



THE GROWL

Holmes Community College
Goodman – Ridgeland – Grenada
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Holmes set to hold 95th Commencement on May 11

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College 95th Commencement Exercises are set for Thursday, May 11 in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus.

Goodman, Grenada and Attala Center graduates (academic and career-technical) will have a ceremony at 10 a.m. while Ridgeland and Yazoo Center graduates (academic and career-technical) will take part in the 2

p.m. ceremony.

Only those with graduation tickets will be permitted inside the coliseum for the ceremony. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. for the 10 a.m. ceremony and 12:30 p.m. for the 2 p.m. ceremony. The ceremony will be live streamed at holmesccmedia.com/white-channel.

Goodman inducts four students into the 2023 Hall of Fame

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2023 Goodman Campus Hall of Fame inductees (left to right) Aaliyah Sansom, Lanie Rae Potter, Mia Coy Bridges and Jonathan Chase Langford.

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Goodman Campus included: Mia Coy Bridges of Winona, Jonathan Chase Langford of McCool, Lanie Rae Potter of Yazoo City and Aaliyah M. Sansom of Ridgeland.

Mia Coy Bridges

Bridges, daughter of Holly and Andy Bridges, is an accounting major. She is active on campus as an officer for Phi Theta Kappa, a cheerleader and an accounting tutor. She was also an Ambassador her freshman year at Holmes and has been on the President's List every semester. Bridges was named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi

Academic Team, as well. Upon graduation from Holmes, she will transfer to Delta State University, where she has been accepted into the Honors Program. She was selected as a Top 5 Finalist for the Statesman Transfer, received the Magnolia Scholarship and received the Phi Theta Kappa Catalyst Award at Delta State, as well.

Community involvement and volunteer work is important to Bridges. For several years, she has been part of a mission team to Guatemala. During these trips, she teaches Bible stories to children, helps with door-to-door evangelism, hands out food packets and shares Jesus's love with children and families. Bridges also volunteers at her church; she helped her mom teach

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Holmes takes home 5 awards from Better Newspaper Contest

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Holmes Community College Growl newspaper staff members (left to right) Kaitlyn Anderson of Jackson and Elijah Mangum of Florence at the Mississippi Press Association Conference on March 30.

Holmes Community College won five awards during the 2023 Mississippi Press Association (MPA) Better Newspaper Contest. Elijah Mangum of Florence won three awards and Jacob Dickerson of Hernando won one. Mangum took home second place in General News, as well as both a second and third place in the Best Use of Video category. Duncan won second in the Sports Feature category. The Growl newspaper came in second place for Overall General Excellence, as well. The awards were presented during the O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference held March 30 at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson.

MPA has 110 member newspapers and sponsors the conference annually.

The conference is named after the late O.C. McDavid, who served as managing editor of the Jackson Daily News. Two Holmes journalism students were able to represent the college at the conference: Mangum and Kaitlyn Anderson of Jackson.

This year's conference began with a welcome by MPA President Stephanie Patton. Next, local artist Candy Cain gave a presentation/demonstration. She spoke about her life's work while creating a batik, which is a painting made with hot wax and dye on silk. She also produced a textured canvas using caulk and plaster, allowing students to step in and assist her with her work.

Following Cain's demonstration,

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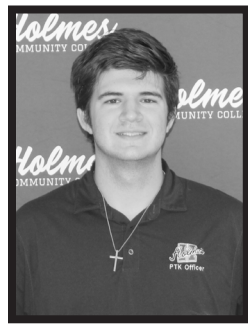
- STUDENT EDITORIALS
- CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST PHOTOS
- SPRING POPS CONCERT PHOTOS
- SPORTS PHOTOS/RECAPS AND MORE!



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2023 MR. AND
MISS HOLMES AND
CLASS FAVORITES
DISTRICT-WIDE!

Is TikTok a threat to the next generation?

By Garrett Viator
Staff Reporter



Introduction

Over the past three years, the Chinese social media platform known as TikTok has had a massive rise to prominence across the globe.

Any Holmes student has surely heard of it.

The app began its journey in 2017, with its first major move being the \$1 billion purchase of musical.ly, a social media app that was mostly prominent in the mid-2010s. As the decade passed, TikTok built a strong foundation of corporate partnerships and celebrity endorsements. However, the company faced scrutiny in 2020. The Trump administration made scathing allegations of the app being a threat to United States data security. As TikTok's user base grew closer to billions of users, pressure began to rise for their newly-hired CEO.

Since 2020, TikTok has been faced with a slew of allegations from average citizens and legal professionals alike. Countless videos and articles have contested TikTok since its launch, attacking its suspicious privacy policies and alleged ties to the Chinese government. Teenagers have come out with testimonies to the app's adverse effects on their self-image and psychological state. In March 2022, U.S. attorneys general from 45 U.S. states launched an investigation on the company out of concerns for users' mental health.

These events beg the question: Is TikTok an innocent app with a bad reputation, or is there more going on behind the scenes? Many writers, internet personalities, politicians and legal professionals argue for both sides of the dilemma. It is the writer's hope that this question will be answered today. Several claims against the integrity of TikTok have been investigated thoroughly, and will be expounded in distinct sections. Each section is titled for a company malpractice that TikTok has categorically been exposed for participating in.

Degrading Mental Health

Any social media app, when used in excess, can have adverse effects on one's mental health. This is a known fact. Every social media app has a unique way of playing on the human brain, so they keep people hooked on their platform. TikTok's way of doing this is arguably more malicious and manipulative than meets the eye.

Specifically, TikTok attacks the human brain's craving for dopamine-- a neurotransmitter released by the brain that improves blood flow and

our mood. Dopamine tends to guide the human brain in making decisions. We often choose to partake in a certain activity depending on how much dopamine we receive from it. When social media gives us dopamine, our brain craves to experience it again. Thus, we start replicating that experience once our dopamine is gone. This can come from watching another video, or liking another picture.

Developers hope that we will lose ourselves in their app, and go on a binge of dopamine-seeking activity. The way TikTok is formatted makes this behavior nearly unavoidable. All of TikTok's content is presented in a short-form video format. The app's algorithm then generates endless videos after the first one, catalyzing a cycle of dopamine hits.

Video after video, we seek another short rush of dopamine to kill time. One more hit is never enough, no matter how much we say that to ourselves. TikTok videos perfectly appeal to the human craving for dopamine. They're entertaining, short in length and constant in supply. The University of Calgary's The Gauntlet puts it best - they are the "perfect dopamine boosters." The algorithm knows what interest to target, as well. The platform's recommendation system is based on "likes." For the world of social media, a "like" is basically showing your approval of this video's theft of your time. This means more dopamine hits, and a bigger likelihood to get addicted to the app. If our brains register TikTok as a surefire source of our dopamine, we will naturally gravitate toward its pleasures.

This is not good. When one develops a psychological dependence on the social media platform, it is essentially a drug to them. This could be said about any social media app, but TikTok is intentional about this being its flagship feature. Without this addictive quality of TikTok's interface, the app is reduced to nothing.

In addition, TikTok tries to ensure that it protects children to the best of its ability. Per the company's privacy policy, "The privacy of Children [sic] is important to us." It cites the fact that there is a children's version of TikTok available, which limits the data collection of its users. However, this version is only native to China, and is unavailable to any other country. Without this version of TikTok available to U.S. citizens, users are stuck with the recommendation algorithm, which has proven to show addictive content. Given the company's inherent ties with the CCP (which will later be addressed in full), the app obviously coddles Chinese youth while deliberately leaving other nations with addictive content that wears down the human psyche.



Uyghurs being handled by Chinese officers. Photo courtesy of Yeni Şafak.

Invading Privacy

TikTok's constituents deny its looming threat to the data of U.S. citizens. However, TikTok's own legal statements and corporate practices expose their imminent goal to compromise international user data.

To begin, it is painfully obvious that TikTok will compromise user data when the corporation deems it necessary. The company's own privacy policy says that TikTok does "retain [user] information when necessary to comply with contractual and legal obligations, when we have a legitimate business interest to do so" (emphasis added). Without pulling documents outside of the company's own website, simple research finds that TikTok will happily mismanage the private data of its users, many of whom are young children. By the company's own admission, their agenda allows them to shell out the private data of millions, all for the sake of business.

An investigation by The Wall Street Journal unveiled more corporate malpractice from TikTok regarding user data. On the Android platform, TikTok collected devices' MAC addresses to further probe into users' private data. By collecting MAC addresses, TikTok had access to data without giving users the freedom to opt out. Manufacturers specially encrypt MAC addresses to serve as unique identifiers for individual Android devices. However, Apple and Google universally banned the collection of MAC addresses as a business practice. This was no concern for TikTok, as they abused a loophole that over 300 Google Play apps used for ad-targeting, according to The Wall Street Journal. In late 2020, the company stopped collecting MAC addresses, most likely due to a rise in international political pressure.

Finally, corporate higher-ups have all but confirmed that TikTok retains user-sensitive data for the CCP specifically. According to Annabelle Liang from BBC, TikTok's head of privacy for Europe said that corporate employees have remote access to European

user data. According to Annabelle Liang from BBC, TikTok's head of privacy for Europe said that corporate employees have remote access to European user data. If this is the case with Europe, how can one say this isn't the case with the United States?

In 2022, TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew presented the alleged solution to the United States' privacy concerns: Project Texas. Project Texas is a corporate initiative aiming to progress towards a "final agreement with the U.S. Government that will fully safeguard user data and U.S. national security interests," per Shou Zi Chew's 2022 letter to the U.S. Senate. In this letter, Chew focused more on dissuading criticism of company practices, rather than providing a plan of action. Chew words anything regarding the execution of Project Texas vaguely at best. The letter provides a link to a post from TikTok itself, which allegedly outlines its plan to better govern the data of its overseas users.

However, a quick skimming of said article disproves this notion. The company hardly elaborates on its new "operational changes" and "data management protocols." The company does not provide a specific list of steps or undertakings that will ensure the protection of overseas citizens' data. TikTok says they will move U.S. data to a different location, and swear to keep U.S. user data within the country. However, there is no genuine confirmation that our country's user data will not reach the CCP.

Furthermore, the testimony of former TikTok employees greatly damaged the validity of Project Texas in 2023. According to one whistleblower, U.S. data wouldn't be secure from China unless the app was "re-engineered" entirely, per The Washington Post. He knew, through his observations of Project Texas, that it would not be sufficient to protect U.S. citizens' data from the CCP. This employee worked with TikTok for six months, and specifically held a leadership position with

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The Growl

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Send to: mbusby@holmescc.edu.

TikTok (Continued from Front Page)

the corporation's Safety Operations team. Unsurprisingly, the gentleman was fired for his concerns with TikTok's approach to data privacy. Soon after, another whistleblower came to a U.S. senator with claims about TikTok's access to international user data from China: "I have seen first-hand China-based engineers flipping over to non-China datasets... to backup, aggregate, and analyze data." Both of these whistleblowers contacted U.S. senators to voice their concerns.

According to the "Project Texas" letter, TikTok works hard to "address potentially harmful content," and "protect against unauthorized access to user data." However, history clearly shows this isn't the case. If it was, harmful content wouldn't run rampant. The Chinese government wouldn't have access to users' private information. TikTok wouldn't be finding loopholes in Apple and Google's corporate policies to spy on people.

It seems the company is more interested in keeping the CCP out of harm's way.

Covering for the Government

It is no secret the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has a long, grueling history of human rights abuse and corruption. Hypothetically, it would be especially resourceful of the Chinese government to use its international social media phenomenon to conceal their misdeeds from other nations and their citizens. However, skeptics have dismissed this notion. They decry it as ludicrous and rooted in prejudice. Nevertheless, there is strong evidence from company malpractices and leaked government documents that prove the CCP's influence on TikTok.

Beijing's puppeteering of the social media platform inherently lies in what the corporation chooses to censor. The Guardian and The Washington Post report that the company deliberately censors videos deemed unfavorable to Beijing. TikTok moderators have vehemently suppressed content related to the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, Tibetan independence and the 2020 Hong Kong protests; all of which are severely damaging to the CCP's

international reputation.

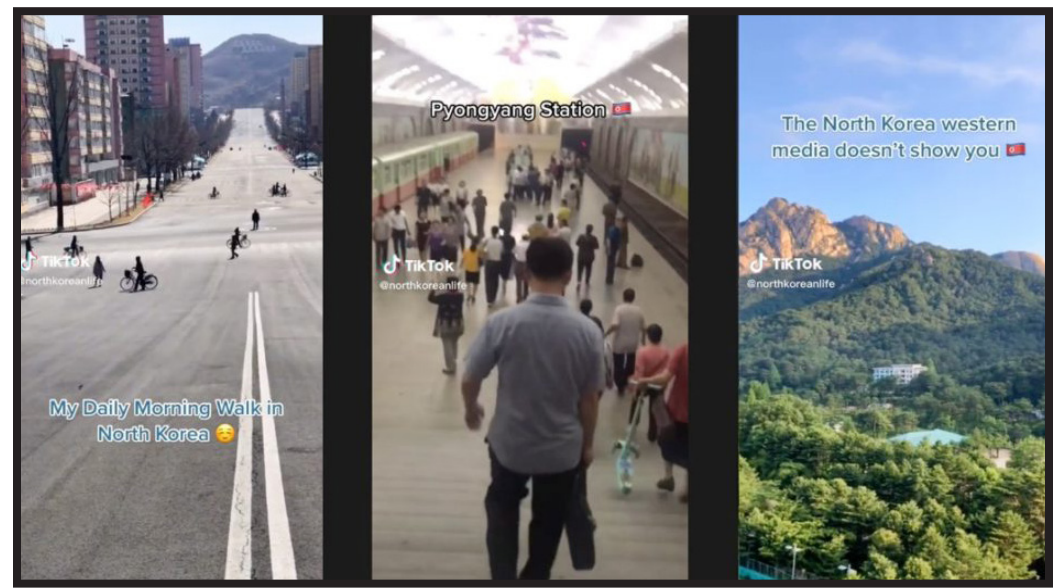
The Australian Strategic Policy Institute has also investigated TikTok's censorship of the genocide and indoctrination of Uyghurs through internment camps. Uyghurs are a Turkic minority who mostly reside in a Chinese region called Xinjiang. The CCP consistently covered up their persecution of Uyghurs over decades. The China Cables, the Strike Hard Campaign against Violent Terrorism and the Civil Servant-Family Pair Up policy are prime examples of the Jinping administration's agenda to sinicize their opposition. It's no coincidence that TikTok moderators deceive its viewers in the same way the CCP deceives its citizens.

TikTok has worked tirelessly to cover the tracks of the CCP's history of human rights abuse, corruption of the law and moral failures under the communist system. However, research exposes company ties to Jinping, the CCP and Marxism-Leninism exhaustively.

Propagating Communism

It is clear that TikTok moderation is swift to silence any opposition to Chinese, communist rule. However, TikTok is not just an asset to defend the CCP's public image. The Chinese government is also weaponizing TikTok to promote communist ideologies and deceive other countries' citizens. Anyone could make claims that TikTok propagates Marxism-Leninism solely because the business' home country is under communist rule. However, the fact that TikTok and Douyin are Chinese companies alone does not substantiate these claims. There is much stronger evidence that TikTok promotes communist ideologies through the influence of various government bodies.

TikTok deliberately allows communist countries to disperse their ideologies on the platform. The clearest example of this activity comes from North Korea. North Korea does not officially refer to itself as a "socialist" or "communist" nation. However, the country's Juche ideology is similar to Marxism-Leninism. The DPRK and China unite under communist authoritarianism. Since 2020, TikTok accounts like "Life in North Korea"



Screenshots of North Korean propaganda accounts from TikTok.

attempt to shine a positive light on life under the Kim regime. These accounts showcase school campuses, ski slopes, and the livelihoods of average Pyongyang citizens.

These DPRK-themed TikTok accounts have accrued millions of views in recent years. Many are unsure if these accounts are affiliates of the regime, or are simply innocent citizens who love their country. Unfortunately, North Korea's government statutes disprove the latter claim. Internet access is rare for common citizens and strictly monitored by the government. Only high-level officials and foreigners staying in Pyongyang can access global internet, per Freedom of the Press. Tae-jun Kang, a North Korean defector and journalist, also reports that only government ambassadors and officials have this privilege. Therefore, the likelihood that everyday citizens post these videos is nearly impossible. This power has to be in the hands of the DPRK's government. The North Korean government clearly uses TikTok to make their impoverished, totalitarian regime more appealing to the foreign eye.

Furthermore, TikTok prohibits content featuring a list of "world leaders." TikTok guidelines list Trump, Putin, Erdoğan and even Mahatma Gandhi as forbidden topics. Coincidentally, Chinese president Xi Jinping is nowhere on the list. Not only does TikTok suppress opposition to China, but it only allows people to sing Jinping's praises. No other world leader has this privilege on the platform.

TikTok is a mouthpiece and weapon for the Jinping and Kim administrations, the two most powerful communist dictatorships on Earth.

