

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Connections

M A G A Z I N E



Manny Mitchell

MCC Foundation Man of the Year

SPRING - SUMMER 2018

MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Michael Thompson, *dean, academic affairs*

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Dr. Richie McAlister, *associate vice president, workforce education*

Soraya Welden, *dean, student services*

Kathy Brookshire, *associate vice president for development/ executive director, MCC Foundation*

Dr. Betty Davis, *dean, nursing*

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On the cover:

From left, Melissa and Adam Mitchell, Emily Athanas and Manny and Melanie Mitchell.



'So long, farewell, I'll see you in my dreams'

Whoosh!

That's how quickly it seems these past 20 years have passed for me at Meridian Community College. Seems like just yesterday that Claudia and I arrived in the Queen City to excitedly interview for the MCC presidency.

Back then, my son (Scotty) was still in high school and my daughter (Stacie) was a sophomore at a Florida university. Flash forward to 2018 and both of my children are happily married, enjoying successful careers, and have blessed Claudia and me with a granddaughter and a grandson in both states – Florida and Mississippi. In fact, our eldest grandchild will be a senior in high school next fall – amazing.

I would like to think that my tenure at MCC has been marked with some modest successes, but I need to make something abundantly clear. That is, the good things that have occurred on my watch have not been attributable to me. Rather, they have been the product of a team effort. And that has been the case since Day 1 - Sept. 4, 1998 - when I inherited from my visionary predecessor, Dr. Bill Scaggs, a wonderfully gifted group of administrators, faculty and staff. I would go as far as to say that, given that storehouse of talent, anyone who followed Dr. Scaggs would have had to screw up royally to not have accomplished a few worthy things.

For sake of time and space, I can't name all of those terrific colleagues, but I hope they know how much I

truly appreciate them. I have also been extremely fortunate to work for trustees who have been wholly supportive of me and the college. The longest serving of those has been Dr. Tommy Dulaney. Would that everyone could work for such a fine, upstanding gentleman as him! Tommy is a graduate of MCC himself, and I have always remarked that he represents the highest aspirations we have for any of our students – meaning that they will do well in their chosen careers, positively touch other lives, and ultimately give back to their community.

And I could say the same of all the other trustees for whom I've worked – Ralph Young, Joyce Frank, C.D. Smith, Dr. Ronnye Purvis, John Johnson, Jamie Cater and our current chairman of the board, Alex Weddington.

But to wrap up this swan song, allow me to report that many people have inquired, "Why are you retiring?" I have told them about wanting to spend more time with my family and catch a lot more of my grandkids' Little League games, soccer matches, and musical recitals. Moreover, I've said that I need to invest more time in the service of my God.

The unvarnished truth of the matter, though, is that a college president must be "all-in." At a typical college, the day isn't over when the sun goes down. There's always a ballgame, art exhibit, musical concert, theatrical production, etc., that demand the presence of the chief executive officer. At least, that's the case if you're going to do the job right in supporting the efforts of teachers and students. On top of all

that, so long as you are equipped with a cell phone and laptop, even when you're on vacation, you're never really on vacation.

So, yeah, you gotta be "all-in." And if you can't be, then – in my view – it's time to get out. I've been a college president for the past 23 years in two different Southern states and a vice president before that in yet another. When I started that checkered journey, I was a tire with a lot of tread. Now, there are days when I feel much more like a may-pop.

Hey, no one ever called Scott Elliott a high-intellect. I am just a nuts-and-bolts guy who did his best with whatever gifts were endowed me. Nonetheless, in my wake, I leave a real gem of a community college, again, thanks to the efforts of my colleagues – past and present. Things aren't perfect by any means. There are unmet challenges such as climbing out of a down enrollment cycle, deferred maintenance issues, and meeting the ever-increasing demand for programs and services in the face of insufficient state support.

My prayer is that your next president and his team will prove wildly successful and that MCC will reach its greatest heights ever across the curriculum. Claudia and I thank you sincerely for allowing us to be part of the MCC family and this awesome community for nearly one-third of our lives. May God bless you and keep you always.



Jerry and Marilyn Greene, Hardy and Dottie Graham, Martha and Ralph Young

Local businessman Hardy Graham makes major pledge to MCC Foundation

Community-minded. Generous. These words were repeatedly heard when it was announced that Meridian businessman Hardy Graham, Sr., longtime president of the Meridian Coca-Cola Bottling Co., had determined to donate \$300,000 to the Meridian Community College Foundation. A formal announcement of the gift was made during a gathering of college officials, Foundation members, and friends at Northwood Country Club.

Dr. Scott Elliott, MCC president, called Graham's gift "significant, if not historic."

"We have benefitted from several major gifts from other local foundations, but few from singular individuals of the magnitude of what Hardy has pledged to MCC," Elliott said. "We cannot say thank you enough, not only regarding what Hardy is doing for MCC now, but moreover for all he has invested over the years in the college through his time, energy and personal resources. Hardy is without question one of our community's foremost servant-leaders."

Graham responded, "Our relationship with the community college has been

extremely rewarding in our lives. The considerable and positive effect MCC consistently has on the community is amazing."

MCC Foundation Board President Tim Hogan also commended Graham, saying, "What you do for the community – the city, the county and more importantly those students who get to be better people to enhance our community – is nothing short of remarkable. On behalf of the MCC Foundation, I want you to know how very much we appreciate you."

Longtime friends including Jerry Greene, president of Hotel and Restaurant Supply, and Ralph Young, attorney and former MCC trustee, echoed accolades about Graham. Friends since 1961, Young said two qualities Graham possess are loyalty and generosity. "What he has done for his church, Ole Miss, MCC and the community is unbelievable."

Graham reiterated that MCC has a tremendous impact on the community and surrounding area. "Anything we can do to help it grow – encourage it, support it – I think we have an obligation to do so."

His desire to serve MCC reached back to the early 1990s when he volunteered to

serve on the MCC Foundation Board.

"Not only has Hardy given of his time to MCC, he has faithfully supported our college financially as well," said Kathy Brookshire, executive director of the MCC Foundation and associate vice president for development at MCC. "We are proud to announce the establishment of the Hardy and Dottie Graham Scholarship Endowment."

Graham recalled as president of the Foundation Board of Directors, he was approached by then MCC President Dr. Bill Scaggs and Advancement Director Anne Dowdle about the idea for Tuition Guarantee, an innovative program in which students' first two years of college



tuition are guaranteed to be defrayed.

“I thought it was a great idea,” Graham said. “My immediate reaction was ‘let’s do it.’ I just happened to be lucky enough to be president of the Foundation Board at that time.”

His wife, Dottye, recalled a story of Graham telling her about his hometown. “He took me by the college and said, ‘This is an important place to Meridian. It’s an important place that brings a lot of positive action into our community. I’ve always supported it.’”

She added, “Hardy is very community-minded and has a particular heart for Meridian Community College.” She added, “He has a real feel for the college and wants to be supportive in any way he can. This gift is one of his ways of expressing it.”

Elliott said Graham’s association with MCC heightens the college’s esteem and credibility in the community.

“Several years ago our Board of Trustees voted to name the college gymnasium in Hardy’s honor,” Elliott recalled. “So, every day many people pass in front of Graham Gymnasium. I know every time that I pass our gym, I think of Hardy and how very fortunate we are to have him as a part of the MCC family.”

