



THE GROWL

Holmes Community College
Goodman – Ridgeland – Grenada
www.holmescc.edu

Volume 87
Number 10

Jan. 7, 2020

Miles, Grace named HEADWAE recipients

From Staff Reports/Photos



Angela Miles



Britt Grace

Angela Jones Miles, a mathematics instructor, and Britton English Grace, a civil engineering major, have been named Holmes Community College's honorees for the 2020 Legislature's HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day Working for Academic Excellence) program. Miles is an instructor and Grace is a sophomore on the Goodman Campus of Holmes.

Miles, who has worked at Holmes for 14 years, holds an associate degree from Jones College, a bachelor's in mathematics from Delta State University and a master's in mathematics education from Mississippi State University. She is a National Board Certified teacher in mathematics and a member of the Mississippi Collegiate Mathematical Association.

Previously, Miles received the 2009 Phi Theta Kappa Sally Wilson Distinguished Educator Award and was named a 2010 Holmes Lamplighter recipient.

"Angela deserves this award for her countless hours of dedication to her students," said Goodman Academic Coordinator Wendy Grace. "She is always concerned for their well-being and will go out of her way to make sure they understand and excel in her classes.

"She is also always willing to serve on numerous committees and pitch in to help with whatever is needed. There is not a week that goes by that Angela does not call me to see if I need help doing anything. She is tremendous behind-the-

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J.R. Hall named Humanities Teacher of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



J.R. Hall

John Robert "J.R." Hall, a history, philosophy and religion instructor on the Ridgeland Campus, was selected as the 2019-2020 Holmes Community College Humanities Teacher of the Year. He will deliver his scholarly presentation, "The History and Phenomena of John Newton's Amazing Grace with American Christianity and Beyond," on Feb. 18, 2020, at 12:15 p.m. The presentation will be held in the D. P. "Pat" McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus and a reception will follow the presentation. The lecture is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

Hall is in his 16th year as a full-time instructor at Holmes, where he teaches both on the Ridgeland Campus and

online. Prior to that, he was an adjunct instructor on both the Ridgeland and Goodman campuses. Hall is a graduate of Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Divinity degree. He has additional studies from Mississippi State, Mississippi College and Springhill College.

Additionally, Hall is an Elder in the Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, serving appointments in Bassfield, Goodman, d'Iberville, Ridgeland, Burns and currently Monterey UMC in Florence.

A native of Crystal Springs, Hall is married to Dawn Trotti Hall, and they reside in Ridgeland. Dawn has spent her career in the field of early child-

hood education. They have two daughters, Audrey and Madeline. Audrey is an MFA student at the University of Florida, and Madeline, a Holmes alumna, is a recent graduate of Delta State University.

In his leisure time, Hall enjoys visiting National Parks and other historical sites. He also assists the public address announcer during football games at Ridgeland High School and at Holmes.

After presenting his lecture at Holmes, Hall will be recognized by the Mississippi Humanities Council at the 2020 Public Humanities Awards Gala in Jackson on March 24.

Women's Soccer makes school history

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs were on a roll this year, making it to the NJCAA Gulf South District Championship for the first time in the college's history. Although the No. 14 Lady Bulldogs fell 7-1 to No. 3 Tyler Junior College in the District Championship, they finished the record-breaking season 18-3 overall and captured the team's first MACJC State Championship and Region XXIII Championship along the way.

Following the match against Lou-

isiana State University - Eunice that made the Lady Bulldogs Region XXIII champs, Head Coach Matt Convertino was named Coach of the Year, as well. This was also the team's fourth North Division Championship in a row. The match against Tyler JC was held Saturday, Nov. 9 at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland. Tyler scored their first goal in the seventh minute to go up 1-0. They added another goal a minute later to lead 2-0.

Then, 21 minutes in, the Apache Ladies scored again to make it 3-0.

(left) Pictured are the Lady Bulldogs and their coaches.

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WHAT'S INSIDE...

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- STUDENT AND FACULTY HONORS
- CAMPUS HAPPENINGS DISTRICT-WIDE
- SPORTS PHOTOS/RECAPS AND MORE!



**SEE PAGES 6-7
FOR 2019
HOMECOMING
PHOTOS!**

Some Heroes Do Wear Capes

By Talor Pounds
Staff Reporter



have teamed up in creating a campaign movement called IDONTMIND

Melissa Benoist, the TV star actor for CW's "Supergirl," has become quite the hero beyond the cape. Benoist, along with many other actors from the CW channel,

that fights the stigma of talking about mental health by saying, "I don't mind talking about my mind." The campaign can be followed on their website www.idontmind.com where they've made many resources available to help those fighting for mental health. They offer journals of those also dealing with it and how they've overcome certain tasks, on-site therapists who can answer questions and also a phone number available to

call when someone is feeling severely depressed. They also have merchandise they sell in order to raise awareness for those dealing with mental illnesses.

Most people, especially teens, have dealt with depression in some way. This campaign is a way to get the necessary help that someone needs in a time of crisis, and it helps incorporate new habits to add or remove from your day to help you keep your mental health at its best.



The scary truth about Human Trafficking

By Latoria Miles
Staff Reporter



There is so much that is happening around the globe which involves children being abducted and is leaving so many people, especially the parents, with unanswered questions. Just last two month ago, two African-American little girls' bodies were found in landfills, which caused a cry out for justice among their community. A month ago, in the Madison County area, it was reported by WJTV News that "A grandmother was inside the store when two men approach her car and abducted her two grandchildren but were unsuccessful." Throughout communities around the

U.S. there is a pressing need for parents to ensure safety for their children.

1. Parents, make sure you know your children's location at all times.
2. Parents, never shop alone, always have someone with you.
3. Children are always to be by the side of their parent while shopping.
4. Parents and children should always be cautious of their surroundings.
5. If a person feels like they are being followed while driving, they should go to the nearest police station.
6. Children, never go anywhere with strangers.
7. Children and parents, never approach an unknown vehicle.
8. People must be careful with social media and the people they allow to be



9. Children are to tell someone if an unknown vehicle is seen in the communities.
10. Get a neighborhood group watch to keep the children safe.

A Taste That Last Forever!

By Cameron Gladney
Staff Reporter



Born and raised in Clinton 29-year-old male Marquise Gladney is a new owner of his own business of "Suit Yourself." Gladney's sells his products at his job and varieties of events where people love his delicious and scrumptious deserts. His business started this year at the beginning of the summer at his current job position as an Ambetter. He began sharing free samples of his

desserts to his co-workers to taste. His business started with 20 customers placing orders. However, as the word has gotten around, every other week Gladney has up to 40 or more customers placing orders of his deserts. His delicious deserts include several items of strawberry, cookies n cream, cheesecake and vanilla custards. All of his deserts come in several sizes and prices. Varying on the item, His 8 oz cups are \$5-7 his 16 oz cups are \$10-14 and his large pans of custard are \$25-36. As Gladney's business is expanding, he states that his motivation is to "to change the generation's wealth and to build wealth for his future family and legacy."

For his determination and love for his job, if you will like to try Gladney's delicious custard deserts his contact information is below. As he states, his deserts are a "taste that last forever!"

For more information, contact Marquise Gladney at 601-624-2077 or email Treatyourself601@gmail.com. Visit Instagram too- [@treat.yourself](https://www.instagram.com/treat.yourself).



Kanye West goes a new direction with 'Jesus is King'

By Chris Jackson
Staff Reporter



Kanye West has had one interesting career; not only in music, but outside of it, as well. From interrupting Taylor Swift's VMA award speech on national TV, to the many twitter feuds with other celebrities, and even supporting Donald Trump by wearing a MAGA hat, everyone always has to wonder what Kanye will do next. Last month, Kanye dropped his ninth studio album "Jesus is King." The album already made history not

just because it debuted at no. 1 on the Billboards, but because this was his first Gospel album. It sold a little over 260,000 the first week and also controlled the 11 top spots with each track off the album.

Kanye has brought up religion countless times but not like this. Before, he used to make many contradictions about Christianity and the beliefs, but throughout this album, he lets it be known that he is worshipping Christ instead of individuality and material things as he is known for.

Popular Christian rapper Lecrae shared his thoughts of Kanye and his transition into Gospel with Billboard.

"Kanye is such a polarizing figure and his movements create ripple effects in culture, particularly music," he told Billboard. Lecrae goes on to say he hopes other religious rappers will appreciate the spotlight on Jesus in places they may have not had an audience before. Lecrae also admits while this isn't his "favorite album musically" it is his "favorite Kanye album in terms of content."

Although it seems that Kanye has changed his life around, it's still hard for everyone to forget all the disturbing things he has done and said. We all know actions speak louder than words, but from "Jesus is King" and what it



stands for, it seems Kanye is on the right track.

Ways to Prepare for Your Big Final

By Cameron Gladney
Staff Reporter



Preparing for finals is always a stressful process. With the number of classes that a student attends, it can become quite stressful for those to study for multiple classes for a big final. Students become unmotivated, stressed and fatigued from so much to prepare for, and it can end badly in many circumstances. It can result in bad grades, bad health and low self-esteem. However, there are ways to overcome this wave of stress by simply

understanding and doing things to help you prepare for your big final!

How you eat is how you study...
This phrase may be quite confusing but let me explain. Throughout the week, you eat small meals. You don't just cram a week's worth of food into a day's worth. You eat small meals to help you throughout the week. This also applies to studying. You should study small sections ahead of time. It is unbeneficial for you to cram a month's worth of lessons in the week or day before a final. Therefore, don't procrastinate; take the time to study and prepare. This will be less stress on you and a will result of in a high grade.