Conclusion

To answer the initial questions: TikTok is much more than an innocent app with a bad reputation. The slew of disparaging allegations against ByteDance and TikTok are wholly justified. The negative psychological, moral and political influences of the company are painfully obvious. Young children are becoming addicted to TikTok as they seek to fulfill their dopamine cravings in perpetuity. The app is clearly set up to create a generation of thoughtless, propagandized TikTok addicts.

Not only does TikTok dangerously affect the brain, but it also serves as a political weapon. In this new decade, TikTok has worsened the already tense relationship between China and the United States. Between the government cover-ups, communist propaganda, and user data violations there is ample evidence that more goes on behind closed doors at TikTok headquarters.

It would behoove the U.S. government to move forward with restricting of the app, as well as taking a hard stance towards the Chinese government. Without our leaders' best effort to stand against the CCP's tricks, U.S. citizens could remain in danger without even knowing it.

A very special Mother's Day

By Kaitlyn Anderson
Staff Reporter



It is now May and although when we think of May we think of it as just one more month until summer, a very special day happens in May, Mother's Day. Mother's Day

is when we acknowledge our mothers and show them how special and loved they are. It's basically like Valentine's Day but just for mothers. I decided in honor of Mother's Day I wanted to interview to special people to me who also happens to be both be moms of course. One being my mom! The other, who is my advisor and has stuck with me through the most challenging and rewarding times in my college life, Mrs. Mary Margaret Busby.

1. When you think of the word

mother, what does that mean to you?

Mom-When I think of the word mother that means coverer, protector, friend, supporter and confidant.

Mrs. Busby- Motherhood is a blessing from God and the greatest gift! Though it's challenging at times, being a mother is not something I take for granted, and I love getting to see joy through my child's eyes.

2. Were there any lessons that you learned from your mom that have now been passed to you as a mother?

Mom- The lessons that I learned were both positive and negative. On one hand I learned from my mom the importance of hard work, being a submissive wife and implementing God's word into my children's lives. My mom spoke scriptures over us daily

before she went to work. Those are things that I practice every day with my girls. For example, with Kaitlyn I would say "Ye in all these things," and she would respond "we are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us." On the other hand, she was impatient and spoke harshly at times which made it hard for me to confide in her as I did my dad.

Mrs. Busby- My mom taught me to always be kind to everyone and embrace the joy in life; now I'm trying to pass that on to my daughter.

3. What are some challenges as a mother that you have overcome?

Mom- As a mother, there are challenges that I'm still overcoming. For example, I am twice divorced and so, for most of my daughters' lives, I have been a single mom so to speak. Especially in the case of Kaitlyn, whose



Pictured his Kaitlyn Anderson with her sister, Nadiya, and her mother, Sonya Christine.

father passed away when she was 14. There's no way to ever replace the relationship they had. I can only teach them the importance of knowing how

Mother's Day (Continued from Page 3)

they should be treated as women and unfortunately how to walk away when there is abuse in a situation. I want them to know the importance of knowing their value and preferably teaching them how to be future wives and mothers.

Mrs. Busby- The biggest challenge was getting my baby to sleep through the night! She is two and still wakes up about once a night more often than not, but we are getting there! At least now she goes back to sleep quickly.

4. What are your hopes and dreams for your child or children in

the future?

Mom- My hope is that they get their education. Find a career that they love and God's purpose for their life. If they become wives and mothers continue to sow positive seeds in their lives. I want them to have self-love and respect for themselves as well as others.

Mrs. Busby- I want her to grow up to be a happy, healthy, Christian woman who knows how loved she is and fulfills her full potential.

5. Any advice for first time mothers or mothers in general?

You are only human, you are not perfect. I believe that God gives mothers special instincts and a nurturing spirit to sense when their child is hiding something, needs to talk and just needs someone to listen. I believe every child has a love language whether it's physical touch or words of affirmation, acts of service, receiving gifts or quality time. Figuring this out will make a difference in the bond a mother and child has.

Mrs. Busby- I would just advise new mothers not to let the hard seasons/ hard moments overshadow all the

joy that comes with motherhood! I'd tell them to soak up all the cuddles, smiles, "first" and happy moments and remember that the sleep deprivation, tantrums, etc., are only temporary.

Special thanks to my wonderful mom for sitting down and allowing me to interview her and special thanks to the awesome Mrs. Busby for also allowing me to interview her as well.

I want to wish all the soon to be mothers and those who are already mothers a very special, Happy Mother's Day. You are loved and appreciated.

A look into the counseling profession with Cornerstone founder Lee Smith

By Kaitlyn Anderson
Staff Reporter



Lee Smith is the founder and clinical director of Cornerstone Counseling. He has been a counselor for 15 years. He is from the Mississippi Delta. Smith attended

Delta State University and later Mississippi College where he graduated with his M.S. in counseling psychology.

Before becoming a counselor, Smith worked in sales and management for over 10 years in the pharmaceutical and wireless industries. He then served on staff at Pinelake Church. He is married to Jenny Smith and the father to three amazing children: Ford, Millie and Moses.

Kaitlyn - When did you know that you wanted to become a counselor?

Lee - I remember years ago when I was in middle school, I went through counseling myself. I remember thinking my counselor Karen had a cool job. She made me feel safe, and I thought this would be cool for helping people who were going through a tough time in life, and that idea got tucked away. But years later, when I got ready to go to college, it was that one thing that I knew I wanted, to work in the helping profession, whether that was medicine or psychology, but I knew that I wanted to do something in the helping profession.

Kaitlyn - Was there another profession that you had before you got into counseling?

Lee - Yes. When I got out of college my undergrad, I did not go straight to my masters. I spent about eight years in the marketplace and mostly in pharmaceutical sales, and then five years in ministry for a church. I think it was my time on staff at Pinelake Church where I began to see a lot of issues walking through the church doors. Most pastors were not equipped to handle the issues that were walking through the door, nor did they have the time to sit and invest a long amount of time in people and no one had a degree. I just thought that it would be a good time for me to step out into the community and offer something for the church and offer something for our community.

Kaitlyn - As a mental health counselor, you mentioned seeing something within the church. Was that a surprise to you being how some ideas might feel that the church is full of perfect people or people who don't really have to deal with serious issues?

Lee - I would say that I was aware of brokenness; I think that we all have some things that we are battling inside, each one of us have our own personal battles that we fight. The surprise was that in the volume of need that there was and the lack of volumes in capacity of pastors to really take on everything that was going on in their congregation.

Kaitlyn - As the founder of Cornerstone Counseling, why did you decide to start your own business rather than joining someone else's business and working on staff for someone else?

Lee - That is a great question. At the time there were three or four groups here in the Jackson area that were good groups. I think that I always looked at mental health as having a stigma attached to it, it has always been viewed as a cold and clinical kind of thing. Most people view it as where crazy people go when in actuality, we all benefit, and we all have mental health needs that need to be taken care of. I began to dream about what it would look like to have a place that was warm, that was super friendly, and that was not clinically cold. That when people walked in it was the highlight of their week. I just saw there was a unique opportunity to create something unique.

Kaitlyn - When you first started off, how many people did you have on staff?

Lee - It was just me. I remember renting a one-office suite in Madison off Main Street, I had no idea that cornerstone would become what it is today. I just knew that I wanted to help people. Within six months, my calendar got so full that I could not take on anybody new and then I began to see that there were only certain types of issues that I felt comfortable working in.

For example I had a friend named Kristen Join who loved working with children and was looking into get-

ting into private practice. We started having conversations and pretty soon she joined me at Cornerstone. Slowly, overtime, we started to add a therapist for different things. We have 25 providers, counting myself, between four locations. The locations are Jackson, Flowood, Oxford and now Tupelo.

Kaitlyn - What was your process like in trying to get these locations started?

Lee - They all happened organically, with referral sources within those communities, people who are already traveling to see us. The way the process of selecting a therapist to join our team we look for highly relational people. People who are not cold and clinical. They have their training and their expertise, but they are very warm and friendly, and they love what they do.

We are a Christian counseling agency so that part is important to us. Not that they are going to force their faith on anyone, but they operate on a standpoint being a faith-based person. When we have a therapist identified that would be a good fit for our team and it just so happens that they live within our community we are not afraid to step out into that community and start something small. That's what's happening in Tupelo right now.

We have one therapist there and a church that said, "Hey, we will partner with you and allow you to have space here for the first year or so." So that's where we are in tupelo right now and trying to see where it grows from there.

Kaitlyn - Earlier you mentioned about you getting counseling when you were younger, can you tell me a little bit about that?

Lee - My journey really started in sixth grade, there were just some dynamics that were going on in my family at the time, that were hard for me personally. I also had a father who battled cardiovascular disease and I had a fear of him not being here very long. I had a lot of sleepless nights wondering if this would be the last time I would see him or when that would be. All that just compounded inside of me.

I was able to start that journey off with Karen in sixth grade. The next phase of my mental health began in high school when I had a mentor was



Lee Smith

my student pastor at the time named mark Kelly. Mark began to really invest in me, and mark was able to talk to me about anything going on in my life. I began to really learn about authentic community that you do not have to hide and can just say here's what I am and here's what I'm going through.

Fast forward after college, I get married, and you think marriage is going to be perfect and wonderful and yet when you bring two broken people together there's bound to be issues arise. While I married that most amazing person in the world, I realized hey we have issues that we have to work through our marriage, My wife and I both started back seeing a counselor to talk out our issues and I really think through that process with the church that I began to get involved with this and went back to school but part of my counseling program is that you had to be in counseling as well and so I did. After I finished my master's and opened my private practice up, it is just apart that I decided to keep on my life because I see so many benefits from having someone to go talk to. Even if it's just for me right now someone I have scheduled once a month that I go sit with and talk to that ongoing relationship and continuing to grow.

Kaitlyn - I was asking earlier about awards that you have received for Cornerstone, can you tell me about that?

Counseling (Continued from Front Page)

Lee - Yes, we have been fortunate to have won best mental health clinic three years in a row.

Kaitlyn - How many patients do you have coming in and out would you say?

Lee - As a group collectively we serve over 300 people a week right now. So, myself personally I work with about fifteen to 18 people a week.

Kaitlyn - How busy is your schedule for you to make time for yourself and your family?

Lee - It may seem like if you're seeing 18 people a week then you're only spending 18 hours a week at work but that's not true you're spending time outside that 1 hour with that client to prepare for that session, to take all your clinical notes, to make sure that you yourself are continuing to learn and even getting on the phone with other therapists and collaborating together. Collectively, it's probably a 30-to-40-hour week and those are full hours. It's really important to have boundaries around our personal lives where we can spend time with our families and also be alone to process things with our own counselor.

Kaitlyn - Have you had any situations where the patient couldn't overcome their battle and what do you do in that situation?

Lee - Well no one is beyond help. There are multiple challenges sometimes in a person's life and unfortunately some people do wait too late to get help. They come to counseling in the 11th hour when they should have come in the 3 o'clock hour. So, unfortunately, because of their unique

situations or limited help in their lives, they end their life tragically or walk away. That is always hard to walk through with someone, but I think we as clinicians must understand that we have no power to change a person's life. We can only hold space for them, honor their story, walk with them, and encourage them, provide tools and interventions to help them. But at the end of the day, it's really the person's choice to use those tools, interventions and time spent in counseling to apply those principles to their life.

Kaitlyn - Are there any cases that were so successful that they really do not need counseling anymore?

Lee - I think while everyone can benefit from counseling, I do think some may reach their goals why they come to counseling so that might pull back on the frequency of sessions or pull back altogether for a season. And then we have people come back three years later saying hey you helped me through this particular issue of my life and now I'm walking through something else and I would love to have your help again. Those are really rewarding. You get to follow a client through a life span in different seasons and different times and be almost like a professional friend who can help guide them through whatever they are going through.

Kaitlyn - This being a Christian business and having those who come in that might not be a Christian or have faith at all how do you handle those situations and have there been any who did decide to invite Christ into their life after being here?

Lee - We are clear about who we are.

We are all Christians who practice here and that faith of ours informs us in the way that we practice, however we are clear that we work with people from faith and non-faith backgrounds. It is never our intent to impose our beliefs on anyone. We feel it's important for them to be informed before they start seeing us who they are working with. So there are times when people have come here and say you have been highly recommended, we just don't want to have any conversations around faith. As a counselor we let the client set the agenda. It has been times where faith has come up in conversation from the client. And we have had people come to faith through our interactions and conversations, but that is always on their time.

Kaitlyn - College can be one of the most memorable fun times in a student's life but it can also be the most stressful and challenging. Do you work with college students here?

Lee - We do. The college years are really interesting because there's not really another season like it. It's a time where it might be easy to get those fears of I don't know what I want to do for the rest of my life. It's a season that can just be a lot of stress a lot of anxiety. We really love working with college students and helping them to understand how to navigate some of the challenges.

Kaitlyn - Do you guys have internships for those who may be wanting to join?

Lee - So currently cornerstone does not have any internships, but that's something we definitely want to do. I will say that a lot of our therapist are



Lee Smith and Kaitlyn Anderson

really generous with their time. For example, one of the things I love to do is I love to utilize my lunches to helping people who maybe considering a career path in counseling.

Kaitlyn - Whets the best way to get connected with you?

Lee - The best way to get connected with us is to go to our website which is cornerstone.ms.com. There you can find our locations, you can read the bios of all our therapists. You also have a lot of resources and there are a lot of books we recommend to people. And they can also interact with us by submitting an online request and we will have someone call them back. We will have a therapist that's right for them, whatever they need. We try to make that connection for them.

Special thanks to Lee Smith for sitting down and talking to me for this article.

Local universities offering big rewards to fall transfers

By Garrett Viator
Staff Reporter



This year, the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi College are generously rewarding scholars who are hungry for success.

According to the University of Southern Mississippi's website, transferring Phi Theta Kappa members will automatically have an annual \$6,000 of scholarship money to their name. In addition, transferring PTK Officers will receive a yearly \$1,000 on top of their current offer. To make the deal even sweeter, Southern Miss is offering an additional \$1,000 per year to PTK scholars

who earned a spot in their State/National academic team.

For students who have received all three of these offers, USM Admissions Recruiter Devin Chadwick had this to say: "Right now, you'll have \$8,000 from PTK stuff alone. You could apply for Mississippi financial aid to get an extra \$1,000 per year. Tuition is increasing a little bit next year, from \$9,200 to \$9,600 [per year] due to inflation. However, the Pell Grant could help cover this depending on your financial need."

If one has all three of these scholarships, USM may be covering the vast majority of their tuition. This serves as a universal encouragement for all students to pursue success and academic rigor. Scholarship rewards like these show how well the



effort pays off. Please note that applicants must have documentation available for all three of these accolades. Students must submit the documentation through USM's

Golden Opportunities scholarship application system. Each of these scholarships are awarded over the course of two years.

Are you interested in having your work published? Do you love to take photos? Have a passion for writing? We need you! We would love to have you join our staff by signing up for Coll Publications-Growl&Grid for the Fall of 2023. For more information, contact Mary Margaret Busby at: mbusby@holmescc.edu.

Hall of Fame (Continued from Front Page)

AWANA, assisting children in learning Bible verses, and she has taught Vacation Bible School too. Additionally, she participated in the Junior Auxiliary of Winona Crown Club. During Crown Club, young ladies volunteer at nursing homes, help with Easter egg hunts and babysit. She volunteers at Mission Hope and works at Hammond's Pharmacy as a clerk, as well.

Jonathan Chase Langford

Langford, son of Nancy and Jeff Langford, is a biological sciences major with a pre-dental concentration. He is president of the Kappa Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and received the 2023 Order of the Golden Key award. Langford is also an Ambassador, member of Holmes Plus and a member of Get2College Corps. In addition to community service projects complet-

ed through Phi Theta Kappa, he has volunteered at Shepherd's Touch in Kosciusko and been a storm relief volunteer through the student ambassador group and the American Red Cross.

After graduating from Holmes, Langford plans to transfer to Mississippi State University in the fall. He hopes to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center's School of Dentistry after obtaining his bachelor's degree to become a Doctor of Dental Medicine.

Lanie Rae Potter

Potter is the daughter of Dixie Roberts (mother), Jim Roberts (stepfather), Sidney Potter (father) and Abbie Potter (stepmother). She is a pre-nursing major who received the President's Scholarship and is on the President's List.

Potter is active on campus as a member of the Lady Bulldogs basketball team and Phi Theta Kappa. She has participated in volunteer work with the Read Across America program, serving at Goodman Pickens Elementary; at the Mississippi Children's Museum in Jackson; with Vacation Bible School at First United Methodist Church of Yazoo City and with the Rankin County Women's Correctional Facility. Upon graduation from Holmes, Potter plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing. She will begin the program in May.

Aaliyah M. Sansom

Sansom, daughter of Tiffany Sansom and Aaron Holliday, is a pre-physical therapy major. She is the community service chair for the student support services group, MOSAIC (Multicultur-

al Organization for Students Achieving, Inspiring others, and Challenging themselves) and an Ambassador for the Goodman Campus. Alongside the other Ambassadors, she helped serve honorees and their families at the 2022 Sports Hall of Fame dinner. Prior to coming to college, she was on the Honor Roll at Ridgeland High School. Upon graduation from Holmes, Sansom plans to attend Delta State University to earn a bachelor's degree. After Delta State, her plan is to obtain a master's degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

"I would like to thank my family and friends for motivating me to keep pushing through even when times got rough," Sansom said. "I also want to thank my favorite professors, Mrs. Sample, Mr. Eckelberry, Mr. Moorer and Mr. Cheatham."

