

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Connections

M A G A Z I N E



'Kenny Chesney' and 'Zac Brown' Country Style

MCC Foundation team captains, M.L. Waters and
Tommy McDonald entertain fellow board members

SPRING/SUMMER 2013

MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Connections

M A G A Z I N E

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MCC Foundation Travelers

Tanya Thompson, left, Judy Warden, Jo Ann Henderson, Kathy Brookshire, Betty Joiner and Sherry Morgan enjoy a frozen hot chocolate at Serendipity's in New York City.

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'Spying' on America's community colleges



If I were a foreign spy seeking to undermine America's community college system, here's some things I might do:

- Reduce support for the federal Pell Grant program
- Increase fees for GED students
- Eliminate state support for developmental education.

Permit me to expound on those dastardly strategies. As for the Pell Grant program, it is the fiscal life's blood of many public community colleges, Mississippi's 15 institutions being the consummate examples. The Pell program provides financial assistance for low to moderate income students, helping to defray such costs as tuition, books, fees, transportation and child care. The profile of a typical Pell Grant recipient is irrefutably synonymous with many Mississippi community college students.

As for my second strategy, the GED is an alternative pathway for college admission for students who did not earn a traditional high school diploma. Throughout Mississippi, lots of GED graduates continue their education at community colleges, and there are countless success stories among those folks.

Developmental education – my third strategy – is where many community college students begin their higher education journey. They enroll in community colleges with one or more basic skills deficiencies, meaning they may not be able to read, write or solve mathematics problems at a level expectant of an entering college freshman. That doesn't mean such people are necessarily unintelligent. For instance, lots of community college students are adult learners who may be a decade removed from their high school experience, and, therefore, simply needing some “brush-up” on skills they haven't used in a while.

Would such strategies work? In a manner of speaking, they already are.

The federal government has, indeed, reduced support for the Pell program. Moreover, the feds are changing the guidelines for GED testing, and, thirdly, there is some discussion among Mississippi legislators regarding the elimination of developmental education as a component of the community college curriculum.

Enrollment in America's community colleges decreased almost 4 percent last year. In Mississippi, given the dependency of many of our students on Pell support, the decline was worse than that. I believe it's inarguable that the drop in enrollment was in no small part attributable to the Pell issue. Two major things have changed about the program. First, to qualify for a full Pell grant, a student's family income can now be no more than \$23,000, versus the old threshold of \$32,000. That's huge for low income students. Also, the number of semesters for which a student can qualify for a Pell grant was reduced from 16 to 12. Another big-time “ouch!”

In Mississippi alone, those changes resulted in some 3,000 citizens not qualifying for a full Pell grant who would have under the old criteria. This school year, that figure is projected to increase to 7,000 students statewide.

On the GED front, two dramatic changes in the program are on the horizon. The cost of taking the examination is going to increase from \$75 to \$120, and, secondly, students will only be able to test on a computer, versus paper and pencil. For some low income folks trying to earn a GED, that hike in the fee will predictably pose an insurmountable barrier to access. And many of those same people won't even know how to turn on a computer, let alone maneuver through a test over which they are already experiencing some degree of anxiety. I would suggest that whoever thought up those changes in Washington doesn't have a single clue as to the profile of a typical Mississippi GED candidate.

Nothing has as yet occurred regarding state legislation on developmental education, excepting that institutions are now required to measure the progress of students taking remedial classes. But what really worries me is that the elimination of developmental education was seriously considered by some state legislators in the 2013 session. I wonder if those leaders have really pondered the potential impact of such a change, especially when no job skills training program has been advanced as an alternative.

Granted, in a perfect world, we shouldn't need developmental education. Every student ought to be college-ready upon graduating from high school. But we don't live in a per-

fect world, and even if Mississippi funded an effective, statewide pre-K program today and likewise resolved the parental issues adversely affecting myriad households, it would be generations before the positive results would be such that developmental education could be eliminated from the curriculum.

Taking MCC as an example, about six out of every 10 students who enroll need some form a remediation, whether in reading, writing or math. About three out of every 10 are deficient in all three areas. What would be the alternative for such students if developmental education was eliminated in Mississippi? Hit the bricks with no job skills? Gravitare toward crime? Remember that the average reading level for an inmate in Mississippi is 5th grade. Think about the correlation.