Hardy and Dottye Graham pose for a photo at a gathering of college officials and friends in connection with pledge announcement.



Carolyn and Arthur H. Goldman, Jr. Memorial Scholarship: Honoring parents and core values

It’s the dream of every parent: the desire for your child to have a better life than you.

Gene Goldman’s folks were no different. “Our parents told us from earliest memories we would finish college,” said Goldman, an MCC alumnus who today manages the Huntsville, Ala., office for BWX Technologies, developing nuclear power and propulsion systems for space exploration.

Goldman and his two younger brothers all went to Meridian Junior College, then to Mississippi State University, and all are engineers. Goldman has worked 40 years as an engineer, 28 years with NASA and its support contractors. “During my NASA career I managed the Space Shuttle Main Engine program, Stennis Space Center and Marshall Space Flight Center,” Goldman said.

The desire for a better life stretched back to Goldman’s paternal grandfather who “was an illiterate sharecropper with a goal of having all his children finish high school, which they did. That was an uncommon achievement in the rural Mississippi mid-1940s,” Goldman said.

And the next generation stressed the value of an education as a means of reaching for the better life. Goldman’s dad was an auto and diesel mechanic who loved math. “He never had the chance to be an engineer, but loved that all his sons were,” Goldman said.

“Our Mom began work at our small-town post office in Russell when the youngest son started high school, and then retired from the main post office in Meridian,” Goldman said.

“Both parents emphasized work ethic and performance in whatever we did,” Goldman added. He and his siblings worked as laborers while in school, appreciating the opportunities their education provided.

“All three of us went to college on scholarships, school loans and parental assistance, and I wanted to help others as we had been helped.

In 2016, Goldman established the Carolyn and Arthur H. Goldman, Jr. Memorial Scholarship through the MCC Foundation. He said, “Helping others was a core value of our parents. This is a way to honor their lives and give back to the community.”

Mr. Goldman was inducted into the prestigious “Highest Flying Eagles” Hall of Fame in 2010, joining other Meridian Community College alumni honored for distinguishing themselves in their profession and in their community service.



This photo of Arthur (also known as Jr.) and Carolyn Goldman is one of Gene Goldman’s favorite photos of his parents.

MEMBERS OF
MCC HALL OF FAME
(In order of their induction).

Dr. William F. Scaggs, Tommy Dulaney, Lou Weddington Hart, Ronnie Miller, Chief Phillip Martin, Sylvia Autry, Sen. Videt Carmichael, David Little, Sheriff Billy Sollie, Judge Veldore Young, Barbara Jones, Richard Kelly, Dr. Tommy McDonald, Dr. Clarence Roberts, Ed Skipper, Rep. Norma Bourdeaux, Mark McPhail, C.D. Smith, Wallace Strickland, Ralph Young, Jr., B.B. Archer, Jacquelyn Hogan, Leslie Usher, Frank Charles Winstead, Hoot Gipson, Larry Love, Tony Pompelia, Gerry Purvis, Jack Shank, Gene Goldman, Eddie Holladay, Bud Thompson, Pam Tvarckunas, Terry Williams, Dr. David Batarseh, Von Burt, Dr. Jennifer Avara-Lott, Dr. Randy Nance, Syria Sturdivant, Dr. Ricardo Gillispie, Donnie Massey, Gary Wilkinson, Dr. Leigh White, Jamie Cater, Joyce Frank, Roscoe Jones, Robert Sanford, Joe Charles Sanders, Dr. Kim Benton, Kathy Brookshire, Joe McCraney, Mark Porter, Dustin Markham, Dr. Shawn Anderson, Dan Hollingsworth, Fannie Johnson, Dr. Lana Jackson, Dr. Lavon Fluker-Reed, Dr. Ben Rush, Dr. Joseph M.S. Anderson, Dr. LaBaron Hedgemon, Col. Howard Malone, Ben Scaggs, Dr. Jamie Osby Williams, Rev. Scotty Cole, Dr. Daniel Newell, Richie M. McAlister III, Dr. Kathy Baxter, Jimmie Evans, Shirley Nell Goodman, Janet Heggie and Billy C. Beal.

MCC salutes alumni in annual ceremony

Area residents were spotlighted for excellence when Meridian Community College hosted its annual Highest Flying Eagles Hall of Fame recognition ceremony in the MCC-Riley Workforce Development Center.

Saluted were the Rev. Scotty Cole, Dr. Daniel Newell and Richie M. McAlister III, as well as Dr. Kathy Baxter, Jimmie Evans, Shirley Nell Goodman, Janet Heggie and Billy C. Beal, posthumously.

“The Hall of Fame inductions are always one of the highlights of the school year at MCC,” said Dr. Scott Elliott, president of MCC. “It gives the college an opportunity to recognize some special servant-leaders who all distinguished themselves in their careers and have made MCC very proud.”

Cole is the music director of MCC’s gospel choir, pastor of the Firehouse Church in Meridian, and an entrepreneur. Newell is a local veterinarian, and McAlister is the chief administrative officer for the City of Meridian.

Baxter served MCC as its chief academic officer in her career. Evans is a legendary social sciences instructor, and Goodman helped to build MCC’s career and technical curriculum during her tenure. Heggie headed the college’s Business and Community Development Division and first envisioned the college’s contemporary workforce development center.

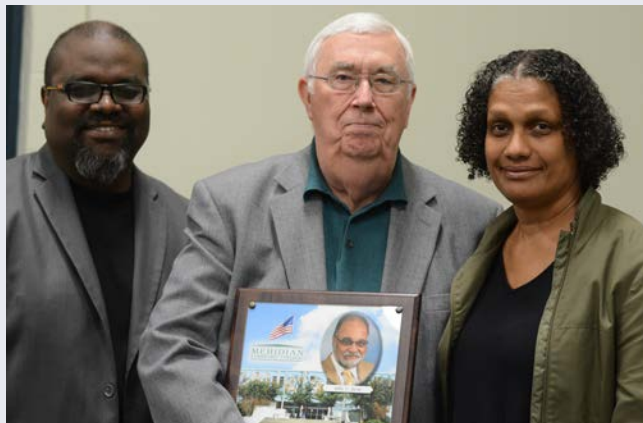
Also honored was Michelle Smith, the newest member of MCC’s “Talon Club,” which spotlights employees with a minimum of 30 years of service to the college. Smith was athletic director, fitness center director and chair of the wellness and fitness division.



Shirley Nell Goodman, left is presented her award by MCC President Emeritus Dr. Bill Scaggs.



Richie McAlister III with MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott



John S. Beal, III, left, Dr. Scaggs and Denise Beal.



Dr. Daniel Newell, left, is presented his Hall of Fame plaque by MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott. Newell was one of eight recognized in a ceremony saluting excellence.



MCC President Emeritus Dr. Bill Scaggs, left, shares a smile with Dr. Kathy Baxter, who was recognized during the Hall of Fame ceremony at MCC.



Dr. Scaggs, left, with Hall of Fame recipient Janet Heggie.



Rev. Scotty Cole with Dr. Elliott.



Meet the Quave Navigators



Morgan Jowers

College navigator Morgan Jowers' job description has a lot of bullet points.