Health Matters
Many students will drink caffeine or energy drinks to stay up extremely late or pull all-nighters to prepare for a big final. However, this is not a way to prepare for your final. Being healthy and getting a good night's sleep to acquire a good health can also be a way to prepare for a final. Drinking and eating unhealthy foods can be pretty bad for your health. In addition to losing sleep or not sleeping at all, it can be a strain on your body. Instead, you should get at least eight or more hours of sleep, eat a variety of quality foods and drink water to help you prepare for a big final.

Relax
Lastly, just relax. As impossible as it sounds, you need to relax and remain calm. Stressing is just another burden on yourself. Everything will be okay if you do things to take care of yourself. Studying ahead of time accordingly and having a well-balanced diet can be a way to prepare for your final. Therefore, relax and remain calm. Things will fall into place. Just do what you can and try your best. Lastly, good luck on your finals!

Crime in Jackson

By Chris Jackson
Staff Reporter



When you think of most dangerous cities you may think of cities like Memphis, St. Louis or even Chicago, but last year Jackson became one of the most dangerous cities, ranking #8 in the country. With crimes such as murder, theft and rape, the capitol city's crime rate made history with numbers being two times greater than the United States average. In 2018, Jackson's homicide rate stood at 50.3 per 100,000 people, being one of

the highest in the nation. This put Jackson at number 3 right below St. Louis and Birmingham. Mayor of the city, Chokwe Antar Lumumba, spoke on the situation saying that the data suggests 70 percent of the homicides are based on interpersonal relationships that have broken down. 2018 ended with 84 homicides. This year didn't start off any better. In the first four months, 32 people were killed in Jackson including a 14-year-old boy who was shot over a bicycle. "We have homicides in the city where we find after interviewing a suspect it was just over nothing," said police Chief James Davis. Senseless violence has been taking a toll on the city and the problem is every-

one has to pull out a gun. I interviewed Jackson native Precious Staten and asked her a few questions about her city. I asked her has she ever experienced crime first hand in Jackson. "After graduation last year, my friends and I went to a party," Staten said. "After a while, we felt people pushing and running and before we knew it gunshots started going off. Luckily all of us made it to the car safely and drove off. Another incident happened to my aunt when she was at work; a man came and held her up at gunpoint. Luckily he took the money and left without hurting her or anyone else." I also asked her what she thinks can limit crime in Jackson. "I believe if we

have cameras put up on streetlights more people will be mindful and most likely not commit crimes," Staten said. "And if they do, they will be caught and brought to justice." As the year is winding down and a new year is coming, we look to see if the crime rate will slow down or rise even more. If change is not made we will look at another year of senseless violence.

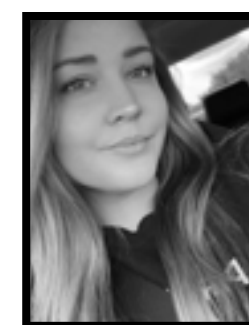


The Growl

Holmes Community College
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Contents in the Opinion Section do not represent the official opinions of Holmes Community College or The Growl unless specifically indicated. Letters are welcome, but may be edited for clarity and space.

Send to: mbusby@holmescc.edu.



Ole Miss Football Coach Matt Luke was recently removed from the head position. The decision was made after the team lost against MSU in the Egg Bowl. Athletics Director saw this as the best thing to

do after looking at Luke's record of 15-21 over his three seasons coaching there. Luke has been coaching the Ole Miss Rebels since 2017. During his most recent season, the record was 4-8. The team members have a different outlook on this outcome than Carter. A lot of the guys have taken this very personally. Some of them even walked out of the meeting when they were told the news. Others are threatening to transfer teams. One

of the teammates shared his opinion stating, "I think they made the move off wins and losses. They didn't make the move off how the players feel." Carter has yet to find a replacement for Luke, but the search has begun. In a statement released by Carter he spoke of how they were grateful for their time with Luke and his leadership, but that they didn't see enough momentum in him. He judged him off his records and "standard of success"

which did not meet the requirements. In the upcoming coach they are looking for someone who is driven for success and is focused on winning. It is clear that Ole Miss is planning to make a comeback in the upcoming season and is in it to win.

Growing the Galaxy

By Tolor Pounds
Staff Reporter



After the fall of the Empire in "Star Wars: Return of the Jedi," the known race of the "Mandalorians" have gone into hiding, only coming out one at a time to do what they do best and hunt bounties for

entertainment, taking the knowledge of the preexisting movies and expanding on it to create the greatest Star Wars experience.

The Mandalorian takes place between the fall of the Empire and the rise of the First Order, introducing new characters and species to the fan base. The main character's identity is not known, which gives the viewer a sense of anticipation. This main character known as "Mando" is on a quest to save a bounty that turned out to be a young child of the species that Yoda comes from. Each episode is packed with action, mystery and a whole lot of Baby Yoda.

This TV series has been one of the hot-



test social media topics since its release. I believe the show will continue to gain new viewers and maybe even some new fans to the Star Wars world.

The Christmas Decorations Debate

By Latoria Miles
Staff Reporter



Many people have asked this question over the years: "Is the day after Thanksgiving too early to put up Christmas decorations?"

There are certain home association residents who are not allowed to place decorations in their yard or on their house until a certain time in the month. According to The New York Times,

Sharon Schweitzer, an etiquette expert says, "that most people feel that each holiday should be celebrated at it's a proper timing."

People should be allowed to decorate their homes the way they like and not have to worry about whether it is a problem with the people in their community. It is understandable that some communities would prefer their community to look a certain way to attract more buyers. Christmas decoration are pretty when place up in the community, but it can be a hazard if it's too many together.



Carmelo Anthony's Return

By Chris Jackson
Staff Reporter



There is no question that 10-time NBA All-Star Carmelo Anthony will be in the Hall of Fame. He has the stats and the accolades, but this past year Anthony wasn't able to find

a team to sign him.

After bouncing from different teams the past two seasons and not per-

forming as expected, the 35-year-old veteran found himself out of an NBA job after 16 seasons. A lot of people thought it was his time to move on from the game. But when asked did he still want to play in the NBA Anthony said, "2,000 percent. Make that a headline." None of the critics or haters stopped him from trying to get signed. Anthony dedicated all of his time off in the gym working out and keeping his body ready for whenever he may get a call from a team.

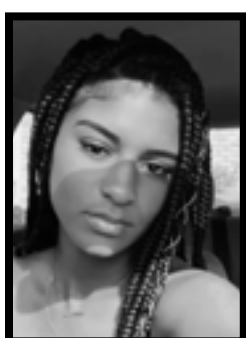
After a full year of not being in the league, Anthony finally got a deal from the struggling Portland Trailblazers. Due to many injuries and a slow start to the season, signing Anthony was a desperate decision.

In Anthony's first six games, he is averaging 17 points per game. He's not quite the scorer he used to be, but he is definitely helping the team get back on track to win games. Anthony's career is far from over.



Clinton provides Bark Park for the community

By Cameron Gladney
Staff Reporter



Have you heard of Clinton's Bark Park? Located on 913 Old Vicksburg Road in Clinton is a local and public dog park for you and your four-legged friend. Open from

dawn until dusk, the public space is fun entertainment for dogs and their owners to socialize and interact with

one another.

The area is spacious and separated according to the size of your dog. This assures that your dog is in a safe and comfortable environment to explore and enjoy their time out. So, there you have it! Get up and head out to the Bark Park! Whenever you are out in Clinton, be sure to check out the Bark Park. It is worth the time and stay for you and your dog!



HEADWAE (continued from Front Page)

scenes support system for me. From a mother's standpoint, I can tell you first hand that she is an excellent instructor who has a way of making sure her students know her difficult subject areas and are very well prepared to move on to the next level at the university."

Outside of Holmes, Miles is an active member of Williamsville Baptist Church's Love-Out-Loud Ministry and enjoys spending time with her family. She and her husband Scott have three children, Whitney, Jeffery and Anna, and two grandchildren, Powell and Collins.

A graduate of Kosciusko High School, Grace is the son of Wendy and Bill Grace.

He is a student-leader who stays busy as a Holmes Plus Scholar, an Ambassador, a Baptist Student Union Lead Team member and a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. He also a manager for the Bulldogs softball team, a math lab tutor and a work-study student for both the Athletics Department and Academic Programs. He escorted the 2019 Homecoming Queen Lily Kate Saxton, and served as a Parade of Beauties escort as well.

Grace is also a Board of Trustees ACT scholarship recipient, a President's Scholar, a Scholar-Athlete and has a perfect 4.0 GPA.

"Britt has had and continues to main-

tain an excellent overall average in both Calculus II and III," Miles said. "He has also demonstrated some leadership qualities such as being a diligent and prepared student. In his responses, Britt is usually direct, accurate and to the point. He pays attention and strives to perform well in class. I am confident in saying that he deserves this recognition. Even though he is involved with many campus activities, he is a great representative for the Holmes Plus program. He is a wonderful student with a positive attitude."

Upon graduation from Holmes, Grace plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State Uni-

versity. His career goal is to design and build structures to help improve infrastructure within the state of Mississippi.

HEADWAE, which is supported by the corporate community and coordinated by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, was established in 1988 by the Mississippi Legislature to recognize outstanding students and faculty in Mississippi's colleges and universities. The honorees will be recognized at the 33rd Annual (HEADWAE) program at the Jackson Marriott Hotel in February of 2020. The program will begin at the State Capitol with the Awards Luncheon following.

