-a-lifetime adventure is open to all MC students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. Participants may select courses for college credit or participate as non-credit enrollees.

Highlights of this alpine adventure include tours of Vienna, the beautiful city on the banks of the Danube; a stop in Salzburg, the setting of the beloved classic *The Sound of Music*; visits to the spectacular castles and monasteries of Bavaria; a tour of Zurich, the largest city in Switzerland; the breathtaking beauty of the Swiss Alps and an optional snow skiing adventure in Lucerne, and much more.

TOUR PRICE: \$3750

*Plus tuition for those obtaining credit*

INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip airfare from Jackson/Vienna-Zurich/Jackson
- Transfers to/from airports/hotels in Austria/Switzerland
- Nine nights accommodations in superior tourist and first class hotels
- Sightseeing by deluxe motorcoach, walking tours, and guided tours of historic cities and landmarks
- Services of professional escorts and guides
- Some meals

*For a full itinerary and details, visit [www.mc.edu/academics/study-abroad/spring-break](http://www.mc.edu/academics/study-abroad/spring-break).*

Applications for scholarships for the Danube to the Alps Trip are available on the MC Spring Break website at [www.mc.edu/academics/study-abroad/spring-break](http://www.mc.edu/academics/study-abroad/spring-break).

Mayme Prevost (B.S. '83), August 24, 2011  
 Richard Dutton (B.S. '91), August 1, 2011  
 Brenda Marsalis (M.Ed. '94), April 23, 2011  
 Dorothy Keniston (B.S.B.A. '00), April 15, 2011

### Friends

Ray Berry, father of library assistant Paula Brown, May 13, 2011  
 Carol Brooks, mother of accounting professor Brooks Poole, May 18, 2011

Vernon Cole, Jr., brother of School of Law executive assistant Patricia Anderson, June 22, 2011

Ernestine Daniel, retired Registrar's Office staff member, August 19, 2011

Beatrice Edwards, mother of food service staff member Dasie Harrell, August 29, 2011

James Milton Findley, father of library reference service coordinator Susan Newman, August 24, 2011

Elva H. Inzer, wife of Reverend LaVern Inzer, November 7, 2010

Joe Long, husband of admissions specialist Ann Long, March 25, 2011

Deborah Lum Purviance, August 4, 2011

Daisy Roberts, mother of business professor Dr. Lloyd (Bo) Roberts, July 28, 2011

Linda Thompson, mother of kinesiology instructor Scot Long, July 10, 2011

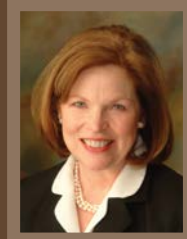
Melvin Zwicke, father of library collection assistant Gwen Everhardt, August 25, 2011

### Aven Whittington

The MC community was saddened by the loss of Charles Aven Whittington, a former trustee of Mississippi College. Whittington graduated from Princeton University in 1939, then returned to his hometown of Greenwood, Mississippi, and began farming. At the time of his death, he had begun picking his seventy-second crop. Mr. Whittington remained actively involved in the First Baptist Church throughout his life. He served as a consultant for the U.S. State Department and U.S. Department of Agriculture, and on the boards of many community, civic, and professional organizations, as well as on the boards of many prominent Mississippi companies. Mr. Whittington's community and peers recognized his contributions and his philanthropy, naming him Outstanding Alumnus of the Year for Princeton University, the recipient of the Greenwood Commonwealth Community Service Award, and a member of the Leflore County Hall of Fame.

### Dr. Teresa (Terre) Ellis Jarnagin

The MC community mourns the passing of former nursing instructor Dr. Terre Jarnagin. Feeling the call to become a nurse in the third grade, Jarnagin dedicated her life to serving others through the medical profession. She graduated from the Gilfoy School of Nursing in 1971 and worked in hospitals in Starkville, West Point, and Columbus, Mississippi, before relocating to Jackson with her family and beginning a 23-year career at St. Dominic Hospital. Jarnagin worked at St. Dominic in a number of positions, ending her service there as director of nursing service for the North Campus. While raising her two children, Jarnagin also earned her bachelor's of science in nursing, her master's degree in nursing science, and her doctorate of nursing science. After leaving St. Dominic, Jarnagin taught nursing at Mississippi College. Over her 15-year tenure at MC, Jarnagin touched the lives of hundreds of nursing students who became better healthcare providers for having known and learned under her.



