



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

THE GROWL

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Ellis crowned Homecoming Queen

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Holmes Alumni Association President **Jacob Black**, the Queen's escort **Amir Abdul-Rauf**, 2024 Homecoming Queen **Jakya Ellis**, Goodman Campus Vice President **Andy Wood** and Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey**.

On Thursday, Oct. 31, Holmes Community College hosted its annual Homecoming celebration on the Goodman Campus. Jakya Ellis of Kosciusko, daughter of Moneke Ellis was crowned 2024 Homecoming Queen prior to kickoff. Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey crowned the queen, Alumni Association President Jacob Black presented her robe and Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood presented her flowers. Ellis was escorted by Amir Abdul-Rauf of Gulfport.

The rest of the Goodman Campus court included: Student Body Maid Janey Beth McRae of Winona and her escort Braxton Demopulos of Denham Springs, La.; Sophomore Maid Savannah Fulgham of Kosciusko and her escort John Paul Buckner of

Starkville; Sophomore Maid La'Diamond Phillips of Black Hawk and her escort Kemarieon Akins of Foxworth; Freshman Maid Paris "Abby" Crockett of Yazoo City and her escort Tre' Rainey of Tupelo and Freshman Maid Chasity Washington of Winona and her escort Xavier Myles of Pearl.

Ridgeland Campus court members included: Student Body Maid Addison Chelsey Sawyer of Madison and her escort Aaron Sawyer of Madison; Sophomore Maid Kamilah Millsap of Canton and her escort Wesley Smith of Ridgeland; Sophomore Maid Miracle McGee of Flowood and her escort Cameron Sanders of Canton; Freshman Maid Paris Garrett of Canton

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Holmes Ridgeland hosting state's first AWS Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College is hosting Mississippi's first Amazon Web Services (AWS) Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship (I2PA) program, designed to equip participants with in-demand skills for careers in information infrastructure. The four-week program began on Nov. 4 and runs through Dec. 6, with classes meeting from 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. daily, excluding the week of Thanksgiving.

The AWS I2PA program offers 30 hours of hands-on training each week,

focusing on equipping participants with the skills needed to build, connect, power and operate the infrastructure that drives the global information economy. Training is conducted using the tools and materials found in the field, providing practical, job-ready experience in AWS cloud technology, networking and security. Everything students need is included: protective gear, supplies and a laptop computer.

Participants will explore key el-

AWS, continued on Page 7

Moorer named Humanities Teacher of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is **William Chad Moorer**, the 2025 Holmes Humanities Teacher.

Holmes Community College is proud to announce that William Chad Moorer, a faculty member in the English Division on the Goodman Campus, has been named the 2025 Humanities Teacher of the Year. Moorer has been an integral part of the college for over 12 years, where he teaches Developmental English, Composition, Creative Writing and American Literature. He also serves as the director of the Goodman Campus Writing Center.

The prestigious Humanities Teacher Award is presented by the Mississippi Humanities Council to recognize excellence in teaching and contributions to the humanities in higher education.

Holmes is honored to have Moorer receive this accolade, and he will be formally recognized at the Mississippi Humanities Council's annual spring Humanities Gala in Jackson.

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, and 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 will deliver his scholarly presentation, "Traditional Poetry: I'm Not Dead Yet," on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 2 p.m. in McMorrough Library on the Goodman Campus. This presentation is open to the public and is part of his recognition as the 2025 Humanities Teacher of the Year.

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

Humanities, continued on Page 7

What's Inside...

- Student Editorials
- Summer Highlights
- HoCo Photos
- Sports Photos/Recaps
- And More!



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

Is the school system too strict or not strict enough?

By Kyanti Fleming
Staff Reporter



There has always been a debate about school systems being too strict, but are they strict enough? Understanding each school is different is a necessity, but are some schools really doing what's necessary to keep kids safe?

said Ariana Williams, a student at Canton High School. "Sometimes they go overboard with cellphones but I think that's just the school system all together."

Although some schools are strict, some are not strict enough. Most of the time, kids do what they want, leading to violence in schools and even more into the neighborhoods.

"My school isn't strict at all," said Ida Jackson, a student at Provine High School. "I wish they were stricter for my safety and for others. Most of the

time there is either a fight or someone is bringing a weapon to school. Sometimes I fear for my life but they won't fix it. Also, there are too many people at one school, raising even more tension."

So, while there are some schools that are strict about some things, others are not strict at all. We often see this in high school and some middle schools, but is this really the answer? So, my question is, is the school system too strict or not strict enough?



Gen-Z and Millennial's beauty standards are ruining teens and young adult's confidence in themselves

By Macey Bowman
Staff Reporter



What lengths would you go to just to be considered "beautiful" by your generation? Beauty standards have been around for ages. Some regions are more extreme than in the United States. For example, in the late 1800's to early 1900's, China used a method called "foot binding" on young girls to bind their feet in a way that would make their feet skinny and small in length. They went through all of this for these young girls just to be able to fit a beauty standard that was stopped in the 1930's. In our

country and generation, this might look like getting lip filler, liposuction, steroids, a nose job or even a butt lift.

Social media is the biggest influencer when it comes to beauty standards, especially in the Gen-Z and Millennial generations. These generations scroll for hours, most of the time, comparing themselves to who they see on the screen. Whether it is "She has a smaller nose than me," or "He has bigger muscles than me." When they see these people on their screen and see how much they fit into what their generation considers "beauty," What do you think they think about themselves? No matter what generation, people should not have to change themselves to be considered "pretty" or "handsome."



According to TheBlast.com Taylor Swift once said "'If you are thin enough, then you do not have that butt that everybody wants. But if you have enough weight on you to have a

butt, your stomach is not flat enough. It is all just impossible," She also talked about how these standards can send people into a hateful spiral of

Are transportation services safe?

By Jermeria McClendon
Staff Reporter



"I don't think I would have made it back home... If I had something in my body telling me to go, I'm going to go, so I definitely feel like that saved my life." These were the exact words that came from Releigh's mouth, a 17-year-old young lady from North Carolina.

In a world where millions of people rely on accessibility and convenience, transportation services like Lyft and Uber have completely changed the transportation industry. But events such as kidnapping, particularly for

minor passengers and women are a major concern. Many guardians and parents rely on these services for their kids, believing that the platform and driver will put safety first. However, what occurs if that trust is betrayed?

People fail to realize the dangers of society. Recently a young girl has to risk her life by jumping out of a moving car to protect herself from a predator only a few blocks from her house. The male kept making inappropriate comments making her uncomfortable and later fear for her life. He then started spraying products causing her to feel drugged. No child or anyone should feel like someone is trying to harm them. A child should never have to sacrifice her life. This incident is

a major reason safety and protection should be taken more seriously.

My question is: What was the purpose? Why try to take an innocent girl from her family? Why try to end her life over nonsense? Why risk your life? Why risk her life? The answers to these questions will forever be unclear because no one has the right to forcefully remove someone from Earth. For many reasons it's hard to trust people because of the small incidents that could easily be avoided.

PLEASE STOP TRYING TO KIDNAP AND HARM OTHERS!!

"At the end of the day, the goals are simple: safety and security"

"Safety and security don't just happen, they are a result of collective



Releigh from North Carolina

consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear"

Protect yourself, your children and



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.

Effects of fast food

By Jermeria McClendon
Staff Reporter



“Well, fast food is affordable and very convenient for me. I’m tired from work and I don’t feel like cooking. I’ll just stop by Sonic on the way home.”

Fast food like McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy’s, etc. has played a major part in society. Many people eat fast food because of its convenience and prices. Those who work long hours a day can get a quick boost of energy, reduce hunger and stop skipping meals. Even though eating too much fast food is not healthy it does have advantages. The food they provide has tons of nutrients and vitamins the body needs. Also, many places have now

added healthier options to the menu like salad, vegetables, or high-protein meats. However, allowing yourself to consume too much greasy food can have a negative effect on the body which can cause a disadvantage in your life. The majority of the food has high amounts of fats, carbohydrates, and sodium. They can lead to tons of illnesses, such as death, diabetes, and even obesity. In some cases, the greasy food can cause your cholesterol levels to increase, clog your arteries, and affect your heart. Fried food or oil-based foods have extremely high sodium level that increases the blood pressure that could potentially affect your heart. Furthermore, fast food frequently lacks important nutrients including fibers, vitamins and minerals that are

necessary to the body. The body has 20 amino acids. The body naturally produces 11 of them whereas the other 9 is needed through the food we eat. If you don’t properly consume those 9 essential amino acids, your body is at high risk of impaired immune function, slow wound healing, hormonal imbalance, and digestive problems. In addition, fatigue, and poor mental health caused by the lack of nutrients can affect your life span resulting in death. Fast food is indeed handy for many people, but there are also alternative options. You can make fresh healthy pre-made meals at home. Whole grains, lean meats, lettuce and fresh fruit and vegetables are all good sources of meal protein and nutrients. I recommend that if you’re going to eat



high-fat foods eat it in moderation. For example, popcorn and dark chocolate are good options. The popcorn has little calories and high fibers whereas the antioxidants in chocolate help lower blood pressure and brain function. Watch what you eat!!!

Endangered Animal Life: What can you do to help?

By Macey Bowman
Staff Reporter



There are around 16,000 species of animals that are endangered; not only on land but in the sea as well. Some are endangered from the actions of humans, but others

are because of their habitat or surroundings. The main causes of animal endangerment across the globe include habitat loss, diseases, poaching and climate change. According to Lazoo.org, “Recent estimates indicate that roughly one million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction in the next few decades.” To read more: Lazoo.org

Because of human actions like

poaching or human-wildlife conflict, many land animals are at risk of becoming extinct. Poaching is when someone is illegally hunting or fishing on land that is under official protection. Human-wildlife conflict is one of the leading causes of endangerment in land animals. This happens when someone kills an animal out of spite or revenge or to maybe even punish the animal. In the ocean, animals are also facing some of the same issues as land animals. Over-fishing, pollution, and changes in habitat are some of the leading causes of endangerment in marine life. This is affecting about 2,500 species that live in the ocean. This includes but is not limited to whale sharks, sea turtles, blue whales, manatees, and the sunflower sea star.



So, how can you help to improve or prevent endangered animal life? Be aware of how your actions will affect not only you but the environment around you and listen to the rules set in

place to protect animal life. Go to endangered.com to read more about what steps you can take to help save endangered species.

Does Chemo Cause or Kill?

By Kyanti Fleming
Staff Reporter



Chemotherapy is a cancer treatment that uses drugs to kill cancer cells. However, this aggressive treatment has a lot of risks, side effects and scary outcomes that

sometimes overshadow the goodness that it can do. This sparks a valid question: Does chemotherapy kill cancer cells effectively, or does it cause more harm than the good it is supposed to be doing?

According to Lakishia Harris-Fleming, a breast cancer survivor and former chemotherapy patient, “The side effects were so aggressive to the point where I didn’t want to go to treatment

anymore.” Sometimes cancer patients have even harsher side effects where they have to be admitted and observed in hospitals. If chemo is helping patients, why does the cancer come back? Why is it getting patients sicker? Now as much as it seems that I don’t like chemotherapy, I have had the good end of the stick. I have two aunts whom have had cancer and they both went into remission, but a lot of families didn’t have that luxury. Although chemo can kill cancer, it also can cause cancer as well. “Chemotherapy can increase the risk of the development of certain cancers including: Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), Acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) and Acute myelogenous leukemia.” said the American Cancer Society.



Image by Freepik

In conclusion, chemotherapy is a treatment that plays a dual role in killing cancer cells and causing cancer cells. While chemo can really do some

good, it also can harm a patient significantly and insignificantly. So does chemotherapy kill or does it cause?

K&K Designs: A Family Business

By Kyanti Fleming
Staff Reporter



K&K Designs is a small family business that started in July of 2020, specializing in customized items and graphic designs. The founder and co-founder, Latoya and Kashaka Fleming, are well-known pillars of the community and have been happily married for 19 years. Latoya has been an educator for almost 15 years and has been helping students all over become better academically. Kashaka, however, has helped the community in other ways. From coaching T-ball to being a photographer for many events, he has been a friendly and helpful

face in the community. This family business has expanded through the Fleming-Washington-Johnson family tree and has been known for always exceeding the expectations of their customers. “This company was designed to celebrate loved ones and preserve the memories of events, etc.,” Latoya said. “K&K Designs is a brand name that is for family. I want to be able to serve customers worldwide and expand our business internationally, but for now I am happy to do the work locally.” Kashaka said. “Our goal as a business is to be able to give our customers what they need in their time of need.” the Flemings said. “Every family or person deserves



something that is just right for them and fits their personality, etc. I am glad we are able to provide that service to people.” K&K Designs is not just a brand but a family. This business has been known for changing lives locally and hopefully soon internationally.

A pharmacist’s and pharmacy tech’s school experience

By Macey Bowman
Staff Reporter



Have you ever thought about going into the pharmacy industry? Is it worth it? Do pharmacy workers enjoy their job? How hard was it to get into school or take the tests needed? Would you recommend it to the younger generation? Today, these questions will be answered by a pharmacist, Amber French, and a pharmacy tech, Shelly Miller. Amber French, pharmacist at Rhodes and Robby drugs as well as Frenches Pharmacy, attended Ole Miss Pharmacy School. When asked if French enjoys what she does, French stated, “Yes, I love being able to provide the

help needed and knowing that I am doing something good for my patient.” French says that she worked very hard to get into Ole Miss but that if you put time and energy into it that it will pay off. French says that she would recommend pharmacy school any day and that all of it was worth it to be able to do what she does. Shelly Miller, a pharmacy tech at Rhodes and Robby drugs, worked for a year doing on paid training then took the pharmacy technician test for her national certification. When asked if she enjoys what she does Miller said, “Yes, I like working in an independent pharmacy because of the relationship you can build with your customers, and I also enjoy working with a team of amazing people.” Miller said that although the training was strenuous and



hard, it was worth every minute. Miller said that she would strongly recommend going into the pharmacy industry to any student who is interested. So, in summary, pharmaceutical training and school can be hard and strenuous but, in the end, it is worth it. If you are considering going into the pharmaceutical field, talk to a pharmacist like Amber French or a pharmacy

Should uniforms be mandatory for grade school?

By Jermeria McClendon
Staff Reporter



Should uniforms be mandatory for grade school? Is the focus in school, the schoolwork the appearance? Since many grade schools encourage equality and try to prevent distractions, uniforms should be required to create a more concentrated learning environment. One of the primary benefits of uniforms is that they minimize socioeconomic differences among students, preventing judgment or bullying based on appearance or fashion choices. Additionally, uniforms help students concentrate better on their education by lowering distractions associated with fashion competition. By making

it simpler to recognize students on campus and preventing outsiders from blending in, school uniforms improve safety. Although some believe that uniforms limit uniqueness, schools can offer additional opportunities for students to express themselves, including extracurricular activities or days when they are not required to wear uniforms. An average student recently attending Wingfield High School named Miyah Brown states, “I wouldn’t necessarily say uniform, but a dress code would be lovely. I would rather not see too much skin at 8 a.m. because it can be a distraction.” Stating that, I believe that not requiring uniforms and allowing students to dress normally promotes individuality, which is important for early personal development. Students who dress in their own way develop confidence and



creativity by learning to express who they are. Furthermore, even though uniforms often appear to be more affordable rather than buying clothes throughout the school year, some families may find the overall expense to be unreasonable, especially when must approve the type of uniform.

Homecoming (continued from Front Page)

and her escort Dustin Mai of Brandon and Freshman Maid Sydney Ferguson Neely of Brandon and her escort Kristoffer Palomo of Brandon.

Finally, Grenada Campus court members included: Student Body Maid Meri Brynn Reeves of Greenwood and her escort Noah Beck of Carrollton; Sophomore Maid Mary-Faith Vance of Grenada and her escort John Evins of Duck Hill; Sophomore Maid Kaylyn Barrett of Kosciusko and her escort Mathis Beck of Carrollton; Freshman Maid Gracie Summers of Coffeeville and her escort Ethan Prestridge of Grenada and Freshman Maid Abby Redwine of Grenada and her escort Alex Flautt of Grenada.

This year's football game against East Mississippi Community College kicked off at 3 p.m. and the final score was 51-1, with East Mississippi taking the win. The Bulldogs will still be headed to the MACCC semis next weekend for the first time in 22 years.

Prior to kick-off, the Homecoming Court was recognized, the Chorale sang the national anthem and the 2024 Homecoming Honorees were recognized on the field. Honorees included: Alumna of the Year, Carolyn Thomas; Distinguished Service Award recipient, Dr. Mack Woo; Young Alumna of the Year, Dr. Autumn Barron and Veteran of the Year, Davis A. Richard, III.

Homecoming festivities kicked off

with a Visual Arts Display in the McMorrough Library at 8:30 a.m. and a baseball and softball highlight at 9 a.m. Academic Programs and Career-Technical Education hosted a Career and Transfer Fair in the Grove and at the same time, Workforce Development hosted "Major's Truck Expo" with all of the big industry vehicles on display.

The honorees were recognized in McDaniel Auditorium at 10 a.m. followed by the debut performance from the Holmes Connection! and Coachmen. Other mid-day activities included food trucks, fun and games in the Grove accompanied with live music by the Holmes Jazz Band. Holmes Massage Therapy students gave free mas-

sages, as well. At noon, the Holmes Chorale performed a variety of their music in the Chapel on the Hill.

Faculty, staff, students, alumni and guests also enjoyed tailgating, a pep rally and live music prior to kick-off.

Leading up to Homecoming Day, all the campuses had an opportunity to show their school spirit with designated dress-up days. Monday was Pink Out for Breast Cancer Awareness Day, Tuesday was Aloha/Tourist Day, Wednesday was Halloween Costume Day and Thursday was Homecoming T-Shirt Day.

For more information about Homecoming, contact Katherine Ellard a kellard@holmescc.edu.



Homecoming Honorees (left to right) Alumna of the Year **Carolyn Thomas**, Veteran of the Year **Davis A. Richards, III** and Young Alumnus of the Year **Dr. Autumn Barron** pose for a photo with Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** after being recognized on the field prior to kick-off. *Not pictured:* Dr. Mack Woo, who was unable to attend.



The **Holmes Connection!** performs in McDaniel Auditorium following Alumni Honoree Recognition.



The **Holmes Chorale** performs the national anthem prior to kick-off.



The Holmes cheerleaders and Dazzlers pose for a photo prior to kick-off against East Mississippi Community College.



The **Holmes Marching Band** performs at halftime.



Students attend the Career and Transfer Fair in the Grove, speaking to representatives from four-year universities as well as representatives from various companies.



Associate Degree Nursing students and instructors show up ready to cheer the Bulldogs on.



Homecoming attendees enjoy massages from **Massage Therapy students** (and Instructor Liz McLain).

Homecoming Court 2024



Pictured is escort **Amir Abdul-Rauf** with Homecoming Queen **Jakya Ellis**.



Pictured is escort **Braxton Demopulos** with Goodman Student Body Maid **Janey Beth McRae**.



Pictured is escort **Aaron Sawyer** with Ridgeland Student Body Maid **Addison Sawyer**.



Pictured is escort **Noah Beck** with Grenada Student Body Maid **Meri Brynn Reeves**.



