

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE | SUMMER 2015

beacon

THE FAMILIES THAT
FAITH BUILT

How Three Daughters Came Home



beacon



FROM THE PRESIDENT

LEE GARDNER ROYCE

As a sophomore in college at Vanderbilt, I signed up for a summer mission trip. I chose something called the “pioneer mission” because I believed that meant I would be going somewhere remote to share the Gospel with the residents of rural homesteads in the pristine mountains. Such was my hope, coming from Miami.

Then I discovered that “pioneer” in this context actually meant that I would be going to an area where Southern Baptists had not previously been. In this case, that area was inner-city Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where I would spend two months working in a storefront church in a neighborhood marked by gang violence, grinding poverty, and a pervading sense of hopelessness.

When we share inspirational stories of times when we were afraid but trusted God and stepped out in faith, we tend to focus on only the positive outcome, glossing over the journey that took place between taking that first step and reaching the story’s end. Thinking of that summer in Philadelphia, for example, I recall the people I met and the good work accomplished, but I tend to downplay the fact that I continued to pray during those two months that God would see me through it safely.

Stepping out in faith doesn’t mean that our fears will permanently disappear, or that the walk from that point forward will be an easy one. Perhaps there is no better example of faith and fear in one experience than the life of Jesus. Jesus stepped out in faith, knowing that His sacrifice would save the world. Yet, He still asked if the cup might pass, and as He was dying on the cross, He cried out in anguish, “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?”

It is comforting to know that taking that first step doesn’t mean we are expected to be fearless at every other step on the journey. Instead, stepping out in faith means just that – being faithful enough to take the first step, and trusting God to lead us the rest of the way.

Lee Royce

BY THE BEACON’S LIGHT

This issue of the *Beacon* draws its theme of fear, faith, and trust from Matthew 14: 22-33, which recounts the story of Jesus walking on the water.

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

Fear and faith often go hand-in-hand. Peter was drawn to Jesus, stepped out of the boat in faith, and walked on water. But when he looked away from Jesus, Peter was afraid and began to sink. When we hear this account, we might tend to focus on Peter’s doubt. But if we consider the story from another angle, Peter’s water walking adventure was a success. After all, *Peter got out of the boat.* The other disciples were too frightened to take even that first step, and as a result, missed out on the experience of a lifetime.

In the following pages, you’ll meet people who took a first step in faith, despite their fear of failure, sorrow, or the unknown. Like Peter, they felt fear, but that did not stop them from responding to the call of Jesus. And though they might still face challenges and uncertainty along the way, they know that help is just a prayer away when – again, like Peter – they cry, “Lord, save me.”



On the Cover: Their adoptive families stepped out in faith to bring Sue Ling Hillman, Eden Followell, and ZZ Wallace home. Read their stories on page 26.



TREATING
BODY AND
SOUL

10



WHEN
THE ODDS
SEEM
STACKED
AGAINST
YOU

22



BECOMING A
DIFFERENCE
MAKER

40



A SPIRIT
SPREADING
FAR AND
WIDE

44



follow us on twitter:
@mc_beacon

Contents

Along College Street **3**

Home Sweet Home
Lauren Compere is Crowned Miss
Wheelchair Mississipp
Choctaw Sports Round-Up
National Champions

40 Years of Success **18**

Alumni Awards **48**

Class Notes **56**

From the Time Capsule **64**

The *Beacon* is available online with videos, on-camera interviews, in-depth details, and more web-exclusive content. Look for the **b** symbol, which indicates an article with online content, then visit www.mc.edu/beacon for the rest of the story.



Credits

Beacon
Summer 2015

EDITOR
Tracey M. Harrison '91, '94

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Marlo Kirkpatrick

ALONG COLLEGE STREET EDITOR
Andy Kanengiser

CLASS NOTES
Amy Rowan '85
Hannah Wallace '06
Lisa Williams

DESIGNER
Alecia Porch

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Robby Followell '07
Chase Richardson '12

WEB DEVELOPERS
Justin Garcia
Jared Walters

Beacon magazine is published by the Office of Public Relations, Mississippi College, Box 4003, Clinton, MS 39058. Distributed free of charge to alumni and friends of the University.

Postmaster and others, please send change of address notification to: Office of Alumni Affairs, Box 4027 Clinton, MS 39058

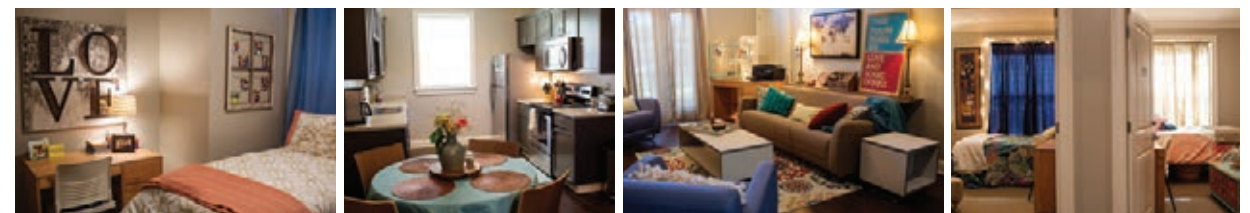
Copyright 2015



ALONG COLLEGE STREET

HOME SWEET HOME

University Place Opens to Student Residents



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE'S NEW UNIVERSITY PLACE WELCOMED its inaugural residents in August.

The first new residence halls constructed at MC in nearly 20 years, University Place offers apartment-style living for 189 upperclassmen. Located on the East Campus on the site of the old Clinton Junior High School, the \$16 million development is equipped with high-speed Internet connectivity, electronic key systems, electronic security systems, and many more modern amenities.

"Amenities in residence halls have an impact on recruiting and retention," says Steve Stanford, vice president for the Office of Administration and Government Relations. "Students today have high expectations, and certainly seek the comforts and conveniences of home in their 'home away

from home.' We kept that in mind as the designs for University Place evolved."

The three-story, brick buildings feature French doors leading to balconies on the upper levels. Each of the development's eight buildings features six separate units housing four residents. Each unit offers a spacious, open living space and kitchen that the four residents share. University Place also offers units in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and an area coordinator's apartment. New sidewalks and welcoming green spaces are a part of the lifestyle package.

More than just a traditional dorm, University Place is a welcoming community designed to engage students in campus life and enhance their daily experience at Mississippi College.



Lauren Compere
is Crowned
**MISS WHEELCHAIR
MISSISSIPPI**

Lauren Compere captured the title of Miss Wheelchair Mississippi 2015, then advanced to the national Miss Wheelchair America competition, where she placed an impressive second.

The Mississippi title and her appearance in the national spotlight have given Compere a platform as an advocate and positive role model for people with disabilities.

Diagnosed with cerebral palsy as an infant, Compere has turned her quadriplegia into a ministry tool, connecting and sharing her love for Christ with others with disabilities. Her positive outlook earned Compere the nickname “Sunshine” from her teachers at Madison Central High School. A senior psychology major and intern in the MC disabilities office, Compere shares that same spirit with her fellow students and the faculty at Mississippi College.

“The sky is the limit,” 22-year-old Compere said in a recent article in the *Clarion Ledger*. “Life is short. As long as it’s not illegal or harming yourself, go for it. And if it’s in the Lord’s will, it will happen.”

Since winning the Mississippi title in January of 2015, Compere has shared her story at churches and disability training sessions statewide, and has posted frequent, inspirational updates for her many Twitter followers. Compere also met with Mississippi Congressman Gregg Harper, who has also been an advocate for the disabled and created an internship program for developmentally and physically challenged young adults on Capitol Hill.

In August, Compere competed in the Miss Wheelchair America competition in Des Moines, Iowa. The national event included a week of interviews, leadership seminars, and fun-filled activities that gave Compere the opportunity to meet other young women with disabilities from around the country, all of whom serve as advocates and role models for those facing serious physical challenges.

“I am thankful that God provided this opportunity for me to truly connect on a deep level with a large group of people with disabilities,” Compere says. “So many ladies were deserving of the title of Miss Wheelchair America. It was a true honor to be chosen second place.”

While even the simple aspects of daily life can be challenging for Compere, those who meet her are struck most by her smile and her reliance on Matthew 11:28, which says, “Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”



Choctaw SPORTS ROUND-UP

HAWORTH NAMED MC HEAD BASEBALL COACH

Jeremy Haworth's hiring as Mississippi College's head baseball coach is a home run for the university.

"I'm very excited to be a Choctaw," Haworth said. "I am looking forward to helping guide MC as they transition back to Division II and the Gulf South Conference. I want to thank athletic director Mike Jones for believing in me to lead a great Mississippi College baseball program into the future."

Haworth comes to MC after a four-year run as head coach at Ouachita Baptist University (OBU) in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. While at OBU, a member of NCAA Division II and the Great American Conference (GAC), he logged a 102-96-1 record, including a 57-50 mark in league play. In 2015, Haworth led the OBU Tigers to a 24-18 mark and No. 2 seed in the GAC Tournament. He was last season's Great American Conference Coach of the Year.

Before joining the staff at Ouachita, Haworth served as an assistant coach at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Haworth and his wife, Emily, have a daughter, Lily.



HEAD
BASEBALL
COACH
JEREMY
HAWORTH

MC VS. DELTA STATE FOOTBALL GAME TO AIR ON ESPN 3

The biggest football game of the MC season kicks off November 14 when the Choctaws battle in-state rival Delta State University. Fans who can't make it to Robinson-Hale Stadium to watch one of the biggest gridiron showdowns in Central Mississippi will have another option. ESPN 3 will broadcast the game live. Kickoff is 3:00 p.m. that Saturday.

There's a lot on the line for both teams, including bragging rights and ownership of the Heritage Bell trophy. This year

marks the first time that MC's football team has faced Delta State in Clinton since 1994.

Lindy's Sports magazine ranked Delta State No. 9 in the nation in pre-season NCAA Division II polls. Delta State won last year's game 27-3 in Cleveland as MC began its transition to Division II and the Gulf South Conference.

The Mississippi College versus Delta State game will wrap up the 2015 season for the Choctaws. In 2016, with its transition back to Division II complete, MC will once again be eligible for NCAA postseason play.

CLARK KELLOGG NAMED GUEST SPEAKER AT MC ATHLETICS DINNER

CBS national basketball analyst Clark Kellogg will be the keynote speaker at Mississippi College's athletics dinner on October 29. The fund-raising event begins at 6:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall.

For more than two decades, Kellogg has served as a game and studio analyst for CBS Sports coverage of the NCAA Men's Basketball Championships.

A former Ohio State University standout, Kellogg was a first-round pick of the Indiana Pacers. He was named to the NBA All-Rookie Team in 1983. The Ohio resident is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and United Way.

Over the past 13 years, the dinner known as "Celebrating Choctaw Athletics" has raised over \$1 million to benefit the Christian university's athletic programs. Previous speakers have included former Ole Miss Chancellor Robert Khayat, former New Orleans Saints star Fred McAfee, and Major League Baseball player Seth Smith.

For more information, contact Tim Fritts, assistant athletic director for development, at 601.925.7826 or tfritts@mc.edu.

LADY CHOCTAWS WRAP UP STELLAR SOFTBALL SEASON AT NCCAA WORLD SERIES

The Mississippi College Lady Choctaws concluded an outstanding 2015 season by competing in the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) World Series. MC finished in 4th place at the tournament held in Troutville, Virginia. MC dropped a game to Oklahoma Christian 5-0, then bounced back to defeat Cedarville 3-1 before being eliminated from the tournament with a 3-2 loss to Lee University. The ladies wrapped up the season with a 30-24 record, despite taking on a tough schedule in their first year back in the Gulf South Conference and NCAA Division II.

The NCCAA World Series represented the final games on the diamond for MC seniors Karla Beth Hux, Lacie Patterson, Shay Mickens, Elissa Kelly, Tori Bankston, Bethany Fletcher, Macey Lee, Kaitlin Moak, Brooke Smitherman, and Ashley Vann. Mickens was selected as an NCCAA softball All-American for the second year in a row and finished her MC career with 84 stolen bases, tying Jennifer Jones (2008-2011) for the all-time Mississippi College school record.

Congratulations to the Lady Choctaws softball team and continued success in 2016.





NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

YI CHI ZHANG, COACH
CHENG LI, ASSISTANT
COACH ZHICHENG LIANG,
AND TONG ZHANG

THE MC TABLE TENNIS TEAM CELEBRATES ITS FIRST NATIONAL TITLE

The Mississippi College table tennis team claimed its first national title in April, capping off a thrilling 2014–15 season. • The national championship win in Wisconsin earned the team resolutions from Governor Phil Bryant, the Mississippi Senate, and Congressmen Bennie Thompson and Gregg Harper. The Mississippi Braves invited the MC team to put on an exhibition at Trustmark Park in Pearl, and MC President Lee Royce saluted the squad with a celebratory dinner at the Phillips House on the Clinton campus.

The big win almost slipped away. The Choctaws were trailing 7-3 in the final game against 11-time national champion Texas Wesleyan University when the MC doubles team of Coach and Captain Cheng Li and dynamic newcomer Tong Zhang staged a miracle rally. Stunning fans from both sides, MC played to a dramatic finish, capturing the contest by a final score of 12-10.

“We are so lucky,” a humble Cheng Li said during post-game National Collegiate Table Tennis Association interviews at the University of Wisconsin’s Eau Claire’s campus.

Luck aside, it took superior skills to take down the mighty Texas Wesleyan squad that came within points of winning its 12th straight national team title.

“To say this is a big deal is really an understatement,” National Collegiate Table Tennis Association President Willy Leparulo said during post-game ceremonies. “This was a monumental win by Mississippi College.”

Led by extraordinary players from China including Li, Zhang, and Yi Chi Zhang, and talented American Tyler Brogdon of Birmingham, Alabama, the MC team will continue the celebration into the fall. Mississippi

College’s family and friends will salute the players at the university’s homecoming parade on College Street on October 24. Then, it’s back to business for the Choctaws as they host the Dixie Division tournament against visiting teams including Mississippi State, Tulane, Southern Mississippi, and West Florida at Alumni Gym.

MC had finished the previous three seasons ranked No. 2 among the 150-plus colleges playing the Olympic sport in the United States and Canada. MC outranked larger schools including the University of Southern California, Harvard, Penn State, Princeton, UCLA, Ohio State, Columbia, Michigan, and McGill University of Canada.

Beginning its ninth season of collegiate competition this year, MC’s team is led by superb players and has earned the support of a growing fan base. Can Mississippi College repeat as national table tennis champs? The big test will come at the 2016 national championships in Round Rock, Texas, in late March.

The team has come a long way since its first national tournament in 2008, when the Choctaws finished 14th. As team sponsor Andy Kanengiser put it, “First place for Mississippi College is a dream come true.”

TREATING

BODY {AND} SOUL



One of the founding goals of the Mississippi College Medical and Dental Alumni Association was to send medical mission teams to areas in need. In May of 2015, a group of association members and current MC students completed a medical mission to Guaimaca, Honduras. The trip was organized by Dr. Eddie Donahoe '85 of Indianola Family Medical Clinic, and included four of his fellow alumni from the Mississippi College class of 1985.

“THE LORD LED US AS A GROUP TO USE THE SKILLS WE’D BEEN BLESSED WITH AND GAINED AT MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE TO HELP OTHERS. THIS WAS ALSO OUR WAY OF GIVING BACK TO OUR *ALMA MATER* IN RECOGNITION OF ALL MC HAS DONE FOR US.”

— Dr. Eddie Donahoe '85 —

DR. DONAHOE WORKED WITH PETAL, Mississippi-based Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International to coordinate the trip, which brought much-needed surgical care to Guaimaca. Between May 22nd and 29th, the team performed 42 basic surgical procedures, including tonsillectomies, gall bladder removals, and thyroid surgeries, working in a Honduran hospital. The members of the team, which included doctors, nurses, and students, felt the Lord bind them together to complete the task at hand.

“Although five of us had been lifelong friends, I didn’t know about half of our team members prior to the trip,” said Dr. Harry Phillips '85, a partner in Memphis Children’s Clinic. “The operating room is unique in that no one person is more important than any other. The surgeon plays a lead role, but without every person doing his or her part, surgery cannot be done. It’s always a team effort. Without question, God formed us into the team we needed to be and gave us a unity of mind and purpose before we even met each other. It was beautiful to see the life of Christ lived out through each team member and the resulting glory He received. It was the definition of Christian fellowship in action.”

“It’s hard to describe the feeling of overwhelming humility you get after being on one of these trips,” said Dr. Donahoe, who was making his fifth trip to Honduras to serve. “Some of the patients had been waiting for as long as two years for medical treatment. They would wait all day to see



a doctor without complaining and they viewed any kind of treatment as a privilege. They were so appreciative of *anything* we did for them, and their gratitude was moving. They were also tough – we found that we needed very little pain medication. Our patients were truly some of the most beautiful people in the world, with a spirit that restores one’s faith in humanity.”

“That many of the patients on whom we operated traveled six to 10 hours to receive what we consider very ordinary care in the United States is a humbling reminder of how different our daily lives are compared to people in the rest of the world,” said Dr. Kevin Ivey, a general surgeon at Laurel Surgery Clinic and South Central Regional Medical Center in Laurel, Mississippi. “This was a stark reminder of the call we followers of Christ have to help the ‘other,’ and there are plenty of ‘others’ in all corners of the world – sometimes just around the corner from our homes and offices. Whether it’s framed as an internal argument with one’s self or an argument with God, that old question, ‘If not I, then who, and if not now, then when?’ really applies.”

“It’s freeing in a way to work in an environment in which there is not as much bureaucracy, but you feel even more responsibility toward the patients because there is no health-care safety net,” Dr. Donahoe added. “You send these people you’ve come to know and care for home and pray they don’t get infected in the environment they are going back into. You might never see these patients again, but you are *eternally bound* to them.”



“THIS TRIP PROVIDED HOPE TO OTHERS, not only by meeting physical needs, but also through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It was a true blessing to me to serve alongside faithful followers of Jesus seeking to use everything that God has blessed them with in order to love others as Christ loves us.” — *Dr. Guy Burke '02*





"IT WAS CRUSHING TO SEE CHILDREN AS YOUNG as four years old bringing their own water container to wait in line for clean water just to survive. I can't think about it without tears." — Dr. Harry Phillips '85



TEAM MEMBERS PROVIDED SPIRITUAL CARE AS WELL AS MEDICAL TREATMENT. DR. GUY BURKE '02, PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH INDIANOLA WHERE DR. DONAHOE IS A DEACON, ACCOMPANIED THE TEAM TO HONDURAS.

"Through an interpreter, I prayed for the specific needs of patients and their family members," said Dr. Burke. "One man, a family member of a patient, confessed his need for Christ and followed Jesus as Lord and Savior. I literally watched someone go from shedding tears of despair to having a smile of true joy. This trip provided hope to others, not only by meeting physical needs, but also through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It was a true blessing to me to serve alongside faithful followers of Jesus seeking to use everything that God has blessed them with in order to love others as Christ loves us."

Team members also participated in a ministry that delivered clean water to outlying areas by truck. Residents lined up with buckets for the privilege of receiving their allotment of safe drinking water.

"The water ministry hit me the hardest," said Dr. Phillips. "Surgery is my vocation. It's what I do on most days, so it's routine. Delivering one of the most basic needs of life, water, is *not* routine. It is humbling. It is sad. It is moving. It was crushing to see children as young as four years old bringing their own water container to wait in line for clean water just to survive. I can't think about it without tears."

While the trip was referred to as a medical mission, it was far from a clinical experience. Team members were moved not only by the personal bonds they formed with their patients, but also by the loving service they saw demonstrated by their colleagues.

