

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Connections

M A G A Z I N E

**YEAH!
YEAH!
YEAH!**

JIMMIE EVANS:

**MAN
OF THE
HOUR**

**FIELDHOUSE
DEDICATION**

MCC FOUNDATION

**MEMBERSHIP
CELEBRATION**

MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



MCC Foundation kicks-off 2010 Campaign
with a little help from their friends
BEATLEMANIA

Dr. Scott Elliott, *president*

Barbara Jones, *vice president, operations*

Dr. Kathy Baxter, *assistant to the president
for grants and government affairs*

Shirley Nell Goodman, *associate vice
president, workforce development*

Cathy Parker, *director of institutional
effectiveness and accountability*

Billy Beal, *dean, learning resources*

Amy Brand, *dean, fiscal affairs*

Janet Heggie, *dean, community and
business development*

Dr. Richie McAlister, *dean, career and
technical education*

Soraya Welden, *dean, student services*

Kathy Brookshire, *director, institutional
advancement*

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

Kay Thomas, *college promotions director*

Amy Miller, *graphic designer*

Preston Cooper, *webmaster*

Meridian Community College does not discriminate on the
basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion or
age in admission or access to, or treatment or employment
in its programs and activities. Compliance with Section 504
and Title IX is coordinated by Soraya Welden, dean of student
services, 910 Highway 19 North, Meridian, Mississippi 39307.
1.601.484.8628 Fax: 1.601.484.8635.
Email: swelden@meridiancc.edu.

On the cover: From top, Neil Johnson,
David Buckner, Alan Lamar and Tony McDaniel portray the
Beatles at the MCC Foundation campaign kickoff.

CONTENTS

4 BEATLEMANIA

5 TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT SETS UP SCHOLARSHIP

8 FOUNDATION SCHOLARS

RETIRED COLONEL GIVES SERVICE TO MCC



6-7
MCC
FOUNDATION
ANNUAL
CELEBRATION

9
JIMMIE
EVANS
*Honoring a
master teacher*

10
GENE
GOLDMAN
*President's
Roundtable
speaker*

THE STOCKDALE PARADOX



The name James Stockdale probably doesn't register with most folks. But he's more than the answer to a trivia question, that being, "Who was Ross Perot's 1992 running mate?"

Admiral James Stockdale, more importantly, is a real American hero. A winner of the Medal of Honor, Stockdale survived more than seven years as a POW in Vietnam. How did Stockdale endure those horrific times? Well, he had a two-pronged mantra, and it went something like this:

1. Stay firm in your belief that you will prevail in the end; and
2. Confront the brutal facts around you.

In his seminal work, *Good to Great*, author Jim Collins refers to that simple survival plan as "The Stockdale Paradox." But, to me, those tenets are not really incongruent, rather, complementary. And there's a lesson for Meridian Community College and, indeed, the entire Magnolia State in Stockdale's premise as we seek to persevere during these troubled economic times.

Stockdale writes, "You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end – which you can never afford to lose – with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be."

In that vein, please know that I have every faith that MCC and Mississippi will survive this recession, which some experts contend might linger for as long as 2015. All recessions come and go; it's just the durations which vary. That said, I agree with Stockdale in that while in the midst of the storm, one must develop coping strategies – most of which are painful.

Think about it this way, seizing upon more of Stockdale's insights – the prisoners most likely not to survive the infamous Hanoi Hilton were the optimists. Why? Because every time a Christmas or another holiday rolled around and they remained in captivity, those POWs relived the absolute depths of despair. Finally, such recurring anguish, in tandem with torture, proved too much for some. Stockdale, conversely, took a more realistic approach, discovering ways to deal with the immediacy of his surroundings while remaining steadfast in his belief that one day – sooner or later – he'd be walking out that door to freedom.