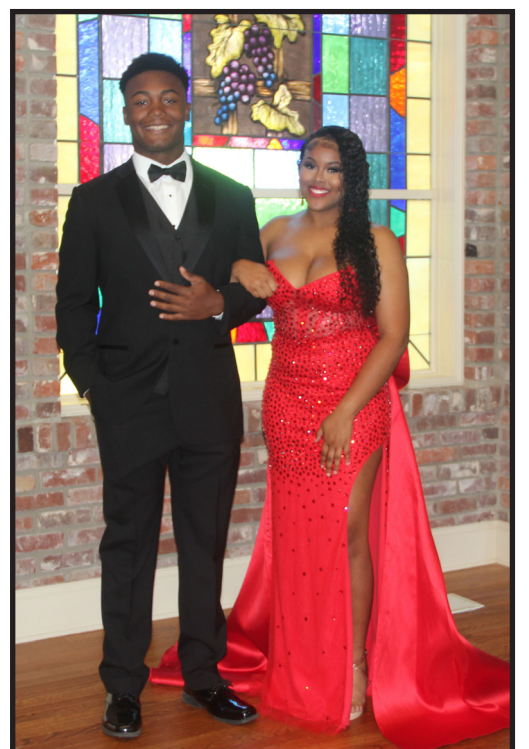
Pictured is escort **John Paul Buckner** with Goodman Sophomore Maid **Savannah Fulgham**.



Pictured is escort **Kemaricion Akins** with Goodman Sophomore Maid **LaDiamond Phillips**.



Pictured is escort **Tre' Rainey** with Goodman Freshman Maid **Abby Crockett**.



Pictured is escort **Xavier Myles** with Goodman Freshman Maid **Chasity Washington**.



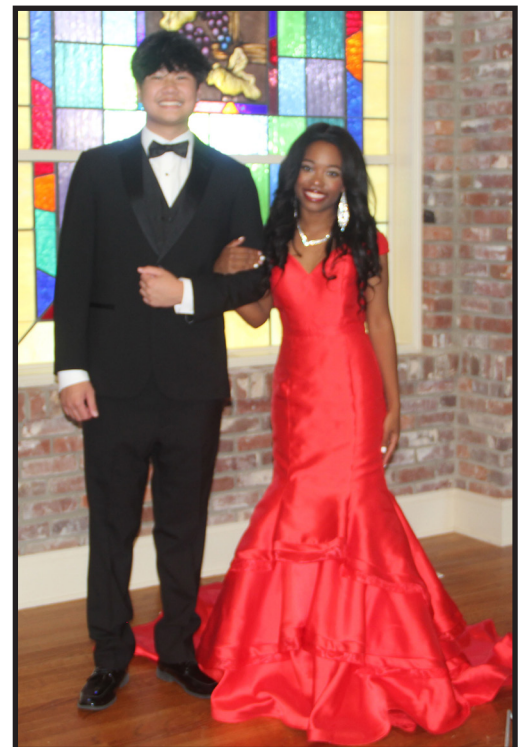
Pictured is escort **Wesley Smith** with Ridgeland Sophomore Maid **Kamilah Millsap**.



Pictured is escort **Cameron Sanders** with Ridgeland Sophomore Maid **Miracle McGee**.



Pictured is escort **Kristoffer Paloma** with Ridgeland Freshman Maid **Sydney Neely**.



Pictured is escort **Dustin Mai** with Ridgeland Freshman Maid **Paris Garrett**.



Pictured is escort **John Evins** with Grenada Sophomore Maid **Mary Faith Vance**.



Pictured is escort **Mathis Beck** with Grenada Sophomore Maid **Kaylyn Barrett**.



Pictured is escort **Ethan Prestridge** with Grenada Freshman Maid **Gracie Summers**.



Pictured is escort **Alex Flautt** with Grenada Freshman Maid **Abby Redwine**.

AWS (continued from Front Page)

ements of mission-critical building projects, including fiber optics, electrical and mechanical systems, computer servers and the software used in the design and construction of these facilities and systems. They will gain insights into high-demand careers and perform work functions typically found in real-world job settings.

Each week also incorporates practice with essential durable skills applicable to any career, including problem-solving, time management, teamwork, persistence, and effective collaboration.

Additionally, participants will earn industry-required certificates - including AWS I2PA and OSHA 10 - while being paid a competitive hourly wage of \$20/hour. At the conclusion of the pre-apprenticeship, those in the program will have the opportunity to network with subject matter experts from AWS as well as other vendors and contractors.

“Holmes Community College is thrilled to bring this groundbreaking opportunity to our students and community,” said Holmes Vice President of Workforce Development Dr. Mike

Blankenship. “As the first institution in the state to offer this program, we are opening doors to high-demand careers in information infrastructure, which are crucial to the future of our workforce.”

The program is part of AWS’s broader commitment to creating a more diverse and inclusive tech workforce by providing accessible pathways into high-growth careers. It aligns with Holmes’ mission to provide relevant, high-quality educational opportunities that empower individuals to succeed in

a global society.

For more information, check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkJmz8g5-j0>.

ollment for the program is now open, with limited spots available. Interested individuals should go to <https://aws-workforce.pearson.com/i2pa/> to apply.

For more information, contact Angela Crain at (601) 605-3370 or acrain@holmescc.edu.

Humanities (continued from Front Page)

teaching full-time at Holmes, he served as an adjunct instructor at both Hinds Community College and Holmes. “We encourage the campus community and the public to attend Chad’s lecture,”

said Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Jenny Bailey Jones. “His work as an educator and leader in the humanities has already enriched our campus, and this presentation will of-

fer further insight into the relevance of traditional poetry in modern times.”

For more information about the Mississippi Humanities Council, visit

<https://www.mshumanities.org/>.

Holmes’ Heavy Civil Construction Program graduates its first class of skilled candidates

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Holmes Community College’s Heavy Civil Construction program Fall 2024 graduates with instructor Cham Blain. They are (front row, left to right) **Brandon Cawthorn** of Sallis, **Walter Dunigan** of Canton, **Kelli Randle** of Kosciusko, (back row, left to right) Heavy Civil program manager and instructor **Cham Blain**, **Lukas Gowan** of Kosciusko, **Marvin Russell** of Lexington and **Titus Thomas** of Lexington.

Holmes Community College’s Workforce Training Department, in collaboration with industry partners across Holmes’ nine-county district, has proudly graduated its first class of students from its Heavy Civil Construction Program. This industry-tailored workforce training program, held on the Goodman Campus, was formed to meet a statewide demand for qualified candidates equipped with specific skills and certifications.

For 10 weeks, students gained hands-on knowledge of processes involved with creating and maintaining the infrastructure that connects communities and facilitates commerce. This comprehensive training equipped students with an understanding of the road and bridge construction industry,

which included field exposure and instruction in the following areas: equipment, soils and site work, work zone safety, paving, interpretation of civil drawings, construction/excavation math, project management, concrete work, striping, and the installation of signs, signals, fencing and guardrails.

The program also placed emphasis on providing the opportunity for students to gain industry-recognized certifications, ensuring that graduates possess the skills needed for immediate employment in the field. These credentials included ATSSA Flagger Technician, ATSSA Traffic Control Technician, OSHA 10, CPR & First Aid, Rigging, Crane Basics, OSHA Fall Protection, and operation of telehandler, skid-steer, aerial manlift and



Pictured are members of the Holmes Heavy Civil Construction program at the Reunion Parkway extension over I-55 project in Madison County. They are (left to right) Workforce Coordinator **Melissa Love**, students **Kelli Randle**, **Brandon Cawthorn**, **Lukas Gowan**, **Titus Thomas**, **Marvin Russell**, **Walter Dunigan** and MDOT’s **Chris Nail**, PE, PLS Roadway Design Engineer.

forklift.

Dr. Mike Blankenship, vice president of Workforce for Holmes, commends the program and its students for their accomplishments.

“Every road and bridge we maintain or build supports our local communities as well as national infrastructure, and it starts with training skilled workers,” Dr. Blankenship said. “Our program is designed to empower individuals and give them the practical skills they need to thrive in the industry.”

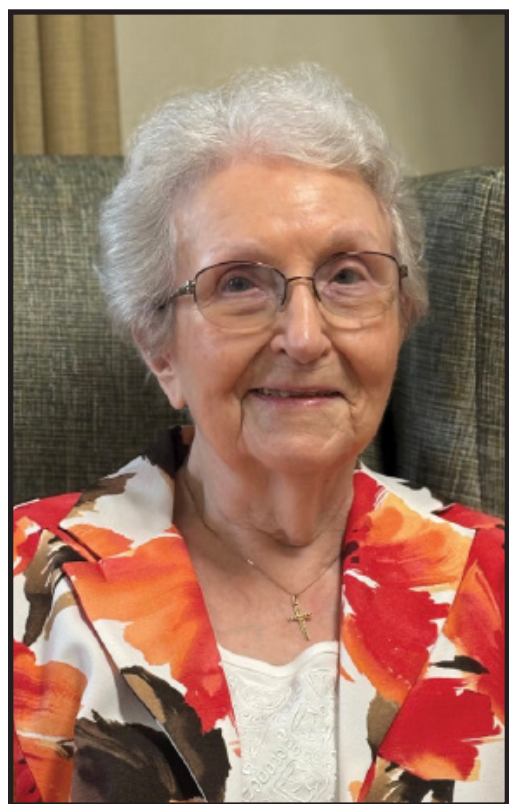
The Heavy Civil Construction program was a success due to the support and guidance of Holmes’ industry advisory board and their affiliates - many of who contributed hours of their time to lead training in their areas of expertise. Holmes Workforce is grateful to

the following for their involvement: Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT); Mississippi Road Builders Association; Build Mississippi (formerly MCEF); J.C. Cheek; Key Constructors, LLC; Mendrop; Lehman-Roberts; Atwood Fence; American Field Service Corporation; Shackelford Construction; APAC; Puckett Rents/Caterpillar; 811; ESI Supply; Associated Builders and Contractors of Mississippi and The Associated General Contractors of America.

The Heavy Civil training program will be available on the Ridgeland Campus in the spring of 2025, and is expected to return to Goodman in the fall of 2025. For more information, visit www.holmescc.edu/workforce/heavy-civil-construction-program/.

Carolyn Thomas named Alumna of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College will honor Carolyn Burrell Thomas of Goodman as the 2024 Alumna of the Year which is among one of the college’s highest alumni honors. Thomas has served on the Holmes Board of Trustees and Development Foundation.

Thomas was a high school graduate of Holmes Agricultural School and continued on to complete her AAS in general business in 1953.

After Holmes, her first job was working part time at Holmes County Bank. Her first full-time job was for a cotton buyer.

Thomas found her fit with the United States Postal Service. She served for 30 years, 14 of those years she served as postmaster in Goodman.

Since Thomas had three boys

(George, Ronnie and Rickie), she started the Cub Scout group in Goodman and served as Den Mother for many years. She also visited most of the schools in Holmes County encouraging children to collect stamps, a Merit Badge requirement for the Boy Scouts. Stamp collecting is a popular hobby, enjoyed by millions throughout the world. Through this hobby the Boy Scouts experience history. Postage stamps are tiny windows that introduce the people of the world to a country’s leaders, customs, history, products and environment.

Among other civic activities, Thomas taught the Kindergarten Sunday school class at the Methodist Church in Goodman for 27 years, also serving as Chairman of the Board for the church. She was the Holmes County

Cancer Crusade Chairman for many years and her dedication to volunteer work placed her on the State Board for that organization.

Thomas has been a lifelong resident of Goodman. She is preceded in death by her husband George Allen Thomas, Sr. and her son Ronald (Ronnie) Thomas. Her two living sons George and Rickie remain close to their mother. She is also surrounded by five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Thomas’ hobbies include looking through old letters, receipts, deeds and pictures acquired through the years. Some date back to the 1800s. She has filled four albums for preservation for her family to treasure.

Davis A. Richards, III named Veteran of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Davis A. Richards III will be recognized for his service in the United State Navy Reserves at Holmes Community College homecoming on Oct. 31 in Goodman.

Richards graduated from Holmes in 1963 where he lettered in baseball.

After Holmes, he transferred to Mississippi State where he earned a B.S. in general business.

Later, Richards returned to school, earning a Master of Business Administration in 1975 and a Master of Hospital Administration in 1978 from Mississippi College.

Richards made his career in the medical

field as a hospital administrator, mostly in the metro area of Jackson. He served as president and CEO of River Oaks Hospital in Flowood; prior to that he was vice president and COO at River Oaks.

Richards’ other experience in administration includes CEO at Rankin Medical Center in Brandon, CEO at Madison County Medical Center, executive vice president of the Mississippi Hospital Association, assistant executive director of the Mississippi State Medical Association and associate administrator at Singing River Health

System in Pascagoula.

As far as Richards’ military experience, he has 24 years of military service training and is retired as a Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Among awards he received were the Navy Achievement Medal, the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal, Nations Defense Service Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Now Richards is retired and lives in Starkville with his wife Mary Ann. Together they have three children (Anna, Janet and Eddie) and five grandchildren.

Dr. Autumn M. Barron named Young Alumna of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Autumn M. Barron (’15), native of Possumneck, was recognized as the Young Alumna of the Year for Holmes Community College during the Homecoming festivities on Oct. 31.

Dr. Barron graduated from Kosciusko High School before coming to Holmes. While at Holmes, she excelled and was very involved, serving as a Holmes Ambassador, Dazzler and Mosaic member. In addition, she was voted Freshman homecoming Maid and was on the Spirit Team that helped with sports recruitment.

“I loved my time at Holmes,” Dr. Barron said.

After Holmes Dr. Barron attended the University of Mississippi where she earned a Bachelor of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Some of

the awards and achievements received while attending Ole Miss were the Dean’s Honor Roll and Who’s Who. She was also involved with Alpha Kappa Alpha, Associated Student Body, the Black Student Union and served as a Football Recruiter at the University of Mississippi.

In 2023, Dr. Barron earned a Doctorate of Audiology from the University of Memphis. She was a recipient of the Marion Hammett Scholarship (2022), selected for the Student Advocate of the Year Award (2023) and co-author of “Audiologists’ attitudes and practice toward referring for psychosocial intervention with cochlear implant patients.”

Currently, Dr. Barron serves as a clinical audiologist at the Jackson Ear

Clinic in Flowood. On a daily basis, she helps diagnose, manage and treat the hearing of her patients. Dr. Barron also counsels patients who are losing their hearing and advises on prevention loss programs along with assisting patients with the management of ring in their ear (tinnitus). The workforce training has provided Dr. Barron with an expertise in programing hearing aids, inserting ear implants and assessing listening devises.

Dr. Barron resides in Kosciusko with her husband, Kenneth Barron II who is also a Holmes alumnus. They have one child Kenneth Barron III (5).

Dr. Mack Woo named Distinguished Service recipient

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College recognized Dr. Mack Woo as the Distinguished Service Award Recipient for 2024.

A native of Belzoni, Dr. Woo has been a friend of the college for many years. Through his efforts to support the college, Holmes has been able to help many students with their educational dreams.

Dr. Woo earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Mis-

issippi and then attended the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). He completed his internship with UMMC in 2006 and did his residency from 2007-2010.

As an anesthesiologist in Jackson Dr. Woo has been practicing for more than 10 years. He is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including UMMC and St. Dominic-Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Woo is currently an assistant pro-

fessor of anesthesiology for the School of Medicine at the UMMC. He is married to fashion designer Samantha Woo, and they reside in Jackson.

Holmes' Officer Gary Cooper awarded Top Cop honor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Holmes officers (left to right) **Chief Deveesha Magee**, **Officer Gary Cooper** and **Sgt. Carzell Cavett** following the Police Memorial and Appreciation Day Luncheon on May 14. Officer Cooper was recognized as a Top Cop.

Officer Gary Cooper, a law enforcement officer for the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus, was recognized as one of the state's leading law enforcement officers. He received the "Top Cop" honor from the Mississippi Center for Police and Sheriffs. The award was presented on May 14 during the Police Memorial and Appreciation Day Luncheon presented by the Mississippi Center for Police and Sheriffs and Crime Stoppers.

Officer Cooper joined the Holmes family in the fall of 2023. He is both a retired police officer and a retired Alabama Army National Guard member. Officer Cooper was a federal police officer with the U.S. Department of Defense and he served in the U.S.

Army as a combat soldier for Operation Iraq Freedom II. He is a graduate of Federal Law Academy, the Alabama Police Academy and Wallace State Community College.

"Officer Cooper has been a great addition to our Police Department," said Holmes Police Chief Deveesha Magee. "His professionalism and dedication, matched with his uncanny ability to make you laugh is invaluable. I'm super proud and excited to have him here!"

The Top Cop program is in its 19th year of recognizing top law enforcement agents in Mississippi. Awards are given to agents representing state and metro area law enforcement agencies.

Matt Surrell named Vice President of Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Director of Business Services Dr. Matt Surrell was recently promoted to vice president of the Grenada Campus. He stepped into this new role July 1.

"Dr. Matt Surrell is the perfect per-

son to take over the Grenada Campus," said Dr. Michelle Burney, who recently retired from the role of Grenada Campus vice president. "He knows Holmes inside and out. He is fair and honest and will represent the college well in all capacities. I look forward to watching the Grenada Campus thrive under his leadership."

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

"I'm excited for Matt and this new role," said Executive Vice President

Sonny Sparks. "I know that he will be a good fit for Grenada. He has been in the finance department for the past 14 years and will be impossible to replace, which is why he will continue to have a role in it as he leads the Grenada Campus."

Dr. Surrell and his wife, Jennifer, have three sons: Paxton, Kasen and Rylan. The Surrells stay busy with all three boys as they play baseball, soccer, tennis and perform in show choir. Dr. Surrell also loves hunting and fishing with his boys, running and enjoying a cup of coffee with his wife.

An active member of the community, Dr. Surrell is a member of the Red Hill Church of Christ, the National Association of College and University Business Officers, the Community College Business Officers Association and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College Business Managers

(which he served as president of). In 2015, he was named Outstanding Business Officer for CCBO and in 2020, he graduated from the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy.

"I'm truly humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to work with the Holmes family on the Grenada Campus," Dr. Surrell said. "To say that I am excited about this great opportunity and the future of the Grenada Campus would be a tremendous understatement. This campus has always been blessed to have strong leadership examples, and I pray that I can carry on that tradition. I look forward to many more years of educational and workforce training excellence, which has been a constant in this area of the Holmes district for over 40 years. There really is 'No Place Like Holmes!'"

Breaking Barriers: Meet Holmes’ first female electric lineman

From Staff Reports/Photos



When Gracie Gustafson sat in her calculus class at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where she was pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering, she had a sudden realization: “I don’t like working on computers, and I’d rather work with my hands.” That moment led her to shift gears and become the first female electric lineman at Holmes Community College - a career path that would take her far from the desk and into an industry traditionally dominated by men.

Born and raised in Grenada, Gustafson has always been an athlete. From the time she was 3 years old, she was playing soccer, a sport that became her number one love. In high school, she also played softball and kept active over the years with jujitsu, boxing and CrossFit.

“I’ve always been into physical activities,” Gustafson said. “Nowadays, I get my workout through lineman work.”

After graduating from Grenada High School, her athleticism took her to Itawamba Community College, where she played soccer, followed by a stint playing at Jones College and finally, playing at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. It was during a class at UAH that she had her epiphany: aerospace engineering wasn’t her passion. Though she was a good student, who had a 29 on her ACT, the classroom was not her favorite place to be. She wanted something hands-on, a career that wouldn’t tie her to a computer screen.

“I looked up the top five highest-paying jobs that don’t require a college

degree, and electrical lineman was on the list,” she recalled.

That search led Gustafson to the Holmes Goodman Campus, where she’s now the first female student in their electrical lineman program, and only the second female lineman student in Mississippi overall.

“I researched various programs, and I can assure you, Holmes without a doubt had the nicest equipment and facilities, and was also the most organized,” Gustafson said. “It was my number one choice.”

The program lasts 16 weeks and offers students fundamental hands-on training. While enrolled, they earn a Class A commercial driver’s license, knowledge of the Electric Safety Code, as well as Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and rules pertaining to the various types of utility providers they could potentially find employment with. Additionally, the students learn how to operate heavy machinery used in line work, CPR training and first aid and pole-climbing skills. Holmes’ electrical linemen program only accepts 14-16 students per semester and it is a very competitive entry process.

