

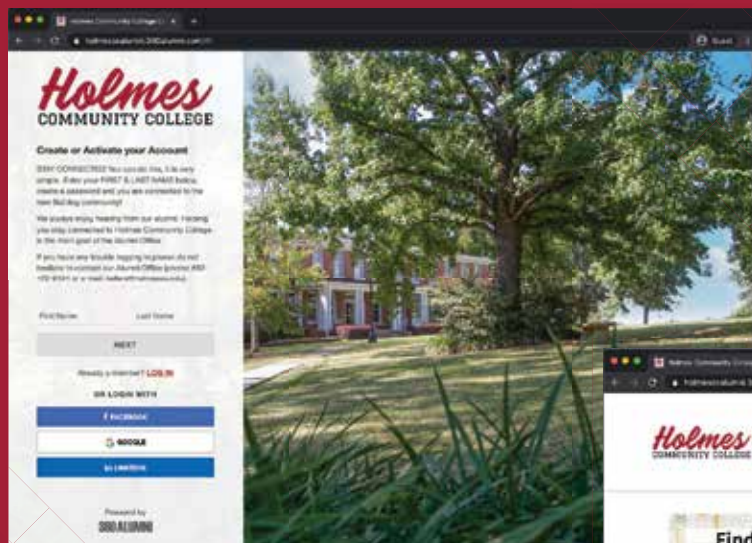
HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PAW PRINTS

FALL 2020 | ISSUE 33 - VOLUME 2



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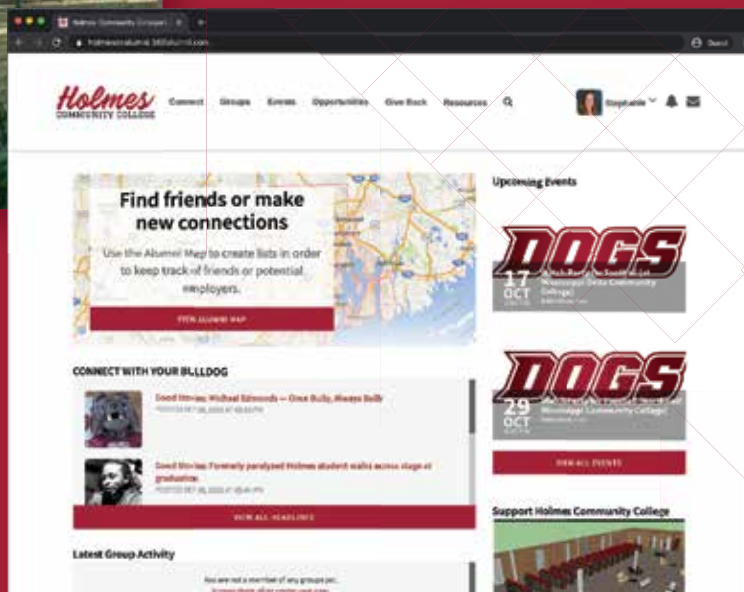


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Let's stay connected...

Introducing Alumni 360! The Holmes Alumni Association is taking "Staying Connected" to a new level. The Holmes Alumni Office has partnered with 360 Alumni to bring you a new way to celebrate being connected. Spread the word to your fellow alumni!



Alumni Spotlight: Tessa Taylor, '99

Tessa Taylor Horn is a Lexington native and a 1999 Holmes Community College alumna.

Horn was active during her time at Holmes. She was a member of the Holmes Dazzlers, Phi Theta Kappa, Student Government



Association and Concert Choir. She was also selected for the prestigious Hall of Fame.

"The faculty and staff members at Holmes were amazing," Horn said. "Their doors were always open and they were all very caring and compassionate about the students. Many memories and lifelong friends were made at Holmes."

After Holmes, Horn continued her education at Delta State University. She graduated from Delta State with a bachelor's degree in special education in December 2002. In January 2003, she started her teaching career in the

Canton Public School District.

While teaching, Horn attended Belhaven University and earned her master's in elementary education in December 2005. She taught in the Durant Public School District before moving to the Kosciusko School District.

Horn teaches Foundations I, Computer

Science, and Engineering at Kosciusko Junior High School. She is also the co-sponsor of the Kosciusko Junior High School Cheerleaders and a bus driver.