"I like to say that I'm a retention counselor," Jowers said of the job she's held since October 2016 helping MCC students. "Instructors let me know that a student is potentially at risk for dropping out. I contact that student to see what issues they may be having and connect them with resources that help them succeed," she said.

Retention of students is job one. "Retention in an incredibly important aspect because without students, there is no MCC," she said.

She admits her favorite part of working at MCC is helping students. "... whether that be finding a tutor for that difficult math class or connecting a mother to a low-cost daycare service so she can go to school and work without having to worry about who will take care of her children. I think education is so important because it offers opportunities for growth both intellectually and emotionally."

In addition to being a navigator, Jowers is also the Complete 2 Compete counselor at the College. C2C encourages students who may have some college credit but no degree to come back and finish those degrees. "We offer financial assistance to those students, so that makes it easier to

come back to school. C2C is important because it helps the state of Mississippi as a whole by improving the state economy as well as the lives of the people who live here," she said.

She points to one proud moment of lending a student a helping hand. "I helped him and his mother do just about everything: fill out paperwork for financial aid, help them navigate the bookstore and eBooks, show them where his classrooms were located. Even though he struggled, we pushed forward, and he finished the semester with a GPA that seemed impossible when we started. Even his communication skills have improved! He still stops by every now and then to tell me that he's doing alright."

Jowers is a graduate of the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science. She graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of West Alabama in 2016 and earned her master's degree in English the following year at UWA.

"When I'm not at MCC, I'm probably traveling. My husband and I are kids at heart, and we love visiting different zoos and aquariums. If I'm stuck at home, I'm probably out training for my first half marathon," she said.

Her husband, a police officer, plans to return to MCC in the fall to finish work on his paramedic license.



Shaquita Hopson



"I was the type of student who could have used a navigator."

That's what Meridian Community College staffer

Shaquita Hopson said as she remembered her academic experience as a freshman at MCC in 2001. "I wasn't ready and I didn't know... I wasn't prepared for college," she reflected on her educational studies beginnings.

Today, Hopson is on the other side of the desk as a college navigator for MCC, helping students handle obstacles that might interfere with their classes. Communicating with students in all sorts of ways from calls to texts, Hopson also meets with students one-on-one in her Ivy Hall office helping students navigate the academic waters.

"There was a student who came into my office a few weeks ago and I told her, 'you are me.' She didn't know she could drop a class. I didn't know I could drop a class. I didn't know I could get tutoring. She didn't know she could get tutoring," Hopson said.

"I've been at every level – I've been successful at college and I've been unsuccessful at college. I've been there. It wasn't that I didn't have the ability, I didn't know how or what I was doing in college," she said.

Hopson brings a world of been-there-done-that experience ranging from social work, legal assistant, teacher's assistant, tutorer – all

Hopson speaking with a student

yielding a wealth of experience for her to help her MCC students in turn.

“This position has the advantages of really transforming school,” Hopson said. “The college navigator is for everyone... it has the ability to make the most impact on students.”

Hopson has a bachelor’s degree in social work from Mississippi State University and is currently working on her master’s degree in counseling and psychology from the University of West Alabama. “I feel like higher education gives you a better chance to make an impact,” she said.

A resident of Marion, Hopson comes from a big family and is very family-oriented. And she counts her church family as an extension of her family.



MUNA joins the President’s Roundtable

Bo Pittman, CEO/President of MUNA Federal Credit Union

“*To move forward, you have to give back.*” – Oprah Winfrey

When MUNA Federal Credit Union CEO/President Bo Pittman and his family returned to his hometown Meridian after being away for some time, things had changed. One difference: Meridian Community College’s signature Tuition Guarantee program.

Tuition Guarantee, underwritten by the MCC Foundation, covers the cost of tuition for four semesters of study at MCC for any graduate of a Meridian or Lauderdale County High School or any

person residing in Lauderdale County who is home-schooled. By enrolling in the fall following their spring graduation, students retain the Tuition Guarantee for four consecutive semesters provided they earn a 2.00 grade point average and take at least 15 hours each semester.

“It was one of the best things I had heard of for the children in this area in a long time,” Pittman said. “Having the opportunity to go to school like that and not worrying about paying for your tuition was huge. It wasn’t around when I was going to school.”

So the credit union joined the MCC Foundation. “We decided to invest what we could. Being a credit union – we’re a not-for-profit organization – so we don’t have a lot to give; what we do with the profit that we make, we give back to the community,” Pittman said.

“I thought it would be a program well worth participating in, because it enhances the ability of youth in this area to increase their education and to give them opportunities they otherwise would not have.”

Noting that the community is vital, Pittman said, “Giving back to our community is one of the most important parts of living here. We can ignore what’s going on, or we can help our community and our city become better,” Pittman said. “We always want to become better.”

Another way in which MUNA gives back is working with the Lauderdale County School System’s Reality Fair- a program that offers eighth graders a touch of what their financial possibilities can yield.

MUNA, with its 5,800 members, is growing. Beginning in 1962 as the Meridian Naval Air Station Credit Union, the institution started as a specific employment group credit union. Since then, the credit union moved to Meridian and is now a community based institution located at 4400 Highway 39 North. Anyone who works, lives or worships in Lauderdale County can become a member. “We work well with the other credit unions,” Pittman said.

He added, “We like to help the community grow.”





Manny Mitchell
MCC Foundation honoree

Meridianite Manny Mitchell was honored as well as surprised when the Meridian Community College Foundation feted him and his business, Mitchell Companies, at the foundation's annual membership celebration.

"I'm blown away by this. It's really cool that in our 70th year, something like this would happen. It makes it even more special to me ... this is tremendous," Mitchell said as he addressed the crowd gathered at Northwood Country Club.

He continued, "It's so humbling to be here and receive this from MCC -- which I have the upmost respect for -- the No. 3 community college in the country."

In presenting Mitchell with a plaque that saluted his support of the college and the community, MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott applauded Mitchell's efforts. "Our honoree is yet another

example of a man who has achieved great success while remaining humble, friendly and caring."

Elliott explained that the Mitchell companies have played a major role in the community. "Under Manny's astute leadership, he has grown and diversified Mitchell companies

and created lots of employment opportunities for a number of people over the years. The Mitchells have shared their time, their energy and their personal resources in an effort to improve the quality of life in our community."

"He has uplifted his fellow man and he has a deep abiding love for his family," Elliott added.

As a part of the evening's festivities, Mitchell was serenaded by performers from the MCC musical, "The Wonderettes," and a video highlighting the company and paying tribute to Mitchell was shown.

As the ceremony got under way, MCC Foundation Board President Tim Hogan said private investment in the college continues to exceed the Board's level of expectation. "Our fund-raising campaign for 2017 was \$1,108,682.68. We have raised over \$1 million each year for the last 11 years," he said to the audience.

Also during the evening, MCC Social Science Instructor Kim Coward was awarded the William B. Crooks



Manny and Melanie Mitchell

Teaching Chair. This chair was created to provide a continuing celebration of the life of Crooks, who was a long-time patron of the College and who served on the MCC Board of Directors from 1988 until his death in January 1993. As chair holder, Coward will have the opportunity to initiate or refine course or program development, purchase books, materials and/or equipment to improve a course or program. She will be implementing a social problems course specifically addressing the issue of child maltreatment.