“The instructors for this program, Mr. Kenny and Mr. Lamar, they’re just wonderful,” Gustafson said. “They’re great teachers, full of knowledge. They hold you steady and let you know when you make a mistake, but in a way that you can learn from. It’s the

perfect balance.”

While the physical demands of the job can be daunting, Gustafson isn’t fazed.

“The guys might be faster and stronger, but I’m able to do it,” Gustafson said. “It’s hard for all of us, if I’m being honest, but we’re well trained. For other girls interested in this line of work, I say go for it, if it’s what you want to do! You may not be as strong as the guys, but you can be as smart, and you can do this. Personally, I like being different, and being an inspiration to those who think women can’t do it because it’s a male-dominated field.”

Her family has been supportive throughout this unconventional journey. Gustafson is the daughter of Crystal and Jason Gustafson, and the sister of Brady, 15.

“It’s funny, my brother is the computer whiz in the family, and loves coding, so I used to get him to help me with those classes,” Gustafson said. “He’s the computer whiz in the family, and I’m the blue collar worker!”

Gustafson’s hard work has paid off, as she has already had interested prospects reach out to her about interviews for job opportunities.

To learn more about the Holmes linemen program, contact Workforce Coordinator/Director of the Attala Center Mandy Burrell at mburrell@holmescc.edu.

Holmes Alumna credits the college’s surgical technology program for Career success

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are **Jessica Wolverton** and **Dr. William North**.

Jessica Wolverton, a Northwest Rankin graduate (2012) and Brandon native, discovered her mother had cancer right out of high school, which delayed her immediate college plans. She was researching nursing school programs when she came across the Surgical Technology program at Holmes Community College.

Wolverton was intrigued that the surgical technology program was only a 12-month program compared to the longer nursing school programs she was researching, so she applied. It was not long before she found out she had



Pictured are **Jessica Wolverton**, **Tanner Wolverton** and their son **Bodie**.

been accepted into the program.

“I am forever grateful for the positive impact the program had on my life and that I could go to school then come back home to help my mom during a tough time in our family’s lives,” Wolverton said.

Earning both an AA and AAS, Wolverton immediately entered the workforce. Her first job was in the St. Dominic’s operating room. It was there that she honed her skills over the next three years.

“I loved the action in the surgery world,” Wolverton said. “The surgi-

cal tech program taught me how to be independent, responsible and how to take care of patients on a different level.”

Qualified graduates may apply to the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) to take the Surgical Technologist Certifying Examination to become a Certified Surgical Technologist.

“Shea Coleman, our Surgical Technologist instructor, gave us a good idea of what the program was about,” Wolverton said.

The Holmes Surgical Technology program’s mission is to produce surgical technologists to meet the needs of hospitals and other health facilities in the nine-county region as well as surrounding counties. The program provides education in the applied roles of all aspects of surgical technology, including the role of second assistant and circulator, to both traditional and non-traditional students to serve as a member of the surgical team to assist in delivering patient care and to assume appropriate responsibilities before, during and after surgery.

“The most applicable information I took away from the Holmes program was the basics and soaking up as much of the hands-on experience in the clinical setting,” Wolverton said.

Since 2020, Wolverton has been working with Dr. William North at

Runnels and North Outpatients Plastic Surgery Center. Dr. North, MD, FACS brings the latest techniques and unparalleled experience from the prestigious University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital in Lexington. He focuses on providing the latest in surgical and non-surgical techniques for cosmetic procedures of the breast, body and face, in addition to providing general plastic surgical services for breast reconstruction after mastectomy, skin reduction after massive weight loss and facial reconstruction after cancer removal.

“Wolverton has been working alongside me for four years now,” Dr. North said. “She was able to use the foundation of surgical procedures and knowledge that she received at Holmes and apply it to clinical use. It is obvious that her success is a combination of a good educational background and her own willingness to succeed at a high level. She cares about succeeding and providing quality assistance in both the pre-operative period, the surgery itself and the post-operative time period. In healthcare, we all have to go to school to learn our trade and use that background to perfect our craft through our own drive.”

Wolverton resides in Brandon and is married to Tanner. They have one son (Bodie) together and their second arriving in the fall.

Holmes Electrical Lineman graduates aid in Hurricane Helene recovery efforts

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is Holmes electrical linemen graduate **Jack Gannon** working in South Central Florida following Hurricane Helene.

Holmes Community College’s Electrical Lineman program is known for producing highly skilled lineman who are prepared for the demands of the job, especially during emergencies and natural disasters. A few of the college’s electrical lineman graduates played a crucial role in restoring power to communities in Florida and Georgia following the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. The Category 4 storm, which lashed the Southeast with 140 mph winds, left thousands without power, and Holmes-trained lineman were among those who responded to the crisis.

Devonte Ellis of Kosciusko was deployed to Perry, Florida, where he and his crew worked long hours, often exceeding 16 hours a day, to restore power to critical infrastructure.

“We drove to Perry, and it was a disaster,” Ellis said. “Hurricane Helene, being a Category 4 with 140 mph winds is one that goes down in history. We stayed in our bucket trucks or a

nearby hotel waiting for the hurricane to hit. In Perry, there were over 100 poles down and broken in half. We saw trees on the lines as we drove by. People’s houses were destroyed by the storm. You could not go down certain roads because there were lines down everywhere and you could not tell if they were energized or de-energized. We helped tree trimmers get trees off the line by hanging our grounds on the wire (phases).

“We stayed out one late evening for 18 hours to get a structure back up because the line was running to a nursing facility. Once we got that line that was feeding the nursing facility back up and running, people clapped, cheered us on and told us how much they appreciated us as we drove through the towns looking for the next structure to work on.”

Ellis reflected on his time at Holmes, stating that he would “100 percent do it all over again.” He explained that he learned from the best instructors,

who taught him everything he needed to know about the trade. However, he emphasized that it’s up to the individual to truly commit to learning and enter the field for the right reasons. Working on storm relief reaffirmed why he joined the profession.

“Being on the storm showed me the reason I joined because I always wanted to help people out, fix their power and have their lights back on soon as possible,” Ellis said. “Then watch the city light up with joy after doing your job.”

Another Holmes alum, Jack Gannon of Vicksburg, was dispatched to South Central Florida, where his crew tackled high winds and flooding.

“My crew was sent to South Central Florida, where we spent a week working 16-hour days,” Gannon said. “We were not in the direct path of the hurricane, just right on the outskirts. The area definitely experienced high winds leaving every roadway and yard filled with fallen trees and limbs. Some areas we worked were flooded causing damage to the houses and leaving us wading through water to pick up the powerlines.”

Along with Gannon, three other guys on the crew in South Central Florida went through the Holmes Electrical Lineman program.

“It is a great school and I would do it again if I could,” Gannon said.

Mark Stewart of Sallis, yet another Holmes graduate, was sent to Augusta, Georgia, to help restore Georgia Power’s transmission grid. He is a fourth-step apprentice lineman for Irby Construction working in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

“I worked for 13 days, 16 hours a day, to restore parts of Georgia Power’s transmission grid,” Stewart said. “My experience on the storm was exciting. A lot of hard work went into getting power restored from my crew

as well as the many other crews who also had a hand in fixing the devastation that the city of Augusta endured.

“One of the most complex tasks that the crew I worked with had to take on was a three-pole angle structure. The 230kv structure had a large tree fall in the outside phase and ultimately folded the first structure causing an outage. In three days, we were able to reenergize the line and move on to more down lines.”

Despite the hard work, Stewart said that he enjoyed his time in Georgia, especially the fellowship.

“Back in 2022, I would have never thought the lineman program at Holmes would have opened the many doors it has when I first started my powerline career,” Stewart said. “I recommend that anyone who has plans or thoughts of entering the program definitely make sure you are prepared for the hard work that comes with it, but it pays off in the long run.

The Holmes Electrical Lineman program lasts 16 weeks and offers students hands-on training in pole-climbing, operating heavy machinery used in line work and earning their Class A Commercial Driver’s license. Students also learn CPR and First Aid, the National Electric Safety Code, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. The program accepts between 14-16 students per semester, making the entry process highly competitive.

Graduates like Ellis, Gannon and Stewart credit the program’s comprehensive training for their ability to perform in high-stress, high-stakes situations.

For more information about the lineman program, contact Workforce Coordinator Mandy Burrell at mburrell@holmescc.edu.

Holmes Ridgeland Academic Counselor Pamela Fells earns doctorate

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pamela Fells, academic counselor for the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus, has earned her Executive Ph.D. (EPHD) in Urban Higher Education from Jackson State University. Dr. Fells will officially receive her degree at the Dec. 6 commencement ceremony.

The EPHD Program in Urban Higher Education at Jackson State prepares students for senior leadership roles in post-secondary institutions and related organizations. Designed for working professionals, the program

follows a cohort model where students collectively complete a 24-month, research-based curriculum. This model fosters networking, collegiality and collaboration while requiring students to plan ahead and balance their coursework with professional duties. Throughout the program, dissertation development is integrated, promoting both academic and professional growth. Cohort members commit to a structured academic path through a signed agreement, emphasizing perseverance and productivity.

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

The study, grounded in qualitative research, involved web-based

semi-structured interviews with 15 participants from a selected PWI. Dr. Fells’ findings revealed that resources such as counseling services, supportive faculty-student relationships, peer networks as well as academic tools were pivotal in fostering persistence. Her research underscores the importance of targeted interventions, inclusive policies and enhanced institutional support systems to improve the retention and graduation rates of FGAMFCS at PWIs.

Dr. Fells’ contributions to higher education are not limited to her research. Since joining the Holmes staff in 2003, she has provided invaluable academic, social and career counseling to students. Her dedication has been demonstrated through her work in coordinating college recruitment efforts and promoting academic advisement and student success. Prior to her current role, Dr. Fells served as the career skills coordinator for Student Support Services at Holmes and as senior counselor for the Upward Bound program at Tougaloo College.

A graduate of Alcorn State University, where she earned her master’s in guidance and counseling in 1996 and her bachelor’s in educational psychol-

ogy in 1994, Dr. Fells has spent her career dedicated to the advancement of students in higher education.

Outside of her professional commitments, Dr. Fells is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the Mississippi Counselors Association, as well as the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists. She enjoys photography, traveling, exercising and officiating basketball and volleyball in her spare time.

Dr. Fells credits her success to the support of her family, including her sisters Jacqueline Fells, Tammy Fells, Bonita Fells, Sandra Jones and her brother, Ronald L. Fells, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

“I am beyond proud of and for Dr. Pamela Fells and her most recent achievement of completing her doctoral degree,” said Academic Dean Dr. Tonya Lawrence. “Her perseverance and ability to follow through on this goal speaks volumes of her strength and focus. She seeks, daily, to pour into the students needing her help and guidance with their future goals all the while being an example by pursuing her own goals.”

Holmes hosts two-day Fiber Optic Fusion Splicing Course

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College hosted a free two-day Fiber Optic Fusion Splicing Certificate Course May 22–23 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus. This course was in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Sumitomo Electric. On May 23, Holmes hosted a certificate ceremony, reception and employer networking event in McGowan. Multiple members of Holmes Administration, several community leaders, representatives from the Madison County Economic Development Authority and AWS staff were in attendance.



Holmes student lands job offer immediately following two-day workshop

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Pat Stitcher, fusion splicing instructor; Martez Rivers, Holmes fusion splicing student; Nick Lee-Romagnolo, program manager, workforce and economic development for Amazon Web Services and Holmes Director of Marketing and Recruiting Dr. Bronwyn Martin.

Holmes Community College hosted a free two-day Fiber Optic Fusion Splicing Certificate Course May 22-23 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus. This course was in collaboration with

Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Sumitomo Electric, and it allowed those who complete it to work as fusion splicing technicians who run fiber optic cables. Upon completion of the course, Holmes hosted a certificate

ceremony, reception and employer networking event on May 23. Ridgeland Campus student Martez L. Rivers of Camden was offered a job on the spot with Sumitomo Electric Lightwave in Silicon Valley, California, during the reception.

The son of Martha Rivers, he is a graduate of Velma Jackson High School. This past year, Rivers completed his first year working toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in computer networking at Holmes. During this time, he was on the President’s List in the fall and the Dean’s List in the spring for his academic achievement. In his free time, Rivers enjoys reading, boat cruising and repairing electronic devices. He also enjoys spending time researching and learning new things, as well.

“Marte Rivers caught my attention because he had an amazingly good attitude and was quick to pick up the concepts,” said Dwayne Holst, who works in data center optical communications research at Sumitomo Electric Lightwave. “Not only did he

work hard, he assisted friends, which showed me that he had good interpersonal skills. Truly he was one of the best students I’ve taught over the years.

“To be honest, I could see Rivers working on his own in six months,” Holst said. “We trained about 30 and I recommended a handful of them who I worked with that had good aptitude for it and leadership skills. Rivers was first that got an offer.”

Steppen Beecher, the CEO of Lightwave Construction, a nationwide contractor, was present at the reception following the certificate ceremony. Holst told him, “If ya’ll are hiring right now, he (Rivers) is young, has a good attitude, wants to work and is willing to travel.”

Lightwave Construction set it up right away, and the company is making plans to fly Rivers to California. There, he will begin training and have the opportunity to decide if he would like to accept the offer and move to Silicon Valley.

Derek Starling family creates Foundation scholarship for Canton High School graduates

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Derek Starling and his wife, Daphenia Knight Starling.

Derek Starling, a past president of the Holmes Community College Alumni Association, and his wife, Daphenia, are establishing a schol-

arship at Holmes to return what the college provided to their whole family.

Starling, his mother Alma (whom completed some continuing education classes), his brother Dwayne (*84) and sister Dianna (*80) all attended Holmes and are grateful to Holmes for jump starting their success in life. The whole Starling family is from Madison County, which is one of the college’s nine-county districts.

A graduate of Canton High School, Starling came to Holmes as a student athlete. He played men’s varsity 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 success have been: 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 2017, he was inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame for his basketball accomplishments, then in 2022, was recognized the Holmes

Alumni Association as Alumnus of the Year.

The Starling family is excited about helping students at Holmes through this scholarship. The Daphenia and Derek Starling Family Scholarship will be for a graduate of Canton High School majoring in a STEM field. The student must be enrolled full-time and maintain a 2.5 grade-point-average.”

“We wanted to do a scholarship because Holmes invested into me with a scholarship that allowed me to afford college,” Starling said. “My scholarship was the beginning of my preparation for lifelong learning and we want to give other deserving students that same opportunity.

For more information about how to give to Holmes or establish a scholarship, please contact the Holmes Development Foundation 662-472-9017.

Grace named MATA Collegiate Athletic Trainer of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured with **Bill Grace**, center, are MATA President **Kira Berch**, Holmes Assistant Trainer **Audrey Young**, **Buster Bueche** and MATA Vice President **Corbit Franks**.

Head athletic trainer and HPR instructor Bill Grace received the Mississippi Athletic Trainers' Association's Collegiate Athletic Trainer of the Year last Tuesday on the Mississippi Coast during the group's annual meeting.

A 1992 Holmes alumnus, Grace has worked for the college for 29 years and is a West native but currently resides in Goodman.

"I am very honored and grateful to receive this award," Grace said. "I never worked thinking about an award like that, I just always did what I

thought was right. I am most thankful to God for allowing me to be in the position that I am and to Him be all the Glory."

"Athletic training is a vital part of any athletic program," he said. "We are not only here for the rare occasion of a life-threatening emergency but to help optimize the healing for all athletes so that they can play to the best of their ability."

"The MATA Collegiate Athletic Trainer of the Year award celebrates outstanding leadership in athletic

training, as recognized by peers," MATA President Kira Berch said. "Bill Grace has been honored this year for his unwavering dedication to serving student athletes at the highest level possible. With tireless commitment, he prioritizes the overall well-being of athletes beyond their performance on the field."

"For Bill Grace, it's not just about preparing athletes for the game, but for life itself," she said. "His remarkable 29-year tenure at a single institution speaks volumes about his loyalty and the lasting relationships he has forged. Through mentorship, he ensures that his values resonate throughout the profession for years to come. Each year the MATA looks forward to seeing his presence at our Annual Meeting and symposium as he is looked up to by many of us."

As a student at Holmes, Grace served as the videographer for the men and women's basketball teams. During the two years he served in this capacity, the Lady Bulldogs basketball team won two state titles, one regional title and made a trip to the national tournament.

Grace holds a bachelor of science degree in Human Performance and Sports Medicine from the University of Southern Mississippi as well as a master's degree of social science in

sports medicine from the U.S. Sports Academy.

As an instructor, he teaches classes on both the Goodman and Grenada campuses as well as through eLearning. He is a certified first aid instructor, as well. In addition to his roles as trainer and instructor, he is also an academic advisor for students pursuing degrees in pre-athletic training, exercise science/kinesiology, pre-physical therapy, secondary education-physical education/kinesiology, general college studies, health Informatics, liberal arts and sports management/administration.

As head athletic trainer, Grace ensures that adequate health care is provided to all athletes as needed. He also is a liaison between the college and sports insurance agents. He is currently and has been for the past 30 years a member of the Mississippi Athletic Trainers Association and the National Athletic Trainers Association.

In the past, he has served as a part time assistant baseball coach.

Outside of Holmes, Grace stays busy by serving in several capacities. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Kosciusko, where he serves as a deacon, Sunday school teacher for the adult department, scribe for the Bylaws Committee and as one of the chief cooks for special events and programs, where his specialty is tomato gravy

Holmes holds first National Adult Education Honor Society Induction

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 32 students who were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society.

Thirty-two Holmes Community College students were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society June 6 in the multipurpose room in the Career-Technical Building on the Goodman Campus.

These inductees are a first for Holmes Community College, and they join only two others in the State of Mississippi — Grenada Adult Ed and Pearl River Community College.

In 1991, Lloyd Weaver an Adult Education Practitioner organized the first National Adult Education Honor Society induction ceremony.

The mission of the National Adult Education Honor Society is to provide meaningful recognition to deserving adult education students, to improve student employment opportunities, to develop student ambassadors for local adult education programs and to create adult education awareness with school administrators and state legislators.

Each year, this program will commend exceptional adult learners by granting them membership in the Honor Society in the presence of their friends and relatives.

To qualify for NAEHS membership adult education students must demonstrate the following attributes:

1. Dependable attendance 2. Cooperative attitude 3. Work ethic. All enrolled adult education students are eligible for NAEHS membership including ESOL, ABE, Literacy, HSD and GED students.

Holmes inductees included: Rosie Bowman, Peyton Browning, James Bryant, Alexandria Campbell, Neshika Catching, Shenika Catching, Qiao Xia Chen, Jaden Chunn, Rashad Combs, Theodora Cork, Haysten Dickerson, Shirley Dixon, Darrylynn Fletcher, Brenda Gross, Brandy Gueringer, Avery Hutchison, Ryan Jones, Oswaldo Lopez, Hyland McDonald, Cason Mikell, Rainey Morgan, Maxwell Quave, Autumn Rhodes, Jaylen Rogers, Olivia Saunders, Hiley Thornton, Janiaya Truss, Yolanda Vargas, Charity Washington, Denise Washington, Lexi Wilkerson and Amyeryia Winters.

"It is with great pleasure to welcome you to Holmes Community College-Goodman Campus and to our inaugural Adult Education Honor Society Induction Ceremony," Director of Adult Education Earline Russell-Smith said. "This is a momentous occasion, and we are delighted to have you here to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students."

"We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you. Your hard work, dedication, and perseverance have brought you to this significant milestone," she said. "Today, we honor your accomplishments and celebrate your commitment to your education and future."

