

MC

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | WINTER 2021

# BUSINESS

*FOR THE WIN*

MC BUSINESS SCHOLAR ATHLETES

EXCEL ON AND OFF THE FIELD







## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

**I**t is with great pride that I present this double issue that hopefully represents a clear marker to the end to the challenges that the pandemic brought and caused us to miss the 2021 issue.

It is great to be back in touch with all of you. As you read our magazine, I hope that you will realize that the delay was well worth it. As you will see, we never slowed down, and we continued to educate and care for our students just as effectively as we have done for nearly 200 years.

In this issue, there's a pattern and consistency to our activities and educational process. We have talented students we recognize each spring for their outstanding achievements. The three Alumni of the Year are representative of the wonderful graduates we have been blessed to produce.

You will get a glimpse of some future graduates as well. It's easy to see how before long, they will be leaving their own legacies in the marketplace. The story about three of our exceptional students will show that at MC Business, you can be both a great athlete and a great student.

I am also excited to introduce our newest faculty member, Dr. Will Tabor. We are very fortunate to have someone of Will's expertise who has a commitment to a Christian education. We are proud of the development of our existing faculty and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Brooks Poole on earning his most recent degree. We are delighted to now call him, Dr. Poole. When you read the story "Business Class Favorites" — it will only reinforce what a fabulous faculty we have.

MC Business is also proud to claim the 2022 Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award winner and the 2022 and 2021 Young Faculty of the Year award winners for the entire campus. I guess I am boasting now!

We are very cognizant of how quickly business management education can change. This forces us to always keep up and keep ahead. We are staying at the forefront by providing our students with an environment that's especially conducive to learning by engaging them in disciplines that are data intensive. The Costas Family Business Analytics Classroom is a state-of-the-art facility that's helping us prepare the next generation of business graduates. We are grateful to the Costas family and our group of legacy donors who have made this facility possible.

Finally, we believe that providing our students with a picture of what they can accomplish by giving them the opportunity to hear from exceptional business practitioners is one of the main reasons for the Executive Excellence Awards. We are proud to present Jim Richards and Wally Hall Jr., and provide a summary of what they shared with our students.

These and many other stories are found in this issue, and I hope they affirm what we see every day — we have great students, great faculty and a proud Christian mission.

With warmest wishes,

Marcelo Eduardo  
Eduardo@mc.edu



# MC MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | WINTER 2021

# BUSINESS



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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2  
Carrying  
the Torch



12  
Hafa Adai



16  
Faith & Business  
Ethics Week

4 Executive  
Excellence Award

14 Next Up!  
MC Business  
Entrepreneurs

20 Business Class  
Favorites

24 Young Professor  
of the Year

26 Alumnus of  
the Year

30 Honors Day

36 Corporate  
Sponsor Spotlight



*On the cover: For the Win  
Read the story on page 6.*



# CARRYING THE TORCH

DR. BROOKS POOLE '02 CALLS ON HIS EXPERIENCE AS AN ALUMNUS, PROFESSOR, ENTREPRENEUR, AND ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONAL TO CONTINUE THE LEGACY OF HIS FORMER MC PROFESSORS.

Dr. Brooks Poole received his B.S.B.A. with an accounting major and English minor from MC in 2002. He reflects on his time as a student at MC with fondness.

While at MC, Dr. Poole met many of his lifelong role models who ingrained in him important life lessons. Working diligently, performing superior work while never being too hard on oneself, and juggling many hats are the lessons Poole continues to pass on to his students.

Poole knew all along that he enjoyed an academic setting and loved teaching. Tutoring other students in high school coupled with the strong relationships he formed with MC faculty, he was motivated to become a university professor. Poole enjoys teaching in the School of Business where superior academic excellence is achieved in a loving, supportive, and Christian environment.

Culminating his formal educational journey, Poole completed his doctorate in education with an emphasis in higher education from the University of Mississippi in 2021. Dr. Poole appreciated that a doctorate degree is a respected and valued marker in higher education. He also understood that to become

a better professor, he should continue his educational journey as a student.

While earning his doctorate, Dr. Poole learned that he had a lot left to learn. His degree broadened his perspective and gave him the ability to see things through others' lenses while creating awareness and sensitivity to different perspectives. Dr. Poole notes that he always kept in mind what one of his former professors, Mrs. Sandra Parks taught him, to enjoy each chapter of life.

***Dr. Poole is also a successful retail entrepreneur. His practical business experience allows his teaching to be more relatable and comprehensive for students. "Listen to others, seek and pray for wisdom, then make the best choices you can," Poole said.***

His life goal is to positively impact others and as a professor, to impact students' education and hopefully spark their entrepreneurial fires along the way.







· 2021 ·

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## EXECUTIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD

*Jim Richards*

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**I**n many ways, Jim Richards represents the quintessential American success story. He's the example of someone who truly starts at the lowest rungs of a company and through talent and perseverance makes his way up to become President and CEO while leading that company to its highest success. It's for this reason that the School of Business is proud to recognize Richard's story and present him with the 2021 Executive Excellence Award.

***Richards got his start in business when he interviewed at KLLM after graduating college. It's a story that begins with him accepting a job at the company and experiencing a training program which put him in virtually every job that's to be had there – from working on the maintenance side to driving the trucks to where he is now – President and CEO of KLLM.***

In recounting this story, Jim is very quick to point out that great employees are at the heart of KLLM's success. Perhaps because he has lived at every level of the company, Richards believes in empowering his employees and not micromanaging them. His approach is to hire the right people who are qualified, a good fit, and can be independent. The evidence of his method is clear when he says without hesitation, "I could be out of the office, and everything would be fine." It's this belief in the ability of his team to work independently that is crucial for his management style given the company's multiple locations and ever-expanding business.



Jim Richards gives the keynote speech at Awards Day.

Richard's story at KLLM is also about leading through challenges. Before he stepped in as the President and CEO, the company was virtually bankrupt. It's a credit to his executive-leadership style that he has managed effectively both in hard times and in good times. Today, KLLM has a fleet of over 1,600 tractors providing long-haul, regional and dedicated services, and it's the fifth largest firm of its kind in the United States.

Regardless of the given economic circumstances, Jim's approach to leadership is a focus on safety, customer service and cementing a culture of integrity. For example, the company has been at the forefront of investments in safety and the technology that enhances safety. When asked about the cost benefit of the investment, Richards notes that it is the right thing to do and a sound economic decision.

Ultimately, Jim Richards views KLLM and his time there as more than just a business or a business career but a way to care for and to help others. He cares about the company, the people, and their success. Perhaps more so because he has been in their shoes.





# FOR THE WIN

THREE MC BUSINESS STUDENTS  
BALANCE ACADEMICS AND  
ATHLETICS TO BECOME LEADERS  
ON AND OFF THE FIELD.



**BEATRICE CURRIE '22**

- Finance graduate
- Current MBA student
- Soccer Forward

**KAYLEE FOSTER '23**

- Accounting and Finance major
- Soccer Forward and Defender

**AVERY HEDERMAN '23**

- Accounting major
- Soccer Midfielder



MC BUSINESS STUDENTS KAYLEE FOSTER, AVERY HEDERMAN, AND BEATRICE CURRIE GIVE A GLIMPSE OF THEIR LIVES ON CAMPUS AND ON THE FIELD.



**AVERY HEDERMAN '23**

*Tell us a little bit about yourself.*

*Where are you from?*

*What is something unique about you?*

I am from Jackson, Mississippi, and I graduated from Jackson Academy. Growing up, I played just about every sport for a few seasons, eventually falling in love with soccer and basketball. I enjoyed both but decided to continue my athletic and academic career at Mississippi College playing soccer. My family is very close. I have a twin sister and younger brother, and my parents and grandparents have been very supportive of everything I have done. Over my college career, I have rediscovered and cultivated my love for painting, and in my free time, I often find myself painting for someone.

*How did you end up at MC? What brought you here?*

When looking for a college, I knew I wanted to go to a place with a community-centered campus, a successful soccer team, and esteemed academic programs. Mississippi College had all of those things. I came to visit and met people that felt like home, and I committed in the beginning of my junior year of high school.

*What is your favorite thing about the School of Business?*

The School of Business has been such a blessing during my time at MC. Students and teachers are intentional, and everyone pushes each other to be better, academically and spiritually. I have learned so many valuable things not only from the curriculum and professors but also from the countless professionals that come to our school to share their experiences.

*How does playing on a team shape you for a career?*

Playing on a team has been an integral part of my life, and I attribute most of life's most valuable lessons to experiences I have had on a team. I have learned the importance of recognizing individuals and working with people who may be different from me to achieve a common goal. One passage of scripture that I always go back to is Philippians 2:1-4 which says, "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

*How do you balance school, work, and being a collegiate athlete?*

Balancing school, work, and collegiate athletics is not easy. However, being able to continue playing the sport that I love with teammates whom I love makes the balancing act worth it. I have learned the importance of developing priorities and making decisions based on those priorities. Also, communicating frequently with coaches, professors, and employers is an essential part of balancing everything.