Robert Smith and Tim Hogan



Judge Veldore Young and Kathy Brookshire



Wilhelmine Damon, Annie Ramsey and Adrian Mosley



Kim and Billy Coward



Bob and Jamie Cater



BB and Sally Archer



Manny Mitchell shakes hands with Dr. Scott Elliott.



Betty and Gerry Purvis



Dr. Scott Elliott, President of Meridian Community College, and Kathy Brookshire, Associate Vice President for Development and Executive Director of the MCC Foundation will be retiring this summer. Elliott's tenure at MCC has been 20 years, while Brookshire has led the MCC Foundation for 17.

When Dr. Elliott came to MCC in 1998, he says he inherited from Dr. Bill Scaggs a prolific team of administrators, faculty, and staff. It was his goal from the onset to try to capitalize on the momentum and successes that Dr. Scaggs and his team had long established.

During Dr. Elliott's tenure at MCC, the college:

- grew its annual budget from \$24,091,338 to \$52,887,336...a 120 percent increase;
- expanded the physical plant to 94 acres, supporting over 30 new structures, representing approximately 270,000 additional square feet of building space, while also renovating numerous existing areas;
- recorded several years of record-breaking enrollment, peaking at 4,500 credit students in 2010;
- bolstered the college's customized workforce training, continuing

A legacy of accomplishments and friendship

education, and adult basic education programs to serve upwards of 10,000 students annually, many of them taking classes in MCC's new 85,000 square foot workforce training center;

- increased the nursing program enrollment from approximately 250 students to over 700 students annually, making the Associate Degree (RN) program among the largest in the state;
- initiated several new career and technical programs, including Cosmetology and Nail Technology, Industrial Maintenance, Millwright, Commercial Truck Driving, Surgical Technology, Dental Assisting, Culinary Arts, Paramedic, Welding, and Medical Billing and Coding;
- instituted a comprehensive e-learning program of on-line classes;
- partnered with county and city K-12 schools to develop a dual enrollment curriculum, annually providing dozens of area students with a head start on their college experience;
- implemented an energy conservation program that to date has amassed roughly \$2.6 million in savings on utilities;
- garnered a run of 13 consecutive years in which MCC recorded the highest grade point average in the State among all 15 community colleges in terms of how its students performed upon matriculation to Mississippi universities; and
- posted the state's highest graduation rate four years in succession.

In 2016-17, Meridian Community College was ranked No. 3 in the U.S. in two separate independent polls among the nation's 1,600 two-year colleges. In another national survey, MCC was ranked No. 7 in the nation. Three times the college has been nominated for the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

MCC won the coveted Bellwether Award sponsored by the University of Florida for excellence in economic development programming.

In athletics, MCC became and remains the only community college in state history to win a national title in soccer, recorded two national runner-up finishes in golf, and chalked up numerous other Top 10 national rankings and state and regional titles in golf, tennis, softball, track and baseball. Moreover, the Eagle athletic department won the Halbrook Award three times for having the highest student-athlete graduation in the state.

Among the career honors Elliott received were the Michael Bennett Lifetime Achievement Award and Shirley B. Gordon Distinguished Service Award from Phi Theta Kappa, the Patriot Award for his support of the U.S. military, a distinguished alumni award from the University of Florida, a Salute to Character Award from the Meridian Public School District, and a Friend of Adult Education Award from the Mississippi Association of Adult and Community Education.

His service to the state included past chairman of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC), past chairman of the Mississippi Association of Colleges (MAC), and past chairman of the Mississippi Community College Foundation. Locally, Elliott served on the State Games Board and was a past vice chairman of the East Mississippi Business and Community Development Corporation (EMBDC). He was also a periodic guest columnist for *The Meridian Star*.

Ms. Brookshire has always taken great pride in the very strong foundation she received as a 1971 graduate of Meridian Community College. She credits MCC with enabling her to go on and succeed at Mississippi State University. A teacher

for intellectually gifted students for 14 years, Brookshire was surprised to receive a call from Dr. Billy Riley in 2001. He was her pediatrician growing up, as well as her own children's pediatrician. She thought Dr. Riley was kidding when he told her he wanted her to apply for a job. Brookshire realized he was serious when he explained that the job was at MCC. To make a long story short, she interviewed and was offered the job by the president, Dr. Scott Elliott.

Her tenure at Meridian Community College began in October 2001. On her last day at Poplar Springs Elementary, she was surprised by being named the 2001 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year. The school was given a \$500 stipend for her recognition. Brookshire felt it was a great send off to her new career!

Stating that accepting the position was one of the best decisions of her life, she remarked, "There has never been a day that I did not love to go to work. I am proud to say the MCC Foundation has achieved great success the last 17 years. I can leave the Foundation in great standing, and now take the time to really enjoy my precious family. I have three adorable granddaughters, Clara, Sadie and Caroline, who need their KK!"

During Brookshire's tenure at the MCC Foundation:

- MCC Foundation Chapel was built entirely with private investment through the MCC Foundation;
- MCC Foundation was ranked Number 1 among Community College Foundations in Mississippi;
- annual private investment in the MCC Foundation showed growth from \$627,400 in 2001 to a single-year record of \$5,886,608 in 2016...an 838% increase;
- Foundation has raised more than \$1 million annually since 2007 (11 years in a row), including \$2.5 million in 2015 and \$5,886,608 in 2016;
- total assets for the MCC Foundation

in 2001 were \$6,113,822--in 2018 the assets stand at \$17,492,992...a growth of 186%;

- MCC Foundation named scholarships have grown to over 250 awarded each year;
- MCC Foundation Scholarship Endowments have grown to 126;
- 4.1 million dollars raised in support of the Tuition Guarantee Program benefitting over 7,000 students;
- over 250 businesses support the Tuition Guarantee Program annually;
- received multiple grants from the following agencies: Phil Hardin Foundation, Riley Foundation, CREATE Foundation, Stranahan Foundation, Paul and Sherry Broadhead Foundation, Anderson Support and Development Foundation, Charles Young, Sr. Foundation, G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Foundation, Women's Foundation of Mississippi, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation, Sam's Club Foundation, Gene Haas Foundation, Mississippi Power Foundation, State Farm Foundation, United Way of East Mississippi, Lockheed Martin, AT&T, BankPlus, Regions and Trustmark Bank;
- received 14 bequests valued at \$1,056,600;
- secured future bequests valued at \$7 million;
- MCC Faculty and Staff membership with the MCC Foundation 100%;
- the MCC Foundation and the Tuition Guarantee Program were featured in TIME Magazine in January 2003 and several times after;
- Lifetime Quest Program has seen a 143% increase in new members since 2014;
- Received a one million dollar donation from alumnus David Quave, the largest donation from an individual in the history of the college.

Prior to coming to MCC, some of Brookshire's recognitions include being awarded the MS Power Alan R. Barton Teacher of the Year Award for the State of Mississippi in 1995 and the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award in 1998. While at MCC, Kathy received the MCC'er of the Month Award, the John Johnson Staff Award, the T. J. Harris Award, the Highest Flying Eagle Award, and was inducted into the MCC Hall of Fame in 2014.

