



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

THE GROWL

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Holmes holds 96th Commencement on May 9

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Ridgeland Campus Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan **Mary Kate Hamilton**, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** and Ridgeland McDaniel Scholarship recipient **Colin Crosby**.

Holmes Community College held the 96th Commencement Exercises on Thursday, May 9 in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus. The Ridgeland

Campus and Yazoo Center ceremony was held at 10 a.m. and the Goodman Campus, Grenada Campus and Attala Center had a ceremony at 2 p.m. The ceremonies were



Pictured are (left to right) Goodman Campus M.C. McDaniel Scholarship recipient **Demeria Moore**, Grenada Campus M.C. McDaniel Scholarship recipient **Baker Avant**, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey**, Grenada Campus Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan

also live streamed at holmesccmedia.com/white-channel.

Each ceremony began with a faculty and administration processional. Colin

Crosby, a Ridgeland Campus Holmes Ambassador and Phi Theta Kappa vice

Graduation, continued on Page 5

Holmes brings home the gold at SkillsUSA state championship

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Holmes students who placed in the 2024 SkillsUSA State Competition. Pictured are (front, left to right) **Wil'Tavious Williams**, **Brett Coffey**, **Leah Rainey**, **Irvin Ortega**, **William Griffin**, **Juan Chacon**, (back row, left to right) **Matthew Hodges**, **Payton Brady**, **Kennedy Lacey, Sr.**, **Ben Lewis, Jr.**, **Nicholas Dunaway**, **Richard Ginn** and **Quincy Boles**.



Pictured is **Chris Coleman** with instructor **Casey Caldwell**. Coleman won second place in the SkillsUSA Competition for Collision Repair, which was held after the awards ceremony date.

The SkillsUSA chapters from Holmes Community College's Goodman and Ridgeland campuses successfully competed in the 2024 SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference held in March and April. The winners were recognized during a ceremony on April 4 at the Hilton Jackson. Overall, Holmes took home 14 awards: six gold medals, eight silver medals and one bronze. Holmes Goodman student Chris Coleman's category, Collision Repair Technology, was held after the awards ceremony, but he brought home a silver medal.

Ridgeland Campus Heating, Cooling

SkillsUSA, continued on Page 5

Holmes takes home three awards from Better Newspaper Contest

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is **Aleesa Booker** with the award for Best Editorials.

Holmes Community College's Growl newspaper won three awards during the 2024 Better News/Media Contest – Student Division. The contest was held in conjunction with the 26th Annual O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference held March 21 at the Embassy Suites hotel in Ridgeland.

In the Community College Division, the Growl won first place for Best Editorials. The student reporters who contributed editorials included Aleesa Booker of Madison (Ridgeland Campus), Malley Chase Faulkner of Daphne, Alabama (Goodman Campus), Alyssa Jackson of Madison (Ridgeland Campus) and Evan Yates

of West (Goodman Campus). Additionally, Faulkner won third place for Best Sports Feature Story and Holmes won third place for Overall General Excellence.

Booker and Public Relations Specialist/Journalism Instructor Mary Margaret Busby represented Holmes and attended the conference.

The Growl, published four-five times per academic year, covers news from the college's nine-district area, while also including editorials on current events, reviews of trending entertainment, updates on events in the college's district and more. Staff members also serve as writers for Holmes' new

blog, the HCC Grid.

The O.C. McDavid Conference is named after former managing editor of the Jackson Dailey News and since 1999, the O.C. McDavid Memorial Fund, administered by the Mississippi Press Association (MPA) Education Foundation, has underwritten the cost of the conference to promote journalism education in the state.

The conference began with a welcome and remarks by Vice Chair for the MPA Education Foundation Stephanie Patton. Next, Felder Rushing - an author, columnist and host for Missis-

Growl Awards, continued on Page 5

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



TO KEEP UP WITH HOLMES EVENTS, FOLLOW US ON DOG TRACKS FROM THE WEBSITE!

Weighing your options: The pros and cons of a community college

By Aleesa Booker
Staff Reporter



Between getting through a day without your phone, dealing with friend drama and keeping up with all the trends, being a teenager is hard. Most of us have to deal

with this and simultaneously figure out the next big step in our lives. College. College is where “your life begins and childhood ends.” When deciding schools we often forget about community colleges. Are community colleges all that bad? Are community colleges worth going to? Let’s put it to the test.

Risk vs. Reward

Community colleges are two-year institutions that allow students to get their associate degrees in the field of their choice. A four-year university can grant you a master’s, bachelor’s and doctorate. Community colleges typically cost less and have fewer people attending them. Although money is a factor for many students when looking at college, is it worth sacrificing meaningful experiences?

Why not?

There are thousands of four-year universities that students will choose from. Reasons for choosing your university vary. Christina Barefoot will

attend Mississippi State University in the fall.

“I have a bunch of transferable credits that will shave off some of my ‘prereqs,’” Barefoot said. “Also, I have always wanted to rush my first year of college.

At a community college, you do have the opportunity to get involved in activities on your campus, but nothing like a sorority or fraternity.

Abby Jo Flowers will attend Southern Miss in the fall.

“For me, I feel like if you don’t go to a four-year university you miss out on a lot of experiences, like freshman welcoming and being away from home, Flowers said. “Also, I have a lot of money so there was no point in me going to a community college.”

Being away from home and living life outside of your hometown is an experience seniors look forward to. Community colleges are great for knocking out credits, but can often leave their students without the “college experience.”

Why so?

Sometimes community colleges get a bad rap for their dullness. What’s the point in going to one? Jenna Dent is a freshman at Holmes Community College.

“I think it’s a better “transition” step; you get a lower student-to-faculty ratio and you get some experience in classes that have more accessible re-



sources before you go to a university,” Dent said. “Also, I didn’t care about the social experience.”

Although four-year universities offer great social environments, what if you’re not into it? Then community colleges are just for you. If you have trouble adapting to big spaces, community college is great for you.

In the 11th grade, I decided to graduate early. At the time, I had no idea where I was going or what I was doing. I eventually decided that I should go to Holmes Community College. At the time, I was embarrassed. I believed that you can’t have a social life at a community college. Fast forward to now and I still get to see all my friends and have joined more clubs than I did in high school.

In the fall, I will be transferring to the University of Mississippi as a sophomore, but I will have all of my prerequisite classes out of the way. This means I can just go to the univer-

sity and pursue my degree. Therefore, if your main goal is to party and then get an education, a four year might be better for you, but if your goal is just to get an education, anywhere will work for you.

Conclusion:

Although this might seem overbearing, these are the realities that teenagers must think about. Although you could miss out on an important part of social life, community colleges do offer you a better buck for your money and are less stressful. Although you could spend a lot more money and it also may not be the right fit for you, four-year universities offer a great social community and connection that can last forever. At the end of the day, both are great options to consider and both will get you the degree you deserve.

The history of social workers

By Johnvonda Jackson
Staff Reporter



On April 1, I interviewed Ilivia Wilkes about the history of social workers. National Social Worker Day was March 19 and I wanted to know more about social work and

what social workers do. Social workers are community heroes that do not get the recognition that they deserve. **Johnvonda Jackson (Me):** When did social work class begin, and where?

Ilivia Wilkes: The social work class began in 1898 at Columbia University and created a way for the development of charitable and private organizations

to offer services to people in need.

Jackson: Who founded social work?

Wilkes: Its founder was Jane Addams, among the first females to get the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. Jane is famous for developing settlement structures in Chicago in the 1900s for immigrants. She was a dedicated peace activist and community organizer.

Jackson: What are the roles of social workers?

Wilkes: The role of social workers is to bring to public attention and address the social problem. The social workers collaborate with institutions and families to address any abuse or neglect

faced by the society individual. The National Association of Social Workers states, “Today, Americans enjoy many privileges because early social workers saw miseries and injustices and took action, inspiring others along the way. Many of the benefits we take for granted came about because social workers-working with families and institutions-spoke out against abuse and neglect.”

Jackson: What are some of the things social workers attempt to address?

Wilkes: Some of the things that social workers address include the rights of all individuals, despite their faith, race, sexual orientation, or gender, to ensure they are protected. They also

ensure employees get unemployment insurance, disability payment, workers’ compensation, and social security. Additionally, it ensures individuals with mental issues and any form of development disabilities receive treatment, prevention of child neglect and abuse in society, and to protect people with mental illnesses from stigmatization. Lastly, it ensures old, and people with disability have access to healthcare.

Jackson: Do you know any prominent social worker?

Wilkes: There are several famous social workers, such as Dorothy Height, Harry Hopkins, and Jeanette Rankin. She was the foremost female to be chosen to Congress in the U.S.



The Growl

Holmes Community College
<https://www.facebook.com/hccgrowl>

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Send to: mbusby@holmescc.edu.

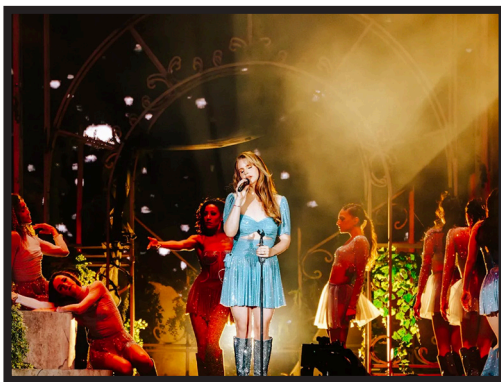
A Recap of Coachella Weekend One

By Alyssa Jackson
Staff Reporter



April 12-14 marked the start of Coachella Valley Music and Art Festival season in Indio, California. The annual event is always a pop culture spectacle to look out for, but this time the festival managed to bring more attention and interest than in recent years. Let’s recap the most talked about moments from weekend one of Coachella 2024.

Lana Del Rey Returns to the Coachella stage



Returning to the Coachella main stage after a decade, Lana Del Rey was the headliner for Friday’s show. She entered her set on the back of motorcycle, a reference to the music video of her iconic song “Ride.” The singer dazzled on stage in a shimmery baby blue dress and newly bleached blonde hair, a look fans found very reminiscent of when she first gained popularity. Del Rey’s vocals seemed to be better than ever as she breezed through some of her most vocally challenging songs.

No Doubt’s reunion, with special guest Olivia Rodrigo



Saturday night’s lineup continued to wow with No Doubt’s reunion after their second hiatus that began in the mid-2010s. The band performed their classic hits, including “Don’t Speak,” “Spiderwebs,” and “Bathwater.” But before performing “Bathwater,” Gwen Stefani introduced the special guest that would joining them for the song- Olivia Rodrigo. Rodrigo has expressed in interviews how she’s a fan of the group and how much she adores the song. The younger singer later took to social media to share how special and full circle the moment felt.

Kpop groups ATEEZ and Le Sserafim taking the Sahara Stage by storm

Korean pop sensations ATEEZ and Le Sserafim took the stage respectively during Friday and Saturday night at the Sahara Stage. The groups both captivated the audience through their powerhouse performance skills. Many attendees shared after their stages that they had been unfamiliar with the groups but were now extremely interested in what else they had to offer.

Texas can’t hold her- Beyonce’s “Cowboy Carter” is the future of country

By Aleesa Booker
Staff Reporter



For most people, Beyoncé is more than just an artist. She is a symbol of achievement, versatility and of course, Texas. Beyoncé’s “Cowboy Carter” album presents a unique fusion of country and R&B genres. Beyoncé lassoed country music and here’s how she did it.

Beyoncé, as long as I have been alive, has always pushed the boundaries of what was expected of her. At the CMAs she performed with The Chicks (formerly the Dixie Chicks). She performed a world tour that took the world by storm and pulled off one of the most memorable Super Bowl performances. With her “Cowboy Carter” album, she shows she’s the new sheriff

in town. She blends country music with R&B and pop arrangements. Listening to the album was a roller-coaster of emotions. She showcased love, empowerment and even hardship. Tracks like “Southern Charm” and “Rodeo Romance” talk about her growing up and her version of the South, while songs like “Saddle Up” and “Jolene” celebrate freedom and self-discovery. My personal favorite is “Bodyguard.” It’s a perfect balance of every genre Beyoncé has captivated over the years and feels just like summer. A lot of this article is derived from what I gathered through listening to the album. The first song off the album immediately felt like sitting on your grandma’s back porch drinking sweet tea. Twangy guitars, fiddles and harmonicas mixed with R&B filled the tracks with Beyoncé’s signature “sweet



dreams kiss.” But she also wakes us up. Songs like “Y’all Ain’t Ready” and “Honky-Tonk Heartache” are not slow jams and are songs you get ready to go out for a night with. Beyoncé took the album as a way to show those who believed she couldn’t

“be in country” that she could be. This album marks the beginning of, hopefully, a long line of black success in country music. By embracing her southern roots she gives new meaning to country music.

Healthcare worker shortage

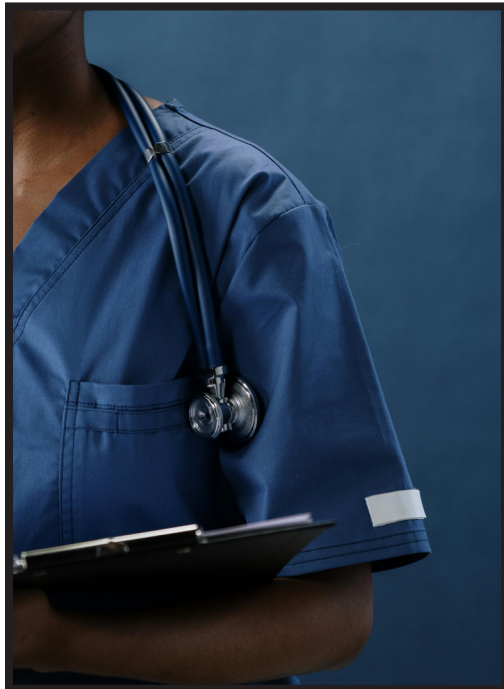
By Johnvonda Jackson
Staff Reporter



Despite the struggles confronting American healthcare company operations, the biggest and most significant is the catastrophic shortage of qualified employees. Based on information obtained from the American Hospital Association. (AHA), it is estimated that there could be a deficit of approximately 3.2 million medical professionals by 2026, according to estimates. That problem is worsened by the escalating exit and mobility of nursing students in the first

and second years of practice. Anticipating an increased percentage of doctors and nurses leaving their jobs in the forthcoming years, these personnel weaknesses will only grow without business entities acting. Most colleges give students interested in healthcare a free education because of the shortage. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many healthcare workers resigned from their jobs due to the scare. Although many were offered an excellent compensation package, they were not willing to stay. The accumulation of remaining duties contributes to the scarcity, as a couple of healthcare workers have decided to walk away from their careers due to strain and

anxiety. This occurrence was accentuated and enhanced in the last few years due to the COVID pandemic. Healthcare organizations find that they are in an interesting dilemma. The products they provide have been experiencing a significant surge in popularity, primarily due to customers’ desire to circumvent facility-based treatment, particularly post-acute treatment. However, those organizations also need more skilled personnel.



Does Gen-Z have an identity crisis?

By Alyssa Jackson
Staff Reporter



Trends have cycled through fashion for centuries. However, within the past few years, what is considered “trendy” has changed more rapidly than ever before. This is largely due to the accessibility to different subcultures and communities that social media grants the public. Users on platforms like Instagram and TikTok talk about a new “must-have” item nearly every week. With the ability to see content from so many different fashion circles at once, it’s not far-fetched to believe that people

are being influenced to buy hundreds of products daily.

These fast-paced trends have been dubbed “micro-trends.” The short-lived fads are mostly seen and followed by Gen-Z and younger generations. It’s not surprising that those who are just recently coming into their personhood are susceptible to these trends. Micro-trends tend to be treated as lifestyles, not just clothing or accessories. Nowadays, people aren’t just wearing their hair slicked back, gold hoops and minimal makeup, they are “clean girls.” People don’t just wear pastels and ribbons in their hair, they’re “coquette.” These subgroups give younger people a sense of belonging and identity, something that we spend most of our lives seeking.

Many people have also expressed their distaste for micro-trends, often finding them disingenuous and unsustainable. When asked about her opinions on the current state of trend cycles, student Abigail Lawrence conveyed less than positive feelings.

“I just feel like it makes others feel like they have to get whatever is being promoted to them,” Lawrence said. “People aren’t just buying what they feel good in, or even just what they like.”

While micro-trends are responsible for giving some a sense of identity, they could also be a factor in the decline of individualism. Social media has the tendency to push whatever is being popularized in the many different sectors of the internet, which poses

the question, of are people are doing it out of interest or a need to assimilate?. This is not the only gripe people have had with these fads. Others also believe that these trends are pushing unhealthy consumerism and are negatively affecting the environment. Much of this concern comes from the rise of trendy pieces from a few years ago appearing in secondhand shops. Since these pieces are no longer considered desirable, they are not bought and end up filling landfills.

Even with the public having positive and negative views on the current state of trend cycles in fashion, it seems like there is little chance for it to slow down. We can now question if the cycle will continue as is, or potentially speed up.