"Your induction into this esteemed society is not only a testament to your academic achievements but also to your potential to influence and inspire others within your community," she added. "As members of the National Adult Education Honor Society -NAEHS, you will have the opportunity to serve as ambassadors for adult education, advocating for the importance of lifelong learning and encouraging others to pursue their educational goals. We are honored to have you as part of the Holmes Community College family and the National Adult Education Honor Society. We look forward to witnessing your future successes and the positive impact you will undoubtedly make in your communities."

According to Smith, College and Career Navigator Chelia Woodfork-Thompson was instrumental in getting Holmes' Adult Education programs involved in the honor society.

Woodfork-Thompson said all students honored had outstanding examples of exceptional attendance, cooperation and self-reliance. One of the students honored walked two hours round trip to attend class because transportation was not available. Students helped each other with assignments and stayed late to accomplish it. And as far self-reliance, the students had class in the parking lot once because their building had no electricity.

"Yes, these are Adult Education students at Holmes Community College," she said. "I need you to understand that fewer than five percent of all adult education students are selected for

membership into the Honor Society, making you a distinguished student in our program and among the first National Adult Education Honor Society inductees at Holmes Community College! Your commitment and dedication have absolutely set you apart, and we are excited to celebrate your achievements."

Adult Education Lead Instructor Daphne Higgins had the invocation during the program and also introduced the guest speaker Mississippi Senator Joseph Thomas of District 22.

"Senator Joseph Thomas of District 22 extended his services to the area's adult education programs sponsored by Holmes Community College," Higgins said. "During that initial meeting, he became an advocate of our community programs. Since that meeting, he has supported our students in all of our programs by coming to class as a guest speaker, sponsoring as an outlet to the State Capitol, introducing students to other public officials in Yazoo City and offering advice to them on career services."

"He has honored us with so much and because of that we honored him with legislative champion award," she said. In 2023, Family Literacy Week started, and Thomas was there. "Again, he showed up and showed out for us, and we appreciate that. We really want to thank you for your service and support. We know this relationship will continue to grow because we have you as one of our own."

Thomas, who represents Yazoo, Madison, Sharkey and Humphreys counties, said being in Goodman for the induction was a blessing.

"I bring you greetings from our honorable Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann, and I just can't wait to get back and tell him about my experience

Honor Society, continued on Page 14

Honor Society (continued from Page 13)

this morning,” Thomas said. “This educational arena is big. Our state is extremely proud of the work that Holmes Community College does and especially our adult education instructors. You know that education is key to person growth and community progress.

“I want to commend each of you for reaching out and being committed,” he said. “You’ve made a commitment and now it’s going to pay off. You know you want to have rewarding and productive lives. You will have that by doing what you are doing. Stay on

track and go to the next level.”

He encouraged the students to reach out to the elected officials and express a need for their involvement in their educational process. “You are going into an awesome group, a national group, and that says a lot. You didn’t get there by yourself. If you see a turtle on a fence post, you don’t have to wonder how he got on that fence post. Somebody put it up there. Only what you do for God will last.”

MCCB Assistant Director of Adult Education for Grants and Special Pro-

grams Nikitna Barnes told the group how proud she was of them as well. MCCB’s Assistant Director of WIOA Compliance also attended the event.

“I want to recognize the families, friends, and mentors,” Russell-Smith said in closing. “Your encouragement and belief in your abilities have been instrumental in your journey. Thank you for their support and for being part of this celebration.

“To our students on this new chapter as members of the National Adult Education Honor Society, remember

that this is just the beginning. Continue to strive for excellence, embrace new challenges, and be proud of the progress you have made. Your determination and resilience are an inspiration to us all.”

Adult Education Honor Society members received a letter of recommendation for employment from their NAEHS chapter, an NAEHS membership certificate and pin during the school’s induction ceremony.

Holmes Adult Education receives \$25,000 grant from 2nd Chance Mississippi

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College is thrilled to announce the receipt of a generous \$25,000 grant from 2nd Chance Mississippi, an organization dedicated to enhancing adult education and vocational skill training for lower-income adults in Mississippi. This funding will significantly bolster the support services available to Holmes students enrolled in Adult Education programs, paving the way to career pathways.

“As the Director of the Adult Educa-

tion program, I am extremely excited and appreciative of this grant,” said District Director for Adult Education/HSE Earline Russell-Smith. “The financial support from 2nd Chance will enable us to provide vital resources and incentives for our students to earn their credentials and high school diplomas. By achieving these educational milestones, our students will become more competitive in the job market, positioning themselves for better, more stable employment opportunities.”

2nd Chance Mississippi is committed to raising awareness and funds to support adult education and vocational skill training programs for lower-income adults across Mississippi. Their mission is to ensure these adults can secure and maintain good, stable jobs that offer more than minimum wage. This grant reflects their dedication to this cause and their belief in the transformative power of education.

“One of the key components of our enhanced support services will be the introduction of incentives for students who achieve significant milestones,” Russell-Smith said. “These incentives will not only motivate students to stay on track, but also reward their hard work and determination. By celebrating their achievements, we hope to inspire even greater commitment and perseverance among our students.”

Holmes offers Adult Basic Education classes in several locations in its district. These classes are open to the public for those who have not completed high school or wish to increase their functioning level to enter college, training or the job market.

“At the Holmes Community College

Adult Education program, we believe that education is a powerful tool for personal and community growth,” Russell-Smith said. “The support from 2nd Chance will help us remove barriers that our students face, providing them with the resources they need to thrive. We are confident that this grant will lead to higher graduation rates, improved job prospects, and ultimately, better lives for our students and their families.

“We extend our heartfelt gratitude to 2nd Chance Mississippi for their invaluable support and dedication to adult education. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of many individuals, helping them achieve their educational goals and secure a brighter future.”

For more information about Holmes’ Adult Ed programs, contact Russell-Smith at esmith@holmescc.edu or 662-472-9105.

For more information about 2nd Chance Mississippi, visit info@2nd-chancems.org.

CF Industries Foundation Scholarship created to benefit students in industry-related fields

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Development Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of the CF Industries Foundation Scholarship to benefit Holmes Community College students in industry-related fields.

“CF Industries Foundation is passionate about supporting charitable initiatives in local communities,” CF

Industries Senior Director of Corporate Communications Chris Close said. “Given its strong presence and impact in Holmes and the surrounding counties, the CF Industries Foundation explored a scholarship program with Holmes Community College, and starting this Fall two students will be selected by the Holmes Community

College Development Foundation to be recipients of the CF Industries Foundation Scholarship.”

The CF Industries Foundation Scholarship will help prepare students for careers in high-demand fields and enable them to achieve both their educational and occupational goals. The scholarship will focus on students enrolled in the following programs, among others: Agricultural Sciences, Industrial Engineering Management Technology, Industrial Maintenance Technology, and Industrial Technology. Students should demonstrate a financial need and be from a Delta County to include the counties of Madison and Hinds. Freshman students must have a minimum high school GPA of 2.5 and sophomores must maintain a GPA of 2.0.

CF Industries Foundation was established by its corporate founder, CF Industries, in late 2022 and focuses on environmental sustainability, healthy food access, STEM education and awareness and local community advancement. CF Industries is the

world’s largest producer of ammonia with a mission to provide clean energy to feed and fuel the world sustainably. CF Industries is focused on safe and reliable operations, environmental stewardship, and disciplined capital and corporate management and is on a path to decarbonize its ammonia production network – the world’s largest – to enable green and low-carbon hydrogen and nitrogen products for energy, fertilizer, emissions abatement and other industrial activities.

CF Industries has locations throughout the United States including Yazoo City along with Canada and the UK which has “an unparalleled storage, transportation and distribution network in North America, and logistics capabilities enabling a global reach underpin its strategy to leverage its unique capabilities to accelerate the world’s transition to clean energy.”

For further giving opportunities to the Foundation, contact Dr. Lindy McCain at lmccain@holmescc.edu.

Ridgeland Campus holds practical nursing pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Holmes Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Class of 2024 with their instructors. They are (front, left to right) PN Instructor **Dr. Lakesia Sutton, Hannah Alexis Rigby, Jessica Quarles, Sara Kathryn Self, Cortlyn Norris Bardwell, Shae Kelly, Alicia Goldman, Alexandria Cyrus**, PN Instructor **Heather Roberts**, (back row, left to right) **Nikeya Rogers, Megan Brittany Middleton, Kavondra McCauley, Anastasia Kelly, Destiny Janae Malone, I’Leyah Janae Green** and PN Instructor **Caley Stogner**.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the Practical Nursing Class of 2024 on June 27 at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison. Thirteen students were honored. The graduating class included Cortlyn Norris Bardwell of Vicksburg, Alexandria Dominique Cyrus of Madison, Alicia Goldman of Canton, I’Leyah Janae Green of Fayette, Anastasia Kelly Ingram of Madison, Shafreta “Shae” Kelly of Canton, Destiny Janae Malone of Brandon, Kavondra McCauley of Meridian, Megan Brittany Middleton of Florence, Jessica Quarles of Jackson, Hannah Alexis Rigby of Vicksburg, Nikeya Rogers of Byram and Sara Kathryn Self of Madison.

The ceremony began with a processional of the graduates, followed by Self, the class secretary, giving the invocation. Following the prayer, Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham welcomed everyone and briefly addressed the graduates. before Cyrus, the class president, shared some remarks.

“We are thankful for our faculty,” Dr. Burnham said. “They care about you and your success. They’ve invested a lot of time in you to help get you where you are today. I applaud them for what they accomplish each year and for the quality

of students that you guys turn out to be as a result of their efforts. They have given you the knowledge you need to succeed. You’ve also received family support. They too have invested in your education through time and probably money, and it does take both of those to be successful, as you know. So, let’s take a moment to acknowledge both of these groups and give them a round of applause!

“You’ve been together for months, and you probably know each other better than your own families right now,” Dr. Burnham said. “You’ve cried together, I think; you’ve laughed together, I’m sure of. But you’ve persevered through a difficult program at the college and there’s a reason that it’s difficult. Many of your future decisions will also be difficult and many times, lives will be at stake.

“As you move forward in your careers, remember the following: keep your integrity; do the right thing, even when it’s difficult because it does matter,” Dr. Burnham said. “Also remember that Holmes will always be a part of you, and you take a part of Holmes when you leave here. Keep in touch with us, keep in touch with your instructors, because we’re there for you years down the road. When you need help, call us. We’ll be glad to assist you in

any way we can because you are a part of our family.”

Following Dr. Burnham, Cyrus, the class president, shared some remarks.

“It is an honor to stand before you today as we celebrate this significant milestone in our lives,” Cyrus said. “Today we graduate as licensed practical nursing students. The title carries with it immense responsibility, compassion and the promise of making a difference in the world. Reflecting on our journey, I’m reminded of the day when we began to embark on this road together. Our time as students has been nothing short of transformative. Here we are, standing tall and proud, because we dared to dream and worked so tirelessly to turn dreams into reality.

“To our amazing instructors, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts,” Cyrus said. “Through all the fun times, there were times we thought we might drown in a sea of assignments, tests, clinical days and so much more. Thank you, instructors, for always believing in us. Behind each of us also stands a network of support. Family, friends and loved ones have provided encouragement, celebrated our victories and reminded us of the importance of balance in our lives.

“Becoming a practical nurse is about assuming a profound responsibility to care for others with skill, empathy and integrity,” Cyrus said. “Each of us has chosen a path that requires dedication and a commitment to lifelong learning. It is a privilege and an honor to be entrusted to help with the well-being of our patients. Looking ahead I’m filled with optimism about what the future holds.

“We will make positive impacts on the lives of countless individuals,” Cyrus said. “Let us never forget the privilege of being healers, advocates and trusted companions for those in need. As we go forth from this place, let us carry with us the lessons we have learned, the friendships we have formed and the determination that brought us here on day one. Let us continue to support one another. Here’s to us, the future LPNs!”

Following Cyrus’ remarks, nursing instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton introduced the speaker, Dr. Phyllis Polk Johnson, CEO/executive director of the Mississippi Board of Nursing.

“I want to say, congratulations,” Dr. Johnson said. “As a nurse, you should strive to be above average. Hospitals

and doctors’ offices are filled with far too many average nurses. In a world that has experienced its first pandemic in this century, average is not acceptable in our profession. The average nurse plays games on their smartphone when not with a patient. A great nurse moves about and listens for the faintest change of a heartbeat or the soft cry of a scared child or the change in breathing of a labored patient. Average nurses only care about the compensation. Great nurses know that the compensation may not ever be commensurate with their stellar career but their passion pushes them to put on their nurse’s uniform and serve suffering patients.

“Average nurses know what room they are assigned, but they seldom know the patient’s name,” Dr. Johnson continued. “Great nurses know that each patient has a name. The patient is someone’s loved one. Whether you work at a hospital or a doctor’s office or a long-term care facility, please don’t be an average nurse. Go and be a great nurse. Someone’s loved one depends on you.”

After Dr. Johnson’s address, nursing instructor Heather Roberts presented awards. Hannah Rigby was named valedictorian for having the highest GPA in her class, Kavondra McCauley was named salutatorian for having the second highest GPA and Cortlyn Norris Bardwell was named the class historian for having the third highest. Additionally, Alexandria Cyrus was the Outstanding Citizenship Award recipient and Shae Kelly was named Practical Nursing Student of the Year for her excellence in academics and leadership.

After the awards presentation, Dr. Sutton called the students to the stage to receive their certificates and pins. Dr. Burnham presented certificates and Roberts pinned each student. Following the pinning, Roberts explained and led the candle lighting before Cyrus, the class president, led the graduates in reciting the Practical Nurse’s Pledge. Finally, Dr. Sutton concluded the program by presenting the Class of 2024 before Ingram, class treasurer, gave the benediction.

For more information about the Holmes Practical Nursing program, contact Career Technical Counselor Jovonna Parker at (601) 605-3355 or jparker@holmescc.edu.

Attala Center celebrates Practical Nursing graduates

From Staff Reports/Photos



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

The Holmes Community College Practical Nursing pinning ceremony was held on June 27 at the Attala Center in Kosciusko. During the ceremony, 17 students were recognized.

The ceremony began with a processional of the graduates followed by Denitra Murff giving the invocation.

Dr. Christi Blair, instructor of the program, welcomed everyone to the pinning before Jamiere Brown ave class remarks.

The pinning and candle lighting was led by instructors Tammy Caldwell and Amy Lindsay. The Attala County graduates included Milton Mayfield, Karen McDonald, Jamiere Brown, Abbigail Wilkinson, Gloria Zollicoffer and Diamond Walton. Other graduates included Shawonda Ward of Carroll

County; Toccoar Jefferson, Gabriella Thomas, Alizeria King and Ke’Anda Landfair of Holmes County; Tammy-nika Byest of Humpheries County; Ashanti Body of Leake County; Har-lee Whitten of Montgomery County; Denitra Murff and De’Millya Thompson of Winston County and Cheronda Carson from Yazoo County.

Brown was named valedictorian; Jefferson was awarded the General Excellence and Leadership Award and Ward was named salutatorian. The Citizenship Award went to Whitten.

For more information the Holmes Community College Practical Nursing Program offerings please visit: <https://holmescc.edu/career-technical/practical-nursing/>

Ridgeland Campus celebrates surgical tech grads with ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Surgical Technology Class of 2024. They are (front row, left to right) Patresa Myles, Kara Dozier, Instructor Shea Coleman, Jordan Jones, Ieacha Brides, (back row, left to right) Janylah Brown, Kenya Johnson, Caleb Matthews, Reagan Cole and Anna Pickel.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a pinning ceremony for the Surgical Technology Class of 2024 on June 26 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center. Nine students were honored. The graduating class included Ieacha Bridges of Jackson, Janylah Brown of Canton, Reagan Cole of Canton, Kara Dozier of Pearl, Kenya Johnson of Jackson, Jordan Jones of French Camp, Caleb Matthews of Jackson, Patresa Myles of Madison and Anna Pickel of Ridgeland. The ceremony began with a procession-

al of the graduates, followed by Dozier giving the invocation. Following the prayer, Johnson stepped up to introduce the speaker, Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham. “You should be proud of yourselves,” Dr. Burnham said. “You are definitely going to have to think critically. I know your instructor tried to instill this into you and I’m sure in clinicals they tried to teach you things to show you the complexities of the world that you’re about to live in, ready or not. But you are ready. Trust me. I know

your instructor, you’re ready. “You’re going to make new friends,” Dr. Burnham said. “You’re going to be part of a new team, which should be exciting for you. The question is, can you be a good teammate? You have to go about your job being a professional. You’re going to have those challenges, but just keep learning. Create a love for learning. I can promise you, your study time has not ended just because you took your last test. The learning experience is only beginning. You’re going to have to study for the rest of your life if you want to stay at the top of your field. “Your real education starts with your first day on the job,” Dr. Burnham said. “As Roy Kroc, the founder of McDonalds said, ‘When you’re green, you grow. As soon as you’re ripe, you start to rot.’ What he means by that is when you quit pushing to learn new things to stay abreast in your field, you begin to get ripe. When you get ripe, you’re very shortly going to rot. When you stay green, you’ll grow, you’ll improve yourself. Your integrity is also extremely important. If you have integrity, you’re going to be honest, and you will tell the truth, always, because your moral code is going to require that from you. “In closing, know that you are graduating from a hard program; it’s supposed to be that way,” Dr. Burnham said. “I will tell you this, your instructor is one of the best instructors in this state. When you go out and begin working in your new career, you represent her, you represent the college and we are here for you even after you graduate. Congratulations and I

look forward to seeing what ya’ll do in the future.” Following Dr. Burnham’s address, Shea Coleman, instructor for the Ridgeland surgical technology program, approached the podium to brag on her students for all of their hard work. “This is my 10th group to teach since this program began on the Ridgeland Campus in 2014,” Coleman said, “and this is the second largest group that we have had to graduate from this program. I’ve put a lot of pressure of them to do well and they have succeeded. Thank you to the parents, friends and everyone else who supported them in this journey. We’re very proud of these students; every one of them has a job lined up.” Coleman then presented special awards. The Surgical Technology Student of the Year Award went to Reagan Cole. “This person has been a bright star; she’s always laughing in surgery, in the classroom, everywhere,” Coleman said. Coleman also recognized Caleb Matthews as valedictorian for having the highest GPA in her class and Patresa Myles as salutatorian for having the second highest. After the awards presentation, Practical Nursing Instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton called the students to the stage one-by-one to receive their certificates and pins. Dr. Burnham and Career Technical Counselor Jovonna Parker presented certificates before Coleman pinned each student. Following the pinning, Parker addressed the graduates one final time. “I’m so, so proud of each and every one of you,” Parker said. “And I would just

Grenada Campus holds pinning ceremony for surgical technology

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Holmes Grenada Campus Surgical Technology Class of 2024. They are (front, left to right) Ashton Martin, Hanna Latham, Kathryn Caruthers, (back row, left to right) Abby Byars, Brittany Lee and Taylor Pleasants.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus held a pinning ceremony for the Surgical Technology Class of 2024 on June 26 in the Corey Forum. Six students were honored. The graduating class included Abby Byars, Kathryn Caruthers, Hannah Latham, Brittany Lee, Ashton Martin and Taylor Pleasants. The ceremony began with a procession-al of the graduates, followed by Instructor Leah Mitchell welcoming the guests. Ashton Martin, shared remarks to guests and to the class and congratulated them on their journey. After Martin, Brittney Lee left encouraging words with her classmates. Following Lee’s remarks, Surgical Technology Instructor Leah Mitchell approached the podium to present pins

and awards. Mitchell called the students to the stage one-by-one to receive their certificates and pins. Martin was named the valedictorian of the class and Kathryn Caruthers was named salutatorian. Additionally, Caruthers was named Outstanding Surgical Technology Students for her excellence in academics and leadership. After the awards presentation and pinning, Martin gave the benediction to close the ceremony. For more information about the Surgical Technology program, contact Career Technical Counselor Brenda Dorris at (662)-227-2360 or bdorris@holmescc.edu.