"I assisted and observed in surgery, but my most memorable experience from the trip was praying over Elsa Maria, a young girl with epilepsy," said Mary Catherine Reynolds '15, a student at the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry. "We were welcomed into her home by her mother and her 11 siblings. When we saw that the children were sleeping on pieces of cardboard, our team pooled funds to purchase mattresses for the family and delivered them to the home the following day. Elsa Maria's mother came to the hospital that evening to thank us. Her humility, joy, and dependence on Christ for all of her family's needs were so memorable. Christ's healing hands were definitely at work that

week. The memories and lessons will stay with me forever."

"I watched one of my colleagues bend down and tie the shoe of a poor Honduran farmer who had just had hernia surgery the previous day," says Dr. Mark Reed '85, chief of the division of pediatric otolaryngology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. "This man had no family with him to help and because of his pain, he was struggling with the simple act of bending over and putting on his socks and shoes. This simple act was a 'cup of water in Jesus' name' moment for me."

"Eddie Donahoe, David Broome, Kevin Ivey, Harry Phillips, and I were freshmen together in Chrestman Hall 34 years ago," Dr. Reed continued. "I watched my colleagues treat patients, and I also watched them perform what the world would consider very menial tasks, like cleaning floors and taking out trash, with humility and selflessness. These guys challenged me then, and they inspire me now. I love these guys."

"Seeing the response of the people to basic kindness and being able to be the hands of Jesus though our medical profession was a privilege," said Dr. Donahoe. "I also enjoy seeing people go for the first time as a part of the team and experience the joy a mission trip like this can bring."

One of those "first timers" was Hannah Broome, a biology major at MC whose father, Dr. David Broome '85, was also a member of the team.

"The most memorable part of the trip were the small expressions of love and trust – the smiles on the children's faces, the laughter as we played soccer or catch, the trust that the patients placed in these North American doctors that didn't even speak their language," Hannah Broome said. "The lasting impression made on me was in the little wonders that God had placed there for us to see His love, His work, and His plan."

"The people of Guaimaca need more than what we can give them in a week," Broome continued. "The people of Guaimaca need to see the faces of the people that tell the salvation story more than once or twice. They need steady relationships in which we can show them Christ with more than a quick Bible story or a gift. There is so much need for love in Honduras, and if I learned anything while on this trip, it's that all we have to do is be willing to go and let God use us."



SAVING AND BEING SAVED — "We hope more people will take advantage of this opportunity," Dr. Eddie Donahoe says. "The need is endless, and I have never known anyone who was not more blessed by going than the people they went to serve. You go to save them and they end up saving you." • The MC Medical and Dental Alumni Association is planning another medical mission trip for May of 2016. If you're interested in joining the team, contact Dr. Eddie Donahoe at drsdonahoe@yahoo.com.



For more on this story, visit mc.edu/beacon



“WHEN SEVERAL OF US FORMED the Mississippi College Medical Dental Alumni Association, our desire was to give back to our *alma mater* for the opportunities she has given us. Helping the faculty in any way that we could, assisting students to get into medical or dental school, and participating with faculty and students in missions were foremost in our hearts and minds.”
— *Dr. Mark Reed '85, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology, University of Mississippi Medical Center*



2015 MARKS A YEAR OF CELEBRATION
AND A MAJOR MILESTONE IN MISSISSIPPI'S LEGAL HISTORY
AS MC LAW CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY. THE LAW SCHOOL'S
HISTORY IS MORE THAN A STORY OF SHAPING GENERATIONS OF
ATTORNEYS; IT'S A STORY OF STEPPING OUT IN FAITH.

While 2015 marks the 40-year anniversary of MC Law, the law school can trace its history back to 1930 and the founding of the Jackson School of Law (JSOL). JSOL was founded by four prominent Jackson attorneys, Walter Capers, Leonard Calhoun, John Fox, Jr., and Judge William Hemingway; the four also served as the law school's entire faculty. JSOL opened its doors as a night school, gearing its program toward professionals who worked during the day and studied the law at night.

For more than four decades, JSOL educated many of the state's legal leaders as an independent institution. In 1975, Mississippi College purchased the Jackson School of Law, enhancing and continuing the tradition of legal excellence begun some 45 years previously.

In his book *Mississippi College with Pride*, author Charles Martin notes, "The primary assets received in the purchase [of the law school] were the good will of the people associated with the school and an instant enrollment of 500 law students." The purchase of the law school required the Mississippi College administration to step out in faith, believing not only that MC could financially support the program, but also that they could operate a law school from a Christian perspective, a concept that naysayers in both the Baptist community and the legal community met with skepticism.

Professor Mary Libby Payne (today better known as Judge Mary Libby Payne) served as MC Law's first dean. "We laid a foundation for a law school to innovate and moti-

"A NUMBER OF
EXCITING EVENTS
ARE PLANNED TO
COMMEMORATE
40 YEARS OF
SUCCESS AT
MC LAW.

We have designed
programs to address
issues important
to our state and
our nation while
celebrating the many
accomplishments
of our faculty,
students, and alumni."
DEAN WENDY SCOTT

vate students and faculty to be more than a cookie-cutter law school," Judge Payne says. "As a Christian university, we tried to create an environment in which love and integrity were the norm."

The biggest challenge for the fledgling law school was earning all-important accreditation from the American Bar Association, which would not only allow graduates to sit for the bar exam in any state in which they wished to practice, but would also give MC Law credibility as a "real" law school. In her memoir, Judge Payne describes a disappointing meeting with the ABA in San Antonio, Texas, in which it became clear accreditation would not be immediately granted. Leaving the meeting, Payne and Professor Carol West wandered into the San Antonio historic district.

"One of the buildings we entered was an old Methodist church...there was a kneeling bench down at the front. We were drawn to it in our silence. As we knelt there, I began to praise God out loud. Since God is always worthy of praise, such a prayer is always appropriate, no matter how adverse our circumstances. My praise gave way to thanksgiving, thanking God that He was a covenant-keeping God who had given us a vision of what He wanted for our law school. He had not lost His power nor abandoned His purpose. As we prayed, we committed ourselves anew to trust Him, El Shaddai, to provide whatever we needed, in His time."

Forty years later, MC Law has achieved national recognition, both fulfilling and continuing to expand that early vision for which the law school's first dean gave thanks.



"MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW IS A PRODUCT OF THE GRACE OF GOD FOR HIS HONOR AND GLORY AND FOR THE EXTENSION OF HIS KINGDOM."

Excerpted from the book *A Goodly Heritage: A Memoir of Mississippi College School of Law* by founding dean Judge Mary Libby Payne

MC LAW MILESTONES

1930

The Jackson School of Law (JSOL) is founded as a night school. While the law school is an independent institution, classes meet on the campus of Millsaps College.

1934

JSOL posts a 100% bar passage rate.

1960

JSOL classes move from Millsaps College to the campus of Belhaven College.

1971

Classes move to a repurposed house at 809 North President Street in Jackson, JSOL's first independent location.

1973

The JSOL Alumni Association is formed.

1975

At the urging of the JSOL Alumni Association, business leaders, and the majority of the Mississippi College Board of Trustees, MC purchases the Jackson School of Law. Classes meet in an addition to the Mississippi College main campus library; three rows of shelves house the entire law library.

Professor Mary Libby Payne resigns her position as an assistant attorney general in the Mississippi Attorney General's Office to become the law school's interim dean.

Ronnie Dortch becomes the first student admitted to the new Mississippi College School of Law.

The Mississippi Trial Lawyers Association donates \$500 to create the law school's first student scholarship.

MC Law and the University of Mississippi School of Law join forces for an ETV television series called "Pro/Con" that presents both sides of a legal issue and invites call-in questions from the viewing audience.

MC Law becomes one of only two law schools in the nation granted a Delta Theta Phi legal fraternity chapter prior to receiving accreditation from the American Bar Association.

The Legal Ladies organization is established by wives of law students to "benefit charitable projects for the law school and to promote social activities for the legal members and their families."

1976

Mary Libby Payne becomes the law school's first dean.

MC Law holds its first graduation ceremony, presenting Mississippi College doctor of jurisprudence degrees to students who began law school at JSOL.

MC Law is represented for the first time at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Bar.

MC Law launches the student newspaper, *The Legal Eye*.

1977

The *Law Review* program and moot court board are established.

The American Bar Association (ABA) makes its first inspection visit to campus.

1978

United Gas Pipeline donates a building in downtown Jackson to Mississippi College to house the law school.

1980

MC Law is granted provisional accreditation by the ABA.

1981

Classes begin in the new MC Law building at 151 East Griffith Street in downtown Jackson.

1984

MC Law enrolls its last entering class of part-time night school students.

MC Law coordinates the first statewide high school mock trial competition.

The school's first chair of law, the Owen Cooper Chair of Law, is established. The chair is named in honor of Owen Cooper, an alumnus of JSOL, the first Mississippi layman to serve as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the founder of Mississippi Chemical Company. First Mississippi Corporation Foundation is the initial contributor.

MC Law establishes its second chair of law, the J. Will Young Chair of Law, in honor of longtime attorney and 1938 JSOL graduate J. Will Young.

1985

MC Law receives full accreditation from the American Bar Association.

1986

Copeland, Cook, Taylor, and Bush begin sponsoring the appellate advocacy program.

1989

Professor Patricia Bennett becomes the first MC Law graduate added to the fulltime

faculty, as well as the first fulltime African American faculty member.

In addition to participating in Mississippi College's main campus graduation ceremonies, MC Law holds a separate "hooding ceremony" for its graduates at First Baptist Church Clinton.

1990

MC Law becomes the 158th member of the Association of American Law Schools.

1991

Smoking is prohibited inside the MC Law buildings on the Jackson campus.

1993

MC Law announces Challenge 2000, an ambitious capital campaign that raises \$1 million for the law school.

1995

The National Jurist ranks MC Law #12 on its list of Top 35 Law Schools for Women.

1996

Justice Antonin Scalia speaks at the Christian Legal Society's (CLS) annual Prayer Breakfast to a crowd of 700. The breakfast is the largest gathering to date of any Christian Legal Society meeting in the history of the CLS.

1999

The National Jurist ranks MC Law 10th in the nation in a report of students' test scores.

2000

MC Law celebrates its Silver Anniversary.

Ground is broken for new facilities on the downtown campus, including an addition to the law library.

2002

MC Law holds its first graduation ceremony independent of the Mississippi College main campus ceremony. The ceremony takes place at First Baptist Church Jackson.

MC Law launches a \$6 million capital campaign to improve the law school's physical plant.

2003

Construction begins on a new classroom addition just west of the original law school building.

National Security Advisor to President Bush and future Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice delivers the keynote address at the MC Law graduation ceremony.

MC LAW MILESTONES

2007

The Business and Commerce Law Center is founded.

"Moses the Law Giver," a bronze sculpture by Dr. Samuel Gore, is installed at MC Law.

The second floor of the law library undergoes a complete renovation, with the third floor completed in 2008.

2008

The International Law Center is founded.

The study abroad program is launched. The first program sees students and faculty traveling to and studying in Korea.

The Adoption Clinic is founded as part of the Family and Children's Law Center and partners with the Department of Human Services to process adoptions.

MC Law establishes the Bioethics and Health Law Center, Litigation and Dispute Resolution Law Center, International and Comparative Law Center, and Public Interest Law Center.

2009

"Christ: the Fulfillment of the Law," a bronze sculpture by Dr. Samuel Gore, is installed at MC Law.

Wayne Parker makes a generous gift to fund landscaping on the downtown campus.

MC Law launches its summer study program in Merida, Mexico.

2010

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia speaks to 700 attendees at an MC Law luncheon at First Baptist Church.

The alumni office coordinates the first "swearing in" trip to the U.S. Supreme Court for MC Law graduates.

A panel of the Fifth Circuit hears two cases in the law school's Lundy Moot Courtroom. In cooperation with the Mississippi Supreme Court, the MC Law library develops the

Judicial Database Project to make argument videos, briefs, and court statistical information available to the public.

2011

MC Law welcomes the first students in its LLM program in American legal studies for international attorneys representing Nepal and China.

MC Law initiates a Berlin, Germany, summer study program.

The U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals hears two military criminal appellate cases in the law school's Lundy Moot Courtroom. MC Law students serve as assistant counsel.

Based on its success in regional and national advocacy competitions, MC Law's moot court program is ranked #4 in the country.

The MC Law library develops the Legislative History Project, which allows the public to view videos of all discussions on proposed legislation that take place on the floor of the Mississippi House and Senate.

2012

The Advocacy Center moves into a new building equipped with a state-of-the-art courtroom and offices for moot court and CLE.

2013

Chief Judge Carol Stewart of the Fifth Circuit is the graduation speaker at ceremonies for the largest class in MC Law history.

MC Law initiates its summer study program in France.

2014

MC Law begins a study program in Cuba.

Major General William Suter, retired clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court, serves as the graduation speaker.

David McRae '10 presents a commitment from the McRae Foundation to endow a chair in honor of the Watkins and McRae families.

DEANS OF MC LAW

MARY LIBBY PAYNE, June 1975 – March 1978 • E. A. "BEBY" TURNAGE, March 1978 – August 1981

ALTON H. HARVEY, JR., September 1981 – May 1991 • J. RICHARD HURT, June 1991 – May 1998

SID MOELLER, August 1998 – May 2001 • J. LARRY LEE, August 2001 – August 2003

JAMES "JIM" ROSENBLATT, August 2003 – August 2014 • WENDY B. SCOTT, August 2014 – present

WHEN THE ODDS SEEM STACKED AGAINST *You*

PROFESSOR MELINDA GANN '90 ON FACING FEAR WITH FAITH, THREE DECADES AS A PASTOR'S WIFE, DISCOVERIES MADE IN A LONDON CHURCH, AND THE WORST POSSIBLE ENGAGEMENT PRESENT

Mississippi College Mathematics Professor Melinda Gann is lively and outgoing, with a quick sense of humor that's made her a favorite among her students – even those who don't enjoy math.

"Dr. Gann is truly one of the greatest teachers I've ever had and one of the most genuine people I've ever met," says student Mary Beth Hughes. "I'm a journalism major, and let's just say math is not my forte. But statistics turned into one of my favorite subjects because Dr. Gann made us laugh so much."

The study of statistics deals with probability and assessing the odds. To drive those concepts home, Gann sometimes uses roulette and card games as examples of how to figure out when the odds are for something or against something, noting with a laugh, "By the time the class is over, none of my students will *ever* want to set foot in a casino."

But while it's one thing to talk about overwhelming odds in the context of a math problem, it's quite another to face overwhelming odds in a real world, life-or-death situation. Gann has experienced the paralyzing fear that comes with facing those odds, and knows first-hand that when the cards seemed stacked against you and fear has the upper hand, the only real solution is faith.

As a little girl, Melinda Gann wanted to do two things when she grew up –

become an astronaut (more for the ticker tape parade and giant billboard she was sure the job description would earn her in her hometown of Kosciusko, Mississippi, than for a true passion for space exploration) and to marry Elton John.

Instead, she became a mathematics professor and a pastor's wife. Gann originally came to Mississippi College when her husband, Don Gann, was hired as the director of the university's Baptist Student Union. Shortly after the arrival of the Ganns' first child, a daughter they named Kelli, Melinda enrolled in MC and earned her master's degree in mathematics education. Gann soon moved from being a mathematics student to becoming a mathematics instructor at MC.

In 1992, Gann and her husband welcomed a son, Michael, to their family. Their otherwise perfect baby boy had a minor medical problem at birth. As part of his treatment, Gann was instructed to add an over-the-counter antacid to his milk every day. From the time Michael was six weeks old until he was six months old, Gann faithfully followed those instructions.

"Then Michael stopped turning over in his crib," Gann recalls. "And one day, I touched his head and it was squishy, like touching a tomato."

A rare reaction to the antacid had caused her infant son's bones to demineralize – for months, all of the calcium had been slowly leaching from Michael's tiny body. When the antacid was stopped, the calcium began collecting improperly, causing the baby's cranium to fuse shut. As a result, Michael's skull did not have enough room to accommodate his growing brain. The prognosis was grim. Without a series of life-threatening surgeries, Melinda and Don Gann's baby boy would die.

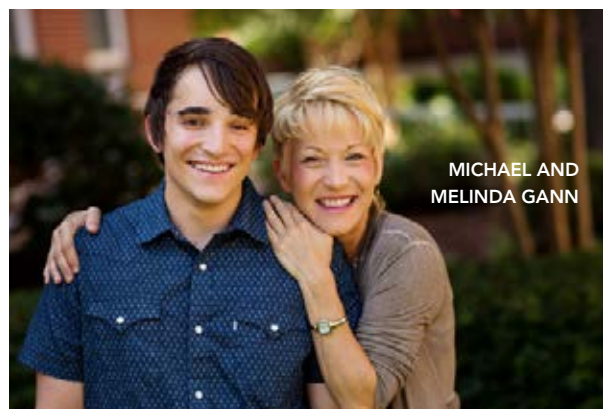
"There were two sentences I kept praying," Gann recalls. "Jesus, please help my baby. But if You choose not to, please keep me faithful."

When Michael was 16 months old, the family traveled to Dallas, Texas, where the baby would undergo extensive craniofacial surgery. Doctors would fold down a section of Michael's perfect little face and remove a portion of the bone that formed his forehead, temporarily exposing his brain. They would then expand the bone with pins and reattach it to his skull. It was a delicate surgery that could have left Michael impaired, deformed, or dead.

"The most terrifying moments of my life were the ones leading up to that first surgery in Dallas," Gann recalls. "The anesthesiologist, Dr. Crossland, called the day before the

procedure to go over some last minute instructions, and he shared something with me that he told me he didn't share with all of his patients. 'For three days before I touch a child,' he said, 'I pray over them by name. I want you to know I have been praying for Michael.'"

In the chilly hospital room where the Ganns waited for the surgical team to take Michael to the operating room, Melinda found a rocking chair draped with warm blankets, and settled in to rock her little boy.



"I thought I might never stop," Gann says. "How could I stop when I knew it might be the last time I'd ever rock him? While I was rocking, rocking, and rocking, Dr. Crossland came in. He gestured to the corner of the room and said, 'I'll be over there. You take as long as you need.' I remember thinking, 'I can't do this. I'm about to hand you *my heart*.' How do you hand someone your son knowing you might never get him back? Then Dr. Crossland looked at me and said, 'I know.' And that's when I had a moment of clear understanding. God had to hand off His baby boy, too."

The skilled doctors reconstructed Michael's skull, allowing not only for his future growth physically, but also cosmetically. Today, Michael Gann is a handsome 23-year-old with no memory and barely a physical trace of the rare condition that almost took his life.

"Now whenever I have to lay something down, and I think it's too big or it's too hard, or it's too important to me or it's just *too scary* and I can't let it go, Dr. Crossland's face is the face I see," Gann says, "but I know that it's God's voice I hear saying, 'I know.'"

Shoulda Put a Ring on It — While Melinda Gann graduated from Mississippi State University (MSU) with a bachelor's degree in mathematics education, earned her master's degree in mathematics from MC, and holds a Ph.D. in mathematics education from the University of Southern Mississippi, she began college with the intention of majoring in computer science. While Gann was working in the MSU computer lab late into the night trying to solve a difficult problem, two young women came in bubbling with excitement. The reason for their joy became clear when Gann realized one of them had just become engaged. "Her friend asked to see her ring," Gann recalls. "The girl responded, 'Oh, he didn't give me an engagement ring. He gave me a *computer*.' I walked out of the computer lab and the next day I changed my major to math. When I heard that computer science major say she got a computer instead of an engagement ring and realized she was *excited* about that, my first thought was, 'These are *not* my people.'"