Brookshire's additional comments reflect the positive impact MCC has had on her life.

"It has been so rewarding to work at MCC. I love the faculty and staff, board of directors for the MCC Foundation, and the donors. I have had the opportunity to meet so many people who have touched my life in so many ways. Over the years, I have seen so many students receive financial support from the MCC Foundation. It forever changed their lives; and it has changed my life as well. It has especially warmed my heart to see former scholarship recipients come back in my office and make contributions to help other students. It makes it all worthwhile!

I have grown and learned so much from so many. I will forever attribute so much of what I have learned to Dr. Elliott. I really appreciate him investing time and energy in me, inspiring me to be the best version of myself. Because of his leadership, I have tried to work hard to achieve my dreams for the MCC Foundation. Dr. Elliott will have a lasting imprint on my life. He is without question the best leader I have encountered in my 35 years in education! I want to personally thank Dr. Elliott for his commitment, hard work, and vision in leading MCC for the last 20 years. I will miss him, and I wish for him much happiness in his retirement."



At the ribbon cutting ceremony are Phyllis Holladay, Phi Theta Kappa advisor and instructor; Dr. Scott Elliott, MCC president; Sheila Grogan, executive director of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation; Soraya Welden, MCC dean of student services; Wade Heggie, Damon Fitness Center director and wellness instructor; Richie McAlister, CAO of the City of Meridian; and Laura Carmichael, community development director of the City of Meridian.

New on-campus fitness path opens at MCC

Meridian Community College students, faculty and staff, and community residents can take steps toward a healthy life with a new on-campus fitness path, fitness equipment and opportunities to participate in health and wellness activities, all funded by a \$244,000 grant from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation to implement MCC's Smart, Well, Fit, Campus, Community initiative.

To celebrate the grand opening of the fitness path, MCC officials hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, March 23, at the patio area of the Damon Fitness Center. Community residents were encouraged to attend. Sheila Grogan, executive director of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, joined MCC leaders for the celebration.

The path was a vision of members of a college-based committee, MCC Wellness, who wanted to create a path on campus that would be a convenient and safe place for MCC employees and students to exercise.

Grogan said, "We are excited to be a part

of MCC's wellness journey and its efforts to provide a healthy environment to learn, work and live in the Meridian community. These enhanced resources, focused on health and well-being for students, staff and the community, will help to shape a healthy future for Mississippi."

The wellness initiative gained momentum last school year with exercise classes for employees and designation of the campus as tobacco-free.

"We are honored and appreciative to have received this grant," said MCC President Scott Elliott. "We want to thank the Foundation for its support which will enable MCC to offer even greater opportunities to our students, employees and the community in the realm of wellness."

Elliott credited MCC Dean of Student Services Soraya Welden; Damon Fitness Center Director and Wellness Instructor Wade Heggie; and Physical Plant Director Adam Foreman for spearheading the initiative.

"The Damon Fitness Center is very popular among students, staff and community members," Elliott said. "With the volume of use it gets, equipment naturally wears

out. Given the budget reductions the college has endured, MCC just didn't have the funds to replace and upgrade a lot of that equipment."

MCC builds upon a grassroots wellness program already in place that provides employees with three hours per week "on the clock" to engage in exercise activities, such as walking, water aerobics and yoga classes. Elliott said the employee wellness benefit is intended to increase productivity and well-being.

"A healthier employee is a more productive employee for the State of Mississippi," Elliott said. "That's why our Board of Trustees supported the policy some years ago. We upped our game with the tobacco-free campus policy and actual credit classes for employees to establish an atmosphere of greater accountability on exercise regimens. Also, our students got on board when our Phi Theta Kappa chapter decided to promote wellness as its annual project."

He added, "MCC is endeavoring to develop a model wellness program that will have a positive impact on our campus community and our greater community. The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation grant will go a long way toward helping us reach that goal."

Wade Heggie suggested applying for a grant through the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation to assist in this project as well as other ideas that supported the College's wellness program and vision. In June of 2017, the Foundation awarded the grant to MCC to support the wellness initiative.

The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation is working to build a healthy Mississippi through targeted funding aimed at supporting schools, communities, colleges and universities. Learn more about the efforts of the Foundation at www.healthiermississippi.org.



Sheila Grogan, executive director of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, walks on the path with MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott and MCC Dean of Student Services Soraya Welden.



At the scholarship presentation are from left Scott Gray, Greg Slay, Patrick Slay, Sondra Slay and Kathy Brookshire.

Family connection

Roots run deep with the Slay family and Meridian Community College. That made it only natural for the family, Ronnie Slay and his sons, Greg and Phillip, to choose MCC to establish the Jackie Bates Slay Memorial Scholarship. This tribute to his wife and their mother will be awarded for the first time this fall. Criteria include financial need, academic performance, and full-time enrollment status.

“The Slay family has had three generations attend Meridian Community College,” said Kathy Brookshire, executive director of the MCC Foundation. “The family, through Slay Steel, a privately held company founded in 1984, has also supported the Tuition Guarantee Program for 20 years,” she added.

Tuition Guarantee provides funding for four consecutive semesters to high school graduates in Meridian and Lauderdale County, including home schooled students. Since

its inception in 1996, 7,000 contracts have been awarded by the MCC Foundation.

In August of 2017, Patrick Slay, Greg’s son, was selected to receive the first Justin Martin Memorial Scholarship, a MCC Foundation award established by the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Justin, an avid hunter, was tragically killed in an ATV accident.



Saluting excellence

Army veteran Johnny Jones credits AMCC for helping with his academic success.

“MCC prepared me for transition to the university level and really opened my eyes that if I wanted it, I would have to work for it.”

Jones, who received the Chuck Nicholson Great Southern National Bank Scholarship, which is funded through the MCC Foundation, graduated in December 2017 and is now a student at the University of Texas at Arlington majoring in kinesiology and minoring in psychology. Later this year he plans to do work study for the Veterans Administration.

He said the best thing about MCC is, “the easy access to help and the outstanding teachers who would help with any questions I had.”

Pam Baranello, MCC military and veterans services coordinator, left, gives Johnny Jones his honor cords for military service. Jones graduated in December and is working on his degree in kinesiology.