So, what is our current reality? At this writing, Mississippi has not met its tax revenue projections for 18 straight months. February, alone, saw revenues lag by \$33 million, an especially noteworthy sum in a 28-day month. In that maelstrom, state-supported agencies like Meridian Community College have reeled from their legislative appropriations being repeatedly cut

FROM THE PRESIDENT

– in MCC's case \$1.4 million for FY10. That's a huge pop for a small community college.

Another reality is that conditions are likely to grow worse before they get better. Some experts have cautioned higher education to plan for a 12-15% cut for FY11 and a 23-25% reduction for FY12. Therefore, it's not enough to formulate a one-year survival strategy. At MCC, we're endeavoring to fashion a plan that will take us through FY12. We have already set aside what I've categorized as a "trust fund" for FY12.

Perhaps the harshest reality of all is that MCC will be darned lucky to avoid furloughs and/or layoffs of personnel over the next two years. Talk about paradoxes – people who perform well don't expect to be laid off; they expect a raise! The likelihood of even a cost-of-living adjustment for college personnel is about as remote as a snowstorm in Havana. Now, that's a bigtime morale-buster, but it's also a stark truism.

The good news? MCC is blessed with a core of 12 allied health programs that supply area hospitals, clinics and nursing homes with well-trained, entry-level personnel. Many MCC students are either enrolled in those programs – ranging from radiological technology to nursing – or aspire to be admitted into one. Those in the latter group take prerequisite or core academic courses in our general education curriculum, which mightily contributes to MCC's fiscal health. With people living longer than ever in America, the need for acute health care services is on the rise. Therefore, health care is one area in which graduates still have a good opportunity to land a well-paying job, even in a down economy.

That's one example of the many strengths of MCC which will cause the institution to sustain and ultimately prosper. At the end of the day, people make or break programs. And we've got some great people – teachers and support staff – at MCC. I have more faith in them than a miraculous and immediate turnabout in Mississippi's economy.

When the proverbial dusts settles, MCC will still be standing and gearing to celebrate its 75th birthday. In the meantime, going back to Stockdale, we must confront the brutal facts about us. To paraphrase the "Stockdale Paradox," MCC is planning on the worst, while hoping for the best.

As president, I think that approach makes me a long-term optimist and a short-term realist. Hey, what can I say? It's just the way my Republican daddy raised me.

Beatlemania



MCC Foundation Board of Directors got a little help from their friends to kick off their annual campaign for the Tuition Guarantee Program.

Amid screams from a group of adoring fans waving signs, the Fab Four – a local version of The Beatles featuring Tony McDaniel, Alan Lamar, David Buckner and Neil Johnson - performed for the board during a noon luncheon in February at Webb Hall.

“Our Executive Director Kathy Brookshire recently received a call from our special guests, and they insisted on coming to the States to perform today to help kick off this year’s fund-raising event,” said Tony Pompelia in the persona of television host Ed Sullivan, who introduced The Beatles when they made their first television appearance in the U.S. in 1964.

After the Fab’s performance of “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” Brookshire took charge of the meeting to give campaign pointers. A goal of \$300,000 is set for this year’s campaign to benefit the Tuition Guarantee Program.

Businesses which support the program are known as the President’s Roundtable.

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

“This is a program that other colleges are following suit and trying to get established. We’ve been doing this since 1996 and have had great success,” Brookshire said. “Every year, our enrollment increases and we feel that Tuition Guarantee is one of the reasons.”

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,” Brookshire said. “Education changes lives; it really makes a difference.”

Story by Ida Brown, The Meridian Star

Photo by The Meridian Star



My second semester of nursing

school started off normal. I was worrying over tests, homework, clinicals and criticals. Everything came to a screeching halt on Sept. 8, 2009. I had gone to the doctor and they had done some lab work. The labs showed that my liver enzymes were elevated. I was admitted to the hospital and had gallbladder surgery, which they thought was initially my problem. I had surgery on Sept. 11, 2009, and everything went well. On Sept. 14, 2009, I was admitted back into the hospital with gastrointestinal bleeding (GI). I received eight units of blood and many units of fresh frozen plasma over the next week. My liver enzymes continued to rise.

