



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

THE GROWL

Volume 87
Number 28

Jan. 7, 2025

Holmes Ridgeland celebrates graduation of state's first AWS Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College successfully launched Mississippi's first Amazon Web Services (AWS) Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship (I2PA) program, designed to equip participants with in-demand skills for careers in information infrastructure. There have only been two other I2PA programs in the nation so far. The four-week program ran from Nov. 4-Dec. 6, concluding with an opportunity for graduates to network with subject matter experts from AWS as well as other vendors and contractors on the last day.

Graduates of the program included Nicole Arbour, James Austin, Nicholas Beasley, Robert Burgess,

Romello Carter, Alysia Green, Brendon Groves, Brittany Hobson, Gabriel Hopkins, Bryant Jackson, Travis Johnson, Nathaniel Jones, Ryan Korn, Andrew Levine, John Munn, Daniel Rosenbloom, Bre Anna Sanders, Brian Shook, Mikel Stephen, Albert Taylor, Hanson Tran and Alana Woodruff. Cham Blain, Ben Kay and Larry Tait served as program instructors, with various industry representatives coming in to lead trainings, as well.

During the AWS I2PA program, participants completed 30 hours of hands-on training each week, learning the skills needed to build, connect, power

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Holmes hosts Senate and House Technology and State Affairs Discussion Panel

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Ocean Aero Chief of Staff **Keith Blystone**, NVIDIA Senior Account Manager **Dani Devito**, WISPR Chief Executive Officer **John Reece**, and Microsoft Community Engagement Manager **Jonathan "JJ" Childress**.

Holmes Community College's Ridgeland Campus hosted the Senate and House Technology and State Affairs Discussion Panel on Tuesday, Dec. 10 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center. The event, moderated by Gerard Gibert of SuperTalk Mississippi, brought together prominent leaders to discuss current and future technology issues impacting the state of Mississippi.

Panel participants included NVIDIA Senior Account Manager Dani Devito, Ocean Aero Chief of Staff Keith Blystone, WISPR Chief Executive Officer John Reece, Microsoft Community Engagement Manager Jonathan "JJ" Childress, Mississippi Development Authority Executive Director Bill Cork, Mississippi Public Service Com-

mission Central District Commissioner De'Keither Stamps and Accelerate MS Executive Director Dr. Courtney Taylor.

The panel addressed a variety of topics surrounding technological advancements and their implications for Mississippi's growth and workforce development. Discussions highlighted the importance of collaboration between state leaders, educators, and industry experts to ensure Mississippi remains at the forefront of technological innovation.

The entire panel discussion can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/7oW-Cd0ZjKyM?feature=shared>.

Avery, Smith receive Lions Club Nursing Scholarship

From Staff Reports/Photos



Faith Avery



Alexia Smith

Two nursing students from the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus were awarded the Grenada Lions Club Nursing Scholarship. Faith Avery, a student in the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program, and Alexia Smith, a student in the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program, were recognized for their hard work and dedication.

The Grenada Lions Club is a community service organization that meets twice a month, and the Grenada Lions Club Nursing Scholarship supports students pursuing careers in healthcare, aiming to strengthen the future of nursing in the local community.

What's Inside...

- Student Editorials
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To keep up with everything going on at Holmes, follow us on DogTracks on our website at holmescc.edu!

Let's recycle

By Jermeria McClendon
Staff Reporter



“While recycling is great in a lot of ways, the ultimate goal is to get people to prevent waste in the first place” – McKenzie Jones

Only 32 percent of the United States recycles. Reducing filth in the environment requires recycling plastic, cardboard or even paper. Due to plastic taking many years to completely decompose, improper disposal can lead to build up in landfills and natural ecosystems, causing long-term harm and filth. This reduces the amount of waste produced and stops dangerous chemicals from leaking into water and land. Also, recycling also reduce ener-

gy consumption.

Additionally, recycling plastic saves natural resources and energy. Contrarily, recycling consumes a lot less energy, which helps to maintain our limited natural resources and reduce our carbon impact. Recycling all items can help avoid raw materials process and requires less heat and energy. It also helps them to not waste more time and material. People even use recycling as a job in a way to help their community.

Lastly, plastic recycling boosts the economy overall. It promotes creativity in creating environmentally friendly goods and packaging. Recycling helps people create a cleaner, greener society and support local economies in addition to improving the health of the environment. Also, keeping your community clean could help keep diseases



and other bacteria from spreading.

“You can recycle today for a better tomorrow,” Jones said. “Recycling

take a little effort on your part, but makes a big difference to the world.”

Christmas time in New York: A festive wonderland

By Kyanti Fleming
Staff Reporter



When the holiday season arrives in New York City, the city transforms into a festive wonderland, drawing visitors from around the world eager to experience its iconic

Christmas charm.

One of the most beloved attractions is the world-famous Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree. Standing 75 feet tall and adorned with more than 50,000 LED lights, the tree lights up the plaza in midtown Manhattan, attracting crowds to see the dazzling display. Ice skaters glide beneath its branches at the rink, adding to the holiday magic.

Nearby, Fifth Avenue's holiday window displays are a major draw. Stores like Saks Fifth Avenue and Macy's deck out their windows with elaborate,

themed decorations, featuring intricate scenes of snow, toys and festive cheer. Thousands of shoppers stroll along the avenue, drawn not only by the sales but by the enchanting holiday spectacle.

For those seeking a more tranquil holiday experience, Central Park offers a serene escape. The park's paths, lined with snow-dusted trees, are perfect for a winter stroll, while horse-drawn carriage rides offer a cozy way to take in the city's holiday sights. At night, the park is illuminated with festive lights, adding a touch of magic to the winter landscape.

The city also boasts a variety of holiday performances, including the iconic “Radio City Christmas Spectacular” featuring the Rockettes, and numerous concerts, ballets and theatrical productions that bring the Christmas spirit to life.

In addition to the visual wonders, New York's culinary scene shines



during Christmas time. From hot chocolate at charming cafés to seasonal treats like gingerbread cookies and roasted chestnuts from street vendors, the city's flavors bring added warmth to the season.

Whether it's the lights, the music, or

the festive spirit that fills the air, New York City during Christmas time offers an unforgettable holiday experience, where tradition meets modern celebration in the heart of the Big Apple.



Holmes Community College
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Send to: mbusby@holmescc.edu.

Study tips across majors

By Macey Bowman
Staff Reporter



Have you ever wondered if other students are struggling in school the same way that you are? Students from all different majors struggle with many different things. Many come up with ways to help them study or remember topics for upcoming test, practical or presentation. Although the students providing tips today may have different majors than you do, you can apply the same aspects to your schoolwork.

Maggi Gilliam, a pre-nursing major from Hinds Community College, shared some ways to help students remember things she learned in class.

Gilliam is a straight A student in all her pre-requisite courses at Hinds. Gilliam says that the best way she remembers information is “reading the chapter in the course book before class and then reviewing lecture videos after class.”

“I spend close to two hours daily reviewing material taught in the previous classes; this has proven to be the best way for me to prepare for my tests,” Gilliam said.

Caley Gatlin is a cosmetology student from Jones College and is excelling in all hands on and course work activities. Gatlin says that the best way to be motivated in class is to “find a mentor who drives your passion and believes in you.” Another way Gatlin excels in her coursework is constantly practicing and doing hands on work in class and out of class.



“I would not be able to withstand the daily class load of a cosmetology student without the support and help from my friends, classmates and mentors,” Gatlin said.

So, if you are struggling or feel overloaded in class, you are not alone. These tips from a pre-nursing major

and cosmetology student may help you to succeed in class. To read more tips on school work, homework, and studying, visit <https://summer.harvard.edu/blog/top-10-study-tips-to-study-like-a-harvard-student/>.

Dogs: Loyal companions and beloved pets

By Kyanti Fleming
Staff Reporter



Dogs have been human companions for thousands of years, earning the title of “man’s best friend.” Known for their loyalty, intelligence and affectionate nature,

dogs are the most popular pet in the United States, with over 90 million dogs living in households across the country.

Historically, dogs were domesticated from wolves around 15,000 years ago. Early humans relied on them for hunting, guarding and herding livestock. Over time, selective breeding

has resulted in hundreds of distinct dog breeds, each with unique traits and characteristics.

Today, dogs are primarily kept as pets, providing companionship, comfort and even assistance. Many dogs serve as therapy animals, guide dogs for the visually impaired or working dogs in roles like search-and-rescue, police work and military service. Their strong sense of smell and trainability make them valuable partners in these important tasks.