*What's been the most rewarding part of your time here at MC and in the School of Business?*

The relationships that I have made at MC and in the School of Business are by far the most rewarding parts of my experience here. I have gotten to be in classes with students who are driven, kind, and encouraging, and I have had the privilege of getting to know faculty members who have



invested in me. The people in the School of Business have been nothing short of incredible, and I will always look back on my time here remembering the relationships that meant so much to me.

**What advice would you give to a student considering being a collegiate athlete?**

I always tell students to figure out why they play their sport. When you decide your “why,” you can fall on that when things get hard. For me, I love the game of soccer, and I love being on a team. When life gets hard, I remember my teammates, and I remember how much I love soccer. Regardless of the circumstances, knowing why you’re doing something will help you stay on the course and find joy even in the hard times.



**KAYLEE FOSTER '23**

**Tell us a little bit about yourself. Where are you from? What is something unique about you?**

I am from Ocean Springs, Mississippi. I am the Accounting Society President and a student worker in the School of Business. Something unique about me is that I’ve played soccer in 4 countries.

**How did you end up at MC? What brought you here?**

The opportunity to play soccer brought me to visit MC in the fall of my junior year of high school. On my visit, I was able to meet other athletes and get a feel of the campus. After that visit, the campus felt like home. Over the next year, I was able to participate in scholarship interviews and attend the School of Business Faith and Ethics panel. In my senior year I was offered the opportunity to be in the inaugural class of the Honors College. All of these factors led me to MC.

**What is your favorite thing about the School of Business?**

Being a double major, I have had the opportunity to get to know students and faculty in both fields. A favorite thing is also the Crawfish Boil at the end of the year!

**How does playing on a team shape you for a career?**

Playing on a team has shaped me for a career in the sense that I have learned how to work with people who sometimes think and process differently than I do. Everyone has their own personality and belief system, and being on a team has given me the opportunity to work with people who are completely different than I am.

**How do you balance school, work, and being a collegiate athlete?**

Balancing school, work, and athletics can be a challenge, and I am not always the best at it. Sometimes I forget things, assignments, events, sleep, but I do my best to keep everything as organized as possible in my planner in order to

have time to accomplish all of my daily tasks. As a college athlete, I have an ever-changing schedule, so I have learned to be flexible and to write in pencil.

**What’s been the most rewarding part of your time here at MC and in the School of Business?**

The most rewarding part of my time here at MC has been my ability to work in the School of Business. I have been able to build relationships with professors as well as my classmates. This semester, I am able to work in the Help Lab once a week, and it is so rewarding to be able to provide an explanation or to rework a problem for a student if they need some extra help. I have always used the Help Lab, and I am always so thankful for my classmates who know more than I do, so it is such a gift to be able to help others just as I have been helped.

**What advice would you give to a student considering being a collegiate athlete?**

There are three things I would say to a student considering being a collegiate athlete: work on your time management, don’t feel bad about going to bed early, and enjoy your time as a collegiate athlete – don’t wish it away because it goes by fast.



**BEATRICE CURRIE '22**

**Tell us a little bit about yourself. Where are you from? What is something unique about you?**

I am from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada. I was fortunate to grow up with parents who were just as passionate about sports as I was, which led to them spending copious amounts of time at the soccer field and basketball court on the weekends. When I was fifteen and starting tenth grade, I had the opportunity to move away from home to play a higher level of soccer, and I took it. I spent that first year living with my cousin in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and then was living on my own for my last two years of high school. It was a unique experience that was difficult at the time, but certainly helped me develop a sense of independence and strong work ethic from a young age.

**How did you end up at MC? What brought you here?**

After deciding to transfer as a sophomore, I began my junior year at MC in the middle of the pandemic. What initially drew me to the school was the successful year the women’s soccer team had prior to my arrival. However, it was the people that stood out to me when I visited. Having Dr. Eduardo take time out of his day to meet with a potential student to paint a picture of MC, show me what I would be studying, and answer all of my questions showed his dedication to his students. I knew that sort of one-on-one experience was unique to MC and not something that could not be replicated elsewhere.

**What is your favorite thing about the School of Business?**

The faculty have been what has made my time in the School of Business memorable. In my experience, their doors are always open to their students, and they are willing to help with everything from classwork to the job hunt and everything in between. They come to our soccer games and take a genuine interest in us. It has been a highlight of my time at MC.

**How does playing on a team shape you for a career?**

The team environment has taught me to value something bigger than myself. In soccer, you can achieve very little as an individual. Being able to get everyone on the same page and working as a unit with a common goal is what separates successful teams from the rest. Throughout a career, collaborating with others is inevitable. My experience as a collegiate athlete has taught me to effectively work with others during highs and lows.

**How do you balance school, work, and being a collegiate athlete?**

Planning ahead, communicating effectively with everyone you are coordinating with, and a generous amount of caffeine. I usually map out my schedule at the beginning of every week so that I can have my full attention on whatever is at hand. This has allowed me to be fully present in whatever I am doing at the moment, whether it be gameday, studying for a midterm, or spending time with friends. Carving out daily “me time” helps me stay sane and avoid burning out.

**What’s been the most rewarding part of your time here at MC and in the School of Business?**

MC and the School of Business have allowed me to get so much out of my academic experience beyond the classroom. Since arriving at MC, I have been part of Dr. Eduardo’s Student Advisory Board which has allowed me to play an active role in improving the student experience. This year, I had the opportunity to fill in and teach an undergraduate class as well as tutor fellow student-athletes on behalf of the athletic department. This has reaffirmed my desire to eventually teach in the collegiate setting at some point in my future. Being able to take what I have learned and apply it in this way has allowed me to learn practical skills alongside what I have been taught in class.

**What advice would you give to a student considering being a collegiate athlete?**

If you are fortunate enough to be one of the few high school players who are capable of pursuing collegiate athletics, absolutely do it. Down the road, you can always decide to step away if it isn’t for you. However, it is an incredibly difficult door to reopen once you decide against it. I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to play their sport in college to pursue it.





# HAAFA ADAI

HELLO FROM GUAM  
ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES ON EARTH



UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. BILLY MOREHEAD AND DR. SARA KIMMEL, MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS SECURED A \$188,000 GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE FALL OF 2021. THE GRANT SUPPORTS A CROSS-CULTURAL BUSINESS EXPERIENCE IN GUAM, A U.S. TERRITORY LOCATED IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

**T**he people of Guam are fluent in English, but Chamorro—the language of Guam’s original inhabitants, is spoken as well. Part of the study abroad program includes immersion in the local culture and learning a little bit of the Chamorro language.

Key in developing the program was MC’s partnership with seven entities. Partners included Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), Mississippi Manufacturers Association, Mississippi Council on Economic Education, Clinton Economic Development, Rankin First, Innovate Mississippi, and the University of Guam (UOG). MDA has offices in Tokyo, Japan and Seoul, South Korea which influenced MC’s focus in the Asia-Pacific region. Dr. Morehead’s long-standing relationship with partners and alumni in Guam further narrowed MC’s focus to the island of Guam.

*The grant allows support for three main pillars: study abroad travel, development of a cross-cultural business management minor, and faculty research. The largest funded portion of the grant includes almost \$50,000 to support up to 24 students traveling to Guam over the life of the grant. While it is currently a two-year grant, it is expected to be extended to a third year because of the slow implementation due to COVID-19.*

During the summer of 2022, MC’s first group of four students and two faculty traveled to Guam for three weeks in June. The group was able to see most of the island and visit numerous businesses, government agencies, and economic development entities. The visits included Guam Visitors Bureau and Calvo Enterprises (one of the largest grocers on the island and whose CEO is former Governor Eddie Calvo). Also included were visits with Guam Power Authority, Port of Guam, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, University of Guam, and the mayor of Inalahan.

Several of the island’s five-star hotels met with MC to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism industry. During a visit to the Guam legislature, a discussion about the U.S. military buildup was hosted by Guam Vice-Speaker, Senator Muña Barnes. The discussion was led by former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior, Tony Babauta.



Dr. Sara Kimmel and Dr. Billy Morehead

Beyond the working part of the trip, students and faculty were able to visit waterfalls, a site where a Japanese WWII fighter hid for 28 years while he thought he was still at war, and WWII Pacific sites. The group was also able to spend time snorkeling and surfing in both the Pacific Ocean and Philippine Sea. Others enjoyed walks on the beach, hiking, parasailing, and parachuting from a plane at 14,000 feet.

Finally, the group visited with three MC alumni living and working in Guam: Rodalyn Gerardo ('19, C.P.A., M.B.A.)—VP, finance and administration, Guam Community College; Yuka Hechanova ('20, C.P.A., M.Acc.)—CFO, Guam Memorial Hospital; and Jeremiah Luther ('09, J.D.)—chief counsel, Guam Memorial Hospital.

We’re looking forward to the summers of 2023 and 2024. Join us in Guam!

Si Yu’os ma’ase. — “Thank You” in Chamorro



# NEXT UP!

## MC BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURS

The Mississippi Entrepreneurship Forum (MEF) held the 2021 inaugural NextUp! Statewide Student Pitch Competition for all college students in Mississippi. The Forum is designed to bring together the innovation community and discuss resources and strategies for Mississippi entrepreneurs.

