Homecoming set for Monday, Feb. 15

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Five high-achieving alumni will be inducted Monday into the MCC Hall of Fame to kick off the local college’s annual homecoming festivities. The Rev. Dr. Joe Anderson, the Rev. Dr. LaBaron Hedgemon, Ret. Col. Howard Malone, Ben Scaggs and Dr. Jamie Osby-Williams will be inducted into the MCC “Highest Flying Eagles” Hall of Fame in ceremonies beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Dulaney Room, Webb Hall.

“This program is always one of the highlights of our school year,” said MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott. “Each year we have the opportunity to honor a group of servant-leaders who have distinguished themselves in their professions and their community service. This is another truly outstanding contingent of leaders who started their college experience at MCC.”

The Hall was initiated in 2002 with Dr. William F. Scaggs (MCC president emeritus), Tommy Dulaney and Lou Weddington Hart its inaugural honorees.

Anderson and Hedgemon are both highly respected local pastors, serving Carmel Baptist Church and Freedom Rock Church, respectively. Anderson is also the longtime chairman of the board of directors of Anderson Regional Health Systems. Hedgemon enjoyed an impressive career in the banking industry before being called to the ministry.

Malone is a true American hero, having served his country in the U.S. Army from 1954-1980, being awarded some the nation’s highest awards for heroism along the way, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit and Distinguished Flying Cross.

Scaggs is one of the nation’s highest-ranking officials in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including a stint as director of the EPA’s Gulf of Mexico Program. He is the son of Dr. Scaggs, who will join Dr. Elliott in making presentations to the honorees.

Osby-Williams has amassed an impressive career in the field of marriage and family therapy, including service as the chairman of the Discipline Specific Committee for the Mississippi State Board of Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT).

In addition to honoring the Hall of Famers, MCC will pause to recognize three 30-year employees, Frances Hardy, John Marshall and Martha Williams. They will be presented with commemorative medallions by Vice President for Operations Barbara Jones. Also, Jones and MCC Music Instructor Jon Romero will pay tribute to those former MCC employees who passed during the last year with the college’s annual “Tolling of the Bells”. They are Billy Beal, Susan Smith Brown, Gerald Brunelle, Oleta Cockrell, Mary Fleming, Sarah Griffin, Carolyn Joyner, Bill Lang, Alex Loeb and Rev. George Pugh.

Special music for the event will be provided by Telvin Lewis, a former member of the MCC Dimensions show choir and MCC chorus who recently appeared on the “American Idol” television show.

Following the alumni reception, MCC will conduct its annual homecoming celebration in Graham Gymnasium. The college’s homecoming queen will be crowned by Dr. Elliott at 5 p.m. just prior to the tip-off of the Lady Eagles’ basketball game against Copiah-Lincoln. The Eagles game against Co-Lin will follow at about 7:30 p.m.

Freshman maids are Ariel Denise Allgood from George County; Hayden Olivia Hill of Maben; Taylor Miller from Austin, Texas; and Katie Jo Riley from Enterprise. Sophomore maids are Lexie Rivers from Meridian; Summer Stockstill from Picayune; Gladys Watson from Clinton; and Kyla Williams from Meridian.

The flower girl is Sarah Addison Higginbotham, daughter of Brad and Becky Higginbotham, and the crown bearer is Thomas “Eli” Simpson, son of Phillip and Jessica Simpson.

“Monday is going to be a great day at MCC,” Elliott concluded. “The people who are honored, past and present, are part of the college’s legacy.”
Pickett tapped for SHAPE award

Brandi Childers Pickett, MCC Wellness and Fitness Division Coordinator and health instructor, received the Taylor Dodson Young Professional of the Year Award at the Society of Health and Physical Education (SHAPE) Southern District conference in Williamsburg, Va.

"I felt honored to be selected out of so many states, especially larger states," Pickett said. Sixteen Southern states comprise the SHAPE Southern District.

The late Dr. Dodson was a professor at Wake Forest University and was vice president of the American Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and an active advocate of physical education.

Pickett, a graduate of Northeast Mississippi Community College, holds both a bachelor of science and master of science degrees in physical education from Mississippi State University.

She has been working at MCC since August 2013. She previously taught at Senatobia Municipal School District, England, Ark., School District and MSU.

Serving as the executive director of the Mississippi Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MAHPERD) since March 2012, Pickett has received numerous grants and has been recognized for teaching excellence by the MAHPERD. She’s also garnered Middle School Teacher of the Year Award and Project Fit America All Star Teacher Award.

