



Holmes Community College  
Goodman – Ridgeland – Grenada  
[www.holmescc.edu](http://www.holmescc.edu)

# THE GROWL

Volume 87  
Number 30

May 29, 2025

## Holmes mourns the loss of Jeanette Dawson

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College mourns the loss of Jeanette Dawson, a dorm security guard for the college. Dawson passed away on Tuesday, March 4.

Jeanette Groves Dawson was born in Goodman on Aug. 8, 1967, to Van Ethel Groves and Albert Lee Simmons. She was reared in a loving household by her mother, the late Steve Williams, Jr., and three younger siblings.

At an early age, Dawson joined Walden Chapel United Methodist Church. She remained a life-long member.

She began her education in the Holmes County School District and

later completed her GED. She started her employment at Durant Electric and ended her career at Holmes, where she remained a faithful and dedicated employee until her health failed. She was at Holmes for 12 years.

Dawson met and married the love of her life, Bryan (whom she affectionally called “Chub”), and one son was born to this union.

Left with cherished memories: her loving and devoted son, Dedrick (Shenetra) Dawson; mother, Van Ethel Groves; grandson, Jonathan Bines; sisters: Florence (Robert) Holliday of Augusta, GA and Leonora Davis of

Kosciusko; brother, Steven T. Groves of Goodman; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

“We mourn the passing of Mrs. Jeanette Dawson,” said Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey. “Please remember Mrs. Dawson’s family in the coming days, especially her son, Dedrick and his family, whom many of you know. Dedrick, also an employee of Holmes, works in our vehicle shop on the Goodman Campus. Our thoughts and prayers will be with them as they celebrate her life and lay her to rest.”

## Holmes holds 97th Commencement on May 14

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are (left to right) Goodman Campus M.C. McDaniel Scholarship recipient **Mason Harrell**, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey**, Grenada Campus Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan **Shane Rosenthal** and M.C. McDaniel Scholarship recipient **Emma Brasher**. Not pictured: .

Holmes Community College held the 97th Commencement Exercises on Wednesday, May 14 in Frank Branch

Coliseum on the Goodman Campus. The Goodman Campus, Grenada Campus and Attala Center ceremony



Pictured is Goodman Campus Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan **Kaylee Everett** after receiving the recognition from Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey**.

was held at 10 a.m. and the Ridgeland Campus and Yazoo Center had a ceremony at 2 p.m. The ceremonies were



Pictured are (left to right) Ridgeland Campus Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan **Mary Lane Rey**, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** and Ridgeland McDaniel Scholarship recipient **Amani Willis**.

also live streamed at [holmesccmedia.com/white-channel](http://holmesccmedia.com/white-channel).

*Graduation, continued on Page 7*

## The Growl garners awards at O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are (left to right) **Kyanti Fleming** of Canton and **Macey Bowman** of Pelahatchie, reporters for Holmes Community College’s newspaper The Growl. Bowman and Fleming won first place in Editorials in the Better Newspaper Contest held in conjunction with the O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference on March 20.

Holmes Community College’s Growl newspaper won three awards during the 2025 Better News/Media Contest – Student Division. The contest was held in conjunction with the 27th Annual O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference held March 20 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 to the winning editorials included Macey Bowman of Pelahatchie and Kyanti Fleming of Canton. The Growl also won second place for Best Cover and third place for Overall General Excellence.

Bowman, Fleming and Public Rela-

tions 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

*Journalism, continued on Page 5*

### What’s Inside...

- Student Editorials
- Student Honors & Awards Nights
- Student & Employee Highlights
- Sports Photos/Recaps
- And More!



To keep up with everything going on at Holmes, follow us on DogTracks on our website at [holmescc.edu](http://holmescc.edu)!



Roll into Rollin’ Beans at the Holmes Ridgeland Campus

By Naomi Ubeda  
Staff Reporter



Need a quick caffeine fix between classes? Say hello to Rollin’ Beans, the newest (and cutest!) coffee stop on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus! Nestled right inside the Student Union, this little café may be small, but it’s brewing up big flavors and even bigger energy to fuel your busy days.

Rollin’ Beans is serving up a delicious mix of espresso classics, yummy frappes and Lotus energy drinks—perfect for powering through those early lectures or late-night study sessions. Whether you’re craving a smooth

latte, a refreshing energy boost, or just something cozy to sip on, they’ve got you covered.

And let’s talk snacks! Because what’s a good coffee without a tasty treat? Rollin’ Beans is whipping up freshly baked muffins, ooey-goopy cinnamon rolls and other breakfast bites to keep you fueled and happy.

Rollin’ Beans may be a tiny café tucked inside the Student Union, but that just makes it the perfect grab-and-go spot for busy students! Swing by for a quick pick-me-up between classes or take a moment to soak in the cozy atmosphere while you sip your favorite drink.

So, next time you need a little boost, roll on over to Rollin’ Beans and treat yourself to something delicious!



AI-Generated Controversy

By Walker Scott  
Staff Reporter



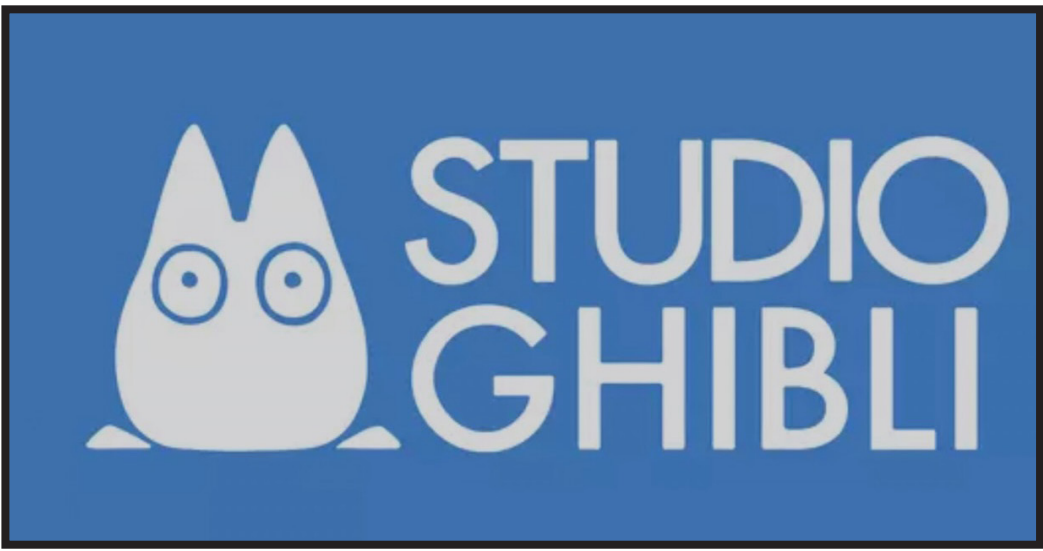
For the past few weeks, the internet has been lit up with discourse over artificial intelligence (AI) art. This subject has always been controversial, but this recent controversy is a bit different. For context, many AI companies offer AI image generation. If a user is trying to generate a realistic image, this usually involves training the AI with real images. The same principle applies if a user wants to create AI art. However, many claim that when AI is trained in art, it’s stealing and profiting from the hard work of human artists. This conundrum lies at the heart of all AI art discourse.

The latest edition of the AI software ChatGPT includes a way to generate images based off movies by Studio Ghibli, the famous Japanese animation studio behind films such as “Spirited Away,” “My Neighbor Totoro,” and “Howl’s Moving Castle.” Many peo-

ple across the internet used the software to generate seemingly harmless images: pets, children, weddings- there were, of course, controversial images generated, but that’s not unique to this software. If anything, it can be said that this Studio Ghibli art trend was a very positive one for its participants. But what about those who chose not to participate?

This is where the discourse comes in. Many people are opposed to this trend, claiming it’s disrespectful to Studio Ghibli’s artists. One Reddit user wrote, “These AI-generated ‘Ghibli-style’ images are nothing but hollow knock-offs, reducing true artistry to a mindless aesthetic filter.” However, some commenters on that post disagreed, believing that the trend is harmless fun. Another Reddit user replied to the previous post, “A poor person or a middle-aged women/man posting this art just to be happy for few seconds doesn’t deserve to be shredded to pieces for doing something they haven’t heard about in their lifetime.”

The founder of Studio Ghibli has his



own opinions on AI art. In an interview from 2016 Miyazaki was asked how he felt about an AI art demonstration he was shown- his response could inform how he feels about this recent trend. When he was shown a video made entirely with AI art, he said he was “disgusted,” saying that he “would never wish to incorporate this technology into my work at all.”

Plenty of people continue to generate images from ChatGPT as well as several other sources, secure in their belief that it isn’t harming artists. However,

those who are against AI art are trying to fight it; Karla Ortiz is a woman currently engaged in a multiple-year-long legal battle trying to sue several AI companies, including ChatGPT, for using the work of artists in the training for their image generators. With the debate on AI image generation still being fairly new, only time will tell what laws- if any- are made to prevent AI companies from using copyrighted art to fuel image generation.



The Growl

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

Contents in the Opinion Section do not represent the official opinions of Holmes Community College or The Growl unless specifically indicated. Letters are welcome, but may be edited for clarity and space.

Send to: [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu).



## Spring Fling on the Ridgeland Campus

By Macey Bowman  
Staff Reporter



The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held their annual Spring Fling on Tuesday, April 1. The whole school came together, enjoying things like a mechanical bull, snow cones, free Chick-fil-A and many other fun activities. The Student Government Association hosted this event alongside the Holmes Ambassadors.

There was also a 360 photobooth, Salsa lessons, games and multiple inflatables, including an inflatable obstacle course, slide, inflatable jousting and an inflatable soccer ball target, which I thought was neat because our

the Ridgeland Campus is home to the Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs soccer teams.

Holmes is a close-knit community. Every teacher wants you to succeed and wants to see you do your best. This Spring Fling was proof of that. As I looked around outside it wasn't just students hanging out with students, it was teachers playing the games with students and laughing together.

Spring Fling is a great bonding experience for students and teachers. In the midst of tests, hard classes and graduation coming up in a month, it was important for students to have time to have fun with the people we they spend every day with. At Holmes, the environment already feels like a home, but with experiences like Spring Fling, it makes it feel everyone even closer.



Macey Bowman takes her turn on the mechanical bull during Spring Fling.

## Learning Salsa at Holmes

By Michelle Castro  
Staff Reporter



This year's Spring Fling was a lively event filled with music, laughter and sunshine. Students enjoyed a bright and beautiful day while enjoying Chick-fil-A sandwiches, testing their strength on a mechanical bull and learning exciting Latin dance moves from Jim Frechette. His lessons brought people together encouraging them to step out of their comfort zones and onto the dance floor.

If salsa isn't your jam don't worry—Jim Frechette is well-versed in various dance styles and can teach anything from swing to ballroom. He hosts weekly dance parties to help dancers

of all levels find their rhythm in a fun relaxed environment. If parties aren't your thing you can book a private lesson with him for a more personalized experience. You can even bring your friends and turn it into a group session.

If you didn't get a chance to join in and move your hips there's still an opportunity to experience the fun. Frechette owns Applause Dance Factory, located at 551 Ridgecrest Dr. Madison, 39110, and he teaches all types of dance! Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, you can go have an evening of rhythm excitement and enjoy community fun. Don't miss out on the chance to dance the night away! Contact Frechette at 601 856-6168 or [applausefactory@yahoo.com](mailto:applausefactory@yahoo.com), or visit [www.danceatapplause.com](http://www.danceatapplause.com).



(center) Naomi Ubeda and Michelle Castro join other Holmes students in the salsa dancing fun during Spring Fling.

## Kanye West on even thinner ice after recent interview

By Walker Scott  
Staff Reporter



Powerful hip-hop voice Ye West's (formerly Kanye) downward spiral continues amidst recent controversy. The Grammy award-winning rapper recently appeared in an interview with DJ Akademiks. In said interview, West wore a shirt designed by fellow rapper and convicted felon Sean "Diddy" Combs paired with a swastika pendant and an all-black version of the traditional Klu Klux Klan robes- pointy hat and all.

This, unsurprisingly, sparked a largely negative reaction across social media. Some users on X wrote, "Surely, he must be aware of how this attire was used against Blacks to instill fear and hate, yet he wears this costume with pride in his attempt to garner attention." And(And makes it an incomplete sentence but you could

say "someone else commented") "Kanye West appeared for an interview wearing a black KKK-inspired outfit, commenting he had a white version as well, and they were both custom-made. What's going on with Ye?"

However, some are behind West's decisions in this interview, with some comments under the interview's YouTube video reading, "Kanye is our goat. Kanye for President," "There is some truth in the crazy. He has been betrayed by his own men, he is very Shakespearean," and "This is awesome."

West's public image isn't the only thing that's been affected by recent controversy; his wife, Bianca Censori, has too. In West's upcoming album titled "WW3," on the track "BIANCA," West raps lyrics such as "She's having a panic attack, and she is not liking the way that I tweeted." All of this followed West's confirmation that he and Censori are "not on the same page." Their marriage lasted two years.



Pictured are Kanye West and Bianca Censori.

As West continues to toe the line between artistic expression and public outrage, one thing remains clear—his actions are sparking conversations that extend far beyond music. Whether viewed as a provocative genius or a

troubled figure in freefall, Ye West's legacy is becoming increasingly defined by controversy rather than creativity.



## Why time management skills are important in college

By Macey Bowman  
Staff Reporter



Have you ever pulled an all-nighter to cram for a test you have the next day? Me too; trust me, I know it is the worst. Having time management skills helps

us to be successful in our academic endeavors, personal well-being and a balanced college life and experience. Bettering our time management skills would obviously be helpful, so here's a few ways to start.

When we cram in information hours or minutes before a test, that information goes into our short-term memory and might even leave before we get into the classroom to take the test. Planning study times, ways to study and preparing the material to study will help to retain information. Retaining information and studying with a planned schedule will help to improve grades and confidence in the material. Calendars, planners and studying apps are great ways to start organizing study plans and times.

Poor time management skills can lead to procrastination, stress and

burnout. This is something I struggle the most with. A lot of college students believe that they can do it all, but it is too much. Bettering our time management skills helps us to not stress about tests, grades and procrastinating doing our schoolwork. Creating a structure for assignments and study times can allow for some breathing room to prevent stress and overall personal well-being.

Time management skills help with stress, burnout, academic success and overall personal well-being. So, try to improve your time management skills one day at a time. Maybe, start with



downloading a study help app and then work your way up to building a study schedule for your classes. I did this and I promise, you will see the effects in your grades.

## Rhythm, Romance and Rauw

By Naomi Ubeda  
Staff Reporter



Rauw Alejandro, born Raúl Alejandro Ocasio Ruiz, might be one of the biggest names in Latin music right now, but his story goes way deeper than just chart-topping

hits and flashy concerts. What I find most inspiring about him is how real and grounded he's stayed, even with all his success.

Before the fame, Rauw actually dreamed of becoming a professional soccer player. He even played in Florida for a while. But life had other plans — after facing financial hardships, he gave up soccer and moved back to Puerto Rico. He worked all kinds of jobs — waiter, bartender, retail, even landscaping — just to stay afloat. And

during that time, he started pouring himself into music, uploading songs on YouTube and SoundCloud. It's amazing to think that someone who started like that is now winning Latin Grammys and selling out arenas.

What really stands out about Rauw is how personal his music feels. You can tell he writes from the heart — there's this mix of vulnerability and confidence that makes his songs hit differently. Whether it's a romantic ballad or a dance track, there's always some real emotion behind it. He says a lot of that comes from being raised by strong women — his mom, grandmother and sister — and that respect for women really comes through in how he carries himself and how he writes.

His latest album, *Cosa Nuestra*, dropped in late 2024 and it's a whole vibe. It's like a love letter to his roots, mixing reggaeton with salsa and R&B,

and he even worked with legends like Pharrell and Tainy. It's not just music for the clubs — it's music with culture, rhythm and soul. You can really feel how much he loves Puerto Rico and how proud he is to represent it.

He's also been all over the world lately on his *Cosa Nuestra* World Tour, from Brooklyn's Barclays Center to huge venues in Spain. And it's not just about singing — the guy dances like no one else in the game right now. His choreography is next level.

After his very public relationship with Rosalía, Rauw has been keeping things more private, which I think says a lot about how he values authenticity over publicity. He doesn't just make music to be famous — he does it because he's passionate and wants to tell his story. Honestly, Rauw Alejandro is more than just a reggaeton star. He's an artist with vision, heart and a deep



connection to where he comes from. Watching his journey unfold feels like watching someone turn struggle into art — and that's something worth celebrating.

## Bad Bunny: Musician and cultural icon, More than just trendy music

By Michelle Castro  
Staff Reporter



In 2023, the most-streamed artist in the world wasn't Drake or Taylor Swift. It was a Puerto Rican rapper who sings in Spanish and doesn't care if you understand

him — because the world is finally listening. That artist is Bad Bunny and he's not just making music. He's creating a cultural movement built on authenticity, self-expression and being unapologetically Latin.

Born Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, Bad Bunny grew up in Vega Baja, a small town in Puerto Rico. His early life was humble — he worked at a grocery store as a teenager and uploaded music to SoundCloud between shifts. His songs, full of emotion and Puerto Rican slang, weren't polished by big studios or crafted for American radio.

At first, people thought he was just another reggaetonero. But when he wore a skirt on live TV, painted his nails and dropped a Spanish-language album during quarantine that hit No. 1 on the Billboard charts, the world realized he wasn't here to follow trends. He was here to set them.

The rise of artists like Bad Bunny, Karol G, Peso Pluma and Rauw Alejandro marks a musical shift and the acceptance of being Latin. For years, Latin artists felt pressure to “cross over” into English to find success. But that era is over. Today, artists are staying true to their roots, singing in Spanish and connecting with global audiences who no longer need translation to feel the message. Bad Bunny became the most streamed artist in the world for four years in a row — 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 — without changing his language or compromising his identity. His 2020 album “*El Último Tour del Mundo*” made history

as the first all-Spanish album to reach No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart.

Beyond his image, Bad Bunny uses his platform to speak up on real issues. He's not afraid to call out political corruption in Puerto Rico or bring attention to injustice. In 2020, he appeared on “*The Tonight Show*” wearing a shirt that read, “They killed Alexa, not a man in a skirt,” honoring a transgender woman who was murdered in Puerto Rico. He also protested alongside thousands demanding justice after Hurricane Maria and the government scandals that followed. Through actions like these, Bad Bunny proves that fame doesn't have to mean silence. It can be a megaphone for change.

In just a few years, Bad Bunny has gone from a kid uploading songs online to a powerful and influential voice in global music. But what truly sets him apart isn't just the record-breaking streams or sold-out tours — it's his ability to remain true to himself while



inspiring millions to do the same. He proves that you don't have to switch languages or silence your truth to be heard around the world. Because when you lead with authenticity, people will listen.



## The crisis facing women: A call for action

By Kyanti Fleming  
Staff Reporter



Artificial IntelligenceWomen around the world are facing an escalating crisis, marked by unequal access to healthcare, education and economic opportunities.

From rising rates of gender-based violence to the imbalance in pay and representation, the challenges are widespread and persistent.

In many regions, women’s access to education and healthcare remains

limited, with millions of girls unable to attend school due to societal barriers or conflict. These limitations hinder their ability to achieve economic independence and contribute to broader societal development.

Additionally, gender-based violence continues to plague women worldwide, with an estimated 1 in 3 women experiencing physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, according to the World Health Organization. While efforts to combat this issue have increased, cultural norms and insufficient legal protections remain significant obstacles.

The global gender pay gap also

remains a critical issue, with women earning less than men in nearly every sector. Women of color and those in marginalized communities often face compounded disadvantages.

As women continue to advocate for equality and justice, experts call for a comprehensive approach that includes stronger laws, more resources for education and healthcare and a cultural shift toward gender equality. Addressing this crisis is essential not only for the well-being of women but for the advancement of societies as a whole.



## How AI is changing the workforce: What college students need to know

By Macey Bowman  
Staff Reporter



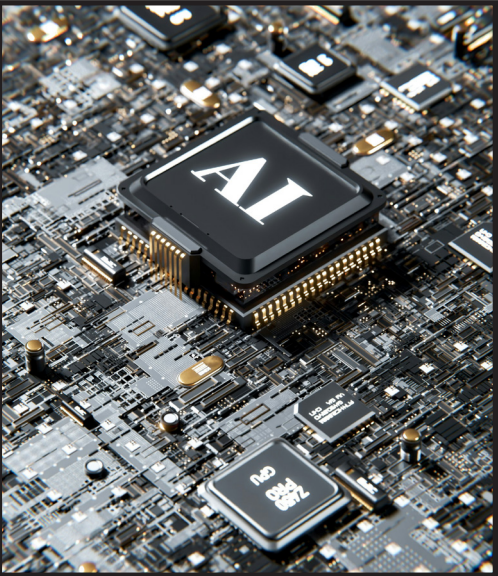
Artificial Intelligence is no longer in the distant future. AI is already reshaping jobs, industries and how we live and work. AI technologies are quickly becoming part of

our everyday lives from smart assistants to automated customer service. For college students, understanding how AI is changing the workforce is not only important, but also critical.

AI is expected to replace jobs relating to data entry, telemarketing, customer service roles and manufacturing positions. For college students, understanding that AI will most likely be used for these roles is essential when understanding the outlook of your major. To read more about what jobs are most likely to be replaced by AI, read this article from BuiltIn.com. Although AI is efficient and looks to be taking over many jobs, there are also more job openings because of it. For example, there will be more jobs for engineers and people who will be able

to tweak the AI machine to perform a specific task.

AI can do many things. As a college student, it is important to understand that it will be very prevalent in the future. But it is also important to know that your major will have a secure job outlook. This does not mean that a computer or data major will not have a job after college, but it does mean that we need to research more on AI and understand what its presence will look like in the future.



## The comeback of vinyl records: Why analog sound is winning in a digital world

By Jeremiah Henry  
Staff Reporter



At a time when people can have instant access to millions of songs with a simple touch of a screen, vinyl records have found a new place in the society. For

accessibility of vinyl, the large sleeves, placing the needle and the hiss that comes with the start of the song.

The cultural factor also comes into the picture. To the younger generation, vinyl is the physical connection to music that is, in most cases, absent in the digital realm. For the older generation, it is reminiscent of how the first generation of music listeners enjoyed their favorite albums. Another unexpected form of commerce that has been considered outmoded in recent years is record shops, but these are also making a comeback. Independent stores have become more than just stores for local artists and collectors as well. Record Store Day is an annual event that began in 2007 and is celebrated by people who still prefer vinyl and have to wait in line for special releases.

the first time in over three decades, vinyl outsold CDs, according to the RIAA 2024 year-end revenue report on [www.riaa.com](http://www.riaa.com). What’s behind this retro revival?