MC CHEERLEADERS IGNITE  
THE CHOCTAW SPIRIT AT  
HOMECOMING 2011.

# PORTRAITS FROM THE HALL OF FAME

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

THE BEACON CATCHES UP WITH GAYLE LONG WICKER '72, '74

Gayle Long Wicker has spent most of the past two decades in the spotlight as the wife of Roger Wicker, Mississippi's Republican U.S. Senator and former U.S. Representative. But her husband is not the only Wicker to have run a successful political race. In 1971, Gayle Long made history when she was elected Mississippi College's first female student body president.

"At the time, I didn't think anything of being a woman running for office," Wicker recalls. "But once I was elected, it was big news. After the Jackson newspapers and TV stations called me for interviews, I realized it was a historic event."

It would turn out to be a historic event in more ways than one. While representing MC at a Mississippi Youth Congress meeting, Gayle Long was introduced to the University of Mississippi Associated Student Body President, Roger Wicker. The two continued to cross paths at College Republicans gatherings, and were married in 1975.

Wicker received both her undergraduate and master's degrees from MC, and served her *alma mater* as an admissions counselor for two years. The Wickers left Mississippi when Roger Wicker was placed on active duty in the Air Force. Wherever they were stationed, Gayle Wicker found her own niche, serving in admissions counseling positions at colleges in Tennessee and North Carolina. Along the way, the Wickers had three children and the family eventually returned to Mississippi, settling in Tupelo.

In 2005, Wicker accepted her current position as coordinator of student services at the University of Mississippi-Tupelo, a commuter campus serving juniors, seniors, and

graduate students. Wicker provides services that enhance the non-traditional students' college experience, including developing programs geared toward working students and students with families.

Wicker has continued to serve Mississippi College through the years. In 1996, she again made MC history when she was appointed as one of the two first female members of the Mississippi College Board of Trustees. Wicker is a former recipient of the Department of Communication Distinguished Alumnus Award and was the 2008 recipient of the Order of the Golden Arrow.

Wicker was a featured speaker at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" event earlier this year, and co-chaired the 2011 March of Dimes Gourmet Celebrity Chefs Gala in Washington, D.C., which raised nearly \$1 million. For the past three years, she has co-chaired the Reading Is Fundamental Gift of Reading Gala, which benefits children's literacy programs nationwide. Considering her background, it's probably not surprising that Wicker's favorite children's books include *House Mouse*, *Senate Mouse* and *Woodrow the White House Mouse*.

From her campaign for MC student body president to her career helping students and her role as a Senator's wife, Gayle Long Wicker credits Mississippi College with preparing her to seize every opportunity that has come her way.

"At MC, I learned leadership, adaptability and the importance of friends. I'm proud to see that MC is still a strong, faith-based school that gives students an opportunity to grow and mature. For me, MC was literally a dream come true."

"AT THE TIME, I  
DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING  
OF BEING A WOMAN  
RUNNING FOR OFFICE,  
BUT ONCE I WAS ELECTED,  
IT WAS BIG NEWS. AFTER  
THE JACKSON NEWSPAPERS  
AND TV STATIONS CALLED  
ME FOR INTERVIEWS,  
I REALIZED IT WAS  
A HISTORIC EVENT."

GAYLE LONG WICKER • Hall of Fame '72

SBA President • Junior Class Vice President • Senate • Kissimmee Program Chairman • Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities • President Pro Tempore of Mississippi Youth Congress • Miss Young Republican for Mississippi



For more on this story, visit [www.mc.edu/beacon](http://www.mc.edu/beacon).





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