In addition to her involvement with MAHPERD, Pickett has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, Jump Rope for the Heart, Junior Auxiliary, Special Olympics, Awana classes and wellness committee.
The first African-American employees at Meridian Community College were honored for their role in bringing diversity to the institution.

“Echoes Within Our Soul” paid tribute to those who, according to MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott, helped make MCC a true community college.

“During the period of desegregation it was a very volatile time in Mississippi, especially here in Meridian,” State Representative Charles Young Jr. said. “The task that was poised for those people honored today, was almost, just unsurmountable.”

Deborah Stokes, the first African-American nursing instructor at the college, said it was a challenging, but fruitful time.

“Being the first, you had to open up the doors,” Stokes said. “It was a two-way thing; they were getting used to us, and we were getting use to them,” Stokes said. But, the country was moving in a different direction, and that was a wonderful thing.”

Floyd Hearns, who came to MCC in 1972 as assistant dean of continuing education, remembered his time there as a happy experience.

“I came directly here from Meridian High School and was the first African-American assistant principal under Mr. Charles Armstrong,” Hearns said. “Before that time, I was at T.J. Harris. The transition for me was not hard because I kept up with administration, having already been to the college for meetings.”

Robert Mack, a former humanities instructor, physical education teacher and tennis coach, said Friday’s program brought back memories of the students, teachers, and coaches he worked with.

“The students were impeccable. You could tell them what to do, and that was that,” Mack said. “The teachers and coaches I worked with were very instrumental in getting me adjusted to working at the community college. When the administrative staff gave you a job, they let you do the job.”

The employees honored were from all areas of the campus and had initial employment dates from 1965 through 1980. The college’s first African-American students were honored last year, 50 years after they first enrolled.

Those first students and employees also established a bridge between T.J. Harris Junior College, a historically black institution, and Meridian Community College, Elliott said.

“Building such a bridge requires courage and commitment, and we wanted to acknowledge those employees’ contribution to the evolution of the college through this commemorative program,” he said.

Having Dr. Roy Hudson, Rep. Charles Young Jr., and MCC President Emeritus Dr. Bill Scaggs as keynote speakers made the event special, Elliott said.

“They were all able to speak about the transition continued on next page
from Harris to MCC from different perspectives,” Elliott said. “Dr. Hudson was one of those first pioneering faculty, and Rep. Young’s mother, Dorethea, was among those trailblazers. Both of them offered some poignant perspectives on the legacy of Harris and the remaining challenges for the future. Dr. Scaggs’ leadership in artfully managing that transition proved one of the hallmarks of his illustrious career in Mississippi higher education.”

Young credited Scaggs and other educators for working together during that pivotal time in history.

“They were able to maintain peace, maintain discipline, but most of all they were able.
Driven
The new mileage reimbursement rate for private owned and school vehicles is 54 cents per mile, said Stephanie Holifield, accounting manager. "Please make this change on your travel vouchers, travel request and in-district mileage forms. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at extension 391," she said.

Encourage students
Students may now apply for Foundation scholarships, and the deadline to apply is May 2. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office.

To be eligible the student must meet the criteria of having a 2.0 or higher grade point average; be enrolled full or part time, completed at least one semester at MCC and return to MCC in the fall.

Plan now
Feb. 26 is the deadline for Awards Night nominations, said Patrick Lovette. The event is set for April 26 at 6 p.m. in the McCain Theater. For details, contact Lovette at extension 340 or Marie Roberts at extension 440.

Something to smile about
Dental Assisting Program is offering three dental X-rays for the asking. “If you are in need of X-ray films or images – and check with your dentist - we can have these taken in the MCC Dental Clinic and sent to your dentist saving you a significant amount of money,” said Robin Johnson, Dental Assisting Program coordinator and instructor.

The Dental Assisting students are in need of a number of patient requirements during the spring semester. Appointments are scheduled on Monday or Wednesday afternoons by calling Johnson at extension 676.

Opportunity to give to others
The United Way is short of their campaign goal and is asking the community’s help. Even though MCC has completed the 2016 United Way campaign, for those who missed the opportunity there is still time to give. Stop by Carolyn Beeland’s office in Hardin Hall to pick up a contribution/pledge card.
**MCC Weekly Schedule • 15-FEB-16 to 21-FEB-16**

**Monday**
- BSU - Arise 0630 AM - 0830 AM, Chapel SANCTUARY
- Entrance Counseling Session 1100 AM - 0100 PM, Chapel AR
- Homecoming Alumni Program & Reception 0130 PM - 0330 PM, Webb Hall DULANEY
- Central MS Consortium Meeting 0200 PM - 0400 PM, Webb Hall GSR
- Lauderdale County Election Commission Training 0200 PM - 0700 PM, Tommy E. Dulaney Center
- Campus Life 0300 PM - 0600 PM, Ivy Hall 121
- MCC vs. Copiah Lincoln (Women & Men) 0530 PM - 0930 PM, Ivy Hall GYM

