



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

# THE GROWL

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## Nip it in the Bud

*Holmes takes learning outdoors with new Arboretum in Grenada*

By Taylor Vance  
Growl Editor

It was eight years ago that Dr. Kathy Nipper escorted her General Biology students over to the wooded area by the Holmes Community College library to give them hands-on instruction that couldn't be done in the classroom. This was an idea field biology courses and forestry classes had been utilizing, but Nipper chose to build upon it. The funny part is, she forgot to ask permission to take them there in the first place. While riding in his vehicle, then Grenada Vice-President Jack Holmes spotted Nipper and her students walking across Avent Drive. Alarmed a teacher was walking out of the building with a full class, he frantically asked her what was wrong.

"Nothing," she replied. "Is it okay if I take the students to the woods so they can get an in-depth look at the different species of plants?"

He smiled and let her continue on toward the woods. At that moment, in the middle of the road the idea of an outdoor classroom was born. Eight years later, Holmes has profited from Nipper's idea and hard work and has become one of three places in the state of Mississippi to have an arboretum.

When asked how her eight-year project first came to be, Dr. Nipper stated, "I saw that as I would talk about mosses, ferns, and fungi in the classroom, some students wouldn't get what I was talking about. So I knew I would have to try something a little different."

Always the educator, Nipper picked up a leaf and thrust it into my hand and said, "I can point to a picture of a lichen all day and say 'This is a lichen'



Amy Land's Intermediate English students visited this new attraction on the Grenada campus for observation and free-writing.

until I'm blue in the face, but it adds a whole new dynamic to the picture when I physically put one into a student's hand a then say, 'This is a lichen,' and then it clicks."

Nipper learned that arboretum status is not easily obtained. At least 30 different species of plants have to be included in the nature area. The Grenada Arboretum has twice the amount needed to be formally declared, with 64 total species of plants present in the area.

James Floyd, forestry instructor, was responsible for identifying most of the different species of plants in the arboretum and being a voice during the construction and planning. Floyd said,

"It is nice to see what started out as a nature area for my Dendrology class become an official arboretum. We had problems at first with only a certain number of plants being able to grow on high ground, but we came together and were able to collaborate and figure out ways to plant more species in the area."

Nipper says that this came to fruition through cooperative efforts of fellow instructors like Floyd, as well as the Holmes Foundation and the Grenada Garden Club, both of which donated time, resources, and grants.

Holmes English Instructor and Grenada Garden Club member Pam Moore said, "The Garden Club believed in Kathy [Nipper]'s vision from the beginning; and when we saw that she was dedicated and this wasn't just a temporary project, we knew this would be beneficial to the college as well as the community.

In addition to science and forestry classes, English and creative writing classes are now utilizing the arboretum, which proves the Garden Club's investment was worthwhile. Creative Writing Instructor Gwen Graham had the idea to partner with Nipper and have a place specifically for students wishing to write.

"In this area, we plan to have a lily from the Eudora Welty House, a plant from Rowan Oak (William Faulkner's home), and a plant from Donna Tartt's home. This would be a place to have a plant from every Pulitzer prize-winning writer from Mississippi."

When asked where she would like the arboretum grow in the next eight years, Nipper held up a copy of the Clarion-Ledger with the Eastern Heights subdivision on the front page.

Referring to the current lawsuit regarding the toxic materials allegedly released into the environment surround the subdivision, she asked me, "Have you ever thought to ask yourself the question why these chemical spills have [allegedly] been going on for many years? I think it's because your average citizen doesn't know enough about natural science or the environment to recognize the chemical spill as having long-lasting effects on the environment. So I want this facility to become an educational center not only for Holmes, not only for the community of Grenada, but for the entire region of North Mississippi."

Nipper has the support of, Grenada administrative officials, Vice President Michelle Burney and Academic Dean Myra Harville who encouraged its use in the community and at Holmes.

Bronwyn Martin, director of Marketing and Recruiting, said to make this vision come to life, "We have to publicize this because not every institution has this bragging right that we currently have. The Marketing Department is currently working on a logo for the arboretum and a tri-fold map for a self-guided tour."

Floyd also said, "A geocache could be in the works for the arboretum. I haven't worked all the kinks out, but it is in the works."

Student Activities and Recruiting Coordinator for the Grenada Campus Bronwyn Robertson said, "First and foremost, I just want to applaud Dr. Nipper for her efforts. Through her determination, she has brought different faculty members, the Holmes Foundation, the Grenada Garden Club, the community, and the administration together for one project. I think this will be another great thing to use to recruit prospective students to the Grenada Campus."

The Growl wants to thank maintenance for their work, Dr. Tom Holden for providing bluebird houses, Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey for his support, and everyone who donated funds to ensure this facility could come to life. We also would like to encourage faculty members to continue using the arboretum in creative ways that allow students to learn and connect, and we hope the administration continues to support these efforts.



### WHAT'S INSIDE...

- HOMECOMING SCHEDULE
- A LOOK AT HAPPENINGS DISTRICT-WIDE
- RECOGNITION OF SERVICE PHOTOS
- FACULTY/STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS
- STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS
- SPORTS UPDATES AND SCHEDULES
- THOUGHT-PROVOKING EDITORIALS AND MORE!



**DON'T MISS OUT!  
HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE-  
WILL CELEBRATE  
HOMECOMING  
2016 ON OCT.  
29 ON THE**

**GOODMAN CAMPUS. THIS IS HOLMES 91ST ANNIVERSARY! SEE PG. 5 FOR MORE DETAILS!**

## He took a stand by taking a seat

By Mia Jones  
Growl Reporter



In the past few weeks, Colin Kaepernick has sent the country in a near uproar by forcing a re-ignition in the discussion of racial injustice, with special attention toward police brutality. It started when he decided to sit down during the National Anthem, causing both positive and negative shock among not only fans, but also all others watching him, whether it be on television or in person. When asked about his actions on numerous news platforms, Kaepernick consistently expressed his refusal to “show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color.” Many felt that his actions were disrespectful and thoughtless.

On the contrary, I believe Kaepernick’s actions to be heroic, for he willingly risked everything to call attention to something so many had pushed to the back of their minds or were scared to speak up on. He bravely took action to put the spotlight on a topic so many have deliberately ignored or avoided,

knowing the media would be watching his every move. It is sad to me how it took someone on his level of fame to finally use their platform to call attention to something that has been ignored for years and years now, yet seeming to have gotten worse in the past few years. Kaepernick has managed to force attention toward a deliberately avoided topic, and while many are avidly expressing their disapproval and anger, others are thinking to themselves, “It’s about time.”

The sad truth is that police brutality has not gotten worse. People are just finally paying attention. Dating back to even before the 1991 brutal beating of Rodney King by the LAPD, some police have been abusing their authority by purposefully using excessive psychological force or even weapons while enforcing the law, often badly hurting or even killing the civilian, who was often black and a lot of times even innocent, harmless, unarmed, or all three.

The topic of police brutality resurfaced in 2014 when both Eric Garner and Mike Brown were unarmed and killed at the hands of police, and sparked a series of revolts, protests, and riots. Though the heated conversation was pushed aside at times, it was quick to start again each time there

was another police-related or race-related incident. This pattern continued throughout 2015 as well, as nearly 1,000 people were fatally shot by policeman. People began to question if we should really feel safe around law enforcement.

Meanwhile, I began to wonder if this was ever going to become more than just a conversation and if necessary action at the higher levels of government was ever going to be taken. Aside from constant protests and riots, not much other action was taken.

Actually, it was not until the 2016 summer killings of both Alton Sterling and Philando Castile just a day apart from each other that the nation began to collectively speak on the severity of police brutality once again. Yet, as I figured, the conversation soon began to lose its momentum once again. I realized that it was going to take more than just regular civilians protesting for people to become more aware of what’s going on. That’s when Colin Kaepernick came in.

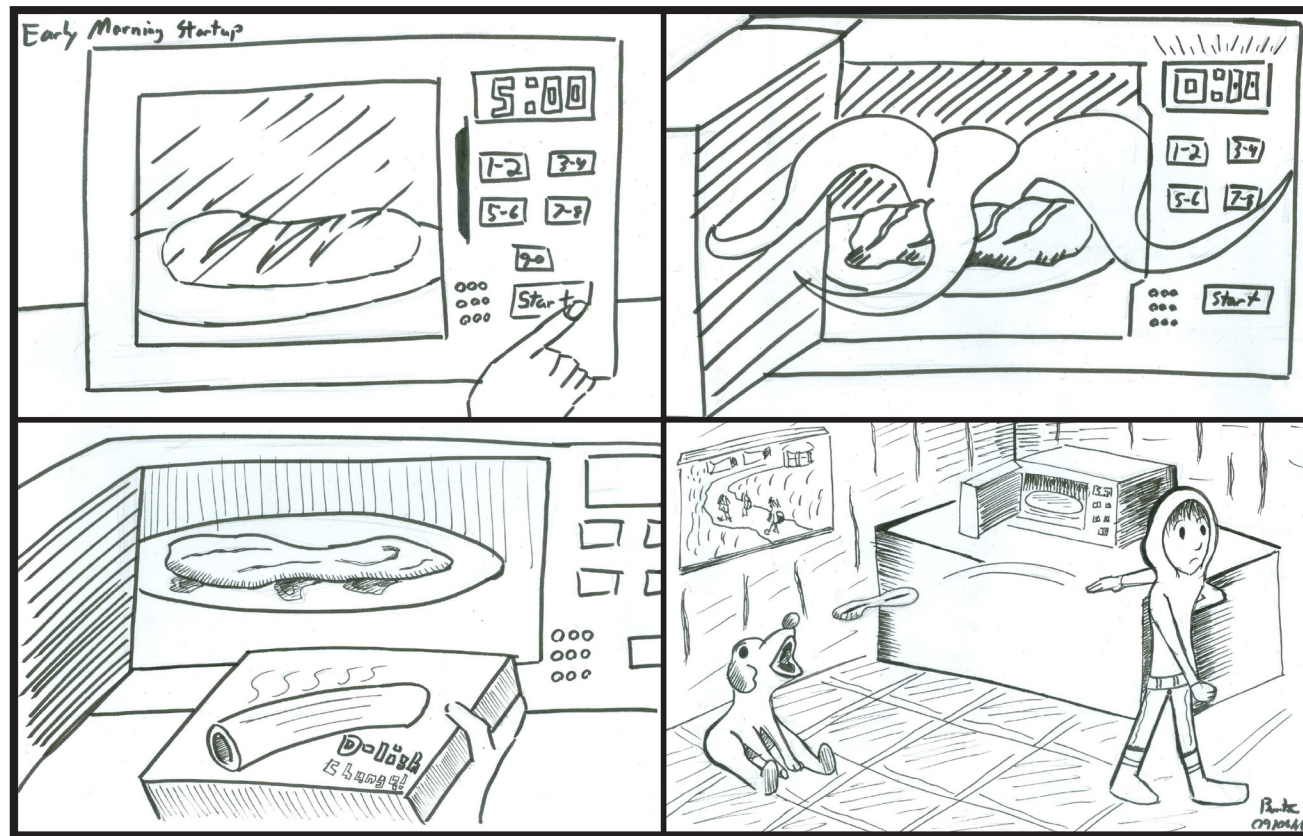
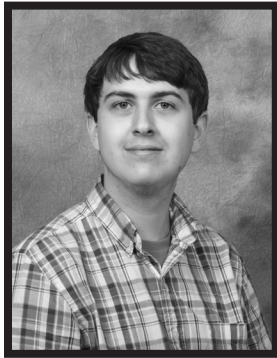
In the San Francisco 49ers’ 2016 preseason opener, Kaepernick displayed a silent protest on national television by sitting during the National Anthem. However, this went unnoticed because he wasn’t in uniform because he did not play in the first two games. His ac-