True disciples of America's community colleges realize that institutions like MCC are engaged in a “value added” mission. Not everything community colleges do is about earning a degree or certificate, albeit those are highly important goals for many students. The bottom line for community colleges is about taking an individual at whatever circumstance at which he or she comes to us and doing all that we can to help that person improve the quality of their life. So, if MCC enrolls a student with a 5th grade reading level, and through a developmental education class that person achieves a 10th grade reading level, does that mean we failed?

I emphatically say “no,” because now that individual may be at least functional in some job, rather than being shackled forever to some kind of state and/or federal subsidy program derived from my taxes or, worse yet, engaging in some criminal activity.

Some of the changes in programs linked to community colleges that have already been made and others that are being examined, in my view, do not bode well for society. I believe America needs at least one “value added” entity as part of its public education house. I don't like paying taxes any more than the next guy, but – forgive my bluntness - I would much rather invest in programs like the Pell Grant and GED than in bottomless pit entitlement programs and prisons.

Celebrating good times

College honors former faculty and staffers

When the 75th Anniversary Historical Committee members generated ideas on how to celebrate the College's anniversary, a luncheon to pay tribute to those who once worked at the college was chosen.

It was also done in MCC style – with MCCers helping and bringing the event to fruition.



Celebrating
75 years
1937-2012



Serving up political talk

Salter addresses Presidents Roundtable members

With politics on the menu, Mississippi native Sid Salter delved into the presidential elections when he served as guest speaker at the MCC Foundation's 2012 President's Roundtable Luncheon.

Salter made it clear that his political remarks are his own, and not of his employer, Mississippi State University, where he is journalist-in-residence and director of the Office of University Relations.

Salter's appearance at MCC was part of the school's annual thank you luncheon for sponsors and supporters of its Tuition Guarantee Program.

The keynote speaker's talk centered around his views on the presidential election, and he explained a political theory described as "the Misery Index." The index is a mathematical formula that calculates the rate of unemployment and the rate of inflation and how that in turn affects presidential elections.



BB Archer, left, with Christine Riley and the Rev. Dr. Tom Sikes



Kathy Brookshire, left, greets Neil Johnson, right, as Sid Salter looks on



Millie Wilkerson meets with Sid Salter

Mentor remembered via scholarship establishment

With a passion for the outdoors, Earl G. Kennedy was recognized as being one of the best turkey hunters in East Mississippi.

He was also a mentor to William C. Brookshire Jr. "He was a kind, patient man always in good spirits. He frequently joined me and several of my friends on our hunting excursions. I came to share his passion for wild turkey hunting. Without his guiding influence, I would certainly never have achieved the level of expertise I have, of which I am deeply appreciative," Brookshire said.

To honor his mentor, Brookshire has started the Earl G. Kennedy Memorial

Scholarship at Meridian Community College. This \$2,500 award is funded through the MCC Foundation.

Kennedy, a native of Stonewall, joined the U.S. Army at the outbreak of World War II and was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant. He fought in North Africa, in the Invasion of Italy and Germany, where he was captured by the Germans and held as a prisoner of war for 16 months. He escaped prison camp three times, recaptured twice, and on the third time his legs were frozen

from the knees down as he made it to Allied-held territory.

After returning home, Kennedy worked for a period of time at the cotton mill in Stonewall, became a commercial fisherman, eventually joining the staff of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of Sport Fisheries in Meridian.

Kennedy passed away in 2010.

Feelin' like rock stars – Kenny Chesney (M.L. Waters), left, and Zac Brown (Dr. Tommy McDonald) pose for a photo op before they perform at the annual kick-off for the 2013 President's Roundtable Fundraising Drive held at the College.



Rockin' the annual campaign

Goal of \$360k set

MCC Foundation Board of Directors got a little help from their “country music” friends to kick off their annual campaign for the Tuition Guarantee Program. A goal of \$360,000 was set for this year’s campaign to benefit the Tuition Guarantee Program.

Businesses and individuals that support the program are known as the President’s Roundtable.

The Tuition Guarantee Program guarantees tuition for four consecutive semesters to high school graduates in Meridian and Lauderdale County, including home school graduates.

To apply, high school graduates must take the ACT, complete the application for Federal Student Aid, apply for the Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant and enroll at MCC as a full-time student. To retain Tuition Guarantee funds, students must maintain a “C” average or above each semester and maintain full-time status.

Businesses interested in supporting the Tuition Guarantee Program are encouraged to contact the college.