Soccer (continued from Front Page)

Holmes got on the scoreboard in the 25th minute when freshman forward Cariel Ellis of Madison took a pass from freshman midfielder Mackenzie Thompson of Pelahatchie and took the distance blowing past the keeper and putting it in the back of the net.

Tyler scored in the 28th, 32nd and 33rd minute to lead 6-1 at halftime. Their final goal came in the 63rd minute of the match to end all scoring. The Lady Bulldogs had chances in the second half but couldn't get the match going to fall.

"The girls never stopped," Holmes Associate Head Coach Wesley No-

ble said. "We played an unbelievable team. Tyler earned every bit of it. The girls just kept battling through injuries, through little knocks and things like that. I'm very proud of how they fought the entire time."

After a disappointing run in the playoffs last season, Noble said the sophomores had their minds made up this year that would not happen again. "The sophomores, I couldn't be any more proud of them," he said. "They had a rough ending last year and getting upset. We talked about it over and over. If we learned to use it the right way, we'd get to a place we needed to get

to, and that's what they did. They put us over the hump. They got us that first state championship and the first region championship.

"The freshman have been first class," he said. "A lot of them stepped in and played big minutes. We have girls who are high up in the stats who are freshman so I'm really proud of the whole group."

Noble said the team will celebrate its accomplishments the remainder of the semester. "We get over this one, and we celebrate," Noble said. "We enjoy the year. To be the only team in Region XXIII who got a chance to play tonight

is special. That's what we told the girls. They earned the right to get here. We are going to celebrate this, and we'll start moving on for next year."

He said recruiting is going well. "We almost have this class finished," he said. "We have 10 commits right now, and we are looking to add a few more. We are excited about the class that's coming in. There's a lot of talent and a lot of really good actual footballers who can help us go to a new level we haven't gone to I think. I'm really excited about that."

Three board members recognized for their service

From Staff Reports/Photos



James Alford

Three members of the Holmes Community College Board of Trustees



Robert Bailey

were recently honored during a monthly meeting on the Goodman Campus.



Nolan O'Reilly

Longtime board member James Alford was recognized by the Mississippi

Community College Board on 35 years on the Holmes board from Carroll County. He was presented a plaque by his brother, Walter Alford, who is board president, and Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey.

Robert Bailey of Yazoo County recently retired from the board and was recognized for his six years of service. He was presented a plaque by board president Walter Alford and Holmes president Dr. Jim Haffey.

Nolan O'Reilly, board member from Holmes County was also recognized by the MCCC for his 15 years of service on the Holmes board.

Holmes' associate in psychology degree named top program by Intelligent.com

From Staff Reports/Photos

Intelligent.com, a trusted resource for online degree rankings and higher education planning, has announced the Top 47 Associate in Psychology Degree Programs for 2020, and Holmes Community College made the list. The comprehensive research guide is based on an assessment of 81 accredited colleges and universities in the nation. Each program is evaluated based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation, and post-graduate employment.

This is not the first time Holmes' psychology program has been ranked by an organization; for two years in a row, the

college was ranked No. 2 for Best Online Associate in Psychology Programs by TheBestSchools.org. Additionally, in 2018, Holmes became the first community college in the nation to offer a psychology course, PSY 2543 - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). This online course counts toward the 40 hours of training needed to apply for the Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) credential. The college also offers traditional psychology courses, including General Psychology, Child Psychology, Adolescent Psychology and Human Growth and Development.

The 2020 Intelligent.com rankings

are calculated through a unique scoring system which includes student engagement, potential return on investment and leading third party evaluations. Intelligent.com analyzed 81 schools, on a scale of 0 to 100, with only 47 making it to the final list. The methodology also uses an algorithm which collects and analyzes multiple rankings into one score to easily compare each university.

To access the complete ranking, please visit: <https://www.intelligent.com/best-online-associate-in-psychology-degree-programs/>.



Saxton crowned Homecoming Queen

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Goodman Campus VP **Andy Wood**, Homecoming Queen **Lily Kate Saxton**, her escort **Britt Grace**, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** and Alumni Association Vice President **Dr. James Young**.

On Thursday, Oct. 24, Holmes Community College hosted its annual all-day Homecoming celebration on the Goodman Campus. Lily Kate Saxton of Benton, daughter of Phyllis and Mark Saxton, was crowned 2019 Homecoming Queen at halftime. Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey crowned the queen, Alumni Association President Dr. James Young presented her robe and Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood presented her flowers. Saxton was escorted by Britt Grace of Kosciusko, son of Bill and Wendy Grace. Prior to the Homecoming Court Presentation, the Holmes Marching Band, directed by Jeffrey Brown, performed on the field.

The rest of the Goodman Campus court included: Student Body Maid Salena Carson of Brandon and her escort Trey Johnson of Carthage; Sophomore Maid Tiara Leflore of Byram and her escort Matthew Mann of Yazoo City; Sophomore Maid Kaley Saxton of Brandon and her es-

cort Paul McGraw of Silverhill, Alabama; Freshman Maid Mikayla Williams of Yazoo City and her escort Clyde Dixon of Lexington, and Freshman Maid Anna Claire Woodfin of Kosciusko and her escort Thomas Niven of Goodman.

Ridgeland Campus Homecoming Maids were as follows: Student Body Maid Isabella Wade of Madison and her escort Wesley Jacobs of Brandon; Sophomore Maid Destiny Maxwell of Brookhaven and her escort Xeric Watson of Madison; Sophomore Maid Brandi Palmer of Jackson and her escort Mario White of Greenville; Freshman Maid Amanda Jacobs of Jackson and her escort Landon Kinney of Jackson, and Freshman Maid Deja Sloan of Gluckstadt and her escort Colby Moeze of Brandon.

Finally, Grenada Campus Maids were: Student Body Maid Ivey Devine

of Winona and her escort Austin Hager of Winona; Sophomore Maid Princess Allen of Gore Springs and her escort Zach Castille of Vaiden; Sophomore Maid Diamond Hazzard of Charleston and her escort Antoine Taylor of Charleston; Freshman Maid Kristen Bishop of Grenada and her of escort Jordan Simmons of Grenada, and Freshman Maid Ashlyn Nix of Big Creek and her escort Colton Reed of Grenada.

This year's football game against Coahoma Community College kicked off at 3 p.m. and the Bulldogs won, 49-16. Prior to kick-off, the Chorale sang the national anthem and the Homecoming Honorees were recognized on the field. Honorees included: Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Branch, Jr., Alumni of the Year; Sherman Lane Miller, Young Alumnus of the Year; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allen Putnam II, Distinguished Service Award recipients and Donald (Donny) Sims, Veteran of the Year.

Before game time, Homecoming activities began at 9 a.m. with a Fun Run hosted by both the Occupational Therapist Assistant (OTA) program and the Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program. Next, there were inter-squad scrimmages for the softball and baseball teams at followed by basketball scrimmages.

Academic Programs and Career Technical Education hosted a Career and Transfer Fair from 10 a.m. until noon and at the same time, Workforce Development hosted "Major's Truck Expo" with all the big industry vehicles on display. The honorees were recognized in McDaniel Auditorium at 10 a.m. followed by a performance from the Holmes Connection! and Coachmen.

Academic Programs and Career Technical Education divisions also hosted the 2019 inaugural Homecoming lecture series with the first lecture series at 11 a.m. and the second series at noon. The 11 a.m. presenters were Dr. Robert Green from Mississippi State University's Bagley College of Engineering and Holmes alumnus Dudley Moore from the University of Alabama. They presented "STEM Career Opportunities." A panel discussion titled, "Why Should I Care? Empathy Across the Community" was also held at 11 a.m.

One of the noon presentations was "Professionalism in the Health Science" presented by Curnis Upkins, Jr. with the Mississippi Hospital Association. The other one was "STD Prevention for College Students" hosted by Odessa Simon-Hawkins, a nurse practitioner at Woman's Hospital. The mid-day activities included: food trucks, fun and games in the Grove and a performance by the Holmes Chorale in the Chapel on the Hill.

A tailgate was also held on the practice field, allowing faculty, staff, students and alumni to fellowship with one another. Finally, following the game, attendees enjoyed concerts on the tailgate field presented by East of West, Leith Loftin and Az Izz.

Leading up to the fun-filled day, all campuses showed their school spirit with designated dress-up days. Monday was Jersey Day, Tuesday was Western Day, Wednesday was Neon Day and Thursday was School Spirit (wear Holmes shirts/school colors) Day.



Pictured are the 2019 Holmes Alumni Honorees. They were recognized on the field pre-game and assisted with the coin toss. They are (left to right) **Donald Sims**, Veteran of the Year; **Sherman L. Miller**, Young Alumnus of the Year; **Mr. & Mrs. Charles Allen Putnam II**, Distinguished Service Award recipients, and **Dr. & Mrs. Franklin Branch, Jr.**, Alumni of the Year.



Members of the **Holmes Marching Band** perform at half-time prior to the presentation of the 2019 Holmes Community College Homecoming Court.



The **Holmes cheerleaders** get everyone fired up for the game during the pep rally.



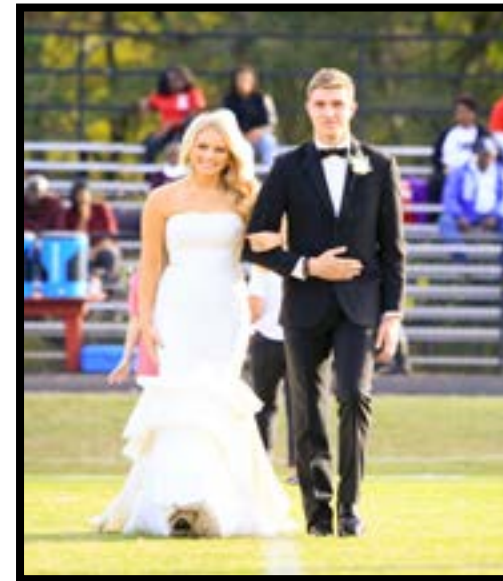
Dr. Robert Green from Mississippi State University's Bagley College of Engineering presents on STEM opportunities as part of the lecture series.