Slade Redwine’s role at Holmes expands to include Career-Tech Education Coordinator for the Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Slade Redwine, Workforce Development Coordinator, has also been named The Career-Technical Education Coordinator for the Grenada Campus. Redwine joined the Holmes Community College family in a full-time capacity in June of 2007. Redwine has an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Tool and Die Technology from Northwest MS Community College, a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology from Southern Illinois University, and a Master of Science in Workforce Education Leadership from Mississippi State

University. Prior to Holmes, Redwine was a manufacturing engineer at Borg Warner Automotive. Redwine began his career at Holmes in the Career and Technical Department as an adjunct instructor in the Engineering Technology program. “I had a desire to help people and I knew after my first class that I had found my path”, he stated. “I love the opportunities that Holmes provides to everyone that chooses to further their education.” Redwine and his wife Pamela Snider Redwine have been married for

25 years. They have two children: Abby (19), who will be a freshman at Holmes this fall, and Andy (16), is a junior at Kirk Academy. Off campus, he enjoys watching high school sports, college football and baseball, woodworking, gardening and listening to music. He and his family are members of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Grenada.

Wendy V. Jones joins the Holmes Grenada family as a campus police

From Staff Reports/Photos



Wendy V. Jones joins the Holmes Community College family as a campus police on the Grenada Campus. Jones holds a Master of Science in special education from Grand Canyon University, a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from Mississippi Valley State University and an Associate of Arts in criminal justice from Coahoma Community College. She is a Charleston High School graduate as well. Prior to Holmes, Jones served with the Charleston Police Department and

the Tutwiler Police Department. She brings over 30 years of experience with her to Holmes. When asked what appealed to her about Holmes, she reflects on a conversation between she and ADN Instructor Dr. Arletha Coffey. “Arletha spoke so highly of Holmes and the environment, I knew I would love it”, Jones said. Jones is the daughter of the late Almer Hampton. She has one daughter, Ukari Pimpton, and she is one of seven children.

In addition to her dedication to the college, Jones is a member of Table of Life Ministries. She enjoys working in her yard to grow new flowers, word games and reading. “I love working with the friendly faculty and staff. I have enjoyed working with Dr. Burney, Chief Tyler Winter and Officer Hal Merriman, they are a true gift”, Jones said. “I have loved meeting and talking with our students and I see why everyone says There is No Place Like Holmes.”

Holmes alumna Candice Buchanan joins Holmes nursing faculty

From Staff Reports/Photos



Candice Buchanan has joined the Holmes Community College family as part of the Practical Nursing faculty. She and Mary Clayton Belk will serve as instructors for the evening/weekend program on the Ridgeland Campus. A Holmes alumna, Buchanan graduated from the college’s Associate Degree Nursing program in 2015 before transferring to the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). Buchanan completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2021 and her Master of Science in Nursing in 2023, graduating summa cum laude from

both programs. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in nursing at UMMC. Buchanan has nine years of nursing experience, including three years with UMMC’s Pediatric Emergency Department, two with St. Dominic Hospital’s Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit, one with St. Dominic Hospital’s Gynecological Oncology, two with Sta-Home Health and Hospice and one with Baptist Hospital Oncology. Additionally, she is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Phi Kappa Phi, the Emergency Nurses Association and the American

Association of Critical Care Nurses. Buchanan is married to Dr. Jonathan Buchanan, and has three children: Brantley Hill (11), Evelyn Buchanan (2.5) and Blair Buchanan (6 months). They love to play board games, and they have a collection of over 200 games. In her free time, Buchanan also likes to read and bind/rebind her favorite books. She is active in the community; her volunteer work includes participating in the Sanderson Farms First Aid Tent, the Natural Science Museum Health Fair and with the St. Dominic Hospital Stryker Survey.

Mary Clayton Belk joins Holmes CC nursing faculty

From Staff Reports/Photos



Mary Clayton Belk, RN, joined the Holmes Community College family as part of the Practical Nursing faculty. Belk will serve as the nurse navigator alongside practical nursing instructor Candice Buchanan. Prior to Holmes, Belk was a nurse in the Critical Care Unit at Baptist in Columbus. She also served as an RN for Internal Medicine at Meridian Medical Associates for a year. Belk obtained her Bachelor of Nursing from Uni-

versity of Mississippi Medical Center after completing her Associate of Arts degree in pre-nursing from Holmes. She is currently pursuing her Master of Nursing in Education at UMMC. Belk is the daughter of Holmes Workforce Coordinator/Attala Center Director Mandy Burrell, and the sister of Holmes alumna Addie Burrell. While at Holmes, Belk was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a President’s List Scholar who graduated with high-

est honors. Belk and her husband, Parker, just welcomed their first child, a baby girl named Sawyer, in March. The Belks attend Crestview Church in Kosciusko, and in her free time, Belk enjoys spending time with her family.

Dr. Kyle Moore joins Holmes staff as assistant band director

From Staff Reports/Photos



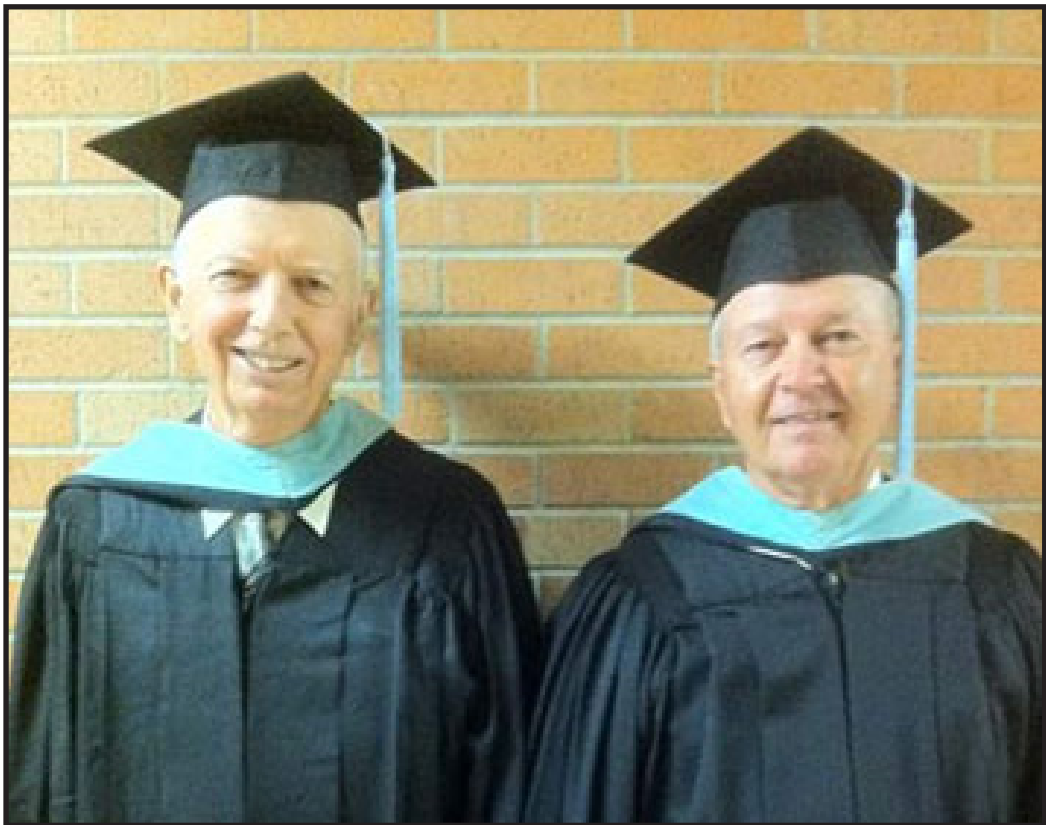
Dr. Kyle Moore was named assistant director of bands and a low brass instructor on the Goodman Campus. Prior to joining the Fine Arts Department at Holmes, Dr. Moore served as an adjunct staff member for the Germantown High School band program. He also has experience as an instructor for the University of Georgia’s Community Music School in Athens, Georgia, and as a trombone studio graduate assistant at UGA. Dr. Moore maintains an active studio with students grades 7th-12th. In March, he co-directed Germantown High School’s first trombone ensemble, which performed at the University of Southern Mississippi’s annual Trombone Day. Dr. Moore has performed with

numerous ensembles across the Southeast, including the Atlanta Ballet Orchestra, the Charleston Symphony, the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra, the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra, the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra, the South Carolina Philharmonic, Big Band Atlanta and the Jazz/Fusion Ensemble “Misnomer.” As a student, Dr. Moore participated in numerous professional workshops and orchestral festivals, including the Southeast Trombone Symposium, the Lätzsch Trombone Festival in the Netherlands, the Santa Fe Trombone Summit, the Third Coast Trombone Retreat, the InterHarmony international music festival in Italy and the Sewanee Summer Music Festival. In

2019, he was a winner of the SSMF’s Jacqueline Avent Concerto Competition, performing movements of Ralph Vaughan Williams’ “Concerto for Bass Tuba” with the Festival Orchestra. He also participated in the University of Southern Mississippi’s British Studies Program, focusing on World War II history primarily in London, and in USM’s Austrian Studies, focusing on Western Music History in Vienna. Dr. Moore is a proud graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi (B.M.E. & B.M.) and the University of Georgia (M.M. & D.M.A.). His teachers include Dr. Joshua Bynum, Mr. Justin Harvison and Dr. Ben McIlwain.

Holmes Foundation creates Alford Scholarship for Carroll and Montgomery County students

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **James Alford** and **Walter Alford** at one of Holmes graduation ceremonies.

The Holmes Community College Development Foundation is pleased to announce the creation of the James Murry (Son) and Walter Alford Scholarship to benefit students from Carroll and Montgomery counties.

This scholarship was initiated by Dr. Ronald N. Hunsinger and his wife, Lillian Alford Hunsinger, to honor the lives of her brothers (James and Walter) and their service as trustees to Holmes Community College.

Students, regardless of their Mississippi residence, must be selected on financial need, merit, and good char-

acter. This scholarship may be used in conjunction with other scholarships.

According to Lillian Hunsinger, their mother, Alva Bell Stewart Alford, attended Holmes in the late 1920s and completed necessary courses to teach in a one-room schoolhouse.

James, who passed away on Jan. 3, 2021, was next to attend Holmes after graduating from Vaiden High School. He graduated from Holmes in 1959 before going to Delta State University, where he received a math degree and returned to Vaiden High School to teach. While teaching, he also received

a master’s degree and an education specialist degree from Mississippi State University. He later became the Superintendent of Education of the Carroll County School System. While superintendent, he joined the Holmes Board of Trustees and was on the board for more than 35 years.

Walter also attended Vaiden High School and came to Holmes out of high school graduating in 1967. After Holmes, he received a bachelor’s degree, a master’s degree and other post graduate work from Mississippi State University. He worked as Extension Agent for Carroll and Montgomery Counties before being named District Director for Southwest Mississippi and retired as Assistant Director for the Mississippi State Extension Service. He has served as a trustee for Holmes for more than 40 years and currently serves as president of the board and as a member of the Development Foundation Board of Directors.

Their late brother, Jerry, attended Holmes prior to being drafted in the Army in 1970. Upon returning from the Vietnam War, he began a successful business building custom homes.

Lillian was next to attend Holmes after high school and graduated in 1972 and was the last of seven Alford siblings. She received a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Mississippi State University and an education specialist degree from Samford University in Birmingham. She served as a school principal and administrator for the Jefferson County School System in

Birmingham for 20 years and retired as Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the 58 schools in Jefferson County.

Her husband, Ronald, also attended Holmes for one year before completing his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Mississippi State University. He then received his Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology at Ole Miss before accepting a post graduate fellowship in Biochemistry at UAB School of Medicine and retired after serving for 31 years as a full professor and administrator at Samford.

“Without someone at Holmes working to ‘make a way’ financially for the Alfords to attend Holmes, attending would have been impossible,” Lillian Hunsinger said. “We grew up in poverty and needed any financial assistance available. We all used the Work Study Program, scholarships, grants and any other available funds. As a result, we are all successful contributing members of our communities and states as a result of our education and pivotal support given to us by Holmes.”

The James Murry (Son) and Walter Alford Scholarship is open to gifts from persons, estates and organizations. To donate to the James Murry (Son) and Walter Alford Scholarship, please send donations to the Holmes Development Foundation, P.O. Box 527, Goodman, MS 39079.

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

Christin Boytte joins Holmes CC surgical tech faculty

From Staff Reports/Photos



Christin Boyette, joined the Holmes Community College family as part of the Surgical Technology faculty. She will serve as an instructor and clinical coordinator on the Ridgeland Campus alongside Program Director Shea Coleman.

Prior to Holmes, Boyette was employed as a surgical tech at St. Dominic’s Hospital for four years. She earned First Assist certification at Meridian Institute for Surgical Assist-

ing upon graduating with her degree in Surgical Technology from Holmes.

Boyette is the daughter-in-law of longtime Holmes employee Tina Boyette, who serves as coordinator of student activities and administrative assistant to Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood. She and her husband, Lane, have two daughters – Ollie Maye (7) and Stella (4) –and a baby boy on the way. The Boyettes are members of Pinelake in Madison.

In her free time, Boyette enjoys spending time with her family, coaching softball and working on her health and fitness.

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to teach surgical technology and share the passion I have for this career with the future generations of surgical technologists here at Holmes Community College!” Boyette said.

Taylor Rodgers joins the Holmes Library Staff

From Staff Reports/Photos



Taylor Rodgers of Duck Hill joined the staff at the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus Library as its newest technical assistant. He is a graduate of Kirk Academy and holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree from the University of Mississippi. Prior to Holmes, Rodgers worked as a middle school teacher at Winona-Montgom-

ery Consolidated School District and Carroll Academy.

Additionally, he is a member of Duck Hill Baptist Church, where he is an active member of the choir. His hobbies include gardening, playing tennis and exercising.

“I believe in treating everyone the way I would want to be treated,” Rod-

gers said. “I feel this is the best way to convey Christ’s love.”

Holmes' Charles Wood selected as 2024 Moody Institute Fellow

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes' Charles Wood selected as 2024 Moody Institute Fellow Holmes Community College's Charles Wood was selected as a 2024 Moody Institute

Fellow. As part of the selection, he will receive an award check for \$1,000.

Wood, who teaches history on the Goodman Campus as well as serving as a lead online instructor, plans to spend the funds on organizing The Historical Significance of Natchez Field Excursion, a two-day research-based trip for the history instructors of Holmes.

"I think there is valuable insight that can be gained and collaborated with on a trip to Natchez," Wood said. "Our itinerary includes: traveling via the Natchez Trace to Natchez and researching and touring Emerald Mound; visiting the National Park area for Historic Fort Rosalie and Historic Forks of the Road slave market; visiting the Natchez Museum of African American History and Culture; touring the unfinished Antebellum home of Longwood

and attending a meeting of the Natchez Historical Society. Field excursions extend opportunities for experiential learning for instructors to in turn teach our students to develop a better understanding of historical concepts and formulate a more in-depth analysis of historical content we cover in our classes."

Wood holds a master's in history from Jackson State University, a bachelor's in business administration/marketing and economics from Mississippi State University and an associate degree from East Central Community College. He is an active Christian and member of a local church; the Mississippi Council Economic Education and he volunteers with the Gleaners Ministry. Wood's hobbies include historical research, attending live music events and concerts, and serving as owner/op-

erator of Wood Acre Farm L.L.C. He is married to Misty Lee Ferguson-Stout Wood, an occupational therapist and Prospective Payment Systems (PPS) coordinator for Methodist Rehabilitation Center.

The Moody Institute Trust Fund (MITF) was established in 1990 in honor of Dr. George V. Moody, the first executive director of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC). The purpose of the Moody Institute is to provide funds for enrichment experiences for faculty members employed in Mississippi's public community and junior colleges. The Moody Fund and program is administered by the Mississippi Community College Foundation.

11 Ridgeland students complete 8-week EMS class

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (front row, left to right) Conesha Holiday, Lexie Elenkov, Sofia Elenkov, Andrew Swan, Rebekka Guerro, (back row, left to right) AMarie Key, Tiffany Gilbert, Lauren McAlpin, Steven Wansley, Ethan Barker and Alyssa Huskey.

Eleven students on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus took the Summer EMT 8-Week Basic Class. Class members included Ethan Barker, Lexie Elenkov, Sofia Elenkov, Tiffany Gilbert, Rebekka Guerro, Conesha Holiday, Alyssa Huskey, AMarie Key, Lauren McAlpin, Andrew Swan and Steven Wansley. Students who successfully completed the course were eligible for the NREMT exam. Sandra Hultz served as instructor for the class.

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.

Boyd named Student Support Services Director

From Staff Reports/Photos



Camden native Angela Boyd has recently been named the TRIO Student Support Services Director at Holmes Community College.

She is no stranger to Holmes Com-

munity College after serving as the SSS Academic Counselor for 13 years and three years before that she was the WIA Education Coordinator.

Boyd grew up in Long Beach, California, but came back to Mississippi when she started high school. She graduated as salutatorian of her class at Velma Jackson High School. She attended Alcorn State University on a full academic scholarship and received a bachelor's degree in English Literature and later received a master's degree in counseling from Jackson State University.

"It seems as though my life has come full circle from being a TRIO Upward Bound high school student at Tougaloo College to now being the new TRIO Student Support Services Director here at Holmes Community College," Boyd said. "I am very enthused and overjoyed to take on the responsibility of this position. Obtaining my master's

degree in counseling 20 years ago afforded me the opportunity to work in my purpose, which is serving students. Now, I can serve them in a greater capacity."

"I've been with this SSS program as the Academic Counselor for 13 years, thus my vision for this program as the new Director is to increase student engagement, incorporate more technology and social media promotion, and continue the legacy of Linda A. Jones, the former SSS Director," said Boyd. Jones directed this SSS program for 16 years and announced her retirement at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

"Linda Jones is irreplaceable so I will never attempt to do that," Boyd said. "I will, however, continue to build this program from her foundation and lead it according to God's Will aiming to add to the success of Holmes Community College students. Being a counselor was not just what I did, it's

who I am. With that said, I will lend to my new position as Director my fortitude for accomplishing goals; my ability to see the 'big picture' in regard to program design, functioning, and student success; and my genuine, compassionate leadership skills to empower the best from my staff and students."

Prior to coming to Holmes, she was a TRIO EOC Educational Advisor at Tougaloo College for three years. She worked at Catholic Charities-Our House for a year and as a reader's advisor for the Mississippi Library Commission for two and a half years prior to that.

Boyd served on the state level as president of the MS TRIO Programs (MAEOPP) from 2017-19 after being vice president from 2015-17 and then as past president from 2019-2021.

She currently resides in Goodman.

Angie Williams joins Holmes Ridgeland Staff

From Staff Reports/Photos



Angie Williams has joined the Holmes Community College family as the receptionist and administrative

assistant to the Ridgeland Campus vice president.

Williams is a social worker by trade and has spent most of her career working in child welfare. She has worked for the Department of Human of Human Services at the county and state level and most recently worked as a social work consultant with AdoptUSKids.

“For the last four years, I have been a full-time mom,” Williams said. “My younger children are older teens now and do not need my attention and support in the same way. It was the right time for me to go back to work, and while I’m not interested in going back to a career in social work, I still want to feel like I’m contributing to my community and making a difference.

Holmes Community College seemed like the perfect place to do that.”

Williams holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Mississippi and a master’s degree from The University of Alabama. Both degrees are in social work with a concentration in planning and administration. She is also life-long United Methodist and a member of Parkway Hills United Methodist Church in Madison.