SPECIAL SECTION

MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Foundation

2017-2018 Scholarship Recipients



Elisabeth Abel
Keli Breanne Brown
Memorial Scholarship



Barbara Alston
Clare Reynolds Memorial
Nursing Scholarship



Barbara Alston
Stennis "Judge" Little
Memorial Scholarship



Erika Altman
Jacob Toney Memorial
Scholarship



Zachary Alvarez
Maude Reid History
Scholarship



Chance Anderson
H.M. Ivy Scholarship



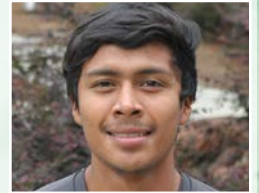
Kassidy Anderson
Nicholas Gianakos Memorial
Scholarship



Cynthia Armstrong
Mississippi Board of Nursing
Scholarship



Shavon Armstrong
LFW Ministries
Scholarship



Jonathan Atencio
Jack Malone Memorial
Scholarship



Evan Avery
Big and Ham Sanders
Scholarship



Randa Bailey
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Abbe Bates
Meridian Rotary
Scholarship



Victoria Bean
Structural Steel Services
Scholarship



Bailey Beard
CEFCO C. E. Fikes
Scholarship



Braxton Beech
Charles and Jean Winright
Memorial Scholarship



Altreivius Bell
Mattie D. Hart/Emma Donald
Music Scholarship



Jacob Berry
Margaret F. Butler
Memorial Scholarship



Stephen Bickford
Kathleen Newby McDaniel
Memorial Scholarship



Keyada Body
Mississippi Board of Nursing
Scholarship



Brett Boland
Austin & Alice James
Accounting Scholarship



Madison Boyette
Charles and Jean Winright
Memorial Scholarship



William Bracken
G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery
Memorial Scholarship



Hannah Brasuell
Beverly Barham
Memorial Scholarship



Josh Breazeale
Gene Haas Precision
Machining Scholarship



Alesha Brown
George Pugh Scholarship



Jasmine Brown
Mark Porter Memorial
Scholarship



Alex Buckalew
Linda and Billy Howard
Computer Technology
Scholarship



Joshua Burch
Ida Mae James
Alexander Scholarship



Justin Burkeen
Margaret Reed Dulaney
Scholarship



Alayna Burnside
Kiwanis Club Scholarship



Garrett Busby
Ralph Young Scholarship



Donnie Carroll
H.M. Ivy Scholarship



Dakota Cason
Dorothy McCauley Bates
Memorial Scholarship



Raegen Chambliss
Sara and Sam Niemetz Math
Scholarship



J. T. Champion
H.M. Ivy Scholarship



Cindy Chapman
Elizabeth Riley Memorial
Scholarship



Keisha Clemons
Mae Carroll Thornton
Scholarship



Pattie Clinton
Jackie Bates Slay
Memorial Scholarship



Caden Clodfelter
Howard Barnett Memorial
Scholarship



Ethan Clopton
Leonard Corydon Barrell
Family Scholarship



Hannah Cobb
Gerald Price Memorial
Scholarship



Brittney Cole
Elizabeth Riley Memorial
Scholarship



Erak Cole
Mott Foundation Commercial
Truck Driving Scholarship



Brittnee Conn
Laurie M. Autry
Memorial Scholarship



Brittnee Conn
Anderson Support and
Development Foundation
Scholarship



Felicia Cooper
Glen Deweese
Scholarship



Lane Copeland
DHUGG Memorial
Scholarship



Savannah Cottrill
Edwin Arlo and Bonnie Joiner
Memorial Scholarship



Brooklyn Cuevas
Kimberly Renata Govan
Scholarship



Breanna Cunningham
Alexander Ott/The Crossings
Memorial Scholarship



Marilyn Dale
Rea, Shaw, Giffin & Stuart
Scholarship



Delaney Davidson
Maude Smith
Scholarship



Morgan Davidson
Steve Nabors Memorial
Scholarship



Angelia Delaine
Linda and Marty
Davidson Scholarship



Hetal Dolia
State Farm Companies
Scholarship



Chelsea Dotson
William and Dorothy Lerner
Business Scholarship



Sarah Dover
Royalty Education
Scholarship



Patricia Drinkwater
Linda and Marty
Davidson Scholarship



Monica Drummond
Dr. William Jeff Anderson
Scholarship



Brittany Dukes
Dr. William R. Moore, II
Memorial Scholarship



Caitlin Duncan
Ruth Van Dyke Nelson
Memorial Scholarship



Liam Durant
Emma Ruth Corban
Scholarship



Chemesse Durr
Dr. George W. & Ettamag
Bounds, Jr. Memorial
Scholarship



Heidi Eakes
Miriam Roberson Nursing
Scholarship



Sandra Edmonds
Winnie P. Crampton
Nursing Scholarship



Richard Eldridge
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Amanda Ellis
Charles and Doretha Young,
(MLK) Scholarship



Melissa Ferrington
Doris and Cecil Seale Memorial
Scholarship



Casey Fitzgerald
Structural Steel Services
Scholarship



Terry Flowers
William and Dorothy Lerner
Business Scholarship



Brittney Fox
Thomas & Joycelyn Greer
Nursing Scholarship



Brittney Fox
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Gina Fraysur
William D. Mobley Dental
Hygiene Scholarship



Jay Fritts
A. C. Johnson/Civitan
Scholarship



Casandra Gandy
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Jamarlon Glass
Pioneer Classes
Scholarship



Kristen Googe
A. D. Burdette Math
Scholarship



Tommy Gouchie
Eli Pacetti Memorial
Scholarship



Kattie Grainger
Structural Steel Services
Scholarship



Cassie Green
Mabel and S. Carl
Merritt Scholarship



Kandria Green
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Juanesha Griffin
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



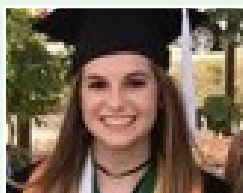
Victoria Griffith
Dr. William Anderson, Jr.
Scholarship



Payton Grogan
Mary Ann Bonney Riley
Scholarship



Noah Hancock
Harry and Vivian Boureau
Family Music Scholarship



Mallory Harmon
Phil Hardin Scholarship



Makayla Harper
DHUGG Memorial
Scholarship



Kristina Harrell
Judy Hartzler
Scholarship



Noah Harris
Marshall and Mirian Deonier
Memorial Scholarship



Tywanna Harris
King's Daughters and
Sons Nursing Scholarship



Tywanna Harris
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Luke Harrison
Rodney Walker
Technology Scholarship



Matthew Harrison
Jo and George Rea
Horticulture Scholarship



Beverly Haskins
George Pugh Scholarship



Byron Hathorn
Dr. W. J. Anderson, III
Scholarship



Zhaka Hayes
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Kristen Henderson
Dr. Lloyd Wilton Marsalis
Memorial Scholarship



Tiffany Henderson
Charles and Doretha Young,
(MLK) Scholarship



Dillon Henke
Lucile Reisman Rosenbaum
Memorial Scholarship



Justin Hiatt
Structural Steel Services
Scholarship



Brianna Hickey
A D N Donor Scholarship



Alyshondria Hicks
Lee Anne Smith
Memorial Scholarship



Madison Hike
Kathleen Newby
McDaniel Memorial
Scholarship



Kristen Hill
Dr. George Howell Nursing
Memorial Scholarship



Brenda Holloway
Anderson Board of
Directors Scholarship



Deangelo Houston
Richard F. Riley M.D.
Scholarship



William Hover, III
Alumni and Friends
Scholarship



Shelly Hudnall
Earl G. Kennedy
Memorial Scholarship



Charles Hughes, II
Ruth Van Dyke Nelson
Memorial Scholarship



Bailey Hunter
Charles and Doretha Young,
(MLK) Scholarship



Cole Hurst
Walter & Cora Thompson
Johnson Memorial
Scholarship



Sharon Ingram
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Cassidy Irvine
Judie Bounds Rutledge
Memorial Scholarship



Lachlan Ivulich
George Blackwell
Scholarship



Chrystal Ivy
Erika's Hope Memorial
Scholarship



Abigail Jackson
William H. Entrekini
Family Music Scholarship



Halie Jackson
Structural Steel Services
Scholarship



Isaiah Jackson
Robert E. Lewis, Sr.
Scholarship



JaQuan Jackson
G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery
Memorial Scholarship



