

Meridian Community College connections

a magazine for friends of MCC • Spring 2008



THE EARNEST WORKERS CIRCLE SKILLS LAB



Inside this issue . . .

How do you define class?

Love leads to lifetime of happiness

Philanthropic Endeavors

MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Dr. Scott Elliott, *president*
Pam Harrison, *vice president, finance*
Dr. Kathy Baxter, *associate vice president, research, development and governmental affairs*
Shirley Nell Goodman, *associate vice president, workforce development*
Soraya Welden, *dean, student services*
Barbara Jones, *dean, academic affairs*
Dr. Richie McAlister, *dean, occupational education*
Billy Beal, *dean, learning resources*
Janet Heggie, *dean, community and business development*
Kathy Brookshire, *director, institutional advancement*

Connections is published by the MCC College Promotions and Public Relations Department.

Kay Thomas, *public relations director*
Amy Miller, *graphic designer*
Daniel Ethridge, *graphic designer and webmaster*

On the cover: The Earnest Workers Circle members in the new practical nursing facility skills lab, from left: Andi Adams, Meryl Lee Nunnery, Doris Smith, Tillie Mattox, Virginia Hodges, Robert Hodges, Sara Emmons, Ruth Morgan, Rita Tillman, Elizabeth Kahlmus, Diane Delk, Billie Dendy, Julia Bertrand and Pete Bertrand. The stained glass was previously displayed in the old King's Daughters nursing center.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How do you define "Class?" That's easy – Margaret Dulaney

Webster has about 10 different definitions of "class." I have just one – Margaret Dulaney.

You know, God has mightily blessed me through the years. Among those great blessings was coming to know Margaret Dulaney. She was the kind of quality individual who went out of her way to make others feel important. As just one example, I remember sitting next to her last year at the annual summer community college trustees' conference in Biloxi. She leaned over and told me, "We're so glad that you and Claudia (my wife) came to Meridian. MCC has one of the best college presidents in the state."

Of course, that was a highly elevated characterization of my stature. But Margaret wanted me to feel valued, so she engaged in some well-intended exaggeration.

Tommy Dulaney, with the unwavering support of his wife, built one of the most successful structural steel businesses in the Deep South. But for all their success, the Dulaney's always remained approachable, down to earth. As an example, every summer for the Structural Steel Services picnic in Chunky, a huge company event, Margaret used to make the baked beans. No, Margaret never for a moment acted as if she was better than anyone else. On the contrary, she was the consummate Southern lady – gracious and charming. In short, she was beautiful, inside and out.

Moreover, Margaret was a highly articulate, intelligent, and multi-talented individual. For instance, she was an entrepreneur, building a successful buying-and-selling business of her own on E-bay. Obviously, she didn't need the money, but I think Margaret enjoyed challenging herself. Fashioning her own business provided her with a sense of personal pride and accomplishment.

She was also a person who viewed good health and physical fitness as something that should be a priority for all people. Despite enduring a chronic asthmatic condition, Margaret taught aerobics for MCC for several years, and she was always careful about eating healthy foods. As a result, she was a strikingly youthful-looking woman, especially for someone in her 60s.

Like her husband, Margaret was a person who didn't take her success for granted.



She gave back to the community through programs like Art for Heart. I can remember sitting next to Margaret at several Art for Heart auctions. Most certainly she loved art, but I don't think that's what motivated her to support the program so generously every year. Rather, she desired to benefit a worthy cause.

Margaret has passed now, but she's not really gone. Her legacy lives on through her family members – her husband, Tommy; her lovely daughter, Cindy, and husband Ray; her granddaughter, Carissa, husband Kyle, and their son, Kaden; and her grandson, Cole, and wife April. They are all quality people who will continue to make Margaret proud.

My God, in Matthew 6:19, encourages us to "build our treasures in Heaven" by helping our fellow man on this Earth. Margaret, without question, did that. So, I know she's got a pretty good vantage point to observe her family's future accomplishments. I believe she's particularly proud in watching Cole follow in his grandfather's footsteps, learning the fabricated steel business.

I don't know why Margaret had to become ill and slip away so quickly. In general, I don't know why bad things ever happen to good people. I've always reasoned that it was not my place to know such things.

I do know, however, that this world was a better place with Margaret in it, so our loss is Heaven's gain. Please say hello to the Big Guy for me, Margaret. If Saint Peter is sleeping at the gates when it comes my time, maybe our paths will cross again.