Americans’ view on the United States’ unwavering support of Israel

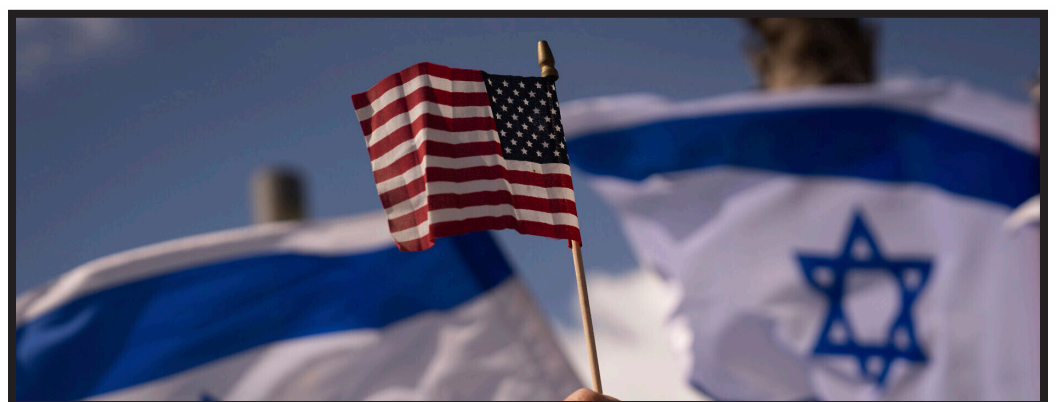
By Aleesa Booker
Staff Reporter



Over the last few months, the world has been torn in its support of Israel or the nation of Gaza. Amidst ongoing injustices and geopolitical crimes, the United States still finds its way to support its allies, Israel, at their own expense. As the United States consistently demonstrates its unwavering support for its key Middle Eastern ally, they’ve announced a significant increase in financial and military assistance to Israel. The last few months have seen a rise in horrific war crimes done unto both Gaza and Israel. US News predicts that over \$260 billion has been given to the

nation of Israel in the span of the U.S.’ support. Although the U.S. continuously supports Israel, there has been a rise in American disappointment.

In an opinion piece by The New York Times titled, “Military aid to Israel cannot be unconditional,” it lays out how the U.S. has given Israel over \$3.6 billion dollars in military and financial aid. This is more than it has given to any other country in the past. A large minority of Americans disagree with the support of Israel both economically and morally. However, the United States has continued to prove their support for their allies but, according to the minority, at the expense of their own citizens. Although this majority continues to become larger and speak out against the United States, a majority still believes in our military and



financial aid.

The marking of the conflict between Gaza and Israel erupted after the attack of Hamas. After this attack on Israel, America started pouring in. According to Pewresearch.org, 57 percent of Americans agree with the United States support. They even go as far as to say Israel attacks on Gaza are valid.

The conflict between Israel and Gaza has not only torn apart countries, but also its citizens. As the United States continues to help their allies, the divide over morality widens. Americans with fleeting opinions are a large majority that might one day be the end in the aid to our allies.

Single moms in college

By Johnvonda Jackson
Staff Reporter



Single Moms in college have a mission to complete not only for themselves but for their kid/kids. According to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, the number of single mothers in college more than doubled in

the 12 school years between 1999 and 2012. Nearly 2.1 million students—or 11 percent of all undergraduates—are raising children without a partner. Women of color in college are especially likely to be single parents. 30 percent of single student mothers attend for-profit institutions—triple the rate of women students without children.

In 2015, just 31 percent of single mothers ages 25 and older held a col-

lege degree, compared with 54 percent of comparable married mothers and 40 percent of women overall. Four in 10 women at two-year colleges say that they are likely or very likely to drop out of school due to their dependent care obligations. Speaking from experience being a single mom, working and going to school is a challenge. Most days you do want to give up but the end reward keeps you going.

Most moms go back to school be-

cause they want to create a better life and a flexible schedule for the mom-work life. If I could turn back time, I would do it better but I’m grateful for my kids. I’m so eager to make them proud and to set the bar for them. Nevertheless, no matter if you are a mom or single mom in college, a college graduate, staying at home or working a nine-to-five, you are a superhero.

Are there no more pop stars?

By Alyssa Jackson
Staff Reporter



Pop music was once dominated by household names such as Michael Jackson and Madonna. The public knew most, if not all, of the artists dominating the charts and winning awards. However, recently the pop landscape has shifted to a point where a song could be in the Billboard Top 10 but still unknown to an average

music listener. This is largely due to the change in how music is consumed.

Radio stations do not have the number of listeners that they once did, with streaming platforms becoming the common way to listen to music. Today people experience a more personalized listening experience, they do not rely on radio stations and popular consensus to get exposed to new songs. Like most things in our society today, social media also plays a large factor. With personalized algorithms on apps like TikTok, users are shown artists that are

similar to the ones they already follow on social media. In turn, because of these factors, new music artists who gain popularity could become a known name, but still not have their songs known by the masses.

The rise of social media and streaming platforms has democratized music production and distribution. Reaching a level of stardom that artists like Beyoncé and Taylor Swift have may not be in the future for many popular artists today, but that does not mean becoming a successful musician is not



a possibility. The era of the singular, universally recognized pop star may be fading, but accessibility to music artists is at an all-time high.

Graduation *(continued from Front Page)*

president, served as the mace-bearer for the first ceremony. Grenada Campus Phi Theta Kappa member and public safety student worker Thomas Lordeon carried the mace for the second one. Following the processional, a video produced by the Holmes Marketing Department was shown that highlighted the major events/campus life for the 2023-2024 school year.

Next, Ridgeland Campus Phi Theta Kappa member Graham Lambert gave the invocation during the first ceremony and Goodman Campus Phi Theta Kappa member, Baptist Student Union member and Ambassador Audrey Eldridge gave it during the second one. Vice President for Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington and Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Jenny Bailey Jones followed the invocation with a welcome and a few inspiring remarks.

“In the words of Mississippi’s own B.B. King, ‘The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you,’” Dr. Whittington said. “Graduates, during your time at Holmes, you have learned: how to put words into action, how to listen carefully and communicate clearly, how to understand and appreciate complexity and how to continue to make Mississippi a great place to live and work. These are the fruits of a college education and the skills for a lifetime, the building blocks of a productive, ethical and satisfying life.

Graduates, during your time at Holmes, you have learned how to put words into action, how to listen carefully and communicate clearly, how to understand and appreciate complexity and to continue to make Mississippi a great place to live and work,” Dr. Whittington said. “These are the fruits of a college education and the skills for a lifetime, the building blocks of a productive, ethical and satisfying life. Class of 2023, you are joining Dr. Jones and me as proud alumnae of this College and will become part of the lifelong Holmes family, a connection we hope brings you as much pride as it has for us in our lives.”

Dr. Jones shared a famous quote by John Wesley, as well.

“As you move on to the next part of your journey, remember to ‘Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can,’” Dr. Jones said. “Welcome to all, and congratulations graduates!”

After Dr. Whittington and Dr. Jones’ remarks, Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey stepped forward to present special awards/recognition. The awards given were the M.C. McDaniel Scholarship Award and the Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan Award. The M.C. McDaniel family established this scholarship to be presented to outstanding graduating sophomores who plan to further their education at an institution of higher learning.

Colin Crosby of Ridgeland was the M.C. McDaniel Scholarship recipient for the Ridgeland Campus; Baker Avant of Carrollton, for Grenada, and Demeria Moore of Goodman for the Goodman Campus. Crosby is a mechanical engineering major who was active on campus as a President’s List Scholar, Phi Theta Kappa vice president, an Ambassador, Rotaract member and calculus tutor. He wrapped Christmas presents for Mission First with Rotaract and served as an escort for the 2023 Homecoming Court, as well. Additionally, Crosby is employed as a part-time barista at Mocha Mugs Coffee Shop and serves as a mentor/leader for middle and high school students at Colonial Heights Baptist Church. Crosby plans to attend Mississippi State University where he will pursue a bachelor’s in mechanical engineering. He is also interested in pursuing a master’s in automotive engineering, as well.

Avant is an accounting major who was voted Mr. Holmes 2024 for the Grenada Campus and chosen as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team, as well. He also served as an Ambassador, vice president of scholarship for the Alpha Mu Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, vice president of Student Government Association and as a member of Baptist Student Union. Avant is a President’s

List Scholar, President’s ACT Scholarship recipient, 2023 Business Administration Award recipient and a 2023 Grenada Campus Favorite too. He serves as a youth director for Holcomb Baptist Church and has served as a 911 dispatcher for Carroll County E-911 since 2022. Avant is skilled in graphic design and photo/video editing, so he often assists family and friends with projects, as well. Avant plans on attending Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in accounting.

Moore is a computer science major who was part of Holmes Plus, a tutor (STEM Lab and Student Support Services MOSAIC), treasurer for SSS MOSAIC, a member of Baptist Student Union, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, an ACT Scholarship recipient, a Foundation Scholarship recipient (both years) and served as a counselor for the Global Teaching Project. She also received the English Composition Award, was a Musial Award Honoree, was named a Class Favorite both years and placed in the Creative Writing Contest both years. Moore plans on continuing her education at Mississippi State University, pursuing degrees in biological science as well as computer science.

For the Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan awards, Mary Kate Hamilton of Madison was the recipient for the Ridgeland Campus, Radleigh Woods of Winona, for Grenada, and Caitlin Settlemir of Kosciusko for Goodman.

Hamilton is a business management major who served as vice president for fundraising for Phi Theta Kappa and completed an internship with Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society Headquarters during her sophomore year. She helped raise funds for PTK by creating an online auction for faculty, staff, students and outside community members. She was also active with PTK’s Honors in Action and College Project Papers. Additionally, she is employed as a bookseller at Barnes & Noble and serves as a church nursery worker for Saint Richards Catholic Church. She has been named to the President’s List, as well. Hamilton plans on pursuing her bachelor’s in business ad-

ministration at The University of Southern Mississippi.

Woods is a pre-dental hygiene major. She was involved on campus as a Holmes Ambassador, member of the Student Government Association and the Baptist Student Union. Woods was also vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa, a President’s List Scholar and a Grenada Campus Class Favorite. Additionally, she is a member of First Baptist Winona, an aftercare worker for First Baptist Church Preschool, an assistant at Hoover Dental Office and a Mission Hope volunteer. Woods plans to attend The University of Mississippi Medical Center’s dental hygiene program this fall.

Settlemir is a secondary education major who served as a member of the Kappa Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. For the Kappa Alpha Chapter, she had the most volunteer hours, including induction ceremonies, fundraising, chapter meetings and community engagement activities. She was honored as the ” highest seller” for fundraising events for Operation Christmas Child, as well. Settlemir plans to attend Mississippi State University and major in secondary education – English.

After the special awards, Dr. Whittington addressed the graduates once last time.

“We are so proud of you!” Dr. Whittington said. “As you leave today, you are embarking upon a new chapter in your journey of life, and we sincerely hope you consider Holmes Community College a place to which you can return for support and encouragement. Our interest in you does not end today. As alumni, we ask that you stay in touch because you are important to us – our administration, faculty, and staff. You carry the legacy of Holmes with you wherever you go, so when you succeed, Holmes Community College succeeds.”

Dr. Whittington then explained the various honor cords, stoles, tassels and medals before the graduates made their way to the stage to receive their diplomas.

Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey concluded the ceremony by presenting the Class of 2024 to the audience.

SkillsUSA *(continued from Front Page)*

The SkillsUSA chapters from Holmes Community College’s Goodman and Ridgeland campuses successfully competed in the 2024 SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference held in March and April. The winners were recognized during a ceremony on April 4 at the Hilton Jackson. Overall, Holmes took home 14 awards: six gold medals, eight silver medals and one bronze. Holmes Goodman student Chris Coleman’s category, Collision Repair Technology, was held after the awards ceremony, but he brought home a silver medal.

Ridgeland Campus Heating, Cooling and Ventilation (HVAC) students

Brett Coffey, Nicholas Dunaway and Matthew Hodges all three earned gold medals: Coffey for Job Skills Demonstration Open, Dunaway for HVAC and Hodges for Job Skills Demonstration A. Leah Rainey, an Architectural Engineering Technology student representing the Goodman Campus, won two gold medals; one for her Pin Design and one for her Prepared Speech.

From the Ridgeland Campus, Electro-Mechanic Technology major Richard Ginn earned a gold medal in the Industrial Motor Control Competition. Two other Electro-Mechanic Tech majors – Juan Chacon and Irvin Ortega

– won silver medals as a team in the Mechatronics competition. Ridgeland Culinary Arts students also fared well; Quincy Boles won a silver medal in Culinary Arts, Kennedy Lacey, Sr., silver in Restaurant Service and William Griffin, silver in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Additionally, three other Goodman Campus students placed in the competition, as well. Automotive Technology major Payton Brady earned a silver medal in the Job Skills Demonstration A competition, Industrial Technology major Wil’Tavious Williams won a silver for Technical Drafting and Industrial Tech major Ben Lewis, Jr., won a

bronze for Job Interview.

The SkillsUSA advisors include Bill Fitts, Chef Alexei Harrison, Peter Hindman and Heather Mooney in Ridgeland, and Will Alexander, Casey Caldwell, Ben Lewis, Sr., Derrick Rainey and Jonathan Stokes in Goodman.

For more information about the SkillsUSA chapter in Ridgeland, contact Mooney at hmooney@holmescc.edu. For more information about the Goodman Chapter, contact Alexander at walexander@holmescc.edu.

Growl Awards *(continued from Front Page)*

Mississippi Public Broadcast Think Radio - had everyone laughing as he shared his passions as “The Gestalt Gardner” and encouraged students to think outside of the box and approach their art with a new perspective.

Following Rushing, Deb Wenger, the assistant dean for the University

of Mississippi School of Journalism and New Media, spoke about AI and its impact on journalism’s future. Her lecture inspired a conversation across the room between student journalists and advisors about the implications of this new tool and its effects on the field of journalism. After lunch, Author

and Mississippi Today correspondent Rick Cleveland delivered the keynote address, speaking on his years of experience in sports journalism.

The conference concluded with a few words from Mississippi Press Association Executive Director Layne Bruce and the presentation of awards for the

Better News/Media Contest -Student Division.

For more information about MPA, visit www.mpa.org.

For more information about Holmes Community College’s student publications, contact Busby at (601) 605-3376 or mbusby@holmescc.edu.

Holmes art students earn awards at State Student Art Competition

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Holmes art student winners (left to right) **Claire Hurst**, **Emerée Moncrief** and **Caroline Newman**. Not pictured: Allison Mott.

Four students from Holmes Community College’s Ridgeland Campus earned awards at the 2024 Mississippi Community College Art Instructors Association (MCCAIA)’s Student Art

Exhibition and Competition. Award winners included Hannah “Claire” Hurst of Jackson, Emerée Moncrief of Madison, Allison Mott of Madison and Caroline Newman of Jackson.

The students were recognized during an awards ceremony on Wednesday, March 27, at Southwest Mississippi Community College.

In the Painting Category, Moncrief won first place for “Hot Messenny” and second place for “Das Boot.” Hurst took home third for “Reflecting on Jack.”

In the Drawing Division, Mott took home an honorable mention for “Dear Maria Count Me Out,” and Newman won an honorable mention for “Still Life with Mocha Pot.”

Jurors for the competition included Wyatt Waters, a renowned watercolorist, and William Beckwith, a former sculptor instructor from the University of Mississippi. All 15 community colleges in the state participated in the competition.

“We have a very talented group this year that has worked incredibly hard,”

said art instructor Kris Wilson. “For some, this is their first year taking art classes at a collegiate level. I feel like I say this every year, but this is our strongest and most capable group of art students that our campus has had since our program’s inception. It’s truly astounding what these students are capable of even with our very limited studio time. I’m so excited to see what’s in store for them as they pursue their futures in the visual arts!

“I’m so proud of all of them; those who placed and those who did not,” Wilson said. “Our program wouldn’t be as amazing as it is without students like ours. We couldn’t do what we do without them, and I appreciate it every single day.”

For more information about Holmes’ art program, contact Wilson at krwilson@holmescc.edu.

Two Holmes Career-Tech students selected for Atmos Energy internships

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Glenn Partrick**, Atmos Energy's Vice President of Human Resources-Mississippi Division; welding instructor **Nathan Hutchinson**; Holmes Vice President for Career Technical Education **Dr. Amy Whittington**; welding student/Atmos intern **Conner Sakcriska**; HVAC student/Atmos intern **Tyler Pickett**, HVAC instructor **Peter Hindman**, **Jason Clark**, Economic Development Specialist at Atmos; **Stefan Lehnerer**, Operations Manager at Atmos and **Matt Davidson**, President of the Mississippi Division of Atmos.

Two Holmes Community College Career-Technical Education students - Tyler Pickett and Connor Sakcriska -

participated in a signing day to become Atmos Energy’s newest interns on March 5. The signing ceremony was held in the

McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus and was attended by representatives from both Atmos Energy and Holmes. The Atmos Energy internship began in March and will last for nine weeks. Thanks in part to funding from the Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA), students who intern with Atmos Energy will obtain practical experience and exposure to the company, expanding what they learn in the classroom with paid, hands-on work experience.

Tyler Pickett of West, son of Tomika Hardy and Albert Pickett, is in the HVAC program at Holmes. Outside of the classroom, he stays busy as a member off Hudson M.B. Church of West and working multiple jobs. He will complete his HVAC one-year certificate in May and continue as a student at Holmes to earn an associate degree in May of 2025.

Connor Sakcriska of Brandon, son of Lacey and Brian Sakcriska, is in the welding program at Holmes. He will graduate on May 9.

According to atmosenergy.com, Atmos Energy is a proud supporter of our com-

munity college system and stands behind the importance of CTE and workforce training programs available to Mississippi students. Students in these programs learn skills that are valued in today’s economy and that enhance their employability.

“This internship is part of our strategy to grow relationships with our community college partners across the state of Mississippi,” stated Glenn Partrick, Atmos Energy vice president of human resources – Mississippi division, on Atmos Energy’s website. “The goal is to establish internships with community colleges across our service territory that will grow our bench of talent for our field operations positions. We believe this is not only a great way to recruit new employees for our company, but the partnership also enriches the communities we serve.”

The Career-Technical Education programs at Holmes lead to an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree, Advanced Technical Certificate, Technical Certificate or a Career Certificate. Some of the Career Technical programs at Holmes also offer transferability to baccalaureate programs.

Holmes to offer new Heavy Civil Construction Program in Goodman

From Staff Reports/Photos



A new workforce training program in the construction industry is set to debut at Holmes Community College in July 2024. The Heavy Civil Construction Program is a 10-week, non-degree program that begins July 29 on Bulldog Ranch in Goodman.