Whether as playful family pets or hardworking service animals, dogs continue to enrich human lives with their unconditional love and diverse skills.



Five tips for a healthy diet

By Jermeria McClendon
Staff Reporter



Here are five tips for a healthier diet.

1. Eat a variety of foods.

No single food provides all the necessary nutrients the body

needs so a variety of food incorporated in your diet is key to achieving a balanced intake. According to MyPlate.gov, a person should have a fruit, vegetable, protein, grain and a dairy to have a balanced meal. By consuming the proper vitamins and minerals from the healthier choice of foods, you can avoid being malnourished.

2. Control portion size.

Maintaining a better diet requires controlling portion sizes since it helps limit calorie intake and discourage overeating. You may better balance your diet and prevent overeating in high-calorie, low-nutrient meals by

paying attention to how much food you eat at each meal. You can enjoy a range of foods in moderation by using smaller dishes, measuring quantities and being mindful of serving sizes. This method of getting the proper balance of nutrients without consuming too many calories, helps you maintain your weight and supports long-term health.

3. Incorporate healthy fats.

By supplying vital nutrients, encouraging heart health and preserving normal cell function, including healthy fats in your diet can enhance your general well-being. Nuts, seeds, avocados, olive oil and fatty seafood like salmon are good sources of good fats the body need to be healthy. Moreover, good fat supports the brain. It also keeps your skin and hair in excellent shape.

4. Limit sugar and processed food.

Maintaining a better diet requires consuming less processed foods and sugar because they are frequently heavy in



unhealthy fats, artificial ingredients and empty calories. Consuming too much sugar raises the chance of developing chronic illnesses like type 2 diabetes, dental problems and weight gain. Inflammation and poor gut health can also be caused by processed foods, which are usually loaded with refined chemicals and preservatives. You may improve nutritional intake, control energy levels and promote long-term well-being by choosing whole meals including fruits, vegetables, lean meats and whole grains.

5. Stay hydrated.

The body needs water for various processes, such as digesting, absorbing nutrients and controlling body temperature. Maintaining regular water intake can also improve brain clarity, energy levels, and skin health. The body stays hydrated and performs at its peak when you drink enough water throughout the day and eat foods high in water, such as cucumbers and melons. Also, water plays a part in the function of the entire body like bones.

The evolution of college style: from the 90’s to now

By Macey Bowman
Staff Reporter



Do you try to stay on the trends with what you wear to class? Or are you more of the throw on whatever and hope to make it on time type of person? Either of

these would be categorized as to-day’s style: Individualistic. Style has changed so much since the 90’s, and some styles are even coming back.

In the 90’s, pop culture was an enormous influence on style. This era’s style was a mix of grunge and minimalistic outfits. Icons like Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein were huge. Technology like large cell phones or the early laptops had just been introduced in the 90’s. Students would carry these around campus and sometimes incorporate maybe a bag that held their large cell phone into their outfit, since their phones couldn’t fit in

a pocket like today.

The 2000’s style era consisted of Y2K and logos like Hollister and Abercrombie & Fitch. Y2K was booming on college campuses with trends that have started to make a comeback like low rise jeans, velour track suits and chunky sneakers. A few personal favorite icons influenced this era including Paris Hilton and Britney Spears.

In the 2010’s, classrooms were full of athleisure wear like yoga pants, leggings and sneakers. Fast fashion was also flooding campuses with brands like Zara, H&M and Forever 21. Instagram influencers were starting to shape the clothing trends in this time, as well. The rise in athleisure made college campuses more of a casual setting than the last two decades.

Today, college campuses are filled with students who express their own style and look for sustainability in clothes. This may be from any of these eras or a completely different style. Thrift shopping, vintage and eco-con-



scious brands are in an uproar as social influencers from TikTok or Snapchat share what they found thrifting or what eco-friendly brand is sponsoring them.

Many of today’s fashion trends are recycled from the past decades. This means that in the future when the fashion we see today goes out of style we may see it again. Or maybe technology

and social media platforms will take fashion in a completely different and new direction. But whether you try to stay on the trends or throw something on, your fashion is unique to you. That’s the best things about today’s fashion era: Individualistically.

Make change with meditation

By Jermeria McClendon
Staff Reporter



“Meditation practice is neither holding on nor avoiding; it is a settling back into the moment, opening to what is there,” said Jack Kornfield. He

leads a powerful and heartfelt meditation group and has his own website, <https://jackkornfield.com/category/meditations/>.

Meditation provides a little moment of peace in the middle of the hectic world of today. You may improve your general well-being, cut down on stress and increase concentration by dedicating a short period of time each day to deep breathing and mental focus. Additionally, it enhances sleep quality, emotional stability and attention span.

The advantages of mindfulness, guided meditation or basic breathing techniques carry over into your everyday life and beyond the session.

Simply being willing to stop and be present is all that is needed for meditation; no particular tools or knowledge are needed. You might experience more mental clarity, more patience and a greater sense of balance as you develop this practice. The more you practice, the more capable you will be of navigating life’s obstacles with poise and dignity. Meditation is a potent tool for finding inner calm and reestablishing your connection to yourself in a world full of distractions. Begin modestly, maintain consistency and discover the transforming potential of mindfulness.



Balancing finals, social life and self-care in college

By Macey Bowman
Staff Reporter



It is a common struggle amongst college students to balance schoolwork, work, hanging out with friends and self-care. When it comes to finals week, everything

that students have been trying to balance the whole semester becomes 10 times harder due to the long hours of studying. There is constant pressure on students to excel in their academics while maintaining friendships and their well-being.

Academics is so important to the

future of college students. The pressure to succeed in assignments, tests and deadlines is always present while taking college classes. Planners, breaking up tasks and prioritizing assignments can help with the pressure of academics. Along with academics, there is a lot of pressure surrounding friendships and social connections throughout college. It is so important to have a support group of family and friends surrounding you while you go about this part of life.

Self-care can often come as an afterthought to a college student running around trying to finish their assignments, study for tests and make sure they are doing everything they can to

excel academically. Self-care can be one of the most beneficial things to a student. Taking care of yourself makes you feel better, and we have all heard the saying “Feel good, Do good.”

Every student needs to find their priorities that work for them. Not everything is as easy as high school was, especially when it comes to balancing college life. Maybe experiment with different routines throughout your day-to-day life to find what works best for you. Be flexible with yourself and change things as you go to fit in with your priorities. Figuring this out leads to a much more positive college experience.



AWS (continued from Front Page)

and operate the infrastructure that drives the global information economy. Training was conducted using the tools and materials found in the field, providing practical, job-ready experience in AWS cloud technology, networking and security. Participants explored key elements of mission-critical building projects, including fiber optics, electrical and mechanical systems, computer

servers, and the software used in the design and construction of these facilities and systems. They gained insights into high-demand careers and performed work functions typically found in real-world job settings.

Additionally, the apprenticeship program sharpened participants skills applicable to any career, including

problem-solving, time management, teamwork, persistence and effective collaboration. While completing the training, they earned industry-required certificates—including AWS I2PA and OSHA 10—and were compensated. The program was part of AWS’s broader commitment to creating a more diverse and inclusive tech workforce by providing accessible

pathways into high-growth careers. It aligned with Holmes’ mission to provide relevant, high-quality educational opportunities that empower individuals to succeed in a global society.

To learn more about the AWS program, go to <https://aws-workforce.pearson.com/i2pa/>

Elizabeth Shelby steps into role of academic counselor for Student Support Services at Holmes

From Staff Reports/



Elizabeth Shelby recently stepped into the role of academic counselor for Student Support Services on the Holmes Community College Goodman

Campus. Shelby, who has been with the college for 10 years, will assist students in bridging the gap between high school and college, as well as helping them transition from community college to four-year institutions.

In her new role, Shelby will provide academic and personal counseling, assist students in navigating financial aid and connect them with tutoring services and comprehensive transfer assistance. Her services include help with housing, scholarships, transportation and more. One of Shelby’s favorite aspects of her job is leading students on college transfer tours throughout the state.

“I find great joy in helping first-generation college students achieve their academic goals,” Shelby said. “I work to provide a supportive environment so that students can graduate from Holmes and successfully transfer to a

four-year college or university.”

