



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

# THE GROWL

Volume 87  
Number 10

March 6, 2020

## Hall presents lecture as Humanities Teacher of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



J.R. Hall presents his humanities “experience” on Feb. 18.

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, J.R. Hall, a history, philosophy and religion instructor on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus, presented his scholarly presentation, “The History and Phenomena of John Newton’s Amazing Grace with American Christianity and Beyond.” Hall, who was selected as the 2019-2020 Holmes Humanities Teacher of the Year, presented the lecture (or “experience,” as he called it) in the D. P. “Pat” McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus with faculty, staff, students, alumni, family and friends in attendance. Hall’s presentation explored the history and phenomena of “Amazing Grace,” and he even included musical accompaniment - bag pipes, guitar, piano and singing - to

better show the rich history behind the famous hymn. Mike McCollum with the City of Ridgeland opened up the presentation with the bagpipe rendition of “Amazing Grace,” even sporting full Scottish attire in his kilt.

Following the bagpipes, History and Political Science Instructor Kay Kelly introduced Hall and he began his initial introduction to how “Amazing Grace” has been used as a hook for many a movie advertisement/soundtrack. After a quick look at how the hymn began in the 18th Century with John Newton, English instructor Steve Deaton provided guitar accompaniment as Hall sang a rendition of

*Humanities, continued on Page 6*

## Coach Koonz announces retirement after 15 years at Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Head Football Coach Jeff Koonz announced recently that the 2019 season was his last at the helm of the program as he plans to retire at the end of the school year.

Koonz has worked 15 years at Holmes Community College, serving the last nine as head coach. He gleamed with pride when talking about his time at Holmes which saw the Bulldogs become a national powerhouse on the offensive side of the ball, especially in the running game. The

(left) Pictured is Head Football Coach Jeff Koonz.

Bulldogs led the MACJC in rushing the last six seasons and have finished the season as the NJCAA’s No. 1 rushing offense twice in the last three seasons.

Koonz, a two-time MACJC Coach of the Year (2012 and 2016) and MAC Coach of the Year (2012 and 2016), holds a Bachelor of Science from SUNY-New Paltz and a Master of Science from Georgia Southern University. Prior to getting into college football coaching, he played football at SUNY-Plattsburgh and returned to his alma mater, Wallkill High School, to become the head football coach. He

at SUNY-Plattsburgh and returned to his alma mater, Wallkill High School, to become the head football coach. He came to Holmes as head coach from Georgia Military College, where he served as the special teams strength and conditioning and defensive line coach.

Prior to coming back to Holmes, Koonz coached the defensive line at Georgia Southern University for three seasons and served as defensive coordinator and assistant head coach at Presbyterian College. Before Presbyterian College, Koonz served as

*(Koonz, Continued on Page 6)*

## Roberts crowned 2020 Most Beautiful

From Staff Reports/Photos



Alli Elizabeth Roberts of Grenada was crowned Most Beautiful during the 2020 Beauty Review pageant held Feb. 25 in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. She was crowned by 2019 Most Beautiful Lily Kate Saxton of Benton. Roberts was named Most Photogenic as well.

The daughter of Randy Roberts and John and Kim Mc-



Pictured are the Top 10 for Holmes Beauty Review 2020. They are (front, left to right) Lauren Lusk and Tiara LeFlore; (middle, left to right) Victoria Still, Ashlyn Nix, Most Beautiful Alli Roberts, Emily Morris, Elise Diffey; (back, left to right) Savannah Richardson, Ivey Devine and Elizabeth Orr.

Pictured is 2019 Most Beautiful Lily Kate Saxton, crowning 2020 Most Beautiful Alli Roberts.

*Beauty Review, continued on Page 7*

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- CAMPUS HAPPENINGS DISTRICT-WIDE
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FOR 2020 WHO'S  
WHO/HOF  
PHOTOS!

## Grammy's becomes most disappointing night in music

By Elisabeth Bailey  
Staff Reporter



The Grammys took place on Sunday night, Jan. 26, and a lot of people were shocked at the outcome. Everyone was still mourning the passing of Kobe Bryant, who was

a light and inspiration to so many people. The Grammys went on but not without a tribute to him and a spotlight on his jersey at the back of his arena. Many people were glad to see this. However, the actual awards given out confused many people. Many albums that were snubbed over the years are being mentioned again all over (capitalize) Twitter such as: Red, lemonade, ANTI, and melodrama. These past loses were brought up due to one artist sweeping the award show and winning every major category.

The four major categories, which include: Song of the Year, Best New Artist, Album of the Year and Record of the Year were all awarded to Billie Eilish who has undoubtedly changed music with only one full-length album. But in the same category was Ariana Grande's "thank u, next" and wheth-

er one loves or hates her music it is hard to ignore the worldwide success that this album had. Breaking records only The Beatles held by having the top three spots on Billboard's Hot 100 consecutively.

While Billie Eilish's album was a massive success, especially for a debut album, many felt she deserved her other wins of the night but not Album of the Year. Even when accepting Album of the Year Billie Eilish said, "Can I just say, I really think Ariana deserves this award."

This was not the only complaint of Sunday's Grammys but it was the most notable for most. While a lot of people were confused about Ariana Grande not receiving Album of the Year for her most successful album to date, most were confused at her losing all five of her nominations. The Grammys used Ariana's music in a lot of their commercials and made her out to be the highlight of the night, only to give all of her nominations to someone else. With a moment in music like "thank u, next," it was hard to watch the awards go to anyone else because whether one loves the album, hates the album or has never fully listened to the album they've most likely heard the lead sin-



Billie Eilish

Ariana Grande

gle or at least the name. If they haven't heard of the album they watched the inspiration for it unfold in the media.

No one wants to discredit the artist who won, especially Billie Eilish who is now the youngest person to receive Album of the Year in history, dethroning Taylor Swift for "Fearless" in 2010. It is understandable to

be confused about the win, but not many were surprised as over the years many have believed the Grammys to be biased and problematic. With their lowest rating in history, next year's Grammy's might be less respected than this years.

## What it means to wear the crown

By Tiara LeFlore  
Staff Reporter



Finally, we get insight on how it feels and what it means to wear the crown! Miss Lily Kate Saxton, our HCC Homecoming Queen and Miss HCC Overall Queen,

holds two more titles: Miss Catfish and Miss Yazoo. Saxton's first pageant started at the Yazoo County Fair, when at the age of 6 years old she held the title Miss Yazoo County Fair. From there, she made progression and found a passion.

Her perseverance and love for the stage are why she holds many titles today.

"I feel very honored to hold so many titles," Saxton said. "Since being awarded, I hold myself to a new standard. I know that there are a lot of people looking up to the crown and that helps keep me accountable for my actions. I like to push myself and try to teach new things. Each pageant is a new challenge and opportunity to better myself. When preparing for each

pageant, I become the best version of myself. You strive for excellence on stage and in interview as a competitor. I think that's a great lesson we can take into life as well. Strive to do your best in everything you do!"

But there's more to this gal than crowns! Saxton grew up in Benton with her mother, dad and brother. She looks up to her mom Phyllis Saxton whose is kind, generous, selfless and loving.

"She's always there, she's someone I can count on, just the best person in the world," Saxton said.

Saxton is in SGA, was a cheerleader in high school, very active in church, track, softball, Holmes Connection, (delete comma) and did many other things. Saxton says "being in a group with teammates builds your character and helps you with social skills."

How beautiful it is to see young women such as Saxton strive and prosper for something they want in life. Saxton has shown us the true definition of truly being a queen. Girls the secret is ...you have to go for it!



Lily Kate Saxton



# 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](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu).

## Dreams do come true

By Angel Sawyer  
Staff Reporter



The reason Katesia Sawyer wanted to start her own preschool, which is Madison Academy Pre-school, because she had a passion for teaching kids. She did not realize

her intuitions and ideas together. Then she prayed about the idea of having her own school. She said God spoke to her, and was willing to help her to pursue her dream.

The first few months she had to create a business plan. Then she said the hard part was finding a building. Finally, she had a building in September 2019. The lady who was going to give her the building was afraid of dealing with childcare. Sawyer was a little discouraged by the bad news, but then she found another building the next month. She did not even see it coming that soon. The only thing she was worried about was the State Health Department

looking at her building, and making sure she was running her business accordingly.

Then the health department came, and there was a lot of fixing the new building she had found. The health department had to come back to look and see if everything was fixed. She said the process was long, but it was all worth it. Next she had to take a test to get her certification. The process was a long one, but she was happy she accomplished every obstacle that came her way. Today, Sawyer is thriving as the owner of Madison Academy Preschool which has 10 students and is still going great on expanding.



that she was gifted with having the ability to teach kids. This was a significant dream of hers she wanted to make into reality. Sawyer had many people come up to her giving her compliments on how she is so good with kids. One day she had put all of

## The scary truth: A viral outbreak

By Talor Pounds  
Staff Reporter



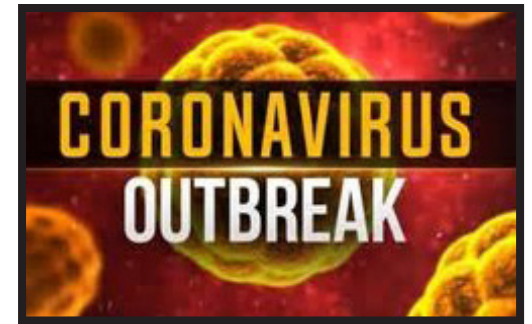
As many have already heard, the worldwide virus outbreak called the coronavirus has taken many lives and infected many others. The

death toll has already surpassed 1,000 in mainland China.

According to CNN, 108 people in mainland China died on Monday, Feb. 10, making it the biggest single-day death toll so far.

On Monday, Feb. 10, the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion (CDC) has confirmed the 13th case of the coronavirus in the United States. CDC is currently conducting investigation on this patient to learn of any contacts that the virus may have high risk exposure to.



## How to study for exams

By Angel Sawyer  
Staff Reporter



The first thing you want to do is to know ahead of time when your exams are. Then, study for them a week before taking them. Make

sure to look over notes, use quizlet, or even friends can help you study too. Be aware of what all is going to be on the exam, and focus on the most important things that are going to be on the test.

Make sure you pack everything you need for the test the night before, and also make sure you get 8 hours of

sleep or more. It's a good idea to have a nice breakfast before taking a test, as well. Then make sure to leave early to arrive to test on time.

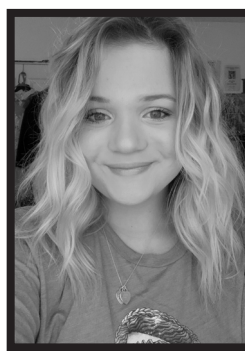
Finally, just clear your mind and breathe. You're going to do great!

Photo by Annie Spratt from Unsplash



## The way to win an Oscar

By Elisabeth Bailey  
Staff Reporter



Over the weekend, the Academy held the biggest night for films, and while most people were pleased with the winner of Best Picture and other major categories

a few people felt some directors were snubbed a nomination. Mainly, Greta Gerwig, Director of Little Women. Little Women was nominated for Best Picture. The five nominations for Best Director went to five out of the nine films nominated for Best Picture. While the winner of Best Director was well deserved, many were disappointed to see Gerwig have no nomination at all, or any woman having a nomination this year.

It is important to note that in 2018

Gerwig broke an eight-year streak where no woman had been nominated for Best Director, so when this year's nominees were announced people were disappointed to see no women nominated once again. The step the Academy had taken forward was erased with their larger step back. While the Academy does include more diversity than in previous years it is disheartening to watch such admired work go unnoticed.

A male member of the Academy was quoted by the Hollywood Reporter saying, "I think Greta Gerwig is really great, but I shouldn't need a scorecard to keep track of a movies timeline." This would be fine reasoning, however it is hard to believe the Academy would roll out Gerwig for Best Director but go on to nominate her movie for Best Picture when at the center of every great film is its director. Without

the director the movie would fall apart.

Whatever the real reason the Academy does not nominate women for years at a time, many recognize Gerwig and other women directors for their impact on film. While Gerwig is the figurehead of women being snubbed in a major category by the Academy, it is known to happen every year to many directors. This does not mean past winners were not deserving of their win, it is simply a reoccurring thing that has many raise an eyebrow. Hopefully, in the future the real way to win an Oscar is based wholly on talent.

(right) Pictured is Greta Gerwig making her red carpet appearance at the 2020 Oscars in Los Angeles on Feb. 9.

Photo from popsugar.com



## Valentine's Day Tips

By Tiara LeFlore  
Staff Reporter



It's finally the time of year for heartbreaks, heart aches and romance! Valentine's Day is celebrated all over the world with various cultures and religions.

Valentine's Day can be celebrated with your family, lover, best friend, ex or yourselves. So you want to find the perfect gift for that perfect someone, but that could be difficult. It's not your anniversary or birthday and Christmas was just here! What shall you get them?

Well here's a few steps on what not to do and what to do for the people you love.

### What not to do:

**1. Procrastinate-** procrastination can lead you to get them something like a pair of underwear, and no one wants a last minute gift. Thoughtful gifts and ones that come from the heart are always number one!

**2. Don't Cross The Line-** If you're

in a relationship and your partner says that they don't want anything, listen to them it could be a sign.

**3. Pay Attention-** Don't go out of your way picking up great gifts for someone who turns down your Valentine's Day gift; getting friend zoned is just humiliating!

**4. Don't Give In-** Just because you're lonely don't go looking for a fresh relationship and expect an exceptional gift or if you're lonely don't give in to texting an ex, they're an ex for a reason!

**5. Don't Beat Yourself Up-** Don't get in a gloomy mood on Valentine's Day just because you're single! Someone could be confessing their love and your negativity can reach them from afar. Be happy for everyone and their happiness. Be humble and content.

Now that we know what not to do, let's focus on the positive!