“Education is the greatest gift someone can give a person,” Kathy Brookshire, associate vice president for development said. “Education changes lives; it really makes a difference.”



Kaitlyn Kinney

New scholarship established

The first recipient of the Waters Family Scholarship is Kaitlyn Kinney. This \$1,000 award is funded through the MCC Foundation from an endowment established by M. L. and Kim Waters and the Waters Family in December of 2012. The Waters Family is a strong advocate for education and wanted to extend that benefit to the families of employees of Waters International Trucks and Waters Truck and Tractor.

Kinney is a 2013 graduate of West Lauderdale High School. She was a member of the Health Occupation Students of America and Student Council. Kinney will be in the first semester of the University Transfer Program at MCC. After graduating with an associate degree, her plan is to complete her bachelor’s degree and study speech pathology. She is the daughter of Timmy Cates.



Deidre Johnson

Sophomore tapped for Kennedy scholarship

Deidre Johnson has been selected to receive the Earl G. Kennedy Memorial Scholarship. A 2003 honor graduate of Southeast Lauderdale High School, Johnson is also an honors graduate with an associate degree in Radiologic Technology from MCC. A Dean’s List scholar, she is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year college students, and is a student in the Associate Degree Nursing Program.

Johnson is a member of the Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing. She plans to pursue a master of science in nursing and become a nurse practitioner.

MCC Foundation Celebration

Waters honored



Playing off of the Nat King Cole classic tune *Unforgettable*, officials hosting the Meridian Community College Foundation Membership Celebration paid tribute to M.L. Waters during the organization’s annual event held at Northwood Country Club.

The Foundation honored Waters for his dedication to the College in giving of his time and resources to the educational institution. MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott said because of Waters’ endeavors, “The MCC Foundation moved from good to great.”

The honoree’s wife, Kim Waters, thanked her husband for his philanthropic example and told the audience the family was establishing the Waters Family Endowment Scholarship. Kathy Brookshire, associate vice president for development at the College,

added the Foundation was contributing \$1,000 to the scholarship.

Brookshire reflected on her time at the Foundation working with M.L. “I quickly realized M.L. was a great thinker, an amazing decision maker and without a doubt – very wise. He clearly saw the Foundation’s financial goals as his top priority,” she said.

In responding to the tributes, Waters told the audience, “Tonight is a night of celebration for the MCC Foundation. The celebration is really y’all’s, but I appreciate you honoring me.” He thanked Foundation officials for giving him the opportunity to help and noted that others have also helped grow the Foundation.

Also during the evening’s festivities, Tony

“I quickly realized M.L. was a great thinker, an amazing decision maker and without a doubt – very wise. He clearly saw the Foundation’s financial goals as his top priority.”

- Kathy Brookshire
Associate Vice President for Development; Executive Director, MCC Foundation

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1- Kathy Brookshire and M.L. Waters, 2- Ann and Jimmy Alexander, 3- Betty and Donnie Smith, 4- Brenda and Rex Hiatt, 5- Bent Moulds, Charlotte and Donnie Massey, 6- Celeste Watson and Constance Bradley-Tubbs.





McDaniel was named president of the MCC Foundation Board of Directors, taking the gavel from Jeff McCoy, out-going president. Other officers recognized were Alan Lamar, treasurer; Donnie Smith, vice president; Brookshire, secretary; and Pam Harrison, advisor.

Board of directors include Jimmy Alexander, B.B. Archer, Jonathan Bell, Jamie Cater, Doug Deweese, Tommy Dulaney, Hardy Graham Sr., Jerry Greene, Tim Hogan, Neil Johnson, Tom Maynor, Dr. Tommy McDonald, Mark McPhail, Bob Malone, Tony Pompelia, Gerry Purvis, Joe Charles Sanders, Hayley Shirley, Dr. Tom Sikes, C.D. Smith, Robert Smith, Russell Thompson, Judy Warden, M.L. Waters, Alex Weddington and Veldore Young.



7- Sarah and Richard James, 8- Fred and Claudia Stokes, 9- Len and Rhonda McRae, Leigh and Allen White, 10 - Mary McDonnell and Cindy Blubaugh, 11- Tony McDaniel, Gerry Purvis and Jeff McCoy, 12- Jo VanDevender and Morele Rosenfeld, 13- Darrell Brown and Kathy Brookshire, 14- Michelle Smith and Mabel Merritt, 15- Kim and M.L. Waters.

Scholarship serves to help others reach their goal

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.”