Shelby’s career at Holmes began as an administrative assistant in the Counseling Center, followed by a role as an Admissions and Financial Aid representative on the Ridgeland Campus. Her journey reflects her commitment to supporting students at every stage of their academic careers.

Shelby earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Paralegal Studies from Holmes, followed by Paralegal Regular and Advanced Certificates. She is also a Nationally Certified Paralegal. She completed a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies degree from Mississippi State University, with an emphasis in Instructional Technology, Sociology and Health Promotion. Shelby is set to receive her Master’s in Education with a focus on School Counseling from Liberty University this December.

Prior to her work at Holmes, Shelby held positions at the University of Kentucky’s Department of Plant Pathology and Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth, where she worked as a development coordinator.

Outside of work, Shelby enjoys traveling and has visited 16 countries. She is passionate about reading, needle-point and crafting with her Cricut. Additionally, she is a member of American School Counselor Association (ASCA), Magnolia School Counselor Association and Trace Ridge Church in Ridgeland.

Shelby and her husband Mark have been married for 32 years and they have three daughters, two son-in-laws and two grandchildren. Her faith in Christ and her family are her greatest priorities.

Floyd honored with forestry leadership award

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (left) Mississippi Forestry Association President **Matthew Raff** presenting the 2024 Outstanding Youth Forestry Leadership Award to forestry instructor **James Floyd**.

James Floyd, a forestry instructor on Holmes Community College’s Granada and Goodman campuses, received the 2024 Outstanding Youth Forestry Leadership Award during the 87th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Forestry Association (MFA). MFA President Matthew Raff presented the award and was joined by several natural resource students from the college.

For nearly a decade, Floyd has coordinated the state’s FFA Forestry Competition, an event designed to spark students’ interest in forestry and promote it as a career path.

“When I coordinate this event, I’m looking for the forestry team that has it all,” Floyd said.

To succeed in the competition,

students must correctly use forestry terminology, recognize sustainable silvicultural practices, identify tree species, measure tree volume, compete in orienteering and demonstrate safety protocols.

Floyd draws on personal experience for this role, having competed in North Carolina’s FFA Forestry Competition as a high school student. Just a few years earlier, Dean of Career Technical Programs Dr. Luke Jones competed in Mississippi’s Forestry Competition and his team won the state and represented Mississippi at Nationals.

“To compete at this level takes leadership,” Floyd said.

The Outstanding Youth Forestry Leadership Award was designed to

recognize and publicize outstanding achievements by Mississippi’s youth leaders in the areas of forestry and sustainable forest management.

Mississippi has more tree farms than any other state. For this reason, Mississippi’s forestry license plate boasts “First in Forestry.” This is an awesome accolade, because it’s not just about the trees. This slogan reflects our land owners and natural resource manages.

“As a forestry instructor, I have the opportunity to work with two of my favorite resources: trees and the young people that wish to manage them,” Floyd said.

For more information about the forestry program at Holmes, contact Floyd at jafloyd@holmescc.edu.

Holmes alumna publishes article in Mississippi Christian Living

From Staff Reports/Photos



Alexis Kenyatta Ellis of Lexington, a 2002 Holmes Community College alumna, recently had her article published in Mississippi Christian Living magazine. The piece, titled “From Poet to Psychiatric Ward and Beyond,” explores Ellis’ personal journey and transformation through mental health challenges, faith and resilience.

In her article, Ellis shares her story of struggling with mental health issues, finding hope and ultimately discovering a path to healing. The piece offers readers an honest, raw account of her

experiences and emphasizes the power of faith and support in overcoming adversity.

“I wanted to share my story to somehow help others who suffer from mental illness know they can still be happy and achieve their dreams,” Ellis said. “It just takes determination, believing in God and a strong faith in yourself that you are able to overcome whatever you go through.”

While at Holmes, Ellis wrote for The Growl newspaper and was a member of the Creative Arts Club, giving her

experience getting published. She began publishing her poetry online on the website Associated Content in 2008, and started to gain notoriety a few years later. Ellis also earned a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Arizona Global Campus. She is a member of Maynie Street Church of Christ in Yazoo City and in her spare time, she enjoys volunteering, transcribing and watching retro television.

To read Ellis’ full article, visit From Poet to Psychiatric Ward and Beyond.

Leah Rainey joins Holmes Ridgeland staff as financial aid advisor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College recently welcomed alumna Leah Rainey to the staff as a financial aid advisor. A familiar face at Holmes, Rainey brings a strong background in academic excellence, campus involvement and dedication to service.

A graduate of Germantown High School and Holmes, Rainey excelled during her time as a student. Her accolades include membership in Phi Theta Kappa, participation in SkillsUSA, graduating with high honors and receiving both Foundation and Dean scholarships. She was also a regular on the President’s List, demonstrating her commitment to academic achievement.

While attending Holmes, Rainey contributed to campus life as a Ridgeland Campus Ambassador and an employee of the Fitness Center. She was also very involved with SkillsUSA, and earned first place in Prepared Speech at the SkillsUSA National Championships in Atlanta, Georgia in June.

Beyond her professional and academic pursuits, Rainey is a member of Trinity Worship Church. In her free time, she enjoys drawing, listening to music, playing video games and writing. Her family includes her parents, Derrick and Janice Rainey; her grandmother, Gussie Jeffrey; her sister, McKayla Rainey; and her brother, Gabriel

Rainey. Her father, Derrick, is an Automotive Service Technology instructor on the Goodman Campus.

“I’m very happy to be here!” Rainey said. “It feels like I’ve just joined a huge family. Everyone is super nice, and the environment is always warm and friendly. I look forward to working with everyone. There’s truly ‘No Place Like Holmes!’”

Rainey’s familiarity with Holmes and her enthusiasm for helping others make her a valuable addition to the financial aid team.

Holmes Ridgeland STEM Division celebrates Thanksgiving with Turk-A-Thon 2024

From Staff Reports/Photos

Turk-A-Thon returned to the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus this year. Thanks to the STEM Department, faculty, students and staff enjoyed a turkey trot around campus, healthy treats prepared by Culinary Arts and chair massages by Massage Therapy students. Ambassadors provided a door prize, as well, and Massage Therapy student Shaela Beechem won it. It was a fun day of fun and fellowship.



Pictured is **Shaela Beechem**, who won the door prize.



Faculty, students and event administration enjoyed going all out in their turkey attire for Turk-o-Thon 2024.

Angela Crain retires after 22 years of service to Holmes CC

From Staff Reports/Photos



Angela Crain, a dedicated member of the Holmes Community College family for 22 years, is retiring from her role as workforce development coordinator.

“I would like to congratulate Angela on her retirement, said Vice President for Workforce Development Dr. Mike Blankenship. “We have worked together for over 20 years, and she has done an incredible job for the citizens of our college district. Over the years she has been the workforce coordinator for the automotive industry in Madison County. She has coordinated the training for thousands of people seeking employ-

ment with Nissan and the supplier base located here. Angela will be greatly missed, and I want to personally wish her the best in her retirement.”

A graduate of Mississippi College with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Crain has been instrumental in supporting workforce development efforts at Holmes. Her commitment to education and her passion for service have left a lasting impact on the college and its students.

“For years, I have had the pleasure of working alongside Angela,” said Workforce Development Coordinator Melissa Love. “Her wealth of knowledge in the field, her friendship and leadership have been invaluable to me on a daily basis. She is a true servant to all those in need; her drive and strong work ethic have made an immeasurable impact on our communities, as well as Holmes CC.”

Prior to joining Holmes, Crain brought her expertise to various professional roles, later enriching the Holmes community with her knowledge and dedication.

Crain’s family has been a cornerstone of her life. Married to her husband, Gary Crain, for 43 years, she cherishes their two adult children, Phillip Crain (married to Amberly) and Shannon Coleman. Her five grandsons

- Brayden (13), Jase (10), Myles (6), Bentley (13) and Bowen (11) - are her pride and joy, affectionately calling them her “basketball team.”

Beyond her professional and family life, Crain is an active member of Lone Pine Baptist Church and has served on the Canton Career Center Student Services Advisory Board. In past years, she held leadership positions in organizations such as the Capital Area Human Resource Association, the Association of Training and Development, and the Board of Directors for Canton Stewpot, among others.

Reflecting on her time at Holmes, Crain shared, “Holmes will always hold a special place in my heart. This is home to me, and I have enjoyed working with all of you more than words can say. I loved every minute of my time here. I will miss all of you (some more than others), but I plan to be a frequent guest. Thank you for the past 22 years and all the wonderful memories. I will cherish each one and think of you often. I have truly been blessed to be a part of the Holmes family.”