-- Scott Elliott

Former MCC art instructor honored

Former MCC art instructor Lallah Miles Perry was recognized for artistic excellence by the Governor. Perry had her first art lesson in Starkville when she was 15 years old. One year later she enrolled in Auburn College to study art and was married the next year. In 1946 she received a degree in commercial art.

In 1956, her work was selected for the "First Mid-South Exhibition of Painting" at the Brooks Memorial Gallery in Memphis, Tenn. Jurors continued to select her work for inclusion in this annual exhibition for the next ten years. Her work was also chosen for the "Second Delta Art Annual" at the Museum of Fine Arts in Little Rock, Ark. in 1959. Over the next 50 years there were exhibitions of her paintings from New York to New Orleans and her work has hung in the National Watercolor Exhibition at the Smithsonian, and in the American Embassy in Rabat, Morocco.

Perry was selected as the first Director of the "Mississippi Art Colony" and it was during that time that the Colony Traveling Exhibit began. With the assistance of the Mississippi Library Commission, these traveling exhibits have been hung in small town libraries, hotels, schools and restaurants throughout the state. This wonderful educational outreach program continues today and benefits thousands of Mississippians.

Perry has had a long and distinguished career, both as an artist and an educator in Mississippi, and has made a tremendous impact on the visual arts throughout her career.

The colorful part of Perry's life is the established artist she has become. She studied with artists including Marie Hull and legendary MCC artist, Homer Casteel, and over the years, her artistic style has evolved from expressionistic "mood" pieces to vividly colored semi-abstract works.

*Emma McCain
pictured with Governor
and Mrs. Haley Barbour.*

Mississippi applauds Emma McCain

Through her tremendous support, many people have been exposed to and gained appreciation of the performing arts.

The Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts are presented annually to outstanding writers, artists, performers, craftsmen and educators who have made significant and lasting contributions through their work as well as to corporations or organizations on the basis of their dedication to arts advancement. Previous winners include B.B. King, James "Super Chikan" Johnson, Malcolm White, Mary Katharine Loyacono McCravey, the late Little Milton (Campbell), Dr. David Blackburn, the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education, USA International Ballet Competition, William Eggleston, Bo Diddley and Charles Burnett.

-stories contributed by the Mississippi Arts Commission.



Meridian Community College patron Emma McCain garnered applause on a state-wide level when she was recognized by Gov. Haley Barbour as the recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Born in Vicksburg, Emma McCain moved to Meridian at a young age. Her love of the arts became evident from her performances in little theater productions while in high school.

She obtained a bachelor of music degree from the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio, and afterward served as a Red Cross Hospital Specialist during World War II. She spent 26 years working for the East River Savings Bank in New York City and was elected president of Savings Bank Women of New York.

Her love of the arts, which encompasses music, theater, dance, and music education, exemplifies her life. MCC named her Philanthropist of the Year in 1992 and in 2001 dedicated the McCain Theater in Ivy Hall acknowledging McCain and remembering her parents, John and Addie McCain, and her brother, Joseph McCain.

She has been a key supporter of the Meridian Little Theatre and for the last four decades has been the primary benefactor of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra. She was named Arts Patron by the Meridian Council for the Arts in 2000. Last year she established an endowment to fund a children's symphony concert in Meridian each year.

She was a violinist with the Meridian Symphony Orchestra for many years and is a long-time member of the Meridian Community College Foundation and Meridian Symphony Board of Directors.

Ann Williams - from farm to finance

Ann Williams is a woman in motion who has no intention of slowing. Even the name of her business, Action Finance, is the perfect description for this president/manager.

"I can't retire. I'll be working till I'm 80 years old," Williams said, because of her enthusiasm and energy to help others. "I love people and helping people," Williams said, and following the golden rule of treating others as she would want to be treated has been her guide.

When she was 17 years old, after graduating from Vimville High School and Mid South Business College, she began working part time at Household Finance which turned into a full-time position four months later. Her dedication and strong work ethic paid off; she was the second female manager that Household ever hired in their history. "I worked with them until July, 1978," she said.

Changing jobs to Credit Thrift of America, which was later sold to American General, Williams worked as a manager and remained there until February, 1994. Williams said, "I built a 9 million dollar office with three employees and myself."

She left American General and offers to open her own business came to her within five days. She opened the doors of Action Finance

and business is "good." As a worker and manager, Williams defines multi-tasking.

She's also a supporter of the College. Her grandson was able to take advantage of the Tuition Guarantee and her daughter is an alumna of MCC.