Williams and her husband, Roger, met at Ole Miss. He is an attorney at Watkins & Eager in Jackson, and they have three children. The Williams’ oldest daughter, Allie Kate, works in the development office at The Mississippi Children’s Museum and is engaged to be married on Feb. 1, 2025.

“We are so excited to welcome her fiancé, Charlie, to the family,” Wil-

iams said.

The Williams’ son, Gregory, is a senior at Madison Central High School, and their other daughter, Lexi, works at McAlister’s in Madison. They also have two dogs, a cat and a guinea pig.

“My doodle, Murphy, is everyone’s favorite, but he loves me the most,” Williams said.

In her free time, Williams loves books and puzzles. Specifically, she loves reading young adult and sci-fi novels. She also enjoys playing Wordle, Spelling Bee and most of the other New York Times games. She stays busy planning her daughter’s wedding, as well.

“I am thrilled to be a part of the Holmes CC family,” Williams said. “After all, there really is ‘No Place like Holmes.’”

Holmes alumna Jordan Heflin joins the college’s staff in Ridgeland

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jordan Heflin of Florence has joined the Holmes Community College family as the administrative assistant for the Associate Degree Nursing Program on the Ridgeland Campus.

Heflin graduated from Mississippi State University in May, completing a bachelor’s degree in biology. While in Starkville, she worked part-time at a local jewelry store. In 2022, Heflin earned her associate degree from

Holmes after graduating from Florence High School.

She and her husband, Josh, just got married in the spring and reside in Florence. He is also a Holmes alum-nus; he played soccer for the Bulldogs from 2021-2022. The Heflins attend First Baptist Church in Florence and have an English Pointer puppy named May. In her free time, Heflin enjoys spending time with her family, taking

May on walks, eating Mexican and playing pickleball with friends.

“I am so excited to be able to serve a college that cultivated so much personal growth when I was a student,” Heflin said. “There is truly ‘No Place like Holmes!’”

Maggie Robinson joins Holmes Marketing & Recruiting Department

From Staff Reports/Photos



Maggie Robinson of Florence has joined the Holmes Community College Marketing and Recruiting Department as a graphic designer. She is working from the Holmes Ridgeland Campus.

Prior to Holmes, Robinson worked for Canopy Children’s Solutions for one year after graduating from Missis-

sippi State University. She is a member of the Kappa Delta Alumna Association Chapter for Jackson, and in her free time, enjoys spending time with family and friends and going to Mississippi State sporting events.

Robinson is the daughter of Andrea and Andy Robinson and has one sister,

Avery.

“I am so happy to be a part of the Bulldog family!” Robinson said.

Jada Glenn joins the Holmes staff on the Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jada Glenn of Grenada was recently named The Administrative Assistant for Career Technical Education on the Grenada Campus.

Prior to her role at Holmes, Glenn worked for First Metropolitan Financial Services, Inc. She is a 2016 graduate of Abeka Academy.

She has been married to her husband Tate for six years, and, together, they have two daughters, Charlee Tate (4) and Elora James (6 months)

Glenn is a member of the Grenada Church of God. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, going to the movies, watching movies

with her family and going out of town.

“I’m grateful for this opportunity” Glenn said, “I am excited to be part of the Holmes family.”

4 Grenada students complete 8-week EMS class

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Jason Gullick**, **Dezmond Dodd**, **Kelsey Goff** and **Hunter Carter**.

Four students on the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus successfully completed the Summer EMT Basic Class. Class members included Jason Gullick, Dezmond Dodd, Kelsey Goff and Hunter Carter. Dezmond Dodd finished the class with the highest overall average. Raymond Liberto served as instructor for the class. All four students are now eligible for the NREMT exam.

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.

Holmes Ridgeland given National Weather Service StormReady designation

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (left to right) **Michael J. Hill**, the warning coordination meteorologist for the NWS in Jackson, with Holmes police officers **Gary Cooper**, **Sgt. Michael Jones**, **Sgt. Carzell Cavett** and **Chief of Police Deveesha Magee**. Hill presented the StormReady designation recognition on July 31.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus is proud to announce its recent designation as a National Weather Service (NWS)

StormReady University. This prestigious recognition highlights the institution’s commitment to the safety and preparedness of its students, staff and

the surrounding community in the face of severe weather events.

Established by the NWS in 1999, the StormReady program assists communities across the country with the safety and communication skills required to save lives and property during a weather-related event. By earning this designation, Holmes has demonstrated excellence in emergency planning, communication and community outreach.

“The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus administration and police, and everyone else involved in the compliance process, have every reason to be proud of this accomplishment,” said Michael J. Hill, the warning coordination meteorologist for the NWS in Jackson. “Earning your StormReady recognition indicates that Holmes has shown a strong commitment to improving emergency first responder and student preparedness in the event of a natural disaster. Your improved communications infrastructure and increased level of severe weather awareness will no doubt minimize the loss of life and/or property in the future.”

Both the NWS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and the NWS Southern Region Headquarters have been notified of Holmes’ accomplishment. In recognition of the college’s accomplishments, Hill presented Holmes’ police department with a StormReady sign to hang on campus. As an additional benefit of the StormReady designation, Holmes now has the opportunity to notify the Insurance Services Organization for consideration to obtain Community Rating System (CRS) points which may lower the college’s NFIP flood insurance premiums. The designation lasts for four years, and Holmes may re-apply for the designation in June of 2028.

“Today is just the first of many steps that we are taking to ensure the safety of our campus community,” said Holmes Ridgeland Chief of Police Deveesha Magee. “I’m extremely proud of our team and the fact that they were able to accomplish this feat.”

For more information about StormReady, visit <https://www.weather.gov/stormready/>.

Mason Smallwood joins Holmes faculty on the Goodman Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Mason Smallwood of Belzoni has joined the Holmes Community College family as part of the STEM faculty on the Goodman Campus. She will serve as a biology instructor.

Smallwood was previously employed with Mississippi Delta Community College for three years, teaching Microbiology, Biology, Nutrition and Anatomy & Physiology. She holds

a Master of Science in Biomedical Science from the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Delta State University.

Smallwood and her husband, Justin, have an 8-month-old son named Myles and are members of First Baptist Church Inverness. In her free time, she enjoys playing tennis, following

Mississippi State athletics and spending time with her family.

“I am so excited to be a part of the Holmes family and cannot wait to get the Fall ‘24 semester started!” Smallwood said.

Five Students Complete Industrial Maintenance Program at Modine

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (front row, left to right) **Instructor Nettie Coggin, Chris Seals, Venessa Cook, Instructor Herman Cummins,** (back row, left to right) **Andrew Breland, Fletcher White and Patrick McKinney.**

Five students have successfully completed the industrial maintenance program for Modine Manufacturing, a year-long course totaling 240 clock

hours. The program equips participants with the knowledge and skills required for entry-level positions in industrial maintenance.

This marks the fourth class of Modine employees to successfully complete the training program. The first class started in Fall 2020. The program was developed with input from Modine and customized by Holmes Community College to meet the company's specific needs. The classroom and lab portions of the training are taught by HCC instructors Nettie Coggin and Herman Cummins. Modine selects employees for the program from their current work force and provides job shadowing opportunities at various times throughout the training program.

The course curriculum included: Basic Electricity and Electrical Wiring, Hydraulic & Pneumatic Systems, Mechanical Drive Systems, Maintenance Welding, Industrial Electricity & Motor Control Systems as well as Programmable Logic Controllers.

The students who completed the program are Andrew Breland, Patrick

McKinney, Chris Seals, Venessa Cook and Fletcher White.

During the certificate presentation ceremony, Workforce Coordinator Slade Redwine commended the students for their commitment and achievement.

"Congratulations on this accomplishment," Redwine said. "You committed to this program and now have skills that will take you farther."

White expressed his gratitude for the program and its instructors, saying, "We had great teachers, and I am glad I persevered."

McKinney also reflected on his experience, adding, "I learned so much from this program and thoroughly enjoyed my time."

For more information on Modine Manufacturing, visit <https://www.modine.com/>.

For more information on Holmes' industrial maintenance program, contact

Industry partners help send Holmes students to national SkillsUSA competition

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Austin Barbrey** with Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery, **Chris Jacobs** with Ivey Mechanical, Engineering Technology instructor/SkillsUSA advisor **Heather Mooney** and HVAC instructor/SkillsUSA advisor **Peter Hindman.**

The SkillsUSA chapters from Holmes Community College's Goodman and Ridgeland campuses successfully competed in the 2024 SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference, and the winners who brought home the gold will compete at nationals June 24-28 in Atlanta, Georgia. Students competing include Ridgeland Campus Heating, Cooling and Ventilation (HVAC) students Brett Coffey, Nicholas Dunaway and Matthew Hodges: Coffey for Job Skills Demonstration Open, Dunaway for HVAC and Hodges for Job Skills Demonstration A. Additionally, Ridgeland Campus, Electro-Mechanic Technology major Richard Ginn earned

a gold medal in the Industrial Motor Control Competition. Leah Rainey, an Architectural Engineering Technology student representing the Goodman Campus, will also compete at nationals in Prepared Speech.

Chris Jacobs with Ivey Mechanical and Austin Barbrey with Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery donated \$2,000 each to support five of Holmes' students competing at SkillsUSA nationals.

Ben Nalty with Environment Masters donated \$2,844 to cover the hotel stay for two of the HVAC students competing at Skills USA nationals: Coffey and Dunaway. These two students are currently employees of Environment



Pictured are (left to right) HVAC instructor/SkillsUSA advisor **Peter Hindman, Ben Nalty** with Environment Masters and Engineering Technology instructor/SkillsUSA advisor **Heather Mooney.**

Masters.

"It's nice to see industry partners invest in their employees on and off the clock," HVAC instructor/SkillsUSA advisor Peter Hindman said.

The SkillsUSA National Competition will have over 6,500 career and technical education students competing in 115 competitions. The week is packed full of activities and events, including the SkillsUSA Championships (the competitions), SkillsUSA TECHSPO, SkillsUSA University and more. TECHSPO provides an opportunity for attendees to network with industry and education partners while learning about new technology. SkillsUSA University gives attendees the chance

to learn directly from industry experts and gain field-specific skills which can be incorporated into classroom instruction, according to the SkillsUSA website.

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

To learn more about the SkillsUSA National Competition, visit <https://www.nlsc.skillsusa.org/>.

Holmes alumnus Sammy Green named new HVAC instructor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Sammy Green has joined the Holmes Grenada Campus family as part of the Career and Technical Education faculty. A Durant native, Green has worked on the Holmes Goodman campus for the last 16 years, before transitioning to the Grenada Campus this August. Green completed the Holmes Com-

munity College Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration Technology (HVAC) program on the Goodman campus in 2006.

In his spare time Green enjoys hunting and fishing with his family and friends. He is a member of Bowlin Baptist church in Sallis. Green and his

wife, Ashley, have two daughters- Samantha (12) and Sarah (9).

For more information about Holmes Career and Technical Programs you can call (662) 227-2350.

Holmes recognizes faculty, staff for years of service during Opening Convocation

From Staff Reports/Photos



Terrell Hammett was recognized for 35 years of service with Holmes.



(left to right) **Rosalyne Davis** and **Pamela Fells** were recognized for 25 years of service with Holmes.

On Tuesday, Aug. 13, Holmes Community College celebrated the upcoming school year with an Opening Convocation on the Goodman Campus. The day began with a breakfast social and time for everyone to visit with one another. Once gathered in the coliseum, Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey gave an address on the state of the college, introduced new employees and recognized employees who have reached five, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 35 years of service with the college. Faculty, staff and administration also enjoyed a performance by the Holmes cheerleaders, band and Dazzlers as part of the program before breaking for lunch and departmental meetings.

The Holmes employees recognized for five years of service with the college

included: Kenny Arnett, security, Attala Center; Kate Barton, practical nursing instructor, Grenada Campus; Cheri Bergeron, eLearning accounting instructor, Goodman; Morgan Bondurant, director of marketing and recruiting, Ridgeland; Stephanie Chambley, administrative assistant to the vice president of Grenada Campus/Academic Programs, Grenada; Haley DeNoon, recruiter/student activities coordinator, Grenada; Dr. Rekam Giri, physics instructor, Ridgeland; Amy Lindsay, practical nursing instructor, Goodman; Ronnie Lockett, grounds worker, Goodman; Jacqueline Meek, music education instructor, Grenada; Terry Miller, music education instructor, Ridgeland; Dr. Durga Siwakoti, physics instructor, Goodman and Chelia Woodfork, career pathway transi-

tions specialist.

The Holmes employees recognized for 10 years of service with the college were Christie Adams, cosmetology instructor, Goodman; Mary Margaret Busby, public relations specialist and journalism instructor, Ridgeland; Dr. Arletha Coffey, Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor, Grenada; Shea Coleman, surgical technology program director/instructor, Ridgeland; Debbie Collins, housekeeper, Grenada; James Floyd, forest technology instructor, Grenada; Tina Garrett, coordinator of academic programs, Grenada; Sandra Hultz, Emergency Medical Technology (EMT) instructor, Ridgeland; Dr. Jason Kelly, director of student housing, Goodman; LaShonda Levy, English instructor, Ridgeland; Patrick Sample,

police officer, Goodman; Elizabeth Shelby, Student Support Services (SSS) assistant, Goodman; Lisa Wilbourn, business office technology instructor, Grenada and Heather Wood, mathematics instructor, Grenada.

The Holmes employees recognized for 15 years of service with the college included: Mitch Costilow, IT technician, Grenada; Patty Jones, Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor, Grenada; Dr. Luke Jones, dean of Career Technical Education (CTE), Goodman; Jessica Lepard, coordinator of transfer articulation and Shieneith White, administrative assistant to maintenance, Goodman.

The Holmes employees recognized for 20 years of service with the college were Laura Bigbee, Career Technical Education (CTE) support services coordinator, Goodman; Dr. Christi Blair, practical nursing instructor, Goodman; Yancy Brewer, Emergency Medical Technology (EMT) instructor, Ridgeland; Justin Ferguson, network administrator, Goodman; J.R. Hall, history instructor, Ridgeland; Eric Kimbrough, maintenance grounds, Goodman; Addie Lusk, dorm security, Goodman; Brenda Melton, assistant director of admissions, Goodman; Joey Netherland, maintenance engineer, Goodman and Joe Washington, maintenance grounds, Goodman.

The Holmes employees recognized for 25 years of service with the college were Rosalyne Davis, biological science instructor, Ridgeland and Pamela Fells, academic programs, Ridgeland.

Finally, the Holmes employee recognized for her 35 years of loyal service to Holmes was Terrell Hammett the payroll analyst on the Goodman Campus.



Pictured are the Holmes employees who were recognized for 20 years of service with the college. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Joe Washington, Addie Lusk, Laura Bigbee, Christie Blair, Brenda Melton, R. Hall**, *(back row, left to right)* **Joey Netherland, Jr., Eric Kimbrough, Justin Ferguson** and **Yancy Brewer**.



Pictured are the Holmes employees who were recognized for 15 years of service with the college. They are *(left to right)* **Shieneith White, Dr. Luke Jones, Patty Jones, Jessica Lepard** and **Mitch Costilow**.



Pictured are the Holmes employees who were recognized for 10 years of service with the college. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Mary Margaret Busby, Shea Coleman, LaShonda Levy, Christie Adams, Heather Wood, Tina Garrett, Patrick Sample**, *(back row, left to right)* **Elizabeth Shelby, Debbie Collins, Dr. Arletha Coffey, Lisa Wilbourn, Dr. Jason Kelly, Sandra Hultz** and **James Floyd**.



Pictured are the Holmes employees who were recognized for five years of service with the college. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Stephanie Chambley, Jacqueline Meek, Haley DeNoon, Ronnie Lockett, Chelia Woodfork-Thompson, Morgan Bondurant**, *(back row, left to right)* **Terry Miller, Amy Lindsay, Kate Barton, Kenny Arnett, Durga Siwakoti, Cheri Bergeron** and **Dr. Rekam Giri**.

Holmes hires James Durham as culinary arts instructor; program adds on hospitality & tourism track

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomes James Durham to the Ridgeland Campus as the new Culinary Arts instructor. Durham brings extensive experience and passion for the culinary arts to the college. In his new role, he and Chef Alexei Harrison are enhancing the college's culinary program and spearheading the addition of Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology (HRT).

Born in Nashville and a graduate of Jackson Academy, Durham holds a degree in archeology from Mississippi State University. He was also in the Mississippi Army National Guard, but while he was in the military, he injured both of his feet and was discharged.

"After being discharged from the military I started looking for jobs in archeology," Durham said. "While I was looking for those jobs, I was cooking in various places in Starkville. I decided to move back to Nashville and go to culinary school at the The Art Institute of Tennessee. I worked full-time while I was in school, so I

was going to school at 8 a.m., getting done at 2 p.m., and then going straight into work and not getting off until one in the morning. I guess you could say I sold my soul to the service industry while I was in Nashville. I did lots of fine dining up there, I worked for the Gaylord Opryland Resort right next to the Grande Ole Opry for a while. I helped open up two traditional Japanese ramen restaurants, as well."

After Durham's work with the Japanese restaurants, the pandemic hit in 2020, changing everything for him.

"I'm not going to lie, that was a very dark time for me," Durham said. "I was out of work, and of course, none of us saw this coming...especially being told, 'you can't work your job.' As we were able to go back to work, the way things turned out I worked for three different restaurants, but because of the way things were going in the world, all three of them shut down permanently, they couldn't make it. As it worked out, my wife, Sarah, was offered a job with the Department of Archives and History in Jackson. Fun fact, she had been in the archeology program with me at Mississippi State, and that's actually where we met. We moved back here, and I started working as a catering and events manager for Elvie's in Jackson."

While at Elvie's, Durham gained even more valuable experience in the culinary/hospitality field, as the establishment catered large events like Belhaven's Bright Lights, Best Dressed of Jackson, Mistletoe Gala and weddings. The restaurant, owned by a classmate of Durham's, Chef Hunter Evans, was also a two-time nominee for the prestigious James Beard Award. When

Durham found out his wife was pregnant, however, he decided to pivot with his career.

"When I found out that my wife was pregnant, I knew I wanted to do something different," Durham said. "I had been working in the service industry for about 12 years at that point and I'd seen how relationships go with people in the service industry. There's just a lot of stress, and all those hours gone from home and I didn't want to do that. I wanted to be a dad first and be home to tuck my child in at night."

That was when Durham found the job at Ridgeland High School teaching culinary arts, where he taught for one year. During that time, Chef Harrison started talking to him about coming over to Holmes as there were plans to expand the college's culinary arts program and add in the hotel and restaurant management track for students.

"We are excited about these new course offerings and I'm excited for James to co-teach with me and bring his wealth of knowledge and experience," Chef Harrison said. "In a few years, when our program moves into a larger space on campus, we will run a restaurant in the Student Union open to faculty, staff, students as well as those in the community. We plan to run this program more like a restaurant, so the HRT students will do a lot of the behind-the-scenes stuff as far as pricing, budgeting, catering and set-up. We've added in a culinary math course and managerial courses, as well as others to help them learn the business aspect of it."

The Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology program provides specialized career/technical instruction

in all phases of hotel and restaurant management to prepare students for careers in the hospitality and tourism industry. Students completing this program will be eligible to obtain ServSafe Sanitation certification from the National Restaurant Association. The students in Holmes' program will be able to pick electives based on their particular interests, whether they are leaning more toward working in restaurants, hotels, resorts, etc. Both Culinary Arts and HRT are two-year programs, but students interested in completing both can do so in just one extra semester.

Durham's excitement to share his knowledge with these students is apparent, as is his zest for enjoying life.