Pictured are some of the **OTA program students**, as well as their instructors, at the starting point/finish line for the OTA/PTA-sponsored Fun Run.

Homecoming Court 2019

From Staff Reports/Photos



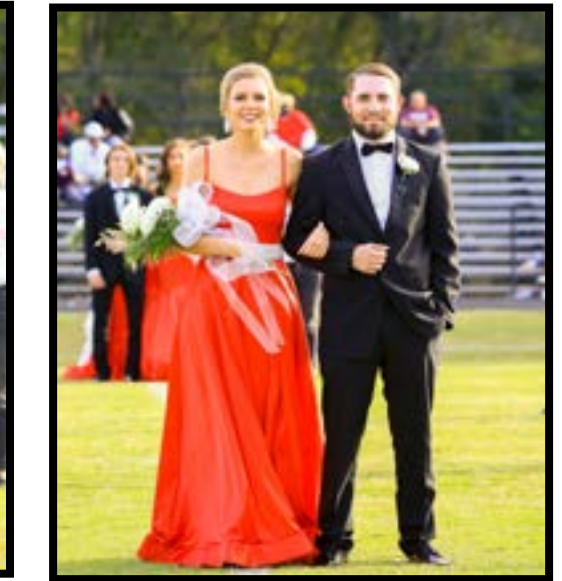
Pictured is **Britt Grace** escorting Homecoming Queen **Lily Kate Saxton**.



Pictured is Goodman Campus Student Body Maid **Salena Carson** and her escort **Trey Johnson**.



Pictured is Ridgeland Campus Student Body Maid **Isabella Wade** and with her escort **Wesley Jacobs**.



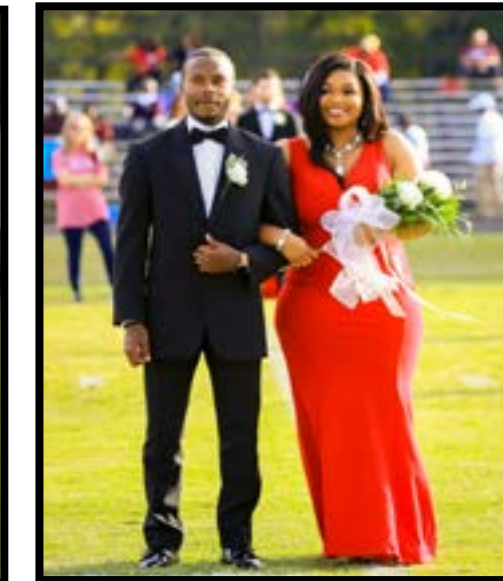
Pictured is Grenada Campus Student Body Maid **Ivey Devine** with her escort **Austin Hager**.



Pictured is Goodman Campus Sophomore Maid **Kaley Saxton** with her escort **Paul McGraw**.



Pictured is Goodman Campus Sophomore Maid **Tiara Leflore** with her escort **Matthew Mann**.



Pictured is Ridgeland Campus Sophomore Maid **Destiny Maxwell** with her escort **Xeric Watson**.



Pictured is Ridgeland Campus Sophomore Maid **Brandi Palmer** with her escort **Mario White**.



Pictured is Grenada Campus Sophomore Maid **Diamond Hazzard** with her escort **Antoine Taylor**.



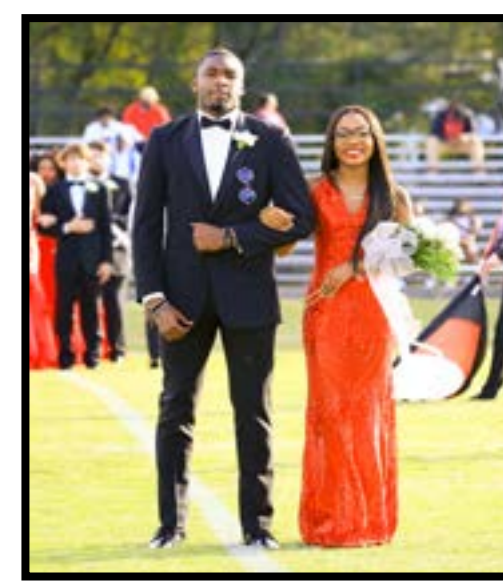
Pictured is Grenada Campus Sophomore Maid **Princess Allen** with her escort **Zach Castille**.



Pictured is Goodman Campus Freshman Maid **Mikayla Williams** with her escort **Clyde Dixon**.



Pictured is Goodman Campus Freshman Maid **Anna Claire Woodfin** with her escort **Thomas Niven**.



Pictured is Ridgeland Campus Freshman Maid **Deja Sloan** with her escort **Colby Moeze**.



Pictured is Ridgeland Campus Freshman Maid **Amanda Jacobs** with her escort **Landon Kinney**.



Pictured is Grenada Campus Freshman Maid **Kristen Bishop** with her escort **Jordan Simmons**.



Pictured is Grenada Campus Freshman Maid **Ashlyn Nix** with her escort **Colton Reed**.

Holmes named one of Best Two-Year Colleges in Mississippi

From Staff Reports/Photos



(center) Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Vice President **Dr. Don Burnham** and some of Holmes' students pose for a photo with the Best of Mississippi plaque after being named no. 2 in the Best Two-Year College category.

The Mississippi Business Journal named Holmes Community College as a finalist for the "Best Two-Year College" in Mississippi, ranking the

college second in the state. A ceremony was held at Old Capitol Inn in Jackson to honor all of those who were ranked in the annual poll.

Jones College was named no. 1 Best Two-Year College with Hinds Community College coming in third place. Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham, who accepted the plaque on behalf of the college, expressed his gratitude for the college's ranking.

"On behalf of our institution, we are thrilled to be recognized as one of the best of the best in Mississippi," Dr. Burnham said. "At Holmes, we are proud to provide a quality, affordable education with some of the best instructors in the state."

Since opening its doors 92 years ago, more than 20,000 alumni have received an education and/or trained for the workforce at Holmes Community College. Holmes has grown from an agricultural junior college in Goodman into a multi-campus institution that offers the Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Applied Science degree, technical and career certificates, and

workforce training. The college now offers more than 50 academic majors, approximately 30 professional programs, over 50 extracurricular activities, 10 athletic sports, and a variety of student support services.

"At Holmes, our employees go above and beyond to make sure that our students are successful," Dr. Burnham said. "It is our mission to make a positive difference in our students' lives which in turn makes a positive difference in our community and our state. Again, we are so thankful to MBJ for recognizing Holmes as one of the top Two-Year Colleges in Mississippi."

For more information about Holmes, visit <https://www.holmescc.edu/>.

For the full list of "Best of Mississippi" rankings, go to <https://msbusiness.com/2019/09/winners-of-the-2019-mbjs-best-of-mississippi-poll-are-announced/>.

Holmes Attala Center to host job fair

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College, in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Employment Security Commission, is hosting a job fair at the Holmes Attala Center on Wednesday, Dec. 11 from 9-11:30 a.m. The Attala Center is located at 620 West Jefferson Street, Kosciusko.

Ingalls Shipbuilding and Anel Corporation, along with several other companies, will be in attendance. It is required for par-

ticipants to be at least 18 years of age and bring a state-issued I.D.

For more information, contact Mandy Burrell at mburrell@holmescc.edu or (662) 290.0808.

Holmes Yazoo location announces January courses

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Yazoo County Educational Center is offering a variety of courses and a community enrichment class during the spring of 2020. Course offerings include: HVAC, Brick Masonry and Residential Wiring. The community enrichment course will be a "Still Life with Flowers" painting workshop.

The HVAC (Heating, ventilation and

air conditioning) course will run Feb. 4-March 12. The six-week, 30-hour class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. The course, which cost \$150, is an instructional program that prepares individuals to work in engineering departments or private firms installing, maintaining and operating small or medium air conditioning, heating and refrigeration systems.

The six-week Brick Masonry course, taught by Dale O'Banner, will meet from Feb. 25-April 2 on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. This program is also 30 hours, and costs \$40. Topics covered include: an introduction to materials/processes used in the masonry trade; safety concerns specific to the trade; basic techniques for mixing mortar and laying masonry units; descriptions of the hand and power tools and equipment used; safe operation instructions for masonry saws/mortar mixing machines, and the processes used in placing masonry units, including layout and setup, spreading mortar, cutting brick and block, laying to the line, making corners, tooling joints, patching and cleanup.

Residential Wiring, led by instructor Josh Kraft, will run from March 3-April 23. The 8-week, 32 hours class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday nights from

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The course, which cost \$25, will cover all aspects of home wiring including simple receptacle and switch installation, conductors, circuit planning and more complex installation such as service panels, grounding and service drops with hands-on circuit installation and device wiring.

The "Still Life with Flowers" workshop will involve acrylic painting on a canvas. This session will take place on Monday, Jan. 16, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The course will cost \$25 and all supplies will be provided.

All courses will be held at the Yazoo Center, located at 637 E. 15th Street in Yazoo City.

For more information about the courses and to register, contact Mandy Burrell at mburrell@holmescc.edu. More information can also be found at www.holmescc.edu/workforce.