A few years ago, Williams wondered how she ended up in the finance world; after all she is a farm girl. She got her answer when she and her father came across some of her grandfather's papers. He owned a grist mill, and he would loan money to his customers. "I still have that ledger to this day."

Family has also served as a source of inspiration for her; she has two children and three grandchildren.



Winstead Scholarship: Building better lives

It's often quoted that home is where the heart is. WC Winstead started his career as a builder/contractor 57 years ago. Helping others find and build their homes as well as build their lives continues to be the heart of the matter.

His son, Terry, noted when real estate licenses were first issued in Mississippi, WC was in the initial batch of licensed brokers with license No. 200. "He is one of a very few from that original group still having an active real estate broker's license," Terry said of his dad. "For many years he was also a real estate appraiser and was an initial co-owner of what is now Appraisers Associated. He was active in residential and commercial real estate and he has been a property developer for many years," Terry said.

WC has been interested in helping young people all his adult life. His family sees the field of construction education as an ideal way to combine his interests in construction, and the betterment of his community, with opportunities for young people to learn a good trade and start down a path that could

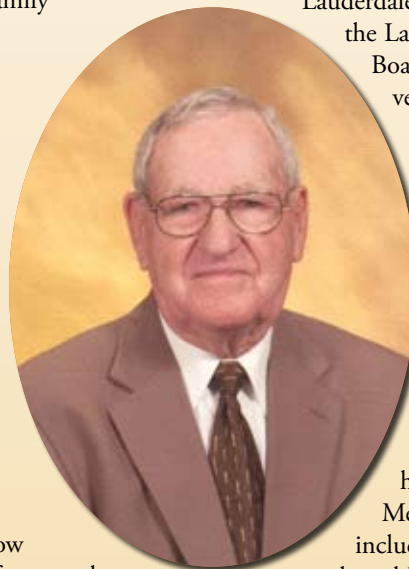
lead to many different construction and real estate related careers.

So to honor WC, his family has established the Wilbur C. Winstead Scholarship Endowment through The MCC Foundation.

He has been married for 62 years to Thellis Smith Winstead. They had two children: Terry Winstead and the late Tony Winstead, survived by his wife Michele and their children: Lauren, Mitchell and Emma. Thellis Winstead has also been a realtor for over 40 years. Tony was a realtor for many years and his widow Michele has been a realtor for several years. Terry has been a realtor for over 30 years.

Contributing to his community has been important to WC, for he has served on numerous boards and committees including

the Soil and Water (for approximately 13 years), NTS Water Association, the Lauderdale County Farm Supply and the Lauderdale County Prison Board. This World War II veteran also served in the U.S. Navy with tours in the Pacific Theater including Iwo Jima.



He has been a member of the Meridian Board of Realtors, the Mississippi Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors for over 40 years and is now an emeritus member. He has held numerous offices in the Meridian Board of Realtors, including president, and has been selected Realtor of the Year on more than one occasion.

He is a member of Highland Baptist Church and has served on church committees, and has served as a deacon at Calvary Baptist Church.

Kerry Parker: Remembering Meridian and MCC

Jackson resident Kerry Barnett Parker has countless thoughts of her hometown of Meridian.

From a three-year-old dancer at Mary Alpha Dance Studio to graduating from Meridian High School in 1970 to working for her dad at his cable television business, the recollections of growing up in the East Central Mississippi city remain vivid and cherished. “I have such great memories of Meridian,” Parker said.

The opportunity to revisit Meridian came when she and her husband, Dr. Paul Parker (who also is a Meridian native), attended the Randy Newman concert at the Riley Center. Stepping into the hall could have felt like home; her dad, the late Howard Barnett, served on the founding committee to revive the Grand Opera House.

She also took the time to stop by her alma mater – Meridian Community College.

As a freshman, Parker enrolled in university transfer classes, one of which was geography from then instructor Jimmie Evans. “I still think of that class when I think of a country,” she said. Parker was also an honor student; she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international academic society for community and junior college students.

At the College, Parker also participated in the playground teachers program in which MCCers were taught lessons in supervised play and in the afternoons led and directed those sessions at local elementary schools. “I worked for Mrs. (Jean) Kidder as a playground teacher at East End. Those are amazing memories.”

“I decided to be a teacher and one of the best things I did was to come to MCC,” Parker said. She credits the College for giving her a firm educational foundation. “There’s no question about it.”

Parker continued her studies in New Orleans, obtaining a bachelor’s degree in education and psychology from Tulane University. She received her master’s degree in education from Mississippi College.