Students from all Mississippi colleges, universities, and community colleges were invited to compete in the rapid-fire contest, pitching their pioneering business ideas to a distinguished panel of judges comprised of the state's top entrepreneurs and investors.

Two MC School of Business students captured two of the top three awards at this year's virtual event. An entrepreneurship and marketing major from Wetumpka, Alabama, Rachel Graham impressed the judges to earn a 2nd-place award by pitching Studio 274, a ballet and exercise innovative business model, receiving a \$1,500 cash prize. Terry Cox of Semmes, Alabama, achieved a third-place finish for his proposal promoting Argo Creations, an innovative take on landscape planning and enhancement, receiving a \$1,000 award.

Graham began forming her business idea in her first entrepreneurship class taken her freshman year. In preparation for the competition, she spent six months taking her idea to a ready to launch business model by receiving mentorship from Tasha Bibbs and Nathan Killebrew who both helped fine tune her pitch. Graham's model for the ballet studio, Studio 274, would strengthen parental involvement, get the community engaged, and make owners more business-minded through integrating a tea shop, Pilates studio, and ballet studio into one functioning business.

"The competition allowed me to fully experience the necessary steps to make a plausible business model and to curate a pitch to raise support for that model. I now have practical experience on taking the first steps to starting my own business," Graham commented.



The School of Business is elated to see the J.L. Holloway Center for Entrepreneurship is already paying dividends through the success of our MC Business students. The Entrepreneurship Center is made possible by J.L. Holloway, distinguished Mississippi business leader, philanthropist, and generous MC supporter. Dean Eduardo commends entrepreneurship faculty members John Brandon and Tammy Arthur for their hard work to build this premier entrepreneurship business program and their continued support to the success of our business students and alumni.

"WE'RE SO PROUD OF THESE STUDENTS AND HOW WELL THEY REPRESENTED MC AND THE J.L. HOLLOWAY CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP. Their strong showing in the competition reflects strongly on not only their natural abilities but the excellent entrepreneurship education that they receive in our program." — Dr. Marcelo Eduardo, Dean

"THE J. L. HOLLOWAY CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE IS PLEASED TO SEE OUR STUDENTS COMPETE WITH OTHER BUDDING ENTREPRENEURS FROM ACROSS MISSISSIPPI AND DO SO IN SUCH A WINNING WAY.

Placing in two of the three prize winning spots speaks well for how our students grasp the importance in creating and operating a small business by providing what potential customers are looking for in a new and innovative way."

— John Brandon, Instructor and Director of Entrepreneurial Development





# FAITH & BUSINESS ETHICS — WEEK —

MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS HAS PROUDLY HELD ITS FAITH AND BUSINESS ETHICS WEEK EVERY SPRING SEMESTER FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

As the School strives to fulfill its mission to provide the highest-quality business degree in the context of a Christian environment, MC believes that one of the hallmarks of that Christian environment is an encompassing emphasis on ethical behavior and integrity built on the foundation of our faith.





Above: Ron Blue, Jim Richards, Deborah Coleman, Shelley Hill, Tara Hayes, Shad White, and Rance Sapen



THIS SPECIAL EVENT PROVIDES MC WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO VALIDATE AND EMPHASIZE THESE FAITH PRECEPTS AND BRING THEM TO LIFE THROUGH THE EXPERIENCES AND APPROACHES OF SUCCESSFUL MEN AND WOMEN IN THE BUSINESS WORLD.

Business students have the valuable opportunity to see the intersection and interaction of faith and work and how these individuals' faith impacts their daily decisions.

The week kicked off with guest speakers who lectured classes on various topics related to their field of business. They elaborated on how they see their faith walk in conjunction with their work. The format provides an important setting for students to ask questions and connect with these business professionals during the week. The speakers each have their own unique perspective to share about how their faith has helped them overcome difficult or tricky ethical situations. Students have commented that listening to the guest speakers has often showed them a different way to approach circumstances when they would not have been sure of the right course of action.

***The culmination of the Faith and Business Ethics week is the luncheon, which is attended by the entire School of Business student body, faculty, and special guests. With around 600 guests, the luncheon begins with a panel discussion on ethical issues.***

This year's panel members included Shelley Hill, Deborah Coleman, Director, Memphis Fellows Program at Second Presbyterian Church; Rance Sapen, Chief Operating Officer, Butler Snow LLP; and Shad White, Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), State of Mississippi. The panel was moderated by management professor Dr. Robert Perkins. Dr. Perkins engaged

the panel with questions about how they dealt with unethical scenarios or their view on controversial issues and their advice to students for a life of faith in the business world.

***In an important reinforcement, every panelist agreed that having a strong Christian faith is crucial in determining right from wrong and that faith should be applied to every part of our lives, especially to the part that consists of making difficult business decisions.***

The highlight of the week was the presentation by keynote speaker Ron Blue. Blue is widely considered to be the father of Christian financial planning. Since 1979, he has been providing encouraging, proven advice for achieving financial contentment and confidence. Marrying a thorough understanding of what the Bible says about money with decades of professional experience as a financial advisor and leader of a financial advising firm, Blue is committed to equipping Christians with the tools they need to thrive in their financial lives. These tools further allow Christians to share their testimony with a world desperately in need of the good news of God's saving grace.

Blue is the author of over 20 books, and his insights regarding proper financial stewardship resonated with MC students. Financial stewardship is especially important as these students are preparing to start their careers and take on financial responsibility.





# BUSINESS CLASS FAVORITES

MC BUSINESS STUDENTS SHARE  
WHAT MEANS THE MOST TO THEM  
ABOUT THEIR PROFESSORS.



**DR. TAMMY ARTHUR**

*“THREE WORDS I WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE DR. ARTHUR ARE WITTY, WISE, AND DEVOTED. She is so passionate about the subjects she teaches, and she is very easy to respect.”*



**DR. CHARLES BEAUCHAMP**

*“DR. BEAUCHAMP IS A PROFESSOR WHOSE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE IS VERY VALUABLE. He is great at relating material to real life examples.”*



**DR. MICHELLE BEAUCHAMP**

*“DR. BEAUCHAMP WAS THE REASON I FIGURED OUT I WANTED TO MAJOR IN MARKETING. She is so kind and patient. She goes above and beyond in everything she does for her students.”*



**DR. BRANDON BOLEN**

*“HIS CLASSES HAVE BEEN SOME OF MY FAVORITES. I found them challenging yet incredibly thought provoking. He was a constant for me during my time in the Business School. I was always incredibly impressed with his deep understanding and passion for economics.”*



**JOHN BRANDON**

*“I WILL FOREVER REMEMBER HIM FOLLOWING MY GRADUATION FROM MC BUSINESS. His passion, dedication, and energy for the classes he teaches, as well as for his students, is evident; he always strives to emulate a Christ-like behavior that represents all for which MC stands.”*



**DR. TAYLOR CORSO**

*“SHE HAS BEEN MY NUMBER ONE ENCOURAGER, ROLE MODEL, AND OVERALL JOY. She has been committed to my education and growth as a person. She loves what she does and it shows by her passion in the classroom and commitment to each and every one of her students’ education.”*



**DR. MARCELO EDUARDO**

*“DR. EDUARDO WAS A MASSIVE INFLUENCE OVER MY DECISION TO MAJOR IN FINANCE, and his ambition to create the best possible environment for students is remarkable and appreciated. He cares so much for his students in and out of the classroom.”*



**DR. KRISTENA GAYLOR**

*“DR. GAYLOR’S HEART IS TRULY FOR HER STUDENTS TO BE ACTIVE LEARNERS and to gain real-world understanding that will last long beyond tests or assignments. Beyond the classroom, she cares about the happenings of her students’ lives and is always encouraging when you see her around Self Hall.”*



**BUSINESS  
CLASS  
FAVORITES**



**DR. SARA KIMMEL**

*"SHE SHOWED ME HOW I COULD APPLY BUSINESS TO MY SERVANT-HEARTED NATURE. Her leadership in the Business School Service Club has truly been impactful to me as I served as both a member and an officer. Her strengths as a listener and learner have made her an incredible professor and follower of Christ."*



**DR. MARK MORGAN**

*"DR. MORGAN CONDENSES HIS ACCOUNTING KNOWLEDGE INTO understandable and teachable terms very well for both accounting and non-accounting students."*



**DR. MARK MCCOMB**

*"DR. MCCOMB IS VERY PASSIONATE AND INTELLIGENT IN HIS FIELD. He is unique in that he brings years of industry experience along with an astute knowledge of his subject matter. In addition, he can appreciate both a well-done spreadsheet and a finely tuned automobile, two qualities I find to be very likable in a professor."*



**DR. KEVIN PAULI**

*"THE ENERGY DR. PAULI BRINGS TO EVERY LECTURE IS CONTAGIOUS. I look forward to his class daily. He is an incredible professor who challenged my thinking many times. It was great to be challenged in a way that made me think differently and learn more."*