In retirement, Crain looks forward to embarking on a new chapter guided by her faith. She plans to spend more time with her family, travel, fish and continue serving others.

“When I started working at Holmes in July 2006, Angela became an immediate friend,” said Holmes Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Bronwyn Martin. “God knew exactly who I needed in my life when I met her. For almost 20 years, Angela Crain has been the person I looked forward to seeing every Monday after a long weekend apart. She is such a special person in my life. She surpasses friendship so much that I call her ‘My Person.’

“Holmes CC has a wonderful way of facilitating lifelong friendships, so I trust that we will remain wonderful friends for many years to come,” Dr. Martin said. “However, I will miss seeing her brilliant smile and hearing her voice on campus. Our friendship was brought together by Holmes, and I am grateful God allowed our paths to cross when I needed her most. Her friendship has guided me through parenthood, losing a parent and so many ups and downs along life’s way. As Angela retires, I am sad to see her go but grateful God will continue to bless others with her presence. ‘A sweet friendship refreshes the soul,’ Proverbs 27:9. May God continue to bless Angela as she starts her new journey.”

Holmes celebrates Donna Ahlrich’s retirement

From Staff Reports/Photos



Donna Ahlrich, a dedicated educator for Holmes Community College, has announced her retirement after serving

for just shy of 20 years at the college. “Donna has always been the instructor that every division needs because she is always incredibly organized, brings a real go-getter approach to tasks and has an unstoppable can-do attitude,” said Holmes Ridgeland Academic Dean Dr. Tonya Lawrence. “I’ve not known her to meet a challenge that she could not handle. While I haven’t reached her level of organization and drive, she definitely inspired me throughout the years. Donna’s impact will be felt for years to come.” Ahlrich has held several impactful roles during her tenure at Holmes, including instructor of mathematics and statistics, both online and face-to-face, online proctor and lead online instructor. Her extensive education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting, a Master of Science in

Statistics with a minor in Mathematics and an Education Specialist degree in Curriculum and Instruction of Mathematics. “In my entire career I have never known a harder working instructor nor one more dedicated to her to the academic integrity of our great institution,” said Jon Rost, one of Ahlrich’s fellow mathematics instructors. Before joining Holmes, Ahlrich honed her teaching skills with one year at Hinds Community College and 15 years at East Mississippi Community College, bringing a wealth of experience to the Holmes community. Ahlrich is married to Paul Ahlrich and is the proud mother of four children: Graham Ahlrich (wife, Ivy; granddaughter, Scottie), Nolan Ahlrich (wife, Bess; granddaughter, Janie), Carley Hudnall (husband, Harper) and

Jami Ahlrich (fiancé, Luke Overton). An avid Mississippi State University sports fan, Ahlrich enjoys working out, running and reading in her free time. She is also a member of First Baptist Church Madison. In retirement, Ahlrich looks forward to traveling and spending quality time with her cherished grandchildren. Reflecting on her time at Holmes, Ahlrich said, “I have absolutely loved working for Holmes for the last 19 years. I appreciate all the support and encouragement that was shown to me throughout the years. I enjoyed the opportunity to learn new skills and grow as an educator while I was here. I will truly miss coming to work every day! It is true what they say - there is no place like Holmes”

MACC/Belhaven University enter articulation agreement regarding teacher education degree

From Staff Reports/Photos



Belhaven University and the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges (MACC) have signed an agreement that provides Mississippi community college students a seamless pathway to earning their Bachelor of Science in Elementary Teacher Education. Effective immediately, the agreement allows students with an Associate of Arts (AA) degree from any MACC institution to transfer directly into Belhaven University, where the AA degree will fulfill the first two years of the University’s Elementary Teacher Education Preparation Program.

“This articulation agreement represents our steadfast commitment to creating seamless pathways for student success,” said Belhaven University Provost Dr. Audrey Kelleher. “By fostering collaboration between the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges and Belhaven University, we empower students to achieve their educational goals. Together, we are strengthening the bridge to higher education and enriching opportunities for learners across Mississippi.” The partnership includes a comprehensive transfer and course equivalen-

cy guide that guarantees the transferability of applicable credits. MACC students who meet all admission requirements and follow the recommended program of study will be eligible for direct admission to Belhaven University. One of the agreement’s central goals is to facilitate smooth transitions for students pursuing a teaching career in elementary education. Those completing an AA degree with a 3.0 GPA or higher can transfer **directly into** Belhaven’s Elementary Teacher Education Preparation Program without any loss of credits. This ensures future educators have a streamlined path to entering the workforce prepared and equipped for success. Dean of the School of Education Dr. David Hand said, “With the ongoing shortage of elementary teachers in Mississippi, this agreement is designed to simplify the transfer process for teacher candidates from community colleges into our Teacher Educator Preparation Program. Our shared goal is to prepare more qualified teachers to help address the critical need for teachers in our state.” “This agreement underscores our shared commitment to expanding access to higher education and supporting student achievement,” Dr. Kelleher

added. “By working together, we’re making it easier than ever for Mississippi students to reach their academic and professional aspirations.”

About Belhaven University

Founded in 1883, Belhaven University is a top-ranked Christian liberal arts institution offering a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs across multiple disciplines. With a mission to prepare students academically and spiritually, Belhaven University is committed to equipping students for meaningful lives of leadership and service.

About the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges

The Mississippi Association of Community Colleges represents the state’s community and junior colleges, serving students across Mississippi with affordable and accessible higher education opportunities. MACC institutions are dedicated to supporting student success and workforce development.

Jones, Simmons hired by Yates upon receiving CDL at Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



Carlos Jones



Dillion Simmons

Two Holmes Community College students - Carlos Jones and Dillion Simmons - received their CDL Class B license on Friday, Nov. 22 and were offered a job with Yates Construction the following day. The students were taught by Dwight Brown. The CDL Class B Concrete Mixer Truck Driving Program at Holmes has new classes that begin every four to six weeks. Classes meet Monday through

Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for four to six weeks, depending on students’ ability. To be admitted, students must be 18, pass the DOT physical and drug screen and provide a copy of their Motor Vehicle Report from the MS Department of Public Safety website. A high school diploma or GED is preferred, but not required. For anyone interested in more information, they can call (601) 605-3370.

Holmes Academic Counselor Dr. Pamela Fells graduates alongside former student Randall Quinn

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Holmes Academic Counselor **Dr. Pamela Fells** and her former student, **Randall Quinn**.

Holmes Community College Academic Counselor Dr. Pamela Fells was not the only one celebrating when she earned her PhD this past fall. Fells graduated alongside one of her former students, Randall Quinn of Jackson. The dual graduation was a testament to the mentorship and academic excellence fostered at Holmes.

During the Jackson State University commencement ceremony on Dec. 6, Dr. Fells earned her Executive Ph.D. (EPHD) in Urban Higher Education while Quinn earned the Specialist in Education degree. The EPHD Program in Urban Higher Education at Jackson State prepares students for senior leadership roles in post-secondary institutions and related organizations. The Specialist in Education degree is designed for educators who have already obtained a Master’s, and wish to further their leadership abilities and advance their career.

Dr. Fells’ dissertation, titled “An Examination of Persistence of First-Generation African American Female College Students at a PWI through the Lens of Tinto’s Model of Attrition,” explored factors contributing to the persistence of first-generation African American female college students (FGAMFCS) at predominantly white institutions (PWI). Through the lens of Tinto’s 1993 Student Integration Model, which includes social and academic integration, as well as institutional attributes, she examined the challenges FGAMFCS face and the factors that influence their success. Prior to earning her PhD, Dr. Fells earned a master’s in

guidance and counseling as well as a bachelor’s in educational psychology from Alcorn State University. Additionally, she is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; the Mississippi Counselors Association, and the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists.

Quinn graduated from Holmes in May of 2016 with an Associate of Arts degree and has since achieved multiple academic milestones, including a Bachelor of Arts in 2018, a Master of Arts in 2022 and the Education Specialist degree in 2024, all from Jackson State University. Post graduation, Quinn spent six years teaching at Wingfield High School, where he shared his passion for English in English I and English II classes. Although Wingfield closed its doors last spring, Quinn didn’t skip a beat. Now in his seventh year with Jackson Public Schools, he’s thrilled to be at Provine High School, where he’s diving into his first year teaching English II.

