

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION | NEWSLETTER | 2014

CHANGING TOMORROW THROUGH EDUCATION TODAY





COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN

The pages of this newsletter are a testament to many of the good things that are happening in the College of Education. As our tagline indicates, we are “Changing Tomorrow Through Education Today”. For us in the COE, this is not merely a slogan but a depiction of what constantly occurs in our work. While the accomplishments outlined in this publication are impressive, they are a mere subset of the total impact of the COE. Our mission is to provide instruction, research, and service to state, national, and international audiences which significantly impacts educational attainment, economic development and quality of life. Success in this endeavor is made possible by a network of outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends. In addition to numerous individual successes occurring in the College of Education this year, we take great pride in the following accomplishments:



- Maintaining our 3rd place rank among MSU colleges with respect to external funding
- Continuing our service to all 82 Mississippi counties
- Providing significant assistance to both the Oktibbeha County Schools and the Starkville Schools as they move toward consolidation
- Assisting Yokohama Tire Corporation with the establishment of a Saturday School in the area

It should be noted that accomplishments such as those outlined in this publication are difficult during a period of limited state assistance for higher education. However, the College of Education continues to excel through the kind generosity of our loyal alumni and friends. We humbly ask for your continued support.

Best Wishes,
Dr. Richard Blackbourn

Dean and Professor

MSU EDUCATION DEAN BLACKBOURN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MACTE

A senior Mississippi State administrator began a two-year term as president of the Mississippi Association of Colleges for Teacher Education in the fall of 2014. Richard L. Blackbourn, who has led the university's College of Education since 2005, previously served seven years on MACTE's executive board and two years as its president-elect.

Affiliated with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, MACTE seeks to stimulate improvement in programs of teacher education at public and private institutions of higher education throughout the Magnolia State. Additionally, its members work to impact public policies relating to the preparation of state education professionals at all levels of service.

A Mississippi State alumnus, Blackbourn has more than 30 years in the profession. In addition to Lowndes County, Natchez and Pascagoula, he held earlier teaching and administrative posts at Northeast Louisiana and Clemson universities. His three degrees from Mississippi State include bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education in 1974 and 1976, respectively, and a doctorate in educational leadership in 1983.

In addition to MSU, MACTE includes education deans at Alcorn State and Belhaven universities, Blue Mountain College, Delta State and Jackson State universities, Millsaps and Mississippi colleges, Mississippi University for Women, Mississippi Valley State University, Rust and Tougaloo colleges, universities of Mississippi and Southern Mississippi, and William Carey University.

PUBLIC EVENT LAUNCHES ALL-STEINWAY INITIATIVE

Mississippi State's College of Education formally announced its All-Steinway Initiative with an April 24, 2014, public display of the first class of pianos acquired toward the effort.

The celebration marked the formal beginning of the college's commitment to make the music education department an All-Steinway School.

In addition to joining more than 160 institutions of higher learning and conservatories throughout the world with this distinction, the university seeks to become the only Mississippi school holding the prestigious honor.

The announcement and celebration took place in the Thad Cochran Research Park's Industry Partners Building. During the event, MSU music majors and faculty showcased their talents, both with a newly acquired Steinway grand and four verticals, and other featured instruments.

Based in Queens, N.Y., Steinway & Sons is the internationally renowned manufacturer of pianos. Founded in 1853, the company has been honored with numerous awards and granted more than 100 patents over its long history.

For more info, visit www.steinway.com

"In the world of piano, Steinway is the name that eclipses all other names," said former department head Michael Brown. "Indeed, most piano brands hope to be compared to Steinway, but all come up short and we are fortunate to bring these prime instruments to Mississippi State. With an All-Steinway school

goal, we can begin to give our students and faculty the best piano tool and equip our rehearsal halls and studios with only Steinway pianos," Brown added.

Earlier that month, veteran department professors Jackie Edwards-Henry and Rosangela Sebba traveled to the Steinway factory to select a seven-foot grand piano that will reside permanently in Edwards-Henry's practice studio. Purchase of the Steinway Grand and the four office verticals was made possible through an estate gift from the late Scarvia Bateman Anderson of Melbourne Beach, Fla., a 1945 MSU education alumna.

This group of five is the first of 30 new Steinways to be purchased over time with private gifts. By becoming an All-Steinway School, MSU can take a large step in improving the campus music program, Brown said.

The department offers undergraduate degrees in music and music education. Since 2012, it has made inroads to purchase new pianos after an inventory of existing pianos in use reflected an average age of nearly 40 years. Many are in poor condition.

"The impact of an All-Steinway School will enhance the department's ability to recruit high quality students from across the United States and internationally who are pursuing a career in music. The distinction also will help our department attract and retain elite faculty," Brown said.

Trish Cunetto, the education college's development director, praised Anderson's gift as "a wonderful way to help others have access to these magnificent Steinway instruments to nurture their talent." She said it is an excellent example of how "individuals may honor or memorialize a loved one, former professor or classmate with gifts for the purchase of these prestigious instruments."

Others desiring to support the All-Steinway Initiative may contact Cunetto at [662-325-6762](tel:662-325-6762) or tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu.

For information about music education at Mississippi State, visit music.msstate.edu/academics/. Complete details on MSU are available at www.msstate.edu.



Music education faculty members **Rosangela Sebba**, left, and **Jackie Edwards-Henry** are pictured in the Steinway & Sons factory selection room during their recent New York trip to select a seven-foot grand piano for the university.

SIXTEEN PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS COMPLETE TRAINING INSTITUTE



Clinton teacher **Collins Kinsam Lanyuy** displays his art project at MSU's recent Global Academic Essentials Teaching Institute. He was among a group of sixth-12th grade classroom leaders receiving updates in the latest active learning strategies and technologies. Photo by: Beth Wynn

When educators return to classrooms as learners, they tend to acquire a better understanding of what to teach and how to teach it to 21st century students.

Recently, Mississippi State provided 16 public school teachers of history, social studies and foreign language with an opportunity to become students once again. Representing districts stretching from Meridian to Mound Bayou to Tishomingo County, they took part in the Global Academic Essentials Teaching Institute during June.

The university's department of instructional systems and workforce development served as host for the sixth-12th grade classroom leaders as they learned the latest methods for engaging students.

In addition to reviewing state standards, becoming familiar with new technologies and developing modern lesson plans during the month-long program, participants kept blogs about their experiences and developed website portfolios. They include lesson plans, technology-application strategies and presentation-download links. All are accessible at www.gaeti.iswd.msstate.edu.

"The blogs served as a 'modern day journal,' which also got teachers accustomed to using technology and simultaneously encouraged them to be courageous enough to share their professional thoughts publicly," said institute facilitator Pamela Scott-Bracey.

"The goal of the Common Core State Standards is to help our students think critically through analysis and reflection, so we wanted to get our teachers used to participating in the process of reflection," the MSU assistant professor added.

As she explained, the teachers were engaged in the same kinds of activities they are now requiring of their students. They learned about fossils and archeology at, respectively, the geosciences department's Dunn-Seiler Museum and Cobb Institute of Archaeology, as well as from MSU faculty members skilled in the application of engaged course content through service-learning projects.

Scott-Bracey said much emphasis was placed on developing classroom strategies allowing students to apply the concepts they're learning instead of simply memorizing materials for multiple choice exams.

MSU COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS BACK FOR FOURTH YEAR

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

Now in its fourth year, the cross-college grant program brings together researchers from across campus and the varied academic disciplines to foster collaboration and advance the university's mission, according to the administrator overseeing the initiative.

"We are pleased that we are able to support this program for another year, and provide additional resources to faculty that help them move their work forward," said Drew Hamilton, associate vice president for research.

Hamilton, also a professor of computer science and engineering, said a \$2,000 grant to each of 41 teams this year will support the initiation of proposals, as well as help enhance multi-disciplinary work on existing projects. Eight of the grants support second-year funding.

"Collaborative initiatives are a priority for us," said David Shaw, MSU's vice president for research and economic development.

"Mississippi State excels at building diverse teams to solve real-world, multi-dimensional problems, and we believe that the cross-college grant program is an important part of that success," he said.

Participating teams with a College of Education principal investigator included:

- Joanne Beriswill, instructional systems and workforce development, "Science Education Games Group Initiative."
- Janie Cirlot-New, counseling and educational psychology, "Social Skills Acquisition for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders Using Animated Video Modeling."
- Marge Crowe, Meridian Division of Education, "Interdisciplinary Collaboration to Promote Wellness Through the Health Sciences."
- Cheryl Justice, counseling and educational psychology, "Applied Behavioral Analysis in the Classroom Setting."
- Jamie O'Mally, National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision, "Broadening the Participation of College Students with Blindness in Engineering."
- Chien Yu, instructional systems and workforce development, "M-Learning for Underrepresented Students in Science and Engineering."

CAMP JABBER JAW CONCLUDES WITH SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT



Laurie Craig (far left), speech-language pathologist at MSU's T.K. Martin Center, helps Camp Jabber Jaw participant **Rachel Dickey** display a special scrapbook as **Earl** and **Sissy Barkley** and mother **Lisa Dickey** (far right) look on. Photo by: Russ Houston

Mississippi State's T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability announced a memorial scholarship honoring a former Camp Jabber Jaw camper.

Alice R. "Allie" Barkley of Monticello, a longtime participant in the center's Camp Jabber Jaw, passed away suddenly in December--just one day after her 25th birthday. To serve as a living memorial, parents Earl and Sissy Barkley chose to establish a scholarship in her name. Named for MSU's late vice president who led in making the university more accessible to those with physical challenges, the T.K. Martin Center provides comprehensive, multi-disciplinary evaluations to remove limitations through the application of assistive technology, allowing individuals to participate in educational, vocational and leisure activities to the fullest degree they choose.

Established by the center in 1997, Camp Jabber Jaw serves children between the ages of five and 21 with severe speech-language disabilities by helping them, their caregivers and families learn to use augmentative and alternative communication devices. Held June 2-6, the 2014 camp brought together 17 young people from Mississippi, Alabama, Indiana, Louisiana and Tennessee.

"Many times, these children are the only ones in their community or school who use augmentative communication devices, so it's really cool for their parents to get to visit with other parents whose children use augmentative communication systems," said center director Janie Cirlot-New.

During the camp's concluding program Friday, speech-language pathologist Laurie Craig shared a special story. She said camper Rachel Dickey of Bessemer, Alabama, who has attended for seven years and became one of Allie Barkley's closest friends, had requested donations be made to the new scholarship fund in lieu of receiving birthday presents for her 16th birthday.

"Rachel has a very loving heart; she likes to think about others," Lisa Dickey said of her daughter.

In addition to thanking the Dickey and Barkley families for their contributions, Craig presented the Barkleys with a photo-filled scrapbook that captured Allie and Rachel's strong friendship over the years.

Throughout the week, Rachel and others campers had taken part in a variety of vocabulary-enriching--and fun--activities inspired by popular children's books, including "Charlotte's Web," "The Carrot Seed" and "The Cat in the Hat," among others.

"After we read 'The Carrot Seed,' the children got to plant seeds, go through a garden maze and make a snack that was like a carrot growing in a cupcake, which was pretty cool," Cirlot-New said.

Other program highlights included horseback riding at the Mississippi Horse Park made possible by R.I.D.E.S. of Caledonia, swimming at the Sanderson Center and attending a camp dance.

Also benefitting from the weeklong gathering were 22 graduate students in speech pathology from Jackson State University, Mississippi University for Women and University of Southern Mississippi. By working one-on-one with campers each day, the future professionals received hours of intensive, hands-on training and experience, Cirlot-New said.

For Henry LaCount of West Lafayette, Indiana, and mother Susan Mendrysa, the 2014 camp was a first-time experience for both.

"The camp counselors were pretty awesome; they did a fabulous job with the kids," Mendrysa said, adding that she felt "the best part of the program is that the kids can see other device-users because they don't usually see that in their classrooms."

Learn more about the T.K. Martin Center at www.tkmartin.msstate.edu. Follow the Center on Facebook www.facebook.com/tkmartincenter and Twitter [@TKMartinCenter](https://twitter.com/TKMartinCenter).

To make a donation to the Allie Barkley Camp Jabber Jaw Scholarship fund, contact the MSU Foundation at 662-325-7000.

AUTISM CLINIC EXPANDS SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES



Gadke

Mississippi State University officials say the newly opened Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic represents a logical expansion of the university's School Psychology Services Center.

The center and clinic are units of the College of Education and its counseling and educational psychology department. Both are open to the public. Director Daniel L. Gadke, a licensed psychologist, said all services are rooted in applied behavior analysis and designed to be affordable.

"We're working very hard now to get the word out around the region about our expanded services," Gadke said. "We're very excited about what the future holds as we work to benefit the residents of Mississippi and surrounding areas."

Located in the Barry F. Box Building on Morrill Road, the facility primarily serves clients with autism spectrum disorders that may range from birth to 22 years of age. Services also are available to others with intellectual or developmental disabilities, various genetic and chromosomal disorders, including Down Syndrome, as well as speech and language delays and disruptive behavior disorder.

The new clinic is modeled after one at Illinois State University, where Gadke received a doctoral degree in school psychology in 2012. His bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology also were completed at ISU.

Gadke, a national certified school psychologist, joined the MSU faculty during the fall semester after completing a post-doctoral residency at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Md.

He said services offered by the MSU clinic have been designed to assist with problem behaviors such as tantrums, aggression, non-compliance and mild self-injury. Building functional life skills, social and coping skills also are among the services provided, he added.

In addition, client assistance is available in pre-academics, reading, mathematics, writing, and spelling. Supplemental services include school-based behavioral consultations and autism assessments. MSU school psychology faculty members also will be available to help deal with certain rare genetic disorders, such as CHARGE syndrome.

Gadke said beyond serving the general public, the clinic also will be helping train students enrolled in the education college's school psychology program.