Christmas in China

By Talor Pounds
Staff Reporter

Nathan Martin, a well-known member of the Grenada Campus Baptist Student Union, told me in a recent interview about the mission trip he took over Christmas break last year. While most students were relaxing and relieving their stress from the recent finals last year, Martin was just getting ready to go to the other side of the world.

Martin's trip consisted of multiple teams formed of other Mississippi

BSU groups. The team that he was a part of flew to China for training then flew to the country of Mongolia where he and his team would spread the story of Christmas, being the birth of Jesus. After asking why he chose to leave the country in such a family-oriented time of year for Americans, he simply stated, "I want to grow in my relationship with Christ and share the true story of Christmas."

These groups were able to explore the Great Wall of China and eat exotic foods such as horse pizza. After asking about his overall feeling of the trip Martin said, "It honestly felt adventurous." All in all, his trip seemed to be worth missing Christmas and he was excited that they achieved their goal of spreading the Gospel.



Dr. and Mrs. Branch named Alumni of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College President **Dr. Jim Haffey** presents a plaque to the 2019 Alumni of the Year recipients, **Dixie and Frank Branch**.

The Holmes Community College 2019 Alumni of the Year recipients were Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Branch, Jr., who are very closely associated with the college. Dr. Branch (Frank) is a native of Goodman and Mrs. Branch (Dixie) is a native of Pickens.

Dr. Branch, son of Frank and Lennie Branch, attended Holmes Agricultural High School in Goodman before attending Holmes Jr. College. He graduated from Holmes in 1963, then earned a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1967. At that point in time, he was the youngest to ever graduate veterinary school.

From 1967-1969, he attended the University of Georgia where he was named the Mark L. Morris Foundation Fellow and received an M.S. in Veterinary Pathology. Branch practiced veterinary medicine in Cleveland from

1969-1972. After that, he established Branch Animal Clinic in Boyle where he practiced for 40 years.

Mrs. Branch graduated from Holmes Agricultural High School in 1963 and attended Holmes Jr. College, graduating in 1965. She accompanied the Holmes choir for five years; three in high school and two in college. Her freshman year, she was asked to take charge of the Holmes choir due to the choir director having a heart attack.

After Holmes, she continued on to Delta State University where she received an artist scholarship. After earning a bachelor's degree in music education from Delta State, she followed her passion of music at many levels, from teaching at elementary schools to directing musical productions at The Little Theater. She also worked as an office manager for Branch Animal

Clinic for 40 years. Mrs. Branch has served as an accompanist and organist in many of the churches in the area.

As a couple, they have been very active in their area of expertise and community. Some of Dr. Branch's service included being on the Community Actions Board for over 20 years, serving as President of Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association, serving as a board member for over 20 years and receiving Veterinarian of the Year Award from Mississippi Veterinarian Medical Association.

Mrs. Branch is an active member of her local garden club, served as director for the Delta Aquatic Swim team for seven years, helped organize the first Bolivar Co. Humane Society and accompanied the traveling Singing Christmas Tree girls at First Baptist for seven years.

Mr. and Mrs. Putnam named Distinguished Service recipients

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College President **Dr. Jim Haffey** presents a plaque to the 2019 Distinguished Service Award recipients, **Janice and Chuck Putnam**.

The Holmes Community College 2019 Distinguished Service Award recipients were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allen Putnam II (Chuck and Janice). Natives of Eupora, Chuck and Janice graduated from Eupora High School (1983 and 1985) then both attended Holmes Community College on different campuses.

Chuck played football in Goodman during his time at Holmes. He played under Johnny Fulce, Ray Bridges and Hugh Shurden as offensive lineman and kicker. The Christian Athlete Award was awarded to Chuck in 1984.

Janice attending the Grenada Campus before going to work at Sunburst Bank Operations Center in Grenada.

"Everything was good at Holmes, it gave me a good foundation before attending Mississippi State University," Chuck said.

Upon graduation in 1985, Chuck continued on to Mississippi State University where he earned a degree in business administration in 1989.

Upon graduating from MSU, Chuck entered the management trainee program for Champs Sports in Nashville, Tennessee. Janice joined the electrical industry in 1992 when they moved to Nashville. In 1997, Chuck and Janice moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where Chuck took a management position in the electrical industry.

They are now working together for

Consolidated Electrical Distributors out of Starkville. Consolidated Electrical Distributors is one of the nations' largest electrical supply distribution networks both in residential and commercial construction.

Chuck and Janice enjoy traveling, hunting, fishing, gifting baskets to the elderly and helping others. As avid supporters of the college, they established the Janice and Chuck Putnam Endowed Scholarship with Holmes Community College.

Miller named Young Alumnus of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College President **Dr. Jim Haffey** presents a plaque to the 2019 Young Alumnus of the Year recipient **Sherman L. Miller**.

The Holmes Community College 2019 Young Alumnus of the Year recipient is Ethel native Sherman Lane Miller.

Miller was part of the graduating class of 1994. He excelled at Holmes, receiving the W.Y. Suddeth Social Science Award, making the President's and Dean's lists and being a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

"College Algebra at Holmes with Dr. Boggan was a class I remember the most," Miller said. "He was a teacher that wanted his students to succeed and was willing to invest extra time to make sure they did. Achieving an 'A' in this class gave me a platform of confidence to ultimately graduate Summa Cum Laude from MSU."

After Holmes, Miller earned a Bachelor of Science in Poultry Science from MSU. He continued to succeed as he received the poultry science departmental scholarship, earned a spot on the President's List, received the

Gamma Sigma Delta scholarship and was a member of the Gold Key Honor society, just to list a few.

"Holmes offered the learning environment I needed to continue to achieve academic success," Miller said.

In 1996, while still attending MSU, he was the over-all high winner at the national poultry judging competition. After MSU, Miller did one internship with Choctaw Maid Farms in Walnut Grove in 1995 and then with Cal-Maine Food in Edwards in 1996.

After two short years, the company requested that Miller and his family move to Delta, Utah, to start up an operation as the processing manager. After another two years, Miller was promoted to General Manager of Cal-Maine's facility in Chase, Kansas. Five years later, Miller was named Vice President of Operations of Kansas, Ohio and Utah.

In 2011, Miller was asked to move

back to the corporate office in Jackson to become the Chief Operating Officer and a Board Director. The Cal-Maine board promoted Miller to President of the company in 2017. Miller has been with Cal-Maine for 20 plus year and still works there today. He stays active in his industry serving on several boards: US Poultry and Egg Board, United Egg Producers Board, American Feed Industry Association Board and Xiant Technology.

Other professional accomplishments Miller has received include MSU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni achievement Award in 2012, MSU's CALS Poultry Science Advisory Board Member and a feature in MSU's Alumni Magazine.

Miller lives in Brandon and is married to Laura Rea. They have three children: Hayden (18), Bryce (17) and Logan (15).

Sims named Veteran of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College President Dr. Jim Haffey presents a plaque to the 2019 Veteran of the Year recipient Donald Sims.

Holmes Community College honored Donald (Donny) Sims as the 2019 Veteran of the Year. As a student at Holmes, the Kosciusko native attended Holmes on a football scholarship and played guard. Sims graduated from Holmes in 1974.

After completing his studies at Holmes, he attended Mississippi State University where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in 1989. He also earned a master's degree from Delta State University in Aviation Management.

Sims held a 30 plus year career with the United States Air Force (USAF). In his years of service he held several different positions from Weapon's System Officer Instructor/ Evaluator in RF-4C Phantom II aircraft, System Officer in RC-26 aircraft, to Operations Group Commander and Vice Wing Commander for 186th Air Refueling Wing,

MS Air National Guard in Meridian. In his tenor, Sims has flown in 60 plus missions and served in three campaigns (Kosovo, Iraq Campaign and the Global War on Terrorism). He has earned several awards such as the Legion of Merit Medal, two meritorious service medals and three air medals.

Sims retired from the U.S. Air Force as a colonel and was awarded a State of Mississippi promotion to Brigadier General for his military service in the Air Force and MS Air National Guard. He is currently serving as an USAF contractor with the Department of Defense.

"Many times sacrifices given by families of veterans are overlooked," Sims said. "I accept this award as a representative on behalf of all veteran and their families for their dedication, patriotism and the many sacrifices

given by all for the freedoms God has blessed us with as citizens of the United States of America."

As an active volunteer at the Mississippi Veteran's Home, Sims plays the violin/fiddle with the Veteran's Home band for Sunday morning church services.

Sims and his wife Ceresa, a Holmes Alumna ('73), have three children Jason (39) and Jordan (35) and two grandchildren.

The Season to Give Back

By Brooke Parrett
Staff Reporter

The holidays are known for being the time of the year that family members gather and celebrate. Most people are fortunate enough to have family to do this with. There are some people that are not this fortunate. It is important that we remember these individuals during this time and find it in our heart to make them feel not alone and special as well.

Holmes Community College on the Ridgeland Campus is offering quite a few opportunities to take part in this. The Rotaract Team is hosting an "Angel Tree" project for a senior citizen assisted living home in Madison. The tree is located at the entrance of Ridgeland Hall. There you will find ornament with an Angel's name on it and their wish. Gifts were due in the library by Nov. 22 and the Rotaract Club delivered the gifts on Dec. 4. It is important we give back to the community and

remind people they are not alone during the holidays.

(right) Pictured are the presents piled up and ready to go to The Home Place.

(bottom left) Pictured at The Home Place after delivering gifts are (left to right) Mary Haralson, Jennifer Smith, Officer Judy Tucker and student Khidari Barksdale.

