



Holmes Community College  
Goodman – Ridgeland – Grenada  
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# THE GROWL

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## Holmes mourns the loss of beloved instructor Julie Tipton

From Staff Reports/Photos



Julie Tipton

On the morning of Monday, April 16, Holmes Community College lost beloved Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor Julie Ann Parrett Tipton. The 33-year-old Grenada Campus instructor passed away at her residence following a battle with cancer.

“While we knew the time was close at hand, we are still heartbroken for having lost a very special part of our Holmes family,” said Holmes Human Resources Director Julia Brown.

Julie had a final scripture selected that she wanted to share with those who have followed her through her journey with cancer.

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” - 2 Timothy 4:7-8.

“So many of you have witnessed her strength and determination during her illness and have followed and supported her and her family through this journey,” Brown said.

Born Aug. 14, 1984 to Timothy and Marysue Cooper Parrett of Kilmichael, Julie was a devoted wife to her husband, David Devonn Tipton III, and a loving mother to her three children: Cooper Hayes, Anna Kate and Ava Klaire. She was also close to her parents, her brother, Hunter Parrett, and his wife, Katie.

A lifelong learner, Julie continued her studies even after she became a nursing instructor at Holmes. She was pursuing her Ph.D. in Nursing Administration from William Carey University all the while remaining dedicated to her students in Grenada. Despite Julie’s incredibly busy schedule, she always made time for friends, family and service to her church.

“My friendship with Julie spans many years,” said Bethany Miller, administrative assistant to the vice president and academic dean on the Grenada Campus. “In my opinion, Julie’s greatest quality was that she always gave all she had in everything she did. If Julie had a dream, she went for that dream no matter what it took.

“Many people were amazed by Julie’s tenacity as she fought cancer, raised three beautiful children, served as a faithful wife to her husband of 13 years, played many roles in her church-The Pentecostals of Grenada and held a full-time job, all while completing her master’s degree and beginning a doctoral program. Becoming a nursing instructor at Holmes was her greatest career dream and I am so thankful she was able to live out that dream before

she passed.

“Julie fought the good fight and finished this race of life with faith and love. She has left a legacy for her family and friends that will never be forgotten. Holmes is a better place because of Julie Parrett Tipton.”

A service to celebrate her life was held on April 19 at the Pentecostals of Grenada. Rev. Michael Cooper, Rev. Damon Tipton and Rev. David Tipton officiated the ceremony, while Dr. LaWanda Herron, director of nursing at Holmes, offered comments during the service.

“Julie was a wonderful, sweet person,” Dr. Herron said. “She was a vibrant soul, full of determination and tenacity. And right up until she became less able to get around, she was full of joy while trying to create as many memories as possible with her family and friends. I believe Julie’s greatest quality was her ability to make the best of everything and to face problems head on. She was a proud woman who did not back down from a fight.

“Julie never realized that she taught me so much. With her unwavering faith, positive attitude, grit and refusal to give up, she taught everyone around her so much. Julie was a faithful warrior. Julie loved life. Julie greeted everyone with a smile and a friendly word. She especially made students feel important, that they mattered. This was no act. Julie, with her tender soul, did care. It was who she was. Despite her own struggles and vulnerabilities, she continue to give so much heart and soul to each encounter. She put others’ needs ahead of her own, soothed their pains first before caring for herself.

“Julie was there for her family, friends,

peers, patients and students and touched their lives in meaningful and unforgettable ways. She was a valued faculty member at Holmes Community College who always went out of her way to be nice to everyone. We still remember her frequent laughs and smiles, and appreciate her efforts to connect with everyone. She knew words carry meaning and chose her words carefully to avoid causing anyone pain, directly or inadvertently. She was a trusted confidant that could protect a friendship and keep a secret. She was sunshine and light, a beacon in a storm.”

Julie was one of the many Holmes alumni who return home to work at their alma mater. Grenada Academic Dean Dr. Myra Harville fondly remembers teaching Julie and watching her blossom as an instructor.

“I remember the very shy girl that Julie was as a student in my class and then watched her as a nursing instructor where she overcame that shyness,” Dr. Harville said. “But my favorite memories of Julie are from watching as she and Devonn grew into a strong love while students here. From working with them on projects in the library to Phi Theta Kappa honor society, it was fun to watch them as that love blossomed.

“In the past few months, Julie has shown such strength of character and faith that she has been a role model to people of all ages. Her smiling face and half and half Sonic tea addiction will certainly be missed.”

Those who wish to honor Julie’s memory can direct memorials to the Julie Tipton Memorial Fund at [www.ThePOG.cc](http://www.ThePOG.cc) and express online condolences to the family at [www.mckibbenandguinn.com](http://www.mckibbenandguinn.com).

## Holmes mourns loss of two students: Taylor Gagneaux from Ridgeland and Marianna Sherman from Grenada

From Staff Reports/Photos



Taylor Gagneaux

Holmes Community College mourns the loss of two young ladies who tragically passed away recently: Taylor Gagneaux and Marianna Sherman.

### Taylor Gagneaux

The Lady Bulldog soccer team is heartbroken after Taylor Gagneaux, a freshman forward from Jackson, died from injuries



Marianna Sherman

sustained in a car wreck near Winona on May 4.

Taylor, 19, who played high school soccer at Central Hinds Academy, was a major factor in the Lady Bulldogs’ success last season which saw the team win the North Division championship and finish as the MACJC/ Region XXIII runner-up. She scored 11 points for the Lady Bulldogs including four goals and three assists.

“Taylor was a great young lady,” Holmes Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble said. “She was always upbeat and could bring a smile to anyone’s face. It’s absolutely devastating that this happened to such a young and sweet soul. She was and always will be a part of us, our Holmes family.”

Visitation was held on May 7 and the funeral was held on May 8, all at Lakeshore Methodist Church in Byram. Interment was at Lakewood Memorial Garden in Clinton.

The daughter of Bobby and Amy Dickerson, Taylor was a lifelong resident of Jackson. She is a graduate of Central Hinds Academy and was continuing her education at Holmes on a soccer scholarship. Taylor was an incredible athlete and loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing. She was a free spirit, hippie flower child who loved sunflowers and sunsets.

Gagneaux is preceded in death by her grandparents, Billy and Bobbie Dickerson and great grandparents, Harold Tisdale, Pat & Blair Bernard. Survivors include her parents Amy and Bobby Joe Dickerson; brother Aaron (Rachel) Dickerson of Jackson; sister Crystal Gagneaux of Byram;

Grandparents, Teresa “Nana” Gardner of Jackson, Connie and Lew Gagneaux of Clinton and Raul Sierra of Madison; great grandmother Claudia Tisdale of Jackson; uncles, Josh Gagneaux of Clinton and Dee (Jennifer) Colson of Brandon; aunt, Lauren (Ro) Sierra of Ridgeland; great aunt, Carol Faye Tisdale of Jackson; nieces, Cayden and Blaze and cousins Noah, Steven, Carter, Drew, GiGi, Eli and Luke.

### Marianna Sherman

Only 18 years old, Grenada Campus student and Charleston native Marianna Faith Sherman lost her life in an automobile accident on Saturday, April 28, near Brazil (a community in Tallahatchie County).

“Our sweet Marianna is so very missed!” said Grenada Campus instructor Amy Land. “Marianna had a servant’s heart, beginning her educational journey in nursing and moving to education. Though she was often quiet, she was so loved amongst her peers. She loved her family, her friends and her fashion.

“She was an excellent student and she would have been an excellent teacher to

*See Gagneaux and Sherman, Page 7*

### WHAT’S INSIDE...

- THOUGHT-PROVOKING EDITORIALS
  - HONORS DAY AWARD WINNERS
  - SPORTS UPDATES
- AND MORE!



CHECK OUT  
PAGES 8-10 FOR  
HALL OF FAME!

## Silencing Autism Speaks

By Elizabeth Howell  
Growl Editor



It seems that for success in science or art a dash of autism is essential. — Hans Asperger  
Autism Speaks is the world's leading non-profit autism aware-

ness organization. With April being Autism Awareness month, everyone who reads this article will likely be asked to donate by one of their corporate sponsors, including retail giants such as Dollar General and GameStop—both of which are listed on Autism Speaks' website as donating more than a million dollars annually. On the surface, this sounds like a good thing. However, a quick Google search of "Autism Speaks hate group" shows that most autistic people feel that the organization, listed as an "accredited charity" by the Better Business Bureau, is anything but.

"Is Autism Speaks a Hate Group?" is an article by the Autism Women's Network (ASN) on why autistic people classify it as such. The article repeats: "A hate group promotes animosity against disabled people, and the members of the group don't share the disability." Autism Speaks does not have a single autistic or neurodiverse person on their Board of Directors; many autistic people liken this to what it would be like if only white people led the

NAACP. Additionally, the article states that "A hate group includes those having beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics." Autism Speaks was founded on the belief that autistic people need to be "cured" or otherwise fixed and that there is no place for us in society.

A closer look into the language of Autism Speaks' website proves this. Their "about" section states that they plan to "relentlessly pursue strategies that make significant progress toward ... children with an autism spectrum disorder being diagnosed before the age of 2 [and] children having access to appropriate intervention, services and resources immediately following diagnosis." This only sounds bad after one clicks their link for the "Autism Treatment Network," which describes their supported "intervention" as "multi-disciplinary medical care for children with autism." Known as "ABA" or Applied Behavioral Analysis, they describe it as "the only scientifically proven behavioral method effective in the treatment of ASD." However, most autistic people, myself included, don't want to be cured. What ABA does is not change the way an autistic person views the world; rather, it changes how the world views the autistic person. The ASN has another article explaining why ABA is considered harmful.

But if Autism Speaks were so dedicated to "supporting individuals with autism," why would it support something considered abusive by those it

claims to support?

Until October of 2016, Autism Speaks stated that its mission was to find a cure for autism. However, they didn't really change anything, as stated by unstrangemind.com. Instead, they simply began stating that they were looking for "solutions," which makes autism sound less like a disease and more like an epidemic. John Elder Robison, an autistic author, wrote this article in 2013 on why he stopped supporting the organization. One of the founders, Suzanne Wright, "published an op-ed piece that laid out her views on autism, and what we should do about 'the problem,'" leading Robison to state that "there is a vast gulf between the tone of Mrs. Wright's words and my own." He continues by saying that:

The point here is that there are many ways autistic people can choose to live [our] lives and all are valid and deserving of respect. Some people want a little help, while others face major challenges. They (and their families) feel great anger and frustration over society's weak response to their cries for help. As a progressive society I argue that it is our duty to develop ways to meet the very diverse range of needs our community has.

Mrs. Wright's op-ed articulates a view of the "autism situation" that is very different from my own. She says things I would never say to people with autism and cannot in good conscience stand by. Given her role as leader of the organization, I am afraid it is my signal to exit the Autism

Speaks stage.

At no point has Autism Speaks truly been an organization deserving of support. By cornering the market on "Autism Awareness," they've made those who oppose them out to be fear-mongers. But who is the real fear-monger here? In fact, "fear of autism" is a common Google search that leads to countless articles about parents fearing their children won't be normal. Because who would want their child to be the next Einstein, Mozart, Newton, Darwin, Gates, Jobs or Tesla? Who would want the burden of raising the next Anthony Hopkins, Tim Burton or Temple Grandin? All of these people are known to be or believed to have been autistic. Even if said autistic child doesn't become the next Steven Spielberg or Lewis Carroll, why would anyone want a child with extreme attention to detail, expertise in special interests or unique worldviews, or who are honest and individualistic with fantastic memories? These are the types of people that Autism Speaks wants to rid society of. Would we really be better off?

Today, and the rest of April, please don't "Light it up Blue" in support of Autism Speaks. Go "Red Instead" or "Light it up Gold," both of which are supported by autistic people worldwide. If you want to support an autism organization, please support the Autism Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN) or Autism Women's Network, both of which are looking for a change, rather than a cure.

## White Privilege Strikes

By Malik Jamileh  
Growl Reporter



Affluenza. The word justified the death of four teens, while leaving one unable to move or speak ever again. June 15, 2013 marked the day Ethan

Couch was taken into jail for driving under the influence. He served a whole 720 days for his parole conviction - not the murders of four people. The lawyer over the case discredited Ethan's ability to know right or wrong because of his class of wealth.

There was a sharp turn in the case when a video of Ethan violating parole and drinking surfaced in 2015. Soon after, he and his mother Tonya Couch

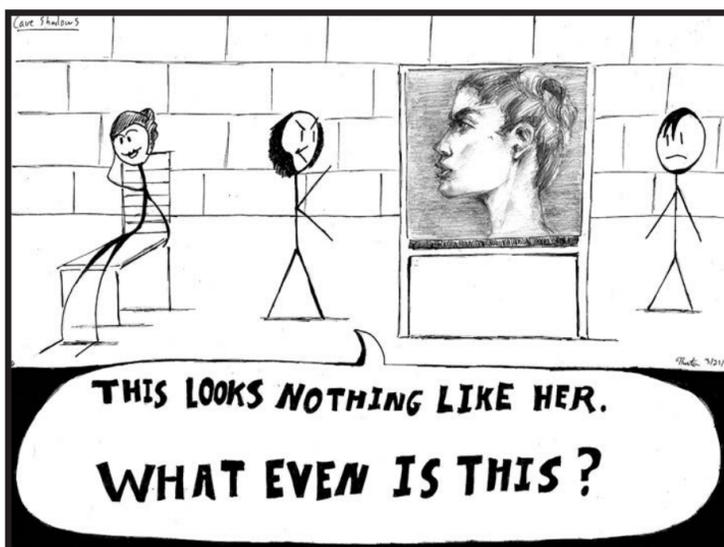
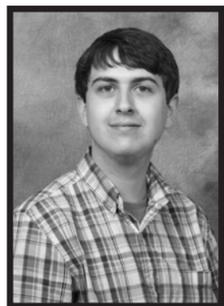
fled to the Mexican resort City of Puerto Vallarta. His mother was taken before trial for hindering apprehension of a felon. Extreme outrage has sparked across the internet as the failure of the justice system is being questioned.

Many have called for the judge to be released as well as for a retrial of the case which many see as a slap on the wrist. The accident which left four dead would soon cost him only 180

days to serve. Individuals like myself have had enough of blind ignorance to the penalties given based on social class. We as a society can do better. Will it be justifiable to claim an individual was too poor to properly be educated on the crimes he commits? Next time you want to deny privilege, remember affluenza.

## Cave Shadows

By Ethan Burton  
Growl Reporter/Cartoonist



**The Growl**

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

## Remember the Legacy

By Timothy Jones  
Growl Reporter



The anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death in 1968 brings many Americans together in Memphis, Tennessee.

His legacy is forever remembered in the Afri-

can-American community, but many people believe that his dream still has not become a reality. There is no doubt why these people feel this way, and then the question arises: Do you think that America would be different if Dr. King was still alive? As mentioned above, the Dr. King legacy will forever be remembered, but to some aspect, the movement would still be alive if he were still living today.

Some Americans believe that the Dr. King movement was succeeded by a number of laws to give African-Americans the same rights as caucasians, but this is not true in reality. Dr. King spoke against racial segregation, but America is still forming racial attacks and segregations. President Donald Trump states that "the dream King built could never be taken away."

Now be reminded that Trump con-

stantly forces the issue of building a wall across the United States border, or the banning of Muslims, or sending immigrants that had already established businesses in the United States back to their country. What will he do next; send African-Americans back to Africa? Dr. King's legacy will forever be remembered, but as Americans we need to keep his movement alive.

## How to get through exam week

By Kanisha Wade  
Growl Reporter



We all know that final exams are quickly approaching whether you are ready for them or not. Here are a few things you can do to make it a little more stress free!

### 1. Study.

That's a no-brainer. You will not do good if you don't study. Study early not later. If you wait until the last minute to study you will be so stressed out trying to cram the whole semester into

one night.

### 2. Take a break.

While you are studying, take breaks. Get up and walk around, stretch, grab something to eat and then continue to study. After you stare at a book or a computer screen for so long, the words start to run together. Breaks will help you stay focused and help you study better.

### 3. Grab some coffee.

Coffee is a lifesaver! Grab some after you've had a long day and you know you still have to study. Barnes & Noble has Starbucks inside, but there is also a standalone Starbucks in the

Renaissance. Another coffee shop in Ridgeland is M7. And if you are at home, you can always brew a cup of coffee to keep you awake!

### 4. Talk to your teacher.

This is so important. Don't wait until the night before your test to email your teacher about something you don't understand. It is always best to talk to them in person, if you can. But make sure you talk to or email them early because you may not get a reply back the night before your exam.

### 5. Use your study guide.

Some teachers graciously give you a study guide. Don't take that for

granted. Complete the study guide and actually study it! Usually most of the questions are straight from the exam itself.

### 6. Get a goodnight's rest.

Don't stay up all night studying for an exam. You don't want to pull an all-nighter and do bad on your exam because you're too sleepy to stay awake while taking it.

As the famous quote from the "Hunger Games" says, "May the odds be ever in your favor."

## A Moment in History

By Timothy Jones  
Growl Reporter



Have you ever heard of a human zoo? Do you know the true story of Malcolm X? If not, wouldn't you like to take a walk through

history? If you are intrigued, now is the time to sign up for African-American Literature I.

It will be a tour like no other, for it will be full of excitement, discussions and knowledge. This tour is often broken into two parts, as both parts mirror on another.

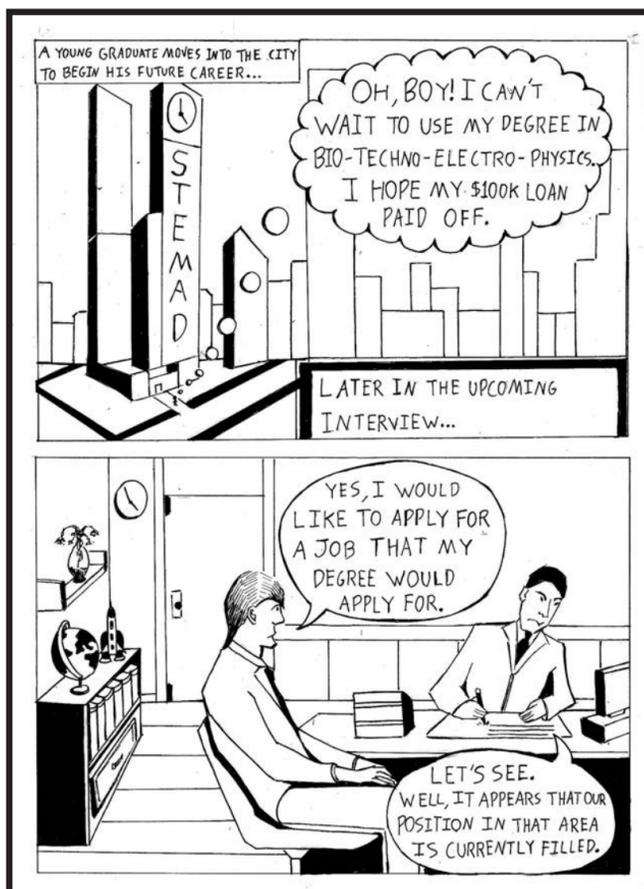
Classes are filling up fast, and to secure your tour you need to sign up for African-American Literature I. The

phenomenal instructor Mrs. Arnetra Pleas will guide students through a walk down history lane. If you are intrigued, be sure to sign up now to spend a moment in history!

Go to: <https://vimeo.com/250123476> to watch a video highlighting some of the historical events explored in African-American Literature.

## The Places You'll Go

By Ethan Burton  
Growl Reporter/Cartoonist



## Being gay is okay

By Malik Jamileh  
Growl Reporter



fear of speaking on a taboo discus-

Yeah, that nervous trickle down your neck of whether I am about to say something uncomfortable just hit you. Why is it that we cannot discuss this topic without the tension or

sion? Why is it that suicide rates were reported highest in the LGBT community, yet we remain silent? It's a topic you need to hear and pass on to your future kids. I recently decided to wear nail polish to my job and oh boy do I have some words.

Stares, laughter, comments, compliments, people turning away from me: I get it all. But the part that seems to offend me the most is the way parents silence their kids. Kids seem to often stare at me confused as to how I am a boy with stubble on my chin but also

appear to be wearing nail polish with a dark liner under my eye. Parents often silence their children and tell them not to be rude when asked why I am wearing makeup. Parents, you are unknowingly teaching your children to not only not ask and understand but also that it's not okay to be whatever you want.

The moment you feel it is better to not have the conversation at all and make your kid feel embarrassed for even asking you, you have made a big decision. Whether you realize it or

not, you have altered that little one's mind forever. They will unknowingly think something is wrong with them if they one day grow up to not like all the things associated with their gender. Next time your child sees someone like me in public and turns to you with questions, do not be afraid to assure your kids that gender roles are merely just a labels that hold people back. Let your kid know that when you say they can do or be anything they want, you really mean it!

## Summer break is here!

By Kanisha Wade  
Growl Reporter



As a college student, you are ecstatic that spring semester is over and you have the whole summer ahead of you. But you don't know exactly what you are doing, besides maybe working.

Here are some cool destinations you can visit this summer!

### 1. Memphis, Tennessee.

Memphis, Tennessee is only three hours away from Ridgeland. Before you get there make sure you stop in

Southaven to shop at Tanger Outlets. Once you get there make sure you visit Beale Street. Visit Bass Pro Shop and ride the elevator to the top to see a magnificent view of the city.

### 2. Gulf Coast.

The Gulf Coast is one of the known attractions of Mississippi. Take a towel or a chair and lay out on the sand; I would advise that you don't get in the water though. Visit tons of restaurants along the strip and if you are over 21 you can enjoy the casino. Or you can take a boat trip that will take you to Ship Island where you can explore the remains of what use to be a fort for the Confederate War.

### 3. New Orleans.

New Orleans is only three hours away from Jackson. Take in the sights

and smells of New Orleans. Take a stroll through the French Quarter and get a beignet. If you are feeling adventurous, you can stroll down Bourbon Street as well.

### 4. Geysers Falls.

If you are wanting to cool off by having some fun in the water, take a trip to Philadelphia. Geysers Falls is the place to go for great water slides and a lazy river. They also have a wave pool. You can relax on the "beaches" they have there also.

### 5. The Overlook.

The Overlook is located on the Natchez Trace between Madison and Canton. Pack a picnic basket and sit out under the trees and enjoy the sun. Or you can bring a hammock to hang on the trees. This is a perfect destina-

tion for a lazy Sunday afternoon.

### 6. Fondren on Thursday's.

Every first Thursday of the month, Fondren after Five happens. Located in the Fondren District of Jackson, you can park and walk through the area and hear live music, shop at unique stores and eat at amazing places.

### 7. Summer School.

If you need to get some extra credit hours in, or simply have to take courses over the summer, Holmes has summer school. Make sure you sign up for your classes before they are all full. And if you need to take a break from studying or have the weekend off, make sure to visit at least one of the places above!

## Hidden Magic of Fondren

By Malik Jamileh  
Growl Reporter



Rainbow, the spiritual center located in Fondren, would have to be, by far, the most spirit-driven store. There is a wide divide behind the support of this shop. Some will

argue that the shop is nothing more than a bandwagon that the youth buys into. However, the shop symbolizes a unity for the people of this area. The shop differs from others in the area because it carries a special energy with it. The energy of spiritual stones, talismans, dolls and earth elements can all be found at this store. It is almost like magic.

I would have to say this store resonates with me because of the shared communi-

ty it has built within everyone. The store offers a wide range of items from Wicca to voodoo to even Buddhist pieces. Not many stores currently offer such limited historical items, especially in the South.

The store was started by two individuals who wanted to share their collection with others. The store allows you to hold stones and try different talismans to see which one is for you. The shop owners allow customers to pick up pendulums and ask

questions to the unknown. The shop is filled with excitement.

For personal reasons the store just creates an unexplainable merge of energy inside of me. I never felt so in tune with my body and the world in general before learning about this store. So, I am for sure eager to share this little secret store of mine as well as the experience with others. It almost just feels, magical.

## Morality: Determining what is acceptable

By Tamera McCook  
Growl Reporter



Morality is relative, meaning that morals and values often vary depending on how one may have been raised or one's cultural beliefs.

For example, one may believe that it is wrong to eat

without blessing his or her food, however one may also feel that there is no reason to say a prayer or as we call it grace before eating. Who decides what is morally wrong or right? Man, laws, congress? Maybe you want to take the spiritual route and say God does which is something most can agree on. God has given us a set of commandments, through Moses, to follow, but what about those who don't believe in God?

This is another reason why morality

cannot be absolute, which is the view that one's actions are either right or wrong. This type of morality doesn't give exception to one's cultures, beliefs or upbringing. When something is absolute it is pretty much a fact! You cannot argue against it or debate it. Cultural relativism even says that the moral beliefs and attitudes of human beings are absorbed from their time, basically meaning that whatever was normal for their culture or time is socially accepted.

Many times, I hear my parents talk about what was accepted and not accepted from the behavioral standpoint of children "back in their day." Back in my father's day or when he was growing up, it was morally wrong for a child to sit amongst adults and listen or participate in their gossip. A child was to be seen and not heard. It is very different these days because many kids

are involved or invited into "grown folks" business.

Another example of morals being relative is the way marriage is viewed. While some view marriage as being between one man and one woman, some just think differently. There are many people who feel it is okay for two people of the same sex to marry or that polygamy is okay. Although I was raised to believe in monogamy, I cannot say a person is wrong for having two wives, especially when it is their culture.

To say God is the reference point to what is morally right or wrong, one must first recognize his/her audience, then secondly understand that morality cannot be absolute because it can be questioned and debated.

No one can say what is right or wrong, however many people are raised with an understanding of what

is acceptable or unacceptable. Many people share the same ideas and values, and many have a difference of opinions regarding those morals and values, but that doesn't make either of them wrong.

Of course, culturally, we believe that murder is wrong, but in the Middle East, many suicide bombers who take many lives for "the cause," are praised for taking those lives. They are looked at as saviors or heroes in their culture. Is it wrong, well that is a question that one would have to look at all sides to determine an answer. With the issue of morality being an opinion based off what one was taught, many people choose to agree to disagree. This is one issue that divides but also unifies many people.

## Heroes Among Us

By Tamera McCook  
Growl Reporter



As the day ends, the quiet of the night is like music to his ears. In a few more hours Captain Bryant will be headed home for 48 hours of rest, no sirens, no smoke, no chaos.

“It’s a tough job but someone has to do it,” said Captain Christopher Bryant while heading into his quarters for the night. “Twenty years sure is a long time to be doing something but when you have a love for something you could see yourself doing it forever

I asked Captain Bryant what made him want to become a fire fighter in

the first place and his response was “I’ve always loved to help others and I wanted to work in a field where I had the opportunity to serve others.” But after 20 years of serving others you would think this father of five would be ready to hang it up and enjoy retirement soon. Well, that is not the case with this fireman. He said that although he could retire soon, he would like to “work as long as I can, for as long as I can.” He has never imagined his life doing anything other than being a fireman, and over the years he has climbed his way up to captain. Inspired by his older brother, he someday hopes to become chief of the entire department before he decides to strap up his boots one last time. But for now, Captain Bryant tis enjoying

every moment and takes great pride in being a fire fighter. He loves helping others, and what better way than to possibly save a lot. In his 20 plus years with the Jackson Fire Department he has had some extreme highs, and fortunately, not many lows. He has received many awards and accolades for the community outreach he has done and is recognized as a hard worker and a dedicated citizen to his city. Many people don’t get the chance to do what they love, which is the reason why he never takes this opportunity for granted. While he has been a blessing to many since he became a fire fighter, he feels that he is the one who blessed.