On Being a Preacher's Wife

Melinda Gann has been married to Don Gann, a Baptist preacher, for 32 years. Her outgoing personality, over-the-top sense of humor, and tendency to say what she's thinking without much in the way of a filter make Melinda Gann both the polar opposite of the stereotypical preacher's wife and the perfect woman for the job. Gann laughs when she recalls people's reactions to Don's announcement that he was leaving his position as director of the Baptist Student Union at MC to pastor a church.

"People looked at Don and said, 'You're going to be a pastor? Yes, yes, I can see that.' Then they looked at me and said, 'You're going to be a *pastor's wife*?' and they'd laugh out loud. I'd shrug and say, 'Well, I can't sing, I'm not quiet, and I say what I'm thinking. I may not be the best preacher's wife, but I can be a great me.'"

"I think it's of vital importance for the people of God to 'struggle out loud' in front of each other – to be honest about our fears, our imperfections, our pain, our doubts," Gann continues. "The world and the church need to see real people who love, struggle, and live life together supporting each other, not judging each other. So, that is what I've done as a pastor's wife. I've been transparent with people, and they've been transparent with me. I told people about my fears and struggles, and they told me theirs. We lived life together in transparent ways, listening, sharing, loving, crying, and laughing together. We really knew each other, and loved each other anyway. There is such power in that!"

"Fear grows in the dark – just ask any five-year-old who is in the bed in the dark alone. But putting on a mask is counterproductive. It only isolates us. It's very scary to take off those 'perfection masks' and be vulnerable with others, but it is vital. Perfect love is what casts out fear. We realize that God loves us, and we learn to love each other. And that makes the world a less scary place."



A DIFFERENT KIND OF LONDON BRIDGE

Dr. Melinda Gann spent January – April of 2015 teaching MC students in London through the university's semester abroad program. She designed her classes around icons of Jolly Old England, giving her students problems to solve that included plotting the average wait time to cross busy London streets, calculating the weight of a tube car, and determining the average amount of out-of-pocket money they spent during their time in London. But it was the personal relationships Gann built in London that she enjoyed the most.

"My favorite part of the London semester was spending so much time with the students," Gann says. "These are 20 people I grew to love and now have inside jokes with."

Gann also enjoyed the opportunity to immerse herself in a different culture, and found the worldview she saw in London intriguing.

"There was such a variety of people to see and meet there from around the world," Gann says. "When we went to church, even the prayers were different. When I pray about situations in Sudan or Iraq, I don't know the people there. Many of these people probably had friends or family there. They prayed with such fervor. It was more of a feeling of 'we' than 'they.' They showed me a bigger body of Christ."

"I vividly remember my first Sunday in London. Dr. Dean Parks and I were in the worship service at All Souls, and I was simply overcome by the diversity of the congregation. I saw people from India, African nations, China, Vietnam, Japan, South America, European nations like France, Scotland, Spain, and so many others. All of us so different with really only one uniting factor – Jesus! All nations, all ages, men and women united by the blood of Christ. I remember having tears streaming down my face, thinking, 'This is what heaven will be like.' I was trying to wipe the tears away without drawing too much attention from Dr. Parks. I didn't want him thinking 'great – I have an emotionally unstable junior professor.' That diversity of people and the 'we' worldview of the people in church is something I will keep with me forever."

"DR. GANN WAS ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF THE LONDON TRIP.

Her ability to find joy and humor in every situation was encouraging, and her compassion and genuine love for her students made her more like a second mom to us during our time abroad. Dr. Gann led a Bible study for the girls on the trip. She poured into us, prayed with us, and gave us some great life tips. She is a wonderful example of a godly woman and I hope that I can be half the woman she is one day."

MARY BETH HUGHES, MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE CLASS OF 2017 PARTICIPANT IN THE LONDON SEMESTER PROGRAM

THE FAMILIES THAT

—  —

FAITH

Built

—
—

HOW THREE COUPLES
FACED FEAR WITH
FAITH TO BRING THEIR
DAUGHTERS HOME





JESS, EDEN, ROBBY,
AND MEG FOLLOWELL

“WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A FAMILY,” AMY HILLMAN SAYS. “WE WERE JUST WAITING FOR THAT MOMENT TO MEET.”

“That moment” Amy refers to was the breathtaking, life-changing instant when she and her husband, Wilson, met their adopted daughter for the first time.

Jess and Robby Followell and Hannah and John Wallace have also experienced the power of that moment. While the three couples adopted their daughters from three different countries and each little girl has different challenges to overcome, the Followells, Hillmans, and Wallaces share a common bond. Each family returned to the United States not with an abandoned child in need, but with a little girl who was undoubtedly *their daughter* before she was ever born.

And for each pair of expectant parents, the process of bringing their daughters home began with anticipation, took a detour through frustration and seemingly endless waiting, and required an all-in commitment to faith over fear.

WHERE FEET MAY FAIL

Eden Kaveri Followell

It all began with a movie trailer. Almost five years ago, Jess '08 and Robby Followell '07 saw a three-minute preview for a film called, “It’s a Girl,” which documented the plight of baby girls in countries including India, where female infants are often unwanted and discarded. “Our biological daughter, Meg, was five months old at the time and we thought she was perfect,” Robby says. “We couldn’t imagine why there would be shame or disappointment in having a baby girl.”

Jess and Robby never saw that documentary. Instead, they lived it. A month after seeing the trailer, they found themselves in an adoption agency office in Alabama exploring the possibility of adopting a little girl from India. After the meeting, the Followells gave themselves one week to pray about whether or not they would pursue adoption.

“Jess was already convinced, but God knew I was guarded about it,” Robby says. “On the final day of that week, I woke up to newspaper headlines about India. I went to get a haircut and an Indian man walked into the barbershop. A few hours later, someone asked me where my scooter was made and for the first time, I noticed a sticker on it that said, ‘Made in India.’ I felt this weird cer-

tainty that if I didn’t say yes to adopting a little girl from India, I’d be walking in disobedience.”

The Followells proceeded with the adoption, deciding they would name their new daughter “Eden,” which means “delight.” They were told they could expect to wait nine to 18 months before they were matched with a child.

“The beginning of the adoption process is so exciting,” Jess says. “You start out thinking ‘this is the best thing I could ever be a part of!’ Then as the waiting goes on and on, you become frustrated and disheartened.”

In early April of 2013, 14 months after they began the process, Robby and Jess both felt God directing them to pray for their unknown daughter at the same time of day, every day, for the entire month.

“I was so excited because I just *knew* this was it. We were going to get a referral that month,” Jess says. “Then April 30th came and nothing had changed. I have never felt that low, that disappointed, that led astray, or that *foolish*. I asked Robby, ‘What are we doing? Have we just been fooling ourselves to think we were being led to do this?’”

The months continued to creep past. Their little girl in India began to seem imaginary. Their daughter, Meg, an infant when the process began, celebrated her second birthday and started naming her dolls ‘Eden.’



THEN, IN FEBRUARY OF 2014, JESS AND ROBBY RECEIVED THE CALL THEY HAD BEEN WAITING FOR, ALONG WITH A SINGLE, ONE-INCH PHOTO OF A WIDE-EYED LITTLE GIRL IN A CALCUTTA ORPHANAGE NAMED KAVERI.

But the news was not all positive. The photo also came with a stack of complicated medical records and an uncertain prognosis. A rare condition called amniotic band syndrome had caused the little girl's feet and hands to be malformed in the womb. While surgery might correct her condition, there was a strong possibility she would never walk. The Followells were given just days to decide whether Kaveri was their Eden.

"We told very few people that we had received a referral," Robby says. "We prayed that God would make it clear whether or not this was our daughter. I asked one close friend to pray for us, but I didn't give her any details or tell her about Kaveri's condition. The next day, that friend texted me a message that said, 'The Lord woke me up with this song and I think it's for you.'"

The song was titled "Oceans." Its opening lyrics were:

*You call me out upon the waters
The great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find You in the mystery
In oceans deep, my faith will stand*

From that point forward, Kaveri was Eden Followell.

Jess and Robby would later learn that Eden was born over a year after they began the adoption process. They had been waiting and praying for their daughter before she was ever conceived. The long wait finally made sense, but God's timing didn't stop there. Eden was born at the end of March 2013 and was found abandoned at a train station, her umbilical cord still attached, and was taken to a local hospital for life-saving care. She had spent the entire month of April 2013, the very month when Robby and Jess had felt called to pray for their daughter-to-be every day, alone in a hospital crib.

In December of 2014, the Followells traveled to India to bring Eden home.

"The moment we met her was so complex," Robby says. "All the expectations came down to this journey, to stepping into the role of parent, and teaching Eden what a parent is."

Their dream had finally been realized, but for the first several weeks back home with their new daughter, it often seemed more like a nightmare. Frightened and confused,

18-month-old Eden wanted nothing to do with the strangers who had taken her away from the only life she had ever known. She showed no affection to her parents, screaming if Robby so much as tried to hold her. She refused to let Jess rock her to sleep, preferring to curl up silently in her crib. If a friend or family member entered the house, Eden's stress at seeing yet another stranger was so great she would sweat through her clothes. She bullied her new sister, Meg, to the point that Jess could not leave them in a room alone together.

Most dramatic were Eden's unprovoked rages. She threw frightening tantrums for no apparent reason, resisting all contact with her parents or sister, scooting into a corner, kicking and screaming until she was too exhausted to kick and scream anymore.

"As a parent, you want to provide instant comfort and it was exactly the opposite," Jess says. "We could not console her. She was grieving the loss of everything she had known and all we could do was let her grieve and grieve along with her."

"As a husband and father, I felt responsible to fix what was broken, and I couldn't do it," Robby says. "I tried to be steady for Jess and Meg and prayed that Eden would level out soon. It was such an extreme change for her in such a short time."

"I expected *her* to need some time to bond with us, but what I hadn't expected was that I would have a hard time bonding with *her*. She was like this angry little stranger in our home," Jess says. "When she had those screaming fits, I remember thinking, 'Thank goodness she's little or I don't know how we'd handle this.' Meg would say, 'She's loud, turn her down!' or sometimes, 'It's time for her to go back to India now!' and I wasn't sure I disagreed. We had been waiting for so many years and it was way more heartbreaking than joyful at first. It was more of a *choice* to bond with her than a natural thing. I prayed that I would bond with her, and the Lord gave me that affection."

Jess created a poster to remind the family of little victories – Eden allowing Robby to hold her without screaming, Eden permitting Jess to bathe her or brush her teeth without an all-out meltdown, a day passing without a tantrum.

"We had to be thankful for those small things that showed progress," Jess says. "Her line of trust was so narrow and we had to earn it."

About six weeks into the family's new life, the Followells felt a shift.

"Eden started to settle in, and her trust extended to us for the first time," Jess says. "One night she not only let me rock her, she reached out and touched my face with both hands. She wanted my affection. In that moment, she was saying we were her people."

"We also came to realize that a lot of Eden's stubbornness was just her personality, not something directed specifically toward us," Robby says. "We see so clearly now that Eden's strong personality is what's given her so much success. She's stubborn and tenacious, but the traits that can make her difficult are also the reasons she's such an overcomer."

After enduring surgery, leg braces, and physical therapy that would test the stamina of an adult, Eden has learned not only to walk, but also to run, to climb, and to make all of the mischief typical of a feisty two year old. Her screams have been for the most part replaced with giggles, and her face breaks into a 1,000-watt smile at the sight of her parents. Visitors to the Followell's home are grabbed by a tiny hand and led to a favorite chair, where Eden makes it clear she expects them to read her a story.

There are more medical procedures and challenges ahead, but Jess and Robby are confident Eden will face whatever comes with the strength and sheer force of will that they've come to see as among her most positive traits. Eden also has a staunch ally in her older sister.

"Out of all of the adjustments we've all had to make, I've probably been the most impressed with Meg," Jess says. "They still have minor altercations from time to time, but now they fight like sisters, and afterward, they snuggle and play together. Meg was meant to be Eden's sister."

When other children are curious about Eden's differences, Meg tells them, "This is Eden. She's just dark," or refers to Eden's malformed fingers and toes as "silly hands and silly feet."

"We want Eden and Meg to see 'different' as just a part of life," Jess says, then adds with a laugh, "Someone suggested that we not tell Eden she's adopted. Seriously? We're not even tan white people."

The Followells have no doubt that Eden was always meant to be their daughter. Months after they brought Eden home, Robby and Jess received a letter from Taya Smith, the artist who recorded the song "Oceans."

"It has been a privilege to hear of your story and what God has done through your lives, and it has blessed me so much to hear how "Oceans" has blessed and encouraged you," Smith wrote. "That line, 'where feet may fail,' is one of my favorites to sing as I know that in our lack, there God comes in."

When they need encouragement, the Followells can always look to the lyrics of the song, and be reminded:

*Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand
Will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now*

— — — — —
"EDEN STARTED TO SETTLE IN, AND HER TRUST EXTENDED TO US FOR THE FIRST TIME. ONE NIGHT SHE NOT ONLY LET ME ROCK HER, SHE REACHED OUT AND TOUCHED MY FACE WITH BOTH HANDS. SHE WANTED MY AFFECTION. IN THAT MOMENT, SHE WAS SAYING WE WERE HER PEOPLE." — — — — —



SUE LING, WILSON,
AND AMY HILLMAN

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Sue Ling Hillman

Amy and Wilson '01 Hillman met in church as children, reconnected later as adults, and were married in 2003. After struggling for more than a decade with infertility, the couple decided to adopt. The Hillmans were on the waiting list to adopt an infant born in America and had even gone so far as to furnish a nursery with a crib and stock up on diapers. Then Amy saw a short video that changed all of their plans.

"Our agency also handled international adoptions, and from time to time they would send out photos or videos of children who were available for placement," Amy says. "I was looking through those videos and saw a little Chinese girl who just stood out. She didn't look like any child I'd ever seen. She was singing, hamming it up for the camera, and playing with the other kids."

The little girl had obvious physical disabilities, including dramatic craniofacial deformities. But what stood out to Amy was the little girl's personality. This child was happy, confident, and bright. Even seen only in a short amateur video shot a world away, she was engaging, and for Amy Hillman, unforgettable.

The more Amy watched, the more she believed this special child could be her daughter. Amy shared the video with Wilson, who was also captivated by the little girl. The Hillmans contacted the agency and learned that this unforgettable child's name was Cui Ling (pronounced "Swee Ling"). She had been abandoned in a train station just a few days after her birth, and had been living in the orphanage ever since. The genetic condition that caused her unusual appearance had also stunted her growth. While she was petite, Cui Ling was six years old.

"The more we watched, the more we loved her," Amy says. "In high school I volunteered with Special Olympics, and I'd always been drawn to special needs kids. That said, if we'd seen her medical file first instead of seeing her video first, it might have been a bigger leap of faith. But once we saw the video, we fell in love with Cui Ling and we knew she was ours."

The Hillmans decided to apply for international adoption, also asking for pre-approval to adopt Cui Ling. Even though they would be working with the same adoption agency, international adoptions carried a different set of criteria for prospective parents, including more expensive adoption fees and international travel. On the same day they learned that a domestic birth mother who had been considering them had instead chosen another couple to be her unborn baby's parents, the Hillmans learned they had been approved to adopt from China. From that point forward, Cui Ling – Americanized as "Sue Ling" – was the Hillman's daughter.

For Amy Hillman, Sue Ling was the answer to both her prayer for a child and the answer to a question that had troubled her for years. Before she and Wilson were engaged, Amy had been planning to enter the mission field in China.

"I got to the last interview and they asked me, 'Are you in a relationship?' I intended to say 'No,' but what came out was 'Yes.' Then they said 'Is it a serious relationship that might end in marriage?' Again, I intended to say 'No,' but then I realized the real answer was 'Yes.' They won't send you into the mission field under those circumstances. I loved Wilson, but that was a hard closure for me. I thought God was leading me to China, and I could not understand why I heard God call me there and then I didn't get to go. When we decided to adopt Sue Ling, I felt He had brought me back there, full circle."

ONE YEAR AFTER SEEING
THEIR LITTLE GIRL IN
THE VIDEO, THE HILLMANS
TRAVELED TO CHINA
TO BRING SEVEN-YEAR-OLD
SUE LING HOME.

“It was awesome,” Amy says. “For so long, she had been a picture, an imaginary child. All of a sudden, we could touch her. Four minutes into meeting her, I had to take her to the restroom. It was instant motherhood. It was joy. Complete joy.”

“When I saw Sue Ling for the first time, I didn’t see anything or anyone else around me,” Wilson says. “It was like having tunnel vision and all I saw was Sue Ling and Amy. The people around us faded away. It was elated happiness made even better because Sue Ling reacted the same way toward us.”

The Hillmans had sent photos of themselves to the orphanage so their daughter could learn their faces. When they greeted her for the first time, Sue Ling recognized her parents.

“She said, ‘You’re Mama. You’re *Baba*,’ which is a Chinese expression for ‘Daddy,’” Amy says. “She had already said good-bye to all her friends at the orphanage. There were no tears over leaving. Instantly, Sue Ling was our child and she knew that. All three of us realized we have always been a family. We were just waiting for that moment to meet.”

Sue Ling arrived home in March of 2015, and Amy left her position in the Mississippi College registrar’s office to become a stay-at-home mom. The Hillmans’ days now alternate between joyous moments with their daughter and endless visits to the specialists who are working to diagnose and treat Sue Ling’s condition. Sue Ling’s physicians believe she suffers from a rare genetic condition called Carpenter’s syndrome, which manifests itself in a number of complications, from an unusual appearance to difficulties with speech and growth. The coming years will be filled with multiple medical procedures and visits to dozens of doctors, but Sue Ling and her parents are ready to face those challenges together.

Sue Ling still wears a necklace given to her by her nanny in the orphanage and occasionally speaks of the little friends she left behind. She has quiet moments when she appears to be contemplating her past, but they are overshadowed by the excitement of showing visitors her bedroom or photos of her mama and *baba*. On the rare occasions when someone speaks to her in Chinese, Sue Ling responds in English. Like her parents, Sue Ling seems to know that she has finally come home.

The most difficult moments for Amy and Wilson come from seeing people react to Sue Ling’s appearance rather than to their daughter’s sweet spirit.

“There have been small challenges along the way, but the toughest challenge has been dealing with stares and comments from people in public,” Wilson says. “Not everyone is being rude, but they just don’t know what to say or how to



react to our daughter. There isn’t a place we can go that we aren’t noticed, and sometimes that can get overwhelming.

“When people see Sue Ling, they see her physical differences and make assumptions about her intellectual abilities,” Wilson continues. “But then they see her personality come out and realize she is a normal kid. She sings funny songs and cracks people up.”

“Complete strangers have done some sweet things for us,” Amy adds. “Once we were eating in a restaurant and a family gave us a note that talked about how beautiful our child was and said ‘God bless you.’ They also left money for us to have a ‘meal on them’ the next time. It’s been really sweet seeing how people find ways to bless us.

“Reacting to people is also teaching *us* to be gracious and kind,” Amy adds. “Our message to others and to Sue Ling will be that God created her just the way she is.”

And as for Sue Ling?

“She thinks she’s great,” Amy says, laughing as her daughter breaks into an impromptu performance of the Beach Boys’ hit song “Barbara Ann,” complete with air guitar. Sue Ling’s next number is a sweet rendition of “Jesus Loves Me,” immediately transitioning into an enthusiastic chorus of “Wild Thing.”