On Sept. 21, 2009, I was transferred to the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) where I was eventually put on the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) transplant list. My name was listed on Sept. 30, 2009, and on Oct. 2, 2009, I received my liver. I was so sick that they told my husband, Shawn, that I would probably not survive to receive my liver. Shawn was led to read Romans 5:1-5, which talks about suffering producing perseverance, character and hope. It also says hope does not disappoint us. It was confirmed the next day in a card given to him by my aunt and uncle. Romans 5:1-5 was printed on the inside of the card. I was very blessed to receive a liver so very quickly. According to the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (MORA), 17 people die each day waiting to receive organ transplants. God worked things in my favor to allow me to continue to live.

Oct. 3, 2009, brought all new problems. I started bleeding again from the same place as before. They opened me back up and repaired the bleed. Unfortunately, my organs began to swell and my incision could not be closed. I stayed open with a device called a Bogotá Bag over my open abdomen. A Bogotá Bag is an IV bag cut open and sewn into your abdominal wall. It was covered with "medical Saran wrap." I stayed open for four days. I was medically paralyzed and kept in a coma-type state for those days.

I woke up on Oct. 9, 2009. The last day I remembered was Sept. 30, 2009. I have been extremely blessed through this whole situation. God has placed awesome people in my life to bless me and pray for me during this time. Prayers are the only reason I am still here. The doctors actually say that they really have no idea why I am still alive. I tell them all the time that it is due to prayers!! I thank God every day that I had to have a liver transplant. He showed Himself to me in ways I would have never experienced had I not had a transplant.

TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT GIVES A SECOND CHANCE

By:
Angela
Gamber

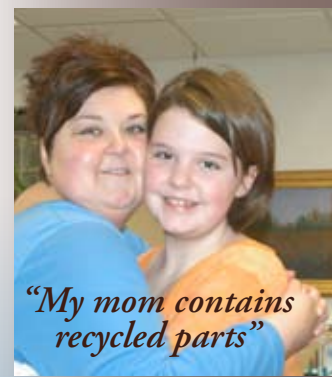
MCC Nursing is very near and dear to our hearts. Shawn is a December 2006 graduate of the program. The instructors, staff and my fellow students were WONDERFUL during my illness. They sold shirts, bracelets and took up money for us during the time that Shawn was not able to work while he was staying with me. They prayed for me and checked on me continually. We felt led to start this scholarship to be able to give back. We decided to incorporate our love for nursing and organ transplant. During the time I was so sick and death was almost eminent, I had talked to Shawn about setting up a nursing scholarship upon my death.

The Recycled & Renewed—Second Chance Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship that will be given through the MCC Foundation to a transplant recipient, immediate family member of a donor or a living donor. The name came from several places. My daughter, Madison, has a t-shirt that says, "My mom contains recycled parts" so that's where recycled came from. I have been

renewed through God and made into a new person through Him. He and my donor family gave me a second chance. I am thankful each day for the experiences I have been through since September and I am VERY grateful for the second chance I have been given. I hope to return to school in August 2010 to finish my associate degree in nursing.

For more information on organ donation or to register to become a donor, please visit www.msora.org. Be a hero. Be an organ donor.

Connections • Fall 2009-Winter 2010 | 5



From left: Dr. Scott Elliott, Kathy Brookshire, Madison, Angela and Shawn Gamber

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME ... MCC YOUR EMERALD CITY



1



2

With visitors “from Oz” including Dorothy, Scarecrow and Tin Man, Northwood Country Club was turned into an Emerald City while celebrating families, members and philanthropists.

It was all part of the themed evening, “There’s No Place Like Home ... MCC, Your Emerald City,” when the MCC Foundation hosted its annual

Membership Celebration in early November 2009.

Appreciation was stressed throughout the evening. President Tony Pompeli addressed the crowd of about 300. He stated that in these life changing times, it is important to recognize the positive effects of the Foundation’s unique Tuition Guarantee program. “Some 300 students took advantage this year,” he added. “It’s important to invest our dollars in the development of young people in this community.”