(bottom right) Pictured is (far left) Rotaract Adviser Jennifer Smith with Rotaract members (left to right) Stacey Stewart, Aurora Sant'Angelo, Khidari Barksdale and Ryan Sullivan.



Ridgeland PN program presents 2019 Culture Fest

From Staff Reports/Photos

On Oct. 30, the Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing (PN) program held their annual Cultural Fest in the McGowan Center. Each group of students was assigned a different culture and they presented about the food, culture, religious beliefs, health issues and health advantages.

Each group also dressed up in clothing to represent their assigned culture, and cooked food from the culture. Following the presentations, the students, PN faculty and invited guests enjoyed the cuisine and fellowship.

Members of the 2019 PN Class include: Morgan Allen, AnnaBeth Bowman, Raven Calvio, Raven Carter, Nikki Chance, Rashenyatta Coleman, Erica Dotson, Alondrea Edwards, Katherine Filippou, Danielle Floyd, Israel Griffin, Carmen Harper, Kalee Humphries, Jaly Jones, Melissa Keese, Linda Knight, , Brittany Little, Diamond McCallum, Jerissa O'Banner, Maxen Othello, Christina Rushing, Asia Sandifer, Ja'Kayla Stewart, Rikia Stubblefield, Latrenza Thompson and Jasper Warren. The Holmes Ridgeland PN instructors are Dr. Lakesia Sutton and Heather Roberts.



Pictured is the group that covered the Muslim culture.



Pictured is the group that covered the Italian culture.



Pictured is the group that covered the Chinese culture.



Pictured is the group that covered the Southern culture.



Pictured is the group that covered the Mexican culture.

Holmes alumnus Blake Bell accepted into dental school

From Staff Reports/Photos



Blake Bell

Holmes Community College alumnus Blake Bell of Lexington (Class of '18) was admitted into dental school at the University of Mississippi Medical

Center (UMMC). He will begin his program in the fall of 2020.

The son of Lea and the late Bobby Bell, Bell was one of the 2018 valedictorians at Holmes with a perfect 4.0 GPA. A few of his accolades included: Hall of Fame inductee, Phi Theta Kappa honor society member, Ambassador, Student Government Association representative and MOSAIC tutor. A biological science major, he was also a manager for the cheerleading squad, a member of the Baptist Student Union, a President's List Scholar and recipient of the Lily Fran McCrory Foundation Scholarship. While attending Holmes, Bell shadowed at a local dentist office in Lexington to gain experience.

"Blake Bell was a great student who was engaging in class, a leader in laboratory and worked well with classmates on assignments," said Heather

Jones, a Holmes chemistry instructor. "It was a joy teaching Blake for his two years at Holmes. Blake will do great in Dental School."

Upon graduation, he transferred to Mississippi State University, where he is pursuing a degree in biological sciences with a concentration in dentistry. At Mississippi State, Bell is a student mentor for the Brickfire mentoring program, which entails mentoring and tutoring children from low income families in the Starkville community. He is also a member of the MSU Pre-Dental Society and Beta Beta Beta honor society for biological sciences majors. Additionally, Bell served with the Medical Global Brigades in Honduras over the summer.

"I'm excited about dentistry, because I plan on coming back to my hometown in Lexington where I plan on

working in my family dental practice in order to serve my community, and improve the oral health in Holmes County."

Bell has continued his status as a President's List Scholar at MSU and was honored as a Compass Scholar as well. In his free time, he enjoys working out, cooking, reading and being involved at Pinelake church in Starkville.

"The thing that makes Holmes a great investment in your education are the amazing people there to invest in the students and care about their success," Bell said. "I'm thankful for the faculty and staff at Holmes that pushed me and invested their time in me."

SkillsUSA, Ridgeland Fire donate to Sunnybrook Children's Home

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus SkillsUSA chapter, in collaboration with the Ridgeland Fire Department, recently collected Christmas gifts for Sunnybrook Children's Home and delivered them on Dec. 10.

Located on Sunnybrook Road in Ridgeland, the children's home is a Christian ministry-based, professional childcare organization that seeks to meet the needs of abused and neglected children. House parents reside in each home with the children, and while they provide as much as possible for the children, they are very appreciative of donations/donated items to help out with Christmas presents. The Holmes Ridgeland SkillsUSA chapter, headed up by adviser Heather Mooney, has collected gifts for Sunnybrook the past few years.

SkillsUSA is an organization open to all students enrolled in Career/Technical courses that helps foster social and leadership abilities as well as skills needed to succeed and be competitive in the workforce. Scholarships are available to students who competed and placed in district, state, and/or national competitions in SkillsUSA.

For more information about Sunnybrook Children's Home, visit <http://www.sunnybch.net>.

For more information about the Ridgeland Campus SkillsUSA chapter, contact Mooney at hmooney@holmesec.edu.

(right) Pictured are members of SkillsUSA with a few members of the Ridgeland Fire Department.



Puryear named MC's Nursing Alumna of Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is Barbara Puryear with her husband Steve Puryear.

Holmes Community College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor Barbara Brown Puryear was honored as Mississippi College's 2019 School of Nursing Alumna of the Year during a dinner on MC's campus on Friday, Oct. 25. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from MC in 1976, Puryear moved on to the University of Southern Mississippi, where she earned a master's in nursing with a focus on mental health. She also studied at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and The University of Florida.

Puryear is in her 13th year teaching at Holmes in Ridgeland where she also

serves as chair of the Faculty Development Committee. In addition to teaching, she also works with Ascendant Consulting and does independent consultation, performing case management activities, life care planning, cost reserve analyses and legal nurse consultation activities. Puryear also has experience in specialty case management, pharmacy case management, coordination of psychiatric services and in serving as director of nursing, as well as numerous other positions, for various facilities.

Previously, she taught at Columbia State Community College in Columbia, Tennessee; Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee; Southern

College of Seventh Day Adventists in Orlando, Florida and Madisonville Community College in Madisonville, Kentucky. Puryear is a member of the National League of Nursing as well as the Transcultural Nursing Society.

She is married to Steve Puryear, who works at Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems Extension (CAVSE) at Mississippi State in Canton. They have two daughters, Amanda and Erin. Amanda's husband, Clay Mansell, is a Holmes alumnus, and they have a daughter, AnnaBelle, who is in the 6th grade at Lovette Elementary in Clinton.

Adult Ed graduates Fall of 2019 class

From Staff Reports/Photos



The 2019 Fall Adult Education Graduation Day was held on Thursday, Dec. 5 in the Chapel on the Hill on the Goodman Campus. Marching graduates included: Kailey Bishop, Ethan Bodry, Vincekera Genous, Wyatt Horne, Kylee Minfield, Chloe Nelson, Roderick Robinson, Alexis Rodgers, Jarrett Taylor and Trakeria Williams.

Author and motivational speaker Jarvis Jones served as guest speaker. The Adult Basic Education classes are open to the public for those who have not completed high school or wish to

increase their functioning level to enter college, training or the job market. For more information about Adult Education programs at Holmes, contact Earline Russell-Smith at esmith@holmescc.edu or (662) 472.9105.

Attala Center announces spring 2020 courses

From Staff Reports/Photos



Cham Blain teaches blueprint reading and Sara Williams teaches industrial math. Ingalls aims to provide students with employment offers, contingent on successful completion of the course, as well as recommendations from Holmes staff based on class performance. Employment with Ingalls will include a number of perks and benefits, including a 401K, and opportunities for advancement within the company. Additionally, the company offers frequent attendance bonuses and a tuition-reimbursement program to allow employees to further their education while employed with Ingalls. To begin the program, a high school diploma/GED is not required, but preferred. To learn about Ingalls Shipbuilding, please visit ingalls.huntingtoningalls.com.

The HVAC (Heating, ventilation and air conditioning) course will run Jan. 14-Feb. 20. The six-week, 30-hour class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. The course, which cost \$150, is an instructional program that prepares individuals to work in engineering departments or private firms installing, maintaining and operating small or medium air conditioning, heating and refrigeration systems. Limited seating is available.

The six-week Brick Masonry course will meet from Feb. 25-April 2 on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. This program is also 30 hours, and costs \$40. Topics covered include: an introduction to materials/processes used in the masonry trade; safety concerns specific to the trade; basic techniques for mixing mortar and laying masonry units; descriptions

of the hand and power tools and equipment used; safe operation instructions for masonry saws/mortar mixing machines, and the processes used in placing masonry units, including layout and setup, spreading mortar, cutting brick and block, laying to the line, making corners, tooling joints, patching and cleanup.

The beginner quilting class, "Star Quilt," will be held on Thursdays from Jan. 9-30. The course costs \$40. Drew Townsend, a graduate of Musician's Institute of Hollywood, California, will teach the guitar lessons on Tuesdays from 7-8 p.m. beginning Jan. 7. Participants must be at least 12 years of age.

LeighAnn Norwood will teach the cookie decorating class on Tuesday, Jan. 14 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The class costs \$25 and is limited to 20 participants.

Holmes Fine Arts Chair and art instructor Jay Cheatham will teach a variety of art classes over the spring semester as well. He will teach the "Pottery Ceramic Bulldog" class on Tuesday, Jan. 21, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The bulldog participants create will be 10.5" x 7" and the workshop cost \$55. He will hold the "Mushroom Chimes" class on Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the cost of \$35. The painting class will be held on Tuesday, March 24, from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. and will cost \$25. Finally, the ceramics class will be held on Tuesday, April 14, from 5:30 -7:30 p.m., at the cost of \$30.

To learn more about the course offerings, contact Mandy Burrell at mburrell@holmescc.edu or (662) 290-0808.