"So a little about me, my one-year-old son Alton and I love to go to the farmer's market every Saturday, I eat tacos every Tuesday, I love eating ice-cream, I like fermenting foods, my favorite movie is 'Pulp Fiction,' my favorite Band is the Grateful Dead and I've traveled to 32 countries," Durham said. "When my son gets older, we're going to go to the Amazon River; I have a goal to go to every continent. Funny story, during the pandemic, I actually applied and was offered a job in Antarctica, but my wife said absolutely not. I also enjoy cooking for her, especially my coq au vin (a classic French stew), and I'm excited to teach these students the culinary arts."

Those interested in the Holmes Culinary Arts Technology program, and/or the new Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology track, can contact Career Technical Counselor Jovonna Parker at (601) 605-3355 or jparker@holmescc.edu for more information.

Casey Johnson joins the Holmes Faculty on the Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Casey Johnson comes to Holmes from Kosciusko to join the English Faculty. She previously taught at Ethel High School for 11 years.

Johnson studied for one year at Holmes Community College before transferring to Ole Miss where she earned her bachelor's degree. She later

went to Arkansas State to obtain her master's degree.

Johnson is a member of First Baptist Church Kosciusko. Her hobbies include reading, traveling, and spending time with her family. She is married to Nathan Johnson, and they have two daughters, Laken and Kinzley.

"I love learning and watching students grow and learn each day," Johnson said. She is excited to join the HCC family on the Grenada Campus.

Holmes Ridgeland holds EMS Graduation Ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a graduation ceremony for the Emergency Medical Sciences (EMS) Class of 2024 on July 25. The ceremony was held in the McGowan Workforce Training Center. The program is led by Mark Galtelli, Yancy Brewer and Sandra Hultz.

Holmes has EMS programs on both the Ridgeland and Grenada campuses. After year one in the program, students may earn a technical certificate and after successful completion of all first semester coursework for this option, students are eligible to sit for the Advanced EMT National Registry Exam. If students choose to continue to the second year, they can earn an Associate of Applied Science degree as well.

For more information about applying for the program, contact Jessica Leverette at 601-605-3386 or jleverette@holmescc.edu.

(right) Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Emergency Medical Sciences (EMS) Class of 2024 following their graduation ceremony in the McGowan Workforce Training Center on July 25. They are (front row, left to right) **Hadley Parman, Brandon Pennypacker, David Allison, Malachi Adams**, (middle row, left to right) **John Husband, Taylor Hazel, Jimmy P. Finnegan, Jeffrey P. Davis, Kelcy Buell**, (back row, left to right) **Cristina Quintero Gonzalez, Troy Scott, Michael Hickey, Robert Huston and Bethany Jordan**.



Holmes student Leah Rainey wins gold at SkillsUSA Nationals

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Holmes instructor **Derrick Rainey** and his daughter, **Leah Rainey**.

Leah Rainey, a sophomore Architectural Engineering Technology student on Holmes Community College's Goodman Campus, earned first place in Prepared Speech at the SkillsUSA National Championships in Atlanta, Georgia in June. This prestigious achievement capped off a week-long series of competitions in which students from across the nation showcased their skills in various trades and technical professions.

Rainey's journey with SkillsUSA began on the Ridgeland Campus, where she secured first place in the state competition for Prepared Speech and placed second at the SkillsUSA National Competition. This year, she transitioned to the Goodman Campus to

hone her architectural detailing skills, and her hard work paid off. In addition to her recent win, Rainey earned the Holmes' Architectural Engineering Technology Award and won first place in the Pin Design Competition at the SkillsUSA State Competition earlier this year.

Rainey credits much of her success to her dedicated family and mentors. Her father, Derrick Rainey, who is an Automotive Service Technology instructor on the Goodman Campus, serves as a pastor in Jackson and is an advisor for the Goodman SkillsUSA Chapter. His guidance and coaching in public speaking have been instrumental to her performance. Her mother, Janice Rainey, a registered dietitian,

also provided coaching support after hours to prepare her daughter for competition.

"Leah's hard work, dedication, and commitment have been remarkable," said Holmes SkillsUSA Advisor Will Alexander. "Her national win is a testament to her talent, her faith and the strong support system she has from her family and mentors."

With her first-place national award, Rainey brings honor to Holmes, SkillsUSA and Mississippi. Her success demonstrates her passion for architecture, public speaking and leadership, marking a new milestone in her two-year journey with SkillsUSA.

Holmes Ridgeland Practical Nursing gives back to local community

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the nursing students with all of their donations collected for Webster Animal Shelter.

The Practical Nursing students from the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus have been extremely active in the community this fall! On

Oct. 16, they donated 440 cans of cat and dog food to the "No Kill" shelter, Webster Animal Shelter, in Madison. Then, instructors Dr. Lakesia Sut-



Pictured are the nursing students conducting blood pressure screenings at the Annual Scarecrow Cruise & Car Show.

ton and Heather Roberts, along with their students, participated in the 15th Annual Scarecrow Cruise & Car Show Oct. 25-26. They set up a blood pres-



sure booth and participated in trunk or treat.

Holmes hosts NEH Exhibit and gives presentation: 'World War II - African Americans' Fight for Freedom and Equality'

From Staff Reports/Photos

On Oct. 22, three Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus instructors - Laura Canard, history instructor; Dr. Amy Freeze, public speaking instructor and Arnetra Pleas, English instructor - presented "World War II: An Installment Payment on Freedom for African Americans" in McMorrough Library in Goodman. They covered the Double V Campaign, African Americans' service in World War II and Medgar Evers' life as an American hero.

This presentation was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Refreshments were served following the presentation..



Pictured are (left to right) **Arnetra Pleas**, **Dr. Amy Freeze** and **Laura Canard**.



A reception with refreshments followed the presentation.

Holmes Ridgeland holds STEM Pre-Professional School Mixer

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus STEM Division held a STEM Pre-Professional School Mixer on Oct. 17 in the Science Build-

ing East lobby for all students interested in STEM careers. Faculty representatives from University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing,



UMMC School of Health-Related Programs, Holmes Associate Degree Nursing and Holmes Surgical Technology were on hand to network with

students and answer any questions they had.

Holmes Ridgeland holds STEM Pre-Professional School Mixer

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics

(STEM) Division hosted a Professional School Seminar for students on Oct. 2. Guest speakers included Molly



Ratcliff, EdD, assistant dean of student affairs and admissions at University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC)

and J. Steven Carter, associate director of Mississippi Rural Physicians and Dentist Scholarship Programs.

Holmes Ridgeland practical nursing program achieves 100 percent pass rate on NCLEX-PN

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Holmes Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Class of 2024 with their instructors. The students had a 100 percent pass rate on NCLEX-PN. Pictured are (front row, left to right) PN Instructor **Dr. Lakesia Sutton, Hannah Alexis Rigby, Jessica Quarles, Sara Kathryn Self, Cortlyn Norris Bardwell, Shae Kelly, Alicia Goldman, Alexandria Cyrus**, PN Instructor **Heather Roberts**, (back row, left to right) **Nikeya Rogers, Megan Brittany Middleton, Kavondra McCauley, Anastasia Kelly, Destiny Janae Malone, I’Leyah Janae Green** and PN Instructor **Caley Stogner**.

The Holmes Community College Practical Nursing (PN) program on the Ridgeland Campus had a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN) exam.

“We are proud to announce that all of our practical nursing students have passed the state licensure examination

on their first attempt, with their dedication, rigorous training and unwavering support,” said PN instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton.

Instructor Heather Roberts also expressed her excitement for the students.

“I am immensely proud of our graduates and their accomplishments over

the past year,” Roberts said. “Their achievement is something to take pride in as they begin the first steps into a professional future. We value the benchmark of passing NCLEX on the first attempt as we feel it sets the tone for confidence and success moving forward.”

There were 13 graduates total in the 2024 Ridgeland PN Class. Graduates included Cortlyn Norris Bardwell of Vicksburg, Alexandria Dominique Cyrus of Madison, Alicia Goldman of Canton, I’Leyah Janae Green of Fayette, Anastasia Kelly Ingram of Madison, Shafreta “Shae” Kelly of Canton, Destiny Janae Malone of Brandon, Kavondra McCauley of Meridian, Megan Brittany Middleton of Florence, Jessica Quarles of Jackson, Hannah Alexis Rigby of Vicksburg, Nikeya Rogers of Byram and Sara Kathryn Self of Madison.

“I am extremely proud of our PN students and their NCLEX scores,” said Director of Health Sciences Allison DeWeese. “These students put in many hours of studying and preparing for the NCLEX. I look forward to hearing about their successful careers in healthcare. I would like to also congratulate the PN instructors, Mrs. Roberts and Dr. Sutton. Without their

dedication to the students this would not be possible.”

The PN program prepares students to assist in providing general nursing care under the direction of a registered nurse, licensed physician or dentist. Intensive preparation for the NCLEX-PN Exam and transitioning from student to employee is provided in the program. Potential students must have a high school diploma or a High School Equivalency (HSE) certificate and provide official transcripts from all schools/colleges previously attended. Although college credit is not required for application to the program, applicants with any college credit must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 to be considered for selection.

Admission is selective based on such criteria as: ACT score; college credit GPA; current healthcare licensure – EMT, Paramedic, Certified Nursing Assistant, Surgical Technology and in-district status. College prerequisites are not required.

For more information about the program, contact Dr. Sutton at lsutton@holmescc.edu.

Holmes' Gibson Parish receives MAMA Scholarship for 24-25 school year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College sophomore Gibson Parish of Lexington has been named a 2024-25 Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association (MAMA) scholarship recipient.

Parish, the son of Candice and Jason Parish, is an industrial technology ma-

jor at Holmes on the Goodman Campus. He served as the videographer/manager for the Holmes football team in 2023 and currently serves as videographer for the Holmes cheerleaders. He's a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, as well. Parish graduated with honors from Central Holmes Christian School in 2023 where he was a member of the drama club, ran track and played football for four years. While in high school, he was awarded the Football Coach's Award for the 2022 season when his team competed for the 3A State championship.

Parish has job experience at both Chenoa Landscaping and Creed Ranch. His essay submitted for the scholarship stated, "What excites me most about the automotive industry is its relentless pursuit of technological advancement and its pivotal role in shaping the future of transportation. From electric vehicles to cutting-edge safety features, the industry is con-

stantly evolving, presenting new challenges and opportunities for innovation. My goal is to be at the forefront of this evolution, contributing fresh ideas and creative solutions that drive the industry forward."

MAMA's scholarship fund has supported 243 students enrolled in Mississippi community colleges and universities with a total of \$437,500 awarded since 2006. From an outstanding applicant pool, MAMA awarded 14 scholarships for the 2024-2025 academic year to community college and university students interested in pursuing a career in the automotive manufacturing industry. MAMA has supported the growth of a strong workforce essential to the health of all industries in the state since its inception in 2006.

MAMA serves its members by promoting growth, development and improvement in the automotive industry in Mississippi, as well as serving as a forum for interaction among automo-

tive manufacturing companies in the state.

"Mississippi has an environment conducive to advanced manufacturing," said MAMA President Skip Scaggs. "We are proud that Mississippi's higher education system has invested heavily in educational opportunities and facilities which ensure the state will be able to produce the talented workforce necessary to keep the automotive industry strong. MAMA is committed to doing our part to recognize that workforce. I congratulate each of these students and wish them success in completing their degree, followed by a successful start in our industry!"

For more information about the MAMA Scholarship program, visit the MAMA website at <https://mamaonline.net/scholarships>.

For more information about Holmes Community College, visit www.holmescc.edu.

Holmes instructor Liz McLain appointed to State Massage Therapy Board

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College is proud to announce that Liz McLain, massage therapy instructor for the college, has been appointed to the Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy (MSB-MT). MSBMT is a regulatory board, established by legislation in 2001, in regards to public health.

"Since Massage Therapists are considered health care professionals in our state and many others, the MSB-MT holds us to the highest standards of professionalism and care," McLain said. "After being in the field for 20 years and teaching future massage therapists (on the coast and Central Mississippi now) for almost as long, it is quite an honor to now serve my field, fellow licensed massage ther-

apists (LMT)s, future LMTs and the public in maintaining those standards among us. I am excited to see the massage therapy field grow in Mississippi, and I'm definitely over-the-moon excited to see how much it has grown and will continue to grow here at Holmes Community College!"

McLain will serve a four-year term, where she will help oversee the licensing, regulation and educational standards of massage therapists throughout the state. She has served as program instructor for Holmes' Massage Therapy program since its inception in 2021. Prior to Holmes, she served as program director for the program at Blue Cliff College in Gulfport for over 12 years. She also served at program

director for Virginia College's program from 2013 – 2016. McLain earned her Associate of Science from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College with an emphasis in Health Sciences/ Allied Health.

"We are so proud of Liz's appointment to the Massage Therapy Board!" said Director of Health Sciences Allison DeWeese. "Holmes Community College is very fortunate to have Liz as our Massage Therapy instructor. Her dedication, expertise and passion for massage therapy will help shape the future of the profession."

For more information about the Holmes Massage Therapy program, contact McLain at lmclain@holmescc.edu.

Holmes Grenada ADN donates to toy drive

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) students from the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus (second-year students) donated to Mississippi State Hospital's "Spread the Joy This Christmas" toy drive on Oct. 1. Instructors for the ADN second-year students in Grenada include Michelle Crawford, Deandra Gibson, Amanda Jones, Patty Jones, Gwendolyn Lordeon, Vivian McGee, Edris Ricks, Lovie Rodela and Cherrie Winter.



A journey of dedication: Twin sisters overcome obstacles to pursue their GED at Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Neshika Catching and Shenika Catching.

“The journey isn’t always a quick one but it’s definitely one worth taking!” is a quote I often share with the students enrolled in the Holmes Community College Adult Education Program at the Yazoo Teen Center,” said Adult Education Lead Instructor Daphne M. Higgins.

Twin sisters Neshika and Shenika Catching of Yazoo City began the Adult Education program a couple of years ago. Their desire to earn their high school diplomas has been delayed because of literacy issues with reading. Since joining the program, however, both of their reading scores have improved drastically, adding to their overall comprehensive skills.

“These are two of the most determined women I know,” Higgins said. “When they

began the program, they would walk an hour each direction to attend class. The weather, although a factor, was never a deterrent. Their attendance record was one of the best of their peers – heat, rainstorm or sleet. They were always on time and always stayed the duration of the class. When it became apparent of the distance they walked, communication with one of our partners soon followed.”

Holmes was able to help the sisters get a ride to class, making sure nothing interrupted their learning.

“I really like my GED class,” Neshika said. “I have learned a lot and every day is exciting. Our teacher always talks to us like she really cares and works with us to make sure we understand. My sister and I

used to walk to school every day and now we have a ride that Holmes helped us get. We enjoy being a part of something that is helping us grow.”

Her sister mirrored her excitement and enjoyment in working toward earning a diploma.

“I enjoy going to school,” Shenika said. “Getting my high school diploma is a goal that feels closer than I ever thought it would and it’s all because there are people who believe in us and are helping us learn. We do our best to never miss a class and believe in giving it everything we’ve got to be successful. Having people who believe in us helps keep us excited.”

“I will never forget a phone call received about four years ago, requesting help for two young ladies attending the Holmes GED Program in Yazoo City,” said Anita Pigg with the Yazoo County Human Resources. “College and Career Navigator Chelia D. Woodfork-Thompson contacted our agency regarding two young ladies who had been walking to school each day, rain or shine. When I heard this, my first reaction was how inspiring, determined, dedicated and enduring for someone in our society of convenience today. My heart was so touched by the words Mrs. Thompson shared with me as my mind raced wondering how we can help!”

The Yazoo County Human Resource Agency provides a number of services, including transportation services for the elderly and disabled of the county. This enables them to maintain independence while still meeting their needs with mobility to doctor’s appointments, grocery shopping and social activities.

“I was excited to contact the GED

program to let Ms. Higgins know that it would be an honor to transport the young ladies,” Pigg said. “We affectionately refer to them as the twins, and our journey with them started over three years ago. When you meet the young ladies, you quickly see how they are full of joy, have bubbly smiles and giggle a lot. I personally have enjoyed speaking with them and getting to know them, talking about the beautiful fall foliage, what their goals in life are and just encouraging them from time to time to keep striving for their goals. The twins have brought the opportunity for our agency to be able to give in our community so that two young ladies can reach their educational goals. We are grateful for this opportunity because they have blessed our agency and our seniors with the journey of furthering their education. Twins, we are cheering you on!”

The Yazoo Teen Center class meets Monday through Thursday, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. For more information regarding classes at the Yazoo Teen Center, located at 1222 Jackson St., Yazoo City, please contact Higgins, 662-746-9240 or 601-499-5235.

Holmes Community College offers Adult Basic Education classes in several locations in its district. These classes are open to the public for those who have not completed high school or would like to increase their functioning level to enter college, training or the job market. The Adult Education and GED Department encourages all adults that are interested to become involved in one of its programs.

For more information regarding other locations across the district, please call 662-290-0808.

Heather Pounds named Physical Therapy Assistant Program Director

From Staff Reports/Photos



Heather Pounds, DPT, BS graduated in 2003 with her Doctor of Physical Therapy from the University of Central Arkansas where she also received a Bachelor of Science.

She currently works PRN at Tallahatchie General Hospital in the outpatient therapy department. She has been employed at TGH for 11 years and has played a vital role in building an outpatient program on campus. Prior to Holmes, Pounds serves as a Clinical Instructor and Center Coordinator for Clinical Education (CCCE)

for Holmes Community College’s PTA Program. She previously worked in home health for Mississippi Home Care (Grenada), outpatient at Grenada Lake Medical Center (UMMC-Grenada), skilled nursing at Golden Living Center (Eupora) and on the wound care, spinal cord and neuro team at Baptist Health Rehabilitation Institute in Little Rock, AR.

Pounds lives in Grenada and has been married to Kris Pounds for 28 years. They have a 12-year-old daughter named Raylon who attends Kirk

Academy. Heather is originally from Eupora and returned to MS after pursuing her education. She and her family attend Providence Baptist Church. Outside of work, Heather enjoys camping, traveling and cheering on the Mississippi State Bulldogs with her family.

“I’ve always had a passion for teaching,” Pounds said. “I’m honored for this opportunity to be a part of Holmes Community College and serve as the PTA Director.”

Holmes Alumnus Garian Edwards continues to shine at Alcorn State University

From Staff Reports/Photos



Garian Edwards, an alumnus of Holmes Community College Class of 2024, has taken his dedication to leadership to new heights as a junior at Alcorn State University. Majoring in athletic training and physical education, Edwards continues to build on his active involvement and success from his time at Holmes, going from a Holmes Ambassador to now serving now as an Alcorn State Brave Ambassador.

“Garian shined on our Ambassador team from the start,” said Holmes

Recruiting Specialist/Ambassador Sponsor Nikki Boutwell. “His friendliness and smile always made students visiting campus at ease. Leadership comes naturally to Garian, and I am so proud of him continuing to be a leader at Alcorn State University. His future is extremely bright, and I am glad he found opportunities to thrive at Holmes and beyond.”

During his tenure at Holmes, Edwards distinguished himself as a leader and dedicated student across multiple campuses. He began his academic

journey on the Grenada Campus before transferring to the Goodman Campus for his sophomore year.

When asked about his favorite memory at Holmes, Edwards had a hard time narrowing it down to one.

“I loved Homecoming; it was a great experience,” Edwards said. “It seems like it is always a fun, big event at Holmes. Being a student athletic trainer was fun, and also, I really, really enjoyed being an Ambassador. It helped

Edwards, continued on Page 29

Edwards (continued from Page 28)

me step into who I am as a person and it introduced me to a lot of amazing people. We had a great group last year and I really enjoyed them. I miss them all! It's a lot of people to name, but most of all I miss Mrs. Nikki.