Three Meridian families – the Eddie Holladay Family, the Hunter George Weddington Family and the Jack Malone Family – were honored via a video presentation highlighting their families and their continued philanthropic endeavors. MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott gave the families plaques as a memento of the evening. It was also announced that the Holladay, Weddington and Malone families would receive a scholarship tribute in their name for Spring 2010. (See page 8)



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

Foundation Celebration

In 1996, The MCC Foundation established its innovative "Tuition Guarantee" for Meridian and Lauderdale County high school graduates. Financial support from the community covers the cost of tuition for these students. Its success is helping build the workforce of tomorrow and raising expectations among younger students that they can go to college.

The Tuition Guarantee program has helped approximately 4,000 students. The MCC Foundation's committed board works diligently each year to raise the money required to fund this program.

"This celebration is our way of thanking everybody for supporting the college and supporting scholarships and Tuition Guarantee," said Kathy Brookshire, director of institutional advancement at MCC.

Pictured: 1-Clay, Laura and Bob Holladay; 2-Eddie Holladay; 3-Pam and Tommy McDonald; 4-Tom Maynor and Arjen Lagendijk; 5-Joe Charles and Mai Sanders (foreground) and Joann Dobbins (back); 6-Nadia Morris and Caroline Wilson; 7- Gene Coleman and Jennifer Whitlock; 8-Mabel Merritt and Tom Morris; 9-Oz cast members, Nate Latham, Lauren Rogers, Todd Brand and Antwan Altman; 10-Alisha Bancroft, Yolanda Bertrand and Rocky Dearman; 11-Bob and Sara Jo Malone, Mina Beth and Lou Tonini; 12-Alex and Hunter George Weddington and Kathy Brookshire; 13-Soraya Welden and Barbara Jones; 14-Alatha Williams; 15-Margaret and Jerry McCay; 16-Bailey and Ann Weddington; 17-Helen, Anne and Harold Meyer; 18-Pete Willis.



RETIRED COLONEL GIVES SERVICE TO THE MCC FOUNDATION

For Richard Armstrong, service is a way of life.

After all, the retired colonel logged in 25 years of active service in the U.S. Marine Corps and he's devoted 14 years of service to Mississippi State University Foundation. His service to Meridian Community College is beginning as a newly-installed board member of The MCC Foundation.



"We had a deep interest in wanting to do something for MCC ..."

"Charlotte (Armstrong's wife) and I had ties to MCC. We had a deep interest in wanting to do something for MCC," Armstrong said, which resulted in the couple establishing a scholarship at the College.

And since Armstrong had a strong background in fund-raising for his alma mater, MSU, getting him on board with the MCC Foundation board was a natural fit. "Richard brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our board," said Kathy Brookshire director of institutional advancement. "I am so thrilled to have the opportunity to work with him. He will definitely make a huge impact. We welcome him wholeheartedly."

After Armstrong and his wife returned to their hometown of Meridian, he joined Gipson Steel in 2007 as business development director. Now he's working on his "third career," he said, and it has been rewarding. "Learning a new career is challenging and fun," he said.

Armstrong, remains committed to giving back. "I felt like I should be serving in the community somehow." In addition to the MCC Foundation Board, Armstrong serves with MSU College of Business Executive Advisory Board, East Mississippi United Way Board, Aldersgate Retirement Community Board, MCC Workforce Development committee, Marine Corps League, and Navy League.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARS

Haley Semmes, Joshua Marks and Sarah Abigail Scarbrough have been selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships at Meridian Community College. These awards, honoring three Meridian families, are funded by the MCC Foundation. The Holladay Family, the Malone Family and the Weddington Family were recognized at the annual membership celebration for their commitment to education and their support of the College in both service and resources.



Semmes is the recipient of the Holladay Family Scholarship. She is a 2008 highest honors graduate of Meridian High School. A President's List scholar, Semmes is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year college students. She is a sophomore in the University Transfer Program studying math. Semmes has worked summers at the Meridian Museum of Art and Camp High Hopes. Her goal is to pursue a career using her math skills, possibly teaching at the college level.