“We prayed for her and she is everything we hoped she would be. We love her,” Wilson says. “When I think of my daughter, I think of the verse, Deuteronomy 31:8, where it

says ‘I will never leave you, nor will I forsake you.’ We are Sue Ling’s forever family and she will never be abandoned again.”

Amy and Wilson chose another verse, Joshua 1:9, as Sue Ling’s life verse, believing it aptly summarizes their daughter’s inner strength and the One who gave her that strength. Painted on the wall in Sue Ling’s room, the verse reads, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

ON THE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN SOMEONE SPEAKS TO HER IN CHINESE, SUE LING RESPONDS IN ENGLISH. LIKE HER PARENTS, SUE LING SEEMS TO KNOW THAT SHE HAS FINALLY COME HOME.

THE FAMILIES THAT
FAITH
Built



JOHN, ZZ, HANNAH,
AND IVY WALLACE

— — — — —
“BE THOU MY VISION”
Zeritu Magnolia Wallace

Hannah '06 and John '04, '11 Wallace had talked about adoption, but always as something they might do “later.” Twenty-six-year-old Hannah, a public relations assistant for Mississippi College, and 29-year-old John, a 9th grade school principal, were already busy with their two-year-old biological daughter, Ivy, and as Hannah describes it, “We thought of adoption as something we would consider when we were older and more established. Adoption was something really cool people who had it all together did.”

Then John attended a church service on a Sunday when Hannah was home sick. The general message was on caring for widows and orphans, but John heard a personal message loud and clear.

“John came home and said, ‘I think we need to adopt. We need to do it now, and we need to do it from Africa,’” Hannah says. “And this was coming from a man who does *not* like change.”

“It was a clear calling,” John says. “I was extremely emotional getting out of church and running to the car. It was something that couldn’t wait. I didn’t know why, but I felt we were supposed to start in Africa. From there, we pinpointed Ethiopia.”

The adoption agency gave the Wallaces an application booklet to complete that asked what kind of a child they were prepared to accept. Do you prefer a boy or a girl? Are you interested in an infant or would you accept an older child? Would you accept a child with disabilities? With deformities?

“It was really hard, indicating what we’d say yes or no to,”

Hannah says. “I had a hard time saying no to anything.”

The Wallaces indicated that they would prefer an infant boy up to one year old, and that they would accept a child with a treatable illness or a correctable disability.

Then the Wallaces waited. And waited. They had been told the process would take between nine and 18 months. On April 4, 2014 – a full *three years* after they began – the couple received a call from the adoption agency announcing, “We have a child, but she doesn’t fit your parameters at all.” The Wallaces had asked for an infant boy with a correctable disability. What they were being offered was a three-year-old girl who was permanently blind.

“This was not like our agency at all,” Hannah says. “We were number 33 on the waiting list, and there were couples ahead of us who seemed on paper to be a better match. There was no logical reason we had been matched with this child. But the more we learned about her, the more it seemed she was supposed to be with us. She had been born the same week we began the adoption process.”

The call came on a Thursday; the agency needed a decision by Monday.

“It was very overwhelming,” Hannah says. “We were scared.”

That Friday evening, the couple attended a concert by the Christian group Rend Collective.

“They opened the concert with the song ‘Be Thou My Vision,’” Hannah says. “That was it for me.”

“The song was Hannah’s confirmation,” John says. “For me, it kept going back to one thing. I was adopted into God’s family. I could not say no and then one day see Jesus face to face and hear Him ask me, ‘Why did you say no? I gave you everything you needed.’ I could not say no to this. And once we said yes, that was it. She was our daughter.”



BUT WITH THEIR DECISION MADE, THE WALLACES FOUND THAT THE WAITING WAS STILL NOT OVER. IT WOULD BE ANOTHER YEAR MARKED BY NERVE-RACKING CHANGES IN THE ETHIOPIAN ADOPTION PROCEDURES BEFORE THEY TRAVELED TO AFRICA TO MEET THEIR DAUGHTER, WHOSE NAME WAS ZERITU.

It was also a year spent facing some less-than-positive reactions from some of the people close to them.

“They were concerned about what they saw as a burden we were taking on,” Hannah says. “One person told us there were plenty of older people who would be better suited for her. I don’t think you can do it or you should do it.’ They also had a lot of concerns for Ivy and what this would mean for her, having a blind sister.”

“There was also what seemed to be a generational mindset about us adopting a child of another race,” John says. “People tried to talk us out of it. It wasn’t about being racist, it was more about the era they grew up in. They had seen a lot of racial struggle and they didn’t want us to be faced with those hardships.”

“All of those things were very hard for us to hear,” Hannah says. “But we weren’t going to change our minds. God

didn’t call our family and friends to do this. He called *us*.”

“We just prayed for those close to us,” John says. “We prayed that they would be emotionally ready for our child to come home.”

In March of 2015, Hannah and John finally made the long journey to Ethiopia to bring Zeritu home. Up to that point, the Wallaces had seen just eight photos of their daughter. The couple had sent recordings to Zeritu, hoping that while she might not understand their English words, she would recognize the love in their voices. Upon arriving in Ethiopia, Hannah and John didn’t even put down their bags. They got off the plane and headed straight to the orphanage to meet their little girl.

“You have this preview in your mind of how that first meeting will be,” John says. “When Ivy was born I was crying my eyes out. This time, it was all smiles. Our little girl

was sitting on the couch. When she heard our voices, she said ‘Hi,’ and gave us this huge hug. I picked her up to hug her and when I tried to put her down she clung to me.”

“She was talking to her nannies from the orphanage, who were also in the room,” Hannah says. “They were speaking in her native language, Amharic, which they translated for us. She was hugging John and asking the nannies, ‘Do you see my daddy?’”

The Wallaces learned another Amharic word that day. *Farenges* was a term the children in the orphanage used to describe the white people who came to take children home with them. A driver who worked for the orphanage told the Wallaces that for months, their daughter had been asking him every day, “Did you bring my *farenges* today?”

The Wallaces learned that Zeritu had been born to a Muslim woman in a small village who worked as an indentured servant; the baby’s father was never involved in her life. Zeritu had been born blind, a complication of drugs her mother was given to combat typhoid. Her birth mother struggled to care for the little girl until a month before her third birthday. Realizing she could not provide for her daughter, the birth mother sorrowfully surrendered Zeritu to a government orphanage.

“We had planned to change her name,” Hannah says. “That’s typical with adoption – the child gets a new name as she begins her new life.

“But when I found out her birth mother had tried so hard to care for her, I couldn’t do it,” Hannah says as tears fill her eyes. “I just felt it would be so disrespectful.”

Instead, the Wallaces decided to keep their daughter’s African name and combine it with a quintessentially southern middle name, christening their little girl Zeritu Magnolia Wallace, and nicknaming her “ZZ,” a moniker that perfectly captured her sunny personality. Four-year-old ZZ agreed that her new name suited her; as their driver translated for the Wallaces, “Zeritu says, ‘You know, she (Hannah) calls me ZZ. You can call me ZZ, too.’”

Moving to a new country a world away with new parents would be an enormous adjustment for any four year old. While the Wallaces were naturally concerned that ZZ’s blindness would make her transition even more difficult, the opposite has proven true.

“I think ZZ’s inability to see forces her to be more open and trusting and to listen to what is going on around her,” John says. “She always wants to be with someone and she talks nonstop.”

Within her first week in the United States, ZZ had learned the layout of her new home in Clinton, even navigating the stairs without hesitation. ZZ gets around well, enjoys meeting visitors, loves to talk on her mother’s mobile

phone, and chatters in English as perfect as it gets for a four year old. ZZ is not the only Wallace mastering a new language; the entire family also plans to learn to read Braille.

As for those who were concerned about the burden Hannah and John were taking on by adopting a blind African child, their opinions changed the minute they met ZZ.

“ZZ won them all over the minute they met her,” Hannah says. “She’s just a charmer.”

Six-year-old Ivy has also adjusted well to her role as an instant big sister.

“Ivy is very protective of ZZ,” Hannah says. “I took the girls out to eat lunch one day and Ivy said, ‘That lady is looking at us and she is not smiling. Do you think it’s because ZZ is different?’ I think having a sister like ZZ is setting Ivy up to be a compassionate, caring person.”

Hannah and John know that someday they will need to explain to ZZ why people might say that she is “different” than her parents and her sister, and they aren’t quite sure how they will navigate the issue of race with a daughter who cannot see the difference between black and white.

“For ZZ to not be able to see is almost a blessing,” John says. “She won’t fall into the cultural norm of judging people based on how they look. I think ZZ will know more purely what it is to have a true friend and to be a true friend.”

“Just the thought that we might have said no to adopting ZZ is devastating,” Hannah says. “She is so happy and we are so happy. She has acclimated to being a Wallace so well.”

“I’d tell any other family going through this process that the most important things are to be patient, be

faithful, and be open,” John says. “When we were busy going through our checklist, deciding whether we would accept a special needs child or not, ZZ was already our daughter. Be open and don’t try to force what you want into the process. It’s not about you. It’s about God’s will for your life.”

The Wallaces’ story is filled with longing, waiting, fear, and joy with unexpected twists along the way. Their journey to bring their daughter home is summarized by a framed piece of art displayed in their living room. In English, in Amharic, and in Braille, it says “family.”

“FOR ZZ TO NOT BE ABLE TO SEE IS ALMOST A BLESSING. SHE WON’T FALL INTO THE CULTURAL NORM OF JUDGING PEOPLE BASED ON HOW THEY LOOK. I THINK ZZ WILL KNOW MORE PURELY WHAT IT IS TO HAVE A TRUE FRIEND AND TO BE A TRUE FRIEND.”

Some thirty million children in India and seven million children in Ethiopia are orphans; conservative estimates place China’s orphan population at 576,000. That’s more than 37.5 million sons and daughters waiting for the parents God chose for them to bring them home.



“FAITH CAN TRUMP FEAR. Fear is something you give in to when you don’t really have to. God is in control. Wait and see what He is going to do.”

BECOMING A DIFFERENCE MAKER

EDDIE KINCHEN ON HOW NOT TO BUY A CHURCH SUIT, WHY HE DOESN’T BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCES, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Ask anyone who knows him to describe Eddie Kinchen ’59, and the phrase “a godly man” is sure to come up time and again. Kinchen is a model of selfless service, quietly helping others through gifts of his resources, time, knowledge, and compassion. But what those same people might be surprised to learn about this godly man is that Kinchen’s legacy of service was shaped by his father’s abandonment, a brief stint as a shoplifter, a beautiful girl in a pair of blue shorts, and the desire to become a difference maker.

THE SUIT THAT LED TO SALVATION

When Eddie Kinchen was just two years old, his father walked out on Eddie, his older sister, and their mother. Kinchen’s mother had an eighth grade education, but was determined to provide for her children. The family lived with relatives for a time, then Eddie’s mother accepted a position in the Buster Brown shoe factory in Illinois; years later, Kinchen found a check stub recording payment of 25 cents per hour on which his mother had written “my first pay stub.”

The little family eventually relocated to Jackson, Mississippi, where they lived in the basement of a boarding house near First Baptist Church. On his first day of school in Jackson, 10-year-old Eddie’s mother handed him a printed card, instructing him to present it to the ladies in the school cafeteria at lunchtime.

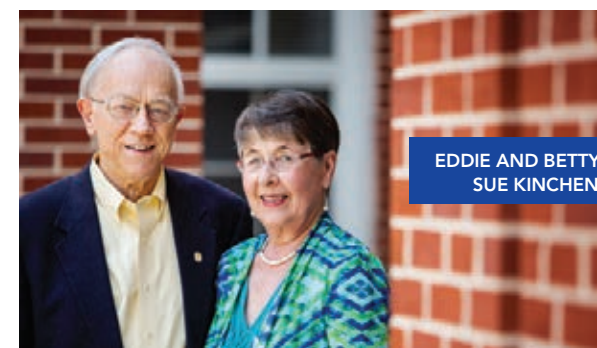
“When I gave the lunch lady the card, she called her co-worker over and said, ‘He’s a [welfare] kid,’” Kinchen recalls. “That night, Mother asked about my day and I told her what happened. She tore the card up and said, ‘If it’s meant for us to be together as a family, God will provide.’ A couple of days later, three deacons from First Baptist Church Jackson came to the door and said, ‘We’ve come to help your family.’ Mother was right. God did provide.”

Their situation gradually improved, and five years later, the family moved to a home in a new neighborhood, where a girl in the front yard of the house across the street caught 15-year-old Eddie’s eye.

“I told my mother, ‘You see that girl in the blue shorts? She’s going to be my girlfriend.’”

There was just one obstacle; the girl would not befriend Eddie unless he attended church, and he lacked a proper suit to wear to worship.

“I went to McRae’s department store and put a suit on layaway,” Kinchen recalls. “I thought, as soon as I pay that suit off, I can go to church with her. The only problem was that it was going to take a long time to pay it off.”



EDDIE AND BETTY SUE KINCHEN

Then Eddie thought of a way to speed up the payment process. His mother gave him \$10 every week to buy food for the family from a small neighborhood market. Eddie realized if he tucked a few things from the list into his pocket instead of paying for them, he could use the money he saved by shoplifting to pay on his church suit. The plan seemed to be working until the storeowner, who also happened to be a church deacon, called Eddie into his office and pointed to a Bible on his desk.

“Eddie,” he said, “I know what you’ve been doing. I’m going to give you a choice. You can let me tell you about what’s in this book, or you can talk to a policeman.”

Eddie opted for the Bible lesson, and moments later, prayed the Sinner’s Prayer. He eventually paid off his suit the honest way, noting that when he finally escorted his girlfriend to church, “I was the only teenager there in a suit.”

It had not been the easiest path, but for Eddie Kinchen, life had changed in the most important way possible. His less than idyllic childhood left Kinchen not only with a strong sense of compassion for families in need, but also with a desire to do for others what the church deacons, the storeowner, and above all, his Lord and Savior had done for him.

And as for the girl in the blue shorts? Her name was Betty Sue Bentz, but today she’s better known as Betty Sue Kinchen, Eddie’s wife of 58 years.

AN UNEXPECTED ENROLLMENT

As a young man, Eddie Kinchen dreamed of attending college, but knew the cost would put his dream out of his reach. When his uncle arrived at Kinchen's house and instructed him to pack a suitcase, Kinchen had no idea where they were headed.

"He drove to the campus of Mississippi College and said, 'You're registered here. I've found your mother a job that will help with your tuition, and you have a job in the cafeteria washing dishes. Your dorm room is #314.'"

It would not be the first time that someone had made a difference in Eddie Kinchen's life, and at the same time, inspired Kinchen to spend his own lifetime looking for opportunities to bless others as he had been blessed.



"EDDIE KINCHEN NOT ONLY GIVES TO THE POOR, CARES FOR THE ORPHAN, LOVES THE LOST,

and shares Christ's love with all he meets, but he also mentors countless men in the church and in the community. I can't remember a time when I've gone out to lunch in the city of Jackson and I didn't see Eddie sitting one-on-one, discipling young men from the community. Eddie invests in peoples' lives for the kingdom. He is both a man of influence and a selfless servant."

KASEY AMBROSE
Women's Ministry Director
First Baptist Church Jackson

OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Kinchen graduated from Mississippi College with a degree in accounting and launched a successful business career, retiring in 2015 as senior vice president and chief operations officer of Fox Everett, an insurance firm. But his professional success has always taken a backseat to Eddie Kinchen's life of service.

"I don't believe in coincidence. I believe in God's providence," Kinchen says. "God put all of these people – the church deacons, the storeowner, Betty – in my life for a reason. They were *difference makers* for me. God still does that today. When I meet someone or see an opportunity to help someone in need, I know it's not about me. God has put us together. My job is to ask, 'Why did God arrange this?' I try to be sensitive to people I meet and events that happen around me, and wait on the Lord to show me opportunities where I can be a difference maker."

Over the years, Kinchen has been shown dozens of opportunities, from gestures as simple yet profound as transporting children to church or helping a struggling single mother pay her child's doctor bills, to acts as long-ranging as helping raise the funds needed to open Jackson's Magnolia Speech School for the hearing and language impaired.

Kinchen is quick to point out that he isn't making these efforts alone; sometimes, it's a matter of reaching out to other difference makers. When a missionary who had served for 30 years in Bangladesh, an area Kinchen once heard described as "50 miles beyond the Great Commission," shared his lifelong dream and his dog-eared plans for building a Christian conference center, Kinchen launched a letter writing campaign to 100 personal acquaintances that raised the money to make the center a reality.

While he shies away from any personal recognition, those influenced by Kinchen are eager to share their love for him and their appreciation for his service.

When Kasey Ambrose '11 and Allison Hunter Barnhill '11 launched an orphan care project in Botswana, Africa, in 2012, they turned to Kinchen for assistance with their business plan. In addition to sound advice, they found an advocate who was willing to go above and beyond to help them realize their vision.

"Before Allison and I left for Botswana, Eddie told us that he wanted us to go fulfill the task the Lord had called us to and not to ever let the lack of money be a factor," Ambrose says. "When we got to the airport, Eddie was waiting for us at the ticket counter with two red roses and a card that said, 'I will be praying for you.' He continuously fund-raised for us and sent us emails of encouragement during our two years in Africa getting the program started, and Allison and I knew that Eddie's godly wisdom was always available anytime we called."

Today, Ambrose continues to work with Kinchen in her position as women's ministry director at First Baptist Church, where Kinchen is a deacon and volunteer with several of the church's ministries, including Buried Treasures, a ministry for women recently released from prison. Buried Treasures reaches out to women like Traci Amos, who enjoyed a successful career as a nurse until her alcohol addiction cost her career and sent her to prison. Upon her release, Amos turned to Buried Treasures for help beginning a new life, which included the dream of returning to college to become a counselor.

"Mr. Kinchen is a godly man, but he is also a loving man," Amos says. "He was such an encouragement to women like me in the program. He's not judgmental and never comes

LIFTING OTHERS UP (LITERALLY) — When Eddie Kinchen was a student at Mississippi College, he shared classes with several veterans of the Korean War, including some who were confined to wheelchairs. One of Kinchen's most vivid memories is of joining with other students to carry those veterans up the stairs to their classes in Nelson Hall.

across as though he thinks he's better than anyone else. When I told him that I wanted to go back to school, Mr. Kinchen took me to MC, introduced me to people there, and helped me apply for scholarships that made it possible for me to attend MC. He calls to this day to see how I'm doing and let me know he's thinking about me. Eddie Kinchen is a man who's willing to go the extra mile for someone he met ten minutes ago."

Kinchen has also been a difference maker for his *alma mater*. When the MC School of Business underwent a multimillion-dollar renovation in 2007, Kinchen helped raise the funds that made the project a success.

"When I think of Eddie Kinchen, I certainly think of all the tremendous support and help that he has provided in moving the MC business school forward," says Dr. Marcelo Eduardo, dean of the MC School of Business. "But actually the *first* thing that I think about him is that he is one of the finest men I have met. I feel fortunate to call him a dear friend and I am constantly encouraged and comforted by such friendship. Eddie's service to others, his concern for others, and his support of others are all a direct reflection of

his faith and beliefs. Mississippi College is blessed to have an alumnus like Eddie."

"Eddie Kinchen is a beacon of light to all he encounters," Ambrose says. "He lights up the room with his smile and his kind heart. He deserves to be recognized, even though he would never acknowledge that."

While Kinchen has played a role in helping so many, he does have one experience that has perhaps touched him the most. Through his Sunday School group, Kinchen made contact with Joanne Neil, the widow of a longtime Baptist pastor. Pastor Neil lived a life of service for the kingdom, but was unable to leave much behind on Earth in the way of support for his widow.