**DR. BILLY MOREHEAD**

*"DR. MOREHEAD IS INCREDIBLY PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT HE DOES. He only wants the best for his students and strives to push them to their fullest potential. He incorporates personal stories in order to convey his teaching material. He is always ready to lend a hand when a student needs help."*



**DR. BOBBY PERKINS**

*"DR. PERKINS BLENDS HIS KNOWLEDGE OF BUSINESS AND FAITH WELL, in a way that challenges all students, Christians and non-Christians, to think deeply. His ability to create an environment where open and honest debate on a variety of modern topics is not only tolerated, but encouraged, will remain one of my fondest memories of MC."*



**DR. BROOKS POOLE**

*"HE HAS A TRUE GIFT FOR WHAT HE DOES. I never imagined I would enjoy tax or learning at 8 AM but Dr. Poole has made both come true. His preparedness for class and vast knowledge of tax and accounting have been impressive to me."*



**DR. RANDALL ROBBINS**

*"DR. ROBBINS IS ALWAYS VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD with his lectures. He does a great job of answering questions. During his presentations, he is not afraid to say that he learned something new about the material from us."*



**DR. STEPHEN TROUARD**

*"IN HIS STATISTICS CLASS, Dr. Trouard has the ability to systematically walk you through a problem step by step and break it down into its most important parts. This helps me learn the material."*

**BUSINESS  
CLASS  
FAVORITES**



**DR. RETHA PRICE**

*"DR. PRICE IS PASSIONATE ABOUT TEACHING AND IS A JOYFUL PRESENCE IN THE CLASSROOM. Her classes are very well structured, and she uses applicable, real world examples to help students understand the material. She is always helpful and kind."*



**DR. CHRIS SMITH**

*"DR. SMITH IS A GREAT TEACHER. HE HAS A GIFT FOR EXPLAINING A TOUGH SUBJECT WITH SUCH CLARITY THAT IT JUST MAKES SENSE. He does a great job of teaching in a concise and effective manner. I also find Dr. Smith's alter ego, Brian Stock, to be a joy as well and an excellent chat about financial markets."*



**MICHELE RICKER**

*"MS. RICKER CARES ABOUT ME AS A PERSON AND AS A STUDENT. Her thoughtful advice and genuine care for me made the School of Business feel like home. She has made a huge impact in my life, and I will truly never forget her kindness."*



**DR. WILL TABOR**

*"DR. TABOR IS A VERY UNDERSTANDING AND HELPFUL PROFESSOR. I appreciated the organization of his class and his willingness to further explain concepts when I needed the extra help. After just one year, it is clear to see that he is a great addition to the Business School faculty."*

SELF HALL



“MC STUDENTS REALLY ARE  
INTERESTED IN TRUTH AND VIRTUE,  
AS OUR MOTTO STATES.

***I LOVE THAT  
ABOUT  
MISSISSIPPI  
COLLEGE.”***

DR. BRANDON BOLEN



· 2020 ·

## YOUNG PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

***Dr. Brandon Bolen***

**T**

eaching economics, mentoring student-athletes, and building his faith, Dr. Bolen was voted Mississippi College's Young Professor of the Year in 2020.

Selected by the MC Deans Council, the Pittman Young Faculty of the Year Award honors professors no older than 35 who demonstrate strong Christian values, possess a doctorate, and are recognized by their peers for their accomplishments and potential as a teacher. Nominees must have taught for at least two, but no more than five years at Mississippi College.

“MC has many talented young faculty members who love MC and their students, and people who would be just as deserving of this award. I have great coworkers and a very supportive dean, but most importantly, I have gifted and extremely thoughtful students whose company I enjoy,” said Dr. Bolen.

Dr. Bolen thoroughly enjoys teaching students in economics classes online or on campus. “MC students really are interested in truth and virtue, as our motto states. I love that about Mississippi College.”

From Dean Marcelo Eduardo to fellow colleagues, Dr. Bolen has scores of admirers. He demonstrates “a deep understanding of his subject along with a wonderfully easy manner that makes him very approachable to students,” Dr. Eduardo said.

“Dr. Bolen is very engaging and has an amazing ability to connect with his students,” says accountancy professor Dr. Billy Morehead. “Based on the feedback I’ve received from his students, he brings economics alive in the classroom.”

***“Economics impacts people worldwide, and Dr. Bolen makes today’s financial issues relevant to his students in Self Hall classrooms. When a professor connects course content directly with the students’ lives, they learn to apply the concepts and retain them for a lifetime.” — Dr. Billy Morehead***



In his classes, Dr. Bolen takes a “humanomics” approach. That involves teaching characteristics of human behavior often emphasized by economists. At the same time, he weaves in concepts like justice, faith, and compassion.

A 2007 Madison Ridgeland Academy graduate, Dr. Bolen earned a bachelor’s degree, master’s degree, and doctorate in economics from Mississippi State University. Dr. Bolen joined MC in 2018 and has been a huge asset to the School of Business ever since.

We’re extremely proud of Dr. Bolen and the impact he continues to have on students and his fellow faculty members.





**“MY TIME AT  
MC WAS A  
DEFINING  
MOMENT IN  
MY LIFE.**

THE ADVICE OF THE FACULTY  
LED TO A 40-YEAR CAREER AS A  
PARTNER IN A CPA FIRM. I WAS  
WELL PREPARED FOR MY CAREER.”

TOMMY BUTLER '80

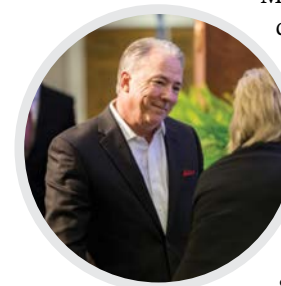
· 2021 ·

**ALUMNUS OF  
THE YEAR**

*Tommy Butler '80*

MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IS PROUD TO RECOGNIZE TOMMY BUTLER AS ITS 2021 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR.

**T**ommy Butler is a 1980 MC graduate with a degree in accounting. He started his career with a small CPA firm and accomplished a successful career there, becoming a partner. Befitting of an entrepreneur and someone with a keen view of the future, Butler was an integral part in initiating and carrying out the merger between his firm and Horne LLP.



Merging with Horne LLP in 1998, Butler dove headfirst into the success of the firm. Over the next 22 years, he played a critical role in the firm's growth, helping it become the largest CPA firm in the state and a leading regional accounting firm. He served as the partner in charge for assurance and also led the franchise group. Butler played an integral role in developing Horne's strategy by serving as a member of the executive team.

With more than 40 years of experience in public accounting, Butler's depth of expertise includes assurance, general accounting, plus tax and management advisory services for restaurants and retail/wholesale companies.

He has maintained a significant level of involvement with his community and his *alma mater*. Butler is a member of the MC School of Business Advisory Board. He is also involved in the Metro Jackson community, serving as a member of the Mississippi Economic Council and the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership Board. Butler is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Mississippi Society of Certified Public



Accountants. A highlight of his service to the community includes his work with the Mississippi Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Butler and his wife, Gale, live in Madison, Mississippi and are parents to Britton and Blair and grandparents to three grandchildren.



# “SINCE GRADUATING FROM MC,

MY THOUGHTS HAVE OFTEN GONE BACK TO THE MANY HOURS I SPENT IN SELF HALL GETTING PREPARED FOR MY CAREER. I WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO MY PROFESSORS WHO CONSTANTLY REAFFIRMED MY DECISION TO CHOOSE ACCOUNTING AS MY MAJOR. THOSE PROFESSORS AND THE BUSINESS SCHOOL ARE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER SUCCESS I HAVE ACHIEVED.”

TED EDWARDS '80



· 2021 ·

## ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

*Ted Edwards '80*

MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IS PROUD TO RECOGNIZE TED EDWARDS AS ITS 2021 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR.

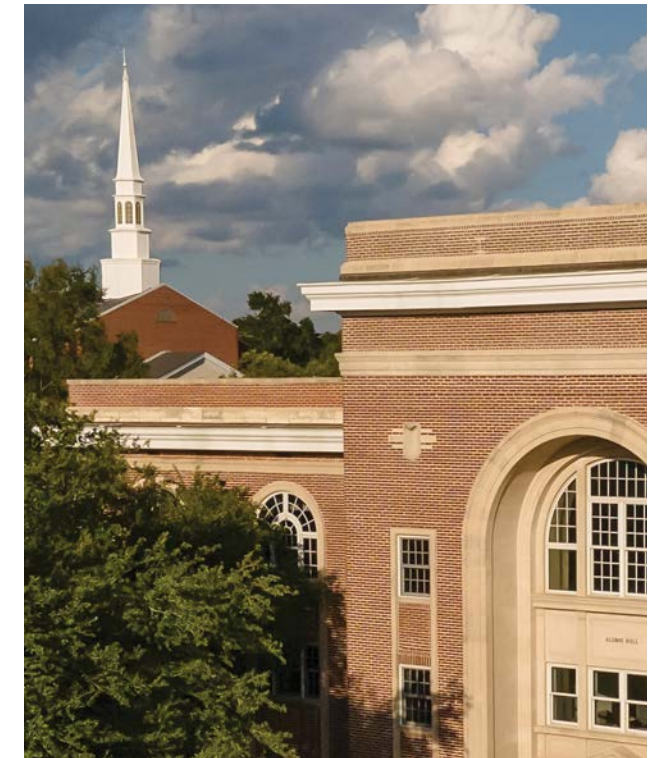
**T**ed Edwards is a 1980 MC graduate with a degree in accounting. Edwards played NCAA Division II baseball for the Choctaws after graduating high school in King George County, Virginia.