tions did not begin to make headlines until he sat, in uniform, at the team’s third preseason game. He stated, “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color.” At the start, he was alone in this protest, but after being joined in the next game by his teammate, Eric Reid, various other players and even the whole Seattle Seahawks team began to follow suit in their own way of protesting. Now, this issue is finally beginning to get the vital attention and action it so desperately needs.

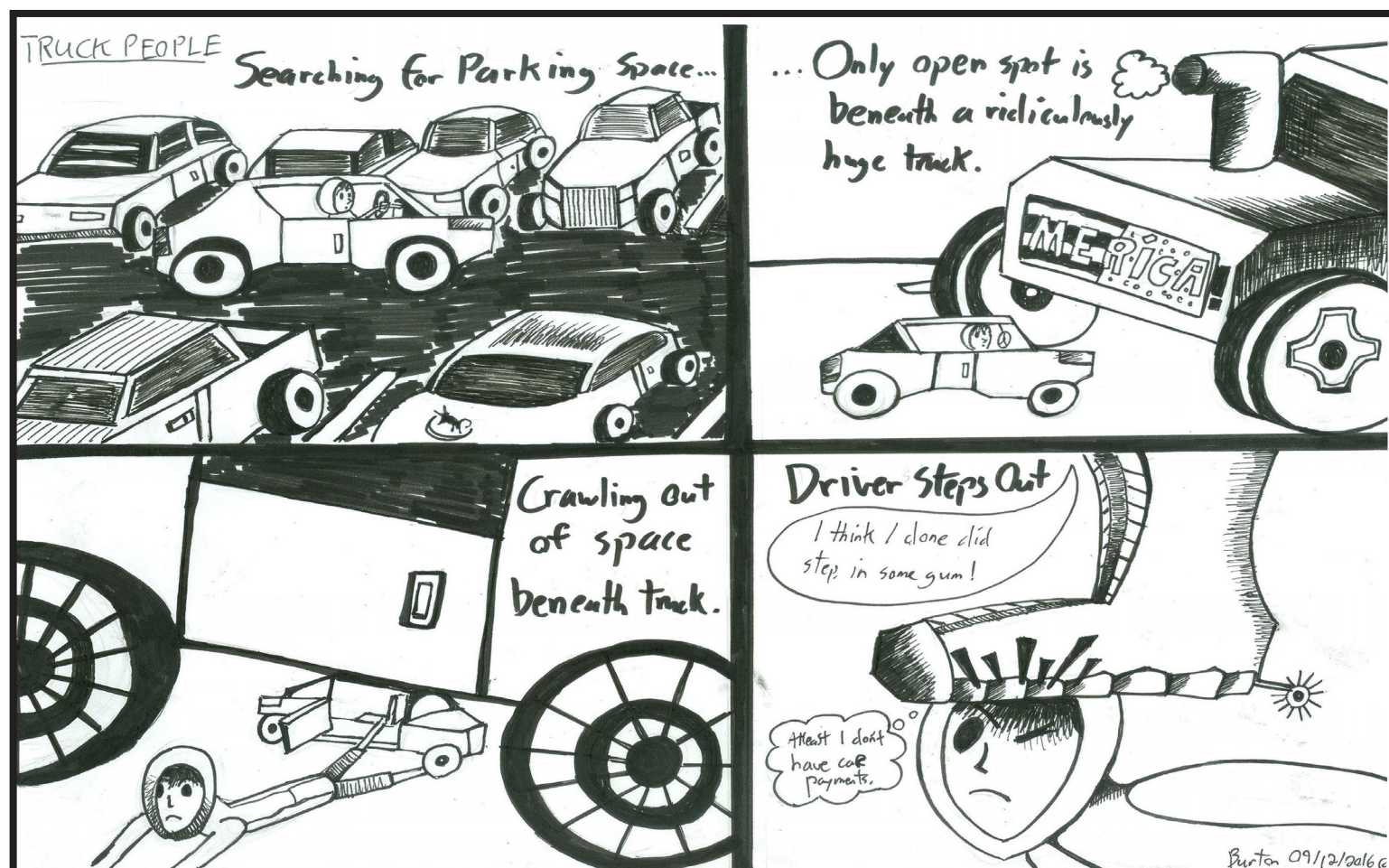
In addition to silently protesting, he announced that he would be planning to donate \$1 million to various charities that focus on racial issues. Veterans have even voiced their support for him by stating that they did not fight so that he would stand for the flag, but they fought for his freedom, so that he would be free to sit or stand as he pleases. Kaepernick’s silent protest has ignited action and discussions among other NFL teams and inspired college football teams, high school football teams, and numerous other sports to protest or simply show support as well. For the first time, this movement and spread of awareness shows no signs of slowing down.

## Early Morning Startup

By Ethan Burton  
Growl Cartoonist



## Truck People



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## Local Global Warming Effects and How to Stop Them

By Leisa Campbell  
Growl Reporter



According to NASA's Earth Observatory, Global warming is the unusually rapid increase in Earth's surface temperature over the last century primarily due to the greenhouse gases released by people burning fossil fuel, and the rate of temperature increase has nearly doubled in the last five years.

### What does this have do with us?

The truth is global warming affects us as well as the polar bears. The Louisiana flooding this summer

is credited to the rapidly rising temperatures. Louisiana received nearly 30 inches of rain between Aug. 10-17. That's almost three 3 feet in a week. While now such a storm is seen as a once every 550 years event in this area, if temperatures continue to rise, such events could become far more common.

### What can you do?

To help fight global warming, speak against carbon emissions, make your house more efficient, and reduce the amount of refuse you discard. If you are interested in aiding the victims of Louisiana flooding, you can volunteer through the Red Cross or donate toward the GoFundMe account Zeta Phi Beta has established to aid them. While our generation might not have started global warming, it is up to us to fight it and stop such tragedies from occurring before they even begin.

## The Melvins take Jackson

By Elias Haik  
Growl Reporter



What would you do if the mentor to your personal hero was coming to your town? Well if your hero is Kurt Cobain, then on Sept. 11 you

had a chance to do just that. Former neighbor and mentor to Kurt Cobain, The Melvins are a hard rock band from Seattle that formed in the late 1980's.

On Sunday, Sept. 11, they were playing a show at Duling Hall and tore down the house. The crowd was maybe 50 or 60 people in size but every

crowd member of the crowd brought the energy of 100 people, this made the show much more personal

than if the room had been packed with people who didn't really care about the band. The Melvins played incredibly; I did not recognize a single song that they played but I could not stop head banging the entire time I was at the concert. For their encore they brought up the opening band up on stage to play with them which lead into them singing "Take me out to the ball game."

The Melvins are masters of their craft and it's not hard to see what 30 years of practice will do for you. They did not need to have some top hit song to become a success; they knew that people would like them for their music and that's all they needed because they have developed an incredible cult following. There are rumors that they are

coming back to Jackson again, and take it from my personal experience, if they come back to Jackson you do not want to miss the show.



## New Beginnings in Madison

By Bobby Neal  
Growl Reporter



Have you ever gone out to eat and not had the "customer experience" type of service? Well, the new restaurant that is coming to Madison can give you the warm feeling that everyone wants when they are eating out. Madison is proud to present the



famous Moe's in hopes that everyone enjoys the new southwest grill that is catching people's eye as they pass

Malco Grandview throughout the day.

In a recent interview with Holmes Community College student Zach Ladner, the question was asked, "Have you ever not felt welcome at a restaurant and why?" He responded, "Yes, in fact I have, and it was because the people that worked there seemed to not like their job and didn't have enthusiasm when my girlfriend and I walked through the door." At Moe's, they treat everyone with respect and are welcoming to anyone and everyone that walks through the front door. The famous line that everyone remembers when they leave the restaurant is, "Welcome to Moe's" and that always excites people when they walk through the door because it makes them feel

welcome and at home. The next question was, "Have you ever been to a Moe's before?" He said, "Yes and it was the best southwest type of grill that I have ever been to." He also said, "I think that this will defiantly be a wonderful restaurant for the Madison area because it will bring something new that no one is used to and that Madison has never had before."

Madison has defiantly made a wonderful choice by bringing this restaurant to the table and is hopefully going to do well because no one can forget the wonderful line, "Welcome to Moe's."

## Every Month is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

*Although September is officially Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, it should be year-round*

By Charleigh McPhail  
Growl Reporter



One in ten college students has had suicidal thoughts or made plans for suicide, according to Emory University. Because suicide is one of the top causes of death in the world, the month of September has been named the "Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. But what



Pictured is a photograph from the suicide prevention event held at Mississippi State University, "Speech Outweighs Silence."

exactly does that mean? It can include showing resources, raising awareness,

and exposing just how vital it is to be in a safe environment to talk about this issue. Most people who have experienced suicidal thoughts do not attempt to get help, and organizations everywhere are working to provide counseling and available resources to anyone, especially college students. Schools across the nation are holding events for this month to raise awareness. Mississippi State University holds an event called "Speech Outweighs Silence" where hundreds of backpacks are lined up on a field, in honor of the 1,100 college students each year who commit suicide. Although September is the month specifically dedicated to suicide prevention awareness, every month out of the year should be. Realizing how serious mental illness is along with speaking

and acting kinder are key points in prevention. Services are available 24 hours a day to call, for free, for any help with suicidal thoughts. Many campuses offer counselors who would be more than happy to offer help. However, the most vital part is that we all must be kind to each other and show more love. This alone is the best help any person could receive.



## Making history with history

By Mia Jones  
Growl Reporter



An idea that had been pitched around 1915 and pushed for all the way up until now has finally been honored. For years and years, efforts were made

to establish a museum honoring the history and culture of African Americans. Though the push started in 1915, it did not build momentum until the 1970s. Though it built momentum in the 1970s, a push from the legislation did not begin until 1988. Though the legislation began pushing the idea in 1988, an official authorization of the museum did not happen until 2003. A site was not selected until 2006. Finally, the National Museum of African American History and Culture opened Sept. 24. In other words, it had definitely been a long time coming.

The building, designed by Ghanaian British architect David Adjaye,

is located in Washington, D.C., on the National Mall. Criteria for the design of the building specified that it had to show an understanding of the African American experience while respecting the history and views of the Washington Monument. It had to incorporate the dark times as well as well as the beautiful times of optimism, spirituality, and joy. It had to be a museum that was able to hold events as well. After meeting the re-quired criteria, Adjaye's firm's winning design was chosen among six other finalists. The budget for construction of the museum was limited to \$500 million.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on Feb. 22, 2012, with actress Phylicia Rashad as the master of ceremonies, and President Barack Obama as one of the various speakers. The first concrete for foundation was poured in November 2012. The basement level work was finished by January 2014, and the above ground work began quickly after. The last beam was placed on the museum in October 2014. Various delays caused the construction process to stray away from its predicted completion date of November 2015. This included a trag-

edy on June 2, 2015, in which worker Ivan Smyntyna was severely injured when scaffolding on the roof collapsed on top of him. He was rushed to a local hospital, where he later died. The construction crew managed to push through and complete construction, and soon successfully completed the 10-story museum. It has five stories above ground and five stories below, making it the deepest museum on the National Mall.

The museum contains everything in African American history from slavery to music. It was re-ported in May 2015 by CBS News that the collection size had grown to 33,000 objects. The collection includes a multitude of notable items, such as the original glass-topped casket used to display and bury the body of 14-year-old Emmett Till. It has items owned by Harriet Tubman, with a special one being the silk shawl given to her by Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom. One will also find the dress Rosa Parks was sewing the day she bravely refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white man on Dec. 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama. The collection includes more than just delicate and smaller items, with a

cherry red Cadillac convertible previously owned by the renowned rock and roll singer Chuck Berry. Modern items include gymnastic equipment used by champion Gabby Douglas at the 2012 Summer Olympics.

The opening day of Sept. 24 was set back in January of 2016. This day would follow a week full of events for the museum, and extended hours for the opening week. On opening day, President Obama, along with various special guests, including descendants of former Mississippi slave Elijah B. Odom, Oprah Winfrey, and Will Smith. Odom's daughter, Ruth Bonner, who is 99 years old, joined the Obama's in a bell ringing to celebrate the official opening of the museum. The bell rang came from the First Baptist Church in Williamsburg, Virginia. This church was started by secret meetings between free and enslaved African Americans. This had been the first time the bell had been rang since segregation. After a long journey, the museum now welcomes the public to the dedication of the past, present, and future of African American history and culture.

## Food and Global Warming

By Morgan Hannah  
Growl Reporter



Most food people eat costs the earth a great deal of damage or in other words, is very detrimental. Every year meat production has more climate warming pollution than foods such as vegetables, fruits, nuts, and grains. Limitations of how much meat is consumed by every

human can greatly slow global warming.

There are many costs to goods that require a lot of resources. Water for irrigation, fuel for vehicles, and fertilizer and chemicals for plant growth and pests are all resources needed for production. Wastes come with the resources as well. Manure is a very common concern with air pollution and pollutants from tractors are, as well.

Beef has a larger carbon footprint than any other food. If every American eliminated a quarter-pound serving of

beef each week it would have the same impact of removing four to six cars off the roads. The transportation of foods to shorter distances uses less fossil fuels. Frozen, packaged, pre-cooked, and processed foods uses three times as much energy as fresh products. It is estimated that livestock production accounts for 70 percent of all agricultural land use and occupies 30 percent of the land surface of the planet.

The growing of livestock and other animals for food is also an extremely inefficient process. For example, it takes approximately 5-7 kilograms of grain to produce one kilogram of beef.

Each of those kilograms of grain takes considerable energy and water to produce, process, and transport.

There are ways that everyone's carbon footprint can be dramatically reduced. Less meat consumption can help the environment. Local and organic produce is also a great option because how the food is grown is a very important factor when considering the carbon footprint. Organically grown is a good option but local and organic is the best option.

## Who is Holmes voting for?

By Elias Haik  
Growl Reporter



Every four years American citizens vote on who they want to run their country, and every four years the country becomes

polarized over two candidates for the job. This year is no exception, in fact this election has proven to be one of the most polarizing elections in recent American history. People are torn between two candidates they would rather not have, and I wanted to see where Holmes Community College stood in the vote.

I decided to poll Holmes students to see where our school stands on

this debate, and I did not expect to see what results I got from this study. There were four options on the poll: Donald Trump, Hilary Clinton, Gary Johnson, and not voting. Donald Trump received 26 votes, Hilary Clinton received 30 votes, Gary Johnson received one vote, and 43 students said that they were not voting in the up-coming election. This took me by complete surprise as I expected far more students to vote either side but there was an overwhelming amount of students who said they simply were not voting in the next election because they did not like either candidate.

This is very significant because for many of these students this is their first opportunity to vote in a presidential election, which is a big moment for many citizens because it is the first chance they have to have some sort of a say in the way the govern-

ment is run. But many students simply do not see the point in voting, given that neither choice seems like a good candidate to put in charge of our entire nation. How can you blame them?

This does not have to be all negative, for many reasons this may actually be a good thing. This election is almost symbolic of America's exhaustion with the two-party system, which can turn out to benefit us. Many Americans are sick to death of the two-party system, and for good reasons, it makes you choose between the best of two options rather than the candidate who supports your beliefs the most. This is toxic for both the citizen and the candidate in question. The citizen has only two options to choose from so they are stuck with backing an option they do not like or support simply because the other candidate's policy on that issue is worse. This is also horrible for the candidate because instead of pushing

for the issues that they believe need to be passed, they are focused on the issues that will get them the most votes. This forces the candidate to completely back a cause all the way even though they may know little to nothing on the issue.

All in all, I think this election year is going to be good for America. In a "growing pains" sort of way, we need to realize that as long as we support the two-party system we are not going to be happy with the choices we are given. Many Americans are realizing this, that is why Gary Johnson is even a candidate in this election. In very few elections in the past were we given three options on who will take office, this indicates discontent within the party members. This will hopefully lead into our election system becoming a multi party system so political candidates will have to work much harder to please their voters.



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## Johnson named as one of 50 Leading Business Women

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**NaTunya Johnson**

NaTunya Johnson, Ed.S, district department chair of the Business and Office Technology (BOT) Department at Holmes Community College, was recently named to the Mississippi Business Journal's (MBJ) 50 Leading Business Women in Mississippi Class of 2016.

According to MBJ, "the 50 Women

en is a development and networking organization that encompasses training with ongoing opportunities for the inducted women to grow together as business leaders." The recipients chosen attend seminars, a networking round table, and an awards luncheon. This year's event was held August 18-19 at Hinds Eagle Ridge in Raymond. MBJ will include photos, bios, and quotes from the Class of 2016 in the spring issue of their magazine.

Additionally, as a part of the state's 50 Leading Business Women, Johnson will be honored at the "Business Women of the Year" luncheon in February 2017. Eleven finalists for Business Woman of the Year are selected from the most recent 50 Women class.

Johnson received her bachelor of business administration and marketing from Mississippi State University and her MBA from Delta State University. As an Educational Specialist in curriculum and instruction, she currently develops curricula for Holmes' Medi-

cal Office Technology, Medical Billing and Coding, and Workforce Training and Development programs. She also serves as an instructor for BOT courses on the Ridgeland Campus and as a sponsor for Phi Beta Lambda business society.

"We are so proud to have on of Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women serving as Department Chair and Instructor for our Business Technology program at Holmes," said Director of Career-Technical Education Amy Whittington. "This affords our students an awesome opportunity to learn from a proven leader in the business community."

Prior to teaching on the collegiate level, Johnson was a corporate trainer for 12 years at the State of Mississippi Employees' Health Plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi. She said that corporate training adequately prepared her for teaching business courses, something she had always wanted to do, and when Holmes of-

fered her the opportunity, she jumped on it.

"I am humbled to be selected as one of the 50 Leading Business Women in Mississippi by the Mississippi Business Journal," Johnson said. "Receiving this honor has afforded me the opportunity to network and engage with other dynamic female entrepreneurs, educators, other professional woman who share my same dedication to their careers and communities. As a result, I have gained new ideas and made lifelong friendships that perhaps would not have otherwise been available to me."

Johnson is an active member of the Mississippi Business Educators Association, American Academy of Professional Coders, American Health Information Management Association, Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Anderson United Methodist Church. She resides in Ridgeland with her husband, Michael, and their daughter, Nadya.

## McCollum earns PhD

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Pamela McCollum**

Holmes Community College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Instructor Pamela McCollum, RN, MSN, MS, BS, recently earned her PhD in Nursing Education and Administration from William Carey University in Hattiesburg.

Prior earning her PhD, McCollum

obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a Master of Science in Nursing, and a Master of Science in Education from the University of Southern Mississippi. A longtime member of the Holmes family, she has taught on the Ridgeland Campus for 23 years; 11 years in her current role as ADN faculty, and 12 as a coordinator and instructor for the Practical Nursing (PN) program.

As an ADN instructor, McCollum's responsibilities include instructing students in the classroom, developing teaching strategies for content taught in the program, supervising students in clinical and student advisement, evaluating student's clinical performance, and assisting in the planning and implementation of simulation lab activities.

As a Holmes PN instructor, McCollum's duties included developing and implementing lesson plans, instructing students in the classroom, supervising

students in clinical areas, participating in an advisory committee for local Allied Health programs in area high schools, and serving as the PN student organization advisor. As coordinator, she planned and organized classroom activities, developed program brochures, maintained essential student documents, negotiated new clinical affiliations, and coordinated clinical rotations, among other duties. She also served as the coordinator and facilitator for an accreditation visit for the program.

Preceding her employment with Holmes, McCollum worked as a staff nurse for St. Dominic Health Services, as a charge nurse/nursing preceptor/unit coordinator for the University of Mississippi Medical Center, as a staff nurse for Covington County Hospital, and as a nurse/assistant supervisor and later assistant director of nursing for Hillcrest Health Center.

McCollum has been recognized for

her hard work and dedication to her profession through a number of honors. Some of those include the Lynn B. McMahan Gerontology Award, Who's Who in American Nursing, and most recently, Associate Degree Nursing Faculty of the Year for 2015-2016. She continually stays active in professional memberships such as Sigma Theta Tau Inc. International Honor Society of Nursing, the Mississippi Nurses Association/American Nurses Association, and the Holmes Ridgeland Faculty Association. She has also served on several committees, and served as a book reviewer for "Guide to culturally competent health care, 3rd edition" by L.D. Purnell.

For more information about the Holmes Associate Degree Nursing program, you may contact McCollum at pmccollum@holmescc.edu or (601) 605-3350.

## Holmes World AIDS Day observance receives award

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

The Madison County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., is the recipient of several awards of distinction presented during the sorority's 90th Southern Regional Conference in Kissimmee, Florida. During the Southern Regional Conference, more than 3000 Delta women gathered to celebrate their sisterhood, service, and scholarship. The Madison County Alumnae Chapter received five awards and one of those was a Distinguished Service Award for the World AIDS Day observance held on the Ridgeland Campus of Holmes Community College on Dec. 1, 2015. This program was a collaborate effort between the Social/Science and Behavioral Sciences Department and two committees of the sorority: Physical & Mental Health and International Awareness & Involvement committees.

Jennifer Riley, the chapter's president said, "The Madison County Alumnae Chapter is very excited about the work that they are doing in Madison County to benefit so many people in the community. Indeed, we are extremely proud of the chapter's partnership that has been established with Holmes Community College in bringing awareness of HIV/AIDS to the student body and look forward to partnering in future events on campus."

This is the chapter's second award earned from partnering with organizations on campus. They previously received an outstanding recognition for their partnership with the Paralegal Department and the Social/Sciences Department on Human Trafficking.

World AIDS Day is an annual event, always held on Dec. 1 that provides an opportunity for people worldwide

to unite in the fight against HIV while showing support for people living with HIV and remembering those who lost their lives. The World Aids Day event held at Holmes last year, themed "Getting to Zero," featured panelists Mauda Monger, program director for Mississippi AIDS Education and Training Center at UMMC, and Gerald Gibson, prevention outreach manager at My Brother's Keeper nonprofit. Other Cain, director of communications for Mississippi Faith in Action, introduced the panelists and helped guide the discussion. The "Getting to Zero" theme meant working toward zero new HIV infections, toward zero discrimination pertaining to the topic, and zero AIDS-related deaths. The speakers encouraged the 70 plus Holmes students (and instructors/staff) in attendance to get tested annually and help break the stigma surrounding HIV.



The Madison County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta plans to collaborate with Holmes to host a similar event this year.

## Holmes to hold Homecoming 2016 on Oct. 29

### From Staff Reports

On Saturday, Oct. 29, Holmes Community College will be hosting its annual all-day Homecoming celebration on the Goodman Campus. This is Holmes 91st year in existence.

This year's football game against Itawamba Community College will begin at 3 p.m. with the presentation of the Homecoming Court and crowning of the Queen at halftime.

Holmes will also be recognizing this year's Alumnus of the Year Johnny A. "Bit" Belk along with the Distinguished Service Award Recipient John Lee (J.L.) Peebles, Jr., at a special

ceremony.

The day's events, from the Little Bulldog Zone, alumni ballgames, all the way to art shows and parade means there is something for everyone to enjoy.

The Homecoming activities for the day begin with a softball alumni game at 9:30 a.m., and a baseball inter-squad game at 10:30 a.m. Simultaneously, the Art Exhibit in McMorrough Library will begin at 10:30 a.m., Frank Branch Coliseum will open and there will be a basketball scrimmage game, and the Past Employees Reunion begins at the

Holmes House.

The Honoree Recognition Ceremony begins at 11 a.m. in McDaniel Auditorium followed by the exciting Connection! performance at 11:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at noon in the Grove with the musical stylings of the Holmes Steel Drum Band. The Coachmen will present their choral performance in Montgomery Fine Arts Building at 12:45 p.m., and the annual alumni meeting will be held in the library at 1 p.m.

The parade, which will kick off at Cook Dorm at 1:30 p.m., will lead the

crowd to the high-energy Pep Rally in the main parking lot.

If anyone needs a cool place to sit or a minute away from the crowd, the library will be open to all guests. Those interested can go and enjoy a cold glass of water and light snacks. For the Mississippi State University and Ole Miss fans, the games will be streaming live so they don't have to miss one minute. Fans can ring their cow bell, yell Hotty Toddy, and cheer the Holme Bulldogs to victory!

For a complete schedule of activities, see Page 9.

## Faculty and Staff recognized at Back to School Bulldog County Fair

### From Staff Reports/Photos

On Monday, Aug. 8, Holmes Community College held its annual district-wide Back to School Bash in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus.

The theme this year, Bulldog County Fair, included delicious fair treats, an assortment of carnival games, Family Feud, relay races, a costume contest, a dunking booth and more. Faculty and staff enjoyed fun and fellowship as President Dr. Jim Haffey got everyone excited about the upcoming school

year.

The event also included the recognition of employees who have reached certain milestones in years of service to the college. The recognized faculty and staff members were presented with a certificate.



Pictured is **Robert Harris** who was recognized for 30 years of service.



Pictured are (left to right) **Janet Mullennix** and **Kelli Blaylock** who were recognized for 25 years of service. Also recognized was (not pictured) **Joey Netherland**.



Employees (front, left to right) **Dr. Fran Cox**, **Gwen Graham**, (back, left to right) **Jessica Elliot**, **Kenny Dupont**, and **Susie Jackson** were recognized for 20 Years of Service.



Employees (front, left to right) **Tina Boyette**, **Jackie Thurman**, (back, left to right) **David Brock**, and **Cynthia McCoy** were recognized for 15 Years of Service.



Employees (front, left to right) **Wyndy Peebles**, **Sonja Arnett**, **Jessica Brown**, **Cindy Dugan**, **Angela Miles**, (back, left to right) **Gale Sheppard**, **Lisa Anglin**, **Bronwyn Martin**, **Ricardo Anderson**, **Ricky Casey**, **Wanda Casey**, **Dr. Stacey Coulter**, **Dr. Kathy Nipper**, and **Vincent Sutherland** were recognized for 10 Years of Service. Also recognized were (not pictured) **James Bailey** and **Brian Wooten**.



Employees (front, left to right) **Amy Whittington**, **Cherrie Winter**, **Amanda Jones**, **Kim Sandifer**, **Cindy Bridges**, **Larry Webster**, **Tommy Trussell**, **David Parker**, (back, left to right) **Barin von Foregger**, **John "Jeffrey" Newsom**, **Bruce Patridge**, **Laura McMahon**, **Jodie Burchfield**, **Donald Boyd**, **Antoine Gates**, **Jeff Koonz**, **Jon Rost**, **Patti Koonz**, **Julie Muse**, **James Marion**, and **Joshua Walker** were recognized for Five Years of Service. Also recognized were (not pictured) **Carolyn Case**, and **Tommy Hutchinson**, and **Kristy McClain**.

## Whittington named District Director of Career-Technical Education

### From Staff Reports/Photos



**Amy Whittington**

Director of Career-Technical Education (CTE) at the Ridgeland Campus Amy Whittington has been promoted to District Director of Career-Technical Education. In addition to her new role, she will continue her duties as director of CTE for the Ridgeland Campus specifically.

"Working at Holmes has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," Whittington said. "I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the Holmes family and continue to look for ways to better serve our students."

The CTE programs lead to an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree, Advanced Technical Certificate, Technical Certificate or a Ca-

reer Certificate. Some of the Career/Technical programs at Holmes also offer transferability to baccalaureate programs. Holmes currently offers 21 CTE programs across the district.