### What to do:

**1. Beneficial Gifts-** Be thoughtful



about your gifts; if someone is allergic to chocolate covered strawberries or can't use scented lotions, don't give them something that they can't benefit from!

**2. Propose-** If you've been carrying that ring around waiting on the perfect moment, what other day is better than the day of love! Express it to your loved one and get engaged.

**3. Be Cautious-** If you just started dating someone, the last thing you want to get them is a ring or something significant that confesses your love for them. That's just scary, repelling and overwhelming. Get something sweet but simple but also thoughtful. See, it is not that complicated!

**4. Be Creative-** Some people love gifts that come from the heart. Poems, art and DIY projects are perfect opportunities for you to show that money can't buy love. Also it shows how much you know about your partner.

**5. Be You-** If you're single enjoy yourself! Being single means having more money for yourself! Finally, you now know what not to do, and what to do on Valentine's Day to make it a perfect day for you and or your loved ones! Let's enjoy and capture our precious moments for either life lessons or to show the grandkids.

"Love grows more tremendously full, Swift, poignant, as the years to multiply." -Zane Grey

## Beauty Within

By Angel Sawyer  
Staff Reporter



When a girl wears makeup, it is made for her to enhance her beauty. Everything has beauty in it really. Beauty can be expressed in everything we see and how we look at

things. Everyone has that greater part in them or quality that makes them

standout even more. When viewing beauty we have mental steps that our brain grasps and go through to view it as beauty.

In our society today, there are a lot of people who decide to get plastic surgery to look like Kim K. or Nicki Minaj. Also, women have a lot of insecurities and may feel a little down about how they look. Some of us do not even have that many flaws. Sometimes women tend to have friends

of similar attractiveness. Sometimes people combine their self-worth on how they look and judge themselves. Beauty has power that stands behind it as well.

Beauty is both physical and metaphysical. It can be a person's heart attractiveness to a beautiful face. It can be kindness and compassion. Also, it can be vulnerable and brokenness to beautiful souls as well. Everyone should have the ability to withhold

judgement or make people feel better about themselves. Beauty is not only skin deep. It is actually really far from it and inner beauty is what makes you who you are. The wonderful aspects are kindness and selflessness within a person.

Everyone has their own style and preference of certain people. Do not let anyone tell you any different about the beauty that is created within you.

## Benefits of Zumba

By Tiara LeFlore  
Staff Reporter



Got 14 hours and need a one hour credit, but want an easy class that helps you with graduation? Try Zumba with Coach Clay! It is a class full of energy and exotic

dancing. Although people think that the class is only for females, most of the exercises are meant for both. Learning new styles of dancing can help you with toning your muscles in your entire body. Doing Zumba also can improve your flexibility, balance and posture. If you're self-conscious dancing with strangers, Zumba's frolic-like atmosphere could help you to be more open, loosen up and obtain more confidence.

According to Piedmont's Healthcare, Zumba targets a lot of different muscle groups at once for total body toning.

Boost your heart health. You not only get aerobic benefits (it really gets your heart rate up), you also get anaerobic benefits - the kind that help you maintain a good cardiovascular respiratory system. It can help you de-stress.

Latin dances are the basic dance styles, but movements from hip-hop, belly dancing and reggaeton are also in Zumba classes. Imagine doing a 30 minute workout dancing and benefiting from it just the same as exercising on a machine. Because dancing burns calories so fast, it can contribute to you losing a tremendous amount of weight in a month.

So what are you waiting for? Zumba helps you release endorphins, which triggers positive vibes throughout your entire body. Be happy and positive with your choice of a great workout in your schedule today!



## Tornadoes tear through Nashville

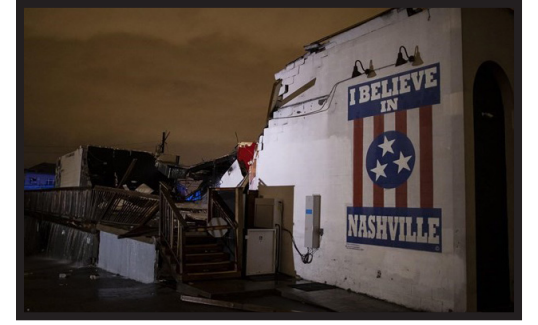
By Talor Pounds  
Staff Reporter



Early Tuesday morning, March 3, a tornado struck Nashville and other parts of central Tennessee. This destruction killed nine people across

four different counties and injured many more. Nearly 50,000 homes and businesses went without power. Nashville Mayor John Cooper said to NBC News that it was a “massive act of nature,” and that “Last night was a reminder about how fragile life is.” At least 45 build-

ings collapsed in Nashville and many more left with damage in the downtown area. “Emergency responders are working to ensure persons can get out and secure the areas,” police said.



## Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Kobe and Gianna Bryant

By Kaitlyn Anderson  
Staff Reporter



On Feb. 24, the world said their goodbyes to the basketball legend Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Bryant, also known as “GiGi.” Kobe and Gianna tragically

passed away, along with seven others, while traveling in a helicopter to a basketball tournament that Gianna and her team were participating in. A team that Kobe Bryant had begun coaching this team. There was a private funeral for just family and close friends, so a memorial was made for his family, friends and fans to be able to come together and celebrate the life of Kobe and Gianna Bryant. The memorial was held at the Staple Center, home of the Lakers, which was the team he had spent his career on up until retirement in 2016.

The date of the memorial was a tribute to Kobe and Gianna, 24 representing Kobe’s jersey number and 2 standing for the month of February. It also represented Gianna’s jersey number. Over 20,000 people filled the arena to pay honor and respect to Kobe and Gianna Bryant. The proceeds from the tickets went to the Mamba and Mambacita Sports Foundation. Kobe earning the nickname “The Black Mamba,” and was planning on giving Gianna the nickname Mambacita and having it copyrighted. Therefore, the foundation was changed from The Mamba Sports Foundation to Mamba and Mambacita Sports Foundation.

The memorial opened with Beyoncé singing one of her hit songs “XO,” which was said to be Kobe’s favorite song of hers. She ended her tribute by singing another one of her hits, “Halo,” the perfect song for a sad occasion.



Photo from CBS Sports.

Alicia Keys performed a classical piece on the piano that Kobe was learning and loved. Christina Aguilera also performed the song “Ave Maria.” With these great performances also came some great speeches about Kobe and Giana. Michael Jordan, Shaquille O’Neal and Diana Taurasi also shared their memories and thoughts on Kobe and Gianna Bryant. Vanessa Bryant, the wife of Kobe and mother of Gi-

anna, went into a beautiful detailed speech on her memories and thoughts on both Gianna and Kobe. Vanessa and Kobe share four kids together with Gianna being the second oldest. It was a wonderful memorial; a sweet and classy send off.

Did you get a chance to watch the memorial? What are your thoughts on the memorial?

## The Importance of Voting

By Elisabeth Bailey  
Staff Reporter



On March 3, multiple states polls were opened for voting for the primaries. This means that the people in certain states are voting for delegates for each party that

can go on to possibly be in the presidential election. It’s the first step to a new term of presidency. On this specific Tuesday, 10 different states were at the polls. In a time when everyone has

a loud political opinion, voting is the best way for citizens to try and participate in changes they want to make. Lately people voice their negative and positive thoughts on America’s current state, however recently the complaints do seem to outweigh the praise towards the White House. Voting gives everyone a chance to take action, to take a step towards what they believe. Nine times out of ten, however, most people claim to not have voted. Everyone wants to be political until it’s time to get up and vote.

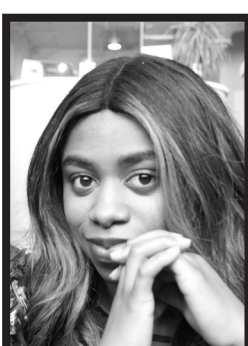
In recent years, younger voters

have been more inclined to vote than years previous. Some vote because an artist encourages them to use their voice. Some simply hope for a better country. Whatever the reason, voting is a right in America that should be exercised, if only to leave your house for a little while that day. Voting is something that includes citizens to be included in the political process.



## Disaster in Nashville: How you can help

By Kaitlyn Anderson  
Staff Reporter



On March 3, two tornados tore through the city of Nashville, Tennessee. The twisters brought down more than 140 buildings. The Putnam County mayor

stated, “It hit so fast, a lot of folks didn’t have time to take shelter. Many of these folks were sleeping.” No one could see the tornado coming. The tornado not only tore down buildings, but it also buried people under piles of wreckage and rubble. It is reported that one twister destroyed more than three dozen buildings, homes and businesses across a 10-mile stretch of Nashville including parts of the downtown area. The other destroyed more than 100 structures along a 2-mile path of Putnam County. The death toll has slowly been rising; it was reported earlier that at least 19 victims were found dead from the tornado, but the death number has gone up. Although stated to be 25, it has been confirmed that it is 24, for one of the deaths was not caused by

the tornado. There are currently more people who are still missing and have not been confirmed. The tornado hit early Tuesday morning after midnight. There are several groups that are already helping to rebuild their community and help find the missing people in this tragedy.

If you would like to help in anyway, there are several things that you can do. You can volunteer with several organizations who have been reaching out to help the state of Tennessee. You can register to volunteer with Hands on Nashville; over 5,000 people have

already signed up. You can also volunteer with an organization by the name of Samaritan’s Purse, which is in Boone, North Carolina. There are other ways you could also help. You could give blood, which will be sent to the affected areas of Tennessee. You could also donate money to The Salvation Army, The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee’s Emergency Response Fund or you could also donate the American Red Cross. You can give \$10 by texting to 90999 REDCROS, or you can donate online.

## Humanities (continued from Front Page)

“Amazing Grace” to the tune many know from the song “House of the Rising Sun.” Former Holmes librarian, Blair Booker, now a librarian at Mississippi State University, provided accompaniment on the keyboard as Hall performed two other renditions of “Amazing Grace,” as well. He even ended his presentation by asking all in attendance to join him in singing the well-known hymn. A reception followed in the lobby.

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 childhood 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.



Shannon Warnock, who serves as community leader for the Mississippi Humanities Council, congratulates J.R. Hall on a successful presentation.

## Koonz (continued from Front Page)

came to Holmes as head coach from Georgia Military College, where he served as the special teams strength and conditioning and defensive line coach.

Prior to coming back to Holmes, Koonz coached the defensive line at Georgia Southern University for three seasons and served as defensive coordinator and assistant head coach at Presbyterian College. Before Presbyterian College, Koonz served as defensive line coach for one season and defensive coordinator under Coach Robert Pool and Coach Hugh Shurden. The 1996 squad won the North Division Championship.

He said changing offenses was an easy choice for the Bulldogs.

“It gave us a chance,” Koonz said. “That’s been a part of my personal football history going all the way back to my high school. We were one of the worst high school teams, and my coach came in and put in the wishbone, and we immediately, in one year, won the league championship. Something we hadn’t done in years. It worked there. I had a chance to work at Georgia Southern and saw what it did there. It’s been a recurring theme in my career in how the option has helped our programs.

“When you have 14 teams (in Mississippi) basically running the same thing, you really get diluted in your recruiting,” Koonz said of the switch from the spread to flexbone attack. “The thing that it has brought to us is we are recruiting a different kid at offensive line and skill positions. Now we can get the best and not the leftovers.”

Having the right coaches during the transition was the most important thing during the switch. Southwest Head Coach Tim Stowers served as the offensive coordinator at Holmes prior to moving to Southwest, and Stowers is known for his flexbone prowess. The Bulldogs also brought in current Holmes Co-Offensive Coordinator Raymond Gross, who played for Stowers at Georgia Southern, to help run the offense over the past six seasons.

“Having the opportunity to hire the right coaches, guys who knew how to run it and guys I knew I could get here was the key,” Koonz said. “You don’t want to run it just to run it. You run it if you have guys who know how to run

it. I’ll be honest with you, I don’t know how to run it. I hired guys who did. That’s probably what I do best is hire good coaches.”

The 2016 historical year saw the Bulldogs go 7-3 and winning their first NJCAA-sanctioned bowl game, the Graphic Edge Bowl in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Holmes finished the season as the No. 7 ranked team in the country.

“When we first came in here we weren’t one of the better programs,” Koonz said. “I think we’ve gotten it to a point we can compete with anybody, not only in our league, but nationally with the highlight of winning the bowl game.”

This past season, the Bulldogs finished in a four-way tie for first place in the North Division with wins over Northwest and East Mississippi. Holmes missed out on the playoffs due to a MACJC tiebreaker rule.

“Is the glass half empty or half full?” Koonz said. “We had our opportunities. As far as retiring, the nice thing is that sometimes change is good. If we can find the right guy, and I have confidence they will, maybe they can take it to the level where they can consistently win in the North.

“We can beat anybody on any given day,” he said. “That’s been a major accomplishment. I am very disappointed in my nine years that we never have been able to win our division. Maybe the change will catapult to where they can take it to next level. I hope I can help find the right person to take it to the next level. It should be a more attractive job. You can definitely win here. That’s what we are looking at.”

“It’s been a great nine seasons,” Koonz said. “I’m very proud of what we’ve accomplished. The thing I’ll miss most are the players and the people that really worked hard to help us accomplish what our mission was. That’s why you do what you do. You are really helping a kid in a time in their life with a lot of needs and they are trying to get back on the right track. That’s been a lot of fun. We have lots of success getting players to four-year schools and helping them as people.”

Coach Koonz’s Bulldogs had 40 players participating at four-year universities this season. This is the largest

number in school history. Since implementing the program, Holmes has produced 30 players that have played in the NFL during the last 32 years.

Koonz said he was proud to have been on the coaching staff when Pro Football Hall of Famer and NFL Top 100 player Walter Jones played for the Bulldogs.

“I will say that he is the best football player that I’ve ever seen play at Holmes Community College,” Koonz said. “We’ve had a lot of great ones, but heck he is in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Some say he’s the greatest O-lineman who ever played the game.”