As an alumnus of Meridian Community College, the Rev. George Pugh wanted to give back to his alma mater.

The 68-year-old Pugh, who is now a pastor in Marion, said his connection to the College reached back to 1961 and 62 when it was then known as the 13th and 14th grades of Meridian High School. He left school, joined the military, returned to MCC and earned his associate degree in marketing.

Life's travels sent him east to Georgia to serve in the hospitality industry. Pugh received his master's degree in speech from Auburn University and later studied at Emory and entered the ministry. He returned home and landed a part-time job teaching at the College.

When he called the College and talked to Mark Chandler, MCC's Hotel/Restaurant Management Technology Program coordinator, he explained how he wanted to help others.

It's something he's encouraging former MCCers to do as well. “I like helping people out ... guess that's a part of being a minister,” Pugh said. He noted he would encourage others to consider contributions to scholarships –not only give back but also to lift others up.

One such individual was MCC sophomore Rachel N. Wilson, who graduated in May from the Hotel/Restaurant Management Technology Program. She received a scholarship that Pugh funded through the MCC Foundation.

The 19-year-old Boligee, Ala., resident said she was offered a job in Florida but decided to get more experience in the restaurant industry. “Meridian Community College had the best hotel and restaurant management program around.”

She has gained the experience necessary to land a full time job – managing a seafood restaurant in Panama City, Fla.

When asked what the program taught her, Wilson answered: “everything.” She said the work seems like second-nature to her. “I prefer the restaurant side,” she said of her studies in the program. “I've done work in both, but I keep going back to the restaurant side.”



Birthday Celebration

MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott, left, and Kathy Brookshire, associate vice president for development, present Rush Health Systems CEO Wallace Strickland, center, with a commemorative photograph from the college in recognition of his 65th birthday. Elliott described Strickland as “one of MCC's very best friends.” Elliott said Strickland's unwavering support of MCC had been in no small part responsible for the dramatic expansion of the college's nursing programs and the establishment of the Rush Hall science building and the Rush School of Practical Nursing facility, among other important developments at MCC. Strickland is an alumnus of MCC and a member of the College's Highest Flying Eagles Hall of Fame.

“We're very happy that Rev. Pugh wanted to give the scholarship,” said Chandler. He added that at times getting a scholarship makes the difference in whether a student stays in school or not.

Chandler noted, “Rachel was very deserving. She was one of the top-notch students in our program. She excelled in every area of Hotel/Restaurant Management Technology.”

Mark Chandler, left, with Rev. Pugh and Rachel Wilson.



Sollie, Brantley get nod from Legislature via HEADWAE

Meridian Community College recent graduate Emily Sollie and MCC English Instructor Dr. Cedric Bradley were among the outstanding students and faculty members from 34 Mississippi public and private universities and colleges who received special recognition from the Mississippi Legislature.

Sollie and Bradley are MCC student and faculty representatives, respectively, for Higher Education Appreciation Day, Working for Academic Excellence – HEADWAE – and were saluted at the reception in February.

“I was really excited, so surprised about being named,” said Sollie, who holds a 4.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Her career goal: to work in the area of speech pathology. “I want to work with children to enhance their quality of speech and to build their confidence.” She explained her sibling went to a speech pathologist when she was younger and it helped. After researching the field, Sollie discovered she wanted to help others, too.

Being active is second nature to Sollie. At MCC, she is vice president of leadership and scholarship with the Nu Upsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for community and junior college students, and is a member of Baptist Student Union. She’s also been the recipient of scholarships including Central United Methodist Church, Lauderdale County, Leadership, MCC Gold, Rotary, Scholarship America and PTK.

Sollie sees her MCC experience all-in-all rewarding from the challenging coursework to making new friends. “So much has gone on ... I’ve grown a lot and I’ve had time to think of what I want to do.” She’s also pleased that her MCC classes will transfer to the University of Southern Mississippi, where she plans to study in the fall.

Bradley, who was an instructor of Sollie’s, is also excited about being MCC’s faculty representative for HEADWAE. “Since there



Emily Sollie

are so many faculty, staff and administrators here at the college I try to model each day, I was honored to know that these same people believed I would represent MCC well,” Bradley said.

A seven-year instructor at MCC, Bradley teaches English and believes in the importance of teaching. “You get to make an impact in students’ lives, and this is not just academically,” Bradley said.