A number of people believe that vinyl sound is warmer and more massive compared to digital formats. The grooves of vinyl record capture the full waveform of the music and is said to give a more accurate sound representation. Apart from the sound quality, there is something about the



Though vinyl will never give streaming a run for its money, the continued use of vinyl is a poignant message that there is always something more fulfilling in old age technology. While

the world is rapidly moving forward in the digital age, vinyl makes listeners to take a pause and listen thoroughly.



## Harvard sues Trump administration over \$2.2 billion funding freeze

By Naomi Ubeda  
Staff Reporter



Harvard University filed a lawsuit on April 21 against the Trump administration, challenging a freeze on more than \$2.2 billion in federal research funding and con-

tracts, calling the move unlawful and politically motivated.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, accuses the Department of Education and the Office of Management and Budget of violating Harvard's First and Fifth Amendment rights by imposing the freeze without proper notice or due process. Harvard argues that the action was taken in retaliation for the university's political views and academic independence.

"This freeze is an attempt to punish us for standing by our values," said Harvard President Claudine Gay in a

statement. "The government is trying to use financial pressure to force changes that are not just illegal, but against everything Harvard stands for."

The conflict began earlier this year when the Department of Education opened an investigation into Harvard's campus diversity policies, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. However, the lawsuit claims the freeze was implemented without completing the necessary steps, such as giving Harvard a chance to address the concerns.

The government's freeze reportedly comes with a series of demands — including changes to the university's governance and diversity initiatives — that Harvard believes are politically charged and overreach the government's authority.

"The government cannot dictate how a university operates or what values it promotes," said constitutional law expert Marisol Vega. "This lawsuit is about protecting academic freedom from government interference."



The freeze puts at risk ongoing research projects across multiple fields, including partnerships with the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Energy, which rely heavily on federal funding.

A hearing for the case is set for July

21 in Boston.

This lawsuit adds to the growing tension between the Trump administration and major universities, many of which have been under scrutiny for their diversity programs and campus activism.

## Mental health of college students: A growing concern

By Kyanti Fleming  
Staff Reporter



As college students face the demands of academics, social life and personal growth, mental health challenges are becoming increasingly prevalent. Studies show

that nearly 1 in 3 students experience anxiety, depression or other mental health concerns during their college years, exacerbated by academic pres-

sures, financial stress and the transition into adulthood.

Experts warn that the stigma surrounding mental health continues to be a barrier, preventing many students from seeking help. Universities are responding with more accessible counseling services, peer support programs and mental health awareness campaigns. However, these resources often remain underutilized due to fear of judgment or uncertainty about how to access care.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further

intensified these issues, with isolation, remote learning and health concerns adding to the mental strain on students. Mental health advocates stress the importance of self-care, open dialogue and creating supportive campus environments to combat this crisis.

As the issue becomes more urgent, colleges are being called upon to prioritize mental health initiatives, ensuring students can thrive both academically and emotionally.



## The Rise of urban gardening: How cities are going green one rooftop at a time

By Jeremiah Henry  
Staff Reporter



In cities across the world, a revolution is brewing, quite literally. Some years back, gardening was limited to green-

ing compounds and streets and was mainly practiced by people concerned about the environment. From vegetable gardens on rooftops to individual and communal herb gardens and vertical gardens, more and more city dwellers are getting back to the soil in an effort to make their cities greener and more sustainable.

There are a number of reasons that urban gardening is on the rise. First, the increase in the cost of food has forced many city residents to seek cheaper alternatives that they can use

to feed their families. Second, there is the issue of food miles or the distance that food travels from the farm to the consumer, and the environmental impact of this process. Local food production is eco-friendly and can provide fresh and healthy food to consumers.

New York, Tokyo and Nairobi are some of the cities that have successfully implemented vertical farming. In Brooklyn, Brooklyn Grange runs the largest rooftop soil farm in the world and offers fresh food to restaurants and markets. In Nairobi's urban areas, small-scale vertical farms are being used to combat food insecurity in densely populated areas.

It is also noted that urban gardening has positive impacts on mental health. Being close to nature, taking care of plants and even observing their growth in an urban environment have been



proven to help reduce stress and improve one's well-being. This is a trend that is slowly gaining importance, and due to this, urban planners and architects are now including green spaces in

their development projects. High-rise living in the future city may not only be smart and productive but also green and vibrant.



Graduation (continued from Front Page)

Each ceremony began with a faculty and administration processional. Evan Yates, a Goodman Campus student, served as the macebearer for the first ceremony. Some of his accolades include Phi Theta Kappa vice president, Order of the Golden Key recipient and being a member of the Holmes Connection! Ridgeland Campus Phi Theta Kappa vice president and All-MS Academic Team recipient Jonathan Thompson 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 2024-2025 school year.

Next, Grenada Campus student John Evins gave the invocation during the first ceremony and Ridgeland Campus student William Cooper Canard gave it during the second one. Evins was a Phi Theta Kappa vice president, an Ambassador and an All-MS Academic Team recipient. Canard was also chosen for the All-MS Academic Team and served as Phi Theta Kappa president. Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Jenny Bailey Jones and Vice President for Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington 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. Jones 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.

“Class of 2025, you are joining Dr.

Whittington, Dr. Haffey and me as proud alumni 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. Whittington shared with graduates the famous quote from John Wesley, “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.”

Next, 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. Mason Harrell of Flora was the M.C. McDaniel Scholarship recipient for the Goodman Campus; Emma Brasher of Grenada for the Grenada Campus and Amani Willis of Brandon for the Ridgeland Campus.

Harrell is an elementary education major with a 4.0 GPA. She has earned multiple accolades, including recognition on the President’s List, induction into the 2025 Holmes Hall of Fame and the Elementary Education Award. She was also named Most Beautiful during Holmes’ 2024 Beauty Review. Harrell was active on campus as an Ambassador, secretary of Student Government Association and as a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She was also a work-study in the Student Services office on campus and is an active member of First Baptist Church of Flora. Harrell has volunteered for multiple mission trips as well as volunteer projects such as Horses for the Handicap. She plans to pursue a degree in elementary education at Mississippi

State University.

Brasher, a pre-nursing major, has excelled in both academics and leadership. She has been named to the President’s List and has received multiple accolades, including the STEM Award, Mathematics Award and Campus Class Favorite recognition. Brasher served as president of Phi Theta Kappa for Grenada and was an active member of the Baptist Student Union and Student Government Association, where she was named president. She is also involved in her community as a member of Christ Community Church. Brasher plans to attend Delta State University’s nursing program to earn her bachelor’s degree this fall. Her career goal is to become a general nurse practitioner.

Willis is a health science major who was very active on campus. She served as a Holmes Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa officer, Chess Club member and STEM Club member. She as also inducted into Holmes’ Hall of Fame for 2025. Off campus, Willis is a media team volunteer for Word of Life Church and a volunteer for St. Dominics. She plans to continue her studies in exercise science at the University of Mississippi on a pre-med track with the goal of becoming a dermatologist.

For the Outstanding Phi Theta Kappa awards, Kaylee Everett of Bentonia was the recipient for the Goodman Campus, Shane Rosenthal of Grenada, for the Grenada Campus, and Mary Lane Rey of Madison for Ridgeland.

Everett served as vice president of the Kappa Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and was involved in MOSA-IC. Additionally, she participated in honors trips with the Sociology Department. Everett plans to transfer to the University of Southern Mississippi to pursue her bachelor’s degree in marketing.

Rosenthal has demonstrated exceptional leadership and academic success, serving as an Ambassador, vice president of the Student Government Association, secretary of Phi Theta Kappa and as an intramural sports participant. His hard work has earned him a place on both the President’s and Dean’s Lists. Rosenthal was also named Mr. Holmes-Grenada for 2025. He plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in psychology at the University of Mississippi and become a sports psychologist.

Rey, a business administration major, was a 2025 Hall of Fame inductee. She was also an officer for Phi Theta Kappa. Rey plans to attend Mississippi State University to study graphic design. After graduation from MSU, she hopes to take a gap year to explore personal interests before entering the workforce. Ray has worked for several businesses, including U.S. Lawns.

“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. Jones 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 2025 to the audience.

Journalism (continued from Front Page)

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 featured a presentation on the new Roy Howard Commu-

nity Journalism Center at the University of Southern Mississippi, a new professional news service staffed in part by students at USM. This presentation was moderated by Joshua Wilson, community liaison for the Center.

Following Wilson, Chris Todd pre-

sented, “The Art of Photojournalism.” For the keynote address, attendees had the opportunity to hear from Mississippi Today Editor-at-Large Marshall Ramsey, a noted author, cartoonist and two-time Pulitzer finalist. The event concluded with the presentation of the

Better Student News/Media Awards.

For more information about MPA, visit [www.mpa.org](http://www.mpa.org).

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

Holmes Phi Theta Kappa chapters honored at national convention

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the students, faculty and administrators who represented Holmes at Phi Theta Kappa’s national convention April 3-5.

Advisors and officers from Holmes Community College’s Phi Theta Kappa chapters from each of the three campuses attended Phi Theta Kappa Catalyst in Kansas City April 3-5. Catalyst is the society’s annual international convention and those in attendance celebrated a series of sig-

nificant achievements. Attendees have the opportunity to connect with fellow students, meet potential employers and speak directly with university transfer representatives from institutions nationwide.

Holmes was recognized during the Hallmark Awards Gala for several

- exceptional accomplishments:
- Top 100 Most Distinguished Chapter: Grenada and Ridgeland campuses
  - Top 50 Most Distinguished Honors in Action Project: Ridgeland Campus
  - Distinguished Theme Award in Hon-

- ors in Action: Ridgeland Campus
- Most Distinguished Advisor Award: Lisa Anglin
- Phi Theta Kappa, the official honor society for two-year colleges, has recognized academic excellence since 1918 and is supported by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). With nearly 1,250 chapters across 11 nations and more than 4.3 million members inducted since its founding, PTK provides its 230,000 active members with life-changing access to scholarships, leadership development, and academic support.
- Holmes’ outstanding showing at PTK Catalyst is a testament to the hard work and commitment of its PTK members and advisors, and further highlights the transformative impact of the organization on student success.



## Chad Moorer presents Humanities Lecture

From Staff Reports/Photos



William Chad Moorer presents his Humanities Lecture on March 5.

William Chad Moorer, a faculty member in the English Division on the Goodman Campus, was named the 2025 Holmes Community College Humanities Teacher of the Year. The prestigious Humanities Teacher Award is presented by the Mississippi Hu-

manities Council to recognize excellence in teaching and contributions to the humanities in higher education. Moorer gave his scholarly presentation, “Traditional Poetry: I’m Not Dead Yet,” on Wednesday, March 5 at 2 p.m. in McMorrough Library on the

Goodman Campus. This presentation was open to the public and was part of his recognition as the Humanities Teacher of the Year.

Moorer has been an integral part of the college for over 12 years, where he teaches Developmental English, English Composition, Creative Writing and American Literature. He also serves as the director of the Writing Center where he trains peer tutors who assist their fellow students.

In addition to his classroom contributions, Moorer is a leader in the academic community. He is a State Board member and past president of the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association. Additionally, he has served as Holmes’ representative to the executive council of the Two-Year College English Association of Mississippi. He also organizes and judges the Goodman Campus Creative Writing Contest. In 2018, he was recognized as a William Winters Scholar and in 2017, he was named a

Sally Wilson Distinguished Educator, as well.

Moorer holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Alabama and a bachelor’s degree in English from Rhodes College. Prior to teaching full-time at Holmes, he served as an adjunct instructor at both Holmes and Hinds Community College.

“Moorer’s work as an educator and leader in the humanities has already enriched our campus” said Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Jenny Bailey Jones. “This presentation offered further insight into the relevance of traditional poetry in modern times.”

In addition to his presentation on campus, Moorer was formally recognized at the Mississippi Humanities Council’s annual spring Humanities Gala in Jackson.

## Two Holmes Goodman students place in statewide writing contest

From Staff Reports/Photos



Cayton Edwards

Two Holmes Community College students have been recognized in the Mississippi Community College Cre-



Daniela Lewis

ative Writing Association (MCCCWA) statewide competition, earning top placements for their literary work.

Cayton Edwards of Lexington and Daniela Lewis of Greenville placed in the annual contest, which celebrates the creative talents of students across Mississippi’s community colleges.

Edwards, a Computer Engineering major, earned second place in the Short Story category for his work, “An Old Game.” On campus, he serves as a Holmes Ambassador and works in the library. In his free time, Edwards enjoys writing, drawing, running and playing RPGs and video games.

“Writing has been a passion of mine for many years, and this award feels like an acknowledgment of all the effort my teachers and I have put in,” Edwards said. “I am overjoyed.”

Lewis, a mass communications/journalism major, won third place in the Creative Nonfiction category for her piece, “My Mother’s Journey of Culture, Community, and Change.” An active member of the Holmes band and

choir, she enjoys photography, singing, and creative writing. She plans to continue her education at Howard University after graduating from Holmes.

The awards will be presented at the 2025 Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association conference at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

The MCCCWA, established in 1978, promotes and celebrates creative writing among community college students in Mississippi. Each year, Holmes Community College submits its top campus writing contest winners to compete at the state level.

For more information about Holmes’ Creative Writing Contests, contact English Instructor Chad Moorer at [wmoorer@holmescc.edu](mailto:wmoorer@holmescc.edu).

## Two Holmes students chosen for prestigious internship

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Elisha Spann, SPICE Representative Jennifer Johnson and Mercedes Warren.

Two Holmes Community College students have been awarded the prestigious opportunity to participate in the S.P.I.C.E. internship with the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C. This competitive program provides students with hands-on experience in research and development, offering

them valuable insights into their future careers.

One of the selected students is Elisha Spann, a pre-physical therapy major from Flowood. The daughter of Eddie and Audrey Youngblood, her ultimate career goal is to become a traveling physical therapist, allowing her to pro-

vide care to diverse populations across different regions.

“I applied for this internship because I am passionate about improving the health, performance and rehabilitation of individuals in high-demand environments,” Spann said. “The opportunity to also meet new people, create meaningful connections and work alongside talented professionals is a plus!”

During her time at Holmes, Spann has been involved in babysitting and community service activities. After completing her studies at Holmes, she plans to obtain her bachelor’s degree and apply to physical therapy school. Spann is thrilled about this opportunity and looks forward to representing Holmes with pride.

“I am very excited for this opportunity that I was presented with,” she added. “I will make sure to represent my school well!”

Also selected for the prestigious internship is Mercedes Warren, a pre-physician assistant major from Canton. The daughter of Alisha Warren and Laquintic Rivers, she aspires to work in a clinic as a physician assistant

or join the military in the same role.

“I applied for this internship to strengthen my skills through practical experience, build meaningful connections with professionals and mentors and gain hands-on learning opportunities,” Warren said. “The internship offers challenges and experiences that will help me develop confidence, teamwork and professional maturity. It could also open doors for future employment, either with the same company or within the industry.”

After completing her studies at Holmes, Warren plans to attend Jackson State University to earn her bachelor’s degree in biology. In addition to her academic pursuits, she is also a local lash technician.

Holmes congratulates Spann and Warren on this outstanding accomplishment. Their selection for the S.P.I.C.E. internship highlights their dedication, passion and commitment to their respective fields. The hands-on experience gained through this opportunity will serve as a strong foundation for their future careers in healthcare.



## Holmes, City of Ridgeland hold ribbon tying for Bullog Bistro

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are representatives from Holmes, the City of Ridgeland, the Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce and Rollin’ Beans coffee shop at the ribbon tying for Bulldog Bistro.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus, in partnership

with the City of Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce and Ridgeland Mayor Gene McGee, held a ribbon tying ceremony on May 6 for the newly expanded

Bulldog Bistro. Located in the Holmes Student Union, Bulldog Bistro will continue to feature Rollins’ Beans coffee shop and will now offer an expanded menu with additional breakfast and lunch options. Beginning in August, Culinary Arts students will play an integral role in preparing and serving food at the bistro, providing them with valuable hands-on experience in a professional setting. In addition to on-campus dining, Bulldog Bistro will also offer delivery through DoorDash to the surrounding community.

## Holmes student accepted into medical school at William Carey

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jack Owens

Former Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus student Jack Owens of Brandon has been accepted into the medical school at William Carey University, an accomplishment he credits in part to the strong foundation he built through the college’s STEM department. “Holmes STEM department, specifically Dr. Milliken’s Organic Chemistry summer session, guided me in developing positive study habits and learning the material in such a way that it is not strictly for testing, but applicable moving further in my educational journey,” Owens said. “By the end of the term, I was able to not only perform academically for myself, but also teach others, which helped reinforce my understanding of the material.”

Owen, son of Jerrolyn and Robert Owens, is a graduate of Brandon High School. His success at Holmes led to an opportunity to conduct medical research at Mississippi State University, where he applied his knowledge of racemic mixtures—concepts he first encountered at Holmes. “Because of my learning experience at Holmes, I was given the opportunity to do medical research at Mississippi State with my newfound knowledge of racemic mixtures – the foundation of which was built through Holmes STEM,” Owens said. “I will continue to use what I learned about chemical interactions in the body, as it relates to Biochemistry, in medical school.” Holmes takes pride in preparing students for future academic and professional success, and Owens’ achievements exemplify the impact of a strong STEM education.

In his free time, Owen loves to play tennis, go to the gym and play music for local events and church. He attends First Baptist Brandon and is a member of the worship team there. Owens has now graduated from Mississippi State, and looks forward to starting medical school. “Ideally, I would like to practice pediatrics, but I am staying open minded as I start my journey to becoming a physician,” Owens said. For more information about Holmes Community College’s STEM programs, visit [www.holmescc.edu](http://www.holmescc.edu).

## Holmes presents Songs of the Civil Rights Experience

From Staff Reports/Photos

On Wednesday, March 19, Holmes Community College presented a “Songs of the Civil Rights Experience” as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): Black in America series. It was held in McMorrough Library at 1 p.m. The event included a musical and historical program featuring the Holmes Concert Chorale directed by Drew Trautman. History Instructor J.R. Hall also performed with the group.



A display shares photographs of memorable moments from the Civil Rights era.



History Instructor **J.R. Hall** sings with the Chorale.



Director **Drew Trautman** leads the **Holmes Chorale**.



The **Holmes Chorale** performs during the Songs of the Civil Rights presentation.



English Instructor **LaShonda Levy** takes part in the presentation.



## Holmes Grenada Campus holds 2025 Honors Day

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

The 2025 Grenada Campus Awards Banquet at Holmes Community College, held on April 17, was an inspiring celebration of student achievement.

The Hall of Fame inductees included Noah Beck, Mathis Beck, Abby Redwine and Emma Brasher - each recognized for their academic excellence and leadership. In the field of health sciences, Jessica Tallent was honored with the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Day Award while Holly Allbritton was recognized for the ADN Evening one. Natalie Strong and McKenzie Smith received honors in Practical Nursing, Jake Franklin was the

Physical Therapist Assistant Award recipient and Anna Ross was honored with the Surgical Technology Award.

Those recognized with STEM Awards were Allison Nester, Bryce Lee, Antonio Stinson, Anne Adams and Savannah Staszefski. Michael Cavanaugh and Chloe Blakely were honored in Mathematics, while Ethan Prestridge received the award in Computer Science. Symanthia Brown earned awards in both Chemistry and Creative Writing.

In technical fields, Kateara Edmonds was recognized in Engineering Technology, Eli Wiggins in Heating, Venti-

lation, AC & Refrigeration Technology and Christopher Bradford in Welding & Cutting Technology. Katrenia Hych was the Business Technology Award recipient, and Abbott Hankins was the honoree for Forestry Technology.

Honorees in the humanities and social sciences included Erica Edwards in Literature, Sara Cochran in English Composition, Anne Adams in Sociology and Shane Rosenthal, who was recognized in Psychology, Spanish and Speech. Drew Dalton earned awards in Business Administration, History and Political Science.

John Cain was honored in Music Appre-

ciation, Yvonia Lott in Orientation, Tyla Hyde in Health and Physical Education and Abigail Presley in Biological Science.

Student Government Awards were presented to Emma Brasher and Shane Rosenthal, recognizing their leadership and service on campus. Additionally, Caitlynn Bingham received the Ambassador Award.

The evening served as a reminder of the dedication Holmes students bring to their education and future careers.



Abby Redwine and Emma Brasher were recognized for Hall of Fame induction. Also recognized for Hall of Fame were (not pictured) Mathis Beck and Noah Beck.



Pictured is Instructor **Dean Savage** with STEM Award recipients **Anne Adams**, **Bryce Lee**, **Savannah Staszefski** and **Antonio Stinson**. Not pictured: Allison Nester.



**Holly Allbritton** accepts the ADN Award from **Edris Ricks**.



**Erica Edwards** accepts the Literature Award from **Dr. Amber Mabus**.



**Casey Johnson** presents the Creative Writing Award to **Symanthia Brown**.



**Shae Wang** presents the Mathematics Award to **Chloe Blakely**.



**Lisa Wilbourn** presents the Business Technology Award to **Katrenia Hych**.



**James Floyd** presents the Forestry Award to **Abbott Hankins**.



**Eli Wiggins** accepts the HVAC Award from **Samuel Green**.



**Heather Rozier** presents a Practical Nursing Award to **Natalie Strong**.



**McKenzie Smith** accepts a Practical Nursing Award from **Casey Welch**.



**Jake Franklin** accepts the PTA Award from **Virginia Bryan** and **Heather Pounds**.



**John Evins** and **Emma Brasher** were recognized for PTK All MS selection.



**Yvonia Lott** accepts the Orientation Award from **Casey Johnson**.



**Slade Redwine** presents the Welding Award to **Christopher Bradford**.



**Leah Mitchell** presents the Surgical Tech Award to **Anna Ross**.



**Haley DeNoon** poses with SGA Award recipients **Emma Brasher** and **Shane Rosenthal**, and Ambassador Award recipient **Caitlynn Bingham**.



Pictured is Health and Physical Education Award recipient **Tyla Hyde**.



## Holmes Goodman Campus holds 2025 Honors Day

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

Holmes Community College's Goodman Campus celebrated student excellence during the 2025 Honors Day Program held April 15 in McDaniel Hall Auditorium. The event recognized outstanding academic, technical and leadership achievements across the campus community.

Faculty and staff presented awards to students representing various academic and career-technical programs, honoring those who demonstrated excellence in their chosen fields and extracurricular involvement.

A highlight of the ceremony was the induction of the 2025 Goodman Campus Hall of Fame class, the highest honor a Holmes student can receive. Inductees are selected by faculty and staff based on academic achievement, campus involvement and community service. This year's honorees included Houston Blair of Kosciusko, Mason Harrell of Flora, Jordan Leech of Winona, Janey Beth McRae of Winona, Bella Parker Roberts of Winona and Evan Yates of Kosciusko.