Other players mentioned included Alvin McKinley, Chris Avery, Josiah Coatney and Javor Mills who suited up for the Bulldogs. All but Coatney also played in the NFL, but Coatney, after graduating from Ole Miss this year, is training for the upcoming 2020 NFL draft.

“Helping them develop as players is good, but those relationships is what I’ll remember the most,” said Koonz. “I’m not equating the success of them making it to the NFL, that’s a gift from God that enabled them to get there. The whole body of work is what I’m most proud of. How many players we helped become better husbands, fathers and productive workers in society is what it’s all about. We helped them get an education. It’s not just them making it to the pros. It’s the journey that got us there.”

Coach Koonz put together an outstanding coaching staff, all of which have Division I coaching experience. Coach Koonz’s staff during the 2019 season had been a part of nine NCAA National Championships and 32 bowl victories.

“We had great camaraderie,” he said. “They were all hard workers and were all pulling for the same goal. We have had some tremendous coaches here. That’s one of the negatives. When you hire really good coaches they probably don’t stay around long just because they are going to have other opportunities, but that’s part of running a good program. We have former coaches in the NFL, XFL and major Division I programs. That’s been a lot of fun helping those coaches grow, doing it the right way and helping them move

on in the profession.”

Koonz implemented a study table (hall) that met three nights a week and helped his players get help in classes they may have been struggling in.

“We got them good help,” Koonz said. “It was productive. The people who were in the program held people accountable. Tutors didn’t just show up. I had to see their body of work. We kept track of who was succeeding and who wasn’t succeeding.

“It was a much more in-depth program than what most people do,” he said. “As a program and coach, I don’t believe in peer tutors. These kids really struggle in the classroom. Why not get them the best teachers. The best teachers are your instructors. That’s what they do. They are professionals. We are able to find the resources to make that happen. The bottom line is you can help the kid who wants to get help. If they want help, we are going to try to get them that help.”

As far as his legacy, he wants people to say that the program cared about their players and Holmes Community College.

“It’s a lot of hard work,” he said. “You can’t always be the good guy. Sometimes you have to be the bad guy.”

He also wants to be known as a “green light.” “Not just on the football field,” he said. “I always found a way to get it done.”

He has been an innovator in promoting Holmes Community College football. The 2014 season marked the beginning of the Jeff Koonz Coach’s Show, which aired either Monday or Tuesday night from various locations throughout the district. He also created the Milton Lee Olive Scholarship in 2015. His teams have been involved in many community service projects including reading at elementary schools and doing maintenance at the gravesite of Milton Olive in Ebenezer.

Koonz and his wife, Patti, plan to retire to the panhandle of Florida. They have one son, Jeffrey, who is the special teams coordinator and linebacker coach at West Virginia University.

“I plan to get a place down in Florida, hangout and be the greatest grandpa I can be,” Koonz said.

## Beauty Review (continued from Front Page)

Durmon, she is a graduate of Kirk Academy. She is a psychology on the Holmes Grenada Campus who is active in Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Upon graduation, she plans to attend Lee University to continue her studies in psychology, then continue on to obtain her master's in psychology.

In her spare time, Roberts enjoys singing, playing guitar and lifting weights. She also leads worship and teaches Sunday school for sixth-eighth graders at her church.

In addition to Roberts, the Top Five for Beauty Review included Beauties

Elise Diffey of Sallis, Emily Morris of Florence, Ashlyn Nix of Calhoun City, Victoria Still of Louise. The Top 10 included Roberts, Diffey, Morris, Nix, Still, Savannah Richardson of Madison, Tiara LeFlore of Jackson, Lauren Lusk of Eupora, Ivey Devine of Winona and Elizabeth Orr of Florence.

The pageant included interviews with judges earlier in the day and the evening gown competition. Student Activities Director Tina Boyette directed the pageant with Haley DeNoon and Amanda Lindsey as assistant directors. Holmes alumna Nikki Merchant, Miss

Cattfish 2018, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Britt Grace and Matthew Mann served as escorts for the contestants, and members of the Holmes Connection! show choir - Thomas Barnes, Lexi Greenlee and Wesley Harris - provided musical entertainment during intermission.

Pictured (right) are **Most Beautiful 2019 Lily Kate Saxton**, **Most Beautiful 2020 Alli Roberts** and Vice President of the Goodman Campus **Andy Wood** right after Roberts was crowned.



## Richards receives Eliza Pillars RN of MS nursing scholarship

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) ADN instructor **Dr. Tiffany Cox**, **Tonya Spells**, ADN student **Lyric Richards** of Madison and ADN Chair **Dr. Alice Austin** at the 2019 Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi District IV Scholarship Gala on Dec. 13. Richards, a sophomore on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus, was awarded a scholarship during the gala.

Holmes Community College Ridgeland Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) sophomore Lyric S. Richards of Madison received a scholarship during the 2019 Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi District IV Scholarship Gala. Held on Dec. 13 at Fondren Hall in Jackson, the gala theme was "An Evening with the Stars." ADN instructor Dr. Tiffany Cox, ADN adjunct instructor Tonya Spells and ADN Chair Dr. Alice Austin attended the event with Richards.

"I would like to congratulate Lyric for completing all requirements to be eligible for this award," Dr. Austin said.

Prior to beginning nursing school at Holmes, Richards earned a Bachelor of Science from Mississippi University for Women (MUW) in 2018.

"Lyric is a nontraditional student

with an undergraduate degree already in hand," Dr. Cox said. "So, I think she takes her academic endeavors seriously and has pre-knowledge of what it takes to get the job done. The characteristics of compassion, sincerity, hard-work, humbleness and a Christian love are what Lyric personifies on a daily basis and some of the things that will assist her in being successful in the nursing profession. I congratulate Lyric on receiving the competitive Eliza Pillar's Scholarship and hope that she will remember this achievement and use it to motivate her to continue learning and being an active part of her community."

For more information about the ADN program at Holmes, contact Dr. Austin at (601) 605-3419 or [aaustin@holmes-cc.edu](mailto:aaustin@holmes-cc.edu).

## Military pilot surprised with freshly painted truck by the Collision Repair Technology class

From Staff Reports/Photos



After being deployed in southwestern Afghanistan since January 2019, Holmes alumnus and Mississippi Army National Guard pilot Clayton Pickle returned home in November to a special surprise.

Pickle's dad, Gerald, brought his son's truck to Collision Repair Technology instructor Casey Caldwell on Sept. 11 and asked him to get the 2004 Toyota Tacoma fixed up before his son returned home from serving the country overseas. Caldwell and the Goodman students did just that, fixing dents

and repainting the entire outside of the truck.

Pickle, Chief Warrant Officer 3 with the G Co 1-168 General Support Aviation Battalion, said he knew his dad was going to get something done to the truck but was pleasantly surprised with the results.

"It was a huge surprise," Pickle said. "Dad and I talked about getting the truck painted. Next thing you know when I come back it's got a new paint job on it. These guys did an excellent job. It saved me the headache of hav-

ing it done when I got home, and I'm not out a vehicle for two weeks while it's being done somewhere.

"It was definitely that obvious," he said of the work. "It looked terrible when I left. He told me toward the end that he got the truck painted. It wasn't a total surprise. I was surprised how amazing the body work was. These guys did great."

"The truck was pretty straight," Caldwell explained. "There were a few dents and dings in it. Nothing really serious. The clear coat had oxidized and was coming off."

"Really what we did was a lot of sanding and went around and fixed what dents and stuff we could find on it," he said. "They wet-sanded on it for two days. I tried to teach them the hard way to do it before they learn the easy way to do it. Everybody had soggy socks."

After sanding, Caldwell said they added three coats of base and two coats of clear before putting it back together. "It wasn't a very difficult job," he said. "But it did make the truck look a 100 percent better."

The Canton native and resident graduated from Holmes in 2004 and was a member of the band and also helped with drama productions on the Goodman Campus. After Holmes, he went

to Mississippi State University and majored in mechanical engineering before changing degrees and graduating with an industrial technology degree.

During his 19 years in the military, Pickle said he's been on three different deployments "one in Kosovo and two in Afghanistan."

Pickle ended his visit with the students by explaining avenues for employment in the U.S. Army and Mississippi Army National Guard.

"The sky's the limit," Pickle said. "You are going to get out what you put in it. I'm just up here saying thank you and let me tell you about me and what else is out there. I'm not a recruiter by any means."

"What you are learning in here transfers to a lot of different fields," Caldwell said. "You don't have to come out here and be a body technician. You could be. I enjoy it, and I love doing it. You could work on helicopters and airplanes which is pretty cool. Don't lock yourselves into one mindset."

Pickle presented Caldwell and the class with a U.S. flag and certificate of appreciation from the C Co 1-171st General Support Aviation Battalion. The flag was flown in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter flown by Pickle on Sept. 23 in Helmand Providence, Afghanistan.

## Dr. Haffey to receive the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Jim Haffey

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) will recognize 13 college presidents including Holmes Community College President Dr. Jim Haffey with the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction during PTK Catalyst 2020, the Society's annual convention, April 2-4 in the Greater Dallas Area in Texas.

These awards are given to college presidents who have shown strong support of student success on their campus by recognizing academic achievement, leadership, and service among high-achieving students at their colleges. Recipients are nominated by students on their campus and are only eligible to receive the award once over the course of their career.

The Shirley B. Gordon Award is Phi Theta Kappa's most prestigious award

for community college presidents and is named in honor of the late Dr. Shirley B. Gordon, Phi Theta Kappa's longest-serving Board of Directors Chair and a founder and long-time president of Highline Community College in Washington.

The other 2020 recipients are: Dr. Cristal Albrecht, Alvin Community College, Texas; Dr. Jo Alice Blondin, Clark State Community College, Ohio; Dr. Warren Brown, North Seattle College, Washington; Dr. Mary Graham, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Mississippi;

Dr. Donald Green, Georgia Highlands College, Georgia; Mr. Thomas LoBasso, Daytona State College, Florida; Dr. Sean Madison, Tarrant County College, Texas; Dr. Michael Mc-

Donough, Raritan Valley Community College, New Jersey; Dr. James Dale (J.D.) Rottweiler, Cochise College,

Arizona; Dr. Walt Tobin, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, South Carolina; Ms. Jennie Vaughan, Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana; and Dr. Gregory Williams, Odessa College, Texas.

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges. Learn more at [ptk.org](http://ptk.org).

## Former Bulldog Sam Ingram gets recognized for portrait of the late Kobe Bryant

From Staff Reports/Photos



Sam Ingram

Not only does Holmes alumnus Sam Ingram of Madison make his mark on the football field, he also does in the art world after one of his pieces honoring the late Kobe Bryant went viral over the weekend.

Sam Ingram, now a pre-med/biology major and football player at Mississippi College, played center on the football team for the Holmes Bulldogs during the 2017 and 2018 seasons. On Friday, he drew a portrait of Kobe Bryant only using the number 24 as the background. Some 15 hours later and up to 8,000 No. 24s, he had a perfect likeness of Bryant. During the drawing process, he recorded a time lapse video and placed it on his social media sites - Instagram, Twitter and TikTok.

The Germantown High School graduate and Madison native said he got a few thousand views in a short time on TikTok but was pleasantly surprised when the images and video posts began blowing up on social media.

Bleacher Report on Twitter asked him for more images, and as of Tuesday afternoon, the images had over 42,000 likes and 6,600 retweets. Other views of the video and pictures in-

clude: Ingram's main Instagram account at [samingram98](https://www.instagram.com/samingram98) has nearly 1,500 likes; his art Instagram at [sams.sketch](https://www.instagram.com/sams.sketch) has over 500 views; TikTok at [samingram26](https://www.tiktok.com/@samingram26) has nearly 35,000 views and 6,000 likes; and [samingram5](https://www.tiktok.com/@samingram5) has over 2,100 likes and 500 retweets.

"That style has been around a long time, but I've never seen anybody do it with numbers," Ingram said. "I saw someone do it with words. I thought it was a unique style, and I wanted to do a tribute to Kobe."

"Kobe was one of my childhood heroes," he said. "I looked up to him and had his basketball cards when I was young. 'He always told everyone to love what you do. I love to play football, and I love to draw so I did what he said and that's what came out of it. Hopefully, Kobe's family will see it and they will see how big of an inspiration he was to me and everybody else who looks up to him.'"

Ingram said he's been drawing since he was in the second grade and just recently started posting his work for others to see. "I've only recently started putting stuff out that would be post worthy," Ingram said. "I always kept most of the art to myself. Over the last two to three years, I've started getting to where I was comfortable without embarrassing myself."

He said he's never taken a drawing class. "I've always done it all myself," he said. "You can see me progressively get better. He's had an art account, [sams.sketch](https://www.instagram.com/sams.sketch), on Instagram for a year and has posted some art up to three years old on there."

Ingram did take an art appreciation class with some of his football teammates at Holmes. "It's usually historical stuff and reading about techniques," he said. "You learn to appreci-

ate the art, not do the art."

His ability has let him sell some pieces which helped finance his college education. "I would go home on the weekends and draw a few commissions," he said. "I would post some things and see if somebody wanted to buy it. That and scholarships is how I go to school...paying my own way."