“It feels good to be able to have such an impact on the community I grew up in,” Captain Bryant said.



## My Cool Mom

By Hannah Graves  
Growl Reporter



November 25, 2017. It was the Saturday after Thanksgiving in Natchez, MS (Adams County). The temperature was around a cool 36 degrees and Susan James headed out to her hunting stand

at 7 a.m. This morning was no different from her usual deer hunting season routine, so after she was suited up in all camouflage and her bright orange vest she grabbed her coffee and her

257 Roberts Rifle and was on her way The hunting land is just around the corner from her lodging, making it easy for her to ride her new Honda four-wheeler to and from the land. She bought the four-wheeler to help drag the deer out of the woods because in Natchez, the woods are filled with hills and gullies, which would make getting a deer out of the woods alone impossible.

After settling into her tree stand, the waiting began. Hunting, simply put, is a waiting game of patience, aim and stillness. Soon enough, a buck, bigger than any deer she had ever killed, wandered into her steady sights. Within seconds, he was struck right above the shoulder, Susan’s preferred target area.

She used the four-wheeler to pull him out of the woods and onto a flatbed trailer so she could take the buck directly to the deer processor.

The final score on the Boone and Crockett system was 160 6/8 inches, weighing 250 pounds, with 12 points on the rack. Susan had the deer’s head mounted and the rest was processed into steaks, sausage and burger meat.

Since killing this buck, Susan has won First Place in the Female Typical Gun Division in the Big Buck Bounty contest for 2018 and was featured in the MS Sportsman Magazine website. She won various prizes such as a large hunting backpack with a built in back support. She was also contacted by a

journalist looking to write an article on female hunters.

I am so proud of Susan because she is my mother, and after all the cold, winter trips to Natchez, and bonfires, and early morning coffee and donuts, she is now receiving accolades for succeeding at a hobby she truly loves and she truly deserves it. My mom did this all on her own, with no help from anyone. I personally think it is cool that she has killed this big of a deer and even better that she won First Place in a contest with this extremely big deer! I’m happy I get to say my mom is the cool mom.

## Racial Reconciliation

By Kanisha Wade  
Growl Reporter



Over the past month, many stories have surfaced of how African-Americans have been mistreated in restaurants, other public places and even at their own homes.

Although it is 2018, African-Americans are experiencing modern-day Jim Crow laws. From the two men at Star-

bucks who were thrown out simply because they hadn’t brought anything, to the life coach who was told by the general manager of a restaurant to give up his seats because a white couple wanted them.

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King’s legacy. Although his work and the work of thousands of others has helped the racial reconciliation, there is still work to be done. African-Americans fear being pulled over by the police, because they don’t know if they will make it

home that night after the encounter. African-Americans are cautious with their words and where they put their hands because they know one “wrong” move could end their life.

Some Caucasians have used their privilege to harm African-Americans around the country. In particular the principal of Ponderosa Elementary School in Houston, Texas joked about telling police that a special needs black student brought a gun to school. The young student had behavioral problems and had been known to run from

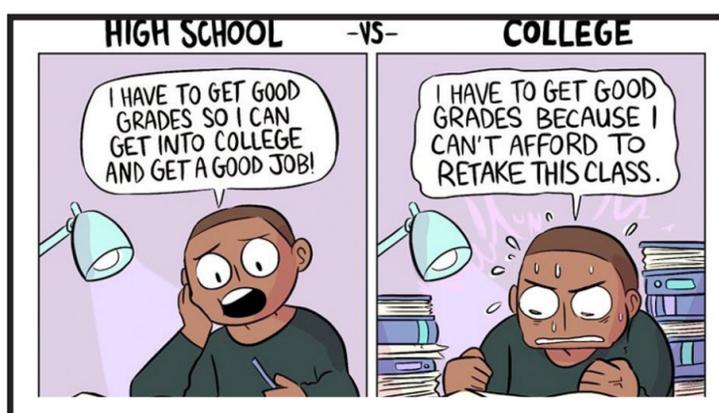
class.

Principal Shanna Swearingen told staff, “We won’t chase him. We will call the police and tell them he has a gun so they can come faster.”

This is just one of the many incidents where Caucasians have used their color to minimize colored people. Across the country there are people making efforts toward racial reconciliation. Questions are being asked and time is being spent with the other race. America still has a long way to go, but slowly we are getting there.

## Stress of Exam Week

By Timothy Jones  
Growl Reporter/Cartoonist



## No Plagiarism No Problem: Tips to get through college

By Tamera McCook  
Growl Reporter



Annotating, Paraphrasing and summarizing are all tools used to assist one in understanding what they read and putting it into their own words. It helps the reader to simplify or to reduce what

was stated and it also allows the reader to pull out key points within the reading. To annotate a work is to simply highlight or underline important facts, dates and/or information that should be remembered or noted. While annotat-

ing, it is important to write comments, questions or definitions to help one gain knowledge of a particular subject. It is also good to circle words, phrases and sentences and connect ideas with lines and arrows while annotating. Observing anything that seems to interest or confuse you is a good strategy while annotating.

Paraphrasing is the tool that I use the most when it is difficult for me to understand or grasp a certain topic. To paraphrase is to simply repeat something you just read, but in your own words. Paraphrasing is the simplest form of recreating or retelling an event or story because you have the abili-

ty to either make the idea or reading complex or simple. With paraphrasing you're able to reach multiple audiences more effectively because of the ability to use complex, or simple words. This means that babies, teens and adults alike are able to get the same story, just told in a different way. Summarizing is somewhat like paraphrasing because a summary is in one's own words as well. To summarize is to pull key facts or important details and restate them. A summary is the general or brief idea of what was just read. The summary sums up the entire story and is a short explanation of understanding.

When reading different articles,

stories and any other works, it is important to annotate, paraphrase and summarize to make sure one has an understanding of what was read. Also it is necessary to cite any paraphrase or summary when including them in a paper or article that is to be published. Although you may have used your own words to explain or give detail, if the work is not cited, then plagiarism has taken place. To avoid plagiarizing, always give proper credit to the source the information was taken from. Never publish any work that is summarized or paraphrased without including a works cited page as your resource.

## To tip or not to tip?

By Hannah Graves  
Growl Reporter



What is the proper amount to tip your server when you are out eating at a restaurant?

\$2? \$10? Well, the answer is not so simple. A proper tip cannot just be determined by the quality of

the service you received, and even though it was low quality, one dollar \$1 tip-service, you need to stop and

consider a few things.

The first and most important fact to remember is that servers, waiters, etc. get paid very little, often between \$2-5 an hour. This means that these servers literally live off of tips. Think about it as, you determine if they eat tonight. The next thing to remember is that your server is not perfect! Nine times out of ten, your server is extremely overwhelmed and doing the best they can, so bear with them. If your server seems too busy to take care of you, it

is okay to talk to a manager; they will help your table and make the experience better if things are going south. Despite poor service, customers are still expected to tip 10 to 20 percent.

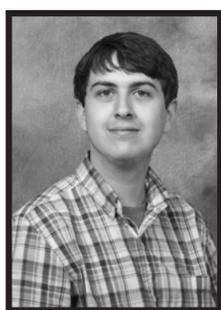
When putting pen to receipt paper, do not forget to do the math! As a paying customer,

you should be able to tip at least 10 percent, which means 10 percent of the price of the entire check. Although 20 percent is ideal, any tip is better than nothing because a blank tip line

means money coming out of their pocket now, instead of going into it. As a young person, it is beneficial to be well educated on tipping. You might think you're saving money by leaving a small tip, you may even think it doesn't matter whether you tip or not, but it truly does. Your \$1 tip on a \$20 ticket could make or break a server's profits that day. Think about these things the next time you go out to eat.

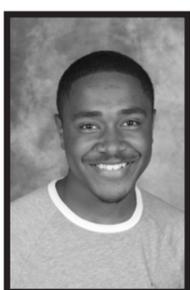
## Fastin

By Ethan Burton  
Growl Reporter/Cartoonist



## Washington Redskins Cheerleaders: Squad scandal

By Nykeem Liddell  
Growl Reporter



A report by Juliet Macur stated that after the Washington Redskins took their cheerleaders to Costa Rica back in 2013 for a team calendar photoshoot, the team officials took

the cheerleaders passports once they arrived at the resort, depriving the

cheerleaders of their official identification. Some of the cheerleaders said they were required to be topless, even though the photographs used for the calendar would not involve nudity. Most of the girls showed little concern, with the exception that the Redskins executives had invited spectators.

Sponsors and FedEx Field suite holders, which were all men, were granted up-close access to the photoshoots. One evening after a 14-hour day of pictures and dance practices,

the squad's director told nine of the 36 cheerleaders had a special assignment that night. The male sponsors had chosen the ones they wanted to be personal escorts at a night club. "So get back to your rooms and get ready," the director told them. Several of them started to cry. "They weren't putting a gun to our heads, but it was mandatory for us to go," one of the cheerleaders said. We weren't asked, we were told."

The cheerleader's participation did not involve sex but they felt as if the

arrangement was "pimping them out." What bothered them was their director's demand to please male sponsors, which they did not believe should be a part of their job.

This Washington Redskins newly-released news provides vivid illustration on how the National Football League have used cheerleaders for far more than sideline dancing at games.

## Gagneaux and Sherman (continued from Front Page)

so many children. She led her life with purpose. She lit up a room with her sweet smile. Some said, when she smiled, it was like a little ray of sunshine - you couldn't help but feel the warmth. Although Marianna did not get to journey through this life as a servant as she intended, the legacy of her servant's heart lives on in such a tangible way as many children, due to her petite frame, will benefit from her organs, bones, and bone marrow. Although we are pained to know that she is no longer with us, we are relieved not having to wonder

where her soul rejoices as her shell rests."

Funeral services were held on May 4 at Adams Arbor Church of God of Prophecy with interment following in the church cemetery. Womble Funeral Home had charge of arrangements.

One of Marianna's classmates in the elementary education program, Madison Brewer, wrote a poem for Marianna's family.

"Marianna was such a happy person," Madison said. "She really was just full of sunshine and though she was quiet, would

never hesitate to do anything for someone else. I know she would have been an amazing teacher, but God had other plans for her life."

In addition to the poem Madison wrote, other members of the EDU 1613 class honored Marianna's memory, as well. Alyssa Fennel had the poem matted and framed to give the Sherman family, Marcia Stark brought roses to place on Marianna's desk during class time and Jordan Ritchie drew a sketch of her. Mrs. Land and the students gave the Sherman family

all of these items along with a potted yellow rose bush to plant so they will always be reminded of the sunshine Marianna shared at Holmes.

Marianna's family includes her parents, Christopher and Vicki Sherman of Holcomb; her brother and fellow Holmes student, Phillip Sherman and her grandparents, Jamie and Yvonne Winters of Holcomb and Nick and Phyllis Sherman of Enid.

The family requests memorials be made to LeBonheur Children's Hospital.

## Holmes holds 2018 Commencement Ceremony



Pictured are the 2018 salutatorians and valedictorians. They are (left to right) **Salutatorian Shelby Turner** and **Valedictorians Derrel Bilsky, Blake Bell, London Steverson, Ana-Claire Edwards, Jonathan Boles, Laura Ann Kelley, Sarah Leflore and Mackenzie Danaher.**

Holmes Community College held its 90th commencement exercises on May 11 in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus. The Associate of Arts (AA) Ceremony was held at 10 a.m. and the Associate of Applied Science (AAS)/Certificate Ceremony at 2 p.m. This was the largest graduating class in the college's history.

This year, there were eight valedictorians, all who had a perfect 4.0 GPA, and one salutatorian, with a 3.96. The valedictorians included Blake Bell, Derrel Bilsky, Jonathan Boles, Mackenzie Danaher, Ana-Claire Edwards, Laura Ann Kelley, Sarah Leflore and London Steverson. The salutatorian was Shelby Turner.

Five students were also recognized for receiving special scholarships. Slade Allgood, Ashlee Bennett and Miguel Garcia were recognized for receiving the M.C. McDaniel Scholarship and Bennett, Sarah Donahoo and Lamar Land were recognized for receiving the Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship.

Dr. Robert Harris served as keynote speaker for the AA Ceremony and Dr. LaWanda Herron spoke during the AAS Ceremony. Both of them will re-

tire from Holmes following the end of the academic year.

Dr. Harris has been part of the Holmes family for 32 years. He holds three degrees from Mississippi State University: a B.S. in computer science, an M.A.T. in community college education and a Ph.D. in community college leadership. A few of his honors include: MS Academy of Sciences Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018, HEADWAE Honoree in 2004, Lamplighter Educator in 1996 and NISOD Excellence Award in 1995.

He has held a number of positions at Holmes, including his most recent roles as director of placement testing, computer science instructor and associate chair for the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

Dr. Harris has also served as president and secretary of the Faculty Association, adviser for Phi Theta Kappa and as associate director for the Miss Holmes Pageant. He's a member of the Association for Computing Machinery, the MS Academy of Sciences and the MS Faculty Association for Community and Junior Colleges.

"This day is for you and to celebrate the accomplishment of all of



**Dr. LaWanda Herron**

you graduates in being able to complete your Associate of Arts degrees... which brings me to my topic of persistence," Dr. Harris said. "You cannot stop with this degree but rather you need to move forward to the next level of university study in order to complete your bachelor's degrees. It is time for you to take all of the knowledge that you have gained and continue with the next chapter in your educational story.

"In continuing to the next level, and hopefully beyond, keep in mind that the work expected of you will increase in both amount and difficulty. At some point in the next few years, life may start throwing you some lemons, so you need to be strong and persistent and just make yourself some lemonade...and then keep on going.

"Now it is up to you to make the most out of your talents and the knowledge which has been taught to you, and learned by you, over the years. I have a favorite proverb and it goes something like this, 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.' Here at Holmes, we have taught you how to fish and now I think it's about time for you to go catch yourselves some fish for your future! Take care, God Bless and have a wonderful day of celebration!"

Dr. Herron, director of the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program at Holmes, holds a BSN from Delta State University, an MSA in Healthcare Administration from Central Michigan University, an MSN from Delta State University and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Mississippi. She has been an RN for the past 27 years, a nurse educator for 23 years and a family nurse practitioner for 21 years. Dr. Herron has been employed at Holmes for 19 years and also spent six years as a nurse corps officer in the U.S. Navy.

As director of nursing, Dr. Herron is responsible for managing the day-to-day activities for faculty, students and program oversight. She participates in research and grant-writing activities and presents at nursing workshops at



**Dr. Robert Harris**

the local, state, regional, national and international levels. Dr. Herron is also a published author. She has taught at the associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. She has received numerous awards and recognitions, including nomination for Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year.

"Personal happiness lies in knowing that life is not a check-list of acquisition or achievement. Your qualifications and resume are not your life. Life is difficult, complicated and beyond anyone's total control, and the most important thing that you should remember is to be true to yourself.

"I believe success is to live your life with integrity and to not give in to peer pressure to try to be something that you're not. Success is to be honest and to contribute to others in some way... Follow your passion, stay true to yourself, never follow someone else's path.

"My challenge to you is to cultivate the ability to think for yourself, listen to your heart and tune in to your gut. These are the things for which Holmes Community College has prepared you to do.

"Relish the journey. I wish any failure that you experience leads to great success, you listen to your inner voice and think for yourself and take time to enjoy life's adventures. And tomorrow, I hope that even if you remember not a single word of mine, you remember those of Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple, 'Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.' I wish you all adventurous fun-titled lives."

Anyone interested in purchasing the Commencement Exercises DVD from May 11 can send a check or money order for \$10 to Holmes Community College, Attn: Steve Diffey, P.O. Box 369, Goodman, MS 39079. Please mark AA or AAS ceremony and include your name, address, city, state, zip code and phone number when mailing your payment.



2018 Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship winners included (left to right) **Ashlee Bennett, Lamar Land** and **Sarah Donahoo.**



The recipients of the 2018 M.C. McDaniel Scholarships were (left to right) **Slade Allgood, Ashlee Bennett** and **Miguel Garcia.**

## Ridgeland Campus honors ADN students

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured is the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) graduating class of 2018 with their instructors.

The Ridgeland Campus of Holmes Community College held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Class of 2018 on May 9 at Ridgeland High School. Twenty-nine students graduated from the program. Graduates included Eryn Armagost, Jessica Bodry, Caitlin Cox, Morgan Daniels, Tina Davis, Cindy Demars, Haley Duddleston, Mesha Fleming, Lydia Glaspie, Andrea Goodwin, Jennifer Gore, Lauren Graham, Alejandro Hernandez, Rachel Hill, Madeline Holiman, Renata Hughes, Cleopatra Lamb, Kayla McKenzie, Jennifer McPhail, Tiera Minor, Micah Myers, Amy New, Olivia Neiburg, Dorian Patterson, Natalie Phelan, Jessica Reeves, Erica Smith, William A. Stringer and Douglas Wray.

The ceremony began with a processional of the ADN Class of 2018. Dr. Don Burnham, vice president of the Ridgeland Campus, gave an opening prayer welcomed the crowd and graduates.

“First off, I would like to recognize all the family members, friends and loved ones who supported these students through this journey,” Dr. Burnham said. “This is the hardest program offered at Holmes Community College. I want to challenge the graduates to always keep your integrity. You may have to make decisions that not everyone agrees with, so guard your integrity with everything you’ve got. Secondly, remember that Holmes Community College will always be a part of you, and you will always be a part of Holmes. Please keep in touch with us, and

feel free to contact me or any of the other instructors if you ever need anything in the future. Finally, may God bless each of you, and may you never forget to keep Him in the center of all that you do. Congratulations!”

Following Dr. Burnham’s address, ADN instructor Barbara Puryear explained the symbolism behind the white uniforms, the lamp-shaped candles and the pinning ceremony. Puryear explained that everything originated from the actions of Florence Nightingale, the historical nurse who laid the foundation for professional nursing while training nurses during the Crimean War.

“The nursing uniforms were intended to set nurses apart from others helping during the war,” Puryear said. “Originally, they were a dark charcoal color, but later changed to white to represent sterility and cleanliness. Although nursing uniforms today come in a variety of colors, white continues to be a symbol for caring, hygiene and comfort.

“The lamp came from Nightingale’s nickname, ‘The Lady with the Lamp,’ which she earned from making rounds to check on wounded soldiers at night. Today, the lamp symbolizes the professional commitment nurses make to uphold high moral standards and a strong work ethic.

“Finally, the pinning ritual began when Nightingale - after being honored with the Red Cross of St. John for her tireless efforts helping wounded soldiers - followed

suit and presented a medal of excellence to her top nursing graduates.”

Succeeding Puryear’s speech, ADN Assistant Director Dr. Alice Austin presented the Student Achievement Award to Dorian Patterson.

“Dorian never complained about one single thing she was asked to do in nursing school even though she was probably exhausted from working while going to school,” Dr. Austin said. “She will be a great, caring nurse.”

Dr. Austin also recognized two students who received the Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarships. Those students were Cindy Demars and Natarsha Barnes.

After the awards were given, Dr. Austin presented Director of Nursing Dr. LaWanda Herron with flowers in honor of her retirement following the 2017-2018 school year.

Following these recognitions, students were called to the stage one-by-one to receive their pins from ADN instructor Dr. Tiffany Cox and their lamps from ADN instructor Kim Sandifer. The ceremony concluded with the students reciting the Nightingale Pledge, led by ADN instructor Cindy Bridges and class officer Dorian Patterson giving the closing prayer.

For more information about the ADN program on the Ridgeland Campus, contact Dr. Austin at (601) 605.3419 or [aaustin@holmescc.edu](mailto:aaustin@holmescc.edu).

## Holmes alumna receives Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Hallie Murtagh**

Hallie Murtagh, who graduated from Holmes Community College on May 11, was awarded the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship valued at \$30,000 per year for her medical training at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) in Jackson. The daughter of Johnny and Cathy Murtagh, she is a native

of Lexington.

“Hallie Murtagh is so deserving of the Rural Physician’s Scholarship,” said chemistry instructor Heather Jones. “Born and raised in Holmes County, she is a perfect fit for the medical school scholarship and for serving her community as a physician there. We are very proud of her accomplishments and know she will do well. It was a joy to teach her for the past two years, with her huge smile, great work ethic and always a positive attitude.”

While at Holmes, Murtagh was an Ambassador for the Goodman Campus, part of the Baptist Student Union Lead Team, a member of the Student Government Association and a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She was also named the 2017 Homecoming Queen, Sophomore Class Favorite and as one of the Top Five in Beauty Review both years.

Upon graduation from Holmes, Murtagh will marry her college sweetheart, Bailey Rutledge, before moving to Starkville to attend Mississippi State University. While she pursues her bachelor’s degree in biological science at MSU, the Mississippi

Rural Physicians Scholarship program will provide opportunities and materials for her to prepare her for medical school.

“During the next two years of undergraduate study, the program will provide MCAT study materials, job shadowing opportunities and other materials/opportunities to prepare me for UMMC,” Murtagh said.

Created in 2007, the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program (MRPSP) is designed to provide more primary care physicians in rural areas of Mississippi. During medical school, each MRPSP scholar receives \$30,000 per year based on available funding. Consistent legislative support of the MRPSP translates to 60 medical students receiving a total of \$1,800,000 to support their education this fall.

“The Mississippi Legislature celebrates with these Mississippians from across the state in their commitment to improving healthcare for rural Mississippians by becoming rural primary care physicians,” said Buck Clarke, Chairman of MS State Senate Appropriations. In addition to the

legislative support, 4 privately funded scholarships are also awarded this year. Other benefits include personalized mentoring from practicing rural physicians and academic support.

Upon completion of medical training, MRPSP scholars must enter a residency program in one of five primary care specialties: family medicine, general internal medicine, medicine-pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology or pediatrics. The MRPSP Scholar must provide four years of service in a clinic-based practice in an approved Mississippi community of 20,000 or fewer population located more than 20 miles from a medically served area.

MRPSP provides a means for rural Mississippi students to earn a seat in medical school and to earn a \$120,000 medical school scholarship in return for four years of service and learn the art of healing from practicing rural physicians.

For more information, contact MRPSP Associate Director Dan Coleman at 601-815-0564, [jdcoleman@umc.edu](mailto:jdcoleman@umc.edu) or <http://mrpssp.umc.edu>.

## Holmes holds annual Foundation Golf Tournament

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are the First Flight winners, Team Mitchell Metal Products. They are (left to right) **Brent Telano, Trey Bowman, Dakota Brasher and Zack Faver.**

Holmes held its annual Foundation Golf Tournament at Deerfield Golf Club in Madison on May 9. Proceeds from the charity event benefited the Holmes Development Foundation, which further supports the college by providing scholarships, instructional equipment, library resources, faculty development opportunities and other activities that enhance the instructional programs of the college.

The day included lunch, 18 holes of golf, door prizes and a social with hors d’oeuvres at the completion of play. There were 25 teams and over 30 hole sponsors.

The First Flight winner was the team sponsored by Mitchell Metal Products, which included Trey Bowman, Dakota Brasher, Zack Faver and Brent Telano.

The Second Flight winner was Team North American Coal Corp., which consisted of Eli Frierson, Keith Reed, Andy Thomas and Mike Thomas. Finally, the Third Flight winner was the Holmes Soccer Team, which included Coach Matt Convertino, Marcus Duncan, Collin Maley and Ryan Perkins.

Jack Burrell was recognized for having the Longest Drive on Hole #18 and being Closest to the Hole for Hole #12; Tee Stubbs won Closest to the Hole for Hole #3; Zach Faver, Closest to the Hole on #14 and Morgan Bondurant was Closest to the Hole on #7.

For more information about the annual golf tournament, contact Allison DeWeese at (601) 605.3430 or [adeweese@holmescc.edu](mailto:adeweese@holmescc.edu).

## Holmes to partner with Ingalls Shipbuilding, Offer new courses at Attala Center

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

An innovative partnership is underway between the Workforce Development program at Holmes Community College and the largest industrial/manufacturing employer in Mississippi, Ingalls Shipbuilding.

For 80 years, the employees of Ingalls Shipbuilding have pioneered the development and production of technologically-advanced, highly-capable warships for the surface Navy fleet, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps and foreign and commercial customers.

Now, Holmes' Kosciusko location will host various training sessions to assist with their ongoing needs for new hires

who are skilled in structural fitting, pipe fitting and welding. While these courses will be tailored to specific needs of Ingalls Shipbuilding's operations, graduates who successfully complete the course(s) will obtain skills they may apply to the career path of their choosing.

Individuals who complete the courses, and remain active in the local workforce, will bring new and sought-after skills to employers in Attala County and surrounding areas. Many businesses in Holmes' nine-county district will enjoy taking advantage of these new course offerings.

"We are proud and excited to announce these new course offerings, as well as our partnership with Ingalls," said Dr. Mike

Blankenship, vice president of Workforce Development at Holmes. "Because they (Ingalls) are a large employer and a major contributor to the economic growth of the state, this relationship aligns closely with our purpose at Holmes' Workforce Development Centers. We aim to be a leader in education by serving as a comprehensive, community-oriented institution delivering flexible, responsive programs of the highest quality."

The Pascagoula-based enterprise aims to provide students with employment offers, contingent on successful completion of the course, as well as recommendations from Holmes staff based on class performance. Employment with Ingalls will include a

number of perks and benefits, including a 401K, and opportunities for advancement within the company. Additionally, the company offers frequent performance bonuses and a tuition-reimbursement program to allow employees to further their education while employed with Ingalls. To begin the program, a high school diploma/GED is not required, but preferred.

The contracted training will be conducted in a non-credit format at the Attala Center in Kosciusko, beginning this July, and concluding mid-fall 2018. To learn more, or to enroll in the program, contact Mandy Burrell at (662)472.9172. To learn about Ingalls Shipbuilding, please visit [ingalls.huntingtoningalls.com](http://ingalls.huntingtoningalls.com).

## Hall of Fame 2018 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 Goodman Campus, honorees were: Blake Bell, Ethan Burton, Kameron Edwards, Miguel Garcia and Hallie Westbrook.

Hall of Fame inductees from the Grenada Campus included: Sierra Anderson, Ashlee Bennett, Emma Kate Gibson, Danielle Mitchell and Sarah Leflore.

Finally, Ridgeland Campus honorees included: Slade Allgood, Caroline Bennett, Maggie Bloodworth, Johnna Davis, Sarah Donahoo, Davis Edwards, Travis Jones, Melanie Owah, Donovan Parkerson, Anna Claire Stewart, Lydia Thompson and Courtney Turner.

**Blake Bell** of Lexington is a biological science major. The son of Lea and the late Bobby Bell, is a biological science major. Active on campus, Bell is an Ambassador; a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society; a member of Baptist Student Union (BSU) and a manager/mat boy for the cheerleading squad for the second year in a row. He

is also a Student Government Association (SGA) representative, a MOSAIC tutor and a recipient of the Lily Fran McCrory Foundation Scholarship.

Bell has been a President's List scholar and on the Dean's Scholarship both years at Holmes, and also shadowed at a local dentist office in Lexington both years of college. In the community, he has volunteered at the Veterans Affairs (VA) in Kosciusko and participated in Operation Christmas Child (OCC). Upon graduation from Holmes, Bell plans to attend Mississippi State University and pursue a career in dentistry.