Several Hall of Fame inductees received additional awards. McRae was honored with the Literature Award, Harrell received the Student Government Association Award, and Blair was presented the Wesley David Rule Mathematics Award, named for a former mathematics instruc-

tor. Leech received the Biological Science Award, and both Blair and Leech were recognized as Holmes Plus Award recipients. Holmes Plus is a competitive scholarship program for students in STEM or Health Sciences pathways that covers tuition, housing, meals and required textbooks, emphasizing academic excellence and a structured curriculum. Yates was also named the Goodman Phi Theta Kappa Order of the Golden Key recipient, an honor given to a student who exemplifies scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship.

Tierney Evans of Pearl was recognized for making the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team. Additional Holmes Plus Award recipients included John Paul Buckner of Starkville and Bryce Hester of Sallis.

In other academic awards, Landon Wallace of Kosciusko received the Physical Science Award; Maggie Steed of Kosciusko earned the Business Administration Award; and Joe Wilson of Kosciusko took home the Criminal Justice Award. Liz Castillo of Carrollton was honored with the Bill Watkins Visual Arts Award, while James Hudson Haffey of Kosciusko received the Engineering Award. Gracee Ferguson of Coila was presented the English Composition Award, and Julissa Claxton of Jackson received the Social and

Behavioral Science Award. William Winstead of Yazoo City earned the Creative Writing Award, and Cameron Armstrong of Brandon received the W.Y. Sudduth History and Political Science Award.

Several students in career-technical programs were also honored. Briyana Palmer of Greenville received the Associate Degree Nursing Award, and Alicia Zollicoffer of Kosciusko earned the Practical Nursing Award. Kaitlyn Broyles of Goodman received the Architectural Engineering Award, and Emmanuel Garrett of Florence was recognized with the Automotive Technology Award. Sanyia Edwards of Eupora received both the Business Office Technology Award and the Christine Herron Academic Achievement Award, which honors a non-traditional student active in MOSAIC who demonstrates academic excellence.

Kendall Williamson of Kosciusko earned the Collision Repair Technology Award; Alexandra Smith of Natchez, the Conservation Law Enforcement Technology Award; Christian Jenkins of Sallis, the Drafting and Design Award; and Drew Grace of Goodman, the Forest Technology Award. Tyrese McElroy of Madison received the Heating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Technology Award, Fisher Gullede of Lexington was honored with the Industrial Technology Award and

Monroe Johnson of Jackson took home the Welding Award.

In the area of campus involvement, Omarion Travis of Canton received the Horizons Yearbook Award, Brent Zachary of Kosciusko was honored with the Ambassador Award, and Kaylee Everett of Benton received the Band Award. Aryelle Saine of Jackson earned the Choral Music Award, Elliona Westbrook of McCool was recognized with the Music Major Award and Pharaoh Tanksley of Ethel received the Percussion Groups Award.

Additional special honors included the Michael Klauk Award, presented to Ella Hendry of Madison. Named for a former Holmes pre-med student who tragically passed away, the award honors a student who exemplifies Klauk's academic and personal excellence. Madison Shute of Winona received the Dr. Marilyn Burrell Memorial Award, given to a student with strong academic credentials, leadership abilities and campus involvement. The Deans and Directors Award, which recognizes a non-traditional student who returned to college after time away and made a meaningful impact in the classroom, was also presented during the ceremony.

*Honors, continued on Page 12*



**Nikki Boutwell** presents the Ambassador Award to **Brent Zachary**.



**Patty Jones** presents the Associate Degree Nursing Award to **Briyana Palmer**.



**Patty Jones** presents the Dean's and Director's Award to **Kim Wright**.



**Will Alexander** presents the Architectural Engineering Award to **Kaitlyn Broyles**.



**Derrick Rainey** presents the Automotive Technology Award to **Emmanuel Garrett**.



**Dr. Kyle Moore** presents the Band Award to **Kaylee Everett**.



**Jay Cheatham** presents the Bill Watkins Visual Arts Award to **Liz Castillo**.



**Wendy Grace** presents the Business Administration Award to **Maggie Steed**.



**LaShonda Levy** presents the Christine Herron Academic Achievement Award to **Sanyia Edwards**.



**Dr. Drew Trautman** presents the Choral Music Award to **Aryelle Saine**.



**Casey Caldwell** presents the Collision Repair Technology Award to **Kendall Williamson**.



**James Floyd** presents the Conservation Law Enforcement Technology Award to **Alexandra Smith**.



**Chad Moorer** presents the Creative Writing Award to **William Winstead**.



**Katrena Harris** presents the Criminal Justice Award to **Joe Wilson**.



**Will Alexander** presents the Drafting and Design Award to **Christian Jenkins**.



**Chad Moorer** presents the Dr. Marilyn Burrell Memorial Award to **Madison Shute**.



## Honors *(Continued from Page 11)*

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Andy Wood** recognizes Hall of Fame inductee **Evan Yates**.



**Andy Wood** recognizes Hall of Fame inductee **Bella Roberts**.



**Andy Wood** recognizes Hall of Fame inductee **Janey Beth McRae**.



**Andy Wood** recognizes Hall of Fame inductee **Jordan Leech**.



**Andy Wood** recognizes Hall of Fame inductee **Mason Harrell**.



**Andy Wood** recognizes Hall of Fame inductee **Houston Blair**.



**Andy Wood** recognizes Hall of Fame inductee **Mason Harrell**.



**Steve Diffey** presents the Horizons Award to **Omarion Travis**.



*(center)* **Bryce Hester** poses with his Holmes Plus Award alongside **Heather Jones**, **Dr. Durga Siwakoti**, **Jodie Burchfield** and **Bill Devore**.



**Will Alexander** presents the Industrial Technology Award to **Fisher Gulledge**.



**Heather Jones** presents the Michael Klauk Award to **Ella Hendry**.



**Dr. Drew Trautman** presents the Music Major Award to **Elliona Westbrook**.



**Martin Eckelberry** presents the Social and Behavioral Science Award to **Julissa Claxton**.



**Charles Wood** presents the W.Y. Sudduth History and Political Science Award to **Cameron Armstrong**.



**Ben Lewis** presents the Welding Award to **Monroe Johnson**.



**Dr. Durga Siwakoti** presents the Engineering Award to **Hudson Haffey**.



**LaShonda Levy** presents the English Composition Award to **Gracee Ferguson**.



**James Floyd** presents the Forest Technology Award to **Drew Grace**.



**Jeffrey Cotten** presents the HVAC Award to **Tyrese McElroy**.



Holmes Ridgeland Campus holds 2025 Honors Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2025 Ridgeland Campus Awards & Honors Program recipients. They are (very front) Quincy Boles, (seated row, left to right) Isabella Saborio, Geraldine Coleman of Ridgeland, Jessica Gibbons, Macey Bowman, Anniston Lyles, Mary Lane Ray, Swayze Brewer, Morgan Kendrick, (first standing row, left to right) Ethan Hudspeth, Jonathan Evans, Caroline Newman, A'Brielle Boyd, Amani Willis, Avery Hallman, Jordyn Hanible, Lauren Wright, Lynn Washington, Amyya Garland, (back row, left to right) Micheal Jarju, Cason Mikell, Easton McAdory, Logan McAdory, Keagan Hamilton, Cooper Canard, Johnathan Thompson, Keaton Rogers and Jeremy Heflin. Not pictured: Warren Ammons and Elijah Brunson.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus recognized its students' achievements and honors during the 2025 Honors Day Program held April 8 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,

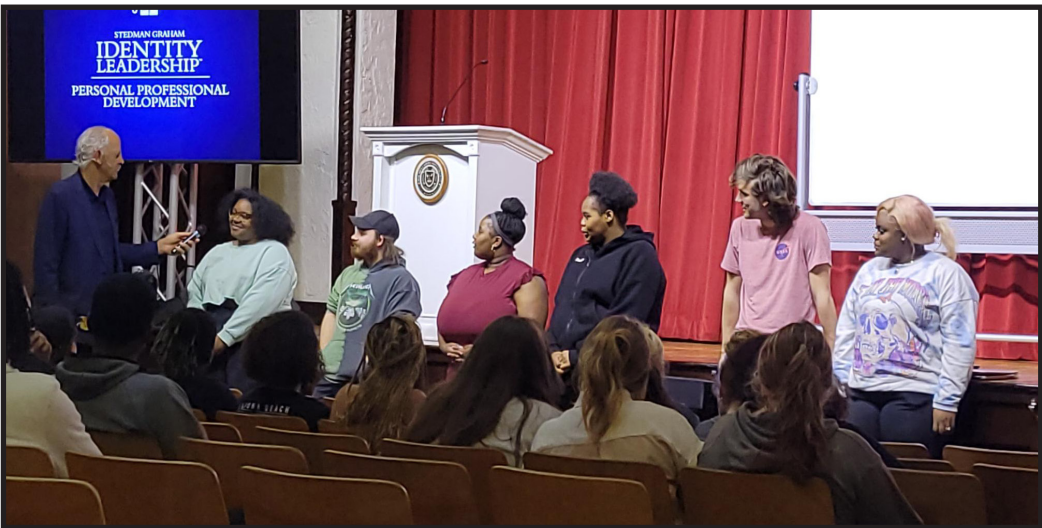
in various categories. The evening began with a welcome from Ridgeland Campus Dean of Academics Dr. Tonya Lawrence and an invocation from Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Bronwyn Martin. Award presentations began with recognizing the 2025 Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame inductees. Hall of Fame is the 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 2025 Hall of Fame inductees included: Macey Bowman of Pelahatchie, Swayze Brewer of Brandon, William "Cooper" Canard of Madison, Jessica Gibbons of Flora, Christina Guzman of Florence, Jeremy Heflin of Florence, Micheal Jarju of Gluckstadt, Morgan Kendrick of Richland, Anniston Lyles of Brandon, Logan McAdory of Brandon, Mary Lane Ray of Madison, Johnathan Thompson of Camden and Amani Willis of Brandon. A few of the Hall of Fame inductees received other awards, as well. Lyles received the Ambassador Award, Gibbons received the Biological Science Award, Canard received the Engineering Award and Thompson was the Mathematics Award recipient. Following the Hall of Fame recognition, English Instructor Dr. Stacey Coulter recognized another special award; Holmes' Literary Contest winners. This year, the winners included Keaton Rogers and Amyya Garland, both of Canton. Rogers won first place in the Short Story Category for "The Boy and his Bird," and Garland won second place in Short Story for "Painting the World in the Moonlight." Garland was also recognized during the Honors Program for receiving the English Composition Award. For other academic awards, the Physical Science Award went to Easton McAdory of Brandon, the Business Administration Award went to Marterius Brooks Jackson, and Isabella Saborio of Brandon took home the Criminal Justice Award. Caroline Newman of Jackson received the Fine

Arts Award, Keagan Hamilton of Madison, the Health, Physical Education, & Recreation Award, and Lynn Washington of Ridgeland, the Journalism Award. Additionally, Jordyn Hanible of Madison took home the Literature Award; Lauren Wright of Madison, the Spanish Award; Ethan Hudspeth of Madison, the History & Political Science Award; Avery Hallman of Brandon, the Public Speaking Award and A'Brielle Boyd of Ridgeland, the Social & Behavioral Science Award. For career-technology and workforce programs, Geraldine Coleman of Ridgeland received the Business & Office Technology Award; Quincy Boles of Canton, the Culinary Arts Award and Warren Ammons of Canton, the Drafting & Design Technology Award. Lindsay C. Cuba of Vaughan received the Electro Mechanical Technology Award, Cason Mikell of Flora, the Heating, Ventilation, AC & Refrigeration (HVAC) Technology Award and Jordan M. Johnson of Brandon, the Information Systems Technology Award. In addition, the Paralegal Technology Award went to Jonathan Evans of Starkville and the Welding & Cutting Technology Award recipient was Elijah Brunson of Jackson. Health Science career-tech programs will honor their students at their individual pinning ceremonies held in May and throughout the summer. The ceremony concluded with closing remarks by Director of Health Science Programs Allison DeWeese.

Stedman Graham inspires Holmes students through leadership workshop

From Staff Reports/Photos



Stedman Graham leads his identity workshop on the Goodman Campus in McDaniel Auditorium on March 18.

Holmes Community College welcomed Stedman Graham and Frank Johnson to the Goodman Campus for a special leadership workshop on Tuesday, March 18. The workshop was held in McDaniel Auditorium. During his visit, Graham spoke to students about "Identity Leadership," a program designed to help individuals understand who they are, where they are going, and how to achieve their goals. Graham is a business advisor and the chairman and CEO of S. Graham and Associates, a management and marketing consulting firm. He is also the

author of 12 books, including two New York Times bestsellers and one Wall Street Journal bestseller. Johnson currently serves at the Mississippi Department of Mental Health as a certified statewide 'Think Again/Shatter the Silence Suicide Prevention Trainer/Instructor' and a curriculum developer in Prevention Services. He also works as a public relations specialist. The event provided Holmes students with valuable insights and motivation to take charge of their personal and professional growth.

Holmes students visit Mississippi museums, reflect on Katrina's impact

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Holmes' Intro to Anthropology students visiting the Civil Rights Museum..

Students from Holmes Community College's Goodman Campus visited the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History on Wednesday, April 2, as part of their studies in Intro to Anthropology and Race & Ethnic Relations, led by instructor Rhonda Jefcoat. In addition to exploring the powerful exhibits chronicling the state's past, students had the opportunity to view a special installation titled 2005 Katrina. The exhibit showcases photographs and personal stories of loss, survival and resilience in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the Gulf Coast nearly two decades ago. For many of the students, who were born shortly after the hurricane struck in August 2005, the exhibit offered a deeper understanding of the storm's

long-lasting effects on Mississippi communities. They engaged in meaningful discussions with Jefcoat, who shared her personal experience of suffering severe damage to her home in Byram during the storm. "The 2005 Katrina exhibit helped students connect history with the lived experiences of people right here in our state," Jefcoat said. "It was powerful for them to see how Mississippians came together during one of the hardest times in our modern history." The field trip allowed students to explore both the human and historical impact of significant events in Mississippi's story, complementing their coursework and sparking personal reflection.



## Holmes Phi Theta Kappa bring home multiple awards from Regionals

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Ridgeland Campus representatives. They are (left to right) **Jessica Gibbons**, **Amani Willis**, **Anniston Lyles**, **Cooper Canard**, **Micheal Jarju** and **Johnathan Thompson**.

The Phi Theta Kappa chapters on all three campuses if Holmes Community College attended the Mississippi/Louisiana Regional Conference and Awards Gala held March 6-7 at The University of Mississippi in Oxford.

The Lambda Sigma Chapter from the Ridgeland Campus was in the Top 5 for Honors in Action, Top 10 for Most Distinguished Chapter and received a Distinguished Theme Award for Theme 8. Amani Willis was a Golden Key honoree, as well. In addition, Ridgeland Advisor Lisa Anglin won Most Distinguished Chapter Advisor, and Anglin, Laura Canard and Stephanie Blue were all named Horizon Advisor Award recipients.

The Alpha Mu Beta Chapter from the Grenada Campus was recognized for placing in the Top 10 for College Projects

and won a Distinguished Theme Award for Theme 1. Additionally, Grenada student Emma Brasher was recognized for being chosen as a Coca Cola Silver Scholar and as a Golden Key recipient. Grenada Advisors Cynthia Abel and Haley DeNoon received the Horizon Advisor Award, as well.

From the Kappa Alpha Chapter from the Goodman Campus, Evan Yates was the Golden Key honoree and both Simonee Miller and Charles Wood were recognized as Horizon Advisor Award recipients.

All three campuses were 5 Star Chapter recipients.

The Mississippi/Louisiana Region of Phi Theta Kappa serves over 50 chapters throughout the states of Louisiana and Mississippi.



Pictured are the Grenada Campus Phi Theta Kappa representatives. They are (left to right) **Marla Ray McKnight**, **Emma Brasher**, **Advisor Haley DeNoon**, **John Evins** and **Advisor Cynthia Abel**.



Pictured are the Goodman Campus Phi Theta Kappa representatives. They are (left to right) **Advisor Charles Wood**, **Evan Yates**, **Janey Beth McRae**, **Kaylee Everett** and **Advisor Simonee Miller**.

## Holmes hosts Adult Education Day and Advocacy Day Celebration

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are **instructors and staff members in Holmes Adult Education Department** along with (center) **Representative Fabian Nelson**, who served as a guest speaker.

On April 10, Holmes Community College proudly celebrated Adult Education Day and Advocacy Day with an inspiring and informative event that brought students closer to their educational and career goals.

Adult Education students from across the district had the exciting opportunity to visit Holmes campuses and explore a variety of programs available to them. Dr. Luke Jones, Nikki Boutwell and Simonee Miller warmly welcomed the group and provided insightful overviews of Holmes' diverse program offerings. Their presentations opened students' eyes to new opportunities and helped them better understand the many educational and workforce pathways they can pursue.

A highlight of the day was a special message from Representative Fabian

Nelson, a proud Holmes alumnus. Representative Nelson shared his personal story and offered words of encouragement to the students, reminding them of the power of perseverance and the importance of continuing their educational journey.

"It was a powerful day of learning, connecting, and dreaming big," said Earline Russell-Smith, Holmes District Director for Adult Education/HSE. "Our students left inspired and with a renewed sense of purpose. Events like these show them what's possible and help them see a future beyond the classroom."

The day served not only as a celebration of Adult Education but also as a reminder of the transformative power of opportunity, advocacy and community support.

## Turner elected president-elect of Mississippi Organization for ADN

From Staff Reports/Photos



**Alicia Turner**

Alicia Turner, an Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus, was recently elected president-elect of the Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (MOADN), a significant achievement that reflects her dedication to nursing education and advocacy across the state.

Turner's election was announced during MOADN's annual convention, held April 9-10 in Tupelo. The event brought together more than 1,100 students, 166 faculty members and over 30 exhibitors, showcasing the strength and unity within Mississippi's nursing education community.

MOADN serves as the leading voice

for associate degree nursing education and the practice of registered professional nurses in Mississippi. The organization is committed to promoting excellence in ADN programs, supporting professional growth, and shaping the future of healthcare education and delivery. MOADN also advocates for the retention of the Registered Nurse title and scope of practice for ADN graduates, while fostering smooth transitions from ADN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) pathways.

As president-elect, Turner plans to continue advancing MOADN's mission by advocating for associate degree nurses and promoting initiatives that enhance nursing education and professional practice throughout the state.

Turner was recognized earlier this year as one of the Best in Healthcare for her integrity, experience and dedication, and she will graduate from UMMC on May 23 with her Doctoral of Nursing Practice. A Holmes alumna, she holds a mortuary science degree, a practical nursing degree and an ADN degree from the college. Turner also holds a bachelor's in biology from Jackson State University, a BSN from the University of Women as well as an MSN from University of Alabama in Birmingham.

For more information about MOADN and its initiatives, visit [www.moadn.com](http://www.moadn.com).



## Holmes Culinary Arts program win first place in competition

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

The Holmes Culinary Arts students took part in the Salvation Army’s Soup, Soap and Salvation fundraiser on April 6. Proceeds from the event directly supported The Salvation Army’s programs, including emergency shelter, food pantry services, and disaster relief efforts. The Culinary Arts students won first place in the soup competition with their Street Corn Chicken Chili and Sweet Potato Jalapeno Cornbread Muffins.



(left) Pictured are Culinary Arts students (front row, left to right) **Brooklyn Walker, Sydney Bills, Naterra Petty**, (back row, left to right) **Patrick Robinson, Jasmine Bonty** and Adjunct Chef Instructor **Eric Beamon**.

## 8 Grenada students complete 8-week EMS class

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are (front row, left to right) **Morgan Ingram, Sandra McDaniel, Je’Tara Brown, Denesha Jordan**, (back row, left to right) **Jackson Lucius, Drew Gant, Kaleb Ellis** and **John Pritchett**.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus celebrated the graduation of its spring 12-week Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class on April 10. Graduates included Morgan Ingram, Sandra McDaniel, Je’Tara Brown, Denesha Jordan, Jackson Lucius, Drew Gant, Kaleb Ellis and John Pritchett. Ellis earned the highest overall average in the class. The course was led by instructor Raymond Liberto. 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.

## Grenada Academic Coordinator Tina Garrett earns doctorate

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Tina Garrett**

Dr. Tina Garrett has achieved a significant academic milestone by earning her Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Professional Studies with an emphasis on Higher Education. Her dissertation, titled An Exploration in Differences in

Learning Preferences and Motivations Across Multi-Generational Community College Students, addresses the unique challenges and opportunities posed by the presence of students from five of the seven living generations within today’s college classrooms. “Instructors from 13 of the 15 public community colleges in Mississippi agreed to allow their students to complete a student questionnaire (MSLQ),” Dr. Garrett explained. “This statewide collaboration resulted in 974 student responses. My goal for this study was to guide instructors and administrators in meeting the needs of multi-generational students by understanding their learning preferences and motivations.” Dr. Garrett’s educational journey began at Mississippi Delta Community College, where she earned an Associate of Arts degree. She later received both her Bachelor of Arts degree in

Psychology and her Master of Education degree in Community Counseling from Delta State University. She began her professional career in mental health counseling before transitioning to higher education, where she has served as an instructor for over 25 years. Since 2014, Dr. Garrett has been a dedicated psychology instructor at Holmes Community College. She currently holds two leadership positions at Holmes: Coordinator of Academic Programs for the Grenada campus and District Division Chair for Social and Behavioral Sciences. Outside the classroom, Dr. Garrett remains actively engaged in both professional and community service. She is a member of the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Academic Officers and previously served on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Faculty Staff Association

of Community Colleges. Dr. Garrett is also a life member of the Junior Auxiliary of Winona, MS, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries as Recording Secretary. A resident of Winona, Mississippi, Dr. Garrett lives with her husband, John. They have two daughters: River, a school counselor in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and Radleigh, a student in the UMMC Dental Hygiene Program. In her rare spare time, she enjoys watching The Golden Girls and sipping a good cup of coffee. A devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Winona, she also serves as a Sunday School teacher. Reflecting on her journey, Dr. Garrett shared, “I am thankful for the encouragement of my family, friends, and coworkers. This journey could not have happened without your support.”

## Holmes Ridgeland recognizes Mental Health Awareness Day

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus requested that everyone wear “Green” on Thursday, April 17, for Mental Health Awareness. A “College Student Grief Awareness Day” was held in Ridgeland Hall hosted by the Social Science Club, Holmes counselors and Open Up Mississippi. Open Up Mississippi is a youth-led mental health advocacy initiative dedicated to empowering young people across the state to address mental

health challenges, reduce stigma and promote wellness. Established in 2019, the organization brings together youth and young adults, mental health professionals, and community leaders to create a supportive environment for mental health discussions and services. For more information about Open Up Mississippi, visit <https://openupms.org/>.