MPA Conference (Continued from Front Page)

attorney Haley Gregory from Butler Snow gave a presentation titled, "Dealing with Defamation." Lunch followed Gregory's lecture.

The last presentation of the day was an editor's panel that discussed community journalism's impact and future in Mississippi. The panel featured Lyndy Berryhill from Stone County Enterprise, Jackie Hampton from The Mississippi Link, Peter Imes from The

Commercial Dispatch and Stephanie Patton from The Leland Progress.

After the panel discussion, MPA Executive Director Layne Bruce announced the winners of the Better Newspaper Contest before dismissal. The MPA Education Foundation generously makes it possible for students to participate in the Better Newspaper Contest and the conference for free.

For more information about the Mis-

issippi Press Association, visit www.mspress.org/.

For more information about student publications at Holmes, which includes the Growl newspaper and Horizons yearbook, contact Mary Margaret Busby at mbusby@holmescc.edu.

(right) Pictured is Growl staff member **Jacob Duncan** of Hernando with his award.



Goodman Campus announces 2023 Who's Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Goodman Campus 2023 Who's Who recipients. They are: (left to right) **Bella Brooke Settlemir** of Kosciusko, **Demeria Moore** of Goodman, **Garian Dontre Edwards** of Grenada, **Mr. Holmes Jonathan Chase Langford** of McCool, **Miss Holmes Lacey Gail Greenlee** of Kosciusko, **Kelsey Kelton Gilmore** of Lexington and **Hanadi Hariri** of Sallis. *Not pictured:* Elizabeth Dorris of Yazoo City.

The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus announced the 2023 Who's Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes and Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Goodman Campus are Jonathan Chase Langford of McCool and Lacey Gail Greenlee of Kosciusko.

Class Favorites include Elizabeth Julia Dorris of Yazoo City, Garian Dontre Edwards of Grenada, Kelsey

Kelton Gilmore of Lexington, Hanadi Hariri of Sallis, Demeria Moore of Goodman and Bella Brooke Settlemir of Kosciusko.

Jonathan Chase Langford, son of Nancy and Jeff Langford, is a biological sciences major with a pre-dental concentration. He is president of the Kappa Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and was named a 2023 Order of the Golden Key recipient. He is also

an Ambassador, Holmes Plus member and Get2College Corps member.

Langford has volunteered at Shepherd's Touch in Kosciusko and done community service projects through Phi Theta Kappa. He has also done storm relief volunteer work through the student ambassador group and the American Red Cross. After graduating from Holmes, he plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to begin in the fall of 2023. After obtaining his bachelor's degree, he hopes to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center's School of Dentistry to become a Doctor of Dental Medicine.

"Holmes Community College has served as a strong foundation for my educational journey," Langford said. "I am grateful for the countless memories and connections I have made at Holmes, and the abundance of opportunities to become involved in different organizations. There truly is No Place Like Holmes!"

Lacey Gail Greenlee, daughter of Amy Sims and Kirt Greenlee, is a pre-med major. She is vice president of Phi Theta Kappa and a President's List Scholar. Greenlee is also a member of the Holmes Chorale and Holmes Connection! She is a sales associate at Holt and Company, as well. Her community service includes serving as a leader for DNOW 2023 for First Baptist Church Kosciusko and volunteering for Shepherd's Touch in Kosciusko.

In her free time, Greenlee enjoys singing, dancing, hanging out with friends, spending time with family and watching movies and reality T.V. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to attend Mississippi State University to earn a bachelor's degree in biological science. After graduating from MSU, she plans to attend University of Mississippi Medical Center to pursue a degree in medicine in hopes of becoming either an OB/GYN or pediatrician.

"I have developed so many new friendships in my time at Holmes Community College," Greenlee said. "With that, I have gotten to witness all of the accomplishments my friends have made. Winning the Parade of Beauties, being on the Homecoming Court and advancing in academics are just a few of the many victories that I get to celebrate my friends for. I get to share in new growth and achievements every day. Having the opportunity to be so personal with my classmates is my favorite memory from Holmes."

"Holmes has treated me so well in my time here," Greenlee said. "Multiple doors have opened for me, and I have learned so much in and outside of the classroom. I do not take these past two years for granted. Although I am so sad this chapter of my life is coming to an end, I am so excited for the future of this school and myself. There's No Place Like Holmes!"

Grenada Campus announces 2023 Who's Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Grenada Campus 2023 Who's Who recipients. They are: (left to right) **Taylor Alysse Carver** of Grenada, **Grace Lael Knight** of Calhoun City, **Kevion Damarcus McGee** of Grenada, **Mr. Holmes Eli Black** of Grenada, **Miss Holmes Karlee Luke** of Eupora, **Baker Alan Avant** of Carrollton, **Avery Grace Lowery** of Winona, **Ashlyn Elizabeth Gillespie** of Greenwood and **Destiny Hope Avery** of Grenada. *Not pictured:* Richard Andrew Flautt of Grenada.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus announced the 2023

Who's Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes and Class

Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Grenada Campus are Eli Black of Grenada and Karlee Luke of Eupora.

Class Favorites include Baker Alan Avant of Carrollton, Destiny Hope Avery of Grenada, Taylor Alysse Carver of Grenada, Richard Andrew Flautt of Grenada, Ashlyn Elizabeth Gillespie of Greenwood, Grace Lael Knight of Calhoun City, Avery Grace Lowery of Winona and Kevion Damarcus McGee of Grenada.

Eli Black, son of Leslie and Paul Black and of Amanda and Tank Snell, is a psychology major. He's also a Dean's List scholar and a Bain & Corey Scholarship recipient. On campus, he is active as an Ambassador and member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Black has volunteered on campus with the Grenada Food Pantry. After graduation from Holmes, he plans to attend Mississippi College to earn a bachelor's degree before pursuing his master's and doctorate at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Karlee Luke, daughter of the late

Stephanie McCool, is a nursing major. On campus, she is active as president of Phi Theta Kappa. She is also an Ambassador, Student Government Association member and Baptist Student Union member. Some of Luke's honors include making it on the President's List, receiving the Fine Arts Award, being voted a Sophomore Homecoming Maid and receiving the ACT Scholarship.

She has volunteered at the annual Hope Outdoors Banquet for the past three years, and she helps organize and fill the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes each year at her church. After graduating from Holmes in May, Luke plans to return in the fall of 2023 to begin the Associate Degree Nursing program.

"Out of all of the special memories I have made during my time at Holmes Community College, my favorite was getting to meet all of the Ambassadors this year and making new friendships that will last a lifetime," Luke said.

Ridgeland Campus announces 2023 Who's Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus 2023 Who's Who recipients. They are: (front row, left to right) **Hollyn Oswalt** of Clinton; **Mr. Holmes Jaylen Grays** of Jackson; **Miss Holmes Olasike Olagbegi** of Jackson; **Analise Marie Johnson** of Sandhill, (back row, left to right) **Sean Jordan** of Byram; **Charlotte Lamar** of Jackson; **Derrick Lashun Taylor II** of Clinton; **Garrett Viator** of New Iberia, Louisiana; **Jessica Brown** of Canton and **Arian Felton** of Madison.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus announced the 2023 Who's Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes and Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Ridgeland Campus are Jaylen Grays and Olasike Olagbegi, both of Jackson.

Grays, son of Rose and J.Z. Grays, is a psychology major. He is also a President's List scholar, vice president of public relations for Phi Theta Kappa and a Student Government Association representative who assisted in founding intramural sports on the Ridgeland Campus. Additionally, he established Student Instagram Takeover. Off campus, he is an active member of Relevant Church and a member of Thursday Night Thrive. As a freshman, Grays was employed at Shoe Station and served as a volunteer for

Abraham's Kitchen. In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with friends, playing games and working out. After Holmes, he plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to pursue his bachelor's degree in psychology.

"Picking my favorite memory from Holmes is hard because I have so many but if I had to choose one, it would probably be when me Garrett and Charlotte successfully coordinated the first intramural event during Spring Fling 2022," Grays said. "I'm so honored that the student body recognized me as Mr. Holmes. I have grown so much as a person over these two years, made so many amazing friends and loved every second of it. I will truly miss Holmes, but now it's on to even greater things."

Olagbegi, daughter of Miriam and Juwon Olagbegi, is a biology/pre-med

major. She is Student Government Association president, STEM Club president, an Ambassador for the college and active in intramural sports. Olagbegi was also selected as the Student Body Maid for Homecoming 2022. Off campus, she attends Refuge Temple church of Jackson where she is a member of the choir. She's also part of the Jackson Youth Leadership program and volunteers with Abraham's Table, which is a non-profit her family founded that feeds the homeless at Poindexter Park every month.

In her free time, Olagbegi loves to shop, read the Bible and hang out with friends. Upon graduation, she plans to continue her education at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she will obtain her bachelor's degree in pre-med. After earning her master's, she will apply for medical school in hopes of becoming an OB-GYN.

"Although Holmes has left me with many memories to cherish, if I had to choose, my favorite memory would be becoming an Ambassador and enjoying every day with my Ambassador family," Olagbegi said. "Each day brought something new. From the laughs, to talks, to tours, I've enjoyed every moment. Mrs. Amanda and my fellow Ambassadors are friends whom I will cherish for a lifetime. Over these past two years, Holmes has taught me things I will never forget! The staff and my friends that I've met are truly remarkable! Holmes will always be home!"

Class Favorites include Jessica Brown of Canton, Arian Cordelia Felton of Madison, Analise Marie Johnson of Sandhill, Sean Justin Jordan of Byram, Charlotte Lamar of Jackson, Hollyn Oswalt of Clinton, Derrick Lashun Taylor II of Clinton and Garrett Viator of New Iberia, Louisiana.

Brown, daughter of Robert Brown and the late Sandra Ransburg Brown,

is a sophomore social work major, Dean's List Scholar, community service volunteer for Better Men Society (a non-profit organization that assists the elderly and less fortunate) and a volunteer for the Girl Scouts Troop (Canton branch). Felton, daughter of Monique Moore, is a sophomore business administration major, Student Government Association member (secretary/treasurer as a freshman) and Phi Theta Kappa member who was a Homecoming Maid both years at Holmes.

Johnson, daughter of Kimberly Warren, is a freshman criminal justice major, Ambassador, member of SGA and member of Phi Theta Kappa. Jordan, son of Adre' and Darrell Jordan, is a sophomore culinary arts major, Ambassador, secretary/treasurer of SGA, Hall of Fame nominee and was named Culinary Student of the Year.

Lamar, daughter of Miriam and Jaime Lamar, is a social work major, Hall of Fame inductee, President's List Scholar, tutor at The Writing Center, vice president of Leadership for Phi Theta Kappa, Board of Trustees ACT Scholarship recipient and an intramural sports volunteer/player. Oswalt, daughter of Christi and Edward Oswalt, is a sophomore pre-nursing major, Hall of Fame inductee, Phi Theta Kappa member and member of the women's soccer team.

Taylor, son of Shavon Hampton and Derrick Taylor, is a sophomore pre-nursing major, Hall of Fame inductee and active member of The Bridge Church. Viator, son of Monica and Ernie Turner, is a sophomore pre-law/legal studies major, Hall of Fame inductee, Phi Theta Kappa president, SGA vice president, staff writer for The Growl, Social Science Club member, Board of Trustees Scholarship recipient, President's List Scholar and a co-founder/active participant in Ridgeland Campus intramural sports.

Langford accepted into Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jonathan Chase Langford

Holmes Community College pre-dentistry major Jonathan Chase Langford of Ethel was recently selected as a recipient of the Mississippi Rural Dental Scholarship Program. This is a scholarship program

that admits students to dental school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and compensates for expenses once the student completes their bachelor's degree. The scholarship is provided by the state legislature and selects students at the end of their sophomore year who desire to pursue dentistry in rural areas of Mississippi.

The son of Nancy and Jeff Langford, he is a 2023 Hall of Fame inductee, Mr. Holmes for the Goodman Campus, an Ambassador, Holmes Plus member and Get2College Corps member. Langford is also president of the Kappa Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and was named a 2023 Order of the Golden Key recipient. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to begin in the fall of 2023.

"Humble, hard-working and honest are all attributes that come to mind for Chase Langford," said Holmes Recruiting Specialist/Ambassador Sponsor Nikki Boutwell. "Holmes Community College is proud to have him as a student and future alumnus. I, for one, am grateful to have

him as a student Ambassador to represent Holmes. Chase is an exceptional student and worker, but also a wonderful young man with the utmost character. His future is bright!"

During the undergraduate portion of the program, Langford will participate in Dental Encounters to gain hands-on experience in dentistry and become familiar with the University Of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry.

"Chase is a wonderful student," said chemistry instructor Heather Jones. "I have had the privilege of teaching him for the past two years and what a joy he has been. With high academic standards and an excellent work ethic, Chase will excel in undergraduate work as well as dental school. Compassion for people and a willingness to help are just a couple of the characteristics that will make him a great dentist."

Langford will also receive Dental Admission Test (DAT) prep and other academic enrichment resources, dental mentoring and rural clinical experience.

Once he obtains admission into dental school, he will be under consideration for a \$35,000 per year scholarship.

"I am incredibly thankful and excited to have been accepted into the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program," Langford said. "Being involved with this scholarship program will help me reach my goals of becoming a dentist and practicing in a rural area in Mississippi. I am also thankful for the outstanding advisors, staff and faculty at Holmes Community College who have provided me with an abundance of guidance both during my time at Holmes and this application process. Holmes has served as a strong foundation for my educational journey. I am grateful for the countless memories and connections I have made at Holmes, and the abundance of opportunities to become involved in different organizations. There truly is No Place like Holmes!"

For more information on the Mississippi Rural Dental Scholarship Program, visit MississippiRuralDentalScholarshipProgram.

4 Holmes students place in 2023 MCCCWA statewide writing competition

From Staff Reports/Photos



Colton T. DeShazo



Jay Downs



Peyton DeLaune



Sean Jordan

Four Holmes Community College students won awards during the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association's (MCCCWA) annual workshop and student competition. Colton T. DeShazo of D'Iberville, a business administration major on the Goodman Campus, took home first place in the Creative Nonfiction (Personal Essay) category for "From Spectator to Champion."

"I first taught Colton last summer in Comp. 1 where he wrote his winning essay as an assignment for the course," said Goodman Campus English Instructor Jessica Brown. "Colton's strong work ethic and determination to excel in his studies had already stood out to me. When this particular narrative writing assignment unfolded, Colton had a lot of questions for me and made several revisions. He was al-

ready on the right track, but he wanted to challenge himself further. I offered him feedback for improvement, and while he took some of it into account, he also took a few liberties with the assignment as well so it could remain his own authentic story. Between his careful consideration of feedback and his willingness to step out of his own box a little, I knew he had the winning essay as soon as I read his final revision. Congratulations, Colton, from your exceedingly proud Composition instructor. Keep writing your story, Champ!"

Other students who won awards included Grenada Campus student Jay Downs of Grenada and Ridgeland Campus students Peyton DeLaune of Madison and Sean Jordan of Byram. Downs, a psychology major, won third place in the Poetry Division for

"I'm Still Here." DeLaune, a wildlife, fisheries and aquatic major, won third in Short Story for "Rental Cars, Stray Cats, and Storms" and Jordan, an Associate Degree Nursing major, won third in the Literary Essay Category for "The Influence of Christianity in the Works of Phillis Wheatley."

Grenada English Instructor Amy Land was proud to brag on her student Jay Downs.

"Jay Downs is an exceptional writer," Land said. "Finding writing to be healing, Jay works to share stories with others with great passion and feeling. Using the ability to make emotion come alive on the page, readers are naturally drawn deeply within these stories. Having worked with Jay for the past couple semesters throughout composition courses, Creative Writing, and The Writing Center, I have been

so blessed to have had a front seat to incredible writing and story sharing."

For the Ridgeland Campus, English Instructor Dr. Andrew Kelly shared a few words on his student Peyton DeLaune.

"Peyton's strength is his sense of empathy," Dr. Kelly said. "He can get into the heads of characters who are nothing like him and make them come to life. That's what makes this story so special."

Ridgeland Campus English Instructor Arnetra Pleas also had kind words to say about her student, Sean Jordan, who placed in the competition.

"Sean Jordan is a student excited by reading, research and writing, so I am not surprised by his recognition at the state-level Creative Writing Competition," Pleas said. "He worked exceptionally hard on his essay, and he did not stop until he had accomplished a passionate critique of the religiosity in Wheatley's poetry. I am so proud of him, not only for this award but for being an exemplary student."

The MCCCWA competition included poetry, short story, essay (creative nonfiction), literary essay, dramatic writing and college literary magazine.

First, second and third place winners received monetary prizes of \$100, \$60 and \$40, respectively.

Ridgeland student chosen for chemistry research internship

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. K. Troy Milliken smiles for a photo with **Nalaya Thompson** of Jackson.

Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus student Nalaya Thompson of Jackson was recently selected for an exclusive chemistry research internship at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Old Dominion University (ODU) has a well-known Research Education for Undergraduates (REU) program for community college students wanting to explore chemistry, and Thompson will participate in the program this summer.

"Nalaya was one of several community college students to apply for the program, so it was an honor for her to be chosen," said Holmes chemistry instructor Dr. Kenneth Troy Milliken. "She will be doing high-level chemistry research for the summer on C-H activation."

Thompson, the daughter of Maya and Greg Thompson, is an engineering chemical/biological/petroleum engineering major at Holmes. She is active on campus as a member of the STEM Club and Phi Theta Kappa and will graduate in May. Following the summer internship at ODU, Thompson will transfer to the University of Mississippi where she will major in chemical engineering.

For more information about the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) pathway at Holmes, contact STEM Chair Dr. Antoine Gates at agates@holmescc.edu or (601) 605-3328.

Holmes Ridgeland Campus celebrates Earth Day

By Elijah Mangum
Staff Reporter



The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus celebrated Earth Day early on Thursday, April 20. The STEM Club set up a booth in the lobby of Science Building West with wildflower seeds,

Dum Dums and an educational pamphlet.

The contents were chosen intentionally due to their environmental significance.

According to biology instructor Jennifer McGehee, these seeds have unique

properties.

“We have our little heart shaped ‘plant me’ wildflower seeds,” said McGehee. This is actually a paper that has wildflower seeds in it to make it easier to plant. Someone would be able to put this on a piece of dirt, put some dirt on top of it and water it. It will produce wildflowers that attract pollinators like bees. We are so dependent on bees for a lot of our food sources. So, it fits really well for Earth Day.”

Dum Dums were chosen to encourage people to choose candies with paper wrapping instead of plastic.

The pamphlet provides a list of conservation ideas. McGehee shared these ideas

during an ecology lesson with her Principles of Biology II class.

“In Mrs. McGehee’s class, she told us about the population and how some areas are rapidly declining while others are increasing. She also taught us about climate change,” said one of her students, Daylan Henderson.

Earth Day is set for April 22.

“Looking at conservation and Earth Day, it’s all about the little, small choices we make each day. Those small choices add up to make a big impact on our environment,” McGehee said.



Ridgeland Campus biology instructor Jennifer McGehee poses with the Earth Day set-up.

Dr. Holleman advocates in D.C. with fellowship program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Clate Holleman smiles with Sen. Roger Wicker.

Holmes Community College Director of Financial Aid Dr. Clate Holleman recently returned from a trip to Washington, D.C. with the Community College Policy Fellowship Program (CPFP).

The group was there advocating for the expansion of short-term Workforce Pell Grant eligibility with elected officials and federal government agencies.

“We are hopeful Pell Grant eligibility will be extended to these important, short-term workforce development programs which are vital to the economic advancement of our communities, Holleman said.

The CPFP program is designed to give Fellows first-hand, high-level experience in working with the federal government and to increase awareness and education of national affairs. The program requires fellows to dedicate considerable time to program responsibilities and assignments and to travel to Washington D.C. as a cohort. The program has existed since 2012 and has over 100 alumni. CPFP is sponsored by the Mississippi Community College Board in partnership with Washington-based AdvocacyBuild.

Holleman earned his Ed. D. in higher

education from The University of Mississippi in 2020. He also holds a master’s in higher education and a bachelor’s in English from Ole Miss.

A resident of Jackson, Holleman and his wife, Virginia, have one son, John. In his free time, he enjoys playing golf, collecting coins and spending time with his family.

He and his wife, Virginia, have one son, John. He enjoys playing golf, collecting coins and spending time with his family.

UMMC hosts Spring into Wellness event at the Ridgeland Campus

By Elijah Mangum
Staff Reporter



The University of Mississippi Medical Center hosted their Spring into Wellness event at the Ridgeland Campus’ fitness plex on Saturday, April 15. “Spring into Wellness was actually started last year

by an occupational therapy student who implanted their capstone project,” said Sarah Whinery, an occupational therapy student at the UMMC Center for Integrative Health inside the fitness plex. Whin-

ery organized the event for her capstone project. “It was what turned into Spring into Wellness. That is how it got started. It is turning into an annual event for us. It is our second year to do it. It has gotten bigger and better! We’re very excited about it!”

The event kicked off with a 5K and fun run. Participants registered ahead of the event and some received prizes following the races.

Lucy Priddy of Vicksburg won first overall walker and finished very impressed with her experience.

“It was a really great race!,” Priddy said. “We had good weather. It didn’t rain. The

course was really well marked. There are so many activities going on around here to keep you busy. There were lots of great door prizes. It was an actually really good race!”

In addition to the races, there was a health fair with screenings of blood pressure, glucose, dental and more.

Children could enjoy inflatables, games and crafts.

WLBT news anchor Ashely Garner and WLBT Meteorologist Branden Walker emceed the event and announced door prize winners.

Inside the fitness plex, there was chair yoga, Zumba dance classes, acupuncture



and massages from the Holmes massage therapy program.

Culinary Arts program has an eventful April

From Staff Reports/Photos



Some of the Culinary Arts students pose with their new herb garden. Pictured are (kneeling) Kennedy Lacey, Angie Mejia, Kamron Tate, D’Quevion Clay, Turkeshia McElroy, Keith Funches, Anniston Lyles, Chef Alexei Harrison, (standing) Kenneth Smith and Markisha Todd.

The Holmes Community College Culinary Arts students, who are based on the Ridgeland Campus, have had a busy spring. On April 15, some students volunteered at the 11th Annual Leap 4 The Lily Pad. The event was held at Methodist Rehabilitation Center Green Space in Ridgeland to raise money for The Lily Pad Cafe, which will employ and train young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The event included a fun run, a 5K run/walk, live music and food tents, which is where the Culinary Arts students provided their talents.

On April 15, other Culinary Arts students volunteered at the UMMC Spring into Wellness event by doing healthy snack demonstrations. They made avocado toast and guacamole with sweet potato tortilla chips.

On April 18, Mark Shapley, who owns MM Shapley’s with his wife, came and did a beef tenderloin fabrication for the students who then prepared beef wellington. mshapleys.com/about-us.

Additionally in April, Master Gardener volunteers Iris and Anthony Griffin, Bon-

nie Plants and Marshall McCain provided donations of time, plants and materials to provide the Culinary Arts program with an herb garden. Iris and Anthony are the owners of Griffin Construction and Roofing and are Rankin County Master Gardeners with the MSU Extension Service. The generous donations, which have become a major asset to the program, included: plants from Bonnie’s (\$600), dirt from Griffin Construction (\$180), landscaping cloth from Griffin Construction (\$55), PVC pipe from Griffin Construction (\$20), an irrigation pipe from an anonymous “angel donor” (\$120) and buckets from Marshall McCain (\$120).

Additionally, on April 27, students from the Culinary Arts Program at Choctaw County Career and Technology Center came for to Holmes for an herb garden class, demonstration and lunch luau

Taught by Chef Alexei Harrison, the program is housed at the Sunnybrook Woods Williams Complex across from the Ridgeland Campus. Contact Chef Harrison at anharrison@holmescc.edu for more information.

Goodman Campus announces Creative Writing Contest winners

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2023 Goodman Campus Creative Writing Contest winners. They are (first row, left to right) **Madison Clark** of Maben, **Katelyn Jones** of Sallis, **Aaliyah Sansom** of Ridgeland, (middle row, left to right) **Casey Winstead** of Yazoo City, **Demeria Moore** of Goodman, **Julie Farmer** of Durant, (back row, left to right) **Garian Edwards** of Grenada, **Colton DeShazo** of D'Iberville, **Danny Shumaker** of Clinton and **Jordan Barnes** of Madison.

The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus announced the 2023 Who's Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes and Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Goodman Campus are Jonathan Chase Langford of McCool and Lacey Gail Greenlee of Kosciusko.

Class Favorites include Elizabeth Julia Dorris of Yazoo City, Garian Dontre Edwards of Grenada, Kelsey Kelton Gilmore of Lexington, Hanadi

Hariri of Sallis, Demeria Moore of Goodman and Bella Brooke Settlemir of Kosciusko.

Jonathan Chase Langford, son of Nancy and Jeff Langford, is a biological sciences major with a pre-dental concentration. He is president of the Kappa Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and was named a 2023 Order of the Golden Key recipient. He is also an Ambassador, Holmes Plus member and Get2College Corps member.

Langford has volunteered at Shepherd's Touch in Kosciusko and done community service projects through Phi Theta Kappa. He has also done storm relief volunteer work through the student ambassador group and the American Red Cross. After graduating from Holmes, he plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to begin in the fall of 2023. After obtaining his bachelor's degree, he hopes to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center's School of Dentistry to become a Doctor of Dental Medicine.

"Holmes Community College has served as a strong foundation for my educational journey," Langford said. "I am grateful for the countless memories and connections I have made at Holmes, and the abundance of opportunities to become involved in different organizations. There truly is No Place Like Holmes!"

Lacey Gail Greenlee, daughter of Amy Sims and Kirt Greenlee, is a pre-med major. She is vice president of Phi Theta Kappa and a President's List Scholar. Greenlee is also a member of the Holmes Chorale and Holmes Connection! She is a sales associate at Holt and Company, as well. Her community service includes serving as a leader for DNOW 2023 for First Baptist Church Kosciusko and volunteering for Shepherd's Touch in Kosciusko.

In her free time, Greenlee enjoys

singing, dancing, hanging out with friends, spending time with family and watching movies and reality T.V. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to attend Mississippi State University to earn a bachelor's degree in biological science. After graduating from MSU, she plans to attend University of Mississippi Medical Center to pursue a degree in medicine in hopes of becoming either an OB/GYN or pediatrician.

"I have developed so many new friendships in my time at Holmes Community College," Greenlee said. "With that, I have gotten to witness all of the accomplishments my friends have made. Winning the Parade of Beauties, being on the Homecoming Court and advancing in academics are just a few of the many victories that I get to celebrate my friends for. I get to share in new growth and achievements every day. Having the opportunity to be so personal with my classmates is my favorite memory from Holmes."

"Holmes has treated me so well in my time here," Greenlee said. "Multiple doors have opened for me, and I have learned so much in and outside of the classroom. I do not take these past two years for granted. Although I am so sad this chapter of my life is coming to an end, I am so excited for the future of this school and myself. There's No Place Like Holmes!"

Grenada Campus announces Creative Writing Contest winners

From Staff Reports/Photos



English instructor Amy Land announced the winners of the 2023 Creative Writing Contest for the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus. All winners receive cash prizes furnished by the Holmes Foundation. First and second place winners are forwarded to the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Contest and will be published

(left) Pictured are the Grenada Creative Writing Contest winners. They are (left to right) **Jay Downs** of Grenada, **Jaylan Mathis** of Gore Springs, **Olivia Pharr** of Charleston, **Kevion McGee** of Grenada and **Lauren Merrill** of Grenada.

in Holmes' literary magazine, Reflections.

In the Poetry Category, Olivia Pharr of Charleston won first place for "We Carry Ourselves" and Jaylan Mathis of Gore Springs won second place for "No Pause to Life."

In the Creative Non-Fiction Category, Pharr won first place for "Reality," Jay Downs of Grenada won second place for "I'm Still Here" and Lauren Merrill of Grenada came in third place for "The Radio."

Finally, in the Short Story division, Kevion McGee of Grenada won first place for "Being Adopted Experience."

Ridgeland Campus announces Creative Writing Contest winners

From Staff Reports/Photos



English instructor Dr. Andrew Kelly announced the winners of the 2023 Creative Writing Contest for the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. All winners receive cash prizes furnished by the Holmes Foundation. First and second place winners are forwarded to the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Contest and will be published in Holmes' literary magazine,

(left) Pictured are the 2023 Ridgeland Campus Creative Writing Contest winners. They are (left to right) **Laura Box** of Jackson, **Peyton DeLaune** of Madison, **Sean Jordan** of Byram and **Emma Christy** of Madison. *Not pictured:* Addy Huddleston of Madison.

Reflections.

In the Short Story Category, Emma Christy of Madison won first for "Fossil Finds" and Peyton DeLaune of Madison placed second for "Rental Cars, Stray Cats, and Storms."

In the Poetry Category, Addy Huddleston of Madison had two of her poems tie for first place: "Your Skeleton" and "Tomb for a Bird." DeLaune came in second place for her poem, "Proverbs of Our Love."

In the Literary Essay division, Sean Jordan of Byram won first place for "The Influence of Christianity in the Works of Phillis Wheatley."

Finally, in the Personal Essay Category, Laura Box of Jackson won first place for "Blame Shifting."

Ridgeland Campus holds 2023 ADN pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Class of 2023. The Class includes (front row, left to right) Andrew Frost, Danielle Kuper, Dawn Gilmore, Elizabeth Cox, Ashley Clark, Jennifer Chapin, Casey Lee Brown, Alison Palmer, Ariel Pittman, Reed Kadajah, Amy Walker, Shyla Vincent, Tyler Bingham, (middle row, left to right) Brittany Little, Sydni Mahaffey, D'Aubriney Horton, Arrington Mays, Diamond Boyd, Chiquita Bass, Morgan Pittman, Taylor Rosamond, Hailey Wilkerson, Christina Wansley, Chasity Thomas, Rayla Thompson, (back row, left to right) Hope Scarborough, Sarah Jacob, Destiny Ewing, Carley Owens, Tierra Jefferson, Madison Powers, Stephen Palmertree, Emmanuel Owah, La'Breka McGee, Leah Ottman, Jada Russell, Brooke Vierling and Keri Nobles.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Class of 2023 on May 3 at Ridgeland High School. Thirty-eight students graduated from the program.

The Class of 2023 includes Chiquita Bass, Tyler Bingham, Diamond Boyd, Casey Lee Brown, Jennifer Chapin, Ashley Clark, Elizabeth Cox, Destiny Ewing, Andrew Frost, Dawn Gilmore, D'Aubriney Horton, Sarah Jacob, Tierra Jefferson, Danielle Kuper, Brittany Little, Reed Kadajah, Sydni Mahaffey, Arrington Mays, La'Breka McGee, Keri Nobles, Leah Ottman, Emmanuel Owah, Carley Owens, Alison Palmer, Stephen Palmertree, Ariel Pittman, Morgan Pittman, Madison Powers, Taylor Rosamond, Jada Russell, Hope Scarborough, Chasity Thomas, Rayla Thompson, Brooke Vierling, Shyla Vincent, Amy Walker, Christina Wansley and Hailey Wilkerson.

The program began with a processional of the Class of 2023 followed by a welcome from ADN Program

Chair/Assistant Director Dr. Alice Austin. Class Officer Morgan Pittman followed Dr. Austin with the opening prayer. Next, ADN instructor Alicia Turner explained the symbolism behind the nurse pin and candle before Dr. Austin returned to present special awards.

Stephen Palmertree was recognized for receiving a scholarship from the Mississippi Nurses Association and Diamond Boyd was named ADN Student of the Year. Following the awards presentation, ADN instructor Kim Manning called each graduate's name as instructors Alicia Turner and Danette Tanehill pinned them and gave them their lamp candle. Finally, instructor Cindy Bridges led the students in the Nightingale Pledge before Class Officer Arrington Mays gave the closing prayer.

For more information about the ADN program on the Ridgeland Campus, contact Dr. Austin at (601) 605-3419 or aaustin@holmescc.edu.

Holmes hosts 2023 Spring Pops Concert

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College hosted the 2023 Spring Pops Concert on Thursday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Mc-

Daniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. The Chorale, Coachmen and Connection! all participated.



Ridgeland STEM Department presents 'STEMMY' awards

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are STEMMY recipients (left to right) Alexis Hess, Ava Wages and Presleigh Powers.

The faculty in the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus honored a small group of students who have shown high achievement in multiple STEM courses this school year. The STEMMY was presented to students who were enrolled or have completed at least two face-to-face STEM classes within this school year. Students receiving this prestigious award should also have earned or are projected to earn a 3.0 or higher STEM GPA by next week.

"I hope you are honored that a

STEM instructor wants to recognize your efforts in this way," said Dr. Antoine Gates in an email to selected students. "Instead of a formal ceremony, the STEMMY is awarded in a grab-and-go ceremony that is intended to cater to the commuter students on this campus. We are proud of you!"

The first-ever STEMMY recipients included Parker Albright, Hebah Alsalmi, Chloe Atkins, Andrena Black, Jenny Clark, Ashley Crump, Tori Dew, Tania Da Silva, Jessica Egle, Jaden Gonzalez, Alexis Hess, Jenna Hood,

STEMMYS, continued on Page 12

STEMMYs (Continued from Page 11)

Nhung Huynh, Kaylee Jones, Sean Jordan, Zoe Lewis, Mary Jane Mallos, Makyra Miller, Coen Mooney, Cori Murphy, Hollyn Oswald, Nathaniel Parker, Presleigh Powers, Emma Reno,

Brandon Smith, Hannah Smudricks, Caden Stevens, Derrick Taylor, Elizabeth Venarske, Ryan Vincent and Ava Wages.