Her dad was a firm believer in education; in 1991 he established the All America City Scholarship Endowment which allows city workers to take an MCC class per semester – whether it is work related or not. In an interview conducted in the 1990s, Barnett said, “Education as a whole should enhance the employee’s learning skills as well as outlook, resulting in an improved lifestyle and in the opportunity to grow personally and professionally. Any interest in education and self-improvement will serve to create more favorable role models for younger members of the community.”

Remembering her dad, Parker said, “He truly was a visionary.”

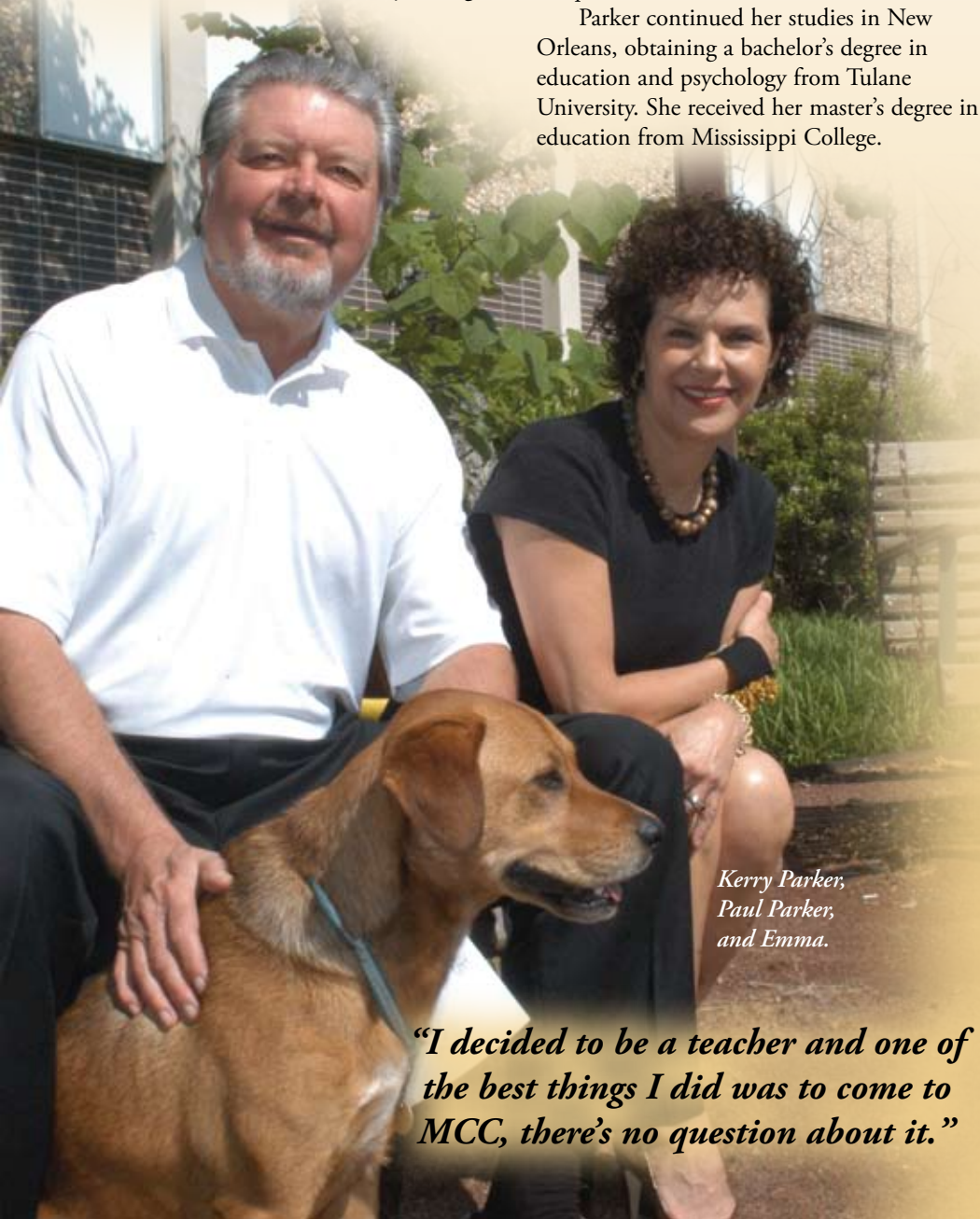
Like her dad, Parker is also an entrepreneur. The owner and sole employee of KP Chocolat, Parker admits her passion for baking and creating comes with deep roots. One of her earliest childhood memories stems from a dance studio activity: walking tippy-toe with a Hershey kiss placed atop her head. She also remembers her mother placing two sticks of butter out early in the morning to prepare for the daily dessert she’d make. “I cooked with my grandmother from the earliest time I can remember.”