“When you ensure that the impact is a positive and not negative, you are truly being a servant leader. As Dr. King once said, ‘Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.’ What better way is there to serve than to teach?,” he said.

Bradley continues to make a difference; he has been selected as Humanities Professor of the Year, the Clarence Roberts Teacher of the Year, MCCer of the Month and was named Biltmore Who’s Who of Executives and Professionals.

In addition, he serves as a mentor for the Meridian Public School District and a volunteer for Meridian Main Street.

When Sollie and Bradley traveled to the Capitol, they had stories to share – Sollie – and her older sister Audrey – were students of Bradley’s. “Being able to represent the college with one of the best students I’ve ever had is simply great,” Bradley said.

He added, “even though it has been a few semesters since I’ve taught Emily, I’m glad that we still have a great relationship. There are not many people who have all of the positive characteristics that Emily does. You do not get a chance to have an Emily



Cedric Bradley

Sollie in your class every semester, and I am truly glad that I got to have her in my Composition I and II classes.”

HEADWAE was established by legislative resolution to honor individual academic achievement and the overall contribution of the state’s public and private institutions of higher learning.

The honorees began the day with a visit to the State Capitol where they were welcomed and recognized by the Senate and House of Representatives and given a tour of the Capitol. An awards luncheon was on the agenda, too.



Celebrating and honoring outstanding alumni

Annual event spotlights contributions and achievements

MCC paid tribute to its own when the College hosted its annual installation of Hall of Fame members as a part of the Homecoming 2013 celebration.

The Highest Flying Eagles Hall of Fame ceremony highlighted the achievements of alumni Robert Sanford, Jamie Bullock Cater, Nelda Joyce Frank, Joe Charles Sanders and Roscoe Jones Sr.

In addition to the Hall of Fame ceremonies, the College honored Talon Club members, employees who have garnered 30 years of service to the College. Those honored were Sandra Cross, Associate Degree Nursing Program instructor, and Jean Willis, work-force project manager.

Former employees of the College, the late Tom Kirkland, Clifford McElphin, Jack Shank, Emilie "Ripple" Rausch Huth, Harrell Heptinstall, and Judy Crowson, were remembered with the annual tolling of the bells.

MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott said the event was started 11 years ago as a way of promoting and preserving a sense of tradition at the College. "We house the Hall of Fame in the Dulaney Room because it is named after one of MCC's most distinguished alumnus, Tommy Dulaney," Elliott said. Serving on the College's Board of Trustees for more than a quarter of a century, Dulaney has given unselfishly in terms of his time and personal resources, "so it's quite appropriate that the Hall of Fame is housed in his room," Elliott said.

Some of the former inductees into the MCC Hall of Fame include Dr. Bill Scaggs, Dulaney, Lou Weddington Hart, Ronald Miller, Phillip Martin, Dr. Tommy McDonald, Veldore Young, Billie Sollie, David Little, Sylvia Autry, Barbara Jones, Ed Skipper, Richard Kelly, Videt Carmichael, Dr. Clarence Roberts, Norma Bourdeaux, Mark McPhail, Wallace Strickland and Ralph E. Young Jr.



Powering up – Eddie Kelly, Meridian manager for Mississippi Power Company presents a check to Kathy Brookshire, associate vice president for development at MCC. The company gave \$5,000 to the MCC Foundation.

MCC alumni Jamie Cater, second from left, Joyce Frank, Joe Charles Sanders, and Robert Sanford pose with plaques designating them as Hall of Fame members. MCC President Emeritus Dr. Bill Scaggs, left, accepts the plaque for Roscoe Jones Sr., who was unable to attend the ceremonies.



Kathy Brookshire, who has served Meridian Community College for the last 12 years as Director of Institutional Advancement, has been promoted to Associate Vice President for Development, according to Dr. Scott Elliott, MCC president. The promotion became effective May 14, 2013, as a result of action by the MCC Board of Trustees.

Brookshire acts as the executive director of the MCC Foundation, which supports student and faculty initiatives at the college through private investment. The Foundation's cornerstone program is called "Tuition Guarantee," which insures that no recent high school graduate of a high school within Lauderdale County – public, private or home-school – will incur basic tuition costs for his/her first four semesters so long as the student maintains a minimum of a "C" average during that time. MCC's Tuition Guarantee program was adopted in 1996 and became the first program of its kind in the history of the Mississippi

Community College system.