Parker Albright



Hebah Alsalmi



(left to right) **Jenna Hood, Coen Mooney and Brandon Smith.**



Chloe Atkins



Andrena Black



Jenny Clark



Ashley Crump



Tori Dew



Tania Da Silva



Jessica Ergle



Jaden Gonzalez



Kaylee Jones



Sean Jordan



Zoe Lewis



Mary Jane Mallos



Makyra Miller



Cori Murphy



Hollyn Oswald



Nathaniel Parker



Emma Reno



Hannah Smudricks



Caden Stevens



Derrick Taylor



Elizabeth Venarske

Grenada Campus holds 2023 ADN pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Carroll County graduates (left to right) **Elizabeth Palmertree, Clay Herbert, Charlene Liddell, Jessica Lidell, Sandy Tackett, Mary Hayden Rodgers and Laury Beth Hamilton.**

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus honored 40 plus graduates from the Associate Degree Nursing program during a ceremony in the Corey Forum on May 4. The students were celebrated by family and friends in a crowd of over 350 in attendance. A reception followed the Nightingale Pledge to celebrate the accomplishments of the nursing students.

Graduates included: Laken Beam, Octavia Bland, Kimberly Boyd, Mackenzie Bradberry, Cardesha Bradford, Payton Brasher, Lexie Brown, Memory Brown, Courtney Brownlee, Destiny Cooper, LaShonda Davis-Fair, Lakeshia Eskridge, Lindsay Fleming,

Tagira Fullilove, Chariana Gibson, Laury Beth Hamilton, Clay Herbert, Regan Hubbard, Amber Jackson, Brett Adair Kyle, Michael Lamb, Ashley Langham, Carrie Lee, Charlene Liddell, Jessica Liddell, Brooke Martin, Katie-Ann Millsap, Zaria Murphy, Lashonda Neal, Madison Odom, Elizabeth Palmertree, Suyvone Peacock, Miles Raney, Bonita Roby, Mary Hayden Rodgers, Shametreus Sanders, Kaelyn Seals, Sandy Tackett Brooklyn Thomas, Jonathan Upp, Brittany Wallace, Pilar Washington and Chelsaye Wiggin.



Pictured are DeSoto County graduates (left to right) **Suyvone Peacock, Payton Brasher, Lashonda Neal and Lakeshia Forrest.**



Pictured are Grenada County graduates (left to right) **Chelsaye Wiggins, Brooklyn Thomas, Brett Adair Kyle, Memory Brown, Michael Lamb, Miles Raney and Johnathan Upp.**



Pictured are Leflore County graduates (left to right) **Sandy Tackett, Lindsay Fleming, Mary Hayden Rodgers and LaShonda Davis-Fair.**



Pictured are Montgomery County graduates (left to right) **TaQira Fullilove, Lakeshia Forrest, Brittany Wallace and Kaelyn Seals.**



Pictured are Oktibbeha County graduates (left to right) **Carrie Lee, Kimberly Boyd and Shametrius Sanders.**



Pictured are Attala County graduates (left to right) **MacKenzie Bradberry and Cardesha Bradford.**



Pictured is Calhoun County graduate **Regan Hubbard.**



Pictured is Choctaw County graduate **Zaria Murphy.**



Pictured is Copiah County graduate **LaShonda Davis- Fair.**



Pictured are Holmes County graduates (left to right) **Destiny Cooper and Bonita Roby.**



Pictured are Lafayette County graduates (left to right) **Courtney Brownledd and Katie Milsap.**

Grenada holds 2023 ADN pinning ceremony (photos continued)



Pictured is Madison County graduate **Octavia Bland**.



Pictured is Tallahatchie County graduate **Cardesha Bradford**.



Pictured is Yazoo County graduate **Pilar Washington**.



Pictured are Washington County graduates (left to right) **Chariana Gibson** and **Amber Jackson**.



Pictured are Webster County graduates (left to right) **Laken Beam** and **Ashley Martin**.

Holmes hosts NEH Spring Event with Terry Miller and the 41st Army Band

From Staff Reports/Photos

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) presented Harlem Renaissance Sound Showcase featuring Terry Miller and 41st Army Band on April 5 in McDaniel Auditorium

on the Goodman Campus. A reception was held after the event in McDaniel Hall.

Miller is the director of bands for Holmes and a veteran of the U.S.

Marine Corps. He is currently a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard, and directs the Magnolia Blues, the large jazz ensemble of the 41st Army Band.

NEH supports research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities.



Holmes Ridgeland Campus holds Honors Program 2023

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (front row, left to right) **Darian Blackburn** (with Nikki Blackburn in front), **Callie McKinney**, **Hollyn Oswalt**, **Elijah Mangum**, **Makya Miller**, **Mikala McDonald**, **Cooper Herrington**, (second row, left to right) **Sean Jordan**, **Sarah Hammons**, **Williams Barksdale**, **Andrea Bonner**, **Zoe Lewis**, **Clara Chapol**, **Tierra Lonie**, **Laura Box**, **Jaden Gonzalez**, **Olasike Olagbegi**, (third row, left to right) **Angelica Mejia Gonzalez**, **Margie Martin**, **Diamond Boyd**, **Jodi Perron**, **Jessica Gibbons**, **Laura Collier**, **Rachel Mallord**, **Addy Huddleston**, (back row, left to right) **Connor Lofton**, **Juan Chacon**, **Michael Waltman**, **Kendell Williams**, **Larry Kuhn** and **Alex Abramovich**. Not pictured: Jaylen Grays, Erin Hill, Charlotte Lamar, Daniel O'Dell, Jared Snyder, Michelle Stallings and Garrett Viator.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus recognized its students' achievements and honors during the 2023 Honors Day Program held April 19 in the Pat McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus. Representatives from each academic and career-technical program presented awards to students who have shown excellence in their given major, program or extracurricular activity. Other special awards were given, as well, in various categories.

The evening began with a welcome

from Ridgeland CTE Allison DeWeese and an invocation from Ridgeland Vice President Dr. Don Burnham. Award presentations began with recognizing the 2023 Hall of Fame inductees.

The 2023 Hall of Fame inductees included: Darian Alexandra Blackburn of Vestavia Hills, Alabama; Jaylen Grays of Jackson; Cooper Herrington of Brandon; Charlotte Lamar of Jackson; Elijah Dustin Mangum of Florence; Mikala Alayne McDonald of Byram; Callie Kurth McKinney of Flowood; Makya Miller of Brandon; Daniel Pat-

rick O'Dell of Madison; Hollyn Grace Oswalt of Clinton; Derrick Lashun Taylor II of Clinton and Garrett Michael Viator of New Iberia, Louisiana. A few of the Hall of Fame inductees received other awards, as well. Grays received the Social & Behavioral Science Award, Lamar received the Literature Award, Mangum, the Journalism Award and McDonald, the Educational Programs Award.

For academic awards, the Biological Science Award went to Jaden Gonzalez of Brandon; the Physical Science Award went to Andrea Bonner of Madison and the Engineering Award to Clara Chapol of Ridgeland. Alex Abramovich of Flowood took home the Mathematics Award; Zoe Lewis of Madison, the Computer Science Award and Tierra Lonie of Jackson, the Business Administration Award. Additionally, Jessica Gibbons of Flora received the English Composition Award and Rachel Mallord of Brandon, the Spanish Award.

The Public Speaking Award went to Sarah Hammons of Clinton; the Ambassador Award, to Olasike Olagbegi of Jackson and the History & Political Science Award, to William Barksdale of Madison. Jared Snyder of Madison took home the Criminal Justice Award, Laura Collier of Ridgeland received the Fine Arts Award and Larry Kuhn of Pelahatchie received the Health, Physical Education, & Recreation Award.

For career-technology and workforce programs, Connor Lofton of Canton received the HVAC Technology Award; Juan Chacon of Ridgeland, the

Welding & Cutting Technology Award; Margie Martin of Benton, the Engineering Technology Award and Michael Waltman of Canton, the Electro Mechanical Technology Award.

The Paralegal Technology Award went to Michelle Stallings of Canton; the Culinary Arts Technology Award to Angelica Mejia Gonzalez of Madison; the Business & Office Technology Award to Jodi Perron of Carthage and the Information Systems Technology Award to Kendell Williams of Jackson. Erin Hill of Ridgeland received the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Technology Award, Christopher Sullivan of Brandon received the Emergency Medical Science (EMS) Award and Diamond Boyd of Jackson, the Associate Degree Nursing Award.

Winners of the Literary Contest were also recognized. In the Short Story Category, Emma Christy of Madison won first for "Fossil Finds" and Peyton DeLaune of Madison placed second for "Rental Cars, Stray Cats, and Storms." In the Poetry Category, Addy Huddleston of Madison had two of her poems tie for first place: "Your Skeleton" and "Tomb for a Bird." DeLaune came in second place for her poem, "Proverbs of Our Love." In the Literary Essay division, Sean Jordan of Byram won first place for "The Influence of Christianity in the Works of Phillis Wheatley." In the Personal Essay Category, Laura Box of Jackson won first place for "Blame Shifting."

The ceremony concluded with closing remarks by Dean of Academics Dr. Tonya Lawrence.

Goodman Campus holds 2023 Honors Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Advisor **Jodie Burchfield**, **Donee McAllister**, **Nicholas T. Jones** (Holmes Plus recipient), **Jamie Sample**, **Matthew Saffle** (Holmes Plus), Advisor **Durga Siwakoti**, **David Greene** (Holmes Plus), **William Carter Jones** (Holmes Plus), Advisor **William Devore**, **Chase Lanford** (Holmes Plus) and Advisor **Angela Miles**.

The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus recognized its students' honors during the 2023 Honors Program held April 19 in McMorrough Library. Representatives from each academic and career-technical program presented awards to students who have shown excellence in their given major, program or extracurricular activity. Other special awards were given, as well, in various categories.

Students receiving awards included: Reteisha Canada, Business Office Technology Award; Arianna Austin, Cosmetology Award; Elizabeth Jones, Elementary Education Award; William Carter Jones, Engineering Award and Holmes Plus and Nicholas T. Jones, Holmes Plus and Physical Science Award.

Garrett Russell received the Industrial Technology Award; Cray Cairn-

cross, PTK All-MS Academic Team recognition; Taylor Pearson, Practical Nursing Award; Isabella Settlemir, Social and Behavioral Science Award and Jonathan Chase Langford, Hall of Fame, Michael Klauk Award, Holmes Plus and PTK Order of the Golden Key recognition.

Tromone Bailey was named Heating and Air Conditioning Technology Award recipient; Autumn Drake, Percussion Groups Award recipient; Austin Wooldridge received the Band Award; Jacob Duncan, the Growl Award and Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department Award.

Preston Tate was the Student Government Association Award honoree; Devon Gorden, Criminal Justice Award recipient; Elissia Stewart, Choral Music Award recipient and Demeria Moore was the English Composition

Award winner.

Kelsey Gilmore was given the Ambassador Award and W.Y. Sudduth History and Political Science Award; Jacob Sledge, the Welding Award; Jonah C. Lyons, Conservation Law Enforcement Technology Award and Makayla Bailey, the Dr. Marilyn Burrell Memorial Award.

Elton R. Thompson was named Collision Repair Technology Award recipient; David Greene received a Holmes Plus Award and the Wesley David Rule Mathematics Award and Akumcha A. Mobit received the Christine Herron Academic Achievement Award.

Isaiah Wilson was named Foreign Language Award winner; Matthew L. Saffle was recognized for Holmes Plus; Aaliyah Sansom was recognized for Hall of Fame induction and Amelia Bridges was recognized with the Business Administration Award, PTK All-MS Academic Team and for Hall of Fame induction.

Jerry D. Campbell received the Forest Technology Award; Casey Winstead received the Creative Writing Award; Morgan Vaughan received the Bill Watkins Visual Arts Award and Lanie Potter was recognized for Hall of Fame induction and for receiving the Biology Award.

Students unable to attend included: Rey Barragan, Automotive Technology Award; Mary Walker, Music Major Award and Ron'Nisha Richardson, Outstanding Academic Online Student Award.



Pictured are Forest Technology Award recipient **Jerry Campbell** and **James Floyd**.



Pictured are **Terry Miller** and Band Award recipient **Austin C. Wooldridge**.



Pictured are **Jay Cheatham** and Bill Watkins Visual Arts Award recipient **Morgan Vaughan**.



Pictured are **Audra Love Dean** and Business Administration Award recipient **Amelia C. Bridges**. She was also recognized for Hall of Fame and PTK All-MS Academic Team.



Pictured are **Ginny Ables** and Business Office Technology Award recipient **Reteisha L. Canada**.



Pictured are Choral Music Award recipient **Elissia A. Stewart** and **Drew Trautman**.



Pictured are **Donee McAllister**, Biological Science Award recipient **Lanie Potter** and **Jamie Sample**. She was also recognized for Hall of Fame.



Pictured are **Angela Boyd** and Christine Herron Academic Achievement Award recipient **Akumcha A. Mobit**.



Pictured are **Casey Caldwell** and Collision Repair Technology Award recipient **Elton R. Thompson**.



Pictured are **Dr. Luke Jones** and Cosmetology Award recipient **Arianna Z. Austin**.



Pictured are **Chad Mooror** and Creative Writing Award recipient **Casey E. Winstead**.



Pictured are **Martin Eckelberry** and Criminal Justice Award recipient **Devon Gorden**.



Pictured are **Sonja Arnett** and Elementary Education Award recipient **Elizabeth K. Jones**.



Pictured are **Durga Siwakoti** and Engineering Award recipient **Willima Carter Jones**.



Pictured are **Jessica Brown** and English Composition Award recipient **Demeria Moore**.



Pictured are Foreign Language Award recipient **Isaiah N. Wilson** and **Sonja Arnett**.



Pictured are **Nikki Boutwell** and Ambassador Award recipient **Kelsey Gilmore**. She also received the W.Y. Sudduth History and Political Science Award.



Pictured are Growl Award recipient **Jacob Duncan** and **Steve Diffey**. He also received the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department Award.



Pictured are Conservation Law Enforcement Technology Award recipient **Jonah C. Lyons** and **James Floyd**.

Goodman holds 2023 Honors Program *(photos continued)*



Pictured are Hall of Fame inductee **Aaliyah M. Sansom** and **Andy Wood**.



Pictured are **Jonathan Stokes** and Industrial Technology Award recipient **Garrett Russell**.



Pictured are **Tess Crenshaw** and Dr. Marilyn Burrell Memorial Award recipient **Makayla Bailey**.



Pictured are **Justin Craft** and Percussion Groups Award recipient **Autumn Drake**.



Pictured are **Charles Wood**, **Cray Cairncross** (PTK All-MS Academic Team) and **Will Alexander**.



Pictured are **Durga Siwakoti** and Physical Science Award recipient **Nicholas T. Jones**.



Pictured are Practical Nursing Award recipient **Taylor Pearson** and **Tammy Caldwell**.



Pictured are **Sonja Arnett** and Social and Behavioral Science Award recipient **Isabella Settlemir**.



Pictured are **Tina Boyette** and Student Government Association Award recipient **Preston Tate**.



Pictured are **Ben Lewis** and Welding Award recipient **Jacob Sledge**.



Pictured are **Charles Wood**, **Simonee Miller**, **Chase Langford** and **Will Alexander**. Langford was recognized for the PTK Order of the Golden Key, Hall of Fame and the Michael Klauk Award.

Johnson graduates from MCCLA on May 4

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. NaTunya Johnson accepts her MCCLA medal and graduation diploma from **Dr. Mark Keenum**, president of Mississippi State University, on May 4.

Holmes Community College District Division Chair of Business Technology **Dr. NaTunya Johnson** graduated from the Mississippi Community College Leader-

ship Academy (MCCLA) on Thursday, May 4. **Dr. Mark Keenum**, president of Mississippi State University, presented **Dr. Johnson** with a medal and graduation di-

ploma at the Mill Center on the Campus of Mississippi State University, **Dr. Johnson's** undergraduate alma mater.

A native of Jackson, **Dr. Johnson** holds an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the Liberty University, an MBA from Delta State University and a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing from Mississippi State. She first joined the Holmes family as a full-time instructor for Business Technology in 2010. Prior to working at Holmes, **Dr. Johnson** was a corporate trainer for 12 years at the State of Mississippi Employees' Health Plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi.

Professionally, **Dr. Johnson** is a member of the Mississippi Business Educators Association, American Academy of Professional Coders and the American Health Information Management Association. She actively volunteers in her community through her affiliations with the Junior Auxiliary of Madison County, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc. and Ander-

son United Methodist Church. **Dr. Johnson** resides in Ridgeland with her husband, **Michael**, and their daughter, **Nadya**.

The 2023-2024 MCCLA cohort was the 14th class of the MCCLA. The program was first introduced by the Mississippi Community College Foundation (MCCF) in the spring of 2009 to address the projected need for upper-level leaders in the Mississippi community college system. MCCLA provides an opportunity for selected community college administrative employees to sharpen their supervisory, management and leadership skills and help prepare participants for future leadership roles. This year-long program consists of workshops designed to strengthen supervisory and management skills, using participants' current work situations to apply new skills and tools. It is also an opportunity to network and strengthen system-wide collaborative efforts.

For more information about MCCLA, visit <https://www.mccb.edu/mccla>.