Returning from trips to the Northeast, her dad would bring back fancy chocolates. “Daddy and I would eat the dark chocolate.”

The movie “Chocolat” firmed her hobby into her passion. Taking pastry classes in Orlando, Fla., and experiencing championship trials in Nashville, Tenn., Parker has also studied with executive chefs of culinary schools and luxury hotels. The home garage has been refitted as a commercial kitchen in which treats such as hand-dipped or special mold chocolates are lovingly prepared for clients. She creates confectionaries and desserts for corporate gifts, engagement and wedding party favors and other special occasions. The presentation is as special as the treat itself – specially created boxes are also uniquely prepared by Parker.

Teaching remains with her, though. She conducts classes at the Viking School in Greenwood and has taught a session at Cater’s Market in Meridian. Combining the love of teaching and foods has also rubbed off in her family. Her youngest son, Ben, who is a sophomore at the University of Mississippi dreams of going to culinary school in South Africa after graduation.

She added, “We all love to cook.”



*Kerry Parker,
Paul Parker,
and Emma.*

“I decided to be a teacher and one of the best things I did was to come to MCC, there’s no question about it.”

The MCC Foundation welcomes these donors to the President's Roundtable . . .



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Practical Nursing students benefit from philanthropic endeavors



MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott said it best: "Community colleges don't operate in vacuums or as islands. Ideally, they partner with other agencies in this noble effort of improving the quality of life in the community."

Community businesses such as Rush Health Systems and organizations such as Earnest Workers Circle of the International Order of King's Daughters and Sons joined with MCC in making the Rush School for Practical Nursing a reality. The building, which is located across Highway 19, in front of Ivy Hall, is a 5,500 square foot state-of-the-art facility with classrooms, skills lab, faculty offices and student lounge area.

The new building marks the fourth physical structure donated to MCC by Rush Health Systems on the MCC campus. In addition, Rush has supported the college with countless scholarships for students in nursing and allied health programs, sponsorships of numerous student activities including athletic tournaments, support of MCC's athletic training program and considerable donations to the MCC Foundation, specifically to support the Tuition Guarantee Program.

Elliott added, "Rush has partnered with other major hospitals in the area providing specific support that enabled the college to expand its nursing programs, its Radiological Technology Program, and start a Surgical Technology Program."

Chris Rush, director of regional operations with Rush Health Systems, said, "from its beginnings, Rush has valued and promoted the education of nurses." He noted the organization's partnership with the college began in 1963 with the establishment of a joint practical nursing program between Rush and MCC.

The Earnest Workers Circle of the International Order of King's Daughters and Sons also played a major role in bringing the facility to life. The group donated \$250,000 to the MCC Foundation for the project. The Earnest Workers Circle Skills Lab in the Rush Practical Nursing building pays tribute to the organization and its members. "It's a living memorial," said Tillie Mattox, outgoing president of Earnest Workers. Another member, Andi Adams, agreed. "It's a beautiful building. We're all excited. It's a legacy that keeps on giving."

"We're so proud of Rush and the community college and everybody who helped with this," Adams said.

The new facility will make it possible to expand the number of students admitted into the program, thus helping to ease the critical shortage of nurses needed in the state and the country.

From left; Billie Dendy,
Tillie Mattox, Dr. Vaughn Rush
and Chris Rush



Love leads to lifetime of happiness

Daughters establish Langford scholarship

On Valentine's Day, Marcella and Hubert Langford were honored with a gift that will make a real difference in the lives of others. Daughters, Kathy Brookshire and Alatha Williams and their husbands, Brian Brookshire and Duffee Williams established the Marcella and Hubert Langford Scholarship with the Meridian Community College Foundation.

During the Langford's 65 years of marriage, they have constantly set an example for their children by living life to the fullest, finding good in every situation, and serving others through their church. Totally devoted to her children's education, Marcella served as PTA president and room mother for numerous years. The girls were expected to follow school rules, do their homework, and make good grades.


Marcella and Hubert both come from a long line of educators. Maudie B. Smith, Marcella's mother, taught first grade and then served as an elementary school principal.

Six of Maudie's siblings were teachers and school administrators; one was a district superintendent.

