



# THE GROWL

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

Volume 87  
Number 11

June 2, 2020

## Holmes says goodbye to beloved staff member Diane Harman

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Diane Harman

Diane Harman retired from Holmes Community College after 18 years of loyal service. During that time, she worked under four presidents. Harman faithfully served as the administrative assistant for institutional research and student affairs on the Goodman Campus, as assistant to Dr. Lindy McCain, up until her retirement in the fall of 2019.

Just a few short months after her retirement, Harman passed away on March 19, 2020. In her role, she dedicated her time to numerous activities relating to grant development and institutional effective-

ness, including planning and evaluation, instructional research and compliance with accrediting agencies. Working closely with employees across all disciplines, she was a supportive voice that everyone looked forward to hearing. Harman played a huge role in the Development Foundation, helping identify students who met scholarship criteria and handling mini grants, among other duties.

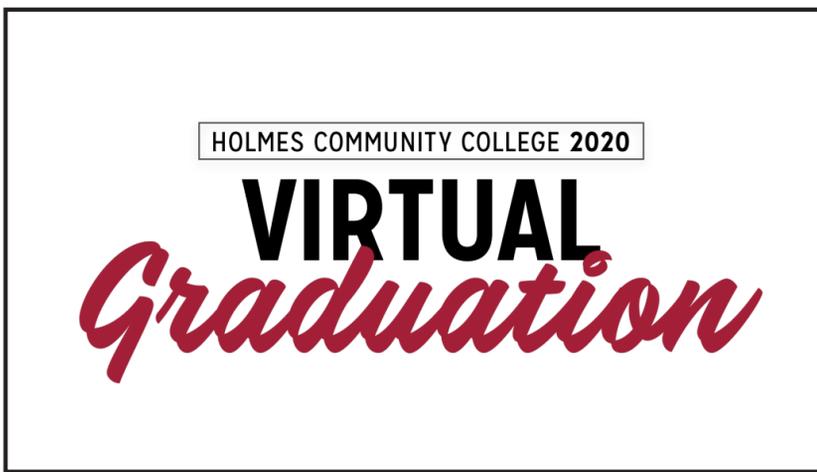
Outside of Holmes, she was an active member of Sallis Baptist Church who loved to cook and paint. Harman leaves behind her husband, Henry Harman, Jr.;

her sons, Ben (Julie) Harman and Jody (Zora) Harman; her daughter, Lori (Joel) Hill and nine grandchildren.

Prior to her retirement, a reception was held in the President's Dining Room on the Goodman Campus hosted by the Holmes Community College Development Foundation to celebrate her and her years of commitment to the college and the Development Foundation. Family, friends, and Holmes employees, both past and present, attended the event to show their sincere support of Diane.

## Holmes holds first ever virtual graduation ceremony

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Holmes Community College decided not to hold the traditional on-campus commencement ceremonies this year and instead held a virtual ceremony on May 15. Graduates and their families were able to view the ceremony (and still can if they missed the 10 a.m. viewing) at <https://events.holmescc.edu>. Diplomas will be mailed out after graduation.

The ceremony began with a welcome message from special guest Chris Harrison, a TV host best known for his role hosting "The Bachelor."

"This has been the most dramatic semester ever and now we're having the most dramatic graduation ever," Harrison said. "Look in all seriousness, you guys are a shining example of what's good about what's going on right now. Yes, we're all quarantined, we're battling the coronavirus, everybody's being vigilant, being smart and doing things like virtual graduations.

"But you guys are an example of what's ahead," Harrison said. "There's light at the end of the tunnel and it's

*Graduation, continued on Page 5*

## Six students named to Phi Theta Kappa All-MS Academic Team

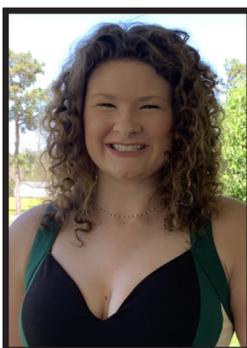
*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Kalee Beck



Ivey Devine



Sarah Elizabeth Hardy



Gracie MacGown



Shakeria Smith



Nathan Wildhaber

Holmes Community College students Kalee Beck of Carrollton, Ivey Devine of Winona, Sarah Elizabeth Hardy of Bentonia, Gracie MacGown of Madison, Shakeria Smith of Ackerman and Nathan Wildhaber of Jackson were all named to the 2020 Phi Theta Kappa honor society All-Mississippi Academic Team. Nominations are based on

outstanding academic performance and service to the college and community. MacGown was named First Team, and the others were named to the Second Team.

Kalee Beck, daughter of Tonda and Mark Beck, is an elementary education major, a President's List scholar and vice president of leadership for Phi

Theta Kappa on the Grenada Campus. She also serves as an Ambassador, SGA secretary and as a member of the Baptist Student Union. Beck was voted a Class Favorite both years at Holmes and participated in Beauty Review. Her community involvement includes serving as a judge for the Grenada School District reading and science fairs,

hosting a soft skills workshop with Phi Theta Kappa and helping with Vacation Bible School at her church. Beck enjoys spending time with friends and family, going to church and painting. Upon graduation from Holmes, she is transferring to Mississippi State Uni-

*Phi Theta Kappa, continued on Page 5*

### WHAT'S INSIDE...

- STUDENT EDITORIALS
- STUDENT AND FACULTY HONORS
- CAMPUS HAPPENINGS DISTRICT-WIDE
- SPORTS PHOTOS/RECAPS AND MORE!



SEE PAGES 8 FOR  
ADN DRIVE UP  
PINNING  
CEREMONY

## Citizens plead to Governor Reeves for a lockdown and stricter enforcement

By Aurora Sant'Angelo  
Submitted on March 27



As cases of COVID-19 have soared over 100,000, Gov. Tate Reeves is playing a dangerous gamble with the welfare of Mississippians.

We're currently at almost 700 cases and 13 deaths, but a lockdown isn't in place. The social media photo opportunities and press conferences haven't been halted, yet the administration continues to ignore the pleas of his citizens. There is grave concern for those who will undoubtedly catch this illness or have to work on the front lines. Many are questioning his lack of action.

### How do we compare to other states?

Mississippi has approximately 2.98 million residents with close to 700 cases. Texas has around 2052 cases reported at the time of this article and a population of 28.7 million. With respect to population, Mississippi is 1/9th the size of Texas, but has almost a third as many cases. According to the Insider.com, 70 percent of those residing in Texas are currently in lock down. However, Mississippi still refuses to issue firm orders for a lock down. This didn't stop Tate from

standing against abortions during this time

Colleges and schools across the state are closed to on-campus learning in an attempt to control the spread. Stores however remain open. People are still visiting beauty shops, retail, and restaurants.

### What about the economy?

Is this truly in the best interest of the economy? Opendatanetwork.com predicts that as of 2019, about 21 percent of people in Mississippi who are ranging in ages from 21-64 don't have insurance for 2019. These numbers are important, as they fall in the gap of qualifying for Medicaid as a child and qualifying for Medicare as a senior.

The cost of treating corona virus for the uninsured in a hospital setting can be expensive. Time reports that one woman was charged almost \$35,000. Interestingly, Gov. Reed's website states, "I am also the only candidate in this race who opposes expanding Obamacare and recognizes the disastrous effects it would have on our system long-term." Why does this matter? 1/5th of adults in the age range where coverage typically gaps in this state lack insurance. Expanding this bill would have allowed that those that work and are unable to afford the luxury of healthcare would have less

debt and better access to treatment.

There's a common misconception that people who can't afford health insurance are refusing to work. According to kff.org, nationally, "Though most uninsured people have a full time worker (72%) or part-time worker (11%) in their family, many people do not have access to coverage through a job, and some people, particularly poor adults in states that did not expand Medicaid, remain ineligible for financial assistance for coverage."

People who don't have access to healthcare are less likely to seek treatment immediately.

### Citizens want stronger action:

Tate Reeves, this isn't the time to take a political stance. One of the most important aspects of being a leader is to empathize with the people, and truly listen to their concerns. His official Facebook page is inundated with comments begging for increased restrictions. Kristi Smith Graves, wrote on Reeve's Facebook page, "I am disappointed and appalled at your lack of action for our great state. It will cost many lives that could be saved. I didn't think you were the type of person that would want that on your conscience or not do all that you could possibly do for our people. STEP IT UP. You're

not listening to the experts. I hope you can live with yourself when all of this is over."

The Sun Herald reported that people from Louisiana are seeking refuge in Mississippi, particularly in the coastal regions. A coastal resident I spoke with, that chose to be unnamed, said, "There are an abundance of people with vacation property here. They're scared. They're coming here to get away. Even the beaches still have people. No one seems as frightened here." Louisiana has a population of 4.66 million and 3315 cases reported.

The Tate Reeves Facebook page posted on March 27, "Large businesses that do not allow employees who could work from home to do so are risking some serious lawsuits down the road if major outbreaks can be traced back to them." Why is it the responsibility of businesses to manage this crisis and send people home, but not your responsibility as our governor to order citizens to stay at home through a decree.

As of March 29, the deaths had reached 14 and total cases 758. The cases in Texas have climbed to 2000. The ratio between population and number of cases remains around the same, 1/9th the population and 1/3rd of the cases.

## Social-Distancing Fun

By Tiara LeFlore  
Staff Reporter



Covid-19 has taken away so many joyous things in life including loved ones, graduation, prom, jobs, school and many more things. It'll be easy to focus on

all of the negative aspects of quarantine considering all the outcomes are negative, but what are some things we can do while waiting out Covid-19. There are a variety of ways to keep yourself busy in safe ways that will protect you and your family from the coronavirus.

### Spring Cleaning

Find something that's cluttered in your house, and take it upon yourself to clean it out. Donate clothes or other

things that you haven't used or worn in three or more months. Clean out drawers with old makeup. (yes makeup expires). Throw away old pill bottles or lotions. Sort and organize your jewelry boxes. Cleaning has been known to lower your stress and anxiety.

### Family fun

Play board games with your family. For example, Speak Out Loud this particular game you are to put a plastic washable mouthpiece in and try to say a sentence while your team member guesses what you are trying to say. Plan a movie night with your household family members. Make root beer floats, popcorn and other treats that everyone would enjoy. Painting or puzzles are also fun to work on or going fishing near your house.

**Exercise-** Staying fit is essential. Staying at home with nothing to do

is easy access to gaining weight. YouTube is plentiful with videos for staying fit. It has Zumba, Just Dance, Lansone Walk at Home and yoga.

### Video Chats

Being in quarantine can keep you from seeing your friends and family and can make some feel depressed and lonely. FaceTime and other video chat apps can help you cope. You can talk with WiFi for hours to family members that you can see in person and friends. This is a safe way to keep the virus from spreading.

Now that you have new ideas to do while you're at home keep building and finding other ways to have fun at home with your family. Make sure to keep the house clean and to sanitize frequently. For some families, this could be a way to reconnect or build up burnt down bridges. The corona-



rus has taken so much from us already. Being in the house with family 24/7 can be tough, but we have to work together with thick skin to beat coronavirus.



# The Growl

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

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

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

## Self awareness and awareness of others

By Elisabeth Bailey  
Staff Reporter



The world is facing a global pandemic and as scary as that is, the aftermath and other circumstances are just as, if not more alarming. From mass panic to

countries hiding actual numbers, the world is drifting apart when we should be coming together. The thing with a global pandemic is not everyone is going to have the same consideration for others. It's important now more than ever to be hyper-aware of other people

and their situation.

Self-isolation is only the start of how people in a community can be mindful of others. Though the virus might not affect someone directly, it can easily be spread to someone older or someone who is high risk because of pre-existing medical conditions such as auto-immune diseases or asthma

There has also been a world-wide situation where people are over-buying their groceries. Instead of buying what everyone needed at the beginning of the pandemic, panic caused everyone to buy more than what they need. This means many people were unable to get the necessities they need. If a group

of people panic buy everything in the store, others will have no choice but to do the same. The cycle is hard to break and more people can't even afford to buy products in bulk.

The pandemic doesn't seem to be slowing down, with the dates of business and schools opening getting pushed back further and further. Closer and closer to summer. Recently it was said that the virus may be contagious up to eight days after the symptoms disappear. This means that quarantining and taking extra measures is necessary. If someone does go into public, it's important to wash your hands, even wear a mask although it's a contro-

versial topic. Keep things around you clean to not only try and prevent yourself from being infected, but to help the spread of the virus slow down.

Right now the world is all going through the same crisis and instead of listening to one another we mostly see arguments. Be thankful to those who are not able to stay home. Be thankful to doctors and nurses who risk their lives, as well as their families' lives to help others. Its important to keep in mind just how many people are living in the world right now, because that's how many people's lives are being turned upside down from the coronavirus.

## Bye Bye Brady

By Tolor Pounds  
Staff Reporter



Tom Brady has decided to move on from his 20-year commitment to the New England Patriots. On March 14, Brady took to social me-

dia to announce his decision to leave the Patriots. Brady is the only quarterback to win six superbows, and he won them all while leading the Patriots. He has been their starting quarterback for the past 19 seasons coming into the position in 2001.

Brady's new commitment will be to

the Tampa Bay Buccaneers with a two-year contract. Brady was concerned with keeping his iconic number 12 on his jersey, because Wide Receiver Chris Godwin wore the same number. Fortunately for Brady, Godwin offered to switch his jersey number to 14 instead.



## One World Together

By Elisabeth Bailey  
Staff Reporter



The coronavirus has been on everyone's minds more and more as the days come. Everyone is looking for new ways to function inside their house. For a lot of people,

music is an escape and now is just the time for artists to share music. Many artists have found a way to give online performances through Instagram lives as well as donate to charities. Some post videos of songs as well.

Many artists have come together now to put on an online concert to celebrate the healthcare workers who are fighting the virus every day, risking expo-

sure. This concert, which is a six-hour live stream, also supports WHO. Many well-known artists like Taylor Swift will be giving a performance for their fans. For many people this gives them a bit of happiness in the dark times, since it's a chance to watch their favorite artists perform, even if it is over a live stream or a televised program.

Music will always be a way to support those who are fighting for others. Nurses and healthcare workers deserve respect now more than ever and while they stand by us we should stand by them. Nothing is able to bring people together to support someone more than music.

## Financial Relief

By Tolor Pounds  
Staff Reporter



The much talked about stimulus checks have started hitting bank accounts. \$1,200 relief checks have been sent out by the U.S. government to aid the

American people with the financial burden that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused. The first wave of checks is sent to citizens who filed 2018-2019 tax returns and have given their deposit information to the IRS. Approximately 125 million Americans are expected to be aided with this one-time check. The majority of recipients of this check

have been using it for essentials such as food, gas and bills. The IRS is planning to run a website that allows recipients to track when their check will arrive and another website for those who have not filed tax returns but are in a low income bracket that allows them to qualify for this financial relief.



## Coronavirus Update

By Kaitlyn Anderson  
Staff Reporter



Since the coronavirus has broken out many businesses, schools and churches, have temporarily closed until further notice.

In some states businesses are slowly starting to reopen, but is this a good idea to reopen stores to the public this soon? There are a lot of people who are against opening places back up so soon for the public. Although there have been some pastors who have been arrested for opening church to over 1,000 people, the majority of churches

have decided to stream services online until further notice. Now an idea has been presented in Mississippi. U.S. District Judge Michael P. Mill issued an order saying that the First Pentecostal Church of Holly Springs can attend church again but will have to do it as a drive-in service. This came after the Thomas Moore Society said

that police disrupted a Bible study that consisted of 10 people, 10 being the maximum in a group. The first drive in service is said to be held Sunday. Do you think more churches should also hold a drive-in service? What are your thoughts on stores opening back up to the public? Is it to soon?

## Tragic Tornadoes in Mississippi

By Angel Sawyer  
Staff Reporter



A tornado happened Sunday, April 12 and caused a lot of damage in Mississippi. It caused the most damage in parts of Southern Mississippi.

Eleven people died from this deadly tornado. There were at least 13 radar-confirmed tornadoes that struck Mississippi and Louisiana. There were 18 counties that reported some damage. Jefferson Davis County had 100 homes that were damaged. There were 40 homes and 20 apartments destroyed in Bolivar Coun-

ty. Grenada had 20 homes that were damaged and 100 roads that had to be closed. Then in Monroe, Louisiana, there were 300 homes and structures damaged. There were 72,000 people in Mississippi without power. Carroll County had one fatality, Jefferson Davis had four fatalities, Jones had three fatalities, Lawrence had two fatalities, Panola had one fatality and Walthall had one fatality. Carroll County does not have a public emergency shelter. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said it might take most of the week to complete the surveys. In some subdivisions in the Lawrence County they were looking for missing people. After the storms damaged



Photo from Clarion-Ledger

Mississippi and Louisiana it had made it to Alabama and Georgia. Gov. Tate Reeves said that "We have faith that we will all rise together." Hopefully,

there can be peace in Mississippi and everywhere else.

## The "Mannly" Way

By Tiara LeFlore  
Staff Reporter



Matthew Mann, a freshman at HCC in our very own Holmes Connection, made an impact on his community by trying something new. Mann was in

The Yazoo Herald newspaper for being an excellent example of safe social distancing. Mann and two of his family members have over 200 pounds of freshwater fish consisting of bass, bream, white bass, crappie at Silver Creek and local ponds. He wakes up

early at 6:30 in the morning to get dressed in his waders for his everyday routine. Mann said "it's mentally comforting and peaceful being on a daily routine, it just makes it easier knowing what I'm going to do every day. When I catch a fish it feels like the very first time I caught one! The excitement never goes away." Catching fish saves money and is most definitely health-friendly.

Mann and his mom Samantha Mann cook their fish in various ways. They grill, bake and fry their fish southern style. Mann and his family decided to give their own backyard some TLC so that they could enjoy more family time

eating food that they've hunted. Neil Mann led his family by cutting down trees and bushes giving the backyard more light. Also, they have started their very own garden with tomatoes, squash and banana peppers.

Although Matthew goes fishing every day he still is very consistent in studying and keeping his grades up, and he has made a personal schedule to help his little brothers with their work as well. This is one example of one of our students practicing safe social distancing. Let's continue to stay afloat and do what we need to stay safe and healthy!



Matthew Mann

## Children illness linked to coronavirus

By Angel Sawyer  
Staff Reporter



A certain amount of children in the UK are showing symptoms of abdominal pain and cardiac inflammation. The National Health

Service in England shared the news on Twitter to tell others. The illness has affected children of all ages. The illness includes overlapping features of toxic shock syndrome and atypical Kawasaki disease. Also, some children have tested positive for Covid-19, and there has been a high rise on the number of children of all

ages infected. This causes the children's walls of the blood vessels in the body to become inflamed. The children who are diagnosed with coronavirus have a little case of virus. The number of Covid-19 cases among children remains small. Adults are the ones being infected in most cases. The healthcare profession-

als' advice to parents is to seek help from health professionals and try to be very cautious about taking their kids out in the public.

## Music and nostalgia

By Elisabeth Bailey  
Staff Reporter



Today's artists take a lot of inspiration from the past. Movies, books and music are all inspired by those who came before. In music specifically we see many artists going for a nostalgic feel since it sells so well. Artists today want to recreate the old sounds, which may allow an older audience to be drawn towards

their music.

One artist who has done this and succeeded is Harry Styles. His new album "Fine Line" has been compared to "Rumours" by Fleetwood Mac, by Stevie Nicks herself. Nicks said in a tweet that Styles had inspired her to begin writing again. It matches the old rock sound with heartbreaking complex lyrics everyone is drawn to. Still, his music has his own sound and voice that allows new and old listeners to connect to a brand new artist while feeling the nostalgia for the old rock

days. Styles has been praised for his overall 60's inspired aesthetic in his art. It's a clever way new artists are finding success and creating their own impact in music.

We've seen it before with artists such as Taylor Swift, with her first pop album "1989." Swift used an 80's inspired sound and theme, which led to her biggest era to date. "1989" also became the most awarded pop album of all time.

No matter how far the world moves from the old decades, they were the

defining years in western pop culture and their impact is still huge today. Artists are able to create music that brings back that time for older listeners, and makes younger listeners nostalgic for a decade they weren't even around for. Nostalgia sells more than anything else, and it sells even better when an artist is able to add a modern twist. Older artists are also able to see their work being loved by a brand new generation.

## Graduation (continued from Front Page)

things and have tremendous success. We'll look back on this as a crazy time in our lives but as a time maybe when we took stock of our lives and made some good changes. Congratulations, good luck to each and every one of you and God bless. 'There's No Place like Holmes.'"

Following Harrison's address, a video slideshow showcased student activities from the past year, spanning across all campuses. After the slideshow, Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey addressed the graduates.

"Hello graduates," Dr. Haffey said. "On behalf of the faculty, the staff, the Administration and the Board of Holmes Community College, let me just say a big congratulations. And it is disappointing not to get to tell you that in person because seeing your smiling faces is the highlight of the year for all of us. But that does not diminish your accomplishment. In fact, it reiterates how strong, how tough, how determined you are.

"So, I encourage you not to let this pandemic get you down," Dr. Haffey said. "Look at it as a blessing that you made it through this. You will probably not face tougher times in the near future. So, you're armed with that diploma from Holmes Community College; that proves that you're able to go on and do great things, persevere. So, we're with you as you move on. We're going to miss you, miss seeing you every day, but we expect you to come back and be part of the Holmes family. There really is 'No Place like Holmes.' Congratulations and take care."

After Dr. Haffey's address, Automotive Technology Instructor Derrick Rainey gave the invocation before Business and Office Technology Instructor Katrina B. Myricks spoke to students.

"To the graduating class of 2020, let me begin by saying congratulations,"

Myricks said. "Despite the situation going on around us you have persevered. The papers are finished, the tests have been taken and now you are a graduate of Holmes Community College. You have closed this chapter of your life and after today, have begun to write a new one. Some of you may be excited and hopeful while others are scared and unsure about your future. One thing is for sure, it is now time for you to stand up and say to the world 'Here I am!' I can take what you have to offer because I have met and defeated the challenges of Holmes to earn my degree or certificate.

"Today I am looking at students who have worked hard not only in the classroom, but in your personal lives as well. Today we are acknowledging that you are special and you are telling the world to sit up and take notice. You must hold a positive vision of what you want to achieve, come up with a plan, prepare to make it real and be patient while it happens. As we all know, success is a journey, not a destination. As you head into the future, may God help you to use your gifts, live with integrity, be genuine, believe in yourself and always do your best. Congratulations Class of 2020!"

Next, Academic Counselor Cynthia Abel spoke the graduating students.

"I'm so happy to share in your excitement on your graduation day," Abel said. "Each of you have worked extremely hard and devoted yourselves to succeed in your chosen pathway. As you embark on your future, whether you're going straight into the workforce or transferring to a four-year university, please remember everything that you've learned at Holmes to help you accomplish your future goals. We are so proud of each and every one of you for striving for excellence, stepping up to the plate and most of all,

never giving up.

"In the words of the great B.B. King, 'The beautiful thing about learning is no one can take it from you.' So, continue to grow academically, professionally and personally. What you have accomplished is 100 percent yours and no one can ever take that from you. You worked for it, you earned it and now you own it."

Following Myricks' address, the "Voice of the Bulldogs" Josh West read the "marching graduates" names one by one. Each student's name and degree program appeared on the screen as their name was read, and the valedictorians and salutatorians were recognized, as well. After the marching graduates were recognized, the names of non-marching graduates were shown on screen, as well.

This year, there were 12 valedictorians, all who had a perfect 4.0 GPA, and four salutatorians, all with a 3.96 GPA. The valedictorians included pre-nursing major Mary Clayton Burrell of Sallis; welding & cutting technology major Bradley Joshua Cooper of Stewart; heating/ac/vent/ref major Ethan M. Hancock of Canton; accounting major David Blake Humphreys of Yazoo City; heating/ac/vent/ref major William B. Mordecai of Carthage; drafting & design technology major Michael Wesley Petermann of Carrollton; elementary education major Hannah G. Reeves of Brandon; engineering/chem/bio/petro major Bruce E. Ruschewski of Benton; pre-med major Addison Leslie Stevens of Madison; heating/ac/vent/ref major Trontavius D. Townes of Coffeeville; cosmetology major Riley J. Tucker of Benton and cosmetology major Emily Julieta Valdes of Canton.

The salutatorians were elementary education major Caseigh Hickman of Florence; psychology major Anna M.

King of Senatobia; exercise science/kinesiology major Peyton Taylor Montgomery of Coldwater and chemistry major Aurora Celeste Sant'Angelo of Jackson.

Following the presentation of graduates, Recruiting Specialist/Ambassador Sponsor Leslie Taylor Spell and school mascot Major the Bulldog made an appearance to wish the Class of 2020 well.

"Major and I wanted to congratulate you, Class of 2020, on your major accomplishment," Spell said. "You have come a long way and we are proud of you. If you have not done so already, I would like to encourage you to join our Alumni Association and stay connected with us. Come back and visit often; we want to hear all about your future successes because your success is our success. Major wanted me to remind you that once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog and there truly is 'No Place like Holmes.'"

Finally, to conclude the virtual ceremony, singer Ne-Yo appeared as another special guest speaker.

"I wanted to take this opportunity and say to the graduates of Holmes Community College, first and foremost, congratulations," Ne-Yo said. "As you go off into the world with the newfound skills you gained here at Holmes, I hope you make your dreams come true and I hope you do your part to make this world a better place. Again, congratulations, farewell and go make the world better. No Place like Holmes. It's Ne-Yo. Peace and love."

Those who want more information about joining the Alumni Association, graduates may contact Katherine Ellard at [kellard@holmescc.edu](mailto:kellard@holmescc.edu) or (662) 472-9134.

If you missed the commencement ceremony, you can go to the events. [holmescc.edu](http://holmescc.edu) to watch it.

## Phi Theta Kappa (continued from Front Page)

coming Maid. She enjoys reading, traveling, cooking and doing puzzles. After Holmes, she plans to attend Mississippi State University and earn a bachelor's in educational psychology and a master's in counseling. She'd like to become a high school or college guidance counselor.

Sarah Elizabeth Hardy, daughter of Melanie and Shane Hardy, is a psychology major on the Goodman Campus. At Holmes she is a cheerleader, Ambassador and Phi Theta Kappa president. Hardy is a Scholar-Athlete and President's List scholar who was nominated for Hall of Fame and won the Cheerleading Leadership Award as a freshman. Off Campus, she volunteers with Hope Hollow Ministries, Operation Christmas Child, is a chil-

dren's church teacher and has packed care packages for military members. After Holmes, she plans to attend Delta State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology and then attend the University of Mississippi Law School to earn a degree in criminal law.

Gracie MacGown, daughter of Sacha and Mike MacGown, is a chemistry major on the Ridgeland Campus. She is an officer for the Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and in her free time, volunteers at Webster whenever she can. MacGown also serves as a nanny for two girls after school and over the summer. After graduating Holmes, she plans on attending the University of Mississippi and majoring in biochemistry with

a pre-med emphasis. She also plans on minoring in Spanish. After that, MacGown's goal is to go to medical school and pursue her dream of being a pediatrician.

Shakeria Smith, daughter of Carrie Smith and Rodney Smith, Sr., is a pre-nursing major on the Goodman Campus. She is a member of the Holmes cheerleading squad, Voices of Praise and serves as a MOSAIC tutor, as well as an MC2 tutor. Smith serves as Phi Theta Kappa Vice President of Membership, is a President's List scholar and received the Cheer Award. Off campus, she is a volunteer at Choctaw Medical Clinic of Ackerman and a tumbling coach at The Fitness Company. Her future plans are to attend medical school and pursue a

career in the healthcare industry, specializing in surgery.

Nathan Wildhaber, son Trisha and Daniel Wildhaber, is an electrical engineering major on the Ridgeland Campus. He is president of Phi Theta Kappa, received the Golden Key Award and is a President's List Scholar. Wildhaber's hobbies include fitness, reading and making music. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to pursue his bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and then seek employment in the field of control systems and robotics until he can start up his own business in that industry.

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

## Holmes adds three new CTE programs

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College is pleased to announce the addition of the Massage Therapy Program, the Culinary Arts Technology Program and the Health Care Assistant Program to the Career and Technical Education Fall offerings.

"We are very proud to be able to offer new programs in Culinary Arts,

Massage Therapy, and Health Care Assistant at Holmes," Vice President of Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington said. "These new programs are the result of a lot of hard work and time spent networking with business and industry partners to determine where employment gaps exist in our district. We are very appreciative

of these partners who have helped us bring the new programs to fruition. We are excited to enroll students for a Fall program start and introduce our new instructors who will be leading these programs in the near future."

**Massage Therapy Program (Ridgeland Campus only)**

The Massage Therapy program is de-

signed to prepare students for careers as professional massage therapists. The curriculum prepares students to develop knowledge and skills for practicing massage therapy. Core courses emphasize massage therapy principles, ethics, business application, pathology,

*CTE Programs, continued on Page 6*

## CTE Programs (continued from Page 5)

anatomy and physiology, technique modalities, and kinesiology.

Graduates of the program can earn a Technical Certificate upon completion of Massage Therapy technical courses. The Associate of Applied Science Degree in Massage Therapy will be awarded upon successful completion of the entire curriculum including academic core classes.

An application process is required for this program and will open in May. To review the courses required for the degree or more information about the program, visit [https://www.holmescc.edu/departments/technical/massage\\_therapy/index.aspx](https://www.holmescc.edu/departments/technical/massage_therapy/index.aspx) or call Administrative Assistant Reagan Dilmore at (601) 605-3345 or email [rdilmore@holmescc.edu](mailto:rdilmore@holmescc.edu).

**Culinary Arts Technology Program** (Ridgeland Campus only)  
The Culinary Arts Technology

program provides a solid foundation in the methods and science of cooking through exposure to classical, American, and international cuisine as well as the art of baking and pastries. Special emphasis is placed on culinary tools, equipment, techniques, and specialty ingredients. The heart of the Culinary Arts Technology program is hands-on lab instruction by a chef instructor in a commercial kitchen.

Graduates of the program can earn a Technical Certificate, an Advanced Technical Certificate, or an Associate of Applied Science Degree depending upon exit point in the curriculum.

Students should review the course offerings and schedule their classes accordingly to receive the degree. You can see the course offerings at [https://www.holmescc.edu/departments/technical/culinary\\_arts/index.aspx](https://www.holmescc.edu/departments/technical/culinary_arts/index.aspx). For more information, contact Administra-

tive Assistant Reagan Dilmore at (601) 605-3345 or email [rdilmore@holmescc.edu](mailto:rdilmore@holmescc.edu).

**Health Care Assistant Program** (Goodman, Grenada and Ridgeland campuses)

The Health Care Assistant Program prepares the individual to assist in providing health care as a member of the health care team under the direction of a health-care professional. This curriculum references standards based on the State of Mississippi Nurse Aide Candidate Handbook Exam Content Outline. Graduates of the one-semester program will be awarded the Certificate of Health Care Assistant. Students who complete the program may qualify for employment as Homemakers, Nurse Assistants, Long-Term Care Aides, or Home Health Aides in the Mississippi health care industry.

The Health Care Assistant Program

is one semester long and successful completion results in a Career Certificate. Participants also have the option of taking a Phlebotomy course.

Students should review the course offerings and schedule their classes accordingly to receive the degree. You can see the course offerings at [https://www.holmescc.edu/departments/technical/health\\_care\\_assistant/index.aspx](https://www.holmescc.edu/departments/technical/health_care_assistant/index.aspx).

If you will be attending the Ridgeland Campus, please contact Administrative Assistant Reagan Dilmore at (601) 605-3345 or email [rdilmore@holmescc.edu](mailto:rdilmore@holmescc.edu). For the Goodman Campus, please contact Career-Technical Counselor Wyndy Peebles at (662) 472-9098 or email [wpeeples@holmescc.edu](mailto:wpeeples@holmescc.edu) and for the Grenada Campus, please contact Administrative Assistant Roxanne Harrison at (662) 227-2350 or email [rharrison@holmescc.edu](mailto:rharrison@holmescc.edu).

## Grenada Campus announces Creative Writing Contest winners

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jordan Bishop



Peyton Poe

Each year, the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus holds a Creative Writing Contest. All winners receive cash prizes furnished by the Holmes Foundation. First and second place winners are forwarded to the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association contest and will be published in Holmes' Creative Writing Journal, "Reflections."

Winners of the Poetry category were: First Place, "Kitchen Mouse" by Peyton Poe of Brandon and Second Place, "The Graveyard" by Jordan Bishop of Winona. Winners of the Short Story category were:

First Place, "The Antebellum Willow"

by Bishop and Second Place, "Six" by Poe.

The competition was open to all students on the Grenada Campus of Holmes, regardless of their major, and entries were judged by the English faculty members. First and second place winners in each category will appear in Reflections, the campus literary magazine, and are sent to the statewide contest. State-level winners receive monetary prizes and publication in the literary magazine of the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association.

## Holmes Library staff produces 3-D surgical mask extension straps for healthcare workers

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Grenada healthcare workers modeling the mask extension straps made from Holmes' 3D printer.

Wearing personal protective equipment for hours on end is tough in normal situations for our health care professionals, but COVID-19 has made it that more stressful on the amount of time they are required to be protected.

Quinn Callendar, a 12-year-old Boy Scout from British Columbia, Canada, saw a need to help workers relieve some

of the daily stress on their bodies from the PPE, so he began producing surgical mask extension straps from his 3D printer, which relieve the ears of healthcare workers.

Callendar began churning out these devices on his own. Requests poured in from all over the world, and he decided to share the design created by Thingi-

verse.com user Suraky. The design can be found at <https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:4249113> <<https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:4249113?fbclid=IwAR0a3C-JaJdxp2Im7SXE-y3A4oP8xivAeKX-FvwVoRxt7K3ipG29rPXsDVFwM>> . The 3D file has now been downloaded over 85,000 times.

McMorrough Library, on the Goodman Campus, has a Makerspace that uses new and emerging technologies, such as 3D printers, robotics, virtual reality systems, etc. Holmes Community College Director of Library Services Jim Thompson said he and his staff are always looking for ways to help the community and wished to provide help to healthcare professionals who are working on the forefront of the COVID pandemic.

"We are always thinking of new ways to use our resources for the good of others," Thompson said. "My wife shared the design with me based off of a Facebook post she saw on her newsfeed."

Thompson said a friend of his, who is an ICU nurse at Winter Haven Hospital in Florida, also saw the Facebook post, and reached out to see if the Holmes Library System could help them. Thompson then began to immediately produce the straps and contact local healthcare facilities to offer help.

"We have printed upwards of 280 at the moment and are currently assisting independent healthcare workers and entire healthcare facilities," Thompson said. "We have sent shipments to Baptist Medical Center in Kosciusko, University of Mis-

issippi Medical Center in Jackson and Grenada, and Winter Haven Hospital in Florida."

The largest 3D printer in the McMorrough Makerspace can print nine ear straps at a time, and it takes four hours to complete the process.

"We are so grateful for the support of healthcare workers from our community," Baptist-Attala Chief Nursing Officer Allison Schuler said. "We thought it was very innovative of Jim Thompson to utilize a 3D printer for something that is essential to healthcare workers. The mask straps that we received will definitely be utilized in our everyday work life. Thanks so much for the thoughtfulness during these unchartered times."

Thompson said he and McMorrough Library's Librarian Sarah Clay also came up with a way to show gratitude to the healthcare workers by manufacturing a personalized wooden placard to place in shipments to facilities.

"I wanted to create something significant as a way to show our thanks for all of the wonderful healthcare workers risking their lives daily," Thompson said. "We designed the placard and used our Glowforge in the makerspace to laser cut and engrave it. The process took about an hour, and it can be hung on a wall or from a desk."

Any healthcare workers or facilities in need of straps may contact Jim Thompson at [jathompson@holmescc.edu](mailto:jathompson@holmescc.edu) or call (662) 472-9164.

## Goodman Campus recognizes Hall of Fame 2020

From Staff Reports/Photos



Mary Clayton Burrell



Britt Grace



D'Mechria Landfair



Arin McIntyre



Braiden Suggs

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Goodman Campus included: Mary Clayton Burrell, Britt Grace, D'Mechria Landfair, Arin McIntyre and Braiden Suggs.

Mary Clayton Burrell, daughter of Mandy and Jeff Burrell, is a pre-nursing major with a perfect 4.0. A scholar-athlete, Burrell made the President's List, was named Distinguished Academic All State and was named First Team NJAA All-Academic for 2018-19. She was also named MACJC First Team All-State in 2019 and Most Valuable Player for Holmes softball in 2019.

Additionally, Burrell is an Ambassador and member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Outside of Holmes, she is a member of Crestview Church and serves as a leader for a YoungLife group. Her future plans include attending the University of Mississippi Medical Center to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing. Following nursing school, she would like to become a certified nurse practitioner and specialize in the field of dermatology.

Britt Grace, son of Wendy and Bill

Grace, is a civil engineering major. Grace is a scholar-athlete, Holmes Plus scholar, President's List scholar and Phi Theta Kappa member. He served as an escort for the 2019 Homecoming Queen as well as for Beauty Review.

Grace was also named the Holmes student honoree for the 2019-2020 Higher Education Appreciation Day-Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) program. Off campus, Grace has been a counselor at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, a Disciple NOW leader and part of the worship band at church. After Holmes, he plans to attend Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in civil engineering.

D'Mechria Landfair, daughter of Tracey Greer and Amishau and Quentin Harmon, is a pre-law major with a 4.0 GPA. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a Student Government Association representative, a member of the Social and Behavioral Honor's Class and a peer mentor for Student Support Services' MOSAIC club. She also received the top Academic Excellence award in MOSAIC.

Additionally, Landfair volunteer to serve Thanksgiving dinners to the senior citizens in both Attala County and Holmes County, and participated in various fundraisers for

MOSAIC. Post-graduation from Holmes, she plans to attend Mississippi State University and obtain a bachelor's degree in political science. After graduating MSU, she plans to apply to law school at the University of Mississippi.

Arin McIntyre, daughter of Kathryn McIntyre and Melissa and Sean Cooper, is an accounting major who has been on both the President's and Dean's List. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a scholar-athlete, a member of MOSAIC and a member of the softball team. Her freshman year, she played both infield and outfield for the Bulldogs and as a sophomore, she served as softball team manager.

Outside of Holmes, she is active in her church where she volunteers with youth groups for Bible studies and mission trips. She is also involved with various fundraisers through MOSAIC on campus, as well as fundraisers for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

St. Jude is near and dear to McIntyre's heart as she is a patient there. She was diagnosed with Stage 2 Wilms Tumor as an infant and wants to help others at St. Jude in every way she can. Her future plans are to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and earn a bachelor's in account-

ing. She hopes to own her own business one day.

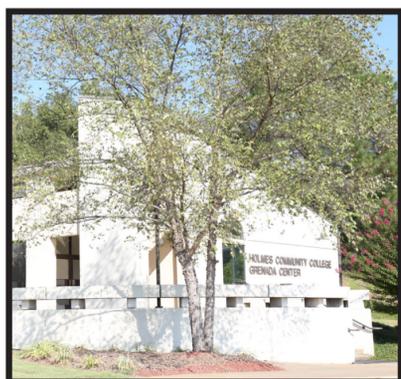
Braiden Suggs, son of Cristi Suggs, is a general studies major and President's List scholar. His leadership roles include: chairmen of the MOSAIC Fundraising Committee, vice president of the Student Government Association and vice president of the HCC Gaming Club (freshman year). He is also a member of the marching band, concert band, steel drum band and serves as a student-worker for Student Services and Student Housing.

Suggs' community service/volunteer work includes: helping with a Eupora First Baptist Church cleanup, helping with a Gaming Club fundraiser, helping with MOSAIC's yard sale, volunteering at the Holmes basketball concession stand and participation in a FUGE camp/leading a youth ministry in South Carolina.

Upon graduating Holmes, he plans to continue his education at Mississippi State University where he will pursue a bachelor's degree in general studies followed by a master's in higher education. After obtaining his degrees, he'd like to return to Holmes to start his career.

## Grenada Campus recognizes students with hand-written letters

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Grenada Campus recognized students' honors by having instructors write letters to the award recipients explaining why they were chosen.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus recognized its students'

achievements and honors a little differently this year. Rather than hold an on-campus celebration, instructors representing each academic and career-technical program wrote letters to the award recipients explaining why they were chosen. They mailed certificates to the students, as well.

Letters/certificates were sent to the 2020 Grenada Campus Hall of Fame inductees. Hall of Fame is the highest honor a student can receive and recipients were voted on by faculty and staff based on academic achievement, campus involvement and community service. The inductees included: Kalee Beck of Grenada, Raylin Cooper of Eupora, Ivey Devine of Winona, Bailey Marshall of Grenada and Lindsey McLellan of Winona. Devine was also named the Social Science Award winner.

Madison Shelton of Carrollton was recognized as the Associate Degree Nursing-Day Award recipient and Alisha

Harrison of Mathiston was recognized as the Associate Degree Nursing-Evening Award recipient. Perry Doler of Calhoun City received the Business Administration, Computer Science and Spanish awards; Alexis Rodgers of Winona, the English Award; JaMario Profit of Coffeeville, the Life and Learning Skills Award; Jordan Bishop of Winona, the Fine Arts Award and Cislee Trost of Grenada, the Mathematics Award.

The Biology and Chemistry awards went to Addison Suber of Grenada; the Health and Physical Education Award went to Angelo Migliore of Kilmichael; the History Award went to Colby Marlow of Carrollton and the Speech and Theatre Award, to Robyn Galvan of Holcomb.

In the Career-Technical Educational Department, Eva Carroll of Holcomb received the Business Technology Award; Emily Ann Farmer of Grenada, the EMS

Basic Award; Lola Green of Duck Hill, the EMS Paramedic Award; Michael Petermann of Carrollton, the Engineering Technology Award; Jacob Whatley of Florence, the Forestry Technology Award and Payten Chrestman of Calhoun City, the Conservation Law Enforcement Technology Award.

Justin Durham of Grenada received the Heating, Ventilation, AC & Refrigeration Technology Award; Codie McMahan of Grenada, the Industrial Maintenance Technology Award; Jessica Parker of Stewart, the Practical Nursing Award; J'Marcus Brooks of Columbus, the Physical Therapy Assistant Award and Erin Bell of Kosciusko, the Surgical Technology Award. Finally, Sara Rosa of Carrollton and Bradley Cooper of Stewart both received Welding & Cutting Technology Award.

## Goodman Campus celebrates student achievement during Honors Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus recognized its students' achievements and honors during the 2020 Virtual Honors Day Program held May 5 via Zoom. Normally a dinner is held for honorees and their families in Frank Branch Coliseum, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Holmes had to make alternative arrangements this year.

Just like the usual program, however, 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 other categories.

The program began with Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood welcoming everyone before Director of Industrial Studies Programs Dr. Luke Jones gave the invocation. The first students to be recognized were the 2020 Goodman Campus Hall of Fame inductees. Hall of Fame is the highest honor a student can receive and recipients were voted on by faculty and staff based on academic achievement, campus involvement and community service. The inductees included: Mary Clayton Burrell of Sallis, Britt Grace of Kosciusko, Dâ™Mechria

Goodman Honors, continued on Page 8

## Goodman Honors (continued from Page 7)

Landfair of Sallis, Arin McIntyre of Drew and Braiden Suggs of Ackerman.

Some of these students earned other awards, as well. Suggs received the Student Government Association Award, and Landfair was named the Dr. Marilyn Burrell Memorial Award recipient. The Burrell Memorial Award is given to a student with a strong academic record, leadership skills and campus involvement. McIntyre received the Christine Herron Academic Achievement Award, which is given to a non-traditional student who is active in MOSAIC and shows academic excellence. Additionally, Grace was the Physical Science Award recipient as well as the Holmes Plus Award recipient. Holmes Plus is a competitive scholarship organization for students who show an aptitude in science and mathematics.

The other Holmes Plus Award recipients were Caleb Chisholm of Kosciusko and Landon Rhodes of Madison. Rhodes also received the Engineering Award. The

Architectural Engineering Award went to Selena Miller of Kosciusko; the Wesley David Rule Mathematics Award, Bruce Ruschewski of Benton and the Social and Behavioral Science Award, Sarah Elizabeth Hardy of Benton. Hardy was also recognized for being named to the Phi Theta Kappa All Mississippi Academic Team and for being the 2020 Phi Theta Kappa Order of the Golden Key recipient. Shakeria Smith of Ackerman was also named to the Phi Theta Kappa All Mississippi Academic Team, and received the Biological Science Award.

The Business Administration Award went to Georgia Reeves of Kosciusko; the Elementary Education Award to Lily Kate Saxton of Benton; the English Composition Award to Jenson Williams of Benton; the Literature Award to Kayla Ramage of Raleigh; the Creative Writing Award to Lundy Hawthorne of Richland and the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department Award to Camillia Goodloe of

Canton. In addition, Madeline McCown of Kosciusko received the W.Y. Sudduth History and Political Science Award; Dara Neagle of Goodman, the Foreign Language Award and Kelly Bennett of Yazoo City, the Bill Watkins Visual Arts Award.

Among the musically-talented students, Hamilton Allen of Pearl received the Band Award; Chris Ball of Butler, Alabama, the Music Major Award; Brandon Vaughan of Mathiston, the Percussion Groups Award and Tiara LeFlore of Byram, the Choral Music Award. LeFlore was also the Growl (newspaper) Award recipient.

In the career-technology and workforce programs, Zachary Trammel of Madison received the Automotive Technology Award; Chelsea Willhite of Kosciusko, the Business and Technology Award; Trey Roby of Goodman, Collision Repair Technology Award; Emily Valdes of Canton, Cosmetology Award; Donald Gray of North Carrollton, Criminal Justice Award and Christopher Kingston of Flowood, the

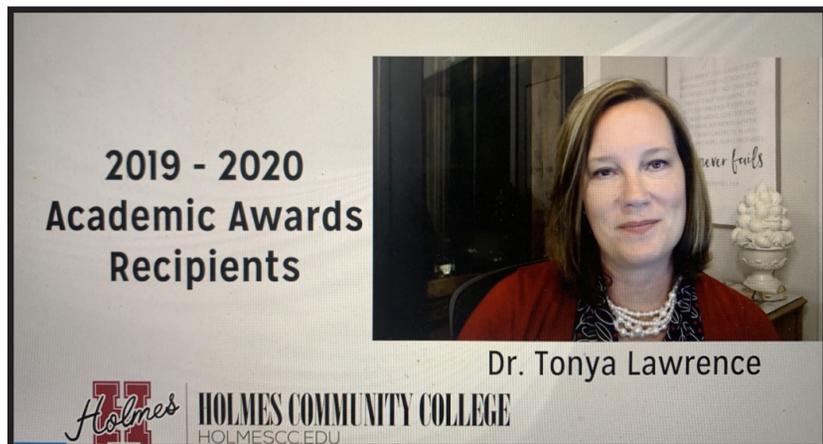
Heating and Air Conditioning Technology Award. Additionally, Christopher Robinson of Kosciusko received the Industrial Technology Award; Kristi Bagwell of McCool was named the Practical Nursing Award recipient and Justin Nunn of Sallis received the Welding Award.

Other special awards were given, as well. Darlene Jolly of Carthage received the Deans and Directors Award, which is bestowed upon a non-traditional student who has been out of school for a while, has exceptional grades and has made an impact in the classroom. Finally, another special award is the Michael Klauk Award, named for a former pre-med student who tragically passed away. John Bailey Britt of West received this award for exemplifying the same model student qualities Klauk did.

Each award recipient will receive a certificate in the mail following the presentation.

## Ridgeland Campus recognizes students with Virtual Honors Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Ridgeland Campus Academic Dean **Dr. Tonya Lawrence** welcomes everyone to the 2020 Virtual Honors Program.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus recognized its students' achievements and honors a little differently this year: rather than hold an on-campus celebration, faculty and staff created a virtual presentation for students to watch. Instructors representing each academic and career-technical program submitted a video clip of them presenting the award to the student as if they were there presenting on stage.

The virtual program recognized this

year's 2020 Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame inductees. Hall of Fame is the highest honor a student can receive and recipients were voted on by faculty and staff based on academic achievement, campus involvement and community service. The inductees included: Ja'Laycia Roqueia Brown of Kosciusko; Macy C. Gordy of Canton; Bailee Grace Gregg of Florence; Jake Ham of Brandon; Caseigh Hickman of Florence, David Blake Humphreys of Yazoo City; Luke Langford of Jackson;

Peyton Montgomery of Coldwater; Addison Stevens of Madison; Alysia Terry of Byram; Jadyn A. Williams of Brandon and Samantha Erin Williams of Brandon.

A couple of these students received additional awards, as well. Alysia Terry was named the Health, Physical Education & Recreation Award recipient and Jadyn Williams received the Business Award.

Gracie MacGown of Madison and Nathan Wildhaber of Jackson were recognized, as well, for being named to the Phi Theta Kappa All Mississippi Academic Team. Wildhaber was also a Phi Theta Kappa Order of Golden Key recipient, and MacGown received the Physical Science Award and the History & Political Science Award. Brandon Williams of Canton received the Fine Arts Award; Deja Sloan of Madison, the Journalism Award; Brian Sullivan of Ridgeland, the Mathematics Award; Jordan Cobb of Madison, the Public Speaking Award and Bennett Pope of Byram, the Biological Science Award.

The Educational Programs Award went to Hannah Reeves of Brandon; the Spanish Award to Bryanna Young of Pearl; the English Composition Award to Sofia Melgar of Brandon, the Literature Award to Aurora Sant'Angelo of Jackson and the Criminal Justice Award to Sarah Snyder of Madison. Additionally, Brian Sullivan of

Madison received the Engineering Award and Apryll Clark of Walnut Grove the Social/Behavioral Science Award.

In the Career-Technical Educational Department, Jonathan Sumrall of Madison was awarded the Industrial Maintenance Mechanics Award; Maggie Paulk of Madison, the Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology Award; Tamara Sims of Canton, the Associate Degree Nursing Award; Christina Rushing of Ridgeland, the Practical Nursing Award and Edy Paredes of Jackson, the Emergency Medical Sciences Award.

Both Lauren McDonald and Kayla Neal of Terry received Surgical Technology Awards; Kasey Bruckner of Madison, the Engineering Technology Award; Amanda Kirk of Jackson, the Paralegal Technology Award; Margaret Sanders of Jackson, the Business Technology Award and David Ethan Goodman of Pelahatchie, the Information Systems Technology Award. In addition, Kristopher Andrew Ables of Madison was named the Welding and Cutting Technology recipient and Mendy Johnson of Ruth was named the Mortuary Science Award recipient.

Each award recipient will receive a certificate in the mail, as well.

## Ridgeland Campus holds parking lot ADN pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Associate Degree Nursing graduates (left to right) **Rebecca Strong** and **Lauren Coon**. Graduate **Christian Bourne** is driving.

The Ridgeland Campus of Holmes Community College held a "drive up" Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Class of 2020 on May 7 in the Ridgeland Campus parking lot.

COVID-19 might have made holding a large ceremony in an auditorium not possible, but the faculty and staff still made

sure the day was special for the graduates. Nursing faculty decorated their cars and graduates drove up one-by-one to receive their pin and lamp, just like they normally would in a ceremony. Students were asked to have a family member pin them at home, get someone to take a short video of it and submit it. All of the pinning will be combined with a live Zoom meeting

of the graduates reciting the Nightingale Pledge so they will experience all parts of the traditional ceremony.

Thirty-three students graduated from the program. Graduates included: Mandi Beard of Terry; Maggie Bloodworth of Flowood; Christian Bourn of Ridgeland; Kayla Bradley of Pearl; Hayley Chamblee of Brandon; Sara Grace Colbert of Brandon; Lauren Coon of Florida; Jackson Cooper of Florence; Hope England of Ridgeland; Joseph Guthrie of Yazoo City; Akeyia Harris of Vicksburg; Ariel Hilliard of Jackson; Susan Kuntz of Carthage; Kadedria Luckett of Canton; Hannah Mabry of Brandon; Debra McCarty of Brandon; Shelby McKee of Madison; Bayly Moss of Lena; Cassandra Newman of Madison; Amanda Nicholson of Madison; McKenna Patridge of Brandon; Taylor Rice of Brandon; Lyric Richards of Madison; Quentin Shines, Jr., of Ridgeland; Tamara Sims of Canton; Anna Stewart of Madison; Rebecca Strong of Utica; Maria Tello of Jackson; Kelly Thompson of Brandon; Stacy Trejo of Jackson; Karah Vinzant of Brandon; Kristina Weathersby of Hazlehurst and Raveen Wilson of Terry.

"Congratulations to the 2020 class graduates of Holmes Community College Associate Degree Nursing program!" said ADN Department Chair/Assistant Director Dr. Alice Austin. "This semester did not end as any of us had planned but they did it. Each one of them have persevered. I pray that each one of them continues to be a life-learner as they endeavor on their nursing career. Each of them have learned professionalism, integrity and how to safely care for a diverse group of clients.

"Due to the pandemic, this graduating class will be able to apply for a temporary work permit and proceed to work without taking the NCLEX-RN first," Dr. Austin said. "The faculty and I want each of the graduates to continue to prepare daily so that when the opportunity arises for them to take boards they will be successful. Congratulations and Happy Nurses Week to all of the graduates."

For more information on the ADN program at Holmes, contact Shiquita Haralson Rand at sharalson@holmescc.edu or (601) 605-3439.

## Welding to be offered in hybrid format at Attala and Ridgeland

From Staff Reports/Photos



Beginning in Fall 2020, Holmes Community College will begin offering welding in a hybrid format for students at the Attala and Ridgeland campuses.

Students will receive instruction through both face-to-face and through the College's online learning system Canvas. Nathan Hutchinson will teach the Ridgeland classes on Monday and Tuesday and the Attala classes on Wednesday and Thursday. The face-to-face classes will go from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"With the increasing workforce demand and with space/equipment readily available, the presence of a welding program in the Attala County area was an easy decision," Director of Industrial Studies Dr.

Luke Jones said of adding the classes in Kosciusko at the Attala Center. "This location also allows Holmes to better serve prospective students in the northeastern part our district.

"The hybrid format allows students to experience a blended online/face to face format which is a major convenience for the citizen-student," he said. "Students will have the convenience of a condensed period of time spent in the classroom without losing the personal connection to their instructor."

Dr. Jones said Hutchinson was the right fit to lead this initiative. "Nathan provides a wealth of knowledge with his industry and teaching experience," Dr. Jones said.

"He's open to new methods of teaching and technology which makes him the ideal person to deliver the content of this new program."

Registration for the program has already begun. Please go to the Enroll Now tab at holmescc.edu to start the process. Fall classes at Holmes Community College will begin on August 17 and will run through Dec. 10.

For more information about the program and its requirements, contact Nathan Hutchinson at dhutchinson@holmescc.edu or call (601) 605-3435 or Dr. Luke Jones at tjones@holmescc.edu or call (662) 472-9057.

## Dr. Bell receives first-ever Faculty of the Year Award

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Jacqueline Bell

Holmes Community College recently named Carthage native Dr. Jacqueline Bell as the College's first-ever recipient of the Faculty of the Year Award.

The Faculty of the Year Award selection committee accepted nominations from Feb. 1-Feb. 14. Candidates were to be nominated by peers, division chairs or other administrative personnel, and the nominee should be an exceptionally skilled and dedicated full-time instructor with a minimum of three years of teaching experience at Holmes.

The criteria for selection for the award includes: demonstrates a genuine concern for students and the capability to inspire them; has the respect and admiration of students and colleagues; strives to improve and grow both personally and professionally; and exhibits innovative in teaching and learning.

"We are proud to honor Dr. Jacqueline Bell as the Holmes Community College Instructor of the Year," Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Jenny Jones said. "Dr. Bell was nominated by her peers and selected from a robust group of instructors. Jacqueline demonstrates genuine concern for her students, exhibits innovative teaching and learning strategies, and has the respect of students and colleagues.

"In addition to being an outstanding instructor, she is always striving to grow personally and professionally," she said.

Some comments from her students included: "Although Mrs. Bell is hard, she is a very good teacher. She really cares about teaching."; "Mrs. Bell clearly explains even the hardest information and makes it interesting to learn about."; "I can tell she really loves her job and that makes me want to come to class."; and "She is very interactive with her students."

"Jacqueline has always gone above and beyond for her students," Goodman Campus Coordinator of Academic Programs Wendy Grace said. "She takes the time to make assignments engaging while still being practical with real world concepts.

"I have heard from so many students who tell me that they wish all their instructors were 'just like Mrs. Bell,'" she said. "She takes the time to relate the ideas on their level. She continues to come up with new ideas and is not afraid to change things up if they are not working. I am so excited that I get to call her an outstanding faculty member and also a tremendous friend."

Bell said she is humbled with the honor.

"To say I was shocked when Dr. Haffey called with the news is an understatement," Bell said. "I work with a fantastic group of fellow faculty (from all districts) who inspire me each day to be better and work harder. Holmes Community College is fortunate to have faculty who are consistently striving to be innovative inside the classroom and faculty who are adaptable to change and willing to give so much of themselves towards student success.

"I am thankful to call them my colleagues and, more importantly, my friends," she said. "I am genuinely grateful to the faculty for their support and the nomination of this award. I would also like to thank our administration and support staff, who so often offer their support and guidance. Thank you for entrusting me with teaching our students and also this honor. To our students, I say thank

you for showing up each day. It is because of you that I get to live my dream job."

Bell came to Holmes in August 2008. She has taught General Psychology, Human Growth and Development, Child Psychology, Adolescent Psychology and Social and Behavioral Science Honors Forum in the traditional, hybrid and online formats. She is a lead online instructor and also teaches on the Goodman Campus.

She is the former chair of the Social and Behavioral Science Department for all three campuses where she organized and assisted in the creation of the department webpage, the Canvas Department webpage and the Canvas Department advising webpage. She collected research data for SACSCOC and implemented the goals for Institutional Effectiveness, Strategic Planning, and SWOT analysis. She was a member of the SACSCOC Reaccreditation review committee and also supervised all faculty roles in the department and conducted department meetings.

Bell recently defended her doctoral dissertation at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Her dissertation is entitled "Graduate Student Perspectives of Rapport in the Online Marriage and Family Therapy Classroom". She is set to graduate in May.

Bell holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Mississippi State University. She has a master's degree in clinical psychology from Mississippi State University with her thesis entitled "Asperger's Syndrome and Metamemory: How well can one child predict his knowledge of the world around him?" and a master's degree in counseling psychology from the University of West Alabama.

She has academic practicum experience at the Golden Triangle Recovery Center in Starkville, the Central Mississippi Residential Center in Newton, the East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian and the WEEMS Community Mental Health Center in Meridian. She has psychological testing experience with Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, third edition; Wechsler

Intelligence Scale for Children, fourth edition; and Vine Adaptive Behavior Scale.

"I have always had an enthusiasm and appreciation for the field of psychology," Bell said. "I try to convey this enthusiasm inside the classroom while also teaching the importance of how the teachings of psychology are applicable for our students in real-life. I know the majority of students I teach have not chosen psychology as their program of study so my challenge is to show them that psychology touches everyone.

"So, when I see a student have the 'light-bulb' moment and realize how these teachings and concepts apply to their own behavior and experiences in everyday life, that is my reward," she said. "It isn't the letter grade at the end of the semester, but when they can come to that realization and be proud of themselves. That is my motivation to keep pushing myself to find more interactive and exciting ways to bring psychology to life inside the classroom. An added bonus is that I get to talk about the field I love every day."

As far as obtaining her doctorate degree, she knew it was something she always wanted to accomplish. "I love learning," Bell said. "I love challenging myself to try things that might be out of my comfort zone. When the time was right, I began researching doctoral programs and found the right program that allowed me the opportunity to gain further knowledge in my field of study but also allowed me to grow in my career field.

"I was fortunate to work with a dissertation committee that not only supported that vision but encouraged me to gear my research towards bettering myself as an instructor," she said. "From the coursework to the research, I learned so much and hope to bring this newfound insight into my classroom."

Bell is married to Casey and they have two children, Madalyn and Anna Kay. They reside in Carthage.

## Holleman earns doctorate from Ole Miss

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Clate Holleman

Holmes Director of Financial Aid Clate Holleman recently earned his Ed. D. in Higher Education from the University of Mississippi. Holleman's dissertation was entitled "Exploring the Relationship Between Receipt of a Mississippi Need-Based Grant and Grade Point Average Among Graduating Seniors at the University of Mississippi."

The purpose of the study was to determine if there is a correlation between receiving the Mississippi Higher Education Legislative Plan (HELP) Grant and cumulative GPA at the beginning of the final term among graduating seniors from 2014-2019 at the University of Mississippi. The design of the study was quantitative and examined mean GPA of those

awarded the HELP Grant in their final semester compared to those not awarded the HELP Grant but who were Mississippi-resident students demonstrating comparable financial need as measured by a Pell Grant-eligible Expected Family Contribution (EFC), at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA, at least a 20 ACT score and full-time enrollment (which are all required for HELP Grant eligibility).

The de-identified student data were grouped as MS-HELP recipients or non-MS HELP recipients examined by varying EFC ranges between \$0-\$5,500. Per the statistical analysis, it was determined the HELP Grant was most effective in terms of GPA among those students demonstrating the highest financial need.

"I am so proud to have you as part of the Student Affairs team, and more importantly as part of the Holmes family," Vice President of Institutional Research and Student Affairs Dr. Lindy McCain said. "You have certainly been an asset to the college and this department. I look forward to working with you in the future, and your leadership for the Financial Aid Department."

The Jackson resident holds a bachelor's in English and a master's in Higher Education, both from the University of Mississippi.

He and his wife, Virginia, have one son, John. He enjoys playing golf, collecting coins and spending time with his family.

## Cox earns doctorate from Ole Miss

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Dr. Kathryn Cox**

Holmes Community College Grenada Campus Academic Coordinator Kathryn Harlow Cox recently earned her Ed. D. in Higher Education and Leadership from the University of Mississippi. Cox's dissertation was entitled "Factors Associated with Student Withdrawal at a Mississippi Community College."

Cox said the purpose of her study was to understand the reasons students give for withdrawal and how those reasons differ among student demographics. This quantitative study found a relationship between withdrawal reason and student ethnicity, age and gender. The results showed personal problems and coursework issues were the highest selected withdrawal reasons. These two reasons showed a significant impact in all demographic groups.

"The Grenada Campus is so proud of Kathryn for completing her doctorate

while starting a new position as Academic Coordinator," said Grenada Campus Vice President Dr. Michelle Burney. "Kathryn is a huge asset to our campus and has been a wonderful addition to our Grenada administrative team. We are lucky to have her!"

Cox holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and an MBA with an emphasis in human resource management, both from Delta State University. Prior to her current position, she served in various other capacities on the Holmes Grenada Campus. She began as a receptionist in 2013, moved up to an admissions representative in 2014, became an academic counselor in 2014 and finally moved into her current position in 2019. Prior to Holmes, she also served as a graduate recruiter/admissions representative at Delta State.

As a student, she was a member of Phi

Kappa Phi Honor Society, and she has continued to excel academically and serve as a leader in her career. She was named Delta State University Staff Employee of the Month in September 2011, and graduated from the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academic Class of 2019.

"To be able to complete a doctorate while working and raising a family is a tremendous feat, but to be able to do all that and still appear calm and unruffled is amazing!" said Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Jenny Bailey Jones. "Her dedication to Holmes is apparent and she is certainly an asset to the Academic Programs Division. We are so fortunate to have her as part of our Holmes family!"

Cox and her husband, Michael, have two children: Camden (6) and Harper (2).

## Surrell and Beggs graduate from leadership program

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Matt Surrell**



**Ryan Beggs**

Holmes Community College's Director of Business Services Matt Surrell and Ridgeland Campus Evening Coordinator and Health, Physical Education and Recreation Division Chair and Instructor Ryan Beggs recently graduated from the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy.

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

Surrell has served as director of business services for 10 years. Prior to his position at Holmes, he worked as an assurance/

audit senior associate for HORNE, LLP, in Grenada for seven years following a one-year internship with the company.

Surrell earned a bachelor of business administration in accounting from Millsaps College and his master of accountancy from the University of Mississippi. He is a member of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) Business Managers Association, the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers (SACUBO), the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), and of course, CCBO.

He was named the 2015 Outstanding Business Officer of the Year for Region

VI by the Community College Business Officers organization. This award is given to business officers who have made outstanding contributions to business and financial management in higher education.

A man dedicated to his community, Surrell currently serves as the chairman of the board of the Winona Montgomery Consolidated School District Board, as a volunteer coach for youth baseball and soccer teams, and as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, and active member of local mission efforts for Winona Church of Christ. His hobbies include watching Ole Miss athletics, hunting, fishing, and running.

Surrell and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Winona and have three sons: Paxton, 12, and Kasen, 8, and Rylan, 5.

Beggs, who lives in Brandon, holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in physical education, both the from the University of New Mexico, where played and later coached.

After receiving his master's degree, he served as assistant baseball coach at the University of New Mexico for two seasons and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College for six seasons. He also taught in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department at Gulf Coast. In addition, he served as pitching coach for the Wareham Gateman in the Cape Cod League for eight summers. During that time, the Gatemen won the league

championship twice.

Beggs came to Holmes in 2008 as assistant baseball coach and as an instructor in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department on the Goodman Campus. He left coaching in 2015 but continued teaching in Goodman and on the Ridgeland Campus. He became the division chair in 2015 and also added the title of Evening Coordinator on the Ridgeland Campus in 2018.

While Beggs no longer coaches, he remains an avid baseball fan. In addition, he enjoys horse racing and football. He is content to be at his home in Brandon where he enjoys working in the yard, grilling, and the solitude of his backyard. He also enjoys frequent trips to New Orleans and Mobile.

Beggs is married to Gail Beggs and they have three children, Emmy, Lindsey Claire Hutchins (Hunter), and Trae Muse, as well as two grandchildren, Ty and Sunny Mae Hutchins.

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

## Winona native overcomes big challenges and graduates from Holmes

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**James Bradley Steed**

Winona native James Bradley Steed, son of Gloria and Kenny Steed, overcame insurmountable odds to get to where he is today and he couldn't be more excited about it. After battling an aggressive brain

tumor that first made an appearance in 2014, he managed to not only graduate from Winona High School with his class in 2017, but also graduate from Holmes Community College in May of 2020.

"My oncologist, Dr. Betsy Herrington, was a huge blessing," Steed said. "I did have to be home-schooled for a little while after the diagnosis my sophomore year, but I ended up catching up and being able to go back to school with my class before graduation."

After Steed's diagnosis at age 15, he faced chemotherapy treatment for six months followed by a trial and error treatment and radiation treatment for 28 days straight.

"One of the hardest things I struggled with was cognition trouble," Steed said. "I'd often find myself forgetting my words. After my first surgery, they realized I'd have to have another and although it was scary in the beginning, it did bring me closer to God and strengthened my relationship with Jesus. In fact, I was baptized right after my high school

graduation."

Steed first began classes on the Holmes Grenada Campus in the fall of 2017. Per his doctor's orders, he only took a few classes each semester, never a full load, but picked up more and more as his condition improved. Steed said Grenada Academic Coordinator Dr. Kathryn Cox was a huge help to him and 'such a helpful, nice lady.'

"Bradley has been such a joy to work with these past few years," Dr. Cox said. "He has been committed to his education and I feel privileged to have been a part of that. I know Bradley will do great things in the future."

Steed said that he didn't want to go straight to a university since he preferred the smaller class sizes, so Holmes was a perfect fit.

"I was really nervous about classes, but the instructors were wonderful and I'm thankful for all Holmes has done!" Steed said. "I especially enjoyed my English classes with Mrs. Land...she definitely helped me feel less nervous and when I

first started my college experience, she got me plugged in."

"Bradley is a student I will never forget!" said Amy Land, an English instructor on the Grenada Campus. "His perseverance and drive were apparent from day one. He is an absolute joy to know, and I am so grateful to have gotten to take part in his educational journey, watching as he grew in both skill and confidence during his time at Holmes. I will miss him greatly, but I know he will do great things!"

A business administration major, Steed said that his future plans include possibly continuing courses at the University of Mississippi Grenada Center (which is housed on Holmes' Grenada Campus) and finding a good job.

"My folks have drilled into my head that making a successful life for myself is important," Steed said. "My brother is an engineering technology alumnus from Holmes and now I'm proud to be a Holmes alum too."

## Head Coach Kenny Dupont retires from Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



Kenny Dupont

Holmes Community College Head Baseball Coach Kenny Dupont came into the 2020 season as one of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges' (MACJC) all-time winningest coaches ranking sixth with 557. Coach Dupont announced in January he would be retiring and the 2020 season would be his last here at Holmes Community College. With the season ending so suddenly Dupont will end his career here with a phenomenal record of 566 wins and 273 losses.

The 2020 season is a memorable one and one for the record books. "I am sad to see the season end so abruptly, but I am very impressed by the safety precautions taken both by the NJCAA and Holmes Community College."

The team completes the 2020 season at 9-5. In the short season, they upheld the Dirtbag tradition and what Coach Dupont has always been known for hitting and running bases. The team finished No. 2 in the NJCAA with a .398 batting average and No. 5 in the NJCAA in stolen bases with 67.

Since Dupont became head coach in 2000, the Dogs have made nine trips to the MACJC State Championship Tournament ('01, '02, '03, '05, '06, '09, '10, '11, and '14). The Bulldogs also made seven trips to the NJCAA Region 23 Championship Tournament ('01, '02, '03, '04, '05, '09, and '11). The 2001 team was ranked 20th in the final poll while the 2002 team was ranked 18th. The 2009 Bulldogs finished runner-up in both the MACJC State Championship and the NJCAA

Region XXIII Championship Tournament. The Bulldogs won the MACJC North Division Championship in 2011 and went on to finish third in the MACJC State Tournament and NJCAA Region XXIII Tournament.

During Dupont's stint, the Bulldog Baseball program has had 133 players go on to play at universities and 27 who have been drafted or signed to play professional baseball. He coached the most famous "Dirtbag" of all-time, Roy Oswalt, in 1996-97. Oswalt was drafted out of Holmes by the Houston Astros. He is a MLB All-Star and Most Valuable Player of the MLB Playoffs. He pitched in the World Series and won a gold medal in the 2000 Olympics. Oswalt has been inducted into the Holmes Hall of Fame, MACJC Hall of Fame, Houston Astros Hall of Fame, and this year was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

Coach Dupont has several former Bulldogs currently coaching in the collegiate ranks. The coaches include: Xan Barksdale, Team USA; Stuart Morgan, Louisiana College; Stephen Waggner, Young Harris College; Mike Jones, University of West Alabama; Trennis Grant, Alabama A&M University; Jacobby Robinson, Lee University; Mike Avalon, Pearl River Community College; Luke Barthel, Duke University, strength coach; and Trey Bowman, Holmes Community College.

"It was very important to have guys who went into professional baseball," Dupont said. "Being able to get the right players here has been a major key to my success. I got good kids who wanted to play hard and hustle... ones who get after it and play with a chip on their shoulder. I have always expected them to work hard and have long practices. I was blessed with players who liked putting the time and effort in. So many players have loved Holmes and made the Dirtbag tradition a motto for their life which is a value I will always cherish."

Over the years, he's expected all players to be disciplined on and off the field. "A disciplined team wins," Dupont said. "You can win with a disciplined team that doesn't have as much talent as the others. I have always

preached education first, baseball second, and everything else afterwards. I'm an old-school coach and believe in rules, curfew going to class, and attaining an education so the player, may reach their career goals. That's why they are here.

"Baseball is an honor and a privilege to play," he added. "I have prided myself in teaching 'them the right way'," Dupont said. "It takes basic fundamentals and hustle... going 100 percent all of the time. That's why this program got the name Dirtbags because we play hard, hustle, and just get after it. This is what will get players to the next level. I teach them to expect to do well and expect to get to the next level.

Here's a few Dirtbag quotes instilled in every player, "Don't hope for it, work for it, expect it"; "You get out of it what you put into it"; "Hard work will pay off"; "Fear nobody but respect them all"; "Play the game the right way"; and "Be the leader wherever you are."

Dupont praised the MACJC and its baseball programs. "The MACJC is probably the toughest junior college baseball conference in America," Dupont said. "Throughout the season there will be a minimum of four teams in the top twenty national poll from the Mississippi conference. Because of this no one can ever afford to take a day off. In this league the strong survive and the weak go home. Each program must know their strengths and weaknesses. Our strength has always been to outwork and out hustle the others. I always say 'Nice guys finish last'. You've got to be hardnosed."

"I enjoyed every year at Holmes, the faculty, and the administration," he said. "I have countless great memories on this campus and with these teams. Holmes will always be a part of me and a community I call home. Undoubtedly, I will miss the people, the friends I've made and the opportunity to talk to them on a daily basis. The Holmes faculty in Goodman is outstanding, and I will miss working with them. I've made numerous friends at Holmes and throughout Mississippi that I will always cherish."

"Holmes athletics does an outstanding job promoting the sports through

social media, live streaming games, and continuously updating the college website," he added. "The countless hours Steve Diffey puts into the athletic program is remarkable. Along with Steve Diffey there are several people that have been there for me along the way. A few are Bill Grace, Steven Groves (Kamala), Mrs. Grace, Susie Jackson, Mrs. Rosemary Self and Brian Wooten, who have taken their personal time and helped me throughout the years. My hats off to each of you. I would have never made it to retirement without you. I'm forever indebted and hope you know how much I truly appreciate each one of you."

Even though Dupont, 57, will be leaving the MACJC, he's not through coaching yet. He just believes there comes a time in your coaching career when you realize if you don't take one of those offers you get every year there may not be an offer down the road.

"I still have a love for the game and the desire to coach," Dupont said. "This is a good time and opportunity for me to move on. I have been very humbled and honored by the abundance of offers I have received from various states. This will be an exciting change and challenge I am looking forward to.

Dupont said he will always be a Bulldog Dirtbag at heart but where will his future coaching path be – He plans to evaluate all options but it looks like a college close to the beach is calling his name.

Prior to joining the HCC staff, Dupont served as an assistant baseball coach at George C. Wallace Junior College in Dothan, AL. under the legendary Coach Sammy Frichter. Then he served as assistant baseball coach at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La. under Coach Mike Knight. He was a scout for the Baltimore Orioles conducting tryout camps from 1992-2010 under Scouting Supervisor Mike Tullier.

Dupont is a member of the Mississippi Coaches Association, American Baseball Coaches Association and the Crossroads Diamond Club and MLB-RBI, reviving baseball in the inner cities.

## DeLoach chosen as new head baseball coach

From Staff Reports/Photos



Scott DeLoach

The Holmes Community College Board of Trustees Thursday named Madison native Scott DeLoach as the new head baseball coach at Holmes Community College.

DeLoach, who was an All-State selection and state champion at Madison

Central, was a standout catcher for the Mississippi State University Bulldogs and the Itawamba Community College Indians. He will bring nine years of coaching experience to a history-rich baseball program at Holmes Community College.

"First and foremost I want to thank Dr. Haffey and Andy Wood for this opportunity and the rest of the administration at Holmes," DeLoach said. "Being a head coach is something that I've wanted to do for a very long time and being able to get that opportunity at such a great institution is something I can be very proud of. It's somewhere we are going to work very hard and get after it. We are going to have a lot of fun doing it. I can't wait to get in there and get rolling with these guys."

DeLoach got into coaching in June 2011 as a volunteer coach at Millsaps College. He remained in that position until September 2013 when he became assistant coach at East Central Community College in Decatur before

returning back to Millsaps as assistant coach in July 2014 under Head Coach Jim Page.

Along with coaching at Millsaps, he was highly involved in evaluating and recruiting players; scheduled practices and team meetings; assisted in fundraising; coordinated travel; oversaw the baseball budget; managed the federal work study program; coordinated alumni/donor relations; served as a member of the enrollment management committee; served as director of gameday operations; and helped coordinate summer baseball camps for elementary and high school kids each year.

At Millsaps, DeLoach coached six All-Americans; 10 members of the All-South Region team; one All-South Region Players of the Year; 49 All-Conference players; and one Conference Player of the Year. Millsaps won the SAA regular season and tournament championship in 2013; NCAA Regional appearances in 2012 and 2013; and

the NCAA Division III World Series in 2013.

As a player, he played three seasons at Mississippi State redshirting his junior year. He started his senior season as a catcher and led the team with a .353 average including seven doubles, one triple, one home run, and 21 RBIs in 47 games played. During his time with the Bulldogs, DeLoach was a member of the team in 2007 that reached the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.

Prior to MSU, DeLoach began his college career at Itawamba Community College, where he played two seasons and was named the MACJC and NJCAA XXIII Defensive Player of the Year in 2006. He led Itawamba to a 41-16 record and advanced to the NJCAA Super Regionals in St. Catherine, Kentucky.

DeLoach's brother, Rob, played football for Holmes, and he said he's been

DeLoach, continued on Page 12

## DeLoach (continued from Page 11)

very familiar with the College over the years. “It’s something I’ve dreamed of for a long time in this profession is becoming a head coach, and I don’t think there’s a better place to do it than right up the road from where I grew up,” DeLoach said. “Holmes is a great institution and has some great leaders. I’m very excited to get up there and be a part of that and get the ball rolling. Growing up, Holmes had such a tradition of winning. I’ve always had an attraction to Holmes and kept up with it. I believe the past success that the baseball program has had is something that can be achieved again.”

He said plans to immediately reach out to the Holmes players who had their season cut short because of COVID-19.

“The first order of business will be retaining the current players starting with the sophomores who haven’t signed, but I understand most those have signed and are moving on,” DeLoach said. “Then I’ll be reaching out to the freshmen and trying to keep those kids on the roster for next year. I want to talk to those guys and begin to build a relationship with them; let them know about my philosophy and how we are going to attack things. I want our current guys and signees to know, Holmes is where I want them to be and where I want them to develop as men and baseball players. Then it’s hitting the recruiting trail as soon as we are cleared to do so.”

He said he knows the 2020-21 team has some out of state spots available as well as some in-state ones. “Luckily in this day and age, there are a ton of kids you can identify even though we aren’t allowed on the road right now. The internet has really transformed the recruiting landscape,” he said. “You can still find some kids. It’s just unorthodox from what we we’re used to.”

“One of the biggest things program-wise is getting a group of kids in there who love Holmes, who want to be a part of this campus and who want to represent the school in the right way,” DeLoach said. “We want players who are going to compete extremely hard and play the game the way it’s supposed to be played. That’s the model in simplest form.”

Holmes is currently renovating a maintenance facility into an indoor facility which will aid in recruiting. “That’s going to be top notch,” he said. “It’s going to be hard for other schools to compete with that once it’s completed. It’ll be a big recruiting tool for us.”

“I’m really excited about recruiting trips being three hours away instead of hopping on a flight to Houston or Charlotte or wherever it might be,” he said. “One of the biggest changes for me is that I will be able to go just down the road and catch a game rather than planning out plane trips or long car rides. I think it’s going to be a lot of fun being able to recruit more in my home state.”

Because summer ball is huge in the state, he plans to identify potential players in the summer. “Summer is the most important time in recruiting,” DeLoach said. “I will be identifying talent and getting on the phone and developing relationships with these kids. They have more time to talk to you in the summer compared to when they are in school. We all want to take time in the summer to see family but being on the road and being seen and communicating with these players is a top priority.”

He’d like for Holmes to be a host for some of the summer league teams as well. “Those things can’t be rivaled in the recruiting process,” he said. “That’s a good starting point. The more times we can get kids on campus

the better it is. It’s so much better to talk to a recruit on your campus face to face than it is on the phone.”

He described himself as “laid back. “I like to have fun,” DeLoach said. “I really think practices have to be very fast-paced and intense. Then when you get to game day, that’s the fun and easy part. That’s what we all want and strive for. Our goal is to get some guys who want to put that work in on the practice side of things so we can be successful on the field.”

“In practice, we are going to create as many game-like situations as we possibly can. So when we get to game time we can say ‘hey guys y’all go play,’” he said. “This is a game you have to play with a smile on your face. We can’t let the moment get to us or get too sped up. We’ve got to train ourselves to work our plans and stay in the process.”

The 2020 season for all sports will be unforgettable. “It was very strange,” DeLoach said. “It’s been 40 days since I’ve been in the office. It’s unavoidable and they made the right call with it, but you just hate it for those kids who’ve poured their heart and soul into a program, and they don’t get to see the fruits of their labor.”

DeLoach is thankful to have played for Rick Collier at Itawamba along with Ron Polk and John Cohen at Mississippi State. His teams at both places were very successful but he’s thankful for the wealth of knowledge he gained at both institutions.

“Learning from a guy who invests so much in his program was really neat as an 18 or 19 year old kid,” DeLoach said of Collier. “Just seeing the love and passion he has for his program really made an impact on me as I moved forward. We knew he invested so much into the program and that we needed to do the same.”

“I got to spend two years under Coach Polk and one year under Coach Cohen learning how they did things,” he said of his time at MSU. “Both of their track records speak for themselves. I got an opportunity to learn under three different coaches in college. I got to see things that made each of them very successful, which in turn helped me develop a plan for how I want to run my own program. Coach Cohen and Coach Polk have reached out and congratulated me on this, which means a lot to me. That coaching tree is massive and neat to be a part of. It will be beneficial where I am now.”

DeLoach also said how grateful he is for his time working for Millsaps Head Coach Jim Page.

“I cannot begin to thank Coach Page enough for what he has taught me over the past several years,” DeLoach said. “He has been very successful in his time as a head coach, and I was very lucky to work for a man of his caliber. He will definitely be someone that I lean on as I start running my own program.”

DeLoach holds an associate of arts degree from Itawamba Community College, a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology at Mississippi State University and a master’s degree in sports administration from Mississippi State University. DeLoach was a two-time SEC Honor Roll recipient.

DeLoach and his wife, Caroline, have one son, Houston, who is one. Caroline just finished her second season as head softball coach at Millsaps College and was an assistant at Millsaps when he began coaching there. “That’s how we met and began our relationship,” he said. “She got her dream job, and I hopefully just landed mine.”

## J.T. Blair named baseball assistant coach

From Staff Reports/Photos



J.T. Blair

Spartanburg, S.C. native J.T. Blair has been named the new assistant baseball coach at Holmes Community College.

The Spartanburg High School graduate will join Head Coach Scott DeLoach’s staff after serving as a volunteer baseball coach at Birmingham-Southern College since June 2018. He has a bachelor’s degree in business economics at Wofford College with continued study at Millsaps College.

After graduating from Spartanburg High School, he redshirted for a Spartanburg Methodist College that made it to the 2013 NJCAA Division I World Series in Grand Junction, Colo. After the season, he transferred to Millsaps playing for Coach DeLoach. At Mill-

saps, he played DH, pitcher, first base and catcher for two seasons. The Millsaps team made the region in 2015.

His first coaching job was at his old high school where he oversaw pitching. The team made the district playoffs two of three years and sent four players to Division I schools, six to junior college or Division II levels.

In May 2018, he came to Birmingham-Southern, where he was the lead instructor for the catchers and corner infielders. He also assisted with the hitters, coached first base, threw batting practice and helped in recruiting. He also handled all team travel. The 2019 team was the National Division III runner-up after winning the regular season and conference tournament titles along with their regional and super regional. He coached two gold glove winners making BSC the only four-year institution with two winners.

While at Birmingham-Southern, he also was an assistant coach with the Upstate Mavericks Organization working with the catchers and hitters. He was an assistant coach for the 17U scout team and head coach of the 16U scout team.

“I would like to thank Holmes Community College, Coach DeLoach, Coach Wood and staff for this wonderful opportunity to join the Bulldog family,” Blair said. “I am excited to be a part of this historically great program here at Holmes.

“Coach DeLoach and I have had a

relationship for quite some time now dating back to when I played for him at Millsaps,” he said. “Most importantly, as I transitioned into the coaching world he was my go-to guy for support almost daily it felt like. Knowing Scott would be taking over the program at Holmes was exciting for me as a former player. I know this is something he has had his eye on for quite some time so first and foremost I was thrilled for him in that aspect. Secondly, to join him on staff is an absolute thrill. He is a tireless worker and recruiter and I cannot wait to get started working with him.”

Blair said player growth and development is a strength for him. “Making guys grow as individuals on and off the field is extremely important,” Blair said. “Coming from Birmingham-Southern, education is a big part of it. I know with Scott being from Millsaps and being a student there, making sure kids are doing what they need to do in the classroom is a top priority.

“I cannot thank everyone at Birmingham-Southern enough. Coach Weisberg has been the best role model I could have asked for. He took me in as one of their family as he does with all of his players. I cannot thank him and his wife enough for bringing me in and treating me like their third son.”

“JT is a great fit for Holmes and our baseball program,” Coach DeLoach said. “He is a man of high character

and has an excellent work ethic. It has been really neat to watch JT grow as a coach and mentor over the last several years.

“I think one of the great things about JT is the wealth of knowledge he will bring to our coaching staff and program,” he said. “Luckily, I had the opportunity to coach JT at Millsaps so he already has a great understanding of the things we are going to input and how things are going to run.”

DeLoach said Blair is a great communicator and will relate well to the players. “With that ability I have no doubt he will be someone the players trust and will lean on in times of struggle and development,” he said. “He also brings knowledge that will help our guys grow in the game. He has a great mind for in game adjustments so I will utilize that a lot.”

Blair will assist with normal day to day functions working with the hitters and catchers. “He will help structure our day to day work to implement our offensive plan as a team and also the things that each player needs to build their swing individually,” DeLoach said. “On the defensive side of things he will work mainly with our catchers, but will spend time with all units. He will also help oversee our strength and conditioning program. JT will be a big part of our recruiting efforts and I know his history of bringing in top talent will help tremendously in that area.”

## Raymond Gross named next head football coach

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Raymond Gross**

The Holmes Community College Board of Trustees has named Midway, Ga. native Raymond Gross as the Bulldogs' next head football coach.

The 2019 season was Gross' sixth at Holmes Community College. The last two years, he served as Co-Offensive Coordinator working with the quarterbacks and B-backs. Prior to those seasons, he served as offensive assistant under former Offensive Coordinator Tim Stowers, who is the head coach at Southwest.

The 2019 Bulldogs led the NJCAA in rushing yards per game with a 312.4 per game average. The Bulldogs were ranked No. 2 in total rushing yards with 2,812, No. 3 in yards per carry (6.3 yards per carry) and No. 5 in rushing touchdowns (30).

The 2018 offense was the No. 3 nationally-ranked team in rushing with 261.1 yards per game. The Bulldogs in 2017 led the country in rushing yards per game at 368.3 yards per game and 446.4 total yards per game. The Bulldogs have been the No. 1 ranked MACJC rushing team for the last six consecutive years.

Coaching stops for Gross include: Bethune Cookman, QB Coach, 1999-2001; Clark Atlanta, Offensive Coordinator, 2001-04; Bethune Cookman, RB/QB Coach, 2005-09. Before he began coaching, Gross was a four-year

letterman at Georgia Southern, where he led the Eagles to back-to-back NCAA I-AA National Championships during the 1989 and 1990 seasons. He posted a career record of 44-8 as a starting quarterback and held the school record for rushing attempts in a season at 695. He put up some outstanding numbers while at Georgia Southern. After Georgia Southern, he played professionally in Italy.

"I'm extremely excited to be the new head football coach at Holmes Community College," Gross said. "It's a culmination of many years of working hard and doing what I'm supposed to do and being where I'm supposed to be. I want to thank Dr. Haffey, the search committee and Mr. Wood for this opportunity. It's greatly appreciated. I'm looking forward to keeping the program going in the right direction, which is something that Coach (Jeff) Koonz has done, and I want to thank him also."

Gross said he's proud of the steps made in the program and wants it to continue. "I think the key to continue the winning and the success we've had is 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it,'" Gross said. "Coach Koonz has done a great job changing the direction of the program. I want to build upon what we've accomplished as a coaching staff and what Coach Koonz helped to establish by bringing us in and transforming the program with the offense we are running. I have to build upon that. I want to make the program my program and represent Holmes in a way that will make the Holmes Community College and the community not only proud but Holmes proud."

He said Holmes made a name for itself last season by knocking off East Mississippi and Northwest to finish 4-2 in the North Division and also finishing No. 1 in rushing yards per game in the NJCAA. "I think it's all important," Gross said. "When it's all said and done, you want to beat the best teams in the league. We've accomplished things in the last two years that we didn't in the previous four. We beat

East, we beat Northwest, we beat Jones and Co-Lin, and they were ranked in the top 10, maybe the top five.

"They are consistently at the top of the league every year and Holmes is one of those teams nobody expects anything out of," he said. "Those perceptions and those beliefs about Holmes football are changing. That's a credit to the players who have been here and everybody who has worked hard. It is also a credit to all the coaches who have been here. Our athletes are guys who are overachievers and guys who other teams wouldn't recruit, but they fit what we do. We are going to welcome them and continue to go out and get those guys who want to be at Holmes Community College because it's a great school and program. We strive for greatness. I'm not going to allow anything else. I'm a winner, I want the program to continue to be a winner and I want these young men to be winners in life after they leave here."

Gross said he'll be looking at the coaching staff and filling some gaps. "You've got to have the right people on your staff and quality people who are on the same page that I'm on," Gross said. "We are going to do things a certain way. We are going to have to be a disciplined team on both sides of the ball. We are going to have to be a focused team on both sides of the ball. We are a big play, ball control offense which will complement a dominant defense. This combination would get us a few more wins a year."

"There are people in mind," he said of the positions. "We've got to work that out and see what happens. It's something I don't want to rush into. It might hamper us in spring preparation but the last thing I want to do is not get the right personnel."

The Bulldogs have 37 players out for spring ball. "We are getting the maximum out of those athletes and getting them prepared with the workouts we are already doing," Gross said. "We want this to be a smooth transition. We just did our job. The guys who were

here, Coach Gibson, Coach Bustle and I, kept our heads down and kept working. That in itself kept us from getting behind in the structural organization of what we were doing."

The Bulldogs had a good signing class as well. "I think that was a focal point in continuing the program going in the right direction," he said. "We did that without knowing who the staff was going to be. That says a lot about the program itself. No matter what, we had to go out and find guys who wanted to be a member of the Bulldog family. That's what we are trying to do is be a successful program."

"We want to win ballgames, we want to graduate our athletes and put a product out on the field that is representative of Holmes Community College and what we are trying to accomplish here," he said. "For those young men to trust us by signing on the dotted line means a lot. We've got some good student athletes coming in."

Gross described himself as a genuine person. "When it's crunch time and you need somebody to have your back, I'm going to have your back," he said. "I'm hard but fair. I'm going to do it the right way, and I'm going to represent my family, myself and the institution that I'm working for to the best of my ability. When it's all said and done, what you do and how you conduct and carry yourself is what makes your legacy. I'll always want my legacy to be representative of the family from which I come from."

He said he's excited to get started and with the multipurpose facility with a large weight room and indoor turf beginning construction soon, "that's going to help the program tremendously."

Gross holds a bachelor's degree in commercial recreation from Georgia Southern University and a master's degree in education from Cambridge College.

He attended the Bradwell Institute High School in Hinesville, Ga. Gross has one son, Adam "A.J.", 10.

## Ellingburg named assistant softball coach

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Tristan Ellingburg**

Philadelphia native Tristan Ellingburg has been named the new assistant softball coach at Holmes Community College.

The Neshoba Central High School graduate will join Head Coach Trae Embry's staff after serving as head baseball coach this past season at J.Z. George. He has a bachelor's degree in secondary education from the University of Mississippi.

"I am very excited to be coming to Holmes," Ellingburg said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to coach. I cannot wait to get out there to see the players that we have and start bringing in wins."

Embry taught Ellingburg at Neshoba Central. Ellingburg's wife, Hailey, played for Embry at Neshoba Central and won six state championships (three fast pitch and three slow pitch) for the Lady Rockets.

"Coach Embry suggested that I apply for the job," Ellingburg said. "However, it has always been a goal to coach at the collegiate level. I was

thrilled when he mentioned the job opportunity to me and my wife."

"Tristan is a great young coach that brings a lot of knowledge and enthusiasm to our program," Embry said. "He is a coach who is willing to do whatever it takes to make the program successful."

"He is going to be a worker," he added. "He loves to work and loves to teach. He is willing to go above and beyond when it comes to being successful. I feel the transition from baseball to softball will be really easy for Tristan. He has been around softball for years and has helped Hailey give hitting and fielding lessons."

Ellingburg's responsibilities will include: coaching the outfielders and first basemen; assisting with all areas of recruiting; helping with scouting reports for each game; and managing field maintenance for practice and games.

Hailey played softball at Ole Miss after graduating from Neshoba Central. She will be a volunteer coach for the Lady Bulldogs.

"Tristan and Hailey will bring a great deal of knowledge to our softball program," Embry said. "They will both have connections to help in our recruiting, and they both have a love for the game. They are also highly competitive individuals that understand what it will take for us to be competitive at the highest level."

Ellingburg said the transition from coaching baseball to softball should go smoothly. "I am sure these female athletes are just as competitive and talented as the male athletes," Ellingburg said. "I am still going to approach the game with a drive to win and bringing success to the program."

## 2020-2021 Holmes Cheerleaders named

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



The Holmes Community College Cheerleaders have been named for the 2020-21 athletic season.

Squad members (with their name, class, hometown and high school) include:

Delancy Anderson, Soph., Benton, Yazoo County High School; Spencer Burden, Soph., Kosciusko, Central Holmes Christian School; Lizzie Cain, Fresh., Carthage, Leake Academy; Kaylee Grace, Fresh.,

Kosciusko, Kosciusko High School; Madelyn Gray, Soph., Florence, Florence High School; Madilyn Hall, Fresh., Philadelphia, Leake Academy; Logan Hodges, Soph., Carrollton, Carroll Academy; Jada Ivy, Fresh., Sandhill, Pisgah High School; David Michael Jones, Soph., Yazoo City, Yazoo County High School; Parker Jones, Soph., Kosciusko, Kosciusko High School; Peyton Jones, Fresh., Yazoo City, Manchester Academy; Mallory Mackenzie, Soph., Kosciusko, French Camp Academy; Abby McGee, Fresh., Kosciusko, Kosciusko High School; Mary Jordan Milton, Fresh., Carrollton, Carroll Academy; Paris Nichols, Soph., Kosciusko, Kosciusko High School; Troy Peeler, Soph., Yazoo City, Manchester Academy; Ben Pennington, Soph., Yazoo

City, Yazoo County High School; Jordan Pritchard, Soph., Lexington, Central Holmes Christian School; Tolar Purvis, Soph., Benton, Benton Academy; John Regan, Soph., Yazoo City, Manchester Academy; Anna Joyce Sanders, Fresh., Carrollton, Carroll Academy; Carter Smith, Soph., Yazoo City, Manchester Academy; Matthew Turner, Fresh., Yazoo City, Manchester Academy; Jenson Williams, Soph., Benton, Canton Academy; Mikayla Williams, Soph., Yazoo City, Manchester Academy; Anna Rose Willingham, Fresh., Benton, Benton Academy; and Madison Wilkerson, Soph., Vicksburg, Porters Chapel Academy.

## NJCAA releases information for Division II soccer play

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



The NJCAA has announced the addition of Division II competition in the sports of men's and women's cross country and men's and women's soccer. The MACJC will participate

in Division II starting with the 2020 season.

Following a member declaration process throughout the association, competition at the Division II level

for each sport will begin in the fall of 2020. Both sports currently offer competition at the Division I and Division III level only.

"We are excited about the addition of Division II competition in these two sports," said Director of Championships Rod Lovett. "After surveying the membership, it was clear that there was both an interest and a need to make this addition. I truly think this will help schools maintain their programs and create growth in their respective sports in the future."

The addition of a new division is the first for an NJCAA sport since the association added Division II volleyball and softball in the 1999-2000 academic year. Cross country hosted Division I, II, and III competition from 1991-2003 before dropping the Division II status. Men's soccer added Division III competition in 1994 while the women's side split between Division I and Division III in 2003.

Cross country and soccer will join baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's golf, softball, and volley-

ball to offer competition across all three NJCAA divisions.

The divisional structure of the NJCAA operates under three tiers – Division I, II, and III. Member colleges associated with Division I may grant full athletic scholarships (tuition, books, fees, room and board), up to \$250 in course required supplies and transportation costs one time per academic year to and from the college by direct route. Division II members may grant athletic scholarships, but scholarships are limited to tuition, books, fees and up to \$250 in course required supplies. The Division III level does not permit member colleges to offer any athletic scholarships.

The Division II Men's Soccer championship for 2020 will be held in Wichita, Kansas at the Stryker Complex and at the MOBA Soccer Complex in Peachtree City, Ga. in 2021. For women's soccer, the Division II championship will be held at the MOBA Soccer Complex in Peachtree City, Ga. in 2020 and in Wichita, Kansas at the Stryker Complex in 2021.

## Pittsburgh Steelers sign former Bulldog Josiah Coatney to undrafted free agent contract Saturday

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Douglasville, Ga. native and former Holmes Community College Bulldog and Ole Miss Rebel Josiah Coatney had to wait longer than expected

during this week's NFL Draft but finally got the call he wanted after the draft ended as the Pittsburgh Steelers signed him as an undrafted free agent

Saturday night.

In his only season at Holmes, Coatney was a first-team All-State selection with 8.5 tackles for loss and three sacks. He finished with 46 tackles including 23 solo and 23 assists. He also had one fumble recovery for a four-yard touchdown and one interception for a 30-yard touchdown.

After one season with the Bulldogs, the four-star recruit by 247Sports had a choice to make picking Ole Miss over Alabama, Florida, Texas A&M and South Carolina. He redshirted during the 2016 season but earning a starting job as a redshirt sophomore that he never relinquished.

As a sophomore, he finished with 65 tackles including eight for loss and 3.5 sacks in 12 games. During his junior year, he had 63 tackles including four tackles for loss and one sack in 12 games. As a senior, he finished with 46

tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss and two sacks in 12 games.

"It's a blessing," Coatney said, in a previous interview with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. "It's been a long journey. It's one where I've definitely had to endure, definitely. I just have to thank God for all of the opportunities that he gave me. Going to Ole Miss, going to junior college, has allowed me the chance to play football at a high level."

In his NFL combine in February, Coatney's information was as following: height: 6'3"; weight: 308 lbs; arm length: 32 3/4"; hand size: 10"; 40-yard dash: 5.21 seconds; vertical jump: 27"; broad jump: 99"; three-cone drill: 8.07 seconds; 20-yard shuttle: 4.28 seconds; and bench press: 22 reps.



# The Growl Staff



**Kaitlyn Anderson**  
 Hometown: Jackson  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Major: Communications/Journalism  
 Activities: Worship team member, worship leader for children and part-time childcare teacher at Pinelake Madion Campus. Also a writer and social media manager for the womanwithjoannethemagazine.  
 Hobbies: Spending time with family and friends and doing volunteer work (including writing to soldiers and serving an online counseling site).  
 Future Plans: I plan to attend Belhaven University with hopes of becoming a writer and working in the entertainment field.



**Elisabeth Bailey**  
 Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Major: Communications/Journalism  
 Activities: Theater  
 Hobbies: Reading, writing and music  
 Future Plans: I would like to work at a publishing company and eventually become a published author.



**Tiara LeFlore**  
 Hometown: Jackson  
 Campus: Goodman  
 Major: Communications/ Journalism  
 Activities: SGA President, Holmes Connection! and Theater  
 Hobbies: Art and Poetry  
 Future Plans: I plan to attend Jackson State University.



**Talor Pounds**  
 Hometown: Grenada  
 Campus: Grenada  
 Major: Communications  
 Pounds' future plans are to transfer to Mississippi College and study Christian Studies to pursue a career in Christian Ministry. His hobbies include playing guitar, leading worship and riding horses. Pounds has also spent the last three years as a stocker at the Grocery Basket in Grenada.



**Angel Sawyer,**  
 Hometown: Jackson, MS  
 Campus: Ridgeland  
 Major: Art  
 Hobbies/interests: Drawing, taking pictures and painting  
 Future plans: My future plans are to one day be a owner of my own daycare or to be an interior designer. I love working with kids.

*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 join our staff by signing up for Coll Publications-Growl&Grid for the Fall of 2020. For more information, contact Mary Margaret Busby at: [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu).*