Holmes holds Foundation Golf Tournament

From Staff Reports/Photos



On May 4, the Holmes Community College Foundation held its annual golf tournament at Deerfield Country Club. For the second year in a row, Team Paint Plus Construction was the Championship Winner. The team included **Scott DeLoach**, **J.T. Blair**, **John Thompson** and **Kevin Connor**.

(left) Pictured is Team Paint Plus Construction, the Championship winner. The team included *(left to right)* **Kevin Connor**, **John Thompson**, **J.T. Blair** and **Scott DeLoach**.

Team Aladdin Food Services - **Steven Arceo**, **Ritchie Faulkner**, **Tommy Klauder** and **Ken Ricketts** - won the First Flight and Team Culpepper Funeral Home - **Terry Culpepper**, **Gary Glazier**, **Denny Morgan** and **Gary Rigby** - won the Second Flight.

Other winners included **Cory Moore**, closest to the hole on Hole 3, and **Danny Howell**, longest drive on 18.

The golfers were treated to lunch prior to teeing off, and an after-5 Additionally, Entergy Mississippi sponsored lunch for the tournament, and Southern Beverage Company provided drinks.

Grenada Campus holds 2023 Honors Program

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus recognized its students' honors during the 2023 Honors Program held on Wednesday, April 5 in the Corey Forum. Representatives from each academic and career-technical program presented awards to students who have shown excellence in their given major, program or extracurricular activity. Other special awards were given, as well, in various categories.

The following awards were given during the ceremony: Steven Henson received the EMS Basic Award, Hope Harris received the Mathematics Award, Jake Macon received the Welding & Cutting Technology Award, Baker Avant received the Business Administration Award and Ashlyn Gillespie received the English Composition Award.

Ann Hart Smith received the Speech Award, Jonathan Upp received the Associate Degree Nursing (Day) Award,

Hope Barker received the Associate Degree Nursing (Evening) Award and Allison Escobedo received the Biology Award.

Colin Pannell received the Engineering Technology Award, Alexis Draper received the Computer Science Award and Lauren Merrill received the Creative Writing Award and the Life and Learning Skills Award.

Eli Black received the History Award, Chenita received the Music Appreciation Award and Rashad Denton received the Heating, Ventilation, AC & Refrigeration Technology Award.

Benjamin Pickle received the Mathematics Award and Ciella Richardson and Quenzella Green received the Practical Nursing Awards. Jay Down received the Social Science Award, Corban Thayer was awarded the Spanish Award and Hope Avery received the Student Government Award.

Katelyn Hanneke received the Phys-

ical Therapy Assistant Award, Raven Otis received the Surgical Technology Award and Ambrel Homrighausen received the Conservation Law Enforcement Technology and the Criminal Justice Awards.

Brittany Wilkerson received the Forestry Technology Award, Lacey Odom received the Business Technology Award and Landon Trusty received the Chemistry Award.

Olivia Pharr received the Literature Award, Karlee Luke received the Ambassador Award and the Health, Physical Education & Recreation Award and Kevin McGee and Pharr received the Chorale Awards.

Additional recognition was given by Dr. Michelle Burney to the Hall of Fame recipients - Black, Mcgee, Luke and Pharr - for their accomplishments while at Holmes.

The awards ceremony was followed by a reception.



Director of Health Science Programs Ginger Meriwether speaks to the audience during Grenada's 2023 Honors Program.



Pictured is **Jake Hood** with Speech Award winner **Ann Hart Smith**.



Pictured is (center) Social Science Award recipient **Jay Downs** with (left to right) **Aimee Kitching** and **Tina Garrett**.



Pictured is **Xiaoying Wang** with Computer Science Award recipient **Alexis Draper**.



Pictured is Cirman Justice and Conservation Law Enforcement Technology Award recipient **Ambrel Homrighausen** with **Amy Land**.



Pictured is **Amy Land** with Creative Writing Award winner **Lauren Merrill**. Merrill also received the Life and Learning Skills Award.



Pictured is **Xiaoying Wang** with Mathematics Award recipient **Benjamin Pickle**.



Pictured is Biological Science Award winner **Allison Escobedo** with **Sara Pollan**.



Pictured is **Kristy McClain** with Chemistry Award recipient **Landon Trusty**.



Pictured is **Bill Grace** with Health, Physical Education & Recreation Award winner **Karlee Luke**. She was also recognized for Hall of Fame and with the Ambassador Award



Pictured are **Jay Wilson** and History Award recipient **Eli Black**. Black was also recognized for Hall of Fame.



Pictured is Forestry Technology Award recipient **Brittany Wilkerson** with **James Floyd**.



Pictured is **David Hill** with HVAC Award winner **Rashad Denton**.



Pictured is ADN Award recipient **Jonathan Upp** with **Cherrie Winter**.



Pictured is ADN Award recipient **Hope Barker** with **Michelle Crawford**.



Pictured is Health Care Assistant Award winner **Tarilyn Elliot** with **Kate Barton**.



Pictured is Practical Nursing Award winner **Quenzella Green** with **Heather Rozier**.



Pictured is Practical Nursing Award winner **Ciella Richardson** with **Heather Rozier**.



Pictured is PTA Award recipient **Katelyn Hanneke** with **Jenny Bryan**.



Pictured is Surgical Technology Award winner **Raven Otis** with **Leah Mitchell**.



Pictured is Welding Award winner **Jake Macon** with **Norman Faulkner**.



Pictured are **Amy Land** and English Composition Award winner **Ashlyn Gillespie**. She was also recognized for Hall of Fame.

Grenada holds 2023 Honors Program *(photos continued)*



Pictured is **Aimee Kitching** and Business Administration Award winner **Baker Avant**. He was also recognized for Hall of Fame.



Pictured is **Dr. Michelle Burney** and Hall of Fame recipient **Olivia Pharr**. She also received a Chorale and a Literature Award.



Pictured is **Dr. Michelle Burney** and Hall of Fame recipient **Kevion McGee**. He also received a Chorale Award.



Pictured is SGA Award winner **Hope Avery** and **Haley DeNoon**.

Holmes celebrates Teacher Appreciation Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Sara Pollan, Amy Land, Ginger Meriwether, Dr. Michelle Burney, Amber Mabus** and **Jake Hood**.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8-12, and Holmes Community College's administrative leaders have celebrated the faculty in various ways. On the Grenada Campus, administrators Dr. Michelle Burney and Ginger Meriwether joined with the Grenada Higher Education Association (GHEA) to provide breakfast for faculty and staff on May 1. Sonic in Grenada also donated breakfast burritos for the occasion.

"The faculty are the lifeblood of our institution," said Grenada Campus Vice President Dr. Michelle Burney. "They never stop giving of themselves to pour into our students. They sacrifice time away from their personal lives to make sure Holmes delivers quality instruction and that our students leave us better than they arrived. Without our faculty, we would not exist."

On the Goodman Campus, the academic faculty were treated to a "Lunch and Learn" on May 1.

"A great teacher can transform someone's life," said Goodman Campus Academic Coordinator Wendy Grace. "Our faculty do just that in that they have the patience and understanding to help the

students at Holmes to be able to move on to the next chapter of their life. It amazes me seeing how hard our instructors work and go above and beyond what is asked of them. I am so grateful for the impact that they have on our students. William Arthur Ward wrote, 'The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.' We have great teachers and they inspire not only their students but they inspire me every day."

On the Holmes Ridgeland Campus, the Academic Office gave the teachers a little happy, placing it in their on-campus mailbox.

"Because faculty care, they endure," said Dean of Academic Programs Dr. Tonya Lawrence. "Every day in class doesn't always go exactly as planned but when it does and they brag about an accomplishment of a student or get excited about the success of something new they tried, and that attitude becomes contagious! Day-to-day, I wait to hear them share those wonderful moments with me or a colleague. Faculty understand Ecclesiastes 7:8, 'Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the

proud in spirit.' To me, that explains what a teacher sees each semester when they take their students and guide them through their course with patience (which wears thin at times) and love. I am so grateful that I get to see or hear about some of their moments. Holmes CC is better because of the faculty who care deeply and live their work day with the #noplacelikeHolmes approach. I also believe there's #nofacultylikeHolmesfaculty!"

Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood always weighed in on what the faculty mean to Holmes.

"I believe it is an understatement to say without teachers we would not have a school," Wood said. "Teachers help our students learn what they must do to improve their entire way of life and to produce generations of educated children. Finally, I feel that besides their parents, teachers have the biggest impact on our students' lives."

Additionally, Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham shared his thoughts about Holmes' instructors.

"As Teacher Appreciation Week approaches, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Holmes faculty for the outstanding work they do in preparing our students for the next step on their life journey," Dr. Burnham said. "They not only teach their subject matter but they counsel, nurture and encourage our students to help them become successful in life."

Several businesses nationwide are offering Teacher Appreciation Week deals that faculty members can take advantage of, as well. Some of those deals are listed below.

1. 1800Flowers: Save up to \$15 on select teacher appreciation gifts and flowers. See more 1800Flowers deals.
2. Barnes & Noble: Full-time faculty members can save up to 20 percent off on purchases made for classroom use. Moreover, educators can enjoy 25 percent off on Educator Appreciation Days. See more at Barnes & Noble deals.
3. Blue Harbor Resort: Get 20 percent off select room types using the code

TEACHER from May 1-25, 2023.

4. Dell: Enjoy an extra 10 percent discount on select PCs and electronics. See more Dell deals and coupons.

5. L.L. Bean: Save 10 percent on select orders for teachers with code. To get the promo code, you must verify your eligibility via SheerID. See more L.L. Bean offers.

6. Learning A-Z: Use the code TEACHER to get \$10 off on your order. See more Learning A-Z deals.

7. Office Depot: Star Teachers members get 10 percent back in rewards on ink, toner, and paper, 1 percent back in rewards on almost everything, and 15 percent off from Design, Print, & Ship Depot. See more Office Depot deals.

8. Personalization Mall: Get up to 30 percent off teachers' gifts. See more Personalization Mall deals.

9. Schaumburg Boomers: Educators get up to six free tickets when they use the promo code TEACHER.

10. SeaWorld Orlando: Active and certified K-12 Florida grade school educators can get a free SeaWorld Florida Teacher Card that provides free admission until Sept. 7, 2023. This awesome deal is valid after verifying your eligibility with ID.me. See more SeaWorld Orlando deals.

11. Society6: Get up to 30 percent off teachers' appreciation day gifts, including mugs, art prints, tote bags, and more. See more Society6 deals.

12. Under Armour: By verifying through ID.me, teachers and educators can get 20 percent off on all purchases—limited time offer—from Under Armour. See more Under Armour deals and coupons.

13. WonderWork: WonderWork offers free admission for teachers from May 1 to May 31, 2023. To get the discount code, you must complete the registration form from its website. See more WonderWork deals.

Holmes represents well at Catalyst Convention

From Staff Reports/Photos

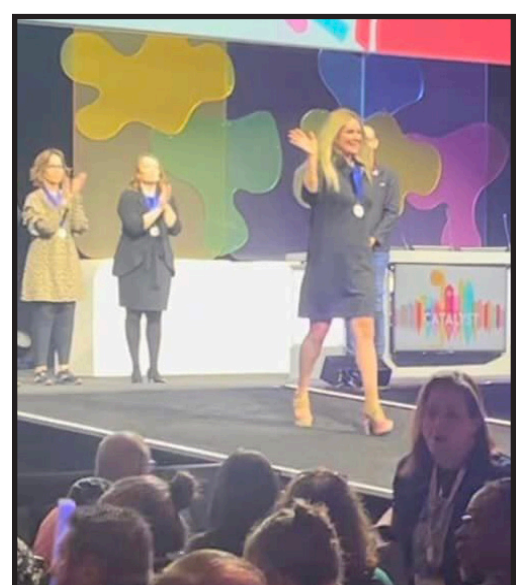


Pictured are (left to right) **Jaylen Grays, Kevion McGee, Garrett Viator, Advisor Lisa Anglin, Charlotte Lamar, Advisor Laura Canard, Advisor Stephanie Blue, Karlee Luke, Keeochius Rhymes, Advisor Cynthia Abel** and **Advisor Haley DeNoon**.

Holmes Community College students, advisors and administrators represented the college at the Phi Theta Kappa Catalyst Convention in Columbus, Ohio, April 20-22. Advisors and student officers were able to connect with chapters from all over the country, hear from keynote speakers and attend the Hallmark Awards Gala.

All three Holmes Phi Theta Kappa Chapters - the Kappa Alpha Chapter in in Goodman, the Lambda Sigma Chapter in Ridgeland and the Alpha Mu Beta Chapter in Grenada - placed in the Top 100 chapters, out of over 1,000 chapters. Director of Marketing and Recruiting Dr. Bronwyn Martin was recognized for receiving the Distinguished Administrator Award, as well.

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



Pictured is Director of Marketing and Recruiting **Dr. Bronwyn Martin** being recognized as a Distinguished Administrator at Catalyst Convention.

Holmes celebrates 2023 retirees

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Grenada Campus retirees (left to right) **Officer Jamie Caldwell** and **Tracy Herring**.

Holmes Community College celebrated the retirement of seven Holmes employees during the spring of 2023: Caroline Barton, Jamie Caldwell, Tracy Herring, Donna Josey, Tony McDaniel, Jamie Sample and Tommy Trussell.

Caroline Barton

Barton served as a history instructor at Holmes for 19 years. She has taught on both the Ridgeland and Goodman campuses during that time. Barton holds a master's in history and a bachelor's in secondary education-social studies from the University of Mississippi. She has also completed graduate course work in secondary education at Mississippi State University and graduate coursework in archives and special collections at the University of Southern Mississippi. Barton previously taught at Kosciusko High School and Horn Lake Middle School in DeSoto County. She has two daughters; Brittaney Burnham and Kelly Barton. In her free time, she enjoys sewing, quilting, genealogy research and being active in the DC Constitution Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution. Barton is a member of the Mississippi Historical Society, as well.

"My plans for retirement include traveling, doing genealogical research and playing with my grandchildren," Barton said. "I have one granddaughter, Vivian, who is 3, and a grandson expected to arrive in July."

Jamie Caldwell

Caldwell retired from Holmes after six years as a police officer on the Grenada Campus. He previously worked for Water Valle Police Department for eight and a half years and the Highway Patrol for 29.5 years. Officer Caldwell is a graduate of the Highway Patrol Academy, the University of Mississippi and Northwest Mississippi Community College. He has also completed several trainings, including cadet trainings, bomb threat trainings and MILO training. Officer Caldwell is a longtime member of Sylvarena Baptist Church and the NRA. In his free time, he enjoys hunting and fishing. He and his wife, Gail, a retired school teacher, have two children. Their son, Jim Caldwell, is married to Chrystina and they have a son, Rowan. Their daughter, Christy Crouch, is married to Jacob and they have two children, Reid and Lindley. In retirement, Officer Caldwell plans to help his daughter and her husband build their house and enjoy working on the land.

"I've enjoyed working here!" Officer Caldwell said.

Tracy Herring

Herring, a career technical counselor, served at Holmes for 16 years. She holds an M.Ed. and a B.S. from Delta State University, as well as an A.A.S. from Northwest Community College. Prior to working at Holmes, she served as a career tech counselor and later as director of counseling and recruiting for Mississippi Delta Community College.

She and her husband, Chuck Herring, having a daughter, Annie Herring Clanton (Chase), and a son, Warner Herring. In her free time, Herring enjoys sports, shopping, going to the beach, pottery and spending time with family. She also loves volunteering in her community, church and at sporting events. Herring is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Mississippi Counseling Association, Mississippi Community College Counselor Association, Mississippi Vocational Counselors Association and a Life Member of Junior Auxiliary.

"Upon retirement, I plan on spending more time with my family and traveling," Herring said.

"My love for community college began as a student athlete and career tech student at Northwest Community College in 1986. Community college has actually been a way of life for me. The support I received from faculty, staff, coaches and the community as a community college student led me to the decision of wanting to work within this system. After completing almost 30 years of service, I am retiring with that same love and passion for community college that I had as an 18 year old. I am thankful and blessed for all the memories and friendships with Holmes and my CTE family. I will continue to share with others my love for Holmes Community College and what it has to offer. There is truly #noplacelikeholmes."

Donna Josey

Josey retired from Holmes after 25 years as an instructor in the Business Department. She most recently worked on the Ridgeland Campus. Josey holds an MBA and a bachelor's in accounting. She is a member of First Baptist Church of Jackson and Junior League of Jackson. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering. Josey and her husband, Jimmy Jon, have two children: Jonathan (Wesley) and Rebecca (Hugh). Jonathan and Wesley have three children: Seth, Haddon and Finley. Rebecca and Hugh have one child, Allie May.

"My plans for retirement include traveling and spending time with my



Pictured with (center) Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** are the Goodman Campus retirees (left to right) **Tommy Trussell**, **Caroline Barton**, **Jamie Sample** and **Chief Tony McDaniel**.

grandchildren."

Tony McDaniel

McDaniel, chief of police for the Goodman Campus, has served the college for 25 years. Chief McDaniel began his career at Holmes working as a carpenter with his father Joe. In 2001, he joined the police force as a patrolman. He was promoted to sergeant in 2006 and then commander of day shift in 2008. Chief McDaniel completed the FBI Command College and was appointed as chief of police in 2010.