“While at Holmes CC, I worked as a work-study student helping students in the counseling center,” Quinn said. “I helped students enroll in their courses for the upcoming semester and also assisted with Freshman Friday under

the direction of Ms. Pamela Fells. Ms. Fells demonstrated an exceptional ability to lead by example. She never simply told me what to do; instead, she provided me with the tools and the space to experiment and grow. Her feedback was always constructive, aimed at pushing me beyond my comfort zone, while ensuring I understood the rationale behind each suggestion.”

Quinn’s words about his mentor highlighted the profound impact Dr. Fells had on his development both as a student and as a professional, making their coinciding graduations that much more special.

“She modeled patience and understanding, teaching me how to meet students where they are while nurturing their potential,” Quinn said. “One of the most powerful lessons I learned from Ms. Fells was the importance of maintaining a growth mindset. She encouraged me to view challenges as opportunities for growth, both for myself and my students. Under her leadership, I learned to embrace mistakes as part of the learning process, not only for me but also for my students, empowering them to take risks and learn from their own setbacks.”

Holmes Goodman celebrates ADN with pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



The **Goodman ADN graduates** pass the flame during the candlelighting portion of the ceremony.

Holmes Community College proudly celebrated the achievements of its Associate Degree Nursing (ADN)

students during a special Nurse Pinning Ceremony held on Dec. 12 in McDaniel Auditorium on the Good-

man Campus.

This event served as a significant milestone in the students’ academic journey, symbolizing their transition from nursing students to professional nurses. This marks the first ADN pinning ceremony in Goodman since 2016, when the program was relocated to the Attala Center.

In response to the growing demand for nurses in the workforce, the college is pleased to announce the addition of a second ADN program starting in January, rather than the traditional August start, for students on the Goodman Campus.

The following students received pins during the ceremony: MyQuashia Anderson of Madison County, Kayla Boyette of Rankin County, Stephanie Burchfield of Attala County, Beyonce

Collins of Madison County, Kelsey Crowson of Attala County, Tailyn Esco of Yazoo County, Toni Freeman-Plotkin of Rankin County, Bianca Garnett of Holmes County, Octoria Gibson of Madison County, Valerie Graffenread of Scott County, Amie Guttery of Attala County, Moleyia Harmon of Attala County, Breanna King of Yazoo County, Kathryn Clare Lack of Attala County, Anahja’Nai Moore of Madison County, Jerrika Myers of Hinds County, Aisha Slaughter of Leake County, Monica Smith of Yazoo County, Jacqueline Vazquez of Attala County and Cor’Deja Well of Warren County.

For more information about the Holmes ADN program, please visit our website: <https://holmescc.edu/career-technical/associate-of-applied-sci->

Holmes Grenada holds ADN pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



The **Grenada ADN graduates** recite the Nightengale Pledge.

Holmes Community College celebrated the accomplishments of its Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) graduates during a pinning ceremony

held on Dec. 12, on the Grenada Campus. The event marked a significant milestone for the graduating class as they prepared to enter the nursing

profession.

The ceremony began with a processional, followed by Marvell Bradford delivering the opening prayer. Graduate Anissa Terry shared heartfelt reflections on behalf of the class, highlighting the challenges and triumphs experienced throughout their journey.

Eddie Ricks, MSN, RN, presented special awards to recognize exceptional achievements among the graduates. Gwen Lordeon, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, addressed the audience with congratulatory remarks and announced the graduates as they received their pins on stage. Each graduate was also presented with a symbolic lamp and a Bible, signifying their commitment to compassionate care and professional excellence.

The graduates include Kristen Arnold, Marvell Bradford, Allena Brat-

ton, Kayla Brower, Diamond Brown, Alma Byrd, Charity Clark, Charnell Cosey-Patrick, Heather Dalrymple, Victoria Daniels, Karly Errington, Presley Hale, Sarah Beth Hardin, Sha-keera King, Carley McClain, Tamara Mister, Jennifer Mosley-Abustan, Rhonda Murphy, Jordan Pee, Chelsea Perry, Georgette Regular, Tamara Rice, Jennifer Ridley, Ay Steed, Emily Tartt, Anissa Terry, Jordan Turner, Whitney Ulrich, Nancy Ware, Candace Willingham, and Cate Wrenn.

Lacy Walker, MSN, RN, led the graduates in reciting the Nightingale Pledge, reaffirming their dedication to the nursing profession. The ceremony concluded with a benediction by Vivian McGee, MSN, RN, followed by a reception featuring refreshments for graduates, families and friends.

Holmes Grenada celebrates EMT Basic Class graduates

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (front row, left to right) **Megan Thomas, Hannah Thomas**, (middle row, left to right) **Biram Wadlington, Dekedra Cain, Myka Smith, Elena Chaney, Angelina Goss**, (back row, left to right) **Derrick Thompson, Jr., Jarren Holmes, Christopher Campbell, Payton Easley, Annabeth Amason** and **Rosie Guerrero**.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus Fall 2024 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic Class graduated on Dec. 10. Class members included Annabeth Amason, Dekedra Cain, Christopher Campbell, Elena Chaney, Payton Easley, Angelina Goss, Rosie Guerrero, Jarren Holmes, Myka Smith, Hannah Thomas, Megan Thomas, Derrick Thompson, Jr. and Biram Wadlington. The program is instructed by Raymond Liberto.

Special recognition was given to Thomas for having the highest grade average in the class.

“Congratulations to all and good luck on National Registry (NR)!” Liberto said.

EMT is a one-semester instructional course that prepares individuals to provide basic emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. EMTs function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight, trained in airway management, communications, documentation, general pharmacology, hemorrhage control, ambulance operations and splinting of adult, pediatric and infant patients; and special care of patients exposed to heat, cold, radiation, or contagious disease.

For more information, visit <https://holmescc.edu/career-technical/emt/>.

Holmes Ridgeland massage therapy holds pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Massage Therapy Class of 2024. They are (left to right) **Joshua Alvarado** of Kosciusko, **Ashaunti Woodard** of Ridgeland, **Daniel Gardner** of Richland, **Shaela Beechem** of Jackson, **Destiny Todman** of Byram, **Joseph Frazier** of Byram and instructor **Liz McLain**.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a graduation ceremony for the Massage Therapy students Dec. 12 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center.

The Massage Therapy Class of 2024 included Joshua Alvarado of Kosciusko, Shaela Beechem of Jackson, Joseph Frazier of Byram, Daniel Gardner of Richland, Destiny Todman of Byram and Ashaunti Woodard of Ridgeland. The program is led by instructor Liz McLain.

The ceremony began with a welcome from Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Bronwyn Martin. Following her welcome, Todman, one of the massage therapy graduates, gave remarks on behalf of their class. Next, guest speaker Kwantrell Green addressed

the graduates. Green is a motivational speaker, author and business professional with a background in education and community relations. He authored the book “Life Poker,” which draws parallels between life and poker to teach resilience and decision-making. Green shares insights on leadership, personal growth, overcoming adversity and successfully achieving goals.

“At any given point, ya’ll could’ve given up along that journey, but you kept moving, you kept coming each and every day and here you are today,” Green said. “I want to talk about my motivational brand, Life Poker. I talk about purpose, decision and story. Purpose is what your why is. Why do you wake up every morning? What causes you to keep going further and

further in life? What causes you to come here each and every day? When you look at your why, it’s something that you wanted to do. You said, you know what, I want to better myself. Let’s talk about decisions. Decisions are all about you making that first step and moving forward. When we talk about decisions, I always say, there are three different types of people in this world. There’s those who make things happen, those who sit back and watch what happens and then there’s those who sit back and wonder what happens. You being here today, you decided you were going to make things happen.

“Also understand that life’s storms don’t discriminate,” Green said. “We all go through trials and tribulations; it’s what you do in the midst of those trials that matters. You’ve got to keep moving forward. From the story perspective, understand that you all have the right ingredients to tell the perfect success story. This is a part of your story right here today and moving forward. Decide what your perfect success story is going to be moving forward. I’m sure you’ve all heard the phrase, ‘People come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime.’ Understand that it’s always your season. It’s not that I’m waiting for this to come, or this to happen, it’s always your season. The problem is in how we prepare and how we adapt. If you go outside and it’s raining, you put on a raincoat and grab an umbrella. If it’s cold, you put on a coat. And moving

forward in life you have to adapt, you have to be able to prepare, you have to understand that it’s always your season.