"Mrs. Neil explained that she was getting by on her limited budget. It wasn't the scrimping to pay for her food or utilities that bothered her," Kinchen says. "She was most troubled because she was no longer able to tithe."

Six years before he ever heard of Joanne Neil, Kinchen had served on the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. During his tenure he heard about a little-known resource called Operation Dignity, a fund that provided support for pastors' widows. Kinchen was able to secure a stipend of \$250 per month through Operation Dignity for Joanne Neil.

"There are not enough words in my vocabulary to describe how I feel about Eddie Kinchen," Neil says. "He is the most kind, compassionate man I think I've ever met."

"Securing that assistance for Mrs. Neil was so personal, and met a need for a very deserving lady who had served God for many years," Kinchen says. "Her first response when I told her she would be receiving the monthly supplement was, 'Now I will be able to tithe.' Looking back, I believe God put me on that executive committee for that one reason. So that I would know of a way to help Mrs. Neil when the time came.

"There's a world of opportunity out there where people can be used to do good," Kinchen says. "As a little boy, I stood out because I didn't have a father and I felt very insecure. But you learn as you go, and what I learned is that God is in control, and I'm just going to wait and see what He's going to do. Again, this is not about me. It's about God putting each of us in certain places with certain people and giving us the opportunity to make a difference."

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Eddie Kinchen has offered volunteer leadership and quiet, behind-the-scenes service to a number of organizations, including:

MAGNOLIA SPEECH SCHOOL
president of the board of directors

WILLOWOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
president of the board of directors

MISSION FIRST
president of the board of directors

BURIED TREASURES HOME
board of directors

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
board of directors

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH JACKSON
chairman of deacons

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
board of trustees

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION
education commission

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
executive committee

CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL
25-year member

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

GOODWILL JACKSON OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD

A SPIRIT

Spreading Far and Wide

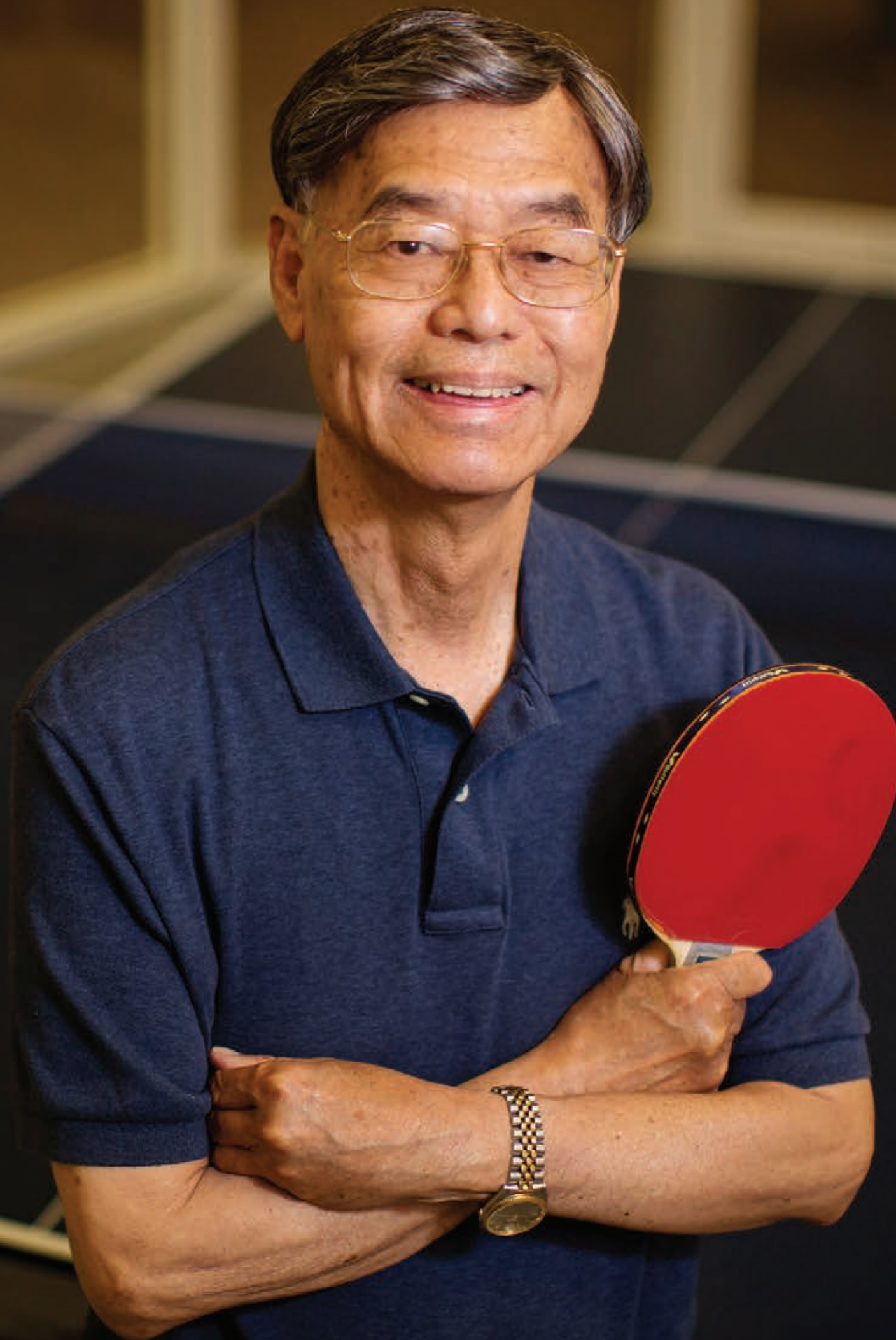
Louis Lau '65 • Alumnus of the Year

IN 1960, A YOUNG MAN FROM HONG KONG MADE HIS FIRST JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES TO ENROLL IN MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE.

Welcomed by his fellow students and the university community, he immersed himself in his studies, formed new friendships, and laid the foundation for a successful international career in science, technology, and business. Most importantly of all, he discovered a faith in Jesus Christ. In an article in the 1963 Mississippi College *Arrowhead* magazine, the young man wrote:

“True happiness on Earth is found in love. This capacity of human beings has been existing since the creation of the world. Nobody can destroy it, for it was given by God to every one of His children...On October 5, I arrived at the bus station in Jackson in the evening. The darkness fell from all sides upon me, and it seemed as if I were at the end of the Earth. As I was riding on the bus to Mississippi College, I heard a beautiful voice in my ears. It was a girl asking me where I was going. After hearing my destination, she volunteered to help me find my way to the college, for she was a student also. When I walked into the boys’ dormitory, I found...several young men were preparing a home for me...”

“I know the bell rings from year to year and the heads of the professors are turning white, but the Old Chapel is still strong and high, and the spirit of the [Mississippi College] students is spreading far and wide.”



THAT YOUNG WRITER WAS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSMAN AND PHILANTHROPIST LOUIS LAU, MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE'S 2015 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR.

“Louis Lau has deployed his financial support and influence to assist his *alma mater* in a number of critical ways, including support for the chemistry program, major backing for the table tennis team, student scholarships, and helping MC recruit students from China,” said MC President Lee Royce. “We need more alumni like Louis Lau as we seek to promote our vision of Christian education.”

A SPIRITED INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LEADER

Born and educated in Hong Kong, Lau traveled to Mississippi College at the urging of Professor C. M. Wise of the Baptist College in Hong Kong, who contacted his colleagues at Mississippi College with the request to arrange for Lau to study at MC.

During his time at the university, Lau came to know Christ. A highlight not only from his time at MC but of his lifetime came in 1963, when Lau was baptized at First Baptist Church of Clinton. At Mississippi College, Lau was also introduced to a number of people who showed him Christ-like kindness.

“Mississippi was a peaceful place and the students and staff at Mississippi College were very friendly and helpful,” Lau says. “When I ran out of money in 1961, Rev. Caby Byrne, then the student director, found financial support for me that allowed me to stay at MC. Dr. Bradley Pope later filled that position and continued to help me financially until I graduated in 1965.”

An outstanding student, Lau left MC with degrees in biology and chemistry, then completed graduate studies in biology at Texas Southern University and conducted research at the University of Texas Dental School, both in Houston.

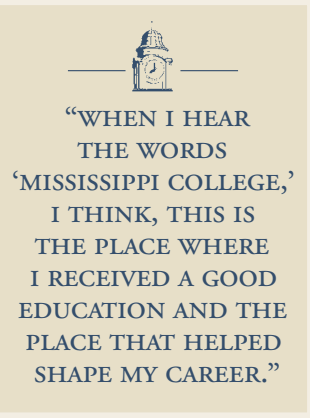
His education complete, Lau relocated to Dallas, where he launched his own real estate and property management company, Louis Lau Investments. In 1993, Lau joined with two other American-educated Chinese professionals to found AsiaInfo Holdings in Dallas. In 1994, AsiaInfo set up an office in Beijing, which has since become the company's head office. In 1995, AsiaInfo built the Internet infrastructure known as “China Net,” which brought Internet service

to the majority of the People's Republic of China. In 2000, AsiaInfo was public listed on the NASDAQ stock market in New York. The company later expanded into software, becoming one of the world's technological leaders. Today, AsiaInfo supplies the world's most advanced IT software solutions and services to the international telecommunications industry.

As the chairman of the board of AsiaInfo, Lau worked closely with business and government leaders in China and in the United States to establish international business relationships, and quickly became a prominent figure in the international telecommunications arena. He served as co-chair of the Dallas-China Partnership, an international economic development initiative; as special advisor for former Dallas Mayor Steve Bartlett's Far East Development Mission; and on the International Trade Advisory Council for the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce. In 1998, the U.S. Department of Commerce appointed Lau as special advisor for the U.S. Computer Industry Trade Mission to China and the Computer World Expo held in Beijing. In 2001, he served as a speaker at the 6th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention held in Nanjing, China, and officiated by Premier Zhu Rongji.

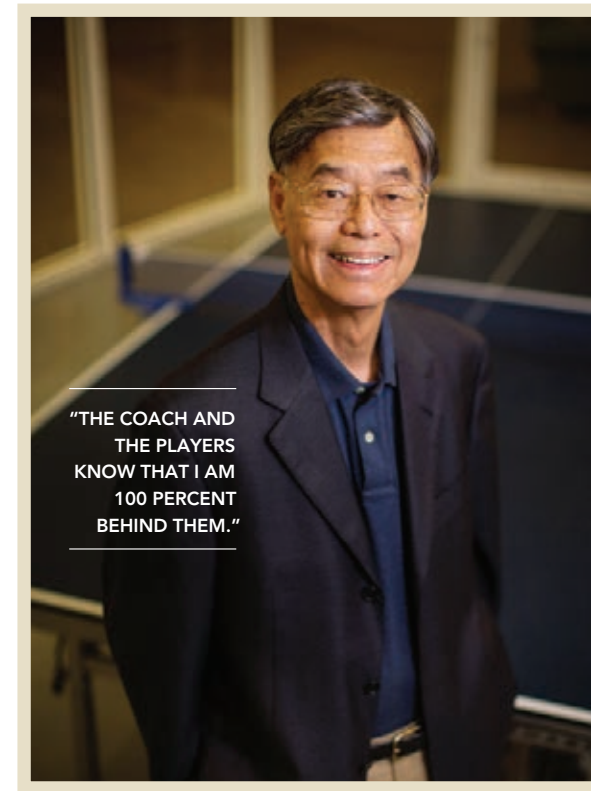
A SPIRITED PHILANTHROPIST

Lau served as chairman of the board of AsiaInfo until his retirement in 2003. Over the past 12 years, Lau has devoted himself to community and philanthropic efforts, including service to Mississippi College. He served as co-chair of the MC International Education and Cultural Affairs Executive Committee, and he and his wife, Sophia, assisted in the cre-



ALUMNUS of the YEAR

The Alumnus of the Year honors a Mississippi College or Hillman College graduate who has rendered distinguished service to his or her college, church, and community. The award is limited to those who, through a long period of years, have worked with marked intelligence to promote the higher interests of the college, and who have, through their character and deeds, brought honor to Mississippi College by virtue of their alumnus status.



THE PATRON BEHIND THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Louis Lau is a loyal supporter and generous donor to the Mississippi College table tennis team, the reigning national collegiate table tennis champions. In addition to cheering on the Choctaws, Lau helped recruit top Chinese table tennis players Cheng Li, the team's coach and captain, and Yi Chi Zhang to Mississippi College, and has assisted team members with tuition and other expenses.

“I support the team hoping that the team will continue to win championships, and thus attract more students to MC,” Lau says. “The coach and the players know that I am 100 percent behind them.”

The MC team captured the national collegiate championship in Wisconsin last April. Lau wasn't able to make the trip to Wisconsin to see the team clinch its national victory, but he was watching via Internet when the Choctaws claimed the championship.

While he has yet to squeeze attending a match into his busy schedule, Lau frequently communicates with the players, making phone calls and sending emails of encouragement, and visits with the team members whenever he is in Clinton. Lau has his fingers crossed for another national table tennis championship in 2016.

ation of the International Office at MC. Since the office was founded, the number of international students enrolled at MC has jumped from nine in 2004 to 408 in 2014, including 106 students from China.

In 2006, MC named Lau Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for the department of chemistry and biochemistry and presented him with an honorary doctor of sciences degree. Lau has also been a loyal financial supporter and diehard fan of the MC table tennis team.

In May of 2014, Lau led a delegation to attend the 6th China Cloud Computing Conference in Beijing. The delegates included Dr. Lee Royce, president of Mississippi College; Ron Howard, vice president for academic affairs; and three other MC staff members.

“Through his generosity and contacts, Dr. Lau made this visit to China by our MC team possible,” Dr. Royce said. “Our goal was to create relationships to recruit students. We visited more than a dozen universities and four high schools. We saw the results of those visits last fall, and we will see those results again this year.”

The trip was built around the Cloud Computing Conference, a high profile, international technological event. Through Lau's influence, MC was given the opportunity to make a major address at the convention in the same line-up as the chief information officers of Apple, Microsoft, and UPS. MC alumnus Joe Stradinger '91, founder and CEO of Edge Theory, made the MC presentation on using social media to expand commercial outreach to more than 5,000 attendees. The presentation led to a number of valuable international contacts for Mississippi College.

“Dr. Lau's contacts and influence remain significant as we recruit Chinese students and create exchange relationships with Chinese universities,” Dr. Royce said.

SHAPED BY THE SPIRIT OF MC

Over the years, Lau has maintained ties with many of the people who helped support him financially during his time as a student and encouraged him to continue his studies.

“I am grateful to the late Dr. George Purvis and Mrs. Janet Purvis, who helped with my tuition and other expenses when I was a student,” Lau says. “I have visited with Mrs. Purvis when I have been back to Clinton. I have also kept in touch with Rev. Caby Byrne and Dr. Bradley Pope, who helped find financial support for me so that I could complete my education at MC, and I have established friendships with Dr. John Legg, my freshman chemistry professor, and Dr. Joseph Cooper, my Bible professor. I've also reconnected with Harry Brown, Jerry Rankin, and Jack Williamson, who were in the same dormitory with me my freshman year.

“Most important of all, I have reconnected with Mary Nell Adcock Sistrunk, the girl who was riding the same bus with me to Jackson and showed me the way to Mississippi College on October 5, 1960.”

Lau is forever grateful for the opportunity to study at MC, and for the lasting impact Mississippi College has had on his life over the five decades since he climbed off that bus in Jackson.

“When I hear the words ‘Mississippi College,’ I think, this is the place where I received a good education and the place that helped shape my career.”



MAKING HEADLINES

CLAY MANSELL '99

WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE QUIANT Mississippi towns of Clinton, Pelahatchie, or Wesson? Just ask Clay Mansell.

Mansell "discovered" Clinton as a Mississippi College student and fell in love with the town, choosing to make his home there after graduation. When Clinton lost the printed edition of its community newspaper, Mansell saw a need that was going unfulfilled.

"The flow of information slowed," Mansell says. "It was difficult to find information about happenings around our city. Businesses lost an important tool for promoting their services locally. And most sadly, we lost one of the institutions that binds us as a true community. Without that community paper, the clippings that once covered parents' and grandparents' refrigerator doors were empty."

Mansell responded by launching the *Clinton Courier*, a printed newspaper that covers local events, celebrates individual citizens' accomplishments, provides businesses with a venue for affordable advertising, and puts those smiling faces back on refrigerators city-wide. Following the positive reception of the *Courier*, Mansell launched similar print newspapers in Pelahatchie and Wesson, and is looking at his hometown of Canton, Mississippi, as his next potential newspaper market.

"A printed newspaper is a community builder," Mansell says. "Our motto at the *Courier* is 'Good news you can use.' We don't publish negative articles or crime reports. Instead, we showcase the positives about our community. Knox Russ,

the mayor of Pelahatchie, said something to me that drove home how important what we were doing was for these communities. Mayor Russ said we came to his town and made it real."

The newspapers led Mansell to found a second business in 2010, Mansell Media, an advertising agency that helps small business owners with traditional advertising and social media management. Prior to moving into publishing, Mansell was in the restaurant business, operating a series of delis and "treat centers" selling ice cream, snow cones, and smoothies. Mansell believes his own experience as a small business owner was the best possible preparation for operating an advertising agency serving other small businesses.

Mansell is also an active community volunteer. He is past president of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce and has served on the boards of Central Mississippi Medical Center, Main Street Clinton, and the Mississippi Brilla soccer team. Creating an idyllic hometown for his wife, Amanda, and their daughter, Annabelle, is one of Mansell's greatest motivations for community service.

"When I moved to Clinton, I felt really rooted here," Mansell says. "This is my home, and I want it to be awesome. Volunteerism and being truly involved in the town I call home has changed my life for the better. Mississippi College was great for me not only as the place where I received my education, but because MC is the reason I moved to Clinton."

YOUNG ALUMNUS of the YEAR

This award honors men and women who have rendered distinguished service to their college, church, and community. Mere prominence is not the criterion. The award is limited to those who, through a long period of years, have worked with marked intelligence and success to promote the highest interest of Mississippi College and their home communities.



TEACHING THE TEACHERS, COUNSELING THE COUNSELORS

DON W. LOCKE '63, '64

DR. DON LOCKE HAS ENJOYED A LONG AND SUCCESSFUL career in education and counseling.

"My career focus has been developing educational curricula and programs in the areas of counseling and education," Locke says. "Creating cutting edge educational experiences for prospective teachers and counselors has been both my motivation and my challenge. It's that drive that continues to keep me thinking and planning for the best approaches to skill development for our future counselors and teachers."

Locke earned his undergraduate degree and his master of education in counseling from MC, and also holds a doctorate of education in higher education from the University of Mississippi. He is a licensed professional counselor and is past president of several professional counseling and teaching organizations, including the International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors, the American Counseling Association, and the Mississippi Association for Colleges of Teacher Education.

Locke served as a teacher, coach, and counselor at the junior high and high school level before beginning his 50-year career in higher education, which has included leadership positions at Mississippi College, the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and Mississippi State University. Since 1998, Locke has served as dean of the School of Education at Mississippi College.

The MC School of Education has reached many notable milestones and earned national "firsts" under Dr. Locke's 17 years of leadership, including the establishment of the doc-

torate in educational leadership, which was the first doctoral program at Mississippi College; the creation of one of the United States' first graduate degree programs in dyslexia therapy; and the establishment of the United States' first doctorate of professional counseling.

"There have been many memorable moments during my time at Mississippi College, but hooding the very first student to receive a doctorate from MC was a very special occasion. Another was being able to present the American Counseling Association's Presidential Award to my mentor from MC, Dr. Charles Scott, who was a significant influence on my career choice and a strong supporter throughout my career."