## Holmes to offer four-week Basic Electrical Course

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



For those interested in learning a new skill, Holmes Community College is sponsoring a four-week, hands-on electrical course on Thursdays from June 2-27 at the Nissan Training Center, located at 300 Nissan Dr. in Canton. This course provides the opportunity to learn the basic theories of electricity, including amperage, voltage and Ohm’s Law. Participants will also gain practical knowledge in electrical hazards, electrical safety, using personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce the risk of injury, stripping and pulling wires, connecting and bending wires,

and installing breakers and sockets, among other skills.

Students will be paid \$10 per hour and will receive an industry-recognized certificate from Holmes and South Central MS Works.

Classes will run from 4 - 8 p.m. each day, with graduation and an employer fair held on the last day of training. Eligible participants will receive \$10 per hour through the Mississippi Reconnect Grant.

For more information, please contact Angie Williams at [anwilliams@holmescc.edu](mailto:anwilliams@holmescc.edu).

To register, please contact your local WIN Job Center:

Pearl WIN Job Center:  
Lakeisha Little – 601-936-1910  
Amanda Reed – 601-936-1834  
[llittle@mdes.ms.gov](mailto:llittle@mdes.ms.gov)  
[amanda.reed@hindcc.edu](mailto:amanda.reed@hindcc.edu)

Jackson WIN Job Center:  
Angela Hayes – 601-414-7802  
[angela.hayes@hindscc.edu](mailto:angela.hayes@hindscc.edu)

## Easton McAdory awarded MS Rural Physicians Scholarship

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Easton McAdory**

Easton McAdory, a 2025 Holmes Community College graduate, has been awarded the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship, a prestigious program designed to support aspiring

physicians who plan to serve in rural communities across the state.

The son of Lisa and Jeffrey McAdory of Brandon, he was a pre-medicine major on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus. McAdory will continue his education this fall at Mississippi State University, where he plans to pursue a degree in medical technology with a pre-medicine emphasis.

“It was a pleasure to have Easton in my microbiology class,” said Dr. Antoine Gates, Holmes’ STEM Chair. “He consistently demonstrated strong lab skills and a genuine curiosity for learning science. What stood out even more was his maturity and willingness to build strong relationships: he made a clear effort to connect with his instructors and was thoughtful and respectful in how he engaged with his classmates. I have no doubt he’ll be a successful physician one day.”

Beyond his academic achievements, McAdory is actively involved in the healthcare field. He works part-time at St. Dominic’s Hospital and volunteers in the hospital’s Emergency Room, experiences that have solidified his interest in medicine and provided him with firsthand insights into patient care.

“This fall marks an exciting new chapter as I begin my studies at Mississippi State University,” McAdory said. “I believe this program will provide a strong foundation for my future aspirations in the medical field.”

In addition to his healthcare experience, McAdory volunteers at his church, where he participates in youth programs. He also enjoys spending time with friends and playing video games as a way to maintain a balanced lifestyle.

McAdory’s ultimate career goal is to become a surgeon, with a current focus

on general surgery, which aligns with the requirements of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program. While he plans to practice in Mississippi, he remains open to exploring specialized surgical fields as he gains more experience.

“I am particularly interested in the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program as a pathway to achieving my dream of becoming a surgeon,” McAdory said. “Practicing in Mississippi will be a primary focus, but I am open to the possibility of specializing later in my career.”

The was established to address the critical need for physicians in rural areas by providing scholarships to students who commit to practicing in these underserved communities after completing their medical education.

## MOSAIC collects more than 60 bags for CASA nonprofit

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Thanks to the generosity of students, faculty and staff at Holmes Community College’s Goodman Campus, more than 60 tote bags, book bags, duffel bags and suitcases were donated to Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Hinds County.

*(left)* Pictured are *(left to right)* Holmes Student Support Services (SSS) Director **Angela Boyd**, Manager of CASA Hinds **Cathy Chapman**, SSS Academic Counselor **Elizabeth Shelby** and SSS Academic Specialist **Tess Crenshaw**.

CASA is a nonprofit organization that supports and advocates for abused and neglected children as they navigate the Hinds County court system. These donated bags will provide children with dignity and comfort as they transition between homes, often under difficult circumstances.

Student Support Services(SSS)-MO-SAIC staff members recently presented the donations to Cathy Chapman, CASA of Hinds County manager, who expressed immediate gratitude and shared that she already has a list of children in need of the bags.

The donation drive was organized

by the SSS-MOSAIC program, which supports student success through academic and personal development, while also encouraging community service.

For more information about CASA of Hinds County, visit <https://www.casaofhindscounty.org/>.

## Ridgeland ADN students present at Canopy Children’s Solutions

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



On May 1, the Associate Degree Nursing freshmen class from the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus visited Canopy Children’s Solutions. The students enthusiastically provided group teachings on personal hygiene, peer pressure, eating disorders, drunk driving, debunking common myths, suicide prevention, teen violence and bullying.

Canopy Children’s Solutions is a non-profit organization that provides

a variety of behavioral health, educational and family support services for children and youth. One of its key programs is the CARES Center, a 24-hour, 60-bed psychiatric residential treatment facility for children and adolescents ages 6 to 17 with severe emotional and/or behavioral challenges.

To learn more about Canopy Children’s Solutions, visit <https://mycanopy.org/>.



## Holmes Grenada hosts Spring Fling 2025 on March 20

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

On March 20, the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus held its annual Spring Fling event. This event, held in the Corey Forum, included all inflatables, cornhole, other games, a mechanical bull and a delicious lunch. Students, faculty and staff had the opportunity to fellowship with one another and take a little break from classes and work to enjoy each other's company.



## Holmes Goodman holds Spring Fling 2025 on April 16

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

On April 16, the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus held its annual Spring Fling event. This event, held in the Lorance Student Center, included crawfish, hamburgers, hot dogs and of course, the sides! Students enjoyed the food and time to socialize.



## Holmes Ridgeland holds Spring Fling 2025 on April 1

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

On April 1, the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held its annual Spring Fling event. This event, held in the courtyard, featured inflatable games/slides, a mechanical bull, Salsa dancing lessons, futbol, cornhole, sno cones and free Chik-fil-A. Students, faculty and staff enjoyed the beautiful day of fun and fellowship.





## Holmes to offer fiber splicing course

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College is now accepting registrations for its two-week Fiber Splicing Course, designed to provide students with foundational knowledge and hands-on training in fiber optic technology. The course will be held at the McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus.

The first one was held May 5–15 and the next course will be held July 14–24. Classes run Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. A graduation ceremony and employer fair will take place on the final day of each session.

This comprehensive course is ideal for individuals new to the fiber optics

field or those seeking to enhance their current skills. Students will learn the essentials of fiber optic networks, including cable preparation, termination, splicing and testing. Upon successful completion, participants will earn the Light Brigade Fiber Optics 1-2-3 Certification.

Eligible participants will receive \$10 per hour in training wages through the Mississippi Reconnect Grant. Participants must be 18 years or older.

For more information about the course, contact Angie Williams at [anwilliams@holmescc.edu](mailto:anwilliams@holmescc.edu).

To register, contact your local WIN Job Center:

Pearl WIN Job Center  
Lakeisha Little – 601-936-1910 | [llittle@mdes.ms.gov](mailto:llittle@mdes.ms.gov)  
Amanda Reed – 601-936-1834 | [amanda.reed@hindscc.edu](mailto:amanda.reed@hindscc.edu)

Jackson WIN Job Center  
Angela Hayes – 601-414-7802 | [angela.hayes@hindscc.edu](mailto:angela.hayes@hindscc.edu)

## Officer Sytaria Weathersby earns CIT certification

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Officer Sytaria Weathersby

Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Police Officer Sytaria N. Weathersby has earned her Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Certification, a professional milestone that enhances her ability to respond effectively to individuals experiencing mental health crises.

Officer Weathersby began her law enforcement career in 2019 at Jackson State University, a historically Black university, where she served as a patrol officer. Her early work provided her with foundational experience in campus policing, emergency response and community engagement.

Since then, she has held positions with Hinds Community College, the Copiah County Sheriff's Office and

currently serves at Holmes, gaining a wide range of experience in both campus and county law enforcement settings.

Her career accomplishments include graduating from the police academy in 2019, earning Officer of the Month in 2020, completing advanced tactical training and now adding CIT certification to her list of credentials.

“The benefits of my C.I.T. certification include being able to create a safer outcome in high-stress situations involving behavioral health issues, the ability to connect students with appropriate mental health resources and de-escalation techniques for managing mental health crises safely and effectively,” Officer Weathersby said.

She emphasized the importance of community trust in her approach to law enforcement.

“I believe effective policing starts with building trust,” Officer Weathersby said. “Every interaction is an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the community we serve. My goal is to ensure that citizens see us not just as enforcers of the law, but as partners in creating a safe and vibrant community for everyone.”

Holmes commends Officer Weathersby for her dedication to professional development and her commitment to the safety and well-being of the campus community.

## Ridgeland CTE hosts Healthcare Heroes event

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College's Physical Therapist Assistant Technology (PTA) students, from both the first and second year class, assisted in the sports physicals at Kirk Academy and Grenada School District on April 14. The PTA program is housed on the Holmes Grenada Campus.

## Goodman ADN freshmen serve residents of Durant Healthcare

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



The Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) freshmen class from the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus traveled to Durant Healthcare and provided an ice cream bar for the residents on April 29. Durant Healthcare, LLC, is one of the senior living communities in the area.

## Ridgeland CTE hosts Healthcare Heroes event

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Students from the Health Science Academy division of the Madison County Career Tech Center, along with some current Holmes students, participated in “HealthCare Heroes” on the Ridgeland Campus on April 10. This Career-Technical Education-sponsored event included a discussion panel featuring representatives from Holmes' Practical Nursing, Surgical Technology, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Massage Therapy and Emergency Medical Science

programs.

Following the panel presentation, students had the opportunity to tour each CTE health science program's labs/facilities for hands-on observation and longer presentations by each instructor. The event culminated with a presentation by Holmes' Culinary Arts students and an opportunity for the attendees to learn about and taste some healthy snacks while learning about preparing healthy meals.



## Bondurant and Miller graduate from MCCLA

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are **Morgan Bondurant** and

Holmes Community College employees Morgan Bondurant and Bethany Miller graduated from the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA) on May 5. Established in 2009, MCCLA is a year-long professional development program designed to prepare mid- and upper-level administrators within Mississippi's community college system for senior leadership roles.

Bondurant has served as director of marketing and recruiting at Holmes

since July 1, 2024. He joined the Holmes family in 2019 as multimedia specialist and has played a key role in the growth and success of the college's marketing efforts.

In addition to his work at Holmes, Bondurant is the owner and operator of Jackson Web Works, a web and graphic design company he launched in 2015. He previously worked as a web developer for Hightower Advertising Agency and as an administrative systems programmer for East Mississippi Community College.

Bondurant holds a Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary studies from Mississippi State University and is currently researching online graduate programs. He is a member of the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi (CPRAM), where he earned seven awards in 2024 and five in 2023.

Outside of work, Bondurant enjoys playing bass in a local band in the Jackson metro area and pursuing astro-imaging and photography. He and his wife, Lauren, have two sons, Sidney Morgan and Samuel Taylor. He also volunteers as an assistant coach for his children's basketball, baseball, soccer and football teams.

"I was bit skeptical about attending at first, but after the first session I was hooked," Bondurant said. "I have a better understanding of the 'what' and 'why' we do things at our institutions,

and an appreciation of what our presidents and previous presidents are responsible for to keep us going as a system every year. The relationships we developed during the year will last a lifetime. I am very grateful for being selected to attend the MCCLA."

Bethany Miller, director of the college's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), also completed the MCCLA program. Miller formerly served as director of admissions before stepping into her current role, where she oversees the development and implementation of QEP initiatives focused on student learning and success.

Miller's journey with Holmes began in 2011 as a student at the Grenada Campus, where she was actively involved as an Ambassador, work-study and member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She graduated in 2013 as valedictorian and later earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi in 2017, graduating summa cum laude and receiving the university's highest academic honor, the Taylor Medal. Her academic excellence was further recognized when she served as the student speaker and banner bearer at the commencement ceremony. Following the completion of her bachelor's, Miller earned an MBA from Delta State University.

Professionally, Miller has held several positions at Holmes, including finan-

cial aid advisor and administrative assistant to the Grenada Campus vice president. She has also served as the Trek Coordinator for the Grenada and Goodman campuses, focusing on student support and success. Additionally, Miller was an advisor for the Alpha Mu Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, for which she received the Horizon Advisor Award in 2019.

Beyond her professional responsibilities, Miller is actively involved in her community. She and her husband, Trae—who serves as a youth pastor—are active members of their church, The Pentecostals of Grenada. She contributes to the church's music ministry as a singer on the praise team. The couple has two daughters, London Rose and Remi.

"I am incredibly grateful for my time at MCCLA," Miller said. "The professional networking opportunities, leadership development, and valuable experiences I acquired will continue to influence and guide me throughout my career at Holmes."

Both Bondurant and Miller were selected for MCCLA based on their demonstrated leadership and dedication to Mississippi's community colleges. To learn more about MCCLA, visit <https://mccfms.com/mccla/>.

## Holmes drafting and design students achieve 100 percent pass rate on CAD certification

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are (front row, left to right) **Landon Reese**, **Cujhari Bennett**, **Nayaria Swan**, **Shakira Ross**, **Meghan Bruner**, Instructor **Heather Mooney Hale**, (back row, left to right) **Matt Hammack**, **Maleak Warren**, **Mikey Bryant**,

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus is proud to recognize the exceptional achievements of its Drafting and Design Technology students, who have demonstrated outstanding proficiency in Computer-Aided Design (CAD) by achieving an 100 percent pass rates on their industry certification exams. Drafting and Design Technology is one of the six areas of concentration offered in the Holmes Engineering Technology Department.

The following students have successfully completed their CAD certifications, showcasing their dedication, technical skills and commitment to excellence:

Warren Ellis Ammons of Canton, Cujhari Emonte Bennett of Lena, Meghan Elizabeth Bruner of Brandon, Robert Michael "Mikey" Bryant of Ridgeland, Matthew E. Hammack of Flora, Matthew P. Joyner of

Pearl, Landon G. Reese of Madison, Shakira K. Ross of Jackson, Nayaria Ja'nae Swan of Vaughan and Whitakqus Maleak Warren of Carthage.

"We are incredibly proud of our students for their hard work and commitment to mastering CAD," said Heather Mooney Hale, Drafting and Design Technology instructor at Holmes. "Their success reflects the quality of our program and the dedication of our faculty."

Holmes' Drafting and Design Technology program provides students with hands-on training in industry-standard software, preparing them for successful careers in fields such as architecture, engineering and manufacturing.

For more information about the Drafting and Design Technology program at Holmes, please contact Hale at [hmooney@holmescc.edu](mailto:hmooney@holmescc.edu).

## OTA program holds pinning ceremony to celebrate Class of 2025

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are (left to right) **Hannah Perkins**, **Tanner Gardner**, **Analeise Cook**, **Ke'Anna Norwood**, **Lindsay LaComb**, **Taylor Irby**, **Brennan Clark**, **Aliyah Bracey** and Program Director/Instructor **Erica Fitzhugh**.

On May 9, Holmes Community College held a pinning ceremony for the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Class of 2025 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus. Eight students graduated from the program.

The Class of 2025 included Aliyah Bracey of Flowood (class vice president), Brennan Clark of Forest (class president), Analise Cook of Flowood (class public relations officer), Tanner Gardner of Flowood, Taylor Irby of Madison (class treasurer), Lindsay LaComb of Flowood, Ke'Anna Norwood of Benton and Hannah Perkins of Carthage. The OTA program is led by Program Director/Instructor Erica Fitzhugh, COTA/L, and Academic Fieldwork Coordinator Monica McDonald, COTA/L.

The ceremony began with an introduc-

tion of the faculty, administration and students, followed by a presentation of the Most Outstanding Student Award, which went to Bracey. Next, Clark stepped forward to make remarks on behalf of the Class of 2025 just before the ceremonial pinning of each graduate. Bracey returned to the podium and led her classmates in reciting the Occupational Therapy Creed, inviting all occupational therapy practitioners in attendance to recite the creed with them. Finally, Fitzhugh brought the ceremony to completion with closing remarks.

For more information about the OTA program, visit <https://holmescc.edu/career-technical/occupational-therapy-assistant-technology/>.



## Holmes Goodman holds annual Mud Dash

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

On May 1, the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus held their annual Mud Dash. This fun event, put on by Student Activities, is always a campus favorite.



## Holmes Collision Repair students recognized for rescue truck project

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are Holmes Goodman Collision Repair students with (far left) former Holmes Vice President **Joe Adams**, instructor **Casey Caldwell** and (second from right) Madison County Fire Coordinator **Minor Norman**.

Students in the Collision Repair Technology program on Holmes Community College's Goodman Campus had a unique learning opportunity on April 2 as they explored Madison County's 9/11 Commemorative Fire Truck. The hands-on presentation was led by Holmes alumnus Minor Norman, Madison County Fire Coordinator and an industrial maintenance graduate of the college's Goodman Campus.

Currently, Collision Repair students Conner Campbell, Toba Ghazi, Timothy Pate, Everette Smith, Kendall Williamson and Antonio Wilson are working on painting a heavy rescue truck for the Madison County Fire Department to match the 9/11 fire truck. After the fire truck demonstration, Norman recognized the students and their instructor, Casey Caldwell, at the weekly Grip N' Grin event at Mama Hamil's in Madison. He shared their hard work with the local community, highlighting their contributions to the project.

Former Holmes Vice President and

current Holmes Board of Trustees member Joe Adams joined Norman at the event as a representative of both Madison County and the college. Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch, the keynote speaker for the event, met each Holmes student and expressed interest in visiting Holmes soon. Additionally, Holmes Director of Marketing Morgan Bondurant was recognized for designing the original Grip N' Grin logo when the event began six years ago.

Holmes' Collision Repair Technology program equips students with the skills necessary for success in the automotive refinishing and repair industry. The program provides hands-on training in automotive painting, refinishing, and structural repair, preparing graduates for careers in body shops, dealerships and independent repair facilities.

For more information about the Collision Repair Technology program at Holmes, contact Casey Caldwell at [ccaldwell@holmescc.edu](mailto:ccaldwell@holmescc.edu).

## Holmes Foundation hosts Annual Golf Classic at Deerfield Golf Club

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured is Team Precision Turf, which included (left to right) **Joey Wright**, **Cade Wilkinson**, **Jordan Gill** and **Thomas DeWeese**.

The Holmes Community College Development Foundation held its annual Golf Classic on Thursday, May 1, at Deerfield Golf Club in Madison.

The popular fundraising event featured a full day of activities, including lunch, a round of golf and a social gathering immediately following the conclusion of play.

Proceeds from the tournament support the Holmes Foundation, which provides scholarships and other forms of support to Holmes Community College students. The event is funded primarily through corporate and team sponsorships, as well as hole sponsorships purchased by local businesses and community partners.

In Flight A, Team Precision Turf—made up of Thomas DeWeese, Jordan Gill, Joey Wright and Cade Wilkinson—claimed first place. Team Renasant Bank, consisting of Justin Develin, Dr. Jim Haffey, Brad Varner and Bob Jordan, took second place.

Team Path Company, with members Rudy Watkins, Jimmy Nix, Eric Nix and Hunter Lipscomb, placed third.

In Flight B, Team Sunstar Insurance earned first place with players Robby Robertson, Bradley Tyler, Mike McBride and Michael Lee. The L Group Team, which included Jay Leverette, Mike Anderson and J.P. Milam, finished in second place. Team Fortinet, composed of Alan Gilliam, Jeff Little, James Clark and Aaron Karr, rounded out the top three with a third-place finish.

For more information about the Holmes Development Foundation, visit <https://holmescc.edu/development-foundation/>.



## Holmes Ridgeland celebrates STEMMY award recipients

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

Holmes Community College's Ridgeland Campus recently honored outstanding students in the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) with the prestigious STEMMY Awards. These awards recognize students who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement in STEM courses.

The 2025 STEMMY Award recipients include Ainsley Becker, Alexis Cornelius, Alisha Davis, Ashley Dodd,

Anna Grace Doggett, Anastasia Efstratiou, Ana Estrada, Allison George, Avery Hill, Anna Korhonen, Alejandro Robles, Addison Sawyer, Addison Tew, Anniston Thompson, Amani Willis, Austin Armstrong, Bowen Hyman, Destiny Floyd, Ella Kennedy, Emma Korhonen, Easton McAdory, Jessica Gibbons, Jordyn Hanible, Jacie Rouse, James Sanders, Kendall Bracewell, Keifer Morgan, Marya Alsalam, Macey Bowman, Mika Maehata,

Mackenzie Williams, Noah Clark, Paula Jimenez, Riley Hancock, Savannah Sawyer, Steve Yeddula, Takeyma Luckett, Trevor Peters, and Zoe Spann.

To qualify for a STEMMY Award, students must be enrolled in or have completed at least two face-to-face STEM courses on the Ridgeland Campus, maintaining a 3.0 or higher STEM GPA. Each recipient was nominated by one of their STEM instructors, recognizing their dedication and excellence

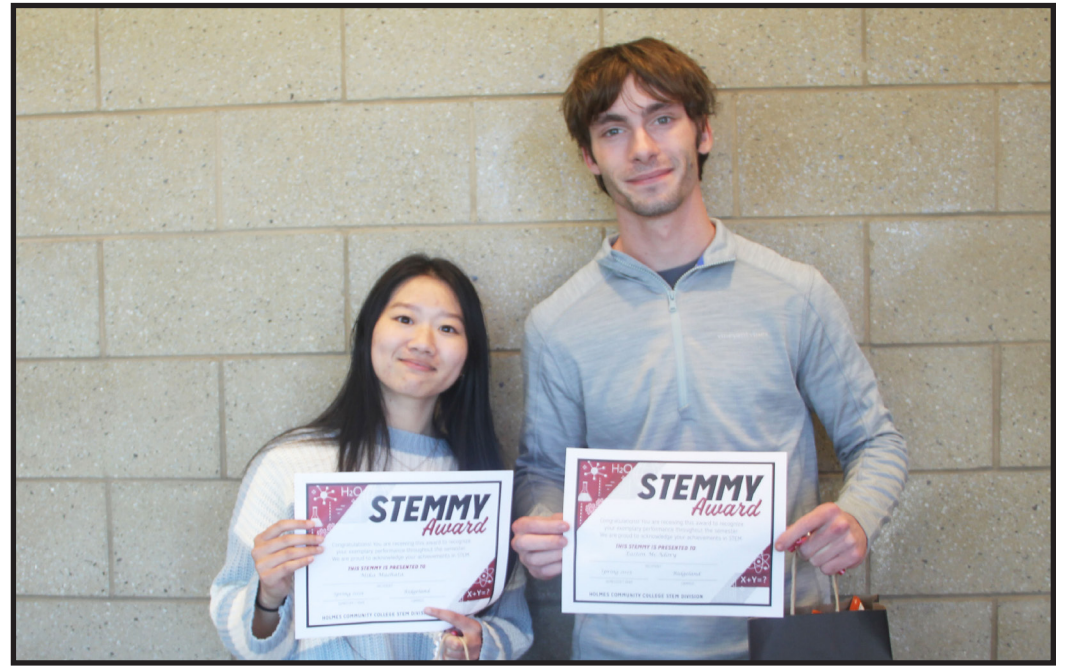
in STEM disciplines.