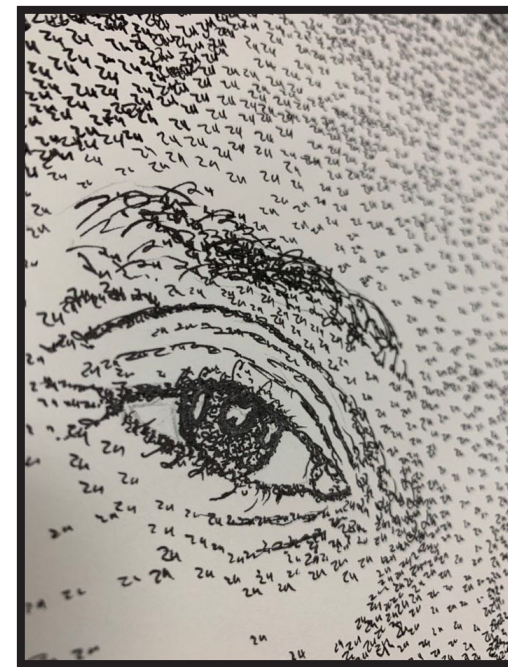
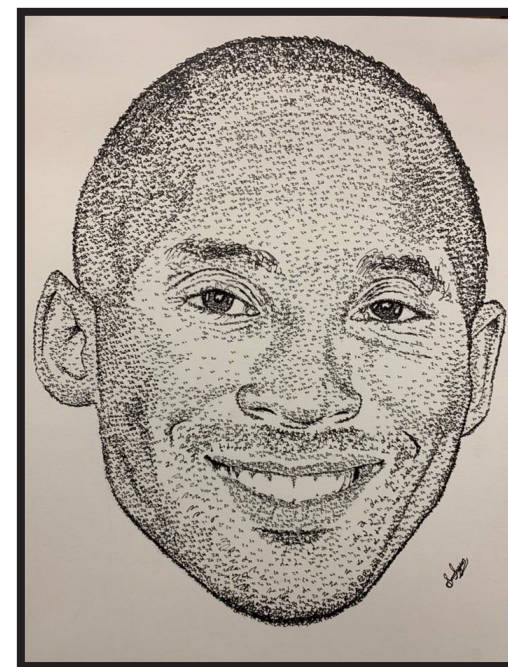
Ingram, the son of Tony and Shea Ingram, said his mother is involved in art as well. She sells custom picture frames, does color matching and does some interior design.

He doesn't feel like he will become an artist full-time because he's planning to be a doctor or a physician's assistant. But art will be available to him in the future. "I want to see what I can do in the medical field first," Ingram said. "I might minor in art just to have a minor. I don't know what I can really do with it. I do it on the side, and I love to do it. It's just one of my hobbies...playing football, playing guitar and drawing."

Ingram has also painted a portrait of the late John Wayne. John Wayne's official Instagram account "[johnwayneofficial](https://www.instagram.com/johnwayneofficial)" with 250,000 followers liked the portrait and commented "amazing job". He also has other famous people and family members on the [sams.sketch](https://www.instagram.com/sams.sketch) Instagram account.

He is also working on a project with a Super Bowl theme. "I'm not going to tell ya'll who it is," Ingram said.

According to Jay Cheatham, art instructor and Fine Arts Department chair at Goodman, who taught Ingram's art appreciation class, the drawing style is derived from Pointillism, which is a style of image making where the artist uses little dots of color. The technique was first used by Georges Seurat in his *Cafe Concert*.



Later artists, such as Chris Ofili, used a similar approach in his *Prince Among Thieves with Flowers*.

To see more of Ingram's work, go to [samingram5](https://www.tiktok.com/@samingram5) on Twitter, [samingram98](https://www.instagram.com/samingram98) and [samingram26](https://www.instagram.com/samingram26) on TikTok.

## Just Hanging

By Talor Pounds  
Staff Reporter



The Alpha Mu Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa announced that they have built a hammock spot at the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus. This spot is located on the Grenada

Campus walking trail and is perfect for grabbing your eno and relaxing while on campus to relieve stress and hang with your friends.

This eno spot is a result of the chap-

ter's Study and Sway Project. "We wanted to give students somewhere to hangout on campus," said PTK Vice President Zach Wiggins.



## Ridgeland Campus announces 2020 Who's Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



**IN THE PHOTO:** Pictured are the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus 2020 Who's Who recipients. They are: (front, left to right) **Sophomore Favorite Sam Williams**, **Freshman Favorite Deja Sloan**, **Sophomore Favorite Macy Gordy**, **Sophomore Favorite Holley Yates**, (back, left to right) **Mr. Holmes Landon Kinney**, **Miss Holmes Brandi Palmer**, **Sophomore Favorite Nathan Wildhaber**, **Sophomore Favorite India Jones** and **Freshman Favorite Colby Mozee**.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus announced the 2020 Who's Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes, Freshman Class Favorites and Sophomore Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Ridgeland Campus are Landon Kinney and Brandi Palmer, both of Jackson.

Kinney, son of Stephanie and Michael Kinney, is a graduate of Jim Hill High School. He is an Ambassador, Student Government Association (SGA) treasurer, a member of the STEM club and of the Social Science Club. His hobbies include exercising, helping other people and styling/modeling. Kinney also serves as a Stewpot Counselor as a way to serve his community. His future plans include becoming a successful family nurse practitioner.

Palmer, daughter of Darla and Don

Palmer, is a graduate of Ridgeland High School. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and was elected as a Sophomore Homecoming Maid. Palmer works in retail at Northpark Mall and is a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. She enjoys doing makeup on herself and others, spending time with friends and family and traveling around the world. After Holmes, Palmer plans to further her education at Tougaloo College.

As for Class Favorites, Sophomore Class Favorites include: Macy Gordy of Canton, India Jones of Pearl, Nathan Wildhaber of Jackson, Sam Williams of Brandon and Holley Yates of Pisgah. Freshman Class Favorites for the 2019-20 school year are: Colby Mozee of Brandon and Deja Sloan of Gluckstadt.

## Goodman Campus announces 2020 Who's Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



**IN THE PHOTO:** Pictured are the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus 2020 Who's Who recipients. They are: (seated, left to right) **Freshman Favorite Elise Diffey**, **Miss Holmes Tiara Leflore**, **Mr. Holmes Michael Harris**, **Sophomore Favorite Johnna Beavers**, (standing, left to right) **Sophomore Favorite Delancy Anderson**, **Freshman Favorite Lakesia Smith**, **Sophomore Favorite Spencer Burden**, **Freshman Favorite Jennifer Phillips**, **Freshman Favorite Tolar Purvis**, **Sophomore Favorite Mallory Mackenzie** and **Sophomore Favorite Calen Lewis**. *Not pictured:* Sophomore Favorites Jason Ables, Parker Jones, Paul Ray McGraw and Mikayla Williams.

The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus announced the 2020 Who's Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes, Freshman Class Favorites and Sophomore Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Goodman Campus are Michael Harris of Ruleville and Tiara LeFlore of Jackson.

Harris, son of Linda Harris and Cedric Sampson, is a graduate of Ruleville Central High School. At Holmes, he plays basketball and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Harris also attends Delmar Church of Christ and serves as a BB KING ambassador. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and where he will be a pre-dental major. Afterward, he plans to further his career as a dental hygienist.

LeFlore daughter of Tameka and Eddie Dinkins, is a graduate of Terry High School. She is a communications journalism major who is on both the Growl newspaper and Horizons year-

book staffs. LeFlore is also Student Government Association president, a member of MOSAIC, and involved in theatre, the Holmes Connection! and Chorale. In her spare time, she enjoys working in ministry, reading, writing, poetry, traveling, becoming closer to God and hanging out with friends. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to attend Jackson State University.

As for Class Favorites, Sophomore Class Favorites include: Delancy Anderson of Yazoo City, Jason Ables of Yazoo City, Johnna Beavers of Kilmichael, Spencer Burden of Kosciusko, Calen Lewis of Clinton, Parker Jones of Kosciusko, Mallory McKenzie of French Camp and Paul Ray McGraw of Canton. Freshman Favorites are Gabrielle Elise Diffey of Sallis, Jennifer Phillips of Tchula, Tolar Purvis of Benton, Lakesia Smith of Goodman and Mikayla Williams of Yazoo City.

## Grenada Campus announces 2020 Who's Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



**IN THE PHOTO:** Pictured are the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus 2020 Who's Who recipients. They are: (front row, left to right) **Sophomore Favorite Braden Migliore**, **Sophomore Favorite Kalee Beck**, **Freshman Favorite Ashlyn Nix**, **Sophomore Favorite Cameren Duke**, (back row, left to right) **Miss Holmes Madison Davis**, **Freshman Favorite Ashlee Hankins**, **Sophomore Favorite Ivey Devine**, **Sophomore Favorite Olivia Lane** and **Mr. Holmes Cale Gatlin**.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus announced the 2020 Who's Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes, Freshman Class Favorites and Sophomore Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Grenada Campus are Cale Gatlin of Maben and Madison Davis of Grenada.

Gatlin, son of Jennifer Burlison and Michael Gatlin, is a graduate of East Webster High School. He is a work-study student for the Admissions Office and an active member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Off campus, he volunteers at Grenada schools with the science and reading fair. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to attend Mississippi State University to pursue his bachelor's degree in kinesiology.

Davis, daughter of Elizabeth Fleming and Darrell Davis, is a graduate

of Grenada High School. She is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and is employed as a florist at The Flower Company. Davis enjoys being with friends and family, traveling and spending time in nature. She plans to complete the Associate Degree Nursing program at Holmes before transferring to Delta State University to obtain her BSN.

As for Class Favorites, Sophomore Class Favorites include: Kalee Beck of Grenada, Ivey Devine of Winona, Cameren Duke of Grenada, Olivia Lane of Grenada and Braden Migliore of Winona.

Freshman Favorites are Ashlee Hankins of Grenada and Ashlyn Nix of Calhoun City.

## Ridgeland Campus inducts 12 into Hall of Fame

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2020 Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are (front row, left to right) Addison Stevens, Alysia Terry, Bailee Grace Gregg, Macy Gordy, Sam Williams, (back row, left to right) Jake Ham, Luke Langford, Caseigh Hickman, Jady Williams and Blake Humphreys. Not pictured: Ja'Laycia Roqueia Brown and Peyton Montgomery.

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Ridgeland Campus included: Ja'Laycia Roqueia Brown of Kosciusko; Macy C. Gordy of Canton; Bailee Grace Gregg of Florence; Jake Ham of Brandon; Caseigh Hickman of Florence, David "Blake" Humphreys of Yazoo City; Luke Langford of Jackson; Peyton Montgomery of Coldwater; Addison Stevens of Madison; Alysia Terry of Byram; Jady A. Williams of Brandon and Samantha "Sam" Erin Williams of Brandon.

Ja'Laycia Brown is a biology major and President's List Scholar. The daughter of Mattie Brown, she is active on campus as a member of the women's soccer team, where she plays forward, and as a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She holds a 4.0 GPA and upon graduation from Holmes, plans to attend Delta State University to play soccer and continue her studies in biology.

Macy Gordy, the daughter of Janet Gordy and Brent Gordy, is an accounting major. She is active on campus, serving as an Ambassador, Student Government Association president and as a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Gordy was also named a Class Favorite. She plans to continue her education in accounting at Mississippi State University, and later plans to earn her CPA license.

Bailee Grace Gregg, a marketing major, is the daughter of Angie and Chris Duke. At Holmes, she's an Ambassador, women's soccer team manager and Phi Theta Kappa member. Off campus she is also a Collide Small Group leader. After Holmes, Gregg

will go to Mississippi State University.

Jake Ham, son of Tami and Kiley Ham, is a general studies major who has been on the President's and Dean's List both years at Holmes. He is a Phi Theta Kappa member, an Ambassador and a member of Colonial Heights Baptist Church. At CHBC, he has served as a children's camp counselor, a Disciple Now counselor, a student intern and as a missionary for both a domestic mission trip to Jonestown and an international trip to Colombia. After Holmes, Ham will transfer to William Carey University to pursue a degree in International Business.

Caseigh Hickman, daughter of Terry and Van Hickman, is an elementary education major and defender for the Lady Bulldogs soccer team. She is also a President's List scholar and Phi Theta Kappa honor society member. Hickman is very involved in the community, as well; she has volunteered with Stewpot, First Baptist Church's food pantry, FBC's Vacation Bible School, Hickory Ridge Baptist Church's VBS, the Opportunity Center and visited a senior citizen complex. She has also served as a tutor of first grade students. After Holmes, she plans to attend Delta State University. Hickman's goal is to be employed by Rankin County School District after earning her bachelor's in elementary education.

Blake Humphreys, son of Holly Humphreys, is an accounting major and President's List scholar. He also serves as vice president of chapter relations for Phi Theta Kappa. Humphreys is an active member of Word of Life church where he serves with outreach ministries. During his freshman

year, he also served as a member of the worship team, as part of the young adult ministry, as a guest experience host and went on a mission trip. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to transfer to The University of Mississippi to pursue a bachelor's degree in accounting before eventually going to UM School of Law.

Luke Langford, son of Maria Langford, is a mathematics major who serves as vice president of membership for Phi Theta Kappa. He is also a Holmes Writing Center consultant, a member of STEM Club and a student volunteer at National Weather Service in Jackson. During his freshman year, he worked as an assistant in the Holmes Fitness Center and performed with Millsap's Experimental Music Ensemble. Langford also received the Holmes Achievement Award in English Composition as a freshman and placed in the Creative Writing Contest as a sophomore. After Holmes, he plans to complete both undergraduate and graduate degrees in meteorology. Langford would also like to continue acting, achieve proficiency in Korean and German and travel the globe.

Peyton Montgomery, daughter of Kim and Jeff Montgomery, is an exercise science major and a captain of the Lady Bulldog's soccer team. The Bulldogs were North Division champions, state champions, regional champions and district finalists, and she was named an All-Region selection. Montgomery is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, was named HPR Student of the Year as a freshman, is a Dean's List scholar, volunteered with the soccer team and serves as a coach at Soccer Shots, which works on character and skill-development for children ages 2-9. She also worked skill days for BFC Soccer Club.

After Holmes, Montgomery plans to go to a Division II school to continue her athletics with soccer. Academically, she either wants to be a physical therapist or an orthopedic surgeon and specialize in hip preservation. Her ultimate goal is to pioneer new technology and procedures to improve (especially for young athletes) quality of life, progression back to sport and longevity of their natural joint with hips in the orthopedic field.