**Tuesday**
- Trimerica 0800 AM - 0300 PM, Webb Hall DULANEY
- Trimerica 0800 AM - 0300 PM, Webb Hall GSR
- Lauderdale County Election Commission Training 1000 AM - 1200 PM, Tommy E. Dulaney Center
- MCC Board of Trustees Meeting 1130 AM - 0130 PM, G.V. Sonny Montgomery BANQTRM
- Interest Meeting for MCC Pageant 1200 PM - 0400 PM, Todd Library CASTEEL
- Lauderdale County Election Commission Training 0600 PM - 0900 PM, Tommy E. Dulaney Center

**Wednesday**
- Lauderdale County Election Commission Training 1000 AM - 1200 PM, Tommy E. Dulaney Center
- BSU Noon Day 1030 AM - 0130 PM, Chapel AR
- Entrance Counseling Session 0100 PM - 0300 PM, Todd Library CASTEEL
- MASEP 0600 PM - 0930 PM, Health Center 240

**Thursday**
- Nursing 1110 0800 AM - 1200 PM, Webb Hall GSR
- Campus Life 1200 PM - 0300 PM, Todd Library CASTEEL
- HOSA Meeting 1200 PM - 0100 PM, Tommy E. Dulaney Center
- Campus Ministry International 0500 PM - 0600 PM, Chapel SANCTUARY

**Friday**
- Professional Development Session 0900 AM - 1130 AM, Todd Library CASTEEL
- Lunch Bunch 1100 AM - 1200 PM, Tommy E. Dulaney Center
- Lunch Bunch 1200 PM - 0130 PM, Tommy E. Dulaney Center

**Saturday**
- NACES Testing 0630 AM - 0330 PM, Weddington Hall
- Sweet Pea 0800 AM - 0500 PM, Tommy E. Dulaney Center

**Sunday**
- Sweet Pea 0800 AM - 0500 PM, Tommy E. Dulaney Center

**CE Classes**
- Monday
  - Bimbo Capability Deployment 0800 AM - 0200 PM, Tommy E. Dulaney Center
  - CRC Certificates 0900 AM - 1200 PM, Webb Hall 102
  - Fitness - Water Aerobics 0900 AM - 1000 AM Fitness Center
  - Fitness - Pilates 1230 PM - 0130 PM Fitness Center
  - Fitness - Swimming 0100 PM - 0200 PM Fitness Center
  - Fitness - Body Sculpting 1230 PM - 0130 PM Fitness Center
  - Fitness - Yoga 0130 PM - 0230 PM Fitness Center
  - Fitness - Cardio-Cardio-Zumba 0330 PM - 0430 PM Fitness Center
  - LCSD Adult Detention Off Tmpg 0400 PM - 0900 PM, Webb Hall 129
  - IBEST Sys Maint A+ 900 Series 0500 PM - 0900 PM, Annex D 401
  - Fitness - Kickboxing 0530 PM - 0630 PM Fitness Center
  - Basic Welding 0600 PM - 1000 PM Structural Steel Welding Bldg
  - How to Start a Business 0600 PM - 0900 PM Webb Hall 129
  - Prin. Air Cond I Part 2 0600 PM - 0900 PM Reed Hall 100
  - RUSH Fund of Medical Ins Coding 0600 PM - 0900 PM Off Campus
  - Fitness - Strength Toning 0630 PM - 0730 PM Fitness Center

- Tuesday
  - CRC Certificates 0900 AM - 1200 PM Webb Hall 102
  - Fitness - Water Aerobics 0900 AM - 1000 AM Fitness Center
  - Fitness - Body Sculpting 1230 PM - 0130 PM Fitness Center
  - Fitness - Yoga 0130 PM - 0230 PM Fitness Center
  - Fitness - Power Hour 0230 PM - 0330 PM Fitness Center
  - Fitness - Yoga 0330 PM - 0430 PM Fitness Center
  - Ballet 0400 PM - 0700 PM Fitness Center
  - LCSD Adult Detention Off Tmpg 0400 PM - 0900 PM Webb Hall 129
  - Phlebotomy Essentials 0450 PM - 0700 PM Emergency Medical Science Acad 117
  - EMT Basic Refresher 0500 PM - 0900 PM Webb Hall ROSENB
  - IBEST Network Security 0500 PM - 0900 PM, Annex D 401