The Holmes Community College Attala Center in Kosciusko is offering a variety of courses and a community enrichment class during the spring of 2020. Course offerings include: Ingalls/Ivey Shipfitting and Pipefitting Class, HVAC and Brick Masonry. The community enrichment courses are beginner quilting, guitar lessons, a cookie decorating class and a variety of art classes.

There will be two pipefitting and shipfitting classes offered:

The Ingalls/Ivey Pipefitting and Shipfitting (Day) Class will run from Jan. 13-April 30. This course will meet from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and costs \$250.

The Ingalls/Ivey Pipefitting and Shipfitting (Night) Class will begin on Jan. 14 and conclude on April 30. This 16-week course will meet on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and costs \$250.

Grenada Campus holds ADN Pinning Ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Grenada Campus ADN Fall Class of 2019. They are (front row, left to right) Heather Hollis, Kaylin Stevens, Shelby Starnes, Kristi Sliger, Shakinah Williams, Joseph Stroud, Tatyana Oliver, Mia Pogue, Rhonda Prado, Misty Branning, Laquita Harvey, Bethany Bryant, Victoria Fears, (back row, left to right) Reid Shuffield, Tanisha Hamilton, Elizabeth Anne Orr, Karli-Gail Pirtle, Samantha Cabaniss, Ashley Morris, Shelby Lipe, Morgan Collins, Carley Benton, Emily Hodge, Kristen Lutts, Jennifer Baker, Makinzee Rone, Taffi Bennett, Brooklyn Branning, Braden Harrison, Troy Armstrong, Alaina Thompson, Lorrie Neal, Denise Donald and Betty Rodgers.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Fall Class of 2019 on Dec. 5 in the Corey Forum on campus. Thirty-four graduated from the program.

Graduates included: Alaina Thompson, Denise Donald, Lorrie Neal, Kristen Lutts, Kristi Sliger, Samantha Cabaniss, Joseph Stroud, Tanisha Hamilton, Braden Harrison, Mia Pogue, Heather Hollis, Elizabeth Anne Orr, Rhonda Prado, Victoria W. Fears, Reid Shuffield, Shelby Lipe, Jennifer Baker, Shelby Starnes, Carley Benton, Tatyana Oliver, Shakinah Williams, Emily Hodge, Taffi Bennett, Ashley Morris, Morgan Collins, Bethany Bryant, Kaylin Stevens, Makinzee Rone, Misty Branning, Brooklyn Branning, Betty Rodgers, Troy Armstrong, Karli-Gail Pirtle and Laquita Harvey.

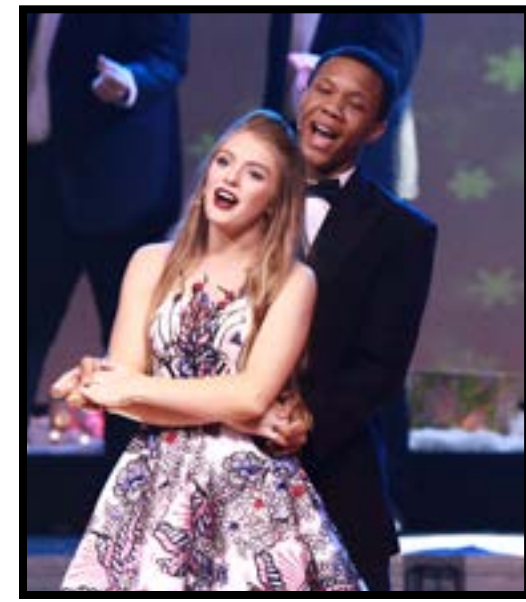
For more information about the Grenada Campus ADN program, contact contact Director of Health Science Programs Ginger Meriwether at gmeriwether@holmescc.edu or (662) 227-2316.

Holmes holds annual Carols of Christmas

From Staff Reports/Photos

The 2019 Carols of Christmas program was held on Thursday, Dec. 5 in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. The program featured the Holmes Concert Chorale, Coachmen and Holmes Connection!

Santa also made an appearance in the performance. The Connection! show choir and Coachmen singers are directed by Mike Yates and the Concert Chorale is directed by Benny Edwards.



Holmes ranked by RWM.org

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College was ranked No. 2 in the rankings for Best Vocational and Trade Schools in Mississippi for 2019. RWM.org's ranking of the top vocational schools in the state was generated using data from the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), as well as from the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard.

One of the main reasons Holmes Community College ranked so highly is that, out of 15 schools ranked across the state, Holmes is more affordable than most, with a lower cost of attendance when taking into account tuition and fees, books and supply costs, and a high amount of aid

that is received by students at the school. Holmes also has one of the widest selections of programs available for students interested in trade and vocational training at the certificate and associate degree level, with many distance education options for students to choose from.

According to senior managing editor at QuinStreet, Marcelle White, "At RWM.org, we know that real work does indeed matter, and can greatly benefit a student's standing in the workforce -- and in life -- once a training program is completed. Our goal is to connect students interested in trade and vocational programs to the schools that can help them. We aim to provide students interested in career tech-

nical education with everything they need in one place, whether it helps them learn what types of vocational careers are on the rise and pay well, or helps them to find a school by state or type of program."

RWM stands for "Real Work Matters," and the website RWM.org was created as a resource hub for students who are interested in vocational, trade or technical training after high school. To see the complete methodology and other ranking schools in the study, visit <https://www.rwm.org/states/mississippi-trade-schools/>.

For more information about Holmes' Career Technical programs, visit <https://www.holmescc.edu/departments/technical/programs.aspx>.

Santa visits the Ridgeland Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos

On Wednesday, Dec. 4, Santa came to visit students, faculty and staff on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus thanks to Student Activities Director Amanda Lindsey. Student Activities also provided hot cocoa and cookies for everyone and a chance for those who took a photo with Santa to enter for a "Exam Week Relief" goodie bag prize.



Pictured are mathematics faculty members stopping to pose with Santa. They are (front with Santa) Donna Ahlrich, (back row, left to right) Gee-Wei Lee, Stephanie Blue, Lisa Anglin and Jon Rost.



Pictured are some of Holmes' student leaders smiling with Santa. They are (front with Santa) Mary Grace Kelley, Deja Sloan, (back row, left to right) India Jones, Macy Gordy, Holly Yates and Landon Kinney.

Holmes defeats Coahoma, 49-16

From Staff Reports/Photos



Freshman quarterback **Kyren Batey** helps the Bulldogs put points on the scoreboard during the Homecoming game on Oct. 24.

The Holmes Bulldogs ended the regular season on Oct. 24 at home with a 49-16 win over the Coahoma Community College Tigers on Homecoming.

With the win, the Bulldogs finished the regular season play with a 4-5 record and 4-2 in the North Division. Holmes, Itawamba, Northwest and East Mississippi all ended the regular

season with identical 4-2 North Division records, but Holmes and Itawamba lost out on the tiebreaker to Northwest and East Mississippi for playoff spots.

Holmes came into the game leading the NJCAA in rushing and continued to rack up rushing yards today as they finished with 456 yards on the ground.

Coahoma started the scoring off with a rushing touchdown and two-point conversion to go up 8-0 with 9:39 left in the first quarter.

Holmes answered the touchdown minutes later when sophomore running back Dylan Kelly scored from 25 yards out. Easton Curry's extra point was good, and Coahoma led 8-7 with 7:23 left in the first.

Holmes answered again in the first quarter when freshman fullback Devontaye Bankston scored from eight yards out. Curry's extra point made it 14-8 Holmes with 3:11 left in the first.

The Tigers scored with 1:11 left in the second quarter on a rushing touchdown and two-point conversion to go up 16-14.

Holmes answered with 20 seconds left in the second quarter when freshman quarterback Kyren Batey connected with sophomore running back Martavius Dill on an 11-yard touchdown pass. Curry's extra point put Holmes back up 21-16. Holmes led the remainder of the game.

The Bulldogs got their first touchdown of the second half when Batey scored from nine yards out with 10:12

left in the third. Holmes led 28-16 after Curry's extra point.

Sophomore fullback Terry Bryant scored from nine yards out with 1:36 left in the third. Curry's extra point made it 35-16.

Bankston then picked up his second of two scores as he bulled his way in from 38 yards out. Curry's extra point was good, and Holmes led 42-16 with 12:35 left in the game.

Sophomore quarterback Tytus Heard got on the scoreboard with 5:34 left when he scored from a yard out. Curry's extra point ended all scoring at 49-16.

Batey finished with 103 yards on nine carries while Kelly had 101 yards on nine carries, Bryant 73 yards on 11 carries and Bankston 65 yards on six carries.

Defensively, sophomore linebacker Rason Carr led the Bulldogs with nine tackles. Devlin Kirklin, James Johnson and Tyler Taylor each had seven tackles. Charles Jefferson led the Bulldogs with two tackles for loss while Taylor and Jha'mauri Johnson each had 1.5 TFLs. Jefferson added 1.5 sacks.

Ellis signs with Mississippi State University

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is **Cariel Ellis** with her parents, **Robert and Rhonda Jacobs**.

Cariel Ellis of Madison, a freshman forward for the state and region champion Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs, signed on to play with Mississippi State University during a ceremony Dec. 10 on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus.

Ellis recently became the first Holmes women's soccer player to be named to the 2019 NJCAA Division I Women's Soccer All-America Team. She was named Second Team last week by the NJCAA. The Lady Bulldogs captured their first-ever MACJC State Championship and first-ever Region XXIII Championship during the 2019 season finishing 18-3 overall.

