



# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION | 2013 NEWSLETTER

CHANGING TOMORROW THROUGH EDUCATION TODAY

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



## GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN

As you are aware, the tagline for the College of Education is “Changing Tomorrow through Education Today”. In my 9th year as dean, I continue to be impressed with how the work of our faculty, staff, and students aligns with this concept. As this newsletter will attest, the College of Education is having a significant impact in the areas of teaching, research, and public service. This impact is consistent with our mission to provide instruction, research, and service to state, national and international audiences which significantly impact educational attainment, economic development and quality of life issues. It is also important to note that the achievements outlined in this publication are small subsets of the outstanding accomplishments taking place in the COE. Some highlights among these accomplishments are as follows:

- Securing external funding exceeding \$17.5 million (this places us 3rd among MSU colleges)
- The continuing NAEYC accreditation of Aiken Village Preschool
- The creation of the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program
- The establishment of our first Professional Development School
- Providing extensive assistance to the Oktibbeha County Schools as they prepare for consolidation with the Starkville Public Schools

Accomplishments such as those outlined in this publication are difficult during a period of limited state assistance for higher education. However, the support of loyal alumni and friends has enabled us in carrying out our mission. We humbly ask for your continued assistance.

Best Wishes,



Dr. Richard Blackbourn  
Dean and Professor



Blackbourn

## DEAN AND FACULTY VISIT CHINA

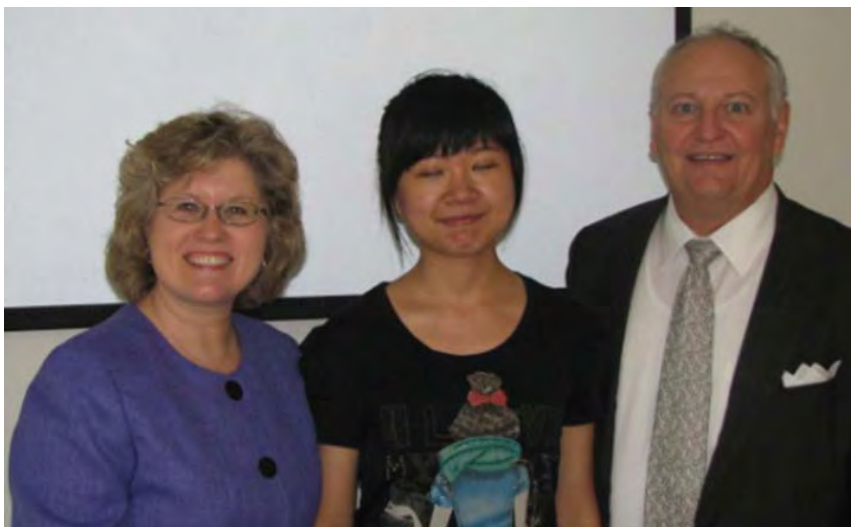
In the fall of 2012, **Dean Richard Blackburn**, along with Mrs. Jennifer Blackburn; **Dr. Connie Forde**, head of the Department of Instructional Systems and Workforce Development; Dr. John Forde, head of the Communication Department; and **Dr. Jianzhong Xu**, professor in the Department of Leadership and Foundations, completed an eight-day visit to East China Normal University in Shanghai, China. Their host for this trip to build relationships with faculty and graduate students in Shanghai, and to discuss student and faculty exchanges and other collaborative partnerships, was Dr. Ding Gang, dean of the College of Education Science at East China Normal University.

East China Normal University was established in 1951 to train school teachers, but has expanded to include training for researchers, professors, civil servants, and business and political leaders. A “normal university” is one that establishes teaching standards, or “norms”. The group from MSU met with Dean Gang and faculty, presented to graduate students, and toured the campus at East China Normal University. The MSU dean and faculty had the privilege of making formal presentations to graduate students, administrators, and faculty at East China Normal University and the University of Macaw. A tour of the College of Education classrooms and teaching laboratories and the beautiful surrounding area was also arranged for the visiting group.

**Right:** The Blackburns and the Fordes in Shanghai. Spending time at a Shanghai marketplace introduced the MSU delegation to Chinese culture and retail.

**Bottom left:** Dr. Forde and Freya, who was a master administrative secretary in charge of a video editing studio maintained at ECNU. This picture was taken at West Lake in Hangzhou.

**Bottom right:** Dr. Forde and Dr. Blackburn pose with a graduate student at East China Normal University.





**Top:** Dr. Forde and Dr. Blackburn pose with Dr. Jianxia Du, who was formerly an associate professor in the Department of Instructional Systems and Workforce Development at the MSU College of Education, and who now teaches at the University of Macau. Dr. Jianxia Du joined Drs. Blackburn and Forde for a tour of the Shanghai Museum.

**Top right:** Dr. Forde addresses a graduate class at East China Normal University.

**Right:** A former graduate of East China Normal University, Dr. Jianzhong Xu provided excellent historical lessons and background to Shanghai as well as the cities of Hangzhou and Wuzhen which were on the itinerary. Dr. Xu is pictured here in Wuzhen, the Venice of China.





## EXCEPTIONALLY AWARE EVENT RAISES DISABILITY AWARENESS ON CAMPUS

Exceptionally Aware, an MSU Montgomery Leadership Program event for raising disability awareness on campus and in the community, was held March 21, 2013, and included a “Superheroes for Autism” 5K and Fun Run, and a Disability Awareness Program which featured an MSU student with special needs and also a student who serves as an aide. There were also activities to help everyone see what a day in the life of a special needs individual is like. The 5K raised funds to support Jigsaw MSU and Camp Jigsaw, organizations that support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Exceptionally Aware was a collaborative event put on as a Capstone Project by Mississippi State University students **Anne Claire Craig**, **Kaitlyn Salter**, and **Molly Jobe** and organized by CISE professor **Dr. Sandy Devlin**.



# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HOLDS ANNUAL AWARDS CONVOCATION

The College of Education hosted its annual Awards Convocation in April in the John Grisham Room of the Mitchell Memorial Library. **Dr. Roy Ruby**, former Dean of the College of Education and former Interim President of MSU, was the keynote speaker for the event. The college honored several members of its faculty and staff for their service and dedication to MSU.

The awardees are:

*Diversity Award:*

**Robert Damm**, department of music

*Betty Purvis Staff Award:*

**Suzanne Parker**, Meridian Division of Education

*Clyde Muse Service Award:*

**Margaret Pope**, department of curriculum, instruction, & special education

*Lucinda Rose Teaching Award:*

**Rebecca Robichaux**, department of curriculum, instruction, & special education

*Herb Handley Research Award:*

**Andreas Kavazis**, department of kinesiology

Award winners, shown with College of Education Dean Richard Blackburn, are:



**Robert Damm**



**Suzanne Parker**



**Margaret Pope**



**Rebecca Robichaux**



**Andreas Kavazis**







# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HOSTS SIXTH ANNUAL RESEARCH FORUM

The sixth annual College of Education Faculty-Student Research Forum was held at Bost Extension Center on Friday, April 12. Michael Yudin, acting assistant secretary for special education and rehabilitative services, delivered the keynote address. Yudin heads the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, which houses programs aimed at improving results and outcomes for infants, toddlers, children and adults with disabilities.

During his visit to MSU, he shared information about the administration's priorities and vision for achieving inclusion, equity and opportunity in education for all students.

The College of Education and the Office of Research and Economic Development hosted this year's showcase of faculty, staff, and student research programs and projects.

"Our annual forum provides an environment to facilitate discussion and promote collaboration with other colleges on campus," said Associate Dean for Research **J. Elton Moore**.

In addition to Yudin's presentation, activities included:

- Remarks from David Shaw, vice president for research and economic development, and **Richard Blackburn**, Dean of the College of Education;
- Breakout sessions, including "Student Involvement in Research to Expand Career Opportunities" and "Publish or Perish: Strategies for Increasing Your Refereed Publications;"
- Poster session featuring the college's researchers; and
- Lunch and awards presentation for best posters by graduate and undergraduate students.



**Above:** Michael Yudin, acting assistant secretary for special education and rehabilitative services, this year's keynote speaker

## THE AWARD-WINNING POSTERS WERE:

### Graduate Students

- First place - **Meghan Dehring** et al. - "Using social narratives to extend feeding therapy to the natural environment"
- Second place - **Hallie Marie Smith** et al. - "State of crisis planning in education: A national sampling"
- Third place - **Peyton Groff** et al. - "Skills vs. knowledge based teaching training: Performance & attitude outcomes"

### Undergraduate Student

- First place - **Kurt Cooksey** - "Physical activity levels of 7th and 8th graders participating in a studio-based learning summer camp"

**Opposite top:** Dean Richard Blackburn speaking with a researcher

**Opposite bottom:** Students and researchers discuss posters at the sixth annual research forum





2013 College of Education Research Award Winners, shown with College of Education Dean Richard Blackbourn, right, are, from left, **Stamatis Agiovlasitis**, faculty; **Lorie White**, research support staff; **Roland Webster**, graduate student; and **Jennifer Cooper**, undergraduate student.

## BANQUET CELEBRATES RESEARCH AT MSU

More than 40 Mississippi State faculty, students and staff are 2013 selections for university research and leadership honors.

Honorees, their guests, and senior administrators were in attendance at a campus awards banquet Monday night, April 29.

The annual research awards program honors individuals who contribute significantly to MSU's mission of research. In addition to faculty, it recognizes and rewards students and staff for accomplishments and creative endeavors, as well as for increasing awareness of the university's many research programs and capabilities.

The program and banquet are co-sponsored by the offices of the vice presidents for Research and Economic Development and the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.

"Our research enterprise is growing in a number of different areas because of the collaboration between our two divisions," said David Shaw, vice president for research and economic development.

Greg Bohach, vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine, echoed Shaw's assessment. "Mississippi State research is making a difference thanks

to the excellence of our university's scientists, staff and students, and their collaborative efforts that have led to MSU's recent designation by the Carnegie Foundation as a very high research activity university," he said.

"We are here tonight, in part, to celebrate these efforts," Bohach added.

Shaw had to miss the banquet at the last minute in order to participate in an economic development announcement in West Point.

"We are very pleased that Yokohama has selected Clay County as the site to build its next tire plant," Shaw said.

The Japanese company announced on Monday that it will invest \$300 million in the new manufacturing facility that is expected to create some 500 jobs initially. According to officials, future expansions could potentially increase the company's investment to more than \$1 billion and up to 2,000 jobs.

"We are proud of the role Mississippi State played in helping to land this major economic development project for our state," Shaw said.



## EDUCATION STUDENTS, FACULTY SWEEP AWARDS AT REGIONAL CONFERENCE

College of Education students and faculty are winners of top awards given at the Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) Conference.

Each year, members of SACSA and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Region III gather to discuss the issues facing faculty, staff and students on higher education campuses across the Southeast. This year, they gathered in Memphis, Tenn.

**April K. Heiselt**, associate professor of counseling and educational psychology and student affairs program coordinator, presented research with a Clemson University colleague as well as with her graduate students. Several graduate students enrolled in the student affairs concentration of the counseling and educational psychology department also made research presentations.

“Each group of students had impressive research projects and SACSA provided them with a venue in which to share that research and to make it stronger as they move these projects into other peer-reviewed venues,” Heiselt said.

MSU master’s degree student **Emilie G. Cravens**, of Starkville, won the Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year award, making her the second MSU student affairs master’s student in a row to take the top honor.

Cravens, along with Heiselt, also were honored with a SACSA research grant for their work, *“Cultivating student donors: An exploration of the student affairs practitioner and campus development officer partnership.”*

Doctoral student Sirena Cantrell, of Caledonia, and Heiselt won a research grant for their work entitled, “Leaving home: Exploring the academic and socialization

transition experiences of homeschooled students.” Cantrell is director of community living at Mississippi University for Women.

Heiselt said the number of awards MSU brought home speaks for the quality of research and education at the institution.

“Mississippi State is setting a standard in graduate education and this was illustrated through the efforts and achievements of the students honored at this conference,” Heiselt said. “It is an honor to teach and advise these students. Their efforts continually make me proud.”

In addition to recognitions shared with students, Heiselt alone was presented the association’s Melvane Draheim Hardee Award in recognition of achievements in leadership and significant research.

Additionally, Heiselt was cited in a resolution for her work on a new initiative entitled SACSA Serves. The service-learning initiative is designed to provide each conference participant with the opportunity to understand what it means to make a difference in the conference host city.

Among other volunteer activities during this year’s gathering, conference participants donated school supplies and uniforms to LaRose Elementary School, cleaned the Hope House playground and yard that serves HIV/AIDS-affected children and families and participated in a Memphis Zoo beautification project.

“As an educator, it was a great opportunity for me to leave a conference knowing that those who participated in SACSA Serves learned something about serving a community that they will take home and implement in the future,” Heiselt said.



# CAMP JIGSAW IS A WEEK OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR AUTISTIC YOUTH

Youth who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders face challenges every day, from communicating basic feelings to making friends. Camp Jigsaw at Mississippi State University helps participants improve these skills while enjoying a traditional camp experience.

Now in its fourth year, Camp Jigsaw is named after the puzzle-piece symbol associated with autism awareness. More than 20 boys from ages 12 to 21 participated from June 24-28, 2013. They learned skills such as making eye contact and maintaining a positive tone of voice during conversations. The camp included youth who do not have autism spectrum disorders also to encourage peer interaction.

Sandy Devlin, an MSU professor of curriculum, instruction and special education, developed the camp. Devlin's advanced graduate students who have career goals of working with children with emotional and behavioral disorders carry out the annual planning and coordination, as well as serve as camp staff members.

Each day begins with social skills training during a breakfast session. Devlin, a 30-year veteran educator, has focused on autism throughout her career. She said it is as rewarding to see the campers make progress in their life skills as it is to see her graduate students develop as educators.

"This is where the cream rises to the top," Devlin said of her students stepping up to handle autistic youth with special care.

"They're going to make me proud, and they're going to make Mississippi State proud. They're going to be doing one of the most important jobs that there is," she said.

**Jackson Moore** is a senior special education major from Oxford, and one of only a few undergraduate students participating as a camp counselor. He said this week has shown him that patience is an essential character trait for those who work with special needs students.

Special education is a field in which he has a calling, he said.

"Just seeing the kids and what they go through every day is a really humbling experience, and it reinforces why I'm in special education," Moore said.

He explained that theory comes into play, but teachers must really get to know their students in order to best help them learn.

"You've got to be very caring and thoughtful of your students," Moore said.

Fellow camp counselor Eric Martin, a master's student in secondary education from Mobile, Ala., said he has learned not to have any preconceived notions of what individuals with autism spectrum disorders can or cannot do. The campers routinely surprise their leaders with hidden talents and unique skills.

"All children can learn. You've got to help them be successful and build that confidence," he said.

**Alex Orsak**, an MSU senior communication major who is minoring in special education, also is working under Devlin as a camp leader. Orsak has a unique ability to relate to the challenges campers face because he also has Asperger's syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder. As an MSU student, Orsak co-founded Jigsaw MSU, a campus organization aimed at raising autism awareness and understanding.

"A lot of my challenges were and are the challenges they face today," he said.

Orsak explained that he had difficulty with speech and reciprocity during conversations. He also had difficulty making friends.

It is important for autistic students to have role models who will help teach them how to engage in proper conversations, he said, adding that the encouragement often helps them open up.

Devlin said the motto for the week is "Show me what you can do." The challenge works wonders for the campers, several of whom are away from parents for the first time.



*Joshua Smith of Biggersville purchases a snow-cone during Camp Jigsaw activities. Smith, who has an autism spectrum disorder, has participated in the camp at Mississippi State University since it began four years ago. He said while social skills can be difficult, he has learned a lot about controlling behaviors at camp and he has enjoyed the various activities, such as swimming.*

*Photo by: Beth Wynn*



*MSU undergraduate Alex Orsak is a counselor this year; here, he leads an art lesson with students.*

She said that a week packed full of summer activities such as climbing the rock wall at the university's Sanderson Center, going to a local bowling alley and purchasing treats from a snow-cone stand, also offers practical opportunities for campers to practice life skills like self-determination statements.

"Self-determination is the ability to take care of yourself in situations. You use words to voice what you like or don't like, what you need or want, instead of relying on others to do that for you," Devlin explained.

She said one tired camper asked her to open his water bottle for him. Her response of "show me what you can do" reinforced a greater level of personal independence. She said campers grow during the week at Jigsaw and success is in the details of every-day life.

Positive reinforcement is at the heart of the program. Devlin said she and other camp leaders constantly give positive reinforcement for every new skill they see campers achieve.

"We just keep seeing leaps and bounds," she said.



## COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE PROJECT BEGINS ITS SECOND YEAR

The College of Education at Mississippi State University (MSU) is excited to announce it will continue serving students through the College Knowledge Project (CKP) for the second year.

**Shane Davis**, project coordinator for the CKP at MSU, said, “We are gearing up for a successful year with the project. We have selected a group of near-peer mentors comprised of sophomores and juniors at MSU who will form the backbone of the CKP during the 2012-2013 academic school year. Each of these individuals brings a unique set of college experiences and backgrounds to the program that will provide students in our partner schools with a positive perspective on the college experience.”

According to Davis, the near-peer mentors will meet with seventh grade students on a monthly basis to facilitate college awareness activities and events.

The goal of CKP is to educate students, their families, and school staff about the services available to students to help them successfully complete high school and attain college access while increasing the availability of college support systems for the students by forming partnerships with local community organizations.

Currently, the CKP provides services to students in Louisville, Nanih Waiya, and Noxapater in the Louisville Municipal School District as well as to students in Okolona and West Point. “We are proud to be serving over 500 students in these schools,” said Davis, “We also look forward to a continued partnership with the Changing Academic Performance and Promoting Success (CAPPS) afterschool program in Louisville, which is currently serving over 225 students in the district, and with the Okolona Community Learning Initiative.” Davis stated that these programs have strengthened the presence of the CKP in the communities being served and will provide greater opportunities for one-on-one and small group interaction between the near-peer mentors and students.

Davis also expressed his gratitude to **Dr. Teresa Jayroe**, Associate Dean of the College of Education at MSU, for her support of the CKP. Davis noted, “Dr. Jayroe’s guidance with this grant has been most valuable, and her input and expertise have been instrumental to its success and growth. I am fortunate to be able to work with her and this project.”





Visit the updated website at:  
[www.educ.msstate.edu/](http://www.educ.msstate.edu/)

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## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES, REDESIGNED WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The College of Education's website was redesigned this year to be more user-friendly, more informative, and more attractive. The new website, which is optimized for any browser or smartphone, includes:

- A Frequently Asked Questions page for prospective students
- A History of the College of Education
- Expanded accreditation information.

The website redesign coincided with the launch of the College of Education's Facebook and Twitter pages, which serve to showcase newsworthy events as they happen, inform people of upcoming events, and stay in touch with COE faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends.



## DUCK DYNASTY AT EILAND? NO - BUT THE KIDS ARE STILL HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY

Ducks and other waterfowl were the main topics of conversation on Monday at Eiland Middle School in Louisville and while there was no Willie, Si, or Phil on the scene, the kids involved in LMSD's CAPP's Summer Jam Enrichment program did have the opportunity to learn about waterfowl native to Mississippi.

In a cooperative relationship between MSU's College of Education, MSU's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Louisville Municipal School District, students in grades 5-12 involved in the CAPP's program are provided the opportunity not only to learn about native waterfowl but to also participate in a project that includes the construction of duck nesting boxes and field trips to the Sam D. Hamilton (Noxubee) Wildlife Refuge and the Science Museum in Jackson.

Dr. Brian Davis, **Dr. Rebecca Robichaux-Davis** and **Dr. Margaret Pope** from MSU were on hand to present interesting facts about ducks, geese and other waterfowl to the 65 students and faculty from Eiland, Nanih Waiya and Noxapater. The program will continue through the summer. Dr. Davis indicated that the field was wide open for careers in natural resource study and that programs such as this can show students the opportunities available and peak an interest in science fields. The program will later involve graduate students at MSU who are researching specific wildlife types such as deer, fish and ducks as well as ecological issues such as water quality.

The local CAPP's program (Changing Academic Progress and Promoting Success) is an after school and summer program located not only at Eiland but at Noxapater and Nanih Waiya schools as well. The program directors,



**Shane Davis** and Gina Smith, stated that this program is open to all 5th to 12th graders in Winston County and is not limited to public school students only. Students from Winston Academy, Grace Christian, and homeschoolers are welcome as well. To become involved in the program, or find out more about dates and times, contact any of the schools involved or LMSD's Central Office.

*This article originally appeared in the Winston Web News and is reprinted here with their permission.*

# IMPACT PROGRAM CONTINUES FREE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

As it has for more than a decade, Mississippi State's T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability is continuing a free program for young children unlike any other in the area.

Funded by the Mississippi Department of Health, Project Insuring Mississippi Parents' And Children's Tomorrows--or IMPACT--provides assessments of children from birth to age 3 and interventions for children from birth to age 5.

Each year, the university-based services are provided for more than 40 children who may have delays in cognitive, language, social/emotional, motor, and self-help skills. The IMPACT team includes three teachers, along with a speech and language pathologist and occupational therapist.

Parent Jennifer Allen, formerly of Starkville and now of Leavenworth, Kan., said her family members "are big fans of the T.K. Martin Center."

"When my daughter graduated from Project IMPACT a year ago, she was a whole different person because of this program and its services," Allen said.

Parent and caregiver training and support, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and special instruction all are offered in the family-centered approach.

Center director **Janie Cirlot-New** said the fact that both assessments and interventions are provided in one place makes Project IMPACT unlike any other offered in the area. The wide range of ages and disability levels served also sets it apart from other programs.

"Project IMPACT provides a place where children can have all of their needs met, instead of having to go to multiple places," Cirlot-New said.

She regularly advises parents that "the earlier intervention is started, the better the outcomes," emphasizing that, "If parents see their children seem to fall behind their peers, let someone know."

Cirlot-New also explained that a play-based assessment is used to tailor an individualized family service plan or an individualized education plan for a family's and child's

specific needs. Depending on the needs, classroom activities are tailored to help improve fine motor skills, including coloring, cutting and buttoning, as well as large muscle functions, such as learning to walk.

"I always like to say, my daughter Isabella crawled into Ms. Traci's class, and soon after she began walking and talking," Allen said, alluding to center research associate Traci Campbell.

Named for **Theodore K. Martin**, the university's longtime former vice president (1966-1984), dean of the then School of Education (1956-1959), and leader in efforts to make the campus more accessible to those with physical disabilities and other challenges, the T. K. Martin Center provides comprehensive, multi-disciplinary evaluations to persons of all ages. Its mission is to help remove limitations through the application of assistive technology, allowing individuals to participate in educational, vocational and leisure activities to the fullest degree they choose.



Leslie Brett Ward, right, of Starkville, works with Landon Townsend during a summer session at the T.K. Martin Center.

Photo by: Beth Wynn



## FACULTY COLLEAGUES SHARE AT MSU WRITING-TO-LEARN INSTITUTE

Two speakers enhanced the Maroon Institute for Writing Excellence when they presented information as part of the June workshop for Mississippi State faculty that will soon pilot writing-to-learn strategies in their courses. In addition to reading assignments, the institute incorporates journaling, free writing, discussions, debates and idea-sharing activities, all designed to help participants bring the instruction strategies to their various classrooms.

College of Education presenters and their topics included:

-- **Devon Brenner**, curriculum, instruction and special education department head, "How Writing Can Improve Reading."

-- **Linda Morse**, counseling and educational psychology department director, cognition and learning theory.

Five MSU colleges are represented in the institute: Agriculture and Life Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, and Forest Resources. The ultimate goal of the interdisciplinary effort is to help students to better process concepts and retain information by writing about them.

In addition, participants included **Michael Brown**, music department head.

The writing-to-learn initiative, "Maroon and Write," is part of MSU's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a strategy to improve undergraduate learning.

The QEP reflects a concerted effort by university leaders to gather input from students, teachers and other stakeholders in formulating a plan that will benefit learners, no matter what their major or focus. The QEP's College of Education representatives are Drs. **Stephanie King**, **Kimberly Hall**, and **Missy Hopper**, and Drs. **Janet McCarra** and **Julia Porter** for Meridian. Additionally, Dr. **Anna Dill** represents The Learning Center and Dr. **Linda Morse** represents the Center for Teaching and Learning. Learn more at [www.qep.msstate.edu](http://www.qep.msstate.edu).



*Michael Brown, music department head, participates with colleagues at Maroon Institute for Writing Excellence's workshop.*

*Photo by: Megan Bean*



*Students free-write a response to a prompt from forestry professor Stephen Grado in the forest resources survey course. Writing-to-learn is the focus of Mississippi State's quality enhancement plan, or QEP.*

*Photo by: Megan Bean*

# MSU ANNOUNCES ADDITIONS TO ALTERNATE TEACHER DEGREE PROGRAM

Though still in its first year, a Mississippi State education degree program is already expanding to provide more opportunities for teachers from some of the state's poorest, most rural areas.

Awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, the five-year Transition to Teaching grant for the Teacher Education for Rural Middle Schools (TERMS) program is designed to provide an alternative route for those interested in teaching in rural middle schools.

The university and its College of Education received \$446,893 for the first year, with more than \$3 million to be distributed over the remaining four years to support the TERMS program, lead by Principal Investigator **Teresa Jayroe**, associate dean.

Transition to Teaching specifically recruits mid-career professionals, as well as recent graduates with degrees outside of education. Designed to provide alternative teachers certification routes, it also helps place graduates in high-need schools.

A key program feature is its distance-learning structure, with all classes provided online.

"There is a recognized need for a degree program such as this, because of a teacher shortage, particularly in rural areas such as the Delta," said **Devon Brenner**, professor and head of MSU's curriculum, instruction, and special education department.

The first group of students began in June, but, starting in 2013, participants will be able to enter the program in either January or June of each year.

Among other changes:

--An increase in the number of partner districts from 20 to 103 and

--The addition of physical education, music, art and special education to the initial content areas of English, science, mathematics and social studies.

Brenner said the middle school-alternate route degree program is available to anyone eligible, with special incentives offered to match interested new teachers with high-need Mississippi schools. The incentives include a \$5,000 scholarship and two years of mentoring after degree completion.

TERMS scholars also receive \$5,000 worth of classroom equipment, which stays with the school. Recipients are required to teach in the school for at least three years.

As students enter the degree program, they are hired for teaching positions at the fourth-eighth-grade class levels, Brenner explained, adding that they may remain in those positions after completing the degree.



## MSU OBTAINS HARPSICHORD THANKS TO LOCAL DOCTOR, WOMEN'S CLINIC



*Dr. Michael Brown, department head; Dr. Edwards-Henry; and Dr. Chester Lott*

A special gift by a Starkville physician and his medical practice is providing a French double-manual harpsichord for the music department at Mississippi State.

Dr. Chester Lott made possible the department's acquisition of the keyboard instrument similar in appearance to a smaller grand piano but whose strings are plucked rather than struck.

Built in 1988 by Massachusetts-based Hubbard and Broekman Inc., the harpsichord is modeled on one built in France in 1769, according to university piano professor **Jackie Edwards-Henry**.

She leads the piano program in the music department, which is shared by the colleges of Arts and Sciences and Education.

Edwards-Henry said Lott, a 1977 MSU microbiology graduate, made the donation on behalf of Starkville Clinic for Women, his professional association.

"Dr. Lott said the variety of opportunities for a small city is among the reasons he considers Starkville a wonderful place in which to live," she said. "He recognized that the MSU music department plays an important role in that variety through its student, faculty and guest artist concerts."

Lott, who has practiced in the city since 1990, "sees this donation as an opportunity to continue to make Starkville a great place to live for years to come," she added. "Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Lott and Starkville Clinic for Women, our music department now will be able to expand repertoire choices in vocal- and instrumental-applied studios and ensembles," Edwards-Henry said. "We also now can provide harpsichord instruction as an option for our keyboard majors."

"As for public concerts, we now can invite professional early music guest artists and ensembles to perform on campus and in Starkville," she added.

Featuring a profile more elongated than a grand piano and with a sharper curve to the bent side, the harpsichord features long bass strings on one side and short iron treble strings on the other.

Edwards-Henry said the new MSU acquisition came from the Boston-area Harpsichord Clearing House that had obtained it through a Los Angeles, Calif., estate sale.

"The quality of this Hubbard and Broekman is superb, ranking among the best instruments I have played at the University of Michigan, Indiana University and the Oberlin Conservatory, all well-established schools with highly respected early music programs," she said.

According to the veteran MSU educator, the harpsichord was used in most of the vocal and instrumental repertoire written during the Baroque era, which began in Italy in the early 1600s and spread throughout Europe.

Plans currently are being made to have the new-to-campus instrument featured with the Starkville/MSU Symphony (and MSU Philharmonia) during the upcoming school year.

It recently was given prominence during a Philharmonia concert held at the Starkville First Baptist Church.

"As the fall semester gets under way, we encourage members of the Golden Triangle area to check the 'Events Calendar' icon on the music department website for dates, times and locations of these and other concerts," Edwards-Henry said.

# NEW ONLINE BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN EDUCATION OFFERED BY MSU

A new online bachelor's degree available at Mississippi State is geared toward working adults seeking to become certified business and technology teachers.

The Technology Teacher Education (TTE) distance learning program is an extension of the university's longstanding TTE bachelor's curriculum. During the fall 2013 semester, the complete program was made available online for the first time, said Connie M. Forde, professor and head of MSU's instructional systems and workforce development department.

In addition to receiving a Bachelor of Science and national certification in computer literacy, graduates will be certified to teach online. The TTE program will prepare participants to teach at the middle or high school levels.

"The teacher who graduates from this program can teach technology at the middle school and all of the business classes, including economics, at the high school and at the career and technology center, including the career and pathways experience course," Forde said.

The online program will be administered through the College of Education, with the campus Center for Distance Education providing support and assistance for the distance-learning students, Forde said.

"We will still have the face-to-face program, and we'll run it simultaneously with the distance program," she explained. "We will now be able to recruit students from all across the state and beyond and provide quality business teachers for many school districts."

Michael Busby, distance education manager, said the online program was specially designed for working adults.

"We believe that the market for this program is set for adult students. The target is the adult student who might want to go back to school to earn a degree and become a teacher," Busby said. "They might be in full-time positions that they cannot leave, or they might be former community college students. They're people who, for whatever reason, cannot come to campus."

During the final semester of coursework, however, participating students must complete a required teaching internship in a classroom setting five days a week for the entire semester. Forde said both a cooperating teacher and an MSU supervisor oversee the classroom internship.

General education coursework necessary to completing a bachelor's also is available online and supported by the Center for Distance Education. Community college courses may be transferred.







## MSU SUPPORTS LOCAL SCHOOLS WITH RESOURCES FOR IMPROVEMENT

When the Mississippi Department of Education declared a state of emergency in the Oktibbeha County School District in September 2012 and appointed a conservator to take leadership over the district, Mississippi State University immediately offered assistance, said MSU Vice President for Research and Economic Development David Shaw.

Mississippi State's land-grant mission of teaching, research, and service guides the university to do everything it can to help elementary and secondary schools as needed throughout the state, especially school districts going through unusual challenges.

Providing resources such as technical assistance and leadership training, as well as placing professional faculty and volunteers in the schools to tutor students are some of the ways MSU has supported the local district during a time of transition.

"From the top level, we sat down with the county school conservator and the state department and asked what they felt the most pressing needs were. This spring, faculty and staff, as well as volunteer students, have worked with young people in the schools. We also have worked with the conservator to assist with teacher development," Shaw said.

"We have been so impressed with parents and young people in the school system. We see tremendous opportunity," he added.

Bill Welch, bureau director for conservatorship with the Mississippi Department of Education, said there is no doubt the university's assistance has had a positive effect in the district.

"It has been very good, in fact," Welch said. "MSU is helping us identify problem areas, find solutions and do what we need to do to correct them."

After the university began assisting Oktibbeha County School District in the fall of 2012, the Mississippi legislature passed a bill to initiate consolidation of the district with the Starkville School District over a three-year period.

"The initial plans we wrote were really focused on how the county school system can come out of conservatorship.

With the legislation, those plans had to be redirected to focus more on how we can help them be in the best position for consolidation," Shaw said.

"The project is evolving, but the core focus has always been how we can help the county improve education for every child," he said.

The legislation stipulated that MSU President Mark E. Keenum appoint a university representative to serve on the consolidation commission. Keenum asked Shaw to serve in that role.

Welch said Shaw has been a big asset as part of the consolidation commission.

"He's a very knowledgeable person, and we're proud to have him on board," Welch said. "He is the eyes and ears for the university, and he lets us know the various ways they can assist," Welch added.

MSU Dean of Education **Richard Blackburn** said the College of Education has a long history of outreach to school systems around the state.

"Our outreach is extensive and does span across the state on a regular basis. That's part of our culture in this college as it relates to the land-grant mission," Blackburn said.

After spending years of his own career as a public school teacher and principal before going into higher education, Blackburn said he understands from experience many of the challenges facing Mississippi classrooms.

"We're clearly in the business of helping, and we're ready to assist districts regardless of what their needs are," Blackburn said.

**Devon Brenner**, MSU professor and head of the department of curriculum, instruction, and special education, said that during the past spring semester, much effort was focused on helping senior students prepare for mandated state testing in core subject areas.

"We laid a good foundation for work we will do in the 2013-14 school year," Brenner said. In the fall, MSU faculty expect to help mentor newly hired teachers, many of whom may be MSU graduates, she said.

“All new teachers benefit from mentoring, so they will really hit the ground running and become strong teachers,” Brenner said.

Three MSU faculty members will spend a quarter of their work time in the Oktibbeha County School District to assist teachers with lesson plans, consider classroom management techniques, and help new teachers implement the strategies they learned in their teacher preparation program, Brenner said. They also will work with students, as well as teach model lessons.

The university’s Maroon Volunteer Center is coordinating additional help for after-school programs that offer tutoring and mentoring.

MSU’s Research and Curriculum Unit also will work in support of the district, facilitating a team-based leadership program designed to build sustainable leadership at all levels, including principals and teachers, for participating school districts.

Brenner emphasized that she and other faculty observed many good things already happening within the district. She echoed Shaw’s optimism for seeing improvements implemented effectively.

While acknowledging the district has many challenges left to tackle, Brenner said, “There are really strong teachers and talented administrators. A lot of really good teaching and learning is taking place,” she said.

Shaw said the university has previously collaborated with local school districts, and has particularly relied on area schools for providing field experiences for MSU students enrolled in the teacher preparation program.

Shaw said in addition to helping Oktibbeha County School District implement improvements during a transitioning period, the university will offer support in any way it can to the current district and the Starkville School District as they prepare for a consolidation.

“We already have several projects that are collaborative between the Starkville School District and Mississippi State, and we’re looking for ways to grow that even more, for example, with mentoring and training projects,” Shaw said. “We really see Starkville School District as a very close collaborator with Mississippi State.”





## MUSIC FACULTY JOIN NOTED OHIO SINGER IN COLLABORATIVE RECITAL

Internationally recognized singer and composer Dawn Sonntag was featured Thursday, April 11 in a collaborative recital with Mississippi State faculty members.

Free to all, the university program was held in the Robert and Freda Harrison Auditorium of Giles Hall.

Sonntag, an assistant professor of music at Hiram (Ohio) College, performed selections by Schubert, Sibelius, Mozart, Rossini and Crumb, as well as original commissioned song-settings drawn from the poetry of Walt Whitman and Sara Teasdale.

**Tara Warfield**, MSU music department voice area coordinator, joined Sonntag in operatic duets from Mozart, Mendelssohn and Rossini. **Linda Elliott**, a member of the department's horn faculty, performed with Sonntag on Franz Lachner's "Waldärts."

**Karen Murphy**, departmental coordinator of collaborative piano, provided piano accompaniment, while Nancy D. Hargrove, Distinguished Giles Professor Emerita of English, spoke about Walt Whitman as an introduction to Sonntag's song-setting of "Come Up from the Fields, Father."

Sonntag has performed opera, oratorio and art song repertoires on stages across the U.S., as well as in France, Germany and Norway. She also has appeared with the Florentine Opera of Milwaukee, Wis. and Chamizal National Theater of El Paso, Texas, among other venues.

As a soloist, she has been featured with numerous chamber and community choirs in the U.S. and Germany.

Her commissions have included works for the 2008 International Leif Eriksson Festival and Luther Seminary's "All God's People Sing" 25th Anniversary Reformation Festival; settings of poetry by Iowa Poet Laureate Marvin Bell; and music for the PBS documentary film, "Voice to Vision."

Her choral works have been performed by choirs at the Ohio State University and Augsburg and Hiram colleges, Oslo University, and the University of Minnesota, among others.

## NEW CERTIFICATE IN VETERAN SERVICE AVAILABLE AT MSU

Consistently ranked as a top U.S. military-friendly university, Mississippi State continues its longstanding tradition of serving members of the armed forces by offering a new certificate program.

The university recently developed the Veterans' Certificate Program to train individuals to help former military service members successfully transition to civilian life. The program establishes an opportunity for professionals, graduates and undergraduates to improve their knowledge of veterans' benefits while honing their leadership skills.

A recent grant from the Walmart Foundation for \$80,000 funded the new program, which is the only one of its kind in the nation. Courses to earn the Veterans' Certificate may be applied as a concentration for the Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary studies, or as electives in a graduate-level program, said Kenneth D. "Ken" McRae, director of MSU's Center for America's Veterans.

A slightly similar program is available at the State University of New York, but only is available to graduate students and doesn't include a management course, the retired Army colonel explained.

The five online MSU courses are designed to provide training necessary to engage and serve veterans, according to McRae and fellow program organizer Linda Cornelious, a professor in MSU's instructional systems and workforce development department.

She said the Center for America's Veterans, the instructional systems and workforce development department and other university units collaborated in developing the curriculum. Cornelious also credited McRae's leadership and persistence in landing the Walmart grant that made the new program possible.

One course already being offered as a prerequisite focuses on the necessary management skills "that will allow students to be effective communicators, leaders and administrators," Cornelious said.



*Mississippi State University, ranked among the top 20 best U.S. universities and colleges for military personnel and veterans by Military Times EDGE, now offers a Veterans' Certificate Program to train participants how to help veterans make the transition to civilian life.*

"The other four courses deal directly with issues that impact veterans, the kind of experiences they will have as they transition back to civilian life and how they can succeed academically, socially and psychosocially," she said.

Since the Veterans' Certificate is supported by MSU's Center for Distance Education, all five courses may be completed anywhere in the world while participants continue working, McRae said.

"The way that the certificate program is structured online, it covers that gamut," he said. "It's for anyone at the university level or anyone at government agencies who already works with veterans. It's for corporate human resources departments and private practitioners that have veteran employees. It's also for those people who want to work directly with veterans."

With the skills developed through the certificate program, graduates should be able to advance in their respective careers, Cornelious and McRae agreed.

The certificate program has been in the works for almost a decade. MSU administrators generated an exploratory paper on developing veterans' assistance associate's, bachelor's or master's degree concentrations in 2007, but development was postponed because of funding concerns.

"This certificate will give the lay person a real understanding of the culture and of the issues veterans face with transitioning, as well as the benefits themselves," McRae said. "I'm proud of the university's support for our veteran community, which covers the veterans, service members and their dependents."

Persons interested in applying to the program should visit [www.iswd.msstate.edu/veterans/index.html](http://www.iswd.msstate.edu/veterans/index.html)



## NEW FACULTY

**Anthony**

**Dr. Kenneth V. Anthony** is an assistant professor in the department of curriculum, instruction, and special education, and a native Mississippian. He graduated from Tupelo High School in 1989 and attended Itawamba Community College for two years. He completed

his B.S. in history and his M.Ed. in gifted education at Mississippi University for Women (MUW), and completed his PhD in Secondary Education - Social Studies at MSU. He has served in the military over 24 years, serving in Bosnia as an intelligence officer and deploying to Iraq twice, once as an infantry platoon leader and the second time as a cavalry troop commander. He currently serves as the operations officer for a Combined Army Battalion in the Mississippi Army National Guard. He is married to Katie Anthony and has three children.

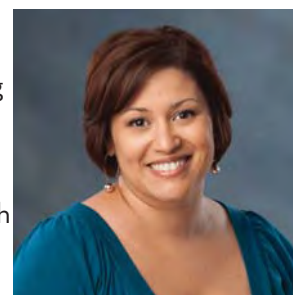
As a K-12 teacher, Dr. Anthony has taught in Natchez, MS, Houston, MS, and Tupelo, MS. He taught a variety of subjects in elementary, middle, and high schools including math, English, history, and economics, and has taught in alternative schools, general education, and gifted programs. He taught English as a Second Language in Korea for one year. Prior to joining the faculty of the College of Education, Dr. Anthony taught elementary education at MUW and United States history for University of Maryland University College.

His research interests include home school education, preservice teachers' knowledge and ability to teach history and economics, and how teachers plan for and implement Common Core State Standards in the classroom. He recently was awarded a grant by the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Program to support the use of primary sources in the classroom. He is the chair of the Mississippi Council for the Social Studies and serves on the steering committee of the Mississippi Geographic Alliance. Dr. Anthony supports local school districts, helping with curriculum development and implementation, conducting workshops, tutoring students, and working with teachers.

**Dr. Bethany McKissick** is an assistant professor in the department of curriculum, instruction,

and special education. She has over 13 years of experience working with people with disabilities in variety of capacities (e.g., respite worker, instructional assistant, job coach) and over 4 years of direct practical experience as a high school classroom teacher of students with disabilities. She earned both a bachelor and master's degree in Special Education from the University of Kentucky, and earned a PhD in Special Education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

She has contributed on research and publications at a national level including book chapters, refereed empirical articles, and practitioner manuscripts on teaching individuals with various types disabilities (e.g., severe disabilities, learning disabilities)

**McKissick**

a variety of academic and personally-relevant functional skills. In addition to publishing within the special education field, Dr. McKissick presents her research on local, state, and national levels. Her current research interests include providing general curriculum access for students with disabilities, using computer-assisted instruction to teach academic skills, teaching students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, providing services for students with severe challenging behaviors, and increasing the quality of teacher preparation programs for teachers of students with severe disabilities. Dr. McKissick currently teaches at both undergraduate and graduate level coursework for future special education teachers and maintains a high level of service to school communities across the state.

**Miller**

**Dr. Nicole C. Miller** is an assistant professor in the curriculum, instruction, and special education department in the College of Education. She engages in research activities focused on middle level education, middle level teacher preparation, and technology integration

both in middle level education and teacher education.

Dr. Miller holds a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from Mississippi State University. She holds a Master of Arts in Education degree with a concentration in instructional technology from California State University, Northridge, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

As an assistant professor, Miller teaches undergraduate and graduate middle level education courses and has helped to develop the middle level Master of Arts Middle Level Education degree program. She participated in Phase 1 of the National Middle Grades Research Project on Common Planning Time. She is a council member for the Middle Level Education Research special interest group of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). She regularly attends and presents at AERA and the Association for Middle Level Education annual conferences. Miller is an editorial review board member for Research in Middle Level Online and also reviews for the Middle School Journal, for the Middle Grades Research Journal, and others. She is the IHL representative to the Mississippi Association for Middle Level Education. Previously, she worked as a social studies and educational technology teacher at a Los Angeles middle school.



**Moser**

**Dr. Kelly Moser** is an assistant professor in the department of curriculum, instruction, and special education. She completed her doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a major emphasis on foreign language education at

Mississippi State University. Additionally, she has a Master's degree in Spanish and a Master's degree in world language education from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Prior to coming to Mississippi State University, Dr. Moser taught Spanish at the secondary level in Tennessee. She also taught Spanish in MSU's Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures for four years. Dr. Moser currently teaches courses in secondary education and foreign language methodology. She recently redesigned the undergraduate degree program

leading to a degree in foreign language education. Dr. Moser's research interests include foreign language teacher preparation, teacher identity, and teacher knowledge.

**Dr. Ryan Walker** is an assistant professor department of curriculum, instruction, and special education. He completed his PhD in Curriculum and Instruction with the concentration in science education from the University of Arkansas. Dr. Walker has had an opportunity to teach science at all levels across the K-16 school system.

Prior to entering the field of education Dr. Walker worked as a tomato breeder, incorporating disease-resistant and elevating sugar concentrations into fresh market tomato varieties.

Dr. Walker currently teaches courses to develop students understanding of science education and education research. He has recently developed an education minor for scientists who are interested in conducting education research. Dr. Walker's research interests include the teaching of science process skills and developing assessments for informal learning environments. These areas of interest include measuring student learning at informal science education centers and understanding how these centers implement effective science pedagogy. Dr. Walker's recent explorations of the natural world include a 2008 summit of Mt. Rainer to an elevation of 14,411 ft., a hike across the Grand Canyon in 2012, and a 24-mile hike on the Appalachian Trail in the Smoky Mountains National Park.



**Walker**



## APRIL HEISELT TO LEAD NEW SERVICE-LEARNING CENTER AT MSU

With the beginning of the 2013 spring semester, one very busy Mississippi State faculty member became even busier.

**April K. Heiselt** was named director of the university's new Center for the Advancement of Service-Learning Excellence. She officially began the part-time duty Jan. 1, 2013, while continuing as an associate professor in the College of Education's counseling and educational psychology department.



**Heiselt**

Announcement of Heiselt's appointment was made by Jerry Gilbert, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, and Gary Jackson, MSU Extension Service director.

Approved last month by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the center is a joint effort between the academic affairs division and extension service. Its major missions include:

--Advancing service and learning within MSU's academic programs and extension service, and

--Creating opportunities for faculty to take advantage of local and statewide service opportunities that may be integrated into course learning objectives.

Gilbert said Heiselt, a University of Utah doctoral graduate who joined the MSU faculty in 2006, brings extensive experience to the position.

Faculty adviser for the Maroon Volunteer Center, director of the Service DAWGS (Donating a Wonderful Gift of Service) student-employee volunteer program, and chair of the Maroon Edition Service Committee are among some of the campus positions Heiselt has held in recent years.

Gilbert said she now officially becomes "the university's chief advocate for service-learning in her role as center director, and as chair of the Community Engagement Committee."

## DEVON BRENNER NAMED NEW SEC LEADERSHIP FELLOW

**Devon Brenner**, professor and head of the department of curriculum, instruction, and special education was among 46 named as 2012-13 Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program fellows.



**Brenner**

Established in 2008, the professional development program seeks to identify, prepare, and advance academic leaders for roles within SEC-member institutions.

"The SEC Academic Leadership Development Program is a valuable opportunity for faculty and administrators at Southeastern Conference universities to study a wide range of topics in higher education from the leader's perspective," said SECU Executive Director Torie Johnson.

A development program designed by each institution for its own participants and conference-wide workshops are two major components of the program.

Brenner is a Michigan State University doctoral graduate. Her research has involved literacy curriculum and teaching at the elementary and middle school levels, as well as teacher education and professional development in literacy.

Through the SECU academic initiative, the 14-member athletic conference works to sponsor, support and promote collaborative higher education programs and activities involving administrators, faculty and students. It also provides an online platform to showcase achievements of these individuals on regional, national and international levels.

## EDWARDS-HENRY PREMIERS 'TRAVELIN' MUSIC' ON HARPSICHORD

**Jackie Edwards-Henry**, professor of piano and piano pedagogy at Mississippi State University, premiered the harpsichord suite "Travelin' Music" on June 1 at the convention of the American Musical Instrument Society and the Historical Keyboard Society of North America.

In keeping with the Williamsburg, Va. convention theme "Roots of American Musical Life," the suite consists of five movements based on American Folk Music.

"Each movement presents ideas related to music and travel -- sometimes in a general sense and, at other times, in settings that present more programmatic intentions," said the solo and collaborative pianist who has performed in Canada, Europe, and the U.S.

The suite is one Edwards-Henry commissioned of composer and former colleague Douglas McConnell, professor of composition theory and director of programs and music technology for the School of Music at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio. McConnell's compositions have been performed throughout the U.S. and internationally, including Canada, Europe, Scandinavia, Estonia, the Czech Republic and Russia. Among his most noted works are "Langston's Lot," based on the poetry of Langston Hughes; "Lily," an interpretation of a Walter Wangerin short story; and the chamber piece "Songs of the Beloved" for which he won a composition prize from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters.

Edwards-Henry is the featured pianist on two CD recordings, including "Saxophone and Other Voices" with Gail Levinsky (2002), and "Contemporary Czech Music for Flute and Piano" with Lana Johns (2007). She is featured on the Mississippi Arts Roster as a harpsichordist as well as pianist. Owner of a 1769 double-manual harpsichord, she performs regularly in solo, chamber and symphony concerts. Recent harpsichord instruction venues include the Baroque Performance Institute at Oberlin Conservatory.

The harpsichord was used in most of the vocal and instrumental repertoire written during the Baroque era, including large instrumental and choral works and operas. In the late 19th Century, the five-octave instrument saw a revival with composers and continues to evolve to this day.



## BABATUNDE'S UBUNTU BAND: CELEBRATION

Dr. Robert J. Damm, faculty member in the department of Music, released a new CD in July, 2013. The album of contemporary world music is called Babatunde's Ubuntu Band: Celebration. The collection of original music features 12 songs which celebrate diverse spiritual traditions, honor positive female role models, and affirm that we should love and serve one another. The CD is available online at [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), and [itunes.com](http://itunes.com).



## FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Connie Forde**, department head of instructional systems and workforce development, and her husband Dr. John Forde, who is head of the College of Arts and Science's department of communications, were named Jones County Junior College 2012 Honor Alumni.

**Gary Packwood** has been named founding artistic director of a newly formed semi-professional vocal ensemble, Opus 8. The ensemble consists of eight classically trained singers, who focus on a cappella vocal music representing all periods of music history. The group made its debut performance on May 18, 2013, at Cahaba Heights United Methodist in Vestavia Hills, AL.

**J. Elton Moore**, the College of Education's associate dean for research and assessment, was elected to the National Accreditation Council (NAC) for Blind and Low Vision Services Board of Directors. He serves as a Member at Large on the NAC Board.

**Rosângela Sebba** has been elected the vice president for Collegiate & National Competitions for the Music Teachers National Association - Mississippi Chapter.

**Elva Kaye Lance** was appointed to College Band Director's National Association Committee for Athletic Bands for 2013-15. Arthur D. Stumpf was elected president of the Society of Educators and Scholars at a meeting of the Board of Directors, in November, 2012. Dr. Stumpf also served as conference director of the 35th Annual Conference of the Society of Educators and Scholars, November 4 - 7, 2012, at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino, Biloxi, Mississippi.

**Craig Aarhus** has been appointed Southern Division Chair for the National Band Association, the largest band organization in the world. He will be responsible for overseeing NBA activities in 11 southern states and coordinating NBA concerts and activities at the upcoming Southern Division convention (hosted along with the College Band Directors National Association convention) in Jacksonville, FL (February 2014).

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## PHI KAPPA PHI NAMES HOPPER REGIONAL VP

At its 2012 Biennial Convention hosted in St. Louis, Mo., delegates from the South Central region of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines, elected **Missy Hopper**, associate professor of education at Mississippi State University, as regional vice president.

As a regional vice president, Hopper will serve on the Chapter Relations Committee and work with officers and students to strengthen chapters in the South Central region.

Prior to election as regional vice president, Hopper served on the organization's Credentials Committee, as well as the Love of Learning Award Selection Committee. She also served as president, vice president and secretary for the MSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

Hopper aims to use her past national and local experience to serve her newly-elected role as regional vice president and continue her commitment to the Society.



*Hopper*

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 at the University of Maine. It has chapters on more than 300 select colleges and universities in North America and the Philippines.



## MSU ANNOUNCES THIRD ANNUAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

The Office of Research and Economic Development at MSU again is investing in innovative mini-grants for faculty at the land-grant institution.

Now in its third year, the cross-college grant program brings together researchers from around campus and across disciplines to foster collaboration, according to the university administrator overseeing the initiative.

"We have been very pleased with the results so far, and are excited about the possibilities of year three," said Ray Vaughn, associate vice president for research and Giles Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering.

"Last year's efforts have yielded funded research proposals of approximately \$13 million, with \$11.6 million pending from external sources that make the initial cost well worth our investment," he added.

A \$2,000 grant to each of the 40 teams will support the initiation of new proposals, as well as help enhance multi-disciplinary collaboration of existing projects, and also provide a second year of funding to 12 grant recipients.

"Providing faculty members additional opportunities to share ideas and work together to move their research forward is a priority for us," said David Shaw, MSU's vice president for research and economic development.

The participating teams with College of Education principal investigators, include:

--**Kenneth Anthony**, curriculum, instruction and special education department, "Cross College Collaboration to Increase Elementary Educators' Economic Efficacy";

--**Megan Holmes**, kinesiology department, "Exercise is Medicine on Campus Program and Program Evaluation";

--**Andreas Kavazis**, kinesiology department, "Year 2: Doxorubicin and Cardiotoxicity";

--**Rebecca Robichaux**, curriculum and instruction department, "Addressing the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics through Wildlife Science and Conservation";

--**Bethany Smith**, curriculum, instruction and special education department, "Using a Historically Significant Curriculum to Address Current Challenges in Science Education";

--**Chih-Hsuan Wang**, counseling and educational psychology department, "Enhancing Teaching and Learning in Mathematics and Statistics Through Mobile Devices";

--**Heather Webb**, kinesiology department, "Stress and Graduate Student Health: An Investigation of Possible Interventions".



# OUTSTANDING TEACHER INTERN AWARDS

Each year, Outstanding Teacher Intern Awards are presented to teacher interns who go above and beyond what is expected. Supervising classroom mentor teachers nominate teacher interns for this award based on their outstanding teaching performance in their assigned K-12 classrooms and for their commitment to the teaching profession.

Mississippi State University teacher interns received recognition for their resourcefulness, initiative, effectiveness, and high level of professionalism throughout their teaching internship.



## Fall 2012 Outstanding Teacher Interns

Front row (l to r): **Kimberly Ragsdale** (Elementary Education); **Blakely Brendle** (Elementary Education); **Veronica Taylor** (Elementary Education); and **Laura Holt Murphy** (Elementary Education); Back row (l to r): **Annalisa Rankin** (Secondary Math Education); **Mercedes Verner** (Elementary Education); **Allison Bates** (Secondary English Education); and **Gena Methvin** (Special Education); Not pictured: **Katie Spears** (Elementary Education), **Sara Fitzgerald** (Elementary Education), and **Katie Elam** (Elementary Education)



## Spring 2013 Outstanding Teacher Interns

Front row (l to r): **Laura Britt** (elementary education), **Sara Wells** (elementary education), **Kayla Collins** (special education), **Lexi Bowen** (elementary education), **Kayla Kendrick** (elementary education), **Amy Hughes** (elementary education), and **Kelsey Marchak** (elementary education); Back row (l to r): **Breana Jamison** (special education), **Jeanette Crouch** (special education), **Sarah Williams** (elementary education), **Desiree Thomas** (elementary education), **Sarah Nan Randall** (elementary education), **Tatum West** (elementary education), **Maggie Selph** (elementary education), **Sarah Bolner** (elementary education), **David Nicholson** (elementary education), **Layne Jackson** (elementary education), and **Kendall Wright** (secondary math education); Not pictured: **Warren Herron** (technology education), **Nyssa Thigpen** (agriculture education), and **Katie Savage Gillon** (elementary education)

## BILOXI RESIDENT NAMED 2012-13 JOHN BODRON SCHOLAR AT MSU



**Cook**

Kelsey Marie Cook of Biloxi recently received a Mississippi State scholarship honoring late Harrison County educator John Albert Bodron.

Cook, a junior educational psychology major at the university, received the \$1,000 award for the 2012-13 academic year. Daughter of Danny and Jeannie Cook, the Gulfport High School graduate plans to pursue a master's degree after graduation from the university.

Mary Ruth Mayerhoff Bodron, now of Meridian, created the John Albert Bodron Memorial Endowed Scholarship in the College of Education as a tribute to her late husband, who died in late 2006.

"Bodie" Bodron, as he fondly was known by family and friends, was a 1951 MSU physical education graduate. After receiving his degree, the Vicksburg native spent two years as a U.S. Marine in Korean War combat before returning to Starkville to complete a second undergraduate degree in 1955 in vocational education.

"John loved Mississippi State, the football program, and the life lessons and education he received while a student," his widow said. "He had a modest upbringing and, without assistance, would not have been able to receive his education at Mississippi State."

Bodron went on to a 34-year career with the Biloxi Public School District, serving as a vocational teacher, coach, elementary school principal, and vocational education director. He retired in 1989 as assistant principal of Biloxi High School.

As a faithful supporter of the BHS Indians, Bodron served as a volunteer athletic trainer throughout his public school career--and for nearly a decade after retirement.

"John was an inspiring mentor to many, a real people person, and it is my hope that this scholarship will help many students continue their study in the field of education and pass their love of service on to others," said Mary Ruth Bodron.

Mississippi State's education college includes the departments of curriculum, instruction and special education; counseling and educational psychology; instructional systems and workforce development; leadership and foundations; kinesiology; music; and MSU-Meridian's Division of Education.

The Bodron Scholarship is an open fund in the MSU Foundation that may be increased through additional contributions. For more information, contact Trish Cunetto, director of development for the college, at 662-325-6762 or [tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu).



# MISSISSIPPI STATE FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION 2012-13: A YEAR OF SERVICE

The Mississippi State University Future Educators Association (FEA) is the College of Education student organization, open for membership to all undergraduate students enrolled in the college. Formed in 2007, the organization has grown to a membership of 157 students for the year 2012-13. Members are guided by student officers and faculty advisers **Karen Brown** and **Jennifer Wofford**, who plan events and activities to build community among students planning to become teachers.

The 2012-13 academic year focused on the theme “A Year of Service” and began with the yearly kickoff membership meeting in the Fall semester. Featured speakers were Dr. Cade Smith and Meggan Franks from the university Maroon Volunteer Center, who introduced prospective members to the opportunities available for service at MSU through the Maroon Volunteer Center. This meeting sparked the planning and implementation of successful activities conducted by FEA members in yearlong service throughout the community in local schools.

FEA members participated in a local school outreach program, “Backpack Buddies”, in partnership with First United Methodist Church in Starkville, to help meet the food needs of children throughout the weekends. This project involved MSU FEA members and faculty advisers in weekly volunteer service in a local school, packing and distributing backpacks to the school children in the program. Tori Allen, a junior Elementary Education major volunteer realizes the importance of participating in service activities in schools as preparation for teaching. “I love volunteering to work ‘Backpack Buddies’ because it is very important for students! Teachers in class ‘feed’ students minds and ‘Backpack Buddies’ actually feeds the students, which is very important



*MSU Future Educators Association member Makenzi Petit, junior Elementary Education major distributes tree seedlings to students in classrooms to create the “greenbelt of peace” described in the Maroon Edition Children’s book choice of 2012, “Mama Miti”.*

when it comes to the students learning.” The MSU FEA also provided the funding for fresh fruit to be added to the backpacks from fundraising efforts from their annual membership tee shirt sales.

Additional projects involving service for the 2012-13 year were activities of outreach in local schools involving MSU FEA members in reading to students. As an extension of the university Maroon Edition book, “Unbowed”, by Wangari Mathaii, a children’s book was chosen to read in the schools. The book “Mama Miti”, by Donna Jo Napoli, chronicles the life and impact of Wangari Mathaii. This book was read by FEA members in a classroom read-aloud setting. Extension activities, such as teaching the school children how to form a human “greenbelt of peace” helped to engage children in reading comprehension. FEA member **Katherine Scott**, a senior majoring in Elementary Education, was one of the members participating in this project. She stated, “Volunteering for FEA opened my eyes to the experience

of what student teaching (internship) will be like. Interaction with the students and reading aloud in front of a class with FEA has allowed me to feel more comfortable with my role as a student teacher as I approach my semester of internship. Reading aloud to students allowed me to see that students are eager to read and learn."

As a follow up to the reading project, MSU FEA members traveled to local schools again in the spring semester to distribute tree seedlings donated in partnership with the MSU Department of Forestry to all children in classrooms involved the book reading project. Seedlings were bagged and tagged with directions for children and parents by FEA members to provide a take-home project to reinforce the concepts learned in the book reading. **Makenzi Petit**, a junior Elementary Education major was enthusiastic about her involvement in the project. "The MSU Future Educators Association Maroon Edition seedling project at Ward Stewart was a great success this year. I have never realized how special it is to the students to be involved with the community and environment. This will definitely enhance my future teaching."

A new initiative that will help continue the efforts of the MSU College of Education FEA is the establishment of the Future Educators Service Scholarships, to be awarded to students serving as officers in the organization. The first service scholarships will be awarded to the students serving in this capacity for the year 2013-14: Tori Allen, Makenzi Petit, Sylvia Thrash, and Annie Blass. Continuing support for this scholarship effort is welcomed by alumni, friends, and supporters of the MSU College of Education. Please contact Trish Cunetto, Director of Development, College of Education at 662 325-6762, [tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu) for more information on this scholarship.



MSU senior Katherine Scott, of Starkville, reads "Mama Miti" to a third-grade class at Ward Stewart Elementary in Starkville.  
Photo by: Beth Wynn.



## THETA CHI CHAPTER OF KAPPA DELTA PI INDUCTS 120

The Theta Chi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi education honor society, established in 1958, held its 2013 initiation ceremony on April 23. The event took place at the Chapel of Memories and recognized 110 students for outstanding academic achievement in the field of education. **Dr. Tina Sholtes**, a retired College of Education faculty member and former Chapter Counselor, was this year's guest speaker. This year's officers are **Mary Katherine Entrekin**, President; **Maggie Selph**, Vice President; **Sarah Parker**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Alexa Patterson**, Historian; **Kristen Brown**, Membership/Graduate. Chapter Counselors are **Drs. Margaret Pope, Kelly Moser**, and **Kenneth Anthony**. We also recognized two outstanding teachers from our partner PD school district - Louisville: Cylesha Hopkins and Lori Matzek.



Kappa Delta Pi's goal is to recognize academic achievement and commitment to education. The organization is the largest honor society in education, representing 582 undergraduate and professional chapters and more than 45,000 active members.

Its most distinguished members over the last century have included Margaret Mead, Albert Einstein, George Washington Carver, and current leaders in education Howard Gardner, Maxine Greene, and Carol Gilligan. To date, more than 1,200,000 educators have been inducted into Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society.

### 2013 Inductees included:

Macy Erin Barksdale  
Morgan Beard  
Stephanie Elizabeth Becker  
Kaitlyn Nicole Beggs  
Bonnie Bennet  
Haley Nicole Berryhill  
Brittany Letise Binder  
Kayleigh Renee Bishop  
Leah Claire Blackwell  
Jessica Marie Bonkowski  
Peyton Holland Bridge  
Leah Denise Britt  
Shelia Browlee  
Jodi Leigh Brown  
Derek Allen Buck  
Brittany Leigh Burton  
Meagan Cloutier  
Allie Coats  
Reagan Elizabeth Collier  
Bethany Ruth-Ann Crawford  
Alyssa Cummins  
Kate Elizabeth Dahlem  
Kelly Elizabeth Daigle  
Anna Kristen Dalton  
Alyssa Davant  
Taylor Ann Davis  
Shane Davis  
Jessica Ray Dowdy

Tina Renee Evans  
Lindsey Marie Franklin  
Jacob Moray Frasier  
Rachel Fuller  
Katelyn Belle Gentry  
Savannah Giles  
Emily Graham  
Rachel M. Hall  
Jasmine R. Harris  
Bailey Marie Hartness  
Lauren Elizabeth Hatton  
Cleantis Hodges  
Robert Bryan Holliday  
Kathryn Lee Holsomback  
Mariel Howard  
Laura Coleman Howell  
Raven LaSalle Hudson  
Fierra Antoinette Isler  
Jennifer Lee Jenkins  
Candace D. Johnson  
Darrell Anthony Jones  
Sydney Nicole Kather  
Katelyn Marie Kraft  
Floyd Lacy Lee  
Kevin P. Lenker  
Molly Lewis  
Kimberly Claire Lightsey  
Jorie Ann Longjenna Lostritto

Sage Elizabeth Mabile  
Caitlyn Grace Maddox  
Emily Maddox  
Mary Lindsey Magee  
Kaitlin Manning  
Morgan Ann Massa  
Angelina Maria Mattera  
Jessica Rae McCallister  
Morgan Louise McGowen  
Dana McLain  
Ashley McLelland  
Meagan McNeil  
Theresa Marjorie Mensi  
Tracie Dean Mitchell  
Leah Moore  
Kyle Moore  
Danielle Morie  
Stacy Nicole Mottesheard  
Tyler Jordan Neal  
Alyssa Nelson  
Kirby Nichols  
David Nicholson  
Caitlyn Ann Noonan  
Makenzi Blayre Pettit  
Joseph Tyler Poole  
Christopher A. Quillan  
Dorothy Claire Ray  
Kayla Reed

Ashley Robinson  
Jourdan Lee Schulte  
Ciara S. Seldon  
Kayla Shelby  
Mandi Nichole Smith  
Wendy Smith  
Loren Paige Staton  
Anne Howard Steinwinder  
Tamra Stevenson  
Stephanie Anne Stone  
Emily Sullivan  
Aynne Crawford Swindell  
Shanna Rickquel Thompson  
Cheyann Nicole Tindal  
Annie-Laurie Tipton  
Lina Trullinger  
Brittany Turner  
Kelsi Marie Vendevender  
Amanda Dawn Vandiver  
Ali Elizabeth Vann  
Caitlyn Weeks  
Amy White  
Johnathan Williams  
Amy Michelle Wilson  
Hayley Ann Wright  
Macy Caroline Young

# SPIRIT OF STATE AWARDS

The university's premier student award, the 'Spirit of State' award, recognizes exceptional personal contributions to student life at Mississippi State. Students from all MSU campuses, freshmen to graduate, were nominated for this Student Affairs recognition.

The 'Spirit of State' Award formally honors those students who have excelled in campus involvement, service to the university, and have made an impact on their peers and the broader campus community. This year's College of Education winners were recognized for their outstanding 'Spirit of State' contributions at a public ceremony.

**Ms. Brittany Clark** - Graduate student majoring in Counselor Education, Student Affairs from Collierville, TN

**Ms. Gracy Hewes** - Senior majoring in Kinesiology from Germantown, TN

**Ms. Taylor King** - Senior majoring in Secondary Education, Social Studies from Collierville, TN

**Ms. Chloe Phillips** - Senior majoring in Kinesiology from Flagstaff, AZ



*Brittany Clark*



*Gracy Hewes*



*Taylor King*



*Chloe Phillips*

*Award winners are shown here with Bill Broyles, left, associate vice president of Student Affairs, and Bill Kebler, vice president of Student Affairs.*



# FIRST CLASS ASSEMBLED IN MISSISSIPPI EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING PROGRAM



*Announcing the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program were, from left, Hank Bounds, commissioner, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning; Dan Jones, chancellor, University of Mississippi; Mark E. Keenum, president, Mississippi State University, and Richard Blackbourn, dean, MSU College of Education.*

An 18-member Mississippi State class holds the honor of being the first at the university to receive scholarships in the recently announced Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program (METP).

**Richard Blackbourn**, College of Education dean, said members of what he termed “the honors college for education majors” were chosen from among 53 applicants.

Announced statewide in late January, the MSU program enrolls top incoming freshmen and community college transfer students majoring in English and mathematics education curriculums. The goal is to increase the number of Mississippi middle and high school teachers in these subject areas, the dean said.

According to Blackbourn, those accepting the scholarships so far have an average 3.85 grade-point average (based on a 4.0 scale), and an average composite ACT score of 29.

“It’s no surprise that we’ve attracted this number of outstanding students so quickly; Mississippi State is known for the quality of its education programs,” he said. “Combine that with the university’s prestigious reputation and you have, we feel, a win-win situation for both our majors and students in the state’s middle and high schools.”

Praising them as “clearly the best of the best,” the veteran educator and administrator said, “Not only do their test scores and academic credentials well exceed those of the state average, but all of the candidates went through a rigorous interview process with a committee of faculty members who all have expertise in teaching.”

Funded by more than \$12.9 million from the Jackson-based Robert M. Hearin Foundation, the new MSU education scholars are receiving awards covering tuition, room and board for up to four years. In return, graduates will commit to teach in Mississippi for at least five years.

“A passion for teaching was one of the critical admission criteria,” Blackbourn stressed. “This generation of students has a great interest in service to the community, with almost all of the candidates having been involved in many different volunteer and service activities with children.”

**Austin Funkhouser** of Southaven and **Gabriela Saab** of Mobile, Ala., already have joined MSU’s first education scholar class.

Funkhouser said experience he has had tutoring peers led him to consider the teaching profession.

“I thought, ‘Maybe I could have a career in this,’” said the Desoto Central High School senior who will major in mathematics education.

Saab, a McGill Toolen Catholic High School senior who will major in English education, said, “It gives me great joy to serve others, and it helps me to grow as a student and adult. Being selected for this program is both thrilling and humbling.”

The METP is a joint effort of MSU’s education college and the School of Education at the University of Mississippi. The first coordinator for the program for MSU was **Lina Trullinger**, and Principal Investigators are **Teresa Jayroe**, associate dean, and **Devon Brenner**, professor and department head of curriculum, instruction, & special education. Those interested in applying can visit <http://www.metp.org>.

The class members are:

*Secondary English Education*

- Jensen Bosarge**, Saucier, MS
- Brittany Clark**, Mendenhall, MS
- Clinton Davis**, Vancleave, MS
- Grant Davis**, Pass Christian, MS
- Christine Dunn**, Niceville, FL
- Cassidy Pitts**, Tupelo, MS
- Mikayla Taylor**, Starkville, MS
- Sara Todd**, Terry, MS
- Jordan White**, Starkville, MS
- Shelby Williams**, Brandon, MS

*Secondary Math Education*

- Morgan Bishop**, Irvington, AL
- Rachel Blough**, Dacula, GA
- Ashton Brooks**, Olive Branch, MS
- Austin Funkhouser**, Southaven, MS
- Walker Isbell**, Jonesboro, AR
- Laci Saucier**, Gulfport, MS
- Brittany Thomas**, Clinton, MS
- Benjamin Windom**, Gulfport, MS



## BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS

Dr. Bob, host of Dr. Bob's Blues Show, collaborated with Sudduth Elementary school music teacher Kathy McGill and MSU music education intern **Emily Hobson** on a unit to teach children about blues music. Dr. Bob shared lesson plans about 12 bar musical structure, three-line lyric structure, and the "shuffle" rhythm found in many blues forms. He visited Ms. McGill's music class in April to talk about the lives of musicians such as B. B. King and Huddie Ledbetter. Dr. Bob, Ms. McGill, and Ms. Hobson worked together to teach children in the music classes how to sing blues songs and how to play blues chord progressions on the Orff xylophones. Their blues unit culminated with a blues concert on April 26 in the school gym in which a live band featuring Mississippi blues guitar legend Jesse Robinson (guitar and vocals), David Reese (keyboard), Ed Swan (bass), and Dr. Bob (drums) performed for more than 1000 students and their teachers and parents. Mr. Robinson spoke to the students about blues music and Dr. Bob gave guidance about specific musical elements (e.g. tempo, rhythm, and form) that the students should listen for as the band performed. Several classes of students played xylophones, tambourines, and other percussion instruments with the band as they performed songs such as "Good Morning Blues" by Huddie Ledbetter and "Sweet Home Chicago" credited to Robert Johnson.

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## MISSISSIPPI STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NAMES STUDENT DELEGATES

Four College of education students are among the 22 Mississippi State students who have joined the university Alumni Association's student liaison group.

The Alumni Delegates serve as liaisons between the 135-year-old land-grant institution and its more than 125,000 living graduates. Founded in 1980, one of the group's main missions is helping improve the student body's understanding of the Alumni Association's role and purpose.

Over the years, this group of students has become invaluable in assisting with alumni-sponsored programs and activities, including football tailgate gatherings, class reunions and numerous other events, both on and off campus.

Delegate officers for 2013 include President Vijay Kannuthurai of Hazlehurst; Casey McGee of Starkville, vice president for public relations; **Mary Lowry Nemeth** of Starkville, secretary; and Samuel Bragg of Rienzi, vice president for education.

Members are selected through a highly competitive interview process. This year's group was chosen from among more than 300 applicants and joins 23 returning delegates.

The new members from the College of Education include (by hometown):

BRANDON--Junior **Hannah Farris**, a physical education/ kinesiology major, the daughter of David and Susan Farris. She is a graduate of Brandon High School.

HATTIESBURG--Junior **Anne Caroline Lovitt**, a kinesiology major with a concentration in clinical exercise physiology. She is a graduate of Oak Grove High School and the daughter of Phillip and Janet Lovitt.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--Junior **Amari Jenkins**, a kinesiology major and an international studies/Spanish minor, is a graduate of Arlington High School and the daughter of JoeDae and Willyn Jenkins.

MERIDIAN--Sophomore **Victoria Poole**, an elementary education major, is the daughter of Ed and Rhonda Poole. She is a graduate of Lamar High School.

# G.V. 'SONNY' MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION HONORS SIX FOR 2013 LEADERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

Two Magnolia State residents and one each from Kentucky and Tennessee are 2013 G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Foundation Scholars at Mississippi State.

The four, along with another student and a Jackson resident, recently were recognized at a ceremony sponsored by the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Foundation.

Montgomery Foundation Student Leadership Awards are among several campus memorials to the late alumnus and former longtime U.S. 3rd District representative from Meridian recognized nationally for his continuing congressional efforts on behalf of the military and its service veterans.

Each receiving \$3,000 awards, the new Montgomery Scholars include:

- Senior Kyle L. Bliss of Somerville, Tenn.;
- Junior Rebecca M. Cash of Louisville, Ky.;
- Junior Tiffany C. Richmond of Long Beach; and
- Graduate student **Eric T. Smith** of Swan Lake.

Also, junior Stephanie E. Nokes of Greenwood was honored at the ceremony with the Best Montgomery Research Paper Award.

Additionally, retired Maj. Gen. William B. "Bill" Lee of Ridgeland was this year's selection for the Montgomery Foundation Board of Directors Leadership Award. Senior vice president of Gulf Guaranty Life Insurance Co., he recently stepped down as commander of the Mississippi State Guard, volunteer arm of the Mississippi Military Department.

Kyle Bliss, the son of Russell and Kristine Bliss and a Fayette Academy graduate, is a senior interdisciplinary studies major, with concentrations in business, education and military science. In addition to service in the Mississippi Army National Guard, he is cadet battalion commander of Army ROTC at MSU.

Rebecca Cash, the homeschooled daughter of Dr. Brandon and Amy Cash, is a double-major in history and philosophy. Through the Montgomery Leadership program, she has been a very active volunteer, tutoring local students and helping renovate an elementary school basketball court, among other activities. She also is a member of the local Wesley Foundation organization and College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Advisory Council. During the summer, she will take part in a mission trip to Africa.



BLISS



CASH



NOKES



RICHMOND



SMITH

Tiffany Richmond, the daughter of James and Kumiko Richmond, is a geosciences/meteorology major attending MSU on an Air Force ROTC Scholarship received at Long Beach High School. In the AFROTC program, she serves as cadet operations director for the Arnold Air Society-Kenneth J. Snedden Squadron, an honorary service organization. She also is MSU Detachment 425's honor squadron commander.

**Eric Smith** is a University of Southern Mississippi graduate and U.S. Army Reserves veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Currently, he has completed more than half of his master of arts in teaching degree program at MSU while working as a Spanish and social studies instructor at Meridian High School.

Stephanie Nokes, a communication major, is a Pillow Academy graduate and the daughter of Thomas and Cindy Nokes. On campus, she is a member of the MSU Student Association, Stennis-Montgomery Association and Maroon Volunteer Center. With Delta Gamma, she directs the social sorority's chapter archives and e-communications.

Bill Lee is a Holmes Junior (now Community) College and University of Mississippi graduate. A Winona native, he is a former president and chairman of, respectively, the Jackson Touchdown Club and Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. An avid student of history, he is a much-sought speaker on World War II, including European battles and German submarine activity in the Gulf of Mexico. He holds the Magnolia Cross for meritorious service to the Mississippi State Guard and the state.



# 2013-14 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## Counseling and Educational Psychology

- Jessica Brewer** - Cox, Mills, and Tingle of Rehabilitation, Inc. Annual Scholarship, Florida
- Kelsey Cook** - Bert Jenkins Scholarship, Harrison County
- Meghan Dehring** - Thomas McKnight Scholarship, Michigan
- Laura Dyar** - Dr. Richard Vasek Scholarship, Webster County
- Virginia Gann** - Vernal S. Parker Scholarship, Lee County
- Lesley Hammers** - Max & Patricia Jobe Scholarship, Tennessee
- Alyson Holliday** - T. Daniel & Rona Johnson-Belser Scholarship, Harrison County
- Kenneth Hudson** - Cox, Mills, and Tingle of Rehabilitation, Inc. Annual Scholarship, Neshoba County
- Christopher Klein** - Thomas McKnight Scholarship, Pennsylvania

## Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education

- Sophia Bahlinger** - Frank and Ann Chiles Scholarship, Tennessee
- Tre Levonn Benjamin** - John Albert Bodron Memorial Scholarship, Harrison County
- Savanna V. Berry** - Bebe Roberts Freeman Scholarship, Tennessee
- Jensen Bosarge** - Dr. Richard Vasek Scholarship, Harrison County
- Chelsea Brown** - McLendon/Holliman Scholarship, Lowndes County
- Eason Cartwright** - Daniel R. Merritt/T. Daniel & Rona Johnson-Belser Scholarship, Prentiss County
- Katie E. Dahlem** - Dr. Susan McLaren Brooks Scholarship, Monroe County
- Kelly Daige** - Emma Grace Hayes Memorial Scholarship, Florida
- Kaleigh C. Davis** - Barry and Lana Knight Scholarship, Desoto County
- Kaitlin A. Doty** - Quay Webb Camp Annual Education Scholarship, Lincoln County
- Rashell Grubbs** - Jack L Beall Memorial Scholarship, Covich County
- Rebekkah Herald** - McLendon/Holliman Scholarship, Alabama
- Alisha R. Holder** - Nan Carpenter Cain Endowed Scholarship, Chickasaw County

**Whitney Knight** - Bobby & Regina Sanford Endowed Scholarship, Wesson County

**Catherine Lambert** - Merrill and Carrie Hawkins Scholarship, Alcorn County

**Lauren Liebkemann** - T. Daniel & Rona Johnson-Belser Scholarship, Hancock County

**Daniel Lopez** - McLendon/Holliman Scholarship, Kentucky

**Caroline Lowell** - Nancy Kubin Wallner Martin Scholarship, Alabama

**Emily Marler** - McLendon/Holliman Scholarship, Scott County

**Calleene Miller** - Charles D. Havens Jr. Annual Scholarship, Alabama

**Montana Murf** - Lucinda H. Rose Senior Scholarship, Lee County

**Makenzi B. Pettit** - Linda and Vincent McCrath Kappa Delta Scholarship, Calhoun County

**Laura Reeves** - Jack L Beall Memorial Scholarship, Madison County

**Margie Sligh** - Samuel & Arline Dyess Scholarship, Monroe County

**Ashley N. Smith** - Daniel & Rona Johnson-Belser Scholarship, Rankin County

**Christopher Strong** - Jack L Beall Memorial Scholarship, Lee County

**Lindsey N. Taylor** - George Walker Bush Education Scholarship, Alcorn County

**Linh Vuong** - Jack L Beall Memorial Scholarship, Harrison County

**Kayla Walsh** - Herbert Handley Scholarship, Monroe County

**Grace Williams** - Max and Patricia Jobe Endowed Scholarship, Alabama

**Porshe Zinke** - Ellen Curtis Ricci Scholarship, Webster County

## Instructional Systems & Workforce Development

**Douglas Bostick** - Francis N. Matthew Memorial Scholarship, Desoto County

**Christopher Jayroe** - Barry F. Box Scholarship, Oktibbeha County

**William Lyons** - T. Daniel & Rona Johnson-Belser Scholarship, Desoto County

**Caleb Smelser** - Nan Carpenter Cain Scholarship - Alabama

## Kinesiology

**Ashley Boatner** - Merrill and Carrie Hawkins Endowed Scholarship, Yazoo County

**Lakitta Beverly** - Dewey and Marie Malouf Scholarship, Leflore County

**Brea Browning** - Max & Patrica Ann Jobe Scholarship, Pontotoc County

**Anne C. Craig** - Merchant & Farmers Bank Scholarship, Oktibbeha County

**Alyssa Cummins** - Barry F. Box Scholarship, Bolivar County

**Elizabeth Daniels** - Durward Dunn Physical Education Scholarship, Sunflower County

**Eva Dodge** - Bert Jenkins Scholarship, Harrison County

**Kendall Smith** - Carey P. Vanderford Scholarship, Rankin County

**Roger Tate** - Wilburn-Pearson Sudduth Memorial Scholarship, Winston County

**Miguel A. Tyler** - Steven Thomas Jones Memorial Scholarship, Lowndes County

## Leadership and Foundations

**David S. Blaylock** - Lisa Blendinger-Bell Endowed Scholarship, Attala County

## Music

**Charkelcy Docher** - Katherine Gardner Thomas Scholarship, Choctaw County

**Michael J. Hay** - Joe & Catherine Fortunato Family Scholarship, Desoto County

**Cooper Haywood** - Max and Patricia Jobe Scholarship, Georgia

**Davide Incognito** - Fiasconello - Katherine Gardner Thomas Scholarship, Simpson County

**Charlie Sorto** - Carey P. Vanderford (Merchant & Farmers)/Joe & Catherine Fortunato Family Scholarship, Pontotoc County





## MSU ANNOUNCES SOCIETY OF SCHOLARS MEMBERS

Over two dozen Mississippi State seniors are new members of the university's prestigious Society of Scholars in the Arts and Sciences, five of whom are students in the College of Education.

At the conclusion of each fall and spring semesters, the limited-membership organization recognizes the most outstanding upper-level undergraduate students in all majors.

Persons selected for the rigorous screening process must have demonstrated a sound foundation in languages, mathematics, science, oral and written communication, humanities, and social sciences.

College of Education inductees include (by hometown):

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn.--**Lesley A. Hammers**, an educational psychology major and the daughter of Brett and Shannon Hammers.

LEAKESVILLE--**Sarah N. Roberts**, a kinesiology/clinical exercise physiology major and the daughter of Stephen and Charlene Roberts.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--**Rachel M. Drummond**, an educational psychology major and the daughter of Arthur and Terry Drummond.

STARKVILLE-- **Sarah K. Webb**, a clinical exercise physiology major and the daughter of Joe and Deree Webb.

WESSON--**Whitney L. Knight**, an English education major and the daughter of Phillip and Lea Ann Knight.

## STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Caroline Baker** received the 2013 Donald Zacharias Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year, Master's level award. The Graduate Student Association, with the support of the Office of the Graduate School, hosted the 11th Annual Graduate Student Association Awards Banquet on the evening of April 3 where outstanding graduate students, nominated by their mentors or supervisors, were recognized for their exceptional accomplishments in teaching, research, and service. Baker also placed second in the oral presentation division of the 2013 MSU Graduate Student Research Symposium.

**Anna Comer** received a \$1024 grant from the honors college to conduct research this past academic year. She played a major role in the study design, data collection and analysis for a project examining the effects of chronic ankle instability on joint laxity, balance, and landing kinetics. She presented the results of this study at the 2013 Southeast Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine annual meeting in February, 2013, in Greenville SC. She graduated in May with a degree in Kinesiology and began physical therapy school at UMC this summer.

**Lindsey Hall** was named Outstanding New Teacher of the Year for the Rankin County School District during the 2012-2013 school year.

**Charles R. "Bo" Rowland**, Ph.D. student in Community College Leadership, department of leadership and foundations, is Lead Online Criminal Justice Instructor at Itawamba Community College. He has been named Law Enforcement Director for the newly implemented Associate of Applied Science degree program in Law Enforcement Technology, Itawamba Community College.

**Jennifer Candace Weaver**, Ph.D. student in Community College Leadership, department of leadership and foundations, has been named Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math at Jones County Junior College. She is responsible for three academic divisions and all Career and Technical programs at her college.

# ALUMNI NOTES

'93

**Melissa Dawn Powell Woo** (M.Ed. 1993) of Cleveland MS has been certified in Junior Development and Adult Development, receiving the "professional" rating in both areas, by the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR), which is the largest global organization of tennis teachers and coaches, with 14,300 members in 115 countries.

'95

**Lori Matzek** (B.S. 1995), a fifth grade Math teacher in the Louisville Public School District, was one of two educators honored with an Outstanding Teacher award by the Theta Chi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi education honor society at MSU during its 2013 initiation ceremony.

'98

**Dr. Brett Shufelt** (M.S. 1998, Ph.D. 2002), a graduate of the College of Education with a degree in Educational Administration, was recently recognized as the academic Instructor of the Year at Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Wesson Campus.

'00

**Dr. David C. Lowery** (Ed.S. 2000, Ed.D., 2010) of Laurel MS, is an English instructor at Jones County Jr. College, and has recently had two articles published in *The Reading Professor* and the *Journal of Case Studies in Education*.

'06

**Leigh Collins** (B.S. 2006, M.S. 2008, Ed.S. 2011) of Laurel MS, was named Pinebelt Vocational Counselor of the Year for 2012, and Mississippi Vocational Counselor of the Year for 2012.

'07

**Adam** (B.M.E. 2007) and **Katie De Venney** (maiden name Ingram; B.M.E. 2007) were graduates in music education from MSU. Adam was named the band director at Union High School in Union, Mississippi, and has been in charge of the band for six years now, and his wife works on staff with him. Union High School has won the Mississippi High School Activities Association marching championship for the 2A class the last four years, under their leadership.

'08

**Cylesha Hopkins** (B.S. 2008), an eighth grade English teacher in the Louisville Public School District, was one of two educators honored with an Outstanding Teacher award by the Theta Chi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi education honor society at MSU during its 2013 initiation ceremony.

**Jessica Richardson** (B.S. 2008) recently graduated from the University of Tennessee's Health Science Center with her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree and is now working in Southaven, MS as a pediatric physical therapist

'09

**Clare Brooks Shankle**

(B.S. 2009, M.S. 2010)

a graduate in Special Education who is in her fourth year as a middle school special education teacher at Red Oak Middle School in Red Oak, IA, recently completed two weeks of service in Uganda with Field of Dreams-Uganda

(FoD), which partners with orphanages in Uganda that operate schools on their campuses. Each school is assessed to determine their educational needs and Fields of Dreams-Uganda provides textbooks, school kits, desks, technology, and other educational tools based on these assessments. Mike Heaton, Board President of FoD, says "I just want to say thank you for providing her with an excellent education. She is an amazing volunteer and the children love her. She is a Bulldog truly making a difference in the world."



'13

**Scott Munsell** (M.A.T.S. 2013) was selected as an Outstanding First Year Teacher for the Starkville School District during the 2012-2013 school year.



## ARMANDO RICCI INCREASES DAUGHTER'S MEMORIAL AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

A longtime Natchez resident continues to grow a scholarship established at Mississippi State University as a tribute to his late daughter.

A recent gift from Armando T. Ricci Jr. benefits the previously endowed Ellen Curtis Ricci Special Education Scholarship. Ricci and his late wife, Suzie, established the scholarship following their daughter's death in 1976.

"We built the scholarship with small gifts over time to assist students who desire to become a special education teacher just as Ellen had proudly intended," said Ricci, a petroleum geologist and owner of Ricci Oil Co. "Because of the endowment level reached, the scholarship has become a perpetual tribute to Ellen at her university."

Ellen Ricci was enrolled as a second semester sophomore at Mississippi State before a fatal automobile accident. She was a member and an officer of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, and excelled academically as a Dean's List and a President's List scholar. In her hometown of Natchez, she was a Red Cross water safety instructor. Ellen was pursuing a special education degree at MSU with an emphasis on teaching the handicapped.

Ricci said, "I am extremely proud of all my children, and together, we view this scholarship as a way to fulfill Ellen's unrealized legacy to the teaching profession."

The surviving Ricci siblings include: Roxanne Ricci, a school teacher in Baton Rouge, La.; Rick Ricci, an environmental geologist in Savannah, Ga., and Ed Ricci, who is a financial manager for an oil company in Dallas, Texas.

Since its creation, the Ellen Curtis Ricci Special Education Scholarship has assisted outstanding juniors and seniors majoring in special education through MSU's College of Education. The scholarship is awarded annually based on academic record, merit and financial need.

The newest recipient of the scholarship is MSU sophomore Porsche Zinke of Tylertown, Miss., who will receive the financial award for the 2013-14 academic year. At MSU, she is a member of the prestigious Judy and Bobby Shackouls Honors College and works as a tutor for student athletes. She was the 2011 valedictorian of her McComb High School graduating class in McComb, Miss.

At Mississippi State University, annual and endowed scholarships may be established through the MSU Foundation by contacting 662.325.7000 or by visiting the Foundation's website at [msufoundation.com](http://msufoundation.com).



## DR. JOE A. HAYNES NAMED COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR FOR 2013

**Dr. Joe A. Haynes** of Jackson, MS, has been selected as the 2013 College of Education Alumnus of the Year. Dr. Haynes holds a bachelor's degree from Alcorn State University, a master's from the University of Georgia, an educational specialist degree from Mississippi College, and received his Ph.D. in educational leadership from MSU in 1983. He has worked with numerous school districts and universities in Mississippi, including Holmes County School District and Jackson Public Schools. He served for a year as acting department chairman and assistant professor of educational foundations and leadership at Jackson State University. He was Superintendent of Greenville Public School District, was a member of the State Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning, served as the associate superintendent of leadership and operations at the Mississippi Department of Education, and was the executive director at Jobs for Mississippi Graduates, Inc. In 1997, Haynes was recognized at a joint conference of the Program for Research and Evaluation of Public Schools and the Mississippi Academy of School Executives where he received the Lamar Moody Award, which was named for the emeritus head of MSU's educational leadership department.

Dr. Haynes is a member of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), the Mississippi Association of School Administrators (MASA), and the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE). He also has worked with the National Football League as a Line Judge and as a College and University Talent Scout for Prospective NFL Game Officials.

## LT. GEN. DARRELL D. JONES NAMED 2013 ALUMNI FELLOW

The College of Education is honoring graduate Lt. Gen. Darrell D. Jones as the 2012 Alumni Fellow. Jones earned a degree in elementary education in 1979 and received a commission into the United States Air Force. Since graduation, he has spent his career serving our nation in the armed forces.

Born in Munich, Germany, Jones was the son of a career Air Force man. His family moved around from base to base, but was stationed in Columbus, Miss., for six years during Jones' childhood.

Jones came to Mississippi State and entered the university's Air Force ROTC program. Receiving his commission was one of the most memorable experiences of his academic career.

"On graduation day, I received a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force," described Jones. "After working toward my degree and my commission, I was surrounded by my family and friends. That was a very special day."

He learned many important life lessons while a member of MSU ROTC and during his academic studies. It not only taught him the importance of interacting with different types of individuals, but also that anything important is worth the hard work.

"As a student, you learn through trial and error...success and failure," he stated. "The teachers at State allowed me to grow while I learned these important lessons."

Jones continued his education and training as he worked his way up the ranks in the Air Force. He earned a master's degree in business administration from Webster University in 1984, and also attended Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and Air War College while stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala.

Today, Jones now leads the office of manpower, personnel and services at the Air Force headquarters in Washington, D.C. As deputy chief of staff, he is the senior officer responsible for comprehensive plans and policies covering all life cycles of military and civilian personnel management.



Jones

"Being asked to lead the Air Force's personnel community was a huge honor," Jones said. "I try to live up to that trust every day. Representing the Air Force, in small and large venues, is always very special."

Despite a career of assignments all over the world, Jones still considers Mississippi State to be a magical place. In fact, it was while he was in school that he met his wife, Holly.

"When you enter the campus, you feel something special. The staff, instructors and your fellow students are what make State like no other university," described Jones. "When you leave, you have the opportunity to show others what you experienced while in school. If you do that, success will surely follow."



# MSU ADMINISTRATOR, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ALUMNUS STEVENSON NAMED UNIVERSITY CDO

Mississippi State administrator **Tommy J. Stevenson** is taking on an expanded role as the university's new chief diversity officer and director of the recently renamed Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion.

The new administrative unit previously was called the Office of Diversity and Equity Programs.

As a member of the MSU President's Cabinet, Stevenson will advise the university's president and provost/executive vice president on diversity issues, one of his numerous responsibilities associated with opportunity and inclusion on campus.

MSU President Mark E. Keenum said, "As the most diverse of the nation's original land-grant universities and the most diverse institution in the Southeastern Conference, meaningful diversity and inclusion are bedrock values of Mississippi State University. We believe a more comprehensive approach to embracing those longtime values is needed, and we believe this new organizational structure will facilitate the appropriate results."

MSU Provost Jerry Gilbert agreed. "The refining of MSU's diversity efforts reflects the importance placed on making diversity and inclusion an even stronger part of our university's culture. As the university's chief diversity officer, Dr. Stevenson has demonstrated the kind of commitment to those values that is necessary for MSU to continue to lead by example in diversity and inclusion."

Among Stevenson's other duties are the recruitment and retention of faculty, staff and students from diverse and under-represented population groups, enhancement of partnerships with communities to promote diversity as an essential element of the university mission, and development and implementation of a university-wide diversity strategic plan.

Stevenson holds a doctoral degree in higher education administration from Bowling Green (Ohio) State University. He received a bachelor's degree in industrial technology and a master's in education administration, both from MSU.

In coordinating all campus diversity activities, he will chair a campus-wide diversity council. He also will serve



**Stevenson**

as principal liaison between the university and minority organizations, women's groups, and community action teams.

"I appreciate the confidence shown in me by the MSU administration as the university redoubles its commitment to a comprehensive, proactive program of diversity and inclusion across the length and breadth of the university," said Stevenson. "With the help of the new University Diversity Council, I'm excited about the new opportunities for growth and success that this new structure will provide."

A Brooksville native, Stevenson served for more than two years as assistant dean for diversity and student development in the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering. Previously, he was an admissions counselor in the Division of Student Affairs.

In 2010, Stevenson was honored as a National Role Model by Minority Access Inc., a non-profit educational organization that supports individuals, academic institutions, and federal, state and local government agencies and corporations.

## MSU ALUMNA, NOW MERIDIAN TEACHER RECEIVES REGIONAL RECOGNITION



**Nations**

A Mississippi State graduate now teaching in Meridian is the winner of a top regional honor for her master's degree thesis.

**Natalie A. Nations** recently was selected to receive the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools' 2013 Master's Thesis Award in the humanities-fine arts category.

The award recognizes the most outstanding student thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of a master's degree in this category during the past two years.

Nations, who received a master's in English at the conclusion of MSU's 2012 spring semester, teaches English II, creative writing and public speaking in the Meridian Public Schools.

Formerly of Trussville, Ala., she received \$1,000 and was recognized formally during the CSGS's annual meeting in Greenville, S.C.

"Defining Freedom: A Historical Exploration of Richard Wright's 'Black Boy,' Alice Walker's 'Meridian' and Ernest Gaines' 'The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman'" is the title of her thesis.

The Conference of Southern Graduate Schools represents more than 200 universities and colleges in a 15-state region stretching from Maryland and the District of Columbia to Oklahoma and Texas. For more, visit [www.csgs.org](http://www.csgs.org).

In expressing her gratitude for being chosen, Nations said she felt "that my thesis dealt with important issues of the past and of today in regards to race and the need to continue our individual efforts to establish equality.

"I hope this award will prove to my students that hard work and dedication to school can pay off and provide major recognition," she added.

Nations also holds a bachelor's degree in English from Samford University in Birmingham.



# C.K. IRBY PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT TO MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Shoals area business leader CK Irby, Sr. announced today his funding of an annual endowment scholarship for the benefit of the kinesiology department at Mississippi State University. Mr. Irby, a 1958 graduate of the university, intends for the scholarship to be awarded annually on the basis of grade point average, financial need, and overall display of quality and character.

Irby's announcement was made to a Florence, Alabama audience including family members, local graduates, and representatives of the university and the Mississippi State University Foundation.

**Trish Cunetto**, Director of Development for College of Education at Mississippi State, was present to accept the endowment on the university's behalf. Ms. Cunetto expressed the school's deep gratitude to Mr. Irby, noting the university's reliance on private gifts for funding scholarships. Said Ms. Cunetto, "Less than one third of the school's total budget comes from state revenue. Private support, like the generous endowment made today by Mr. Irby, is critical for offering scholarships to deserving students." She also noted, "Most college students now graduate carrying a large amount of debt. Scholarship assistance, like Mr. Irby's, alleviates the burden graduates can carry for many years."

Mr. Irby also reflected on his years at Mississippi State, crediting the school with providing him both an education and valuable life experience. He also noted that the university has become a family experience, with both children and grandchildren attending college there.

The kinesiology department of Mississippi State University has evolved to many areas of study, including clinical exercise physiology, health fitness studies, sports studies, and sport pedagogy (physical education/coaching), and branching off into other areas of study such as: physical therapy, medical school, sports training, nursing, and research.





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*College of Education Alumni and Friends,*

The College of Education is dedicated to preparing highly qualified professionals within the field of education and also in other areas as well. The support of our loyal alumni and friends has enabled the College of Education to meet the demands of the 21st Century, and we humbly ask for your continued support as we strive to make the college bigger and better. In the fall of 2013 the College of Education welcomed its Freshman class of 18 students to the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program that was funded by a generous grant from the Robert M. Hearin Foundation. This program is attracting some of the best and brightest students to the field of education at both Mississippi State and the University of Mississippi. In 2012 six new endowed scholarships were established along with several other large gifts to the college.

This past year I have had the opportunity to visit with many of you and get to know you. I sincerely thank you for your generosity to this great university and to the College of Education and for opening your hearts and homes to me during our visits. I continue to make it my goal to get out and visit with as many of you as possible. If you are on campus for any reason please feel free to give me a call or stop by my office at 309 Allen Hall. I would love to share with you some of the exciting things that are going on in the college.

As we begin a new Capital Campaign to raise funds for the university your gifts will continue to impact the lives of our students and the future of the College of Education at MSU. There are many ways to give, some of which include endowed scholarships, planned gifts, charitable gift annuities, faculty support and others. If you would like additional information about giving opportunities please contact me at 662-325-6762 or [tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu)



*Trish Cunetto*  
Director of Development



# SEND US YOUR NEWS!

We would like to include news of alumni accomplishments in each issue of the College of Education newsletter. Please use the form below to send us information about career changes, recognitions received and other news you would like to share with your former classmates, friends and professors.

**Clip and mail to:** Dr. Teresa Jayroe, P.O. Box 9710, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

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☐ Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100

☐ Other amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payable by: ☐ Check to the MSU Foundation, Inc.

☐ One-time credit card charge

☐ **I would like to set up a monthly credit card gift of**  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to begin on \_\_\_\_\_ (date),  
that will continue until I notify otherwise. (*Payment*  
*will be charged on the 15th of each month and can*  
*be canceled with a 30-day notice.*)

☐ **My employer will match my gift.**

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please charge my:** ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit verification code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please designate my contribution to:

SP14/DMED

Please return this form and your contribution to:

MSU Foundation, P.O. Box 6149, Mississippi State, MS 39762 or make a contribution online at: [www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com)







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