Addison Stevens, daughter of Stephanie and Richard Stevens, is a pre-medical major with a 4.0 GPA. A President's List scholar, she is active on campus as an ACT, science and math tutor; a STEM Club member; a Phi Theta Kappa member and as a

volunteer for Dr. Rekam Giri, cleaning and organizing the physics lab. Stevens has completed 100 plus hours of community service, making cards for nursing homes and making blankets for the homeless. She has volunteered for multiple organizations, including the Salvation Army, Operation Christmas Child, Lake Caroline Arts and Crafts Festival, Madison County Library and she organized the Webster Animal Shelter Supply Drive, as well. Stevens plans to earn her bachelor's degree at The University of South Alabama, majoring in biomedical sciences, before continuing on to medical school.

Alysia Terry, daughter of Frederick Terry, is an exercise science major and a captain of the Lady Bulldog's soccer team. She is also a President's List scholar, ACT President's Scholarship recipient and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Terry volunteered with the soccer team, helping with Madison-Ridgeland Academy car pool, the City of Ridgeland Easter Egg Hunt and the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mississippi. After Holmes, she plans to attend physical therapy school at University of Mississippi Medical Center and become a physical therapist.

Jady Williams, daughter of Alecia and Jamane Williams, is a marketing major and President's List scholar. On campus, she serves as an SGA representative and Phi Theta Kappa member. Outside of Holmes, she is employed with The Bridge Church and serves as a weekly volunteer instructor for Bridge Builders Leadership Initiative. She also volunteers fundraising/consulting services for grades 6-12 at a youth afterschool program. Upon graduation, Williams plans to complete her bachelor's degree in marketing at Jackson State University and then obtain her master's in marketing from Mississippi College.

Sam Williams, daughter of Stacey Williams and Tim Williams, is an accounting major with a 4.0 GPA. She is very active on campus as an Ambassador, Student Government Association member and President's List scholar. She was also named a Class Favorite both years at Holmes. As a freshman, Williams worked as an intern for Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters and as a sophomore, as an afternoon receptionist at Hartfield Academy. After Holmes, she plans to attend Mississippi State University and finish both her undergraduate and graduate degrees before pursuing a job in accounting.

The inductees will be recognized during the Award's Night on April 7.

## Grenada Campus inducts five into Hall of Fame

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2020 Grenada Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are (left to right) Raylin Cooper, Ivey Devine, Bailey Marshall, Kalee Beck and Lindsey McLellan.

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Grenada Campus were: Kalee Beck of Grenada, Raylin Cooper of Eupora, Ivey Devine of Winona, Bailey Marshall of Grenada and Lindsey McLellan of Winona.

Kalee Beck, an elementary education major, is a President's List scholar and vice president of leadership for Phi Theta Kappa. She also serves as an Ambassador, Student Government Association secretary and as a member of the Baptist Student Union. Beck was voted a Class Favorite both years at Holmes and participated in Beauty Review. Her community involvement includes serving as a judge for the Grenada School District reading fair and science fair, hosting a soft skills workshop

with Phi Theta Kappa and helping with Vacation Bible School at her church. Upon graduation from Holmes, Beck plans to attend The University of Mississippi (Grenada Campus) to earn her bachelor's in elementary education. Later, she plans to pursue her master's in counseling.

Raylin Cooper, a nursing major, is a Mississippi Rural Water Association Scholarship recipient and Phi Theta Kappa member. She is also a member of a community service group, the 20th Century Club, in her hometown of Eupora. Some of the projects they have done include: Soles for Souls, Valentine Gifts for Veterans, food and stuffed animal donations to the local police and fire departments, item collections for nursing homes and Thanksgiving baskets for less fortunate families.

Grenada HOF, continued on Page 11

## Grenada Hall of Fame (Continued from Page 10)

Cooper is also co-chair of the Eupora Juniores, a community service club based out of Eupora High School for girls in grades 7th-12th. This group bagged groceries for donations and raised over \$1,000 for St. Jude. Additionally, she's an ambassador for The Kindness Revolution and was able to share the idea of spreading acts of kindness throughout the community as a way to fight against bullying. She plans to attend University of Mississippi Medical Center to pursue her bachelor's degree in nursing after graduating from Holmes. Raylin Cooper, a nursing major, is a Mississippi Rural Water Association Scholarship recipient and Phi Theta Kappa member.

Ivey Devine is a psychology major on the President's List with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She is president of both Phi Theta Kappa and the Student Government Association, a member of Baptist Student

Union, an Ambassador and work-study in the Holmes Financial Aid/Business Office. She was named Freshman Homecoming Maid, Sophomore Student Body Maid and voted a Class Favorite both years. Her community service includes serving as a judge for the Grenada School District reading fair and science fair; participating in a soft skills workshop with Phi Theta Kappa and helping with an SGA toy drive for St. Jude. Upon graduation from Holmes, Devine plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in educational psychology. After that, she'll her education by pursuing a master's in educational counseling.

Bailey Marshall, a pre-med major with a 4.0 GPA, is a President's List scholar, Woodward Hines Education Foundation Get2College Corps Scholar, Phi Theta Kappa member and Baptist Student Union

member. He has done all kinds of community service, including assisting and valeting at the Charlie Worsham Follow Your Heart Arts Gala; assisting with a Cindy Hyde-Smith event; assisting with a Lt. Governor Tate Reeves event; assisting at the Mississippi President Trump rally in South Haven; helping with five political gatherings with the Grenada County Political Youth Committee and assisting numerous students with their FAFSA. Marshall has also volunteered at the local nursing home and aided in the collection/donating of food and apparel items for the local food bank.

Upon graduations, he plans to attend The University of Mississippi to pursue a bachelor's in science, then further his education at UMMC in Jackson to receive his doctorate. Marshall plans to specialize in radiology, and if able, to start a construction business on the side. While at

Holmes, he worked in the Financial Aid Office and also at Harrell's Metal Works, in hopes of saving enough money to pave the way for his goals.

Lindsey McLellan, a student in the Holmes Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program, is very active on campus. She is an Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa member, Student Government Association representative and Baptist Student Union member. McLellan is also a President's List scholar who received the Biological Science Award her freshman year, and was named a Class Favorite. Her community service includes: serving as a judge for the reading fairs in the Grenada School District and participating in a campus toy drive for St. Jude. After graduating with her Associate in Applied Science in the Physical Therapy Assistant Program, she will be ready to join the physical therapy field and help those in need.

## Dr. Haffey speaks at Capitol Day event

From Staff Reports/Photos



(left) Grenada students **Kim Brasell-Chapman, Kellie Danielle Davis, Tykerria McClain, Mon'Nae Willis** and **Laura Patterson** attended the Capitol Day press conference for community colleges with (far right) **Education Association President Tina Garrett**, (not pictured) **Vice President Theresa Hargett** and (far right) **Treasurer Jennifer Brunson**. They are pictured here with (center) **Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey**.

In an effort to get the Mississippi Legislature's attention, Community College presidents, faculty and stu-

dents reminded everyone at a Capitol building press conference, held Wednesday, March 4, that community/junior colleges provide a vast array of educational and economic opportunities for everyone. Additionally, the two-year college system also provides a healthy return on every dollar spent on the nation's oldest community college system.

Dr. Jim Haffey, president of Holmes Community College, served as a representative for Mississippi Association of Community Colleges (MCAA), speaking about the many benefits.

## Goodman holds Career and Transfer Fair

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus held a Career and Transfer Fair on Tuesday, March 3 in Frank Branch Coliseum. A variety of local businesses, industry friends and healthcare representatives along with university recruiters came to Holmes to share future opportunities with students.

Participants included: Mississippi College, Ole Miss, MSU College of Forest Resources, Peco Foods, U.S. Army, University of Alabama, MSU Online, Delta State University, UMMC School of Health Related Programs,

Northwestern State University, Kelly Services, Rozier Construction, MS. Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Choctaw Regional Medical Center, Mississippi University for Women, Jackson State University, Belhaven University, Ivey Mechanical Co., AmeriPride, La. Tech University, CF Industries, Capitol Body Shop, Anel Corporation and Mississippi Valley State University.

## Holmes alumnus speaks to students about bee farm

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College alumnus Kip Isonhood came to Mary Leigh Poole's biology class on Feb. 24 to talk about his Yazoo Honey and Bee Farm.

For more information about Isonhood's operation, visit <https://www.facebook.com/yazooohoney/>.



## Ridgeland Campus announces Creative Writing Contest

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2020 Ridgeland Campus Creative Writing Contest Winners. They are (front, left to right) Shreenithi Lakshminarayanan, Baylie Cook, Aurora Sant'Angelo, (back, left to right) Elizabeth Orr, Luke Langford, Liam Carruthers and Stacey Wiebe.

English instructor Dr. Andrew Kelly recently announced the winners of the 2020 Creative Writing Contest for the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus.

Winners of the Personal Essay Category included Baylie Cook, first place for "Red Phase: Becoming a United States Soldier," and Aurora Sant'Angelo, second place for "Thoughts." Luke Langford and Shreenithi Lakshminarayanan also received Honorable Mentions for their essays, "Effects of the Pothole Plague" and "Quantum Entanglement," respectively.

Langford was also awarded first place for "A Brief Discussion of the Life of Frederick Douglass" in the Literary Essay Category.

Winners of the Short Story Category included Liam Carruthers, first place for "A Burning Question," and Elizabeth Orr, second place for "The Fishing Hole." Sant'Angelo received an Honorable Mention for "Uncharted Life" and Samantha Endsley received an Honorable Mention for "His Beloved Grace."

In the Poetry Category, Stacy Wiebe

took home first place for "Mississippi Moves;" Lakshminarayanan placed second for "Constancy;" Sant'Angelo received an Honorable Mention for "Death" and Matt Livingston got an Honorable Mention for "Hope."

Finally, the first place winner for the Drama Category was Lakshminarayanan for her piece, "Plague Year."

The competition was open to all students on the Ridgeland Campus of Holmes, regardless of their major, and entries were judged by the English faculty members. First and second place winners in each category will appear in Reflections, the campus literary magazine, and are sent to the statewide contest. State-level winners receive monetary prizes and publication in the literary magazine of the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association.

For more information on the Creative Writing Contest, contact English instructor Dr. Andrew Kelly at akelly@holmescc.edu or (601) 605.3382.

## Goodman Campus announces Creative Writing Contest

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2020 Goodman Campus Creative Writing Contest Winners. They are (front, left to right) Jurtis Culp, Lundy Hawthorne, Thomas Barnes, Justin Porter, (back row, left to right) Jim Turner, Brantley Holder, Kaleigh Cosgrove, Jenson Williams and Draven Howell. Not pictured: Ra'Darius Williams and Tyeisha Quinn.

English instructor W. Chad Moorer recently announced the winners of the 2020 Creative Writing Contest for the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus.

Winners of the Personal Essay Category included Jenson Williams, first place for "A Catfish Catastrophe;" Kaleigh Cosgrove, second place for "From Foe to Friend" and Thomas Barnes, third place for "Family Propaganda." Ra'Darius Williams also received an Honorable Mention for his essay, "That Dreadful Day."

Winners of the Short Story Category included Lundy Hawthorne, first place for "Ritual;" Jurtis Culp, second place for "A Mind of Darkness" and Tyeisha Quinn, third for "The Ty That Binds."

In the Poetry Category, Draven Howell took home first place for "The Movies;" Jim Turner placed second for "His Lions Are Real;" Hawthorne placed third for "Stick Out Your Tongue" and Justin Porter received an Honorable Mention for

"Absence."

Finally, Brantley Holder was awarded first place in the Literary Essay Category for "The Yellow Wallpaper": Through the Eyes of Feminism."

The competition was open to all students on the Goodman Campus of Holmes, regardless of their major, and entries were judged by the English faculty members. First and second place winners in each category will appear in Reflections, the campus literary magazine, and are sent to the statewide contest. State-level winners receive monetary prizes and publication in the literary magazine of the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association.

For more information on the Creative Writing Contest, contact English instructor W. Chad Moorer at wmoorer@holmescc.edu or (662) 472-9009.

## Holmes participates in AHA Wear Red Day

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes showed support for the American Heart Association (AHA) by participating in their National Wear Red Day on Friday, Feb. 7. Wear Red Day is part of the AHA's campaign to increase awareness of heart disease, since heart disease and stroke cause 1 in 3 deaths among women each year.



Pictured (above) are faculty and staff members from the Goodman Campus on Wear Red Day.

Pictured (right) are faculty and staff members from the Grenada Campus on Wear Red Day.



Pictured (above) are faculty and staff members from the Ridgeland Campus on Wear Red Day.



## Ridgeland Campus inducts 48 into Phi Theta Kappa

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2020 Ridgeland Campus Phi Theta Kappa inductees.

The Holmes Community College Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, housed on the Ridgeland Campus, inducted 48 new members into the honor society for two-year college students on Feb. 27 at Ridgeland High School.

Inductees included: Anna Booth, Matthew Burnham, Kade Clinton, Benjamin Crout, Nancy Duarte-Sanchez, Addie Fetcko, Anna Fortenberry, Cameron Fortenberry, Chloe Fortner, Julie Frost, Maya Gipson, Michael Gonzalez, Chris-

ty Griffith, Evelyn Beyoncé Henderson, Gracie High, Brandon Hines, Brian Johnson, Trinity Jones, Donnell Kinnard, Joy Kate Lawson, Clayton McCarter, Ashley McFarland, Lael McNair, Sophia Melgar, Steven Middleton, Olivia Milner, Tyler Murphy, Maha Musa, Asia Pittman, Adriana Reed, Margaret Sanders, Allison Shaw, Love Preet Singh, Matthew Sinclair, Deja Sloan, John Springer, Fallon Stephens, Addison Stevens, Yarenni Valdez, Bryce Varner, Bree Vierling, Rox-

anne Washington, Zac Watkins, Caroline Wheel, Quindarius White, Caroleshia White-Tower, Evan Woods and Holley Yates.

Phi Theta is the international honors scholastic society for community colleges that recognizes intellectual achievement and promotes character, leadership and fellowship among community college students. Membership is by invitation to full-time students having a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher at Holmes Community College. Invitations are extended both the fall and spring semesters.