The Madison Central product dominated the MACJC this season. Of the 21 matches played, she scored multiple goals in 16 of those. For the season, Ellis finished third in the NJCAA with 48 goals including five game winners. She was 20th in assists in the NJCAA with 15 and was third in points with 111 and third in shots with 155.

Ellis decided between Mississippi State and Tennessee. "After a long thought process, I've decided to go

with Mississippi State," Ellis said she unzipped her Holmes hoodie revealing an MSU t-shirt.

"I picked Mississippi State because that's what was in my heart, and I connected more to the coaches and the team," she said. "State was always my dream school. First off, it wouldn't be possible without my teammates, my family and the whole support system I had here. It basically took a lot of support and confidence."

She said her confidence level is something she's had to work on over the years. "To be honest, I always doubted myself," Ellis said. "I had to overcome that with the help of my parents and my coaches telling me stuff. I overcame that and know I could play in the SEC. I set a goal and prayed about it so that's what I did."

Ellis said she is thankful for her year at Holmes. "I wanted to develop more as a player and build my confidence level," Ellis said. "Wesley told me I would come in and kill it, and I believed he could help me get to the next level and he did just that. He's such a great coach. I knew he would definitely

help me."

She added that she is very pleased with the success Holmes had this season. "I am surprised, but I knew coming in with the team we had and the chemistry we had, we would make it far."

"We are very happy for you, but we are sad to lose you," said Holmes Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "We know you are going where you are going to be happy, where you are going to excel and we knew all along the potential you had to get to this level. We can't wait to watch you kill it."

Noble said when he first saw Ellis, he knew she was a special player. "When I first saw Cariel she had things you can't teach," Noble said. "We knew we wanted to get her. I thought she was very under-recruited for how good she could be and how good she was."

"I wanted her to be a killer," he said. "I wanted her to take over games. That's where we really took her game to another level. She had all the gifts and all the training. She knew what she could do on the field so we had to help her get it out."

Noble said seeing Ellis sign with a Division I school is huge for Ellis and the women's soccer program.

"She had numerous offers," he explained. "The way she handled herself and those offers was very professional and mature for her age. I told her to go where she'd be happy and excel. She chose MSU, and we are happy about that - plus I get to go watch her now."

"It's great for the program. It's another step forward. For us to be able to put one in the SEC, especially to a state school with the kind of offer that she's getting, is very good and opens up a lot of doors. It shows what we can do when players come here and are under-recruited as Cariel was."

Noble said Holmes' success came from the fact the team was very close-knit. "Everybody sees the success we

had on the field, but a lot of it comes from who they are as people," he said. "This has been the tightest knit group that we've ever had. They get along. They are truly a family. Everybody has done their part. They've done a good job handling everything they've accomplished."

Head Soccer Coach Matt Convertino also expressed his excitement over Ellis' signing and the impact it will have. "Cariel's signing is a fantastic milestone for our program, but also, on a larger picture, it is indicative of the great things that are going on here at Holmes within our women's soccer program," Head Soccer Coach Matt Convertino said. "Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble does a fantastic job not only recruiting some of the top talent in the area, but also with the way he handles the players on a daily basis and develops them and helps get them to the next level. We're really excited for this day."

Mississippi State is coming off of one of its most successful seasons in program history. A year after making their first NCAA Tournament appearance, the Bulldogs reached the SEC Tournament for the first time in 15 years finishing with a record of 8-8-3 overall.

Head Coach James Armstrong led State to program records in goals, assists and points in SEC play while posting the third-best winning percentage in conference play in school history.

MSU added eight players on National Signing Day on Nov. 13 with more players expected to be named in the coming days.

"We are thrilled to add these players to our Mississippi State soccer family," Armstrong said. "This 2020 class ticks all of the boxes in terms of character and quality. All of them will complement our current group perfectly in every aspect and we cannot wait to welcome them on campus soon."

Bell, Jacobs and King sign with Belhaven University

From Staff Reports/Photos



(left) Pictured are (left to right) **Cameron Bell**, **Brandon King** and **Brady Jacobs** signing with Belhaven University on Wednesday, Dec. 11, in the library on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus.

Three Holmes Community College men's soccer players, Cameron Bell, Brady Jacobs and Brandon King, signed with Belhaven University on Dec. 11 during a ceremony in the Ridgeland Campus library. Bell is a defender for the Bulldogs, Jacobs is a midfielder and King is a defender. Bell, son of Pamela Cloninger, is from Pearl. An education major, he aspires to become a teacher and a coach. Bell says the best thing about playing at Holmes was playing alongside his best friends.

"Cameron Bell was if not the most improved player, certainly one of the most improved players on the team this year," Men's Associate Head Coach Ousmane Coulibaly said. "His work ethic was second to none reason why he made such a tremendous improvement throughout the season."

Jacobs, son of Merike and Brett Jacobs, hails from Cantonment, Florida. A sophomore exercise science/kinesiology

major, he would like to become a soccer coach one day. "Brady Jacobs was one of the most talented players we have had in the soccer program," Coulibaly said. "His ability on the ball, his vision and soccer IQ separated him from his peers."

King, son of Shelley and Geoff King, is from Southaven. He is studying sports science, and plans to play his next two years at Belhaven. King said his favorite memory from Holmes was hanging out with the guys, especially on the away game trips. "Brandon King was one of our team captains this year," Coulibaly said. "His leadership which could not be ignored on and off the field and his talent earned him this opportunity to transition to a four-year school."

For more information about the Holmes men's soccer program, contact Men's Associate Head Coach Ousmane Coulibaly at ocoulibaly@holmescc.edu.

Football hosts postseason banquet in Massey Auditorium

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Bulldog football team held their postseason banquet Dec. 9 in the Massey Auditorium on the Goodman Campus.

Awards included: First Team All-MACJC, Tovell Henderson, Jr. and Tavian Johnson; Second Team All-MACJC, Tyler Taylor, Dylan Kelly, Easton Curry and Caleb Ducking; Easton Curry, MACJC Special Teams Player of the Week and NJCAA Special Teams Player of the Week one week during the season; and Kyren Batey, MACJC Offensive Player of the

Week one week during the season.

Team awards included: Tavian Johnson, Ras Branch Award; Terry Bryant, Milton Lee Olive Courage and Character Award; and Tovell Henderson, Jr., Colonel Bradley MacNealy Leadership Award.

Co-Offensive Coordinators Raymond Gross and Brad Bustle were recognized by Head Coach Jeff Koonz on their No. 1 NJCAA ranking in rushing yards per game (312.4) and total rushing yards (2812).



Pictured is Col. Bradley MacNealy Award winner **Tovell Henderson, Jr.** with **Head Coach Jeff Koonz**.



Pictured is MACJC Offensive Player of the Week **Kyren Batey**.



Pictured are the First Team All-MACJC recipients with (left) Head Coach **Jeff Koonz**. They are (left to right) **Tovell Henderson Jr.** and **Tavian Johnson**.



Pictured are the Second Team All-MACJC recipients. They are (left to right) **Tyler Taylor**, **Caleb Ducking**, **Easton Curry** and **Dylan Kelly**.



Pictured is MACJC Special Teams Player of the Week **Easton Curry**.



The Growl Staff



Cameron Gladney

Hometown: Clinton

Campus: Ridgeland

Major: Radiology

Gladney is a soccer player at Holmes on the Ridgeland Campus. She is from the small town of Clinton where she has lived and attended Clinton Public Schools throughout her life. Her hobbies include: playing soccer, hanging with friends, meditating and working as soccer referee for young children. After Holmes, she will continue her studies and continue her career at a four-year college.



Christopher Jackson

Hometown: Madison

Campus: Ridgeland

Major: Buisness

Jackson has played basketball throughout high school at Madison Central. Chris works with children at Christ Life Highlands where he also attends church. His first year at Holmes he wasn't very involved but this year he plans to get involved. Right now Jackson is undecided as to what college he will attend after Holmes, but he will continue his studies in business. Other things he enjoys in his free time are working out, traveling, going to movies and shopping.



Latoria Miles

Hometown: Canton

Campus: Ridgeland

Major: Sociology/social work

It was in her hometown of Canton that Miles found a love for supporting her community. Her plans after graduating from Holmes are to further her studies at Jackson State University and receive her bachelor's degree in social work with a minor in counseling. In 2017, she organized a 5K walk in honor of her brother. Miles is determined to start a nonprofit organization in the honor of her brother to help children and young adults that are struggling with social problems.



Brooke Parrett

Hometown: Madison

Campus: Ridgeland

Major: Pre-Radiologic Sciences

Parrett is planning on finishing her time at HCC this semester. Afterwards, she will enroll in the radiology program at Hinds Community College. She spends most of her time working part-time at Primos Café in Madison and focusing on schoolwork. Her long-term goals include starting a career in ultrasound technology and moving out of state.



Talor Pounds

Hometown: Grenada

Campus: Grenada

Major: Communications

Pounds' future plans are to transfer to Mississippi College and study Christian Studies to pursue a career in Christian Ministry. His hobbies include playing guitar, leading worship and riding horses. Pounds has also spent the last three years as a stocker at the Grocery Basket in Grenada.



Xavier Wansley

Hometown: Magnolia

Campus: Goodman

Major: Journalism

Wansley is a part of the Holmes baseball team. He spent his high school career helping his community when he wasn't playing baseball. Wansley attended Terry High School and was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame for the Class of 2019. He plans to continue his athletic career after Holmes and pursue a degree in journalism.

Are you interested in having your work published? Do you love to take photos? Have a passion for writing? We need you! We would love to have you join our staff by signing up for Coll Publications-Growl&Grid for the Spring of 2020. For more information, contact Mary Margaret Busby at: mbusby@holmescc.edu.