Marks has been selected to receive the Malone Family Scholarship. A home school graduate, he is a sophomore in the University Transfer Program studying business. Marks has been named to the Dean's List and has been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. He plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in business and possibly an associate degree in automotive technology. His goal is to use his business and automotive skills to operate his own automotive business.



Scarbrough is the recipient of the Weddington Family Scholarship. A 2008 honor graduate of Southeast Lauderdale High School, she is a sophomore in the University Transfer Program studying mathematics. A Dean's List scholar, Scarbrough is serving as secretary of the campus chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. She is also a member of the MCC Lady Eagles Soccer Team. Her plans are to obtain a master's degree in mathematics and teach at the college level.

HONORING A MASTER TEACHER



Long-time educator Jimmie Evans was honored by Meridian Community College when the Jimmie Evans Field House was dedicated in September, marking the completion of the third student-built, on-campus facility.

The two-story, 1,548-square foot building, located between the tennis courts and Thornton Hall, houses the MCC tennis and soccer programs. It is named in honor of Jimmie Evans, who taught in the social science department at MCC from 1965 to 1999.

“Our Board of Trustees decided to name the building in Mr. Evans’ honor because he broke the mold in terms of his unwavering support of students,” said Dr. Scott Elliott, MCC president. “In my 25 years in higher education, I’ve never worked with a person who more strongly supported students, inside and outside the classroom. Not only was Mr. Evans a master teacher, he routinely attended almost every student activity, ranging from athletic events to choral productions. He also served as an advisor to student organizations, like Phi Theta Kappa and the student bowling league.”

Even more remarkable, Elliott said, is that Evans continues to support students and his colleagues in his retirement years.

“Mr. Evans has never slowed down in his support of MCC,” Elliott said. “For instance, he was absolutely instrumental in the development of the MCC Foundation Chapel project. He has also supported faculty professional development programs and student scholarships at MCC, as well as still being the foremost fan of our athletic

teams. He hardly ever misses a game of any kind, whether it’s soccer, basketball, baseball or softball. Like I said, he broke the mold, and everyone at the college is really excited about having his name permanently displayed on one of our buildings.”

Elliott said the fact students built the facility makes it particularly special for Evans. The MCC Construction Trades program, under the direction of Olin Thomas, spearheaded the project, which took a full year to complete. Thomas’ students were joined, among others, in the effort by the Industrial Maintenance program students, taught by Jerry Humphreys. MCC physical plant staff, led by Terry Williams, also contributed significantly to the success of the project.

Other on-campus facilities built by MCC students include the chapel and the soccer press box and concession stand building.

The Jimmie Evans Field House was designed by MCC Drafting & Design instructor Leah McGraw, working under the auspices of local architect Arjen Lagendijk.

“Leah did a superlative job on the design, and we couldn’t have finalized the product without the assistance of Arjen

and his right-hand man, Don Delaney,” Elliott said.



“Arjen and Don have contributed their time and talents to virtually all of our on-campus student building projects, and we can’t thank them enough. The entire project stands as a testimonial to the excellence of instruction at MCC. It is hands-on, collaborative learning at its best. A number of our programs – Construction Trades, Drafting and Design, Electronics, Telecommunications and Industrial Maintenance – all came together to contribute to the project, much like work would be subbed out on a professional job. Our students learn not only specific job skills, but also how to work together with others in a team environment.”

JIMMIE EVANS
FIELD HOUSE

GENE GOLDMAN - MCC FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S ROUNDTABLE SPEAKER

Arthur E. "Gene" Goldman, director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's John C. Stennis Space Center, was the featured speaker at the President's Roundtable annual luncheon this fall. A Meridian native and MCC alumnus, Goldman has a long list of career achievements. "I believe I have the best engineering job in Mississippi. I'm especially proud to be the first Mississippian to hold this position. My path started here at Meridian Junior College," Goldman said.