An outstanding athlete during his time at MC, Edwards also excelled in the classroom, graduating with high honors. Initially thinking he would return to his native Virginia after graduation, he asked Clinton native and MC graduate Lisa Hall '80 to marry him, making his decision to stay in Mississippi an easy one.



Through a relationship that MC Accounting professor Sandra Parks had with the founding partner of a CPA firm, Edwards interviewed and was offered an accountant position at Hagaman, Roper, Haddox & Reid. What makes his first interview so remarkable is that it ended up being the only job interview he has ever had. Edwards has the unique distinction of working with only one company during his long and successful career. Focusing on the tax side of the business since his start, he quickly became a valued member of the firm. He gained partner status and then led the tax group as partner in charge – a position he still holds today.

Edwards has always seen public accounting as a service business and he's been blessed with the opportunity to serve his clients for 40 years. His experience includes compliance, and research and planning for individuals, partnerships, corporations, non-profit entities, estates, and trusts. Edwards professional affiliations bear witness to his active involvement in the profession including membership in the Tax Division of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and serving as an officer in the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants.



Edwards has been active in his community, spending countless hours coaching youth sports and serving on school booster clubs and various boards. He's a member of the Mississippi College School of Business Advisory Board, a board member and officer for the Clinton Community Development Foundation, and a member of the Baptist Health Foundation Estate Planning Council. Edwards and his wife, Lisa, are members of First Baptist Church in Clinton, where they were married. They have two children, Meredith Edwards Collins and Brooks Edwards, and two grandchildren, Lamar and Carmen.





.2020 & 2021.

# HONORS DAY

EACH SPRING, MC HAS  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR  
OUR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS  
IN THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS.

The various criteria considered  
were grade point average, leadership  
roles, and hard work in the classroom.

For these reasons, we bestowed  
the following awards and  
recognitions to our students.





## SPECIAL AWARDS

ISAAC DAVIS was selected as the recipient of the Amy Brand Memorial Award. This award is given in memory of Amy Brand, an Assistant Professor in the School of Business, to outstanding juniors majoring in business administration, marketing, finance, or entrepreneurship.

LAURYN RAWLINS and JACOB RUSSELL were both selected as recipients of the Jacqueline Jones Outstanding Junior Accounting Student Award which is made possible by Harper Rains Knight and Company. This award honors outstanding juniors who are majoring in accounting.

CATHERINE LANDERS was the recipient of the June Brabham Outstanding Woman in Business Award. Selected by the female business faculty, this award is given to a young woman who has demonstrated excellence, determination, and a promising future in the world of business.

DREW DONAHOE was the recipient of the G. M. Rogers Memorial Award. This award is given to the graduating business administration major who has the best record on the department and shows the greatest promise in the field.

BROOKE BARRETT and CARRIE CARLEY were both selected as recipients of the Beta Gamma Sigma/Delta Mu Delta Award, which is given to graduating senior business majors with the highest quality grade point average.

CATHERINE LANDERS was the recipient of the Outstanding Marketing Major Award, which is given to the graduating marketing major based on scholarship, leadership, and school participation.

SCARLETT HODGES and SETH MATTHEWS were both selected as recipients of the Mississippi Society of CPAs Award which is given to senior accounting majors with the best general promise in the field of accounting.

JONATHAN HARDING and CHRIS THOMASON were both selected as recipients of the Outstanding Finance Major Award, which is given to the top finance majors based on scholarship, leadership, and school participation.

JOHN WILL GRAHAM was the recipient of the *Wall Street Journal* Award. This award is given to the best all-around senior in the School of Business based on scholarship, leadership, and school participation.

PAYTON CORNISH was the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Student in Accounting Award, which is given to the graduate student with the most promise in the field of accounting.

JULIANA COOKE was the recipient of the Outstanding Governmental Accounting Award, which is given to the Outstanding Student in Governmental accounting.

TIMOTHY PAPANIA and LUKE WILLIAMS were both selected as recipients of the Outstanding Junior in Finance Award, which is given to the junior majors in finance who has shown outstanding academic and leadership qualities.

MACKENZIE DANAHER was the recipient of the Outstanding Entrepreneurship Major Award, which is given to the senior entrepreneurship major who has shown outstanding academic and leadership qualities.

JOHN VIRDEN was the recipient of the Outstanding Junior in Business Administration Award, which is given to the junior majors in business administration who has shown outstanding academic and leadership qualities.

JOHN WILL GRAHAM was the recipient of the Cathy Jeffcoats Servant Leader Business Award, which is given to the school of business student who has demonstrated outstanding service to the school, university, and community.

**SANDRA PARKS OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** — This recognition, named in honor of beloved professor Sandra Parks, is one of the highlights of the luncheon. Parks, was an assistant professor of accounting, and is legendary for her concern and commitment for the well-being and academic success of MC Business students. It is only appropriate that the outstanding academic achievement award is associated with her name.

Bishop Barlow	Jaggars Denley	Jone Anders Haug	Chandler Moore	Hayden Switzer
Felicity Barnett	Drew Donahoe	Scarlett Hodges	Jordan Newell	Joshua Thomas
Brooke Barrett	Emily Duck	Grace Hughes	Leah Plemons	Chris Thomason
Matthew Brand	Owen Ellis	Connor Johnson	Stephen Price	John Virden
Lauren Callahan	Jesse Elsea	Zaina Lala	Allison Pyles	Caroline White
Carrie Carley	Jeremy Gore	Catherine Landers	Kobe Quichocho	Kristina Williams
Juliana Cooke	John Will Graham	Xuechun Liu	Anne Marie Reule	
Mackenzie Danaher	Jonathan Harding	Seth Matthews	Kelli Smallwood	

**DELTA MU DELTA INDUCTEES** — Delta Mu Delta is a national honors society for business students. Membership signifies that these students are in the top 20% of their class.

Chassity Brister	Laura Cota Moreno	Brandon Gardner	Stephen Price
Joshua Bryan	Matthew Dickerson	Robert Pillow	

**BETA GAMMA SIGMA INDUCTEES** — Beta Gamma Sigma is a national honors society for business students. Membership signifies that these students are in the top 10% of their class.

Brooke Barrett	Dawson Crosby	Hutch Hendrickson	Kape McRae	Jacob Russell
Haley Bell	Lauren Davis	Stacey Holmes	Timothy Papania	Zanette Sexton
Ani Binitie	Kaitlyn Dortch	Maggie Kirby	Cairo Plauche	Wun-Jyun Wang
Danielle Brown	Bradley Ducote	Madelyn Lastrapes	Hannah Plunkett	Donald Westby-
Elizabeth Brown	Rachel Graham	Traylon Lewis	Kobe Quichocho	Gibson
Carrie Carley	Yukari Hechanova	Seth Matthews	Laurn Rawlins	Luke Williams

## STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Seth Albritton	Kellee Cornelius	Kaylee Foster	Seth Matthews	Hallie Westbrook
Matthew Brand	Drew Donahoe	Austin Goodman	Hannah Plunkett	Kimarrion Whitfield
Carrie Carley	Kaitlyn Dortch	John Will Graham	Allison Pyles	Luke Williams
	Emily Duck	Annah Kleinpeter	Anne Marie Reule	
	Chance Easterling	Zaina Lala	Riley Street	
	Owen Ellis	Catherin Landers	Hayden Switzer	
	Elizabeth Fleming	Ryan Lee	Joshua Thomas	

## BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Seth Albritton	Jacob Caillouet	Peyton DePriest	Brandon Gardner	Aveeya McAllister
Edward Altamirano	Andrew Camden	Matthew Dickerson	Brennan Heard	Zachary Meilstrup
Nathan Armstrong	Carrie Carley	Drew Donahoe	Josh Hinkle	Faisal Mohammed
Paige Boteler	Patrick Charpentier	Kaitlyn Dortch	Luke Horst	Mattie Nowell
Harley Bowman	Owen Clements	Meredith Drake	Lexie Hudnall	Lexi Pund
Elizabeth Brown	Jake Cotton	Emily Duck	Mackenzie Jones	Peyton Scoggin
	Joshua Cox	Grant Falla	Landon Knight	Lora Smiley
	Harrison Creel	Victoria Presnell	Josh Kuiper	Joshua Thomas
	Lauren Davis	Elizabeth Fleming	Traylon Lewis	Hallie Westbrook
	Jaggars Denley	Braleigh Flickinger	Tate Marchant	Christopher Williams





2021 HONORS DAY

**SPECIAL AWARDS**

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- |                      |                   |                       |                   |                     |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| James Barlow         | Kellee Cornelius  | Steviana Thomas       | Jacob Talazac     | Lauryn Rawlins      |
| Grace Hanna          | Laura Cota Moreno | Elizabeth Brown       | Luke Williams     | Jacob Russell       |
| Hannah Kelsey        | Isaac Davis       | Carrie Carley         | Juliana Cooke     | Hannah Shafer       |
| John Virden          | Matthew Dickerson | Chancellor Easterling | Lauren Davis      | Hallie Westbrook    |
| Donald Westby-Gibson | Catherine Landers | Chandler Moore        | Caroline Lewis    | Kimarrion Whitfield |
|                      | Kayla Powell      | Timothy Papania       | Victoria Presnall |                     |

**BETA GAMMA SIGMA INDUCTEES** — Beta Gamma Sigma is a national honors society for business students. Membership signifies that these students are in the top 10% of their class.