Michael James
Structural Steel Services
Scholarship



Alesya Jimison
Kiwanis Club Scholarship



Jakobi Johnson
John and Ann Johnson
Scholarship



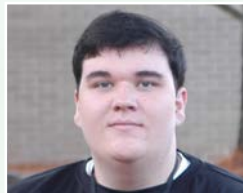
Jaywaun Johnson
Sarah Cox Moore and
Nannie Moore Hudson
Memorial Scholarship



Madeline Johnson
G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery
Memorial Scholarship



Shana Johnson
Mott Foundation Commercial
Truck Driving Scholarship



Brett Jones
Brent Benjamin Cobb
Memorial Scholarship



Johnny Jones
Community Bank
Veteran's Scholarship



Kara Jones
Midway Member
Scholarship



Vanessa Jones
Charles L. Young Sr.
Cosmetology Scholarship



Katlyn Jordan
Hotel Restaurant Supply
Jerry Greene Scholarship



John Keeler
Radio People
Scholarship



Rachel Keller
Walter & Cora Thompson
Johnson Memorial Scholarship



Aaron Kirby
Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S.
Bounds Scholarship



Christina Knox
Austin & Alice James
Accounting Scholarship



Michael Koch
Meridian Exchange Club/Bo Russell
Memorial Scholarship



Abbey Leach
AT&T Scholarship



Crystal Lilly
Ann and Ken Joyner
Book Scholarship



Katherine Loper
Dotty and Hardy
Graham, Sr. Scholarship



Sierra Lowe
Marguerite Jenkins English
Scholarship



Emily Lucas
Miscellaneous Foundation
Scholarship



Alec Marlow
Dorothy McCauley Bates
Memorial Scholarship



Hunter Marlow
T. H. and Allie Hobgood
Scholarship



Madison Marshall
Dr. Jeff Hollingsworth
Scholarship



Sadie Marshall
Gerry Wayne Purvis
Scholarship



Marlee Martin
T. H. and Allie Hobgood
Scholarship



Zoria McCarty
William Gunn, Esq.
Scholarship



Chiquita McLelland
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Ryan McDonald
Saint-Gobain Corporation Foundation
CertainTeed Veteran's Scholarship



Santrelle McGlothlin
Charles and Jean Winright
Memorial Scholarship



Robert McIlwain
Paul Van Zyverden
Memorial Scholarship



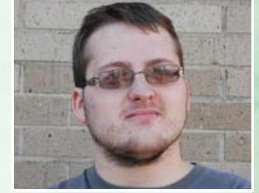
Renee McKinney
Carney-Nelson Scholarship



Alexa McKinnon
Bob and Barbara Walker
Scholarship



Alexa McKinnon
Bebe Fund Scholarship



Seth McEmore
Eddie Holladay Broadcast
Scholarship



La'Darius McMillian
Madeline Callahan
Memorial Scholarship



Tajaleak McNeal-Newman
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



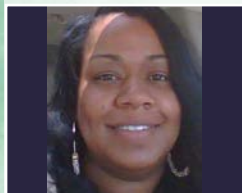
Ashleigh Miles
Mae Carroll Thornton
Scholarship



Hunter Miles
T. K. Dobbins, Jr.
Memorial Scholarship



Aaliya Miller
R. A. Emmons Family
Educational Scholarship



Demetra Miller
Joyce Morrison
Memorial Scholarship



Jade Miller
Tommy Webb Business
Scholarship



LaPreshia Miller
WTOK Broadcast
Communication Scholarship



Lauryn Minor
L. J. Davis Memorial
Scholarship



Katherine Mitchell
Glen Dewese
Scholarship



Moffett, Emma
Robert Cochran
Memorial Scholarship



Megan Moffett
Reva Breckenridge
Science Scholarship



T'Shiba Molpus
Margaret and Bill Smylie
Scholarship



Alisha Moody
Reuben S. Johnson, Jr.
Scholarship



Cardarius Moore
Mattie D. Hart/Emma
Donald Music Scholarship



Sierra Moore
Downtown Optimist Club/Bill
Herndon Memorial Scholarship



James Morphis
G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery
Memorial Scholarship



Kenneth Murff
Linda and Marty Davidson
Scholarship



Jerri Odum
Katherine and Lamar Hester
Scholarship



Patrick Ortiz
Mitchell Companies
Scholarship



Tashun Parker
Radio People Scholarship



Samantha Parry
Eva Mae Gilbert Edwards
Memorial Scholarship



Lee Anna Patrick
Mavis Williams
Memorial Scholarship



Ryan Payne
Mitchell Companies
Scholarship



Kayla Peebles
Structural Steel Services
Scholarship



Brittney Peyton-Parkman
Dr. O. D. Polk, Sr.
Memorial Scholarship



Brittney Peyton-Parkman
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Brittney Peyton-Parkman
Stennis "Judge" Little
Memorial Scholarship



Yaretzi Pina-Hernandez
Sallie Mae Bell Memorial
Scholarship



Yaretzi Pina-Hernandez
Bebe Fund Scholarship



Christopher Pitts
Dan P. Self/Robbie Jones
Pre-Law Scholarship



Debbie Pollock
Recycled and Renewed
Scholarship



Vallie Porter
Dr. George Howell Nursing
Memorial Scholarship



Zachery Presnall
Kiwanis Club Scholarship



Ana Primeaux
Karen Bounds Hamilton
Scholarship



Tighe Ramey
Key Brothers Scholarship



Nafeesah Rasheed
Miriam Roberson Nursing
Scholarship



Nafeesah Rasheed
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Kayla Reed
Kiwanis Club Scholarship



Ella-Jane Riley
DHUGG Memorial
Scholarship



Harley Riley
Anderson Support and
Development Foundation
Scholarship



Jamie Riser
Structural Steel Services
Scholarship



Shanice Roberts
Debbie Gunn Memorial
Scholarship



Zachary Roberts
Dixie Highway School
Scholarship



Shayla Robinson
Dr. Joe Covington
Nursing Scholarship



Kennedy Rodriguez
Marilyn Hampton
Scholarship



Nagelys Rojas
Charles Armstrong
Scholarship



Nagelys Rojas
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Michael Roy
C. B. "Dough" & Alice
Rawlings Scholarship



Lynn Rushing
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Lacey Sanchez
Waters Family Scholarship



Frank Sanford
Ann and Ken Joyner Book
Scholarship



Tim Sansing
Phil Hardin Scholarship



Dontaidrae Scott
MHS Class of 1978
Scholarship



Callan Shinall
Nicholas Gianakos
Memorial Scholarship



Dunnam Shirley
Charles and Jean Winright
Memorial Scholarship



Dunnam Shirley
Steve Nabors Memorial
Scholarship



Trevor Shirley
C. B. Bailey Scholarship



LaShay Sims
Edward T. Lafferty
Scholarship



Madisyn Sims
Justin Miller Cobb Memorial
Scholarship



Patricia Sisneros
Norma Webb
Scholarship



Devin Sisson
G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery
Memorial Scholarship