Following a processional of the officers, advisors and inductees, Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham welcomed everyone to the ceremony. Vice President of Career and Technical Programs Dr. Amy Whittington followed with an invocation before Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey gave an address to the students.

“You’ve proven that you can accomplish anything,” Dr. Haffey said. “I know coming from a smaller town you sometimes wonder if you can compete with the rest of the state and with the rest of the world. You can. All of us will tell you that you’ve

got to just keep doing the things you’ve done to bring you this far and you will be immensely successful wherever you go. It’s an elite club that you’re in and I’m pleased that I get to share that membership with you guys and I look forward to working with you.”

Following Dr. Haffey’s remarks, Mathematics Instructor/Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Lisa Anglin, along with the officers, installed the new members and explained meanings behind the symbolic rituals of the Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony.

2019-20 Officers for the Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter include Nathan Wildhaber, president; Lorrion LaChance, vice president of college projects; Gracie MacGown, vice president of honors in action; Blake Humphreys, vice president of chapter relations and Luke Langford, vice president of membership. Along with Anglin, other chapter advisors include History and Political Science Division Chair Laura Canard and STEM Division Chair Dr. Antoine Gates.

For more information about the Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter, contact Anglin at [langlin@holmescc.edu](mailto:langlin@holmescc.edu).

## Growl takes third place in Better Newspaper Contest Editorials division

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured (left to right) are Public Relations Specialist/Journalism Instructor **Mary Margaret Busby**, Arcadia Smith, Anna Rose Myrick, De’ Nautis Liddell, Tiara LeFlore, Aurora Sant’Angelo, Kaitlyn Anderson, Joliah Daughtry and Angel Sawyer.

Holmes Community College Public Relations Specialist/Journalism Instructor Mary Margaret Busby took a group of journalism students to the 2020 Mississippi Press Association O.C. McDavid Journalism Summit held Friday, Feb. 7 at the Jackson Hilton. The event included speakers, a luncheon and the presentation of the annual Better Newspaper Contest Student Division awards at the conclusion of the day’s activities. The Growl won third place in the Editorials division.

The O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference brings before students noted Mississippi journalists, educators and artisans during this special program. The conference is named after the late O.C. McDavid, former managing editor of The Jackson Daily News, who actively pursued a second career as an artist and sculptor after retiring from journalism. MPA always focuses a portion of these sessions on coverage of community lifestyles and the arts.

Attendees receive a copy of “My Name

is O.C.,” McDavid’s autobiography, as well. The conference was established after a generous donation to the MPA Education Foundation from McDavid’s family in his memory.

This year’s event featured a presentation by journalists Jamie Patterson of The Yazoo Herald and Anna Wolfe of Mississippi Today; photojournalist Chris Todd and multimedia journalism and technology expert Val Hoepfner. The presentation of the Better Newspaper Contest Student Division Awards followed lunch and the conference concluded with a networking session where student journalists were able to meet with MPA member publishers and editors.

Attending students included: Kaitlyn Anderson, Joliah Daughtry, Tiara LeFlore, De’Nautis Liddell, Anna Rose Myrick, Aurora Sant’Angelo, Angel Sawyer and Arcadia Smith. Everyone dressed in red to support American Heart Association’s National Wear Red Day.

## Grenada Campus holds Phi Theta Kappa induction

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2020 Grenada Campus Phi Theta Kappa inductees.

Holmes Community College Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Mu Beta Chapter, held their spring induction ceremony at the Corey Form on the Grenada Campus on Tuesday, February 11 at 2 p.m. A reception and

college fair followed the induction.

The spring 2020 inductees included: Abigail Allison, Timothy Black, Roy Webb Blakely, Marvell Bradford, Anakatherine Burrell, Eva Carroll, Kim Brassell

Chapman, Elora Clark, Faith Clark, Heidi Clark, Mckenzie Cummings, Madison Davis, Ashley Duke, Emily Farmer, Keily Federick, Mary Lynn Ferguson, Lola Green, Amy Haley, Taylor Harrell, Malory Harrison, Stephanie Harrison, Jacob Hatch, Diamond Hazzard, Lynsey Kilgore, Gavin Kolb, Conner Lentz, Quinton Love, Haley Marlow, Matthew May, Bradon Migliore, Sarah Grace Mitchell, Elizabeth Muselwhite, Michael Peterman, Peyton Poe, Morgan Reed, Alexis Rodgers, Cisley Roncalli, Isabelle Sanders, Jacob Scaife, Chelsaye Wiggins, Alana Wallace, Laila Walls and Jennifer Wortham. Advisers for the chapter are Cynthia Abel and Bethany Miller.

In order to receive an invitation to join a Holmes Community College Phi Theta Kappa chapter, students must meet the minimum requirements: have complet-

ed 12 transferable credit hours, have a minimum Holmes Community College cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, and be enrolled and taking additional Holmes Community College credit hours the semester intended to receive an invitation. Meetings and community service activities are held on a regular basis.

For more information about the Alpha Mu Beta Chapter, contact Cynthia Abel at [cabel@holmescc.edu](mailto:cabel@holmescc.edu) or (662) 227-2325.

## Colleges reveal results of economic impact study

From Staff Reports/Photos



Mississippi Governor **Tate Reeves** spoke during a press conference revealing the results of the community college system's economic impact study. Goodman Campus Vice President **Andy Wood** and Ridgeland Campus Vice President **Dr. Don Burnham** represented Holmes and are pictured on the back row, left to right.

Mississippi's 15 Community College presidents gathered at the State Capitol with data proving the two-year college system is valuable to the state in numerous ways. They commissioned an economic impact report by NSPARC, or the National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center at Mississippi State University to analyze the more than 100-year old community college system to determine who is served by the statewide network, the outcomes in relation to the labor market and the estimated overall economic impact on the state.

Community college leaders discovered the system is overwhelmingly successful. The report found community colleges have a 3.9-billion-dollar impact on the economy, serving more than 200,000 people annually in academic and workforce training. Additionally, the two-year college system

is one of the largest employers with 8,100 employees.

"Community colleges generate 277 million dollars in state and local taxes," said Dr. Mary Graham, chair of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) and president of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. "The state's investment in your community college has an immediate and short-term payback for all the citizens of Mississippi. Imagine if we invest in Mississippi's community colleges to the fullest extent? What a difference we can make for all of the citizens of Mississippi."

With more than 52 thousand unfilled jobs in Mississippi, community college leaders believe they are the answer to preparing students to fill those highly skilled, high paying jobs. In fact, Governor Tate Reeves announced his plan

to invest 75 million dollars into community colleges, of the 100 million he has allocated in his plan to equip Mississippians with the necessary skills for a modern workforce and to make Mississippi a "ready to work" state.

"Every class offered at our community colleges is in and of itself, workforce development and workforce training. Jobs or university degrees-it is all opportunity in workforce development," said Governor Reeves. "I'm committed to helping our community colleges and more importantly, the institutions and the students they serve, to achieve even more together to better our workforce training, and create good-paying jobs for every Mississippian so they can thrive at home."

That is continued good news to community college leaders with graduation rates at community colleges at an all-time high and 75 percent of its graduates stay "home" in Mississippi. The Community College Economic Impact Report also revealed the value of an Associate of Applied Science degree within a few years of graduation, is very appealing to residents said MACJC Legislative Co-Chair and President of Jones College, Dr. Jesse Smith.

"The average salary for graduates with an A.A.S. degree is above \$40,000 which is equivalent to most university grads with a bachelor's degree," said Smith. "For every person who went through workforce training, after one year, they saw their income increase by \$2,300. We (community colleges) trained 100,000 people last year. Think of that economic impact in and of itself."

Some of the benefits the Report revealed didn't tie directly to the state economy or an individual's financial success. Dr. Andrea Mayfield, Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board explained employers greatly benefit from workforce training at community colleges.

"There are also some benefits that you don't hear very often, like lower reliance on public assistance, higher employee retention for companies through workforce training, higher

workforce productivity, lower likelihood of being injured on the job due to safety training through workforce services and more. There is a financial impact and a return to the state. All of these things add up and have value. Community College's truly are the economic powerhouse for the state," said Mayfield.

Despite the data or empirical evidence discussing the return on the investment of community colleges on the state economically, the President of the Mississippi Faculty and Staff Association and East Mississippi Community College English instructor, Marilyn Ford said the data represents far more to her. She sees her students, their dreams, aspirations and hope for a better future.

"I don't see the numbers or percentages when I enter a classroom. I see my kids, my students, who have hopes and dreams for our state and for ourselves. Our two-year colleges cannot continue to function with any degree of efficiency; we can't help the Molly's, the Lily's, the C. J.'s, that I see every day, every week. We need your help to continue our mission to serve our communities and those communities are comprised of living and breathing, hopeful Mississippians," said Ford in her appeal to the Legislature for more funding.

The 15 community college statewide system offers more than 500 locations throughout the state, including military bases and high schools, for residents to earn college credit and non-credit training. Providing accessible education and training is one of the many reasons the Mississippi Community College Impact Report indicates to community college leaders they are on the right track.

Maximizing the state's return on its investment in the community college system is helping the state and its residents with more pathways to financial and personal success.

## Holmes alumna passes licensing exam to become a vet

From Staff Reports/Photos



Joshlyn Martin Winstead

Joshlyn Martin Winstead, a 2013 Holmes Community College graduate, recently passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). She earned a bachelor's in biomedical engineering from Mississippi State University in 2015 and will graduate from MSU's College of Veterinary

Medicine on April 29. "Joshlyn is a memorable student because she always gave her best efforts in class and lab," said Holmes biological sciences instructor Mary Leigh Poole. "She has a wonderful personality and I am excited beyond belief that she will be in the Flowood area. I wish she was going into practice where we could use her as our regular Veterinarian. I know my pets would get the very best of care! I will definitely go to the Emergency clinic if we have a need. Congratulations! We are so proud of you!"

A 2011 alumna of Central Holmes Christian School, Winstead came to Holmes right out of high school and

became an engineering major. During her time at Holmes, she took honors courses, was a President's and Dean's List scholar and was a member of the Holmes Plus program, as well, which is a competitive scholarship organization for students who show an aptitude in science and mathematics. Additionally, Winstead was an active member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, where she served as vice president her sophomore year, earned the Golden Key Award, earned the All-USA academic team scholarship and earned a PTK transfer scholarship.

"Joshlyn Martin was an excellent student in the classroom and in the laboratory," said Holmes chemistry instructor Heather Jones. "As her chemistry instructor, I was able to watch her growth in knowledge and in experience in the sciences making a larger connection between biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics. I knew that she would accomplish any goal that she set for herself, as she never settled for less than perfection. She was a

joy to teach and was a great asset to campus when she was a student at Holmes."

Winstead, daughter of Angie and Jeff Martin, is married to Ricky Winstead. She and her husband reside in Starkville with their two sons, Walker (3) and Wade (2). Winstead has accepted a position at the Animal Emergency and

Referral Center in Flowood and will begin after graduation.

"Holmes was the perfect choice for me after I graduated from CHCS," Winstead said. "It was important to me that my teachers knew me by name and truly cared about my success in their class and outside the classroom. I learned valuable lessons from them all! I did not realize how much I would miss the campus after I graduated, so much that my husband and I were married in the Holmes chapel in the summer of 2014. I will always remember my time and the people I met there with a smile!"

## Miles, Grace honored at HEADWAE on March 2

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Goodman Campus Faculty Honoree **Angela Miles**, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffy** and Goodman Student Honoree **Britt Grace** at the 2020 HEADWAE event at the Capitol on March 2.

Angela Jones Miles, a mathematics instructor, and Britton English Grace, a civil engineering major, were honored today as 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, both on the Holmes Goodman Campus. The Holmes honorees were treated to lunch at Char followed by a program at the Capitol.

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-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.

"Britt is one of the best students in my class, both in engineering mechanics and engineering physics," said Durga Siwakoti, physics and engineering instructor. "He is curious, hard-working and most importantly, diligent in his work. We have had several discussions in and out of the classrooms on the topics related to course content or academia and I have enjoyed every bit of those conversations with him. He is a good listener, but does not hesitate to ask questions if he thinks something is missing in the discussion. It is a dream of a teachers to have students like Britt in his class. I wish him a very bright future ahead."

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 maintain 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 pre-pared 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."

## Courtyard is added plus at the Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Grenada Campus has completed their courtyard addition to the outdoor space next to the Campus Grill.

The courtyard will now provide a place for students and faculty to go to enjoy the outdoor air during their down time. The empty space has been there since the buildings were built in the 1980s. Dr. Michelle Burney, Vice President of the Grenada Campus, wanted to make use to the space in a productive way.

"We wanted to do something creative

with the dead space in heart of the campus and this idea provided several solutions to things our campus needed," said Burney.

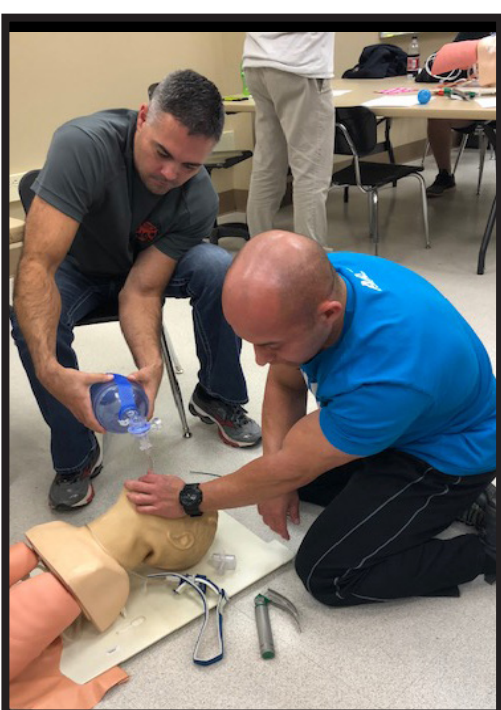
The outdoor space is full covered with a custom wood ceiling pavilion supported by western cedar beams. The outdoor space is well lit with recessed lighting. The landscaping and other elements such as iron picnic tables really make the once dull grassy spot a lavish place to be on a beautiful day.

No matter what the weather the area can be used because they have fans on warm days and the area is well isolated to provide a cozy place out of the winter winds.

(right) Pictured are (left to right) **James Willis**, **Madison Davis**, **Braden Migliore** and **Ashlee Hankins** enjoying the new patio.

## EMS program granted continuing accreditation

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) Board of Directors granted continuing accreditation to the Emergency Medical Science (EMS)-Paramedic program at Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus.

"The re-accreditation from CoAEM-SP demonstrates the Holmes EMS program's commitment to quality," said EMS Program Director Mark Galtelli, MHA, NRP. "We have tremendously dedicated faculty on both campuses who are committed to our student's success."

The EMS program at Holmes prepares students for a variety of roles in the field of emergency medicine.

Courses are offered on the campuses in Ridgeland and Grenada, and students who complete the one-semester EMT Course and receive licensure are prepared for direct patient care and serve as the support personnel as well as operate the ambulance. EMT students also end up working in emergency departments, fire departments, and physicians' offices. Current licensure as an EMT often provides points toward selection for entry into other allied health programs, as well.

A new paramedic program begins annually on each campus and meets three nights per week for three semesters. Successful completion of the course leads to a certificate or an AAS degree.

Paramedics provide direct patient care covering a broad range of injuries and illness. Experienced paramedics may be eligible to enter the Critical Care Paramedic program, a program designed and first implemented by the EMS staff at Holmes. The required courses are offered in a two-semester format on the Ridgeland Campus. Successful completion of the coursework leads to an AAS degree. Critical Care Paramedics are prepared for a career in critical care transport.

For more information on the Holmes EMS program, contact Mark Galtelli at mgaltelli@holmescc.edu or (601) 605-3331.

## Holmes CC specialty tag available for purchase

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (front, left to right) Dr. Amy Whittington, Stephanie Wood, (back, left to right) Morgan Bondurant and Brownyn Martin posing with their Holmes car tags.

Holmes Community College (HCC) Development Foundation has launched a new opportunity for Mississippi residents, especially alumni, employees, and friends to show their support

of Holmes through their daily travels. Holmes is the only community college in the state of Mississippi with a specialty car tag. Danny Chandler, a Holmes alum-

nus and member of the Legacy Club, recently suggested Holmes partner with the Mississippi Tax Commission to promote the college and raise funds simultaneously by establishing an official HCC specialty license plate.

“In a very difficult economy where so many worthy charities are competing for the same dollars, the Holmes Community College specialty tag is a way of receiving passive income for the school, while at the same time allowing students, faculty, and staff to show Bulldog (Go Dogs) pride,” says Danny Chandler, 1989 graduate of HCC. “Holmes graduates are dispersed throughout Mississippi. The tag will be a way of identifying our extended family more easily. The truth is there is no place like Holmes.”

The HCC specialty license has a clean, simple design that clearly highlights the Holmes brand and includes the college’s prominent catchphrase No Place Like Holmes. Tags are numbered as they are purchased. The cost of the tag is \$53 plus the cost of your regular tag in the county in which you live and each has a mailing fee and convenience fee when running a debit card. After the first year, the cost is \$10 to renew your tag plus your normal cost. Once the tag is purchased, the

Holmes Community College Development Foundation, Inc. will receive \$32.50.

Dr. Lindy McCain, Vice President of Institutional Research and Student Affairs and Executive Director of the HCC Development Foundation stated, “The money generated from the HCC license plates will help the foundation ensure the ongoing success of its many efforts of support.”

“The Holmes Community College license plates are a great way to show Bulldog pride everywhere you go and at the same time helps support Holmes,” said Coordinator of Alumni Affairs Katherine Ellard.

The HCC Development Foundation was established more than 45 years ago to represent the nine-county district the college serves. Its purpose is to provide funds for scholarships for students attending Holmes as well as provide funds to support educational activities of the college and sponsorship of capital improvement campaigns.

For more information on how specialty tags work, please visit the Department of Revenue webpage at <https://www.dor.ms.gov/TagsTitles/Pages/License-Plates.aspx>.

## Holmes Foundation awarded NEH Challenge Grant for McMorrough Library

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College is proud to announce that the Holmes Community College Development Foundation, Inc. has been named as one of the 2020 grant recipients selected by National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Infrastructure

and Capacity Building Challenge Grant on behalf of the McMorrough Library and Archives. The HCC Development Foundation sought the NEH matching grant to strengthen and aid the library in warranting excellent humanities provisions.

The NEH grant will provide the Foundation with \$231,849, and the Foundation will be responsible for matching these funds through donations. The McMorrough Library and Archives Renovation Project is dedicated to the preservation of humanities and seeks to provide an inclusive environment, offering informative programs to cultivate critical-thinking citizens.

“We are very pleased to be awarded these funds,” Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey said. “This is a premier grant that will allow us to modernize the lifeblood of our main campus, the library. A library should be the epitome of a welcoming place to expand one’s knowledge such as the humanities. We have not had a significant renovation of the library in decades so we are elated that we can work hard and raise the matching funds to do a renovation that we can be proud of for generations to come.”

As part of the proposed efforts to enrich and diversify the scope of humanities, the Development Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) organization, has a five-year plan to renovate the 1975 structure’s interior spaces and their contents. The new multidimensional spaces projected by the

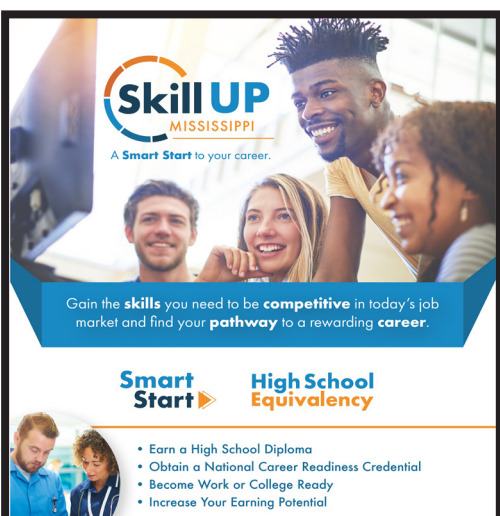
McMorrough Library and Archives Renovation Project will secure the practicality of activities set forth by the humanities departments as well as advance the library to become an innovative leader among Mississippi’s fifteen community college libraries.

Individuals who utilize the McMorrough Library and Archives will benefit from this renovation, making the impact of this project vital to secure the long-term perpetuation of the humanities for not only the college but also its neighboring communities. The Foundation will host a kick off to launch a matching campaign for the grant in the near future. The date and time of the event will be released through the Foundation’s webpage <https://www.holmescc.edu/foundation> and all Holmes social media accounts.

Tax exempt donations can be made to the Holmes Community College Development Foundation, P.O. Box 527, Goodman, MS 39079. Please contact the Foundation office at (662) 472-9017 to discuss giving opportunities for the matching grant.

## Holmes now offering Adult Ed classes in Eupora

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College will begin offering Adult Education classes in Eupora at the Eupora Depot located 855 South Dunn Street beginning this spring. The Holmes Adult Education program will hold orientation for High School Equivalency (HSE) classes Feb. 24-26 at 8:30 a.m. Classes will be held Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Adult Basic Education (ABE) 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. The Office of Adult Education at the Mississippi Community College Board is encouraging interested persons to get involved in the programs through their Skill UP Mississippi initiative. Through various programs such as Smart Start and High School Equivalency (HSE), Skill UP Mississippi is helping people launch

careers, which in turn strengthens the state workforce and creates an opportunity for economic development. The programs at Holmes can help adults gain skills they need to be competitive in the job market and increase their earning potential.

For more information about Adult Education programs at Holmes, contact Earline Russell-Smith at [esmith@holmescc.edu](mailto:esmith@holmescc.edu) or (662) 472.9105.



## Bulldogs soccer holds end-of-year celebration

From Staff Reports/Photos



Bulldogs Soccer Players show off their awards. Pictured are (left to right) Lawson Lyle, Andres Mendez, Colby Fair, Brandon King, Cameron Grantham, Brady Jacobs and Alex Barker.

On Feb. 25, the Holmes Community College Men's Soccer Team celebrated the season with an end-of-year awards ceremony in the Student Union on the Ridgeland Campus at 3 p.m. Men's Associate Head Coach Ousmane Coulibaly and Head Coach Matt Convertino thanked the boys for giving their all this past season before presenting plaques to outstanding players. As for the awards, Brady Jacobs was recognized as All-Region, Most Valuable Player and Golden Boot Award recipient, and Brandon King was recognized as All-State and Bulldog Leadership Award winner. Alex Barker

was named Most Improved, Lawson Lyle took home the Sportsmanship Award and Andres Mendez received the Playmaker Award.

In addition, Colby Fair was named Most Valuable Defender and Darrell Grantham was named Most Valuable Midfielder. Sophomore players were also presented team photos on a plaque before the team was treated to lunch.

For more information about the soccer program at Holmes, contact Coach Convertino at [mconvertino@holmescc.edu](mailto:mconvertino@holmescc.edu).

## Lady Bulldogs soccer celebrates season with banquet

From Staff Reports/Photos



The MACJC and Region XXIII champion Holmes Community College Lady Bulldog soccer team held their postseason banquet on Wednesday, Feb. 26 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus.

NJCAA awards included: Cariel Ellis, NJCAA All-American; Cariel Ellis, All-Region and Region XXIII Player of the Year; Zoe Ellis and Mackenzie Thompson, All-Region.

MACJC awards included: Halleigh (left) Pictured are (front row, left to right) award winners **Halleigh Steed, Mackenzie Thompson, Kya Davis, Peyton Montgomery**, (second row, left to right) **Carly Williams, Caseigh Hickman, Zoe Ellis**, (third row, left to right) **Carly Williams, Laine Chandler, Cariel Ellis, Alysia Terry and Laney Smith**.

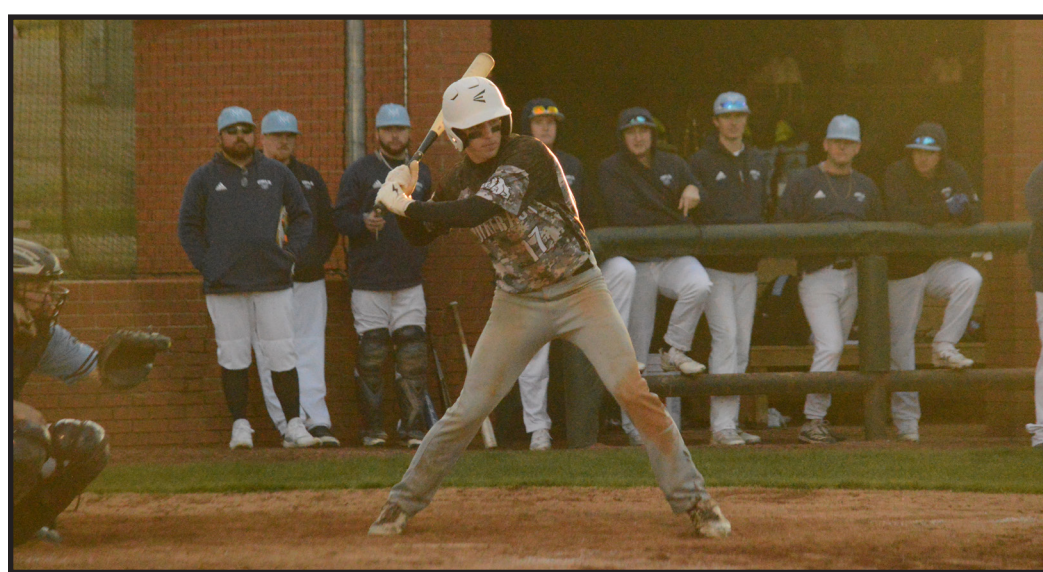
Steed, Kya Davis, Carly Williams and Lanee Chandler, All-State.

Team awards included: Most Valuable Player, Cariel Ellis; Golden Boot Award, Cariel Ellis; Most Valuable Offensive Player, Zoe Ellis; Playmaker Award, Mackenzie Thompson; Most Valuable Defensive Player, Halleigh Steed; Leadership Award, Alysia Terry; Most Improved, Laney Smith; Bulldog Award, Caseigh Hickman and Bulldog Award, Peyton Montgomery.

The coaches for the Lady Bulldogs include Head Coach Matt Convertino, Women's Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble, Women's Assistant Head Coach Ousmane Coulibaly, Goalkeeper Coach Jaylon Robinson and Volunteer Coach Humberto Pelaez.

## Bulldogs pick up two wins over Blue Mountain JV 11-1 and 10-0

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up two wins on March 2 over Blue Mountain JV, 11-1 and 10-0.

With the wins, the Bulldogs improve to 6-4 overall. Holmes host Nunez, La. at 2/5 p.m. on Saturday. Watch live at [holmesccmedia.com/white-channel](http://holmesccmedia.com/white-channel) or on your Amazon Fire or Roku devices.

Matthew Koch picked up the win. He went four innings and gave up one run on two hits with three strikeouts and one walk. Cade Johnson also threw in the game.

Jonathan Evans led the Bulldogs with two hits including a three-run homerun. Alex Frillman added a solo homerun and Jaylen Armstrong and Logan Toups added a double.

In game two, Alex Frillman picked up the win. He went two innings and gave up no runs on two hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Nate Oswalt and Dalton Massingill also threw in the game.

Tommy Easley led the Bulldogs with three hits including a double to end the game. Cole Drake had a grand slam in the game.

## Holmes Sports Hall of Fame set for April 2

From Staff Reports/Photos



The 2020 HCC Sports Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 2, at 6 p.m. in the Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus.

The 2020 inductees are: Wilson Charles Browning -- Baseball; Keith Lennell Gray- Basketball; Michael Jacob Newton- Men's Soccer; Lewis Quinby Morgan- Coach/AD; and Ronald Jay Aldy- Women's Basketball Coach.

The Alumni Association will also be honoring Steve Sizemore with a Special Service Award for all his hard

work and dedication to Holmes Athletics over the last several years.

The 2020 Holmes Community College inductee for the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame Randy Baldwin is being inducted for Holmes football which will be held April 21.

For ticket information please contact the Holmes Community College Alumni Office: 662-472-9134 or email Katherine Ellard: [kellard@holmescc.edu](mailto:kellard@holmescc.edu).

## Trae Embry named new head softball coach

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Trae Embry**

The Holmes Community College Board of Trustees has approved the hiring of Trae Embry as the new softball coach for 2020-21.

Embry has won the last seven fast pitch state titles and the last eight slow pitch state titles at Neshoba County High School. The Lady Rockets won district titles in slow pitch each season and won district titles in fast pitch from 2014 through 2019. The team is currently competing in their 2020 season. The 2018 team was No. 1 in the USA Today poll. His team produced Gatorade Players of the Year from 2014-2018.

Prior to Embry coming to Neshoba Central, he served as head coach of the slow pitch and fast pitch programs at Eupora High School winning the state title in 2005 and 2007 in slow pitch and the fast pitch state title from 2005-2007. His 2008 team was the state runner-up, was district champions from 2002-2008 and 2011 and was North Half champions 2005-2008.

Prior to this season, Embry had an overall coaching record of 428-72 and an overall slow pitch record of 413-104.

"I want to thank Dr. Haffey and

Coach Wood for this opportunity," Embry said. "I'm originally from Eupora, and I've always known that Holmes could be a place where you could win softball games," Embry said. "I talked to Coach Wood and Dr. Haffey, and everything that I wanted seemed to fall in place. It's definitely a great opportunity for me and my family."

Holmes is getting ready to start the renovation of the maintenance building into a multi-purpose facility for football, baseball and softball with a large weight room and indoor turf.

"I think there are some facility upgrades that are really going to help in recruiting and help in getting the team ready to play for championships," Embry said. "That's one of the big attractions of the job for me that it's being done," Embry said. "I've seen the blueprints for that. It gives you a place to go in on days like today so you can still work. It gives you an opportunity to work every day and not really take days off."

A weight training program will be important for his team. "Weights are a vital part of any top softball program, and they also help with preventing injuries," said Embry.

Embry said good players, coaches and a great relationship with administration has made him be successful at Neshoba Central. "I've been very fortunate to have great players, great assistant coaches and administration that backs us," Embry said. "I expect a top notch work ethic from players and coaches and that we just really believe going in that we have a great opportunity to outwork everybody we play."

"I expect that we are going to compete on a high level with high energy," he said. "I feel like the players I play with know we have to adjust. We've been fortunate to really have good pitching the last few years, and we have to be able to small ball and score

runs. We really like to play the game really fast and really aggressive. That's something I teach in practice and work on every day."

Embry said he's vocal on the field. "I'm pretty high energy," he said. "I've calmed down in the last six or seven years, but I am pretty high strung. I know what we put into it. When kids see how much it means to me it seems like it just overflows into them and make them want to play that much harder."

He said he knows recruiting will be huge on moving from high school to the college game. "That's no doubt one of the main things that's different," Embry said. "I think for me, I have a lot of contacts in the state. I've been coaching for 20 years. I know tons of people. I feel like my contacts will be the greatest attribute there."

Having strong pitching is important, and Embry said he has to find some dominate pitchers. "I think with us looking for 2020 kids, we've gotten ourselves behind the eight ball with not having any pitchers signed," he said. "We'd love to have a dominate pitcher come in, but if you don't, I've been in those situations in years past. You make the best of what you have and tend to play better defense when they are out there. It's going to be of those deals that we are going to hit the trail running trying to find these top notch pitchers, but if you don't you'll make the best out of what you have."

He feels his coaching philosophy will carry over from high school to college as well. "That's been the way I've played for 20 years," he said. "You may come in and may not be able to run. We'll make some adjustments there. You have that philosophy of what you want, but you have to adjust that to every team that you are coaching."

Telling his Neshoba players was one of the toughest things he's ever done.

"It's probably a situation also with it being right before our season starting has made it worse," he said. "I've coached most of these kids since the seventh grade. It was a very tough decision and tough task to go and tell them that."

"I've always wanted to coach college ball," he said. "I've had a couple of other opportunities but they haven't worked out. That's how I put it. They play the game to try to have a career in college ball that's kind of how coaches do. It's an opportunity that has presented itself and my family and I have made the decision. The kids understood. It was tough at first, but the kids bounced back fast. We had a good practice on Monday. They know I love each one of them and I'm going to be recruiting several of them. It's a connection well always have."

Embry's personal honors include: Mississippi Association of Coaches Coach of the Year, 2006 and 2013; National Federation of High School Coaches Association State Coach of the Year, 2006, 2013, 2015, 2017; District 4 Coach of the Year, 2004; MACJ Fast Pitch All-Star Coach, 2006; NEMSAP Fast Pitch All-Star Coach, 2003; MAC Slow Pitch All-Star Coach, 2011; Clarion Ledger Coach of the Year, 2005, 2015, 2018, 2019; Mississippi Prep Coach of the Year, 2017-2018; and NHSACA National Coach of the Year Finalist, 2018.

He is a member of the Mississippi Association of Educators, a member of the Mississippi Association of Coaches and a member of the Northeast Mississippi Softball Coaches Association.

Embry and his wife, Tera, have two children, Hayden, 20, who is a student at Itawamba and a member of the Indians' tennis team, and Mary Claire, 11.



**MEN'S  
SOCCER  
Tryout**  
Thurs., March 19  
9:30 a.m.  
Ridgeland Campus

Contact Coach Coulibaly for more information at [ocoulibaly@holmescc.edu](mailto:ocoulibaly@holmescc.edu) or call (601) 605-3357.

## Cheer tryout set for March 26

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Tryouts for the Holmes Community College Cheerleading Team are set for Thursday, March 26 on the Goodman Campus with registration starting at 3 p.m. in Frank Branch Coliseum.

Interviews will be done prior to warming up. Physicals are required for anyone trying out. Please bring a copy with you to the tryout.

Tryout requirements include: male -- toss chair, shoulder stands; male coed -- toss extension and lib (difficulty varies); male multibase -- quick toss lib or elite stunt; female -- toss straddle (either base or top), shoulder stand (either base or top); female coed -- toss chair, toss extension, toss lib (difficulty varies); female multibase

top -- toss chair and lib (difficulty varies); and female multibase base -- quick toss lib, two-person stunt (walk-in or j-up) and elite stunt. Tumbling is not required but highly recommended for male and female participants.

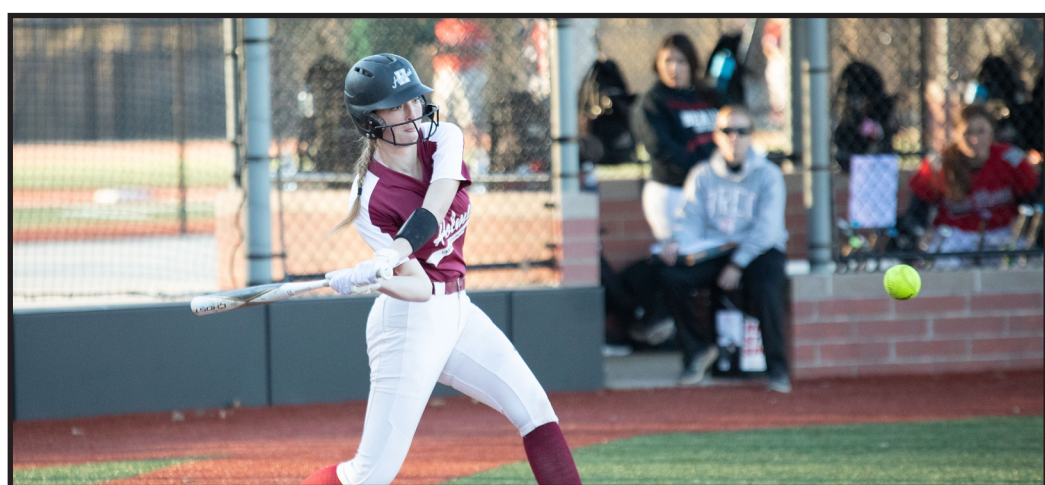
A stunt clinic is set for Sunday, March 22.

Open gym dates for those interested in the program have been set for March 16, March 23 and March 24. Cost is \$5.

For more information, contact Cheer Coach Heather Jones at [hjones@holmescc.edu](mailto:hjones@holmescc.edu) or call (662) 472-9099.

## Lady Bulldogs take two from Mississippi Delta, 15-6 and 19-12

*From Staff Reports/Photo by Kevin Brunt*



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up two wins at home on March 1 over Mississippi Delta Community College, 15-6 and 19-12.

In the first game, Katie Dana went

three innings and gave up five runs on eight hits with two strikeouts. Hannah Champion, Abby Welborn and Kylie Richardson each led the Lady Bulldogs with three hits. Welborn had a two-run homerun and a double while Champi-

on added two doubles. Madilyn Manor and Lainee Mckelroy each had two hits with Mckelroy adding a two-run homerun and Manor having a triple.

In the second game, Jessica Mitchell went 3 1/3 innings and gave up eight runs on nine hits with three strikeouts and one walk. Dana went 3 2/3 innings and gave up four runs on three hits with three strikeouts and one walk. Shelby Lindsay and Kaleigh Cosgrove each had three hits with Cosgrove adding a two-run homerun. Teagun Barnes had a three-run homerun while Manor added a two-run homerun. Shawanda Gray had two triples while Champion, Mckelroy and Josie Reed each had a double.

In two games on Friday in Brandon,

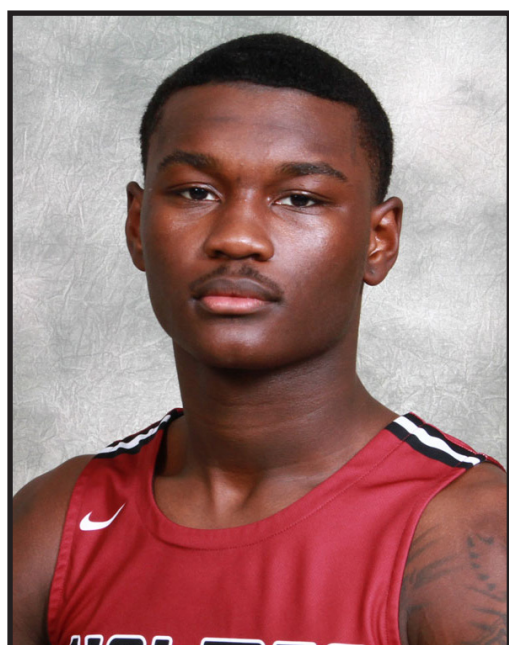
the Lady Bulldogs fell to Baton Rouge, 12-5 and to Parkland, 7-5.

Dana went 2 2/3 innings and gave up 12 runs on 10 hits with two strikeouts and one walk versus Baton Rouge. Welborn had three hits in the game including a double while Mckelroy added a homerun and Lindsay had a double.

Against Parkland, Jessica Mitchell went six innings and gave up seven runs on nine hits with two strikeouts and three walks. Welborn, Summer Jordan and Kailey Chachere each had two hits with Welborn and Josie Reed adding a double.

## Lewis named Second Team All-State

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College sophomore forward Josiah Lewis of Grenada has been named Second Team All-State by the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges for his play this season.

Lewis, a mainstay in the post for the Bulldogs, played in all 23 games for the Bulldogs this season. He averaged 11.6 points per game and nine rebounds per game. Lewis shot 54.6 percent from the floor (101-of-105) and 55.1 percent from the free-throw line (65-of-118).

## Bunch named Second Team All-State

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College freshman guard Gabrielle Bunch of Laurel has been named Second Team All-State by the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges for her play this season.

Bunch played in all 24 games for the Lady Bulldogs this season. She averaged 14.1 points per game and 5.4 rebounds per game. Bunch shot 40.3 percent from the floor (116-of-288), 28.2 percent from three-point range (31-of-111) and 68.2 percent from the free-throw line (75-of-110).

To keep up with Holmes Athletics, watch live at [holmesccmedia.com/white-channel](https://holmesccmedia.com/white-channel) or on your Amazon Fire or Roku devices. Check out <https://holmesathletics.com/> for the latest scores/schedules.



# The Growl Staff



**Kaitlyn Anderson**  
 Hometown: Jackson  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Major: Communications/Journalism  
 Activities: Worship team member, worship leader for children and part-time childcare teacher at Pinelake Madion Campus. Also a writer and social media manager for the womanwithjoannethemagazine.  
 Hobbies: Spending time with family and friends and doing volunteer work (including writing to soldiers and serving an online counseling site).  
 Future Plans: I plan to attend Belhaven University with hopes of becoming a writer and working in the entertainment field.



**Elisabeth Bailey**  
 Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Major: Communications/Journalism  
 Activities: Theater  
 Hobbies: Reading, writing and music  
 Future Plans: I would like to work at a publishing company and eventually become a published author.



**Tiara LeFlore**  
 Hometown: Jackson  
 Campus: Goodman  
 Major: Communications/ Journalism  
 Activities: SGA President, Holmes Connection! and Theater  
 Hobbies: Art and Poetry  
 Future Plans: I plan to attend Jackson State University.



**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.



**Angel Sawyer,**  
 Hometown: Jackson, MS  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Major: Art  
 Hobbies/interests: Drawing, taking pictures and painting  
 Future plans: My future plans are to one day be a owner of my own daycare or to be an interior designer. I love working with kids.

*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](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu).*