"Kathy is most deserving of this promotion," Elliott said. "For a small community college, the annual fundraising efforts she has spearheaded have proven extraordinarily successful. Just about every year of her tenure at MCC, the Foundation has established a new all-time record in terms of the total amount of donations, both monies and other gifts. Kathy brings the kind of energy and enthusiasm to her job every day that is inspirational to her colleagues and those who support the MCC Foundation in our community and beyond. We call her our 'Energizer Bunny' at MCC."

Brookshire has been the recipient of numerous awards in her 30-year career as a public school teacher and fundraiser. She won the prestigious Milken Award, a national recognition for teaching excellence and innovation as a member of the Poplar Spring Elementary School faculty. At MCC, she has received the Dr. William F. Scaggs "Highest Flying Eagle" Award and the John Johnson

Award, which both recognize exemplary performance by an employee of the college.

"I feel honored and humbled to have achieved this pinnacle in my career in education," Brookshire said. "I am a Meridian native and lifelong resident of Lauderdale County and a graduate of Meridian Junior College. So, to become a vice president at a college that I have loved all my life is something I will always cherish."

Elliott said MCC is fortunate to have a team of administrators at the vice presidential level, including Barbara Jones (operations), Dr. Richie McAlister (workforce education), Amy Brand (fiscal affairs), and now Brookshire, to provide astute leadership for the 75-year-old institution.

"Collectively, that team of vice presidents probably has about a century of experience working in public education, and they all do a terrific job for our college and community," Elliott summed.



MCC promotes Brookshire to VP

Scholarship pays tribute to former Meridian Physician

As she sorted through items in her late husband's office, MarLynne Moore came across some cards from his former patients.

"I found it uplifting to read some of the words of affection written to him. I read over and over what a caring doctor he was. Some of the letters were from patients that had moved away and still stayed in touch," MarLynne said of her late husband, Dr. William (Bill) Ray Moore II.

"I am so proud to be the wife of such a wonderful man. He truly cared about his patients and their families," she said.

To pay tribute to her late spouse, MarLynne has established the Dr. William R. Moore II Memorial Scholarship Endowment through the Meridian Community College Foundation.

The scholarship has been designated for an Associate Degree Nursing Program student who is a single parent rearing his or her own child or children. The applicants will have to submit an essay on why they want to be a nurse.

MarLynne remembers being a single parent and struggling to make ends meet and keeping up her grades in the nursing program.

"Going through school as a single parent, I fully understand how difficult it can be. I was blessed to have a wonderful support group in my family, but some students don't have this kind of support," she said.

"This is why it is so important to me to set up this scholarship to help a single parent with his/her school expenses. I truly believe this is what my husband would have wanted me to do," MarLynne added.

College officials are very appreciative of the endowment. Kathy Brookshire, associate vice president for development at MCC said, "It is heartwarming that a scholarship in his memory will help future nurses.

"This is so appropriate for Dr. Moore ... still helping others," Brookshire said explaining Moore delivered both her sons and was considered more than a physician, "he was my friend. He reached out to my whole family. I felt like he really cared about me and

my well-being. My entire family loved and respected him."

A 1977 alumna of the College's ADN Program, MarLynne recalled the time as a student nurse she followed her sister-in-law through her pregnancy and delivery. "Bill was her doctor," MarLynne said. "While we were in delivery, he explained to me everything he was doing and allowed me to take part in my niece's birth. Not all doctors would have taken the time to explain these things."

MarLynne's daughter, Wendi Best, and Bill's daughter, Tammy Brahan, earned degrees in nursing. Their oldest granddaughter, Ann Marie Brahan, aspires to pursue a medical profession. "This is something that would have made her grandfather very proud," MarLynne said.

Moore was born in Moundsville, W. Va., on Nov. 11, 1928. He graduated from the University of West Virginia, Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pa., served in the Navy and spent 18 months in Vietnam as a physician. After his discharge, Moore returned to his hometown and practiced



Moore with a young patient in 1964.

family medicine. Soon afterwards he moved to New Orleans to specialize in obstetrics and gynecology, and after completing his residency, he moved to Meridian where he began his practice in 1963. He delivered countless babies before his retirement in 1995. Moore died Nov. 25, 2011.

MarLynne said, "I truly believe God gives each of us different talents. He calls us to do different jobs. I believe to be a good nurse you need to have a servant's heart. If you don't have a passion and a love for people, all people, you don't belong in the medical field."