"These students have demonstrated exceptional commitment and talent in their STEM courses," said a spokesperson for the Division of STEM. "We are proud to celebrate their hard work and achievements."

The STEMMY Awards are part of Holmes Community College's ongoing commitment to encouraging excellence in STEM education, preparing students for successful careers.



Addison Sawyer, Austin Armstrong and Anastasia Efstratiou



Mika Maehata and Easton McAdory



Macey Bowman and Ashley Dodd



Anna Korhonen and Emma Korhonen



Destiny Floyd



Jordyn Hanible



Kendall Bracewell



Zoe Spann

## Holmes librarian selected for prestigious Mississippi Digital Humanities Workshop

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Rachel Havens, a librarian on the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus, has been selected to participate in the Mississippi Digital Humanities Hub's competitive two-week residential workshop this summer at The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

The workshop, hosted by the Mississippi Digital Humanities Hub (MS-DH Hub), is designed for Mississippi-based faculty, museum professionals and archivists. It will focus on the fundamentals of collecting and preserving materials

through digitization, as well as cost-effective and accessible strategies for making those materials publicly available and understandable. The Hub aims to support community-based projects that help preserve Mississippi's historical, cultural and literary heritage. It is funded through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a division of the National Archives.

Havens holds a Master of Library Science from USM, a bachelor's from Mississippi State University and an associ-

ate degree from Holmes. This workshop will serve as a professional opportunity for Havens, and will teach her how to better preserve and share Mississippi's unique stories through digital tools and community collaboration.

To learn more about upcoming workshops, grant opportunities and the work of the MS-DH Hub, visit [ms-digital-hub.com](https://ms-digital-hub.com).



Sgt. Michael Jones named Top Cop 2025

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (center) Holmes Police Officer **Sgt. Michael Jones** with **Secretary of State Michael Watson** and **Attorney General Lynn Fitch** during the Top Cop luncheon on May 13.

Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Police Officer Sgt. Michael Jones was recognized as a 2025

Top Cop, a prestigious recognition given to outstanding law enforcement officers across Mississippi. He was

honored alongside 68 other officers from across the state during a luncheon on May 13 held at the Mississippi Trademart in Jackson.

Jones, who has served in law enforcement for six years and nine months, has been with the Holmes Ridgeland Campus Police Department for just under a year and a half. He was honored during the annual Police Memorial and Appreciation Luncheon on May 13 at the Mississippi Trade Mart Center in Jackson. The Top Cop program, now in its 20th year, recognizes exemplary agents from state and metro area law enforcement agencies.

“Sgt. Jones has been instrumental to Holmes and deeply committed to the well-being of faculty, staff, students and visitors alike,” said Holmes police officer Sgt. Carzell Cavett. “His willingness to help his peers without hesitation is sincere and heartfelt – I know, because I experienced it firsthand. His problem-solving skills, dedication and selflessness are why he was chosen.”

In August 2024, Sgt. Jones played a

critical role in resolving a vandalism case on campus. After staff discovered damage to the Ridgeland Campus Fitness Center on Aug. 20, Jones’ dedicated surveillance efforts led to the identification and capture of a suspect who also had outstanding warrants with the Ridgeland Police Department.

Beyond his law enforcement duties, Sgt. Jones is committed to community engagement. He participates in the SR1 After-School Program, visiting with students daily and providing guidance on topics such as bullying, academic excellence and becoming productive members of society. Recently, he celebrated the students’ academic achievements by hosting a pizza party in their honor.

Holmes congratulates Sgt. Jones on this well-deserved honor and thanks him for his continued dedication to keeping the campus and community safe.

Holmes wins multiple awards at 2025 CPRAM Awards Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Stephanie Wood** and **Maggie Robinson** posing with their awards received at the 2025 CPRAM Conference.



Pictured are (left to right) **Haley DeNoon**, **Maggie Robinson**, **Steve Diffey**, **Mary Margaret Busby** and **Stephanie Wood** at the 2025 CPRAM Conference.

Holmes Community College’s Communications and Marketing/Recruiting departments earned multiple honors at the 2025 College Public Relations Association of Mississippi (CPRAM) Awards Program, held May 20 at The Mill Conference Center on the campus of Mississippi State University in Starkville.

The CPRAM Awards recognize excel-

lence in public relations, marketing and communications among Mississippi’s community and junior colleges, as well as its public universities. The awards program is part of the annual CPRAM Conference, which brings together PR and marketing professionals from two- and four-year colleges across the state.

Holmes team members were recognized

in several categories for their outstanding work:

Maggie Robinson, graphic designer, won first place in the Social Media Post category for her “Pink Out Ridge Day” reel. Stephanie Wood, multimedia specialist, earned second place in the New Media category for the “QEP Animation Video.”

Katherine Ellard, alumni coordinator/public relations specialist, along with Wood, received third place in the Newsletter category for Holmes’ PawPrints publication. Jill Sowell, former Holmes graphic designer, and Wood took home third place in the Viewbook/Admissions and Recruitment Piece category for the “At a Glance Viewbook.” Morgan Bondurant, director of marketing and recruiting, earned third place in the TV Spot category for “20 on the ACT.”

In addition to Robinson and Wood, Holmes was represented at the conference by Steve Diffey, director of communications; Mary Margaret Busby, public relations specialist; and Haley DeNoon, public relations specialist and student activities director.

Diffey and Wood will also serve on the 2025–26 CPRAM Board, as scholarship chair and two-year representative, respectively.

From Classroom to Critical Care: An Inspirational journey through Holmes’ nursing program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (center) Holmes ADN graduate **Princess Allen** with her children.

For Princess Allen, the road to becoming a registered nurse wasn’t just a career path—it was a personal mission. A graduate of the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program at Holmes Community College in Grenada, Allen has already made her mark in the healthcare field, working in the ICU step-down unit at Baptist Memorial Hospital. But her journey to this point has been anything but ordinary.

Allen faced significant challenges as she pursued her dream of becoming a nurse. Despite the demands of family life, she found strength and support through Holmes’ rigorous and empowering nursing program.

“If I can do it, so can you,” Allen said. “I’m a single mom of three, and Holmes gave me the tools, confidence, and support I needed to succeed.”

The Associate Degree Nursing Program at Holmes is a two-year curriculum designed to prepare students for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX) and licensure through the Mississippi State Board of Nursing. With a blend of classroom instruction, hands-on lab work, and clinical experience, the program equips graduates with the skills and knowledge to meet the growing needs of the healthcare field.

Allen credits much of her success to the resources available through Holmes—particularly the ATI (Assessment Technologies Institute) tools that helped her prepare for the NCLEX.

“I passed my NCLEX on the first

ADN grad, continued on Page 23



## ADN Grad (continued from Page 22)

try,” she said. “The resources we had here at Holmes, like ATI, really made the difference. When I walk into a room at work, my colleagues and supervisors don’t treat me like a new grad. That confidence came from the

training I received at Holmes.” Looking back, Allen is proud of how far she’s come—and she wants others to know they can do the same. “My peers often ask, ‘Where did you go to school?’ I proudly tell them

Holmes Community College,” she said. “If you’re thinking about nursing and want a program that truly prepares you for the real world, choose Holmes.” Allen’s journey is a testament to re-

silience, determination, and the power of education. Through Holmes Community College, she found not only a path to professional success but also a platform to inspire others who dream of making a difference in healthcare.

## Ridgeland holds ADN Pinning Ceremony

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are Madison County graduates (front row, left to right) **Tyler Elias, Karrington Gainwell, Monterrica Davis, Phillip White, Christina Murry**; (back row, left to right) **Mark Randall, Kelly Salvador, Taylor Pittman, Emma Reno, Tamia Glover, Marquisha Hodges, Anna Parkman, Annabelle Hodge, Azariya Shields, Ashley Wicker, Makayla Marley and Christopher Holman.**

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Class of 2025 on May 12 at Ridgeland High School. There were 42 students recognized.

The Class of 2025 included Shaquayla Bennett of Jackson, Abby Bozeman of Brandon, Kelsey Caston of Clinton, Anterra Ceccio of Terry, Monterrica Davis of Madison, Sandeep Dhanju of Clinton, Calise Diggs of Raymond,

Tyler Elias of Madison, Karrington Gainwell of Madison, Tamia Glover of Canton, Nicole Griffith of Jackson, Desiree Harris of Brookhaven, Brittany Harris of Yazoo City, Annabelle Hodge of Madison, Marquisha Hodges of Canton, Christopher Holman of Ridgeland, London Jackson of Jackson, Sean Jordan of Byram, Markaiza Keys of Sallis, Cyla Logan of Edwards, Tysheana Lucas of Brandon, Makayla Marley of Ridgeland, Trinityte Moffett of Brandon, Christina Murry of Camden, Peyton Muse of Florence, Linda Naylor of Jackson, Maxen Othello of Terry, Anna Parkman of Madison, Taylor Pittman of Madison, Gracie Pyron of Yazoo City, Mark Randall of Flowood, Emma Reno of Madison, Kimberly Rushing of Clinton, Kelly Salvador of Madison, Shunterria Sanders-Henderson of Canton, Azariya Shields of Canton, Deanna Shoulders of Jackson, Shelby Sims of Clinton, Caden Stevens of Yazoo City, Braden Warren of Brandon, Phillip White of Madison and Ashley Wicker of Madison.

The program began with a processional of the Class of 2025 followed by a welcome from Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Bronwyn Martin. Class President Max Othello followed Dr. Martin with the opening prayer. Next, ADN Program Chair Dr. Alice Austin presented special awards. Sean Jordan was named ADN Student of the Year and Caden Stevens was presented with a Mississippi School of Nursing Scholarship.

Following the award presentation, ADN instructor Alicia Turner explained the symbolism behind the nurse pin and candle before the graduates came forward.

ADN instructor Virginia Applewhite called each graduate’s name as instructors Alicia Turner, Dr. Jennifer Bertucci, Dr. Tiffany Cox and Danette Tannehill pinned them/gave them their lamp candle. Finally, instructor Cindy Bridges led the students in the Nightingale Pledge before Class Vice President Sean Jordan gave the closing prayer.



Pictured are Hinds County graduates (front row, left to right) **Sandeep Dhanju, Nicole Griffith, Shaquayla Bennett, Calise Diggs, Sean Jordan**; (back row, left to right) **DeAnna Shoulders, Kimberly Rushing, Shelby Sims, Anterra Ceccio, London Jackson, Kelsey Caston, Linda Naylor, Cyla Logan and Maxen Othello.**



Pictured are Rankin County graduates (left to right) **Tysheana Lucas, Peyton Muse, Trinityte Moffett and Braden Warren.**



Pictured are Yazoo County graduates (left to right) **Pictured are Brittany Harris, Caden Stevens and Gracie Pyron.**



Pictured are Lincoln County graduates (left to right) **Abby Bozeman and Desiree Harris.**



Pictured is Attala County graduate **Markaiza Keys.**



Grenada holds ADN Pinning Ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Holmes Grenada Campus ADN Graduates of 2025.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus Associate Degree Nursing Program held their pinning May 13 in the Corey Forum with nearly 400 in attendance. Students pinned included: Roxxanne Adams, Sara Baylie Boyett, Mason Boyette, Eric Brewer, Jaden Brooks, Ashely Campbell, Taylor Castleberry, Rebekah Crain,

Jamia Davenport, Chelsea Davis, Elizabeth Farmer, Daije Fort, Andrea Gordon, Betsy Green, Jayla Greer, Caleigh Hawes, Staci Herrington, Dinora Hissong, Jimeiah Horton, Angela Hudson, Emmalee Love, Karlee Luke, Britney Macon, Michael Mayfield, Caleb McGowan, Shanice Mitchell, Leigha Nunley, Maggie Smith, Sachem

Stamps, Jessica Tallent, Kelsey Wilborn, Alexandra Williamson, Christine Williams, Alexandra Williamson, Samia Wilson, Kayla Woodson and Nakendrick Young.

Josh Schmitz opened the pinning with prayer followed by a welcome and introduction of faculty members from by ADN Assistant Director Patty Jones. Karlee Luke addressed the class and then Instructor Deandra Gibson acknowledged the class awards. Instructor Gwen Lordeon brought each student to the stage while Instructors Lovie Rodela and Cherrie Winter pinned and presented the students with their lamps. The Gideons also provided Bibles for the students.

Instructor Lindsey Harville led the students in the the lighting of the lamps and the Nightingale Pledge. Instructor Nathan Ewell delivered the benediction before the students left the forum for the reception.

Awards announced included: President’s Scholarship, Samia Wilson; Dean’s Scholarship, Mason Boyette,

Jaden Brooks, Betsy Green, Caleigh Hawes, Karlee Luke, Maggie Smith, Jessica Tallent and Alexandra Williamson; Foundation Scholarship, Erica Brewer, Caleigh Hawes, Kayla Woodson; MS Board of Nursing Scholarship, Elizabeth Farmer, Nakendrick Young, Jimeiah Horton; Bower’s Foundation Award, Jayla Greer; Choc-taw Regional Medical Center Nursing Scholarship, Emalee Love; WIOA Scholarship, Sara Baylie Boyett, Jimeiah Horton, Maggie Smith, Kayla Woodson; Phi Theta Kappa, Mason Boyette, Elizabeth Farmer, Caleigh Hawes, Karlee Luke, Michael Mayfield, Jessica Tallent and Alexandra Williamson; Office of Nursing Workforce Scholarship, Jamia Davenport and Michael Mayfield; Diverse Coat Society Scholarship, Jayla Greer; Outstanding Student, Jessica Tallent; SNA Class Representatives, President, Josh Schmitz; Vice President, Karlee Luke; Treasurer, Caleb McGowan; Secretary, Mason Boyette and Public Relations Officer, Kayla Woodson.

Holmes, The W sign new degree pathway agreement

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Holmes Paralegal Technology Coordinator/Instructor **Darleen Dozier**, Holmes Information Systems Technology Instructor **Michael Pawlik**, District Division Chair of Business Technology **Dr. NaTunya Johnson**, Holmes Vice President for Career Technical Education **Dr. Amy Whittington**, MUW President **Nora Miller**, MUW Department of Business Chair **Dr. Dee Larson** and MUW Vice President for

Holmes Community College and Mississippi University for Women formalized a new partnership on Thursday, May 22, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that establishes 16 streamlined degree pathways for students. The signing ceremony, held in Adcock Library on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus, included Holmes Vice President for Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington, MUW President Nora

Miller as well as a few other representatives from each institution. One of the Holmes representatives, District Director of Business Technology Dr. NaTunya Johnson, initiated and led the development of this partnership with The W.

The agreement, known as the “3+1+1” program, allows students in select career and technical education programs to complete three years at Holmes, one year at The W to earn a

bachelor’s degree, and an additional year to complete a master’s degree.

“We are excited to announce our partnership with Holmes Community College, which reinforces our commitment to accessible education and creates new opportunities for students. Together, we are dedicated to supporting academic growth and ensuring our graduates are well-prepared to enter the workforce,” Miller said.

Dr. Whittington echoed that sentiment.

“We are very excited about how this partnership with Mississippi University for Women will offer new career opportunities for our students at Holmes,” Dr. Whittington said. “Having the option to earn an AAS degree with us, then move on to The W to further their education all the way to a master’s degree is a huge opportunity for our career technical students.”

The MOU outlines pathways in high-demand areas such as business management technology, culinary arts and information technology. Students may transfer up to 90 credit hours from Holmes to The W — including up to 40 technical credit hours — allowing them to build on their career and technical education.

The W offers 10 concentrations within its Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) program, eight of which are

available entirely online. The online structure enables students to continue working while earning their degree. After completing a BAS, students are encouraged to enroll in The W’s online Master of Business Administration (MBA) program, which can be completed in just one year.

“The BAS degree offers the best of both worlds: hands-on, job-specific training and the business proficiency needed to succeed in today’s workforce,” said Dr. Dee Larson, chair of The W’s Department of Business.

“Together, we are boosting local economies and creating a skilled workforce for Mississippi.”

Through this partnership, Holmes and The W reaffirm their shared mission to expand educational access and equip students with the skills and credentials needed for successful careers.

“This partnership demonstrates our commitment to creating accessible educational opportunities for our students,” said Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey. “It provides a clear path to a bachelor’s and even a master’s degree, without the need to leave Mississippi.”

To learn more about the Holmes-to-W degree pathways, contact Holmes Dean of Career Technical Programs Dr. Luke Jones at (662) 472-9057 or [tjones@holmescc.edu](mailto:tjones@holmescc.edu).

Holmes holds 2025 Spring Pops Concert

From Staff Reports/Photos

The 2025 Holmes Community College Pops Concert was held on Thursday, May 1 in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. The Concert Chorale, Coachmen and Connection! all performed.





## Grenada SGA aids in relief effort for tornado victims

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



The Student Government Association on the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus coordinated a donation effort to support those impacted by the tornadoes that affected the local community in March.

## Grenada biology students tour local fish hatchery

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Sara Pollan's General Biology I students from the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus attended an educational tour at the Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery, providing a behind-the-scenes look at the hatchery's operations.

## PTA program volunteers assist Bull Bottom Farm Cleanup

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are Holmes Community College PTA students at Bull Bottom Farm.

In the spirit of community service and teamwork, the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Program visited Bull Bottom Farm on Thursday, March 20 to assist with clean-up efforts following the recent tornado. Our dedicated 1st and 2nd-year students generously volunteered their time to help restore this cherished local landmark.

This initiative was entirely voluntary, separate from class activities, and spoke to the students' commitment to giving back to the community. Many of them have fond memories of Bull Bottom Farm in Duck Hill and recognize its significance as a family-friendly destination that has brought joy to countless visitors. Seeing the farm impacted by the storm, they immediately saw an opportunity to lend a helping hand.

The students and instructors had

been in close contact with BBF owner Katie Robinson, who expressed immense gratitude and blessings for our willingness to assist in this time of need. This effort not only helped a beloved local spot but also served as a fantastic team-building experience, allowing our students to work together outside of the classroom while making a tangible difference.

We are incredibly proud of our students for stepping up and embodying the true spirit of service. Their selflessness and determination are a testament to the strong sense of community that we foster in our program. Their efforts made a meaningful impact on Bull Bottom Farm and demonstrated the power of coming together to support those in need.

## Grenada instructor collects donations for Ronald McDonald

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Dr. Kristy McClain, a biology instructor on the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus, challenged her classes to bring donations for the Ronald McDonald House. Dr. McClain had students drop off donations at Puddleducks or Farm Bureau, or offered to pick them up.

Ronald McDonald Houses are home-like facilities that provide comfort, support, and resources for families with children receiving medical care at nearby hospitals, helping them stay together and focus on their child's health. In Mississippi, the Ronald McDonald House is in Jackson near University of Mississippi Medical Center.

To learn more, visit <https://rmhc.org/>

## Holmes students volunteer with Department of Veteran Affairs

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Goodman and Ridgeland ADN students volunteered as patients for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Healthcare Administration's disaster simulation exercise on May 9. The exercise simulated a hurricane in Puerto Rico where a C-17 military aircraft brought patients back to state and distributed them to local hospitals. The exercise took place at the 172nd Air Wing Hangar at the Air National Guard Base in Jackson.



## Holmes celebrates 2025 retirees

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are (left to right) **Bill Grace**, **Tish Stewart**, **Dr. Jim Haffey**, **Judy Hemphill** and **Jay Wilson** at the retirement reception.

A retirement reception for the 2025 retirees at Holmes Community College was held in McMorrough Library for Bill Grace, Allen Green, Judy Hemphill, Trent Little, Tish Stewart and Jay Wilson on April 25. Each honoree was presented with a plaque by Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey.

### Bill Grace

After years of dedicated service, Bill Grace retired from Holmes where he served as head athletic trainer for 30 years, an academic instructor for 12 years and an assistant baseball coach for six. Holmes was Grace's first full-time job after graduating from college, and he has remained a cornerstone of the institution's athletic and academic programs.

Beyond his professional career, Grace enjoys gardening, hunting, fishing and golf. He is an active member of The Ridge Church, a replant in Holmes County that began in January 2025. Additionally, he serves on the board of directors for the North Mississippi Emmaus Community and will step into the role of chairman in 2026. He is also an engaged member of the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) and the Mississippi Athletic Trainers Association (MATA). In 2024, Grace was honored as the first-ever recipient of the Collegiate Athletic Trainer of the Year award.

Grace and his wife, Wendy, have three children: Britt, who is married to Makenzie; Kaylee, who is married to Tyler and has a daughter, Scarlett; and Drew.

Looking ahead, Grace plans to remain faithful to his faith and embrace the time he has ahead. Reflecting on his career, he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve at Holmes for so many years.

### Robert Allen Green, BSN, RN, NRP

Allen Green retired from Holmes after more than a decade of dedicated service. Green began as an adjunct instructor in 2011 before transitioning to a full-time role in 2013, serving as both an EMT and paramedic instructor. A lifelong educator and healthcare professional, Green also worked as a paramedic and registered nurse at GLMC and UMMC Grenada, where he served as EMS director. His commitment to emergency medical services

extends beyond the classroom, holding memberships with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, National Association of Emergency Medical Technician, Emergency Nurses Association and the American Heart Association.

Green and his wife, Sharon, who earned her RN at Holmes, have been married for 34 years. Their daughter, Lola, followed in their footsteps, earning her paramedic certification in Green's class before also becoming an RN through Holmes. In retirement, Green looks forward to tackling long-delayed home projects, expanding his number of beehives, building a chicken coop and possibly getting chickens to fill it. He also plans to travel with his family and ride his motorcycle while continuing to enjoy gardening, particularly his tomato plants.

"I have worked with many awesome people at many different places in my life, but I can say, without hesitation, that Holmes is the best place I have ever worked," Green said. "I am truly blessed to have been part of Holmes Community College."

### Judy Hemphill

After 17 years of devoted service, Admissions Representative Judy Hemphill retired from the Holmes Ridgeland Campus, leaving behind a legacy of professionalism and commitment to students. Hemphill began her career at Holmes in 2008 as a receptionist before transitioning to the Admissions & Records office in 2012. Before joining Holmes, Hemphill's career journey took her from the skies to the retail industry. She spent four years with Delta Airlines in reservations and as a flight attendant before earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in marketing from Mississippi State University.