In addition to his professional service, Dr. Locke serves First Baptist Church in Clinton as a deacon and member of the long range planning committee. Dr. Locke and his wife, Judy, a former elementary school teacher and college instructor, have two children and three grandchildren.

Over the years, Locke has occasionally considered a career change, even going so far as to briefly enroll in MC Law (then the Jackson School of Law), but always found himself led back to the role of teaching those who would teach and counsel.

"If I ever considered deviating from teaching or counseling, an event, person, or opportunity inevitably arose that kept me on a career path centered in that direction," Locke says. "I've always felt that the Lord was definitely directing me where He wanted me to be."

BATTER UP

Don Locke has an impressive baseball card collection, and was once part owner of a sports card shop called "Sport Collectibles Corner." An avid Boston Red Sox fan, Locke's collection includes cards featuring Ted Williams and Carl Yastrzemski.

THE ORDER of the GOLDEN ARROW

This award honors alumni or friends of the college who have made outstanding achievements in their professions, businesses, or careers. The Order of the Golden Arrow recognizes exceptional performance or leadership beyond the ordinary.



THE WRIGHT STUFF

MARK WRIGHT '68

MARK WRIGHT DIDN'T SET OUT TO BUILD A CAREER in banking.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Wright attended Mississippi College on a basketball scholarship and earned his degree in English. The ink was still fresh on Wright's diploma when he visited a friend in Dallas, Texas, and decided the city looked like a nice place to live.

"The first place I applied for a job was Republic Bank of Texas," Wright recalls. "I was hired in the HR department to write job descriptions for every position in the bank."

Wright spent the next six months penning prose detailing the responsibilities of every employee from teller to bank president. Then the bank's CFO approached Wright with an unusual offer.

"He asked me to go to work for him running the operations unit of the bank's securities department," Wright says. "I told him that I knew nothing about banking and that my experience was limited to six hours of college accounting. He told me, 'Mark, if I wanted an accountant, I could call one of the 200 who already work here. I can *teach* you about banking. What I'm looking for is leadership skills.'"

Wright accepted the challenge. His leadership skills not only made him the youngest officer in the history of Republic Bank, but also led to a successful, 37-year career that included executive positions with banks and financial management firms in Texas, California, and Oklahoma. In 2005, Wright retired as chairman, president, and CEO

of USAA Federal Savings Bank.

As his own career flourished, Wright realized that, like his mentor, one of his most valuable professional skills was recognizing the talent in other people.

"I always enjoyed being around people, identifying talent, and bringing those people into my organization," Wright says. "That was my way of paying forward the opportunity that CFO had given to me."

Wright also played key volunteer leadership roles with many professional, civic, and charitable organizations, including serving as a trustee at Mississippi College, where he and his wife, Lori, established a scholarship in the MC School of Business. Today, Wright and his wife live in San Antonio, Texas, where Wright has continued to put his skills to work as a volunteer leader with organizations dedicated to improving healthcare and education.

Reflecting on his college experience, Wright notes that he left MC with much more than an English degree.

"That first opportunity I had in banking would never have happened without my degree from Mississippi College, but MC was a great place for me in so many other ways. One of the values most important to me when I came to MC was integrity, and MC reinforced that value in me," Wright says. "MC is making such a big difference in the lives of so many young people. I've always felt blessed to have had the opportunity to attend Mississippi College, and I hope I can give back enough in my life to bless someone else the way I was blessed."

ALL IN HIS TIMING

Mark Wright retired on October 1, 2005. On October 2, 2005, he suffered a massive seizure and was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

The surgeon who treated Wright told him he would be in rehab for at least six months; Wright walked out of the rehab facility after just 18 days.

"I have been royally blessed," Wright says. "I don't know why God has taken care of me, but He has. I like to think He still has some things for me to do."

THE ORDER of the GOLDEN ARROW

This award honors alumni or friends of the college who have made outstanding achievements in their professions, businesses, or careers. The Order of the Golden Arrow recognizes exceptional performance or leadership beyond the ordinary.



JOYOUS MEMORIES, A PROMISING FUTURE

MICHAEL AND GINGER MOSKAU

THE LATE MICHAEL MOSKAU PROMISED HIS WIFE, Ginger, if she married him, their life together would never be dull. Michael kept his promise. Wherever they went, the couple quickly found new friends attracted by the Moskaus' warmth, generosity, and vibrant senses of humor.

The owners of MGM Construction Company, Inc., the couple were an active part of their New Orleans-area community and church. When two of their three children, Christy '07 and Emily '14, enrolled at Mississippi College, Michael and Ginger soon became loyal MC supporters. Michael, a self-made businessman, and Ginger, a CPA, also lent their expertise to the university, both serving on the Mississippi College Foundation Board of Directors.

"Our service and giving was always all about our faith in God," Ginger says. "We are so grateful for all He has blessed us with. We had hard times in life like everyone else, but we were just given so much. Any gifts we made came out of a grateful heart."

In 2014, Ginger and Michael faced their hardest time together when Michael was admitted to the hospital with liver disease and cancer. On July 21, 2014, Michael made the decision to remove himself from the ventilator keeping him alive.

"Michael had told me earlier that he thought it was time," Ginger says. "I prayed that God would change Michael's mind, or that God would stop his heart so I wouldn't have to make that decision. When the doctors came in, Michael mouthed to me, 'I will tell them I'm

ready.' I realized I had been praying for outcome A or B, and God had said, 'Neither.'"

Eight hundred people attended Michael Moskau's funeral. In his obituary, Ginger described her late husband as "a visionary, philanthropist, mischief-maker, and friend to all."

After Michael's death, Ginger began writing a blog titled "Where I Go from Here." While she began the blog as an outlet for her grief, Ginger's optimistic, faith-filled nature shines through in every entry.

THE LAST ANNIVERSARY

Michael and Ginger Moskau's 36th anniversary fell while Michael was bedridden in a hospital. In a gesture typical of his loving spirit, he refused to allow Ginger to spend the day in the hospital with him, instead arranging for a limousine to transport his wife and her girlfriends to a nearby spa for a day of relaxation.

"Statistically, I probably have over 10,000 days to live," Ginger wrote in a recent post. "Ten thousand times to wake up in the morning alone in the bed and look at his empty pillow. Or ten thousand times to wake up and praise God for another day. Ten thousand times to cry over what I no longer have in this life. Or ten thousand times to be grateful for all I do have and have had in my life..."

"Ten thousand times to mope and complain, to drag the life out of those around me. Or ten thousand times to encourage and walk alongside others who may need a friend... Ten thousand times to think my best days are over and behind me. Or ten thousand times to look for how God might choose to use me..."

"Ten thousand times to remember Michael's last days and wonder 'what if.' Or ten thousand times to remember a life well lived and celebrate his legacy. Ten thousand times to mourn a loss. Or ten thousand times to rejoice in victory."

THE AWARD of EXCELLENCE

This award honors men and women who have rendered distinguished service to Mississippi College. Mere prominence is not the criterion. The award is limited to those who, through a long period of years, have worked with marked intelligence and success to promote the highest interests of Mississippi College. The Award of Excellence expresses recognition and gratitude to them for their efforts.



DEPARTMENTAL DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

The following alumni have brought exceptional honor to the departments in which they studied.

Art

TRACY HARRIS SUGG '94, '01

From exhibits in Washington, D.C., to solo shows in New York City, sculptor Tracy Sugg has gained well-deserved, national recognition for her work. Sugg's pieces are displayed at the United States Military Academy at West Point, as well as in private collections, city parks, and university collections in the United States and Europe. Citing Mississippi College's Dr. Samuel Gore as a major influence not only on her approach to sculpture, but also on her philosophy toward art, Sugg believes her God-given abilities are a call to reflect truth and beauty through diligence, humility, and service, or, as her artist's statement says, "...to create sculptures that reflect a touch of the Infinite."

Young Art Alumnus

RYAN R. FARMER '05

Ryan Farmer is the interactive creative director at Mad Genius, a creative services and media firm. A *magna cum laude* graduate of Mississippi College with a degree in graphic design, Farmer has received many awards for his creative work and digital design, including multiple Addy Awards, the Jackson Advertising Federation's 2015 Best of Show Digital Award, and multiple Printing Industry Association of the South Awards of Excellence. He was formerly with Jackson-based advertising agency Frontier Strategies. Farmer and his wife, Claire, have three children.

Biology

DR. PHYLLIS ROBINSON BISHOP '81

Dr. Phyllis Bishop is chief quality officer at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she also serves as vice-chairman for clinical affairs in the department of pediatrics and as a professor of pediatrics in the School of Medicine. She previously held a variety of leadership positions at Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital, including service as chief medical officer and medical director. A graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, Dr. Bishop specializes in pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition. She has received several awards, including the Magnolia Award, presented by the Mississippi Dietetic Association, the Glaxo Research Institute Fellow's Award, and the Patterson Award for Outstanding Resident in Pediatrics. She holds leadership roles in numerous professional organizations, and has published and lectured extensively on topics in her field of specialty. Dr. Bishop and her husband, Dr. Michael Nowicki, have five children.

Business

CARL T. "TED" MILLICE III '72

After graduating from Mississippi College, Ted Millice earned an M.B.A. from Louisiana State University and participated in a renowned program for advanced studies in real estate finance at Ohio State University. Millice was recruited by one of Houston's largest banks, First City National Bank, where he eventually was promoted to vice president of real estate. After leaving the banking industry, Millice served as chief financial officer of a large Canadian real estate company headquartered in Montreal. In 1982, Millice formed his own company, Millice Group, Ltd., a full-service real estate development and investment company. Millice Group, Ltd. and its affiliates have developed or owned more than 2.5 million square feet of commercial and residential real estate in Denver, Phoenix, and Houston, and have been responsible for leasing more than four million square feet of commercial space. Millice and his wife, former Miss Mississippi College Trish Millice '69, have two sons, both of who are active in the family business.

Chemistry and Biochemistry

DR. MICHAEL E. "TED" BURCZYNSKI '90

Dr. Ted Burczynski is a pharmaceutical scientist and leader of laboratories in the United States, Europe, and Asia researching drug discovery and early clinical drug development. He currently serves as the executive director of integrated biomarker technologies at Bristol Myers Squibb Research and as an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Dr. Burczynski previously held leadership positions with Roche and with Wyeth Research. He has been responsible for research and development activities supporting the discovery and development of more than 40 therapies in research and development and more than a dozen approved drugs; is an inventor on more than a dozen patents; and has served as the keynote speaker at numerous, international scientific conferences. Dr. Burczynski has authored more than 100 research articles and two scientific textbooks, as well as an award-winning book of poetry and a newly-released novel titled *The Ripper Gene*, which features a neuroscientist-turned-FBI-profiler as its protagonist. He has received awards for both his pharmaceutical research and his creative writing.

Christian Studies

DR. BILLY E. SIMMONS '56

Following his service in the United States Air Force, Billy Simmons followed a calling to preach, preparing himself for service with his undergraduate degree from Mississippi College and divinity and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Simmons pastored numerous churches in Mississippi and Texas, and also served on the faculties of East Texas Baptist University, where he chaired the department of religion, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he was named professor emeritus in 1996. Dr. Simmons has written five books, authored articles for the *Biblical Illustrator*, *Proclaim*, and *Quarterly Review*, and wrote the Sunday school adult teachers' manuals for the Baptist Sunday School Board. He has served as a guest lecturer at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Kenya and in Tanzania, and at the Canadian Baptist Seminary in Alberta, Canada. One of his greatest joys was leading more than 30 tours to the Holy Land. Dr. Simmons and his wife, Florene, have two children and two grandchildren.

Communication

WARREN R. STRAIN '98

Warren Strain is the public affairs director for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, and also serves his community as alderman-at-large for the city of Madison, Mississippi. He was previously a news anchor and reporter with WLBT and WAPT in Jackson, and has also served as public affairs director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission, a radio personality, and an adjunct professor of communication at MC. As an anchor at WLBT, Strain set a ratings record that remains unbroken to this day. Strain spearheaded the development and implementation of Mississippi's Amber Alert program, helped develop the national public relations models used in the "Click It or Ticket" and "Over the Limit, Under Arrest" campaigns, and was instrumental in public awareness campaigns that have lowered the number of highway fatalities in Mississippi. Strain has handled crisis communications in a number of high-stress situations during local and national media coverage.

Computer Science

DR. MARGARET "PEGGY" WRIGHT CALLAWAY '86

Dr. Peggy Callaway has served in a variety of leadership positions with the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since 1984, culminating in her most recent position as director of human capital at the U.S. Engineer Army Research and Development Center at Vicksburg. Over her career, Dr. Callaway spearheaded automation and information management systems efforts and oversaw the start up of three new offices with multiple employees and substantial budgets. She served as director of the newly created Army Corps of Engineers Enterprise Information Technology group, a worldwide technology support organization employing 1,400 people with an annual budget of \$400 million. Programs Dr. Callaway implemented in her current role as the director of human capital have received multiple awards, including four Department of Defense awards. In addition to her degree from MC, she holds masters and doctoral degrees in computer science

from Mississippi State University. Dr. Callaway and her husband, L. W. "Bump" Callaway, have six children and 20 grandchildren.

English

DR. FRANK W. GUNN '57

Dr. Frank Gunn holds a master of divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and an honorary doctor of divinity from Mississippi College. His long life of service as a minister includes pastorates at churches in Mississippi and Louisiana, including 29 years as pastor of First Baptist Church Biloxi, where he was named pastor emeritus in 2001. Dr. Gunn also held leadership positions with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, including service as the 1986-87 convention president. He has given generously of his time and wisdom to his alma mater, serving on the Mississippi College Board of Trustees for 29 years. Dr. Gunn has also served on the boards of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the International Mission Board, and dedicated 28 years' service as a trustee of Biloxi Regional Medical Center. MC has recognized Dr. Gunn with many prestigious awards, including the Service to Humanity Award, the Order of the Golden Arrow, and the 1994 Distinguished Alumnus Award. He has also received the Distinguished Alumnus Award presented by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Sandra Sandifer Gunn '57, were co-recipients of the 2014 Doc Quick Distinguished Service Award for Mississippi College Athletics. The Gunns have three children and several grandchildren, and the extended Gunn family includes multiple MC alumni and current students.

History and Political Science

MICHAEL L. McMILLAN '95

Michael McMillan represents the third generation of the McMillan family to attend Mississippi College. Following his graduation from the University of Mississippi School of Law, McMillan joined the U.S. Navy, graduating from Officer Candidate School as a commissioned Naval Intelligence Officer in 1998. During his 16 years in the Navy, McMillan served on board the *U.S.S. Carl Vinson* in the Arabian Sea, in California with an F/A-18 Fighter Squadron, with Special Boat Unit TWENTY-TWO, and with U.S. Central Command, where he was deployed to Afghanistan. He transitioned from active duty to the Navy Reserves in 2004, and practiced as an attorney with Deutsch, Kerrigan & Stiles, LLP in Gulfport, Mississippi. In 2008, he left the practice of law to attend the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, graduating as a special agent. In March 2014, after a brief recall onto active duty, Michael was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy, having reached the rank of Lieutenant Commander. McMillan and his wife, Gracen, have three children.

Kinesiology

DR. CHERYL L. ANGLIN '77

Cheri Anglin is a teacher, department chair, and drug-free coordinator at Sumner Hill School in Clinton, Mississippi, where she has been named a STAR teacher. Anglin previously served as a fitness consultant at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson; a high school teacher, coach, and sports referee; and a health and

fitness instructor. Anglin played volleyball and softball at Mississippi State University before transferring to Mississippi College, where she won the Athletes' Scholastic Award. She has been named Mississippi's Health Teacher of the Year three times, and has also been recognized as Mississippi's Physical Education Teacher of the Year and Driver Education Teacher of the Year. A member of Mensa, Anglin holds a master's degree in health and P.E. from Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. in health and physical education from the University of Mississippi. Anglin has won more than 30 awards, but is still proud of her perfect attendance record at Briarwood Methodist Church in grades 1-12, and is even more proud of her three grandchildren.

Master of Health Services Administration

KELLY AMOS MOORE '04

Kelly Moore has been chief operating officer at Great Valley Cardiology in Scranton, Pennsylvania, since 2013. She was previously director of operations with Corizon Health Services in Greensboro, North Carolina, and also served as health services administrator with Wexford Health Services in Jackson, director of ambulatory operations for University of Mississippi Health Care, and director of operations for Family Health Care Clinic in Brandon, Mississippi. She holds a bachelors of science degree from Mississippi Valley State University and a masters of science degree with a major in health services administration from Mississippi College. Moore and her husband, Thomas, have a daughter, Keri.

Master of Higher Education

DR. JOSEPH L. ODENWALD '09

Dr. Joseph Odenwald is assistant dean for student services at the Louisiana State University College of Engineering, where he provides oversight for academic administration and advisement to 5,500 students. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member in the higher education administration program at Mississippi College. Dr. Odenwald was previously associate dean of students and director of student life and assistant director of student life for student development at Mississippi College. Odenwald served as the bi-vocational pastor of St. Joseph Baptist Church from 2008-2012. In addition to his master's degree from MC, he holds a bachelor's degree from Louisiana College and a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is a member of TC dance studio in Baton Rouge.

Mathematics

DR. SARAH ANN STEWART FLEMING '96

Dr. Sarah Ann Fleming is associate professor of mathematics at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. She was previously an assistant professor at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. In addition to her degree from MC, Dr. Fleming holds a master's and a doctoral degree in mathematics from Vanderbilt University, where she received the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Fleming serves as assistant director for the Career Mentoring Workshop for Women in Mathematics, has been an invited speaker at several national mathematics conferences, and was invited to serve on the Joint Committee on Employment in the Mathe-

matical Sciences, a national committee promoting employment in mathematics at the university level. She was one of three finalists for Belmont University's prestigious Chaney Distinguished Professor Award. In her spare time, Dr. Fleming enjoys travel, and has visited Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Dr. Fleming and her husband, Matt, have two sons.

Music

DR. CHANDLER CLOVER THOMPSON '83

Dr. Chandler Thompson is the coordinator of voice services at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Division of Otolaryngology, where she evaluates and treats patients with voice disorders. Dr. Thompson holds three degrees in vocal performance, including a doctor of musical arts from Michigan State University and a master of music/vocal performance from Mississippi College. She taught singing and related music courses at Mississippi College, Vanderbilt University, David Lipscomb College, and Middle Tennessee State University before matriculating at New York Medical College, where she earned a master's degree in speech-language pathology and received the Clinical Excellence Award. Prior to moving to Boston, Dr. Thompson worked in New York in private practice, at the Eugen Grabscheid Voice Center of Mount Sinai Hospital, and at Westchester Medical Center. She was also an instructor at the New York Medical College School of Health Sciences and Practice. Dr. Thompson has been an invited lecturer for numerous college and high school performing arts programs and vocal health seminars.

Young Music Alumnus

CHRISTOPHER J. RAY '11

Christopher Ray is a Houston-based conductor with a diverse background in traditional and contemporary operatic works. Ray made his professional conducting debut leading a double bill of *Gianni Schicchi* and *Paglicci* with the Mississippi Opera in 2014. Later that year, he conducted performances with Opera in the Ozarks, where he also served as a staff coach. His additional conducting credits include four contemporary operas with the Florida State Opera. As assistant conductor, Ray has worked with the Opera on the James, Sarasota Opera, Syracuse Opera, North Carolina Opera, and Opera on the Avalon. A protégé of American composer Carlisle Floyd, Ray is a sought-after interpreter of Floyd's works, and recorded a new album of Floyd songs with the celebrated mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer. Ray holds a master of music from Florida State University.