Hubert's grandfather, a general practitioner, was a member of the first graduating class of Emory University's School of Medicine.

Marcella said, "Words cannot express our sincere appreciation for being honored in this way. It is without a doubt one of the best things that has happened to us! We were at a loss for words when we learned of the scholarship." Hubert added, "We are especially proud to have this scholarship at MCC. All of our children and most of our grandchildren have attended MCC."

This scholarship is a tribute to Marcella and Hubert Langford's lifelong commitment to education and caring for the needs of others.



"Words cannot express our sincere appreciation for being honored in this way. It is without a doubt one of the best things that has happened to us..."

Hubert and Marcella Langford

Edward Jones supports scholarship program



Scholarship recipient – Patsy Harper of Meridian, second from left, joins with Edward Jones representatives during the Edward Jones luncheon held at Northwood Country Club. Harper is a freshman at Meridian Community College studying to become an elementary school teacher. She received the Edward Jones Scholarship to help with her academic studies at the College. Front row from left are Jay Jenkins, Harper, Kathy Brookshire, MCC director of institutional advancement; back row from left: Lisa Mabry, Mitch Bowers, Fred Porter and Gary Morris.



Hall of Fame inductees, Jacqueline Hogan, B.B. Archer, Leslie Usher and Frank Charles Winstead

Alumni spotlighted at Hall of Fame ceremony

Four alumni of Meridian Community College, Frank Charles Winstead, Jacqueline Van Zyverden Hogan, Leslie Usher and B.B. Archer were inducted into the Eagle Hall of Fame during MCC's annual homecoming reception.

This was the seventh class to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, which MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott said the college started as one way of preserving and promoting the college's heritage.

"We are really excited about this year's honorees," Elliott said. "All of them have distinguished themselves in their respective careers, and we would like to believe that MCC provided them with a launching pad toward success."

In addition to the Hall of Fame inductions, MCC's 30-year employees were recognized during the program. New members of the "Talon Club" included Dr. Kathy Baxter, Barbara Brents, Linda Darnell and Alvin Essex.

"The Talon Club is a special group," Elliott said. "These are all people who have been part of the total fabric of the college, people who have dedicated their careers to the betterment of MCC."

Both the Hall of Fame honorees and Talon Club members have their pictures permanently displayed in the Dulaney Room of Webb Hall.

A solemn part of the program was the annual "Tolling of the Bells," when the MCC family paused to remember colleagues who have passed since last year's reception. The late Willie Evans and Mary Keuven Ingram were remembered.

The new Hall of Fame inductees bring to 24 the total number of individuals in MCC's Hall. Former honorees include MCC President Emeritus Dr. Bill Scaggs, Tommy Dulaney, Lou Weddington Hart, Ronnie Miller, Chief Phillip Martin, Dr. Tommy McDonald, Judge Veldore Young,

Lauderdale County Sheriff Billie Sollie, David Little, Sylvia Autry, Barbara Jones, Ed Skipper, Richard Kelly, State Senator Videt Carmichael, Dr. Clarence Roberts, State Rep. Norma Bourdeaux, Mark McPhail, Wallace Strickland, Ralph E. Young Jr. and C.D. Smith.

Winstead joined the Hall having become one of the Deep South's most prolific career educators and international lecturer on teaching excellence. Hogan serves as the chief executive officer of one of the world's largest wholesale distributors of flower bulbs, Van Zyverden, Inc. Usher has distinguished himself in the banking industry, while Archer became one of Mississippi's most award-winning architects.

"Having these leaders join our Hall of Fame serves to heighten the esteem and credibility of MCC," Elliott said.

Cassie Lorena Carter - 2008 recipient of the Linda and Marty Davidson Scholarship

Cassie Lorena Carter of Shubuta has been selected to receive the Linda and Marty Davidson Scholarship at Meridian Community College. This \$1,000 award is made possible by an honorarium from The Riley Foundation. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson are being recognized for their significant humanitarian, cultural and educational contributions to this community.

Carter is a 2006 graduate of Quitman High School. She is a member of the Ivy League Recruiters, MCC Chorus and Dimensions, an auditioned vocal and instrumental group on campus. Carter is actively involved with the youth and music programs at her church. A sophomore in the University Transfer Program, her career goal is to become a social worker and a choral director.

The Davidsons have established the Linda and Marty Davidson Endowment with the MCC Foundation to continue funding this scholarship at MCC.