Following graduation, she served as the training and personnel director for McRae's Department Store, playing a key role in staffing and opening the NorthPark Mall location. After taking time to raise her two sons, she found the perfect opportunity at Holmes, where she has remained ever since.

Hemphill and her husband, Bobby, are proud of their two sons, Taylor and Chris, as well as their growing families. In retirement, she looks forward to spending more time with her three grandchildren, returning to the golf course, traveling to sporting

events, visiting the beach and re-connecting with friends and family. An active member of Madison First Baptist Church, Hemphill also enjoys involvement in her neighborhood and golf club. Her hobbies include golf, watching and attending sporting events, cooking with her husband and traveling.

Reflecting on her time at Holmes, Hemphill expressed gratitude for the friendships and experiences she has gained. "Holmes has been the perfect place to enjoy being part of an exceptional work family. I have made lifetime friends, and I will miss it and the people who make it special."

### Trent Little

Trent Little retired from Holmes after 27 years of loyal service. He began his career as the maintenance director in Grenada; a position he served from 1998 to April 2019. In May of 2019, he transitioned to his current role as the director of facilities' operator for the Grenada and Goodman campuses. Little and his wife, Brigitte, have two sons, Stan Mulvihill and Brent Mulvihill, and five grandchildren. In his free time, he enjoys outdoor activities such as deer hunting, turkey hunting and fishing.

An active member of Mission Baptist Church, Little also serves as a Sunday School teacher. As he looks ahead to retirement, he plans to embrace whatever the Lord has in store for him. Reflecting on his time at Holmes, he expressed gratitude for the many friendships he has made and the work family he has enjoyed over the years.

### Tish Stewart

Tish Smithson Stewart retired from Holmes after 28 years of dedicated service.

Stewart began her career at Holmes in 1997 as a facilitator of the Computer Technology labs, back when the building had no Internet. She fondly recalls surviving the kids' computer camp alongside Dr. Jenny Jones, a testament to their enduring friendship and shared laughter.

Before joining Holmes, Stewart taught at Central Holmes Academy for 16 years, where she honed her teaching skills and developed a passion for education. Her career at Holmes evolved as she became an instructor for Career Technology, where she enjoyed lively faculty lunch conversations. It was during these moments she humorously learned that "it is always Cham Blain's fault," a playful nod to her friendship with Blain.

In 2005, Stewart was promoted to director of eLearning and later vice president for eLearning, playing a key role in the department's growth. She expresses deep gratitude to Heather Guest, who has worked alongside her in the eLearning office for 18 years. What started as a two-person team has since grown into a thriving department of seven.

"I could not ask for a more dedicated and resourceful group of individuals who go above and beyond to get the job done," Stewart said. "They think outside the box to find solutions not only for students taking online courses but also for face-to-face instructors who need assistance in moving their

lectures to the virtual world. The eLearning Department is a team effort, and it takes all of us to make things happen."

Stewart is especially proud that all three of her sons graduated from Holmes. She also expresses deep appreciation to the Holmes presidents and vice presidents who have supported eLearning throughout her tenure.

Offering advice to new administrators, Stewart said, "Always hire people who are younger, smarter and more energetic."

As she steps into retirement, Stewart looks forward to traveling, spending time with her grandchildren and enjoying life with her husband, Bubba.

Reflecting on her time at Holmes, she said, "I am thankful for the memories and relationships I've built here, but I am also excited for new adventures ahead. And remember, if anything goes wrong, it's probably Cham Blain's fault. And Jenny Jones, you know you're 'special' to me. Here's to new adventures, laughter and maybe a little less chaos!"

### Jay Wilson

After 12 years of dedicated service at Holmes, Jay Wilson retired from his position as a faculty member in the History and Political Science Department. Wilson's career spans more than two decades, marked by service to both his nation and his community. Before joining Holmes, Wilson's diverse professional journey began with a six-year tenure in the U.S. Army, where he served as part of the National Guard during Operation Desert Storm. His commitment to service continued with the City of Greenwood, where he spent 14 years as a Firefighter Lieutenant, demonstrating leadership in a high-stakes environment. Following his time with the fire department, Wilson returned to the classroom, teaching at J.Z. George High School for two years and Winona High School for 11 years.

Reflecting on his time at Holmes, Wilson shared that his 12 years at the college were the culmination of his long and varied career.

"Holmes has offered me the opportunity to pass on some of my accumulated wisdom and knowledge to the next generation of our nation's leaders," Wilson said. "It has been my pleasure and honor to influence young people for the past 25 years in the classroom. I will miss that the most."

In addition to his academic career, Wilson has remained active in various civic and professional organizations. He is a member of the Winona #48 Free and Accepted Masons, American Legion and several honor societies. Wilson also enjoys spending his free time fishing, reading, gaming, gardening and traveling, which he plans to do more of in his retirement. Looking ahead, Wilson has exciting plans for his post-retirement life.

"I would love to be able to travel two or three months each year," he said. "Maybe a Viking River Cruise through Europe as a bucket list trip!"

Wilson and his wife, Kristy, have two sons, Hunter Wilson and Christopher Wilson; and three daughters, Katie Wilson, Katherine Mims and Courtney Davis.



15 Grenada students complete 16-week EMS class

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured in this photo are Jon Cochran, Jermelia Lumas, Cyphus Mohead, Mariyah Owens, Ariel Smith, Tania Young, Demarcus Campbell, Elyse Dorris, Ethan Dorris, Palitha Gore, Aliyah Cain and Kayden Walters.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus celebrated the graduation of its spring 16-week Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class on May 12. Graduates included Aliyah Cain, Demarcus Campbell, Jon Cochran, William Dale, Elyse Dorris, Ethan

Dorris, Palitha Gore, Jermelia Lumas, Cyphus Mohead, Ruby Moore, Bailey Murphey, Mariyah Owens, Ariel Smith, Kayden Walters and Tania Young. Smith earned the highest overall average in the class. The course was led by instructor Raymond Liberto.



Pictured are (left to right) Ruby Moore, Bailey Murphey and William Dale.

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.

Drafting and Design students launch into final project fun

From Staff Reports/Photos



Heather Mooney Hale’s 3D Modeling class on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus had a fun final project on May 7: creating catapults with a 3D printer and then having a competition to see who could launch the ball the farthest. Warren Ammons won the Catapult Competition, winning a Holmes bag full of goodies.

Grenada Campus to offer a new humanities/film studies class in the fall of 2025

From Staff Reports/Photos



HUMANITIES/FILM STUDIES  
SCIENCE FICTION CLASS TO  
BE OFFERED IN FALL 2025

- 1 CREDIT HOUR
- CLASS WILL MEET ONCE EVERY 3 WEEKS
- WATCH AND DISCUSS VARIOUS SCIENCE-FICTION FILMS
- IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENROLL IN THIS CLASS IN FALL 2025, PLEASE CONTACT JAKE HOOD AT JHOOD@HOLMESCC.EDU OR 662-227-2321

This fall, the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus is offering a brand-new course, Humanities/Film Studies Science Fiction Class. For more information, reach out to Jake Hood at [jhood@holmescc.edu](mailto:jhood@holmescc.edu), Cynthia Abel at [cabel@holmescc.edu](mailto:cabel@holmescc.edu) or Tina Garrett at [tgarrett@holmescc.edu](mailto:tgarrett@holmescc.edu).

2024-25 yearbooks available for pick up

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pick up your free  
2025 Horizons  
yearbook in the  
Library

Free to all full-time  
students. Must present  
Student I.D.

The 2024-25 Horizons yearbook is now available on each of the three Holmes Community College campuses - Goodman, Ridgeland and Grenada - in the library for students, faculty and staff to pick up. This year’s theme was “A Year Worth Watching,” and the look was modeled after Netflix. The Horizons yearbook was produced by the Holmes Communications Department in collaboration with the students on the Horizons yearbook staff. The staff meets once a week, under the instruction of Mary Margaret Busby, and the students receive one hour of academic credit for their work on the book.

The yearbook was published by Jostens, a well-known memorabilia company established in 1897. Additionally, N’Focus Photography capture the faculty, staff and student headshots for the portraits section of the book. For any students interested in joining the staff, they can sign up for JOU 1111 – College Publications I. The students can take the yearbook class up to four times and receive an hour credit each time. For more information about the Holmes Horizon Yearbook, contact Busby at [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu).



## 7 Lady Bulldog soccer players sign with four-year universities

From Staff Reports/Photos



Sammi Doyle



Christina Guzman



Bailee Fairley



Stevie Kerns



Kristen Phillips



Addi Roberts



Olivia Tribolet

Holmes Community College is proud to announce that seven standout members of the Lady Bulldogs soccer team have signed to continue their academic and athletic careers at four-year universities. Signees included Sammi Doyle, Christina Guzman, Bailee Fairley, Stevie Kerns, Kristen Phillips, Addi Roberts and Olivia Tribolet.

### Sammi Doyle

Sophomore forward Sammi Doyle will continue her career at Nicholls State University, a Division I institution in Thibodaux, Louisiana, competing in the Southland Conference. Doyle, a New Albany High School alumna, notched four goals and four assists this season, totaling 12 points. Additionally, she was inducted into the Holmes Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame. Doyle is the daughter of P.J. and Stephanie Doyle.

### Christina Guzman

Sophomore defender and team

captain Christina Guzman signed with Lamar University, a Division I program in Beaumont, Texas, competing in the Southland Conference. Lamar has secured the conference championship in two of the past three years. Guzman, a Florence High School alumna, contributed two goals and 12 assists this season and was named to the NJCAA All-American Second Team and First Team All-MACCC. She was also inducted into the Holmes Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame. Guzman is the daughter of Miguel and Maria Guzman.

### Bailee Fairley

Sophomore forward Bailee Fairley is set to join the University of West Alabama, a Division II program in Livingston, Alabama, competing in the Gulf South Conference. Fairley, a West Lauderdale High School alumna hailing from Collinsville, recorded 16 goals and 10 assists this season, amassing 42 points. She is the daughter of Denitra Hicks and Vaston Fairley.

### Stevie Kerns

Sophomore midfielder Stevie Kerns has committed to Belhaven University, a Division III school in Jackson, competing in the Collegiate Conference of the South. The Blazers were conference finalists in their most recent season. Kerns, a Gulfport native and West Harrison High School graduate, contributed one goal and four assists during the 2024 season. She was also named to the MACCC Academic All-State Team. Kerns is the daughter of Steven and Lori Kerns.

### Kristen Phillips

Sophomore forward Kristen Phillips will join the University of West Florida (UWF), a Division II school in Pensacola, Florida, competing in the Gulf South Conference. UWF recently won the conference championship, finishing with a 17-1-4 record and reaching the NCAA Elite Eight. Phillips, a West Lauderdale High School graduate from

Collinsville, led Holmes with 22 goals and 12 assists, totaling 56 points. She earned NJCAA All-American Second Team and First Team All-MACCC honors. Phillips is the daughter of Chris and John Porter.

### Addi Roberts

Goalkeeper Addi Roberts has signed with Belhaven University, a Division III institution in Jackson, competing in the Collegiate Conference of the South. The Belhaven Blazers were conference finalists in their most recent season. Roberts, a Jackson Academy graduate from Florence, started 13 games for Holmes, providing a strong presence in goal. She is the daughter of James and Stacy Roberts.

### Olivia Tribolet

Forward Olivia Tribolet has signed with Gardner-Webb University, a Division I school in Boiling Springs, North Carolina, competing in the Big South Conference. Tribolet, a Madison Central High School graduate, tallied 10 goals and five assists this season, contributing 25 points. She is the daughter of Scott Tribolet.

“We are incredibly proud of these young ladies and all their accomplishments!” Head Coach Wesley Noble said. “They helped this program reach back-to-back final fours and represented us off the field just as we hoped they would. They are all moving on to great programs that I believe they can step in and impact straight away. We, as a staff, are forever grateful they chose to be Bulldogs along their journey!”

## Phillips, Wallace named Holmes CC Players of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Kristen Phillips



Cameron Wallace

Sophomore forward Kristen Phillips of the women’s soccer team and Cameron Wallace of the men’s basketball team were named the 2024-25 Holmes Community College Players of the

Year. Phillips, a Collinsville native and West Lauderdale graduate, and the Lady Bulldogs made their fifth straight appearance in the NJCAA Division

II National Tournament. Holmes knocked off Phoenix and Schoolcraft before falling to MACCC foe Northwest in the semifinals. The Lady Bulldogs finished second in the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament.

Following the season, Phillips was named First Team All-MACCC, All-Region 23 and NJCAA Second Team All-American. As a freshman, she was named First Team All-MACCC, All-Region 23 and NJCAA Second Team All-American.

As a sophomore, Phillips led the Lady Bulldogs in points with 56 with 22 goals and 12 assists. As a freshman, she led the Bulldogs with 71 points with 31 goals and 11 assists.

Phillips will play for the University of West Florida next season.

Wallace, a Little Rock, Ark. native and Parkview grad, and the Bulldogs fell in the opening round of the Region 23 Tournament to Mississippi Delta. As a freshman, the Bulldogs made it to the

Region 23 semifinals after knocking off East Central and East Mississippi before falling to Jones in the semifinals.

Following this season, Wallace was named First Team All-MACCC, All Region 23 and NJCAA Third Team All-American. As a freshman, he was named First Team All-MACCC and Freshman of the Year and All-Region 23.

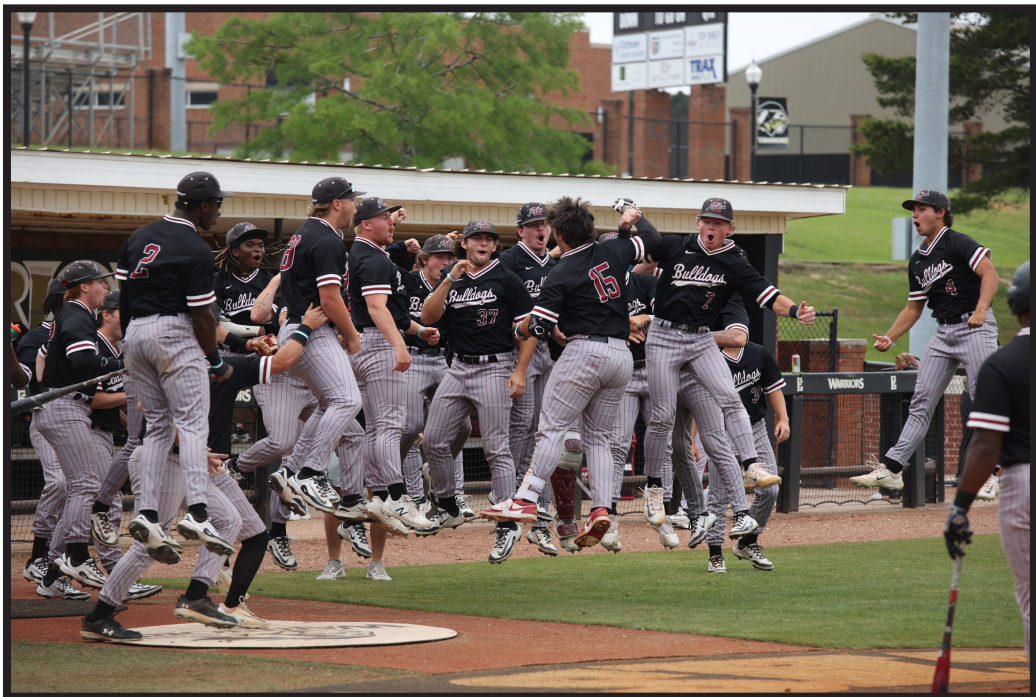
As a sophomore, Wallace led the Bulldogs in scoring with 20.4 points per game. He scored 509 points including shooting 56.5 percent from the floor (178-of-315) and 77 percent from the free throw line (147-of-191). He averaged 8.1 rebounds per game. As a freshman, he led the Bulldogs in scoring with 18.5 points per game. He scored 593 points including shooting 57.9 percent from the floor and 70.2 percent from the free throw line. He averaged 7.5 rebounds per game.

Wallace will be play at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock next season.



Bulldogs fall to Warriors in Region 23 Tournament

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell in Decatur on Tuesday, May 6, in the Region 23 Tournament to East Central Community College, 8-5. Holmes fell to 34-19 overall and that set them up to face the No. 3 seeded Jones Bobcats later that day at East Central. Jones fell to Co-Lin on Monday, May 5, 13-6. Against East Central on Tuesday, the Bulldogs got on the scoreboard first when Hunter Azemar launched a solo homerun over the left field wall to put the Bulldogs up 1-0. Holton Hartzog got the start for the Bulldogs but gave way to Brenden Skirtech, who went seven innings giving up two runs on five hits with nine strikeouts and three walks, in the second inning. The Warriors answered with four runs in the bottom of the first inning.

The Bulldogs answered with two runs in the top of the second when an Amari Conley single scored Jacob Lott, who singled, and Will McClure, who walked, to make the score 4-3 before the Warriors scored two more runs in the second to make the score 6-3 after two. Holmes was unable to score in the third before East Central added another to lead 7-3 after three innings. Holmes scored two runs in the sixth when Thomas Kuhn scored on a fielder's choice from McClure. Lott later scored on a wild pitch to make the score 7-5 at that point. East Central scored in the sixth to end all scoring. Lott had two hits for the Bulldogs in the game, and Azemar had the only multiple base hit for the Bulldogs.

Bulldogs knock off Bears in Region 23 play-in game

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Bulldogs picked up a 6-2 win on May 5 over the Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears in the Region 23 Tournament play-in game at East Central Community College to advance to Tuesday's game with East Central. The Bulldogs improved to 34-18 with the win. Southwest took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Holmes tied the game in the top of the second when Thomas Kuhn bunted his way on base scoring Xavier Myles, who had singled earlier, from third. The Bulldogs went up 2-1 in the third inning when Hunter Azemar singled to center scoring Nicolas Schwing, who had gotten on base on a Bear error earlier in the inning.

Holmes added two more in the fifth inning when Kuhn singled again scoring Azemar and Myles, who had both walked in the inning. The Bulldogs increased the lead to 5-1 in the top of the sixth when Will McClure launched a solo homerun to right field. Holmes' final run came in the seventh when Jacob Lott singled to score Kuhn, who had doubled earlier. John Paul Buckner pitched a complete game going nine innings. He gave up two runs on six hits with four strikeouts and one walk. Buckner faced 38 batters in the contest. Kuhn led the Bulldogs with three hits including a double while McClure had a homerun.

Holmes advances to Region 23 Tournament for first time since 2011

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs finished the regular season 33-18 overall and 14-14 in the MACCC which led them to their first appearance in the Region 23 Tournament since 2011. The No. 10 seeded Bulldogs first team to play was the No. 7 seeded Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears in a play-in game on Monday, May 5 at 2 p.m. in the Decatur half of the bracket. The winner of the Holmes-Southwest game will then move to the double elimination bracket and will play host No. 2 seeded East Central at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. No. 3 Jones and No. 6 Co-Lin will play following Holmes-Southwest. The winner of the Decatur bracket will play the winner of the Poplarville bracket in a best of three series hosted by the higher seed. In the Poplarville bracket, No. 8 seeded Northwest and No. 9 seeded Meridian will play a play-in game on Monday. The Northwest-Meridian will then

move to the double elimination bracket and will play Pearl River on May 6 at 6 p.m. while No. 4 seeded Mississippi Gulf Coast and No. 5 seeded Northeast will play at 2 p.m. The winner of the Poplarville bracket will play the winner of the Decatur bracket in a best of three series hosted by the higher seed. The Bears, who finished the regular season 24-32 and 14-14 in the MACCC, and Holmes split their MACCC doubleheader on April 18 in Goodman. Holmes took the first game, 8-1, while the Bears won game two, 10-7. The Bulldogs feature 11 players hitting near the .300 threshold including: Thomas Kuhn, Grenada, .354; Xavier Myles, Brandon, .354; Amari Conley, Grenada, .346; Hunter Azemar, Lafayette, La., .335; Jacob Lott, Southaven, .327; Cade Clinton, Sumrall, .316; Nicolas Schwing, Madisonville, La., .299; Sam Roy, Oxford, .299; Brenden Skirtech, Madison, .283; Will McClure, Oxford, .281; and Landon Wallace,

Kosciusko, .275. Brandt Dickerson, Maddox Moreland and Ethan Trimble bat .500 in limited appearances and Kaiden Rosetti bats .333. Other statistical leaders include: runs scored, Conley (64), Azemar (50), Schwing (49), Myles (39) and Wallace (36); hits, Azemar (58), Kuhn and Myles (56), Conley (54), Schwing (53), Roy (44) and Clinton (43); doubles, Conley (14), Azemar (13) and Kuhn and Clinton (11); triples, Myles (3) and Conley, Schwing, Roy and McClure (2) each; homeruns, Azemar (14), Conley (10) and Myles (8); RBI, Azemar (55), Myles (52) and Conley and Schwing (44) each; and steals, Schwing (38) and Conley (27). Pitching leaders include: John Paul Buckner (Starkville, 8-2 record), 63 innings, 3.43 ERA, 49 hits, 30 runs, 25 walks and 82 strikeouts; Ethan Trimble (Brandon, 4-0 record), 40 innings, 4.02 ERA, 42 hits, 24 runs, 11 walks and 26 strikeouts; Josh Fleming (Hammond, La., 4-4 record), 48 innings, 4.31 ERA, 45 hits, 29 runs, 25 walks and 43 strikeouts; Vince Glorioso (Brandon, 4-0 record), 19 2/3 innings, 4.58 ERA, 18 hits, 10 runs, seven walks, 21 strikeouts; Holton Hartzog (Dexter, 5-2 record), 42 innings, 4.93 ERA, 39 hits, 31 runs, 28 walks and 46 strikeouts. Other pitchers include: Carson Moon (Sumrall, 2-0 record), Seth Terrell (Walker, La., 2-1 record), Aidan Bellman (D'Iberville, 1-1 record) and Brenden Skirtech (Madison, 2-6 record).