"The clinic offers a marriage of training and service, so we can train graduate students how to be practitioners," Gadke said. "This will lead to more resources in the future in the form of professionals who also will be able to provide services to families."

Additional information may be obtained by calling **662-325-2568**, emailing schoolpsychservices@colled.msstate.edu or visiting www.facebook.com/autismclinicmsstate. Gadke also is on Twitter [@DrGadke](https://twitter.com/DrGadke). He said social media is used primarily to provide the public with information about autism, the clinic, the school psychology field and ongoing research.





Left: **Teresa Jayroe**, associate dean of MSU's College of Education, joined other university officials, Louisville Municipal School District administrators, and city officials in announcing a nearly \$2 million Mississippi Department of Education grant that will benefit LMSD at-risk students in kindergarten-fourth grade. The project, titled "Dillard's Reading, Enrichment, Arts, Mathematics and Science After-school and Summer Tutorial Enrichment Program" or DREAMS, is named after the late Susan Gregory Dillard, a longtime LMSD teacher.
Photo by: Megan Bean

MSU, LOUISVILLE SCHOOLS RECEIVE MAJOR GRANT TO BENEFIT AT-RISK STUDENTS

A nearly \$2 million grant awarded to Mississippi State's College of Education and the Louisville Municipal School District will be used to help boost at-risk student achievements through academic tutoring, teacher intervention and literacy training.

Announced August 26, 2014, at the district's central office, the Mississippi Department of Education award to the university is part of the agency's 21st Century Community Learning Center program. The project focuses on some 150-200 at-risk students in kindergarten-fourth grades. Teresa Jayroe, associate dean of the college, said the five-year partnership provides after-school and summer enrichment programs for the city's Fair Memorial and Louisville elementary schools, as well as Noxapater and Nanih Waiya attendance centers in Winston County.

"This will enable us to place 12 interventionists in these schools for 17 hours per week, along with 10 tutors and 12 teachers in an after-school and summer enrichment program," Jayroe said. "The innovative learning and enrichment components of the program are designed to produce outcomes such as improved achievement in classroom academics, higher test scores, and increased class attendance."

The state-of-the-art educational approach is named for the late Susan Gregory Dillard, a longtime LMSD teacher who assisted with the initial grant proposal now known as the Dillard's Reading, Enrichment, Arts, Mathematics and Science After-school and Summer Tutorial Enrichment Program (DREAMS).

A Nanih Waiya Attendance Center graduate, Dillard taught English at her alma mater until her death in 2010. She was a National Board Certified Teacher and the school's 2010 Teacher of the Year and STAR teacher. Dillard was a Mississippi State doctoral graduate who also previously taught at the university.

College of Education Dean Richard Blackburn praised the DREAMS program for being "an example of what we try to do in

MSU's College of Education; build a better life for boys and girls in local communities."

In his remarks, Superintendent Ken McMullan said the district is happy and proud that "our partnership with Mississippi State continues to grow."

"Grants like this can be hard to come by, and we are definitely thankful for this opportunity to give our children the best education possible," McMullan added.

DREAMS is an evidence-based curricula with strategies to increase vocabulary, reading fluency and comprehension, mathematics fluency and number sense, problem solving and critical thinking skills. Instruction will complement the students' regular academic program by emphasizing active, hands-on learning activities.

"The students also will be provided with the necessary resources and personal assistance to complete assignments and projects, while also working to develop interpersonal skills and build character," Jayroe explained.

Other MSU education faculty members involved in the program's implementation are Donna Shea, director of the clinical/field-based, instruction, and outreach office; Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, associate professor of mathematics in curriculum, instruction and special education; and Angela Mulkana, a literacy instructor in curriculum, instruction and special education.

WIND ENSEMBLE PERFORMS IN ITALY

Mississippi State's 60-member Wind Ensemble visited Europe this summer for a 10-day trip to Italy for the XXIV International Music Meeting in Padova. In addition to performing with other skilled musicians, members had the opportunity to experience Italian culture.

Elva Kaye Lance, the university's director of bands, said the trip was a special experience for both accompanying faculty members and students who practiced and prepared for the self-funded trip for approximately 18 months.

"We try to make an international-travel opportunity available to our band members every three to four years, and some of the students who went on this trip have just graduated," she said. "This trip was a great way for them to begin their careers."

The group performed both American and Italian selections. Additionally, the brass section, conducted by Dr. Anthony Kirkland, Assistant Professor in the Department of Music, performed for the worship services at the Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi, said Craig Aarhus, associate director of bands.

Among the Italian selections were "Canto degli Italiani," Italy's national anthem; "Nessun Dorma," a famous aria from Giacomo Puccini's opera Turandot; and "Italian Holiday," a medley of popular songs and arias, Lance said.

Dr. Anthony Kirkland, was featured trumpet soloist with the ensemble, performing "Concert Etude" by Goedicke. Featured U.S. pieces included "Stars and Stripes Forever," "At a Dixieland Jazz Funeral" and "Salute to American Jazz," among others.

Additionally, the ensemble members met and performed with one of the country's oldest town bands, La Banda Musicale di Bevagna. "Students in the town band have done exchanges with the U.S." Lance said. "We shared a meal and a concert. This band has a rich history, and any time that we can meet musicians from other parts of the world, that is exciting."

Aarhus said other stops included Milan--and Teatro alla Scala, that city's world-famous opera house--as well as Venice, Florence and Rome. Students also visited a family at a working olive farm and spent three nights at a monastery in Spoleto, an ancient city in the Umbria region.

"Not only were we able to explore and make music with other cultures, we were also able to share our culture," Lance said. "This trip gave the students a taste of modern Italian cities and the flavor of what life is like in the Italian countryside."

A band director for more than three decades and director of bands since 2002, Lance said international trips help to expand and enhance the students' worldview.

"They now have a better understanding of our place in history and perhaps a different appreciation of what we have in America," Lance emphasized. "Travel brings history to life, gives it more meaning and makes it personal."

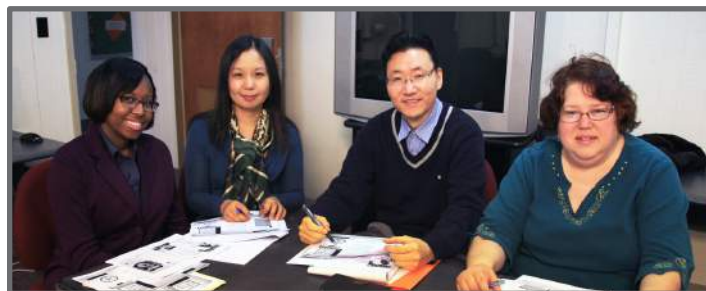
The ensemble's first overseas trip took place in 2008 with nine days in Ireland, Wales and England. In 2011, the musical ambassadors made a two-week performance tour in Germany and Austria.

ISWD FACULTY AWARDED \$90,000 GRANT

A group of stellar junior faculty in the MSU College of Education and an accomplished faculty member of the College of Arts and Sciences were recently awarded a \$90,000 Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) No Child Left Behind: Improving Teacher Quality Program grant. The project entitled "Integrating Global Academic Essentials: Common Core, 21st Century Skills, and Technology" allowed the university to host an on-campus 20-day Global Academic Essentials Teacher Institute (GAETI) this summer for teachers of West Point and Louisville School Districts.

The main purpose of the GAETI 2014 program was to promote Common Core State Standards aligned with 21st Century skills to increase interdisciplinary academic achievement in core subject areas, including foreign languages and social sciences. Relevant training on innovative pedagogical practices and technologies was also provided. The project was led by Dr. Pamela Scott-Bracey,

assisted by Dr. Sang Joon Lee, Dr. Kun Huang and Dr. Joanne Beriswill, all assistant professors in the Department of Instructional Systems and Workforce Development. Dr. Kathleen Sherman-Morris, associate professor of the Department of Geosciences, also assisted with content development and training.



Left to right: **Dr. Pamela Scott-Bracey, Dr. Sang Joon Lee, Dr. Kun Huang, and Dr. Joanne Beriswill**

METP TRAINING NEW GENERATION OF EDUCATION LEADERS

"Being a good teacher is more than just knowing the subject matter."

That reminder was among several Richard Blackburn, dean of Mississippi State's College of Education, shared recently with students in the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program.

Through METP, 19 future teachers at the university are learning that educators have a huge impact on all aspects of a student's life, not just academics.

Announced in January of 2013 and funded by the Jackson-based Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation, the program is a joint effort by MSU and the School of Education at the University of Mississippi to prepare high-achieving students to be leaders in education.

"I want to have a better understanding of what it is to be a teacher in Mississippi, and I think it will give me an edge when the time comes to get a job," said student Mikala Taylor of Starkville.

To gain admission, METP candidates must possess grades and test scores comparable to admission requirements for both the MSU and UM honors colleges. An interview process identifies those with a demonstrated passion and dedication for improving public education in the state.

Accepted education majors receive full scholarships and room-and-board for up to four years. The program also provides money to study abroad or for off-campus learning activities such as visiting high-performing schools around the nation or abroad.

Meeting once a week during their freshman and sophomore years in a seminar-style class, the students learn general teaching information, including the challenges and benefits of being a leader.

Over their course of study, participants will be exposed to faculty and fellow METP students at both institutions of higher learning during cross-campus visits each semester and weeklong summer residencies. They also have the opportunity to attend a national or regional professional conference relevant to their teaching discipline.

All graduates make a five-year commitment to teach in the state following graduation, and they will have been trained especially for the new national Common Core Standards.

"We want them to make friends and have a support network," said Lina Trullinger, former METP coordinator in MSU's Office of Clinical/Field-based Instruction and Licensure in the College of Education. "It gives them someone to bounce ideas off of, discuss problems with and so forth."

While the majority of the program's students are from Mississippi, the program also draws future teachers from other states.

"I'm really impressed with MSU's teaching program. I like it here a lot, and I'm excited at the opportunities METP will bring me," said Walker A. Isbell, a student from Jonesboro, Arkansas.



MSU College of Education Dean **Richard Blackburn** speaks to students in the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program.

Photo by: Megan Bean

TEACHING EXCELLENCE PARTICIPANTS MAKE FIRST CROSS-CAMPUS VISIT

Educators must be catalysts for creating a cycle of knowledge, students in the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program were told recently.

Some 10 METP participants from the University of Mississippi came to the Starkville campus to meet with their MSU peers. They toured the College of Veterinary Medicine, participated in a scavenger hunt and heard from several speakers, including state Sen. Sally Doty of Brookhaven.

Announced in January and funded by the Jackson-based Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation, METP is a joint effort by MSU and UM to prepare high-achieving students to be leaders in education. Monday's event was among numerous cross-campus visits planned each semester to help introduce participants to faculty and fellow METP students at each institution.

An attorney, Doty currently serves as vice-chair of both the Senate's Judiciary A and Public Property committees. She also is secretary of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Judiciary B, Economic Development, Business and Financial Institutions and Drug Policy committees. A legislator for two years, she discussed the state's education funding structure and stressed the importance of keeping updated on all legislation affecting public school teaching.

"I am so impressed that you have made the commitment to be teachers in this state," Doty told the students. "I can't wait to see what comes of this program."

Jerry Gilbert, MSU provost and executive vice president, reminded the students of the global challenges the world will face in the coming years

and the role educators will have in shaping those who will face these issues. "Don't underestimate the influence you'll have; you have the future in your hands," Gilbert said.

Allison Pearson, an MSU Giles Distinguished Professor of Management, tied her remarks to Gilbert's theme: "The root of solutions to the world's big problems are knowledge and learning. As teachers, you're laying the foundation for that."

Pearson also compared education to Isaac Newton's first law of motion.

"Every object in a state of uniform motion tends to remain in that state of motion unless an external force is applied to it," she said. "As educators, you are the forces that move people. The standards are high for you, and high for a reason."

To be admitted, METP candidates must possess grades and test scores comparable to admission requirements for both the MSU and UM honors colleges. An interview process identifies those with a demonstrated passion and dedication for improving public education in the state. Accepted education majors receive full scholarships and room-and-board for up to four years. The program also provides money to study abroad or for off-campus learning activities such as visiting high-performing schools around the nation or abroad. All graduates make a five-year commitment to teach in the state following graduation, and they will have been trained especially for the new national Common Core Standards.

For more information about METP, go to <http://metp.msstate.edu>.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The College of Education hosted its annual Awards Convocation in the John Grisham Room of the Mitchell Memorial Library. At the event, it was announced that the college Diversity Award would be renamed the Donnie Prisock Diversity Award. The college honored several members of its faculty and staff for their service and dedication to MSU.



James Sobaskie,
Herb Handley
Research Award



Jessica Ivy,
Clyde Muse
Service Award



Jennifer Winter,
Betty Purvis Staff
Award



Deborah Jackson,
Donnie Prisock
Diversity Award



Cheryl Justice,
Lucinda Rose
Teaching Award

MSU ANNOUNCES \$11 MILLION GRANT FOR NEW MERIDIAN PROGRAM



MSU President **Mark E. Keenum**, left, thanks Riley Foundation Chairman **Robert B. Deen Jr.**, center, and Vice President **Marty Davidson** for an \$11 million grant to fund a new kinesiology program at MSU-Meridian. The program, with an emphasis in clinical exercise and physiology, will be offered in the Riley Campus Kress Building, which is seeing major renovations under the funding as well.
Photo by: Megan Bean

An \$11 million grant from The Riley Foundation of Meridian is providing a new kinesiology program in Mississippi State University's Kress Building, an MSU-Meridian Riley Campus facility that also is seeing major renovations under the funding.

The official announcement of the donation was made November 20, 2013, at 10 a.m., at the Foundation office in Meridian. On hand for the ceremony were MSU President Mark E. Keenum; MSU Provost and Executive Vice President Jerry Gilbert; Riley Foundation Board Chairman Robert B. Deen, Jr.; Riley Foundation Executive Director Becky Farley; and former MSU-Meridian Dean and Associate Vice President Steven F. Brown.