"I believe with all my heart that Bill had that love for people," MarLynne said, adding, "he loved his patients and their families. He



Dr. Marc Fisher after Moore delivered their daughter. MarLynne Moore holds the baby and was placing footprints on the dad's shirt. "This was something we did for our dads," MarLynne said

took pride in his profession, and he loved his work.”

Former employees noted Moore was an ideal supervisor. “Dr. Moore was a wonderful man to work for. One can have a million dollar job and not like it, but I loved going to work because all of us were like a family,” said Carol Cumberland. “I scrubbed in with him for surgery, assisted with C-sections, and assisted him in the office for 18 years. Not too many people can say that they worked for someone this long and loved their job,” she added.

“Dr. Moore was a caring, compassionate person who treated us like family,” said Louise Agnew, who worked in his office from 1968-1995. The late Millie Henderson came to work in 1968 as office manager and worked until 1995. These three ladies worked with Dr. Moore for a total of 68 years.

Former patients echo the same sentiments about Moore. “Dr. William Moore holds a very special place in my heart,” said Barbara Burnside, who was a patient of Moore’s when she was expecting her first child. On his day off, Moore came to work on the day she was to deliver her son via caesarean. “Upon delivery, my baby aspirated and stopped breathing. Dr. Moore immediately performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and saved the life of my beautiful baby boy. There was some concern that the baby might have had some brain damage due to lack of oxygen when he stopped breathing. Thankfully, he was perfect!”

“Indeed, Dr. Moore was always very special to me,” Burnside said. “His care and compassion for his patients were top notch.”

Contributions to the Dr. William R. Moore II Memorial Scholarship Fund are welcomed and may be directed to the MCC Foundation. Contact Kathy Brookshire, associate vice president for development, at 601-484-8612 for more information.



Young scholars honored at college’s MLK celebration

These \$750 awards are funded through the MCC Foundation from the Charles L. Young Sr. Foundation directed by State Representative Charles L. Young Jr. and Arthur “Sandy” Young.

The senior Young was a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives and served District 782 for 29 years. He was a strong advocate for education and a loyal friend to the College.

Madison was a Health Information Technology Program student who had been named to the Dean’s List and is a member of the Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) and the Health Information Technology Association. She works full-time at Anderson Regional Medical Center in the health information services department. Madison’s career goal is to become a Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT).

Deron Madison



Clayton was a sophomore in the Radiologic Technology Program at MCC. Also named to the Dean’s List, Clayton is a member of HOSA and the Mississippi Society of Radiologic Technologists. He is a deacon at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Preston. Clayton plans to continue his education at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson studying nuclear medicine.

Antonio Clayton



Triplett was a sophomore in the Radiologic Technology Program at MCC as well and she is a Dean’s List scholar. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international academic honor society for two-year college students, Triplett is also a member of HOSA and Mississippi Society of Radiologic Technologists and serves as a resident assistant at College Crossing Apartments. She plans to enter the workforce and continue her education in the field of radiology.

D Atra C. Triplett



MCC students Deron Madison, Antonio Clayton and D Atra C. Triplett were recipients of the Charles Young MLK Scholarships at MCC.

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Saluting excellence

Faculty and staff honored at year-end luncheon



The John A. Johnson Awards are given to outstanding staff members who are nominated by their peers. An honorarium is given with this award. Selected were Kathy Brookshire, associate vice president for development; and Les Harwell, carpenter.



The T.J. Harris Award, which is given to an MCC employee for their contributions to the college and the community, was presented to Nan Robinson, chairman of the Industrial Technology division; Work-Based Learning Program Coordinator and College Career Planning Coordinator.



Receiving the Dr. William F. Scaggs Highest Flying Eagle Award from MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott was Flora Sumrall, Business and Office Technology Program instructor. The accolade is given in recognition of devotion to MCC.



Susan May, left, Kathy McKay and Brian Warren were recipients of the Dr. Clarence Roberts Outstanding Instructor of the Year Awards. These awards are named in honor of MCC's longtime and distinguished vice president for instruction. The Meridian Community College Foundation recognizes three faculty members who have performed exemplary service to the institution in an instructional area.



Krystal Powe, left, Rebecca Higginbotham, Preston Cooper, Amy Miller, Kay Thomas, Shane Simmons, Barbara Jones and Brian Warren were recipients of the Holladay Family Professional Development Awards. The Holladay family provides cash stipends earmarked for professional development for College faculty and staff.