Her dedication and commitment to the students earned Horn the title of 2020 Kosciusko School District Teacher of the Year.

Since returning to school in August, the Kosciusko School District teachers are using creativity and flexibility like never before to ensure that both virtual and traditional learners have a great and safe, school experience.

Horn and her husband Evan, who is also a Holmes alumnus, live in Kosciusko. They have one son named Braxton (9).

Message from the Alumni President: James Young



These last few months have been very challenging. This is only the second pandemic that our country has experienced. The first one was in 1918 and many more were killed then. My father only had one sibling (a sister), and she died during that pandemic.

Everything in our society has been changed because of the COVID-19 Virus. Businesses have closed, and some will never open again. Our churches have changed; and, of course, schools and colleges have changed.

I have missed all the activities that go along with the Alumni Association. I have missed going to the campus at Goodman. Hopefully we will be back to normal soon.

This is a time for us to pause. We have been at home for months with lots of time to think and do things we normally do not do. I have worked in the yard more than I ever have. I planted flowers and fruit trees. I had previously said I would not plant another thing I had to mow around. It, however, has been a pleasure watching the flowers bloom. The fig tree put on figs; and I have eaten some muscadines that we planted in April. I really thought I would not get fruit until next year!

It has been my pleasure to serve as president of the Alumni Association for the last two years. It gave me a chance to give back to a college that gave so much to me. I have enjoyed working alongside Katherine Ellard. She is a great person doing a great job. I attended Holmes, Mississippi College and New Orleans Baptist Seminary. My favorite is Holmes. J. L. Peebles, Jr. was a great roommate.

Our class of 1963 had a 50th year reunion, and we still meet a couple of times a year. I had some wonderful teachers: Mr. Miley, Mr. Sudduth, Miss Bostwick—to name a few. Mr. Sudduth had a good sense of humor. Once in Western Civilization class he handed out a blank map for us to locate some places we had studied. The map was not clear at all. We all sat in silence for a few minutes. Then my cousin Delma Harkins, who was sitting on the front row held up the map, turned it, and said, “Mr. Sudduth, I can’t tell which is the top and bottom.” Mr. Sudduth responded, “Well, Delma, turn it until the water runs out of the Red Sea, and you will have it right.”

God bless Holmes Community College, and God bless America!

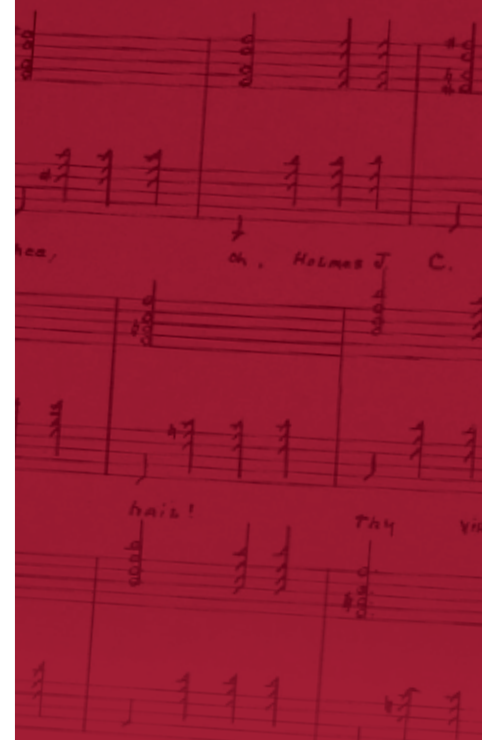
James E. Young,
Alumni Association President

Our plans for Homecoming

Holmes Community College and the Holmes Alumni Office have canceled all in-person alumni events this fall. This includes the annual homecoming event; however, a few traditions still taking place will be the football game on November 12 at 3 p.m., the homecoming court at half-time and a virtual honoree ceremony. We invite you to join the watch parties for these events at holmesccalumni.360alumni.com/events/.