Goldman came to the College on an athletic scholarship. Remembering his former instructors he said, "Jimmie Evans (world civilization and geography instructor) taught us we were all related on this planet. Sue Key, math teacher extraordinaire, taught us life is a word problem. I built my schedule around Mrs. Key's schedule. The Mississippi community college system is a crown, and MCC is a jewel in that crown."

At the luncheon, it wasn't just Goldman issuing the compliments. "I can't think of anyone who, despite his position, has remained as down to earth and humble," MCC President Scott Elliott said when he announced the MCC Foundation would award the Gene Goldman Scholarship in honor of him and his achievements in his career.

Goldman began his NASA career in 1990. He was inducted into the federal civil servants' Senior Executive Service in 2004, after having completed the NASA SES Candidate Development Program. He completed the Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard University in 2002, and the Congressional Operations Program at George Washington University in 2003.

Goldman is the recipient of numerous awards: the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal in 2002; the NASA Certificate of Appreciation in 1997; and the Marshall Space Flight Center Director's Commendation in 1992.

Goldman holds a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State University.



Goldman, center, reminisces with former instructors, Sue Key and Jimmie Evans.

Drew Phillips was chosen to receive the first Gene Goldman Scholarship at MCC. This \$1,000 award, funded through the MCC Foundation, was established to honor Meridian Junior College alumnus Arthur E. "Gene" Goldman.



Drew Phillips

Phillips is a 2009 graduate of Meridian Christian Home Educators. He was a member of the 4-H Club, State Leadership Team and Southern Sounds Ensemble. A freshman in MCC's University Transfer Program, Phillips plans to complete his studies at Mississippi State University's Bagley College of Engineering with a degree in civil engineering.

Goldman, center, was inducted into MCC's Hall of Fame in February along with Terry Williams, left, Pam Tvarkunas, Eddie Holladay and Bud Thompson.



MOTHER SETS UP MCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF HER SON

On a cold but bright winter morning, Joann Hawkins smiles and says, “Look at this beautiful day. I think, ‘Wow. We are truly blessed.’”

Her optimism, as well as her spirituality, is deeply rooted. “Everything is going to be okay... God’s going to lead our paths,” Joann said as she finishes a conversation about her family.

For her life experiences, most would have crumbled under the crushing weight of grief, but Joann looks up and thinks of others. A registered nurse, she has established the James Joseph Hawkins Memorial Scholarship to honor her son J.J. He died in an automobile accident in September 2007.

J.J., an Associate Degree Nursing student at MCC, was following in his mother’s footsteps, although he initially desired to have a career in a different field. “He wanted to be a veterinarian,” she said, noting that J.J. had worked for a local vet

since he was 14. In fact, he had received his associate degree from MCC studying biology and went to

Mississippi State University for a year continuing his biology studies.

After consideration, he told his mom of his career change – to take care of people. “He found his element,” Joann said, adding he had worked in a local hospital’s intensive care and cardiac care units. “He was full-fledged everything and he enjoyed his life,” she remembered.

At his time of passing at the age of 23, J.J. had recently been certified as a firefighter with the Meehan Volunteer Fire Department. He was also a diver who was completing his certification as a rescue diver. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, paint ball, swimming, painting and photography, and he also held a brown belt in karate.

“He was so busy, so content, so happy. He was walking joy,” Joann said.

And like J.J., Joann said she and her son, Adam, have decided “to be happy and busy, productive human beings.”



FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE KELI BREANNE BROWN SCHOLARSHIP



Whitney Richelle Drachenberg has been selected to receive the first Keli Breanne Brown Memorial Scholarship at MCC. This \$300 award is funded through the MCC Foundation by family and friends. In October of 2008, 16-year-old Keli Breanne Brown died in an automobile

accident. She was an intelligent, popular girl who loved life. Her motto was, “Live Your Life...and Smile.” She was planning on attending MCC to pursue a degree in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Ryan Brown initiated this scholarship in memory of his precious sister.