Nursing

ASHLEY NICHOLE RAMAGE '05

Ashley Ramage is the nurse manager in the cardiac step-down and post-op surgery unit at Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. She has previously served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Mississippi School of Nursing, as well as a nurse and clinical staff educator at Batson. In addition to her degree from MC, she holds a master's degree from the University of Phoenix and a doctoral degree in nursing practice from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing. Ramage has received several service awards, including recognition as the Mississippi Nurses Association Developing Nurse Leader

of the Year and the Mississippi Nurses Association's Nightingale Service Nurse of the Year. She is a fellow of the American Nurse Association Advocacy Institute and serves on the American Nurse Credentialing Center's Pediatric Certification Standard Setting panel. Ramage is president of the board of directors of the Diabetes Camp for Kids and chairs the Mission First-Mississippi Nurses' Association Partnership.

Psychology and Counseling

REBECCA L. COODY-COBB '96, '13

Rebecca Coody-Cobb holds a degree in education from Delta State University and earned a master of education in supervision and administration, a master of education in school counseling, and a specialist of education in school counseling from Mississippi College. Coody-Cobb is a counselor at Germantown Middle School in Madison, Mississippi. She previously held counseling positions at Rosa Scott and Ann E. Smith Elementary Schools in Madison and Ridgeland, and also served as a kindergarten and elementary school teacher at schools in Ridgeland, Yazoo City, and Indianola, Mississippi. Coody-Cobb is the recipient of the 2009 Madison County Elementary Teacher of the Year Award, the 2009 Ann E. Smith Elementary Teacher of the Year Award, and the 1994 Sallie Mae First Year Teacher Award. She has delivered numerous presentations on literacy, parental involvement, and other topics related to early childhood education. She and her husband, Richey, have twin daughters, Jamey and Jordan.

Sociology and Social Work

DR. DAVID R. BUYS '04

David Buys earned a master's degree in sociology from Auburn University and completed a Ph.D. in medical sociology, a graduate certificate in gerontology, a postdoctoral fellowship in health services and outcomes research, and a master of science in public health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Dr. Buys served on faculty in the UAB School of Medicine and is now a member of the faculty at Mississippi State University (MSU), where he is state health specialist for the MSU Extension Service. Through the Extension Service, Dr. Buys promotes healthy lifestyles and addresses public health needs in Mississippi. Dr. Buys chairs the national Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Action Team of the Extension and Experiment Station Committee on Policy, which sets the guidelines for how university extension services nationwide should provide chronic disease prevention and management programming. He has conducted research and published 15 journal articles addressing the nutritional needs of older adults. Dr. Buys and his wife, Katie, have two children and will soon welcome a third.

Teacher Education/Leadership

RICHARD L. WILKINSON '68, '77

Richard Wilkinson attended Hinds Community College on a basketball scholarship, earning All-State honors in both his freshman and sophomore years. Upon graduating from Hinds, he received one of the first basketball scholarships offered by Mississippi College. He was a two-year letterman at MC and received the 1968 Mississippi Collegian Athlete of the

Year Award for basketball. Wilkinson spent some 40 years as a teacher and coach in the Rankin County School District, including tenures at Pelahatchie High School, McLaurin Junior High School, and Richland High School. Wilkinson was named a Mississippi Economic Council Star teacher five times, and was the 1999 Junior Achievement of Mississippi Economics Teacher of the Year. In 2008, he was inducted into the Hinds Community College Sports Hall of Fame. Wilkinson and his wife of 48 years, Carolyn, have three children.

Lawyer of the Year

DR. WILLIAM R. TOWNSEND, JR. '79, '90

Bill Townsend serves as vice president of institutional advancement and legal counsel to the president at Mississippi College. Townsend also serves as secretary to the Mississippi College Foundation, which manages the university's investment assets, and as president of the Mississippi College Property Development Foundation. Townsend served in similar roles at Louisiana College and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. He also served the University of Mississippi as the founding director of the National Center for Justice and the Rule of Law at the UM School of Law, which focused on training for state attorneys general, federal prosecutors, and judges. From 1990-2000, Townsend served MC Law as the director of continuing legal education and as the assistant dean for professional services. Townsend holds a B.A. from MC, a master of divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, a J.D. from MC Law and a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Mississippi. He is admitted to practice before all the state and federal courts in Mississippi as well as the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. Townsend and his wife, Cindy, have two children.

Young Lawyer of the Year

MARLENA POWELL PICKERING '07

Marlena Pickering is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Jackson State University, where she earned her undergraduate degree in political science. Pickering taught in the Jackson Public School District for one year, then accepted an internship at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. Pickering then returned to the classroom as a student at MC Law. She was a member of the *Mississippi College Law Review*, Moot Court Board, Christian Legal Society, and Black Law Student Association. Pickering and her moot court partner won the 2006 Southern Region Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition. After graduating from MC Law *magna cum laude*, Pickering joined the law firm of Baker Donelson as a litigator, and held that position for five years before focusing her practice on business transactions, regulations, and public policy. *Super Lawyers* magazine has selected Pickering as a Mid-South Rising Star every year since 2011. Pickering volunteers with the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project and accepts *pro bono* cases from the Mississippi Center for Violence Prevention. She also serves on the board of the Mississippi Industries for the Blind Foundation and the R.E.A.L. Christian Foundation and is a member of the 2014-2015 class of Leadership Greater Jackson. She and her husband, Philip, live in Fondren.

Class Notes

40s Henry Carter (B.S. '48) remains active professionally after spending 20 years in family practice and over 30 years in internal medicine in DeRidder, Louisiana.

50s Major General Wayne Burkes (B.A. '55, M.Ed. '74, L.L.D. '88) retired as the chairman of the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board. In honor of his lifetime of service, the chapel of the Kosciusko State Veterans Home was designated as the Wayne O. Burkes Veterans Chapel.

Dr. Connie McCaa (B.S. '58) has been inducted into the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Hall of Fame. McCaa is the first woman in the nation and the first Mississippi doctor to receive this honor.

60s John Gray (B.S.Ed. '60, M.Ed. '77) has been inducted into the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Sports Hall of Fame.

Alicia Pittman (B.A. '60) has been named Woman of the Year for the Parker County Women and Newcomers Club in Weatherford, Texas.

Douglas Horn (B.S.Ed. '64) has been inducted into the initial class of the Pascagoula Sports Hall of Fame.

Sonya Cowen (B.S.Ed. '67) has been inducted into the Co-Lin Foundation Hall of Fame.

Don Sutton ('68) has been inducted into the Braves Hall of Fame for his years in broadcasting Atlanta Braves baseball.

70s Steve Cook (B.A. '73) has been named the 2015 Professor of the Year at Mississippi College.

Madelon Gruich (B.S.Ed. '74, M.Ed. '78) has been named Outstanding Community College Business Educator for 2014 by the Mississippi Business Education Association.



Susan Lassiter

Susan Lassiter (B.A. '75, M.A. '89), the 2014 MC Humanities Teacher of the Year, delivered her lecture titled "Get a Clue: Find-

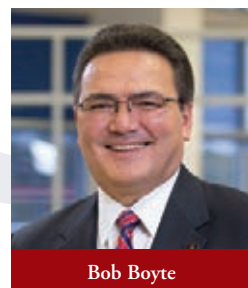
ing the Humanities in Detective Fiction" in October 2014.

Andrew Mullins (M.Ed. '76) has been named the Alumnus of the Year for Millsaps College.

Deborah Pierce (Trott, B.A. '77) is the director of the Center of International Education at Webster University. Her program was recently rewarded a Fulbright Grant that will fund a six-week travel seminar in Brazil.

James Allen (B.S. '78) published *Saying Goodbye to Rue* in November 2014.

80s Brian Lamb (B.S.Ed. '80) has joined the teaching staff of the Pechersk School International in Kiev, Ukraine. He previously taught at the Jakarta International School in Indonesia.



Bob Boyte

Bob Boyte (B.S. '82) has been nominated for the 2015 TIME Dealer of the Year award. Bob Boyte Honda of Brandon has been awarded the Honda President's Award eight years in a row, the only dealership to receive the award eight consecutive times.

Cindy Townsend (Malone, B.S. '82, M.S.Ed. '89) has been elected to serve as the fifth executive director- treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Union and Women's Ministries of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. She previously served as founding director of the Global Leadership Institute at Jackson Preparatory School from 2008-2015.

Jameson Gregg (J.D. '83) published his first book, *Luck Be A Chicken: A Comic Novel*. He practiced law for 20 years in Georgia's second oldest law firm in Brunswick and St. Simons Island before retiring from law to pursue writing. He lives in Dahlonega, Georgia.

Michael Crandall (M.B.A. '84) is the president of Trustmark National Bank in Canton.

Rodney DePriest (B.S.B.A. '89) has been named senior vice president at the corporate office for Trustmark in Jackson.

90s Teresa Mosley (M.Ed. '90) has been appointed to the Mississippi Board of Mental Health. She is the owner of TRM Educational Consulting and serves as lead psychometrist at the Mississippi College Dyslexia Education and Evaluation Center.

Barry Prather (B.S.B.A. '90, M.B.A. '94) has been promoted to chief operating officer of Community Bank of Mississippi.

Ron Staab (M.B.A. '90) has been appointed to Drury University's Board of Trustees.

Leigh Wilson Curtis (M.Ed. '91) is the 2014-15 Teacher of the Year for Clinton Public Schools. She teaches fourth grade gifted students at Eastside Elementary.

Cynthia Hamil (Roberts, B.S.Ed. '91, M.Ed. '98) is the 2014-15 Administrator of the Year for the Clinton Public School District. She is principal at Eastside Elementary.

Fred McAfee (B.S. '91) has been named to the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2015.

Michael Howard (B.S.B.A. '93) has been selected as the Junior Auxiliary of Laurel's Humanitarian of the Year.

Bryan Liles (B.S. '94, B.S.B.A. '11) is the vice president for Community Bank in Ridgeland.

Susan Musselwhite (B.S.Ed. '94, M.Ed. '96) received the 2015 Distinguished Staff Member Award at Mississippi College.

Amy Catherine Blake (B.A. '95, M.A. '97) has released her debut novel, *Whitewashed*.

Michelle West Burney (M.Ed. '95) has been named vice president of the Holmes Community College Grenada Center.

Jana Carter (B.A. '95, M.Ed. '12) has been named Teacher of the Year for Northside Elementary in Clinton. She teaches physical education and coaches both volleyball and soccer.

Fannie Green (M.Ed. '95, '99) has been named Administrator of the Year by Madison County Schools.

Lynda Naramore (Keyes, B.S.Ed. '95, M.Ed. '02) received a graduate scholarship from the Mississippi Professional Educators. She is pursuing a specialist's degree in educational leadership in administration at Mississippi College.

Sherry Spille (Jackson, B.S.B.A. '95) has joined The Ramey Agency as a finance manager. She will be managing the accounting department of the Jackson office.

Alix Williams (B.A. '95, M.A. '98) has been selected as the STAR teacher for Clinton High School. She teaches AP English language and literature.

HOMECOMING 2015

PAINT THE TOWN BLUE & GOLD • OCTOBER 22-24



CLASS REUNIONS: Classes celebrating reunions include 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010.

50-YEAR CLUB REUNION • Honoring the Class of 1965: The Class of 1965 will celebrate its Golden Anniversary during Homecoming 2015, and the 50-Year Club will welcome new members into the club at that time.

ADDITIONAL HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES: A golf tournament, awards brunch, tailgating on the Quad, parade, departmental receptions, and of course, football will round out this fun-filled, nostalgic weekend. If you'd like to help plan a reunion, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 601.925.3252.

PAINT THE TOWN BLUE AND GOLD PAINTED IN HONOR OF MC'S 2015 HOMECOMING BY WYATT WATERS '77, '82

Richard Morrison (M.Ed. '96) has been appointed as the vice chair of the Mississippi Board of Education. He also serves as the assistant superintendent of the Rankin County School District.

Jarrod Ravencraft (M.S.C. '96) is serving as director of public affairs for the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Brannon Costello (B.A. '97) presented "One Thing After Another: Comic Books, Serial Narratives, and Literary Culture" at the 44th Lipsey Lecture.

Kyle J. Fulcher (B.S.B.A. '98, J.D. '00) is the CEO of Mississippi Ag, a growing John Deere Dealer with 13 locations in Mississippi and Arkansas.

Toby Collums (B.S.Ed. '99) has been named head football coach at Northwest Rankin High School in Brandon.

Stephanie Lane Cook (Knott, B.S. '99) has been named a partner with Shuffield Lowman in Orlando.

00s Laura Canard (B.A. '00, M.S.S. '02) has been selected to chair the history and political science department at Holmes Community College, Goodman campus.

David Horner (B.S.B.A. '00) is the headmaster at Hartfield Academy in Flowood. He previously served as a history teacher and basketball coach, as well as director of student life.

Speler Montgomery (B.S. '01) has been selected as chief of the scientific software branch of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg.



Scott Phillips

Scott Phillips (M.B.A. '02) has been appointed to the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors in Louisiana.

Scott Spivey (M.A. '02) has been named the executive director of the



Scott Spivey

Mississippi Home Corp., the state housing finance authority. He also was named the Under 40 Business Person of the Year by the *Mississippi Business Journal*.

Kristen Cockrell (B.S. '03, M.S.C. '08) is teaching dual-credit public speaking and serving as the BETA advisor at Northwest Rankin High School.

Richard Hardy (B.S.B.A. '03) has achieved national board certification in hearing instrument sciences designation.

John Kelly (B.S. '03, M.S.C. '06) has been licensed into ministry by his home church, Meadville Baptist. He is the college pastor at Pinelake Church, reservoir campus.



John Kelly

Joshua Kyle (B.S. '03) is the vice president and assistant general counsel with J.P. Morgan. He is a lawyer for the Asia-Pacific litigation team and lives in Hong Kong.

Micah Allen (B.S.B.A. '05) has been selected as the cheerleading coach for Co-Lin athletics.

Hunter Boggs (B.S. '05) has accepted a position as assistant professor of radiation oncology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Matt Brooks (B.S. '05) designed the cover of the nationally published *Red Sonja* comic book.

Jeffrey Clay (Ed.S. '06) was selected as Oxford School District's Administrator of the Year.

Robert Brown (B.A. '06, M.S.S. '08) received a graduate certificate in nonprofit leadership from the University of Florida.

SPORTS HALL OF FAME

2015 INDUCTEES INTO THE MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SPORTS HALL OF FAME INCLUDE:

Jessica Avery Coleman '91 – *Basketball and Softball* • Dennis Cato '82 – *Football* • R. H. "Dick" Foster '62 – *Track*
Hilton Harrell '86 – *Basketball* • Tony Huffman '84 – *Cross Country and Track* • Michael Walters '71 – *Football*
Francisco Wilson '99 – *Basketball* • Tim Yancy '83 – *Athletic Coaching, Administration, and Support Staff*



FROM CLASS PROJECT TO INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

.....
**Dot Products
Combines Business
with Ministry**

HALLIE DARPIN TURNED AN MC CLASS PROJECT INTO A THRIVING AMERICAN BUSINESS THAT EDUCATES CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD.

Darphin '13 is the owner and founder of Dot Products, a company that sells eco-friendly school supplies. Each pencil or notebook sold helps educate a child in the Congo, Mexico, or Tanzania. As an MC student, Darphin spent a semester working in a children's home in Uganda and returned to MC convinced she would become a missionary. Thanks to an MC entrepreneurship class, she found a way to become both a missionary *and* an entrepreneur.

"The class in entrepreneurship changed my trajectory. As a class project, we developed business ideas and pitched them to business leaders in the community. After a lot of research, I came up with the idea of a school supply company that would use its profits to fund education in impoverished areas."

Darphin won the class competition and set about making her idea a reality. She officially launched Dot Products as an online retailer in June of 2014. The company has since shipped 1,800 products to more than 20 states, and

fully funded a year's worth of education for 14 children.

Dot Products' binders, pencils, journals, and rulers are currently made by American manufacturers, but it is Darphin's long-term goal to move some production to those countries in which students are being supported. Toward that end, Darphin is working with But God Ministries, a ministry started by fellow MC alumnus Stan Buckley '91, to begin manufacturing and service in Haiti. Dot is built on the idea of helping people help themselves, and Darphin believes that one of the major ways to accomplish that goal is by providing jobs to the parents of the students the company supports.

"I never set out to be an entrepreneur, but God opened the door, and because of my education, I was prepared to walk through it. A generation from now, I want world leaders to say, 'I came out of poverty, met Jesus, and am changing the world because Dot Products paid for my education.' And I'll know it all started as a class project at Mississippi College."

Shawn Harris (B.S.B.A. '06, M.B.A. '09) has been named vice president and business banking relationship manager with Regions Bank. He most recently served as a commercial relationship manager associate for Trustmark National Bank. He was the recipient of the Susan Walker Leadership Award.

Sam Sones (B.S.B.A. '06) was named Farm Bureau's 2014 Producer of the Year.

Charles Eaton (B.S. '07) has been promoted to executive art director at the Cirlot Agency. He oversees the artistic development of marketing and promotional materials.

Elizabeth Moore (Wallace, B.A. '07, M.Ed. '15) has joined Northwest Rankin High School as a counselor.

Andrew Hinds (B.A. '09) completed his juris doctorate from Louisiana State University law school.

Zach Osborn (B.A. '09, M.S.S. '12) was named Teacher of the Year for Clinton High School. He teaches world history and honors world history.

10s Lynsey Cumberland (B.S. '10) has been elected to the Diabetes Foundation Board. She is a resident in the advanced education in general dentistry program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.



Rachael McInnis

Rachael McInnis (B.S.B.A. '10, M.B.A. '12) has been named retail credit officer for Trustmark's corporate offices.

Daniel Mortimer (B.S. '10) is a corporate recruiter at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi.

Jeremy Charles Rowan (B.S.B.A. '10) has been promoted to manager of customer service at Miller Transporters Inc. in Jackson.

Jordan Boutot (B.S.B.A. '11) is the credit analysis officer for Trustmark National Bank corporate offices in Jackson.

Ben Fritz (B.S. '11) received the Frisby Griffing Marble Scholarship from MC Law. This award is given to students in the top one-third of the class who show potential for outstanding service to the legal profession.

Christina McCorkindale (B.S.B.A. '11, M.B.A. '13) has been named treasury officer for Trustmark corporate office in Jackson.



Anna Mortimer

Anna Mortimer (Beasley, B.S. '11) is an administrative assistant at Pinelake Church, Clinton campus.

Jordan Osborn (Young, B.S.Ed. '11, M.Ed. '14) has been named Teacher of the Year for Clinton Park Elementary. She teaches first grade.

Ginger Clark (B.S.Ed. '12) has been named the Teacher of the Year for Lovett Elementary in the Clinton Public School District. She teaches sixth grade math.

Nikki Dramis (B.S. '12) has been selected as Clinton Alternative School's Teacher of the Year. She teaches seventh and eighth grade biology, chemistry, health, human anatomy, and physiology.

Cameron McCormick (B.S.B.A. '12) received the American Board of Trial Advocates Award from MC Law.



Chase Richardson

Chase Richardson (B.S. '12) has joined Followell Photography as an associate photographer.

George Dahduh (M.B.A. '13) has been named chief investment officer for the Public Employees Retirement System of Mississippi.

Alyson Franklin (M.B.A. '13) joined GodwinGroup in Jackson as a brand manager.

Jordan McMichael (B.S. '13) received the Judge Sebe Dale Memorial Scholarship Award from MC Law, recognizing academic excellence.