Cassie Carter

Top instructors garner Roberts award

Twenty-nine years ago the Meridian Community College Foundation initiated the Teacher of the Year Awards to recognize outstanding instructors at the college. Since then 89 teachers have achieved this status. Seven years ago the Foundation named these teaching awards in honor of Dr. Clarence W. Roberts, who retired as vice president for instruction after 31 years at the College.

Kathy Brookshire, director of institutional advancement, recently announced the 2008 recipients. They are three more MCCers, Lowell Martin, Karen McPherson and Melissa Mitchell. With this award comes a check for \$500.

Martin, student success instructor and instructor for the Division of Language and Literature, has been teaching at MCC full time for 11 years. He has been described as having a winning manner that puts students immediately at ease in his classroom. His students say that they love everything about his class. He treats them with respect and tries his best to help every student succeed. Martin is very involved on campus. He has served as sponsor of the Multicultural Council for many years, served two terms on the Faculty Senate, and has been the book sale chairman for the MCC Faculty/Staff Association for nine years.

Mitchell, Practical Nursing Program instructor, has been at MCC for 12 years.

She has been described as an exemplary nursing educator with a passion for teaching. Recently, Mitchell took on the challenge to coordinate the instruction for a grant project for area high school seniors. The dual enrollment program is designed for students to begin practical nursing education during their senior year, integrate into the traditional LPN program in the summer at MCC, and graduate in December after the fall term. Through her hard work, dedication, and compassion, the first year of the program was a tremendous success.

McPherson, Dental Hygiene instructor, has

been at MCC for 10 years. An innovative teacher, she has been described as having profound professional knowledge, excellent clinical skills, and a superb talent for teaching. McPherson has served as chair of the Health Recruitment Committee, advisor to the Student Dental Hygiene Association, Courtesy Corp coordinator for Health Occupations of America and a member of the planning committee for Career and Technical Education Week. She has also conducted dental radiology seminars for local dental assistants. One of her students described Karen as a wonderful teacher who always goes the extra mile to help anyone in need.



From left are Melissa Mitchell, Lowell Martin, Kathy Brookshire and Karen McPherson.

State Farm agents support scholarship endowment

As their saying goes, "like a good neighbor, State Farm is there." The statement rings true for MCC students, thanks to the endowment established by area State Farm agents.

"This was a way for State Farm to give back to the community," said Gary Eldridge, who initiated the cooperative effort in 1999. Because of the many loyal policy holders, the agents wanted to show their appreciation to the community college, he said. "What's good for the community is good for the agents and for State Farm," Eldridge said.

State Farm Companies Foundation matches dollar for dollar, Eldridge said; so whatever an agent gives, the corporate office also gives. "State Farm does this all over the country, without much of a fanfare."

Meridian agents who made contributions included Percy Bland, Charles Garrett, Bobby Graham (retired), Chris McDonald, Jerry Townsend (retired) Charles D. Smith (retired) and Pamela Deitz (retired), Cindy Belcher and Robert Donald, Quitman agents.

Kelli W. Turbyfill of Collinsville has been selected to receive the first State Farm Companies Scholarship, a \$1,400 award. Turbyfill, a nurse, plans to pursue a career in pharmacy.



Agents, Cindy Belcher, Charles Garrett, Percy Bland and Gary Eldridge.



Start spreading the news: Carmichael credits college for success

*F*redie Carmichael never imagined he'd stay in Meridian after high school ... but Meridian

Community College provided an opportunity to do just that. Now he's busy trying to convince other young people to do exactly what he did — stay in Meridian.

Carmichael, executive editor of The Meridian Star, serves as chairman of the Young Professionals of Meridian — an organization for young adults focused on bettering East Mississippi through community involvement and social interaction (see related story on this page). The group recently awarded their first two scholarships to local seniors. The goal of the scholarships: retaining local talent.

“We don't want to see this area's future leaders leave for places like Jackson and Birmingham ... we want to keep them here by doing all we can to engage our age group in community involvement and, in the process, improve our community,” Carmichael said.

A 1998 graduate of Clarkdale High School, Carmichael played golf on the MCC Eagle golf team from 1998-2000 and earned an associate degree in Broadcast Communication Technology. During that time, he also completed university transfer courses before furthering his studies at Mississippi State University-Meridian.

While going to school at MSU-Meridian, Carmichael worked for one year at MCC as the school's media specialist.

“I loved it so much, I didn't want to leave,” Carmichael said. “I will always consider the people here an extended part of my family. MCC —the people who make up this great institution — helped shape me into the person I am today. Dr. Elliott (president of MCC) is someone I consider to be one of my mentors. I am so thankful that my path in life came through the halls of MCC. I will forever bleed green.”