ALMA MATER



ON THE COVER: A Glimpse of Homecoming Queens Past

*Queens listed chronologically
from top left to bottom right:*

- 1946 Jan Farrish
- 1947 Gracie Kirk Harpole
- 1948 Amy Jean Owens
- 1950 Bette Martens
- 1956 Joan Burns
- 1958 Nina Adams
- 1962 Linda Staten
- 1966 Phyllis Mitchell
- 1968 Martha Burney
- 1970 Shirley Ray
- 1974 Alice Scott
- 1975 Lori Johnson
- 1981 Gaye Killebrew
- 1984 Kim Clark
- 1986 Jerrelyn Redmond
- 1988 Laura Kay Hill
- 1991 Paige Frazure
- 1993 Rachel Ballard
- 1996 Nicole Fuller
- 1999 Chastity May
- 2008 Leslie George
- 2010 Kristen Eakin
- 2015 Brittany Dance
- 2018 Anastasia Boston



David Charles Hudson, '89 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Holmes Community College 2020 Alumnaus of the Year is David Charles Hudson of Kosciusko.

Hudson, a 1989 graduate, was very involved as a student at Holmes. During his time as a Bulldog, he was awarded the Physics Award, inducted into Hall of Fame and voted Most Handsome. He was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the baseball

team, making the all-star team his sophomore year.

"I have great memories from Holmes," Hudson said.

During his time at Holmes, Hudson was inspired by his chemistry instructor, Ray Rutledge. Rutledge's classes adequately prepared him for the next level of education.

After Holmes Hudson transferred on to the University of Mississippi where he earned a B.S. in pharmacy in 1993. During his last year of pharmacy school he married his wife, Christy.

Hudson's first job as a pharmacist was at Savrite Drugs in Port Gibson. Hudson worked three years in west Mississippi before moving back to Kosciusko.

Twenty-three years ago, Hudson moved back to the area to be a pharmacist at Sullivan's Discount Drugs. Today, Hudson is the

owner of several pharmacy businesses. He is owner and operator of Sullivan's Drugs and Gifts in Kosciusko, owner of Howell and Heggie Drug Company in Durant, owner of Quick Care Pharmacy in Grenada and owner of Quick Care Clinic in Grenada. His businesses employ 48 people in the surrounding area.

Hudson was awarded Distinguished Alumnaus by the University of Mississippi School Of Pharmacy in 2011 and he served on the State Board of Pharmacy from 2008-2013, during which time he served as president.

In 2016, Hudson established the Ray Rutledge Memorial Science Department Fund in honor of his former instructor. He and his wife Christy wanted the science instructors to have access to funds if they needed something for their students at Holmes, whether it be lab equipment, trips to statewide events or even a department party.

"A lot of times these things do not get budgeted in," Hudson said. "I just wanted them to use it to help the students have what they needed to be the best chemistry students they can be."

Hudson and Christy have four kids; Ben (25), Sam (23), Wes (20) and Kate (16). They are active members of the Legacy Club.

Gerry "Austin" Taylor, '07 YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Kosciusko native Gerry "Austin" Taylor is the Holmes Community College Young Alumnaus of the Year.

Taylor is a graduate of Kosciusko High School. He followed in both of his grandfathers' footsteps, by attending Holmes: his grandfather Alton Taylor (1951-53), and Dewitte Belk (1953-55).

Taylor was a scholar-athlete as well, earning an invitation to be part of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Taylor was the 2007 MVP

for the Holmes Dirtbags. He earned Mississippi Association of Colleges and Junior Colleges All-State honors and represented his team in the Mississippi Junior College Baseball Showcase.

In the 2006 Major League Baseball draft, Taylor was chosen in the 49th round by the St. Louis Cardinals. Graduating from Holmes in 2007, Taylor continued to play ball with the University of Alabama

at Birmingham (UAB) Blazers in 2008. He played in 51 games and started in 49 of those his first season at UAB.

He earned his bachelor's in business administration from UAB, and has worked for the past 11 years at Mitchell Metal Products in Kosciusko as the sales manager for the southeast territory. The company sells sheet metal, duct pipe and fittings. Taylor's territory ranges all the way from Texas to Georgia.

Staying on top of his industry education, Taylor earned a Lean Six Sigma Certification from James Worth Bagley College of Engineering at Mississippi State University.

Due to Taylor's athletic accomplishments, he was inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame in 2017. He continues to be active with Holmes by serving on the Holmes Development Foundation Board of Directors.

Taylor and his wife Mary Claire have three children, Tate (7), Wells (5), and Hank (3). He is an active member of the Kosciusko Lion's Club and attends First Presbyterian Church of Kosciusko.