Ben Parnell (B.S.B.A. '13) received the Mississippi Bar Award Taxation Section from MC Law.

Grant Phillips (B.S. '13) has been promoted to loan officer for the Indianola office of Planters Bank.

IF YOU HAVE NEWS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE, please send it to Class Notes, *Beacon* magazine, Box 4027, Clinton, MS 39058, e-mail MC at pr@mc.edu or submit your news online at mc.edu/classnotes. Photos submitted should be of professional quality.

Marriages

Jo Ann (Gardner, B.A. '65) and Jerry Haughton (B.A. '65) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 24, 2015.

Carole Diane Jordan to Stuart Tully (B.S. '06), June 6, 2015

Donell Dube to Justin Gundy (B.S.B.A. '07), October 18, 2014

Alice Claire Thompson (B.S. '07) to Jason Scott, November 30, 2014

Ashley Regan Sasser to Thomas James Gray (B.S.B.A. '09, M.B.A. '11), September 20, 2014

Christian Jones (B.S. '10) to William Dodd, January 5, 2013

Maggie McKenzie Blackwell (B.S. '11) to Dustin Clint Mott, June 13, 2015

Kristie Rose Allen (B.S. '12) to Drew Douglas Dabbs (B.A. '08), November 1, 2014

Kristen Marie Hermetz (M.Ed. '12) to James Kenan Pittman, June 20, 2015

Emily Kay Brittain to Jonathan Christopher Russell (B.S. '14), May 2015

Hannah Chandler (B.S. '14) to Josh Gersh, October 25, 2014

Kristen Danielle Savell (B.S.Ed. '14) to James Preston Herbert, June 13, 2015

Leeann Kail Smith (B.S. '14) to John Owen Boutwell (B.S.B.A. '08, M.B.A. '10), May 2, 2015

Emily Catherine Vaughn (B.S.Ed. '14) to David Earl Lott III (B.S. '14), June 6, 2015

Molly Ann Roberts (B.S.Ed. '14) to Ethan Allen Doan, November 15, 2014

Kathryn Elise Wiggins (B.S.N. '14) to Benjamin Lane Cheatham, June 13, 2015

Births & Adoptions

Lizzie (Fortenberry, B.A. '01) and Eric Bebbler, Annette Leigh, June 4, 2015. She joins brother Eli Bryan. She is welcomed by grandparents Melanie (B.S.N. '76, M.H.S. '90) and Cliff Fortenberry (B.S.Ed. '77, M.Ed. '78).

Jamie (Newman, B.A. '01, J.D. '06) and Josh Christian, Claire Elizabeth, March 22, 2015. She is welcomed by sister Charlotte.

Amy and Wilson Hillman (B.S. '01), Sue Ling, adopted March 17, 2015

Charity and Gabriel Fertitta (B.A. '04, M.Ed. '10), Claire Louise, October 27, 2014

Amanda (Lake, B.S.B.A. '04) and Russell Young (B.A. '04), Judah Parks, February 7, 2015

Jackie (Weston, B.S. '05) and Hunter Boggs (B.S. '05), Catherine Elizabeth Boggs, April 4, 2014

Adrienne (Stephenson, B.S.B.A. '06, M.B.A. '10) and Robert Brown (B.A. '06, M.S.S. '08), Kelly Marie, February 2, 2015

Mandy (Jones, B.A. '06) and Taylor Sisson, William Everett, March 23, 2015. He is welcomed by grandparents Jane (B.S.Ed. '75) and Michael Jones (B.S.Ed. '75, M.Ed. '76).

Hannah (Shanks, B.S. '06) and John Wallace (B.S.Ed.'04, M.Ed. '11), Zeritu Magnolia, adopted March 26, 2015. She joins sister Ivy. She is welcomed by grandparents Becky (Flowers, B.M.Ed. '76) and Charles Wallace (B.M.'76) and great-grandparents Jessie and John Flowers (B.A. '50).

Carrie (Davis, B.S.Ed. '06) and Adam Wilson (B.S.B.A. '06), Myers Davis, December 17, 2014. He is welcomed by sister Eleanor.

Elizabeth (Hammon, B.A. '06) and Micah Zimmerman (B.A. '06), Miette Zelda, January 27, 2015

Ashley (M.S. '07) and Tim Krason (B.A. '03, M.A. '07), Lydia Claire, December 15, 2015

Meredith (Stevens, B.A. '10, M.S. '13) and Ryan Capell (M.S.C. '10), Patrick James, March 24, 2015

Erin (M.S. '10) and Wesley Fielding, Alice Claire, August 25, 2014. She joins siblings Lucy and Ian.

Leah (B.A. '10) and Ben Ivey (B.S. '06, M.F.A. '09), Madeline Harper, May 5, 2015

Anna (Boyd, B.S.B.A. '10) and Jonathan Nutt (B.S.B.A. '10, M.S. '14), Ellie Catherine, May 26, 2015

Edie and Michael Shumaker, Evers Michael, May 26, 2015. Michael is the assistant athletic director for sports performance.

In Memoriam

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE EXTENDS SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND FORMER FACULTY/STAFF MEMBERS.

Alumni

James Edwin Hewlitt (B.A. '32), October 17, 2014
 Mary Beth Lassetter Pearson ('36), September 15, 2014
 Honorable Roy Noble Lee, Sr. (B.A. '38), January 21, 2015
 Dwight Browning (B.A. '41), December 20, 2012
 James Foster (B.A. '41), January 10, 2015
 Ruth Ford Jackson (Hillman '41, B.S. '43), March 15, 2015
 Audine McNair Clark ('42), March 20, 2015
 James Holcomb (B.A. '42), February 23, 2015
 Willard Boggan ('44), February 14, 2015
 Wallace Caldwell ('44), May 6, 2015
 Jean Parker Nowell (B.A. '46), March 15, 2015
 Robert Smith (B.S. '46), September 26, 2014
 Edward McDonald (B.A. '48), October 12, 2014
 Joel Ray (B.A. '48), December 6, 2014
 Carroll Overton Waller (B.A. '48, L.T.D. '77),
 October 28, 2014
 Roy Brigance (B.A. '49), August 25, 2014
 Ralph Holland (L.L.B. '49), December 5, 2014
 William Middleton (B.S. '49), May 31, 2015
 William Hardy (B.A. '50), September 10, 2014
 Patrick McGee (B.A. '50), April 3, 2014
 Aubrey Moore (B.A. '50), January 28, 2015
 Carroll Freeman (B.A. '51), September 25, 2014
 Ambrose Hatfield (B.A. '51), April 9, 2015
 Betty Wilbanks Campbell (B.S. '52), April 5, 2013
 Charles Fail (B.S. '52), April 27, 2015
 Oliver Ladnier (B.A. '52), January 19, 2015
 Stan Martin (B.S. '52), September 28, 2014
 Thomas Black (B.A. '53), May 22, 2013
 Tressie Purvis Cox (B.S.Ed. '53), June 14, 2012
 Thomas Davis (B.A. '53), June 16, 2015
 George Dukes (B.S.Ed. '53, M.A. '59), April 7, 2014
 Shelton Holliday (B.A. '53, M.Ed. '57), May 3, 2015
 Lee Mashburn (B.S. '53), September 15, 2014
 Jerry Berry (B.S. '54), December 19, 2014
 Robert Campbell (B.S. '54), September 7, 2014
 Norman Deaton (B.A. '54), April 22, 2014
 Bernard Loposer (B.A. '54), January 30, 2015
 Rex Pigott (B.S.Ed. '54, M.Ed. '62), September 15, 2011
 Dick Liddell (B.S. '55), April 4, 2014
 Joy Burt Bell (B.S. '56), December 11, 2014
 Bettye Evans Bomer (B.S.Ed. '56), May 7, 2015
 Casey Ferguson (B.S. '56), June 11, 2015
 William Foster (B.A. '56), March 2, 2014
 Hugh Martin (B.A. '56), May 11, 2015
 Betty Jo Thompson Chamness ('57), January 30, 2015
 O.J. Dear (B.S. '57), June 2, 2015
 Carolyn Lowther Nelson (B.S. '57, M.Ed. '71), May 15, 2015
 Annie Sadler Yates (B.S.Ed. '57), January 31, 2015
 Arlene Pritchard Clampton (M.Ed. '52), July, 2012
 Eugene Dobbs (B.A. '58), April 4, 2014
 Sue Mihlfeld Pratt (B.A. '58), February 27, 2014

Dawn Dillon Barrett (B.S.Ed. '59), May 10, 2015
 Glenda King Canoy (B.S.Ed. '59), November 16, 2014
 C. Wayne Neal (B.A. '59), August 17, 2014
 Sue Ainsworth (B.S.Ed. '60, M.Ed. '69), May 7, 2015
 Clyde Carraway (B.S.Ed. '60), February 17, 2015
 Paul F. Lott (B.A. '60, M.Ed. '72), October 5, 2014
 Emily Gage Ludt (B.S. Ed. '60), May 10, 2015
 Truman Albritton (B.S.Ed. '61, M.Ed. '63), April 22, 2015
 Imogene Smith Harris (B.A. '61), February 25, 2015
 H. Hollis Shoemaker (B.S. '61), October 16, 2013
 L. Graham Smith (B.S.Ed. '61), February 2, 2015
 LTC Alfred Freathy ('63), August 12, 2013
 L. Douglas McGlaughlin (B.A. '63), October 24, 2014
 Paul Castleman (B.S. '64), April 4, 2014
 Larry Lyall (B.A. '64), August 23, 2011
 Sue Roberts McCanlis (B.S.Ed. '64), September 3, 2014
 Algie Trussell (B.S. '64), September 25, 2014
 James W. Young ('64), June 7, 2015
 Joe Buchanan (LLB '65), February 1, 2015
 Russell Herrington (B.M. '65), June 15, 2015
 Beth Hastings Johns (B.A. '65), August 11, 2014
 Robert Parker (M.Ed. '65), June 23, 2013
 Richard Spruill (L.L.B. '65), May 27, 2010
 Eleanor Johnson Turcotte (B.S.Ed. '65, M.C.C. '88),
 March 24, 2015
 Shelby Watts (B.S.Ed. '65), March 31, 2015
 W. Calvin Herring (B.S. '66, M.B.A. '72), February 2, 2015
 James Brown (M.Ed. '67), March 16, 2015
 Gary J. Robertson ('67), July 26, 2014
 Ramon Tate (B.S. '67), January 21, 2015
 Percy Doyle Bradshaw (B.S.Ed. '68), May 4, 2015
 Jimmy Hux (M.Ed. '68), January 13, 2014
 James Goodwill (B.S. '69), September 3, 2014
 Ray Montgomery (L.L.B. '69), December 14, 2014
 Lennard Register (M.Ed. '69), October 19, 2014
 Roger Clark (B.S. '70), October 29, 2014
 Herbert Ivison (M.B.A. '70), November 21, 2014
 William Cain (B.S.Ed. '71), September 8, 2014
 Johnny Hines (M.Ed. '72), November 19, 2014
 Jerry Allen (B.S. '73), May 26, 2015
 Harold Moss (B.S. '73), December 15, 2014
 John Baker (B.S. '74), December 5, 2012
 Robert Kelso (M.A. '77), October 28, 2014
 Richard Redd (M.B.A. '77), May 10, 2015
 Charles Broad (M.B.A. '79), May 28, 2015
 Barbara Hughes Ladner (M.Ed. '79), April 7, 2015
 Donald Fitzgerald (B.S. '85), September 9, 2014
 Janet Gunn Champion (B.S.Ed. '87, M.Ed. '98),
 June 14, 2015
 Lisa Magee (B.S. '89), July 29, 2014
 John Gorman (M.S. '92), January 21, 2015
 Sheila Hartness Gomillion (M.B.A. '94), November 24, 2014
 Kirk Harrington (B.S.B.A. '95), January 20, 2015
 Cindy Current Griffin (B.S. '96, J.D. '04), December 4, 2014
 Freda Dyess Laxson (M.Ed. '97), May 10, 2015
 Tracy Hayslip (M.B.A. '02), April 26, 2014
 Carl Treppendahl (M.S.C.P. '02), June 7, 2015
 Candace Danielle Williams (B.S. '10), April 14, 2015
 Pricilla Li (M.S. '12), December 6, 2014

Friends

Judge Osee Fagan, December 16, 2014

Mary Josephine Cooper Harris, former MC student and wife of alumnus F. Aubrey Harris (B.A. '60), February 27, 2015

Billy Hicks, professor of history and political science, February 25, 2015

Jimmie Hutto, LRC production director and instructor of communication, January 5, 2015

Nancy Omerza, secretary, School of Nursing, November 22, 2014

The last issue of the *Beacon* erroneously reported the passing of Shelby Womack Wilson '63. We are happy to report that Shelby is alive and well and apologize for the error.

Honorable Roy Noble Lee, Sr. '38 1915–2015

Retired Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Noble Lee died on January 21, 2015. Justice Lee lived an honorable life of service to his Lord and Savior, his country, the law, and his family.

Justice Lee was a lifelong member of Forest Baptist Church, where he served as deacon and Sunday School teacher. He graduated from Mississippi College with distinction in 1938, where he was accomplished in sports and academics and was elected president of the Student Government. He received his law degree with distinction from the Cumberland University School of Law.

While attending Mississippi College, Lee met Sue Epting, who became his wife on May 18, 1941. The couple had five children. Shortly after the Lees married, he served as an FBI agent from 1942 to 1944, working for Director J. Edgar Hoover on matters throughout the United States. Lee resigned from the FBI to serve in World War II in the South Pacific aboard the destroyer *USS Burrows*.

One of the strongest influences in Lee's life was his father, the late Percy Mercer Lee, who served as district attorney, circuit court judge and Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court. The younger Lee tried his first criminal trial when he was just 15. He had no law degree, no legal training, and no license, but was observing in a courtroom when he saw a defendant without an attorney and offered to represent him. The defendant was found not guilty.

Lee enjoyed a busy law practice, then served as district attorney and later as circuit judge for the 8th Judicial District. He served on the Mississippi Supreme Court from 1976 until 1993, serving as the High Court's Chief Justice from 1987 until his retirement. When he became Chief Justice, Roy Noble Lee and Percy Mercer Lee became the only father and son ever to serve as Chief Justices of the Mississippi Supreme Court.

After his retirement, Chief Justice Lee was of council for Lee & Lee Attorneys and served as chairman of the board of Ott & Lee Funeral Home, Inc. He was active in professional and

social organizations including the Mississippi Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, the Trial Lawyers Association, the VFW, the Forest Lions Club, and the Former FBI Agents Society. He served on the board of trustees of Mississippi College and received many honors and recognitions, including Mississippi College Alumnus of the Year 1995, Cumberland Law School Alumnus of the Year 1992, an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Mississippi College, and selected as the 1996 Citizen of the Year by the Forest Chamber of Commerce.

Justice Lee is survived by his children and their spouses, Thomas D. Lee (Gail); daughter, Martha Noble Lee Hassell (John); Susie Lee Hederman (Zach); Roy Noble Lee, Jr. (Paula); daughter-in-law Tammy Dennis Lee; 11 grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.



L. Graham Smith

L. Graham Smith '61 1939–2015

L. Graham Smith died on February 2, 2015. Smith lived his life lived his life guided by Proverbs 3:5-6, which reads "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Early in life, Smith discovered a God-given musical gift for singing and dramatic oration. Smith began college as a chemical engineering major at Vanderbilt University, but heard God calling him to a music ministry. He transferred from Vanderbilt to Mississippi College, where he majored in music education. After graduating in 1961, he married his college sweetheart, Alice Ann McCann, then continued his education at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received a master of church music degree.

Smith served as a minister of music at seven Baptist churches in Mississippi and Texas before accepting the position of church music director with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), a position he held for 23 years. During his tenure at MBCB, Smith coordinated and directed statewide presentations held in the Mississippi Coliseum featuring 7,500 singers from around the state, founded the Mississippi All State Youth Choir, and helped launch the Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra.

A versatile musician, Smith appeared in leading roles in the Hattiesburg, Mississippi Civic Light Opera productions of "The Sound of Music" and "The King and I."

Smith was honored by Mississippi College as the 1992 Distinguished Alumnus of the School of Music. He and his wife, Alice, were awarded the 2007 Mississippi College Order of the Golden Arrow award in recognition of their contributions to the music profession.

Smith is survived by his wife of 53 years, Alice; their children Alicia Claire Smith Wilbanks (Chip) and Louis Graham Smith, Jr. (June); and his six grandchildren and two grandsons-in-law.

| FROM THE TIME CAPSULE |

THE WALLS OF MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE'S NELSON HALL ARE ADORNED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMENTOS OF MILESTONES FROM MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE'S STORIED, NEARLY TWO-CENTURY HISTORY. "FROM THE TIME CAPSULE" TAKES A LOOK BACK AT SOME OF THOSE UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS.



THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF THE MC SCHOOL OF NURSING, 1973. FORMER DEAN MARY JEAN PADGETT IS THE SIXTH FROM LEFT ON THE BACK ROW.

FOUR DECADES OF COMPASSIONATE CARE

JUNE 20, 2015 MARKED THE END OF AN era in the history of the Mississippi College School of Nursing when Mary Jean Padgett retired as dean.

Padgett has been linked to the School of Nursing for its entire history. She was the first prospective student interviewed for admission when the school was founded in 1969; her interview with Dean Marian Bassett was conducted while the two sat on the floor in an as-yet unfurnished office. Padgett was one of 17 nurses in the 1973 inaugural graduating class.

After working in physicians' offices, hospitals, and teaching at other colleges, Padgett returned to the School of Nursing in 1982 as an instructor, becoming dean in 1996.

"I may have retired, but I will never leave MC – it's in my blood," Padgett says. "I've been here for more than half of my life, and you don't let go of things easily after that time."

During her tenure as dean, Padgett guided the School of Nursing through curriculum revisions, remodeling of the physical facilities, technology upgrades, and international medical missions. While she has witnessed tremendous growth and many advances in the program since she graduated, Padgett is proud that the tradition of Christian caring



FAST FORWARD
SINCE THE FIRST 17 NURSES GRADUATED FROM MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE IN 1973, THE SCHOOL OF NURSING HAS GRADUATED MORE THAN 2,096 STUDENTS.

that has always been an MC School of Nursing hallmark has remained unchanged. At MC, spiritual care has never been an abstract concept; instead, it is a unique approach to nursing that is woven through the curriculum.

"MC teaches spiritual care from a Christian perspective, but that's not the same as teaching Christianity," Padgett says. "Addressing a patient's spiritual needs might include praying with a Christian patient, asking a Jewish patient if he would like kosher meals, or calling a priest for a Catholic patient. Other schools teach this to a limited extent, but I don't believe many other schools incorporate spiritual caring into the program the way MC does."

Every nurse who has graduated from MC over the past 42 years has taken a tangible reminder of that concept of caring into the field. Along with her fellow 1973 graduates, Padgett helped design the distinctive MC School of Nursing pin, which bears a cross and an image of Provine Chapel.

While she may be retiring from MC, Mary Jean Padgett will take the School of Nursing's tradition of caring with her wherever she goes, and every MC nursing student who follows in her footsteps will become a part of that same caring legacy more than four decades in the making.



JESUS SPOKE TO THEM, SAYING, "TAKE HEART; IT IS I. DO NOT BE AFRAID."

MATTHEW 14:27



Mississippi
College
A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

BOX 4003 / CLINTON, MS 39058

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Jackson, MS
Permit # 134



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SEEKS
TO BE KNOWN AS A UNIVERSITY
RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE AND COMMITMENT
TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST.