



THE GROWL

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

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Commencement set for May 12

From Staff Reports/Photos



Scotty Jobe

The 89th commencement exercises are set for Friday, May 12 in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus. The AAS/Certificate Ceremony is set for 10 a.m. with the AA Ceremony being set for 2 p.m. This year,



Taylor Vance

students will serve as keynote speakers for both ceremonies. Scotty J. Jobe, Jr. of Farmhaven will serve as speaker for the AAS/Certificate Ceremony and Taylor Vance of Grenada for the AA Ceremony.

Jobe, son of Scotty and Glenda Jobe, is a Construction Technology major on the Ridgeland Campus. He is a President's List scholar, a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and has already earned the Construction Technology Technical Certificate at Holmes. In addition to excelling academically, Jobe also proudly serves his country as a member of the Mississippi Air National Guard at Allen C. Thompson Field ANGB, where he has worked as an Electrical and Environmental Journeyman. His military certifications include the Electrical and Environmental Apprentice Certification and an Aviation Maintenance Technology Certification. Upon graduation, he will transition to the Active Duty Air Force where he will serve as a U.S. Airmen while he continues his college education. Jobe aspires to eventually become

an Officer in the U.S. Air Force.

Vance, son of Jeff and Leigh Vance, is an English major on the Grenada Campus, where he serves as president of the Student Government Association, president of the Alpha Mu Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, editor of the Growl student newspaper, a Writing Center tutor, a Holmes Ambassador, and a member on the Baptist Student Union Leadership Team. He was named the William Winter Student Scholar his freshman year and received the Honors Award on behalf of the English Department both his freshman and sophomore years. Vance was voted Mr. Holmes Community College by his peers and inducted into the Hall of Fame by Holmes faculty and staff. In addition to his extracur-

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Holmes makes a Major announcement

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College made a big announcement this spring: the school has welcomed a new mascot. Holmes adopted Major, a three-month old English Bulldog, on March 11, and he has made his debut on every campus.

Born Dec. 30, he made his first appearance on the Grenada Campus during Freshman Friday on April 7. Following his initial debut, he made his way through the district, bringing delight to faculty, staff and students everywhere he went.

Major's next stops was at Freshman Friday in Ridgeland on April 21, then Sports Hall of Fame in Goodman on April 27 and at Freshman Friday in Goodman on April 28.

This fall, he will be actively involved in all Holmes' special occasions. From sports home games to alumni gatherings, from Homecoming to student events, Major will be there for photo opportunities and to add fun to every occasion.



Growl staff garners awards at McDavid Journalism Conference

From Staff Reports/Photos

Six Holmes students represented Holmes Community College at the 2017 O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference held in conjunction with Jackson State University's School of Journalism and Media Studies on March 30 at JSU's Mississippi e-Center. Two members of the Growl student newspaper - Mia Jones from the Ridgeland Campus and Ethan Burton from Goodman placed in the McDavid Conference Better Newspaper Contest Student Division. Jones won second place in the Editorial Division and Burton placed third in Editorial Cartoons.

Other Holmes representatives at the conference included: Taylor Vance, Growl editor from the Grenada Cam-

pus; Nykeem Liddell from Goodman; Charleigh Mcphail from Goodman; Abby Perez from Goodman; District Director of Communications/Associate Athletic Director for External Relations Steve Diffey, and Public Relations Specialist/Student Publications Coordinator Mary Margaret Busby.

Pictured are (left to right) **Mia Jones**, Ridgeland Campus, second place winner in Editorials Category; **Charleigh Mcphail**, Goodman Campus; **Taylor Vance**, Grenada Campus, Growl editor; **Abby Perez**, Goodman Campus; **Nykeem Liddell**, Goodman Campus, and **Ethan Burton**, Goodman Campus, third place winner in the Editorial Cartoons Category.



WHAT'S INSIDE...

- STUDENT EDITORIALS
- A LOOK AT HAPPENINGS DISTRICT-WIDE
- THOUGHT-PROVOKING EDITORIALS
- SPORTS HALL OF FAME
- SPRING FLING PHOTOS AND MORE!



**CHECK OUT
PAGE 8 FOR
PHOTOS OF
HALL OF FAME**

Editor's Closing

By Taylor Vance
Growl Editor



This is a bittersweet, but exciting time for me because this will be my final article to write for The Growl and as your editor. It has been a true pleasure to serve you, the student body, by attempting to cover the latest events and share in the successes of each of you over the past two years during my tenure on the staff. I have loved traveling to different events and getting to know students across the different campuses; thanks for letting me share in a small part of your stories. I relish each word that has ever been typed because that is one more word shed about the wonderful college we attend. I will be graduating in May and attending the University of Mississippi in the Fall Semester, where I plan to continue my writing and studies

as a Journalism major. Thank you to everyone for allowing me to discover my passion for writing and for journalism through this outlet. Even though I will be leaving, I know another very capable person will become the new Editor and continue the work to make this paper the best student publication throughout the community college system.

Thank you to Mary Margaret Busby, our sponsor and teacher, for always spending countless hours polishing our articles and answering the myriad of questions we always have. Thank you to my fellow staff members for always pushing me to become a better writer and leader and sharing this responsibility with me. And to the student body, thank you again for continuing

to support me, follow me, and allow me to interview you for my articles. Serving as your Editor has been one of the highest honors and privileges of my college career. Good luck to my fellow graduates as we embark on other endeavors together to new colleges and new careers.

My final charge to you is this: Through whatever medium you choose, always continue to become part of the informed electorate and ensure transparency is always enforced to every leader and organization. Remember to always support journalistic efforts wherever you go. Thank you!

Origins of Earth Day

By Morgan Hannah
Growl Reporter



Earth Day is a very popular day among citizens of the U.S. in the month of April. This day came about because of the environmental movement in 1970. Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 each year. A U.S. senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin, who later became the Earth Day founder, had an idea that the

world should have one day where they focused on the environment.

On April 22, 1970, 20 million people were in the streets, parks, and auditoriums rallying for a healthy sustainable environment. Earth Day gained support from both Democrats and Republicans. The first Earth Day led to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. By the year 1990, Earth Day went viral and was lifting environmental issues on a world stage mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries. This day gave a huge boost to the recycling movement and the passage to the Clean Air, Clean Water,

and Endangered Species Acts. The Earth Day Network brought 250,000 people to the National Mall for a Climate Rally, launched the world's largest environmental service project A Billion Acts of Green, introduced a global tree-planting initiative that has since grown into The Canopy Project, and engaged 22,000 partners in 192 countries in observing Earth Day. Earth Day in its current status is the largest secular observance in the world, which is celebrated by more than a billion people every year, and this particular day changes human behavior and provokes policy changes.



To learn more about Earth Day, visit <http://www.earthday.org/earthday/>.

The Iconic Yellow Dress

By Abby Perez
Growl Reporter



When animated movies are brought to real life, it becomes a whole different experience for the watchers, so when the big announcement that "Beauty and the Beast" was going to be made into live-action movie, every lady that has grown out of her princess dress was taken back to her younger days.

People who grew up watching "Beauty and the Beast" know the big iconic scene in the movie; when Belle walks down the stairs into the ballroom in her stunning yellow dress as she meets up with her Beast to dance. And all of those people who went to

watch the real live-action movie can probably agree that the dress was to die for, and definitely met its expectations!

Costume designer Jacqueline Durran deserves a standing ovation because she did a fantastic job with all the costumes, specifically the yellow iconic dress that Belle wears as she dances in the ballroom with her Beast. Emma Watson, who played the role of Belle, said "I could think of a few dresses that are as iconic as that yellow dress."

This dress took a long design process from deciding what would be the perfect yellow, to how the dress was going to be put perfectly together in order for it to flow beautifully. Watson and Durran decided that they wanted the dress to "dance beautifully." Watson also said, "We wanted the dress to feel like it could float, and it does, it just is perfect for that moment."

The ball gown was tested with differ-

ent shades of yellow on camera before Durran chose the final color for Belle's gown. The dress took 180 feet of satin organza, 3,000 feet of thread, over 2,000 Swarovski crystals, and more than 12,000 hours to make.

The perfect finishing touches were made by adding gold leaf filigree on the top two layers of the gown in a design which matched the ballroom floor where Belle danced the night away with her Beast.

"We tested a lot of yellows," Durran said. "It was just trying to work out the tone. It's less transparent than the other organza. There is a cage under some parts of the skirt. But mainly it's layers of organza that just give it a lift, for it to have lightness."

If you haven't already seen the "Beauty and the Beast" film, it is suggested that you do so. Trust and believe that you will not be disappointed.



This film was extremely thought out, and very well done, from the singing to the costume designs. Looking at that yellow dress will surely bring back those good memories of you running around in your princess dress that you never wanted to take off.

Graduation Rates

By Morgan Hannah
Growl Reporter



Many students worry about graduation and whether or not they will accomplish that milestone. Some people drop out of school before even considering graduation. In both college and

high school, graduation rates differ depending on location and race. In certain areas, drop out rates are very high, while other areas, that is not the case. According to statistics, race plays a role in the decision of dropping out.

According to the federal data, between 1995 and 2015, the percentage of white 25-29-year-olds attaining bachelor's degrees has risen from 29 to 43 percent, a gain of 14 percentage points. Among blacks, the percent-

age with bachelor's degrees has gone up by only six points, from 15 to 21 percent, and for Hispanics, it has risen dramatically since 2003: a 51 percent increase in associate's degrees (from 665,300 to over 1 million) and a 34 percent increase in bachelor's degrees (from 1.4 million to 1.9 million). All in all, the cause of low graduation rates are unknown but many factors contribute to the low rates.

for 32 percent of men. The number of students receiving either an associate's degree or a bachelor's has risen dramatically since 2003: a 51 percent increase in associate's degrees (from 665,300 to over 1 million) and a 34 percent increase in bachelor's degrees (from 1.4 million to 1.9 million). All in all, the cause of low graduation rates are unknown but many factors contribute to the low rates.

The Importance of Fine Arts Education

By Charleigh Mcphail
Growl Reporter



Fine Arts has always had a big presence in schools. In recent years, however, many state officials are working to cut funding to Fine Arts programs

in schools nationwide. Many statistics will undeniably prove that keeping arts and music in schools is not only beneficial, it is necessary. Music is something everyone can enjoy and connect to on a level that nothing else can reach. It stimulates feeling, evokes memories, and is proven to make you happier. With so many genres of music in the world, it is nearly impossible for

someone to not be able to find music they love.

I believe music should be kept and focused on in schools because it is such a vital key to child development. Sounds and listening are basic sensory skills that are necessary to learning, just like playing an instrument is to motor skills. As they get older, they are able to form abstract thought from

music, more specifically lyrics and song meanings. Music is slowly being pushed out of schools, while sports are being prioritized. Mental health and development is just as important as physical health. Therefore, music is an immensely important role in schools and how children develop.

Her: How It Relates to Our Modern Society

By Ethan Burton
Growl Reporter



Human beings are becoming increasingly intertwined with the technology they create. And we seem to be granting our technology with our own human qualities more and more; soon, we may create things that speak to us, that learn from us, that resonate with us on an intimate level.

In the unique romance movie "Her," our main character is seen undergoing separation from his long-loved wife. It is obvious that he has fallen into a gloomy place in his life where happiness and pleasure have died out in his heart; he has become a hollow,

jaded shadow of himself. But with the introduction of Samantha, a voice output computer AI capable of thought, emotion, and reason, he bounces back into his lost state of happiness.

As impossible now as it may seem, in a few decades it will possibly become normal. Our technology still undergoing exponential growth, at rate where scientists predict that computers will be on level with the human brain by 2050. And as the power of technology grows, the line between what is artificial and what is real may blur until the two are inseparable. We will create things that imitate nature so well that eventually it becomes nature. Similarly, to how the movie shows our main character moving from a real, meaningful relationship with an actual person to a computer, we are moving increasingly away from what is real.

But it also raises the question of the possible dangers of self-aware AI. In the movie, the computer Samantha has the entire internet at her disposal to learn and adapt. But even though she is virtually omniscient, she still shows the same basic human emotions that everyone feels. Though one would think that a being built on knowledge would forgo emotion, Samantha yearns for it. It is terrifying to imagine an unlimited power over humanity that also wields volatile feelings such as jealousy and rage.

What is most interesting about the film, however, is the way the AIs are presented to the public. In the movie, a scientific company essentially crosses the taboo and creates consciousness, then accommodates it to the public as a product. To the society, beings that love, learn, and feel like we do are

packaged and sold like new applications. Though the movie doesn't touch on it, this type of scenario would raise a lot of questions concerning morality, the definition of humanity, and captivity. And to think that these are issues that we may one day face!

Would our society be able to adjust to this new type of world? I believe that it would. But my greatest nightmare would be if we do one day create something beyond our control, and would replace human beings as the masters of this world. And even more terrifying, if that which replaces us carries with it none of our emotion, none of our sorrow, our joy, our pride; where all the human race's meaning would be replaced by calculation and rationality.

Hair Goals

By Morgan Hannah
Growl Reporter



The majority of college students live in the moment and do not necessarily care for the future all that much. They do not concern themselves with health issues, either. Hair is a major aspect of most college students' lives, as it is one of the first things that people notice and care about. Some people are attached to hair and in

order for them to thrive and be happy, their hair has to be looking decent. In order for your hair to be looking great, it needs to be healthy. Healthy hair is the most beautiful hair. No matter what race or gender, hair responds to nutrients. All hair should be properly moisturized and cleaned on a regular basis.

Everyone should have a hair regimen. A good hair regimen consists of clarifying your hair at least once a month. Clarifying your hair with a shampoo is to cleanse it thoroughly with a clarifying shampoo to get rid of all the dirt and built up oils. Hair

should only be shampooed once a month; any more than that can deplete the hair shafts of its natural oils that it needs to thrive and be at its healthiest state possible. Instead of using shampoo, other days of the month use a cleansing conditioner that does not lather the hair. Lathering strips the hair of its minerals and nutrients and most of all, its moisture. Using a cleansing conditioner cleanses your hair while nourishing it instead of stripping everything from the hair shafts.

Straightening the hair is not a good option if the goal is to get the healthiest hair possible. Healthy hair also

comes from being in its natural state which means however it grows out of the head without chemicals and straighteners. If altering the hair is necessary, then a good way to help combat damage is protein treatments. Protein treatments give the hair protein that has been lost or damaged due to damages. Deep conditioners are also a good way to get the healthiest and best looking hair. It gives your hair moisture and keeps it moisturized and shiny. It is not difficult to get the beautiful shiny hair that is most desired.



The Growl

Holmes Community College
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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.

Wonder Gal

By Abby Perez
Growl Reporter



This is for every comic fan who watched "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" and got to see Wonder Woman in the film. Many comic fans may have noticed that her costume was so much different from the original Wonder Woman costume that Lynda Carter wore in her TV episodes.

The original costume had the colors of the American flag, with the white stars on the short shorts. The original and newer version of Wonder Woman have the same accessories, but the newer versions of these accessories are much more modernized. The only

thing that was added to the costume are some knee guards. The blue shorts with the white stars were replaced with a simple skirt instead.

The modernized version of Wonder Woman's costume was inspired by the metal armor of Greek and Roman warriors/gladators. Costume designer Michael Wilkinson wanted the outfit to look like metal, but because of all the difficult fight scenes it would be hard to preform those scenes without struggling. So Wilkinson came up with a way to make it work by creating a costume that looks like metal armor.

Wilkinson used a combination of old and new technology to create the perfect iconic, hourglass shape, and it was all drawn in 3D. The finishing touches were made with current paint over the top and with numerous layers of glazes to give it a really ancient, warm feeling.

Costume designer Wilkinson said, "What I do is look at the history of how the character is being presented on the big screen and the small screen and on comic books and graphic novels. We process it all and then we kind of put that aside and work out what is right for our film for the Cinematic Universe that our director Zack Snyder is putting together, and we try and create a Wonder Woman that's relevant for today's audiences."

Gal Gadot plays the new superhero that hasn't been played in over decades: Wonder Woman, the feminist icon. Gadot was so happy to become this superhero she said, "This is the role of my dreams, ever since I became an actress I always said that I wanted to show the stronger side of women. Little did I know that I would soon after I would land this magnificent role." "Wonder Woman Justice League"

is set to release on June 2. So make sure to buy your tickets, and get to the theaters early to get good seats to what seems like is going to be a huge deal, and not only to those comic fanatics out there.



Angst

By Ethan Burton
Growl Cartoonist



Trump drops mother of all bombs

By Charleigh Mcphail
Growl Reporter



On April 13, President Trump made the final decision to drop a 21,600 pound non-nuclear bomb on Afghanistan. The

main target of this was major terrorist group ISIS. This bomb, nicknamed the "mother of all bombs," was dropped at approximately 7:32 p.m. The GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB) is 30 feet long and creates mushroom clouds that can be seen 20 miles away. U.S. officials stated that it was the first time this bomb

had ever been used in battle. It was dropped by a MC-130 aircraft near an ISIS cave and tunnel complex. President Trump commented on this attack as "another successful job." "This was a target on ISIS, and officials stated that civilian casualties were avoided at all costs. Some officials are debating on whether this was the military's way

of sending a warning to North Korea. Also, the MOAB was originally described as a weapon for "psychological operations since it would create a blast so huge that it would scare the opposing side into surrendering. This most definitely is not the end of our war, but it is certainly a big step toward new beginnings.

Interview with an incoming Bulldog

By Alisha Williams
Growl Reporter



I conducted an interview with Chelsea Williams, an incoming freshman who will officially become a Bulldog during the fall of 2017.

Q: What are you planning to major in?

A: Pre-physical Therapy

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I love Youtube, Netflix, dancing, and reading.

Q: What are your post-Holmes plans?

A: I plan to go to attend Samford University and major in sports medicine/exercise science.

Q: What is your career ambition?

A: I am undecided, but between becoming a physical therapist or a sports medicine physician (orthopedic surgeon), owning my own clinic.

Q: Where are you from?

A: Clinton, MS

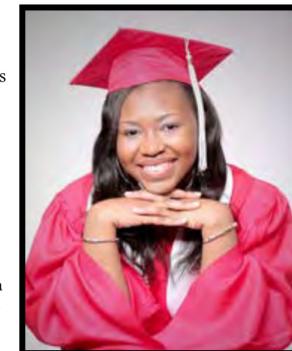
Q: Which Holmes campus will you be attending?

A: The Ridgeland Campus

Q: What are some interesting facts about you?

A: My reason for pursuing the sports medicine field is because after 12 years of playing the sport I loved (soccer), I fractured my ankle in two places. The relationship I had with my doctor and my physical therapist is the only way I made it through that injury. I want to be the help they were to me to someone one day.

Pictured (right) is Clinton High School graduate **Chelsea Williams**, who will be a pre-physical therapy major on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus in the fall of 2017.



Graduation Rates

By Morgan Hannah
Growl Reporter



Many students worry about graduation and whether or not they will accomplish that milestone. Some people drop out of school before even considering graduation. In both college and

high school, graduation rates differ depending on location and race. In certain areas, drop out rates are very high, while other areas, that is not the case. According to statistics, race plays a role in the decision of dropping out.

According to the federal data, between 1995 and 2015, the percentage of white 25-29-year-olds attaining bachelor's degrees has risen from 29 to 43 percent, a gain of 14 percentage points. Among blacks, the percent-

age with bachelor's degrees has gone up by only six points, from 15 to 21 percent, and for Hispanics, it has risen seven points, from 9 to 16 percent. Asians and Pacific Islanders lead all groups from 43 to 63 percent. Gender plays a role in graduation rates, as well. Women overall continue to have greater postsecondary success than men: In 2015, 39 percent of women aged 25 to 29 had completed a bachelor's degree, while the same was true

for 32 percent of men. The number of students receiving either an associate's degree or a bachelor's has risen dramatically since 2003: a 51 percent increase in associate's degrees (from 665,300 to over 1 million) and a 34 percent increase in bachelor's degrees (from 1.4 million to 1.9 million). All in all, the cause of low graduation rates are unknown but many factors contribute to the low rates.

Student Spotlight

Eva Tanks



Hometown: Jackson, MS
Campus: Ridgeland
Major: Elementary Education
Post-Holmes plans: I plan to go to Mississippi College and earn a B.S. degree in elementary education.
Hobbies: I love doing hair, reading, and enjoying family time!
Career Ambition: My goal is to become a kindergarten teacher.
Interesting Fact/Skills: I am interested in developing young minds and investing into their lives!

Student Spotlight

Qua'Shala Tellis



Hometown: Enid
Campus: Goodman
Major: Cosmetology
Post-Holmes plans: My plans are to find a nice salon to work in and after that, eventually get my own salon.
Hobbies: I love doing hair and meeting new people.
What advice would you have for upcoming freshmen who would like to pursue the dream of cosmetology? To never give up. Although it gets hard and the tuition gets high just stick it out. If cosmetology is really your passion then this is definitely the place to be.

Are you interested in having your work published? Do you love to take photos? Have a passion for writing? We need you! We would love to have you contribute to our paper and our blog, the HCC Grid. You are welcome to send in submissions for possible publication or even better, join the staff in the fall of 2017. For more information, contact: Mary Margaret Busby at: mbusby@holmescc.edu.

Phi Theta Kappa excels at Nationals in Nashville

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THE PHOTO: The Kappa Alpha Chapter advisors and officers at the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention in Nashville included (left to right) Jason Kelly, Griffin Turner, Lane Spell, Nicole Moffett, Brittany Farrell, Rachel Smith, Jonathan Boles and Will Alexander.

Sixteen students and advisers from Holmes Community College attended the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, April 6-8, and came back with some prestigious awards. The theme was "Catalyst 2017: Transform your Chapter, Transform Yourself."

The Kappa Alpha Chapter from the Goodman Campus won a Theme Award for their Honors in Action Hallmark during the Awards Gala. The chapter was named a Top 100 Chapter as well. Representing the Kappa Alpha Chapter were advisers Will Alexander and Jason Kelly and officers Jonathan Boles, Brittany Farrell, Nicole Moffett, Lane Spell, and Griffin Turner.

Attending from the Alpha Lambda Sigma Ridgeland Campus was adviser

Blair Booker and officers Payton Earley, Anna Mullins and Jaci Murphy.

Attending from the Grenada Alpha Mu Beta Chapter was adviser Amber Harrison Mabus and officers Emily Lamkin, Kaitlyn Legge, Taylor Vance and Hannah Waters.

Guest speakers at the conference included: Dr. Jennifer Arnold, neonatologist and television personality; Platon, a photographer; Andrew Porter; Phi Theta Kappa international president; Jamie Hyneman special effects Guru from the show "Mythbusters" and Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, Phi Theta Kappa president and CEO.

Ridgeland Campus honors student achievements with ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THE PHOTO: Pictured are all of the Ridgeland Campus award recipients following the 31st Annual Holmes Awards & Honors Program held April 11 in the McGowan Center. The recipients are (front row, left to right) Roschelle Ollie, Brooke Alvis, Anna Mullins, Jaci Murphy, Payton Earley, Makenzie Thomas, Aundria Price, Simone Lewis, Maria Ramirez, (middle row, left to right) Ashley Prewitt, Fatima Bracamonte, Catherine Petro, Kaitlin Hill, Kristin Boykin, Kaitlyn Holmes, Lafretta Cross, Jessica Jones, Angela Roland, Kelly Smith, Uroosa Burney, Bonnie Malone, (last row, left to right) J.T. Evans, Charles Harrison, Matthew Foley, Anthony Clark, Joseph Lattimore, Willis Barrett, Wyatt Horne, Derek McGraw, Johnathan Hillerman, Connor Foley, Robert Reeves and Trenton Milam.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus recognized its students' achievements and honors during the 2017 Honors Day Program held April 11 in the McGowan Center. The evening began with a welcome from District Director of Career-Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington and an invocation from Ridgeland Vice President Dr. Don Burnham.

Award presentations began with Dr. Burnham recognizing the 2017 Hall of Fame inductees. Hall of Fame recipients

were voted on by faculty and staff based on academic achievement, campus involvement and community service. The inductees included: Brooke Alvis, Yoel Bacallao, Kristin Boykin, Mary Katherine Campbell, Kaitlin Hill, Wyatt Horne, Simone Lewis, Anna Mullins, Jaci Murphy, Catherine Petro, Aundria Price and Maria Ramirez.

Steve Deaton, English instructor, followed Dr. Burnham by honoring the 2017 Holmes Literary Contest Winners.

Those students, who also received monetary prizes presented by Michael Roberts from Renasant Bank, included: Ashley Regan, first place in poetry; Derek McGraw, second place in poetry; Connor Foley, first place in short story; J.T. Evans, second place in short story; James Snead, first place in personal essay; Leslie Ann Fleming, second place in personal essay; Stephen Griffin, honorable mention in personal essay; Johnathan Hillerman, honorable mention in personal essay; Kennedy Webb, first place in literary essay; Richard Murray, second place in literary essay, and Raymond Littleton, honorable mention in literary essay.

Next, a representative from each academic and career-technical program presented an award to a student who has shown excellence in their given major or program. Alice Austin presented Ashley Prewitt with the Associate Degree Nursing Award; Joe David White presented Simone Lewis with the Biological Science Award, and Dr. Santosh Parakkal presented Maria Ramirez with the Physical Science Award and Trenton Milam with the Engineering Award. Julie Muse presented Makenzie Thomas with the Educational Programs Award and Willis Barrett with the Mathematics Award.

The Business Administration Award went to Fatima Bracamonte, presented by Donna Josey; the Criminal Justice Award went to Chase Harrison, presented by Jimmy Houston, and the English Composition Award went to J.T. Evans, presented by Steve Deaton. Deaton also presented the Literature Award to Uroosa Burney. Joe David White presented the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Award to

Catherine Petro; Ana Davenport presented the Spanish Award to Anna Mullins; J.R. Hall presented the History and Political Science Award to Connor Foley, and Jean Powers presented the Public Speaking Award to Lafretta Cross. Finally, to finish up the academic awards, Cynthia McCoy presented Kelly Smith with the Social and Behavioral Science Award.

Michael Pawlik took the stage to announce the first career-tech award; he presented the Information Systems Technology Award to Joseph Lattimore. Following Pawlik, Kana Williams presented the Occupational Therapy Assistant Award to Kaitlyn Holmes; NaTunya Johnson presented the Business Technology Award to Roschelle Ollie; Shea Coleman presented the Surgical Technology Award to Bonnie Malone, and Mark Galtelli presented the Emergency Medical Science Award to Anthony Clark. Lynn Boykin presented the Engineering Technology Award to Robert Reeves; Dr. Thomas Garrett presented the Mortuary Sciences Award to Matthew Strickland, and Darleen Dozier presented the Paralegal Technologies Award to Jessica Jones.

A few students were unable to attend, but were still recognized during the program. Those students included Fine Arts Award recipient Elizabeth Palmer, Industrial Maintenance Mechanics Award recipient Marcus Moss, Welding and Cutting Technology Award recipient Denzel Thompson, and Dean and Director Award recipient Daphna Allen.

A reception for award recipients, friends, and family immediately followed the ceremony in the McGowan Lobby.

Indoor Drumline takes the silver at the State Championship

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are (front row, left to right) Samantha Walker, Ashleigh Blakely, Perry Clemons, Laquisha Johnson, Rachel Jones, (second row, left to right) Ann Pohlig, Mallory Stallings, Jerren Jackson, Maya Caradine, Gabby Saffold, Bailey Barret, Olivia Butler, Shelby Corr, Courtney Clay, Noah Burrell, Mahalia Jones, Taylor Vaden, Sierra Miller, Joanne Pohlig, (back row, left to right) Gabby Taylor, Emmaly Wilcher, Chelsea Miller, Anna Smitherman, Griffin Sekul, Chris Jackson, Cedric Terry, Mallory Hunt, Tyler Watts, Payton Langford,

Johnell Hartley, and Chad Crimm.

The Holmes Community College Indoor Drumline took the silver medal in the Mississippi Indoor Association State Championship March 31 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. The squad had the highest ranking in music and visual and missed the gold medal by .8.

The indoor drumline is directed by Jeffrey Brown Jr., percussion and assistant band director.

Phi Theta Kappa shines at Regionals 2017

From Staff Reports/Photos

Each of the Holmes Community College Phi Theta Kappa chapters fared well at the 2017 Mississippi-Louisiana Regional Convention held at the University of Mississippi March 3-5. Holmes had three students receive the Golden Key Award: Jared Potter from the Goodman Campus, Taylor Vance from Grenada and Jaci Murphy from Ridgeland.

The Kappa Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, from the Goodman Campus, placed first in Honors in Action Theme V, fifth in Honors in Action, and fifth in Most Distinguished Chapter. The Alpha Mu Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, from Grenada, was recognized as a Five-Star Chapter and got placed eighth in College Projects. The Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, from Ridgeland, placed 10th in College Projects and was a runner-up for Theme II in Honors in Action.

Phi Theta Kappa is the world's largest and most prestigious honor society for two-year college students. Membership is by invitation to full-time students having a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher at Holmes.



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Phi Theta Kappa Chapter at the MS/LA Regional Convention.



Pictured is the Grenada Campus Phi Theta Kappa Chapter at the MS/LA Regional Convention.



Holmes had three students receive the Golden Key Award. They are (left to right) Jared Potter of Goodman, Taylor Vance of Grenada and Jaci Murphy from Ridgeland.



Pictured is the Goodman Campus Phi Theta Kappa Chapter at the MS/LA Regional Convention.

Commencement (Continued from Front Page)

From Staff Reports/Photos

ricular involvement, he is also active in the community as a member of the Board of Directors and emcee for the Grenada Afterglow Film Festival. Vance will attend the University of Mississippi, where he will major in journalism.

Only those with graduation tickets

will be permitted inside the coliseum for the ceremony. Persons wanting to attend but have no ticket will be directed to an overflow room located in the Band Hall where the ceremony will be live streamed at holmesccmedia.com.

Marching graduates and/or family members will have the opportunity to

purchase photos of the event. An email will be sent to each marching graduate informing them how to purchase the photos. Video DVDs of the event will also be on sale for \$10 each and can be purchased at the concession stand inside Frank Branch Coliseum either before or after each ceremony.

For further inquiries about Holmes 2017 commencement ceremonies, contact Brenda Melton at bmelton@holmescc.edu and (662)472.9020.

Goodman Campus students join community cleanup

From Staff Reports/Photos

Student organizations took the opportunity to join local organizations for a community cleanup on April 27. Holmes Ambassadors, Phi Theta Kappa, Gaming Club and MOSAIC club members joined forces with the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce, Keep Mississippi Beautiful, MDOT and the Holmes County Sheriff's Department to pick up litter in Goodman.

1. Pictured is Will Alexander, Phi Theta Kappa adviser, aiding in the Goodman cleanup on April 27.

2. Goodman Campus student Hallie Westbrook (far right) joins other Holmes students and local organizations for the Goodman cleanup on April 27.



Holmes employees and basketball team give back after the storm

From Staff Reports/Photos

On May 2, the Holmes Men's Basketball Team helped cleanup the damage outside of Mattie Coleman's business in Durant. Coleman has been a longtime supporter of the team, and the players wanted to give back by helping clean up following the tornado that swept through Durant on May 1.

On May 3, Holmes employees on the Goodman Campus were pleased to take some time to give back to the those affected by the storm in the City of Durant. Holmes set up a car wash in the parking lot on Highway 12 and gave away 705 hamburgers and hot dogs along with chips and drinks.



IN THIS PHOTO: Members of the Holmes Men's Basketball Team help Ms. Mattie Coleman cleanup outside her business on May 2.



IN THIS PHOTO: President of Holmes Dr. Jim Haffey flips burgers for people in the City of Durant following the storm.

Photo credits: Rogelio Solis, Associated Press

Hall of Fame 2017 announced

From Staff Reports/Photos

Each year, faculty and staff from the Goodman, Grenada, and Ridgeland campuses of Holmes Community College select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame.

This year, the Hall of Fame inductees were as follows.

From the Ridgeland Campus, honorees included: Brooke Alvis, Yoel Bacallao, Kristin Boykin, Mary Katherine Campbell, Kaitlin Hill, Wyatt Horne, Simone Lewis, Anna Mullins, Jaci Murphy, Catherine Petro, Aundria Price, and Maria Ramirez.

Goodman Campus Hall of Fame inductees included: Darnell Campbell, Sr., Nikki Merchant, Brittany Nicole Moffett, Kelli Ray, Lane Spell and Griffin Turner.

From the Grenada Campus, honorees were: Ashley Hatch, Emily Lamkin, Hannah Ritchie, Taylor Vance and Hannah Waters.

Brooke Ann Alvis of Madison is a liberal arts major and President's List scholar who belongs to Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Outside of Holmes, she is a babysitter. Upon graduation, Alvis would like to attend culinary school and possibly open a bakery.

Yoel Bacallao of Richland is a construction engineering technology major who is a Phi Theta Kappa member, President's List scholar, and a member of the soccer team. He plans to attend Mississippi State University (MSU) and major in civil engineering so that he can seek employment in an engineering firm or work for the state as an engineer.

Kristin Boykin of Madison is a pre-law major who is a President's List scholar and an active member of Phi Theta Kappa. With the honor society, she has participated in Fall Fest preparations, cheese sales, and assisting the

leadership team with both their Honors in Action Project and Collect Project. This included giving a public presentation on emotional intelligence, both on campus and to employees at Terry Services. After Holmes, she will attend the University of Mississippi as a political science major and then apply for law school.

Mary Katherine Campbell of Flowood is a President's List nursing major who is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Lady Bulldogs soccer team. The Lady Bulldogs placed second in the state championship for the first time in the school's history. She received the NJCAA Academic Award, the Sportsmanship Award, was chosen for the MACJC All-Star team, volunteers with TOPsoccer, is a soccer camp instructor for Kosciusko Elementary and Provine High, and played on the Northern Division soccer team. Camp-

bell will attend Belhaven University to play on the women's soccer team.

Kaitlin Hill of Olive Branch is a President's List sports medicine/exercise science major who is also a member of the soccer team and received the Bulldog Award. She was also voted Sophomore Class Favorite and Sophomore Homecoming Maid, and serves as an Ambassador and Student Government Association (SGA) secretary. She will also play soccer at Belhaven University while studying to become a physical therapist and an athletic trainer.

Wyatt Horne of Ridgeland is a mechanical engineering major who is a Phi Theta Kappa member, a President's List scholar, an adult choir member for First Presbyterian of Jackson a student mentor for First Presby-

See Hall of Fame, Page 9

Ridgeland Campus



Brooke Alvis



Yoel Bacallao



Kristin Boykin



Mary Katherine Campbell



Kaitlin Hill



Wyatt Horne



Simone Lewis



Anna Mullins



Jaci Murphy



Catherine Petro



Aundria Price



Maria Ramirez

Goodman Campus



Darnell Campbell, Sr.



Nikki Merchant



Brittany Nicole Moffett



Kelli Ray



Lane Spell



Griffin Turner



Addie Winters

Grenada Campus



Ashley Hatch



Emily Lamkin



Hannah Ritchie



Taylor Vance



Hannah Waters

Holme-Towne Players present "Hard Candy"

From Staff Reports/Photos

Directed by Goodman Campus speech and theatre instructor Bridget Mallette, the Holme-Towne Players presented "Hard Candy," Jonathan Rand's hilarious short play, April 4-6 in the Montgomery Fine Arts Building on the Goodman Campus.

IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured is the "Hard Candy" cast. They are (sitting/kneeling, left to right) LaCraig Jamison, Taborik Palmer, (standing, left to right) Courvoisier Jackson, Sierra Alldread, Drew Nunley, Anastasia Boston, Bianca Ball, Olivia Carter, and Chandler Garrett.



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are (left to right) Sierra Alldread and Anastasia Boston in a scene from "Hard Candy."

Hall of Fame (continued from Page 8)

terian's student ensemble, and a member of the Mississippi Chorus. He has been accepted to the Bagley College of Engineering at MSU and plans to pursue a career in alternative energy.

Simone Lewis of Yazoo City is a pre-nursing student who serves as an Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa member, science department volunteer, and is the current Miss Holmes Community College for the Ridgeland Campus. She is also an usher and youth tutor at Greater Pearl Grove Missionary Baptist Church. A President's List scholar and Mississippi Association of Supervisors Scholarship recipient, Lewis was also chosen as a summer intern for the SURE (Summer Undergraduate Research Experience) Program in the neuroscience research lab at University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). She has been accepted into the nursing program at UMMC and plans to eventually become a nurse practitioner.

Anna Mullins of Flora is a pre-medical major who serves as college projects officer for Phi Theta Kappa, and is a President's List scholar. Her first step after graduating Holmes will be to obtain a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. Then, she plans to go to medical school to become an otolaryngologist.

Jaci Murphy of Gulfport is an exercise science major who serves as vice president of outreach for Phi Theta Kappa. She is also a member of the Lady Bulldogs soccer team, and is transferring to Belhaven University to obtain her bachelor's in exercise science and play soccer for the Lady Blazers. Murphy eventually plans to attend occupational therapy school and become a pediatric occupational therapist.

Catherine Petro of Kosciusko is an exercise science/kinesiology major who was also a member of the Lady Bulldogs soccer team. She received the Bulldog Award, was named MACJA Academic All-State, and received the NJCAA Academic All American Pinnacle Award her freshman year. Petro is also a President's List scholar, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and was voted Sophomore Homecoming Maid.

Aundria Price of Ridgeland is a pre-physical therapy major who is also an Ambassador, a Dean's List scholar, an SGA representative, and a member of Phi Theta Kappa who was named to the All-Mississippi Academic Team. Price is employed at Plato's Closet, and is an active member of Mt. Charity Church. After Holmes, she plans to attend the University of

Mississippi as a pre-medicine major and eventually attend UMMC.

Maria Ramirez of Clinton is a pre-medical major. She is an active member of Phi Theta Kappa, a President's List scholar, a member of the Social Science Club, a volunteer for Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children and a lab teaching assistant for the biology department. Ramirez is also an active member of Saint Peter's Catholic Church, and works for Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant. She plans to attend Mississippi College to acquire a bachelor's in biology-medical sciences and then attend medical school and become an OBGYN.

Darnell Deshon Campbell, Sr., of Kosciusko is a sociology major who serves as president of MOSAIC. He is also a tutor for MOSAIC, a Community Learning Center tutor, and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Campbell is an active member of Wesley United Methodist Church of Kosciusko and a barber in his community.

Gabrielle Nicole "Nikki" Merchant of Lexington is a communications major who served as a reporter on Holmes football her freshman year and was chosen as the focus of a recruiting video for Holmes marketing her sophomore year. She is an Ambassador who is also a member of Connection!, the choral, SGA, MOSAIC, Phi Theta Kappa, and the Football Spirit Team. Merchant is a Dean's List scholar, Student Body Homecoming Maid, and was named to the Parade of Beauties Top Five both years at Holmes.

Brittany Nicole Moffett of Kosciusko is an accounting major who serves on the Baptist Student Union (BSU) Kappa officer, an evening tutor for Mosaic, a work-study for the Office of Admissions, and a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). She was also part of the Social Science Behavior Honors Class her freshman year and named a Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished Chapter Member. Moffett is a member of Doty Spring Baptist Church. After Holmes, she will attend MSU to earn a bachelor's in accounting and a master's in either accounting or business administration.

Kelli Ann Ray of Maben is a pre-nursing major who serves as an Ambassador, a choir member, SGA secretary, and on the BSU and FCA lead teams. Ray is also a President's List scholar, a MOSAIC tutor, and was named a Class Favorite both her freshman and sophomore year. She was a member of the Dazzlers dance team

her freshman year, as well.

William "Lane" Spell of Lexington is a mechanical engineering major who has remained on the President's List throughout his time at Holmes. He is a member of the Holmes Plus scholars program, co-captain for the Bulldog cheerleaders, an Ambassador, treasurer of SGA, a regional officer for Phi Theta Kappa, and a volunteer tutor. Spell was also voted Class Favorite. Outside of Holmes, Spell is both an Eagle Scout and owner of Spell Concessions. He will continue his studies in mechanical engineering at MSU and go to work as a project engineer in the oil and chemical industry.

Griffin Lee Turner of Sallis is a computer engineering major who serves as an Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa president, a MOSAIC tutor, and a member of Holmes Plus. He is also a President's List scholar who is very involved with intramurals on campus. His freshman year, Turner served as a work-study student for the Trek Center.

Addie Mae Winters of McCool is a pre-physical therapy major with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Active in campus life, she is the Drum Major for the Holmes Marching Band, a member of the Steel Band, and involved in Student Support Services activities, including MOSAIC. Winters is also a President's List scholar. She is currently employed as a Certified Nurse Assistant and in the future plans to either attend Mississippi University for Women and major in kinesiology or apply for the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Holmes.

Ashley Hatch of Grenada is a psychology major who was named to the 2017 All-Mississippi Academic Team through Phi Theta Kappa. She is also a member of BSU, and her honors at Holmes include: Dean's List, Freshman Favorite, Sophomore Favorite, and Sophomore Homecoming Maid. Outside of Holmes, she teaches dance at Charisma Dance Company; she has been teaching for three years, and dancing professionally for about seven. Hatch also sings in the choir and dances on the praise dance ministry at her church. After Holmes, Hatch plans to attend Delta State University to earn her bachelor's followed by MSU to earn her master's.

Emily Lamkin of Grenada is a nursing major who was also named to the 2017 All-Mississippi Academic Team through Phi Theta Kappa. She is vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa, an Ambassador, secretary for SGA,

and on the leadership team for BSU.

Some of Lamkin's honors include: President's List scholar, Student Body Maid, and being named Miss Holmes Community College for Grenada. Outside of Holmes, she helps lead worship for the children at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Lamkin also worked as a staff member for M4 Summer Kids Camp and as a Ronald McDonald House volunteer for BSU. She plans to attend UMMC to obtain a Bachelor's Degree of Science in Nursing.

Hannah Ritchie of Winona is a history major who was named Sophomore Class Favorite. She is a President's List scholar and a Dean's Scholarship recipient. Ritchie serves as Phi Theta Kappa chair of Honors in Action, SGA reporter, a Writing Center tutor, and is involved with BSU. She serves as a judge for the Grenada Reading Fair, as well. Upon graduation, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi to major in history and minor in creative writing, eventually earning a Ph.D. in history. Ritchie plans to pursue a career as a museum curator and part-time author.

Taylor Vance of Grenada is an English major who was voted 2017 Mr. Holmes Community College. Vance is a Dean's Scholarship recipient, a Governor William Winter Student Scholar, SGA president, Phi Theta Kappa president, Groll editor, an Ambassador, a Writing Center tutor, and a member of BSU. He was a Freshman Class Favorite, as well, and honored with the English Department Award. Vance volunteered as the public relations adviser and emcee for the Grenada Afterglow Film Festival, served as vice-chairman of the Grenada County Republican Party, and volunteers for the Grenada Chamber of Commerce. Upon graduation, he plans to attend the University of Mississippi and major in journalism.

Hannah Waters of Duck Hill is a pre-occupational therapy major. She was the 2016 Miss Holmes Community College for Grenada, a freshman Homecoming Maid, a President's List scholar, and a Dean's Scholarship recipient. Waters is an Ambassador, SGA secretary, Phi Theta Kappa senior vice president, a member of BSU, and a work-study for the academic and admissions offices. She is a member of Emmanuel Baptist of Grenada and volunteers with the Boys and Girls Club. After Holmes, she plans to attend UMMC and obtain a master's in occupational therapy.

Ridgeland Campus inducts 27 into Phi Theta Kappa

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THE PHOTO: The Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Holmes Community College in Ridgeland inducted 27 new members into the honor society for two-year college students on March 6. Pictured are: (front, left to right) Phi Theta Kappa Adviser **Blair Booker**; **Aundria Price** of Oxford; **Leslie Ann Fleming** of Canton; **MacKenzie Danaher** of Madison; **Elizabeth Palmer** of Jackson; Vice President of Outreach **Jaci Murphy** of Gulfport; President **Payton Earley** of Pearl; Vice President of Campus Activities **Ashley Wicker** of Madison; **Leilani Jones** of Vicksburg; **Teandra Averett** of Jackson; **Morgan Hannah** of Clinton; Ridgeland Campus Vice President **Dr. Don Burnham**; (second row, left to right) **De'Andria Green** of Canton; **Lacey White** of Ridgeland; **Tamyrria Meeks** of Canton; **Gabriel Bridgeman** of Canton. **Laura Ann Kelley** of Madison; **Ashley Bergeron** of Madison; **Monica Wilkins** of Madison; **Charles Switzer** of Clinton; **Jonathan Fuss** of Brandon; (third row, left to right) **Willard "Chip" Wells** of Columbus; **Davis Dunn** of Pass Christian; **Slade Allgood** of Carthage; **Michael Boyte** of Brandon; **D'Morris Walker** of Jackson; **Brian Flaherty** of Brandon; **Tyler Brown** of Madison; **Adam Richardson** of Union; **Thierno Bell** of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; **Drew Kincaid** of Brandon, and **Cody Tompkins** of Madison.

The Holmes Community College Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, housed on the Ridgeland Campus, inducted 27 new members into the honor society on March 6 in the D.P. "Pat" McGowan Workforce Training Center auditorium.

The ceremony began with a welcome by Payton Earley, president of Phi Theta Kappa, followed by an invoca-

tion and recognition of chapter officers and guests by Blair Booker, branch librarian and Phi Theta Kappa adviser. After a brief introduction, President of Mississippi State University Dr. Mark E. Keenum took the podium to give his remarks as keynote speaker.

Dr. Keenum became MSU's 19th president in 2009, following a distinguished public service career. Under his leadership, State has experienced

record enrollment growth to more than 21,600 students, and the campus has expanded and improved enormously. One key project that Dr. Keenum has overseen has been The Mill at MSU - a \$40-million, state-of-the-art conference and meeting complex housed in the historic John M. Stone Cotton Mill and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He has been a part of numerous other milestones for the university as it continues to grow.

Dr. Keenum began his career at MSU as a faculty member with the Extension Service and the Department of Agricultural Economics. He went on to serve as chief of staff to U.S. Senator Thad Cochran in Washington, D.C., and was under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture prior to returning home to Mississippi State. In 2016, Dr. Keenum also spoke in sessions at the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition Summit at the United Nations in New York City. During his speeches, he boasted of the collaboration between nearly 90 universities to create the Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH) consortium, a collection of university leaders dedicated to making food and nutrition security a priority.

"You all have an honor that I wish I'd had," Dr. Keenum told the new inductees. "Phi Theta Kappa is an honor that will follow you for the rest of your life and people will always take notice that you are a part of this honor society."

"Whatever your next step is, know that you've been well-prepared by your education here at Holmes Community College," Dr. Keenum said.

"Never underestimate how important education is. Get the best and the most education you can possibly get. There's never been a time in our world where education has been as important as it is today. Also, work hard in your classes and earn the best grades you possibly can. Grades definitely matter, as it is a competitive world we live in."

"Finally, remember that all of us get to where we are in life with the help and assistance of other people. Remember to always treat other people with respect, to always have integrity, and to work hard. How you live your life will dictate your future. Make sure to treat everyone equally as a child of God, whether they are the CEO or the person picking up the trash. May God bless each and every one of you."

Following Dr. Keenum's address, Earley and Ashley Wicker, vice president of campus activities, shared the meaning behind the symbolic rituals of the induction ceremony and then joined Booker in officially installing the new chapter members.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honors scholastic society for community colleges that recognizes intellectual achievement and promotes character, leadership and fellowship among community college students. Membership is by invitation to full-time students having a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher at Holmes Community College. Invitations are extended both the fall and spring semesters.

For more information on the Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, contact Blair Booker at bbooker@holmescc.edu.

Five students honored by legislature at 2017 All-Mississippi Academic Luncheon

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THE PHOTO: Pictured at the All-Mississippi Community College Academic Recognition Luncheon are (front row, left to right) Adviser **Blair Booker**, **Aundria Price**, **Nicole Moffett**, **Emily Lamkin**, **Ashley Hatch** and **Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey**; and (back row, left to right) Adviser **Will Alexander**, Adviser **Jason Kelly**, **Ridgeland Campus Vice-President Dr. Don Burnham**, Adviser **Amber Mabus**, **Goodman Campus Director Andy Wood** and **Grenada Campus Vice-President Michelle Burney**. Not pictured: Honoree **Daphna Jill Allen** was recognized, but unable to attend the luncheon.

Holmes Community College students **Daphna Jill Allen**, **Ashley Hatch**, **Emily Lamkin**, **Brittany Nicole Moffett**, and **Aundria Price** were honored at the All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team Recognition Luncheon on March 22. Held at the Jackson Convention Center, the luncheon recognized those students named to both the All-Mississippi First Team and Second Team. The program was established by the Mississippi Association for Community and Junior Colleges, the Mississippi Community College Board, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Nominations are based

on outstanding academic performance and service to the college and community.

Daphna Jill Allen, daughter of **Paul and Janice Allen**, is a psychology major and Phi Theta Kappa member on the Ridgeland Campus. Allen completed her GED and is on the Holmes President's List. She was also on the President's List as a student at Meridian Community College from 2015-2016. She stays busy with her children as a self-proclaimed full-time mom, housekeeper, errand-runner, chauffeur, soccer and baseball mom and personal finance coach. Allen is also active in

her church and does volunteer work. She loves being outside and near the water. Upon graduating from Holmes, Allen plans to attend Mississippi College where she will pursue her bachelor's degree in psychology. She intends on continuing her studies until she obtains a Ph.D. in psychology from Mississippi College.

Ashley Hatch, daughter of **Bernard and Bonnie Hatch**, is a graduate of Grenada High School. A psychology major on the Grenada Campus, Hatch is a member of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) in addition to Phi Theta Kappa. Her honors at Holmes include: 2017 Holmes Hall of Fame, Dean's List, Freshman Favorite, Sophomore Favorite and Sophomore Homecoming Maid. In her free time, Hatch enjoys dancing, painting, singing and shopping. Outside of Holmes, she attends dance classes and works at Charisma Dance Company. She has been teaching for three years, and dancing professionally for about seven. Hatch also sings in the choir and dances on the praise dance ministry at her church. Upon graduation from Holmes, Hatch plans to attend Delta State University to earn her bachelor's degree, followed by Mississippi State University to earn her master's.

Emily Lamkin, daughter of **Dwayne and Martha Lamkin**, is a graduate of Grenada High School. A nursing major on the Grenada Campus, she is an Ambassador, vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa, secretary for the Student Government Association, and on the leadership team for the Baptist

Student Union. Some of Lamkin's honors include: 2017 Holmes Hall of Fame, President's List (freshman and sophomore), Homecoming Student Body Maid and being named Miss Holmes Community College. Outside of Holmes, she helps lead worship for the children at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Lamkin also worked as a staff member for M4 Summer Kids Camp and as a Ronald McDonald House volunteer for BSU. She plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) to obtain a Bachelor's Degree of Science in Nursing.

Brittany Nicole Moffett, daughter of **Joe Moffett and Iris Flanagan**, is a graduate of Kosciusko High School. An accounting major on the Goodman Campus, she serves on the Baptist Student Union leadership team and is a Phi Theta Kappa officer, an evening tutor for Mosaic, a work-study for the Office of Admissions and a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She was also part of the Social Science Behavior Honors Class her freshman year, named a Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished Chapter Member and inducted into the 2017 Holmes Hall of Fame. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, listening to music, and spending time with her fiancé and family. Moffett is a member of Doty Spring Baptist Church, and helps raise her fiancé's family's goats and horses. After Holmes, she will attend Mississippi State University to earn a bachelor's in accounting and a master's in either accounting or business administration.

See All-Mississippi, Page 11

Grenada Campus holds Honors Day 2017

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Grenada Campus held its Honor's Day today at the Grenada Center.

The awards presented included: Associate Degree Nursing (Day), **Kasee Burton**; Associate Degree Nursing (Evening), **Brenda Chandler**; Business Administration, **Cody Rogers**; Computer Science, **Phillip Sherman**; Criminal Justice, **Cassidy G. Williamson**; Educational Programs, **Alexandra Perry**; English, **Taylor Vance**; Fine Arts, **Wesley Davis**; Mathematics, **Channing Goss**; Biology, **Taylor Hansen**; Chemistry, **Chelsea Wright**; Health and Physical Education, **Lanecia Winters**; Social Science, **Ashley Hatch**; History, **Payton Acy**; Spanish, **Ashley**

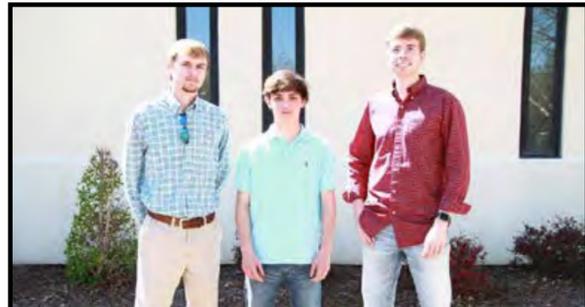
Hatch; Speech and Theatre, **Linda Leach**; Business and Office Technology, **Rachel C. Hamilton**; EMS Paramedic, **Jose Clarkson**; Engineering Technology, **Ced Monger**; Forestry, **Brian Wells**; Conservation Law, **Mark Bowles**; Heating, Ventilation, A/C and Refrigeration Technology, **Brady Haynes**; Information Systems Technology, **Matt Hodges**; Surgical Technology, **Brittany Starnes**; Practical Nursing, **Lillie McKinney**; Physical Therapy Assistant, **Mykel Hawes**; Welding, **Cori Arendale**; Hall of Fame, **Hannah Ritchie**, **Emily Lamkin**, **Taylor Vance**, **Ashley Hatch** and **Hannah Waters**.



Pictured are Grenada County honorees. They are: (front, left to right) **Ced Monger**, **Lillie McKinney**, **Taylor Vance**, **Ashley Hatch**, (back row, left to right) **Matt Hodges**, **Lanecia Winters**, **Alexandra Perry**, **Taylor Hansen** and **Emily**



Pictured are Montgomery County honorees. They are: (left to right) **Hannah Ritchie**, **Cori Arendale**, **Payton Acy**, **Rachel C. Hamilton** and **Hannah Waters**.



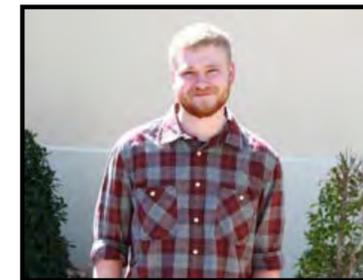
Pictured are Carroll County honorees (left to right) **Brady Haynes**, **Channing Goss** and **Wesley Davis**.



Pictured are Webster County honorees. They are: (left to right) **Mykel Hawes** and **Kasee Burton**.



Pictured are Tallahatchie County honorees. They are: (left to right) **Phillip Sherman** and **Cody Rogers**.



Pictured is Desoto County honoree **Jose Clarkson**.

All-Mississippi (continued from Page 10)

"I give my Holy Father above all the glory for my achievements," Moffett said.

Aundria Price, daughter of **Aundra and Brenda Price**, is a graduate of Ridgeland High School. A pre-phs-

ical therapy major on the Ridgeland Campus, she is an Ambassador, a Dean's List scholar, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a Student Government Association representative. She is also a Holmes 2017 Hall of Fame

inductee. Price enjoys reading and watching movies in her spare time. She is employed at Plato's Closet and is an active member of Mt. Charity Church. After Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi as

a pre-medicine major and eventually attend UMMC.

For more information about Phi Theta Kappa, visit <https://www.ptk.org/>.

Ridgeland student awarded MFDA Scholarship

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College Mortuary Science student **Leilani Jones** of Vicksburg was recognized as the 2017 Mississippi Funeral Directors Association (MFDA) Educational Scholarship Award recipient. A student on the Ridgeland Campus, Jones is in the Funeral Service Technology program as a fast-track commuter student and will graduate in May.

The goal of the Funeral Service Technology program is to provide training that prepares students for entry-level positions after graduation and licensure. The curriculum is designed to provide students

with ethical and professional knowledge in funeral service education, exposure to career options available within the funeral service field, and experiences in the application of ethical and professional skills while emphasizing aspects of public health. The Dr. Thomas Garrett and David Jones.

The MFDA scholarship is given to a Mississippi resident attending an accredited college of Mortuary Science who exemplifies the understanding of and dedication to the philosophy and standards of funeral service. Jones was presented

the \$500 scholarship at the MFDA 2017 Mid-Winter Meeting and Seminar on Jan. 30 in Tupelo.

For more information about MFDA, visit www.mississippifuneraldirectors.com.

Pictured are (left to right) **Leilani Jones** of Vicksburg, the 2017 Mississippi Funeral Directors Association (MFDA) Educational Scholarship Award recipient, and MFDA Past President **David Ainsworth**.



Attala Center holds ribbon cutting/open house for PN Wing

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Attala Center held a Ribbon Cutting and Open House this morning in Kosciusko to introduce the public to the new practical nursing wing at the center.

City and county officials joined the Holmes faculty, staff and administrators for the official opening of the nursing wing. PN instructors Christi Blair and Tammy Caldwell along with the current nursing students manned different stations to show what the facility has to offer them and incoming student nurses.

The Practical Nursing Program, formerly at the Goodman Campus, moved to the Attala Center in Kosciusko in the fall to open new opportunities for the

nursing students in the central part of the district.

By making the move, the practical nursing program nearly doubled the size of the department going from 2,760 to 5,178 square feet and separated the classroom and laboratory and also added a simulation room.

"The move of the Practical Nursing program to Kosciusko has been great and the community support has been tremendous," PN instructor Christi Blair said. "We are so thankful to Dr. Haffey, the Board of Trustees, and administration for providing us with this state of the art facility."

"I am also grateful to the staff of the Attala center for all their assistance

with the expansion and how welcoming they have been to our program. The relocation to Kosciusko allows the Holmes Practical Nursing program to serve an expanded area in our district."

Blair said having more space is crucial to the program's success. "The practical nursing lab now has a fully functioning nursing station, a simulation room, and new lab equipment," Blair explained. "The simulation room allows the students to participate in scenarios they may not come into contact with in their clinical rotations. This notably broadens our instructional potential. We also have increased the number of nursing beds to seven, as opposed to four in Goodman. The student's access to hands-on instruction is significantly expanded with this change."

Goodman Campus Career-Technical Director Dr. Luke Jones said the decision to move the program will help continue to develop quality nurses.

"With the construction of the new facility, it was important to establish its importance to the Holmes Community College district with the presence of a flagship program," Dr. Jones said. "With the unfinished space, it was evident that constructing a state-of-the-art nursing facility would be beneficial for

the new center and our students.

"With the inaugural year of the move almost complete, this has been a smooth transition, and it has provided our students in the northeastern portion of our district better access to our practical nursing program. Words cannot describe how thankful and blessed we are to have a state-of-the-art facility that provides such a wonderful learning experience for our students."

By having more room, Dr. Jones said it was easier to separate the lab and classroom setting. "Besides the increase in space, the new lab at the Attala Center boasts a nurses' station equivalent to that found in a hospital, and the lab also has a simulation room that mimics a patient room found at a hospital," Dr. Jones explained. "The simulation room has a two-way mirror where the instructors can look upon their students from a separate observation room while they're performing technical skills during check-offs. Both the observation room, and the simulation room is equipped with an intercom system so that the instructors can communicate with the students. The simulation room is also equipped with a video camera that allows the students to view their performance on technical skills."

Holmes announces 2017 Literary Contest winners

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College recently announced all the winners of the 2017 Literary Contest. All winners received a cash prize, and all first and second place entries were submitted to the statewide MCCCWA competition and were published in Reflections.

For the Ridgeland Campus, winners of the Poetry Category included: Ashley Regan for "Like the Sea Kisses the Shore," first place, and Derek McGraw for "Reflection," second place. Winners of the Short Story Category included: Connor Foley for "The Joy You Reclaim," first place and J.T. Evans for "Visions," second place.

Winners of the Personal Essay Category included: James Snead for "Remembering the Battle," first place; Leslie Ann Fleming for "Unbridled Fear," second place; Stephen Griffin for "Mathematics Anxiety," Honorable Mention, and Johnathan Hillerman for "Procrastination," Honorable Mention. Literary winners were: Kennedy Webb for "Gothic Elements in 'The Birthmark,'" first place; Richard Murray for "Analysis of Death in 'The Fall of the House of Usher,'" second place, and Raymond Littleton for "A Comparison

of Narratives in Faulkner and Poe's Stories," Honorable Mention.

Winners of the Grenada Campus Literary Contest were as follows: In the Poetry Category, Joelle Young won first place for "Out of the Dark," and second place for "Dove." In the Fiction Category, Abby Ray Vance won first place for "Out of the Dark," Joelle Young won second for "When Two Strands Fall" and Dustin Denley won third for "Smell the Magic."

Winners of the Nonfiction Category included: Taylor Vance for "A New Edition," first place; Abby Ray Vance for "That's What Faith Can Do," second place and Irish Whitaker for "Last Call," third place.

In the Literary Essay Division, Joelle Young placed first for "Women Behind Bars: 'The Yellow Wallpaper' and the Constricting Effects of the Victorian Science of Womanhood." Second place went to Davis Roberts for "Walt Whitman: The Great American Sympathizer"

Goodman Campus Literary Contest winners were as follows: In the Poetry Category, Elizabeth Howell won first for "The Anchoring Feather of Hope,"



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are some of the Ridgeland Campus Literary Contest winners (left to right) James Snead of Clinton, Johnathan Hillerman of Madison, Leslie Ann Fleming of Canton, Stephen Griffin of Jackson, J.T. Evans of Jackson and Derek McGraw of Bentonia.

Abby Perez won second for "Life is going to be different" and Darnell Campbell won third for "Life."

In the Creative Non-Fiction (General Essay) Category, Christopher Kalil won first place for "Fourth Street and

Jackson Avenue," Tristan Hamilton won second for "Mom" and Elizabeth Howell won third for "The World I Knew." Finally, Darnell Campbell placed first in the Short Story Category for "Speech Less."

Art Department holds Spring Student Art Show

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Art Department held the 2017 Spring Student Art Show in the Visual Arts Building on May 4. All the Art students celebrated their semester work with a fun reception and gallery display.

1. Pictured is Stephen Thompson with one of his pieces at the 2017 Spring Student Art Show.

2. Pictured are some of the pieces from the 2017 Spring Student Art Show.



Goodman Campus holds its 2017 Honors Banquet

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are the 2017 award winners. They are (front, left to right) Bailee Barrett, Brittany Farrell, Eryca Edwards, Savanna Bell, Kelli Ray, Tristen Hamilton, Abby Perez-Cabral, Taylor Sullivan, Nikki Merchant, Darnell Campbell, Charleigh McPhail, Schronda Webster, Lauren Martin, Hallie Westbrook, Nicole Moffett, Le'Onicus Kimble, Ashley Deford, (back, left to right) Timothy Wallace, Griffin Turner, Micheal Edmonds, Perry Clemons, Derrel Bilsky, Shameka Winston, Chelsea Miller, Lane Spell, Stephen Thompson, Kayla Gilmore, Addie Mae Winters, Jared Potter, Dillan McHarris, Joshua Pacillo, Aureius Myers, Britnee Kirk, Gray Jobe, Ivory Smith, Tyler Cartwright, Todd Ingle, and Christopher Gunn.

Holmes Community College's Goodman Campus held its annual Awards and Honors Banquet on May 1 in Frank Branch Coliseum in Goodman. Forty-two students and one instructor were recognized for their talents in the classroom.

Award winners included: Addie Mae Winters, Kelli Ray, Lane Spell, Darnell Campbell, Griffin Turner, Nicole Moffett and Nikki Merchant, Hall of Fame; Le'Onicus Kimble, Business and Office Technology Award; Hallie Westbrook, Architectural Engineering Award; Gray Jobe, Industrial Technology Award; Tyler Cartwright, Automotive Technology Award; Todd Ingle, Collision Repair Technology Award; Christopher Gunn, Heating and Air Conditioning Technology Award; Ashley Deford, Welding Award; Ivory Smith, Cosmetology Award; Haley Terry, Practical Nursing Award; Nicole Moffett, Business Administration Award; Taylor Sullivan, Elementary Education Award; Tristen Hamilton, English Composition Award; Abigail Perez-Cabral, Creative Writing Award; Kristiana Allen, Literature Award; Nikki Merchant, Foreign Language Award; Derrel Bilsky, W.Y. Sudduth History and Political Science Award; Reggie Carter, Criminal Justice Award; Chelsea Miller, Social and Behavioral Science Award; Charleigh McPhail, Growl Award; Eryca Edwards, Hori-

zons Award; Perry Clemons, Band Award; Dillan McHarris, Percussion Groups Award; Aureius Myers, Music Major Award; Britnee Kirk, Choral Music Award; Stephen Thompson, Bill Watkins Visual Arts Award; Addie Mae Winters, Biological Science Award; Lane Spell, Physical Science Award; Bailee Barrett, Michael Klauk Award; Griffin Turner, Wesley David Rule Mathematics Award; Rakeem Walden, Engineering Award; Kayla Gilmore, Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department Award; Lane Spell, Griffin Turner, Brittany Farrell, Joshua Pacillo, Jared Potter and Bailee Barrett, Holmes Plus Award; Nicole Moffett, Phi Theta Kappa All Mississippi Academic Team; Jared Potter, Phi Theta Kappa Order of the Golden Key; Kelli Ray, Savanna Bell, Timothy Wallace, Lane Spell, Griffin Turner, Nikki Merchant and Micheal Edmonds, Ambassador Award; Kelli Ray, Student Government Association Award; Darnell Campbell, Dr. Marilyn Burrell Memorial Award; Kiara Morgan, Christine Herron Academic Achievement Award;

Darnell Campbell and Lauren Martin, Deans and Directors Award; Schronda Webster and Shameka Winston, Outstanding Online Students; and Chad Moorer, Sally Wilson Distinguished Educator Award.

The Holmes Goodman Campus received an Award of Appreciation from the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition of Madison, Yazoo and

Holmes Counties at the close of the ceremony as well. Rochelle Culp, director of the coalition, presented the award to Goodman Campus Director Andy Wood. Holmes was honored for having a tobacco-free campus and for protecting its employees and student body from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.

Diffey completes leadership program



From Staff Reports/Photos

IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are (left to right) District Director of Communications/Associate Athletic Director for External Relations Steve Diffey with Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey following Diffey's graduation from Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA).

Holmes Community College is proud to announce that District Director of Communications/Associate Athletic Director for External Relations Steve Diffey

graduated May 4 from the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA).

The graduation was held in the Hunter

Henry Center on the campus of Mississippi State University.

The MCCLA is organized around the practical needs for future community college leaders, specific to the Mississippi community college system. The program was developed in 2009 to address the projected need for upper-level leaders in the Mississippi community college system.

"I'm so thankful that Dr. Haffey gave me the opportunity to attend this leadership academy," Diffey said. "Dr. (Howell) Garner does an amazing job with MCCLA, and he put together topics that will definitely help in my job here at Holmes."

"The networking aspect is huge for MCCLA," he added. "By bringing in people from the community college system and also some doctoral students from the four-year universities, MCCLA connects people from all different aspects of college business who have a vast knowledge of their areas. This helps you better understand what your coworkers do in their daily jobs and some of the challenges they face as well. MCCLA is a first-class event without a doubt."

Diffey came to Holmes in 1998 as the assistant director of the school's founda-

tion and alumni. He became executive director of both offices in 1999 and remained in that position until 2002 when he joined the public information office as the assistant director. He became director of the office in 2004. He assumed the Associate A.D. role in Fall 2014.

Before coming to Holmes, Diffey worked in the newspaper business for five years - two in Winona at the Winona Times and three in McComb at the Enterprise-Journal. He holds an associate of arts degree from Holmes Community College, a bachelor's degree in journalism from The University of Mississippi and a master's degree in educational leadership from Mississippi State University.

He and his wife, Stephanie, have five children, Ethan, Tyler, Noah, Jesse and Anna.

Previous MCCLA graduates from Holmes include: Diane Allgood, Mike Blankenship, Don Burnham, Martha Cofer, Stephanie Diffey, LaWanda Herron, Joye Jones, Luke Jones, Kay Kelly, Tonya Lawrence, Dwight Myrick, Bronwyn Martin, Slade Redwine, Larry Webster, Amy Whittington and Amy Wolgamott.

Holmes host 2017 Pops Concert

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College held its annual Pops Concert on April 27 in McDaniel Hall on the Goodman Campus. Coachmen and Connection! rocked the audience with a wide range of musical hits from all decades.

1. Members of Connection! (left to right) Shelby Turner and Britnee Kirk perform during the 2017 Pops Concert.

2. Members of Coachmen perform during the 2017 Pops Concert.



BSU serves at Mission Arlington during Spring Break

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THE PHOTO: Pictured are the BSU members who served at Mission Arlington during Spring Break 2017. They are (front row, left to right) Ana-Claire Edwards, Madison Porter, Savanna Bell, Kelli Ray, Nicole Moffett, Courtney Moffett, Madison Porter, Amber Cummings, Alexandra Perry, Marcia Stark, (back row, left to right) Nikki Merchant, Eryca Edwards, Hallie Murtagh, Bailey Rutledge, Jacob Rhodes, Lamar Land, Jessie Potter, Taylor Vance, Logan, Mikayla Patton, and Emily Lamkin.

Over Spring Break, several Holmes students from the Goodman and Grenada campuses travelled to Arlington, Texas, to unite for one cause: a mission trip. The students travelled to Mission

Arlington—a center that offers different services such as providing clothing, medical, and food supplies to people in the community. The students are members of the Baptist Student Union

(BSU), and the organization always takes an annual Spring Break mission trip to a different location.

According to Mission Arlington's website, the organization began as an idea when its founder and director, Tillie Burgin, was serving as a missionary in South Korea and thought, "Why can't I do this in my hometown in Arlington?" After extended periods of prayer with family and friends, Mission Arlington was birthed under the idea of "Taking church to the people." This same concept that began in 1986 has carried the evangelistic mission into 126 different apartments, neighborhoods, and churches.

Above all, the BSU members were impressed with Burgin. In her early 90's, Burgin is still actively involved with the organization and implementation of the day-to-day activities of the community mission project. She still meets with each group, gives them instruction for their project for the day, and prays over each group. Students were amazed by her will, determination, and passion for the Gospel that she displays each day. Students were more shocked when they didn't find her in her office, but working along-

side other groups.

At a joint share service at the BSU House on the Goodman Campus, Goodman student Bailey Rutledge had the following to say about his experience: "This trip taught me that it doesn't matter how big or small an act of kindness or a mission project may be—it's still important. We're called to share the Gospel in big and small ways in Arlington and in Goodman at Holmes Community College. I feel God leading me to continue that mission work in my daily life, wherever that may be."

Grenada student Maddison Porter shared those sentiments by jokingly saying, "Even though we had to suffer through air mattresses and the guys' snoring, we had a great time. We had a great time getting to know one another and playing with children and sharing the Gospel with people in a different community than my own."

After the trip, everyone agreed they could all be more like Tillie Burgin and have a greater passion for their calling, even when they're older. They hope the mission trip continues to be an annual thing among the campuses.

Alabama Holmes family visits Holmes CC Grenada

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are (left to right) Amanda Holmes, Marie Holmes, and Morgan Holmes Allen.

During their spring break, Marie Holmes and her two daughters - Monica Holmes Allen and Amanda Holmes - did something they had always wanted to do: visit Holmes Community College. Because Holmes is their family name, they had always been

curious about the institution and what it was all about.

Marie and her two daughters take a vacation together every spring break, and this time they decided to make a trip to the Grenada Campus. All three work in the field of education: Marie, a retired teacher, Monica, a high school counselor, and Amanda, an elementary school teacher. They all live in Marion County in Alabama.

"Our family knew that there was a college named Holmes, although we didn't know much else about it," Amanda said. "During Thanksgiving, we decided that we should get t-shirts from the college to wear, especially since Holmes is not a very common name in our area. We also loved that the mascot is a bulldog, because in many ways, that would be a good mascot for our family. We are very tight-knit, have each other's backs, and have that 'bulldog attitude' to work hard and not give up no matter what. Also, funny enough, my son owns a bulldog kennel as a side job.

"My mother, sister and I decided we would go to the Grenada Campus one day of spring break and purchase some Holmes gear. We thought it would be fun to surprise our brother with a shirt the next time we get to see him (there are six of us siblings total). Although we got to campus later than intended, the staff members who were still there were so kind and inviting.

"Mrs. Cynthia Abel especially was so generous and could not have been nicer to us. In fact, I don't think I've ever been treated as well on a college campus, or any tour for that matter, as the Holmes staff treated us. I also loved learning about what Mrs. Abel does as a student recruiter; we live in a rural area, and I wasn't even aware of all the different jobs that are available on a college campus these days. Speaking with her made me think I might be interested in pursuing a career similar to her position at some point.

"I was so impressed with the institution that I've been telling my

sixth-graders at Brilliant Elementary School about Holmes, and how a school like that is the perfect place for many of them. A place that offers workforce development and career-technical programs - along with the usual academic offerings - gives students a lot more options for their career paths."

Marie Holmes also commented that they had always wanted to visit Holmes, and that they really enjoyed their visit.

"Something else interesting," Marie said, "is that the youngest of my six children is named David Holmes... and Holmes County, where the main campus of Holmes Community College sits, is named in honor of David Holmes, the first governor of the state of Mississippi."

The Holmes ladies thoroughly enjoyed their experience at the college so much that they plan to visit Holmes again in the future.

Holmes selected as one of 2017 Best Community Colleges in MS

From Staff Reports/Photos

BestColleges.com has selected Holmes Community College as one of the Best Community Colleges in Mississippi for 2017. Holmes was ranked No. 5 out of the 15 community colleges in the state.

"Holmes stands out as one of the best of the best in Mississippi," said Katelyn Baker, outreach coordinator for BestColleges.com. "A place on this ranking demonstrates to BestColleges.com's 100,000 weekly visitors that the institution's programs provide a quality education that students can afford in their home state of Mississippi."

Mississippi offers a wide range of educational opportunities and the BestColleges.com staff realizes that a

number of factors go into the school selection process. According to their website, to aid in this decision-making process, BestColleges.com applied their rigorous methodology to the latest education data to rank the best colleges in Mississippi, including the top four-year and two-year schools.

"We have included essential factors in our database creation, including acceptance, retention, graduation and enrollment rates," BestColleges.com states. "Keeping in mind today's students' growing concern over post-graduation debt, we have also included the metric of student loan default percentages. Using these critical elements in our algorithm, we provide you with the

best of the best."

Since opening its doors 92 years ago, more than 20,000 alumni have received an education and/or trained for the workforce at Holmes Community College. Holmes has grown from an agricultural junior college in Goodman into 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.

"Holmes gives students the opportu-

nity to receive a quality education that will improve their quality of life," said Holmes Director of Admissions and Records Kay Bates. "We have employees that go above and beyond to make sure that our students are successful. We do this by creating an atmosphere that will encourage lifelong learning, responsible citizenship and leadership. When we make a positive difference in a student's life this consequently makes a positive difference in our community and our country."

To learn more about BestColleges.com and view Holmes' ranking, visit <http://www.bestcolleges.com/features/best-colleges-in-mississippi/>.

Holmes criminal justice alumna joins Byram PD

From Staff Reports/Photos

Katey Switzer of Meridian, an alumna of the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Criminal Justice Administration Technology program, is now serving as a member of the Byram Police Department. Switzer graduated from Holmes in 2016.

Former Ridgeland Police Department Police Chief and current Holmes Ridgeland Campus criminal justice instructor Jimmy Houston, Sr., speaks highly of Switzer and is proud of her accomplishments.

"I have never had a student so bound and determined in becoming a police officer," Houston said. "Katey may be short in stature but she has a big heart. She will make a difference in the people she serves in Byram. What an

honor it was to have a part in her life at Holmes Community College."

Prior to attending Holmes, Switzer attended Meridian Community College. At Holmes, she was a Dean's List scholar every semester.

The Criminal Justice Administration Technology program at Holmes prepares the graduate for employment opportunities in the field of criminal justice in the areas of law enforcement, corrections, and security. The program provides students with core courses but focuses primarily on criminal justice courses addressing different aspects of the field such as police, courts, and corrections. In addition to offering an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree, the program also offers an

Advanced Technical Certificate or a Technical Certificate.

For more information about the Criminal Justice Administration Technology program on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus, contact Jimmy Houston, Sr., at jhouston@holmescc.edu or (601)605.3423.



Pictured are (left to right) Former Ridgeland Police Department Police Chief and current Holmes Ridgeland Campus criminal justice instructor Jimmy Houston, Sr., with Katey Switzer of Meridian, an alumna of the Criminal Justice Administration Technology program and current police officer for the Byram Police Department.

Speaker of the House (Continued from Page 13)

From Staff Reports/Photos

they may make a rule that you don't like. So it serves you well, as a citizen, whit, anyway. For issues I feel strongly about, however, I don't care how many phone calls I get. On the lottery, for example, I'm not changing my position. I think I'm right economically, I think I'm right religiously, I think you will not find an economics book anywhere that tells you that the lottery is a solid

economic system.

"This is not a democracy. A lot of people recoil when I say that, but we don't have a democracy in the United States of America, we have a republic. It is a representative form of government. A true democracy would mean we would all vote on everything, and the majority would win. We don't do that. We vote to elect people to represent us in Washington, in the city council, on the school board, in the State Capitol and they speak for us. That's why it is important for you to pay attention to who you vote for because that person is going to go down there and speak for you on all matters. They're going to talk, and they're going to vote, the way - hopefully - they told you they were going to vote."

For more information about Rep. Gunn and how to contact him, visit <http://philipgunn.org/>.

For more information about the Holmes Paralegal Technology Program, contact Darleen Dozier at (601)605.5279 or didozier@holmescc.edu.

Speaker of the House Gunn speaks at paralegal assembly

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are (left to right) Angela Roland, Jessica Jones, Sydney Mack, Jason Boyte, Sergio Cuenca, Paralegal Tech program coordinator/instructor Darleen Dozier, Speaker of the House Phillip Gunn, Jaylon Robinson, Corinne Crowder, Ann-Clark Price, and Taylor Russell.

Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives Phillip Gunn served as guest speaker for a paralegal assembly on Monday, April 17 in the McGowan Workforce Building on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. The program was organized by Paralegal Technology program coordinator/instructor Darleen Dozier.

A member of the Republican Party, Rep. Gunn represents the 56th District, which includes the counties of Hinds and Madison. He has served in the Mississippi House since 2004, and became Speaker in 2012. Rep. Gunn is the first Republican to serve as Speaker of the Mississippi House since 1876. He serves as chair of the Compilation, Revision and Publication Committee.

A graduate of Clinton High School, he earned his B.B.A. from Baylor University and his J.D. from University of Mississippi School Of Law. As an attorney, Rep. Gunn is a member of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce, Hinds County Bar Association and the Mississippi Bar Association. He is married to the former Lisa Watkins and is of the Baptist faith.

Rep. Gunn spoke to the paralegal assembly attendees about his role as speaker of the house and how important it is to be informed citizens.

"The people in Washington, D.C., and the people in Jackson, Mississippi, are making the rules. Like it or not,

See All-Mississippi, Page 13

NATS names three student semifinalists

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Goodman Campus had three students named NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) semifinalists at the NATS event March 24-25 in Hattiesburg.

Aureius Myers, Jaylon Townsend and Jada Bell each had to prepare three songs with at least one song being in a foreign language. They had to perform at least two of the three songs in front of three different judges.

Fellow students Jessi Morgan, Britnee Kirk and Trekiya Brown also took part in the competition.

"They received good and helpful feedback from the judges," Choral Music Director Jennifer Smith said. "They also attended an insightful master class with guest performer Stephen Purdy,



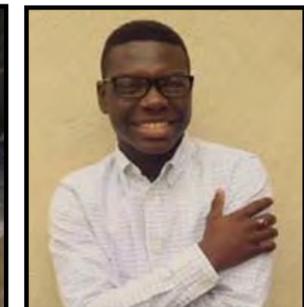
Jada Bell

who is a director and performer in New York. They had the opportunity to listen to other student's performances and



Aureius Myers

discovered new vocal repertoire." Smith thanks Dr. Donna Banks for accompanying each of these students.



Jaylon Townsend

"We couldn't have done it without her," said Smith.

Holmes partners with Millsaps College to strengthen transfer student opportunities

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THIS PHOTO: Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey is pictured with Millsaps College President Dr. Robert Pearigen following the articulation agreement signing.

an agreement with Millsaps College to enhance the opportunities for students to transfer directly from a community college campus to the Millsaps campus in Jackson. The agreement outlines coursework that aligns with the Compass Curriculum followed by all students at Millsaps.

"The execution of this agreement streamlines the path for students to transfer from community and junior college campuses across Mississippi, where they have been building an incredibly strong academic foundation, into the classrooms at Millsaps," said Dr. Robert W. Pearigen, president of Millsaps College. "We are proud to partner with these institutions from around the state and support their students as they continue their education and find their path in the world."

Millsaps has, for several years, worked to attract transfer students from community and junior colleges. The college offers the following support specific to transfer students:

- Students who have at least a 2.8 GPA and 30 transferrable credit hours are guaranteed admission and at least \$10,000 in scholarship funds.
 - Students with at least a 3.2 GPA and 30 transferrable credit hours are guaranteed admission and at least \$15,000 in scholarship funds.
 - Students who are part of Phi Theta Kappa honorary society with a GPA of 3.5 and 30 transferrable credit hours are eligible for at least \$17,000 in scholarship funds.
- "We are thankful for this opportunity for our students to have a clear and dedicated pathway to the world-class faculty and opportunities at Millsaps College," added Dr. Jesse Smith, president of Jones County Junior College and chair of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges. "Dr. Pearigen's leadership has afforded students at the Mississippi community and junior colleges this tremendous opportunity, and we are

extremely thankful." Holmes has grown from an agricultural junior college in Goodman into 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 and a variety of student support services. Included in those support services are counselors who prepare students for successful transitions to four-year institutions.

"The Articulation Agreement between Holmes Community College and Millsaps College will facilitate the student's transfer process by providing a list of specific courses for each area requirement," said Holmes Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Fran Cox. "It was my pleasure to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Pearigen and Dr. Gidden's Compass Curriculum team."

Holmes Community College, along with the other 14 community and junior colleges in Mississippi, signed

Austin earns PhD in nursing from UAB

From Staff Reports/Photos



Alice Austin

A native of Vicksburg, Dr. Austin obtained a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's in nursing education from Alcorn State University in 1991 and 2002, respectively. She first joined the Holmes family as a full-time instructor for Medical-Surgical Nursing in 2004. Shortly after, she began teaching as an adjunct faculty instructor for the Ridgeland and Grenada campuses, and in 2010, added on the role of ADN assistant director.

Prior to working at Holmes, Dr. Austin taught at other institutions in the state. She served as an adjunct clinical instructor (LPN Bridge Program) for the Hinds Community College ADN program on the Vicksburg Campus and as an instructor from the Mississippi College School of Nursing in Clinton. She has also been employed as a staff nurse (PRN status) at St. Dominic's Hospital in Jackson, as a staff nurse for maternal-child services at River Region Health System in Vicksburg, as pediatric coordinator and as a staff

nurse for ParkView Regional Medical Center in Vicksburg, and as assistant director of nursing for Delta Haven Nursing Home in Tallulah, Louisiana.

Dr. Austin has attended and presented at numerous conferences, including the Annual Conference of Southern Nursing Research Society in San Antonio, Texas; the Nuts and Bolts for Nurse Educators: Effective Strategies for NCLEX Success in Phoenix, Arizona, and the 17th Annual Conference of Southern Nursing Research Society in Orlando, Florida, to name a few. She presented "Childhood Obesity in African Americans: The Parent's Perspective" at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She also served as moderator for the 2nd Annual Stepping Stone Conference in Jackson.

To add to her list of credentials, Dr. Austin is currently the vice-chair for the Council for Associate Degree Nursing, Deans & Directors of Mississippi; a board member and treasurer for Believers of Faith Outreach in

Vicksburg; a board member for the Madison County Health & Wellness Committee of the Madison County Business League; a member of the Obesity Society; a dual member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Tau Eta Chapter; a member of the Mississippi Nurses Association and of the American Nurses Association. Dr. Austin is also the faculty advisor for Holmes' student nurses association and was named Faculty of the Year at Mississippi College in 2004 and Faculty of the Year at Holmes in 2008.

Additionally, in June Dr. Austin will be a participant in the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA) and in the fall of 2017, will serve as a peer reviewer for ACEN Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

To learn more about the Holmes ADN program, contact Dr. Austin at aaustin@holmescc.edu or (601)605.3419.

Blankenship earns PhD in Community College Leadership

From Staff Reports/Photos



Mike Blankenship

ed his PhD in Community College Leadership through Mississippi State University after defending his dissertation, "Human resource managers' perceptions of soft skills, involuntary employment turnover, and the efficacy of a proposed career pathway model." Offered through the Center for Distance Education, the Community College Leadership program consists of core courses of study in leading and managing in the community college, interdisciplinary courses in a rural context and courses in research and statistics.

A resident of Brandon, this is Dr. Blankenship's third degree from MSU; he earned his bachelor's in industrial technology in 1992 and his master's in instructional technology with an

emphasis in industrial technology in 1993. He joined the Holmes Workforce Development family in 2000 as a coordinator and instructor; a position he held for eight years until he was promoted to district director. In 2014, he was promoted again, this time to his current role as vice president. Dr. Blankenship is stationed on the Ridgeland Campus, but Holmes also has workforce training centers in Grenada, Goodman, and Kosciusko, and offers workforce classes in Yazoo City.

Prior to working at Holmes, Dr. Blankenship was employed with the American Nonwovens Corporation in Talladega, Alabama. He served as production manager for five years before moving into the role of plant manager in 1999.

Holmes Community College's Vice President of Workforce Development Mike Blankenship recently complet-

Holmes art student places third in MC/JCAIA Student Art Competition

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are (left to right) Kris Wilson, adjunct art instructor, and his student Lydia Fortenberry. Fortenberry recently placed third in the JCAIA Student Art Competition.

Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus art student Lydia Fortenberry recently placed third in the Drawing Division at the 2017 Mississippi Community College/Junior College Art Instructor's Association (MC/JCAIA) Student Art Competition/Exhibition. Her award-winning pastel was titled, "None Will Love the Butcher."

Fortenberry's work and that of students from colleges across Mississippi who submitted artwork for the statewide competition are on display at East Mississippi Community College's Golden Triangle Campus on the second floor of the student union in the art gallery. There are nearly 150 pieces of art that can be viewed

Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through April 12. An awards reception for the student artists will be held April 13 at 10 a.m. The gallery is open to the public.

A native of Brandon, Fortenberry is a liberal arts major who was homeschooled. Upon graduating from Holmes, she plans to attend Mississippi State University and eventually become an illustrator. She also has an interest in doing storyboarding for a living, as well.

For more information on the Holmes Fine Art Department, contact John L. Cheatham, III, department chair, at jcheatham@holmescc.edu or (662)472.9097.

History and Political Science Department presents Holmes at War

From Staff Reports/Photos



Major Andy Thaggard of the Mississippi National Guard gave a presentation discussing the role of the Mississippi National Guard as part of the Holmes at War Series on April 18 in the McGowan Center on the Ridgeland Campus.

This was Maj Thaggard's third Holmes presentation: he presented on the Goodman Campus on March 7 and the Grenada Campus April 17.

During his presentation, Maj Thaggard not only informed students about the National Guard and what their role is, but also about the great cultural divide between civilians and those either in the military. He explained that because America no longer operates under the forced integration of a draft and the military is an all-volunteer

force, many civilians remain completely oblivious about what is going on in warzones.

"It's important that you know what the nation is doing with its military," Maj Thaggard said.

Pictured are: (left to right) Holmes History and Political Science Department Chair **Laura Canard**, Major **Andy Thaggard** of the Mississippi National Guard, history and political science instructor **Kay Kelly** and history instructor **J.R. Hall**.

GREAT GOLF FOR A GREAT LOCAL CAUSE.

2017 HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

<p>WEDNESDAY MAY 10 2017</p> <p>Deerfield Golf Club, Madison, Mississippi 11 a.m. Registration & Lunch 12 P.M. Tee Time</p> <p>AFTER 5:00 SOCIAL AND HORS D'OEUVRES</p>	<p>TEAM/CORPORATE SPONSOR \$600</p> <p>Advertise your business while supporting Holmes! Includes 4 player team, green fees, cart fees, lunch and hole sign.</p> <p>HOLE SPONSOR \$100</p> <p>Not able to play, but still want to participate? Includes a hole sign showing your support.</p> <p>PRIZE SPONSOR</p> <p>Feature your most sought-after wares. Support the Foundation by donating a raffle or prize item.</p>
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PLEASE SUBMIT ALL ENTRY FORMS WITH PAYMENT TO ALLISON DEWEES BY FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017
By email: adeweese@holmescc.edu | By fax: 601-605-3411 attn: Allison | By mail: 412 West Ridgeland Ave., Ridgeland, MS 39157. Make check payable to: Holmes Community College Development Foundation.

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HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Grenada Campus holds Spring Fling on April 13

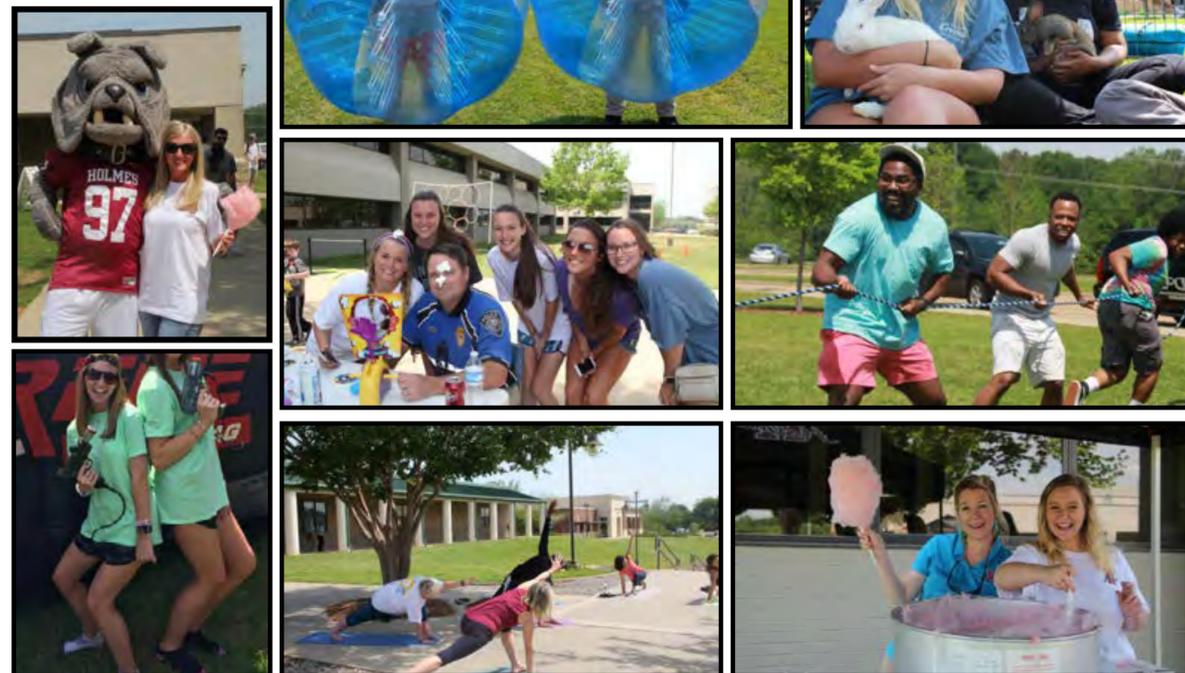
On April 13, the Holmes Grenada Campus held its 2017 Spring Fling, complete with crawfish, volleyball, jumpies, music, raffles, and prizes.



Ridgeland Campus holds Spring Fling on April 13

From Staff Reports/Photos
Additional photos by Growl Reporter Jai'La Liddell

On April 13, the Holmes Ridgeland Campus held its 2017 Spring Fling. Students enjoyed Backyard Burger, cotton candy, and numerous games and activities, including a bunny petting zoo, tug-o-war, and bubble soccer.



Goodman Campus holds Spring Fling on March 27

On March 27, the Holmes Goodman Campus held its 2017 Spring Fling in the Lorraine Student Center. The students enjoyed crawfish, other goodies, and fellowship with friends.



Goodman SGA hosts Mud Dash

The Holmes Goodman Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a Mud Dash on the Goodman Campus on April 17. Student organizations from all three campuses participated.



Eight Lady Bulldogs soccer players sign with four-year institutions

From Staff Reports/Photos

Eight of the Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs soccer players recently signed letters of intent or verbally committed to four-year institutions. Those players included Samantha Abrams of Pearl; Rachel Hartley of Mobile, Alabama; Kaitlin "Kate" Hill of Olive Branch; Emily Murray of Niceville, Florida; Jaci Murphy of Gulfport; Catherine "Cat" Petro of Kosciusko; Micaela Robinson of Moody, Alabama, and Ashley Whitley of Flowood.

"We are extremely proud of this group of sophomores," said Women's Soccer Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "These girls have been a pleasure to coach and once again they have represented this program and school in such a positive way. Each one of these universities are getting fantastic players as well as fantastic young ladies. This is a group of young women that strive to be excellent on the field but also in the classroom. Also, this is the most girls that we have put into the next level in program history and it is all due to the attitude and drive of these ladies."

Abrams, daughter of Heather Ste-

phenson, recently signed with Belhaven University to play defense. A graduate of Pearl High School, Abrams plans to become a special education teacher. Hartley, daughter of Angela Hartley, is a graduate of Murphy High School. She will play center back for the Auburn University at Montgomery. Hill, daughter of Rodney and Kim Hill, also recently signed with Belhaven to play defense. A graduate of Lewisburg, Hill plans to eventually become a physical therapist assistant and athletic trainer.

Murray, daughter of Bethany Little, is a graduate of Niceville High School. She has committed to serving as goal-keeper for Louisiana State University of Alexandria. Murphy, daughter of Jason and Shelley Murphy, signed with Belhaven to play center midfielder and defense. She is an exercise major who plans to become an occupational therapist. Petro, daughter of Bee and Penny Petro, is a graduate of Kosciusko High School. She has also signed with Belhaven to play center midfielder. Petro is an exercise science/kinesiology major who plans to become an athletic trainer.

Robinson, daughter of Stacie Robinson, will play forward for the Uni-



IN THIS PHOTO: Eight of the Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs soccer players recently signed letters of intent or verbally committed to four-year institutions. Those players included (seated, left to right) **Samantha Abrams** of Pearl; **Jaci Murphy** of Gulfport; **Ashley Whitley** of Flowood; **Kaitlin "Kate" Hill** of Olive Branch; **Catherine "Cat" Petro** of Kosciusko, and **Micaela Robinson** of Moody, Alabama. Standing behind them is Women's Associate Head Soccer Coach **Wesley Noble**. Not pictured: Rachel Hartley of Mobile, Alabama, and Emily Murray of Niceville, Florida.

versity of Alabama in Huntsville. She is a graduate of Moody High School whose career ambition is to become a registered nurse. Whitley, daughter of Robert and Ruth Whitley, is a graduate of Northwest Rankin High School. She has signed on to play forward with

Belhaven and plans to become a physical therapist in the U.S. Army.

For more information on the Holmes Soccer Program, contact Men's and Women's Head Coach Matt Convertino at mconvertino@holmescc.edu or (601)605.3412.

Lacy, Pimpton Named All State

From Staff Reports/Photos



Kamelia Lacy



Vaquela Pimpton

Two Holmes Community College Lady Bulldog freshman basketball players have been named All-State by the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

Kamelia Lacy was named Second Team All-State while Vaquela Pimpton was named Honorable Mention All-State.

Lacy was the team's leading scorer with a 10.4 points per game average. She shot 38.2 percent from the floor, 25 percent from the three-point line and 69.8 percent from the free throw

line. Lacy played 24 minutes per game and averaged 3.1 rebounds and 1.3 assists per game.

Pimpton scored 10.2 points per game and shot 29.6 percent from the floor, 23.1 percent from the three-point line and 73.6 percent from the free throw line. She played 26.8 minutes per game and averaged 3.3 rebounds, two assists and 1.3 steals per game.

Holmes inducts six into 2017 Sports Hall of Fame

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are the 2017 Sports Hall of Fame inductees with (center) **Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey**. They are (left to right) **Charles McCluskey**, Football/Baseball; **Todd Kimble**, Men's Basketball Coach; **Austin Taylor**, Baseball; **Derek Starling, Jr.**, Men's Basketball; **Elizabeth Mosby Ellis**, Women's Basketball, and **Phillip Sistrunk**, Men's Soccer.

On April 27, the Holmes Alumni Association inducted six former athletes into the 2017 Sports Hall of Fame in Frank Branch Coliseum in Goodman. The six inductees included: Elizabeth Mosby Ellis, Women's Basketball; Todd Kimble, Men's Basketball Coach; Charles McCluskey, Football/Baseball; Phillip Sistrunk, Men's Soccer; Derek Starling, Jr., Men's Basketball, and Austin Taylor, Baseball. Roy Oswalt, a former pitcher for the Bulldogs, was also recognized for being inducted into the Mississippi Community and Junior College Sports Hall of Fame on April 25.

Elizabeth Mosley Ellis, a graduate of Canton Academy, played basketball and tennis at Holmes from 1995-1997. At Holmes, she accumulated numerous basketball honors, including: Most Improved Player, Most Valuable Player, and All-State Second Team. For tennis, she also fared well, as she was named Best Offensive Player, Most Improved Player, Most Valuable Player, All-State First Team, Most Dedicated Player, and Juco All-Star. She was on the President's List, received academic awards for her strong grades as a student-athlete, and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, as well.

Ellis' husband, Michael, is also a Holmes alumnus and former student-athlete. He played baseball and football from 1994-1995. They have three children: Vaiden, 12; Whitten, 9, and Mary Katherine, 6.

"My fondest memory from Holmes, of course, is meeting my now-husband Michael," Ellis said. "I also thoroughly enjoyed dorm life."

Upon graduating Holmes, Ellis transferred to the University of Louisiana in Lafayette to major in child and family studies. In 1999, she received the Sun Belt Conference Sportsmanship Award, and in 2000, she completed her degree. Ellis worked in pharmaceutical sales, and received the Special Achievement Award from Roche Pharmaceuticals in 2012. After working as a pharmaceutical sales representative for three years, she became a mother and left the workforce, and has remained a stay-at-home-mom since then. Ellis and her family currently reside in Oxford, where she is a member of Junior Auxiliary.

Todd Kimble of Hattiesburg served in a variety of roles at Holmes from July 1997-August 2012. He served as workforce development coordinator, physical education instructor, developmental mathematics instructor, men's golf coach, and - most notably - head men's basketball coach. For this role, Kimble followed in his father Bennie Kimble's footsteps, who served as Holmes' head basketball coach for 27 years.

A graduate of East Holmes Academy, Kimble played basketball at Holmes from 1987-88. He was also voted Most Intellectual Freshman and inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. After Holmes, Kimble transferred to Delta State University where he earned his B.S. in mathematics. While at Delta State, he continued to play basketball, received the Mr. Hustle Award and earned the National Collegiate Mathematics Award.

Kimble continued his education with additional graduate work in physical education at Mississippi State University and in education at William Carey University. Prior to returning to Holmes, Kimble taught math and coached a number of sports at Manchester Academy, including basketball, baseball, football, softball, and track. He earned numerous honors, including State AAA Coach of the Year, South All-Star Coach, District Coach of the Year, among many others, for both boys and girls basketball.

As basketball coach at Holmes, he was named North All-Star Coach in 1998 and 2005; Mississippi Association of Coaches Coach of the Year 2003; Holmes County Chamber of Commerce Shining Star Award recipient 2006; MACJC Coach of the Year 2003; and MACJC Basketball Committee Chairman 2003-2005. Kimble took the Bulldogs to the MACJC State Tournament seven times, led the team to become North Division Runner-up four times, and North Division Champions in 2003. He also led the Bulldogs to be MACJC State Champions three times, took them to the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament six times, and helped them place as NJCAA Region 23 Runner-up in 2003.

Currently, Kimble is serving as head boys basketball coach, cross country coach and geometry instructor at Purvis High School. Prior to his current position, he was head girls basketball coach, head football coach and mathematics instructor at Dixie Attendance Center; positions he had held since 2013 when he left North Forrest High School. He and his wife, Shannon, have three children: Bree Brackett, 27, a film editor; Tori Brackett, 21, a marine biologist, and Sidney Kimble, 18, a student.

Charles McCluskey of North Carrollton enrolled at Holmes after graduating from J. Z. George High School in 1961. A star athlete for his two years as a Bulldog, he co-captained the football team and pitched for the baseball team.

As a football player, he was voted Most Improved Back, named an Honorable Mention for All-State Fullback, and was an offensive leader with 162 total plays. McCluskey earned a running average of .069 under Baseball Coach Jamie Howell. He and the Bulldogs won 11 games and lost only one, to Coach Bellipanni at Mississippi Delta Community College. Not surprisingly, he was voted Most Athletic in 1963.

"I can still see Ms. Emma Bostick, my English instructor, sitting in the stadium bleachers - rain or shine," McCluskey said. "She made it to about 95 percent of all of our football practices. I was crazy about my baseball and football coaches: Jamie Howell, Wayne Sims, Aubrey Rosell, Glen Fortenberry, and Head Coach Billy Mustin.

"Coach Mustin was tough, but fair, and probably my favorite. He was solely responsible for my being at HJC. I was scouted by Ole Miss my senior year at J.Z. George High, but in the end my abilities did not come up to SEC standards. My ego was bruised, so I decided not to attend college. Coach Mustin, however, came to my rescue. J.Z. George was playing

in the district basketball tournament at Winona High, which was Coach Mustin's alma mater. He talked me into coming to Holmes on a full football scholarship, which I have been proud of every day since."

McCluskey was also vice president of his freshman class, served as a student council representative, and was voted Most Handsome.

Upon graduation, he continued his baseball career, playing semi-pro for 23 years. He also began working in construction at J.J. Ferguson Sand & Gravel Co. in 1967 and is still with the company today.

McCluskey and his wife, Jo, have four children - Charles A. (Tony) McCluskey, Robin S. McCluskey, Cecil Womble, and Mike Womble - as well as 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His son Robin and granddaughter Lindsay Womble are Holmes alumni, as well, and another granddaughter - Madison Womble - is currently a freshman Bulldog softball player.

Phillip Sistrunk of Starkville is a 2007 graduate of Holmes Community College. A native of Flowood and graduate of Northwest Rankin High School, he played soccer under Coach Matt Convertino on the Ridgeland Campus from 2005-2006.

"I am absolutely elated that Phil is the first-ever Holmes men's soccer player to be inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame," Coach Convertino said. "Phil was a fantastic soccer player on the field for us but more so he was an even better personality to have as part of our program for two years. He and his teammates impacted the team's culture in a positive way and left a legacy that will not be forgotten."

Serving as captain of the Bulldogs soccer team, Sistrunk was the highest goal-scorer and assist-leader his sophomore year. In 2006, he was named to the All-Region 23 Team, named MACJC Region 23 Co-Player of the Year, and selected for the Mississippi Junior College All-State Team. He was also named MVP for the Bulldogs each year of his tenure. As a freshman, Sistrunk volunteered as a coach for the YMCA soccer team and coached Mississippi Fire Juniors.

Sistrunk majored in business administration/accounting and was a Dean's List scholar, a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor, and named to the Holmes Hall of Fame. He was also an active member of Pinelake Church, where he volunteered as a Bible study leader.

Upon graduation from Holmes, he attended Mississippi State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2009. He currently serves as a human resources director for a restaurant group in North Mississippi.

Derek Starling, Sr., of Madison is a 1986 alumnus of Holmes Junior College. A graduate of Canton High School, he played men's varsity basketball under Coach Bennie Kimble from 1984-1986.

During his time as a Bulldog, Starling, the team captain, was 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. Starling was also president of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a Hall of Fame inductee, an honor student, and on the Homecoming Court.

Starling recalls many fond memories from his time as a Bulldog.

"I was very fond of calculus class with Mr. Bogan and drafting class with Mr. Miles," Starling said. "I also had great memories of the quotes from Coach Kimble. By playing basketball at Holmes, we were able to travel to the far reaches of this great state and meet some wonderful people, all while being great ambassadors for this great college. Finally, I remember all the evenings we spent sitting outside all over the campus."

Upon graduation from Holmes, he attended MSU and earned his B.S. in industrial and systems engineering. Starling's basketball career ended in the fall of 1986 while at MSU, due to a knee injury. Today, he is the owner of SOL Engineer-

Services, headquartered in Jackson. Prior to owning SOL Engineering, he served as corporate director of quality and enterprise resource planning at Proliance, Inc., in New Haven, Connecticut. He has also worked as vice president of Magnolia Management Group and as quality section manager of Baxter Healthcare, Inc.

Some of the honors that Starling has received include: Small Business Administration's 2015 Mississippi Business Person of the Year, and SOL Engineering being selected by Mississippi Business Journal as one of the "Top 10 Engineering Firms in the State" and one of the "10 Best Places to Work." He is proud to say that SOL Engineering has endowed a Minority Engineering Scholarship at Mississippi State. Starling also served on the Canton School Board for 17 years, eight of which he served as chairman.

He and his wife, Daphenia, have one son, Derek, who is 10.

Austin Taylor, son of Gerry and Julie Taylor of Kosciusko, enrolled at Holmes after graduating from Kosciusko High. In high school, Taylor played three seasons at Kosciusko for head coach Kevin Pullen where he hit .396 for his career with 10 home runs and 84 RBI. He helped lead the Whippets to three division titles and earned all-division honors in both 2004 and 2005. In 2004, was selected to compete in the State Games of Mississippi.

Taylor followed in both his grandfathers' footsteps coming to Holmes: his grandfather Alton Taylor played baseball from 1951-53, and his grandfather Dewitt Belk played football from 1953-55. As a member of the Holmes baseball team, Taylor shined under Coach Kenny Dupont, Bill Grace, and Josh Hoffpauir. He hit .346 with a combined 50 RBI in his two seasons at Holmes. Taylor garnered MACJC All-State honors and was selected to represent his team in the Mississippi Junior College Baseball Showcase. Taylor was a scholar-athlete, as well, earning an invitation to be part of Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

"The most memorable part of Holmes was the family atmosphere throughout campus," Taylor said. "The faculty members knew who you were. They took the time to make sure we did well in class during the spring when our schedule was so demanding. I made lifelong friends at Holmes and wouldn't trade anything for the experience I had!"

In the 2006 MLB Draft, Taylor was a 49th round draft pick by the St. Louis Cardinals.

He also went on to play ball with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Blazers in 2008. He played in 51 games and started 49 in his first season at UAB. Taylor started 23 games in the outfield and 26 as the Blazers' designated hitter, tallying nine multiple-hit games and five contests with multiple RBI. He finished the season with a .247 batting average and 20 RBI. Taylor was named to the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll, as well.

He earned his B.S. from UAB, and has worked for the past eight years at Mitchell Metal Products in Kosciusko as the sales manager for the southeast territory. The company sells sheet metal, duct pipe and fitting, and his territory ranges from Texas to Georgia.

Taylor and his wife, Mary Claire, have three children - Tate Austin, 3, Wells Atwood, 2, and Henry (Hank) Dewitte, newborn.

Prior to the 6 p.m. banquet, inductees enjoyed a welcoming reception at the president's home, where they received framed sports photos from their days as a Bulldog. Afterward, inductees and their families enjoyed tours of campus and a musical performances by Connection! until time for the banquet. Holmes' new bulldog puppy mascot, Major, made an appearance for photo opportunities during the banquet, as well.

For more information about alumni events, contact Coordinator of Alumni Affairs Katherine Ellard at kellard@holmescc.edu or at 662-472-9134.

Soccer team serves at Ronald McDonald House

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mississippi (RMHC MS) location in Jackson are Head Soccer Coach **Matt Convertino**, **Catherine Petro**, **Skylar Schmidt**, **Elias Farias**, **Grayson Smith**, **Jaylon Robinson**, **Kaylan Green**, **Courtney Turner** and **Alex Howard**. Members of the men and women's teams served dinner to the residents of the RMHC in shifts on Tuesday, April 25.

On April 25, the Holmes Community College men and women's soccer teams took a break from spring training to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mississippi (RMHC MS) in downtown Jackson. Holmes' players served dinner to the families and patients at the Ronald McDonald House, while also interacting with the residents. Head Soccer Coach Matt Convertino picked up the home-style food from Fresh Market Caf  , a portion of which the restaurant kindly donated to the cause.

"The Ronald McDonald House is such a worthy cause that when the opportunity arose to partner with them on this, we jumped right at it," Coach Convertino said. "They make such a difference in the lives of families whose children are being treated at Blair E Batson Children's Hospital as well as other local children's hospitals."

RMHC MS improves the well-being of children and families through programs that give comfort, compassion and care. The Ronald McDonald House opened its doors on May 1, 1989 and is located on the campus of University of Mississippi Medical Center. The two-story house serves as a home-away-from-home for 16 families who have children receiving specialized medical care throughout the Jackson metro-area.

RMHC MS Executive Director Ruth Ann Allen expressed her gratitude for the Holmes soccer teams' service and invited them to come back whenever they could.

For more information on RMHC MS, visit <https://www.rmhcms.org/>.

For more information about the Holmes Soccer Program, contact Coach Convertino at mconvertino@holmescc.edu or (601)605.3412.



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.



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.)



Abigail Launius

Hometown: Madison

Major: Journalism

Campus: Ridgeland

Future Plans: After Holmes, I plan on moving to Los Angeles and going back to school later in life to be a journalist or possibly going into the film industry.

About Me: I spend my time writing, listening to music, and hanging out with friends.



Jai'La Liddell

Hometown: McCarley

Major: Child Development/Child Care & Family Education

Campus: Goodman

Future plans: To continue my education in child care/family education.

About me: I'm a member of both the Growl newspaper staff and the Horizons yearbook staff.



Charleigh Mcphail

Hometown: Purvis

Major: Criminal Justice

Campus: Goodman

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.



Abby Perez

Hometown: Carthage

Major: Communications

Campus: Goodman

Future plans: If all goes as planned, I'll be graduating in May. I plan on furthering my studies by transferring to a University here in Mississippi. I plan to major in special education, and minor in journalism. About me: I love to help kids with learning disabilities, so I hope to help children become brighter than what they already are. I also love writing stories, and doing research on articles: specifically that have to do with fashion. I love reading articles that talk about which celebrity wore what, who wore the perfect dress and who didn't.



Alisha Williams

Hometown: Clinton

Major: Elementary Education

Campus: Ridgeland

Future plans: I plan to continue my studies in elementary education and become a teacher.

About me: When I'm not in school I enjoy working with kids.



Taylor Vance, Editor

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