Holmes scores 7.66 runs per game and is giving up 4.54 runs per game. The Bears feature five players hitting near the .300 threshold including: Jake Meilstrup, Brookhaven, .341; Gage Hinnant, Petal, .333; Trace Roy, Enterprise, .304; Cody Presley, Madison, .293; Lane Steinwinder, Ellisville, .277. Other statistical leaders include: runs scored, Hinnant and Cameron Bolden (35), Presley (33), Meilstrup (31) and Steinwinder (30); hits, Hinnant (56), Roy, Presley and Steinwinder (48) each and Meilstrup (46); doubles, Presley (12) and Hinnant and Bolden (10) each; triples, Meilstrup, Hinnant, Roy, Steinwinder and Bolden (1) each; homeruns, Meilstrup (4), Justin Domiano (3), Presley (2) and Roy and Steinwinder (1) each. Pitching leaders include: Davis Knight (Petal, 0-0 record), 24 1/3 innings, 2.22 ERA, 23 hits, 10 runs, 16 walks and 14 strikeouts; Dawson Richard (Berwick, La., 7-7 record), 80 1/3 innings, 2.80 ERA, 64 hits, 33 runs, 32 walks and 87 strikeouts; Rhyson Caraway (Shreveport, La., 4-4 record), 56 innings, 3.54 ERA, 55 hits, 33 runs, 23 walks and 64 strikeouts; Darius Dampier (D'Lo, 3-5 record), 38 innings, 3.55 ERA, 36 hits, 23 runs, 17 walks and 32 strikeouts; Peyton Purdue (Sandersville, 0-2 record), 24 1/3 innings, 4.44 ERA, 13 hits, 17 runs, 15 walks and 22 strikeouts. Southwest scores 4.85 runs per game and is giving up 5.26 runs per game.



## Bulldogs sweep Lions; secure a berth in Region Tournament play

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs swept the East Mississippi Community College Lions in Scooba on April 29, winning 15-4 and 7-2 in game two securing a spot in the Region 23 Tournament.

With the wins, the Bulldogs ended the regular season 33-18 and 14-14 in the MACCC.

In game one, Holton Hartzog got the start and went four innings. He gave up three runs on three hits with six walks and six strikeouts. Vince Glorioso pitched the final four and picked up the win. He gave up one run on four hits with two strikeouts and one walk.

Nicolas Schwing and Landon Wallace

led the Bulldogs with three hits each. Amari Conley, Xavier Myles, Sam Roy and Jacob Lott each added two hits with Conley having a homerun and double while Lott had a triple and Roy added a double.

John Paul Buckner started game two and picked up the win. He went six innings and gave up two runs on three hits with six strikeouts and seven walks. Josh Fleming pitched the final inning and had two strikeouts.

Will McClure led the Bulldogs with two hits including a two-run homerun and a triple. Conley added a solo homerun while Lott added a double.

## Swilley, Azemar named Holmes CC Players of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College sophomore Mollie Swilley on the softball team and sophomore Hunter Azemar on the baseball team were named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play the week of April 20-26.

Swilley, a Northwest Rankin product from Brandon, went 1-0 in the circle last week for the Lady Bulldogs. She went seven innings and gave up six hits with one walk and one strikeout.

Azemar, a Southside product from Lafayette, La., batted .545 going 6-for-11 with two homeruns, two doubles, seven runs scored and six RBI.

## Bulldogs defeat Coahoma, 7-1 and 10-3

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs swept the Coahoma Community College Tigers at home on Tuesday, April 22, 7-1 and 10-3, in MACCC action.

In game one, Holton Hartzog got the start and picked up the win. He went five innings and gave up one run on four hits with four strikeouts. Vince Glorioso went the final four innings and had six strikeouts.

Thomas Kuhn led the Bulldogs with three hits including a triple while Hunter Azemar, Xavier Myles, Cade Clinton and Landon Wallace each had two hits. Azemar had two doubles, Wallace had one double and Myles had two triples. Jacob Lott added a double.

In game two, John Paul Buckner got the start and picked up the win. He went all seven innings giving up three runs on five hits with seven strikeouts and no walks.

Nicolas Schwing and Kuhn each had two hits while Sam Roy and Clinton added doubles. Hunter Azemar had three-run homerun.

Against Southwest on Friday, April 18, the Bulldogs won 8-1 and lost 10-7.

Josh Fleming got the win in game one going 8 1/3 innings with three strikeouts and five walks. Glorioso went the final 2/3 of an inning.

Schwing had three this while Roy had two with Roy adding a double.

In game two, Brenden Skirtech got the start and picked up the no decision. Aidan Bellman, Jude Stringer and Seth Terrell also pitched in the game with Bellman suffering the loss.

Azemar led the Bulldogs with three hits including a homerun and a double while Amari Conley and Will McClure each had two hits with McClure adding a triple. Schwing had a double in the game.



Holmes hosts special Sports Hall of Fame banquet in  
Celebration of 100th Anniversary

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Holmes Alumnus **Derek Starling, Sr.** and **Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey** after Starling was inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame

Derek Starling, Sr. ('86) of Madison County represented Holmes Community College when he was inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame on April 22 at a special ceremony at The Muse Center in Pearl. Starling, a past president of the Holmes Alumni Association, was inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame in 2017 for his basketball accomplishments.

A graduate of Canton High School, Starling came to Holmes and played basketball under Coach Bennie Kimble from 1984-1986. During Starling's time as a Bulldog, he was team captain, named to the All-Region 23 Team, MJCAA All-State and chosen to play in the MJCAA All-Star game. Other accolades he received included the Academic Award, the Sportsmanship Award, the Ras Branch Award and the Bulldog Award.

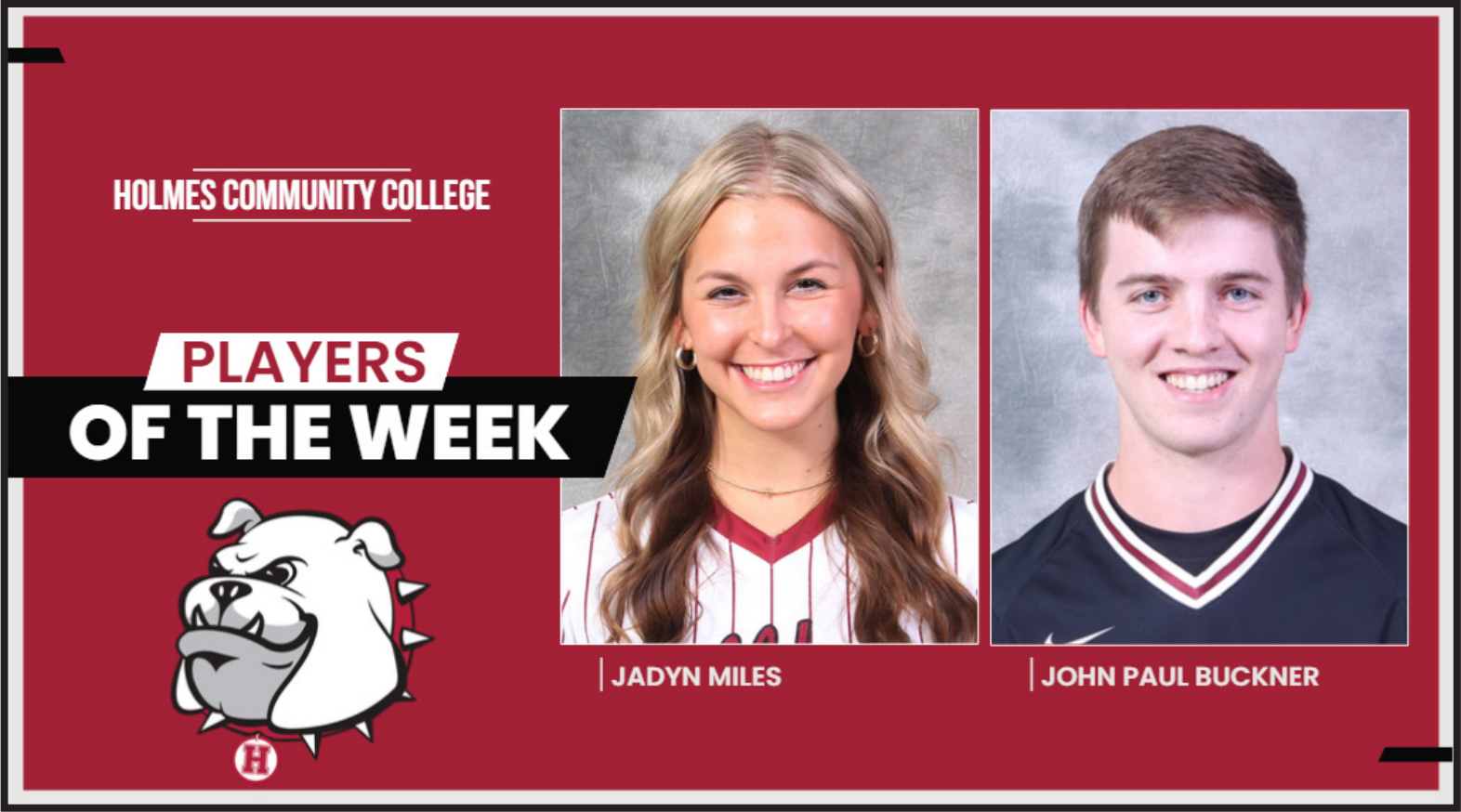
Upon graduation from Holmes, he attended Mississippi State University and earned his bachelor's in industrial

and systems engineering with a minor in mathematics. He is now the owner and principal of SOL Engineering Services, headquartered in Jackson.

Some of Starling's accolades include: Small Business Administration's Mississippi Business Person of the Year (2015); serving on the Canton School Board for 17 years, eight of which he served as chairman; MSU Department of Industrial & System Engineering Advisory Board member (2018-present); inducted as a Fellow into the Society of American Military Engineers (2022) and lifetime member of the Holmes Alumni Association. In 2022, he was recognized the Holmes Alumni Association as Alumnus of the Year. In addition to Starling, his mother Alma, his brother Dwayne ('84) and sister Dianna ('80) all attended Holmes.

Miles, Buckner named Holmes CC's Players of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College sophomore Jadyn Miles on the softball team and sophomore John Paul Buckner on the baseball team were named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play the week of April 6-12.

Miles, a Morton product from Morton, batted .400 for the week going 4-for-10.

Buckner, a Starkville Academy product from Starkville, went seven innings against Baton Rouge and picked up the win. He gave up one run on two hits with seven strikeouts and one walk.

Wallace named NJCAA All-American

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College sophomore Cameron Wallace was named to the NJCAA All-American team following the 2024-25 season.

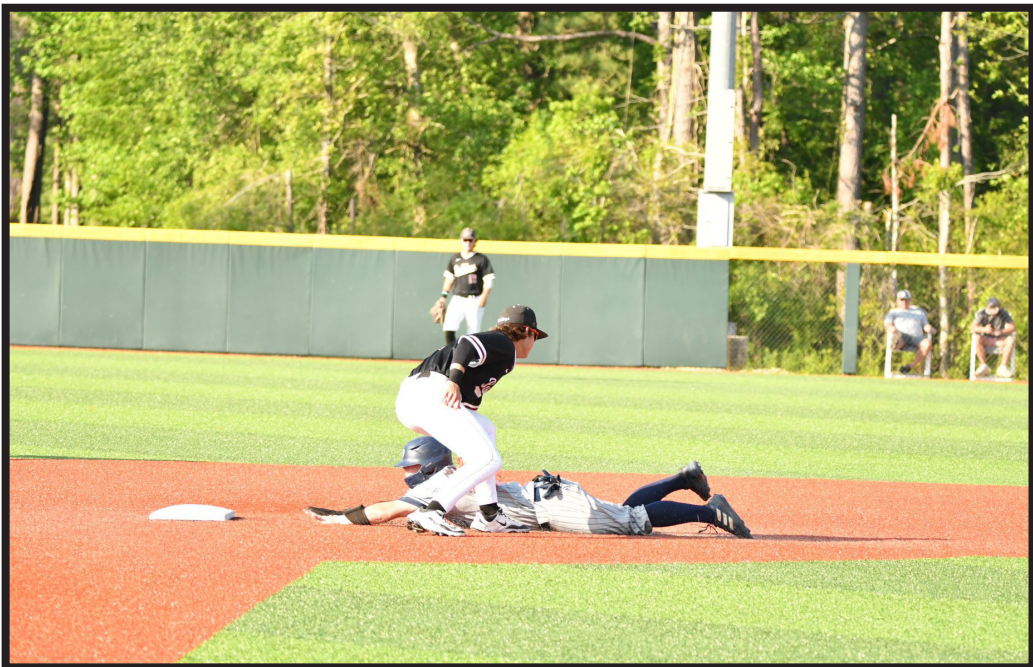
Wallace, a Parkview product from Little Rock, was named First Team All-MACCC and then named to the All-Region Team before being named Third Team All-American by the NJCAA. Teammate K.J. Sykes of Jackson was named Honorable Mention All-MACCC for the Bulldogs as well.

On the season, Wallace averaged 20.4 points per game. He scored 509 points including shooting 56.5 percent from the floor (178-of-315) and 77 percent from the free throw line (147-of-191). He averaged 8.1 rebounds per game.



## Bulldogs pick up DH sweep of Northeast Tigers

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up a DH sweep of the Northeast Mississippi Community College Tigers in Booneville on Tuesday, April 15, winning 11-10 and 4-3.

In game one, Ethan Trimble got the start and pitched four innings and picked up a no decision. Jude Stringer also pitched 3 1/3 innings before giving way to Holton Hartzog who went 1 2/3 innings and picked up the win.

Amari Conley led with three hits including two doubles while Hunter Azemar, Sam Roy and Jacob Lott each had two hits. Roy had a two-run homer in the game.

In the top of the ninth, Xavier Myles

flew out to right field driving in Conley from third to put the Bulldogs up 11-10. The Tigers grounded out before Hartzog picked up a strikeout. The Tigers grounded out to Landon Wallace to end the game.

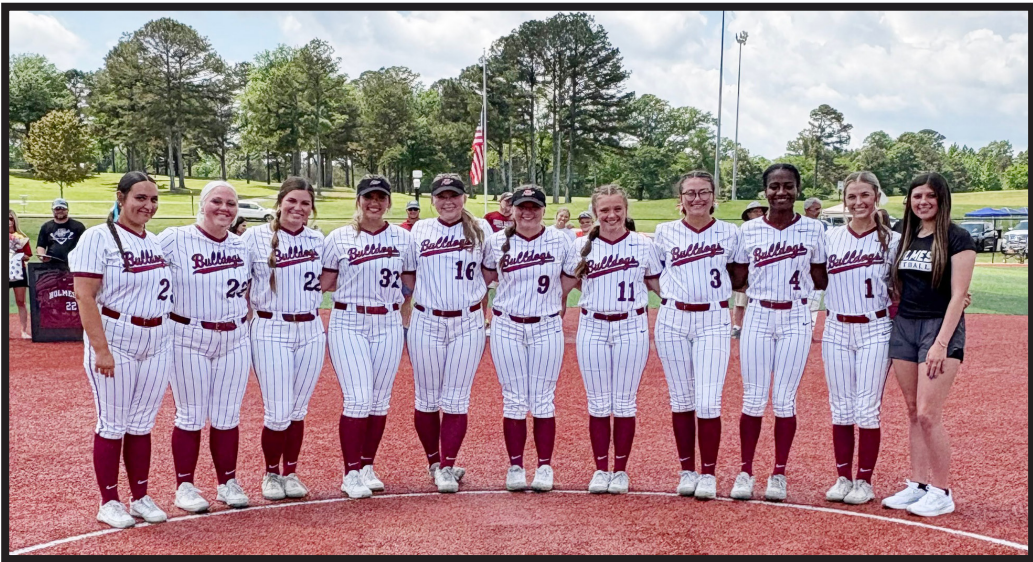
In game two, John Paul Buckner got the start and went five innings before giving way to Carson Moon. Moon went two innings and had a walk and a strikeout to pick up the win.

In the top of the seventh, Azemar hit a solo homerun to put the Bulldogs up 4-3. The Tigers flew out twice and grounded out to end the game.

Azemar had the homerun while Will McClure added a double.

## Holmes splits with Gulf Coast to end the season

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs ended the 2025 season with a split with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College falling 9-0 in game one and winning 1-0 in game two at home on April 26.

Anne Elise Sartin got the start and suffered the loss in game one. She went four innings. Josie Azlin pitched the final inning in game one. Sartin had a double in game one while Kaitlyn Jones and Lora Ryals each singled.

In game two, Mollie Swilley got

the start and the win going all seven innings. She gave up six hits with one strikeout and one walk.

Jadyn Miles, Emma Fabre and Meg Glasgow each had one hit in the game.

It was also Sophomore Day in Goodman where Anna Isbell, Jadyn Miles, Gracie Williams, Mhina Balthrop, Kaitlyn Jones, Meg Glasgow, Gracie Bolland, Abbie McGee, Lora Ryals, Mollie Swilley and Anne Elise Sartin were all recognized prior to game one.

## Jones, Myles named Holmes CC’s Players of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

KAITLYN JONES

XAVIER MYLES

Holmes Community College sophomore Kaitlyn Jones on the softball team and freshman Xavier Myles on the baseball team were named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play the week of March 30-April 5.

Jones, a St. Joe product from Florence, batted .600 for the week going 6-for-10 including a double.

Myles, a Brandon product from Brandon, batted .700 for the week and was 7-for-10 with two homeruns, two doubles and seven RBI.

## Bulldogs take two from Baton Rouge

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Bulldogs took two games at home on Wednesday, April 9, from the Baton Rouge Community College Bears, 8-3 and 2-1.

Ethan Trimble started game one and picked up the win. He went five innings and gave up one run on five hits. Vince Glorioso went one inning and had a strikeout. Carson Moon went one inning and gave up two runs on one hit with one walk and one strikeout.

Nicolas Schwing, Xavier Myles, Cade Clinton and Sam Roy each had two hits

with Clinton and Roy adding doubles. Hunter Azemar and Landon Wallace each added a double.

In game two, John Paul Buckner got the start going all seven innings and gave up one run on two hits. He had seven strikeouts and one walk.

Amari Conley had a go-ahead homerun in the sixth while Myles added a double.



## Holmes hosts special Sports Hall of Fame banquet in Celebration of 100th Anniversary

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2020 Sports Hall of Fame inductees, who were recognized during the 100-Year Sports Hall of Fame celebration. Pictured are (left to right) **Keith Lennell Gray** (basketball), **Lewis Quinby Morgan** (coach/A.D.), **Ronald Jay Aldy** (coaching) and **Wilson Browning** (baseball). *Not pictured:* Michael Jacob Newton (soccer).

Holmes Community College hosted a special Sports Hall of Fame banquet on Thursday, April 10 in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus. The college welcomed back all Sports Hall of Fame inductees for the 2025 banquet in honor of Holmes’ 100th anniversary.

The Alumni Office inducted the first class of Sports Hall of Fame recipients in 1993. Among those honored that year were Jeff Campbell (football), Mil-lard Davis (basketball), Faye Graham Dillard (basketball), Mel Gibson (bas-ketball), Earl “Dixie” Howell (football), Thomas E. Nix (football), Hugh Pepper (baseball) and Pattye Burton Wood (basketball).

Thirty-two years later, what they all had in common was that they were Bulldogs. The Holmes Sports Hall of Fame now includes more than 100 former athletes who made significant impacts in athletics, their communities

and their professions.

The Hall of Fame festivities included a reception and a banquet to celebrate the accomplishments of all honorees.

As the college welcomed back all liv-ing inductees, special recognition was given to the 2020 inductee class, whose banquet had been cancelled due to the global pandemic. The members of the 2020 class included Ronald Jay Aldy (coaching), Wilson Browning (base-ball), Keith Lennell Gray (basketball), Lewis Quinby Morgan (coach/A.D.) and Michael Jacob Newton (soccer).

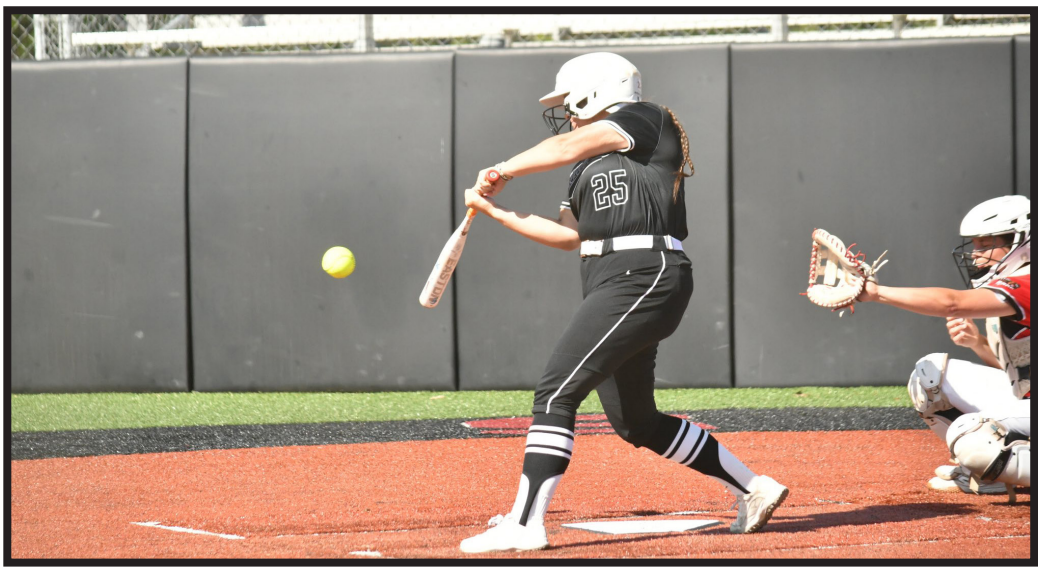
Alumni, family and friends were invited to attend.

Additionally, Derek Starling, Sr. (’86) represented Holmes when he was in-dicted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame on April 22 at a special ceremony in Pearl.

For more in information about alum-ni events, contact the Holmes Alumni Office at [kellard@holmescc.edu](mailto:kellard@holmescc.edu).

## Lady Bulldogs split with Baton Rouge

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Lady Bulldogs split two games with Baton Rouge Community College at home on Wednesday, April 9, falling 7-3 and winning 3-2 in game two.

Anne Elise Sartin got the start and took the loss in game one. Josie Azlin went the final 2/3 of an inning.