Danny Smith
W. C. Winstead
Scholarship



Jeremy Smith
Gloria Nuckolls Health
Scholarship



Noel Smith
Nicholas Gianakos
Memorial Scholarship



Tyler Smith
T. H. and Allie Hobgood
Scholarship



Rachel Sollie
PTK Courtyard of
Scholars Scholarship



Rachel Sollie
Sara and Sam Niemetz Math
Scholarship



Justus Steele
I. A. Rosenbaum
Memorial Scholarship



Shanita Strickland
Mississippi Board of Nursing
Scholarship



Reagan Stuckey
Dr. Lemann H. and Wilma S.
Bounds Scholarship



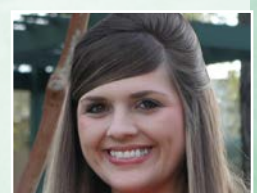
Una Swindle
William D. Mobley Dental
Hygiene Scholarship



William Swindoll
Jack Shank Scholarship



Jasmine Taite
Emily Louise McDonald
Nursing Scholarship



Brandy Talbert
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Mason Terry
Mabel and S. Carl
Merritt Scholarship



Nydia Thames
Richard and Faye Hollingsworth
Nursing Scholarship



Sherrek Thames
Catherine Hovious Nursing
Memorial Scholarship



Jamesia Theodore
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Jamesia Theodore
Dr. Dan Thornton
Nursing Scholarship



Taylor Thomas
D. P. and Ruby Self
Scholarship



Bianca Trahan
Meridian Dental Association
Scholarship



Edwin Trejo
Bill and Gay Whitworth
Scholarship



Edwin Trejo
Thomas Y. Minniece
Scholarship



K'Shaytrias Turrentine
Elizabeth Riley Memorial
Scholarship

Honors scholars: Continuing to succeed

Five years ago, MCC embarked on a journey to provide an honors college for students who demonstrated high academic achievement.

“We started with only 12 students that first year in 2012. Five years later, we have 75 students enrolled in the program and have seen many successes, including receiving a million dollar grant from the Phil Hardin Foundation,” said Cathy Parker, MCC’s director of institutional effectiveness and accountability, SACSCOS liaison and co-advisor of the Phil Hardin Foundation Honors College at Meridian Community College.

Parker said not only has the program garnered great success, honors college students have also seen many successes. Some of these include early admission to pharmacy school (Paige Davis), early admission to occupation therapy school (Rachel Lane and Taylor Crawford), publishing research (Haley Parker), receiving the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship (Mallory Harmon), admission to law school (Crawford Moore).

“The Phil Hardin Foundation Honors College at MCC could not have been such a success without the support of faculty, staff and administration,” Parker said.

Because of the investment in MCC students, there is an investment in the community as well.

- Dylan Ray Boyd, currently enrolled in electrical engineering at Mississippi State University.
- T’Keyah Clark graduated from the University of West Alabama with a bachelor of science in sociology and a minor in criminal justice. She is applying to graduate school at William Carey.
- Breana Cook graduated from the University of Mississippi with a bachelor of science in psychology. She is currently enrolled in graduate school at Ole Miss.
- Paige Davis graduated from the University of Mississippi with a bachelor of science in pharmaceutical

sciences and was awarded early admit to the UM School of Pharmacy. She is currently enrolled in the doctorate of pharmacy program.

- Luiza dos Santos graduated from MSU with a bachelor of business administration. She is currently employed as an accountant at HI Management in Meridian.
- Emily Nester graduated from University of Southern Mississippi with a bachelor of arts in speech pathology. She is currently enrolled in graduate school at USM.
- Haley Parker graduated from MSU with a bachelor of science in microbiology. She is currently teaching microbiology lab at Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas.
- Ashlyn Pope graduated from MSU with a bachelor of science in animal and dairy sciences. She is currently working at a veterinary clinic in Starkville while applying to veterinary school.
- Jennifer St. Clair graduated from MSU with a bachelor of science in chemical engineering. She is currently working for the J.M. Smucker Company in New Orleans as a chemical process engineer.
- Blake Stewart graduated from MSU with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He is currently enrolled in the engineering doctorate program at State.
- Tyler Vick graduated from MSU with a bachelor of science in secondary education. He is currently enrolled in New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and works as a part-time youth minister at Oak Grove Baptist Church.
- Jacob “Jake” Welborn graduated from Mississippi State University with a bachelor of science in wildlife, fisheries and aquatics.
- Heather Wood graduated from University of Southern Mississippi with a bachelor of science in biological sciences. She is currently employed as a manager of Waffle House while applying to medical school.



Mya Wade
Tommy Webb Business
Scholarship



Haley Watson
James C. and Garnett S.
Wilbourn Family Scholarship



Kristin White
Mississippi Board of Nursing
Scholarship



Kristen Williams
Mississippi Board of Nursing
Scholarship



Kristen Williams
Edward T. Lafferty
Scholarship



Latoya Williams
Mississippi Board of
Nursing Scholarship



Sarah Harris Williams
Catherine Hovious Nursing
Scholarship



Alex Wilson
Hotel Restaurant Supply
Jerry Greene Scholarship



Lishaina Winborn
Mississippi Board of Nursing
Scholarship



Chloe Winfield
Jacob Chester Frist
Memorial Scholarship



Joshua Wright
Thomas and Norma
Bourdeaux Scholarship



Tina Wright
Emily Louise McDonald
Nursing Scholarship



Tanner York
C. B. “Dough” & Alice
Rawlings Scholarship

*Thank you
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possible.*

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MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Lifetime Quest is a division of
Meridian Community College

The mission of Lifetime Quest at Meridian Community College is to provide lifelong learning opportunities for individuals in East Mississippi and West Alabama who are 50 years old or retired. In an effort to challenge and enrich the lives of its members a broad, ever-changing array of exciting and entertaining educational, cultural, and health program are offered. Our goal is to assist senior adults in remaining active members of the community. With an annual membership fee of just \$60, you can open the door to an exciting array of mini-programs, special events and travel ventures. If you like Bingo, reading, lunching or water aerobics, we have something to offer. Membership privileges: Free admission to Arts & Letters performances on campus; audit MCC general education classes (based on space availability); discounted rate on meals at the MCC Cafeteria; discounted rate on MCC Dental Hygiene Lab services; use of the MCC Library; discount at the MCC Eagle's Nest Bookstore; free

admission to regular season athletic games (tournaments excluded). Some of our Lifetime Quest day trips have been to the Governor's mansion at Christmas, to Gees Bend in Alabama to see the famous quilters, Bay St. Louis and the Stennis Space Center, Broadway in Birmingham performances, and French Quarter Fest in New Orleans. We have taken destination trips to October Fest in Helen, Georgia, Corinth and Shiloh National Park, Delta potteries, Grammy Museum and Ground Zero in the Mississippi Delta, and Biltmore at Christmas. Upcoming trips are planned for Biloxi and Ocean Springs, and an October trip to Washington, D.C. Programs for our monthly Lunch Bunch meetings have had presentations from story tellers, artists, a stained glass creator, a pastry decorator, a humorist, as well as campus staff previewing their programs and/or services. Come join us! For more information, call Charlotte Rasco, Lifetime Quest Coordinator at 601-484-8696.