“With that being said, the journey of a thousand miles begins with one single step,” Green said. “You have to be able to remember every morning, this is just the start. You are now a graduate, the next step is to become a licensed massage therapist and the next step after that is to get a job. Then it’s all about what you put into it each and every day. Continue to invest in yourselves, each and every day. Once again, congratulations!”

After Green’s remarks, McLain shared a few words and presented Todman with a plaque for being named Massage Therapy Student of the Year. McLain was also excited to announce that the Massage Therapy graduates had a 100 percent pass rate on their for the national examination.

Career Technical Education Counselor Jovonna Parker then announced the graduates as McLain pinned each student on stage. Following the ceremony, graduates and guests enjoyed a reception catered by the Holmes Culinary Arts program in the lobby.

For more information about these programs, contact Career Technical Education Counselor Jovonna Parker at jparker@holmescc.edu or 601-601-3355.

Holmes Grenada holds pinning ceremony for practical nursing

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Grenada Practical Nursing graduates gather for a group photo.

Holmes Community College’s Grenada Campus celebrated its Practical

Nursing Pinning Ceremony on Dec. 10 in the Corey Forum. The event hon-

ored the accomplishments of the graduating class and marked their transition into the nursing profession.

The ceremony began with a procession of the graduates, followed by a slideshow of memories from the year. Practical Nursing Instructor Heather Rozier, MSN, RN, welcomed everyone to the event, while Instructor Casey Welch, RN, presented awards and announced the graduates. Instructor Kate Barton, RN, performed the traditional pinning for each student.

The graduates honored during the ceremony included Shaniqua Booker, Fidelia Bradford, Karya Campbell, Tanisha Carter, Alexandria Coleman, Tyenna Goods, Amber Campbell-Hancock, Nanija Hemmingway, Nequai-sha Holmes, Hailey Horton, Elexus

Hughes, Shafaa Jones, Tyra Jones, Alecia Mack, Azaria Owens, Sachi Pilkay, Mechel’Lay Teague, and Rachal Williams.

Instructor Lauren Dees, BSN, RN, led the candle lighting ceremony, after which the graduates recited the Practical Nurse’s Pledge. Welch concluded the ceremony with the benediction, closing out the meaningful event.

The Grenada PN program will have a new cohort in January, and the program lasts three consecutive semesters. Holmes also has a Practical Nursing program on the Ridgeland Campus and at the Attala Center.

For more information about Holmes’ Practical Nursing program, go to <https://holmescc.edu/career-technical/practical-nursing/>.

Holmes celebrates PTA program celebration in Grenada

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Grenada PTA graduates gather for a group photo. They are (left to right) Allie Grace Whitaker, Aleia Dye-Holland, Jada Carpenter, Sarah Grace Todd, Cammie Roberts, Mickaeya Spencer and Tiara Jones.

Holmes Community College celebrated the Physical Therapist As-

sistant (PTA) Class of 2024 during a commencement ceremony held Dec.

4 in the Corey Forum on the Grenada Campus.

The Holmes PTA Class of 2024 includes Jada Carpenter, Aleia Dye-Holland, Tiara Jones, Cammie Roberts, Mickaeya Spencer, Sarah Grace Todd, and Allie Grace Whitaker.

The ceremony began with a welcome from Director of Health Science Programs Allison DeWeese, who congratulated the graduates on their achievements. PTA Instructor Jenny Bryan then delivered a message of encouragement and inspiration to the class.

Representing the Class of 2024, graduate Whitaker took the podium to share remarks on behalf of her classmates. Two special awards were presented during the ceremony. Whitaker received the Academic Award, recog-

nizing her for outstanding scholastic achievement, while Dye-Holland was honored with the Pearson Clinical Skills Award for her exceptional performance in clinical practice.

PTA Instructor Heather Pounds provided closing remarks, commending the graduates for their hard work and dedication. A reception followed immediately after the ceremony, allowing family, friends, and faculty to celebrate with the graduates.

The Holmes Community College PTA program prepares students for rewarding careers in physical therapy, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the healthcare field.

Phi Theta Kappa Chapter enhances Grenada Campus walking trail with pet waste stations

From Staff Reports/Photos



PTK Advisor Cynthia Abel and Administrative Assistant Stephanie Chambley show off the new signs that will go with the pet waste stations on the walking trail.



CTE/Workforce Coordinator Slade Redwine and Chief of Police Tyler Winter install the pet waste stations on the walking trail.

The Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Mu Beta Chapter at Holmes Community College's Grenada Campus has taken a proactive approach to improving their campus environment by focusing their College Project on the campus walking trail. Through collaboration with administrators and careful planning, the chapter identified a practical way to enhance the trail's accessibility and cleanliness by installing pet waste stations.

This initiative stemmed from the chapter's commitment to fostering a welcoming and sustainable space for students, staff, and the surrounding community. The walking trail is a popular feature on campus, offering a scenic and convenient location for

recreation and exercise. However, the need for better maintenance solutions became apparent, particularly in managing pet waste left by visitors.

The installation of pet waste stations is part of a broader effort by the chapter to support the college's mission of community engagement and environmental stewardship. Each station includes a dispenser with waste bags and a receptacle for disposal, providing an easy and eco-friendly solution for trail users.

For more information about the Holmes Grenada Campus Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, visit <https://holmescc.edu/student-life/phi-theta-kappa?>

Holmes Ridgeland PTK concludes Honors in Action Project with book excerpt reading

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Mary Crawford Canard and Anniston Lyles.

On Dec. 3, Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Phi Theta Kappa members and officers concluded their Honors in Action project with a presentation and refreshments. For the project, they explored the evolution of gender roles over time, focusing on fairytales. Their goal was to examine whether the essence of a fairytale can remain intact while reimagining its gender roles.

One of Holmes' talented students, Mary Crawford Canard, wrote a book to illustrate this concept! A printed

copy is available in our Holmes library. PTK Officer Anniston Lyles read an excerpt from the book and those in attendance enjoyed fellowship and refreshments following the reading.

Holmes Ridgeland PTK is advised by Instructors Lisa Anglin, Stephanie Blue and Laura Canard. To learn more about the Holmes Ridgeland Campus Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, go to <https://holmescc.edu/student-life/phi-theta-kappa?>

Holmes hosts Major Experience for potential students

From Staff Reports/Photos



On Nov. 20, the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus hosted "A Major Experience" for local 11th and 12th grade students on the Principal's and Superintendent's lists at local high schools as a reward for their achievement. The students had a hands-on experience with Holmes' academic and career technical programs.

Students also enjoyed performances from the Holmes Jazz Band Ensemble, Coachmen, Connection! and the Marching Band. Lunch was served in the Holmes football stadium for all in attendance.

Musical ensembles perform for the annual Carols of Christmas

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College’s musical ensembles - Holmes Connection!, the Concert Chorale and the Coachmen singers - presented their annual Carols of Christmas event on Thursday, Dec. 5 in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus.

Coachmen singers are directed by Mike Yates and Drew Trautman; the Holmes Connection! is directed by Yates and the Concert Chorale is directed by Trautman with Donna Banks as the accompanist.



Coachmen singers perform worship songs during Carols of Christmas.



Holmes alumna **Abigail Edge** makes an appearance in the show.



Connection! performs with a special guest, **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer**.



Chorale Director **Drew Trauman** introduces the **Concert Chorale** before they perform during Carols of Christmas.

Holmes Grenada CTE donate to Youth Court Toy Drive

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Grenada Career and Technical students joined with Daly & Kirk Law Office again this year to help with their annual Youth Court’s toy drive. These toys are for the children who are currently in the custody of Grenada County Child Protective Services and they will help ensure that each child receives a gift on Christmas Day. Grenada students began putting toys under the Christmas tree in the ITC building after Thanksgiving and they were delivered on Dec. 12.

Ridgeland instructors raise money for SkillsUSA

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Industrial Maintenance Instructor Bill Fitts and Engineering Technology Instructor Heather Mooney Hale set up a Christmas gift display in Ridgeland Hall on Nov. 21. Hale cut and engraved cutting boards and ornaments, and Engineering Tech/SkillsUSA set up booths to sell them at various locations. Proceeds went to support SkillsUSA endeavors.