"With the excellent health care opportunities in the city of Meridian, bringing a program such as kinesiology to the area is ideal for the missions of not only Mississippi State, but the Meridian Campus and The Riley Foundation as well," said

Keenum. "We're very grateful to The Riley Foundation for helping us increase educational options for our traditional students and adult learners in east central Mississippi."

Deen said, "This partnership with Mississippi State University, which began in 2000 with a \$10 million grant for the creation of The Riley Center, has continued through the years as a productive catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Meridian and has provided higher education opportunities for our community."

The new Division of Education program, with an emphasis in clinical exercise and physiology, admitted its first students in the fall of 2014. Graduates are expected to have numerous career options in such categories as occupational and physical therapy and their assistant programs, exercise and wellness, rehabilitation, athletics and research.

Additionally, the funding finances building renovations, equipment, furnishings and technology infrastructure in the facility. A state-of-the-art laboratory for the new kinesiology program will make it one of the most prestigious in the state. The Riley Foundation's gift is presented under MSU's current \$600 million fundraising initiative, *Infinite Impact: The Mississippi State University Campaign*. To date, giving totals \$375 million toward that goal.

For many years, The Riley Foundation has been a major Mississippi State supporter. The MSU Riley Center for Education and the Performing Arts opened its doors in 2006 and restored two Meridian landmarks, the Grand Opera House and the Marks Rothenberg building. Also, the MSU-Meridian Riley Campus, which houses the business school, is located in the historic Newberry Building donated in 2009 by the Foundation. This grant included \$6 million for the structure's renovation and provided furniture, equipment and technology.

EMERGING LEADERS BECOMING EXPERIENCED GRANT-WRITERS

One of the biggest issues in K-12 today is that annual budgets are small. MSU's Educational Leadership students are learning ways to combat small budgets through grant-writing.

As a part of the Directed Studies class, students are asked to address relevant issues in K-12 settings from problem to solution. Many times the solution involves money. Dr. Penny Wallin, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, coaches her students to find grant opportunities that can benefit the students' schools. "Our emphasis in the Educational Leadership Program is to prepare emerging leaders with skills for addressing real-life issues they will face as administrators. By choosing grant-writing in the Ed.S Directed Studies course, students are able to identify a relevant need, apply their repertoire of knowledge, research, communication, and service skills, and submit a grant application to a funding source. Beginning with site-based data collection, our leaders-in-training are able to determine specific areas of need, find appropriate grant sources to tap, and experience the grant-writing process. The extra bonus is when their investment of time, energy, and expertise is funded and they are able to 'pay it forward' at their school sites to enhance the education of our children in Mississippi," said Wallin.

Sample funded grants include a Parenting Center, an Outdoor Classroom, an Exercise Walking Trail, a High Interest Literacy Library, and a State-of-the-Art Technology Upgrade."

Dr. Jody Woodrum, Assistant Superintendent of Starkville Public Schools and member of the COE Teacher Education

Council, says that grant-writing is a marketable skill for emerging leaders seeking leadership opportunities. "I am delighted to learn of this emphasis in the leadership program. To me, it is analogous to expecting high school students to embark on the journey of completing a meaningful service project and sharing about it prior to graduation. It is not only an opportunity to give back to those around us as we move forward, but the grant writing expectation is a way to apply skills and concepts freshly learned in a practical way. And, the comfort gained in success will pay off ten fold as the learning leader feels ready to lead and repeat the grant writing process in his or her own school in future to the benefit of students, parents, staff, and school," she said.

In 2013, 100% of Dr. Wallin's students were awarded grants from various organizations such as Dollar General, Target, and Lowe's. Most recently, Carla Fleming earned almost \$9,000 for a technology grant for Magnolia Grove School located at the East Mississippi State Hospital. The grant was funded through the Phil Hardin Foundation.



Carla Fleming, left, and Dr. Penny Wallin

MSU-BASED PRESCHOOL REACCREDITED WITH NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

The Aiken Village Preschool at Mississippi State is newly reaccredited by the nation's leading organization for early childhood development.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children recently notified the university that its year-round program for 3-to-5-year-olds continues to meet a set of rigorous standards--an accomplishment of less than 40 programs among nearly 1,600 childcare centers statewide.

"We are so proud of our staff and how hard they've worked," said school director Carol Jones. "Our dedicated staff works as a team. Quality in childcare is critical, and a team effort is so important to building that quality."

Located on Collegeview Street and enrolling 34, the preschool is a partnership administered by MSU's Early Childhood Institute. Other partners include the College of Education's department of curriculum, instruction and special education and the Holly Springs-based Institute of Community Services Inc./Head Start Inc.

Jones expressed appreciation for support provided by university

and ECI leadership. "It takes a village to raise a child, and without these administrators' and staff members' support, we wouldn't be able to provide the quality that we do," she said.

The re-accreditation notice follows an extensive documentation process that measures programs and services against 10 professional standards including more than 400 criteria, as well as the administration of parent surveys and an on-site assessment team visit. Approved programs also may receive unannounced visits during the five-year accreditation term.

Founded in 1926, the Washington, D.C.-based accreditation organization includes some 100,000 members and a national network of more than 300 local, state and regional affiliates.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION NAMES THEIR ANNUAL DIVERSITY AWARD



Dr. Donnie Prisock, left, and Dr. Robert Damm

The College of Education presents a diversity award each year to someone who has demonstrated leadership and commitment to promoting diversity and is considered a role model and advocate for diversity at MSU. The award was established in 2009, but, unlike other awards in the college, it was not named in honor of any single individual.

The College of Education Diversity Committee worked to choose an alumnus to honor by presenting this award in their name. They determined that the chosen person must be or have been affiliated with the College of Education in some way and someone who had spent much of their career working with diverse populations of people and/or a supporter of diversity.

Dr. Robert Damm of the Department of Music, himself a recipient of the MSU Diversity Award in 2009 and the College of Education Diversity Award Winner for 2013, nominated that the award be named in honor of Dr. Donnie Prisock. Damm shared Prisock's biography and accomplishments. After discussion and consideration of all nominees, the committee voted to recommend that the award be named in honor of Prisock.

Prisock was the first person with a disability to enter the Starkville Public Schools, where he was named "Most Likely to Succeed" by his high school peers. He has used a wheelchair all his life, a result of being born with cerebral palsy. Despite these challenges, he persevered to receive his B.A. degree in psychology and social

work from MSU in 1976, a master's degree in counselor education in 1977, and a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Mississippi in 1985.

He began his career at MSU as an academic athletic counselor in 1977. He became the Coordinator of Student Support Services in 1979 and served MSU in that capacity until his retirement in 2008. He has been an inspiration to many people. One of his former directors stated, "Donnie's positive spirit is an example to follow for both staff and students at MSU. He's an excellent role model for students who face similar adversities."

Prisock is well known for his dedication and hard work with students with disabilities. During his career at MSU, Prisock received numerous awards and recognition. He was recognized for work in campus accessibility for making MSU the most accessible campus in the SEC, and was recognized with a special award presented during the state's first Celebration of Achievement. Sponsored jointly by the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services and Mississippi Society for Disabilities, the event honored five Mississippians who have made a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. This award was headlined and presented by Heather Mills McCartney, wife of former Beatle Paul McCartney. Prisock was also named as one of President George H. W. Bush's "Heroes" during his graduation commencement address in 1989.

It was never Prisock's goal to receive recognition or an award, but instead to make a difference in the lives of others. He continues to do this today. Even though he has retired, he spends every day possible encouraging MSU students to be the best they can be. He is asked by professors every semester to attend various classes as a special guest speaker, and has also been "adopted" by several MSU athletic teams and addresses them regularly as a motivational speaker prior to games.

Prisock has been married for 22 years to the former Amy Hear and they have one son, Wil, who is 18. If you asked Prisock's son, Wil, to share one thing his dad has taught him, he would unhesitatingly say, "If you can't go in the front door, go in the back!"

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION KEYNOTES RESEARCH FORUM AT MSU



Carey M. Wright, state superintendent of education, delivered the keynote address titled "The Power of Research in Improving Student Achievement" at the seventh annual College of Education Faculty-Student Research Forum at the Bost Extension Center.

During her visit to MSU, she discussed MDE funding opportunities that may be

available to faculty looking to promote their research agendas.

This could improve student achievement, especially in high-need local education agencies, said J. Elton Moore, associate dean for research and assessment.

"Virtually all the school districts around us are considered high-need LEAs," he said.

Hosted annually by MSU's College of Education and Office of Research and Economic Development, the forum promotes discussion and collaborative research among education faculty and those in other colleges on campus.

In addition to Wright's presentation, event highlights include:

- Remarks from Drew Hamilton, associate vice president for research, and Richard Blackburn, dean of the College of Education;
- A panel presentation focusing on "Strategies for Using Large

Data Sets" presented by Domenico Parisi, director and professor of the National Strategic Planning & Analysis Research Center, and Art Cosby, director and professor of the MSU Social Science Research Center;

- Poster session showcasing the research projects of MSU faculty, staff and students; and

- Lunch and awards presentation for best graduate and undergraduate posters. The award winners, with the titles of their studies, were:

Graduate:

1st place: Kelly Bennett - Student Dropout From the Perspectives of Junior High Counselors

2nd place: Manya Chappell - Four Pre-Service Teachers' Understanding of Argumentative Discussion

3rd place: Mallory Kvasnicka - Metabolic Health and Academic Achievement in At Risk Youth Participating in a Studio Based Summer Camp

Undergraduate:

Jodi Brown - Effects of Limb Dominance on Landing Kinetics and Dynamic Balance After a Drop Landing

Additionally, the winner of the **Graduate-Student Writing Contest** was announced. New this year, the contest challenged graduate students to prepare a five-page summary of their research project.

Shelby McGrew & Megan Savell - Examining Regional Differences in Admissions Data for School Psychology Programs

ISWD FACULTY AND STUDENT ELECTED MBEA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

At the 2013 Mississippi Business Education Association (MBEA) Fall Conference in Pearl, three members of the Bulldog family in the College of Education's Department of Instructional Systems and Workforce Development (ISWD) were elected to serve as members of the MBEA Executive Board. **Dr. Pamela Scott-Bracey** (Assistant Professor) was elected Secretary, **Vickie Keel** (Instructor) was elected Senior College Representative, and **Cole Bostick** (Undergraduate Technology Teacher Education Student) was elected Student Representative. Congratulations to all three newly-elected officers for accepting the task of representing Mississippi State University on a state-wide level.



Left to right: **Cole Bostick, Vickie Keel, Dr. Pamela Scott-Bracey**

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS CHOOSE MSU PROFESSOR FOR LEADERSHIP ROLE



Blendinger

A veteran member of Mississippi State's College of Education faculty is a new officer on the governing board of the Southern Regional Council on Educational Administration.

Jack G. Blendinger recently was elected to a four-year term as executive editor. He will be overseeing the organization's yearbook and other publications, coordinating website operations and information, and providing leadership assistance to the president.

Now in his 24th year at the university, Blendinger is a professor in the educational leadership and foundations department. A University of Northern Colorado doctoral graduate, he also is in his 58th year as a professional educator.

In addition to MSU, he has served as a public school teacher, athletic coach, principal and superintendent in California, Colorado, and Oregon.

Blendinger's long career has been honored with awards for teaching and research, and he is the author of more than 100 articles, books, scholarly papers and other publications.

SRCEA was founded in the late 1950s and today includes members from a 16-state area stretching from Texas to Virginia and Kansas to Florida.

For more, see <http://srcea.us/>.

FACULTY COMPLETE INSTITUTE, PREP SYLLABI FOR 'WRITING-TO-LEARN'

After becoming students once again at Mississippi State's recent Maroon Institute for Writing Excellence, the new faculty-member graduates are ready to incorporate what they've learned in courses not traditionally associated with writing.

Now in its second year, the annual summer institute trains teachers to modify course syllabi to incorporate more writing-to-learn strategies in class assignments. Known as "Maroon & Write," the overall initiative is the university's quality enhancement plan to improve undergraduate learning at all class levels.

The QEP is required to maintain accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. During June 26, 2014, ceremonies, the 11 participants representing architecture, language arts, mathematics, music and various sciences formally concluded the three-week intensive institute. By free writing and journaling, conversing and debating, they have developed methods to amend syllabi to include writing assignments, many of which qualify as participation grades.

Creating a "culture change" to make MSU a more writing-centric institution is the underlying purpose of Maroon & Write, said Rich Raymond. Head of the English department and the institute's

facilitator, Raymond has for some time applied the writing-to-learn techniques in all his courses.

"We are very excited about the QEP and Maroon & Write," said Jerry Gilbert, provost and executive vice president, at the graduation celebration. "We're introducing writing-across-the-curriculum, and I tell students at each orientation, it's important for their future careers. We're preparing them for life and to be leaders.

"Our students are going to graduate from Mississippi State better prepared to be better members of the community," Gilbert added.

The College of Education summer 2014 institute graduates and the writing-to-learn courses they are teaching include:

- Curriculum, instruction and special education assistant professor Stephanie Bennett, integrated language arts instruction.
- Music professor Robert Damm, African-American music.
- Music professor Michael Brown, history and appreciation of music, and honors history and appreciation of music.

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Kathleen Alley, assistant professor of Elementary Education, received the J. Michael Parker Award at the annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association in December 2013. The Parker Award is given for the most distinguished research on adult literacy. Her award-winning study called "Playing in Trellis Weyr: Collaborative Authorships in a Dragons of Pern Role Play Game Forum" was presented at the conference. She also presented her research on adolescent motivation and on the teaching of writing.

Drs. Kenny Anthony and **Nicole Miller** shared strategies for using primary sources to learn social studies content in their piece published this month in the Association of Middle Level Education Magazine. They shared information about primary sources available for free online at the Library of Congress and show how primary sources in the classroom can support both literacy and social studies goals by promoting critical reading skills.