**Ethan Burton** of Goodman, the son of Stephanie and Steve Diffey and Shane and Vonda Burton, is a liberal arts major with an emphasis in graphic design. He is an officer for Phi Theta Kappa and was chosen for the 2018 All-Academic Team. Burton is also a columnist/cartoonist for The Growl student newspaper/HCC Grid blog; a member of BSU; a member of the Gaming Club; a President's List scholar and a student worker for the campus library.

As a freshman, Burton displayed personal art work at the Natchez Trace Festival with the Holmes Visual Arts

Department and sold his first drawing. As a sophomore, he won first place in the Short Story Category of the Creative Writing Contest and first place in the Homecoming Banner Contest as one of the four primary artists from the Fine Arts Department. Both years at Holmes, he won awards for his cartoons at the Mississippi Press Association conference. After Holmes, he will transfer to Delta State University to pursue a B.F.A. degree in graphic design.

**Kameron Edwards** of Phoenix, the daughter of Luke and Natalie Edwards, is a biochemistry major. She has been an Ambassador, Holmes Plus member, Phi Theta Kappa member and workshop/Bible study leader with Ebenezer Baptist Church for the past two years. Edwards is also a member of MOSAIC and served as a volunteer at the Yazoo City Vet Clinic her freshman year.

As a sophomore, Edwards served as a work-study student for the Biology Department in the fall and for the Chemistry Department in the spring. Upon graduation from Holmes, Edwards plans to attend Mississippi State University and pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

**Miguel Garcia** of Kosciusko, the son of Jose Luis Garcia and Hermelinda Garcia, is a bioengineering major. He is Mr. Holmes Community College for the Goodman Campus; president of SGA; a member of Phi Theta Kappa; a member of Holmes Plus; a MOSAIC tutor and attends Chapel on the Hill weekly. He has also served as a Homecoming Court escort and an escort for the Beauty Review contestants. Outside of Holmes activities, he enjoys reading and exploring fossil creeks.

Garcia has been on the President's List for two years at Holmes and is in the Honors Psychology class. Upon graduation, he plans on going to Mississippi State University and majoring in kinesiology. His ultimate goal is to become a physical therapist.

**Hallie Westbrook** of Pickens is a double major in architecture and accounting. The daughter of Rolan and Dawn Westbrook, she is a President's List scholar and an active member of SkillsUSA and the Kappa Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. As a freshman, she was president of SkillsUSA and her team won gold medals at the state competition and bronze at nationals in

*See Hall of Fame, Page 10*

### Goodman Campus Hall of Fame



Blake Bell



Ethan Burton



Kameron Edwards



Miguel Garcia



Hallie Westbrook

### Grenada Campus Hall of Fame



Sierra Anderson



Ashlee Bennett



Emma Kate Gibson



Sarah Leflore



Danielle Mitchell

## Hall of Fame (continued from Page 9)

the Opening and Closing Ceremony category. Her first year at Holmes, she was also vice president of Phi Theta Kappa, a student worker for the Office of Financial Aid, a student worker in the concession stand and the recipient of the Architectural Engineering Technology Award.

As a sophomore, Westbrook worked on the Phi Theta Kappa Honors in Action and College Project, which involved successfully designing, planning and implementing a Civics Forum on campus. Westbrook served as liaison for the makerspace project portion of their Phi Theta Kappa College Project and was part of the writing and editing committee for the academic paper portion of both projects. Additionally, she was the leading designer and drafter for a therapeutic/rehabilitation garden plan for the Choctaw County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. After Holmes, Westbrook plans to continue her studies in accounting at either Mississippi State University or Delta State University.

**Sierra Anderson** of Grenada is a liberal arts major. The daughter of Dr. Eddie and Mrs. Cerita Anderson, she is vice president of leadership for Phi Theta Kappa, an Ambassador, an honorary Student Government Association (SGA) member, a Baptist Student Union (BSU) member, a Sophomore Homecoming Maid, a Sophomore Class Favorite and a Dean's List scholar. As for community involvement, she worked with Campus Clean-Up Day, volunteered at a food pantry, judged a reading fair for the Grenada School District and volunteered with CLASS Acts – Community organization when completing Youth and Unity Summit (2016) and Health Summit (2017).

Anderson also serves as director of the youth choir and member of adult choir for Battle Temple Church. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to attend Delta State University and major in speech pathology. She wants to work with children and adults to improve their speech.

**Ashlee Bennett** of Kilmichael is a biological science major. The daughter of Felicia Woods, her honors and activities at Holmes include: Freshman Class Favorite, Freshman Homecoming Maid, Grenada Student Body Homecoming Maid, Ambassador, SGA president, Phi Theta Kappa member and Writing Center tutor. Bennett was also named part of the Phi Theta Kappa

All-State Academic Team.

She also tutors outside of Holmes, serves as a Get2College intern and volunteers for Hudspeth Regional Center, helping developmentally-delayed adults with recreational and learning skills. She is a member of Kilmichael Baptist Church. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to pursue her bachelor's and master's degrees at Mississippi State University.

**Emma Kate Gibson** of Gore Springs is a healthcare administration major. The daughter of Mike and Kathy Gibson, she has been a President's List scholar for two years. She is vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa, an SGA volunteer member, a Sophomore Class Favorite and works with eLearning as a work-study student. As a freshman, she was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Baptist Student Union.

Her community involvement includes participating in Campus Clean-Up Day and FAFSA Day and volunteering for the after-school program at her church called The Way. After Holmes, she plans to attend Delta State University and pursue a degree in healthcare administration.

**Danielle Mitchell** of Grenada is a nursing major. The daughter of Danny and Sarah Mitchell, she has been an Ambassador, a Class Favorite and on the Homecoming Court both years. As a freshman, she served as SGA treasurer and was on the Dean's List. As a sophomore, she is SGA vice president, on the President's List and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Outside of Holmes, she is a praise dancer at Abundant Life Assembly Church.

Upon graduating Holmes, she plans to attend Delta State University to pursue her dream of working in the medical field; possibly as a nurse, but maybe as a nutritionist. After earning her bachelor's degree, Mitchell plans to work for a few years before going back for her master's. Once she earns her master's, she plans to work until retirement age then start teaching at a college in her desired field.

**Sarah Leflore** of Greenwood is a nursing major. The daughter of Stan and Jan Leflore, she has been on the President's List all three semesters that she has attended Holmes, serves as Phi Theta Kappa vice president of scholarships and was named part of the Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team. Leflore is also part of SGA and BSU.

Her community involvement includes: participating in FAFSA Day, participating in Campus Clean-Up and leading a group for Immaculate Heart of Mary's Annual Canned Food Drive in Greenwood. She also put together a service project for the college and career class at Immanuel Baptist Church to make and deliver care packages to nurses and patients at the local hospitals and nursing homes. After Holmes, she plans to attend Mississippi University for Women to pursue her Bachelor of Science.

**Slade Allgood** of Carthage is a pre-med major. The son of Stacy and Michael Wooten and Jimmy and Diane Allgood, Allgood's honors include: 2018 HEADWAE recipient, Phi Theta Kappa All-Academic Team, Homecoming Court escort and Sophomore Class Favorite. A member of Phi Theta Kappa since his freshman year, he is now president. Allgood is also an Ambassador, peer chemistry tutor, chemistry lab assistant and Writing Center tutor.

His freshman year, he was a peer biology tutor, Natural Science lab volunteer and a member of the Social Science Club. He has also served as a Madison County Youth Leadership College Mentor and gone on a mission trip to Honduras. Allgood plans to transfer to Mississippi College to earn his bachelor's in biology with a minor in chemistry. His career ambition is to become a trauma surgeon.

**Caroline Bennett** of Flora, daughter of Bruce and Robbie Bennett, is a business administration major. She has been a member of Phi Theta Kappa and on the President's List both years at Holmes. Bennett has served as a speaker and leader at the church, as a caretaker for three children and worked as a receptionist for Salon 11. She will be attending Mississippi College in the fall of 2018 where she will pursue a bachelor's degree in business entrepreneurship, which is a brand new major for MC.

**Margaret Bloodworth** of Flowood, the daughter of Jim and Cara Bloodworth, is a pre-nursing major. She serves as Student Government Association treasurer, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, on the President's List and employed as a real estate intern and as a standardized patient at University of Mississippi Medical Center for the second year in a row. Bloodworth served as SGA freshmen representative her first year at Holmes, as well as a

member of Phi Theta Kappa. She also served as a caretaker for a child with Down Syndrome.

After Holmes, she plans to attend nursing school and graduate with her associate degree in nursing. She then plans to do a bridge program at Mississippi College to get her Bachelor of Science in Nursing then apply to UMMC to work in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) or the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Bloodworth also plans to work as a travel nurse to be able to see other states and gain more experience. She would like to work for two years in the PICU or NICU then return to school at South Alabama to earn a neonatal nurse practitioner degree.

**Johnna Davis** of Flora is a social work major. The daughter of Tim and Lisa Davis, she has been an SGA representative, an Ambassador, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and chosen as a Class Favorite both years at Holmes. As a sophomore, she was also elected to the Homecoming Court, chosen for the Phi Theta Kappa All-Academic Team and chosen for the Get2College scholarship/internship program.

Davis is a member of First Baptist Church Flora where she assists with youth/children's ministry. She will serve as an FCA Camp Huddle leader at Belhaven University and also go to Cuba to work in an orphanage during the summer of 2018. As a freshman, she worked at Madison OB/GYN Associates and babysat. After Holmes, she'll attend Mississippi State University to earn her bachelor's in social work before applying to Mississippi College's master's program in social work.

Her goal is to one day open her own orphanage and maybe become a counselor for a high school. Davis notes that whatever she ends up doing, she hopes to be able to help kids.

**Sarah Donahoo** of Sylacauga, Alabama, daughter of Ben and Jennifer Donahoo, is a pre-veterinary major. She serves as Phi Theta Kappa vice president of outreach, an SGA volunteer and plays forward for the Lady Bulldogs soccer team. The team won back-to-back North Division Championships and placed as semi-finalists for NJCAA Regionals. Outside of Holmes, she coaches at Brandon Futbol Club Tots and has volunteered with Webster Animal Shelter.

*See Hall of Fame, Page 11*

## Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame



Slade Allgood



Caroline Bennett



Maggie Bloodworth



Johnna Davis



Sarah Donahoo



Davis Edwards



Travis Jones



Melanie Owah



Donovan Parkerson



Anna Claire Stewart



Lydia Thompson



Courtney Turner

## Hall of Fame (continued from Page 10)

Upon graduation, Donahoo plans to attend Southern Union Community College in Auburn, Alabama, during the summer of 2018 to finish up a few prerequisite courses while she job shadows at various vet clinics in the area. In the fall of 2018, she'll attend Auburn University as a pre-vet major and then apply for Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine upon finishing her bachelor's. Her goal is to open her own vet clinic in a small community.

**Davis Edwards** of Brandon, son of Chuck and Shelly Edwards, is a communications major. Edwards is the current Mr. Holmes Community College for the Ridgeland Campus, an Ambassador and a Dean's List scholar. During his freshman year, he started a business called Dave's Party Pals, which involves taking his mobile petting zoo to birthday parties and big events. He has been successful with his business thus far and continues to bring his animals to various events. After graduating from Holmes, he is transferring to Mississippi State University to complete his degree in marketing and communications.

**Travis Jones** of Brandon is a computer science major. The son of Matt and Tawni Basden, he is an SGA representative, an Ambassador, a member of HAVOC (Holmes Allied Video Online Club) a President's List scholar and was voted as a Sophomore Class Favorite. Outside of Holmes, he works

at McAlister's Deli and is an active member of Oakdale Baptist Church where he serves as a sound assistant.

Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to transfer to the University of Southern Mississippi and earn a bachelor's degree in computer science, with an emphasis in cyber security.

**Melanie Owah** of Ridgeland, daughter of Emmanuel and Doris Owah, is a pre-med major. She was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and moved to the United States when she was six years old. Owah is Miss Holmes Community College for the Ridgeland Campus, a President's List scholar, an Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa member, SGA secretary, chemistry lab assistant and Social Science Club member.

Owah also participates in the campus Christian organization Focus Factor. As a freshman, Owah was an Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa member, SGA representative, Freshman Class Favorite and Dean's List scholar. Outside of Holmes, she works for First Baptist Church of Jackson's daycare and volunteers for Sta-Home Hospice Care Services. She is undecided where she plans to transfer, but she knows she wants to major in biology and minor in chemistry. Her dream is to one day attend Meharry School of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee, and become obstetrician gynecologist or pediatrician.

**Donovan Parkerson** of Madison is an audio engineering and business

administration major. The son of Jamie Parkerson and Nichole Windham, he has been a member of Phi Theta Kappa both years at Holmes. He is employed with Barnes and Nobles, working in the music department, and enjoys wakeboarding, playing music, attending concerts and hunting. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to continue his studies in audio engineering at the University of Southern Mississippi. After that, he is hoping to find a job working in a music studio on soundboards or mix and master music. As a backup plan, he is planning to earn his business degree, as well.

**Anna Claire Stewart** of Madison, the daughter of Scott and Laura Leslie Stewart, is a pre-nursing major. She plays forward for the Lady Bulldogs soccer team; the team that won back-to-back North Division Championships and placed as semi-finalists for NJCAA Regionals. Stewart has been a member of Phi Theta Kappa and on the President's List both years at Holmes. She also works with the Brandon Futbol Club youth program and has volunteered for the City of Ridgeland Easter Egg Hunt. Stewart will begin Holmes' associate degree nursing program in the fall of 2018.

Lydia Ruth Thompson of Madison is a pre-occupational therapy major. The daughter of Brad and Tammy Thompson, she is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and serves as a peer tutor for

Intermediate Algebra. In the community, she is a Book Buddy at Johnson Elementary School, a full-time babysitter, part of a church plant team and will be an intern at a church in Tupelo during the 2018 summer.

During her freshman year, she spent the summer living in Leogane, Haiti, as an intern where she shadowed and worked alongside physical therapists and occupational therapists all summer. She helped get Focus Factor Bible study started again at Holmes and has helped with the leadership of the organization. After Holmes, she is transferring to the University of Southern Mississippi in the fall of 2018 with plans to major in public health and administration. Once she obtains her bachelor's degree, she plans on going to occupational therapy school at University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Finally, Courtney Paige Turner of Ridgeland, the daughter of Tate Turner, is a radiological services major. She is a member of the back-to-back North Division Championship-winning Lady Bulldogs soccer team, where she plays forward. Turner has been a member of Phi Theta Kappa and on the Dean's List both her freshman and sophomore year. After graduating from Holmes, she plans on attending radiological sciences school, hopefully at University of Mississippi Medical Center. From there, she will pursue her education to become a MRI technologist.

## Phi Theta Kappa excels at International Conference

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are all the Holmes Phi Theta Kappa members and advisors who attended Nationals. They are (front, left to right) Mackenzie Danaher, Sarah Donahoo, Emma Kate Gibson, Emily "Kayti" Caldwell, Johnna Davis, Ethan Burton, (second row, left to right) Lydia Allen, Advisor Blair Booker, Hallie Westbrook, Jonathan Boles, Ashlee Bennett, Chris Kalil, (back row, left to right) Advisor Cynthia Abel, Slade Allgood, Advisor Jason Kelly, Advisor Erin Renfroe, Lamar Land and Advisor Emeritus Billy Wilson.

Holmes Community College's three Phi Theta Kappa chapters were honored at the Phi Theta Kappa International Catalyst Convention held April 19-21 in Kansas City, Missouri.

A total of 2,359 entries were received in the 2018 Hallmark Awards competition, and the Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter from the Ridgeland Campus was recognized as a finalist (fifth place) for Most Distinguished Chapter, competing against more than 1,300 chapters worldwide. The Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter also placed in the Top 30 for Most Distinguished Officer Team; Top 32 for Honors in Action Project and top 50 for College Project.

Slade Allgood, president of the chapter, was named a 2018 Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholar and received a \$1,500 scholarship, as well.

Three Holmes students, Johnna Davis from the Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter in Ridgeland, Hallie Westbrook from the Kappa Alpha Chapter in Goodman and Ashlee Bennett from the Alpha Mu Beta Chapter on the Grenada Campus, were recognized for being Get2College Scholars. As Get2College Corps members, they

were awarded \$5,000 (\$2,500 per semester) to assist high school students and their families with FAFSA completion and state financial aid applications. They carried out these duties over the course of a 10-week period during the school year, from October to March, 2017-18.

Other than Allgood and Davis, Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter members who attended the convention were: Lydia Allen, Mackenzie Danaher and Sarah Donahoo, along with advisors Blair Booker and Erin Renfroe.

Kappa Alpha Chapter members at the convention, in addition to Westbrook, were Jonathan Boles, Ethan Burton, Chris Kalil and Lamar Land as well as advisors Jason Kelly and Billy Wilson.

Finally, the Alpha Mu Beta Chapter members who attended, along with Bennett, included Emily "Kayti" Caldwell, Emma Kate Gibson and advisor Cynthia Abel.

To learn more about Holmes Phi Theta Kappa chapters, visit: [http://www.holmescc.edu/student\\_life/clubs/ptk/index.aspx](http://www.holmescc.edu/student_life/clubs/ptk/index.aspx).

## Holmes alumna scores highest in nation on paralegal certification exam

From Staff Reports/Photos



Ann-Clark Price

Ann-Clark Price, a graduate of the Paralegal Technology program on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus, scored the highest in the nation on a national legal certification exam.

A native of McComb, Price earned her Associate of Applied Science degree from Holmes in December 2017. While at Holmes, she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and Holmes Association of Legal Students (HALS). Prior to Holmes, she earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from The University of

Mississippi in May of 2010.

Upon obtaining her degree from Holmes, Price landed a position as a paralegal for Wilkins Patterson Smith Pumphrey & Doty, a litigation defense firm in Jackson. She resides in Brandon and enjoys traveling, reading, interior design and playing with her three rescue dogs. Price is engaged to be married in April of 2019, and she and her fiancé plan to stay in the Jackson metro area.

For more information about the Holmes Paralegal Technology program, contact

Darleen Dozier at [ddozier@holmescc.edu](mailto:ddozier@holmescc.edu) or (601) 605.3360.

## Autistic student Liz Howell flourishes at Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



**Elizabeth Howell**

From meeting new people and adjusting to a new environment to dealing with academic pressures and learning the art of time management, the college years can be tough for anyone: and even more so for those who have an autism spectrum disorder. While autism brings about its share of challenges that might impede college success, this has not been the case for Holmes Community College student Elizabeth “Liz” Howell.

The 19-year-old daughter of Michael and Sarah Howell of Kosciusko, Liz is a sophomore English major on the Holmes Goodman Campus. Not only has she made it through almost two years of college; she has gone over and beyond expectation.

“The first psychiatrist that I talked to about the possibility of me being autistic said that autistic people, on any point of the spectrum, won’t graduate high school,” Liz said. “That’s just an example of how much we are often stigmatized against. Now, here I am today; I made a 29 on the ACT, earned a full ride to Holmes and I’m doing well in school.”

Liz attended public school from kindergarten through third grade, but then her parents decided to homeschool her and her younger brother. Upon earning her high school degree in 2016, she enrolled at Holmes and immediately earned a spot on the President’s List for academic excellence. A unique aspect of Liz’s journey is that she didn’t grow up getting special support or working with a specialist to help her navigate the ins and outs of autism. In fact, it was only a year ago that she was officially diagnosed as level one on the autism spectrum disorder scale

[which formerly would have been referred to as Asperger’s syndrome in her case].

“I’ve always had trouble communicating with other people and ever since I was a kid, I’ve had this weird thing where when I walk, I always have to step over a crack with my right foot first,” Liz said. “It’s just little things like that, things I’ve done since I was growing up, that made it where I didn’t fit in very well and didn’t have a lot of friends. There were a lot of miscommunication issues.

“When I was 16, something happened and I got really, really stressed out. That was the first time I went non-verbal. The best way I can describe what it felt like is that it was like having white noise in my head. I couldn’t even understand my own thoughts because they were moving so fast. I started doing some research, for about a week or so, and everything I found pointed to autism. I was confused because I thought that if I was autistic, I would know by now. At that point in my life, I didn’t know much about Asperger’s syndrome, only about the stereotypical autism symptoms you hear about, like not being able to communicate at all.

“For a while it scared me because I thought, wait, I might have something seriously wrong with me. The more I’ve learned and gotten used to it, I’ve realized, there is nothing really wrong with me. It’s more like the difference in someone using an iPhone and an Android. There are a lot of communication differences, but I’m still just a person. A lot of times we are looked at as less than human because of communication differences that people just don’t understand.”

Although she had a few bumps in the road her freshman year and still faces some struggles, Liz has excelled as an English major and made a name for herself on Holmes’ campus.

“My love of writing started when I was 8,” Liz said. “There was a competition with the National Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans. A bunch of us entered and three of us were accepted and published in the 2007 Anthology of Poetry. After that, my love for writing grew.”

As a freshman at Holmes, Liz won first place in the poetry category and third in creative nonfiction in the Goodman Campus Creative Writing Contest. This year, she won two first place awards in the literary essay and drama categories and second in drama on the state-level compe-

tion.

Not wanting to miss an opportunity to help others, Liz serves as head tutor for the Writing Center and has also taken on various leadership roles on campus. She is editor of The Growl student newspaper, president of the Gaming Club, an officer for Phi Theta Kappa honor society and was even voted Miss Holmes Community College for the Goodman Campus. On top of all that, she is a member of MOSAIC club and Baptist Student Union, is employed with the book store and is in the Honors Psychology class.

Outside of Holmes, Liz is an active member of Zama Baptist Church in Kosciusko where she teaches Sunday school for children ages 3-11. In her free time, she enjoys writing, drawing and playing video games. Following graduation from Holmes in May, Liz says she’ll most likely attend Delta State University to pursue a B.A. in English.

“I’d like to get certified to teach while working on my degree,” Liz said. “My goal is to obtain an M.F.A. in creative writing and a Ph.D. in American Literature. I hope to both write and teach either at a small university or a community college; somewhere that I can get to know my students. I want to be for other students what some of the teachers at Holmes have been for me.

“When I first came to Holmes...well, I’m autistic and I was homeschooled for nine years, so I had basically no socialization skills. My first week here I called my English teacher a two-year-old in the middle of class. I found out that week you’re not supposed to call your teacher a two-year-old in the middle of class. The instructor didn’t get mad at me, though; he grew to understand that I have some communication differences, and I struggle to communicate the way most people do.”

That same instructor can attest to Liz’s growth since she first began college.

“Liz really has changed a great deal over the last two years,” said Holmes English instructor Chad Moorer. “The old stereotype of ‘coming out of one’s shell’ hardly covers it. I have seen her grow not only intellectually but also emotionally and socially. But Liz has also put in the hard work to make those changes in herself.”

During her freshman year, Liz was fondly referred to as “Cape Girl” since she often sported a royal blue cape on campus. She said that it gave her confidence and

she enjoyed the funny reaction she got from people.

“I don’t wear the cape much anymore because now I feel confident without it,” Liz said. “That, and it doesn’t work out very well to wear a cape under a backpack!”

Liz is just one of the many young adults with an autism spectrum disorder who has proved that autism is not necessarily a limiting factor, but rather a unique way of viewing and navigating the world. As April is National Autism Awareness Month, Liz encourages people to take the time to better understand those with autism.

“It can be really hard for us to fit in...I have a notebook that I’ve been keeping with notes on how to communicate with people. There are all these rules that normal people don’t have to think about that everybody follows...people like me - we have to work really hard to figure out what those rules are.

“Even though people don’t think about it, who knows where we’d be if autism didn’t exist,” Liz continued. “Some of history’s greatest minds were believed to have been autistic like Van Gogh and Einstein. Einstein did not even begin to talk until he was three. Most of us who are autistic, we really don’t want a cure. We just want people to understand us enough to where we don’t have to pretend to be like everyone else.”

Embracing who she is, endearing quirks and all, Liz has found a place where she belongs and made friends along the way: not always an easy feat for those with autism spectrum disorders.

“I’ve really flourished here [at Holmes],” Liz said. “I went from this shy little girl who sat down in front of McDaniel Hall every day in between classes because I didn’t know what to do with my life to Miss HCC, president of the Gaming Club and a tutor for the Writing Center, to name a few. I don’t know where I’d be right now if I’d never come to Holmes.”

For more information about how to support and celebrate National Autism Awareness Month, visit [www.autism-society.org/](http://www.autism-society.org/).

For more information about how to support and celebrate National Autism Awareness Month, visit [www.autism-society.org/](http://www.autism-society.org/).

## Holmes takes home three awards from Better Newspaper Contest

From Staff Reports/Photos



**Ethan Burton**, showing off his award he won for his cartoon at the Better

Holmes Community College won three awards in the 2018 Mississippi Press Association (MPA) Better Newspaper Contest. Individually, Ethan Burton, a sophomore on the Goodman Campus, won

third place in the Cartoon Category for his cartoon “Shade,” and The Growl as an entity won third in General Excellence and third in Editorials. The awards were presented during the 2018 O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference held March 28 at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Museum in Jackson.

Three Holmes journalism students were able to represent the college at the conference: Cayla Holloway from the Goodman Campus, Nykeem Liddell from Goodman and Kanisha Wade from Ridgeland. Sponsored annually by MPA, the conference is named after the late O.C. McDavid, who served as managing editor of the Jackson Daily News. This year’s conference began with a welcome by MPA President Paul Keane followed by a quick word about Mr. McDavid from his daughter, Carolyn. Next, Mississippi Arts Commission Director of Grants Diane Williams gave a presentation on storytelling through art before Clarion-Ledger investigative reporter Jerry Mitchell took the floor.

Mitchell, best known for reporting and writing stories that helped put four Klansmen and an accused serial killer behind

bars, shared highlights from his colorful career and words of wisdom to the aspiring college journalists. When asked if he was ever scared for his life when he pursued these interviews/investigations of dangerous people, he remarked that “living fearlessly is not living without fear, it is living beyond fear...I’m a man of faith and I believe that it’s important to live for things bigger and more important than just yourself.”

Following Mitchell’s presentation, journalists Emily Wagster Pettus with the Associated Press and Adam Ganuchau with Mississippi Today spoke about covering Mississippi politics. MPA Executive Director Layne Bruce moderated the presentation. After lunch was served, Bruce announced the winners of the Better Newspaper Contest before dismissing everyone.



**Nykeem Liddell, Cayla Holloway and Kanisha Wade** pose for a photo with all of the awards the Growl won at the Better Newspaper Contest.

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

For more information about student publications at Holmes, including the Growl newspaper, HCC Grid and Horizons yearbook, contact Mary Margaret Busby at [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu) or (601) 605.3376.

## Communications Director Steve Diffey speaks at Winona Rotary

From Staff Reports/Photos



On Friday, April 13, Steve Diffey served as the speaker for the Winona Rotary Club. Diffey is the District Director of Communications and Associate Athletic Director for External Relations at Holmes Community College.

He spoke about Holmes during the meeting, updating the Rotarians on everything from academics to career-technical education updates, workforce training to athletics. Mississippi Senator and Winona Rotary Service Director Lydia Chassaniol asked him to do the April 13 program on account of his strong ties to the Winona community. He worked at the Winona

Times from 1993-95 and a number of Winona natives currently attend or are alumni of Holmes.

**IN THIS PHOTO:** Pictured (left to right) are Mississippi Senator and Winona Rotary Service Director **Lydia Chassaniol**, Holmes Director of Communications/ Associate A.D. **Steve Diffey** and Rotary President **Jonathan Graves**.

## Love returns to Holmes as workforce development coordinator

From Staff Reports/Photos



Melissa Love

Melissa Love has joined the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus as the workforce development coordinator. She was previously employed with Holmes as the district-wide assistant director of communications, serving the college for nearly seven years. She is also a Holmes alumna, Class of 2001.

In her new role, Love is responsible for working with business and industry to identify educational and training needs. She also assists in the development of customized training programs, courses and other continuing education classes to meet those needs, and serves as web/social media administrator for the Workforce Development Department in addition to other duties.

Before returning to Holmes, Love

worked at her other alma mater, Delta State University; first as the graphic designer and then as the assistant director of alumni affairs. Prior to her employment with Delta State, she was a member of the corporate marketing team for Centennial Bank and its parent company, Home BancShares, Inc., based in Conway, Arkansas.

Love holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Delta State University as well as an Associate of Arts from Holmes. As a student, she was a member of the first ever Lady Bulldogs women's soccer team at Holmes, which was located on the Goodman Campus at that time.

Love is a member of the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi, a life member of the Delta State Universi-

ty National Alumni Association, as well as a life member of the Holmes Alumni Association. In the past, she has been a member of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi, the American Advertising Federation and the Southern Public Relations Federation.

Love and her husband, Seals, have two children: Austin, 10, and Mary, 8. They are active members of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Gluckstadt and she is active in her children's PTO and fundraising initiatives at Mannsdale Elementary School. Love also owns and operates Anchor Art Company with her sister, Stephanie Wood, who serves as the district-wide graphic designer for Holmes.

## Ridgeland Campus inducts 44 into Phi Theta Kappa

From Staff Reports/Photos



**IN THE PHOTO:** Pictured are the 44 new Ridgeland Phi Theta Kappa inductees: (front, left to right) Kym Lucas, Ashley Reeves, A'Kiemia Gibson, Chelsea Williams, Amanda Barrett, Sam Schemmel, Kara Grace Lea, Belkys Padilla, Paige Hough, Devyn Daniels, (second row, left to right) Daniel Traylor, Ken Tullis, Kalyn Jefferson, Rachel Hairston, Morgan Marks, Mackenzie Sims, Sara Dane, Natalie Fortenberry, Kenzie Warren, Marisa Wetzal, Kijana Williams, Victoria Alexander, Shameka Winston, Sarah-Beth King, Kyndal Prewitt, Mary Peyton Peck, (third row, left to right) Josh Hinkle, Jadarius Thomas, Price Horner, Antonio Benson, Jah'nyce Burse, Margaret Corcoran, Trinity Torie, Miranda Wright, Ansley Burtford, Thomas Cothren, Kelly King, Amber Cyrus, Charles Lowe, (back row, left to right) Kyle Brown, John Cranford, Chelsea Williams and Brian M. Jones, II.

The Holmes Community College Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, housed on the Ridgeland Campus, inducted 44 new members into the honor society on March 6 in the D.P. "Pat" McGowan Workforce

Training Center Media Room.

The ceremony began with a welcome by Slade Allgood, president of Phi Theta Kappa, followed by an invocation and recognition of chapter officers and guests by Blair Booker, branch

librarian and Phi Theta Kappa adviser. After a brief introduction, Katrina B. Myricks, Phi Theta Kappa alumna and Business and Office Technology (BOT) instructor on the Ridgeland Campus, took the podium to give her remarks as keynote speaker.

Myricks, who holds degrees from Delta State University and Mississippi State University, is a former Mrs. Mississippi USA and a finalist at the Mrs. USA pageant. Employed by Holmes for 28 years, she is past district department chair for BOT. Myricks has been honored with numerous awards and serves her community in a variety of capacities. A four-year breast cancer survivor, she also volunteers her time with the American Cancer Society as a Strides Ambassador and works closely with the Hands of Hope Boutique at St. Dominic's Hospital. She and her husband live in Madison County with their daughter, Kaitlin, and four-legged daughter, Koko.

Following Myricks' address, Allgood, Vice President of College Projects Mackenzie Danaher and Vice President of Hallmarks Lydia Allen shared the meaning behind the symbolic rituals of the induction ceremony. Vice President of Outreach Sarah Donahoo then joined Booker in officially

installing the new chapter members.

After the ceremony, representatives from eight colleges and universities were available in the lobby to meet with students and their parents while they enjoyed refreshments. Belhaven University, Delta State University, Millsaps College, Mississippi College, Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women, University of Mississippi and the University of Southern Mississippi were all represented. MSU sponsored the reception.

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 Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter, contact Blair Booker at [bbooker@holmescc.edu](mailto:bbooker@holmescc.edu) or Erin Renfroe at [erenfroe@holmescc.edu](mailto:erenfroe@holmescc.edu).

## Indoor Percussion wins state championship

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Indoor Percussion ensemble. They are (front row, left to right) **Miracle Green, Crystal Allen, Samantha Miller, Rachel Jones, Safaye Stone, Noah Burrell, Dillon McHarris, Morgan Jackson, Chris Ball, De'Merick White, Shelby Corr, Olivia Butler, Chris Curry,** (second row, left to right) **Anna Smitherman, Courtney Clay, Zach Clark, Taylor Vaden, Jennie Watters, Charleigh McPhail, Curtis Bradford, Francesco McKnight, Chris Nalls,** (back row, left to right) **Kenneth Smith, Cedric Terry, Holden Shipp, Aaron Howard, Chris Jackson and Johnny Kelly.**

The Holmes Community College Indoor Drumline captured their third Mississippi Indoor Association State Championship in the last four years on Friday, April 6.

The 29-member drumline competed in the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson and brought home the title over Southwest Mississippi Community College. Holmes also won state titles in 2015 and 2016 as well.

“They worked hard,” Indoor Drumline Director Jeffrey Brown said. “We had a rough start at the beginning of the semester because we lost a lot of students due to grades. We had to do a lot of moving around the first couple of practices. Overall, I’m pretty pleased on how they overcame those odds and pulled it out.” Brown said audience appeal and their overall strength was the difference this season.

“We had strong players,” he said. “Our

show had a lot of energy. Southwest did a really good show; it was neat and clean. Our show had a lot of audience appeal. It was exciting, and our students were into it. And it doesn’t hurt that this was the largest battery section in the school’s history!”

The Holmes Indoor Drumline is in its 10th year and the win put Holmes on top for the most state championships in the independent category from the Mississippi Indoor Association.

## Five students honored by legislature at 2018 All-MS Luncheon

From Staff Reports/Photos



**IN THE PHOTO:** Pictured at the All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team Recognition Luncheon are (front row, left to right) **Ridgeland Campus honoree Johnna Davis, Goodman Campus honoree Ethan Burton, Grenada Campus honoree Ashlee Bennett, Ridgeland Campus honoree Slade Allgood, Grenada Campus honoree Sarah Leflore, Grenada PTK Adviser Cynthia Abel, Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey,** and (back row, left to right) **Goodman Adviser Jason Kelly, Ridgeland Adviser Erin Renfroe and Goodman Adviser Will Alexander.**

Holmes Community College students Slade Allgood, Ashlee Bennett, Ethan Burton, Johnna Davis and Sarah Leflore were honored at the All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team Recognition Luncheon on March 28. 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 aca-

dem performance and service to the college and community.

Slade Allgood of Carthage is studying pre-med on the Ridgeland Campus. He is an Ambassador, president of the Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and a member of Focus Factor, a Christian organization on campus. Allgood was also a member of the 2017 Homecoming Court, serving as an escort for Freshman Maid Adrianna Watkins of Madison.

Upon graduation from Holmes, Allgood plans to transfer to Mississippi College where he will major in biolo-

gy, with a focus on medical sciences, and minor in chemistry. After MC, he plans to attend medical school with the goal of becoming a trauma surgeon.

Ashlee Bennett of Grenada is a sophomore biological sciences major on the Grenada Campus. She is a graduate of Winona Christian School and her honors and activities at Holmes include Freshman Class Favorite, Freshman Homecoming Maid, Grenada Student Body Homecoming Maid, Ambassador, Student Government Association president, Phi Theta Kappa president, Baptist Student Union member and Writing Center tutor.

Bennett also tutors outside of Holmes, serves as a Get2College intern and volunteers for Hudspeth Regional Center, helping developmentally-delayed adults with recreational and learning skills. She is a member of Kilmichael Baptist Church.

Ethan Burton of Goodman is a graphic design major on the Goodman Campus. He is an officer for Phi Theta Kappa; a columnist/cartoonist for The Growl student newspaper and HCC Grid blog; a President’s List scholar; a member of BSU; a member of the Gaming Club and a student worker for the campus library. As a freshman, he displayed personal artwork at the Natchez Trace Festival with the Holmes Visual Arts Department and sold his first drawing.

As a sophomore, he won first place in the Short Story Category of the Creative Writing Contest and first place

in the Homecoming Banner Contest as one of the four primary artists from the Fine Arts Department. Burton also won awards for his cartoons at the Mississippi Press Association conference in 2017 and 2018. After Holmes, he will transfer to Delta State University to pursue a B.F.A. degree in graphic design.

Johnna Davis of Flora is a sophomore social work major on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus. A graduate of Tri-County Academy, her honors and activities at Holmes include Freshman Homecoming Maid, Sophomore Homecoming Maid, Ambassador, Student Government Association sophomore representative and Phi Theta Kappa vice president of outreach. Davis is also a member of First Baptist Church of Flora and plans to attend Mississippi State University in the fall of 2018.

Sarah Leflore of Greenwood is a pre-nursing major on the Grenada Campus. She is a member of BSU and serves as SGA representative and Phi Theta Kappa vice president of scholarships. Her honors include: Residential Life Honors and President’s List scholar. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to attend Mississippi University for Women and pursue her BSN degree. Her ultimate career goal is to become a nurse practitioner at the Baptist Hospital in Jackson.

To learn more about Phi Theta Kappa, visit <https://www.ptk.org/default.aspx>.

## Mortuary Science students visit Organ Recovery Agency

From Staff Reports/Photos



Students and instructors in the Holmes Mortuary Science program attended a “Lunch and Learn” at the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency on May 2.

On May 2, a group of students in the Holmes Mortuary Science program attended a “Lunch and Learn” presented by Taylor Phillips, Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (MORA) funeral home/coroner liaison. Other speakers included Linda Amos, a heart transplant recipient, and Daniel Billiot, manager of the Greater Jackson Mortuary Service.

Amos expressed her gratitude that she was able to get a heart transplant six years ago, thanks to Chase Worten. Worten, who was only 19 years old, tragically collapsed and died playing baseball at Hinds Community College in 2011. Billiot, a Holmes alumnus, discussed the restoration and embalming of organ and tissue donors for viewing. Several members of the recovery team from MORA were also available to answer students’ questions.

The students, many of whom are enrolled in Embalming I or II, also had an opportunity to tour the facility, including the recovery operation suite.

The goal of the Holmes Mortuary Science program, housed on the Ridgeland Campus, is to provide training that prepares students for entry-level positions after graduation and licensure. The curriculum is designed to provide students the following: 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.

For more information about the Holmes Mortuary Science program, contact Dr. Thomas Garrett at [tgarrett@holmescc.edu](mailto:tgarrett@holmescc.edu).

## Holmes hosts reception to honor 13 retirees

From Staff Reports/Photos



**IN THE PHOTO:** Pictured are the 2018 retirees at their retirement reception on April 27. They are (left to right) Diane Allgood, Ceressa Sims, Gale Sheppard, Linda McCollum, Dr. LaWanda Herron, Mary Brantley, Gwen Graham, (back row, left to right) Jerry Harris, David Parker, Dr. Robert Harris, Dan Blount and Jim Shirley. Not pictured: Jimmy Houston, Sr.

Thirteen Holmes employees who are retiring after the 2017-18 school year were honored during a reception at the President's Home on the Goodman Campus Friday, April 27.

Retirees from the Goodman Campus include: Jerry Harris, Dr. Robert Harris, Charlotte Gale Sheppard, Jim Shirley and Ceressa Sims.

Retirees from the Grenada Campus are Gwen Graham and Dr. LaWanda Herron.

Ridgeland Campus retirees include Diane Allgood, Daniel Blount, Mary Brantley, Jimmy Houston, Sr., and Linda McCollum.

Finally, from the Yazoo City location, David Parker is retiring.

### Jerry Harris

Jerry Harris plans to return to his home in Duck Hill upon retirement where he will pursue his own art; he says he has a series in mind. Harris graduated twice from the University of Mississippi; first with a B.F.A. then with an M.F.A. He also graduated from the University of New Mexico with an M.A. in art education.

Upon completing his degrees, he taught art in K-12. He worked with the founders of the Mississippi School of the Arts and served as an art adjudicator for them for 10 years. When an opening was available at Holmes, he accepted, and has held the position of art instructor since January of 2005.

"In all of the years that I have known and worked with Jerry, he has never wavered as a dedicated instructor or as a friend," said Fine Arts Chair John L. Cheatham, III. "Always punctual. Always professional. Always an authority in the field of art and art education. After retiring with full honors from the Pentagon, Mr. Harris decided to pursue a more serious career... in the fine arts. With extensive knowledge and ability, with countless methods and materials, he soon became a recognized authority in the field of art.

"Mr. Harris has held the prestigious position of adjudicator for the Mississippi School of the Arts for over a decade. He has been a devoted instructor and mentor to thousands of students and faculty. He is a knowledgeable man of many talents and is exceptionally well read and versed. It has truly been an honor to have worked with Jerry all these years and I owe a great deal of my own advancement as an artist and instructor to him. I could not have asked for a better mentor and friend."

### Dr. Robert Harris

Dr. Robert Harris has been part of the Holmes family for 32 years but has 33 years total with the state. He is from both Jackson and Crystal Springs, and his hobbies include spending time with family and friends, attending flea markets/antiquing, judging Miss Mississippi preliminaries and playing tennis.

Dr. Harris holds three degrees from Mississippi State University: a B.S. in computer science, an M.A.T. in community college education and a Ph.D. in community college leadership. A few of his honors include: MS Academy of Sciences Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018, HEADWAE Honoree in 2004,

Lamplighter Educator in 1996 and NISOD Excellence Award in 1995.

He taught as an adjunct instructor at MSU for one year and has held a number of positions at Holmes, including his most recent roles as director of placement testing, computer science instructor and associate chair for the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Dr. Harris has also served as president and secretary of the Faculty Association, adviser for Phi Theta Kappa and as associate director for the Miss Holmes CC Pageant. He's a member of the Association for Computing Machinery, the MS Academy of Sciences, Phi Theta Kappa, the MS Faculty Association for Community and Junior Colleges and the MS Retired Public Employees Association.

"Robert is a dear friend and colleague and probably one of the most legendary instructors of the past 30 years," said Goodman Campus Academic Dean Dr. Jenny Bailey Jones. "Some student comments about Dr. Harris include: 'Great enthusiasm for students to learn,' 'One of the best instructors ever,' 'Extremely concerned about his students' and 'Great Instructor, makes lecture interesting and fun.' There is no way to adequately reflect on Robert's contributions to Holmes Community College and the Holmes family, so I will use this quote from Dr. Seuss: 'Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.' Robert, good friends never say goodbye, just see you soon!"

### Charlotte Gale Sheppard

Charlotte Gale Sheppard began her career in 1984 as the secretary to the dean of students, the director of student activities, the maintenance department and the director of PR. Then, from 1987-1990, she served as director of student activities, as well as sponsor of the yearbook, cheer squad and SGA. Finally, from 2006-2018, she served as an instructor of Business and Office Technology.

Sheppard holds an A.A. in secretarial science from Mississippi Delta Junior College, a bachelor's in business education from Delta State University and a master's in vocational instructional technology from Mississippi State University. She was also a Lamplighter Award recipient at Holmes. Sheppard is engaged to Jeff Sharp and has two sons and a "daughter-in-love" as well as four grandchildren. She enjoys leading music at First Baptist Church in Durant and playing golf, cards and board games.

"Gale is so much more than an instructor to me," said District Director of Career-Tech Dr. Amy Whittington. "She helped me learn how to be an instructor when I started teaching in the BOT department. She cares for her students and it shows in everything she does. Her kindness, compassion and wealth of knowledge have helped many move on to a successful career. She is a valued co-worker and dear friend who will be greatly missed at Holmes."

### Jim Shirley

Jim Shirley holds a bachelor's in engineering physics from Delta State University, a master's in mathematics and physics

from the University of Mississippi and has completed additional studies, as well. His teaching career began at a high school in Greenwood before he moved on to East Holmes Academy. Frank Branch, the president of Holmes CC at that time, recruited Shirley to Holmes and after seven years of teaching in Goodman, sent him to Yazoo City to teach mathematics and chemistry there.

While there, Shirley was able to assist Mississippi Chemical Company with ongoing issues they were having, which led to a job offer. He ended up working in human resources at the plant for 30 years. Upon retirement, Shirley returned to Holmes and has remained a campus-favorite among Goodman Campus students. He is also an adviser for the Holmes Plus Program, which is a scholars program he founded for students who show an aptitude in science and mathematics.

Shirley was a HEADWAE recipient, Lamplighters Honoree, a Holmes Board of Trustees Special Recognition Award recipient, a National Science Foundation Grant recipient and a member of MS Association of Physicists and Rotary Club. He has also worked as an industrial engineering consultant. Shirley and his wife, Amy, have four children, eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

"A 21-year education veteran, Jim is not your typical instructor," said Vice President of Academic Programs Dr. Fran Cox. "He and I have worked together for those 21 years, and we have had many interesting discussions. Jim has provided Mississippi and surrounding states with a lot of successful students – whether they were looking to be engineers, medical students or just took his Physical Science Survey class because they'd heard how engaging his classes were.

"He is praised by his students, because they see him take classroom concepts to real world applications. He genuinely cares about each student's success. Known as a student advocate, Jim is passionate about his work and is innovative in his classroom. However, the most important characteristic to me is that he gives students a pathway to achieve their dreams – and many do."

### Ceressa Sims

Ceressa Sims began her college "career" at Holmes in 1972 as a freshman. Little did she know that in 1998 she would become a Holmes employee. The first position she held was secretary for Dwight Myrick at the Vocational-Technical Department for a little over five years. At his retirement, Sherrie Cheek took the lead and Sims worked with her for about a year until Tottie Lewis called and told her Dr. Starkey Morgan wanted to see her. That visit with Dr. Morgan led to her second position as director of student activities, which she loved and continued doing until April 2007.

She got another call from Tottie asking if she would be interested in her position as executive assistant to the president. Sims took the position, working under Dr. Glenn Boyce. Following his resignation, she worked for a few months during Dr. David Cole's tenure as interim president. Dr. Haffey was selected as the new president in September of 2014 and Sims remained there, with "my three sons," as she put it.

Upon retirement, she and her husband Donny hope to travel and become more involved in church and community functions. They especially look forward to spending time with their granddaughter, Kennedy Jane. Sims also plans to continue her monogramming and applique' hobby, along with catering.

Reflecting on her 20-year tenure at Holmes, Sims says she will cherish the friendships formed with such wonderful people. "As I close this door and prepare to open another, let me say it is my hope that Holmes continues growing by leaps and bounds to become the forerunner in Mississippi's educational field," Sims said. "I'm proud to be a member of the Holmes Family and I'll miss everyone!"

"Ceressa faithfully served the school in many capacities, but the three presidents she served alongside would argue that the college could not have functioned smoothly without her steady assistance and guidance," Dr. Haffey said. "She is beloved by the Board of Trustees that she assisted on a monthly basis. It has been one of the highlights of my career to work with a lady with great faith and quick wit, and I could not have done my job without her. She is a remarkable person."

### Gwen Graham

Gwen Graham has worked on the Holmes Grenada Campus since 1996; first as a paraprofessional librarian and then as a member of the English faculty. She has taught Composition I and II, World Literature, Creative Writing and pre-core English and Reading courses. Graham holds a B.A. in English from Delta State University and an M.A. in English from Mississippi State University.

Graham represented Holmes at the 2016 Lamplighter Conference, was honored as the 2015 Humanities Teacher of the Year and was selected as a 2012 HEADWAE faculty honoree. She serves on the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Board of Directors and has served the association as president. She is also coordinator of the Holmes Grenada Literary Contest. Graham serves on the advisory board for "St. Martin's Guide to Writing" and is a member of MADE and TYCAM. During her tenure, Graham served as an adviser of Alpha Mu Beta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, was conferred honorary membership in the chapter and received the MS/LA Region Horizon Award.

An active member of the Grenada community, Graham serves and has served on the board for various organizations, including the Grenada Higher Education Association; Delta Kappa Gamma international honor society for women educators; the Garden Club; Junior Auxiliary and the Kirk Academy Board of Directors. She and her husband Chip are members of Friendship Baptist Church, where she is a Bible study teacher and serves as women's ministry director. They have two children, Whitney Woods (Travis) and Scott Graham (Ashlynn), and one granddaughter, Mary Gwen Woods.

"Gwen and I have been friends since we were in the first grade," said Grenada Campus Academic Dean Dr. Myra Harville. "We went to college together. Then several years into our careers she became a part of our Holmes family. I have been honored to work with her, and when we worked together as Phi Theta Kappa advisers, we shared many wonderful trips with students. Gwen started the writing center in Grenada and has served as a mentor to many instructors. She has positively impacted so many students over the years as well as encouraging faculty and staff. Gwen will be greatly missed as an instructor and a friend by all of us in Grenada."

### Dr. LaWanda Herron

Dr. LaWanda Herron, director of the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program at Holmes, holds a BSN from Delta State University, an MSA in Healthcare Administration from Central Michigan University, an MSN from Delta State University and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Mississippi. She has been an RN for the past 27 years, a nurse educator for 23 years and a family nurse practitioner for 21 years. Dr. Herron has been employed at Holmes for 19 years, and also spent six years as a nurse corps officer in the U.S. Navy.

Committed to the mission and goals of the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), Dr. Herron is an experienced program evaluator and team chair and has participated on several Evaluation Review Panels. As director

(Retirees, Continued on Page 16)

## Retirees (Continued from Page 15)

of nursing, Dr. Herron is responsible for managing the day-to-day activities for faculty, students and program oversight. She participates in research and grant-writing activities and presents at nursing workshops at the local, state, regional, national and international levels. In addition to completing numerous book reviews, Dr. Herron is a published author. She has taught at the associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels.

Dr. Herron is a member of the Mississippi Council of Deans and Directors where she serves as the chair of the Policy and Legislative Committee and vice-chair of the Mississippi Council of Deans and Directors. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau Honor Nursing Sorority, American Nurses Association, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Mississippi Nurses Association. Dr. Herron has received numerous awards and recognitions, including nomination for Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year.

"LaWanda Herron has been an outstanding leader for the Associate Degree Nursing program," said Grenada Campus Vice President Michelle Burney. "Her respect for the nursing profession and her love for the college have been evident throughout her tenure at Holmes. LaWanda's passion for nursing education and her refusal to accept anything but the best have positively impacted the lives of hundreds of graduates. Her presence on the Grenada Campus will be greatly missed."

### Diane Allgood

Diane Allgood began working at Holmes in 1987 as a mathematics instructor and continued in that role until she became the Ridgeland Campus Evening Director in 2011. From 2013-14, she participated in and completed the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA), and in the spring of 2015, added the role of District Coordinator for Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit to her existing job as Evening Director. She also continued to teach through eLearning.

Allgood has 35 years of experience in the education field with 31 of those at Holmes. She previously taught as an adjunct mathematics instructor at Mississippi College. In 2017, Allgood was inducted into the Beta Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Key Women Educators. She has also served on the Professional Education Advisory Council at Mississippi College for many years.

"To know Diane is to know that she loves learning, she loves teaching and she loves Holmes Community College," said Ridgeland Academic Dean Dr. Tonya Lawrence. "Her uncanny ability to promote Holmes in any conversation that she has will be missed as much as her pres-

ence."

Some of her other honors include: Lamplighter Excellent Teaching Award, NISOD Award, Who's Who Among America's Community College Teachers, Phi Theta Kappa sponsor, HEADWAE recipient, National Science Foundation teacher trainer, Mississippi Council of Teachers of Mathematics member, past statewide president and member of Mississippi Teachers of College Mathematics. Allgood is married to Jimmy Allgood, and together they have three sons, three daughters, two sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law, a grandson and a granddaughter. She enjoys working, reading, home design, watching "Wheel of Fortune," playing golf and spending time with family and friends.

"Diane and I have a long history as fellow mathematics instructors," said Vice President of Academic Programs Dr. Fran Cox. "However, the one thing that I will always remember about Diane was her willingness to mentor me when I first started at Holmes as a mathematics instructor. She made me feel welcomed and she shared her thoughts and materials with me. She fueled me with her enthusiasm about teaching mathematics, and I knew that I had found a great resource and friend. Later in her career, she once again came to my rescue to serve as our Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit director. She has taken that program and developed it into a program with great integrity. I was not surprised that this has happened, as Diane has always been one to achieve greatness."

### Daniel Blount

Daniel Blount began teaching at Hinds Community College in 2007, but came to Holmes in January of 2009. He teaches electrical, mechanical, hydraulics, pneumatics, welding, motor controls, programmable logic control systems and solid state motor controls.

Blount holds a bachelor's degree in electronics and has worked as a design engineer, a field engineer and an automation specialist. Blount worked offshore platforms, new equipment start-up in the U.S. and overseas, designed automation systems and programmed automation systems.

He and his wife, Terri, have two children: a daughter, Sherry, and son, Grayson. Blount enjoys fishing, hunting, boating and working on antique vehicles as hobbies. He is always working on a project at the house. Blount also has a small farm in Crystal Springs that he enjoys spending time at on weekends.

"Dan Blount is an outstanding instructor," said District Director of Career-Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington. "He has always gone the extra mile to help his students succeed. He built the Industrial Maintenance program into a very success-

ful program and he will truly be missed by the Career-Tech family."

### Mary Brantley

Mary Brantley has been an English instructor on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus since it opened its doors in 1985. She has taught English Composition I and II, Honors Composition and a variety of literature courses. Brantley previously served as Department Chair for the Department of English & Foreign Language, but opted to step down from the role in 2015 and redirect all of her attention back to the classroom. She has also served as coordinator of the Honors Program, project director for the Mississippi Humanities Council grants and on various committees for the college. In 2018, she organized the "Exploring the Mississippi Delta" series, as well.

Brantley earned her M.A. in English from the University of Mississippi following the completion of her B.A. in English from Millsaps College. A former HEADWAE Award recipient, she also received the Mississippi Humanities Council Scholars Award, was recognized as the Community College Outstanding Faculty Honoree, was chosen as a Lamplighters honoree and was a Mississippi Economic Council Star Teacher. Brantley also served as a lecturer with the Mississippi Humanities Speakers Bureau from 1992-1999.

"Mary Brantley has inspired many of us on the Ridgeland Campus with the abiding concern she has for the success of her students," said Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham. "She has taught her students not only how to write but to love and appreciate literature and to release their own creativity through personal composition."

### Jimmy Houston, Sr.

Jimmy Houston, Sr., left his position as the chief of the Ridgeland Police Department to join the faculty at Holmes Community College in 2014. After 12 years of service as police chief, Holmes hired Houston to teach criminal justice and help build the program on the Ridgeland Campus.

Houston began his career in law enforcement in 1973, became a chief in 1997 for the Flowood Police Department and also served with the Jackson Police Department. He has previously taught at the college level, as well.

Houston's hobbies include fishing and taking naps in his chair with Scooter (the family dog). He and his wife, Bonnie, have three children: Michelle Ashcraft, Jay Houston and Ashley Arceo, as well as six grandchildren.

"From the time Jimmy Houston, Sr., stepped onto the Ridgeland Campus as

a criminal justice instructor, he has been positively impacting the lives of the students, faculty and staff of Holmes Community College," said Ridgeland Campus Academic Dean Dr. Tonya Lawrence. "His wealth of knowledge and practical experience is like none other and has been so instrumental in developing the criminal justice program. Mentor, colleague and friend are just a few of the terms that I would use to describe him."

### Linda McCollum

Linda McCollum grew up in Canton and attended Belhaven and Mississippi University for Women. She came to Holmes Community College in 1990 and worked in Admissions and Records for 28 years. She has one son, and loves to cook. In fact, McCollum has published three cookbooks. Her third and final cookbook is dedicated to her "family" at Holmes.

"Linda has been the face of Admissions and Records, always guiding and helping students and parents with their admissions questions," said Judy Hemphill, who works side-by-side with McCollum in Admissions and Records on the Ridgeland Campus. "She delights co-workers with her cooking skills and occasional surprises of goodies for breakfast. I will miss my friend and colleague and wish for her a very enjoyable retirement."

### David Parker

David Parker has worked at Holmes for seven years in Adult Education. He earned his bachelor's and master's in education from Delta State University and was selected to be a mentor for new teachers in the Adult Education program for Holmes.

Prior to employment with the college, Parker worked in manufacturing for 27 years in Holmes County. His grandparents lived in Goodman so he grew up playing on the campus there. In fact, his brothers and sister all attended Holmes.

Parker says that his plans for retirement are to travel and see some of the many interesting places in the country. He enjoys working around his five acres, playing with his three horses and spending time with his three grandchildren.

"David Parker has been an asset to the Adult Basic Education program in Yazoo City," said Vice President of Workforce Development Dr. Mike Blankenship. "His devotion to and concern for those individuals seeking to improve their quality of life through education has been apparent to all who know him. David has helped many individuals attain their high school equivalency, positively affecting the individual as well as their family and community."

## Billy Wilson honored with lifetime achievement award named for him

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Mississippi-Louisiana Region of Phi Theta Kappa recently bestowed an honor on Goodman Campus instructor and Kappa Alpha Chapter advisor emeritus Billy Wilson by naming a lifetime achievement award after him.

During the Mississippi-Louisiana Regional Convention, Wilson received the region's first-ever lifetime achievement award on Friday night of the convention. The award was officially named the Billy Wilson Lifetime Achievement Award in his honor the next day during the awards banquet.

"I was shocked and very grateful," said Wilson, who has served as both an employee of Phi Theta Kappa International and as an advisor for the last 30 plus years. "As I said at the convention, I feel that Phi Theta Kappa has given more to me than I can ever give back.

"It has been a major part of my life since I became a member at Holmes Community College," he said. "To receive the first Lifetime Achievement Award was an honor, especially since the Kappa Alpha chapter was there to celebrate with

me. But to have the award named for me was more than I could take in at that time. Now I am just pleased that the region wanted to do it, but at the time it was a 'deer in the headlight moment.'"

Wilson is a Holmes Junior College graduate and holds a bachelor's degree in English from Lambuth University and a master's degree in English from the University of Memphis.

After graduating from Memphis, he taught three years at Central Holmes Christian School in Lexington and at Meridian Community College for 11 years before taking a job with PTK International Headquarters in Jackson for 20 years. Upon retiring from headquarters in 2004, he started work at Holmes Community College where he served as a chapter advisor until 2016 when he became advisor emeritus.

Wilson's mother, Sally Wilson, was an advisor at Holmes during her long career on the Goodman Campus so Phi Theta Kappa has always been a part of his life.

"It is natural to me to want to give whatever time or talent I have because the students have always been appreciative and always fun to work with," Wilson said. "Even when Kappa Alpha members are working past midnight to write Hallmark Award entries or scholarship applications, it is enjoyable to be there with them because I know that a group of dedicated people are bonding and learning and growing together. And, of course, when Kappa Alpha is recognized for their accomplishments, I can have the same kind of pride the students have. All the scholarship money, of course, goes to

(Billy Wilson, Continued on Page 17)

## Billy Wilson (Continued from Page 16)

them, but I have the same pride in chapter and individual student achievements.

“As much fun as it was to travel all over the country, I have always felt even luckier to have been associated with the Kappa Alpha chapter,” he added. “When I retired from the Headquarters staff and came to teach at Holmes, Dr. Cox asked me if I would be an advisor for Kappa Alpha and I said ‘yes’ almost before she could finish the question. It may have been the best as well as the quickest decision I have ever made. Working closely with current advisor Will Alexander and former advisor Jeff Edwards has been the best work relationship I have ever had.”

Wilson said he really enjoyed his long tenure with Phi Theta Kappa headquarters. “Before coming to Holmes, I had the satisfaction of working with community college honor students across the country,” he explained. “They were from varied backgrounds and their ages ranged from very young to very old, but they had one thing in common: They all seemed to want to learn more about scholarship, leadership and service, and it was really a lot of fun to help them.

“Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in the world by far and has the most connections, but the reason it is so important in the lives of students is that it does not forget the motto: ‘Think international (with honors, leadership and

service programs) but make an impact on each local campus with each individual student.’ It is the advisors who have done that—usually with no pay and with an additional workload of hundreds of hours each semester. It is this kind of love for student successes that makes me proud to be associated with Phi Theta Kappa. So, I guess I would have to say that my work with honors and regional programs at Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters was the perfect match for my interest in literature and history and other areas of the humanities and my interest in work with students who really care about gaining knowledge and making themselves better citizens.”

Goodman Campus advisor Will Alexander said Wilson is very deserving of this honor and seeing his reaction at the regional convention was priceless. “It was very much a surprise and a shock,” Alexander said. “One of the things that our region is known for is the shock and awe. When they announced Mr. Wilson’s name, he kind of had that shock where he throws his hands back and his eyes get really big and looks around. You can tell he was very emotional, and he was trying not to let his emotions get the best of him. He stood up there and smiled like the typical Mr. Wilson does.”

The Kappa Alpha Chapter has a yearly award that is named for Wilson’s mother, Sally Wilson, and Alexander said he

feels Phi Theta Kappa is in his blood. “His mother, Sally Wilson, was involved with Phi Theta Kappa so heavily, and he grew up with it in his family,” Alexander said. “One of the things we here at Kappa Alpha are proud of is the legacy that the Wilson family gives to the chapter. We have the Sally Wilson Distinguished Educator Award that we give at the awards banquet, and it wouldn’t surprise me if we have something here at the college eventually named for Mr. Wilson as well. He just loves seeing his students and the people he knows excel and be recognized.”

Alexander said Wilson’s English background and service to Phi Theta Kappa is pivotal to the success of the Kappa Alpha Chapter. “Once the students have created any document, Mr. Wilson is the key player when it comes to assisting students with editing,” he said. “He truly loves his students. He likes to see them put on stage and likes to see them being successful. A lot of this is all about the writing and how you paint a picture. He loves to be engaged as much as possible.”

Regional Coordinator Dr. Ryan Ruckel of Pearl River said 2018 is the centennial year of Phi Theta Kappa, and the Mississippi-Louisiana Region is celebrating 86 years of existence.

“We wanted a new set of awards that we could name after the advisors of our generation,” Dr. Ruckel explained. “We

wanted to surprise him with it. When we announced the award Friday evening, we didn’t announce it was going to be named for him. We wanted it to sink in to everyone that he is the example of what kind of person we want to recognize.

“The central mission of Phi Theta Kappa is recognition,” he said. “We do leadership training and scholarships. The purpose of the society is excellence and achievement. This is the kind of example he has set for future advisors.”

The Mississippi-Louisiana Region awards a member of each chapter with the Golden Key Award. The award goes to an individual chapter member who exhibits the four hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa—scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship, and often it’s not given to a member of the officer team. The advisory board gave Wilson a golden key inside a commemorative box to signify the lifetime achievement award.

“We gave him something we think is very special,” Dr. Ruckel said. “We want to give this to an advisor who has exemplified these values his whole life. We decided to make the Billy Wilson Award because Billy Wilson is the example we think of for everybody and celebrate them.”

## Holmes shines at SkillsUSA State Championship

From Staff Reports/Photos

The SkillsUSA chapters from two Holmes campuses successfully competed in the annual competition hosted by the Mississippi Department of Education at the Mississippi Trademart Center in Jackson and the Clyde Muse Center in Pearl April 10-11.

Holmes took home the following awards: Hallie Westbrook from the Goodman Campus won Second Place for Related Technical Math; Javarious Brewer from Goodman won Second Place in the Major Appliance & Refrigeration category; Antonio

Benson from the Ridgeland Campus took home second place in the Job Interview category and a Ridgeland Campus team consisting of Jervarius Jackson, Victoria Beckley, Isaac Oluwo, Quashun Coleman and Herkevius McCoy won third in the Quiz Bowl.

The Goodman Campus SkillsUSA chapter is advised by instructors Will Alexander, Jeffrey Cotten and Derrick Rainey. In Ridgeland, Heather Mooney and Nathan Hutchinson serve as advisors.



**IN THE PHOTO:** Pictured is Ridgeland Campus student **Antonio Benson**, who won second place in Job Interview.



**IN THE PHOTO:** Pictured are (left to right) Goodman students **Javarious Brewer**, who won second in Major Appliance & Refrigeration, and **Hallie Westbrook**, who won second in Related Technical Math.

**IN THE PHOTO:** Pictured are (left, left to right) Ridgeland Campus students **Herkevius McCoy**, **Jervarius Jackson**, **Quashun Coleman** and **Victoria Beckley**. These students won third as a team in the Quiz Bowl. *Not pictured:* Isaac Oluwo.

## Goodman students place in state art competition

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left) **Montero Barton** and (right) **Ethan Burton** with their award-winning work.

The Goodman Campus recently had two visual arts students place first and third in painting in the Mississippi Community/Junior College Arts Instructions Association State Art Competition.

Montero Barton placed first for his painting “Raw Umber” while Ethan Burton took third place with his painting “Blackbird.” Barton is a sophomore art major from Vaughan and Burton is a sophomore liberal arts major, with an emphasis in graphic design, from Goodman.

The event was hosted by Hinds Community College.

## Ridgeland ADN student presents to Ridgeland High ESL class

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes sophomore Associate Degree Nursing student Alejandro Hernandez Magana of Clinton presented for an ELS (English as a Second Language) junior and senior class at Ridgeland High School. Erika Chacon from Hinds Community College co-presented with Alejandro on the options of health-related fields for ESL students.

Pictured are (left to right) Holmes ADN student **Alejandro Hernandez**, **Lynn Pape Fuller**, ESL teacher for Madison County Schools, and **Erika Chacon** from Hinds.

## Kalil and Moorer named William Winter Scholars

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Chris Kalil** and English instructor **Chad Moorer** at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, where they were recognized as William Winter Scholars.

Goodman Campus student Christopher Kalil and Goodman English Instructor William “Chad” Moorer were recognized as William Winter Scholars during the 29th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

The celebration was sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and held at the Natchez Convention Center in late February.

Kalil, son of Lewis and Laura Kalil, grew up in the Mississippi Delta. As a child he attended a small, private elementary school. It was there that he fell in love with reading and writing. As a teenager, he attended Manchester Academy where a passion for literature was instilled in him by a group of excellent English teachers. He is now in his final semester at Holmes

on the Goodman Campus.

He has placed multiple times in the Goodman Campus Creative Writing Contest in the categories of poetry, short fiction and creative non-fiction and is an English major. Upon graduation, he plans on attending Delta State University as an English major with an emphasis in creative writing. His long-term goal is to obtain his doctorate so that he can study and teach literature at the highest level possible. He hopes to one day write at the same quality as the works he so loves to study.

Moorer is in his sixth year as an English instructor at the Goodman Campus and was named the Sally Wilson Distinguished Educator in 2017. He currently teaches the Developmental English, Composition and

Creative Writing classes and serves as the Director of the Goodman Writing Center.

Prior to teaching full-time at Holmes, Moorer was an adjunct instructor at Hinds Community College and Holmes.

He is a State Board member and Past President of the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association and Holmes’ representation to the Executive Council of the Two-Year College English Association of Mississippi. He also organizes and judges the Goodman Campus Creative Writing Contest.

Moorer received his Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Alabama and his Bachelor of Arts in English Writing from Rhodes College.

## Wolak takes Grand Award with ‘Two’ at first HAVOC Film Festival

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (left) **Jesse Qualls**, HAVOC president, presenting the HAVOC Short Film Festival Grand Award to **Matt Wolak** for his film “Two.”



The 2017-18 HAVOC Short Film Festival was held March 29 at the Ridgeland Campus.

Five films were viewed, with freshman Matt Wolak of Brandon taking home the Grand Award for his film, “Two.”

Films included in this year’s selections:

- vlogging, Jesse Qualls
- 19, Matt Wolak
- Beastmode, Jerell Walker
- 2017, Matt Wolak
- Two, Matt Wolak
- The Proposal, Ian Roberston (UK)

Pictured are (front, left to right) **Jesse Qualls**, president; **Lexi Holtz**, incoming president; (back, left to right) **Vaughan Godwin** and **John Cranford**, secretary.

The event was sponsored by Pizza Shack Madison.

For information about HAVOC, visit [http://www.holmescc.edu/student\\_life/clubs/havoc/](http://www.holmescc.edu/student_life/clubs/havoc/)

## Students take 12 awards at state writing contest

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College prevailed at the 2018 Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association (MCCCWA) statewide Creative Writing Contest, taking home 12 awards out of the 89 submissions entered from 12 colleges/college branches.

In the Poetry Category, Codi Goulas from the Ridgeland Campus won first place for “Acadiana Roots;” Madison Brewer from Grenada won second for “Forgiveness;” Kiya Alvarado from Goodman won third for “Family” and Ashley Regan from Ridgeland was named an Honorable Mention for “Lady Chyalis.”

In the Literary Essay section, Brian

M. Jones, II, from Ridgeland won first for “Literacy as a Tool to Freedom in the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass” and Sara Goss from Grenada won second for “Henrik Ibsen’s Hedda Gabler: Three Women, One Problem.” In Creative Nonfiction, Samantha Jordan Banks from Ridgeland won second place for “Remembrance;” M. Kennedy from Grenada took third for “The Nameless Game” and Shunta Rivers from Grenada won an Honorable Mention for “The Good People.”

Finally, in the Short Fiction Category, Ethan Burton from Goodman placed second for his story “Worn Blue Collar.” For the Drama section, Elizabeth Howell

from Goodman won second for “Fish” and Benjamin Wilkes from Grenada won an Honorable Mention for “Two Paths.”

The winners will attend a workshop and receive their awards during the MCCCWA Conference at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville on Friday, April 13. The first place, second place and third place winners will receive a monetary prize and have their pieces printed in the MCCCWA publication, and the authors of the honorable mention selections will receive a signed certificate at the awards ceremony.

For more information about this year’s MCCCWA contest and awards, contact MCCCWA President Tim Morris at tim.

morris@jcc.edu.

For more information about Holmes creative writing courses, contact English instructor Chad Moorer at [wmoorer@holmescc.edu](mailto:wmoorer@holmescc.edu).



Pictured are (left to right) The judge for the MCCCWA competition in the Literary Essay category, **Lori Watkins**, is pictured with first place winner, Ridgeland Campus student **Brian M. Jones II**. Watkins works at William Carey University, where she is an associate professor of English, researcher, editor and author. Jones is a sophomore Spanish major from Jackson.



Pictured are (left to right) The judge for the MCCCWA competition in the Dramatic Fiction category, **Tim Matheny**, is pictured with second place winner, Goodman Campus student **Elizabeth Howell**. Matheny is an actor, director, writer, teacher and assistant professor of theatre performance at Mississippi State University. Howell is a sophomore English major from Kosciusko.



Pictured are (left to right) The judge for the MCCCWA competition in the Poetry category, **Benjamin Morris**, is pictured with second place winner, Grenada Campus student **Madison Brewer**. Morris is an author, researcher and member of the Mississippi Artist Roster. Brewer, a sophomore elementary education major from Coffeeville, also won third in Creative Nonfiction.



Pictured are (left to right) The judge for the MCCCWA competition in the Poetry category, **Benjamin Morris**, is pictured with third place winner, **Kiya Alvarado** from the Goodman Campus. Alvarado is a sophomore art major from Greenwood.

## Gaming Club officers elected

By Elizabeth Howell



On April 20, the new president and vice president for the Holmes Gaming Club were elected. As the previous officers will be graduating on May 11, they wanted to be sure that the club would be left in good hands. John Miksa was voted in as president, with Curtis Osborne as his vice president. They are currently discussing whether they will choose a secretary from known club

members or if they will choose an incoming freshman to take on this responsibility.

Vice President Chandler Garrett said that he believes the club is being left in good hands.

“John’s a great guy,” he said, “and he’s been to every meeting. He’s a commuter, so he has to drive here from Madison for all of his classes, but he’s still been our most reliable guy all year.”

“Curtis, well, he’s Curtis,” said club member Chloe Bland. “He can be kind of immature at times, but this club means a lot to him. I think he’ll work hard to keep it going.”

The two said that they plan on having Fortnite and other tournaments, and they have been challenged to a competition by the Ridgeland Campus’ HAVOC club next semester. The two also plan on keeping “Dungeons and Dragons” a regular thing

with Curtis as their Dungeon Master. He already has a Discord set up for the club and says that he hopes it will get more use next semester.

John also played in “Death by Dessert” this semester, the play put on by Teresa Grantier and the Holmes Community College theater department, as the waiter and waitress. He’s a member of Phi Theta Kappa and is applying to be an officer in the 2018-19 academic year.

Curtis is a member of the marching band and a common sight around the art department, where he spends most of his time.

The Gaming Club meets in the CCN room of the library at 6 p.m. every Sunday. For more information about the Gaming Club, contact James Thompson at [jathompson@holmescc.edu](mailto:jathompson@holmescc.edu).

The 2017-18 Gaming Club included (front, left to right) Alyssa Allbritton, Kiya Alvarado, Liz Howell, (second row, left to right) Alex O’Reilly, Destiny Sullivan, Crystal Allen, (third row, left to right) Christopher Garrett, Ethan Burton, Chandler Garrett, (back, left to right) Curtis Osborn (new vice president) and John Miksa (new president).

## District-wide on-site orientation sessions set for new students

From Staff Reports/Photos



Incoming students (parents are welcome) will have an opportunity to jump right into life at Holmes Community College during the summer on-site orientation sessions. Students are invited to come to one of the events and learn everything they need to know about life at Holmes, from financial aid to admissions, campus safety to student activities. Students will tour campus and staff members will be on hand to answer any questions that may arise.

While the Grenada Campus has been offering on-site orientation events for a few years, this will be the first time Holmes brings back such events to the Ridgeland and Goodman campuses. The day will

include information from the different divisions of student affairs and will be full of fun for those in attendance!

“The Grenada Campus added the option for face-to-face orientation in the summer of 2016,” Grenada Campus Vice President Michelle Burney said. “Our counselors and student services staff coordinate the event and offer sessions pertaining to Financial Aid, Business Office, the Library and Campus Public Safety. Our student Ambassadors lead tours and offer a chance to view the campus through the eyes of a student. Orientation participants are also given the opportunity to meet face-to-face with an advisor and register for fall

classes.

“Our current online orientation is full of great information for potential students, but we have found that many students like the opportunity to connect with their advisor and the other faculty and staff on campus. Technology is a great tool, but we also want to offer that personal touch that makes Holmes Community College so unique.”

The schedule of events includes: a welcome; an opportunity to meet counselors; an Admissions/Enroll Now session; a chance to learn about MyHolmes, Financial Aid and the Business Office; a session on Public Safety (which includes information on parking decals and student I.D.s); information on Disability Services; information on eLearning/NetTutor; a chance to learn about campus activities and finally, a tour of campus.

“Students who want to familiarize themselves with some friendly faces who will become instrumental to their success at Holmes should plan to visit one of our campuses for on-site orientation,” said Director of Marketing Bronwyn Martin. “The morning will be filled with great news about life at Holmes Community

College. Participants will leave with a better understanding of what to expect upon joining the Holmes’ family and why there really is ‘No Place like Holmes.’”

On-site orientation will be offered on the Goodman Campus May 23 and June 21, beginning at 9 a.m. in the McDaniel Hall Auditorium. On-campus registration will be held from noon-3 p.m. Contact Leslie Spell at (662) 472.9055 for more information.

For the Ridgeland Campus, on-site orientation will be held May 22 (in Science Building East - Room 126) and June 20 (in the McGowan Center - Room 130), beginning at 9 a.m. On-campus registration will be held from noon-3 p.m. Contact Amanda Lindsey at (601) 605.3320 for more information.

An orientation event will be held on the Grenada Campus on July 26 beginning at 9 a.m. in the Corey Forum of the Main Building. On-campus registrations for Grenada will be offered May 24 and June 19 from noon-3 p.m. Contact Bethany Miller at (662) 227.2354 for more information.

## Ridgeland Campus holds 2018 Award and Honors Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



**IN THIS PHOTO:** Pictured are all of the Ridgeland Campus award recipients following the 32nd Annual Holmes Awards & Honors Program held April 17 in the McGowan Center. The recipients are (front row, left to right) Samantha Jordan Banks, Melanie Owah, Lydia Thompson, Laura Ann Kelley, Courtney Turner, Anna Claire Stewart, Johnna Davis, Caroline Bennett, Maggie Bloodworth, (second row, left to right) Dorian Patterson, Shelby Sessums, Margaret Corcoran, Jose Ramon Barcenas, Daniel Hill, Christopher Galloway, Travis Jones, Davis Edwards, Brian M. Jones, II, Janay Guice, Kanisha Wade, Daniel Russell, (third row, left to right) Jacob George, David Waller, Christopher Tate, Tamela Fleming, Leslie Fleming, Sarah Donahoo, Rachel Hairston, James Baggett, Gennell Evans, (back row, left to right) Donovan Parkerson, Slade Allgood, Will Flasck, Elliott Springer and Austin C. Parker.

The Holmes Ridgeland Campus recognized its students’ achievements and honors during the 2018 Honors

Day Program held April 17 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center.

The evening began with a welcome

from District Director of Career-Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington and an invocation from Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham.

Award presentations began with Dr. Burnham recognizing the 2018 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: Slade Allgood, Caroline Bennett, Maggie Bloodworth, Johnna Davis, Sarah Donahoo, Davis Edwards, Travis Jones, Melanie Owah, Donovan Parkerson, Lydia Thompson and Courtney Turner.

Following Hall of Fame recognitions, the Dean & Director Award recipients were honored. These awards are given to non-traditional students who excel academically and are recognized by faculty as exemplary students. Dr. Stacey Coulter presented an award to Gennell Evans, Dr. Whittington presented to Leslie Fleming and Angie Blain presented to Christopher Tate.

Dr. Andrew Kelly took the stage next to honor the 2018 Ridgeland Campus

Literary Contest winners. The first and second place recipients received monetary prizes, in addition to their plaques, presented by Holmes alumnus Kyle Henry from Renasant Bank. The winners were: Ashley Regan, first place in Poetry for “Lady Chrysalis;” Codi Goulas, second in Poetry for “Acadiana Roots;” Lydia Fortenberry, first place in Short Story for “Jack is not a Girl’s Name;” Will Flasck, second place in Short Story for “Moving Forward” and second in Literary Essay for “Monkey See, Monkey Do;” Brian M. Jones, II, first in Literary Essay for “Literary as a Tool to Freedom in the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas;” Austin C. Parker, first in Personal Essay for “Champion of the Broken;” Samantha Jordan Banks, second in Personal Essay for “Remembrance” and Honorable Mentions in Personal Essay Zach Goodman, David Waller and Rachel Hairston.

Next, a representative from each academic and career-technical program presented an award to a student who

*Ridgeland Honors, continued on Page 20*

## Ridgeland Honors (continued from Page 19)

has shown excellence in their given major or program. Dr. Alice Austin presented Dorian Patterson with the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Award; Dr. Troy Milliken presented Christopher Galloway with the Physical Science Award and Daniel Hill with the Engineering Award. Ridgeland Academic Dean Dr. Tonya Lawrence, filling in for some instructors who could not be present, presented Laura Ann Kelley with the Business Administration Award and Shelby Sesums with the Fine Arts Award.

The English Composition Award

went to Rachel Hairston, presented by Steve Deaton and the Literature Award to Brian M. Jones, II, presented by Arnetra Pleas. Ryan Beggs presented the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Award to Elliott Springer; Donna Ahlrich presented the Mathematics Award to Slade Allgood, Mary Margaret Busby presented the Journalism Award to Kanisha Wade; Dr. Amy Wolgamott presented the Public Speaking Award to Tamela Fleming and Laura McMahan presented the Social and Behavior Science Award to Leslie Fleming.

Kana Williams took the stage to kick off career tech awards, presenting the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Award to Margaret Corcoran. NaTunya Johnson presented the Business Technology Award to Harold Smothers; Shea Coleman presented the Surgical Technology Award to James Baggett and Mark Galtelli presented the Emergency Medical Science Award to Daniel Russell. Finally, Lynn Boykin presented the Engineering Technology Award to Jose Ramon Barcenas and David Jones presented the Funeral Service Technology Award to Lee

Breeland.

A few students were unable to attend, but were still recognized during the program. Those students included: Robert Oakes, Biological Science; Samantha Moffett, Educational Programs; Zachary Parker, Spanish; Michael Poe for History and Political Science; Nathan Ivey, Information Systems Technology; Hanna Shedd and Paralegal Technology.

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

## Goodman Campus honors students at Awards Banquet

From Staff Reports/Photos



**IN THIS PHOTO:** Pictured are all of the Goodman Campus award recipients following the Annual Awards & Honors Program held April 30 in Frank Branch Coliseum. The recipients are (front row, left to right) **Jaylon Townsend, Elizabeth Howell, Chandler Garrett, Jasmine Thomas, Tara Adams, Kameron Edwards, Isaiah Miller, Hallie Murtagh, London Steverson, Ana-Claire Edwards, Kelli Ray,** (second row, left to right) **Ethan Burton, Rictavius Haymon, Mary Morgan Stafford, Courtney Clay, Reilly Carr, Cailyn Pope, Ebony Huntley, Stefan McKibben, Michelle Salers, Trent Pike, Sarah Stevenson, Jonathan Boles, Hallie Westbrook,** (back row, left to right) **Derrel Bilsky, Austin Hanna, Jacob Rhodes, Michael Gray, Charles Cappelli, Miguel Garcia, Blake Bell, Matthew McGee, April Lishman and Tonya Dawson.**

The Holmes Goodman Campus recognized its students' achievements during the 2018 Honors Day Program held April 30 in Frank Branch Coliseum.

Representatives from each academic and career-technical program presented awards to students who have shown excellence in their given major, program or extracurricular activity. Other special awards were given, as well, in various categories.

Award presentations including recognition began with Goodman Campus Director Andy Wood recognizing the 2018 Goodman Campus Hall of Fame inductees. Hall of Fame is the highest honor a student can receive and re-

ipients were voted on by faculty and staff based on academic achievement, campus involvement and community service. The inductees included: Blake Bell, Ethan Burton, Kameron Edwards, Miguel Garcia and Hallie Westbrook.

Each of these students earned other awards, as well. Bell was the Physical Science Award recipient and Burton received the Foreign Language Award, Grawl Award, Bill Watkins Visual Arts Award and recognition for Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team. Westbrook received the English Composition Award and was recognized with the Phi Theta Kappa Order of the Golden Key honor. Finally, Garcia received the Student Government

Association Award and both he and Edwards were two of the six Holmes Plus Award recipients. Holmes Plus is a competitive scholarship organization for students who show an aptitude in science and mathematics.

The other Holmes Plus Award recipients were Reilly Carr, Matthew McGee, Cailyn Pope and Jacob Rhodes. The Biological Science Award went to Ana-Claire Edwards; the Architectural Engineering Award, Ronnie Dickard; the Engineering Award, Austin Hanna; the Wesley David Rule Mathematics Award, Derrel Bilsky and the Social and Behavioral Science Award, Tara Adams. The Business Administration Award went to London Steverson; the Elementary Education Award to Kelli Ray; the Literature Award to Jonathan Boles; the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department Award to Christopher Dye; the W.Y. Sudduth History and Political Science Award to Mary Morgan Stafford and the Outstanding Online Student Award to Michelle Salers.

Chandler Garrett received the Band Award; Isaiah Miller, the Choral Music Award; Jaylon Townsend, the Music Major Award and Courtney Clay, the Percussion Groups Award.

In the career-technology and workforce programs, Michael Gray received the Automotive Technology Award; April Lishman, the Business and Technology Award; Rictavius Haymon, Collision Repair Technology Award; Jasmine Thomas, Cosmetology Award; Tonya Dawson, Criminal Justice Award and Stefan McKibben, the

Heating and Air Conditioning Technology Award. Additionally, John Ellingburg received the Industrial Technology Award; Sarah Stevenson was named the Practical Nursing Award recipient and Charles Cappelli received the Welding Award.

Other special awards were given, as well. Trent Pike received the Deans and Directors Award, which is bestowed upon a non-traditional student who has been out of school for a while and but has exceptional grades and has made an impact in the classroom.

Elizabeth Howell received the Dr. Marilyn Burrell Memorial Award, which is given to a student with a strong academic record, leadership skills and campus involvement. She also received the Creative Writing Award.

The Christine Herron Academic Achievement Award, given to a non-traditional student who is active in MOSAIC and shows academic excellence, was presented to Ebony Huntley. Another special award is the Michael Klauk Award, named for a former pre-med student who passed away. Pre-med major Hallie Murtagh received this award for exemplifying the same model student qualities Klauk did.

Finally, the Sally Wilson Distinguished Educator Award was presented to Automotive Technology instructor Derrick Rainey. The award recognizes an outstanding educator for his or her excellence in Phi Theta Kappa's hallmarks of fellowship, leadership, scholarship and service.

## Alumna Dixie Branch recognized for contributions to music program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Student Affairs **Dr. Lindy McCain** presenting Holmes alumna ('65) **Dixie Branch** with a plaque during the 2018 Pops Concert. Holmes recognized Dixie for her contributions to Holmes; specifically the music program.

Holmes alumna Dixie Branch ('65) was honored with a plaque to recognize her contributions to Holmes Community College's music program during the 2018 Pops Concert on April 24.

A native of Pickens, she played piano for the Holmes County Agricultural High School choir all four years before she became a student at Holmes Junior College in 1963. While at HJC, she continued to share her talents as a pianist, serving as an accompanist for the choir and playing at other campus events as needed.

Dixie's duties increased unexpectedly her freshman year when the choir director, Martha Tye McKie, suffered a heart attack. She had known Mrs. McKie most of her life and had even taken piano lessons from her since the third grade, so she happily accepted the invitation to fill in as director for the time being. Although just a student herself, she successfully led the choir on their spring tour that year.

Dixie was also asked to share her talents at other important campus events, including honor society inductions and commencement ceremonies. In fact, she even played the piano for her own graduation ceremony in 1965. Her future father-in-law, then Holmes President Frank Branch, personally brought her diploma to her at the piano bench.

Upon graduation, she continued her studies at Delta State University, earning a bachelor's degree in music education. After teaching elementary music for seven years, she began assisting her husband, Frank Branch Jr., with the animal clinic they opened in Cleveland.

Dixie's love of music never ceased, though, and she continued teaching periodically throughout the years, filling in when a school needed her. She also played, and continues to play, throughout the community. One of Dixie's favorite groups to accompany was the Singing

Christmas Tree from First Baptist Church, where she worked with junior high and high school girls.

She has also provide accompaniment for a number of musicals at a local theater in Cleveland and plays for churches all around the community.

Just as she has held on to her love of music, Dixie and Frank have continued to show love and support for their alma mater, as well. After losing their son, Ben, in a tragic car accident in 2002, they established the Ben Branch Memorial Scholarship at Holmes. They have also come back to support Holmes during various events over the years, especially when Frank's parents were alive and residing on campus in what is now the Holmes House.

Holmes played an important role in both Mr. and Mrs. Branch's lives and Dixie specifically left her mark on the music program at Holmes.

## Death by Dessert: A Killer Play

By Elizabeth Howell  
Growl Editor

On April 17 and 18, Holmes Community College put on the Play “Death by Dessert,” directed by Holmes theater instructor Teresa Grantier. The play tells the story of Don and Donna, owners of competing restaurants that share a wall, and the death of their landlord,

Mario Rossetti. While both restaurant owners and their respective employees attempt to get away with (and discover who is behind) poisoning Rossetti, the Busboy and Busgirl find love and an old family secret.

The play starts with a bloodcurdling

scream and a girl running past the audience, drawing the attention of the actors to the man lying dead in front of them: Mario Rossetti. They discover that Rossetti had eaten from cake made at both restaurants and begin to argue with each other about “who dunnit.”

The play pauses as Rossetti gets up and begins to tell the story of how they got here, hoping to help the audience discover who killed him.



Counter-clockwise from the far left, sitting on the floor: the busboy (**Chandler Garrett**), Louie (**Rashad Perteet**), Frankie (**Isaiah Miller**) and Nino (**Lamar Land**).



Counter-clockwise from the far left, sitting on the floor: Nina (**Emma Dorris**), Francie (**Anna Shelby**), Louise (**Alana Price**) and the busgirl (**Jessi Morgan**) listen to Donna (**Anastasia Boston**, in the chair) tell her version of how there came to be two nearly identical restaurants with two nearly identical names sharing a wall.



The busyboy (**Chandler Garrett**) and busgirl (**Jessi Morgan**) meet in secret, hiding their romance from their employers.



Nino (**Lamar Land**) and Nina (**Emma Dorris**) argue over who stole a dessert recipe; this leads to the chocolate cake dessert-off where they find Rossetti's body.



Don (**Luke Johnson**, bottom left) and Donna (**Anastasia Boston**, bottom right) read Mario Rossetti's will, which reveals that their parents, Nonno (**Keith Greer**, top left) and Nonna (**Chandra Butler**, top right), had a set of twins: Don and Donna.



The waiter, portrayed by **John Miksa**, threatens and bribes Mario Rossetti (**Jaylon Townsend**) in order to get him to keep the secret of Don and Donna's parentage.



The new restaurant name is revealed when Don and Donna agree to combine them. “In the event of my death, two shall become one.”

## Rainey receives the Sally Wilson Award

From Staff Reports/Photos



**Derrick Rainey**

Goodman Campus Automotive Technology instructor Derrick Rainey received one of the faculty's highest honors on April 30 during the Goodman Campus Awards and Honors Banquet - the Sally Wilson Distinguished Educator Award chosen by the student body from the Goodman Campus.

The Sally Wilson Distinguished Educator Award recognizes an outstanding educator from the Goodman Campus for his or her excellence in Phi Theta Kappa's hallmarks of fellowship, leadership, scholarship and service. The award, named for the Kappa Alpha's first and longtime advisor, the late Mrs. Sally Wilson, is based

on the following criteria: the instructor encourages students to learn and enjoy the learning process through innovative teaching techniques; the instructor provides guidance, inspiration, support and motivation to students in and out of the classroom; and the instructor exemplifies honesty, integrity, excellence, dedication and leadership.

Rainey, a 1993 graduate of Canton High School, holds an associate of applied science degree in automotive technology from Holmes Community College as a member of the Toyota program. Rainey came to Holmes in 2007 after serving as a field manager for AutoVin, Inc. for four years, auto technician at Herrin-Gear Lexus of Jackson for two years and in the Madison County School District for three years as an automotive technology instructor.

He is Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified in engine repair, suspension and steering, brakes, electrical/electronic systems, heating and air conditioning, engine performance and automotive service consultant. He is also an independent auto adjuster.

Rainey said he was in disbelief when he realized he was receiving the award.

“The first thing I thought was disbelief. ‘Is this really me?’ I was very shocked, very surprised,” Rainey said. “It made me feel really good to know that somebody took notice of what I do and how you give and they recognize how you are giving. I try to stay consistent here and it means the world to me.”

Rainey said he is at Holmes to serve the students.

“It's all about service. I feel an overwhelming obligation to serve each student,” Rainey said. “That means being personable with each student because each student is different and then going above and beyond to make sure I can have a lasting impact while they are here. I want their experience here to be a lasting one, one where they will always reflect on their time at Holmes or their time with Mr. Rainey.”

Since 2013, SkillsUSA students from the Goodman Campus have received four first place finishes in the state competition and one second. His groups have two third place finishes in the National SkillsUSA competitions in parliamentary procedure in 2013 and opening and closing in 2017.

“It is with great pleasure that I nominate Mr. Rainey for consideration for the 2018 Sally Wilson Distinguished Educator Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership and tireless effort in addressing his students' needs to advance and be successful,” read the nomination from Victoria Williams. “He is a fabulous employee of Holmes Community College and a huge asset to the Automotive Technology Department. Despite the overwhelming amount of workload at times Mr. Rainey consistently finds ways to help his co-workers and students around campus. His willingness to assist others and his commitment to educate is unequalled. Not once since I have been in Mr. Rainey's class have I heard one negative comment

about him.”

Goodman Campus Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Will Alexander works with Rainey in the Career-Technical Education Department at Holmes and was proud to recognize his co-worker. “Mr. Rainey embodies the four hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa: service, leadership, fellowship, scholarship. Mr. Rainey is by all means, a servant leader. He serves as a pastor, Automotive Technology instructor, and an advisor.

“Mr. Rainey finds himself in his true element when he's engaging students in small groups and one-on-one settings,” he said. “He is a powerful and dynamic speaker who regularly gives presentations to various clubs and organizations all throughout the district of Holmes Community College on the subject of becoming an effective speaker. He has the ability to suck people in and make them feel they are the only person in the room, even amongst large crowds. His work ethic, desire for excellence, and love of people is what most notice about Mr. Rainey and is what he is known for amongst our students and faculty. He has coached several groups of SkillsUSA Officers to state and national titles in leadership competitions.”

Rainey also serves as pastor of Trinity Worship Church in Jackson and is also a bass player in Yada, a jazz trio.

He and his wife, Janice, have two daughters, Leah and Mekayla, and one son, Gabriel. Mekayla was recently inducted into Phi Theta Kappa on the Ridgeland Campus.

## Holmes inducts five into 2018 Sports Hall of Fame

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are 2018 Sports Hall of Fame inductees with (fourth from left) Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey**. The inductees are (left to right) **Terrance Sykes**, football; **Jason Russell**, baseball; **Ashley Howard**, women's basketball; **Bill Bailey**, men's basketball and **Jacob Peeler**, football.

On April 26, the Holmes Community College Alumni Association inducted five former athletes into the 2018 Sports Hall of Fame in Frank Branch Coliseum in Goodman. The inductees included: James William "Bill" Bailey, men's basketball; Ashley Howard, women's basketball; Jacob Peeler, football; Jason Russell, baseball and Terrance Sykes, football.

James William "Bill" Bailey, an Attala County native, is a 1963 Holmes grad whose love of basketball earned him a spot with the Bulldogs under coaches Jim Murrell and Jamie Howell.

"Playing basketball was a great part of my Holmes life," Bailey said.

While playing for the Bulldogs, he averaged 55 rebounds, scored almost 14 points and had a field goal percentage of 45 percent per game. In addition to succeeding in basketball, he was also voted Most Popular.

"I thought Holmes was a great fit for me as I graduated from a very small high school," Bailey said. "The friendships I made at Holmes were the highlight of my years."

Upon graduation, he transferred to the University of Mississippi and completed his Bachelor of Arts in 1975. Bailey continued his education at Georgetown University, earning a Master of Science in 1982.

Bailey has a unique story: During the gap between undergrad and graduate school, he was a prisoner of war in Vietnam for five years and eight months. Serving as a Naval Officer for 25 years, he was awarded two silver stars, two distinguished flying crosses and two purple hearts. He retired as a Commander.

Among his other accomplishments, he served as vice principal of a high school in Anderson, South Carolina, for 17 years. In 2015, Holmes honored Bailey as Distin-

guished Service Award recipient of the year. Now retired, he lives in Anderson, South Carolina with his wife, Suzanne Bailey of Washington, D.C. They have three children: James, Anne and John.

Ashley Howard had no shortage of success when she played for the Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs under Coach Chanda Rigby from 2004-2005. She was part of the All-Region Team and the All-State Team in 2004, and went on to be Co-MVP for the MACJC All-Star Game in 2005.

Howard's love of basketball began as a child and grew with each passing year.

"I love basketball because I grew up playing in our backyard with my mother," Howard said.

Before Holmes, Howard was a basketball star at Durant High School and also at Tuskegee University in Alabama. In high school, she was All-South State, All-District and on the All-Tournament Team from 1999-2003. She was also part of the Clarion Ledger girls' basketball "Dandy Dozen," as chosen by the Clarion Ledger in consultation with coaches and basketball minds around the state.

Upon graduation from Durant H.S., Howard attended Tuskegee in 2003 and was part of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) All-Tournament Team. She decided to transfer to Holmes, however, because her father was in the military and she wanted to be close to her family when he was home.

Playing basketball at Holmes was a great experience for her. Working hard on and off the court allowed Howard to continue on to the University of Memphis in 2005. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from UofM in 2007 followed by a Master of Science in Bioinformatics from Mississippi Valley State University in 2009.

Basketball for Howard is still a family activity; she plays today with her girls. Howard resides in her hometown of Durant with her four children: Hailey, 9; Harmoni, 7; Harley, 2 and Coi, 6 months. She has also returned to Holmes as a student and is enrolled in the Practical Nursing (PN) program at the Holmes Attala Center in Kosciusko.

Jacob Peeler, a graduate of Kosciusko High School, played football at Holmes under Coach Hugh Shurden for two seasons in 2002 and 2003.

Peeler played center and was on the 2002 State Championship team. He received other accolades, as well, including NJCAA All-American, NJCAA Academic All-American and JC Gridwire All-American.

Peeler said one of his favorite memories at Holmes was winning the State Championship as a freshman.

"We defeated Pearl River and Jones to win it all," he said.

Outside of football, Peeler was involved with Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was a Holmes Ambassador.

Upon graduation from Holmes, he continued to play football at Louisiana Tech. He was on the starting lineup at Louisiana Tech, and earned his bachelor's in education in 2007. Peeler continued his studies at Mississippi State University, adding a master's in kinesiology to his resume.

Peeler and his wife, Tori, live in Oxford, where he is the wide receiver coach at the University of Mississippi. Prior to returning to his home state, he served as WR coach at the University of California.

Jason Russell took a unique path to get to Holmes Community College: He graduated from Madison Ridgeland Academy in 2001 and was red shirted at Ole Miss to play baseball. After a year and half in Oxford, he decided to transfer to Holmes so he could go ahead and start playing.

Russell was a Holmes "Dirtbag" for Coach Kenny Dupont from 2003-2004. During his time at as a Bulldog, he played first base and was a DH. He has some hitting records that still stand today.

"Coach would make the team do anything it took to be able to play baseball," Russell said.

Russell recalls a rainy spring day and the field was soaked, since this was before the days of tarps.

"Coach Dupont gave everyone on the team a cup and the team scooped the water off of the field one cup full at a time until the field was dry enough to play ball," Russell said.

One of the most memorable games at Holmes for Russell was beating Meridian Community College in the State Championship tournament. After Holmes, Russell continued to play baseball at Delta State University for two more seasons.

"Baseball at Holmes allowed me to es-

tablish some lifelong friendships, many of which I keep up with today," Russell said.

Russell now works for his family business Russell Paving in Madison. While at Holmes Russell met his wife Amy Moore Russell, from Vaughan. They live in Madison and have two kids, Coleman and Charlie.

Terrance Sykes graduated from Grenada High School and headed to Goodman, excited to play football for the Holmes Community College Bulldogs. He played under Coach Hugh Shurden for the 1997 and 1998 seasons.

"Playing at Holmes was mostly a family thing as we did everything together," Sykes said.

During Sykes' time at Holmes, he played on the offensive line under Coach Andy Wood. He was part of two All-State teams.

"The work ethic I learned at Holmes helped me reach for the next level by focusing on techniques and fundamentals," Sykes said.

One of Sykes' fondest memories at Holmes was the football spring boot camp. The two-week workout session started each day with a 3 a.m. wakeup.

"The boot camp helped me prepare for each season both mentally and physically," Sykes said.

After Holmes, Sykes continued on to Louisiana Tech University where he excelled on the field and earned a B.A. in sociology. He received the Louisiana Tech University James Wayne Smith Award in 2000, which is awarded to the most valuable offensive lineman.

Continuing to follow his love of the game, Sykes played with the Cleveland Brown's practice squad from 2001-2002 then the Oakland Raider's practice squad from 2002-2003.

Sykes and his wife, Felicia Washington Sykes, reside in Shreveport, Louisiana, and have four children: Xavier, Haley, Jordan and London.

Prior to the 6 p.m. banquet and awards program, inductees enjoyed an informal welcoming reception at the president's home. Athletics Director Andy Wood presented each inductee with a framed sports photo from his or her days as a Bulldog. Afterward, inductees and their families enjoyed tours of campus and a musical performance by Connection! show choir until time for the banquet.

The new inductees have achieved not only athletic success but also prosperity in their careers. Most importantly, they have served as esteemed ambassadors for the college, and Holmes is grateful to each inductee for that.

For more information about Holmes alumni events and the alumni association, contact Coordinator of Alumni Affairs Katherine Ellard at [kellard@holmescc.edu](mailto:kellard@holmescc.edu) or at (662) 472-9134.

## Creative Writing class attends Smith book reading

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Goodman Campus Creative Writing students **Ethan Burton** and **Liz Howell**; novelist **Michael Farris Smith**; students **Abigail Proctor** and **Chris Kalil**, and English instructor **Chad Moorero** at Smith's book reading at Turnrow Book Co. in Greenwood.

On Wednesday, March 21, the Goodman Campus Creative Writing class traveled to Turnrow Book Co. in Greenwood for a reading and book signing in celebration of the release of "The Fighter" by Mississippi novelist Michael Farris Smith. Smith spoke about the publishing and writing processes. He took several questions from students in the audience and encouraged young writers to put in the hard work that good writing requires. He also talked, specifically, about using the people and places of Mississippi to continue the writing legacy of his native state.

"The Fighter" is Smith's fourth novel and is set in the Mississippi Delta. It tells of the desperate life and ultimate redemption of illegal prize-fighter, Jack. Smith's

next reading is scheduled for March 26 at the Rosenzweig Arts Center in Columbus from 5:30-7 p.m.

For more information on Smith, visit <https://michaelfarrissmith.com/>.

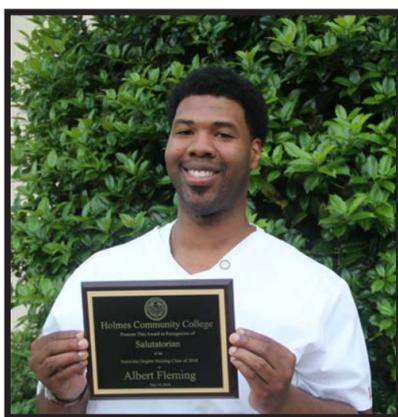
For more information about Holmes Community College's English Department and Creative Writing courses, contact Chad Moorero at [wmoorer@holmescc.edu](mailto:wmoorer@holmescc.edu).

## Grenada Campus honors ADN students: Write Story

From Staff Reports/Photos



Valedictorian Brittany Tindall



Salutatorian Albert Fleming



Outstanding Clinical Award recipient-Payton Goss



MS School of Nursing Scholarship recipient Tonya Owens

The Grenada Campus of Holmes Community College held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Class of 2018 on May 10 in the Corey Forum. Graduates included Gerrica Adams, Cisali Alexander, Krystin Allen, Jessica Brown, Kali Burney, Christina Dodd, Quindetta Felton, Albert Fleming, Payton Goss, Mallory Haire, Lashonda Hayes, Lindsey Hughes, Brandi Jenkins, McKenzie King, Melissa Leigh Anne Ledford, Kristin Moore, Kayla Neal, Haley Pate, Keyonna Redmond, Brianna Stephens, Fisher Sullivan, Brittany Tindall and Natasha Walker.

The ceremony began with a processional of the ADN Class of 2018. Albert Fleming gave the invocation followed by

a welcome and introduction of faculty by Director of Nursing Dr. LaWanda Herron. Mallory Haire, the class president, took the podium next to share some thoughts on behalf of her classmates. Following her comments, the ADN class presented a slide show dedicated to friends and family.

ADN instructors Pam Jones and Cherrie Winters, along with Dr. Herron, presented awards following the slideshow. Brittany Tindall was recognized as the valedictorian, Albert Fleming as salutatorian and Payton Goss received the Outstanding Clinical Award. Next, Mississippi Nurses Foundation (MNF) Executive Director Rosalyn Howard presented five Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarships. Those went to Troy Armstrong, Denise Donald,

Madzimoyo Owusu, Keyonna Redmond and Natalie Waterman. Tonya Owens also received the Mississippi School of Nursing Scholarship from MNF.

After the awards were given, ADN instructor Gwendolyn Lordeon called students to the stage one-by-one to receive their pins and lamps. After the lighting of lamps, the ceremony concluded with the students reciting the Nightingale Pledge, led by ADN instructor Lisa Davis, and Krystin Allen giving the benediction.



MS Board of Nursing Scholarship recipients (left to right) Denise Donald, Natalie Waterman, Troy Armstrong, Keyonna Redmond and Madzimoyo Owusu.

## Author Richard Grant shares his experiences, signs books at Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is Richard Grant speaking at Holmes.

Author Richard Grant, who wrote "Dispatches from Pluto: Lost and Found in the Mississippi Delta," discussed his New York Times Bestseller during a presentation at the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus on April 10. A reception and book signing followed his lecture.

"I came to Pluto to listen and learn," Grant said. "I'd like to start out by addressing the question I am often asked: How does a guy from London, England end up in Mississippi? I usually say something like well I guess I must have taken a wrong turn somewhere.

"The first time I heard the word Mississippi was in a high school English class in London in the winter of probably 1979. Suddenly we had this new assignment: to read William Faulkner. We were pretty impressed by Faulkner, with his language and his skill in invoking this alien world to us that seemed kind of deep and dark and spooky.

"My first impression [of Mississippi] was Faulkner followed soon after by the blues. Me and my friends were music heads; we were into hip-hop, funk and soul music and then we started tracing that back through R&B and found our way back to the blues; in particular that

raw, 1930s blues. We didn't really understand what they were singing about, but we liked the raw power of that music. Delta blues plus Faulkner creates a pretty powerful evocation of a place. I certainly never imagined I'd end up living here."

Grant is truly a citizen of the world: he was born in Malaysia, lived in Kuwait as a young child, then moved to London, where he spent his pre-teen through college years. Upon graduation from University College London with a degree in history, he worked odds and ends jobs before relocating to America in the early 1990s. He first moved to Tuscon, Arizona, where he met his wife Mariah while working on stories as a freelance journalist.

"One day, it was about 1994, I was driving through Tuscon listening to the radio when this song came on by Junior Kimbrough from Chulahoma, Mississippi. It was this hill country blues that I'd never heard before; this kind of hypnotic, one-chord music. I really liked it, and went out and bought the album. I found out that two white college kids in Oxford, Mississippi, had managed to get a million dollars in debt recording hill country artists for their record label Fat Possum Records. I thought to myself, I could get a magazine story out of that!"

Grant convinced a British magazine to send him to Oxford to write his story. He made friends on that visit, including musicians such as Kimbrough and R.L. Burnside, and he continued coming back to Oxford about twice a year to enjoy the music, food, storytelling and overall ambience.

"Fast forward to when I was living in New York City, where I was after Tuscon before I moved to Mississippi," Grant said. "As a freelance journalist the kind of overriding theme of my life has been lack of funds; it's not a high-paid profession. You have a lot of freedom, you get to travel and learn all about the world...but the pay, it has always been a struggle. In 2011, I made a documentary for BBC and for the first time in my life, I had some money. I said to my girlfriend, let's move to New York City, just to do it. We have friends there and it's kind of the capitol of the

world. I had another documentary in the works, I had a commission from the New Yorker magazine and I had another book idea, so we bought a tiny little apartment and moved to the city.

"As soon as we did, however, everything went to hell. The New Yorker rejected the article, my publisher rejected the book idea and the documentary fell through. For the first time ever, in a long time, I could not get any work. Not good, since it costs \$25 an hour to live in New York, even when you're asleep. Mariah was having trouble landing a job as well. The city just chewed us up and spit us out."

Grant's stream of bad luck turned around, however, when he received an invitation to the Mississippi Book Festival in Oxford. It was there that his friend Martha invited him to come to a picnic at her family farm in Pluto.

"I went down there on a perfect April day and realized that I felt relaxed and happy for the first time in months. She drove me down to this beautiful old farmhouse surrounded by fruit trees, ponds, vegetable gardens and a view of the Yazoo River. She said it's for sale and you can have it for \$130,000. I told her you can barely park in New York for that!

"I thought, wow maybe this is what our life needs, maybe we should buy this old house; I always kind of liked Mississippi!"

It didn't take nearly the convincing Grant thought it would to get Mariah to Pluto. She too fell in love with the house and they decided to take the plunge and move.

"Then began the incredible culture shock that produced the book," Grant said.

He proceeded to share some stories from his first year and a half in the Mississippi Delta; the very stories that he elaborates on in "Dispatches from Pluto," plus some other humorous moments.

"One of my strongest memories is going to the grocery store and opening up a newspaper...there on the cover of the paper was a woman in pink camouflage holding up the deer she shot by its antlers... where I come from, women don't kill deer with pink bows for breast cancer awareness, it's just not something British women do.

I remember staring at this and thinking, 'Where have we landed?'"

Grant also detailed a time when he heard on the radio that motorists should not stop for police because bandits in the Delta were impersonating police in order to rob motorists.

"They never rescinded this warning, never made it clear that it was safe to stop for police. So about a month later, I was driving by and what looked to be a normal police officer standing outside his car was trying to stop me, but I just swerved around him, not knowing if I should stop."

Today, Grant and his wife live in Jackson with their daughter Isobel. He is working on another book about Mississippi, this time about Natchez, while his wife works as a librarian at Millsaps College.

The presentation, which was sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council, was the culmination of the "Exploring the Mississippi Delta" series that the Holmes Ridgeland Campus English Department hosted this spring. The series sought to celebrate the Delta's rich heritage as English Composition II classes read and discussed "Dispatches from Pluto."

To learn more about Grant, visit <http://www.richardgrant.us/>. He can be reached directly at [richard@richardgrant.us](mailto:richard@richardgrant.us).

## Lady Bulldogs receive MACJC postseason honors

From Staff Reports/Photos



**Kamelia Lacy**      **Nina Carpenter**      **Vaquela Pimpton**      **Head Coach  
Jamilah Andrews**

The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs had three players and Head Coach Jamilah Andrews recognized for their efforts during the 2017-18 season by the MACJC. Kamelia Lacy was named First Team All-State while Nina Carpenter was named Second Team All-State and

Vaquela Pimpton was named Honorable Mention All-State. Andrews was named MACJC Co-Coach of the Year.

Lacy, a sophomore guard from Lexington, averaged 13.3 points per game. She shot 43.5 percent from the floor, 37 percent from the three-point line and 69.6

percent from the free-throw line. She averaged 2.3 assists and 1.2 steals per game.

Carpenter, a sophomore center from Las Vegas, Nev., averaged 9.9 points per game. She shot 49.5 percent from the floor and 54.2 percent from the free-throw line. She averaged 9.8 rebounds and 3.3 blocks per game.

Pimpton, a sophomore guard from Webb, averaged 9.9 points per game. She shot 33.3 percent from the floor and 72.7 percent from the free-throw line. She averaged 4.7 rebounds, 1.3 assists and 2.1 steals per game.

Lacy, Pimpton and Carpenter also helped lead the North Division All-Stars to a 76-74 win over the South Division All-Stars at East Central Community College on Friday, April 13, in the 2018 Women's All-Star Basketball Game.

Pimpton led Holmes' players in scoring with six points. She added four rebounds, one block and one steal. Lacy had five

points with one rebound while Carpenter had four points with three rebounds, one steal and three blocks.

The game was tied at 22 after one period of play, and the North led 42-36 at halftime. The South outscored the North 22-14 in the third period before the North outscored the South 20-16 in the fourth period to pull out the win.

During the 2017-2018 season, the Lady Bulldogs won four straight games to finish up the regular season with a North Division championship title. They went into the MACJC State Tournament as the North's No. 2 seed due to MACJC tie-breaker rules and finished the season with a loss to the Cophiah-Lincoln Community College Lady Wolves during the Region XXIII semi-finals on March 8. Overall, they had a successful season with a 18-9 record.

## Bulldogs receive MACJC postseason honors

From Staff Reports/Photos



**Javon Franklin**      **Trevais Spencer**      **Mikkel Norment**      **Kassim Nicholson**      **Head Coach  
Jason Flanigan**      **Assistant Coach  
Jason Harrison**

The Holmes Community College Bulldogs had four players and its coaching staff recognized for their efforts during the 2017-18 season by the MACJC. Javon Franklin and Trevais Spencer were named First Team All-State while Mikkel Nor-

ment and Kassim Nicholson were named Second Team All-State while Head Coach Jason Flanigan and Assistant Coach Jason Harrison were named MACJC Co-Coaches of the Year.

Franklin, a freshman forward from Little

game.

Spencer, a sophomore guard from Grenada, averaged 13.5 points per game. He shot 44.3 percent from the floor, 37 percent from the three-point line and 73.5 percent from the free-throw line. He averaged 3.3 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1.1 steals per game.

Norment, a sophomore guard from Somerville, Tenn., averaged 10.5 points per game. He shot 46.7 percent from the floor, 38.1 percent from the three-point line and 67.5 percent from the free-throw line. He averaged 1.8 assists per game, 1.6 rebounds and .8 steals per game.

Nicholson, a freshman guard from Jackson, averaged 9.4 points per game. He shot 48.9 percent from the floor. He averaged 5.3 rebounds, 1.6 assists and one steal per game.

Rock, Ark., averaged 10.8 points per game. He shot 63.2 percent from the floor and 60.9 percent from the free-throw line. He averaged 8.2 rebounds per game and 2.5 blocks per

### Women's Basketball Results

| Date    | Opponent                                     | Result   |
|---------|----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Nov. 2  | @Co-Lin CC +                                 | L, 81-65 |
| Nov. 6  | @ Arkansas State Mid-South                   | W, 75-71 |
| Nov. 9  | <u>Baton Rouge CC</u> +                      | W, 55-47 |
| Nov. 13 | @Arkansas Baptist College                    | L, 76-63 |
| Nov. 16 | @Hinds +                                     | L, 85-72 |
| Nov. 28 | <u>Arkansas Baptist College</u>              | W, 70-51 |
| Nov. 30 | @Baton Rouge CC +                            | W, 61-50 |
| Dec. 4  | @Itawamba CC *+                              | W, 58-52 |
| Jan. 6  | @Delgado CC +                                | W, 47-39 |
| Jan. 9  | <u>Hinds</u> +                               | L, 64-61 |
| Jan. 11 | <u>Mississippi Delta CC</u> *+               | W, 68-56 |
| Jan. 18 | @Northeast MS CC *+                          | L, 64-60 |
| Jan. 20 | <u>Northwest MS CC</u> *+                    | L, 57-55 |
| Jan. 25 | <u>Coahoma CC</u> *+                         | W, 61-46 |
| Jan. 27 | <u>Delgado CC</u> +                          | W, 92-43 |
| Jan. 29 | @East MS CC *+                               | W, 76-73 |
| Feb. 1  | <u>Itawamba CC</u> *+                        | W, 75-62 |
| Feb. 5  | @Mississippi Delta CC *+                     | W, 64-57 |
| Feb. 8  | @Northwest MS CC *+                          | L, 71-70 |
| Feb. 12 | <u>Northeast MS CC</u> *+                    | W, 58-52 |
| Feb. 17 | <u>Arkansas State Mid-South</u>              | W, 68-58 |
| Feb. 19 | @Coahoma CC *+                               | W, 94-59 |
| Feb. 22 | <u>East MS CC</u> *+                         | W, 80-57 |
| Feb. 27 | Southwest MS (MACJC State Tournament)        | W, 47-43 |
| Feb 28  | JCJC (MACJC State Tournament Semi-Finals)    | L, 77-53 |
| March 7 | LSU Eunice (Region XXIII Tourn., 1st Round)  | W, 87-68 |
| March 8 | Co-Lin CC (Region XXIII Tourn., Semi-Finals) | L, 63-57 |

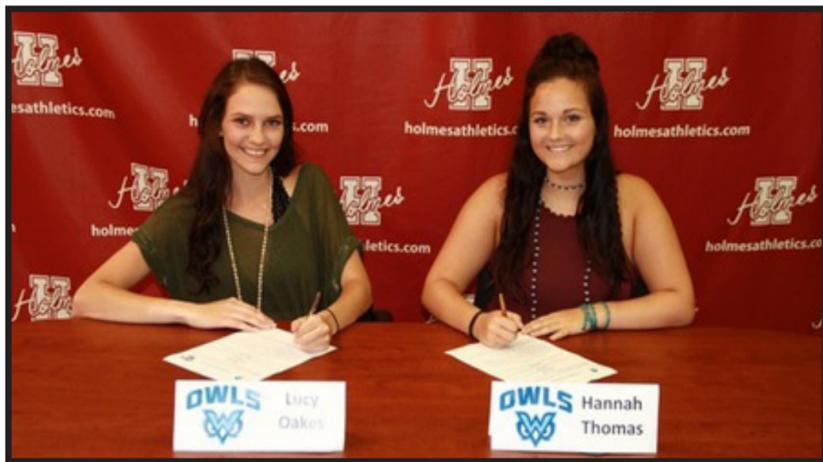
Home games underlined  
\*Conference Games  
+ Region

### Men's Basketball Results

| Date     | Opponent                                     | Result   |
|----------|----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Nov. 2   | @Co-Lin CC +                                 | L, 87-75 |
| Nov. 6   | <u>Tennessee Prep</u>                        | W, 85-60 |
| Nov. 9   | <u>Baton Rouge CC</u> +                      | W, 79-34 |
| Nov. 13  | @Arkansas Baptist College                    | W, 97-78 |
| Nov. 16  | @Hinds +                                     | W, 89-78 |
| Nov. 28  | <u>Arkansas Baptist College</u>              | W, 93-56 |
| Nov. 30  | @Baton Rouge CC +                            | W, 66-43 |
| Dec. 4   | @Itawamba CC *+                              | W, 68-61 |
| Dec. 9   | @Southwest Tennessee CC                      | W, 87-65 |
| Jan. 6   | @ Delgado CC +                               | W, 62-57 |
| Jan. 9   | <u>Hinds CC</u> +                            | W, 90-48 |
| Jan. 11  | <u>Mississippi Delta CC</u> *+               | W, 81-68 |
| Jan. 18  | @Northeast MS CC *+                          | L, 73-69 |
| Jan. 20  | <u>Northwest MS CC</u> *+                    | W, 84-60 |
| Jan. 25  | <u>Coahoma CC</u> *+                         | W, 83-45 |
| Jan. 27  | <u>Delgado CC</u> +                          | W, 84-49 |
| Jan. 29  | @East MS CC *+                               | W, 71-66 |
| Feb. 1   | <u>Itawamba CC</u> *+                        | W, 76-65 |
| Feb. 5   | @Mississippi Delta CC *+                     | W, 86-69 |
| Feb. 8   | @Northwest MS CC *+                          | L, 69-64 |
| Feb. 12  | <u>Northeast MS CC</u> *+                    | W, 87-64 |
| Feb. 19  | @Coahoma CC *+                               | W, 73-49 |
| Feb. 22  | <u>East MS CC</u> *+                         | W, 89-58 |
| Feb. 26  | MGCCC (MACJC State Tournament)               | W, 85-57 |
| Feb 28   | PRCC (MACJC State Tournament Semi-Finals)    | L, 69-67 |
| March 6  | Co-Lin CC (Region XXIII Tourn., 1st Round)   | W, 74-60 |
| March 8  | Southwest (Region XXIII Tourn., Semi-Finals) | W, 89-74 |
| March 9  | PRCC (Region XXIII Tourn., Final)            | W, 77-64 |
| March 19 | Western Nebraska CC (NJCAA Nat. Tourn.)      | L, 87-73 |

## Thomas and Oakes sign with MUW

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Lucy Oakes** and **Hannah Thomas** signing with MUW.

The Holmes Community College women's tennis team had two players sign national letters of intent with the Mississippi University for Women here this week.

Lucy Oakes of French Camp and Hannah Thomas of Meridian will continue their playing careers at the four-year university.

Oakes attended French Camp Academy while Thomas attended Clarkdale.

"I chose the W because I like the campus, and it was super nice," Thomas said. "I like the people there. I like it because it was a smaller university not like a big, big university."

Thomas said she will miss her time at Holmes. "I like it at Holmes because it's super small," she said. "I'm from Clarkdale so it was super small in Clarkdale. I

guess I wasn't shell-shocked coming here. There's not that many people, and I made a lot of friends."

She said her game has improved since leaving Clarkdale. "My strokes have improved, and I've taken more lessons," she said. "The difference is the people that you play is a whole lot tougher competition. College usually takes the best out of high schools so that was the difference."

Thomas will major in pre-nursing at MUW.

Oakes said she liked the MUW campus when she visited. "The campus was really pretty," Oakes said. "It will be my home away from home. It's smaller and more intimate. You get to know a lot more people and your environment. It's a new place. I've never lived in Columbus so it'll be cool to have a new experience."

She enjoyed her time at Holmes as well. "Holmes is also super small," she said. "You get to know all the people, and you never see somebody you don't recognize. You can walk to the lunch room and sit with anybody because you know everybody and nobody is an outcast and everybody has a friend group. That was super important because when you go to college you don't want to be alone. That's one of

the biggest fears is not being able to make friends. It made it really easy being here at Holmes. Everybody was so warm and accepting no matter what."

Oakes only played a few matches toward the end of the season because of a wrist injury and is still not 100 percent. "Hopefully by the time it rolls around in the fall I'll be 100 percent," Oakes said. "We are working on physical therapy and electric stem so hopefully I will be 100 percent."

"College is definitely a game-changer," Oakes said. "You play people that you would never play in high school. That's like a huge difference. It is tough competition, but it's a lot of fun."

Before her injury, Oakes said she had really improved. "I'm keeping my shots in, and I can project where my shot are going to go. I had a lot more control over what I was doing. I wasn't winging it and hoping the ball would fall into the blue line. I think that was a huge thing becoming consistent."

She will major in psychology at MUW.

## Stuckey and Montfort sign with MUW

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Lucy Oakes** and

The Holmes Community College men's

tennis team had two players sign national letters of intent with the Mississippi University for Women here this week.

Christopher Stuckey of Mathiston and Marcus Montfort of Graham, Texas, will continue their playing careers at the four-year university.

Stuckey attended East Webster while Montfort attended Graham High School.

"I think we'll both enjoy it a lot," Stuckey said of MUW. "I was kind of worried to leave Holmes and not knowing what I was going to do, but I'll be playing tennis so I'll be good."

He said he noticed MUW's fitness center and drew his attention. "I love the fitness center," Stuckey said. "It has a pool, and I love swimming. All the opportunities that students have to exercise and do stuff is really nice. That's going to be fun. The campus looks really nice, and the facilities are kept up really nice."

Stuckey said he enjoyed his time at Holmes especially doing outdoor activi-

ties. "I've enjoyed the freedom mostly," Stuckey said. "I love it here. I love the outdoors so playing disc golf, the pond, volleyball at night... I just love it."

He said his game has improved since leaving East Webster. "I've literally improved in everything," he said. "I was not good in high school. Playing college level has really improved my game. Most people who go to college will have better technique, and better technique will win the game."

Stuckey will major in pre-nursing at MUW.

## Newell and Hatcher sign with MUW

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Jana Newell** and **Courtney Hatcher** signing with MUW.

Lady Bulldog sophomore softball players Jana Newell and Courtney Hatcher signed with the Mississippi University for Women on April 25 to continue their softball careers.

Newell, who played catcher and designated player, hailed from Ridgeland and attended Park Place Christian Academy while Hatcher, a first baseman, hails from Eupora and attended Eupora High School.

The Lady Bulldogs finished the season 20-22 and 10-18 in the MACJC.

As a sophomore, Newell batted .308 with 32 hits including five doubles and 15 RBI. She scored 18 runs with only four strikeouts all season. As a freshman, she batted .291 with 23 hits including one double and one homerun with 11 RBI. She will be listed as a utility player at MUW.

As a sophomore, Hatcher batted .406

with 52 hits including 19 doubles, two homeruns and 25 RBI scoring 28 runs. She had only six strikeouts this season. From her freshman to sophomore year, she more than doubled her batting average from .181 as a freshman and increased her runs by 25 from 3 to 28 and hits by 39 from 13 to 52. She'll be a first baseman at MUW.

"I wasn't ready to hang my cleats up yet and go into the real world," Newell said of her decision to go to MUW. "God led me to this direction so I took the opportunity."

"I thought their campus was really pretty," she added. "When I went for my visit I felt like they really work together as a family, and that's what I was looking for."

Newell played mostly in the infield last season so moving back to catcher where she played most of her time in high school was big for her this season. "From freshman to sophomore year I gained a lot of leadership," Newell said. "I got to come out and prove what I learned last year. Coming from high school to college it was way different."

She said she wished the Lady Bulldogs could have kept the momentum from early in the season until the end. "We started out so good, and we worked as a team," she said. "Adversity came, and we didn't make the playoffs. We made a statement

that we were really good. We almost had a chance to beat the record for most wins, but we fell short. I can't remember one game where we gave up on each other."

Newell will be a general studies major at MUW.

Hatcher is pleased to be able to continue her career as well. "It was an opportunity to play for another two years, and I wasn't ready to give up softball yet," said Hatcher.

"I came from a small town," she said. "The MUW campus wasn't as big as other universities that you could go to so it was the same kind of atmosphere that it was here. It wasn't too big, and I feel that people will get to know each other more."

Hatcher is pleased with her play this season. "I definitely improved from freshman to sophomore year," she said especially with the big jump in batting average.

"I felt we started out strong," she said of the Lady Bulldogs' play this season. "We never gave up on each other. We tried our hardest."

She will be majoring in exercise science at MUW.

## Mondragon and Welzien sign letters of intent with MUW

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Irene Mondragon and Britain Welzien signing with MUW.

Two Holmes Community College Lady Bulldog soccer players, Irene Mondragon of Jackson and Britain Welzien of Ridgeland, signed letters of intent to Mississippi University for Women in the Holmes library conference room on May 1.

Mondragon, the daughter of Irma Mondragon, is a graduate of Northwest Rankin High School. She is a center midfielder who was selected for the 2017 MACJC All-State Team. Her sophomore year she had two goals, two assists and six total points and her freshman year she had four assists and four total points.

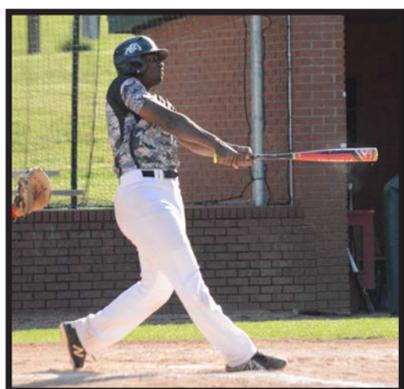
Welzien, the daughter of Patrick and

Mauri Welzien, is a graduate of Ridgeland High School. She plays defense and was chosen for the MACJC All-State Team both years at Holmes. As a sophomore, she had two goals, four assists and eight points and as a freshman she had one goal and two total points.

For more information on the Holmes Soccer Program, contact Men's and Women's Head Coach Matt Convertino at msocket@holmescc.edu or (601) 605-3412.

## Bulldogs fall to Bobcats, 12-2 and 8-3

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Irene Mon-

The Holmes Community College lost two games at home April 20 to the Jones County Junior College Bobcats, 12-2 and 8-3, to end the season 18-26 and 4-24 in the MACJC.

In game one, Kendrick LeJeune suffered the loss. He went one inning and gave up three runs on two hits with two strikeouts and two walks. Kameron Ferguson, Chris Piernas, Morgan Jarabica, Alex Burt and R.J. Pierce also pitched in the game. Matt Warren led the Bulldogs with three hits.

In game two, Jeff Crenshaw went 3 1/3 innings and gave up seven runs on six hits with four strikeouts and four walks. Ste-

ven Lacey and Dane Bevell also pitched in the game. Jimmy Burse had a solo homerun in the game and Warren added a double.

In games versus Pearl River on Saturday, the Bulldogs fell 16-1 and 10-9.

In game one, Chris Piernas suffered the loss. He went two innings and gave up eight runs on six hits with four strikeouts and two walks. Colby Ellingburg, Dane Bevell and Kameron Ferguson also pitched in the game. Jimmy Burse added a double.

In game two, Kameron Ferguson suffered the loss. He went one inning and

gave up one run on two hits with one walk. Jeff Crenshaw got the start and went 5 1/3 innings and gave up five runs on six hits with three strikeouts and one walk. Steven Lacey, Jimmy Burse and Dane Bevell also pitched in the game. Lacey went 2/3 of an inning and gave up three runs on two hits with one walk. Sage Mullins, Matt Warren and Josh Tucker each had two hits with Mullins and Tucker adding a double. J.D. Roberts added a triple while Brooks Cooper and Cole Johnson added a double.

### Softball Results

| Date     | Opponent                                         | Result  |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Feb. 2   | @Southwest Mississippi CC +                      | L, 3-2  |
| Feb. 2   | @Southwest Mississippi CC +                      | L, 14-4 |
| Feb. 13  | <u>Copiah-Lincoln Community College</u>          | W, 2-1  |
| Feb. 13  | <u>Copiah-Lincoln Community College</u>          | W, 11-7 |
| Feb. 20  | <u>Blue Mountain Community JV</u>                | W, 7-1  |
| Feb. 20  | <u>Blue Mountain Community JV</u>                | W, 8-2  |
| Feb. 23  | vs. Marion Military Institute ***                | W, 8-1  |
| Feb. 23  | vs. Shelton State Community College ***          | L, 3-0  |
| March 2  | <u>Coahoma Community College</u> * ^ +           | W, 12-5 |
| March 2  | <u>Coahoma Community College</u> * ^ +           | W, 13-5 |
| March 3  | @Mississippi Gulf Coast CC * ^ +                 | L, 4-2  |
| March 3  | @Mississippi Gulf Coast CC * ^ +                 | L, 12-1 |
| March 7  | @Blue Mountain College JV                        | W, 9-1  |
| March 7  | @Blue Mountain College JV                        | W, 10-2 |
| March 9  | <u>Southwest Mississippi CC</u> * +              | W, 7-0  |
| March 9  | <u>Southwest Mississippi CC</u> * +              | L, 10-5 |
| March 19 | @Jones County Junior College * ^ +               | L, 5-0  |
| March 19 | @Jones County Junior College * ^ +               | L, 12-0 |
| March 21 | <u>East Mississippi Community College</u> * ^ +  | W, 4-3  |
| March 21 | <u>East Mississippi Community College</u> * ^ +  | W, 9-1  |
| March 23 | @Meridian Community College *                    | L, 9-6  |
| March 23 | @Meridian Community College *                    | L, 8-7  |
| March 26 | <u>Itawamba Community College</u> * ^ +          | L, 15-2 |
| March 26 | <u>Itawamba Community College</u> * ^ +          | L, 5-1  |
| March 30 | <u>East Central Community College</u> * ^ +      | W, 8-6  |
| March 30 | <u>East Central Community College</u> * ^ +      | L, 7-2  |
| April 2  | @Arkansas State University                       | W, 10-4 |
| April 2  | @Arkansas State University                       | W, 11-5 |
| April 5  | @Northwest Mississippi CC * ^ +                  | L, 1-0  |
| April 5  | @Northwest Mississippi CC * ^ +                  | L, 2-0  |
| April 8  | @Pearl River Community College * ^ +             | L, 8-0  |
| April 8  | @Pearl River Community College * ^ +             | W, 10-0 |
| April 10 | <u>Mississippi Delta Community College</u> * ^ + | W, 8-0  |
| April 10 | <u>Mississippi Delta Community College</u> * ^ + | W, 5-0  |
| April 13 | <u>Hinds Community College</u> * ^ +             | L, 4-1  |
| April 13 | <u>Hinds Community College</u> * ^ +             | L, 4-0  |
| April 15 | <u>Arkansas State University</u>                 | L, 9-7  |
| April 15 | <u>Arkansas State University</u>                 | W, 6-2  |
| April 18 | @Northeast Mississippi CC * +                    | W, 6-2  |
| April 18 | @Northeast Mississippi CC * +                    | L, 7-5  |
| April 21 | @Copiah-Lincoln CC * ^ +                         | L, 2-1  |
| April 21 | @Copiah-Lincoln CC * ^ +                         | L, 4-1  |

Home games underlined \*\*\* Shelton State Tournament, played in Tuscaloosa, AL  
\*Conference Games  
+ Region

### Baseball Results

| Date     | Opponent                                         | Result   |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Feb. 18  | <u>Elaine P. Nunez Community College</u>         | W, 6-3   |
| Feb. 18  | <u>Elaine P. Nunez Community College</u>         | W, 11-1  |
| Feb. 19  | @Blue Mountain College                           | W, 7-2   |
| Feb. 19  | @Blue Mountain College                           | W, 12-1  |
| Feb. 26  | <u>Blue Mountain College</u>                     | W, 16-7  |
| Feb. 26  | <u>Blue Mountain College</u>                     | W, 13-3  |
| March 2  | @Elaine P. Nunez Community College               | L, 4-3   |
| March 2  | @Elaine P. Nunez Community College               | L, 6-3   |
| March 6  | <u>Crowleys Ridge</u>                            | W, 9-0   |
| March 6  | <u>Crowleys Ridge</u>                            | W, 7-3   |
| March 8  | <u>Williams Baptist College JV</u>               | W, 12-0  |
| March 8  | <u>Williams Baptist College JV</u>               | W, 10-1  |
| March 12 | @Crowleys Ridge                                  | W, 15-1  |
| March 12 | @Crowleys Ridge                                  | W, 17-5  |
| March 14 | @Williams Baptist College JV                     | W, 17-7  |
| March 14 | @Williams Baptist College JV                     | W, 14-1  |
| March 17 | @Southwest Mississippi CC * +                    | L, 8-4   |
| March 17 | @Southwest Mississippi CC * +                    | L, 11-3  |
| March 21 | <u>Itawamba Community College</u> * ^ +          | L, 5-3   |
| March 21 | <u>Itawamba Community College</u> * ^ +          | W, 10-3  |
| March 24 | @East Central Community College * ^ +            | L, 10-9  |
| March 24 | @East Central Community College * ^ +            | L, 3-2   |
| March 27 | <u>Northwest Mississippi CC</u> * ^ +            | L, 11-2  |
| March 27 | <u>Northwest Mississippi CC</u> * ^ +            | L, 11-4  |
| March 31 | <u>Mississippi Gulf Coast CC</u> * ^ +           | L, 10-4  |
| March 31 | <u>Mississippi Gulf Coast CC</u> * ^ +           | L, 9-7   |
| April 4  | <u>East Mississippi Community College</u> * +    | L, 12-0  |
| April 4  | <u>East Mississippi Community College</u> * +    | W, 10-3  |
| April 8  | <u>Hinds Community College</u> * ^ +             | L, 14-3  |
| April 8  | <u>Hinds Community College</u> * ^ +             | W, 5-4   |
| April 10 | <u>Mississippi Delta Community College</u> * ^ + | L, 15-13 |
| April 10 | <u>Mississippi Delta Community College</u> * ^ + | L, 6-3   |
| April 13 | @Meridian Community College * ^ +                | L, 15-3  |
| April 13 | @Meridian Community College * ^ +                | L, 9-5   |
| April 18 | @Northeast Mississippi CC * +                    | L, 17-6  |
| April 18 | @Northeast Mississippi CC * +                    | L, 3-1   |
| April 21 | @Copiah-Lincoln CC * ^ +                         | L, 11-6  |
| April 21 | @Copiah-Lincoln CC * ^ +                         | L, 13-5  |
| April 24 | @Coahoma Community College * ^ +                 | L, 14-12 |
| April 24 | @Coahoma Community College * ^ +                 | W, 6-1   |
| April 28 | <u>Pearl River Community College</u> * ^ +       | L, 16-1  |
| April 28 | <u>Pearl River Community College</u> * ^ +       | L, 10-9  |

Home games underlined \*\*\* Shelton State Tournament, played in Tuscaloosa, AL  
\*Conference Games  
+ Region

## Lady Bulldogs fall to Lady Wolves, 2-1 and 4-1

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs ended the season at home on Saturday, April 23, with two heartbreaking losses to the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Lady Wolves, 2-1 and 4-1.

The Lady Bulldogs ended the season at 20-22 and 10-18 in the MACJC.

In game one, Brooklyne Eubanks went six innings. She gave up one run on one hit with two strikeouts and two walks. Allison Irby suffered the loss. She went 2 2/3 innings and gave up one run on three hits with two walks. Madison Womble led the Lady Bulldogs with two hits. Cailee Arender added a double.

In game two, Katie Lawrence suffered the loss. She went three innings and gave up three runs on seven hits with one strikeout. Juliet Warriner went three innings and gave up run on three hits. Courtney Hatcher, Emily Littlejohn and Madison Fields each had a double.

## The Bulldogs finish out the 2018 season with tournament play

By Nykeem Liddell  
Growl Reporter



The Holmes Men's Basketball team completed its historic season with an overall record of 24 wins and five losses. The Bulldogs cruised past their opponents at home this past season. The team went undefeated at home this season posting

an 11-0 record at Frank Branch Coliseum. The Bulldogs opened the 2017-18 season ranked #25 in the national poll. The team would fall out of the poll a week later after the opening season road loss at Co-Lin. The Bulldogs would then cap off

11 straight wins including six wins by 20 or more points. The Bulldogs' largest win differential of the season came at home when the Bulldogs crushed Baton Rouge 79-34. The Bulldogs' 11-game winning streak came to a halt when they traveled to North Division rival Northeast Mississippi Community College. The Bulldogs entered the game ranked #20 nationally but would fall, 69-73. The Bulldogs would bounce back in a huge way with winning its next three games by a margin of 29.0 points per game. The Bulldogs would head into postseason play winning nine of its last 10 games. During that 10-game span, the Bulldogs won eight of those games by double digits. The Bulldogs would finish second in the North Division and would face the third-seed from the South Division, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. The Bulldogs opened the MACJC State Tournament with a 85-57 win and would advance to face the top seed from the South Division, Pearl River Community College. The Bulldogs would fall,

67-69 in overtime in the semi-finals of the MACJC State Tournament. The Bulldogs would avenge an early season loss to Copiah Lincoln Community College by ousting the Wolves from the Region XXIII Tournament 74-60. The Bulldogs would advance to the semi-finals of the Region XXIII Tournament to face Southwest and would prevail 89-74 setting up a rematch with the Pearl River Wildcats. The Bulldogs would jump out to a 13-2 lead on the Wildcats and would never look back. The Bulldogs led by as many as 16-points and would defeat the Wildcats 77-64. With the win, the Bulldogs would claim the Region XXIII Championship and advance to the National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas for the second time in four years. The Bulldogs historic season would come to a close in the Opening Round of the National Tournament, falling to the #15 seeded Western Nebraska Cougars 73-87. The Bulldogs sophomores posted an overall record of 40-15 in two seasons.

## The Lady Bulldogs end with a strong season

By Nykeem Liddell  
Growl Reporter

The Lady Bulldogs had a remarkable 2017-18 season. Holmes Women's Basketball team finished the season with an overall record of 18 wins and nine losses. Marking it the best finish in Head Coach, Jamilah Andrews's coaching career at Holmes Community College. The Lady Bulldogs finished 9-3 in the North Division and claimed the North Division title for the first time under Coach Andrews. The team opened the season with a 16-point loss to South Division foe, Copiah-Lincoln. The Lady Bulldogs would then win seven of their next 10 games. The

team's largest win differential of the season came on the final Saturday in January when the Lady Bulldogs hosted Delgado Community College. The Lady Bulldogs cruised past the Dolphins 92-43 and picked up their ninth win of the season. The Lady Bulldogs would head into the postseason winning nine of their previous 10 games. Those wins came over Coahoma Community College, Delgado Community College (twice), Itawamba Community College, Mississippi Delta Community College, Northeast Mississippi Community College

and Arkansas State University Mid-South. The team would enter the MACJC State Tournament as the two-seed and would escape the Quarterfinal round with a 47-43 win over Southwest Mississippi Community College. The team would then face the #5 team in the nation, and top-seed from the South Division, Jones County Junior College. The Lady Bulldogs fell behind early and failed to recover as they fell 53-77 in the semi-finals of the MACJC State Tournament. The Lady Bulldogs would earn a bid in the Region XXIII Tournament in Clinton. They received the

4 seed and would open the tournament against Louisiana State University Eunice from Louisiana. The Lady Bulldogs would defeat the Bengals 87-68 and advance to the Semi-finals to face the two-seed, Copiah Lincoln Community College. The Lady Bulldogs and Lady Wolves traded the lead the entire game but the Lady Bulldogs would fall 57-63 in the Semi-finals of the Region XXIII Tournament. The Lady Bulldogs played a tough and hard fought game and accomplished a lot this season.

## Bulldogs add 33 signees to the 2018 Signing Class on National Signing Day

The Holmes Community College Bulldogs added 33 signees to the 2018 football signing class today on National Signing Day.

Signees include: Jalen Allen, cornerback, Warren Central; Jordan Boatman, offensive lineman, Starkville; Vonte Brackett, running back, Hoover, Ala.; Amerious Brown, running back, Choctaw County; Rasson Carr, linebacker, West Point; Martavius Dill, running back, West Tallahatchie; Caleb Ducking, wide receiver,

South Delta; Cherokee Edwards, running back, Yazoo County; Kendarius Evans, wide receiver, Pearl; Robert Harris III, offensive lineman, Brandon; Tytus Heard, quarterback, Salttillo; Tovell Henderson, Jr., offensive lineman, Senatobia; Quentin Herring, linebacker, Jefferson Davis County; Deon House, running back, Grenada; Dylan Kelly, running back, Pearl; Devlin Kirklin, defensive back, Holmes County Central; John Jordan, Jr., offensive lineman, Holmes County Central; Tavian

Johnson, defensive end, Germantown; Jha'mauri Johnson, linebacker, Grenada; Dyrell Lyles, defensive back, Velma Jackson; Tyler McDaniel, cornerback, Terry; Orinthia May, defensive end, Germantown; Jeremy Miller, linebacker, Warren Central; Cedrick Moffett, defensive back, Pearl; Calvante Overton, offensive lineman, Northwest Rankin; Gabe Ross, Jr., offensive lineman, Madison Central; Devon Scott, defensive lineman, Hoover, Ala.; Robert Shorter, offensive lineman, Cleve-

land Central; Thomas Turner, offensive lineman, South Panola; Monty Williams V, offensive lineman, Northwest Rankin; Caleb Wilson, cornerback, Warren Central; Johnny Winston, running back, Pearl; and Jatavis Whitley, defensive back, Indianola Gentry.

## Four Bulldogs sign with four-year schools

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured with the rest of the basketball team and the coaches are signees (left to right) D'Michael Stribling, Justin Johnson, Trevais Spencer and Marquell Carter.

The Holmes Community College Bulldogs had four players sign national letters of intent on May 2 to continue their playing careers next season.

Trevais Spencer signed with Campbell University, Justin Johnson signed with

Jackson State University, Marquell Carter signed with University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and D'Michael Stribling signed with Tougaloo College.

Spencer, Johnson, Carter and Stribling were members of the 2016-17 team that

won the North Division championship and the 2017-18 team that won the Region XXIII Championship and made an appearance in the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas in March.

Spencer, a sophomore guard from Grenada, averaged 13.5 points per game. He shot 44.3 percent from the floor, 37 percent from the three-point line and 73.5 percent from the free-throw line. He averaged 3.3 rebounds, 1.9 assists and 1.1 steals per game. As a freshman, Spencer averaged 13.7 points per game. He shot 42.7 percent from the floor, 38.9 percent from the three-point line and 77.8 percent from the free-throw line. He averaged 4.5 rebounds per game, 1.7 assists and 1.2 steals per game. Spencer was named First Team All-State both seasons and All-Region this season.

Johnson, a sophomore forward from Martin, Tenn., averaged 7.3 points per game. He shot 57.7 percent from the floor, 57.1 percent from the three-point line and 67.7 percent from the free-throw line. He averaged 2.5 rebounds, .9 assists and .7

steals per game. As a freshman, Johnson averaged 11.8 points per game. He shot 56.7 percent from the floor and 62.1 percent from the free-throw line. He averaged 4.3 rebounds per game. Johnson was named to the All-Region XXIII Tournament Team this season.

Carter, a sophomore forward from Greenville, averaged 3.2 points per game and 2.6 rebounds. He shot 48.6 percent from the floor and 71.4 percent from the free-throw line. As a freshman, Carter averaged 3.8 points per game and 4.1 rebounds.

Stribling, a sophomore forward from Ridgeland, averaged 2.5 points per game and one rebound. He shot 41.8 percent from the floor and 77.8 percent from the free-throw line. As a freshman, Stribling averaged 4.7 points per game and 2.3 rebounds.

## Pimpton signs with the University of New Orleans

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (seated, left) Vaquela Pimpton signing her letter of intent with UNO as her teammates and Coach Jamilah Andrews look on.

Holmes Community College Lady Bulldog sophomore guard Vaquela Pimpton signed a national letter of intent with the University of New Orleans Privateers on May 3 to continue her basketball playing career next season.

Pimpton, who played at West Tallahatchie and hails from Webb, helped lead the Lady Bulldogs to the semi-finals of both the MACJC and Region XXIII Tournaments this season and to the MACJC State Tournament last season.

As a sophomore, she averaged 28.1 minutes per game and 9.9 points per game. She shot 33.3 percent from the floor and 72.7 percent from the free-throw line. She had 4.7 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 2.1 steals per game. As a freshman, she averaged 29.6 minutes per game and 10.2 points per game. She averaged 3.3 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.3 steals per game.

Pimpton said the coaching staff at UNO made her feel like she was home during the recruiting process. "I felt like they

wanted me there," Pimpton said. "They recruited me hard. I feel like they were the best spot for me, and I can fit in with their system from what Holmes had me doing."

She is really pleased of the success of this year's team. "My teammates kept me sane about the whole season," she said. "The team is the reason we made it that far. We all stayed together. Through every obstacle, we never fell apart. We accomplished our goals that were set, and I'm proud of that."

Pimpton said she was taught a lot about the game while she was at Holmes. "I learned more," she said. "My freshman year I didn't know a lot, but my coaches (Coach Jamilah Andrews, Coach LaTaryl Williams and Strength and Conditioning Coach Carlos Andrews) made me stronger both physically and mentally. They just helped me. Every time I asked a question, they gave me an answer, and I tried to fit it the best I could."

As far as Holmes, she said, "To the teachers, the school, the coaches, the teammates, we all were family. Anything we needed, we were always there to help each other out. We had each other's backs. We never had to struggle because other people came along when you were in a downfall, they came to pick you up. I thank my sisters for that, my teammates. I

will never forget the times we had."

She said her strengths are making plays for other players, shooting and fast breaks. "I can go to the goal and make layups," Pimpton said. "I can change speeds both fast and slow. I just take what the defender gives me."

Holmes Head Coach Jamilah Andrews is proud to see another player move on to the next level. "I'm very excited for Vaquela. This is an opportunity she definitely deserves, and I think she will go to UNO and do very well."

Andrews echoed Pimpton's strengths on the court. "Vaquela's strengths are her ability to get to the basket and create shots and her ability to step out and knock the three-point shot down.

"She contributed to the (team's) success in various ways," Andrews added. "She was a leader off the court. She did what she was supposed to do. She got her studies done as well as her ability to play basketball on the court.

"Vaquela is the type player who will bring leadership to UNO," she added. "She will step right in and be ready to go."

## Webster inks with Jacksonville State University

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (seated, left) Brittany Webster signing her letter of intent with Jacksonville State as her teammates and Coach Jamilah Andrews look on.

Holmes Community College sophomore Brittany Webster of Lexington signed a national letter of intent on April 11 with Jacksonville State University for the 2018 season. The 6'1 center will play in the Ohio Valley Conference next season.

Webster helped lead the Lady Bulldogs to a North Division title during the 2017-18 season. The Lady Bulldogs made a long run in both the MACJC and Region XXIII Tournaments before falling in the semi-finals of both tournaments. Holmes finished the season 18-9 overall record and 9-3 in the North Division.

As a freshman, Webster played 16.5 minutes per game and averaged three points per game. She pulled in 4.9 rebounds per game. Her sophomore season,

she played 20.2 minutes per game and averaged 5.7 points per game pulling in 5.9 rebounds per game.

"I believe I chose Jacksonville State because of the environment they had when I went on my visit," Webster said. "They were like family to me, and the coaches were telling me how they would help me do what I need to do to get where I need to be on my major. It just felt like home away from home."

Webster said she has the ability to play either the forward or center position. "They can interchange me at either position," she said. "I can handle the ball well under pressure. I'm the go-to. Coming in

*See Webster, Page 29*

## Webster (Continued from Page 28)

as a junior I'll be able to rebound more, hit the 15-foot jumper and box out. I can do the simple things that matter."

She said she's proud of how the Lady Bulldogs played this season. "We had a really good season but couldn't finish," Webster said. "We came up against Jones in the State and relaxed on some defensive possessions that we shouldn't have. We came up against Co-Lin in the Region and missed box-out assignments giving them second chance opportunities to shoot. We had a really good team this year and without them I wouldn't be in the position that I'm in as far as signing with Jacksonville State. Next year they'll have a really good, and they'll have to win it all next year."

"Our work ethic is what got us the North Division championship," she added. "My team worked really hard to be North Division champs, and we proved it on the floor. It's a great feeling for me and my team to be noticed for something. It feels nice to have a championship in Holmes County once again. We surprised a lot of people. They didn't expect us to be the North Division champ. They didn't expect us to be in the state tournament or the region tournament. We showed up, but we couldn't finish. I just hope we put fear in people's hearts that we'll be even stronger the next couple of years."

She thanked Head Coach Jamilah Andrews, Assistant Coach LaTaryl Williams

and Strength and Conditioning Coach Carlos Andrews for helping mold her into the player she is today. "Over the past couple of the years, I felt they were all family," she said. "I knew they would get me better so I would be in the position I'm in right now. I wasn't as physical as I am today without the help of them working with me in the post. I wouldn't have mastered the moves that I make. So I really thank them for that. That's the reason I chose to come here. I felt they could get me better."

Coach Andrews said having players move on to a four-year school is always a special day for her. "I'm very proud of Brittany," Coach Andrews said. "She's a very hard worker, and I'm excited she's

getting this opportunity to play at Jacksonville State.

"Brittany's strengths are her ability to knock the 15-footer down and her ability to play with her back to the basket. She can get to the hole and her ability to rebound are strengths as well."

Coach Andrews agreed that Webster has become more physical. "She's always had the size, but she's gotten more physical. She's gotten in the weight room and worked really hard with Coach (Carlos) Andrews.

"Her ability to finish and her confidence" proved to be a big part of the Lady Bulldogs' success this season, according to Coach Andrews.

## Simpson signs with Blue Mountain College

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is **Jonah Simpson** signing his letter of intent as his family looks on.

Holmes Community College sophomore guard Jonah Simpson signed a national letter of intent Friday, May 11, with Blue Mountain College.

Simpson helped lead the Bulldogs to the Region XXIII title this season and a trip to the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas. He also helped lead the Bulldogs to the North Division championship his freshman season.

As a sophomore, Simpson averaged 4.2 points per game along with 2.9 assists and .8 steals per game. He shot 41.9 percent from the floor and 28.6 percent from the three-point line. As a freshman, Simpson averaged 4.6 points per game, 2.4 assists and .6 steals per game. He shot 45.9 percent from the floor, 33.3 percent from the three-point line and 75 percent from the free-throw line.

## Holmes names 2018-2019 Cheerleaders

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the **2018-2019 Bulldog Cheerleading Squad**.

Holmes Community College announced the new 2018-2019 cheerleading squad on May 14. The sophomores include: Jason Ables of Benton; Loftin Price of Kosciusko; Nolan Whitworth of Yazoo City; Darrian Oliver of Pickens; Kade Norman of Yazoo City; Logan Anderson of Benton; Indira Perry of Richland; Ana Posey Jones of Benton; Asia Purvis of Jackson and Gillian Chavez of Clinton.

The freshman are: Mauri Beth Colvin of Carrollton; Johna Beaves of Winona; London Hunt of Madison; Abby

Holmes of Kosciusko; Paris Nichols of Kosciusko; Calen Lewis of Clinton; Khalyia Rucker of Benton; Sarah Elizabeth Hardy of Benton; Raylin Copper of Eupora; Shakeria Smith of Ackerman; Skylar Busbea of Kosciusko; Joseph Hancock of Yazoo City; John Fortney Reagan of Yazoo City and Troy Peeler of Yazoo City.

The squad is coached by Heather Jones. For more information, contact Jones at [hjones@holmescc.edu](mailto:hjones@holmescc.edu).

## Holmes holds 2018 Spring Football Game

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Dr. Luke Jones, Jeffrey Cotten, Sonny Sparks and Matt Surrell** prior to coaching the Spring Game.

Sonny Sparks, Matt Surrell, Luke Jones and Jeffrey Cotten served as honorary coaches for the 2018 Spring Football Game today in Ras Branch Stadium. Sparks-Surrell defeated Jones-Cotten, 16-14. Connor McKay put Sparks-Surrell up 3-0. Jones-Cotten went up 7-3 on a TD run Trevon Woolfolk and a PAT from McKay. A Nick Ross TD run put

Sparks-Surrell up 10-7 after a PAT from McKay. A Woolfolk TD put Jones-Cotten up 14-10. McKay then hit two field goals on the last two possessions by Sparks-Surrell to give them the 16-14 win. Woolfolk and McKay were named MVP for Sparks-Surrell while Luke Wilson was named MVP for Jones-Cotten.

### 2018 Football Schedule

| Date     | Opponent                                | Time      |
|----------|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Aug. 30  | <u>Copiah-Lincoln Community College</u> | 6:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 6  | <u>@Jones County Junior College</u>     | 7 p.m.    |
| Sept. 13 | <u>@Mississippi Gulf Coast CC</u>       | 7 p.m.    |
| Sept. 20 | <u>Northeast Mississippi CC * +</u>     | 6:30 p.m. |
| Sept. 27 | <u>@Northwest Mississippi CC *</u>      | 6:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 4   | <u>Itawamba Community College *</u>     | 6:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 13  | <u>@East Mississippi CC *</u>           | 2 p.m.    |
| Oct. 20  | <u>Mississippi Delta CC *</u>           | 3 p.m.    |
| Oct. 25  | <u>@Coahoma Community College *</u>     | 6:30 p.m. |

Home games underlined

\*Conference Games

+ Region

## Holmes holds Spring Sports Banquet

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

The Holmes Community College The 2018 Spring Athletic Banquet was held on Tuesday, May 1 in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus. Student-ath-

letes from the cheerleading squad, men's basketball team, women's basketball team, tennis team, softball team and baseball team were recognized.



Pictured are the cheerleaders who received recognition at the banquet. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Allie Dunn**, Bulldog Award and Scholar Athlete; **Kayla Dowdy**, Most Coachable Female; **Lake Shipp**, Scholar Athlete; **Ana Posey Jones**, Freshman Award and Scholar Athlete; *(back row, left to right)* **Loftin Price**, Scholar Athlete; **Nolan Whitworth**, Most Coachable Male; **Lamar Land**, Scholar Athlete and **Logan Anderson**, Scholar Athlete. Other awards included: Most Valuable Tumbler, Marquell Sanders; Most Valuable Stunter, Anderrious Donalson; Most Valuable Crowd Leader, Asia Purvis; Most Valuable Crowd Leader and Scholar Athlete, Indiara Perry; Most Versatile Athlete and Scholar Athlete, Justice Cummins; Scholar Athlete, Kayla Rawson; Scholar Athlete, Gillian Chavez; and Leadership Award, James Cobb.



Pictured are the men's basketball players who received recognition at the banquet. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Stanley Williams**, Assist Award and Best Free Throw Shooter; **Mikkel Norment**, Sixth Man of the Year, All-Star MVP and All-Region 23 Tournament Team; **Jonah Simpson**, Assist Award; **Joshua Everette**, Jonathan Boyd Award and All-Star; **Trey Spencer**, All-Star, All-State, All-Region, Best Offensive Player, Scholar Athlete and *(back row, left to right)* **Kassim Nicholson**, Best Defensive Player and All-State; **Javon Franklin**, All-State, All-Region, MVP and Rim Protector; **Winford Ross**, Sportsmanship Award; **Marquell Carter**, Hustle Award and **Justin Johnson**, All-Star and All-Region 23 Tournament Team.



Pictured are the women's basketball players who received recognition at the banquet. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Ja'Breonia Veasey**, Scholar Athlete; **Raven Wilson**, Most Valuable Manager and Scholar Athlete; **Christiana Harris**, Scholar Athlete; **Aneisha Evans**, Best Defensive and Scholar Athlete; **Janae Collier**, Scholar Athlete; **Kamelia Lacy**, MVP, First Team All-State, All-Region, Scholar Athlete; **Jalisia Lipsey**, Lady Bulldog Award and Scholar Athlete; *(back row, left to right)* **Vaquela Pimpton**, Honorable Mention All-State and All-Star; **Nina Carpenter**, Second Team All-State and All-Star; **Brittany Webster**, Most Improved Player; **Jekalen Jones**, Scholar Athlete; **MiKayla Patton**, Scholar Athlete; **Koryana Johnson**, Scholar Athlete and **Tyaira Wilson**, Highest GPA and Scholar Athlete.



Pictured are the softball players who received recognition at the banquet. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Madison Womble**, Scholar Athlete; **Jolie Smith**, Scholar Athlete; **Abby Bouslay**, Scholar Athlete; **Halea Wood**, Scholar Athlete; **Becca Kennedy**, Most Improved and Scholar Athlete; **Avery Thornton**, Lady Bulldog Award and Scholar Athlete and **Jana Kay Newell**, Scholar Athlete; *(back row, left to right)* **Allison Irby**, Scholar Athlete; **Joseph McKee**, Scholar Athlete; **Madison Frazier**, Scholar Athlete; **Juliet Warriner**, Dan Edwards Award and Scholar Athlete; **Emily Littlejohn**, Best Defensive and Scholar Athlete and **Courtney Hatcher**, First Team All-State, Best Offensive Player and Scholar Athlete. Other awards included: Madison Fields, Second Team All-State; Katie Lawrence, Scholar Athlete and Aubree McWilliams, Scholar Athlete.



Pictured are the tennis players who received recognition at the banquet. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Alexis Kahmann**, MVP and Scholar Athlete; **Avery Terrell**, Heart of a Champion and Scholar Athlete; **Dallas Elmore**, MVP; **Lucy Oakes**, Animal Award and Scholar Athlete; **Hannah Thomas**, Sportsmanship Award; **Grace Diffey**, Manager Award; **Marcus Montfort**, MVP and Scholar Athlete; **Billy Wilson**, Lifetime of Devotion to Holmes Community College Award and *(back row, left to right)* **Richard Hernandez**, Animal Award; **Rylee Artman**, Heart of a Champion and Scholar Athlete; **Chris Stuckey**, Most Improved; **Joshua Maughan**, Most Improved; **Jacob Hawkins**, Sportsmanship Award and **Nic Bails**, Bulldog Award and Scholar Athlete. *Not pictured* is Susie Jackson, Outstanding Achievement to Holmes Community College, its coaches, staff and players.



Pictured are the baseball players who received recognition at the banquet. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Kameron Ferguson**, Scholar Athlete; **Matt Warren**, Scholar Athlete; **J.D. Roberts**, Scholar Athlete and MVP; **Sage Mullins**, Scholar Athlete and MVP and **Steven Lacey**, Scholar Athlete; and *(back row, left to right)* **Chris Piernas**, Scholar Athlete; **Jeff Crenshaw**, MVP; Paul Green, Scholar Athlete; **Jimmy Burse**, Scholar Athlete and **Kendrick LeJeune**, Scholar Athlete.



# The Growl Staff



**Liz Howell**

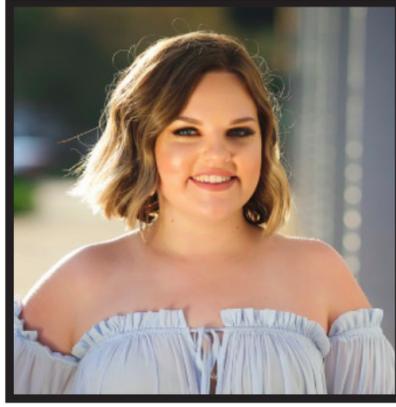
**Editor**

**Hometown:** Zama  
**Major:** English (Creative Writing and American Literature)  
**Campus:** Goodman  
**Future Plans:** I aspire to be an author and teach at a community college or a small university.  
**About Me:** My activities include: Sunday school teacher, nursery worker and children's activities director at Zama Baptist Church; Hallmark Editing Chair for PTK; president of the Holmes Gamer's Club; tutor in Writing Center; part-time associate campus bookstore; member of MOSAIC and private tutor. Last year I won first place in the poetry section of the Goodman Campus' Creative Writing Competition.



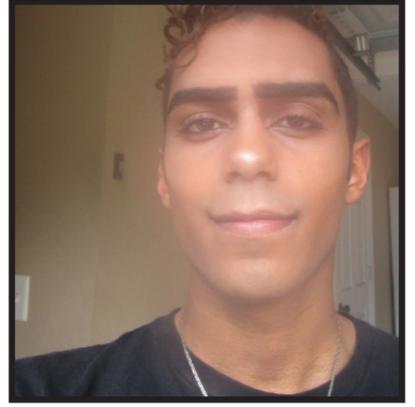
**Ethan Burton**

**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.



**Hannah Graves**

**Hometown:** Byram  
**Major:** Mass Communications/Journalism  
**Campus:** Ridgeland  
**Future plans:** I'm an aspiring fashion journalist.  
**About me:** In my spare time, I work at a popular restaurant in the Fondren area, and I love it. I enjoy practicing photography as well. Just to keep my fashion senses keen, I keep up with my favorite fashion blogs and of course I try to go shopping any time I can. On the weekends, aside from working and a busy schedule, I like to babysit or relax with some Netflix. A fun fact about me, my favorite show on Netflix is "Gilmore Girls;" it is a must see.



**Malik Jamileh**

**Hometown:** Flowood  
**Major:** Journalism  
**Campus:** Ridgeland  
**Future plans:** I plan to transfer to the University of Southern California where I will continue with my degree with a minor in social media. In the long run, I hope to one day work for a huge newspaper company or take on freelance writing. It is very likely that I'll work in the field of journalism one day, as I am very passionate about what I do. I am motivated to express what I care about through writing.  
**About me:** I enjoy public debates and Martial Arts.



**Timothy Jones**

**Hometown:** Jackson  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Campus:** Ridgeland  
**Future plans:** I plan to attend the University of Mississippi to receive my Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in psychology. Upon graduating from the University of Mississippi, I plan to attend the University of Mississippi Medical School to obtain my Doctor of Medicine.  
**About Me:** I enjoy the social and natural sciences, so that is why I decided to study psychology with a concentration in neuropsychology. I am also vice president for the Natural Science Club.



**Tamera McCook**

**Hometown:** Jackson  
**Major:** Mass Communications  
**Campus:** Ridgeland  
**Future plans:** My career ambition is to become a sports analyst for ESPN.  
**About Me:** My hobbies include spending time with my children, traveling, cooking and watching/discussing basketball and football. I am also team mom for the Byram Knights football team and cheer-leading squad. I am excited to finally be fulfilling my dream of being a mass communications major.



**Nykeem Liddell**

**Hometown:** Camden  
**Major:** Mass Communications/Journalism  
**Campus:** Goodman  
**About Me:** I am on the Growl newspaper staff, Horizons yearbook staff and serve as a manager for the basketball team. I was also an escort for Freshman Maid Alexis Jones.



**Kanisha Wade**

**Hometown:** Ridgeland  
**Major:** Photojournalism  
**Campus:** Ridgeland  
**Future Plans:** I always thought I would be a teacher, but a love for writing and photography led me to my major with the help of my high school journalism teacher. I still would like to teach so maybe I will in the future.  
**About Me:** I love to travel especially to the beach and I also love reading.

*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 on our staff! Sign up for the Growl Staff for the fall of 2018!*

*For more information, contact: Mary Margaret Busby at: [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu).*