"I really appreciate all the things Mrs. Nikki did for me as an Ambassador," Edwards said. "She put a great group together and made this organization exactly what it was supposed to be. Without Mrs. Nikki, I don't think any of us would even have known each other or gotten closer. She does a great job in her role."

A native of Grenada, Edwards became interested in moving to Goodman when he learned about opportunities to participate in band and as a student-trainer for Bulldog Football.

"I saw a post on the Holmes athletic page, and when I learned I could get hands-on experience in athletic training with Bill Grace, I realized that's what I needed to do. He helped me out and put everything together. I started in

the summer of 2023 and went through the spring of 2024," Edwards said.

Edwards was also an Ambassador for the Goodman Campus, and was actively involved in various organizations including MOSAIC (Student Support Services organization), the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Behavioral and Social Sciences Honors program. He graduated with an Associate of Arts degree with a major in athletic training.

Reflecting on his experience, Edwards credits Holmes for helping him step out of his comfort zone and prepare for his continued success at Alcorn State.

"Holmes really pulled me out of my comfort zone with certain things," Edwards said. "If I didn't do some of these organizations and leadership positions at Holmes, I wouldn't be doing them at Alcorn. I loved Holmes so much that if I could start back over and go to Holmes again, I would. But things move forward, and you've got

to keep on going. I'm very, very grateful to be an alumnus of a wonderful community college like Holmes."

Now, as an Alcorn State Brave Ambassador, Edwards is one of 112 students chosen for this prestigious role, a position he says he didn't expect to secure.

"In all honesty, I didn't know if I was going to get it," Edwards said of his selection. "They put the application out the week before school started, right when I moved in. When I saw the email, I quickly applied. I wanted to find out where I fit in."

His involvement at Alcorn State doesn't stop there. Edwards was recently accepted into the Alcorn Impact Community Service program, where he is excited to contribute to upcoming events and initiatives.

"We had to apply for that program, and part of the application involved giving ideas for events," he explained.

Looking to the future, Edwards plans to become a certified athletic trainer

with aspirations to work at the professional level in the NFL, NBA or MBA. Edwards' commitment to leadership, community service and professional development continues to make him a positive representative of the college.

"Holmes is a big part of why I'm so involved at Alcorn now," Edwards said. "My best advise to other students is to keep a positive head on your shoulders at all times. I'm very, very grateful to be a part of a community college like Holmes and to be a strong representative alumnus of the college. There's a lot of things that you can get involved in at Holmes that will help open doors for you, a lot of opportunities to show off your skillset. It's amazing what Holmes has to offer in so many different ways at so many different locations. I really appreciate everyone who helped me along the way when I was there, I'm so grateful!"

Holmes Adult Ed celebrates National Adult Education & Family Literacy Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



(far right) **Chelia Woodfork-Thompson** and (far left) **Marlena Simon** pose for a photo with Adult Education students for an Adult Education & Family Literacy Week celebration.

Holmes Community College Adult Education celebrated National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week Sept. 16-20 across the district. Once a year, during this week, educators from across the country celebrate and Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) develops a calendar of activities, resources and so much more for the adult ed programs.

COABE is a nonpartisan organiza-

tion that promotes adult education and literacy opportunities in the United States and internationally. COABE's mission is to advance the quality of services for adult learners by providing leadership, professional development, and advocacy.

"As we celebrate Family Literacy Week at Holmes Community College, I am filled with pride for the dedication and resilience of our students, staff and



The Holmes Yazoo Adult Ed students, instructors and staff pose for a photo while celebrating Adult Education and Family Literacy Week.

the entire Adult Education community," said Holmes District Director for Adult Education/HSE Earline Russell-Smith. "Literacy is not just about reading and writing; it's about opening doors to new opportunities and building stronger families and communities."

"This week, we celebrated not only the progress of our students but also the support systems that help them succeed. Each of our sites - Ridgeland,

the Attala Center, Eupora and the Yazoo City Teen Center - hosted special events to bring families together in the spirit of learning and growth. Together, we are transforming lives, one family at a time."

To learn more about Holmes Adult Education, contact Russell-Smith at esmith@holmescc.edu.

Holmes alumna Eydie Ricks joins the Holmes nursing faculty

From Staff Reports/Photos



Eydie Ricks, originally of Maryville, Tennessee, recently joined the Holmes Associate Degree Nursing faculty on the Grenada Campus.

Prior to her role at Holmes, Ricks taught nursing at Northwest Mississippi Community College. Ricks earned

her degrees through Holmes Community College, The University of Tennessee and Aspen University. She is scheduled to complete her Doctorate of Nursing Practice in May 2025.

Ricks is a member of the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Grenada. One of her

favorite things to do is go to Oxford once a week to see her granddaughters, Payton and Mary Bronwyn.

Bulldogs fall to Lions on Homecoming; begin preparation for playoffs

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 8 ranked Holmes Community College Bulldogs jumped out to a 9-0 lead in the first quarter but were

unable to hang on against East Mississippi on Homecoming 2024. East Mississippi took the regular season finale,

51-15, but the Bulldogs are headed to the MACCC semis next weekend for the first time in 22 years. Holmes, 7-2 and the North No. 2 seed, will play East Central, the South's No. 1 seed, in Decatur on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. in the semifinals. Gulf Coast, the South's No. 2 seed, will travel to the North's No. 1 seed on Saturday as well. Northwest knocked off the Itawamba Indians on Friday night propelling the Bulldogs into the playoffs as the No. 2 seed. Thursday, Oct. 31's contest began with Holmes jumping out to an early 9-0 lead with Dan Lindsay's 38-yard field goal three minutes into the game.

The Bulldogs followed Lindsay's field goal with a 35-yard touchdown pass from John Ford to Cayden Burger at the 9:37 mark in the first. East Mississippi then reeled off 45 straight points before the Bulldogs were able to get on the scoreboard again. With :48 left in the third, Jeremy Atkins picked up a Lion fumble and raced in from 40 yards out. The try for two failed, and East Mississippi led 45-15. East Mississippi scored once more in the fourth with 6:15 left to play. The extra point was no good.

Lady Bulldogs lose heartbreaker in season opener, 84-80, in OT

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell in the season opener in overtime, 84-80, to the Hinds Community College Lady Bulldogs on Friday, Nov. 1. Four Lady Bulldogs scored in double figures — Satiya Johnson, Julissa Claxton, Bella Roberts and Amanda

Walker. Roberts led with 16 points while Claxton and Walker had 12 and Johnson had 11. Walker led with nine rebounds. Holmes plays Delgado on Monday, Nov. 4 at 5:30 p.m.

Bulldogs fall in season opener, 72-68

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell in their season opener at home on Friday, Nov. 1, 72-68, against the Arkansas State University-Newport Aviators. Four Bulldogs — Trey Smith, Trey Alexander, Christian Parks and K.J. Sykes — scored in double figures but

the Bulldogs couldn't pull out the win. Smith led with 20 points while Parks and Sykes each had 15 and Alexander had 12. Smith had eight rebounds while Parks had six. Holmes plays Delgado on Monday, Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Jacobs, Townes named Holmes CC's POTW on Nov. 3

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College freshman forward Akala Jacobs on the women's soccer team and sophomore linebacker Jalon Townes on the football team have been named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play last week. Jacobs, a Madison Central product from Madison, scored four goals in Holmes' 10-0 win over East Mississippi last Tuesday. The Lady Bulldogs defeated Co-Lin in the Region 23 quarterfi-

nals on Saturday and play Pearl River in the Region 23 semifinals on Thursday in Ellisville at 4:30 p.m. Townes, a Grenada High product from Grenada, finished Thursday's Homecoming matchup with 13 tackles (8 solo) and two tackles for loss and one forced fumble. Holmes fell to East Mississippi, 51-15, but will enter the MACCC playoffs on Saturday against East Central as the North No. 2 seed.

Holmes knocks off Co-Lin in Region 23 quarterfinals

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up a 3-0 Region 23 quarterfinal win at home Saturday, Nov. 2 over the Copiah-Lincoln Lady Wolves.

Holmes, now 14-3-2, will play Pearl River in the Region 23 semifinals on Thursday in Ellisville at Jones College. Gametime is undecided.

Anna Beth Korhonen got the Lady Bulldogs on the scoreboard in the 35th minute on an assist from Kaylee Avant.

Holmes led 1-0 at halftime.

The Lady Bulldogs went up 2-0 in the 65th minute when Brooklynn Samon-ski scored on an assist from Christina Guzman.

Holmes’ final goal came in the 80th minute when Olivia Tribolet scored on an assist from Kristen Phillips.

Addi Roberts got the start in goal and had two saves while Katie Smith played the second half and had four saves.

Lady Bulldogs lose heartbreaker in season opener, 84-80, in OT

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell in the season opener in overtime, 84-80, to the Hinds Community College Lady Bulldogs on Friday, Nov. 1.

Four Lady Bulldogs scored in double figures —- Satiya Johnson, Julissa Claxton, Bella Roberts and Amanda

Walker.

Roberts led with 16 points while Claxton and Walker had 12 and Johnson had 11. Walker led with nine rebounds.

Holmes plays Delgado on Monday, Nov. 4 at 5:30 p.m.

Bulldogs lose heartbreaker to Rangers, 37-35

From Staff Reports/Photos



After falling behind 28-7 at halftime, the Holmes Community College Bulldogs outscored the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers, 28-9, in the second half but the Rangers only touchdown came as the horn expired to pull out the 37-35 North Division win.

This put Holmes at 7-1 for the season so far.

Holmes wasted little time getting on the scoreboard in the game when K.J. Miller took the opening kickoff 96

yards for a touchdown. Dan Lindsay’s extra point put Holmes up 7-0 with 14:46 left in the first.

The Rangers then scored on a rushing touchdown with 11:03 and tied the game at seven in the first quarter.

Northwest then took advantage of a Bulldog miscue when they returned an interception back for a touchdown. The Rangers led 14-7 with 9:28 left in the first.

The Rangers scored a rushing touchdown with 3:27 to play in the first

quarter and one with 2:58 to play in the second quarter to lead 28-7 at halftime.

Holmes got on the scoreboard with 5:36 left in the third when John Ford found Malcolm Boykin on a 47-yard touchdown pass. Lindsay’s kick was good, and Northwest led 28-14.

The Bulldogs added another score in the third when Chase Richardson scored from four yards out. Lindsay’s kick made it 28-21 Northwest with 1:54 left in the third.

The Rangers added a field goal with 9:59 left in the fourth to give them a 10-point lead, 31-21.

Just over a minute later, the Bulldogs added another score as Ford found B.J. Johnson from 14 yards out. Lindsay’s kick was good, and the lead was cut to three, 31-28.

The Bulldogs then got the ball back after the Bulldog defense stopped the Rangers at the one quickly moved down the field on the arm of Ford. On second and goal from the one, Ford scampered in from a yard out to give Holmes the 35-31 lead after Lindsay’s kick was good with 12 seconds to go.

The Rangers then started their last drive of the night from the 35. The Bulldogs were flagged with pass interference before the Rangers scored on the last play of the game on a Hail Mary from 50 yards out.

Ford finished the game 16-of-26 passing and 331 yards and two touchdowns in less than two quarters of play. Boykin caught 11 passes for 222 yards and a touchdown. Johnson had five catches for 76 yards and a touchdown, Cayden Burger four catches for 41 yards and Tristin Purnell had two catches for 27 yards.

Jalon Townes finished with 12 tackles and one tackle for loss. Bishop Riley followed with nine tackles and one TFL while Dandreyus Giles had eight, Octavious Pernel had six and Dtrevious Parker, P.J. Pace, E.J. Segrest and Lance Carson each had five.

Miller named MACCC Special Teams POTW on Oct. 29

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College wide receiver K.J. Miller has been named the MACCC Special Teams Player of the Week for his play last week.

Miller, a Greene County product from Stateline, finished last week’s game with two kickoff returns for 117 yards including a 96-yard opening kickoff for a touchdown.

He’ll now be considered for the NJCAA Special Teams Player of the Week..

Phillips, Ford named Holmes CC’s Players of the Week Oct. 28

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College sophomore forward Kristen Phillips on the women’s soccer team and sophomore quarterback John Ford on the football team have been named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play last week.

Phillips, a West Lauderdale product from Collinsville, scored two goals and had two assists last week vs. Gulf Coast and Meridian. Holmes defeated Gulf Coast, 4-0, and tied Meridian, 3-3, on Friday. The Lady Bulldogs close out the regular season Tuesday in Scooba vs. East Mississippi at 5 p.m. Holmes will play Saturday in the quarterfinals of the Region 23 Tournament.

Ford, a Sumrall product from Sumrall, came into the game in the second half to help lead the Bulldogs back from a 28-7 halftime deficit to a 35-31 lead with 12 seconds to play before the Rangers scored on a Hail Mary as time ran out to win the game, 37-35. He finished the game 16-of-26 for 331 yards and two touchdowns and added another rushing touchdown. Holmes hosts East Mississippi on Thursday at 3 p.m. The Bulldogs must win to make the MACCC playoffs.

Six Bulldogs recognized on Sophomore Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



Six Holmes Community College Bulldog sophomores were recognized here prior to Tuesday’s MAC-CC match with Gulf Coast.

Luis Ramirez, Louie Richard, Brandon Reyes, Josiah Arroyo, Ian Woodrey and John Smith were recognized by the coaching staff for their dedication to the men’s soccer program.

The Bulldogs fell to Gulf Coast, 3-0, in the final match in Ridgeland this season.

Fairley, Lindsay named Holmes CC’s Players of the Week Oct. 21

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College sophomore forward Bailee Fairley on the women’s soccer team and sophomore kicker Dan Lindsay on the football team have been named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play last week.

Fairley, a West Lauderdale product from Collinsville, scored a goal and had an assist in Holmes’ 3-0 win over Copiah-Lincoln on Tuesday. The Lady Bulldogs will host Gulf Coast on Tuesday on Sophomore Day at 1 p.m.

They will play at Meridian on Friday at 5 p.m.

Lindsay, a Central Holmes product from Kosciusko, hit the game winning field goal from 32 yards out on Thursday night at Itawamba to give Holmes the 27-24 win to remain undefeated. He added another field goal from 29 yards out and made three extra points. Holmes travels to Northwest on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Lady Bulldogs roll over Lady Lions, 10-0

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 5 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs finished the MAC-CC regular season with a 10-0 win in Scooba over East Mississippi Community College Tuesday, Oct. 30.

The Lady Bulldogs, now 13-3-2, will be the No. 2 seed in the upcoming Region 23 Tournament after going 8-1-2 in the MACCC. Holmes will play Co-Lin on Saturday in Ridgeland at 1 p.m.

Akala Jacobs finished Tuesday’s match with four goals. Emma Korhonen had two goals while Olive Tribolet, Abigail DeAngelo, Kristen Phillips and Bailee Fairley each had one. Stevie Kerns finished with four assists while KK Morris had two and Christina Guzman, Kaylee Avant, Emma Korhonen and Jacie Rouse each had one assist.

Katie Smith played 90 minutes in goal and finished with four saves.

Against Meridian, the Lady Bulldogs and the Lady Eagles finished in a 3-3 draw.

Kate DeAngelo had a goal on a Bailee Fairley assist while Phillips and Meagan Spencer each connected on penalty kicks in the match.

Guzman, Richardson named Players of the Week Oct. 14

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College sophomore defender Christina Guzman on the women's soccer team and freshman quarterback Chase Richardson on the football team were named Holmes Community College Players of the Week on Oct. 13 following their play the previoius week.

Guzman, a Florence product from Florence, scored two goals and had an assist for the No. 4 Lady Bulldogs .

Holmes defeated East Central, 7-0, on Oct. 8 before falling to No. 1 Northwest, 3-2, on Oct. 11.

Richardson, a Winona product from Winona, accounted four four scores l vs. Mississippi Delta. He threw for three and ran another in. No. 8 Holmes defeated Mississippi Delta, 52-21.

Bulldogs move to 7-0 on the season with last second win over Indians

From Staff Reports/Photos



Sophomore kicker Dan Lindsay nailed a 32-yard field goal with one second remaining to give Holmes a 27-24 win in Fulton on Oct. 17 over the Itawamba Community College Indians to remain undefeated on the 2024 season. Holmes outscored Itawamba,

20-7, in the second half to pull out the victory.

Holmes had their chances early in the first quarter to get on the scoreboard, but a turnover thwarted that drive inside the Indian 10. Neither team was able to muster points before the quar-

ter ended.

The Indians got on the scoreboard early in the second quarter and led 7-0 with 11:08 to play. Minutes later the Indians added a field goal with 9:06 left in the quarter to put the Indians up 10-0.

Holmes answered on their next drive when freshman quarterback Chase Richardson found freshman receiver Cam Joseph from 38 yards out. Lindsay's extra point was good to make the score 10-7.

Itawamba scored again with 5:20 left in the second and led 17-7 at halftime.

The Bulldogs pulled within three points at 17-14 with 9:15 left in the third when Richardson found B.J. Johnson from seven yards out. Lindsay's kick was good.

Itawamba got their only points in the second half with 1:47 left in the third and led 24-14.

Holmes had a scoring drive late in the third that carried over to the fourth which resulted in a Lindsay field goal with 14:55 left in the game making the score 24-17.

Richardson pounded into the end-zone from four yards out tying the game at 24 with 6:33 left after Lindsay's extra point.

As the quarter wound down, the Indians pounded the ball on the ground looking to play for overtime and were forced to punt. Holmes got the ball back with a minute to play and used some crisp passes to move the ball to within Lindsay's range. Itawamba used a timeout to attempt to ice the kicker but Lindsay stepped in and nailed the kick to secure the win.

Richardson threw for 241 yards and two touchdowns. Joseph had 96 yards on four catches.

Phillips, Pearson named Holmes' Players of the Week on Oct. 7

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College sophomore forward Kristen Phillips on the women's soccer team and freshman midfielder Adrian Pearson on the men's soccer team were named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play the first week of October. Phillips, a West Lauderdale product from Collinsville, scored the tying goal against Pearl River Friday.

She finished with one goal. Holmes and Pearl River ended in a 2-2 draw.

Pearson, a Niceville product from Niceville, Fla. scored the Bulldogs' lone goal against Pearl River Friday. The Bulldogs will play East Central on Tuesday and Northwest on Friday, both in Ridgeland.

Avant, Purifoy named Holmes' Players of the Week Sept. 30

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College freshman midfielder Kaylee Avant on the women's soccer team and sophomore defensive end Kabron Purifoy on the football team were named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play the week of Sept. 22-28.

Avant, a Newton County product from Decatur, scored two goals and had two assists for the Lady Bulldogs in matches with Itawamba and Southwest. Holmes defeated Itawamba, 4-0, and Southwest, 5-0.

Purifoy, a Tate High product from

Pensacola, blocked a punt and had an interception early to set the tone for the Bulldogs in their 35-22 win over Jones Thursday in Goodman. Holmes is off this week before returning to action vs. Delta on Oct. 10.

Previous winners include:
9/22 Kristen Phillips, Jalen Townes
9/15 Brooklyn Samonski, Chase Richardson
9/8 Sammi Doyle, Dandreyus Giles
9/1 Kristen Phillips, Dandreyus Giles



The Growl Staff



Macey Bowman

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



Kyanti Fleming

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



Jermeria McClendon

Jermeria McClendon of Jackson is a sophomore pre-nursing major on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus.

She has a pet Yorkie, Zoey, that is three years old. In her free time, she enjoys journaling and participating in outdoor activities such as ATV riding and horse riding.

She also does tons of research to expand her knowledge on her future career(s). She hopes to reach her full potential to become a successful registered nurse. She also wants to go to school to be an ultrasound tech. Upon graduating from Holmes, she is undecided if she wants to transfer to a four-year college or continue the nursing program at Holmes.

Interested in Joining the Growl? Contact Mary Margaret Busby at mbusby@holmescc.edu