Carmichael assumed his current position at The Star in 2006, returning to the newspaper where he kicked off his award-winning career in journalism in 2001.

At MCC, Carmichael was inducted into

the college's Circle of Excellence and was named “Outstanding Broadcast Student.” He distinguished himself not only in the classroom, but also as a standout on the Eagle golf team, qualifying for the NJCAA national tournament in 2000.

Carmichael first worked for the Star part-time as a teenager. In 2001, he was hired full-time as a general assignments and sports reporter. Over a four-year span, he was promoted to city hall reporter and weekend editor. In 2005, Carmichael became a reporter for the Pensacola News Journal, where he helped introduce video as a key component of the newspaper's Web site. When he returned to Meridian, he became one of the youngest executive editors among all of the Deep South's daily newspapers.

During his career, Carmichael has won numerous writing awards in press competitions, including the Bill Minor Award in 2003, which goes to the top reporter in the state. Carmichael won the award for his coverage of the Lockheed shootings. In Pensacola, he distinguished himself in covering tropical storms Arlene and Cindy, as well as hurricanes Dennis and Katrina and their aftermaths.

“Fredie is a great example of what we hope for each and every MCC graduate — that he or she will go forth and accomplish worthy things in their personal and professional lives,” said Elliott. “We'd like to believe that MCC played a part in Freddie's success. Having worked in the newspaper industry myself for 10 years, I can tell you that it is rare, indeed, for someone to achieve as much as Freddie in such a short time frame. We're very proud of him.”

Fredie is the son of Sen. and Mrs. Videt Carmichael. “The entire Carmichael family has strong ties to our college,” Elliott said. “Senator Carmichael is a former baseball player at MCC and is in our Hall of Fame. I wouldn't be at all surprised to see Freddie's picture on that same wall someday given the way he is progressing in his career.”

“One of the things I gained from my time at MCC was a true sense of community spirit,” Carmichael said. “Through this organization our aim is to really have a positive impact on the community. We want to make sure people see the value in staying and making this a better place.”

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF MERIDIAN

Young Professionals of Meridian is an organization that began a year ago for people between the ages of 21-39.

Officers of YPM include Carmichael, chairman; Lauren Denham, vice chairman; Brice Richardson, secretary; and Brandon Pratt, treasurer. The mission of the organization is to provide a proactive and collective voice for young professionals through social interaction and community involvement. Their objectives: Promote the Meridian area as an attractive destination to work, thrive and enjoy life; address local issues that affect the quality of life; provide an open platform to discuss ideas focusing on the betterment of our community and encourage volunteer efforts through participation in community service.

Carmichael said his main goal is to see East Mississippi reach its potential. Aside from the recent scholarships, in the first year of the organization YPM has done the following:

- Raised \$2,500 for a local elementary school's after school arts program with a bowl benefit at Weidmann's
- Raised \$1,600 for the United Way with a beignet breakfast in Dumont Plaza in downtown Meridian
- Hosted two political forums with everyone from gubernatorial to congressional candidates. Both events had more than 100 people in attendance and, in all, 16 candidates for office participated.



Brittany Hopson

Scholarship continues legacy of education advocate

MCC sophomore Brittany Allyce Hopson was all smiles after she received the first Lucile Reisman Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship was established through The MCC Foundation in November 2006 by Alfred Rosenbaum. Mrs. Rosenbaum was a community activist and strong advocate for public education in Meridian.

The following criteria must be met to be eligible for this scholarship. It is awarded to a graduating sophomore in the University Transfer Program who is entering a senior institution of their choice. Academic performance is the key criteria for this award.

Hopson will be attending Mississippi State University this fall and plans to major in banking and finance. Her career goal is to become a financial manager. Hopson is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for community and junior college students, and is a President's List scholar.

Class notes



class of '81

David Kelley, Ph. D. *Midland, MI*

"I am in debt to MCC. The academic quality and environment at MCC motivated me to work hard at a time in my life when I had lost my focus. I received tenure at Central Michigan University. I am an associate professor in the Department of Engineering and Technology."

We want to know what our alumni achievements are. Send us your brief story. Be sure to include the years you attended or graduated.

Let us hear from you.

Drop us a line on the web at www.meridiancc.edu/classnotes or mail it to *Meridian Community College Connections Magazine* c/o the MCC Foundation 910 Highway 19 North, Meridian, MS 39307

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