Whitney was the valedictorian of the 2006 Clarkdale Attendance Center graduating class. She was a member of the three-time State AA Championship Softball Team at Clarkdale and continued her softball career with two years for the

MCC Eagles. A President’s List scholar, Whitney is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year college students. This spring she was recognized as the top student in the Physical Therapist Assistant Program by receiving the Jason Marshall Award. Whitney was also recognized as a NJCAA Distinguished Academic All-American.



Meridian’s Air National Guard fire department presents a check to the Keli Breanne Brown Memorial Scholarship. Funds were raised during a benefit golf tournament at NAS Meridian. From Left: Jay Mackey, Bud Brown, Rick Walker, Glynn Wedgeworth, Kathy Brookshire, Ryan Brown and Ike Ethridge.

Return Service Requested

© 2010 Meridian Community College Connections is a magazine for friends of Meridian Community College.
For more information, call 601.483.8241.



MaShelle Gibson, second from left, is the first recipient of the HMP Nursing Scholarship at MCC. Established by HMP Nursing Services, the scholarship totaled \$3,403.46. Shown with Gibson at the presentation are, from left, Jay Slaughter, director of HMP Nursing Services; Kathy Brookshire, director of Institutional Advancement at MCC; and Sherri Clopton and Linda Kirkman, Practical Nursing Program instructors.

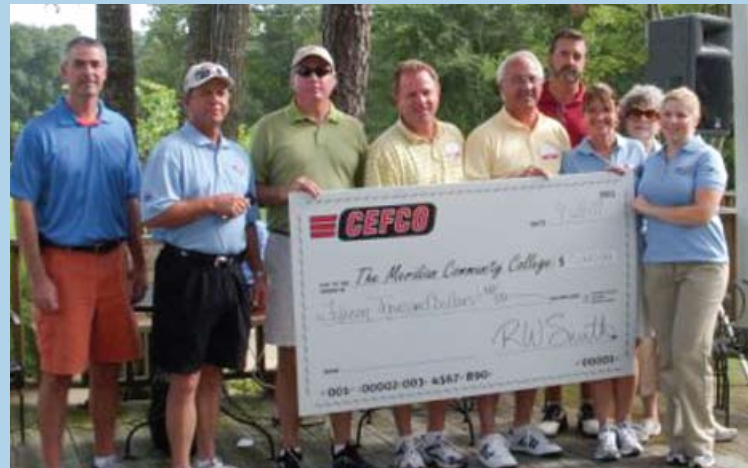


Jonathan Curtis Strait has been selected to receive the first Sonny Ruff Excellence in Nursing Scholarship at MCC. This \$500 award is funded through the MCC Foundation by Nurse Practitioner Sonny Ruff, who completed the Associate Degree Nursing Program at MCC in 2003. As a tribute to the nursing program and nursing faculty, Ruff has established this award to help a deserving nursing student.

Strait is a 2001 graduate of Madison Ridgeland Academy in Madison. He is in the third semester of the Associate Degree Nursing Program with plans to graduate in December. Strait is a member of the Organization of Student Nurses and the Mississippi Organization of Associate Degree Nursing. His goal is to become a nurse practitioner.



Sonny Ruff presents a check to Kathy Brookshire, right, and MCC Vice President Barbara Jones, left.



CEFCO held its Charity Golf Classic for 2009 at the Castlewoods Country Club in Brandon, MS. A \$15,000 check was presented to the MCC Foundation designated for the C. E. Fikes (CEFCO) Scholarship Endowment. Pictured from left are: David Buckner, MCC Foundation Board Member; Dennis Kelley, CEFCO; Tony Pompelia, MCC Foundation President; Raymond Smith, CEFCO, President; Scott Elliott, MCC President; Russell Thompson, MCC Foundation Board Member; Kathy Brookshire, Executive Director, MCC Foundation; Marmion Francis, MCC; Christine Radley, CEFCO Marketing Analyst.