The program was developed in close partnership with AccelerateMS, Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Mississippi, Mississippi Construction Education Foundation (MCEF), Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Mississippi Road Builders Association. Based on data collected through various means, including information from the Mississipp-

pi Department of Employment Security’s (MDES) occupational employment projections, Holmes determined that highway construction is a growing industry and workers are in high demand.

“Stakeholders in the Holmes district formed a unique collaborative, and through extensive research, designed this program to train and place civil and highway construction workers,” said Holmes Workforce Development Coordinator Melissa Love. “We could not be more excited to fulfill this need and bring this program to fruition; not just for the betterment of our college and district areas, but for our state.”

Participants in the Heavy Civil Construction Program will complete approximately 300 clock hours, and after successful completion of the training each trainee will obtain the following certifications: Class B license, ATSSA Flagger, OSHA-10, OSHA-30, OSHA Fall Protection, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation/ Automated External Defibrillator and Dig Safe Certification. Students will learn a variety of construction-related skills, with job-preparedness as the main goal. All program applicants are required to pass a drug test, pass a Department of Transportation physical, have a high school diploma or GED certificate and be at least 18 years of age.

The course will utilize both simulators and heavy equipment to teach students how to operate heavy equipment. Participants will receive instruction on how to use a variety of tools, equipment and skills to perform tasks such as paving, excavating, bridge building, grading, concrete, striping, sign installation and more. They will come out of the program knowledgeable about construction equipment, construction/work-zone safety, different types of soils, site work, rigging practices, excavation math, interpreting civil drawings, basic principles of cranes, project management and money management, as well.

“We look forward to helping the partici-

pants in this program prepare for a rewarding career in highway construction,” Love said. “Research has shown that highway construction workers can earn competitive pay, advance in their career as they gain experience and tend to have high job satisfaction as they are able to see the results of their labor.”

On-site orientation for the new program is tentatively set for July 25.

“As Executive Director of the Department of Transportation, I commend Holmes Community College for having the vision to launch a civil construction program that reflects an investment into not only the transportation field, but the state of Mississippi,” said MDOT Executive Director Brad White. “I look forward to seeing this program enrich education, elevate our infrastructure, and foster innovation that will ultimately improve our communities for future generations.”

For more information on Holmes’ new Heavy Civil Construction program and/or to fill out an interest form, please visit <https://holmescc.edu/workforce/heavy-civil-construction-program/>. For further questions, contact Melissa Love at mlove@holmescc.edu or call 601-605-3387.

Ridgeland STEM Department presents ‘STEMMY’ awards

From Staff Reports/Photos

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 STEMMY recipients included Hunter Appleton, Austin Armstrong, Salayah Barnes, Kent Barrett, Abigail Barry, Janette Bartolo, Paige Blackburn, James Bounds, Anna Box, Laura E. Box, Alexis Brister, Brandon Brown, William “Cooper” Canard, Colin Crosby, Ashley Crump, Kylar Desnford, Tori Dew, Ana Estrada, Cameron Gatlin, Morgan George, Willie George, Jessica Gibbons, Keagan Hamilton, Jordyn Hanible,

Erin Hawkins, Gerardo Hernandez, Nathan Hester, Madison Hill, Anna Beth Houston, Hunter Huff, Hannah Kelty, Stevie Kerns, Asaji Lee, Danielle Lewis, Easton McAdory, Justin Phillip Money, Maha Musa, Thomas Patterson, Patrick Pfister, Reagan Read, Brandon Reyes, James Sanders, Addison Sawyer, Seba Senjab, Brandon Smith, Nathan W. Smith, Patrick Vallean, Ashley Vaughn, Zoe Watkins and Laura Writing.



Austin Armstrong



Janette Bartolo



Paige Blackburn



Laura E. Box



Alexis Brister



Brandon Brown



Colin Crosby



Cooper Canard



Tori Dew



Morgan George



Jessica Gibbons



Keagan Hamilton



Jordyn Hanible



Erin Hawkins



Nathan Hester



Hunter Huff



Asaji Lee



Easton McAdory



Justin Phillips Money



James Sanders



Nathan Smith



Patrick Vallean



Ashley Vaughn



Lauren Wright

Grenada STEM Division presents ‘STEMMY’ awards

From Staff Reports/Photos

The faculty in the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) on the Holmes Community College Grenada 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.

The STEMMY recipients included Kristian Faith Avery, Ashley Carpenter, Joshua Collins, William Galey, Tyla

Hyde, Sarah Kidd, Madeline Mattox, Briella Simmons, Brandon Williams and Radleigh Woods.



Kristian Faith Avery



William Galey



Tyla Hyde



Madeline Mattox



Radleigh Woods

Holmes students achieve perfect pass rate on CAD Certification

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (front row, left to right) Engineering Technology instructor **Heather Mooney**, **Baylor Little**, **Princess Anderson**, **Nisaiah Bass**, **Marissa Harris**, (back row, left to right) **Braden Hughes**, **James Walley** and **Ricky Tebo**.

Holmes Community College Engineering Technology students on the Ridgeland Campus achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the first attempt of the Certificate in Computer Aided Design (CAD) certification examination. Those students included Princess Anderson, Nisaiah Bass, Marissa Harris, Braden Hughes, Baylor Little, Ricky Tebo and James Walley.

“To say I’m proud of these students is an understatement,” said Engineering Technology instructor Heather Mooney. “They have worked so hard and I am so excited to see the wonderful things these students will accomplish in their careers.”

CAD certification enables students to find employment across a variety of industries. Engineering and architectural drawings may be utilized to build buildings and engineer equipment. This certification will

also give students increased credibility and expedited professional development.

The Engineering Technology Department at Holmes offers six areas of concentration. Those include Architectural Engineering Technology, Construction Technology, Drafting & Design, Industrial Engineering Management Technology, Industrial Technology and Interior Design Technology. Each area leads to an Associate of Applied Science Degree (AAS), and some also offer a Technical Certificate and/or an Advanced Technical Certificate.

For more information about the Engineering Technology programs at Holmes, contact Mooney at hmooney@holmescc.edu.

Holmes student Demeria Moore places in state creative writing contest

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (left) fiction writer **Exodus Brownlow** presenting the third place award to **Demeria Moore**.

Holmes Community College student Demeria Moore of Goodman won third place in the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association (MCCCWA) state competition for her short story, “Grandma’s Strength.” The contest was held in conjunction with the 2024 MCCCWA conference held at the Hinds Community College campus in Pearl on April 12.

Four students from the Holmes Goodman Campus attended the conference: Moore, Jordan Barnes, Garian Edwards and Jar’Kevis March. Each of these students either took the Creative Writing class or participated in the Goodman Campus Creative Writing Contest.

Exodus Brownlow, an author known for

her works of fiction, presented Moore’s award to her during the conference. Professional writers judge the contest and present the awards in their genre during the awards portion. Other judges and speakers included Anna Wolfe, T.K. Lee, Greg Sellers, Mary Heath and Ellen Ann Fentress. In addition to MCCCWA’s prizes, William Carey University offered \$18,000 in scholarships to winners in the Drama Category. Hinds Instructor Frederick Melancon served as this year’s association president and host of the conference.

The three main campuses of Holmes each sponsor a yearly writing contest, and all first and second place winners in short story, poetry, drama, creative non-fiction and literary essay go on to compete in

the statewide contest sponsored by the MCCCWA. The MCCCWA has promoted writing skills among Mississippi Community College students since 1978. It is generously sponsored by the Mississippi Community College Board and the Community College Presidents and run by the combined efforts of the colleges’ English instructors.

For more information about Holmes’ Creative Writing Contests, contact W. Chad Mooror at wmoorer@holmescc.edu.

For more information about MCCCWA, visit www.mcccwa.com.

Britney Jones named Grenada Campus financial aid advisor and business office representative

From Staff Reports/Photos



Britney Jones has been named the Grenada Campus financial aid advisor and business office representative.

Jones holds an Associate of Arts in elementary education from Holmes Community College and is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Science in education from Mississippi State Uni-

versity.

Jones first came to Holmes as a student on the Grenada Campus, where she served as a work- study for financial aid and the business office. Her knowledge of these two departments will allow her to serve the students of the Grenada campus well.

Jones is a native of Carroll County and a graduate of Carroll Academy. In her spare time, she enjoys reading.

Dr. Bronwyn Martin named vice president of Ridgeland Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Director of Marketing and Recruiting Dr. Bronwyn Martin has been named Holmes Community College’s new vice president of the Ridgeland Campus. She will move into the role effective July 1 upon the retirement of current Vice President Dr. Don Burnham.

A native of Pickens, Dr. Martin grew up just a few miles from the Holmes Goodman Campus, and was raised to love the college by a father (the late Dr. John Rhett Presley, Sr.) who played football for the Holmes Bulldogs. Though she spent her childhood in Holmes County, she has been a Madison County resident for over 17

years and is deeply connected to the community. Dr. Martin’s extensive involvement in her community as well as her strong ties to the college as a whole are just a few of the attributes that will serve her well as she takes over the position of Ridgeland Campus vice president. Her leadership skills and commitment to the college have been recognized over the years; just this spring she was named The Paul and McCrea Shelton Award recipient to honor her hard work and dedication to Holmes.

In addition, last year Dr. Martin was selected as a Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished College Administrator, which recognizes college leaders for their outstanding support of student success. She was honored on stage during Phi Theta Kappa’s Annual Catalyst Convention in Columbus Ohio.

“There is ‘No Place Like Holmes,’ and I am thrilled to be advancing with our Holmes Family,” Dr. Martin said. “When you love what you do and the people who surround you, it is easy to passionately serve your college. Winston Churchill said it best, ‘If you find a job you love, you’ll never work again...’ I consider it a blessing and an honor to be a Holmes employee and look forward to a bright future on the Ridgeland Campus.”

Dr. Martin holds a Doctor of Education in Professional Studies from Delta

State University (2022), as well as a master’s and bachelor’s degree from the University of Mississippi. She was part of the Leadership Madison County Class of 2023, and the capstone project was about aiding in financial literacy for underrepresented Mississippi citizens. She was also part of the Community College Policy Fellows Program (CPFP) 2021-22 cohort, which is a one-year leadership development program focusing on public policy and advocacy for Mississippi community colleges. Her capstone project was advocating for broadband internet in rural Mississippi. Additionally, she graduated from Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA) in 2016.

She began her career in higher education as a career planning specialist/instructor with The University Mississippi Career Center. In 2006, she joined the Holmes family as an ABE/GED instructor before transitioning into the role of workforce development coordinator where she served Madison County employers for seven years. Since 2014, she has served in her current role as Holmes’ director of marketing and recruiting.

Dr. Martin and her husband, Brandon, have two children: Presley (16) and Hudson (12). When she is not working or at one of her children’s sporting events, she is often found

working in her yard or training at OrangeTheory Fitness. The Martins are active members of Madison Methodist Church, and Dr. Martin has also been involved in numerous professional and civic organizations, including the American Advertising Federation, American Society of Training and Development, Capital Area Human Resource Association, Junior League of Jackson and Mississippi Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers, to name a few.

No matter where she goes, Dr. Martin is always promoting Holmes through her positive remarks about the college. She never misses a chance to share the life-changing opportunities available at Holmes with potential students she meets.

“First, I would like to welcome Dr. Martin as the new Ridgeland Campus Vice President for Holmes,” Dr. Burnham said. “She has proven her leadership abilities while serving as the marketing and recruiting director for the college. Additionally, she cares deeply about the college, the success of our students and the well-being of the Ridgeland employees. I’d like to say, congratulation Dr. Martin! I look forward to seeing and hearing about the amazing things she and the Ridgeland Campus will be accomplishing in the future.”

Morgan Bondurant named director of marketing & recruiting at Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes multimedia specialist Morgan Bondurant has been named Holmes Community College’s new director of marketing. He will move into the role effective July 1.

Bondurant, who has been a part of the Holmes family 2019, is also the owner and operator of Jackson Web Works, a web and graphic design company. He opened Jackson Web Works in 2015 after working as a web developer for Hightower Advertising Agency for nearly five years. Bondurant also worked as an administrative systems programmer for East Mississippi Community College prior to Hightower, where he designed, trained and implemented web applications for the college.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in

interdisciplinary studies from Mississippi State University and is currently researching online graduate programs. Bondurant is also a member of the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi (CPRAM) and he won five awards during the CPRAM Awards Program in 2023, including first place in the TV Spot Category. In his free time, he enjoys playing bass for a local group in the Jackson metro area and pursuing his interests in astro-imaging/photography.

Bondurant and his wife, Lauren, have two sons: Sidney Morgan Bondurant and Samuel Taylor Bondurant. He can often be found volunteering as an assistant coach for his children’s sports (basketball, baseball, soccer and football).

“Morgan has been an invaluable team member since the inception of Marketing and Recruiting,” said current Director of Marketing Dr. Bronwyn Martin. “From providing backend support for our website to officially joining our Holmes family a few years ago, Morgan has been involved in the growth and development of our department from the beginning. As he assumes his new set of responsibilities, I am eager to watch Morgan continue to refine the college’s marketing and recruiting initiatives. He is innovative, creative and brings a new and enhanced skill set to the table as director. Great things are in store for Marketing and Recruiting at Holmes Community College under his leadership.”

Allison DeWeese named Holmes new director of Health Science Programs

From Staff Reports/Photos



Career Technical Education (CTE) Coordinator Allison DeWeese has been named Holmes Community College’s director of Health Science Programs. She will be stepping into the role effective June 1 upon the retirement of the current Director of Health Science Ginger Meriwether. DeWeese will continue to work from the Holmes Ridgeland Campus.

“Ginger Meriwether has done a phenomenal job in laying the foundation for what this Director of Health Sciences role should be,” Vice President for Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington said. “As Ginger transitions into retirement, we are very excited about Allison DeWeese following her as only the second Director of Health Sciences. Allison will bring a depth of knowledge from multiple fac-

ets of the college and education system with her to this role.”

DeWeese holds a Master of Science in counselor education and student development from Mississippi State University, a Bachelor of Science in educational psychology from MSU and an Associate of Arts in education from Hinds Community College.

DeWeese first came to Holmes in 2007 as an academic counselor; a position she held until transitioning into the role of CTE counselor in 2013. During this time, she also began teaching Orientation and Career Exploration online for the college. In 2021, she was promoted to her current role as coordinator for CTE

In addition to her dedication to the college, DeWeese has always been an active member of the community, as

well. She became a Ridgeland Chamber Diplomat in 2015 and was named Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce Diplomat of the Year in 2016 and 2023. From 2016-2018, she served as Diplomat Co-Captain for the Chamber. She is also a Grayhawk Home Owners Association (HOA) Board Member and the Holmes Foundation Golf Tournament Chairperson.

DeWeese and her husband, Bryan, have one son, Thomas, who is a senior at Germantown High School. They are members of Madison Methodist Church. In her free time, DeWeese enjoys watching Thomas play baseball, traveling and attending MSU sporting events.

“I have a lot of learn but I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve the college as the Director of Health Sciences,” DeWeese said.

Ashley Broyles named Holmes’ Director of Financial Aid

From Staff Reports/Photos



Ashley Broyles has been named Holmes Community College’s new director of financial aid. Broyles has been employed with the college for over 12 years, working as a financial aid advisor, assistant to the director and then assistant director before her recent promotion. Prior to Holmes, Broyles worked for BankFirst Financial Services as a commercial loan assistant and a mortgage lender, and for Merchants & Farmers Bank as a commercial loan assistant and real estate loan reviewer. A Holmes alumna, she earned an Associate of Arts from the college in 2020 before earning a bachelor’s degree from Mississippi State University in

2023. Broyles and her husband Chris, who is a USPS Postmaster in Benton, have two children. Bryce (23) graduated from Holmes with an A.A.S. in Industrial Engineering Technology and Architectural Engineering Technology. He is now working at McMasters & Associates in Madison. Kaitlyn (19) is currently attending Holmes and majoring in Architectural Engineering Technology. The Broyles attend Main Street Baptist Church, Goodman. In her free time, Broyles enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends. “I love working at Holmes Community College,” Broyles said. “I have

enjoyed the past 12 years and have made this my home. The assistance we give to students in the financial aid office makes the long days worthwhile. I enjoy helping with Freshman Fridays, Homecoming and graduation ceremonies. I think my favorite day of the year is graduation. I love getting to see the students we have assisted get to walk across the stage and receive their diplomas. It may not seem like much, but seeing the smiles on the students’ faces when they graduate means the world to me.”

Erin Jenkins named Financial Aid Specialist

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes alumna Erin Jenkins has been named Holmes Community College’s new financial aid specialist. She is being promoted from her current position as a student loan coordinator for the college. Jenkins attended Holmes from 2016-2018, earning her Associate of Arts degree in 2018. After Holmes, she transferred to Mississippi State University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary studies with an emphasis on business and communications in 2022. Jenkins is

currently working on master’s degree in business management at Western Governors University. In her career so far, Jenkins has served as a financial aid advisor, a Veteran’s Affairs School certifying official, a work-study coordinator and a student loan advisor. In her free time, Jenkins enjoys going to dinner with friends, cooking, spending time with family, going to the golf course with her boyfriend Bennett, experiencing new places and serving the Little Lakers at Pinelake Church Madison Campus.

“I started working at Holmes as a work-study in the business office,” Jenkins said. “I think I knew then that this was where I belong. When I began working in financial aid, it was like we did not skip a beat. I instantly felt the impact this school and all the people here would have on my life. I feel extremely blessed to have the opportunity to grow in my role at Holmes and to be a part of the students’ path to success.”