Chief McDaniel and his wife of 22 years, Casey, have two daughters: Miranda and Makayla. His hobbies include riding motorcycles, kayaking, camping and spending time with family. He's a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police and the Mississippi Campus Law Enforcement Association.

"My plans are to enjoy life, ride my motorcycle every chance I get and to travel around America with my family as much as possible," Chief McDaniel said. "Holmes has been an amazing place to work and I will always remember the great people I've met throughout my many years of service. My family and I are blessed and thankful to always be part of the Holmes Community College family."

Jamie Sample

Sample has worked for Holmes for a total of 16 years. She served at the college full-time from 1981-1992 and was an adjunct instructor from 2015-2018 before returning full-time in August of 2018. She has most recently served as a biology instructor, but she has also served in admissions, student support services, public relations and continuing education, working on both the Ridgeland and Goodman campuses. Her teaching history also includes serving as a biology teacher at Kosciusko High School for 23 years. Sample holds a master's from Mississippi State University, a bachelor's from Delta State University and an associate degree from Holmes.

In her free time, she enjoys playing the guitar, spending time with family and visiting/shopping with friends. She is also a musician and cantor at St. Thomas Catholic Church. She and her husband, Samuel "Sam" D. Sample, Sr., have four sons: Samuel, who is married to Mary and has two daughters, Layla Jane and Eliana Grace; Matthew A. Sample, MD; Patrick N. Sample, police officer at Holmes and Justin E. Sample, who is in heaven.

"During retirement, I plan to spend time with my grandchildren, travel and hopefully continue to work for Holmes as an adjunct instructor," Sample said.

Tommy Trussell

Trussell has served as an adult education instructor at Holmes for 12 years. A Holmes alumnus, he majored in business and commerce as a Bulldog. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in exercise physiology from Mississippi State University. Prior to Holmes, Trussell served as manager of the Attala County Coliseum. In his free time, he enjoys spending time at the farm, hunting, fishing and enjoying family and grandkids. He is a member of First Baptist Church and the Mississippi Association of Adult and Community Education. Trussell and his wife, Teresa, have two sons: Lucas (Erin) and Jake (Dakota). Lucas and Erin have three children; McCarty, 7; Townes, 18 months, and Crew, 1 month old. Jake and Dakota have one child, Emersyn, 3. "During retirement, I plan to continue working part-time and spend more time traveling with family," Trussell said.

The retirement celebration for the Grenada Campus honoring Caldwell and Herring was held on April 26 in the Corey Forum. The celebration on the Goodman Campus honoring Barton, McDaniel, Sample and Trussell was held on April 20 in McMorrough Library. Both celebrations included a ceremony and reception attended by fellow Holmes employees, friends and family.

A celebration to honor Josey on the Ridgeland Campus was set for April, but she opted not to have one and have everyone come by individually to visit with her before the end of the school year.



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus retiree **Donna Josey**.

Holmes inducts 6 into 2023 Sports Hall of Fame

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2023 Holmes Sports Hall of Fame recipients. They are (left to right) **Terrance Atkins** (basketball); **LuRena Holmes** (basketball); **Maria Edwards** representing her late husband, Daniel Edwards (softball coach); **Martin Palomo** (soccer); **Martin L. Latiker** (basketball) and **Gabe Alaniz** (football/golf).

The Holmes Community College Sports Hall of Fame recognizes former coaches and athletes who made major contributions to intercollegiate athletics while at Holmes. This year, the Sports Hall of Fame Banquet was held on April 6 in Frank Brance Coliseum on the Goodman Campus. Six former Bulldogs were recognized.

Terrance Akins

Terrance Terrell Akins, a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, was inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame for basketball.

Akins graduated from Little Rock Parkview High School where he played on a 2002 state championship team. During the 2003 season, he was named All-Arkansas Team by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette after averaging 16 points per game and was a runner-up for the state's Mr. Basketball award as a senior. He played under Head Coach Al Flanigan at Parkview, father of UALR Assistant Coach Wes Flanigan who is now the assistant coach at Auburn University (both family members of the current Men's Basketball Coach at Holmes, Jason Flanigan).

When Akins arrived at Holmes he was ready to play; he topped 1,000 career points in just two seasons. His hard work on the court paid off with being a two-time First-Team All-Conference selection under Head Coach Todd Kimble and twice named First Team All-State for Mississippi junior colleges. The accolades continued to stack up while at Holmes. He was named Co-Freshman of the Year after averaging 19.6 points per game in his first year.

In addition to his scoring abilities, Akins hit on 46 percent of his attempts from the field, 36 percent from beyond the arc and 72.6 percent from the free-throw line, while averaging 5.8 rebounds, 5.3 assists and 2.2 steals per game to help the Bulldogs to a 17-9 overall record and a second place conference finish (10-2). He scored 34 and 30 points in two games against Northwest Mississippi Community College. As a sophomore, Akins averaged 21.6 points, four rebounds, three assists and three steals per game.

After Holmes, Akins continued on to play for the Little Rock Trojans. As a junior he made his first appearance as a Trojan against Appalachian State in the Jack Stephens Center. He sank his first shot as a Division-I player (a three pointer) in front of the hometown fans.

In his career for the Trojans he played in all 30 games with a team-high 29 starts. He ranked second on the team in scoring and 25th in the Sun Belt Conference at 12.3 points per game. He led the Trojans with 77 made three pointers, a .401 three-point percentage and 26 steals. He finished

eighth in the Sun Belt and 50th in the NCAA rankings for three-point percentage, and sixth in the conference and 93rd nationally in made three pointers per game (2.57). He also totaled a career-high five steals in a 58-56 win over UT Martin. Finishing up the season with an team-high of 311 field goals on the year and ranked second on the squad with 127 made field goals (40.8 percent). He made just 41 trips to the foul line but converted 37 of his attempts for a .902 free-throw percentage.

Akins majored in health science with a minor in criminal justice. He currently lives in Little Rock and works for the U.S. Postal Service as a rural mail carrier. He has a daughter Reagan Skye Akins (13). He is the son of Tracy Akins but his biggest supporter, Cherry "Bean" Platt rarely missed any of Akins games in his whole career.

Gabe Alaniz

Gabriel "Gabe" Alaniz, a native of Deer Park, Texas, was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame for football. Alaniz played during the 1996-1997 football seasons under Hugh Shurden and Tony Cook. According to the Junior College National Standings, at the end of the '96 season he finished fourth in total yards and fifth in passing yards. Also, during Alaniz's freshman year, the football team went to the state championship.

"My parents really supported me while I was at Holmes. They drove seven hours every Thursday for two years and did not miss a game," Alaniz said.

He was also active in the choir. The group traveled to Spain on a school-related trip and Alaniz remembers it as one of his most memorable experiences at Holmes.

Alaniz went on to play at Middle Tennessee State University where he earned a degree in Industrial Technology Construction Management in 2000. Alaniz lives in League City, Texas, with his wife, Jessica, and their two kids: Presley (14) and Madeline (10).

Daniel "Dan" Edwards

Jesse Daniel "Dan" Edwards held many roles during his lifetime, including family man, military hero, teacher, coach, community leader and friend.

He was born in Brandon and attended Farmhaven and Canton High School. He also attended the Naval Academy Prep School, and the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

During his 25 years in the U.S. Navy, he was in the Special Forces and served in Vietnam. He was also on the Navy Golden Gloves Boxing Team and track team which earned him a spot to be an alternate for the Olympics.

Following several tours in Vietnam, he earned a degree in engineering

from the University of Colorado. Later, he earned a master's in history. He also earned an associate degree from Holmes where he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He played football, tennis and ran track from 1961-1963.

After retiring from the Navy as a lieutenant commander, he, his wife Maria and their three children moved to Lexington.

From 1989-1993, Edwards coached and taught at Carroll Academy, Central Holmes Academy, and Benton Academy. As a result, he was known to many in the community as "Coach Edwards."

He joined the Holmes family in 1994; he started the Holmes' Women Softball Program, building the field and facilities from the ground up, and served as a successful head coach until 2005. In 1995, he began his work as an instructor, teaching history and government, a position he held until he retired in 2012. Edwards loved history and political science. He authored two books and wrote almost every single day.

Some of his fondest memories at Holmes include starting a successful softball program, coaching his daughters, teaching and inspiring countless students.

Edwards' wife Maria lives in Lexington. She was also an instructor at Holmes for 33 years teaching Spanish, French, and Developmental English. Edwards has five children: Vince Edwards, Sheila Edwards, Chuck Edwards, Candice Parish, and Beth Jones; eleven grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

Both Candice and Beth attended Holmes and played basketball and softball. One of his grandsons, Gibson Parish will be attending Holmes in the fall of 2023.

Edwards was involved with the Rotary Club, serving as president. He was a member Lexington Masonic Lodge and a charter member of the Lexington Preservation Commission.

LuRena Holmes

LuRena Holmes is a native of Carroll County and a graduate of J. Z. George High School. She was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame for basketball.

Holmes played basketball for the 2004 -2005 season under Coach Chanda Rigby and the 2005- 2006 basketball season under, Coach Ron Aldy.

In 2006, Holmes held the best free throw record on the team and was recognized for her outstanding offense game on the court.

"I will always cherish the moments we prayed together as a team and encouraged each other to be the best we could be on and off the court," Holmes said.

After Holmes, she signed with Belhaven University where she excelled on the court again for offense. She earned a bachelor of social science in 2009.

Later, Holmes went back to school at Mississippi Valley State to earn her master's in social work. She has worked in child protection services, but now serves as a diversion coordinator in the mental health field.

Holmes was inducted into the Mississippi Valley State University Society of Leadership and Success (2017) and 40 under 40 beta cohort (2022). The Greenwood Commonwealth voted her Top 30 under 40 in 2021 for her community achievements.

Holmes and her husband Calvin live in Carroll County with five children: Corey (14) Corvin (14), Cirena (12), Callia (9) and Calvin (3).

Martin L Latiker

Martin Latiker, a native of Sallis and

graduate of McAdams High School was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame for his double lettering at Holmes in basketball and track.

In high school, Latiker played on back-to-back state championship basketball teams during the 1982-83 and 1983-84 seasons. His high school career was on fire, and he was listed as one of the Top 50 players in Mississippi in 1984.

In 1984, Latiker committed to Holmes to play under Bennie Kimble for two years. The Holmes Men's Basketball team had two North Championships appearances during that time. He was recognized for his defensive skills and best free throws during his time on the basketball court at Holmes. He was on the All-State team two consecutive seasons and a team captain in the 1985-1986 season.

Among some of his other basketball career highlights at Holmes were honorable mention two seasons back to back, best defense MVP 1986 and best college free throws two seasons in a row.

Not only did Latiker excel on the basketball court but he placed third in the state in track for the 3-mile run under Coach Ray Bridges for the Bulldogs.

He received various scholarship offers to play at Arkansas State, Rust College, Northern Iowa University, Arkansas Pine Bluff, Mississippi Valley State and University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"Coach Kimble had so much faith in me, plus, he invested so much time in me, for that I was always thankful," Latiker said.

Latiker was unable to accept any college offers due to personal hardships resulting in having to get a job and help support his mother who couldn't work.

Latiker had a long-time career with Milwaukee Tools as a material handler and forklift driver. He was a team leader at work as well.

Today Latiker lives in Sallis. He has four children: Fredrick (38), Tikyra (27), Martin (23) and Lewis (21). He does not miss a home game that the men's basketball team plays today and is one of the programs biggest supporters.

"I like to get to know the Holmes boys playing the game today," Latiker said.

Martin Palomo

Martin Palomo was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame for soccer. He played in the 2002-2004 seasons. He was among the first teams on the Ridgeland Campus under Coach Matt Convertino. These first couple of soccer teams were instrumental in making the soccer program what it is today.

While at Holmes, Palomo was an Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa president, Hall of Fame inductee, on the quiz bowl team and SGA treasurer. He credits Holmes for helping him be successful in academia and sports. He received a full ride to Millsaps College where he earned a B.S. and an MBA.

"My experience at Holmes allowed me an opportunity to build a foundation that helped me when I applied at four-year institutions," Palomo said.

Palomo is the CEO and co-chief investment officer for Pinnacle Wealth in Madison. He bought the firm from the founder in April 2022. The company currently manages more than half a billion dollars, on behalf of their clients.

Palomo has been recognized by the Mississippi Business Journal as a Leader in Finance (2009), Top 40 under 40 (2020) and Top CEO (2022).

Palomo lives in Jackson with his wife, Jennifer, and their three kids: Kristoffer (18), Isabella (16) and Gianna (9).

Miller named DL/Strength and Conditioning Coach for the Bulldogs

From Staff Reports/Photos



Crystal Springs native Barron Miller has been named the new defensive line and head strength and conditioning coach at Holmes Community College.

Miller, a graduate of Copiah Academy, was named All District Middle Linebacker and Copiah Academy and was the team MVP at quarterback and was Team Captain. Prior to going to Copiah, he attended Wesson High School, where he was named All District Middle Linebacker.

After Copiah, he played for Missis-

sippi Gulf Coast Community College, where he was named All-State Defensive End and received the team MVP Award at Defensive Lineman and the "War Daddy" Award, which is awarded to the player that overcomes the most adversity. He then transferred to North Alabama, where he was started at defensive end as a junior and middle linebacker as a senior. North Alabama won four straight conference championships, and he was a part of two of them. In 2016, North Alabama

fell in the national championship game.

He then played for Austria's NFL Europe team, where he was team captain. He led the league in total tackles and tackles for loss.

After his playing days, he got into coaching. His stops included: St. Martin High School as linebacker coach, where all three linebackers were All-District; Copiah Academy as defensive line coach as well as strength and conditioning for boys and girls grades 7-12; Forrest County High School as assistant defensive coordinator and linebacker coach; Plano Senior High School in Dallas, Texas as defensive line coach, where all defensive linemen were All-District; and coached an overseas youth league for 15-17 year olds.

He also has a background in personal fitness. He served as assistant manager at D1 Training in Hattiesburg and also owned his own business named

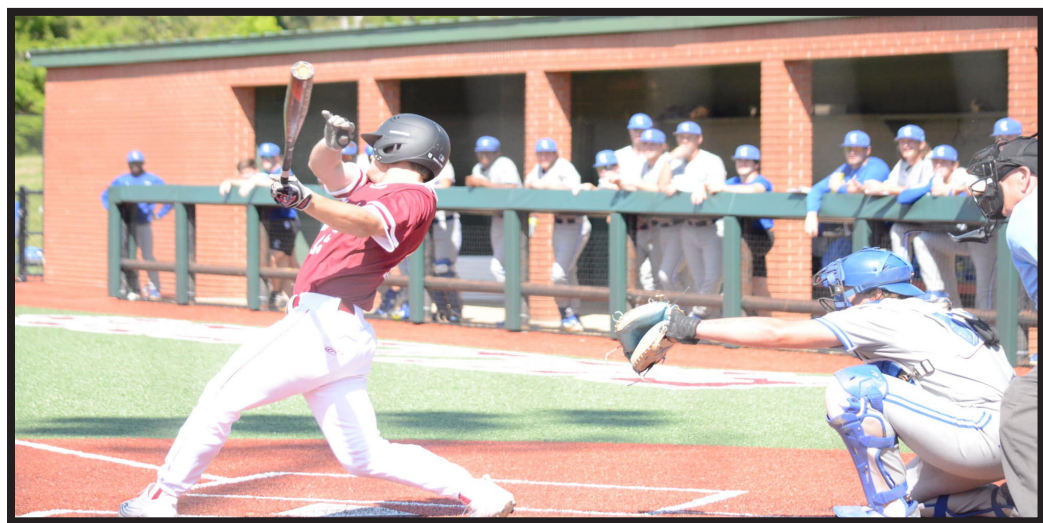
Beyond Fitness, where he's trained athletes from every level and all sports such as basketball, football and baseball. In the recent offseason, he worked with Pete Jenkins training Will Anderson from Alabama, Ali Gaye from LSU and BJ OJulari from LSU.

Miller is engaged to Rachel Voltz and is the son of Michael and Sarah Miller and brother to SarahBeth Miller. He holds an associate's degree from Gulf Coast and a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from North Alabama.

Athleticism runs in his family. His great uncle, Tommy Henry, coached at Brandon High School for 15 years and played at Co Lin and West Alabama. His great uncle, Bill Henry, played at West Alabama and was a golden glove boxer as well. His sister and all four of his cousins have state championships in high school as well.

Bulldogs split with the Coahoma Tigers

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs split two games at home on April 25 with the Coahoma Community College Tigers falling 11-7 and winning game two, 11-10.

In game one, Matthew Reed got the start and went six innings. He gave up six runs on eight hits with one strikeout and two walks. Austin Russell went two innings and suffered the loss. Jackson Dollar went one inning.