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Clytice Robertson Gardner DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Clytice Robertson Gardner is the 2020 Distinguished Service Award recipient. She is the wife of the late Burnis Theodore Gardner of Brandon. Together the Gardner's have shown great service and dedication to Holmes Community College. Mrs. Gardner continues to serve on the Development Foundation Board of Governors and is an active member the Holmes Legacy Club.

Mrs. Gardner grew up in Sallis. She and her husband met at Holmes in 1949 and were married in 1950. They shared 67 years of marriage before his death in June 2018.

Everything Mrs. Gardner has committed to in her life she has done with true commitment and dedication. She loved her job with South Central Bell Telephone Company (now AT&T) and retired with them after 37 years of service in 1989.

Before Mrs. Gardner retired she had been taking night classes at Millsaps College for years and she only lacked twenty-one hours to graduate. When she retired in May of 1989 she enrolled as a full-time day student at Millsaps. In August of 1990, Mrs. Gardner earned a BLS degree in history from Millsaps College.

Mrs. Gardner was a very active volunteer

and all of her assignments were very meaningful. A few of the groups she volunteered with over the years included her church, Telephone Pioneers of America, USA International Ballet Competitions, Jackson International Airport and Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Mrs. Gardner has been awarded several awards for her service in all aspects of her life. Some of those awards include the Spirit of Service Award by Telephone Pioneers of America, the Lifetime Achievement Award by Bellsouth Pioneers in 2002, Certificate of Appreciation from USA International Ballet Competition, the President's Volunteer Service Award by the White House under President Obama by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and certificate of appreciation from the Jackson International Airport.

Mrs. Gardner resides in Brandon. She continues to contribute to Holmes through the Burnis T. and Clytice Robertson Gardner Scholarship that she and her late husband established to help students in need of assistance for tuition, books and supplies.



Holmes
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Eric Payton-Gilkey, '90 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

The Holmes Community College 2020 Veteran of the Year is Canton native Eric Payton-Gilkey.

Payton-Gilkey played forward on the Holmes basketball team under Bennie Kimble while attending in 1984-85. He then joined the military, returning to Holmes in 1989-90 after three and a half years of service.

After graduating from Holmes, Payton-Gilkey continued on to Southern Arkansas University where he played two years of basketball under Coach Monroe Ingram as forward.

In 1997, Payton-Gilkey earned a B.B.A. degree from Southern Arkansas University. He even served as a student basketball coach while working on his degree.

Payton-Gilkey re-enlisted to serve our country in 1999 with the National Guard and later continued on to the Army Reserve. He severed one tour of duty in Kuwait and another in Iraq. After 23 years and 9 months of service, Payton-Gilkey

retired as captain from the United State Army. In addition to serving our country, he continued to work with employers such as Levi/Strauss and World Com.

He earned several awards during his years of service, including the Meritorious Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expedition Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal.

Payton-Gilkey is currently the vice president of safety and administration for the Canton Municipal Utilities. He also serves as an Alderman of Ward 6 in Canton since 2001.

Payton-Gilkey and his wife Monica have two children, Coby and Eric, Jr., and three grandchildren Zakirisu, Eric and Ereil.





HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Goodman / Ridgeland / Grenada
P.O. BOX 527, Goodman, MS 39079

Stay in touch! Helping you stay connected to Holmes Community College and to each other is what the HCC Alumni Association is all about. Update your contact information by sending an email to: kellard@holmescc.edu

Share your photos on social media with the hashtag:

#NoPlaceLikeHolmes 🐾 📷 📱

Stream the Games with us! The pandemic may limit who can attend gameday on campus, but you can still cheer for the Bulldogs from your home TV, smart phone, or tablet! Join us in watching the live streams from **holmesccalumni.360alumni.com/events/**



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QWHERE AM I?

Do you know where this picture was taken? Send your guess to kellard@holmescc.edu. We will unveil the location in the next edition of Paw Prints.



AANSWER FROM LAST ISSUE:

Last issue we pictured a bench from the arboretum on our Grenada Campus. The benches were contributed by Ben Brasher for his Eagle Scout Project. In 2017, Holmes became only the third in the state to officially maintain an arboretum, joining Picayune and Madison. The arboretum is located on the North side of campus, just below the library. If you are on campus or in Grenada, stop and take in the beauty of the garden.