Justin Craft promoted to Director of Bands

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College recently promoted Justin Craft to the position of Director of Bands at Holmes for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year. Craft’s journey within the institution has been marked by dedication, talent, and a deep commitment to musical education. Craft’s career at Holmes began in the fall of 2022 when he joined the Fine Arts Department as the Assistant Director of Bands on the Goodman Campus. During his time there, Craft has showcased exceptional leadership skills, a profound understanding of music education, and a passion for nurturing young talents. Prior to his time at Holmes, Craft enriched his expertise through four

years of service within the Rankin County School District. His academic credentials include a Master’s in Music Education from The University of Southern Mississippi and a Bachelor’s in Music Education from Mississippi College, reflecting his unwavering dedication to honing his craft and staying at the forefront of music pedagogy. Craft’s personal life is equally inspiring, with a supportive family comprising his wife Allison, who serves as the Assistant Band Director at Germantown HS, and their daughter Lillian. Together, they have created a harmonious balance between professional excellence and personal fulfillment, further enhancing Craft’s ability to connect with his students and

colleagues alike. As Craft steps into his new role, he brings with him not only a wealth of experience but also a vision brimming with excitement and great expectations for the Holmes Community College Band Program. His promotion underscores the college’s commitment to fostering a vibrant arts community and providing unparalleled opportunities for students to excel in their musical endeavors. The Holmes Fine Arts Department eagerly anticipates the continued growth and success of the Holmes Band Program under his leadership.

2024-25 Dazzlers Announced

LET’S WELCOME THE 2024-2025

DAZZLERS

DANCE TEAM

MOLLY GERMANY
MADELYN HOLEMAN
KARLIE MITCHELL
JAYDEN NEAL

NAOMI NEELY
PEYTON PERRY
MAGGIE STEED
KAYLIEGH TARTER

The Holmes Community College Dazzler Dance Team held try-outs in April to get ready for the 2024-2025 season. The new Dazzlers include: Molly Germany, Madelyn Holeman, Karlie Mitchell, Jayden Neal, Naomi Neely, Peyton Perry, Maggie Steed and Kayleigh Tarter. The Holmes Dazzler Dance Team is a performance squad that promotes college involvement, support and showmanship. The squad members act as ambassadors of goodwill and

entertainment at various college and community functions including but not limited to home football and select basketball games. Dazzlers will be part of the Holmes CC Bands. For more information about the Dazzlers, contact Wnedy Grace at temiller@holmescc.edu or Justin Craft at jucraft@holmescc.edu.

Holmes honors 14 retirees

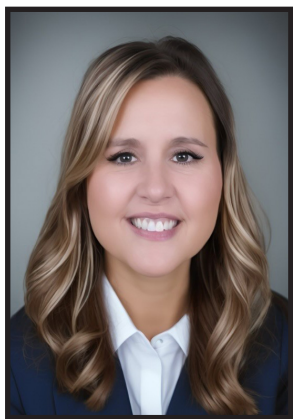
From Staff Reports/Photos



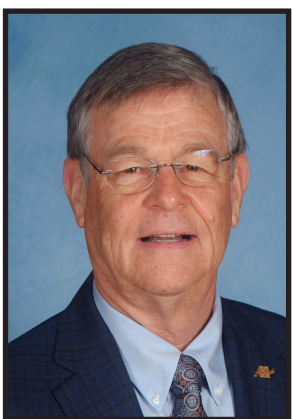
Linda Alexander-Jones



Rachel Bickerstaff



Dr. Michelle Burney



Dr. Don Burnham



Dr. Lisa Davis



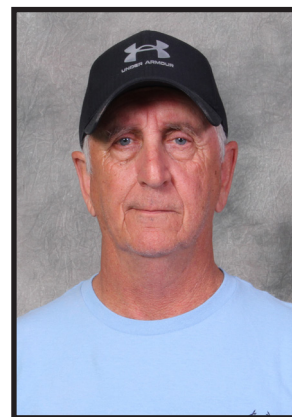
Audra Love Dean



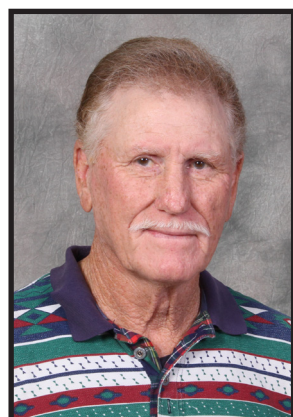
Trae Embry



David Hill



Randy Hutchison



Joe McDaniel



Ginger Meriwether



Nancy Parkerson



Willie Roby



Alice Watson

Holmes Community College honored 14 employees who retired or are set to retire during the 2023-24 school year with receptions across the district this spring. Honorees recognized were: Linda Alexander-Jones, Rachel Bickerstaff, Dr. Michelle Burney, Dr. Don Burnham, Lisa Davis, Audra Love Dean, Trae Embry, David Hill, Randy Hutchison, Joe McDaniel, Ginger Meriwether, Nancy Parkerson, Willie Roby and Alice Watson.

Linda Alexander-Jones

Alexander-Jones is retiring from Holmes after 32 years. She began her career at Holmes as a student activities director in 1992; a position she held until 1997. From 1997-2008, she served as a transfer facilitator and worked in Student Support Services. In 2008, she was promoted to director of Student Support Services, the role she is in today. She also serves as an advisor for MOSAIC club.

Prior to Holmes, Alexander-Jones served as a history instructor at Mississippi College and Clarke College. She is a member of the Mississippi Association of Educational Opportunity Programs and the Mississippi Counseling Association. She also serves as a teacher/prayer partner for her Sunday school class at Oakdale Baptist Church in Brandon. In her free time, Alexander-Jones enjoys going to flea markets, refinishing furniture and collecting owls and vintage jewelry.

Upon retirement, she plans to spend time with her daughter, Amber Alexander Solano, and her granddaughter, Nora Solano (7), who live in Franklin, Tennessee. She also plans to get more involved in her church and volunteer at area nursing homes.

Rachel Bickerstaff

Bickerstaff is retiring from Holmes after 23 years of service as an educational programs instructor/advisor on the Ridgeland Campus.

She holds a Master of Science from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Alabama. Bickerstaff began her teaching career in marketing management technology and fashion marketing technology, teaching in those areas from 1994 to 2000. During that time, she created a New York study tour for the fashion and marketing students.

Bickerstaff served as president and vice president of the Mississippi Delta

Epsilon Chi, received Teacher of the Year and Advisor of the Year in 1999-2000 and is an honorary lifetime member of Mississippi Delta Epsilon Chi. She was also an honoree of Lamp-lighter in 1997 and a recipient of the NISOD award in Austin, Texas. Before returning to Holmes, she taught as an adjunct instructor teaching customer service training, interview and resume training, and entrepreneurship.

Bickerstaff is married to Elliott and took time off to be home with their son, Matthew. She returned as a full-time instructor in the Education Department and taught for 18 years upon returning. Bickerstaff is a member of the Mississippi Association of Developmental Educators, and has served as a political liaison, silent auction chairman and scholarship chairman. Additionally, she is a member of the Mississippi Faculty Staff Association of Community Colleges, and was president of the Holmes Faculty Association. She is an active member of Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church where she enjoys singing in the choir, as well.

Her plans for retirement will be to travel and enjoy more time with family and friends.

“Holmes has been like a family,” Bickerstaff said. “It has been my honor and privilege to inspire students to their full potential and to have a career at Holmes Community College.”

Dr. Michelle Burney

Dr. Burney is retiring from Holmes after 20 years of service, with her most recent role as vice president of the Grenada Campus. Over the years, she has also served as an academic counselor, a psychology instructor, Ambassador sponsor and Student Government Association sponsor. Dr. Burney holds an Ed.D from The University of Mississippi, a M.Ed. from Mississippi College and a B.A. from Millsaps College. Prior to Holmes, she was employed as an outreach coordinator for North Mississippi with St. Dominic Hospital Behavioral Health, as the director of Charter Counseling Center and as a middle school teacher in Jackson Public Schools and the Grenada School District.

Dr. Burney and her husband, Barry Burney, have been married for 28 years. He is a procurement forester for TL Reid Timber Co. They have one daughter, Demi (17), who is a junior at Grenada High School. In her free time, Dr. Burney enjoys watching her daughter cheer and play soccer, attend-

ing Ole Miss football games, walking and catching up with old friends. She is a member of Grenada Rotary Club and Emmanuel Baptist Church, as well.

“Upon retirement, I would love to work part-time as a counselor,” Dr. Burney said. “I miss helping students figure out what they want to do with their life. But my ultimate goal is to live long enough to be a grandparent. I can’t imagine anything else more fun and fulfilling than grandkids.”

Dr. Don Burnham

Dr. Burnham is retiring from Holmes after 21 years of service, with his most recent role as vice president of the Holmes Ridgeland Campus. He started as an economics and business law instructor, and moved his way up from there. Along the way, Dr. Burnham served as evening program director for the Grenada Campus, director of recruiting and as director of admissions and records.

He holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education as well as an MBA (in management) from The University of Mississippi, and two bachelor’s degrees from Mississippi State University: one in wood science and technology, the other in business management. Prior to Holmes, Dr. Burnham worked in quality control and production management with Georgia Pacific Corporation in Oxford. He is active in the community as a member of Gideons International, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison Ridgeland Rotary Club, Madison County Business League and Foundation Education and Workforce Committee, Madison County Business League and Foundation Youth Leadership Committee and the Board of Directors for University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) Center for Integrative Health.

Dr. Burnham and his wife, Carol, have six children between them along with 15 grandchildren. In his free time, he enjoys gardening, reading, traveling and attending sporting events. Upon retirement, he and Carol plan to establish a home in Starkville, spend time with their grandchildren and travel – both in and out of the country. He would also like to garden and get more involved in his church, the Gideons International and to be active in local government.

Dr. Lisa Davis

Dr. Lisa Davis, an Associate De-

gree Nursing (ADN) instructor on the Grenada Campus, is retiring from Holmes after 12 years of service. A Holmes alumna, Davis earned an ADN from the college in 1997, a BSN from Mississippi University of Women in 2011, an MSN William Carey University in 2013 and a doctoral degree from William Carey in 2019.

Prior to joining the Holmes faculty in 2013, Davis was employed by Grenada Lake Medical Center (now University of Mississippi Medical Center Grenada) from 1997-2013.

Davis has been married to Ralph for 36 years and they have two children: Mitch (33) and Emily (30). They also have a 3-year-old grandson named Jack. In her free time, Davis enjoys walking, playing tennis and cooking. In retirement, she plans to travel and garden.

Audra Love Dean

Dean is retiring from Holmes after 16 years with the college (1990-2004 and 2022-2024) and 34 years total in higher education. She is currently an instructor of accounting, economics and business administration online and on the Goodman Campus. In the past, Dean has served as Director of Distance Learning, Chair of the Business Administration Department, an instructor, cheerleading coach and women’s tennis coach.

She holds a Bachelor and Master of Accountancy from the University of Mississippi. Dean has also completed additional graduate studies in economics and higher education administration at Mississippi State University and Delta State University. Prior to returning to Holmes, she served as president of Antonelli College Online and worked for the Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB). At MCCB, she held the positions of Assistant Executive Director for eLearning & Instructional Technology, and Assistant Executive Director for Academic & Student Affairs.

Dean has three children; Sidney Kimble (currently serves as the Director of Intramural Activities & the Fitness Center on the Goodman Campus), Clark Dean and Meredith Dean. All three of her children graduated from Holmes. In her free time, Dean enjoys home decorating, entertaining, crafting, painting and gardening. She is a member of First Baptist Church of

Retirees, continued on Page 12

Retirees (Continued from Page 11)

Kosciusko, 21st Century Club and Fun & Flowers Garden Club. Additionally, she serves on the boards of the Attala Historical Society and the Commission for Proprietary Schools and College Registration.

Dean’s plans for retirement are to travel; work in her yard; entertain; take classes at Holmes, such as painting and New and Old Testament Survey, and operate a flea market booth selling antiques and home décor.

“I have had an incredible 34-year journey in higher education, and I am extremely proud that the beginning and end of my professional career have been at Holmes Community College,” Dean said. “I am filled with gratitude for the many years of learning, growth and camaraderie that I’ve experienced. The memories I’ve made and the relationships I’ve formed will never be forgotten. While I bid farewell to this chapter of my life, I look forward to the new adventures that retirement will bring. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of my journey.”

Trae Embry

Coach Embry is retiring from Holmes after four years of service on the Goodman Campus as head softball coach. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Mississippi State University, and prior to Holmes, served as head softball coach at Eupora High School and head softball coach at Neshoba Central. Coach Embry and his wife, Tera, have two children: Hayden and Mary Claire. His son, Hayden, is the assistant coach for Holmes. In his spare time, Coach Embry enjoys going to Ole Miss football games and spending time with his family. He is a member of First Baptist Church of Mathiston the Mississippi Association of Coaches and National Fastpitch Coaches Association: (NFCA).

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Holmes Community College and as they say, ‘There’s No Place Like Holmes.’”

David Hill

Hill is retiring from Holmes after 15 years of service on the Grenada Campus. He served as a welding instructor for the first four years and an HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) instructor for the last 11. Hill has also owned a heating and cooling business, Hill’s Heating and Air, LLC, in Bruce for the past 18 years. Additionally, he serves as chief of Banner

Fire Department.

Prior to employment with Holmes, Hill was a truck driver for 21 years. He has been married to his wife, Donna, for 38 years, and they have two children. Their daughter, Stephanie Hill Bailey, is married to Andy, and their son, Nathan Hill, is married to Jessi. Hill has three grandchildren: Vallie, Piper and Porter.

In his free time, Hill enjoys hunting, fishing and camping. Upon retirement, he plans to relax, enjoy his grandchildren and run his business.

“I have enjoyed working here at Holmes Community College,” Hill said. “When I came here, I was the young guy but now I’m the old guy. I have made many dear friends and will miss being here. I have enjoyed all the students I’ve taught over the years and still have contact with many of them. But I really look forward to retirement and spending time with family. Holmes has been good to me and my family, a great place to work. Thanks for the opportunity that I have had to work here.”

Randy Hutchison

Hutchison is retiring from the Goodman Campus of Holmes after 18 years with the college. He first worked in construction at Holmes before moving into the maintenance department (though he still worked on some construction projects). Hutchison has two children: Brad Hutchison and Robyn Hutchison. In his spare time he enjoys fishing, hunting and camping, and plans to enjoy more of all three during retirement.

“I was blessed to have this job here at Holmes and it has been a great place to work,” Hutchison said. “I’ve enjoyed it here and it’s a great job; it’s just time for me to go.”

Joe McDaniel

McDaniel is retiring from Holmes after 25 years with the college. He came to Holmes as a builder, with the chapel and the president’s home being some of his first projects, and he is retiring as a construction supervisor and project manager. Holmes has truly been a family affair for the McDaniels. His late wife, Margie, was a dorm hostess in Grenada; his son, Tony McDaniel, was police chief in Goodman and his daughter-in-law, Casey McDaniel, works in admissions in Goodman. In addition his son, McDaniel also has a daughter, Tammy; three granddaughters - Alecia, Miran-

da and Makayla - and one great-granddaughter, Averi. In his free time, he enjoys watching the girls play softball; a sport he played himself on a tournament team for 28 years. He also enjoys watching football, hunting and fishing. McDaniel is a member of Salem Baptist Church, as well.

“Holmes has been a Godsend for me and my family,” McDaniel said. “It’s really been a pleasure working here. The people are great, and I get to work with people on all of Holmes’ campuses and at the college’s satellite locations. I’ve really enjoyed it and it truly has been a blessing for me and my family.”

Ginger Meriwether

Meriwether is retiring from Holmes after 18 years of service to the college. Meriwether served as an Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor before her promotion to Director of Health Science Programs. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing from Delta State University (2007), a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Mississippi University for Women (2003) and an ADN degree from Holmes (1996). She also completed continuing hours at William Carey University.

Prior to Holmes, Meriwether served as the Tallahatchie County Coroner for 19 years. She also served as a home health nurse for Grenada Lake Medical Center, as a school nurse for the Tallahatchie School District and as a surgical charge/ER nurse for North Sunflower Hospital.

Meriwether has been married to her husband, Al, for 28 years. They have two children; Meredith (18) is a sophomore on the Holmes Grenada Campus, and Will (16) is a sophomore at Kirk Academy in Grenada. In her spare time, Meriwether loves gardening and canning her own produce, fishing, hunting, spending time outdoors, spending time with friends and family, riding in side by sides, cooking and trying new recipes to share with others. She is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, the Mississippi Nursing Association and the Kirkland Academy Booster Club.

“In retirement, I plan to enjoy time with family, travel and just enjoy my hobbies,” Meriwether said. “I miss being a caretaker so I plan to work a little in the ER at Tallahatchie General Hospital.”

Nancy Parkerson

Parkerson is retiring from Holmes

after 16 years of service. She began her career at Holmes as a mathematics instructor on the Grenada Campus, and in 2017 became the eLearning Coordinator. Parkerson holds a Master of Science in Mathematics Education from The University of Southern Mississippi and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education from Mississippi State University. Before coming to Holmes, she was a high school mathematics teacher in Arkansas, Las Vegas, Jackson, Vicksburg and Quitman. She has also served as an adjunct mathematics instructor for Hinds Community College and Jones College.

Parkerson and her husband, Charlie, have a son, Ryan; a daughter-in-law, Alaina, and a grandson, Jaxon. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and playing tennis. She is also an active member of First Baptist Church Winona. Upon retirement, Parkerson plans to play tennis, play with her grandson and travel with her husband.

Willie Roby

Officer Roby retired from Holmes after 16 years of service with the Goodman Campus Police Department. A graduate of McAdams High School, he was elected as a Constable with Attala County in 1999, and is retiring from the Attala County Sheriff’s with 24 years as a Constable.

Roby and his wife, Nina, have three children: Kristina, Kristen and Kristopher, and one grandchild, Kaysen. They reside in Durant and attend Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church.

“Upon retirement, I’m going to relax a little while and do some fishing,” Roby said.

Alice Watson

Watson is retiring from Holmes after 16 years of service with the Ridgeland Campus, where she worked in house-keeping. Prior to Holmes, she worked for Nissan for three years, and before that, as a nanny for two girls who are now 22 and 24. Watsons has one son, Xavier Watson, and is a member of Higher Ground Family Worship Center in Jackson. In her free time, she loves to read, watch T.V, go walking and cook/bake desserts.