Grenada Phi Theta Kappa Chapter officers work with local children on STEM projects

From Staff Reports/Photos

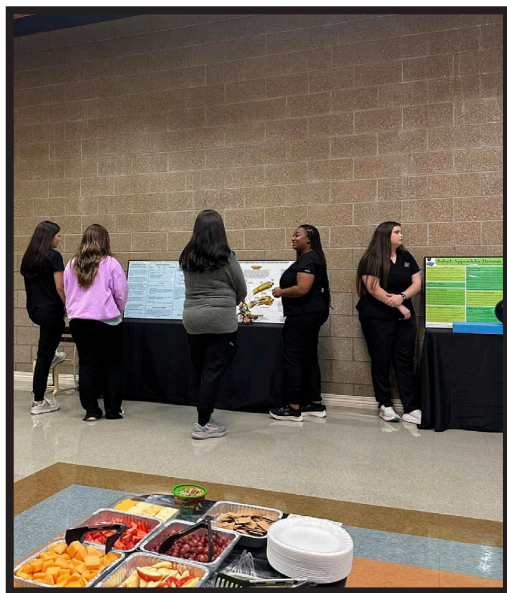


The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus Phi Theta Kappa officers carried out their honors in action project at the beginning of December. Through the power of storytelling, they inspired a new generation of STEM innovators by working with local elementary age children on fun STEM-related projects.

Their PTK Honors in Action project combined creativity and science to show how narratives can spark curiosity and drive change.

PTA second-year students present Capstone projects

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College's second-year Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) students held a research night to present their Capstone projects on Tuesday, Nov. 12 on the Grenada Campus. They had a great turnout with multiple clinical instructors, physical therapists and physical therapy assistants coming out to support them.

MS Tobacco Coalition, ADN students lead health initiative

From Staff Reports/Photos



The week of Nov. 18, the Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalition shared information with Holmes Community College Grenada students and staff about the dangers of tobacco. Holmes Associate Degree Nursing students offered free blood pressure screenings, as well.

(left) ADN student **Karlee Luke** conducts a blood pressure screening on Student Activities Coordinator **Haley DeNoon**.

Holmes Ridgeland celebrates World Kindness Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



Nov. 13 is World Kindness Day and the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus celebrated it this year. Ridgeland Practical Nursing program went all out, encouraging everyone to "Bee Kind," as they distributed Bit-O-Honey candies and Bee Kind key-chains out on campus.

World Kindness Day is a global day to promote acts of kindness, empathy and goodwill. It was introduced in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement, a coalition of nations' kindness non-governmental organizations.

Grenada Phi Theta Kappa Chapter officers work with local children on STEM projects

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus Phi Theta Kappa Chapter and Holmes Plus presented "The Health Risks of Vaping" in the Math and Science Building on Nov. 18. The presentation included special guests Linda Jordan-Jefferson, project director for the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition of Madison, Yazoo and Holmes counties, and Rhonda Shirley, government relations director for the Partnership for a Healthy

Mississippi.

For Phi Theta Kappa, this was their Honors in Action project. The Honors in Action project is designed to engage students in informed, intentional action meant to foster student success and help the organization fulfill its mission of providing college students opportunities to grow as scholars and leaders.

Holmes Plus is a scholarship program for students interested in a STEM/Health Sciences Pathway.

Holmes Grenada celebrates with Christmas luncheon

From Staff Reports/Photos



Faculty and staff on the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus celebrated the Christmas season with a festive Christmas lunch on Dec. 12. Costumes, decor and festive fun were all a part of the celebration before the Christmas break.

Ridgeland instructors raise money for SkillsUSA

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus STEM Division set up Christmas dress-up days the last week of school to fill the classrooms with holiday cheer. Michelle Dancy's Accounting II students are pictured here on Christmas Sweater Day.

Grenada ADN student awarded Diverse Coat Society scholarship

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jayla Greer of Ridgeland, a Holmes Communiy College Grenada Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) student, was recently awarded the 2024 Diverse Coat Society Scholarship. The DCS is a society of diverse educators and healthcare professionals coming together to provide conversations, activities and support for inter-professional goals leading to educational equity, health equity, and general public safety.

(left) Pictured are (left to right) **Dr. Geraldine Young**, DCS Scholarship Founder, **Greer** and **Deidra Thompson**, DCS Scholarship Chair.

Goodman ADN student awarded Diverse Coat Society scholarship

From Staff Reports/Photos



KaliAnn May of Bentonina, a Holmes Community College Goodman Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) student, was recently awarded the 2024 Diverse Coat Society Scholarship. The DCS is a society of diverse educators and healthcare professionals coming together to provide conversations, activities, and support for inter-professional goals leading to educational equity, health equity, and general public safety.

(left) Pictured are (left to right) **Dr. Geraldine Young**, DCS Scholarship Founder, **May** and **Deidra Thompson**, DCS Scholarship Chair.

Holmes Goodman Library hosts ‘Bad Art’ Night

From Staff Reports/Photos



McMorrough Library on the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus hosted “Bad Art” Night on Nov. 15. Twenty-four students let their creativity run wild with abstract masterpieces and totally unintentionally magnificent art (mainly the art majors).

Holmes Ridgeland hosts blood drive

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a blood drive on Nov. 12 and 13, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in Ridgeland Hall Room 105. All donors receive a t-shirt, a \$10 gift card by email and a chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards.

Goodman ADN students present their community health posters

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Communiy College Goodman Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) students displayed their health promotion projects outside Carroll Cafeteria on Nov. 6. They encouraged faculty, staff and students to come by and learn from their projects.

Ridgeland ADN students display community health posters

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Ridgeland Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) students displayed their health promotion projects in the Student Union on Nov. 21. They encouraged faculty, staff and students to come by and learn from their projects.

Lady Bulldogs get 76-68 win over Lady Stars

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs finished the fall semester with a 76-68 win at home on Monday, Dec. 16, over the South Arkansas Community College Lady Stars.

Holmes will return to action on Jan. 6 at Williams Baptist JV.

The Lady Bulldogs led 38-35 at halftime and then outscored the Lady Stars, 38-33, in the second half for the win.

Kiara Howard led the Lady Bulldogs with 14 points while Nevaeh Craft had 11 and Amanda Walker and Kamren Edwards each had 10. Edwards led with nine rebounds.

Bulldogs defeat Aviators, 85-64, to go to 11-1 before Christmas break

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs avenged their only loss of the season on Saturday, Dec. 14, with an 85-64 win over Arkansas State University at Newport.

With the win, the Bulldogs went to 11-1 on the season. Holmes returns to action on Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. vs. La. Knights in Goodman.

Holmes led 41-37 at halftime and then outscored the Aviators, 44-27, in the second half.

Cameron Wallace led the Bulldogs with 25 points while K.J.Sykes had 18 and Kylan Clark had 17. Christian Parks finished with 12 rebounds.

Three Lady Bulldogs recognized by United Soccer Coaches

From Staff Reports/Photos



Three Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs were recently honored by United Soccer Coaches with post-season awards.

Aiyanah Jones, Olivia Tribolet and Daysha Taylor were named All-Region in Division II Women's Soccer while Jones and Tribolet were named All-American.

Jones, a sophomore defender, is a Lafayette County product from Oxford. Tribolet, a sophomore forward, is a Madison Central product from Madison. Taylor, a freshman defender, is a Navarre product from Navarre, Florida.

Bulldogs improve to 10-1 with win over Southern-Shreveport

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 10-1 on the season with a 76-62 win over Southern-Shreveport Dec. 11 at home. Holmes led 46-31 at halftime but were outscored 31-30 in the second half.

Trey Alexander led the Bulldogs with 16 points while Kameron Beverly and Cameron Wallace each had 14 and Christian Parks finished with 10. Parks led with 14 rebounds.

Against East Mississippi Monday, the Bulldogs won 59-53. Trey Smith led with 23 points while Parks had 13. Parks had 10 rebounds in the game.

Lady Bulldogs defeat Lady Jaguars, 86-82, in overtime

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs trailed 33-26 at halftime but battled back in the second half to tie the game and win in overtime, 86-82. Julissa Claxton hit a three-pointer with seconds to play to tie the game and force overtime.

Bella Roberts hit three three-pointers in overtime and Kiara Shelly added five points to pull out the victory.

Shelly led with 18 points while Roberts and Hannah Finley each had 16 and Nevaeh Craft had 14. Shelly led with 11 rebounds while Claxton added eight. Against East Mississippi Monday, the Lady Bulldogs fell in overtime, 69-63. Amanda Walker led with 12 points while Finley had 10. Walker had 11 rebounds in the game.