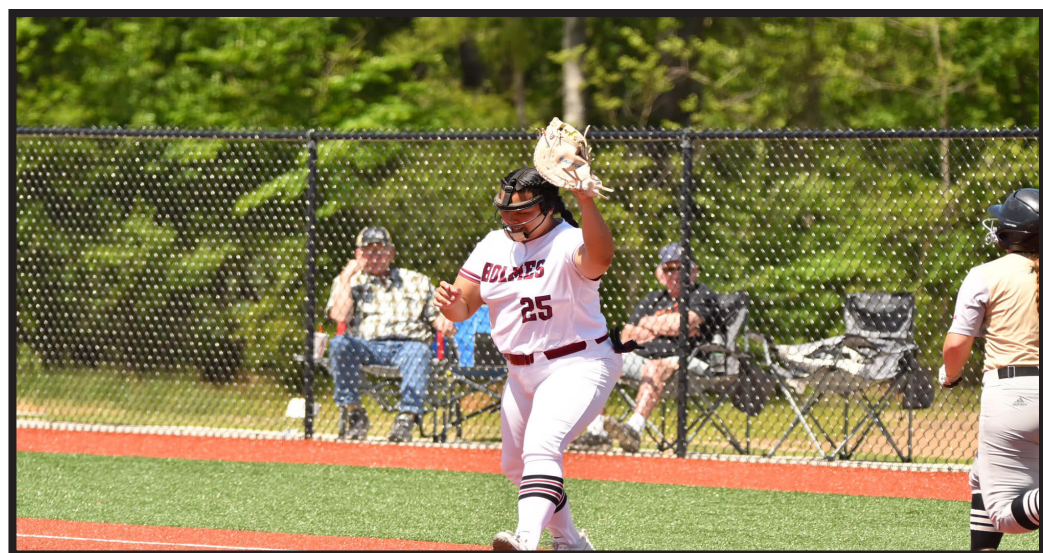
Parker Knight and Leland Selby each had three hits. Selby had a double

and a three-run homerun while Knight added two doubles. Abbott Hankins and Hunter Barron each doubled.

In game two, Hankins went six innings and picked up the win. He gave up six runs on seven hits with five strikeouts and four walks. Dollar went one inning in relief. Carson Buckner, Knight and Barron each had two hits. Barron had a two-run homerun while Buckner added a solo shot. Knight added a triple while Reed added a double.

Lady Bulldogs take two from Coahoma, 17-1 and 13-0

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs took two games at home April 25 from the Coahoma Community College Lady Tigers, 17-1 and 13-0.

In game one, Elleigh Willis went 3 2/3 innings and gave up one run on three hits with five strikeouts and one walk picking up the win. Chesney Beckham pitched 1 1/3 innings. Iris Farve led with three hits while Katelynn Gipson, Neera Bell, LaCristia Edwards and McKayla Crowley each had two hits each. Farve had two doubles

while Gipson had one and Edwards added a triple.

In game two, Emmagail Kelley got the start and picked up the win. She went two innings and gave up two hits with one strikeout and three walks. Bell went three innings and gave up three hits with five strikeouts. Leah Kinard and Farve each had three hits while Willis, AnnaLeigh Jones, Bell and Edwards each had two hits. Farve had a three-run homerun and a double while Bell had two doubles and Kinard, Jones had one.

Were NFL scouts with the fans all along on Will Levis?

By Justin Biggers
Staff Reporter



Will Levis, quarterback for the Kentucky Wildcats, declared for the 2023 NFL Draft after his senior season in 2022. Standing at 6-foot-4 and weighing in at nearly 230 pounds, Levis' chances of being drafted were already higher than most. Adding in his outrageously strong arm and mobility for his size, Levis was predicted to be one of the first quarterbacks taken in the draft. The thing was, Levis was extremely average and, at times, mediocre in college. To say the least, fans weren't

buying into the hype.

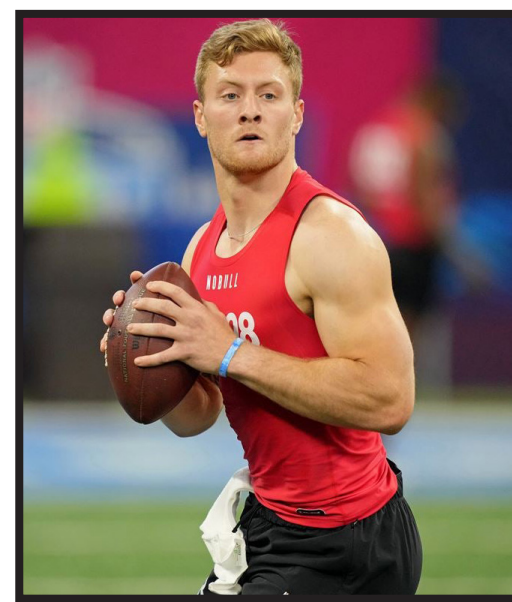
With multiple teams in the market for a QB, come draft night, three out of the first four picks were all QBs. Levis, projected to be selected within the first 12 picks, waited the entire first round without hearing his name called. This was easily one of the biggest stories from the entire draft. Cameras were fixed on Levis' defeated expression all night long. Finally, after 32 selections, Levis' name would be called by the Tennessee Titans on the second night of the draft.

The question is why did these supposed experts hype someone up so much even though the film didn't back it up? There isn't an exact answer, but most would probably point to the Josh Allen compar-

ison.

The current Buffalo Bills franchise QB was very inconsistent coming out of the University of Wyoming. Most even labeled him as a bust before he even took a snap. Despite naysayers, Allen would eventually develop into one of the NFL's best.

Just based on their film from college, Allen and Levis are very different QBs. Allen was very hit or miss, while Levis was simply predictably average. I don't believe that the teams Levis was talking to lied to him, but I do think the analysts, who call themselves experts, are at fault for making Levis' draft experience worse than it should have been.



Will Levis

Lady Bulldogs take two from Hinds, 3-0 and 4-0

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Lady Bulldogs solidified their positioning into the Region 23 Tournament with a doubleheader sweep of the Hinds Community College Lady Eagles, 3-0 and 4-0, at home April 28

Holmes will play in the upcoming Region 23 Tournament either at Jones or Northwest starting on May 9.

In game one, Elleigh Willis got the start. She went seven innings and gave up no runs with seven strikeouts and one walk. Lanie Phillips led with two hits. Leah Kinard added a two-run

homerun.

In game two, Emmagail Kelley got the start and went six innings with two strikeouts. Katelynn Gipson led with two hits.

It was Sophomore Day, as well. Dallas Browb, McKayla Crowley, LaCristia Edwardss, Iris Farve, Katelynn Gipson, AnnaLeigh Jones, Emmagail Kelley, Leah Kinard, Maycee Knight, Reese Page, Lanie Phillips, Kinley Stewart, Secora Weeks and Elleigh Willis were recognized by Head Coach Trae Embry.

Bulldogs fall to Eagles, 11-1 and 6-3

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs ended the 2023 campaign falling 11-1 and 6-3 to Hinds Community College at home on Friday, April 28, 11-1 and 6-3.

In game one, Conner Wallace got the start and went two innings seven runs on five hits with one walk. Jaden Clinton, Will Carter and Justin Jenkins also pitched in the game. Abbott Hankins led the Bulldogs with a double.

In game two, John Paul Buckner got the start and went 5 1/3 innings and gave up six runs on nine hits with three strikeouts and one walk. Jackson Dollar went 2/3 of an inning. Matthew Reed, Carson Buckner, John Nolan Pajak, Hunter Barron and Carter Smith each had a hit.

Alford named to the All-Region 23 Team

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs placed one player on the All-Region 23 team for the 2022-23 season. Sophomore Ally Alford of Batesville was named to the team.

Alford averaged 14.3 points per game. She averaged 4.3 rebounds per game, 1.7 assists per game and 2.9 steals per game.

Holmes finished the season 16-11 and was 7-7 in the MACCC. The Lady Bulldogs fell to Meridian in the second round of the Region XXIII Tournament after knocking off the Itawamba Community College Lady Indians.

Finau has impeccable finish in Mexico

By Jacob Duncan
Staff Reporter



The Mexico Open at Vidanta is not a major tournament, but Tony Finau crushed the playing field with a final score of 24 strokes under par. Finau had 28 birdies and only

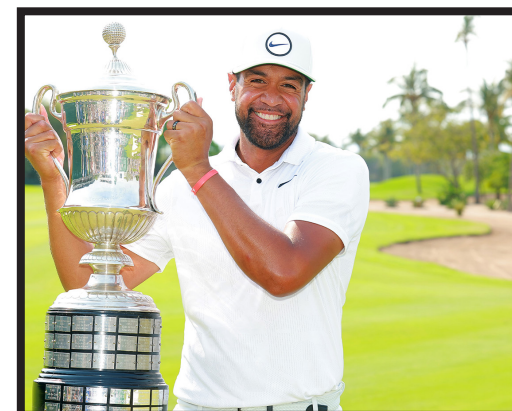
four bogeys amongst the 72 holes of golf played from Thursday to Sunday. This led him to scoring all four rounds of 66 or better, which is six under par at Vidanta.

He led the tournament in greens in regulation (GIR) at 81% percent when swinging from the fairway, or even from the tee on a par three. He hit 58 of the 72 greens in regulation, and even when he did not do so he controlled the damage with only four bogeys.

The number one golfer in the world at this point, Jon Rahm, was nipping at the heels of Finau. In the third round at Vidanta, Rahm shot a score of 61 which looked promising going into championship Sunday. The round from Rahm did not phase Finau as he was firing on all cylinders this

past week.

Finau is going to need a big trophy case as he caps off his sixth PGA win of his career at the Mexico Open. He has played impeccable golf throughout the course of a year and a half, as in his last 18 starts he has won four of them. There are only four golfers with multiple wins in the 2023 season so far, and Finau is a part of that company: Tony Finau (2), Jon Rahm (4), Scottie Scheffler (2) and Max Homa (2).



Tony Finau

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SCORES, SCHEDULES, ALERTS



Mississippi State breaks NCAA attendance record for baseball...again

By Justin Biggers
Staff Reporter



Mississippi State University has once again made history at Dudy Noble Field. After a crowd of 16,423 attended Saturday's baseball game against Ole Miss, Mississippi State surpassed the

all-time attendance record for an on-campus college baseball game. This is nothing new for the Bulldogs, though. Mississippi State owns the top 13 attendance records in college baseball history.

Just like breaking attendance records, beating Ole Miss has become a frequent

occurrence for the Bulldogs. This past weekend was no different. After dropping the series opener on Friday night, the Bulldogs knew someone had to take charge and step up. The following day, freshman outfielder, Dakota Jordan, would be the difference maker in the series against the Rebels. With the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth inning down 7-6, Jordan knocked a two-run base hit through the gap to walk off the ballgame against the Rebels.

After the victory on Saturday, Mississippi State had all the momentum to take care of business and secure the series win. With the help of ambidextrous pitcher, Jurrangelo Cjintje, and two homers between Hunter Hines and Dakota Jordan,



the Bulldogs would take the series over Ole Miss after a 5-3 victory. Not only did the Bulldogs make history, but this series

win would mark the seventh consecutive over the Rebels.

Japan wipes through everyone in World Baseball Classic

By Jacob Duncan
Staff Reporter



Although it was presumed that teams like the USA, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico had the greatest upside to win the World Baseball Classic championship this year, Japan took it

home with ease. Japan defeated the USA 3-2 in the final game which turned out to be a pitcher's duel to say the least. They took home their third World Baseball Classic championship.

USA did have nine hits in the nightcap, but Japan's Shohei Ohtani and Yu Darvish handled and minimized the runners in scoring position very well. Trea Turner

and Mookie Betts both had multiple hits that night for the USA, but they were not as timely as Japan's.

Japan was able to draw several walks, causing several runners to get on base and get into scoring position. There were major timely hits from Okamoto and Murakami, as they each had a homerun a piece. Lars Nootbar did not have a base hit to show for the night, but he was able to ground out so Okamoto could score in the second inning.

Although he struggled at the plate in the final game, Lars Nootbar was one of the most clutch hitters for Japan in the World Baseball Classic. Nootbar's role for Japan was the leadoff hitter that played either CF or RF the whole tournament. He put together long at-bats that kept the innings long for Japan's offense. An interesting



fact is that Nootbar had a language barrier during the whole tournament from him and his teammates as he did not know Japanese. His mother was born and raised in Japan, and that qualified him to play

for Japan in the World Baseball Classic. Nootbar is going to have a breakout season with the St. Louis Cardinals, sources say.

Will Brent Rooker's recent success lead to a breakout year in the MLB?

By Justin Biggers
Staff Reporter



Brent Rooker, outfielder for the Oakland A's, was recently named AL Player of the Week in the MLB. Rooker, relatively unknown to most, is no stranger to Mississippi State Baseball fans.

Rooker and Rafael Palmeiro, each being former capitalizbulldogs, are the only two players in SEC history to ever win college baseball's coveted Triple Crown Award. This award is only given on the

occasion that a player leads the nation in batting average, home runs, delete comma and RBIs. After being drafted by the Minnesota Twins in 2017, Rooker was traded to the Padres, then to the Royals, and most recently signed with the Oakland A's in late 2022.

Although Rooker has achieved the greatest award in college baseball, his pro career has been lackluster, to say the least, until recently. After spending most of his career flipflopping between the minor and major leagues, Rooker has finally made his impact with the A's. From April 24 to April 30, Rooker went 10 for 24, along with 5 home runs. After batting a mere

.234 over the span of his three-year MLB career, Rooker has started out the season batting a whopping .353.

So far this season, Rooker has been one of the sole bright spots for the A's. In fact, the 2023 Oakland A's set the MLB record for most losses in a season before May 1. If the A's can get some consistency from their pitching, Rooker's impact could mean something more. However, the question is, can Rooker keep up the pace? Only time can tell.



Brent Rooker

Rahm's first Green Jacket

By Jacob Duncan
Staff Reporter



At the beautiful August National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, the best of the best come to compete each year for the prestigious Masters Tournament. A large pool of

competitive golfers showed up this year as there were both LIV Tour golfers and the usual PGA Tour players there. There was also a light mix of amateurs, as well. The

scores from the rounds were tight and nail biters to say the least, but the other competition was no match for Jon Rahm.

The first round was legendary as Rahm, Koepka and Hovland were all tied for first place at seven under par. That is a score of 65, which is a tied score with the course record of Augusta National. It was astonishing for the crowd to see a LIV Tour player be ahead of a classic major tournament.

Fast forward to Saturday evening, a bit of rain caused a delay to the third round. This ruined the mojo for some of the

golfers, but it did not affect Rahm at all. Koepka and Hovland finished above par on the last day, dropping Koepka to second at eight under par, and Hovland all the way to seventh at six under par.

Rahm finished his round at 12 under par for the weekend in Georgia. That significant score led him to taking home a whopping \$3.24 million from the tournament. This win currently puts him at over \$13 million in earnings over the last three months of the season. Not only did he take home the check, but he is still the number one golfer in the world.



Jon Rahm



The Growl Staff



Kaitlyn Anderson

Kaitlyn Anderson is from Jackson and is currently a sophomore at Holmes. She is planning to attend Belhaven University in the fall of 2023. Kaitlyn is majoring in mass communications with a minor in theater. She wants to work in the entertainment industry. Kaitlyn is currently working as a kennel assistant at All Creatures Animal Hospital. Kaitlyn attends Pinelake the Madison Campus where she is a part of the worship team. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, writing, singing, dancing and traveling.



Justin Biggers

Justin Biggers, resident of Winona, is a freshman communications major on the Goodman Campus of Holmes Community College. He is an active member of Phi Theta Kappa. In his spare time, Biggers enjoys going to Mississippi State football games, having song-filled car rides with friends on dirt roads and making others laugh. After he receives his associate from Holmes, Biggers plans to continue his academics at Mississippi State University. His ideal career is to be either in sports journalism or sports broadcasting, with hopes of covering college football.



Jacob Duncan

Jacob Duncan of Hernando is a sophomore journalism major on the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Bulldogs baseball team. In his free time, Duncan enjoys watching and playing sports like baseball and golf, collecting sneakers, and loves spending time with his family and friends back in North Mississippi. Upon graduating from Holmes, he plans to transfer to a university to play baseball and study journalism but is undecided where that will be right now. Duncan's dream is to become a sports broadcaster or work in sports analytics!



Elijah Mangum

Elijah Mangum is a sophomore on the Ridgeland Campus from Florence. He is majoring in journalism and mass communications with hopes of transferring to Mississippi College and going into broadcast journalism. He has been a member of the FHS News team at Florence High School, an intern at Darkhorse Press and has a weekly news YouTube channel, Mangum Studios. He is an active member of Cleary Baptist Church and enjoys spending time with family, videography, writing and public speaking.



Garrett Viator

Hailing from New Iberia, Louisiana, Garrett Viator is a legal studies major on the Ridgeland Campus. He began attending Holmes after graduating from Park Place Christian Academy. He began living in Mississippi at 11 years of age, and has resided in the Madison area during his time at Holmes. Viator serves as Phi Theta Kappa president, as well as vice president of the student body in Ridgeland. He enjoys spending time with family, studying and being an active member of his college. He also spends his time reading the Bible, working out and being involved in church activities.

Following graduation from Holmes, Viator plans on earning his bachelor's in business economics then attending law school. His career goal is to work as a corporate lawyer and start his own firm one day.