“Once I retire, I might work part-time after a while, and I’d like to do a little traveling,” Watson said. “I will miss everyone dearly, but I promise to come visit.”

Seven Grenada students complete 8-week EMT Basic Class

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (front, right to left) Cecilia Rias, Trinity Monger, Shakara Fort, (back row, left to right) Caleb Haire, Travis Quesnot, Taliyah Hawkins and Jason Gullick.

Seven students at the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus recently completed the 2nd 8-week Emergency Medical Services (EMS) class. All seven students are now eligible for the NREMT exam.

The seven graduates included Shakara Fort, Jason Gullick, Caleb Haire, Taliyah Hawkins, Trinity Monger, Travis Quesnot and Cecilia Rias. The program was taught by instructor Raymond Liberto.

Quesnot received special recognition for finishing the class with the highest overall average. The EMS program prepares students for a variety of roles

in the field of emergency medicine. The field offers graduates several commonly-used work schedules with a wide range in base salary. Students who complete the one-semester EMT course and receive certification are prepared for direct patient care and serve as the support personnel as well as operate the ambulance. They also work in emergency departments, fire departments, and physicians’ offices. Current certification as an EMT often provides points toward selection for entry into other allied health programs.

Dunn Utility Products creates Foundation Scholarship for CTE students

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (*far left*) Coordinator of Alumni Affairs **Katherine Ellard** and (*far right*) Holmes Development Foundation Executive Director **Dr. Lindy McCain** with representatives from Dunn Utility Products after setting up the scholarship for Holmes CTE students.

The Holmes Community College Development Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of the Dunn Utility Products Scholarship to benefit

career-technical students at Holmes Community College.

The patronage scholarship should be awarded to full-time students pursuing a technical education certificate or degree in a manufacturing related field. The student should have and maintain a 2.0 GPA with preference being given to students participating in internships with Dunn Utility Products.

Dunn was established in 1878 and has multiple companies across the Southeast including MMC Materials, Bayou Concrete, Dunn Road Builders, Dunn Construction, Dunn Real Estate, Civil Contractors, West TN Readymix, Huey P Stockstill, and Dunn Utility Products as the newest company being established in 2019 with operations in Byram and New Albany.

“The intent is to provide an opportunity for a student who may otherwise experience a hardship or for someone who shows interest in a career in the technology/manufacturing industries,” said Dunn’s Mark McCormick, who is a Winona High School, Holmes Community College and Mississippi State University graduate (industrial technology). He started working at MMC Materials in 2000.

“We chose Holmes Community College for their Industrial Technology programs and their commitment to prepare students with the skills they need for tomorrow’s workforce,” said McCormick.

The Dunn Utility Products Scholarship is open to gifts from persons, estates and organizations. To donate to the Dunn Utility Products Scholarship, please send donations to the Holmes Development Foundation, P.O. Box 527, Goodman, MS 39079.

For further giving opportunities, contact Executive Director Dr. Lindy McCain at lmccain@holmescc.edu or call (662) 472-9067 or visit <https://holmescc.edu/development-foundation/>.

Kelly earns PhD in community college leadership

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Director of Housing Robert Jason Kelly recently earned his Doctorate of Philosophy in Community College Leadership. Dr. Kelly’s dissertation was titled “Socioeconomic Status and Rural Community College Student Outcomes.”

“My dissertation discusses how socioeconomic status can impact the overall student outcome at rural community colleges,” Dr. Kelly said.

Dr. Kelly holds an educational specialist degree (in curriculum and instruction) from the University of Mississippi, an M.A. in European history from Mississippi State as well as both a bachelor’s in history and a bachelor’s in English from Mississippi State. He has worked in the field of education for a total of 20 years. For his first 10 years, Dr. Kelly taught and coached at public and private school across the state, and the most recent 10 have been at Holmes. Dr. Kelly served as a history instructor on the Goodman Campus for his first eight years before transitioning into his current role. He was also an advisor for Phi Theta Kappa honor society for four years.

Dr. Kelly and his wife, Dusti, have three sons: Brayden, Brennan and Brighton. In his free time, he enjoys serving as a volunteer youth baseball coach, a volunteer basketball coach at Carroll Academy and as an advisor/

speaker for Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Dr. Kelly loves spending time with his family, playing golf, volunteering for youth sports and attending Holmes events to support the students.

“I always admire the discipline it takes to earn such a prestigious degree,” said Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood. “I am so proud of Dr. Kelly and his accomplishments. I know he will do great things in the future.”

Amy Land earns doctoral degree from Delta State University

From Staff Reports/Photos



Amy Land, a Holmes Community College English and Education instructor and Writing Center director on the Grenada Campus, recently earned her Doctor of Education (Ed.D) with

an emphasis in higher education from Delta State University. Dr. Land’s dissertation was titled, “Analyzing Patterns of Retention in Online Developmental English and General Education Developmental English in a Mississippi Community College.”

“Through my dissertation, I analyzed factors that may serve as a predictor of success for developmental students in completing the English course progression through English Composition II,” Dr. Land said. “Factors I explored were course format (online vs Face-to-Face), ACT score and high school GPA, among others in order to help inform future practices in identifying risks and facilitating success for these students”.

A Holmes alumna, Dr. Land holds a Bachelor of Science in education from Delta State University in elementary education, a Master of Arts from Ole Miss in curriculum and instruction; 18 graduate English hours from Mississippi State University and an Ed.S. from Delta State University in administration and supervision. She also holds state licensure as a teacher and school administrator.

Dr. Land began teaching adjunct for Holmes in the evenings in January 2010, and was then hired full time to begin August of 2010. This semester completes 14 full-time years at Holmes as an instructor and 16 as a Mississippi educator. Prior to Holmes, Dr. Land taught fifth grade English Language Arts at Batesville Middle School in the South Panola School District. At the close of the semester, Dr. Land will transition into the role of elementary school principal for Winona Christian School where she says, “I will be able to expand my mission field at work beyond the walls of my own classroom. I will still serve Holmes through teaching DE/DC English courses face-to-

face for students in Winona.”

An active member of the community, She is president of Junior Auxiliary of Winona, interim youth director and young adult Sunday school teacher at Duck Hill Baptist Church, a member of The Carroll-Montgomery Baptist Association Youth Committee and a member of the Advisory Committee for Teacher Academy at Grenada Career and Technical Center.

Dr. Land and her husband Colby have three children: Brantlee, John Hayes and Nora Kathryn.

“As a first-generation college student, I know this level of education far exceeds the societal expectation for me,” Dr. Land said. “I am so grateful for my parents who instilled in me the values of education, hard work and perseverance. It is my prayer that I can be a light to others on their own journeys to whom God has planned for them to be.”

Caley Stogner earns Doctorate of Nursing Practice

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Practical Nursing instructor Caley Stogner recently earned a Doctorate of Nursing Practice – Pediatric Acute Care from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Her dissertation was “Implementation of Early Referral to Palliative Care in Patients with Pancreatic Cancer.”

“My dissertation identified gaps in clinical practice nationally for implementing early referral to palliative care in patients with pancreatic cancer,” Dr. Stogner said. “I researched clinical and patient base measures within the UAB hematology-oncology cancer center in Birmingham, Alabama, to close

the gap. My research has resulted in a collaboration conference with Sigma Theta Tau honor society for nurses on the national level.”

Dr. Stogner joined the Holmes nursing faculty in 2022 as one of the instructors for the new Practical Nursing evening/weekend program. Prior to Holmes, she was employed with the University of Mississippi Medical Center as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse. She also has experience as a living donor transplant coordinator at UMMC, and as a Practical Nursing instructor at Hinds Community College.

Dr. Stogner and her husband, Ty, have a daughter, Zoey Claire, and a

son, Brees. She is active in the community as a Mississippi Nurse Association Board Member, a Northwest Rankin Health Science School Advisory Board Member and as a member of the Mississippi Symphony League. In her free time, she enjoys embroidering and golfing.

For more information about Holmes’ Practical Nursing Evening/Weekend Program, contact Career Technical Counselor Jovonna Parker at jparker@holmescc.edu.

Matt Surrell earns doctoral degree from Ole Miss

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Director of Business Services Matt Surrell recently earned his Doctor of Education (Ed.D) with an emphasis on higher education and leadership from the

University of Mississippi. Dr. Surrell’s dissertation was titled, “Exploring a Link between Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and Continued Enrollment at Holmes Community College.”

“My dissertation was basically a two-part research project,” Surrell said. ‘First, I examined the EFC data of all first-time enrollees at the college for four fall to spring semesters to determine if there was any potential relationship between this information and early withdrawal between a student’s first fall and spring semesters. I was trying to determine if I could identify any cohort outliers (such as those identified as low income) so that a potential mitigation plan could be proposed to increase the continual enrollment of these specific students. The second half of the research focused on the feasibility of implementing a for-credit financial literacy program at the college to assist in the mitigation

of the problem.”

Dr. Surrell holds a Master of Accountancy from the University of Mississippi as well as a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from Millsaps College. Prior to Holmes, he was employed as a senior auditor at HORNE LLP for seven years. He has served as Director of Business Services for the past 14 years and taught Introduction to Business online at Holmes for the past nine and a half years.

An active member of the community, Dr. Surrell is a member of the Red Hill Church of Christ, the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), the Community College Business Officers (CCBO) Association and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College Business Managers (which he served as president of). In 2015, he was named Outstanding Busi-

ness Officer for CCBO and in 2020, he graduated from the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy.

Dr. Surrell and his wife, Jennifer, have three sons: Paxton, Kasen and Rylan. Which involved following all three boys as they play baseball, soccer, tennis and perform in show choir. Dr. Surrell also enjoys hunting and fishing with his boys, running and drinking a cup of coffee with his wife.

“I’m grateful for all the people that helped me reach this milestone,” Dr. Surrell said. “I want to thank my family for their patience and constant encouragement. I want to thank Dr. Haffey and Sonny Sparks for encouraging me to complete this program. And, last but certainly not least, I want to thank my staff in the Business Office. Without their hard work, which always gives me a peace of mind, I am not sure that I could have accomplished this goal.

Amber Mabus earns doctoral degree from Murray State University

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College English and Foreign Language Division Chair Amber Mabus recently earned her Doctor of Arts (D.A.) in English Pedagogy with an emphasis in writing pedagogy from Murray State University in Kentucky. Dr. Mabus’s capstone project was titled “Teaching Commu-

nity College Composition Students How to Use AI Technology Ethically Through the Research Process.”

“After completing my research on how Generative AI (GenAI) programs affect writing courses, I designed a curriculum unit designed to teach students the basics of how Generative AI works, the benefits and downsides of using the technology, and how to use such tools ethically in their coursework,” Mabus explained. “I implemented the unit in my Spring 2024 English Composition II courses, and I analyzed data from student surveys, reflections, and assignment submissions to determine students’ feelings toward the technology and whether they had learned how to use GenAI in an ethical manner. Overall, the curriculum unit was a success, but I was surprised to learn that students had concerns about Generative AI similar to those of my colleagues and the general public.”

The Murray State University Doctor of Arts in English Pedagogy program is unique because it is designed for current teachers in the field of English at both secondary and postsecondary levels. The program has a core of

foundation courses tied to teachers’ work in the classroom and encourages students to use their professional environments as sites of reflection and imaginative inquiry. The Doctor of Arts (D.A.) degree is a terminal degree that requires extensive research and is recognized by accrediting agencies and governmental bodies like the National Science Foundation. However, the D.A. degree is more focused on pedagogy than the Ph.D. and is more disciplinarily centered than the Ed.D.

Dr. Mabus holds M.Ed. and B.S.E. degrees in English Education from Delta State University and an associate degree from Holmes. Before accepting a full-time position at Holmes, she taught English at Grenada High School for six years. Dr. Mabus just completed her ninth year as an English Instructor and seventh year as chair of the English and Foreign Language Division at Holmes.

An active member of the community, Dr. Mabus is a member of Providence Baptist Church in Gore Springs, where she is the worship leader and young women’s Sunday School teacher. She is active in the Kirk Academy PTA,

where she served as president during the 2023-2024 school year, and she is a provisional member of Junior Auxiliary of Grenada. In 2017, Dr. Mabus received the Ovid Vickers Award for Excellence in the Teaching of English, awarded by the Two-Year College English Association of Mississippi. During her time at Murray State, she also accepted membership into Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies.

Dr. Mabus and her husband, Jack, have one daughter, Isla, who just finished kindergarten. She enjoys reading, traveling, exercising and binge-watching TV in her spare time.

“The Murray State University DA program allowed me to learn techniques I could apply in my classes the next day,” Dr. Mabus said. “I learned different perspectives on teaching English from my cohort members, who are educators from all over the world. I am incredibly thankful for this program, my cohort, and my family, who supported me throughout this process. I could not have finished the program without their help!”

Heather Wood earns doctoral degree from Mississippi State University

From Staff Reports/Photos



Heather Wood, a mathematics instructor at Holmes Community College, recently earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruc-

tion from Mississippi State University. Dr. Wood’s dissertation was titled, “Choosing a foundational mathematics course in higher education: How is the decision made?” “After realizing that the majority of my students do not go on to take Calculus and thus never seeing the applicability of College Algebra, I began the study to find the ideal mathematics course for students in non-mathematics intensive pathways,” Dr. Wood said. “I interviewed program coordinators at Mississippi State University to determine the mathematics course most applicable to their program and how the current mathematics course was chosen. My research was online with The Mathematics Pathway project by the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas. My findings showed that mathematics courses need to be tailored to the specific program. For those programs that do not require specific mathematical skills, courses

such as Quantitative Reasoning and Statistics are overall more applicable to the student than College Algebra to fulfill the general mathematics education requirement.” A Holmes alumnus, Dr. Wood also holds a Bachelor of Science in secondary education with a mathematics education concentration and a Master of Science in secondary education with 18 hours of graduate level mathematics from Mississippi State. Dr. Wood began working at Holmes full-time in August 2014. She taught part-time from 2010 to 2011. She currently teaches Beginning Algebra, Intermediate Algebra and College Algebra. Prior to that, she taught the math for elementary teachers’ courses – Real Numbers and Geometry, Measurement and Probability – and Business Calculus. Prior to Holmes, Dr. Woods taught at Grenada Middle School, East Ok-tibbeha County High School and East Mississippi Community College

An active member of the community, she is a Junior Auxiliary Life Member, Grenada Garden Club Member and attends both St. Peter’s Catholic Church and Grace Baptist. Dr. Wood and her husband of 11 years, James, have one daughter, Laura Felicity (6). They also have two dogs, Zoey and Rook. Dr. Wood loves to travel, see plays at the Orpheum Theatre in Memphis and teach tumbling. Laura Felicity is on the competition dance team with Prestige Dance Company which is an affiliate of Grenada School of Performing Arts. Dr. Wood enjoys attending competitions with her daughter. “Mathematics is a lot of fun and it opens the door to many different areas,” Dr. Wood said. “My hope is to be able to teach students the beauty and applicability of mathematics in their educational journey and ultimately provide them the tools necessary to be a productive member of society.”

Merit Health Madison donates to Holmes’ ADN program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Merit Health Madison donated \$2000 to the Holmes Community College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN)

program on March 28. The presentation was held at noon at Merit Health’s Madison location.

This was the second year in a row that Merit Health celebrated National Doctors’ Day by directing contributions toward their chosen local charities in honor of their physicians. The physicians of Merit Health were the ones who first decided that they preferred the money to go to a worthy cause rather than be spent on them directly. This is the second consecutive year that Holmes’ ADN program has been the recipient of this donation from Merit Health Madison. Holmes ADN Department Chair/Assistant Director Dr. Alice Austin accepted the money and sent it to the Holmes Foundation to contribute to the ADN Scholarship fund. National Doctors’ Day serves as a

moment to acknowledge physicians for their expertise, selflessness and dedication to the community, according to <https://nationaldoctorsday.org/about/>. “We are honored and grateful for the doctors at Merit Health Madison,” Dr. Austin said. “We appreciate them donating their funds for Doctors’ Day activities to Holmes’ Associate Degree nursing students’ scholarship fund instead of accepting gifts for themselves. These funds will help our students with tuition and expenses.” For more information about Merit Health Madison, visit <https://www.merithealthmadison.com/>. For more information about Holmes’ ADN program, contact Dr. Austin at aaustin@holmescc.edu.

Dr. Sutton and Dr. Kelly graduate from MCCLA

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Lakesia Sutton accepts her MCCLA medal and graduation diploma from Dr. Mark Keenum, president of Mississippi State University, on May 6.

Holmes Community College Practical Nursing Instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton and Director of Housing Dr. Robert Jason Kelly graduated from the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA) on Thursday, May 6. Dr. Mark Keenum, president of Mississippi State University, presented Dr. Sutton and Dr. Kelly with a medal and graduation diploma at the Mill Center at Mississippi State University.

The two Holmes employees were among 33 graduates from the community colleges, the Mississippi Community College Board, Mississippi State University, The W and the University of Southern Mississippi. The Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA) was 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



Dr. Jason Kelly accepts her MCCLA medal and graduation diploma from Dr. Mark Keenum, president of Mississippi State University, on May 6.

community college system. MCCLA provides an opportunity for selected administrative employees to sharpen their supervisory, management, and leadership skills and help prepare participants for future leadership roles. Dr. Sutton holds a Doctor in Chiropractic degree from Life University, a Doctorate in Christian Counseling from New Foundations Theological Seminary, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from University of Missis-

sippi Medical Center, a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Jackson State University and an Associate of Arts from Hinds Community College. She first joined the Holmes family in 2013. Professionally, Dr. Sutton is a member of the Mississippi Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and the Mississippi Chiropractic Association. She is also

MCCLA, continued on Page 16

MCCLA (continued from Page 15)

a member of Word of Life Church-Lakeland Campus.