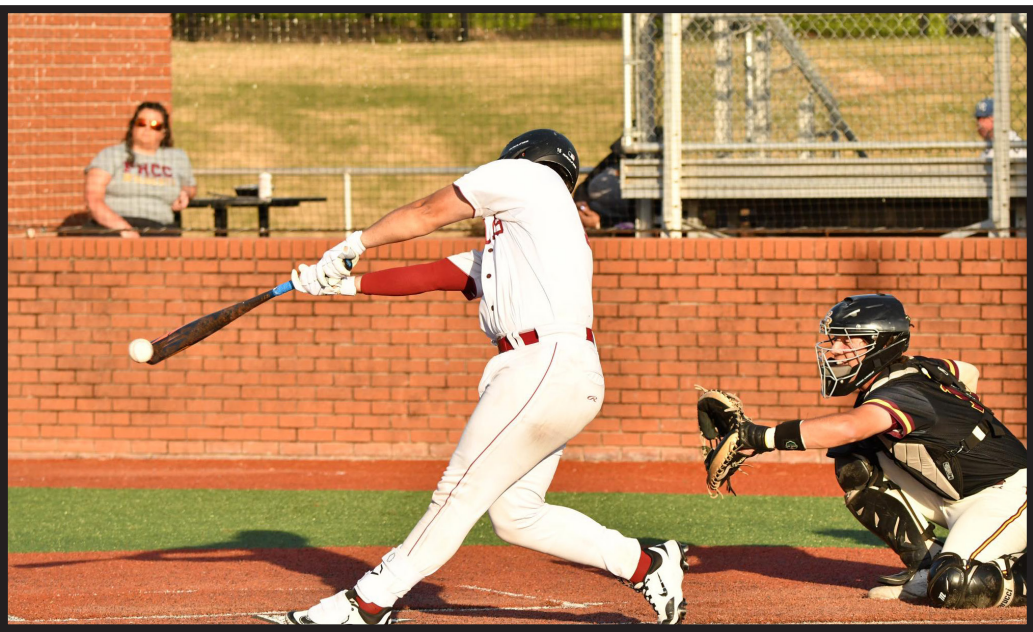
Emma Fabre led with two hits while Miley Billie and Gracie Williams each had a double.

Mollie Swilley got the start in game two and picked up the win. She gave up two runs on six hits with three walks and three strikeouts.

Swilley led with a double that drove in the go-ahead run in the sixth.

## Bulldogs sweep Trojans, 30-5 and 12-2

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs swept the Mississippi Delta Community College Trojans 30-5 and 12-2 in MACCC action in Goodman on April 1.

In game one, Ethan Trimble got the start and picked up the win. He went six innings and gave up five runs on nine hits with three strikeouts and one walk. Eli Lowe went one inning in relief and had one walk.

Thomas Kuhn led the Bulldogs with four hits including two doubles. Hunter Azemar, Brenden Skirtech and Landon Wallace each had three hits with Azemar adding a two-run

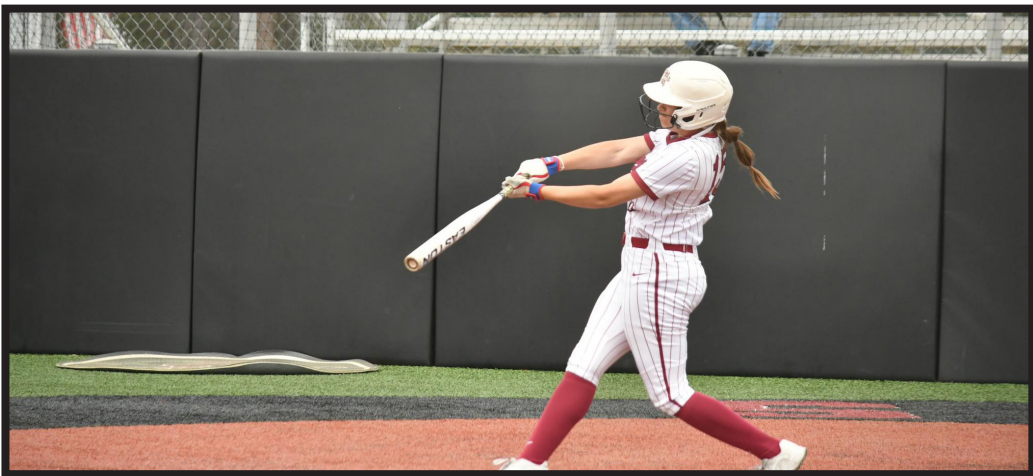
homerun, Skirtech adding a triple and Wallace adding two doubles. Nicolas Schwing and Cade Clinton each had two hits with Clinton adding two dou-bles and Schwing adding one. Brandt Dickerson had a triple.

In game two, John Paul Buckner got the start and picked up the win. He went all five innings and gave up two runs on four hits with six strikeouts and two walks.

Azemar, Xavier Myles, Sam Roy and Will McClure each had two hits with Azemar adding a two-run homerun and Myles adding two doubles and Roy one.

## Lady Bulldogs split with Lady Trojans

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs split two games with the Mississippi Delta Community College Lady Trojans in Moorhead on Tuesday, April 1, winning 5-1 and falling 5-4 in eight innings.

Anne Elise Sartin got the start in game one and picked up the win. She gave up one run on three hits with six strikeouts and one walk. Cinlaire Simpson got three hits including a double while Jadyne Miles added two

hits and Emma Fabre added a double.

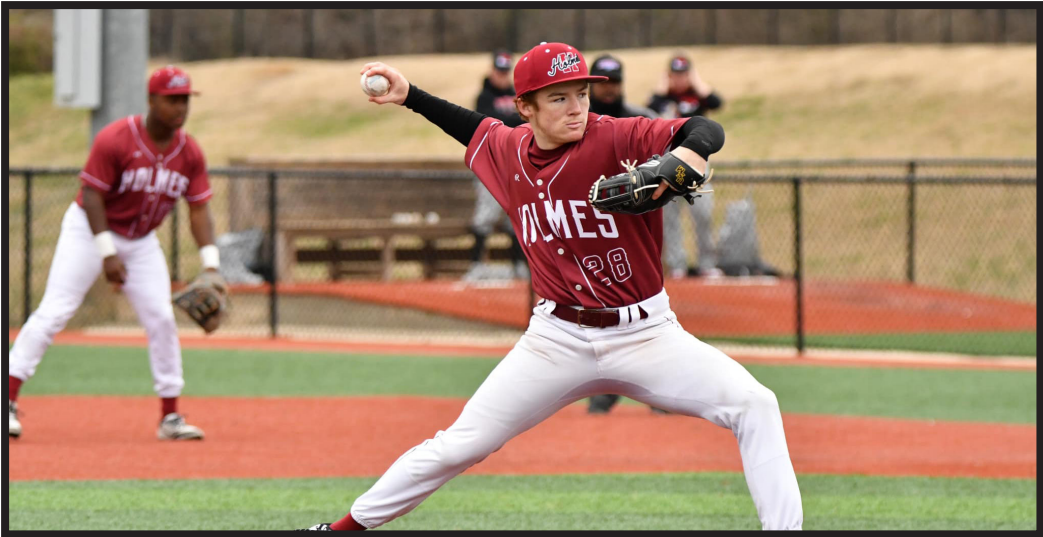
In game two, Mollie Swilley got the start and went 5 1/3 innings. Josie Azlin went the final 2 1/3 innings and gave up two runs on three hits with four strikeouts and four walks.

Kaitlyn Jones, Swilley and Simpson each had two hits. Miley Billie added a double.



## Bulldogs split with Rangers winning 10-4 and falling 7-6

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs split two MACCC games in Senatobia Wednesday, March 26, with the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers winning 10-4 and falling 7-6.

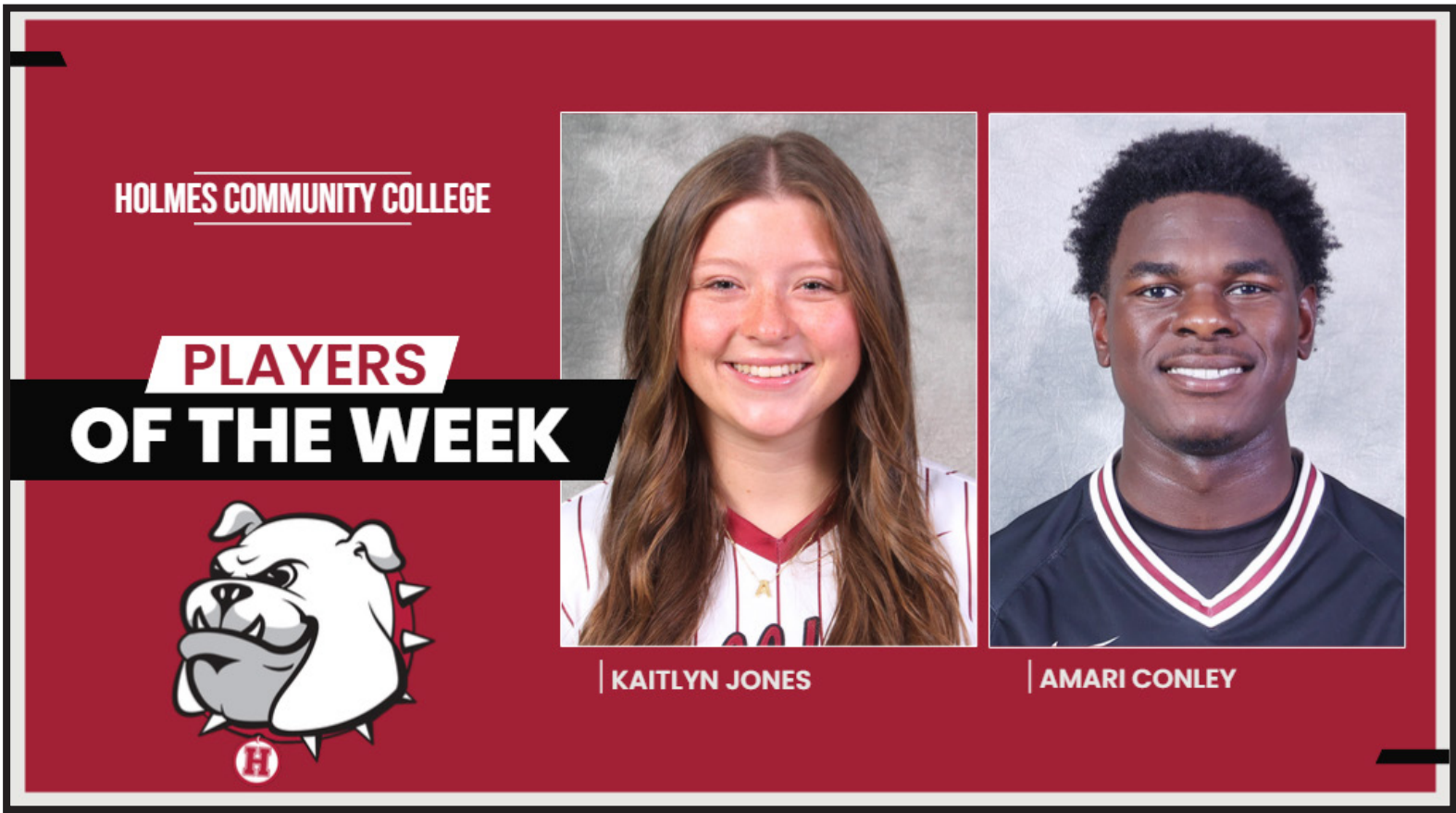
Ethan Trimble picked up the complete game win in game one. He went nine innings and gave up four runs on six hits with seven strikeouts and one walk. Hunter Azemar led the Bulldogs with two hits including a homerun.

Amari Conley added a homerun while Cade Clinton and Thomas Kuhn added a double each.

In game two, John Paul Buckner went six innings and suffered the loss. He gave up seven runs on seven hits with seven strikeouts and two walks. Conley, Nicolas Schwing, Xavier Mylles, Kuhn and Will McClure each had one hit in the game.

## Jones, Conley named Holmes CC’s Players of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



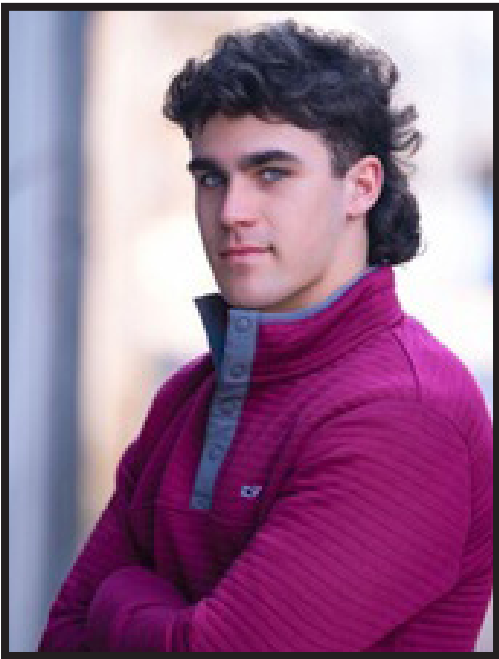
Holmes Community College sophomore Kaitlyn Jones on the softball team and sophomore Amari Conley on the baseball team were named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play the week of March 23-29.

Jones, a St. Joe product from Florence, batted .400 for the week going 4-for-10 including a double.

Conley, a Grenada product from Grenada, batted .385 for the week and was 5-for-13 with two homeruns, one double and six RBI.

## Logan Williams remembered prior to DH with Pearl River

From Staff Reports/Photos



Logan Williams

On Saturday, March 22, the Holmes Community College Bulldogs invited the family of the late Logan Williams to be their honored guests for the double-header with Pearl River, and the family threw out the ceremonial first pitch to remember Williams.

Williams, a 2024 Kossuth graduate and the son of Jason and Stephanie Williams, had signed a national letter of intent to play baseball for the Bulldogs but tragically died in an automobile accident on July 16 just weeks before the 2024 fall semester began at Holmes CC. The Holme baseball program donated all proceeds from Saturday’s games to the Williams family.

As the family made their way to the pitching mound for the first pitch, the

following message was read: “Today we honor the life of Logan Williams. Logan was a standout baseball player at Kossuth High School and had accepted an offer to continue playing baseball at Holmes. This past summer Logan was tragically taken from this life in a car accident. Logan was a young man who had a pure heart, a vibrant smile and the ability to make all feel welcome. Today we can celebrate the fact that Logan is in his eternal home, in heaven. Logan’s legacy will live on for a very long time, as will the call for family and friends to ‘Lead Like Logan.’

“‘Lead Like Logan’ are not just three words thrown out to honor this young man. They are a testament to the way Logan lived his life. They are a call to build others up. They are a call to put others before yourself. They are a call to live life in a way that others can see sincerity in your words and the pureness of your heart. They are a call to let others see Jesus through your daily life. Logan will be remembered for the great things he did athletically, but more importantly Logan will be remembered for the person he was and the impact he made on others. At this time, please join me in welcoming the Williams family as they take the mound to throw out today’s first pitch.”

Bulldog centerfielder Sam Roy of Oxford caught the pitch from Williams’ mom, Stephanie. Roy knew Williams from baseball in the Lafayette County area, where Williams lived before transferring to Kossuth for his junior



Logan Williams’ family throwing the first pitch for the Holmes vs. Pearl River baseball game on March 22.

and senior seasons. Roy presented the family with the game ball embracing them along with two representatives from Pearl River and the 2025 Bulldogs.

Along with baseball, Williams also played football for Kossuth. His dream was always to play college baseball, and he was on his way to begin that journey in August at Holmes Community College as a member of the Bulldog Baseball Team. His dad instilled the love of the game in him at the age of 5 on a baseball field at what is now MTrade Park in Oxford. Logan never met a stranger when he was on that diamond. Logan has friends and teammates from Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Florida, Ohio, all

because a boy picked up a bat and a ball and fell in love.

Williams is survived by parents, Jason and Stephanie Williams; his sisters, Anna Kate Williams, and Harper Reese Williams; his grandparents, Glen and Pasty Williams of Oxford, and Danny and Angie Russell of Corinth; his aunt, Christy Gant/Jason Parker of Hernando; and the other two people of “the core 4”, his first cousins, Lauren Hailey Troxell and AJ Troxell; several great uncles, great aunts, cousins, an Aggie Community, a Commodore Community, and a host of Travel/Showcase Baseball friends and family since the age of 5. He was preceded in death by his Uncle Zac Gant of Corinth.



## Lady Bulldogs split with Lady Eagles

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs split two games at home on Friday, March 28, with Meridian Community College falling 4-3 in game one and winning game two, 8-0, in six innings.

In game one, Josie Azlin got the start and went five innings and gave up three runs on three hits with four strikeouts. Anne Elise Sartin came in the game in the sixth and gave up one run on two hits with one strikeout and two walks and suffered the loss.

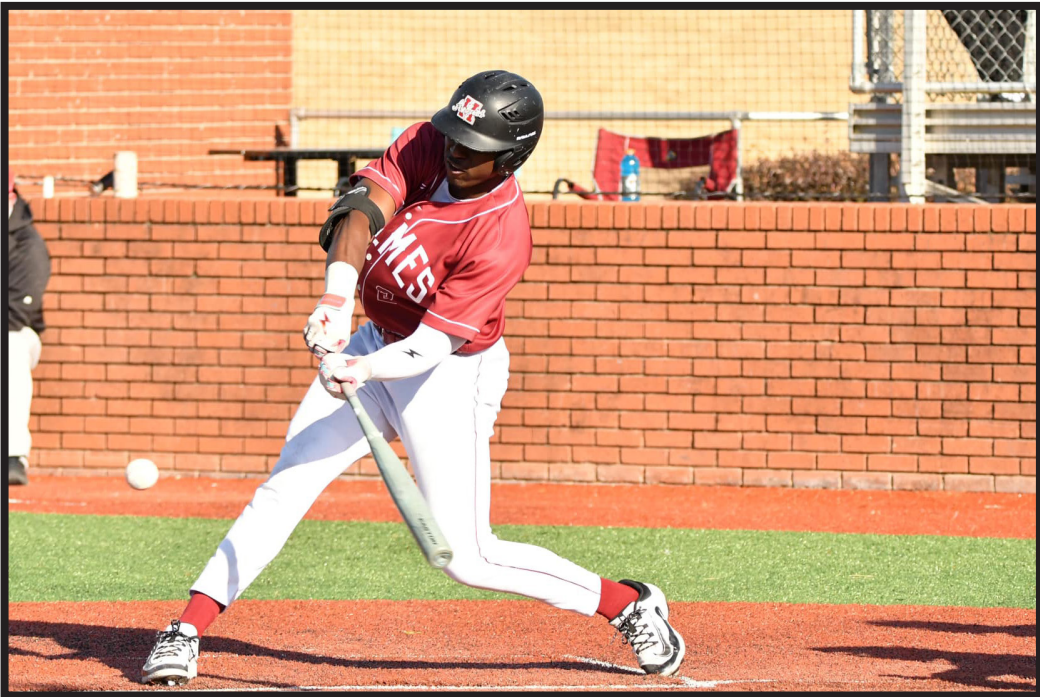
Kaitlyn Jones and Mollie Swilley each had two hits with Swilley adding a double.

In game two, Swilley got the start and went six innings. She gave up three hits with four strikeouts and no walks.

Miley Billie led the Lady Bulldogs with three hits including a triple while Emma Fabre had two. Gracie Williams added a two-run homerun.

## Bulldogs sweep Hinds, 12-11 and 9-4

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



The No. 24 ranked Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up two MACCC wins at home Wednesday, March over the Hinds Community College Eagles winning game one, 12-11, and 9-4 in game two.

In game one, Aidan Bellman got the start. He went one inning before giving way to Ethan Trimble. Trimble went five innings before Seth Terrell came in to pitch 2 1/3 innings. Carson Moon pitched the remaining 2/3 of an inning to pick up the win.

Amari Conley and Brenden Skirtech each had three hits in the game with Conley adding two doubles and Skirtech one. Nicolas Schwing, Xavier Myles, Sam Roy and Landon Wallace

each had two hits with Myles adding a homerun and Roy having a triple. Thomas Kuhn added a double in the game. Schwing walked the game off with a single to score Wallace from second.

In game two, John Paul Buckner got the start and picked up the win. He went five innings and gave up three runs on five hits with nine strikeouts and three walks. Josh Fleming went two innings and had two strikeouts.

Hunter Azemar led with two hits including a double. Schwing added a double.

## Lady Bulldogs opened Region 23 play on Thursday in Perkinston

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



The Holmes Community College 10th-seeded Lady Bulldogs fell to the seventh-seeded Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Bulldogs 86-48 at Dantzler Arena on March 6.

Kristen McMillan (So., Hoover, Ala./Hoover) had a career-high 24 points to lead all scorers. Taelar Felton had 17 off the bench. Tamia Yates (So., Crystal Springs/Crystal Springs) had 15, and Hailey Brumfield (Fr., Amite, La./Amite) added 14. Dekyra Mitchell (Fr., Durant/Holmes County) was the fifth MGCCC Bulldog in double digits with 14.

The Holmes Lady Bulldogs ended the season 13-17 overall.

## Holmes falls to Trojans 75-69

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell to the Mississippi Delta Community College Trojans, 75-69 at Holmes on March 6 in the Region 23 Tournament. The Bulldogs went into the tournament as the No. 6 seed and ended their season with a 20-8 overall record.

Davion Traylor led the Trojans with 16 points but 10 of those were from the free throw line where the Trojans shot 75 percent hitting 24-of-32 shots. Carter Mullins came off the bench to add 14 points while Jacorian Smith had 11.

**To keep up with all Holmes Athletics - gameday schedules, live streaming, rosters and more - visit [HOLMESATHLETICS.COM](https://holmesathletics.com).**





# The Growl Staff



**Macey Bowman**

Macey Bowman of Pelahatchie is a freshman health sciences major, though she will be graduating from the Holmes Ridgeland Campus in the spring with an associate degree. In her free time, Bowman enjoys shopping, spending time with friends and watching movies. Other than being involved in The Growl, Bowman is vice president of SGA at Holmes-The Ridge. After graduating in May, Bowman plans to finish her bachelor's degree in biology at William Carey University. Then, she plans to attend William Carey University's Doctor of Osteopathic medicine program before specializing in dermatology.



**Michelle Castro-Prudencio**

Michelle Castro-Prudencio is a criminal justice major from Madison. She is very involved with organizations that protect immigrants' rights and loves art. She is currently a nail technician and works for the Military Police National Guard. Her goals for the future are to become a missing person detective or work for the FBI.



**Kyanti Fleming**

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



**Jeremiah Henry**

Jeremiah Henry is a sophomore general studies major at Holmes Community College's Ridgeland Campus. Henry is a member of both the newspaper and yearbook staff at Holmes. In his free time, he enjoys watching television, playing video games and playing pickleball. Upon graduating from Holmes, Henry plans to transfer to either Mississippi State University or Georgia State University.



**Walker Scott**

Walker Scott is a freshman on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus and is on The Growl Staff for the first time this semester. Scott is originally from Madison and graduated from Madison Central High School where he pursued choral singing, musical theatre and competitive speech and debate. At Holmes, Scott is a journalism major, and he hopes to pursue a career in broadcast journalism. He is excited to hone his journalistic writing skills with The Growl this semester!



**Naomi Ubeda**

Naomi Ubeda is a pre-radiologic sciences major on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus. She is not involved in any activities yet, but her friends have been trying to talk her into joining a club. She was born and raised in Miami, Florida, and has lived in Mississippi for about six years. Her goal is to graduate and get a job as an MRI Tech over in Miami. She likes to garden, watch Netflix and sleep in her free time.

**Interested in Joining the Growl? Contact  
Mary Margaret Busby at [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu)**