Four Lady Bulldogs named All-Region 23

From Staff Reports/Photos

WOMEN'S SOCCER



Kate DeAngelo

Christina Guzman

KK Morris

Kristen Phillips

Four Lady Bulldogs - Kate DeAngelo of Baton Rouge, Christina Guzman of Florence, KK Morris of Brandon and Kristen Phillips of Collinsville - have been named to the NJCAA All-Region 23 team following the season. They were recently named to the All-MACCC First Team.

Lady Bears defeat Lady Bulldogs, 71-65

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Lady Bulldogs fell to the Baton Rouge Lady Bears, 71-65, in Baton Rouge Tuesday night, Dec. 3.

The Lady Bulldogs led 34-26 at halftime, but the Lady Bears outscored the Lady Bulldogs, 45-31, in the second half for the win.

Kaira Shelly led the Lady Bulldogs with 13 points while Bella Roberts had 12. Shelly led with eight rebounds while Amanda Walker had seven.

Bulldogs use big second half to defeat Hinds, 84-71

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 7-1 on the season with an 84-71 win over Hinds Community College at home on Dec. 3.

Hinds led 41-37 at halftime, but the Holmes Bulldogs outscored the Hinds Bulldogs, 47-30, to pull out the win.

Trey Smith led the Bulldogs with 25 points while K.J. Sykes had 14, and Christian Parks and Cameron Wallace each had 12. Smith and Wallace each had eight rebounds.

Guzman, Morris and Phillips named NJCAA All-Americans

From Staff Reports/Photos

WOMEN'S SOCCER



Christina Guzman

KK Morris

Kristen Phillips

Three Lady Bulldogs - Christina Guzman of Florence, KK Morris of Brandon and Kristen Phillips of Collinsville - have been named to the NJCAA All-American Second Team following the season. They were recently named to the All-Region team and the All-MACCC First Team.

Lady Bulldogs fall to Lady Trojans, 52-36

From Staff Reports
Photo by Susie Jackson



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell to .500 on the season after falling to the Mississippi Delta Community College Lady Trojans, 52-36, at home on Thursday, Nov. 21.

Delta led 35-19 at halftime and both teams scored 17 in the second half.

Bella Roberts led the Lady Bulldogs with 11 points. Amanda Walker pulled in seven rebounds.

Shelly, Wallace named Holmes’ Players of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College freshman guard/forward Kiara Shelly on the women’s basketball team and sophomore forward Cameron Wallace on the men’s basketball team were named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play Dec. 8-14.

Shelly, a North Pontotoc product from Saltillo, had 27 points in two games and pulled in 13 rebounds. Holmes fell to East Mississippi in OT, 69-63, and defeated Southern-Shreveport, 86-82, in overtime last week.

Wallace, a Parkview product from Little Rock, Ark., played in two of three games last week and had 39 points and had 15 rebounds. Holmes picked up three wins last week to go to 11-1 on the year.

Bulldogs’ season come to an end in MACCC playoffs

From Staff Reports
Photo by Susie Jackson



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs had their chances in the MACCC semifinals on Saturday, Nov. 9, but the East Central Community College Warriors scored the final 10 points of the game to pull out the 31-21 win.

Holmes finished the season 7-3. Holmes made its return to the playoffs after a 22-year hiatus. The Bulldogs started the season off 7-0 before dropping its last three contests.

Neither team was able to score in the first quarter. The Bulldogs got on the scoreboard first in the game in the second quarter when Chase Richardson found Colton DeShazo on a 32-yard touchdown pass. Dan Lindsay’s extra point was good, and the Bulldogs led 7-0 with 14:01 left in the second.

East Central tied the game with 3:42 left on a touchdown pass and extra

point.

The Bulldogs then went back up 14-7 with 1:40 to play in the second when Richardson found Cam Joseph on a 27-yard touchdown pass. Lindsay’s extra point was good.

East Central tied the game with 1:10 to play in the half on a touchdown pass and extra point.

The Warriors took a 21-14 lead in the third quarter on a touchdown run and extra point.

The Bulldogs battled back to tie the game at 21 with 8:52 to play in the game when K.J. Miller scored from 30 yards out. Lindsay’s extra point was good.

East Central took the lead for good on a field goal with 2:26 to play. The Warriors added another rushing touchdown and extra point with 1:33 to play in the game for the 10-point win.

Lady Bulldogs fall to Lady Rangers in NJCAA semifinals

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs’ season came to an end Nov. 21 in the semifinals of the 2024 NJCAA Women’s Division II National Tournament to the Northwest Mississippi Community College Lady Rangers, 3-0.

Holmes finished the season at 17-5-2. Holmes made it to the semis by knocking off their two Pool Play opponents, Phoenix and Schoolcraft, with identical 3-1 scores. Olivia Tribolet finished the tournament with two goals while Kaylee Avant, Stevie Kerns, Bailee Fair-

ley and Kristen Phillips each had one.

The Rangers went up 1-0 in the 37th minute and led 1-0 at halftime.

Northwest scored twice more in the second half to pull out the win.

The Lady Bulldogs finished with 22 shots and eight on goal today but couldn’t get one in the back of the net. Fairley had three shots on goal while Avant had two.

Addi Roberts finished with three saves while Katie Smith had two.

Bulldogs pick up an 80-71 win over the Trojans

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 6-1 on the season at home on Thursday night, Nov. 21, with an 80-71 win over the Mississippi Delta Community College Trojans.

The Bulldogs led 48-33 at halftime but were outscored 38-32 in the second half, but Holmes hung on for the win.

Cameron Wallace led the Bulldogs with 24 points while Trey Alexander had 14 and K.J. Sykes had 12. Wallace had eight rebounds in the game.

Six Lady Bulldogs named to All-MACCC Team

From Staff Reports/Photos



Six Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs were named to the All-MACCC team following the season. Holmes had four first team selections and two honorable mention selections.

First Team selections included: Christina Guzman (Florence), defender; KK Morris (Brandon) and Kate DeAngelo (Baton Rouge, La.), midfielder; and Kristen Phillips (Collinsville), forward.

Honorable Mention players included: Brooklynn Samonski (Nottingham, N.J.), midfielder; and Bailee Fairley (Collinsville), forward.

Lady Bulldogs defeat Lady Dolphins, 74-63

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 4-3 on the season with a 74-63 win over the Delgado Community College Lady Dolphins in New Orleans on Monday night, Nov. 18.

Holmes led 38-30 at halftime and then outscored Delgado, 36-33, in the second half to preserve the win.

Nevaeh Craft led the Lady Bulldogs with 16 points while Bella Roberts had 15 and Kiara Shelly had 10. Amanda Walker and Craft each had eight rebounds.

Bulldogs roll past Dolphins, 83-60

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs went to 5-1 on the season with an 83-60 win over the Delgado Community College Dolphins at Delgado on Monday night, Nov. 18.

Holmes led 44-22 at halftime and outscored the Dolphins, 39-38, in the second half to preserve the win.

K.J. Sykes led the Bulldogs with 22 points while Cameron Wallace had 18. Tra'Dareon Millbrooks led with 10 rebounds while Wallace had eight.



The Growl Staff



Macey Bowman

Macey Bowman of Pelahatchie is a freshman on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. Bowman's major is pre-radiology. She plans to transfer to UMMC next fall to complete the Rad-Tech program with a specialization in Nuclear Medicine. In her free time, Bowman likes to shop, work, watch movies, read and spend time with friends and family. In high school, Bowman was on the yearbook staff and enjoyed writing about events happening in her school.



Kyanti Fleming

Kyanti Fleming of Canton is freshman mass communication major on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. She is active on campus as a member of both the yearbook and newspaper committees. In her free time, Fleming enjoys writing, listening to music and helping run the family business. She is undecided about her next steps after graduation, but she is confident that Holmes will help her figure it out.



Jermeria McClendon

Jermeria McClendon of Jackson is a sophomore pre-nursing major on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. She has a pet Yorkie, Zoey, that is three years old. In her free time, she enjoys journaling and participating in outdoor activities such as ATV riding and horse riding. She also does tons of research to expand her knowledge on her future career(s). She hopes to reach her full potential to become a successful registered nurse. She also wants to go to school to be an ultrasound tech. Upon graduating from Holmes, she is undecided if she wants to transfer to a four-year college or continue the nursing program at Holmes.

**Interested in Joining the Growl? Contact
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