Dr. Sutton is a care giver for her father, Tommie, and her fur baby, Godzo. In her free time, she enjoys scrapbooking and traveling. She also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and as a registered nurse in the Mission First medical clinic.

Dr. Kelly holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Community College Leadership from Mississippi State University, an educational specialist degree (in curriculum and instruction) from the Univer-

sity of Mississippi, an M.A. in European history from Mississippi State as well as both a bachelor's in history and a bachelor's in English from Mississippi State. He has worked in the field of education for 20 years. For his first 10 years, Dr. Kelly taught and coached at public and private school across the state, before joining the Holmes faculty in 2014. Dr. Kelly was a history instructor on the Goodman Campus for eight years before stepping into his current role as director of housing. He was also an advisor for Phi Theta Kap-

pa honor society for four years.

Dr. Kelly and his wife, Dusti, have three sons: Brayden, Brennan and Brighton. In his free time, he enjoys volunteering as a youth baseball coach, as a volunteer basketball coach at Carroll Academy and as an advisor/speaker for Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Dr. Kelly loves spending time with his family, playing golf, volunteering for youth sports and attending Holmes events to support the students.

The year-long MCCLA 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 their project, Dr. Sutton and Dr. Kelly obtained approval from Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey to complete a data analysis of mental health resources available across community and senior colleges.

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

Ridgeland Campus holds 2024 ADN pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the **Holmes Ridgeland Campus ADN Class of 2024**.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Class of 2024

on May 6 at Ridgeland High School. Forty-two students graduated from the program.

The Class of 2024 included: Jasmine

Allison, Victoria Bailey, Devan Berry, Olivia Bilbo, Briana Branch, Garrett Brown, Ja'Myla Brown, Lois Brown, Sarah Ashton Brown, John Bullock, Micah Carroll, Erin Dorsey, Danielle Floyd, Mia Frazier, Arielle Giurintano, Charity Grantham, Brayleigh Gregory, Sherida Guise, Christi Hardy, Caleb Jackson, Chasity King, Kenyatta King, Lillian Manning, Brieana McCain, Brandy McCarver, Staci Mizell, Mattie Ozbourn, Ashley Parker, Madison Pittman, Kathryn Prater, Emily Price, Cailyn Russell, Jessica Sledge, Madelyn Kinsey, Christi Steed, Brittneigh Tausch, Alice Thornton, Jessica Tomas, Jakiyah Turner, Kalie Waggoner, Abby Wilkerson and Tashelle Woods.

The program began with a processional of the Class of 2024 followed by a welcome from ADN Program Chair/ Assistant Director Dr. Alice Austin.

Class President Erin Dorsey 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.

Emily Price was recognized as ADN Student of the Year and also for receiving a scholarship from the Mississippi Nurses Association. Following the awards presentation, ADN instructor Kim Manning called each graduate's name as instructors Dr. Tiffany Cox and Virginia Hart pinned them and gave them their lamp candle. Finally, instructor Cindy Bridges led the students in the Nightingale Pledge before Class Vice President Caleb Jackson gave the closing prayer.

For more information about the ADN program on the Ridgeland Campus, contact Dr. Austin at aaustin@holmes-

Attala Center celebrates 10 Practical Nursing graduates

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the **Holmes Attala Center Practical Nursing Class of 2024**.

Holmes Community College held their Practical Nursing pinning ceremony at the Attala Center where 10 students were pinned. The graduates included: Cortnei Brown, Jenny Cain, Arkenya Carter, Kameron Cole, Shelley Hedgepeth, Heather Lipe, Raven Lucas, Kenya Olive-Jackson, Crystal Porter and Alexandria Wright.

Cole started the ceremony off with the invocation following a processional by the graduates. Next, Practical Nursing Division Chair/Instructor Dr. Christi Blair welcomed everyone to the ceremony before Brown made remarks about the school year. After

a special music presentation, Dr. Blair presented some awards. Lipe was honored as Valedictorian for having the highest GPA in the class and Brown was recognized as Salutatorian for having the second-highest GPA. Following awards, the graduates each received their pins.

Following the pinning, PN Instructor Tammy Caldwell led the candle lighting before the graduates recited the Practical Nurse's Pledge. Olive-Jackson closed the ceremony with the benediction before the students' recessional.

For more information about the Practical Nursing program in Attala,

Grenada Campus holds 2024 ADN pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the **Holmes Grenada Campus ADN Class of 2024**.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus held their Associate Degree Nursing pinning ceremony honoring 35 students. The graduates included: Jamriel Bowdry, Geannie Burton, Shantel Campbell, Emma Evans, Anita Fisher, Michael Gilliland, Shawn Gilliland, Zion Gladney, Anterria Griffin, Anjeanett Harris, Harley Henley, Hailey Jones, Peyton Jones, Brennice Kennedy, Alyssa King, Leah Logan, Harold McClain, Mark McClain, Nakyrak Medcafe, Lilly Morrow, Reyna Mundo, Alice Payne, Tannah Rayburn, Jmya Robertson, Megan Robins, Farrie Rollins-James,

Kelsey Russell, Ashli Shaw, Courtney Straddling, Mallorie Stroup, Tiffany Tillman, Latrisha Townsend, Chelsie Weatherby, Elizabeth Whitten and Ashley Wiley. During the ceremony, Daniels and Henly was recognized as the Outstanding ADN Students of the Year for academic achievement

For more information about the ADN program in Grenada, contact Assistant Program Director Patty O. Jones at pjones@holmescc.edu or (662) 227-2305.

Holmes Goodman Campus holds 2024 Honors Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Attala County natives recognized in the Goodman Honors Program. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Mary Patton Henderson, Lilia Deason, Jamiere Brown, Alexandria Swilley, Katelyn Jones, Alexandra West,** *(back row, left to right)* **Michael Bell, William Carter, Jayson Cannon, Ethan Wood, James Hutchison, Eli Rigby and Robert Tew.**

The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus recognized its students' achievements and honors during the 2024 Honors Day Program held April 23 in the McDaniel Hall Auditorium. A reception with light refreshments followed the program in the foyer of the auditorium.

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.

Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood welcomed guests to the program before Dean of Career Technical Education Dr. Luke Jones gave the invocation. Next, Wood recognized the 2024 Goodman Campus Hall of Fame inductees. Hall of Fame is the highest honor a student

can receive and recipients were voted on by faculty and staff based on academic achievement, campus involvement and community service. The inductees included: William Carter of Kosciusko, Audrey Eldridge of Vaiden, Cole Moudy of Brandon, Demeria Moore of Goodman, Eli Rigby of Kosciusko and Ethan Wood of Kosciusko.

A few of the Hall of Fame inductees received other awards, as well. Carter, Moore and Moudy received Holmes Plus Awards, alongside students Michael Bell of McCool and Jayson Cannon of Kosciusko. Moore also received the Physical Science Award and the Dr. Marilyn Burrell Memorial Award, which is given to a student with a strong academic record, leadership skills and campus involvement.

Moudy received the Engineering Award,

and was the recipient of the Wesley David Rule Mathematics Award named for the beloved Holmes mathematics instructor/department chair who passed away in 2015. In addition, Eldridge received the Ambassador Award and the Michael Klauk Award, named for a former pre-med student who tragically passed away. Eldridge received this award for exemplifying the same model student qualities Klauk did.

Phi Theta Kappa honor society members who earned special designations this year were also recognized. Lilia Deason of McCool, Mary Patton Henderson of Kosciusko and Isaiah Wilson of Madison were all recognized for placement on the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team, and Henderson was honored as a Phi Theta Kappa Order of the Golden Key recipient. Deason was also named Business Office Technology Award recipient, and Wilson received the W.Y. Sudduth History and Political Science Award.

For other academic awards, the Biological Science Award went to Alexandra West of Kosciusko; the Business Administration Award to Jacob Myers of Coila; the Creative Writing Award to Jordan Barnes of Madison and the Criminal Just Award to Matthew Williams of Lexington. Mason Harrell of Flora received the Elementary Education Award, Keldri Bowman of Brandon, the Foreign Language Award and Malley Chase Faulkner of Daphne, Alabama, the Growl Award.

The HPR Award went to Amanda Walker of Pearl, the Horizon Award to Dominique Levy of Lexington, the Literature Award to Alexandria Swilley of Kosciusko and the Social and Behavioral Science Award to Darryanna Warren of Madison. Additionally, Sunnee Young of Madi-

son received the Band Award; Kamryn Roberts of Vaughan received the Student Government Association Award, Meghan Roach of Greenwood, the Bill Watkins Visual Arts Award and Katelyn Jones of Sallis, the English Composition Award as well as the Choral Music Award.

Other special awards were given, as well. Monica Smith of Benton and Joe Wilson of Lexington each received a Deans and Directors Award, which is bestowed upon a non-traditional student who has been out of school for a while and but who has exceptional grades and has made an impact in the classroom. The Christine Herron Academic Achievement Award is also presented to a non-traditional student, but specifically one who is active in MOSAIC and shows academic excellence. This year the Christine Herron Award was presented to Indya R. Adams of Brandon.

In the career-technology and workforce programs, Kayla Boyette of Pearl received the Associate Degree Nursing Award; Leah Rainey of Madison received the Architectural Engineering Award; Robert Tew of Kosciusko, the Automotive Technology Award; Lilia Deason of McCool, the Business Office Technology Award and Christopher Coleman of Jackson, the Collision Repair Technology Award as well as the Percussion Groups Award. Jasmine Brookins of Benton was the Cosmetology Award recipient; Zakarie McDonald of Ridgeland, the Drafting and Design Award recipient; James Hutchison, the Forest Technology Award recipient and Jaishun Bell, the Heating and Air Conditioning Technology Award recipient.



Pictured are the Madison County natives recognized in the Goodman Honors Program. They are *(left to right)* **Mason Harrell, Zakarie McDonald, Isaiah Wilson, Sunnee Young and Leah Rainey.** *Not pictured:* Jordan Barnes.



Pictured are the Rankin County natives recognized in the Goodman Honors Program. They are *(left to right)* **Cole Moudy, Kayla Boyette, Amanda Walker and Indya Adams.** *Not pictured:* Keldri Bowman.



Pictured are the Holmes County natives recognized in the Goodman Honors Program. They are *(left to right)* **Demeria Moore, Joe Wilson, Isaiah Wilson, Domonique Levy and Matthew Williams.**



Pictured are the Yazoo County natives recognized in the Goodman Honors Program. They are *(left to right)* **Kamryn Roberts, Monica Smith and Jasmine Brookins.**



Pictured are the Carroll County natives recognized in the Goodman Honors Program. They are *(left to right)* **Wil'Tavious Williams, Audrey Eldridge and Jacob Myers.**



Pictured is honoree and Daphne, Alabama native **Malley Chase Faulkner.**



Pictured is honoree and Jackson native **Christopher Coleman.**



Pictured is honoree and Greenwood native **Meghan Roach.**

Holmes Grenada Campus holds 2024 Honors Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Grenada Campus Hall of Fame honorees with (far left) Grenada Campus Vice President **Dr. Michelle Burney**. They are (left to right) **Radleigh Woods, Baker Avant, Ashlyn Gillespie** and **Meredith Meriwether**.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus recognized its students' achievements and honors during the 2024

Honors Day Program held April 17.

The 2024 Grenada Campus Hall of Fame inductees were recognized during

the program. Hall of Fame is the highest honor a student can receive and recipients were voted on by faculty and staff based on academic achievement, campus involvement and community service.

The 2024 Hall of Fame inductees included: Baker Avant, Ashlyn Gillespie, Meredith Meriwether and Radleigh Woods.

A few of the Hall of Fame inductees received other awards, as well. Gillespie, along with Abigale Kidd and Marissa Logan, was recognized for placing in the Creative Writing Contest. She was also the Chemistry Award recipient. Both Gillespie and Avant were recognized for being named Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi, as well.

For other awards, Noah Beck received the Student Activities Award, Britney Jones received the Literature Award, John Evans, the English Composition Award;

Erica Edwards, the Sociology Award and Peyton Perry, the Psychology Award. Marissa Logan received the Computer Science Award, Kirven McCrory received the Biology Award, Macy White received the Spanish Award, and both Emma Brasher and Taylor Carver were Mathematics Awards recipients.

Zachary Williams was the recipient of the Forest Technology Award; Joshua Jones, the HVAC Award; Rondetra Townes, the Business Technology Award and both Victoria Daniels and Harley Henley received Associate Degree Nursing Awards. The Health Care Assistant Award went to Colleen Dahl, Physical Therapy Assistant Award went to Allie Grace Whitaker and the Surgical Technology Award went to Kathryn Caruthers.

A reception followed the honors program.



Haley DeNoon presents the Student Activities Award to **Noah Beck**.



Pictured are Instructor **Amy Land**, **Ashlyn Gillespie**, **Abigale Kidd** and **Marissa Logan**.



Pictured are Instructor **Amy Land** and **John Evans**.



Amber Mabus presents the Literature Award to **Britney Jones**.



Pictured are Instructor **Gabrielle Hopkins** and **Peyton Perry**.



Pictured are **Taylor Carver**, Instructor **Shae Wang** and **Emma Brasher**.



Dean Savage presents the Biology Award to **Kirven McCrory**.



Pictured are **Macy White** and **Cynthia Abel**.



Pictured are Instructor **Lisa Wilbourn** Carver and **Rondetra Townes**.



Pictured are **Zachary Williams** and Instructor **James Floyd**.



David Hill presents the HVAC Award to **Joshua Jones**.



Michelle Crawford presents an ADN Award to **Victoria Daniels**.



Michelle Crawford presents an ADN Award to **Harley Henly**.



Colleen Dahl receives the Health Care Assistant Award.



Colleen Dahl receives the Health Care Assistant Award.



Leah Mitchell presents the Surg Tech Award to **Kathryn Caruthers**.



Pictured are Instructor **Aimee Kitching** and **Erica Edwards**.

Holmes Ridgeland Campus holds 2024 Honors Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (front row, left to right) **Emily Price, Mary Katherine Hamilton, Analise Johnson, Tori Dew, Brooke Barron, Jenna Hood, Camille Scott, Jaycelyn Russ, Greysen Lewis,** (middle row, left to right) **Graham Lambert, Ornette Lee, Presleigh Powers, Emeree Moncrief, Braeden Adams, Ricky Tebo, D’Quevion Clay, Charles Mistich, Jaden Gonzalez, Lee Drake,** (back row, left to right) **Kyle Hawkins, Colin Crosby, Kent Barrett, Antwan Tingle, Jayvion Caston, Caleb Hernandez, Patrick Vallean, Aleesa Booker, Meagan Snyder and Hayden Tanner.** Not pictured: Cedravious Davis, Ava Wages, Emily Rowlen and Troy Scott.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus recognized its students’ achievements and honors during the 2024 Honors Day Program held April 17 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 Campus Career and Technical Coordinator Allison DeWeese and an invocation from Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham. Award presentations began with recognizing the

2024 Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame inductees. Hall of Fame is the highest honor a student can receive and recipients were voted on by faculty and staff based on academic achievement, campus involvement and community service. The 2024 Hall of Fame inductees included: Brooke Barron of Brandon, Colin Crosby of Ridgeland, Cedravious Davis of Canton, Tori Dew of Canton, Jaden Gonzalez of Brandon, Mary Katherine Hamilton of Madison, Analise Johnson of Sandhill, Graham Lambert of Canton, Presleigh Powers of Carthage, Jaycelyn Russ of Madison, Camille Scott of Brandon and Patrick Vallean of Olive Branch. A few of the Hall of Fame inductees received other awards, as well. Lambert received the Ambassador Award, Gonzalez received the Physical Science Award and Dew received the award for both Biological Science and Health, Physical Education, & Recreation. Additionally, Crosby was the Engineering Award recipient, and Vallean was the Mathematics Award recipient. For other academic awards, the Business Administration Award went to Ava Wages of Madison, the Criminal Justice Award went to Meagan Snyder of Madison and Kyle Hawkins of Madison took home the Education Programs Award as well as the History & Political Science Award. Jenna Hood of Madison received the English

Composition Award, Emeree Moncrief of Madison, the Fine Arts Award and Aleesa Booker of Madison, the Journalism Award. Additionally, Ornette Lee of Brandon took home the Literature Award, Hayden Tanner of Madison, the Spanish Award, Greysen Lewis of Flora, the Public Speaking Award and Kent Barrett of Madison, the Social & Behavioral Science Award. For career-technology and workforce programs, Jayvion Caston of Jackson received the Heating, Ventilation, AC & Refrigeration (HVAC) Technology Award; Lee Drake of Madison, the Business & Office Technology Award; Caleb Hernandez of Madison, the Welding & Cutting Technology Award and Emily Rowlen of Hollandale, the Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology Award. In addition, the Electro Mechanical Technology Award went to Braeden Adams of Madison; the Engineering Technology Award to Ricky Tebo of Flora, the Culinary Arts Technology Award to D’Quevion Clay of Canton and the Associate Degree Nursing Award to Emily Price of Vaughan. Finally, Charles Mistich of Ridgeland was the Information Systems Technology Award recipient; Antwan Tingle of Meridian, the Paralegal Technology Award recipient and Troy Scott of Clinton received the Emergency Medical Science Award.

CTE hosts ‘Barbie Girl in a Ken World’ event

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes faculty and staff members who participated in the “I’m a Barbie girl in a Ken world” event gather for a group photo.

On April 18, Holmes Career Technical Education hosted an event called ‘I’m a Barbie Girl, In a Ken World!’ on the Goodman Campus. Holmes CTE invited area schools to a girls’ day to explore the programs within the CTE curriculum. The students enjoyed tours through Automotive Technology, Collision Repair, Drafting/Engineering Technology, Electromechanical Technology, Forestry, HVAC, Information Systems, Cosmetology and

Welding Technology. The Holmes Massage Therapy and Culinary Arts programs from the Ridgeland Campus took part in the event, as well. Guest speakers included Amber Floy, a refuge manager at U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Amy Rosamond, a drafter at Wages Civil, LLC and Earline Smith, director of WIOA for Holmes.

Culinary Arts program participates in a Survivor Strong event

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Culinary Arts program participated in a Survivor Strong event on Thursday, March 28. The students and instructor Alexei Harrison were invited to attend by Dr. Teresa Mackey. Dr. Mackey is the vice president for compliance and institutional research at Holmes and was the 2022 Honoree for the American Cancer Society. This honor recognizes a survivor who has been an active volunteer and supporter of breast cancer research. “Survivor Strong is a group of survivors, caregivers and supporters that find comfort and strength in navigating life after diagnosis,” Dr. Mackey said. “We look forward to our monthly fellowship activities. Chef Alexei and her students did an amazing job of educating us on some healthy food options. The food and ambiance were top notch.” “We did a healthy party theme, which included healthy appetizers, desserts and alcohol-free cocktails for the Survivor Strong group,” Chef Harrison said.

During the event, they worked with guest Chef Sadé Meets. Meeks is a writer, food activist, Registered Dietician and natural storyteller from Jackson. She has a Bachelor of Science in Culinary Arts from Mississippi University for Women and a Master of Science in Nutritional Science from California State University in Los Angeles. Meeks has self-published a food literacy cookbook, and her nutrition expertise has been featured in Reader’s Digest, MSN and Yahoo News. Additionally, she is the founder and executive director of Growing Resilience In the South (GRITS Inc.) and an adjunct professor at Purchase College in New York. In 2023, she received the John Egerton Prize by the Southern Foodways Alliance. For more information about Survivor Strong, contact Dr. Mackey at tmackey@holmescc.edu. For more information about the Holmes Culinary Arts program, contact Chef Harrison at amharrison@holmescc.edu.

Holmes hosts Freshman Friday across district

From Staff Reports/Photos



Incoming freshman stop for a photo during Freshman Friday on the Goodman Campus.

Every spring semester, Holmes Community College holds a special event, districtwide, called Freshman Friday. This day is designed to assist high school seniors with registration for summer and/or fall classes and give them a glimpse into life as a Holmes

Bulldog. This year, Freshman Friday was held on Friday, April 12 on the Ridgeland and Grenada campuses, and on Friday, April 19 on the Goodman Campus. “Freshman Friday is one of my favorite days of the year,” said Holmes Gre-

nada Campus Recruiter/Student Activities Coordinator Haley DeNoon. “It is so exciting to see new faces on campus eager to get plugged in and start their college journey. This day allows faculty and staff to be very intentional with helping the incoming freshmen set their goals and feel at home.” During Freshman Friday, students have the opportunity to create their schedule for the upcoming semester, tour the campus, learn about opportunities to get involved, meet new friends and get free Holmes gear. “Freshman Friday is by far one of our favorite events on campus,” said Wendy Grace, coordinator of academic programs on the Goodman Campus. “We usually have a range of 275-300 students in attendance (on the Goodman Campus) who we provide with one-on-one help with all their “first-time college” needs. Whether it is signing up for classes, looking at sample dorm rooms or checking out our clubs

and organizations, it is always exciting to see how our campus comes together and is able to roll out the red carpet for these students. We truly want them to know what we already know...there truly is ‘No Place Like Holmes.’” Taylor Carver of Grenada reflects on attending Freshman Friday as a high school student and how it impacted her. “I remember my experience at Freshman Friday when I was in high school was very fun and even now as an Ambassador working it, I still find it quite exciting,” Carver said. “I remember thinking to myself that Holmes was very comfortable and homey and the perfect in-between from high school to a university.” In addition to offering students the ability to earn an Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Applied Science degree, technical and career certificates and workforce training, Holmes also offers over 50 extracurricular activi

Grenada Biology class donates nearly 350 cans to local soup kitchen

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dean Savage’s biology classes brought close to 350 cans of food to donate to the Grenada Soup Kitchen. Pictured is (front left) **Chris Jenkins** from the Grenada Soup Kitchen with Dean Savage’s A&P II class.

Michael Pawlik named Vex Robotics Volunteer of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are John Dalton Sawyer, Michael Pawlik and Mason Brown. Pawlik, a Ridgeland Campus Information Systems Technology instructor, was named Vex Robotics Volunteer of the Year Award at the State Vex Robotics competition, and his students from Holmes, Sawyer and Brown, served as tournament referees.

Holmes hosts 2024 Pops Concert

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College hosted the annual Spring Pops Concert on April 20 at 6:30 p.m. in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. The show featured the Holmes Chorale, the Holmes Connection! and the Coachmen Singers. The show was designed to entertain people of all ages. The Holmes Chorale is directed by Drew Trautman, the Holmes Connection! is directed by Mike Yates and Trautman and Yates co-direct Coachmen Singers. Dr. Donna Banks srves as an accompanist for the choir.



Culinary Arts students volunteer for the Leap 4 the Lily Pad

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Culinary Arts students volunteered for the 12th Annual Leap 4 the Lily Pad (formerly Run Up for Downs) on Saturday, April 13 at the Methodist Rehabilitation Center Green Space in Ridgeland. The annual event supporting disability awareness includes a fun run, 5K run/walk, and a O.O race along with live music, food from local vendors and a kids' zone. Holmes Culinary Arts displayed their first donut wall, built by Holmes Industrial Engineering Technology Instructor Jonathan Stokes. Funds raised from the event will support the Lily Pad Café, which will employ and train young adults with developmental disabilities to work in the hospitality industry.

So far, fundraising efforts have brought

in over \$600,000 to help bring The Lily Pad to fruition, and the cafe will open at some point this year. Not only will the not-for-profit restaurant employ those with disabilities; it will also focus on training individuals with disabilities to give them the work skills and confidence necessary to obtain employment with other businesses, as well. The cafe also will work with local restaurants and retail establishments so cafe employees can seamlessly transition to employment opportunities with these partners.

To learn more about The Lily Pad, visit <https://thelilypadms.com/>.

Holmes ADN Goodman students assist Baptist-Attala with Kosciusko physicals

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (front right) ADN instructor Kaitlyn Chunn with one of the ADN clinical groups from the Goodman Campus. They gathered for a photo before assisting Baptist Hospital in Attala County with Kosciusko physical exams.

Holmes students participate in UMMC's Spring into Wellness event

From Staff Reports/Photos



Massage Therapy Instructor **Liz McLain** looks on as her students give massages to attendees of the 2024 Spring Wellness Fest held at the Holmes Community College Fitness Center on May 4. UMMC hosted the event, which included a 5K, multiple vendors and activities. Holmes' Culinary Arts students participated, as well.

Holmes hosts Mental Health Awareness program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is keynote speaker for the mental health program, **Deborah Upton**.

The Holmes Community College Social and Behavioral Science Department hosted a Mental Health Awareness program on April 18 in the McGowan Center on the Ridgeland Campus. The presentation was broadcast to Goodman and Grenada campuses, as well.

The event featured keynote speaker Deborah Upton, a mental health therapist, who discussed student mental health issues, including how to handle stress.

"I'm knowledgeable in helping people navigate their journey to healing and wellness," Upton said. "I believe that you're not responsible for the hand you were dealt. You are responsible for your own awareness and healing so that you can become far more than who you thought you would be. My mantra has always been and always will be hope!"

Holmes Practical Nursing instructor Caley Stogner also presented information and resources for mental health wellbeing as part of the program. Participants learned about mental health resources available to them through Holmes' MindHealth Navigator, as well.

According to Dr. Sarah K. Lipson, an assistant professor at Boston University School of Public Health, "College is a key developmental time; the age of onset for lifetime mental health problems also directly coincides with traditional

college years – 75 percent of lifetime mental health problems will onset by age 24."

Additionally, according to <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>, there were an estimated 57.8 million adults aged 18 or older in the United States with mental illness in 2021. This number represented 22.8 percent of all U.S. adults. Young adults aged 18-25 years had the highest prevalence of mental illness (33.7 percent) compared to adults aged 26-49 years (28.1 percent) and aged 50 and older (15.0 percent).

"The mental health of college students has been in a continual decline for the past decade and even more so with the recent pandemic," said Holmes psychology instructor David Jones. "Too often, those seeking help with mental health issues are stigmatized. We want our students to realize there is nothing wrong with seeking help to address issues such as stress, anxiety, depression, suicidal ideations and other mental health problems. We go to our family doctor when we have



Pictured is one of the speakers for the mental health program, **Caley Stogner**.

physical problems and seeking help for mental health related issues should be just as common."

For more information, contact Jones at davjones@holmescc.edu.

Holmes wins 16 awards at 2024 CPRAM Awards Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Katherine Ellard, Mary Margaret Busby, Steve Diffey, Morgan Bondurant and Stephanie Wood.

Members of the Holmes Community College Communications and Marketing/ Recruiting departments brought home 16 awards during the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi (CPRAM) Awards Program on May 20. The awards program was held in conjunction with the 2024 CPRAM Annual Conference held at the Hollywood Casino in Bay St. Louis.

Awards included: Mary Margaret Busby, second place, feature story, Holmes CC Newsworthy: Connection! Spotlight; Stephanie Wood, Jill Sowell, Dr. Lindy McCain and Katherine Ellard, second place, institutional magazine-annual report, Foundation Annual Report; Katherine Ellard and Stephanie Wood, first place, newsletter, Pawprints; Stephanie Wood, second place, viewbook/admissions and recruitment piece, Holmes At-A-Glance; Stephanie Wood, first place, single piece of art, Die Cut Bulldog Card; Steve Diffey and Stephanie Wood, second place, single piece of artwork, 2023 Men's Basketball Poster; Morgan Bondurant, Stephanie

Wood and Jill Sowell, third place, television spots, What Does Holmes Mean to You?; Morgan Bondurant and Stephanie Wood, first place, multi-media presentation, 2023 Graduation Video; Jill Sowell and Steve Diffey, third place, website, Dog Tracks; Morgan Bondurant, Stephanie Wood and Jill Sowell, first place, website, holmescc.edu; Steve Diffey, first place, website-sports, holmesathletics.com; Morgan Bondurant and Jill Sowell, first place, social media-non sports, West Anderson Style Library Visit; Morgan Bondurant, first place, social media-sports, Corion Mathis jersey drip; Stephanie Wood, Jill Sowell and Morgan Bondurant, third place, non-sport promo/hype video, CTE Show on the Road; and Morgan Bondurant, second place, non-sport promo/hype video, Ole Mountain Outdoor Adventures.

Wood received a CPRAM Grand Award for her single piece of art submission for the Die Cut Bulldog Card.

Holmes celebrates Law Enforcement Appreciation Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Grenada Campus Officer Hal Merriman, Grenada Campus-Chief Tyler Winter, Grenada Campus Vice President Dr. Michelle Burney and Grenada Officer Wendy Jones celebrating Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

Each year during the week of May 15, National Police Week recognizes law enforcement officers' contributions throughout the nation. Holmes Community College is proud of the college's law enforcement presence, and commends the officers for all they do to keep our campus safe.

"We are so proud of our Public Safety Department," said Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood. "Their professionalism and attention to our campuses provides a safe learning environment."

The special week of recognition began in 1962 when President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. During this week, everyone is encouraged to remember those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety

and protection of others, and celebrate the officers still doing so today. In Washington, D.C., there is a National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, and this year, the names of 282 officers killed in the line of duty are being added to it. Of those officers, 118 were killed over the last year, and 164 were previously killed in the line of duty but their story has just come to light. The names of the fallen officers from across the nation were dedicated during the 36th Annual Candlelight Vigil at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on May 13.

Knowing the sacrifices they make for the college and their willingness to put themselves in harm's way to protect others, the college's Administration, faculty and staff make a point to express their gratitude for the college's officers, not just during Law Enforcement Appreciation Week, but throughout the school year.



Pictured are Ridgeland Campus officers (left to right) Officer Gary Cooper, Sgt. Carzell Cavett, Chief Devesha Magee and Sgt. Michael Jones right after enjoying a breakfast thrown by faculty and staff celebrating Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

"Campus Police have become an integral part of the Grenada Campus," said Grenada Campus Vice President Dr. Michelle Burney. "Our officers do an awesome job of supporting faculty, staff and students to make the campus feel secure and inviting. They welcome us to campus each day with a smile and friendly greeting and are always there to lend a helping hand. We appreciate them greatly."

Ridgeland Vice President Dr. Don Burnham also expressed his appreciation for Holmes' police officers, as well as those in the community.

"First, I would like to say thank you to our law enforcement officers both on campus and off," Dr. Burnham said. "Words simply are not adequate to let them know how important they are not only to Holmes Community College, but also to our society and its well-being. These individuals put themselves in harm's way

to prevent us from being harmed. Who can ever forget seeing the welcome sight of flashing lights as law enforcement arrives on the scene to help us when we are in trouble or seeing officers run toward a potentially deadly situation seemingly without regard for personal safety.

"To our law enforcement officers, thank you and know you are deeply appreciated by Holmes Community College and its employees," Dr. Burnham said. "As the vice president for the Ridgeland Campus, I rely on and trust our officers' ability to make the campus a safe place to attend classes for our students, employees and the public. It is in those particular times when we have an accident in a vehicle, an issue at our home or at school and law enforcement arrives to provide needed assistance that may even save a life that their true value shines through to us."

Goodman Campus holds CTE Meet and Greet

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus held its Career Technical Education (CTE) Meet and Greet on April 25. Career Tech students, instructors and area business representatives enjoyed a meal and fellowship with one another.

Dunn Utility Products helped sponsor this end-of-the-year event. They also donated a Yeti cooler that was raffled off as a door prize.



Russ signs with Texas Southern University

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (center) **Jaycelyn Russ**, a Lady Bulldog who signed with Texas Southern University to play soccer, surrounded by her teammates and coaches.

Holmes Community College Lady Bulldog soccer player Jaycelyn Russ signed with Texas Southern University on April 25 in the new soccer fieldhouse on the Ridgeland Campus. The daughter of Kimberly and Jerry Russ, she played forward for the Lady Bulldogs while majoring in mechanical engineering.

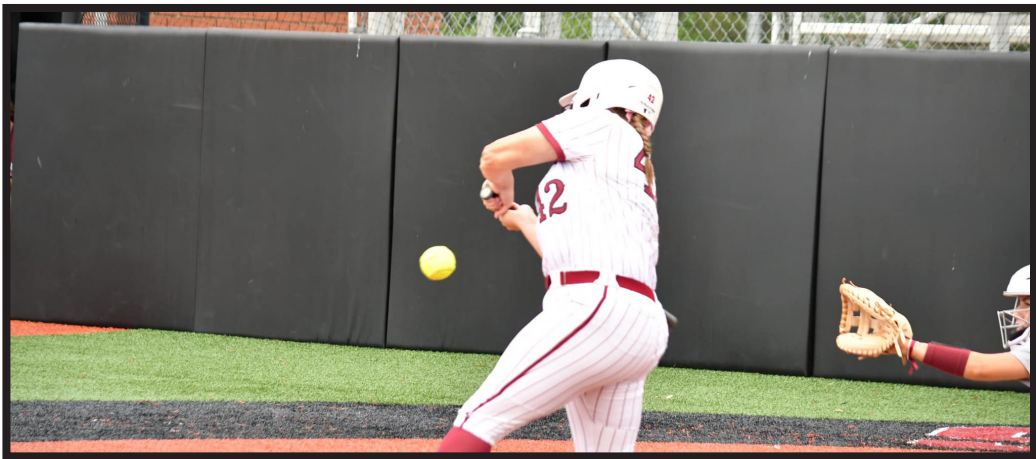
This season, Russ was in the starting lineup for 22 games, including 11 conference games. She scored 20 goals, with three of those being game-winning goals. Russ also had 11 assists. The Lady Bulldogs finished the season, 19-3, and won a share of the MACCC title. Additionally, Russ represented

the Lady Bulldogs as part of the North women team in the 2023 MACCC All-Star Soccer Game post-season.

“We are extremely proud of Jaycelyn and her continuing her academic and athletic journey at Division 1 Texas Southern,” Head Women’s Soccer Coach Wesley Noble said. “Jayce’s work ethic in her two years has been first class and is the sole reason for her successes and opportunities. She was a key component for us for two years and we can’t wait to watch her excel even more at the next level.”

Lady Bulldogs fall at Hinds to end the season

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs ended the season Friday, April 26, falling twice to Hinds Community College, 10-5 and 8-2.

Annie Sartin got the start and suffered the loss. Charlee Rose Tierce and Avery Roark also pitched in the game. Abbie McGee led with four hits while

Blair Walsh added two including a double.

In game two, Mollie Swilley got the start and suffered the loss. Aver Roark also pitched in the game. Swilley added a double in the game.

Bulldogs split with Eagles to end the season

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs finish the 2024 season with a split with the Hinds Community College Eagles winning 13-12 in game one and falling 18-16 in game two in nine innings.

In game one, Hunter Bethel got the start but didn’t get the win. Bethel went five innings before giving way to Drew Newman and Will Carter. Carter picked up the win going 2 2/3 innings and gave up no runs on no hits with one strikeout and one walk. Hunter Azemar, Nicolas Schwing, Jacob Lott and Jackson Parker each had two hits with Schwing adding a homerun and

Lott adding a double. Brenden Skirtech had a two-run homerun while Amari Conley added a triple.

In game two, Aidan Bellman got the start and went one inning before giving way to Carson Moon, Houston Wedgeworth and Seth Terrell. Terrell suffered the loss in the game. Matthew Reed led with four hits while Azemar had three and Schwing, Adam Francisco, Bethel and Parker each added two. Azemar had a two-run homerun while Conley added a solo shot. Schwing, Lott and Andrew Dinkelacker each had a double while Francisco and Schwing added a triple.

Anderson and Bertschler signed with four-year schools

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (seated) **Laila Anderson** and **Jordan Bertschler**, Lady Bulldogs who signed with Jackson State University and Millsaps College, surrounded by their team and coaches.

Two Holmes Lady Bulldog soccer players signed with four-year universities on Wednesday, May 1, in the new soccer fieldhouse on the Ridgeland Campus. Laila Anderson signed with

the Jackson State University Tigers, and Jordan Bertschler signed with the Millsaps College Majors.

Anderson, the daughter of Danielle Latham and Greg Anderson, played

forward for the Lady Bulldogs while majoring in pre-athletic training. Anderson is graduate of Richland High School.

This season, Anderson was in the starting lineup for 13 of the 22 games she played in, including eight conference games. She had three assists and scored a goal, which happened to be a game-winning goal.

Anderson also coaches two youth cadet girls soccer teams in Madison and helps coach skills for tots in Pearl. Her career goal is to work in the medical field helping athletes mentally and physically. She also plans to continue coaching young athletes to become to best versions of themselves.

“Laila has done really well in her time at Holmes,” said Women’s Soccer Coach Wesley Noble. “She switched positions from where she was used to and has rapidly grown week in and week out. She will do well at the next level and we are excited to watch her

journey!”

Bertschler, daughter of Erica and Brian Bertschler, was a goalkeeper for the Lady Bulldogs. A graduate of Jackson Academy, she studied pre-med at Holmes. Additionally, she is employed with Chik-fil-A and is a member of Christ United Church of Jackson. Her future plans are to attend medical school and become a radiologist.

Bertschler played in six games this season, including two conference games, and represented the college as part of the North women’s team during the 2023 MACCC All-Star Soccer Games hosted at Holmes.

“Jordan will bring a great demeanor to Millsaps,” Noble said. “She is a sure handed keeper that is also a favorite amongst her peers. We are thrilled she is playing at the next level!”

Both players were a vital part of the 2023 team who ended the season 19-3 and won a share of the MACCC title.

Holmes takes two from Coahoma, 9-0 and 3-0

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Mckenlee McDaniel, Lizzy Carpenter, Camille Russell, Chesney Beckham and Maicee Coleman during Sophomore Day.

The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up two MAC-CC wins at home on April 24 over the Coahoma Community College Lady Tigers, 9-0 and 3-0.

In game one, Mollie Swilley got the start and the win. She went five innings and gave up one hit and had three strikeouts. Blair Walsh led with three hits including a double while Jadyn Miles and Abbie McGee each had two

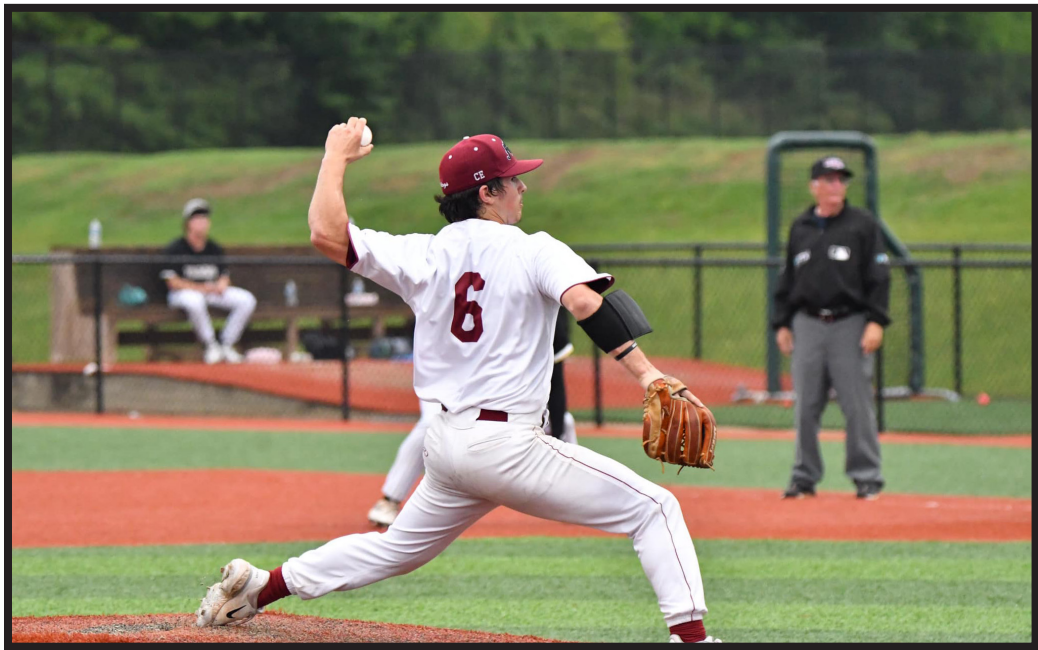
hits with Magee adding a double.

In game two, Annie Sartin got the start and the win. She went seven innings and gave up one hit and had five strikeouts.

It was Sophomore Day as Maicee Coleman, Chesney Beckham, Camille Russell, Lizzy Carpenter and Mckenlee McDaniel were all recognized prior to game one.

Bulldogs take two from Coahoma Tigers

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up two MACCC wins on April 24 over Coahoma Community College, 13-6 and 7-2.

Cole Moudy got the start. Houston Wedgeworth and Brenden Skirtech also pitched in the game with Wedgeworth picking up the win. Matthew Reed, Nicolas Schwing and Hunter Azemar each had three hits with each having a double. Hunter Bethel added a double.

In game two, Josh Fleming got the start and went the distance picking up the win. He gave up two runs on seven hits with nine strikeouts. Jacob Lott and Andrew Dinkelacker each had two

hits with Lott adding a homerun and a double. Skirtech also added a double.

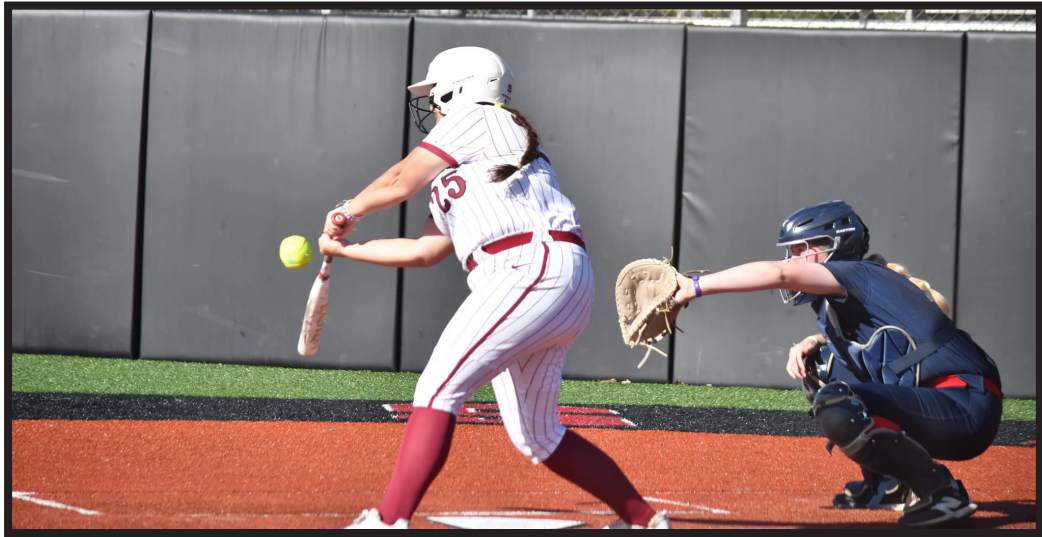
Against East Central on Friday, the Bulldogs fell 7-4 and 22-2.

Aidan Bellman suffered the loss in game one. Seth Terrell also pitched in the game. Reed and Amari Conley each had three hits with Conley having a homerun and a double and Reed adding a double.

In game two, Bethel got the start and suffered the loss. Carson Moon, Drew Newman, Will Carter, R.J. Merriman and Jabari Farr also pitched in the game. Schwing led with two hits while Azemar added a double.

Lady Bulldogs split with Lady Warriors

From Staff Reports/Photos



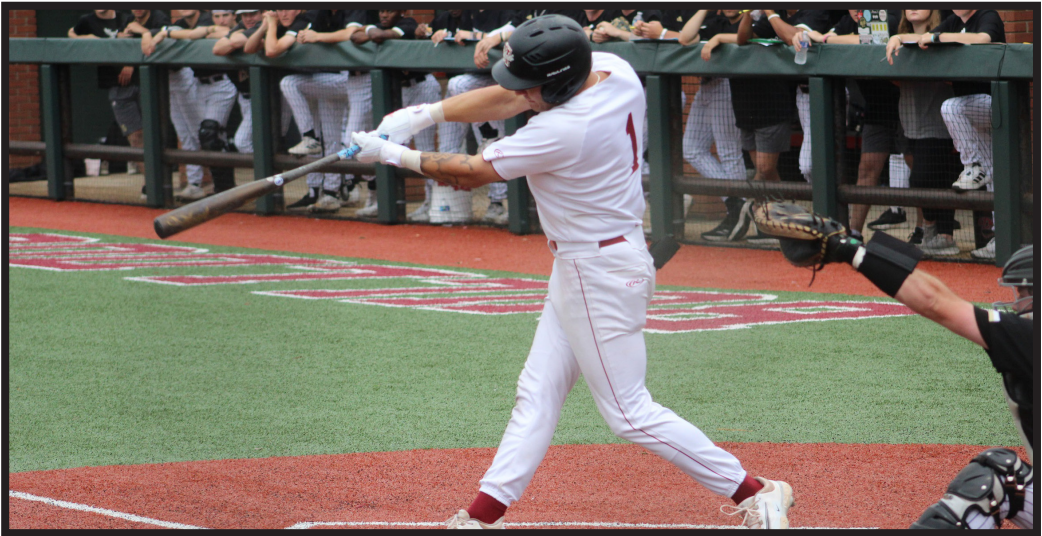
The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs split two games at home on Friday, April 19 with the East Central Community College Lady Warriors falling 9-5 in game one and winning 9-6 in game two.

In game one, Mollie Swilley got the start and suffered the loss. Swilley and Lizzy Carpenter each led the Lady Bulldogs with two hits with Swilley adding a double.

In game two, Annie Sartin got the start and picked up the win. She gave up six runs on 11 hits with two strikeouts and one walk. Swilley led with two hits. Blair Walsh and Gracie Williams each had solo homeruns in the game.

Bulldogs split two games with Northeast

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs split two games at home on Wednesday, April 17, vs. the Northeast Mississippi Community College Tigers winning 24-14 and falling 7-5.

In game one, Houston Wedgeworth picked up the win in relief. Cole Moudy got the start, and Brenden Skirtech also pitched in the game. Matthew Reed, Nicolas Schwing, Hunter Azemar and Amari Conley each had three hits. Azemar, Conley and Adam

Francisco each had two-run homeruns while Schwing added a double while Reed, Skirtech and Hunter Bethel each added doubles.

In game two, Josh Fleming got the start. Will Carter and Drew Newman also pitched in the game with Carter suffering the loss. Reed led with two hits while Jacob Lott added a double and Azemar added a triple.

Holmes alumnus Bobby Grantham inducted into MS Sports Hall of Fame

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey, MS CC Sports Hall of Fame inductee Bobby “Monkey” Joe Grantham and Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood.

Bobby “Monkey” Joe Grantham of Winona was inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame during a ceremony on April 11 at the Claude Muse Center in Pearl. Grantham is a graduate of Holmes Agricultural High School in Goodman and earned his A.A. degree from Holmes Community College in 1960. In the 1961 yearbook, Grantham was quoted saying, “The good die young, I want to live!” During Grantham’s time at Holmes, he lettered in football and track. He was coached by Horace McCall in football and Billy Mustin and Aubrey Rozell in track. In 1959, the Holmes track team placed third in the state and set two

state records for the 440 and 880 Relay. In 1960, Grantham was a state champion in pole vault for the college. “I am extremely grateful for my time at Holmes,” Grantham said. “I am grateful for the lessons I learned and the relationships that still help guide me to this day. I’m blessed to have spent my best years at Holmes.” After a 30-year career, Grantham retired from AT&T in 1990. He was inducted in the college’s Sports Hall of Fame in 2008. Grantham is married to Pamela Grantham of Greenwood and they reside in Winona. They have two children, Warren and Bobbie. Grantham and his wife still enjoy attending sporting events in Goodman and are avid fans of Holmes athletics.

Holmes inducts six into 2024 Sports Hall of Fame

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2024 Holmes Sports Hall of Fame inductees. They are (left to right) Shelton Richardson, Gerald “Hugh” Gibson, Walter Holman, Shane Trosclair, Larry Hart and Richard Worthy.

Holmes Community College inducted six alumni into the 2024 Sports Hall of Fame. Inductees included: Hugh Gibson (‘66), Larry Hart (‘08), Walter Holman (‘80), Shelton Richardson (‘02), Shane Trosclair (‘97) and Richard Worthy (‘07). Gibson, a native of Eupora, played football and participated in track and field at Holmes under Coach Robert McGraw. Gibson was selected as a Mississippi Junior College All-State. After Holmes, he earned a J.D. from the University of Mississippi and continues to practice today. He served on the

Mississippi Employment Commission as their Chairman (1980-1992) and served on the City of Eupora Alderman (2011-2019). Hart, a Madison native, is a former Bulldog player and coach. He earned All-State honors at Holmes before transferring to the University of Central Arkansas. There he recorded 21.5 sacks in two seasons — a total that still ranks among the top five in the school’s record books. Hart was chosen as an All-American and the Southland Conference Defensive Player of the Year as both a junior and senior. Now,

Hart is the University of Houston’s defensive consultant and outside linebackers coach. He is making his mark off the field as well. His book, “The Recruit’s Playbook: A 4-year Guide to College Football Recruitment for High School Athletes,” was published in 2021. Holman, a native of Vaiden, lettered in two sports while at Holmes. He played football for Coach Quinby Morgan and track and field for Ode Burrell. He was awarded all state 1979 by the Mississippi Junior College Association and went on to play at West Virginia State University where he was 2nd Team All-Conference running back. His professional sports career continued on when the Cleveland Browns selected him to join their training camp in 1983. He moved over to the USFL with the Pittsburgh Maulers (1984) and Tampa Bay (1985) and Detroit Arena Football (1988) and back to the NFL-Washington Redskins (1987). Richardson, a native of Grenada, played football at Grenada High School before coming to Goodman to play for the Bulldogs. He played running back in the 2001 and 2002 seasons under head Coach Hugh Shurden. After Holmes, Richardson signed with Louisiana Tech. Richardson is a terrific athlete and a physical player who played running back and quarterback. While playing for Holmes, Rich-

ardson rushed 128 times for 627 yards and six touchdowns in nine games his sophomore year. He was selected first-team All-Region 23 and was Holmes’ Most Valuable Player. Trosclair, a native of Chickasaw, Louisiana, played baseball for the Bulldogs under Quinby Morgan and Kenny Dupont. He was a pitcher and Mississippi Junior College All-State and All American with an appearance in the Mississippi Junior College All Star Game. After Holmes, he continued on in the sport to lead the South Eastern Louisiana University pitching staff and continues to coach at his high-school, Thibodaux High School. Worthy, a Canton native, played at Canton High School where he averaged 20 points, five rebounds and five steals a game. Coach Todd Kimble recruited Worthy to play at Holmes where he earned First Team All-NJCAA Region XXIII honors during sophomore season. While playing for the Bulldogs, he scored 22 points in first round of region tournament and 18 points in state semi-finals which helped lead the team to a state championship. Worthy earned All-Region and All-State honors going on to play at Mississippi College and Oklahoma City University.

Holmes holds annual foundation golf tournament

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is Team BankPlus who won First in First Flight. The team included (left to right) Ellis Harris, Sr., Tanner Tate, Jarrett Johnson and Ellis Harris, Jr.

The Holmes Community College Development Foundation, Inc. Golf Classic was held Thursday, May 2, at Deerfield Golf Club in Madison. This annual event includes lunch, golfing and a social immediately following the completion of play. Corporate/team sponsorships and hole sponsorships are the main ways the tournament raises money for the Holmes Foundation. This year, Team BankPlus won First in First Flight. The team included Ellis Harris, Sr., Ellis Harris, Jr., Jarrett Johnson and Tanner Tate. Tate was also the winner of the Longest Drive. Team HCC Football came in first for

the Second Flight. The team included Carter Hankins, C.J. Johnson, Jason Kelly and Joey Merriman. Coming in first for the Third Flight was Team JH&H Architects, which included Adam Haver, Jason Humphrey, Jeff McGee and Tyler Moore. Finally, Team par-Tee-Time came in first for the Ladies Division. The team included Emily Bennett, Laura Bigbee, Reagan Dillmore and Dr. Amy Whittington. Additionally, Danny Morgan was closest to the hole for hole #12 and Gary Glazier was closest to the hole for hole #3. For more information about the annual tournament, contact Allison DeWeese at adeweese@holmescc.edu.



The Growl Staff



Aleesa “Leesa” Booker

Leesa Booker of Madison is a freshman journalism/mass communication major at Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. She is very excited about her first year at college, meeting new friends and getting to leave class at her own will! In her free time, she loves to sing, dance, act, play the piano, and shop ‘til she drops (for anything). Upon finishing her time at Holmes, she plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi and major in film and video production. Booker’s career goal is to become a screenwriter/actress or possibly a public relations manager for big budget films.



Alyssa Jackson

Alyssa Jackson of Madison is a freshman journalism/communications major on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus. She is a member of both the Horizons yearbook and Growl newspaper staff. Off campus, Jackson enjoys listening to the latest music releases and spending time with her friends and family. After graduating from Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi and major in communications. Jackson’s career goal is to become a journalist or a public relations specialist for a music corporation.



Johnvonda Johnson

Johnvonda Jackson of Canton is a sophomore majoring in health science on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. She plans to graduate this spring and join the nursing program at Holmes. She enjoys spending time with her kids and family. This is her first year with the newspaper. She is so excited about it.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE GROWL? CONTACT MARY MARGARET BUSBY AT MBUSBY@HOLMESCC.EDU