A 2000 Holmes alumna, Whittington was an Ambassador a Phi Theta Kappa officer. After she completed her associate's degree, she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Delta State University. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate, working on her dissertation to finish a degree in Community College Leadership from Mississippi State University. Additionally, Whittington is a 2015 graduate of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy.

Whittington became CTE director for Ridgeland in July of 2013. Prior to taking the position, she served as an instructor in the Holmes Business Office Technology and Business Administration departments. Preceding her days as a Holmes employee, she worked as an accountant for Delta State and as an accountant for Ivey Mechanical Company.

Whittington and her husband, Frank, have two children: their son, Ian, and daughter, Ava. They are active members of Broadmoor Baptist Church.

For more information on the CTE programs, contact Whittington at (662) 472-9121 or [awhittington@holmescc.edu](mailto:awhittington@holmescc.edu).

## From GED to full-time student

*New Holmes student shares story of personal triumph*

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured (left) is **Khidari Barksdale**, a student who went through the GED preparation courses at Holmes Community College, took and passed his GED, and is now a full-time freshman at Holmes. With Barksdale is (left to right) Holmes GED Test Administrator **Lina Lopez** and Holmes GED Instructor **Brooke Hood**.

Khidari Barksdale of Madison has come a long way from his days as a shy homeschooled student. When his parents told him they wanted him to either finish his high school diploma

or earn his General Educational Test (GED), the soft-spoken teenager decided the latter was the best choice for him. Since that day, Barksdale has gone through the GED readiness courses, passed all four tests, and enrolled as a freshman, all at Holmes Community College on the Ridgeland Campus.

"Mrs. Brooke Hood and Mrs. Lina Lopez from Holmes were so helpful through the whole process," Barksdale said. "From preparing me for the GED, to getting through each exam, to assisting me in becoming a first-time college student, they've been great. I am also so grateful for Dr. Lorrie Anderson and Will Goodwin, my private tutors who supported me

throughout the process."

Barksdale is quick to share, however, that though he had a strong support system, the journey was not always an easy one. He studied for the GED for a few years, and passed all exams except for Mathematics. Then, before he had an opportunity to take it again, the GED Test changed in 2014, causing the exam to be a bit more complicated. Changes included: the test becoming computer-based as opposed to the former paper-based testing, and the test adding several new item types (fill in the blank, drag-and-drop, multiple select, short answer, and extended item response, to name a few). The new item type required candidates to have a more in-depth understanding of the necessary skills, eliminating the use of many test-taking strategies that are taught to pass multiple choice exams.

Barksdale, who is starting his first year at Holmes as an English major, plans to eventually take some courses in art and business, earn a degree, and own his own art gallery and website to accompany it. A lover of the arts, he enjoys sculpting, pottery, and drawing. Barksdale has high hopes for the future, and continually expresses his

gratitude to those who have helped him reach his goals thus far.

When asked what advice he would pass on to others who are in similar situations as him, Barksdale said, "Don't doubt yourself and don't give up on your dreams, you can do anything you put your mind to as long as you work hard and believe in yourself!"

Holmes offers Adult Basic Education classes in several locations in its district, including the Attala Center in Kosciusko, the McGowan Workforce Center on the Ridgeland Campus, the Madison County WIN Center in Canton, UMC Hospital Mobile Unit in Lexington, the Wolfe Technology Building at Winona High School, and the Yazoo Teen Center in Yazoo City. High School Equivalency Exams, which include the GED Tests, are administered at both the Attala Center and the Holmes Ridgeland Campus.

For more information about the Holmes GED preparation courses/test administration, contact Adult Basic Education/GED Director Nancy McRight at (662) 290-0808 or [nmcright@holmescc.edu](mailto:nmcright@holmescc.edu).

## Two Holmes BOT instructors recognized at Mississippi Business Educators program

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are (left to right) **Katrina Myricks** and **NaTunya Johnson**.

Two Holmes Community College Business and Office Technology (BOT) instructors - NaTunya Johnson

and Katrina Myricks - received honors during the Mississippi Business Educators Association's (MBEA) Awards Recognition Program held at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus on Sept. 16.

Johnson was chosen as the 2016 Community/Junior College Business Educator of the Year and will serve as the editor of the MBEA Journal. Myricks was chosen as the 2016 Career and Technical Business Educator of the Year and will serve as the editor of the MBEA Newsletter.

Johnson, who was also recently named to the Mississippi Business Journal's (MBJ) 50 Leading Business Women in Mississippi Class of 2016, earned her bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing from Mississippi State University and her MBA from Delta State University. She was recently chosen to attend the prestigious Lamplighters Conference in October, which is sponsored annually by the Mississippi Community

College Academic Deans Association. The Lamplighters Conference honorees are selected based on their excellence in instruction and a commitment to learning and teaching.

As an Educational Specialist in curriculum and instruction, Johnson currently develops curricula for Holmes' Medical Office Technology, Medical Billing and Coding, and Workforce Training and Development programs. She also serves as an instructor for BOT courses on the Ridgeland Campus and as a sponsor for Phi Beta Lambda business society.

Myricks, also an advisor for Phi Beta Lambda business society, has taught at Holmes for 24 years, and in that time, has made quite an impact on her students and colleagues. In 2006, she was named Community College Business Educator of the Year by the Mississippi Business Education Association, and in 2014, the former Mrs. Mississippi USA was named one of the "Coolest People" by Mississippi Business Journal. Just last year, she

was also named Best Teacher in the 2015 Clarion Ledger Best of the Best contest.

Myricks attended the Goodman Campus of Holmes on a basketball scholarship before earning her bachelor's in business administration from Delta State University and her master's from Mississippi State University. She has also completed additional graduate studies at MSU and Jackson State University.

Founded in 1950, MBEA is a professional organization for business educators in Mississippi. The organization is associated with the Southern Business Education Association, the National Business Education Association, the Mississippi Association of Career and Technical Education, and the Association of Career and Technical Education.

For more information about the Holmes BOT programs, contact Johnson at [njohnson@holmescc.edu](mailto:njohnson@holmescc.edu) or (601) 605-3330.

## Good news for Conservation Law students, bad news for deer poachers

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



(left) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Officer Carpenter presented the antlers to **James Floyd** who is the advisor for Conservation Law students. Good News

When animals are harvested illegally their remains are held by Conservation Law Enforcement officers as evidence until the trial. If the hunter in question is proven guilty this evidence is either destroyed or utilized for educational purposes.

Fortunately for Holmes Community College the antlers from these illegally harvested bucks will be displayed and utilized by the Conservation Law program at Holmes Community College Grenada Center. U.S.

Fish & Wildlife Service Officer Carpenter presented the antlers to James Floyd who is the advisor for Conservation Law students. These procedures are great educational opportunities for students, and the antlers will be used to teach proper Boone and Crockett scoring.

## Holmes honors Graham, Johnson, and Jones as Lamplighters

From Staff Reports/Photos



**Gwen Graham**



**NaTunya Johnson**



**Heather Jones**

Three Holmes Community College instructors will be honored at the prestigious Lamplighters Conference Oct. 6-7 in Brookhaven. Gwen Graham, English instructor on the Grenada Campus; NaTunya Johnson, district department chair of the Business and Office Technology (BOT) Department and BOT instructor on the Ridgeland Campus, and Heather Jones, chemistry instructor and head cheerleading coach on the Goodman Campus will attend the three-day professional development conference hosted by Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

**Gwen Graham**

Graham, who has worked at the college for 20 years, was named Holmes Community College's Humanities Teacher of the Year in 2015. During her time at Holmes, she has worked as a librarian and as an English instructor, teaching English Composition II, World Literature, Creative Writing, and all other English courses. Graham holds a B.A. in English from Delta State University and a M.A. in English from Mississippi State University, where she served as a teaching assistant as a graduate student.

Prior to her employment at Holmes, Graham taught at Delta State, State Technical Institute at Memphis (now Southwest Tennessee Community

College), and also in the Dallas, Texas, community college system. She has always known that teaching, and specifically teaching English, is her calling in life. When Graham is not teaching, she enjoys bridge, participating in her two book clubs, and spending time with her family. She and her husband, Chip, have two children; Scott Graham and Whitney Woods, and one granddaughter, Mary Gwen Woods.

**NaTunya Johnson**

Johnson, who was recently named to the Mississippi Business Journal's (MBJ) 50 Leading Business Women in Mississippi Class of 2016, was also chosen as the 2016 Community/Junior College Business Educator of the Year.

Johnson received her bachelor of business administration and marketing from Mississippi State University and her MBA from Delta State University. As an Educational Specialist in curriculum and instruction, she currently develops curricula for Holmes' Medical Office Technology, Medical Billing and Coding, and Business Management Technology programs. Johnson also serves as the District Department Chair and Instructor for the Business Technology Department and as a co-sponsor for Phi Beta Lambda business society on the Ridgeland campus.

Prior to teaching on the collegiate

level, Johnson was a corporate trainer for 12 years at the State of Mississippi Employees' Health Plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi. She is a member of the Mississippi Business Educators Association, American Academy of Professional Coders, American Health Information Management Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc., Jack and Jill of America, Inc., and Anderson United Methodist Church. She resides in Ridgeland with her husband, Michael, and their daughter, Nadya.

**Heather Jones**

Jones, who has taught at Holmes for eight years and served as head cheerleading coach for six, is actively involved on campus. She is Departmental Physical Science Correspondent, Chemistry Articulation Representative, one of the Departmental SI Chairs, a member of the Homecoming Committee, a HolmesPlus advisor, and a faculty tutor for MOSAIC.

Jones has served as a judge for both district and state science fairs, attended numerous chemistry/science-related seminars and conferences and served on multiple interview committees for a variety of campus organizations.

As Holmes' cheerleading coach, Jones has led the squad as they competed at UCA College Nationals for the

past three years. She has also served as a presenter for a coaches' conference, a judge for tryouts and competitions, and served as a motivational speaker for high school cheer camps. Each year, Jones organizes and conducts two mini-cheer camps for elementary children in Holmes' district area.

Additionally, she leads the Holmes cheerleading squad in volunteering with a number of community service ventures, including but not limited to: visiting children at Blair E. Batson children's hospital, assisting with the Mississippi Blues Marathon Children's Run, reading to elementary students at schools in the district, implementing the Womanless Beauty Pageant to raise money for cancer research, and more.

A Holmes alumna, Jones was a Bulldog cheerleader, a Hall of Fame inductee, as well as active in multiple other campus organizations. Upon graduation, she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from Delta State University.

Jones and her husband, Matt, reside in Benton with their two children: Pierce, 6, and Jon Wiley, 4. They are active members of Parkview Church of God, where she is on the Children's Council, a member of the choir, and serves as drama coordinator. Jones is a member of the Junior Auxiliary of Yazoo City.

Sponsored annually by the Mississippi Community College Academic Deans Association, the Lamplighters Conference gives instructors the opportunity to enjoy networking and fellowship with other instructors from around the state. The honorees were selected based on their excellence in instruction and a commitment to learning and teaching.

For more information about Holmes, visit [www.holmescc.edu](http://www.holmescc.edu).

## Pleas named Humanities Teacher of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



**Arnetra Pleas**

Arnetra O. Pleas, an English instructor on the Ridgeland Campus, has been named Holmes Community College's 2016 Humanities Teacher of the Year.

As part of her award, Pleas has developed and will deliver her scholarly presentation titled, "Subtle Protests in the Works of Jupiter Hammon, Phyllis Wheatley, and Frances Harper" Nov. 9 in the Multimedia Room 130 of the D.P. "Pat" McGowan Workforce Train-

ing Center on the Ridgeland Campus. The lecture is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

The Humanities Teacher Awards recognize the contributions of humanities faculty at each of the state's colleges and universities. Nominations are made by the college or university president or humanities dean.

A member of the Holmes family since 2009, Pleas serves as an academic advisor, co-facilitator of the iCreate Creative Arts Club, and teaches Composition I/II (Hybrid and Traditional), World Literature, African-American Literature, and Intermediate English and Reading in innovative ways that brings the subject matter alive. For the 2014-15 academic year, she also served as evening coordinator, which entailed her providing leadership and supervision of evening adjunct faculty.

Pleas holds a B.A. in English from Tougaloo College and a M.A. in Teaching/English from Jackson State University. She was also a part of the Advanced Placement Institute at the University of Louisiana Monroe and her certifications include: Mississippi Endorsements: English 7-12/AP En-

glish Literature and certification as a State of Mississippi Teacher Mentor.

Prior to her employment at Holmes, Pleas worked at the University of Mississippi Medical Center as an instructor from 2005-2012. Her role was to teach MEDCorp Verbal Reasoning/Reading Comprehension and STEP (Science Training Enrichment Program)/Reading Comprehension. Pleas also formerly served as English instructor/department chairperson at Velma Jackson High School and also at Piney Woods School. Prior to these positions, she was an elementary school teacher at Brentwood Behavioral Healthcare.

Pleas has earned a number of awards and recognitions for her dedication to the teaching profession. Some of those include: William Winter Scholar for the Humanities, Med Corp Teacher Appreciation Award, Velma Jackson High School Teacher of the Year, Mississippi Economic Council STAR Teacher, Who's Who Among America's Teachers, Disney Creative Teacher Nominee, and Piney Woods School Teacher of the Month.

A lifelong learner, Pleas participated

in the four-week fellowship, "African-American Struggles for Freedom and Civil Rights," which was part of the NEH Institute at Harvard University.

Pleas will be recognized by the Mississippi Humanities Council at the 2017 Public Humanities Awards Reception in February at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson.



## Holmes ranks No. 2 among online colleges in the state

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College was recently ranked as the No. 2 college in the state of Mississippi by OnlineColleges.com. The rankings are based on a

variety of factors, including affordability, student services and the availability of online programs.

“I am so proud that Holmes is being recognized for our outstanding online offerings,” said Director of eLearning Tish Stewart. “These awards continue to show Holmes’ commitment to providing quality, affordable education in a variety of formats.”

OnlineColleges.com is a leading resource for interested persons who seek reliable information about online colleges and degree programs. The website helps users find the right online college and program based on subject, location and degree level. According to OnlineColleges.com

Content Coordinator Kelly Rivett, the company researched 2,868 different accredited institutions and Holmes came in second place not only among two-year colleges, but among Mississippi universities, as well.

Holmes Community College is part of the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC), and offers classes utilizing Canvas by Instucture. Courses are offered both by Holmes instructors and through other instructors in the MSVCC. A number of scheduling options are offered, including regular semester courses, four-week courses, and eight-week courses, and the eLearning Department will help customize schedules for interested students.

Holmes is a multi-campus institution that offers the Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Applied Science degree, technical and career certificates, and workforce training. The college now offers more than 50 academic majors, approximately 30 professional programs, over 50 extracurricular activities, 10 athletic sports, and a variety of student support services. The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

For more information on Holmes Community College, visit [www.holmescc.edu](http://www.holmescc.edu).

## Ridgeland student selected to visit NASA this October

From Staff/Reports/Photos



Robert Reeves

Robert Reeves of Holmes Community College has been selected to travel to NASA’s Stennis Space Center this fall to participate in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars project (NCAS). Reeves is in the Industrial Engineering Management Technology program on the Ridgeland

Campus.

“Ever since I was a child, I wanted to be an astronaut, like every other kid,” Reeves said. “The difference is, I’m actually getting the opportunity to pursue that career. One of my instructors, Lynn Boykin, knew about my interests in aerospace engineering and informed me about the NASA program last spring. It has been a wonderful experience so far, and I am so grateful to her for that.”

The five-week scholars program culminates with a four-day on-site event at Stennis Space Center and offers students the opportunity to interact with NASA engineers and others as they learn more about careers in science and engineering. While at NASA, students form teams and establish fictional companies interested in Mars

exploration. Each team is responsible for developing and testing a prototype rover, forming a company infrastructure, managing a budget, and developing communications and outreach.

The on-site experience at NASA includes a tour of facilities and briefings by NASA subject matter experts. NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars is a project funded in part by the Minority University Research and Education Program, or MUREP, which is committed to the recruitment of underrepresented and underserved students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to sustain a diverse workforce.

With this project, NASA continues the agency’s tradition of investing in the nation’s educational programs. It is directly tied to the agency’s major education goal of attracting and retaining students in STEM disciplines critical to NASA’s future missions, which include missions to Mars and beyond.

“NCAS not only inspires community college students to advance in STEM fields, but it also opens doors for future careers at NASA,” said Tania B. Davis, Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP) Manager. “NCAS has a legacy of alumni moving from NASA internships to and ultimately entering the NASA workforce. It is rewarding to see the progression of a student from NCAS participant to NASA colleague.”

For additional information, please contact National Community College Aerospace Scholars by email at [JSC-NCAS@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:JSC-NCAS@mail.nasa.gov) or by phone at 281-483-0493. For more information, visit: <http://ncas.aerospacescholars.org/>. For more on MUREP visit: [www.nasa.gov/education/murep](http://www.nasa.gov/education/murep).

## Afterglow Festival is Brighter Than Ever

By Taylor Vance  
Growl Editor



On Oct. 8, Grenada will continue one of its newer, but highly successful festivals that attracts hundreds of people from all over the country. This year, the number of innovative workshops and community partnerships with the festival have increased significantly. Afterglow has become a day for families to come to Downtown Grenada

to celebrate the arts; but in particular, to celebrate films. A film festival is a competition where people from all over the world submit independent films for a chance to be screened in front of the audience at the festival. The different films are sorted into categories, and the categories each have a winner.

But this festival is unlike any other film festival. This festival is more like an art’s festival. It includes musical performances, art vendors, food vendors, workshops, demos, panel discussions, cosplay, writing vendors, and featured guests. The event is planned and scheduled way in advance by the director’s, who are two college-aged students who embraced the modern creative movement that is permeating throughout the South.

The idea for bringing this film festival to Grenada belong to two highly

innovative sisters who were only 17 and 14 when the first film festival launched. Katrina and Isabella Kinder grew up attending film festivals and creating films their whole life. It had always been their dream to direct and oversee a film festival of their own in their hometown of Grenada.

This year, the festival will have the following workshops: Drone Demo, Claymation, Basics of Video Game Development, Tech Based Entrepreneurship, Mobile App Development, Cosplay, and a Makeup workshop. In addition, the festival will also include a full lineup of musical performers from around the state.

“I feel we’ve grown a lot this year in terms of community involvement and forming partnerships with other organizations around the region. This year we really focused on adding workshops that would allow attendees to begin to learn new skills, like Video Game development and Tech Based Entrepreneurship with Innovate Mississippi. That is also reflected through our special guests Blue Magnolia

Films-Stories of Small Town Entrepreneurial Success. Those films will be followed by a panel discussion that will include members of the Grenada Downtown Innovation District, Grenada County Economic Development District, and Mississippi Heritage Trust. We hope to inspire others to go for their dreams and spark new connections and opportunities in the creative economy.”

With highly-rated success of this event, one can hope that Holmes Community College forms a partnership with Grenada Afterglow in the future to become even more innovative in the way the state is education students and engaging in the creative economy, just like most community college do with film festivals in their regions.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the film festival and be “enlightened,” by what you see, who you meet, and what you learn.”

## Holmes holds Bulldog County Fair Back to School Bash

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College held its Opening Convocation in the Goodman Campus coliseum on Monday, Aug. 8. The theme was Bulldog County Fair, and employees from every district participated in the fun, games, fellowship and dressing up for the occasion.



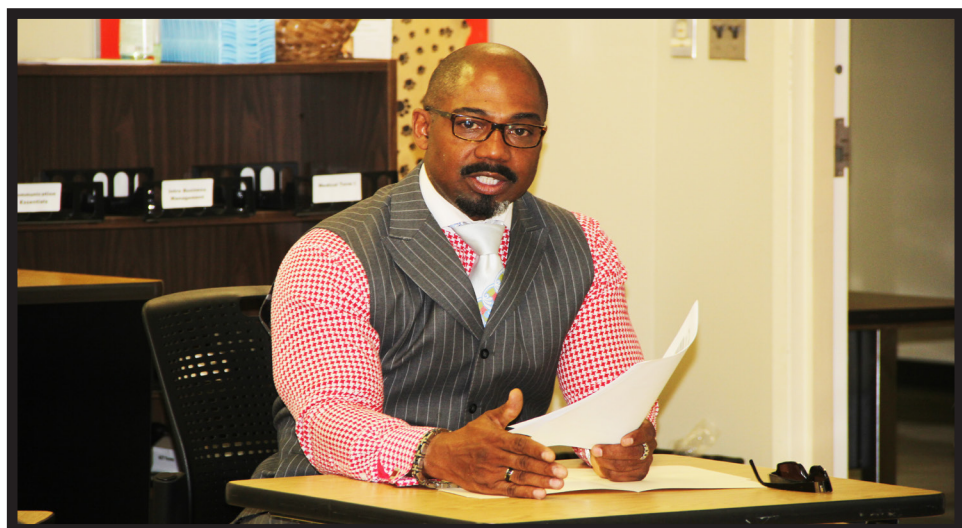
*From Staff Reports/Photos*

Holmes Community College's faculty and staff, along with their families, enjoyed the Heart-beat of Holmes tailgating event on Thursday, Sept. 15, prior to watching the Bulldogs beat the Mississippi Delta Community College Trojans 41-0. The event was hosted by the Holmes Alumni Office.



## Myricks speaks to Entrepreneur class

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Ken Myricks, owner of Affordable Insurance Solutions in Jackson, spoke to Katrina Myricks' Entrepreneur class on the Ridgeland Campus on Aug. 31. Mr. Myricks was the first speaker for the new program, WOW Wednesdays.

WOW Wednesdays will entail entrepreneurs from the Metro Jackson area coming to speak to the class once or twice a month on a Wednesday, sharing their journeys/stories about how they got to where they are today.

This program will give the students an opportunity to hear a variety of speakers discuss concepts and ideas they are learning in class.

## Student Spotlight

### SaFaye Stone



**Hometown:** Winona, MS  
**Holmes Campus:** Goodman  
**Major:** General Studiess  
**Post Holmes plans:** To attend Mississippi State University and possibly major in Business and Accounting.  
**Hobbies:** Hunting, fishing, and dirt track racing.  
**Special talent/skills:** I love to sing and I am a member of the choir. I also highly enjoy working on cars.

## Holmes Community College GOLD Program

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## College Football Week 1 in the Books

By Rawley Cadenhead  
Growl Reporter

In a landscape dominated by college football, especially here in the Southeast, the season has finally arrived. As the leaves start to change, and the nights get a little bit cooler, it's time to reflect on what we saw from our three major teams here in Mississippi, as well as two other big games around the nation.

### Mississippi State vs South Alabama (21-20 USA)

The Bulldogs struggled in their first game without their premier QB Dak Prescott, who was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys last season. The Bulldogs opened up the game very slowly with two poor drives from Nick Fitzgerald, who would later be replaced by Darnion Williams. With Williams in the game, the Bulldogs were able to take a 17-0 lead into halftime. Then everything changed.

After the half, the Bulldogs came back out uninspired, and looked incredibly slow on defense. On top of that, the Bulldogs were only able to score a single field goal in the second half of the game. What was South Alabama doing in the second half? South Al torched the MSU secondary with long strikes down the field, and in a second half comeback won the game 21-20. MSU kicker Westin Graves had a chance to win the game on a field goal late in the 4th quarter, but missed wide left. Hopefully Dan Mullen can

rally the troops, and come back strong against South Carolina in week two.

### Southern Mississippi vs Kentucky (44-35 SMU)

It had been 16 years since Southern Miss had won a game against an SEC opponent, but that streak thankfully came to an end here in week one. It was a tale of two halves for the Golden Eagles getting down quickly 35-17 in the first half, but in a surprising turn of events (for everyone who wasn't wearing a white jersey), the Eagles came roaring back in the second half.

Primarily lead by a lockdown defense and a star QB in Nick Mullens, the Eagles scored 27 unanswered points and held the Wildcats to win in dramatic fashion 44-35. As noted earlier, this was the Eagles first win in 16 years against a SEC opponent, but keep your eyes peeled for Southern when they play LSU in week 7.

### Ole Miss (11) vs Florida State (4) (45-34 FSU)

In one of the most entertaining games of the weekend, Head Coach Hugh Freeze put aside all of the offseason distractions and had one goal in mind: beat Florida State. That sadly would not come to fruition. The Rebels opened up the game extremely well, thinking that they would take a 28-6 lead into halftime. Florida State thought otherwise as freshman QB Deondre Francois threw for a 16 yard TD

with only 28 seconds left in the half, cutting the lead to 28-13 for halftime.

Head Coach Jimbo Fisher for FSU must have given an inspiring speech in halftime, because as soon as the 3rd quarter kicked off it was all Florida State. With a field goal in their first possession, and a string of two turnovers for Ole Miss, Florida State was able to rally a 23 point 3rd quarter to take the lead. Ole Miss tried desperately to mount a comeback in the 4th rushing for another TD, but Florida State proved too much.

The major difference in this game? Kicking. Ricky Aguayo kicked a school record 6 field goals for 18 points, as well as 3 extra points for a total of 21 points. More points scored than seven of the SEC schools scored in week one.

### Alabama (1) vs Southern California (20) (52-6 Bama)

There were questions coming into the season about both of these teams, Bama starting a new QB, as well as having a new first year defensive coordinator, and USC with a brand new coaching staff as well as a new QB.

The first quarter was extremely tight with USC leading 3-0 after 15 minutes, but from the second quarter on it was all Alabama. Jalen Hurts, ends his first college game being pulled out early with 118 yards, 2 TDs, and 1 INT. The Crimson Tide would go on to score 52 points, and only give up one more field goal in a dominating

effort by Nick Saban.

As predicted the Tide keeps on rolling and USC is still the most overrated team in all of college football.

### Texas vs Notre Dame (10)(50-47 UT)

This was my favorite game of week 1, two traditional power houses with rich histories of winning and championships, and two teams who over the past three years have drastically underperformed, and Texas for even longer than just three.

Charlie Strong, head coach of Texas came into this game knowing he would be using two QBs, the first a true freshman in Shane Buechele, and the under producing senior Tyrone Swoops. He managed a nearly perfect game giving playing time to both QBs. Buechele would throw the deep ball, and Swoops would run it down the defense's throat.

This game was wildly entertaining with five lead changes throughout the course of the game, as well as an overtime thriller. Both teams scored a touchdown during the first overtime period, but in the second, Texas defense was able to stop the Irish offense and force a field goal. This left the door open for Tyrone Swoops to "swoop" in and win the game for Texas.

Texas went from unranked in the AP polls to now #11, watch out for the Horns this year, if they keep playing with the same passion and determination that they played in week 1, they'll be hard to beat.

## Bulldogs blow past the Tigers; move to 4-0 overall and 2-0 in the North

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Bulldogs proved to be too much for the Coahoma Community College Tigers at home on Thursday, Sept. 22, as the Bulldogs won 34-12 and improved to 4-0 overall and 2-0 in the North Division.

The Bulldogs travel to Northwest Mississippi Community College on Thursday, Sept. 29, in a huge North Division contest. Thursday's game versus the No. 2 Rangers can be heard on the Bulldog Football Network at 101.1 FM and 103.9 FM or at breezynews.com or wyab.com. Northwest will also live stream the game at <http://www.nwccrangers.com/watch/?Live=59>.

The Tigers got on the scoreboard early in the first quarter on a three-yard touchdown. The extra point was no good, and Tigers led 6-0.

The Bulldogs answered the Tigers' score and never trailed again as sophomore running back Matt Fuller raced in from 16 yards out with 9:40 left in the first quarter. Freshman kicker Caleb Shelly's extra point was good, and the Bulldogs went up 7-6.

Holmes scored twice in the second quarter. The first touchdown came with 9:40 left in the quarter when sophomore running back Antavious Moody scored from 13 yards out. Shelly's extra point was good, and Holmes led 14-6. The Bulldogs scored again with 6:04 left in the first half when sophomore running back Treviante McDaniel

scored from five yards out. Shelly's extra point was no good, and Holmes led 20-6.

The Tigers scored their final points of the game with 1:32 left in the second quarter on a 19-yard touchdown pass. The two-point pass failed and Holmes led 20-12 at halftime.

Sophomore quarterback Dejerick Bryant scored twice in the third quarter to finish the Bulldogs' scoring. He scored with 12:01 left in the third quarter from three yards out and scored again with 8:25 to play in the quarter from two yards out. Shelly's extra points were good, and Holmes led 34-12.

The Bulldogs finished with 459 total yards and had 333 yards on the ground. Fuller led with 84 yards on 10 carries while freshman Cameryn Brent had 59 yards on 13 carries, sophomore Tevin Wooten had 56 yards on five carries and McDaniel had 44 yards on eight carries.

Freshmen Vada King and Quindarius Whitley each had nine tackles in the game. King had two sacks and three TFLs. Sophomore Buddy Benson finished with eight tackles, sophomore Darron Temple had seven, freshman Desmond Lester had six and freshman Tyshon Spencer had five. Lester and Spencer each had one sack and 1.5 TFLs.



Pictured is sophomore running back Matt Fuller of Starkville.

### Bulldog Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result	Time
Sept. 1	@East Central	W, 48-40	Final
Sept. 8	<u>Southwest</u>	W, 34-20	Final
Sept. 15	<u>Miss. Delta*</u>	W, 41-0	Final
Sept. 22	@Coahoma *	W, 34-12	Final
Sept. 29	@Northwest *		6:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	<u>East Miss. *</u>		6:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	<u>Co-Lin*</u>		6:30 p.m.
Oct. 20	@Northeast *		6:30 p.m.
Oct. 29	<u>Itawamba *</u>		3 p.m.

Home games underlined

\* Conference Games & Oct. 29 is Homecoming

## Cheerleaders spread cheer-even off the field

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Cheerleaders spent time before last Thursday's game at East Central visiting patients at Blair E Batson Hospital for Children.

## Basketball broadcast schedule set for 2016-17

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College and Boswell Media Sports will once again team up during the basketball season with selected games beginning in November and running through February.

The schedule will consist of 10 nights and 18 games. The games can

be heard live on 101.1 FM or at breezynews.com. Josh Guest and Will Purcell will split play-by-play duties on these broadcasts. All home games and selected road games will also be streamed live at holmescc-media.com.

The games include: Nov. 7, Jones, 6 p.m.; Nov. 10, Mid-South (women), 6 p.m.; Nov. 19, at Southern-Shreveport, 2 p.m.; Dec. 5, Itawamba, 6 p.m.; Dec. 13, at Southwest Tenn. (men), 5 p.m.; Jan. 5, at Hinds, 6 p.m.; Jan. 17, at Northwest, 5 p.m.; Jan. 30, East Mississippi, 5:30 p.m.; Feb. 6, Mississippi Delta, 6 p.m.; Feb. 20, Coahoma, 6 p.m.

## Bryant receives MORA's first-ever "Hero on the Field" Award

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Coach Jeff Koonz and Dejerrie Bryant.

The Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (MORA) and JucoWeekly are teaming up to provide a "Hero on the Field" from football programs in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges. The "Hero on the Field" Award works hand-in-hand with MORA's It's Super Easy campaign on becoming an organ donor.

Holmes Community College's Dejerrie Bryant of Mize, who has just been named the MACJC Offensive Player of the Week for Week One, is the first recipient of the "Hero on the Field" Award.

The Bulldogs defeated East Central, 48-40, and Bryant, a sophomore

quarterback, played a huge role in the victory in Decatur. Bryant was 9-of-10 passing for 296 yards and three touchdowns and also ran the ball seven times for 76 yards and one touchdown from 65 yards. For Bryant's play, he is now being considered for the NJCAA National Offensive Player of the Week Award.

Did you know It's Super Easy to register as an organ donor? It takes less than two minutes to be someone's hero. That is the driving force behind the new website and advertising campaign that was released by the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency in early May.

## Bulldog Soccer Schedule/Results

### Women's Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result	Time
Aug. 27	<u>Co-Lin</u>	W, 5-0	Final
Aug. 30	<u>Southwes</u>	W, 1-0	Final
Sept. 6	<u>Hinds</u>	W, 4-0	Final
Sept. 9	@Northwest *	W, 3-2	Final
Sept. 14	@East Central *	L, 4-0	Final
Sept. 16	<u>Itawamba</u> *	W, 3-1	Final
Sept. 20	@Co-Li	L, 6-0	Final
Sept. 23	<u>Meridian</u>	W, 4-1	Final
Sept. 27	<u>MGCCC</u> *	W, 3-0	Final
Sept. 30	@Southwest*		Final
Oct. 8	@Hinds *		2 p.m.
Oct. 11	<u>Northwest</u> *		5 p.m.
Oct. 14	<u>East Central</u> *		1 p.m.
Oct. 18	@Itawamba*		1 p.m.

Home games underlined  
\*Conference Games

### Men's Soccer Schedule

Date	Opponent	Result	Time
Aug. 25	@Meridian	L, 4-2	Final
Aug. 27	<u>Co-Lin</u>	L, 4-3	Final
Aug. 30	<u>Southwest</u>	L, 3-1	Final
Sept. 6	<u>Hinds</u>	L, 1-0	Final
Sept. 9	@Northwest *	L, 4-3	Final
Sept. 14	@East Central *	L, 3-2	Final
Sept. 16	<u>Itawamba</u> *	L, 3-2	Final
Sept. 20	@Co-Lin	W, 3-2	Final
Sept. 23	<u>Meridian</u>	L, 4-2	Final
Sept. 30	@Southwest		4 p.m.
Oct. 2	<u>Oxford College</u>		1 p.m.
Oct. 8	@Hinds *		7 p.m.
Oct. 11	<u>Northwest</u> *		3 p.m.
Oct. 14	<u>East Central</u> *		3 p.m.
Oct. 18	@Itawamba *		3 p.m.

Home games underlined  
\*Conference Games



# The Growl Staff



**Ethan Burton**  
 Hometown: Goodman  
 Major: Liberal Arts/Journalism  
 Campus: Goodman  
 Future Plans: My current plans are to attend Ole Miss after graduating from Holmes to earn a degree in Journalism with an emphasis in Digital Media Art.  
 About me: I am a member of the Growl, serve as a Work Study for Holmes Goodman Library, and am involved with Main Street Baptist Youth Group. I am passionate about drawing using pencil as well as pen and ink media.



**Rawley Cadenhead**  
 Hometown: Spring Texas/Brandon  
 Major: Broadcast Journalism  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Future plans: I plan to go to Mississippi State and work for Bulldog Sports Radio.  
 About me: I'm an intern at 105.9 ESPN.



**Leisa Campbell**  
 Hometown: Ridgeland/ Haverhill, MA  
 Major: Liberal Arts  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Future Plans: All up in the air.



**John "Eli" Haik**  
 Hometown: Ridgeland  
 Major: Liberal Arts  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Future Plans: After Holmes I plan on going to Southern Miss to get my degree in psychology.  
 About Me: Outside of school, I have a part-time job at Mazzios. I love to play music, and can play bass.



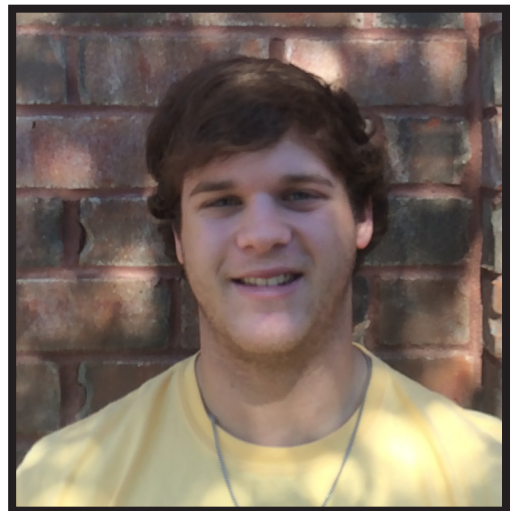
**Morgan Hannah**  
 Hometown: Clinton  
 Major: General Studies  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Future plans: I plan to attend a drama school where I can grow and gain much experience about/within the industry.  
 About me: I am part of the Social Science Club, Yearbook Staff, Newspaper Staff and New Stage Theatre.



**Mia Jones**  
 Hometown: Jackson  
 Major: Communications  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Future plans: After receiving my Associates Degree from Holmes Community College, I would like to transfer to the University of Southern at Baton Rouge, where I will continue to pursue my major in Communications in hopes of one day becoming bigger than Oprah. (Ya'll know she's getting old, she's going to have to retire sooner or later.)  
 About me: I have tendencies to look unfriendly and reserved when, in all actuality, I am the complete opposite.



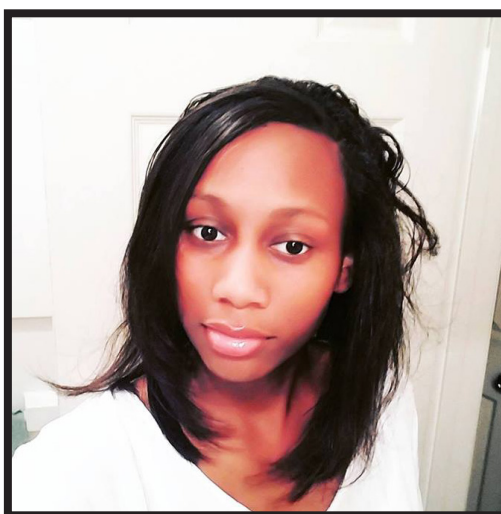
**Charleigh Mcphail**  
 Hometown: Purvis  
 Major: Criminal Justice  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Future plans: I plan to transfer to Mississippi State to finish my degree in Criminal Justice and eventually become an Investigator.  
 About me: Outside of The Growl, I am a member of the choir and love Netflix.



**Bobby Neal**  
 Hometown: Canton  
 Major: Constructional Engineering  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Future plans: I plan to go to Mississippi State and hopefully fulfill my career and make some good money.  
 About me: I went to St. Andrew's and played baseball. My dream was to play in college, but I did not get the college I wanted to go to play for so now I am at Holmes working on my degree and studies. I love MSU and I'm a baseball freak. I like to talk about trucks with my friends and hangout on the weekends at the football games.



**Austin Parker**  
 Hometown: Brandon  
 Major: History  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Future plans: Undecided.



**Taylor Vaden**  
 Hometown: Grenada  
 Major: Journalism  
 Campus: Goodman  
 Future plans: To attend a school out of state.  
 About Me: I'm in the band.



**Taylor Vance**  
 Hometown: Grenada  
 Major: English  
 Campus: Grenada  
 Future plans: I plan to attend Ole Miss and major in Journalism.  
 About me: I enjoy reading, hunting, and following politics. I also make it a point to wear crazy socks almost every day.  
 "There's only one requirement of any of us, and that is to be courageous. Because courage, as you might know, defines all other human behavior." -David Letterman