The Academic and Business Research Institute recently awarded **Dr. Linda Cornelious** and **Dr. Elaine Parrish** the "Best Paper of Conference Award" at the AABRI International Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada, in October 2013. Their refereed paper titled, "The Benefits of Online Support for Women with Gynecologic Cancers and Pre-cancers," was published in the conference proceedings and will be reviewed for publication in one of AABRI's 17 Cabell's listed academic journals.



Joan Looby, professor in Counseling and Educational Psychology, was honored in Spring 2013 as a "Legend" by the Lambda Eta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. at Mississippi State University. The purpose of this program is to recognize a group of longtime MSU African-American faculty and staff members who have served as positive role models for countless African-American students.



Dr. Rosângela Sebba performed two solo recitals in Brazil in the Spring of 2014. The first recital was in Brasília at the Thomas Jefferson Cultural Center and the second recital was at Teatro Sesi in Goiania. Her program was three piano sonatas by Ludwig van Beethoven, from his three different periods. Sebba has published a review article of the book *Off the Record: Performing Practices in Romantic Piano Playing*, written by Australian harpsichordist, fortepianist, and organist Neal Peres da Costa. To read the article please go to: journals.cambridge.org/repo_A93ZYq7l. Sebba's review of the book *How to Play a Tune in Any Key* by Collin Bay has been published in the quarterly *Music Teachers National Association Magazine* April/May volume.



Dr. John Wyatt, associate professor in the Department of Instructional Systems and Workforce Development, was elected to serve a one-year term as the four-year program representative on the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) Board of Directors. Officer installation was held at the ATMAE Conference held in New Orleans in November 2013. ATMAE is the professional association for technology, management, and applied engineering specialists in academic settings and industry.

Jianzhong Xu, professor in Leadership and Foundations; **Douglas Bedsaul**, research and training coordinator at the National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision; and **Manya Chappell**, graduate student and instructor in Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education, were selected for 2014 Office of Research and Economic Development Research Awards.



April Heiselt has been awarded co-editorship of the *College Student Affairs Journal* along with Dr. Aaron Hughey, professor of Counseling and Student Affairs at Western Kentucky University.

NEW ADMINISTRATORS



Barry E. Kopetz is the head of the Music Department at Mississippi State University, recently appointed in the fall of 2014. Previously, he was the director of Bands and professor of Music at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, where he conducted the Symphonic Winds, Wind Symphony, Chamber Winds and taught courses in conducting and wind literature.

Prior to his appointment at Capital University, Kopetz was director of Bands at the University of Utah for 10 years, assistant director of Bands at the University of Minnesota, and assistant director of Bands at Bowling Green State University (Ohio). He has also taught in the public schools of South Carolina and Ohio. He founded the Salt Lake Symphonic Winds and served as their conductor for eight years. He then went on to found and conduct the Columbus Youth Symphonic Band in residence at Capital University for 10 years.

Kopetz received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio State University, and he holds a doctorate with distinction from the School of Music at Indiana University. He studied conducting with Frederick Fennell in Tokyo, and his previous conducting teachers include the late professor Frederick Ebbs and professor Ray Cramer of Indiana University, and Dr. Donald McGinnis of Ohio State University.

Kopetz is active as a composer and arranger, with eighty published works to his credit. He has written numerous commissioned works, and has composed music for both chamber and large ensembles, as well as for television and film. His current compositional effort is a multi-movement work for large wind ensemble titled "The Starry Messenger," based on the life and writings of Galileo. He is in demand as a guest conductor/composer and accepts engagements each year with All-State and Honor Ensembles. He is a published author, having written interpretive articles regarding the standard repertoire for *The Instrumentalist Magazine*, and has been selected for an award from the Educational Press Association of America for these interpretive analyses. He recently received a nomination for the Grammy Foundation 2015 Music Educator Award and has been selected as a quarterfinalist.

In 1997, Kopetz was selected as "Utah Music Educator of the Year" by the Utah Music Education Association for his work contributing to the growth and quality of the instrumental music programs in the state of Utah. He is a member of the National Band Association, College Band Directors National Association, National Association for Music Education, Pi Kappa Lambda, Phi Beta Mu, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Kappa Kappa Psi. He was selected for membership into the prestigious American Bandmasters Association in 1998. In 2010-2011, Kopetz was selected as an American Council on

Education (ACE) Fellow and received advanced administrative and leadership training at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania under Chancellor John Cavanaugh.

Kopetz resides in Starkville, Mississippi, with his wife, Gail. He has two grown daughters, and his hobbies include exercising, reading, Civil War history, Presidential history, and restoring classic Mustangs.



Gail Lindsey, Ed.D., is the director of the Early Childhood Institute at Mississippi State University. She has been a member of the ECI family since its inception in August 1999. Throughout her tenure with ECI, she has served as a graduate assistant, associate director, interim director, and the trainer and reliability anchor for all ECI staff using the Environment Rating Scales (ERS). She also conducts training for early care and education professionals as well as conducts evaluations of early care and education programs.

Prior to returning to her alma mater, she served as the coordinator of the Family Center for the Starkville (Mississippi) School District's Department of Family-Centered Programs. In addition to working with young children and families, she served as the director of the Upward Bound Project at Mary Holmes College, West Point, Mississippi. Lindsey holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology, a master of education degree in counselor education and a doctor of education degree in elementary education with an emphasis in early childhood education from Mississippi State University.

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Kathleen M. Alley (Ph.D. Curriculum & Instruction, Literacy Studies, University of South Florida) is an assistant professor of Literacy Studies in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education, College of Education, at Mississippi State University. Alley serves as a reviewer for the *Journal of Literacy Research and Reading Horizons*, and presents her research at various conferences. Alley is also

the recipient of the 2013 J. Michael Parker Award for contributions to adult literacy research from the Literacy Research Association. Before coming to Mississippi State, Alley was a teacher and a media and technology specialist in Florida public schools for 28 years.

Alley's research focuses on furthering our understanding of, and improving on the opportunities youth have for language and literacy learning, including collective and social knowledge construction, culturally and linguistically responsive teaching, and strategies promoting language and literacy proficiency and academic success in multiple settings.



Stephanie M. Bennett (Ph.D. Curriculum & Instruction, Literacy Studies, University of South Florida) is an assistant professor of Literacy Studies in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education, College of Education, at Mississippi State University. Bennett serves as a reviewer for *Action in Teacher Education* and the *Journal of Research in Education*, the Literacy Research

Association conference and the American Educational Research Association conference. She presents her research at a variety of conferences. Before arriving at Mississippi State, Bennett was a high school social studies teacher, a K-12 literacy facilitator, and middle school reading and creative writing teacher.

Bennett's research focuses on furthering our understanding of content-area literacy and disciplinary literacy implementation in the K-16 classroom. She teaches elementary education content-area literacy courses in the undergraduate and graduate programs.



Dr. Angela Farmer is an accomplished educational leader who presently serves Mississippi State University as an assistant professor where she devotes her time and talents toward teaching courses in Educational Administration, conducting educational research, writing for professional journals, counseling students, supporting student research, and serving as assistant editor of the Southern Regional

Council on Educational Administration. She has coauthored "The Balanced Educational Executive: An Androgynous Approach to Problem Solving and Decision Making," "The Mississippi Charter School Movement Creeps of the Train Station," and "Who's the Bully: A Global View of Corporal Punishment in Schools." She has presented her research nationally at the SREA in Atlanta, Georgia.

Prior to joining State, Farmer worked at Mississippi University for Women as the director of Educational Leadership. In addition to her role there, she served on the President's Council for Leadership where she shared in the responsibility for shaping the university's overall mission for integrated and systemic leadership policies and practices.

Farmer's leadership service ranged throughout Illinois and Kentucky where she served over 12 years as both a school administrator, a district leader in K-12 as well as an adjunct professor at McKendree University. Early in her career, Farmer served the United States Department of Energy and the United States Air Force as a senior scientist and Clean Water Act Compliance officer.



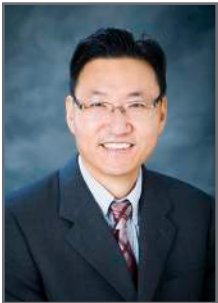
Dr. Daniel Gadke is currently an assistant professor in the School Psychology Program in the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology at Mississippi State University. He earned his Ph.D. in School Psychology from Illinois State University (APA-accredited). Gadke completed his pre-doctoral and post-doctoral training at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Kennedy Krieger Institute's Department of Behavioral Psychology.

While at Illinois State University, Gadke's focus included behavioral school psychology, Autism and related disorders, and the implementation of the Response-to-Intervention model. His pre-doctoral and post-doctoral training focused on the treatment of severe disruptive/problem behaviors presented by children with Autism and related disorders in Kennedy Krieger's Neuro-behavioral Outpatient (pre-doctoral) and Pediatric Developmental Disabilities Clinics (pre-doctoral and post-doctoral).

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Dr. Kun Huang, assistant professor of instructional technology, earned a B.E. degree in inorganic and non-metal materials at East China University of Science and Technology, the master of education degree in instructional technology from the University of Virginia, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Oklahoma. Huang's experience includes serving as an instructional design specialist at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center and instructional designer at the Center for Learning and Development at the University of North Texas Health Science Center.



Dr. Sang Joon Lee, assistant professor in Instructional Technology, earned a bachelor of arts degree in education at Seoul National University in Seoul, Korea, a master of science degree in instructional technology from Utah State University, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Georgia. Lee's experience includes principal investigator in the Department of Educational Psychology and Instructional

Technology at the University of Georgia, instructional/multimedia developer in the Office of Educational Technology and Assessment in the College of Public Health at the University of South Florida, and an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Secondary Education at the University of South Florida.



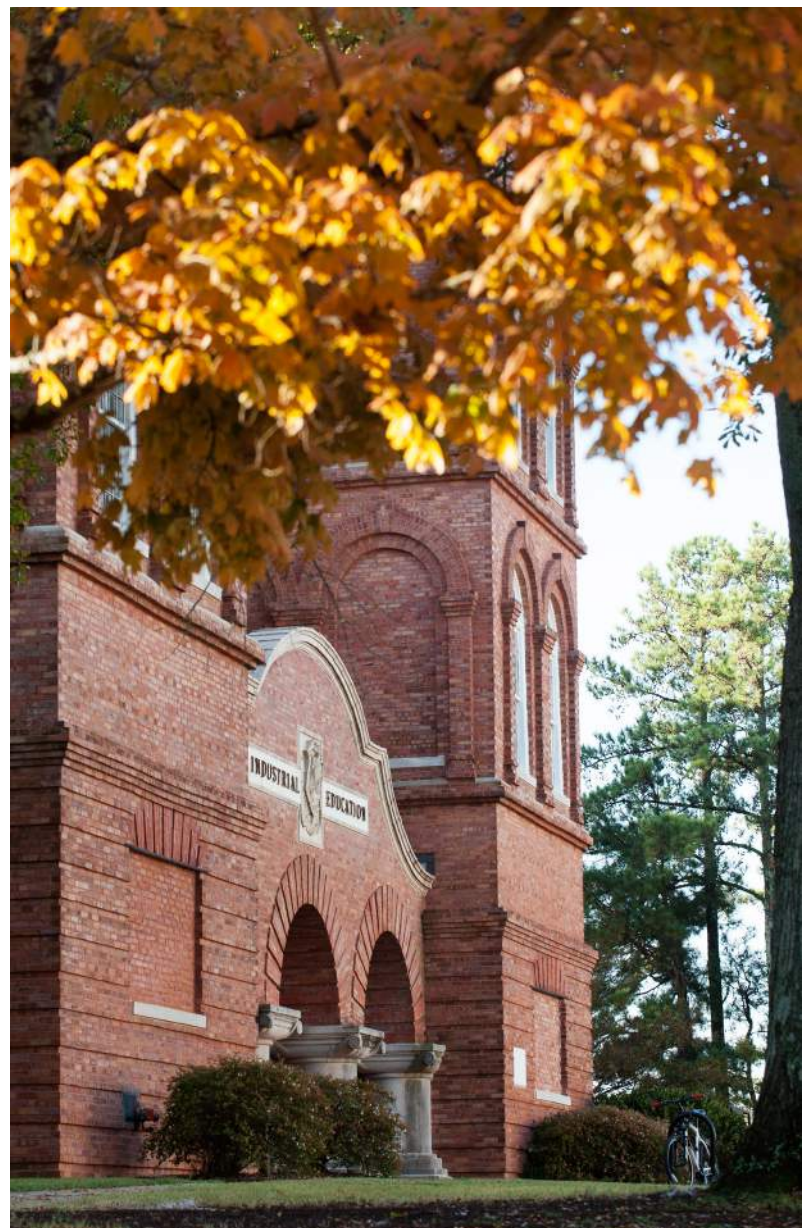
Dr. Adam G. Pfleegor is an assistant professor of Sport Studies and Administration in the Department of Kinesiology. He completed his undergraduate degree from The College at Brockport, State University of New York in Physical Education and his master's at Brock University in Ontario Canada in Applied Health Sciences. Following his master's, Pfleegor was the first Sport Management doctoral graduate from Louisiana State University in the summer of 2013.

Pfleegor's primary research interests include the utilization of ethical and historical research methods in application towards the management of sport. Specifically, he is interested in ethical decision-making, NCAA sanctions and violations, non-traditional (i.e., Division II and III) athletics, and the historical significance of sport stadia and physical facilities. His primary teaching responsibilities in the Department of Kinesiology are Event and Facility Management, Senior Seminar in Sport Studies, and the Funding of Sport.



Dr. Pamela Scott-Bracey, assistant professor of instructional technology, earned a bachelor of science degree in Business Education from the University of Southern Mississippi, master of science degree in Higher Education Administration from Mississippi College, and a Ph.D. degree in Applied Technology and Performance Improvement from the University of North Texas. Bracey's experience includes

Mississippi public school teacher, project coordinator/information technology curriculum specialist and adjunct professor in the Department of Learning Technologies at the University of North Texas.



SPRIT OF STATE 2014 AWARD RECIPIENTS

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.

Meredith Dickson – senior majoring in Kinesiology from Monticello, Arkansas

Chance Dye – junior majoring in Management from Cullman, Alabama

Jake Hartfield – graduate student majoring in Counselor Education, Student Affairs from Raymond, Mississippi

Sarah Margaret Hewes – senior majoring in History from Gulfport, Mississippi

Delnita Jones – educational specialist student majoring in Counselor Education at the Meridian Campus from Philadelphia, Mississippi

Kyle Mitchell – graduate student majoring Counselor Education, Student Affairs from Perry County, Indiana

Mary Lowry Nemeth – senior majoring in Kinesiology from Starkville, Mississippi

Whitney Ray – senior majoring in Kinesiology from Pontotoc, Mississippi

Raychal Reed – senior majoring in Kinesiology from Louisville, Mississippi

Nikki Robinson – senior majoring in Educational Psychology from Hattiesburg, Mississippi

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SENIOR RECEIVES NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP

Mississippi State senior Rebekah L. Herald, special education major and the daughter of Gregory and Nancy Herald from Alabama is among the university's first selections for national Dawn Brancheau Foundation Service-Learning Scholarships. The Orlando, Florida-based organization recently presented \$8,000 in scholarship funds for the 2014-15 school year to MSU's Center for the Advancement of Serving-Learning Excellence.

A world-class animal trainer, Brancheau was regarded as the "face" of SeaWorld Orlando, where she had worked since 1994.

In 2010, she died after being involved in a tragic on-site accident with the orca "Tilikum." That same year, her family created the foundation to serve as a living memorial.

For more, see www.dawnsfoundation.org

In addition to \$750 academic stipend in the fall and spring semesters, each student will receive \$500 to create and complete a service-learning project honoring one of Indiana-native Brancheau's four loves--animals, the environment, children, and handmade greeting cards. Herald's focus area was love of children.

THETA CHI CHAPTER OF KAPPA DELTA PI INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS



The Theta Chi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi education honor society, established in 1958, held its 2014 initiation ceremony in April 2014. The event took place at the Chapel of Memories and recognized 31 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; Katie Beth Dahlem, vice president; Christina Coleman, secretary/treasurer; Alexa Patterson, historian; Emily Sullivan, membership; and Jenna Cialone, graduate. The chapter counselors are Drs. Margaret Pope, Jessica Ivy, and Kenneth Anthony.

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.

2014 Inductees:

Katelon Adcock
Brooke Bane
Edward Boudreaux
Blakeney Bryant
Keyairra Chapman
LaShana Cook
Victoria Crawford
Julianne Frost
Katie Gentry
Lessie Goolsby
Jazzmin Grulich
Audrey Hartman
Margaret Ishee
Charles Jones
Meagan Jones
Ali Jordan

Lauren Keen
Hannah Long
Cortney McAdory
Shelley Middleton
Jimmy Miles
Kayla Moore
Gina Neal
Hannah Oliver
Dustin Phillips
Rebecca Richards
Katie Robbins
Ashley Shook
Mandi Smith
Ashley Trosclair
Lauren Wallis

CHARKELCY "KEYONE" DOCHER LEAVES LEGACY OF INSPIRATION FOR BULLDOGS AND THE WORLD



Charkelcy "Keyone" Docher was an inspiration to everyone he met. Keyone, a Mississippi State University junior music education major, died on the morning of April 5, 2014, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Keyone was attending the Mississippi American Chorale Directors Association Conference along with students at Starkville High School.

Keyone grew up in Weir, Mississippi. He excelled in academics despite the obstacles that he faced, being diagnosed with terminal cancer of the nasal cavity at age 8. At Weir Attendance Center, Keyone was constantly recognized for his academic achievement. Cheryl Doss, Assistant Principal at Choctaw County High School in Ackerman was Keyone's Math Teacher at Weir High School. Doss formed a strong bond with Keyone. "Keyone always wanted to be a choral director. He loved choral music, and often volunteered at our school after he graduated. He and I talked frequently about longevity; he knew he would not be on this earth long, we both knew that. He never complained. He never used his condition to elicit pity... in fact he accepted his fate, even embraced it. He lived each day to the fullest, made every experience count, and understood that today is all we really own." Keyone was the Valedictorian of his 2011 High School Class and attended Mills Spring Missionary Baptist Church in Weir.

Keyone has always had a positive outlook. Keyone went through remission six months after his diagnosis and received treatments at St. Jude's. From 2001-2014 he fought through obstacles so that he could make his mark on this world, and he did just that.

He was a natural educator. He always educated himself to understand things that he did not know and then educated others by sharing his new knowledge. Fellow MSU students and high school

students from many local school districts appreciated Keyone, who served as a mentor, director, conductor, piano player, musician, and other related roles as he strived for excellence in music. He was always willing to help even at the last second if called. Not only was he dependable, but incredibly passionate about music.

Dr. Rosângela Sebba, professor of Music, noted that Keyone was one of the most passionate students that she'd ever met. "Keyone Docher was an example to everybody around him, an ideal student who brought hard work and positive attitude to any classroom he attended. He was always at the top of his class and loved helping others as a motivational speaker or tutor. His passion for music gave him drive to make a difference on people's lives through music. He was involved in many different extracurricular activities, including being the accompanist for the Starkville High School. He will be missed." Dr. Matthew Boggan, associate professor of Educational Leadership, worked with Keyone during his elementary years in a Principal-Student relationship. "Keyone reached maturity at such a young age. He was bright, passionate about learning, and always had a smile on his face despite the challenges that he faced on a daily basis. He always moved forward, and never backward. Keyone was amazing in that he checked on everyone else when he was the one facing challenges. He even checked on me when we had so many things going on in his life. I remember when he called me a few years ago just to say hello and to talk about his first year of college and to see how I was doing. He was wise, caring, and intelligent, and this drew his peers as well as adults close to him."

In addition to his passion for music, he was passionate about his family and extended family that included his parents Charles and Tammy Docher, his brother Charles, sister-in-law Shana, and his niece Caitlyn. Keyone's mother says that he not only was he was an inspirational educator, but he relied on faith to get him through obstacles. "Keyone has always been and will be a true inspiration in our lives. His faith helped him overcome so many obstacles placed before him. Keyone was very wise beyond his years. He taught us so much about living life to its fullest and cherishing life as a gift because tomorrow isn't promised."

Keyone's favorite quote was, "Many people go through life, but they do not live. Always remember that life is precious. Life is beautiful. Every day is a gift. So live each day as the gift that it is."

Keyone was recognized by news media, television stations, and other media units for his uncanny ability to inspire and be a leader in music education. Keyone Docher will be remembered as a part of the MSU College of Education Family.

CHORAL SINGERS HELP COMMEMORATE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT TRAGEDY

A group of Mississippi State University choral singers participated in a September 2014, Birmingham, Alabama, performance commemorating a 1963 tragedy that marked an historic turning point in the U.S. civil rights struggle.

President Barack Obama and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice were scheduled to attend the 50th anniversary memorial of the Sunday morning bombing by Ku Klux Klan members that killed four young girls at the 16th Street Baptist Church.

Titled "A More Convenient Season," the performance was held in Jemison Concert Hall on the University of Alabama at Birmingham campus.

Some two dozen female MSU choral students were among those singing new music written by internationally renowned composer Yotam Haber especially for and about the Alabama city's bloody civil rights struggle. The music specifically was created for accompaniment by women's voices.

In addition to singers from MSU, the featured chorus included members of approximately 40 Birmingham-area choirs, as well as from historic Tuskegee University and various churches.

"We are very excited to be one of the two universities asked to participate in this world premiere," said Gary Packwood, director of MSU's choral activities. "For me, it symbolizes a mark in this country; how far things have moved forward," Packwood added.

Haber, a Guggenheim fellow, was commissioned by philanthropist Tom Blount and the Stephens Center to memorialize the violent attack that killed Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, and Denise McNair. Rice was friends with McNair, who was 11 years old when she died.

The performance also included screening of a short film and archival audio recordings, along with music performed by the Alabama Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Michael Morgan and electronic compositions by Philip White.

INDUSTRIAL TECH TEAM BRINGS HOME MORE AWARDS

Since 2007, Mississippi State's industrial technology majors have won top honors in competitions at the national Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) conference.

This year was no exception. Ten university students were recognized at ATMAE's recent "Developing the Future Workforce" conference in New Orleans. Senior Horace F. "Trey" Tavares III, of Kosciusko, Mississippi, won first place in the Haig Vahradian Technology Challenge. He and his teammates in the robotics competition also won best electronics/controller methodology and best technical report, as well as second place overall. At three of the four most recent conferences, an MSU industrial technology major has won the challenge competition, a "Jeopardy!"-like quiz bowl, said ATMAE faculty-sponsor Mickey Giordano. In 2011, MSU took second place.

For five of the past seven years, MSU's robotics team placed at the tournament, Giordano added. The instructor of instructional systems and workforce development said students' strong commitment to problem-solving and critical thinking is the primary contributor to their continued success at the ATMAE conference. "Our students do all the work on the robot themselves," he said. "They came up with the ideas and the design, and they built it. Doing it all themselves gives them more of a sense of pride because it's all their own work."

Students on the ATMAE robotics team and those in the quiz competition do not receive academic credit; they volunteer outside

of class, Giordano said. They worked in MSU's Industrial Education Building metal shop, and one or more faculty members—Giordano, fellow instructor Jerry Mize or associate professor John Wyatt—stayed to answer questions.



"Our students deserve the pat on the back because they're the ones who come here and do all the work," Giordano said. "They volunteered their time and effort to get it done and raised around 80 percent of the money to pay for their trip."

The Office of the Dean in MSU's College of Education also provided funding to cover the students' conference expenses.

That support is especially critical because the ATMAE conference offers extensive networking opportunities for students, Giordano said. In addition to learning about graduate-degree programs at other colleges and universities, MSU team members also can meet with industry representatives promoting job opportunities.

"Attending this conference pays off in the end," Giordano said.

MSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NAMES NEW STUDENT DELEGATES, OFFICERS



MSU Alumni Delegate officers for the 2014-15 school year include (l-r) secretary **Amari Kimble**, president **Charlie Stocks**, vice president for education **Grant Krag**, and vice president for public relations **Rob Hairston**. Photo by: Russ Houston

Twenty-eight Mississippi State students are new members of the university alumni association's liaison organization.

Founded in 1980, Alumni Delegates serve as key links between the 136-year-old land-grant institution and its more than 129,000 living graduates. Helping improve the student body's understanding of the alumni association's role and purpose is among their major missions.

Over the decades, the volunteer group has proven invaluable in assisting with organizational programs and activities, including football tailgate gatherings, class reunions and numerous other on- and off-campus events. New members are selected each year through a highly competitive interview process. This year's group was chosen from among nearly 350 applicants.

Officers for the 2014-15 school year include president Charles S. "Charlie" Stocks of Hoover, Ala.; Robert O. "Rob" Hairston of Hattiesburg, vice president for public relations; Amari J. Kimble of Memphis, Tennessee, secretary; and Roy G. "Grant" Krag, also of Hattiesburg, vice president for education.

Stocks is a senior civil engineering major and the son of Scotty and Stacey Stocks; Hairston, a junior communication/public relations major and the son of Lath and Kathryn Hairston; Kimble, a senior kinesiology/clinical exercise physiology major and the daughter of Joedae Jenkins of Bartlett and Willyn Jenkins of Memphis; and Krag, a senior political science/pre-law major and the son of Roy and Charlotte Krag.

THE NEW MEMBERS INCLUDE (BY HOMETOWN, ALPHABETICALLY):

- CANTON** **Junior Sanjaris D. M. Johnson**, a secondary education major and the son of Mary Brown
- CUMMING, GEORGIA** **Junior Emma C. Sweat**, an elementary education major and the daughter of Mike Sweat and Robin Blackburn.
- FLORA** **Senior Zavian S. Burns**, a kinesiology major and the daughter of Lonnie and Sharon Moncure.
- PETAL** **Senior Conner Estess**, a kinesiology major and the son of Stephen and Cari Estess.
- TUPELO** **Sophomore Mary Holliman Lanphere**, an elementary education major and the daughter of Russell and Tracie Lanphere.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ANNOUNCES 2014 FELLOWS

Mississippi State's G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Leadership Program named 45 spring 2014 fellows.

The three-semester program is designed for MSU students who have completed at least one year at the university and hold good academic standing. Applicants undergo an online and interview-based application process during the fall semester of the academic year and begin the program the following spring semester upon selection.

Students are chosen based on academics, leadership skills and strength of character. The students receive two credit hours and a scholarship each semester.

"With an exceptional group of applicants, the selection process for MLP Fellows gets more difficult each year. As such, we are thoroughly excited about our newest class," said Carmen Wilder, assistant director of student leadership and community engagement. "We have high expectations for the work they will

do to impact our community. They will meet many challenges as they work to develop their leadership skills and look forward to creating lasting memories and friendships in the process."

During the first semester, fellows learn about leadership theory and styles through biweekly classroom instruction and activities, as well as a 20-hour service learning requirement. The fellows continue their leadership studies during the second semester by participating as peer mentors, class lab instructors and "project managers" for a small group of freshman students completing community service through MSU's Day One Leadership Community.

Throughout the third and final semester, fellows are able to continue their leadership studies and community service by creating and implementing service initiatives of their own. Each year, fellows work with nearly 50 service agencies and organizations providing aid in various capacities.

SPRING 2014 MLP FELLOWS INCLUDE:

GRENADA – *Candice James, a sophomore elementary education major*

KENNESAW, GEORGIA – *Jenna Sabato, a sophomore kinesiology major*

LAKELAND, TENNESSEE – *Anna Matheny, a sophomore kinesiology major*

MADISON – *Lauren Iupe, a sophomore elementary education major*
Katelyn Walker, a junior kinesiology major

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE – *Grace Wegener, a sophomore kinesiology major*

RIDGELAND – *Sharday Young, a junior kinesiology major*

SALLIS – *Jonathan Barber, a junior kinesiology major*

STARKVILLE – *Christopher "Will" Jayroe, a junior information technology services major*

EDUCATION MAJORS SHARE SCIENCE OF GOLF WITH COAST STUDENTS

A team of Mississippi State students helped bring some highly visual, hands-on education to the Mississippi Gulf Resort Golf Classic. Joining with the Chevron Corp., five majors in the university's College of Education were at the Fallen Oak Golf Club in Saucier this spring, teaching the science of golf to hundreds of youngsters visiting the Chevron STEM ZONE exhibit. They helped students in grades K-12 experience scientific concepts that underlie some of their favorite sports activities.

STEM ZONE is a creative, interactive area dedicated to science, technology, engineering and mathematics—typically called STEM—education. It focuses on the science of golf and features a fully equipped, mock studio to provide participants with broadcasting and media experiences. "It is really exciting to see students from many areas come to the STEM ZONE and learn science while having fun with sports and golf," said Leslie M. Exmeyer of Starkville, an MSU graduate student and team captain.

MSU STUDENTS INCLUDE (BY HOMETOWN):

- BILOXI**..... **Senior Savannah L. Smith**, a secondary education major and the daughter of George and Rhonda Smith
- GERMANTOWN, TENNESSEE**..... **Senior Morgan A. Massa**, an elementary education major and the daughter of Kenneth and Susan Massa
- MERIDIAN**..... **Senior Jonathan D. McMillan**, a secondary education major and the son of Marcus and Patricia McMillan
- NOXAPATER**..... **Senior Jorie A. Long**, an elementary education major and the daughter of Donald and Cynthia Long
- OCEAN SPRINGS**..... **Senior Hunter R. Darnell**, a secondary education major and the son of John Darnell and Brenda Kellams



MSU students helping with Chevron's STEM ZONE exhibit include, from left, team captain Leslie Exmeyer, Savannah Smith, Morgan Massa, Jorie Long, Hunter Darnell and Jonathan McMillan.

Chevron's ongoing support for STEM educational programs from the kindergarten-higher education levels includes partnerships with educational organizations, government and non-government agencies and community leaders to increase and enhance access to technical training. Complete information about the program is available at chevronstemzone.com

SOCIETY OF SCHOLARS ANNOUNCES 2014 SELECTIONS

Some two dozen Mississippi State seniors are new members of the university's most prestigious honor society. The Society of Scholars recognizes top students each semester from all majors who have demonstrated the highest standard of academic excellence. In addition to specific fields of study, each has completed additional coursework in the arts, sciences and humanities. Only about 50 are inducted each year out of an average of more than 1,500 receiving undergraduate degrees in the fall and spring semesters. Established in 1981 with 21 charter members, the society since has inducted nearly 500.

THE 2013 FALL SEMESTER LIST OF COLLEGE OF EDUCATION INDUCTEES INCLUDES (BY HOMETOWN):

- BRANDON** - **Kayla A. McKissack**, an elementary education major and the daughter of Michael McKissack and Sharon McKissack
- COLUMBUS** - **Rachel R. Bostick**, a clinical exercise physiology major and the daughter of Tandy and Amy Bostick
- MADISON** - **Katelyn M. Kraft**, an elementary education major and the daughter of Joseph and Lillian Kraft
- TUPELO** - **Anna C. Jamieson**, an elementary education major and the daughter of Phillip and Jan Jamieson

THE 2014 SPRING SCHOLARS INCLUDES (BY HOMETOWN):

- CONEHATTA** - **Emily Graham Warren**, a secondary education/foreign language education major and the daughter of Mitchell and Anita Graham

RILEY FOUNDATION INITIATES NEW MSU SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Riley Foundation again is increasing support of local Mississippi State University scholarships. Recently the Lauderdale County-based organization provided funding for a new set of academic awards at the MSU-Meridian campus which began this fall. "We are proud to offer these scholarships for students who have attended one of the community colleges in our area," said Becky Farley, the foundation's executive director.

"Our Riley Scholars Program allows talented students to complete a four-year degree at one of the Meridian campuses of Mississippi State University," she added.

In response to the gift, Jerry Gilbert said, "Mississippi State University greatly appreciates the continued investment of the Riley Foundation, particularly in the lives of our students, who are often first-generation college students in need of scholarships." Gilbert is the land-grant institution's provost and executive vice president. Specifically, the Riley gift provides 10 two-year scholarships worth \$2,500 each per academic year. To be designated Riley Scholars, the students selected must have completed at least two years of study at a community college with a grade-point average of 3.25 or higher (based on a 4.0 scale).

THE INAUGURAL CLASS OF RILEY SCHOLARS INCLUDES (BY HOMETOWN):

DEKALB - **Kasi R. McIntosh**, daughter of Gregory McIntosh and Katrina Grady. A psychology major, she graduated from Meridian Community College.

MERIDIAN - **Shenekia T. Jenkins**, an accounting major who graduated from Meridian Community College, and **Ashley Judy**, a middle school education major who attended Meridian Community College. Judy is the daughter of William E. and Lori W. Judy. Parental information on Jenkins was not available.

NEWTON - **Trevor W. Ayllon**, a kinesiology major, and **Tracie Buckley**, a secondary education major, both of whom graduated from East Central Community College. Ayllon is the son of Luis C. and Cindy K. Ayllon. Parental information on Buckley was not available.

QUITMAN - **Luiza Dos Santos**, an accounting major who graduated from Meridian Community College. She is the daughter of Isidro M. Dos Santos and Gina dos Anjos Vieira.

UNION - **Erika J. Clark**, a middle school education major and the daughter of Eric W. and Stacie Clark and a graduate of East Central Community College; **Tiffany G. Dorman**, a middle school education major and the daughter of Charles E. and Jennifer L. Dorman and a graduate of East Central Community College; **Kelly M. Williamson**, an English education major and the daughter of Timothy D. and Nancy Hardy who attended Meridian Community College; and **Kristien H. Winstead**, a middle school education major and the daughter of Richard and Stephany Winstead who attended East Central Community College.

The Riley Foundation of Meridian works to improve the quality of life for residents of the city and county. Robert B. Deen Jr. chairs the foundation's board of directors.

MSU-Meridian serves students from 30 counties in East Mississippi and seven in West Alabama. The non-residential campus provides credit and non-credit coursework for both traditional and non-traditional students. With locations on State Highway 19 North and downtown, its three academic divisions include Arts and Sciences, Business and Education. The Riley Scholars Program gift is part of the university's ongoing *Infinite Impact* campaign.

For specific information on establishing MSU-Meridian scholarships, contact **Josh Thompson**, director of special projects, at **601-484-0493** or **jthompson@foundation.msstate.edu**.



NEW MISS MSU

Laura Lee Lewis of Brookhaven, Miss Mississippi State University, reviewed her year during a special campus program.

A junior elementary education major from Brookhaven, Lewis was among 41 contestants in the annual Miss Mississippi Pageant which took place July 9-12 in Vicksburg. She is the daughter of Mark and Lorin Lewis.

Her platform was titled "Mentoring Matters!" During the program, she discussed the mentoring she has done and performed her vocal talent.



Laura Lee Lewis, center, Miss MSU 2014. Miss MSU 2013 **Jasmine Murray**, left, from Columbus and Miss Mississippi **Chelsea Rick** from Fulton congratulate Lewis, who represented MSU in the Miss Mississippi Pageant in Vicksburg.



Seated (L-R) **Amanda Fouasnon** and **Emily Kirkland**.
Standing (L-R) **Casey Butler**, **Grant Carter**, **Jarmel Lewis**,
and **Travis Uselton**

PHI BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER WINS STATE AWARDS AND WINNERS ADVANCE TO NATIONAL COMPETITION

Members of the Nu Phi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda at Mississippi State University participated in the 2014 Mississippi Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference in March 2014, held at the Mississippi University for Women. Congratulations to the following students who placed in the state competition:

- 1st place - Amanda Fouasnon and Casey Butler, Business Presentation
- 1st place - Amanda Fouasnon and Casey Butler, Management Analysis and Decision Making
- 1st place - Emily Kirkland and Grant Carter, Accounting Principles
- 2nd place - Travis Uselton, Help Desk
- 2nd place - Jarmel Lewis, Sports Management

These students advanced to the Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference held in Nashville, Tennessee, in June 2014. They represented Mississippi and Mississippi State University as they competed at the national level in their respective competitive events. Phi Beta Lambda is sponsored by the Department of Instructional System and Workforce Development and is advised by Vicki Keel.

For more information, email [Keel](mailto:VKeel@colled.msstate.edu) at VKeel@colled.msstate.edu or visit the chapter website.

2014-2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Counseling and Educational Psychology

Sandra Bullins – Cox, Mills, and Tingle of Rehabilitation, Inc.
Annual Scholarship, Tennessee

Mary Cole Bush – Thomas McKnight Scholarship, Sunflower County

Kenneth Hudson – Cox, Mills, and Tingle of Rehabilitation, Inc.
Annual Scholarship, Newton County

Joshua Mellott – T. Daniel and Rona Johnson-Belser Scholarship,
Georgia

Mary Peden – Steven Thomas Jones Scholarship, Forrest County

Morgan Putt – Max & Patricia Jobe Scholarship, Lee County

Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education

Jacob Boyer – Emma Grace Hayes Memorial Scholarship,
Lowndes County

Alex M. Buckner – Jacqueline Martin Ashford Memorial Scholarship,
Pontotoc County

Kinsey Calvery – David & Peggy Tiffin Loyalty Scholarship,
Prentiss County

Rachel Cheatham – McClendon/Holliman Scholarship, Alabama

Kaleigh Davis – Merrill and Carrie Hawkins Scholarship,
DeSoto County

Sara Deaton – Janice Nicholson Loyalty Scholarship, Lee County

Julianne Frost – Lucinda H. Rose Senior Scholarship, Alabama

Hannah Garrard – David & Peggy Tiffin Loyalty Scholarship,
DeSoto County

Ginceca Garriga – Jack L. Beall Memorial Scholarship,
Pearl River County

Megan Grice – David & Peggy Tiffin Loyalty Scholarship,
DeSoto County

Rebekah Herald – McClendon/Holliman Scholarship, Alabama

Mary Mitchell Hill – David & Peggy Tiffin Loyalty Scholarship,
Sunflower County

Megan Hodges – Jack L. Beall Memorial Scholarship, Hinds County

Lauren Iupe – David & Peggy Tiffin Loyalty Scholarship,
Madison County

Peyton Jackson – Quay Webb Camp Scholarship, Oktibbeha County

Lauren Liebkemann – Lois A. Saunders/William C. Haney Scholarship,
Hancock County

Emily Marler – Dewey and Marie Malouf Scholarship, Scott County

Jimmy Miles – Ellen Ricci Scholarship, Oktibbeha County

Jackson Lee Moore – Amanda Richards Scholarship, Lafayette County

Michael Payne – Jack L. Beall Memorial Scholarship, Alcorn County

Rebecca Richards – Linda and Vincent McGrath Scholarship,
Lee County

Mallory Self – Susan McLaren Brooks Scholarship, Madison County

Amber Shirley – Barry and Lana Knight Scholarship, Clarke County

Lisa Ann Smith – Charles and Wilma Havens Scholarship, Alabama

Lauren Swee – Nancy Kubin Wallner Scholarship, Alabama

Kayla Walsh – George Walker Bush Education Scholarship,
Monroe County

Emily Warren – Bobby and Regina Sanford Scholarship,
Newton County

Alexandra Wedderstrand – Jacqueline Martin Ashford Memorial
Scholarship, Madison County

Emily Williams – Max and Patricia Jobe Scholarship, Lee County

Grace Williams – Judy O'Neal Gressley Scholarship, Alabama

Derreck C. Wood – Nicole Moore Ray Scholarship, Choctaw County

Tayla Woodruff – Herbert Handley Scholarship, Hinds County

Antwon Word – Joe and Catherine Fortunato Scholarship, Lee County

Mary Allison Young – Jacqueline Martin Ashford Memorial Scholarship,
Pontotoc County

Instructional Systems and Workforce Development

Douglas Bostick – Francis N. Matthew Memorial Scholarship,
Oktibbeha County

Ehron Havens – Nan Carpenter Cain Scholarship, Tallahatchie County

Marianna Turner – Barry F. Box Scholarship, Oktibbeha County

Christopher William Jayroe – Barry F. Box Scholarship,
Oktibbeha County

Kinesiology

Collin Anderson – Janice Nicholson Loyalty Scholarship,
Rankin County

Benjamin Cheatham – Wilburn-Pearson Sudduth Memorial
Scholarship, Neshoba County

Benjamin Cochran – Wilburn-Pearson Sudduth Memorial Scholarship,
Clay County

Nathan Hemphill – Charles Kenneth Irby Scholarship, Winston County

Abbey Hess – David & Peggy Tiffin Loyalty Scholarship, Louisiana

Anna Matheny – Samuel and Arline Dyess Scholarship, Tennessee

Seth Schumacher – Janice Nicholson Loyalty Scholarship, Alabama

Sierra Shelby – Durward Dunn Physical Education Scholarship,
Hinds County

Rachel Anne Smith – T. Daniel and Rona Johnson-Belser Scholarship,
Tennessee

J'Launa Terry – Carey P. Vanderford (Merchant & Farmers)
Scholarship, Benton County

Sharday Young – Merrill and Carrie Hawkins Scholarship,
Madison County

Music

Megan Apol – Clara Self Andrews Scholarship, Alabama

Calloway Ellis – Jerry Williams Choral Scholarship, Lowndes County

Garrett C. Gibson – Clara Self Andrews Scholarship, Tennessee

Justin Harris – Music Faculty Scholarship, Alabama

Daide Incognito-Fiasconello – Katherine Gardner Thomas and
Keyone Docher Scholarships, Simpson County

Sarah E. Jenkins – Katherine Gardner Thomas and Clinton Graves
Piano Scholarships, Rankin County

Kevin Lenker – Max and Patricia Jobe Scholarship, Alabama

Charles Sorto – Nan Carpenter Cain Scholarship, Pontotoc County

Sarah G. Wallace – Katherine Gardner Thomas and Keyone Docher
Scholarships, Rankin County

Seth Weesner – Carey P. Vanderford (Merchant & Farmers)
Scholarship, Tennessee

Kelcey Whitfield – Barry F. Box Scholarship, Pearl River County

Hannah Kay Withers – T. Daniel and Rona Johnson-Belser Scholarship,
Lauderdale County

Ivye Yeatman – Cheryl Prewitt Scholarship, Lowndes County

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Josh Winter was the Grand Champion winner of the 3 Minute Thesis Competition. Winter represented Mississippi State University at the 3 Minute Thesis Competition hosted by the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools in San Antonio, Texas, in February 2014.

Shane T. Warren was awarded the 2013 Herbert M. Handley Dissertation Award at the Mid-South Educational Research Association's 42nd Annual Conference in Pensacola, Florida. Warren's dissertation is titled "Inflated Expectations: An Investigation Into College Students' Academic Entitlement Beliefs." He recently finished his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. Dr. Anastasia Elder, his advisor, was also honored.

Tekita Bankhead, a counseling master's student with a concentration in Student Affairs, was honored as SACSA's 2013 Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year. This is the third year in a row that MSU has won this award.

Laura Hankins, a counseling master's student in Counseling and Educational Psychology, was selected for the 2014 Graduate Research Assistant of the Year Masters Award. She was honored at the Graduate Student Association 12th Annual Awards Banquet held at the Mize Pavilion/Humphrey Coliseum Banquet Room in April 2014. Hankins was nominated by Dr. Cheryl A. Justice, assistant professor.

Jacob McAbee, a counseling master's student with a concentration in Student Affairs, was awarded two honors at this year's Mississippi Association of Housing Officers (MAHO) Annual Conference. The Service Award recognized McAbee's leadership and contributions to MAHO and Mississippi State University. The Presentation of the Year was awarded to McAbee

for his talk, "Floor Wars... Episode I: The Programming Initiative," an overview of a residence hall initiative he implemented in Hull Hall to increase student involvement. He traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, to present the program at the Southeastern Association of Housing Officers Conference.

Kyle Mitchell, a counseling master's student with the concentration in Student Affairs, was awarded 2013 Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year by the Mississippi Association for Housing Officers (MAHO) at its annual conference. Leading up to this award, Mitchell has demonstrated leadership on many levels: as a residential life staff member at MSU, the president of the Student Affairs Graduate Association in his department, and graduate representative on the Executive Board for MAHO.

School Counseling doctoral student **Mary Bess Pannel**, has been selected for the Humanities Teacher Award for her exemplary work as Instructor of Psychology at Mississippi Delta Community College. The Humanities Teacher Awards recognize the contributions of humanities faculty at each of the state's colleges and universities. Nominations are made by the college or university president or humanities dean. Each award recipient is required to prepare and deliver a Public lecture during October, National Arts and Humanities Month, or November. Recipients are then recognized at the Mississippi Humanities Council's annual awards ceremony in the spring.

Meghan Tooke, a master's student in elementary education, wrote a review of the book *Teacherpreneurs: Innovative Teachers Who Lead But Don't Leave* (Berry, Bird & Wieder, 2013). The review was published online by MiddleWeb, a clearing house of information about middle grades teaching and learning. Tooke said the book shows teachers "how to dream big--something we are used to doing for our students, but rarely do for ourselves."

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: GRACE GA-AS

Grace Ga-as is a 2014 MSU College of Education graduate and a first-year teacher at Sudduth Elementary School in the Starkville School District, Starkville, Mississippi.

Grace was born in the Philippines and moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi, with her family at the age of four. She recalls, "At first, it was hard because the culture is so different from the Philippines. I remember not knowing English but learned quickly at a young age. It was important for us to move to America in order for my parents to provide for their four children. My mom was able to bring us to America because of her job as a nurse, and I am so grateful for her and her courage to move us to halfway around the world."

Grace's parents, Victor and Fatima Ga-as, said that she has always been a very loving and supportive daughter and a wonderful sister to her siblings. "She has always been interested in children. She would babysit every summer and was always very eager to spend time with her nieces and nephews, teaching them to sing songs and play games." Mr. Ga-as laughingly commented that after Grace began attending education classes at MSU, she would correct him if he was teaching the grandchildren something in an incorrect way.

When asked why she decided to become a teacher, Grace's response was, "I knew I wanted to work with children and impact their lives in some way. At first, that was not the route that I chose. I first had thoughts of becoming a nurse; however, I knew that was not where my heart was. I changed gears and went on the path of becoming a teacher my third semester at Hinds Community College."

Grace said she chose Mississippi State because she loved the "at-home feel" of our campus. "Another reason I chose Mississippi State was the outstanding education program. It was challenging, but everything I needed to prepare me to be an effective elementary teacher."

She complimented the department of curriculum, instruction, and special education for allowing her ample time in the classroom from the very beginning. She was able to observe in classrooms and work with the students one-on-one. The program was very challenging and required much dedication and hard work, which prepared her for her own classroom. Grace said she developed close relationships with instructors and professors and feels that she can call on them at any time to assist her with her new classroom.

Grace completed the teaching internship with Cindy Prewitt at Sudduth Elementary during the 2014 spring semester. "Grace, or Miss Grace, as she was fondly known, is an exceptional teacher. She displays such a genuine desire for all students to be successful. She goes the extra mile to teach her students using their learning style which makes them feel comfortable taking chances in the

learning environment. The extraordinary lessons she plans make learning fun and rewarding for her students. It is not uncommon for her to be seen at a soccer or baseball game to show the students that she is interested in them outside of the classroom."

Upon graduation in May, Grace was offered a job at Sudduth Elementary. Libby Mosley, principal, said she couldn't let Miss Ga-as get away. "She is the first teacher in all my years of being an administrator," Ms. Mosley said, "that I've ever had a child write me a recommendation letter to hire her." Ms. Mosley went on to say that other teachers comment on Grace's teaching ability and that she has been a perfect fit at Sudduth from day one.

When speaking to the students in Grace's class this year, they were all very eager to share something about their new teacher - anything from how afraid she is of snakes to bursting out in Pharrell Williams's song "Happy." Erianna said, "I just get excited when I see her." It was obvious that Grace has already begun making a positive impact on her students.

Grace said the highlights as a first-year teacher have been gaining relationships with her students. "Each student has very unique qualities, and I have loved getting to know each of them. I have also loved planning lessons that engage the students and allow them to discover their learning."

Grace is an exceptional teacher and will continue to impact the lives of the students she teaches. The MSU College of Education is proud to have her as one of its graduates.

One last testimony of Grace's character came from her father. "When Grace got her first paycheck from teaching, she shared her blessings with all of the grandchildren, expressing her appreciation to them in helping her reach her goal of becoming a teacher."



ASHFORD FAMILY ESTABLISHES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



In October 2013, MSU Foundation Board member Jim Ashford established the Jacqueline Martin Ashford Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Elementary Education to honor his wife, Jacqueline, who passed away in early 2013. Jim and his children chose

to honor her in this way because of her lifetime dedication to a profession she loved - education. They believed an endowment would be the best way to remember her because it would live on forever. Daughter Catherine Hensley said, "Though she was only in the classroom a few years, she was truly an example and teacher of life to not only her children, but to all she came in contact with. Through this scholarship she will live on and continue to give to a profession she held so dearly."

Jacqueline graduated from The University of Mississippi with a degree in elementary education, and gained a passion for children and outreach that would last throughout her life as she focused on her family, her community, and her church. Catherine explained that because of her father's successful business career, the family moved frequently but Jacqueline always made the best of every moment, situation and event. She noted that her mom made friends everywhere they moved. Jacque kept a special calendar with the birthdays of all her friends, both near and far, so she could honor their special day. For this reason, holiday cards from around the United States would pour into their home every year.

Jacqueline stayed active in Junior League and her Presbyterian Church, along with every child and grandchild's events. Catherine described how her mother volunteered with school parent-teacher associations, cheerleading events and baseball games, while doing her best to bring her own family together every night around the dinner table. "This generosity transferred into every aspect of her life," said Jim adding that almost a year after his wife's passing, he and his family still receive calls with regard to how much they miss her.

Catherine described this love for her mother as stemming from her mom being the epitome of a generous, thoughtful, loving woman, a belief echoed by her close friend, Pie Mallory. Pie called Jacqueline a true southern woman, a wonderful mom, and true friend to all she met; "she was always so happy and precious," said Pie. She added that "Jacque loved coming to MSU; she loved

the area and the people." The Ashfords came to the area two or three times a year during the past 30 or 40 years, and Pie and Jacqueline always spent time together. "There was never enough time to spend with such a grounded and precious person."

Pie and Catherine are not alone. Tommie Zacharias, former MSU First Lady, used a story to describe her friend "Jacque." Tommie explained that in the center aisle of the Saint Paul's Cathedral in London stands an epitaph in bronze for architect Sir Christopher Wren that says, "Si monumentum requiris, circumspecte." That epitaph is also Jacque's legacy: "[To] see her monument, look around at her beloved Jim and their remarkable family; at the throng of friends and alumni of Mississippi State University who can bear witness to the quality and impact of her life; and at her commitment to education that this endowment supports," Tommie said. Tommie also described how Jacque was at home at MSU, bringing sunshine into every venue she entered. "I loved her like a sister and know that future recipients of the Jacqueline Ashford scholarships will gratefully acknowledge that she, too, built well," Tommie said.

Having been a teacher in Aberdeen, Mississippi, and working so closely with her husband and MSU, there was no question where Jim and his children wanted to establish this endowment. MSU has been a close part of the Ashford's lives for more than 25 years, and Jim said he and their three children just knew it was the right decision. "Because of her love for the community and the strong connections she built, we knew it would be the best fit," said daughter Catherine. The Ashfords have three children and seven grandchildren who all live in the Charlotte, North Carolina, area and who will be an integral part of this endowment as it moves forward.

When fully endowed, the Jacqueline Martin Ashford Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Elementary Education will provide seven \$3,000 annual scholarships to elementary education majors at MSU who have attended Mississippi high schools. The first three recipients awarded in fall 2014 were Alex Buckner and Mary Allison Young, both of Pontotoc, and Alexandria Wedderstrand of Ridgeland. "The recipients were selected based on Mississippi residency and are all elementary education majors," said Trish Cunetto, director for development for the College of Education. The Martin 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 of Education at **662-325-6762** or tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu.

HILLIARD HONORED AS MSU MUSIC DEPARTMENT ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR



Starkville native Quincy Hilliard was the Mississippi State Music Department's 2013 Alumnus of the Year.

A 1975 music education graduate, he received a master's degree in music education from Arkansas State University and a doctorate in music theory and composition from the University of Florida.

An internationally renowned conductor and composer, Hilliard currently serves as composer-in-residence and Heymann Endowed Professor of Music at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.

While at MSU, he taught classes, met with music majors and served as guest conductor for the department's fall 2013 wind ensemble concert.

Hilliard's compositions have been featured in major publications and events, including the 2008 Library of Congress celebration of the bicentennial birth of Abraham Lincoln and the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Ga.

Hilliard also is an accomplished author and scholar of music theory and education. He has received numerous recognitions by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

"We were delighted to welcome Dr. Hilliard back to campus to work with our students," said Craig Aarhus, MSU associate director of bands. "We are very proud he is a graduate of our music department."

NICHOLSON NAMED COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ALUMNI FELLOW



The College of Education honored Dr. Janice I. Nicholson as the 2013 Alumni Fellow. Nicholson, a Mississippi native, graduated with her master's and doctoral degrees in elementary education from MSU in 1967 and 1977, respectively.

Growing up in Booneville and receiving her bachelor's degree from Blue Mountain College in 1964, Nicholson continued her education at Mississippi State. While pursuing her doctorate, she worked as a graduate assistant and part-time instructor in the MSU Division of Continuing Education.

"As a graduate assistant I was able to develop personal and professional relationships that continued throughout my career in higher education," stated Nicholson.

Over her career, Nicholson taught in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. She spent 37 years in the College of Education at the University of North Alabama in various teaching and administrative roles, as well as serving as department chair in elementary education.

In 2012, Nicholson retired from Blue Mountain College, where she worked for seven years. During those years she held several positions, including acting president and executive vice president for Student Affairs and Graduate/Special Programs.

Passionate about making changes in the world around her and training teachers to do the same, Nicholson continues to hold a strong presence in the realm of education. With a desire to aid students' financial burden of a college degree, she began an endowed scholarship at Mississippi State. The scholarship also allows her to make an investment in the future of education in her home state.

"The academic experiences at MSU helped me develop the knowledge base and skills needed to be successful," said Nicholson.

Now retired and residing in Florence, Alabama, Nicholson continues to be an active MSU alumnus and a loyal supporter of academics and athletics.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SELECTS RICK YOUNG AS ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR



Dean Richard Blackburn, left, congratulates Dr. Rick Young.

The College of Education has selected Dr. Fred R. "Rick" Young, president of East Mississippi Community College, as the Alumnus of the Year for 2013. Young was the 2010 College of Education Alumni Fellow.

Young, a native of Mathiston, Mississippi, holds a bachelor's, master's and doctorate degree from Mississippi State. He also attended Wood Junior College and the University of Southern Mississippi. Young has over 40 years of experience in education in the state of Mississippi. He began his career at Harrison Central High School in 1972, where he established a distributive education program. In 1974, he accepted a position at the Golden Triangle Campus of East Mississippi Community College and has worked in various capacities for the college over the past 40 years.

Among his accomplishments, Young helped establish Mississippi's first community college distance learning lab at EMCC in the early 1990s. Dedicated to the economic development of the Golden Triangle, he was also instrumental in establishing the first Center for Manufacturing Technology Excellence in the state. He is a charter member and current president of the Mississippi Corridor Consortium comprised of Itawamba, Northeast and Northwest Mississippi Community Colleges. The Consortium

pools resources of four community colleges to enhance regional economic development.

Young credits Mississippi State with providing the knowledge base and skills needed to pursue his dreams and career goals. "Mississippi State instilled the determination and confidence to reach beyond my original goals," he said. "My professors served as a great influence, and their willingness to nurture and inspire encouraged me to strive for greater things."

While at EMCC, Young has had the privilege to see unprecedented growth in the student population over the last decade. He has also worked with the faculty and staff on increasing program offerings and community interaction, as well as building projects and infrastructure improvements. Most recently, he introduced a tuition guarantee program enabling recent high school graduates to attend EMCC with their tuition guaranteed.

During his career, Young has been involved with many professional and community organizations. He currently serves on boards for the Mississippi Partnership Workforce Investment Act, the Columbus-Lowndes Development LINK, the Greater Starkville Development Partnership and the Clay County Growth Alliance. He is also a member of the advisory council for the MSU College of Education, the MSU-Meridian campus, as well as the Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle Community Advisory Board. Dr. Young, in his position as president of EMCC, collaborates frequently with MSU on initiatives to improve education in the state. In September 2009, Young joined MSU in a regional library consortium. In 2013, he and MSU President Dr. Mark E. Keenum, with Governor Phil Bryant, met with executives of the Yokohama Tire Corporation, who gave gifts to both MSU and EMCC to show the company's support for education and economic development in the region.

He and his wife Melinda, a fellow educator and MSU alumna, have two children who are also MSU alums.

MSU ANNOUNCES SANDERS AS 2014 NATIONAL ALUMNUS

Mississippi State recognized 1964 physical education graduate and Delta businessman Michael W. "Mike" Sanders of Cleveland as its national Alumnus of the Year during the MSU Alumni Association 2014 awards banquet.

"We are proud to salute Mike Sanders on behalf of Mississippi State University for his success as an entrepreneur and for his loyal lifelong connection with his alma mater," said Jeff Davis, executive director of the MSU Alumni Association. "Of our nearly 128,000 living alumni, Mike is a distinguished selection for Alumnus of the Year."

Sanders is the former longtime president and CEO of Jimmy Sanders Inc., one of the Mid-South's largest agricultural input supply and distribution businesses. He is now semi-retired following a 55-year career in various capacities with the company. Since its 2012 sale to Pinnacle Agriculture Holdings, he now serves as a consultant for the company and is a member of Pinnacle's board of directors.

"It is with pleasure that I accept this great honor bestowed upon me by Mississippi State University," said Sanders. "MSU taught me life lessons I have carried with me, and I am forever grateful for my association."

Since 1969, Mike has been married to the former Nan Long, a Delta State University English graduate and an artist. He has three children, Michael W. Sanders and Amanda Sanders Turner, both of Cleveland, and Ellen Sanders Voelkel of Baltimore, Maryland, and six grandchildren. The Sanders' philanthropy extends to the arts, the community, and their universities.

At Mississippi State, Sanders has served on the boards for the Alumni Foundation, the MSU Foundation, and the Bulldog Club. Since graduation, he has been a member of the MSU Alumni Association and affiliated with the Bolivar County Alumni Chapter.

Sanders attended Mississippi State on a dual scholarship for football and track. Although his football career ended due to injuries early in his college days, Mike ran track and sprinted for most of his time at MSU. In his sophomore year, he and fellow members of the MSU track team competed to win the 1962 SEC championship.

Over his lifetime, Sanders has generously supported MSU athletics and has made transformational gifts to the Track and Field program.

His giving also extends to an MSU scholarship, which assists students across the university.



MSU AWARDS INAUGURAL SAUNDERS-HANEY SCHOLARSHIP



Lois Abel Saunders, left, and **William Clay Haney** are namesakes for a new endowed scholarship benefitting students who are pursuing teaching careers in special education. **Elizabeth Liebkemann**, right, is the first scholarship recipient.

An endowed scholarship recently established by Steve and Donna Saunders of Vicksburg will encourage Mississippi State University students to pursue teaching careers in special education.

The award is designated for a junior or senior special education major in the university's College of Education.

The inaugural recipient of the Lois Abel Saunders and William Clay Haney Endowed Scholarship is junior Lauren Elizabeth Liebkemann of Kiln, Mississippi. The daughter of Robert and Kerry Liebkemann and a Pass Christian High School graduate, she received \$1,000 for the 2014-15 academic year.

The Saunders have strong ties to special education through family members and created the MSU scholarship in their honor. In particular, they are paying tribute to Steve's mother and Donna's father, the endowment's namesakes.

A 1964 MSU master's degree graduate in elementary education who taught for more than 40 years in Greenwood and Leland, Lois Saunders helped establish some of the first special education programs in the Mississippi Delta. She currently resides in Duck Hill.

William Haney, who died in 2011, was a Daybook, North Carolina, native who spent 30 years in the U.S. Navy and retired as a lieutenant commander. After earning an education degree with

an emphasis in learning disabilities from the University of Central Florida, he taught students with learning disabilities in Merritt Island, Florida.

"Steve and I are both very strong advocates of special education, and our driving force for establishing the scholarship is to honor our parents' endeavors and share a belief in the importance of educating individuals with disabilities," said Donna Saunders.

Steve Saunders is a 1981 MSU construction engineering technology graduate. He worked for 35 years with Entergy, where he met his wife, a special projects coordinator for the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Port Gibson until her 1999 retirement. The couple has been married 30 years.

Mississippi State scholarship endowments may be established with gifts of at least \$25,000. The Saunders' gift for the scholarship will be matched with funds from Entergy, and the scholarship fund remains open for additional contributions.

UNIVERSITY REDEDICATES JOE BADDLEY DRIVE

A special ceremony at Mississippi State involved the formal re-marking of a campus roadway that honors late university alumnus Joe Baddley.

MSU President Mark E. Keenum and Amy Tuck, vice president for campus services, were joined at the morning program by numerous Baddley family members and friends.

A testimonial to the 1951 education graduate's love for and work on behalf of the university, the event took place at the A.B. McKay Food Research and Enology Laboratory that adjoins Joe Baddley Drive in the Thad Cochran Research, Technology and Economic Development Park.

Baddley had a long career as a teacher, coach and principal in the state's public school system. After retiring, the Water Valley High School graduate and World War II veteran went on to serve for 12 years in Jackson as a valued assistant to Lt. Gov. Brad Dye. Keenum said it was during Baddley's tenure with Dye in the 1980s that he got to know the former educator. "He was working with officials from the (MSU) president on down, making things better for the university and, for that matter, the state of Mississippi," Keenum said.

Keenum praised Baddley's well-developed skills in dealing with others, as well as for his influential advocacy on behalf of his alma mater.

Also speaking was MSU alumnus and former state senator Bob Montgomery of Canton, who praised Baddley, Dye and their legislative contemporaries for always being focused on the best interests of Mississippi's junior and senior institutions of higher learning. Tuck said the rededication of Joe Baddley Drive honored a man who always encouraged and supported others in whatever positive endeavors they were engaged.

"The visibility of Joe Baddley Drive will always serve as a tangible reminder to MSU's appreciation for all he did for our university," Tuck said.



During the rededication ceremony at the MSU enology laboratory, **President Mark E. Keenum** presented former signage marking Joe Baddley Drive to members of the Baddley family. They include (l-r) **Jean Baddley Cox**, **Connie Baddley**, and **Joan Baddley Ishee**.
Photo by: Beth Wynn

TEXAS COUPLE LOYALLY SUPPORTS MISSISSIPPI STATE WITH \$12.3 MILLION GIFT



A \$12.3 million gift from Mississippi State alumni Tommy and Terri Nusz of Houston, Texas, will benefit multiple academic colleges and units at the 135-year-old university.

The gift continues the Nusz' support of the land-grant institution and is one of the largest to date for the MSU Foundation's current fundraising endeavor, *Infinite Impact: The Mississippi State University Campaign*.

"This leadership-level commitment from MSU alumni Tommy and Terri Nusz will have a far-reaching impact in helping Mississippi State University

provide leadership and advance its mission of education, outreach, and research," said MSU President Mark E. Keenum.

He continued, "This significant gift helps us continue the momentum in our capital campaign and will be invaluable as we provide funding for much-needed facilities, endowed positions in engineering and veterinary medicine, a pioneer school for research in education, generous support for American veterans, and enhancements for our athletic programs."

The gift brings the total raised for *Infinite Impact* to \$375 million. The multi-year campaign was launched earlier this year and will continue fundraising toward a \$600 million goal by 2018.

Tommy Nusz is president, CEO, and chairman of the board of Houston-based Oasis Petroleum. He co-founded the independent exploration and production company in 2007. In his more than 30 years in the oil and gas industry, he worked as an engineer for Superior Oil, Mobil Oil and Meridian Oil before being named vice president for several divisions of Burlington Resources, which was eventually acquired by Conoco Phillips. He also is a National Petroleum Council member.

Nusz said, "Our recent gift to Mississippi State is a manifestation of our family's love of the university. Each of us selected areas

of MSU where we believed we could make the most impact within the university and out into the world."

Because of the gift's unique structure, the Nusz' link to Mississippi State athletics, academics, and support of American veterans will continue in perpetuity.

The couple met as MSU students and graduated in 1982. Tommy earned a degree in petroleum engineering, while Terri, of Memphis, Tenn., graduated in interior design. They are joined in their philanthropy by their children -- son Brant, an MSU junior management major, and daughter Meagan, who attended Texas Christian University.

As a Mississippi State engineering alumnus, Tommy Nusz wants to bolster the reputation of the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering, one of approximately 40 named engineering colleges in the nation. To that end, the gift provides \$250,000 for a strategic initiative fund to be utilized by the engineering dean, and \$1 million to create the Nusz Engineering Student Excellence Endowment for such areas as study abroad and technology society memberships.

Additionally, a \$1.75 million allotment will create the Thomas B. Nusz Endowed Chair. Endowment earnings will provide a salary supplement and holder support with a focus on petroleum- and energy-related study. Also, \$1 million will help construct a new engineering and science building to house the Civil and Environmental Engineering department.

Also, \$2 million will lead construction of a new facility for the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Center for America's Veterans. The center is a national leader in providing campus-based veteran resources in support of 2,000 currently enrolled student veterans, service members, dependents and survivors. MSU was recently ranked in the top 30 by U.S. News & World Report in its first-ever listing of veteran-friendly institutions.

"We realize what it takes for military personnel and their families to regain a certain quality of life after serving their country. We want to support those who currently serve in the military on our behalf and honor our relatives who previously served to preserve our freedom," Tommy Nusz said.

The Nusz connection with Mississippi State began when Tommy's dad, Dave Nusz, was hired as a defensive backfield coach for the Bulldog football team from 1970-1972. Because of the family's passion for sports, the gift extends to this area and builds on past contributions to support football and women's basketball.

ALUMNI NOTES

Specifically, \$2 million will serve as a lead gift toward constructing a new Olympic sports facility at MSU. Meagan Nusz, an accomplished equestrian, competes as part of the U.S. Equestrian team, and the family wants to encourage student achievement in Olympic sports. Also, \$300,000 will establish the Meagan Nusz Excellence in Women's Sports Fund to generate more emphasis in this area, and an additional \$1 million will support several sports programs, including baseball, women's basketball, softball and volleyball.

Continuing their focus on equine health, a portion of their gift assists the College of Veterinary Medicine with an endowed position known as the Terri Nusz Endowed Equine Professorship. Earnings from the \$1 million endowment will provide a faculty holder salary supplement and support in teaching and research. Terri Nusz oversees the family's various interests in equine sport including TnT Equine Partners, Amalaya Investments, and Oasis Stables, and they want to encourage faculty efforts in equine study.

The Nusz gift also benefits the College of Education and a proposed Partnership School, which is a unique opportunity for the college and the Starkville-Oktibbeha County Schools. The partnership would create a pre-kindergarten through 12th grade school adjacent to the MSU campus for research on rural education and as a demonstration model for current students and educators in the state and nation. The \$1 million gift will assist with construction and help provide start-up needs.

Any remaining funds of the more than \$12 million gift will be held for future university use as determined by the family.

For more on the university's fundraising activities and *Infinite Impact* campaign, visit www.infiniteimpactmsu.com.

'75

Frank Permuy (M.S. in Physical Education) is retiring after 50 years of coaching baseball at the high school and college levels. In 2013, Permuy was inducted into the National High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He was previously inducted into the Florida Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame (in 2009) and the Florida High School Hall of Fame (in 2010).

'76

Terry Fleming of Leakesville has been named local director of the year by the Miss Mississippi Pageant program. In addition to teaching with the Greene County School District, she directs the Miss Deep South Scholarship Pageant, a division of the Hattiesburg-based Leaf Foundation.

Jolynn Leverette of State Line is Waynesboro Middle School's 2013 Teacher of the Year. A 34-year education veteran, she teaches computer technology at the school.

'93

Crystal Kilgore Elliers received Honey Island (Louisiana) Elementary's Teacher of the Year Award for 2014. Elliers teaches second grade.

'96

Robert E. Hayes, Jr. (M.S. in Social Studies Education) has opened the Hayes Law Firm, PLLC, in Southaven, Mississippi. Licensed to practice in Mississippi and Tennessee, Hayes' practice focuses on civil litigation and criminal defense.

'09

Drew Hollinghead of Leakesville is the new head baseball coach at Greene County High School. He is a GCHS alumnus.

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If you would like additional information about giving opportunities, please contact me at 662-325-6762 or tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu.

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.

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