- |                   |                  |               |                   |                   |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Kathryn Broussard | Hallie Westbrook | Mattie Nowell | Alley Farrell     | Andrew Huff       |
| Isaac Davis       | Sampson Wilder   | Brandon       | Scarlett Hodges   | Morrison Norcross |
| Kaylee Foster     | Brady McDaniel   | Carmichael    | Scott Stanchfield |                   |
| Avery Hederman    | William Atkins   | Jordan Dillon | Marion Aycock     |                   |
| Faisal Mohammed   | Wesley Thurman   | Lori Eschete  | Stephanie Bosarge |                   |

**STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD**

- |                       |                       |                     |                  |                      |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Chancellor Easterling | Hannah Grace Plunkett | Seth Albritton      | Rachel Graham    | Madelyn Lastrapes    |
| Kaitlyn Dortch        | Seth Matthews         | Kimarrion Whitfield | Riley Street     | Danielle Brown       |
|                       | Luke Williams         | Traylon Lewis       | Hallie Westbrook | Christopher Williams |
|                       | Kaylee Foster         | Mattie Nowell       | Beatrice Currie  | Avery Hederman       |
|                       | Annah Kleinpeter      | Faisal Mohammed     | Adam Martinez    | Matthew Montgomery   |
|                       |                       | Owen Clements       | Sampson Wilder   |                      |
|                       |                       | Cairo Plauche       | Elise Lewis      |                      |

**BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

- |                     |                      |                  |                   |                     |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Seth Albritton      | Owen Clements        | Jenna Fullington | Michael Long      | Alondra Reyes       |
| Nathan Armstrong    | Megan Collins        | Brandon Gardner  | James Marchant    | Deacon Robinson     |
| Courtney Boteler    | Jake Cotton          | Anthony Griffin  | Adam Martinez     | Jacob Russell       |
| Harley Bowman       | Harrison Creel       | Lindsey Harris   | Aveeya McAllister | William Salter      |
| Elizabeth Brown     | Lauren Davis         | Brennan Heard    | Zachary Meilstrup | Peyton Scoggin      |
| Megan Bryant        | Peyton DePriest      | Joshua Hinkle    | Colin Milite      | Abby Smith          |
| Elizabeth Buskirk   | Matthew Dickerson    | Luke Horst       | Braxton Moak      | Kara Sowell         |
| Jacob Caillouet     | Kaitlyn Dortch       | Jessica Ingram   | Faisal Mohammed   | Joshua Sumrall      |
| Andrew Camden       | Meredith Drake       | Mackenzie Jones  | Dalton Moore      | Fredrick Thomas     |
| Cariee Carley       | Cole Edgeworth       | Bryson Jones     | Mattie Nowell     | Wesley Thurman      |
| Patrick Charpentier | Grant Falla          | Leighton Kelly   | Hannah Palencia   | Hallie Westbrook    |
|                     | Hannah Favara        | Landon Knight    | Anna Pittman      | Jonathan Youngblood |
|                     | Victoria Presnall    | Elise Lewis      | Kathryn Price     | Nathan Yow          |
|                     | Elizabeth Fleming    | Traylon Lewis    | Lexi Pund         |                     |
|                     | Braeleigh Flickinger | Mark Loftis      | Harrison Ray      |                     |

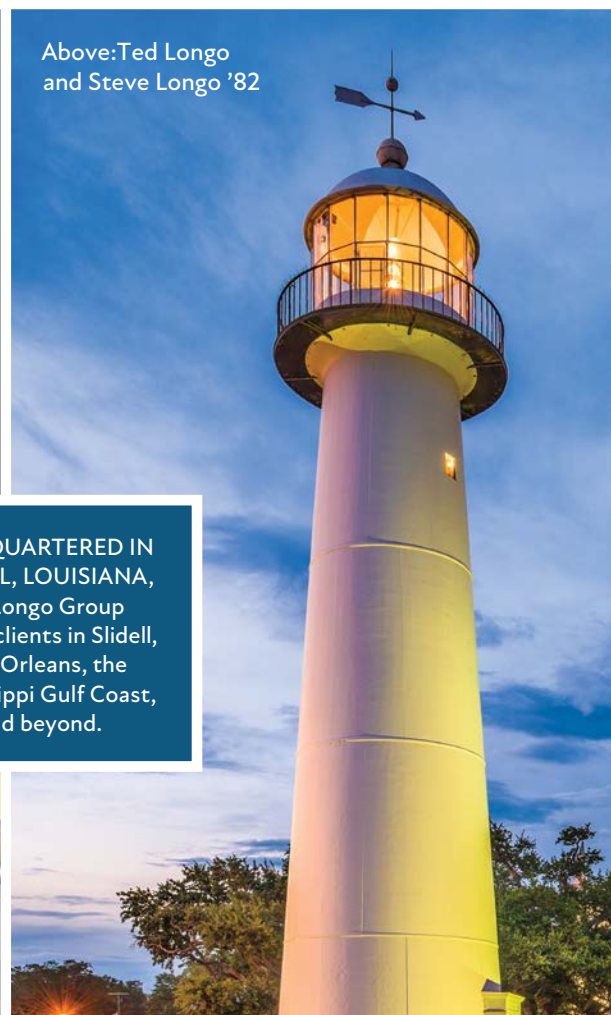




“I FONDLY REMEMBER MY TIME AT MC. THE QUALITY EDUCATION AND THE PERSONAL CARE THAT I RECEIVED IN THE BUSINESS SCHOOL ARE REFLECTED IN THE CARE AND COMMITMENT TO QUALITY THAT WE PROVIDE ALL OF OUR CLIENTS.” — STEVE LONGO '82

Above: Ted Longo and Steve Longo '82

HEADQUARTERED IN SLIDELL, LOUISIANA, the Longo Group serves clients in Slidell, New Orleans, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and beyond.



## MC BUSINESS CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

### *The Longo Group*

THE LONGO GROUP HAS BEEN SUPPORTING CLIENTS' FINANCIAL NEEDS FOR OVER 40 YEARS. THEY ARE EXPERTS IN PROVIDING PERSONALIZED SOLUTIONS TO COMPLEX FINANCIAL CONCERNS.

**T**he Longo Group values longstanding relationships with their clients. These relationships are built on trust and continued confidence. One way to ensure these close relationships is in the Longo Group's proactive outreach. Regular in-person communication and calls develop close bonds with clients. This also ensures that the advisor stays ahead of any financial surprises.

Steve Longo, a 1982 MC Business alum, is one of the principals. “The Longo Group knows that the key to building a relationship with clients is through open and reliable communication. One simple example is placing a high value on answering the phone and not using an automated service to direct incoming calls,” Longo said.

“As your advisor and advocate, your fiduciary, and the steward of your financial affairs, we will keep your best interests first. We will listen to you and learn about your needs, expectations, worries, concerns, and goals. We will ensure you fully understand the options you have and the recommendations we'll make,” Longo continues.



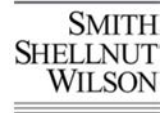
***Three foundational approaches: building trust in personal relationships; providing proactive outreach; and focusing on in-person communication, create the footprint of the firm's success.***

Under the leadership of longtime financial advisor and current president and senior wealth management advisor, Ted Longo, along with Steve Longo's close partnership, the Longo Group is poised to continue growing while faithfully serving clients' needs.

Above: Ted Longo, Michele Ricker, Dr. Marcelo Eduardo, and Steve Longo '82



CORPORATE PARTNERS





MC

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | WINTER 2022

# BUSINESS

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR A  
*WORLD-CLASS  
PROGRAM*







## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

**I**t is with great pride that I present this double issue that hopefully represents a clear marker to the end to the challenges that the pandemic brought and caused us to miss the 2021 issue.

It is great to be back in touch with all of you. As you read our magazine, I hope that you will realize that the delay was well worth it. As you will see, we never slowed down, and we continued to educate and care for our students just as effectively as we have done for nearly 200 years.

In this issue, there's a pattern and consistency to our activities and educational process. We have talented students we recognize each spring for their outstanding achievements. The three Alumni of the Year are representative of the wonderful graduates we have been blessed to produce.

You will get a glimpse of some future graduates as well. It's easy to see how before long, they will be leaving their own legacies in the marketplace. The story about three of our exceptional students will show that at MC Business, you can be both a great athlete and a great student.

I am also excited to introduce our newest faculty member, Dr. Will Tabor. We are very fortunate to have someone of Will's expertise who has a commitment to a Christian education. We are proud of the development of our existing faculty and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Brooks Poole on earning his most recent degree. We are delighted to now call him, Dr. Poole. When you read the story "Business Class Favorites" — it will only reinforce what a fabulous faculty we have.

MC Business is also proud to claim the 2022 Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award winner and the 2022 and 2021 Young Faculty of the Year award winners for the entire campus. I guess I am boasting now!

We are very cognizant of how quickly business management education can change. This forces us to always keep up and keep ahead. We are staying at the forefront by providing our students with an environment that's especially conducive to learning by engaging them in disciplines that are data intensive. The Costas Family Business Analytics Classroom is a state-of-the-art facility that's helping us prepare the next generation of business graduates. We are grateful to the Costas family and our group of legacy donors who have made this facility possible.

Finally, we believe that providing our students with a picture of what they can accomplish by giving them the opportunity to hear from exceptional business practitioners is one of the main reasons for the Executive Excellence Awards. We are proud to present Jim Richards and Wally Hall Jr., and provide a summary of what they shared with our students.

These and many other stories are found in this issue, and I hope they affirm what we see every day — we have great students, great faculty and a proud Christian mission.

With warmest wishes,

Marcelo Eduardo  
Eduardo@mc.edu



# MC MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | WINTER 2022

# BUSINESS



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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PHOTOGRAPHER  
Robby Followell '07



**2**  
Growing  
the Mission



**4**  
Gaining  
the Edge in  
Analytics



**10**  
Coming  
Together in  
Christ's Love



**14**  
Farewell  
Faithful Servant

**8** Executive  
Excellence Award

**12** Blowing the Whistle  
on Glass Ceilings

**20** Young Professor  
of the Year

**22** Distinguished  
Professor of the Year

**24** Alumnus of the Year

**26** Honors Day

**32** Corporate  
Sponsor Spotlight



**On the cover:**  
*International Recognition  
for a World-Class Program*  
Read the story on page 16.



# GROWING THE MISSION

MC BUSINESS INTRODUCES THEIR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBER, DR. WILLIAM TABOR.

With an M.Div. from Westminster Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas, a Masters in finance from Vanderbilt University, and a Ph.D. in management from Mississippi State University, Dr. William Tabor brings a high level of academic versatility to the Business School.

“We’re delighted to have someone as accomplished and well-suited to our mission as Dr. Tabor.” Dr. Marcelo Eduardo said. With his record as an outstanding teacher, along with his

remarkable research and publication output, he immediately enhances our faculty. His addition to the School of Business is another step in our quest to uphold our mission to provide our students with a high-quality business education in a Christian environment.”

After receiving his B.S. in finance from Mississippi State University in 2005, Tabor earned his M.S. in finance at Vanderbilt University. He started his professional career as an associate financial analyst for FedEx Express in Memphis. Tabor went on to obtain his M.Div. in theological studies at Westminster Theological Seminary in 2010. He served as campus director for

Reformed University Fellowship at Tulane University. Tabor moved to Louisville, Mississippi to become a business manager for Environmental Response Corporation. He earned his Ph.D. in 2019 from Mississippi State University, where he was named the College of Business Outstanding Doctoral Student Researcher.

**“MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IS A SPECIAL PLACE – WITH FANTASTIC STUDENTS, THOUGHTFUL FACULTY, SUPPORTIVE ADMINISTRATION, AND A CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT. I CAN’T THINK OF A BETTER PLACE TO TEACH.”**

Tabor is the coauthor of several articles in peer-reviewed business journals. Two articles for the *Harvard Business Review* attest to his focus on practitioner-focused research. He has served as a reviewer for the Academy of Management and the Southern Management Association. Tabor has also served as an *ad hoc* reviewer for the *Family Business Review* and the *Journal of Family Business Strategy*. A highly-sought speaker, he has given half a dozen invited presentations at professional conferences and associations throughout the Southeast.







# ***GAINING THE EDGE IN ANALYTICS***

THE COSTAS FAMILY BUSINESS ANALYTICS CLASSROOM







## GAINING THE EDGE IN ANALYTICS

BUSINESS TODAY IS IMPACTED BY LARGE SUMS OF DATA.  
THE ABILITY TO ANALYZE DATA IS NOW MORE  
IMPORTANT THAN EVER BEFORE FOR OUR STUDENTS.

Thanks to the Costas family, MC Business now has a space for our students to more effectively learn data analytics. This is an immeasurable benefit in the competitive world of business today — a true edge for our school and our students.

**T**he new Costas Family Business Analytics Classroom encourages a collaborative environment while exposing students to state-of-the-art technology. The innovative space utilizes a new concept for learning which is applied to instruction in statistics, data analytics, and logistics. The new space is unique in that there is not a “front” or a “back” to the classroom. Teaching of statistics and data analysis is facilitated in an environment that enhances interaction, participation, engagement, discussion, and hands-on practice. These elements are complemented by the hardware and software that is used in data analysis.

*MC Business would like to thank alumnus Pete Costas and family for providing the Data Analytics Classroom in Self Hall. Costas serves as the CEO of Southern Beverage Company located in Richland, Mississippi.*



Pictured are Dr. Marcelo Eduardo, Pete and Sonny Costas

## CUTTING EDGE

*The Costas Data Analytics Classroom features state-of-the-art technology.*

- IMMEDIATE PROJECTION of students' laptop computers to all-or a mix-of-displays in the classroom
- USE OF MEDIA SCAPE UNITS where multiple laptop images display in multiple screens within a working table
- ACCESS TO DATA ANALYTICS PACKAGES (SAS and SPSS)
- COMPUTER TERMINALS AND SMART BOARDS

Pete Costas '64 followed the footsteps of his father, Theo P. Costas Sr., founder of Southern Beverage Company. The elder Costas was an immigrant from Peleta, Greece. He operated three restaurants and his own candy factory in New Orleans, Louisiana. As a first step in making his dream come true, Costas opened Southern Beverage Company in Jackson, Mississippi on September 1, 1939. The following year, he opened branch distribution facilities in Laurel, Mississippi and Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Theo P. “Sonny” Costas Jr. worked during his junior high and high school years loading the company delivery trucks. After graduating from MC School of Business, Costas Jr. joined the company full-time. He worked as a route driver, unloading and delivering product and started learning every aspect of the company. He learned every position within the company and what the role of each position meant to the success of the company. Eventually, he worked his way into the management and began running Southern Beverage Company under the direction of his father.

MC Business is honored to have the Costas family as supporters of this initiative that will significantly enhance the education of our business students.





·2022·

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## EXECUTIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD

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*Wally Hall Jr. '79*

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**W**

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ally Hall Jr. exemplifies how hard work can lead to business success. His career illustrates what it means to start at the bottom, learn, improve, and then launch an enterprise. In addition to being a successful businessman, Wally Hall Jr. is a strong supporter and advocate of the School of Business. MC is honored to recognize him as the 2022 recipient of the Executive Excellence Award.

Upon graduation from Mississippi College in 1979, Wally pursued his love for athletics and began a career as an assistant baseball coach at the University of Mississippi. Soon after, he began working for Browning Ferris Industries, a firm specializing in solid waste. His start at Browning Ferris led to a successful 32-year career in the industry.

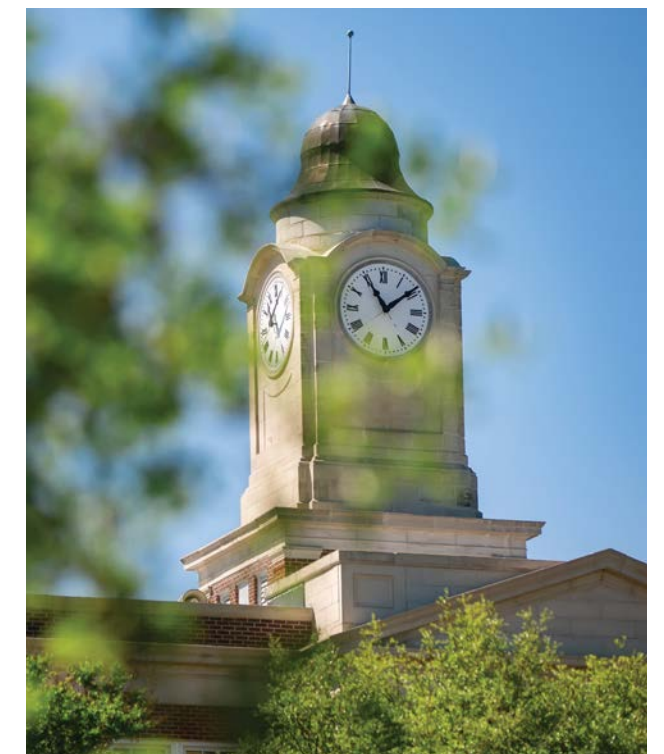
His work at Browning Ferris provided him with valuable experience and an overview of everything that's important in the solid waste industry. At Browning Ferris, he wore many hats, serving as a supervisor, operations manager, manager-trainee, general manager, regional operations manager, and area president. Wally's effectiveness as a leader provided him with the opportunity to acquire a wide breadth of experience. Within his first six years at Browning, he oversaw 400 employees with annual revenue of \$50 million.

***In 2001, Wally decided to pursue an opportunity that would lead to business ownership. He and two other partners founded Advanced Disposal Services, Inc.***

Starting with just three trucks, Mr. Hall and his team grew Advanced Disposal's operations to over \$1.4 billion in annual revenue, 5,300 employees, 91 collection/hauling facilities, 45 landfills, 71 transfer stations, and 21 recycling facilities. They created the foundation and positioned the company

to become the fourth-largest solid waste company in the United States before being acquired by Waste Management.

In 2018, Wally left Advanced Disposal Services, Inc. to become the CEO of Meridian Waste Acquisitions, LLC. As the current CEO, he continues to do what he has been doing for over 30 years, growing a solid waste company to fill the industry need for a well-funded, nimble, and customer/employee-focused independent company.





# COMING TOGETHER

IN CHRIST'S LOVE



Neddie Winters

**N**eddie Winters is the executive director and president of Mission Mississippi. His involvement in the healing of race relations began before the birth of the organization.

In 1992, a few of Winters' friends came to him and requested that he pray with them about their recent endeavors in racial reconciliation. As he prayed, Winters felt God pulling him towards a personal involvement with their movement. It only took one year for Winters to become fully involved.

Mission Mississippi is grounded in two major concepts: the centrality of Jesus Christ and the importance of sincere, interpersonal relationships. Winters stays strong despite people sometimes having a hard time understanding racial reconciliation. He simply asks Christians to live out the Gospel through "gracism," and nothing more.

The other major tenant in which Mission Mississippi is built is the importance of forming meaningful relationships with people of other races. Winters desires to form powerful, genuine, and healing relationships across racial lines. He works to see barriers broken and relationships strengthened, and to see blacks and whites come together in Christ's love.

Several students weighed in after hearing Winters' presentation during the Speaker Series at MC.

*"IT MADE ME REALIZE THAT although we have made much progress in racial relationships, there is still so much more that we can do to improve the situation we're facing in our country today."*

*"RACE IS NOT AN EASY THING to talk about, and at times people try to avoid it. What inspired me the most about him is that he is doing something to make it unavoidable."*

*"I DON'T AFFILIATE with any religion and have had a negative perspective on Christianity. I've seen people use it to justify their own bad actions. Mr. Winters' presentation helped me realize not everyone is like that. Every religion has some bad seeds, but I shouldn't judge based on a few people. He said, 'choosing your socks by their character makes no sense, and choosing your friends by their color is unthinkable."*

*"THIS HAS CAUSED ME TO rethink what I can do to prevent and reduce racial conflict. Just because I do not participate in it does not mean that I am doing enough to prevent it. I want to start challenging my friends and family to cross cultural barriers and start loving everyone, even those who are different."*



**“A BOSS HAS THE TITLE; A LEADER HAS THE PEOPLE.”**

SARAH THOMAS



## BLOWING THE WHISTLE ON **GLASS CEILINGS**

A NATIVE OF PASCAGOULA, MISSISSIPPI, SARAH THOMAS HOLDS THE INCREDIBLE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE FIRST FULL-TIME, FEMALE OFFICIAL IN NFL HISTORY. SHE WAS NAMED AS *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED'S* 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL NFL FIGURES OF ALL TIME. OFF THE FIELD, THOMAS IS A MARKETING SPECIALIST FOR MID-SOUTH REHAB, INC. AND A NATIONAL SPEAKER FOR KEPPLER SPEAKERS BUREAU.

**S**arah Thomas became the first full-time female official in NFL history on April 8, 2015, when she was one of nine new game officials added to the NFL officiating roster for the 2015 season.

Prior to the NFL milestone, Thomas was hired as an official by Conference USA. She became the first female to officiate a NCAA major college football bowl game. In 2015, her history-making game happened — an NFL game between the Kansas City Chiefs and Houston Texans. Thomas’ hat, whistle and flag from that game are now on display at the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Wrapping up the 2020 NFL season, Thomas shattered the glass ceiling when she was selected to work Super Bowl LV in Tampa, Florida — making her the first-ever female Super Bowl official.

MC Business was incredibly fortunate to have Sarah Thomas join the MC Business Speaker Series. She shared valuable insight on hard work, determination, and believing in yourself. Thomas encouraged MC students to stay true to themselves while doing what they are passionate about. She further encouraged them to take steps towards their goals for the right reasons. She shared personal stories to demonstrate how success only comes from hard work and comparison is the thief of joy. MC students gained valuable, real-world perspective on what it means to work hard and achieve one’s goals even in the face of opposition.



Above:  
Dr. Blake Thompson  
Percy Thornton  
Sarah Thomas  
Drew Chandler  
Dr. Marcelo Eduardo



**“IF I HAD  
TO DO LIFE  
OVER AGAIN,  
I WOULD  
BECOME AN  
ACCOUNTING  
TEACHER.”**

I HAVE ENJOYED MY CAREER AS A  
TEACHER AND I LOVE BEING PART OF  
THE ACCOUNTING PROFESSION, TOO.”

DR. SHEREE CORKERN '78



— FAREWELL —

# FAITHFUL SERVANT

LONGTIME FACULTY MEMBER, DR. SHEREE CORKERN '78 RETIRES AFTER A 36-YEAR TEACHING CAREER.

**D**r. Sheree Corkern instructed at the School of Business for over three decades. She taught one of the most critical classes in the curriculum, intermediate accounting. She was recognized by Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants as the 2022 Outstanding Educator.

“I have had a truly rewarding career and receiving this award has been the icing on the cake. It never occurred to me that I would be nominated for this award, much less actually receive it. I am very grateful for this special honor,” Corkern says.

Dr. Corkern made a significant impact on accounting education in the state of Mississippi. She received her B.S.B.A. in Accounting and an M.B.A. from Mississippi College and a Ph.D. from Jackson State University. She is also a licensed CPA.

Corkern loves teaching and loves her students. Her effectiveness is exemplified by those students who graduate and go on to take the CPA exam, many of whom write or call to thank Dr. Corkern for her diligence in the classroom.

Former student, Seth Matthews recalls, “I’ve carried the image of the cash flow pumpkin with me through the CPA exam and work. I’ll never forget it.” Former graduate student, Lauryn Rawlins, expressed how supportive and adaptive Dr. Corkern was over the past couple of years. “She always asks for our feedback, and she really listens to what we have to say. She wants us to succeed,” Rawlins says. MC alum Chris Adcock recalls, “Dr. Corkern’s ability to take complex problems and break them down into easy to understand parts not only taught me the information I needed to know in her class, but it also taught me a framework of how to solve future problems, both in school and in my career.”

Dr. Billy Morehead described Dr. Corkern as a highly motivated individual who expects the same from her students. “She constantly encourages them to excel in their course work, their social activities, their employment during school, and ultimately their life and careers. She takes an active role and is instrumental in placing graduates in excellent career opportunities,” Morhead recalls.

From these accolades alone, one can tell that Dr. Corkern will be dearly missed around Self Hall and the MC campus.







INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR A

# WORLD-CLASS PROGRAM

MC BUSINESS GAINS PRESTIGIOUS RE-ACCREDITATION FROM WORLD'S LEADING BUSINESS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

**T**he premiere global organization dedicated to improving the quality of business education around the world has re-accredited the School of Business at Mississippi College.

The Board of Directors for the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) has ratified its Continuous Improvement Review Committee's recommendation for re-accreditation of the business degree programs offered at MC.

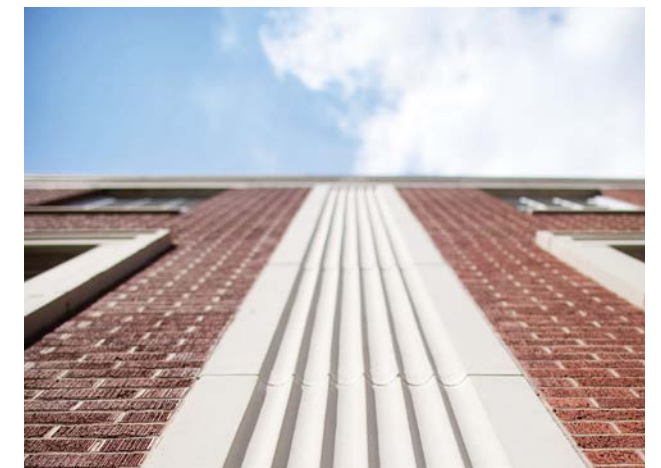
***Mississippi College is in the 8% of schools in the world that have earned the accreditation.***

"Every AACSB-accredited school has demonstrated a focus on excellence in all areas, including teaching, research, curricula development, and student learning," said Stephanie M. Bryant, AACSB executive vice president and chief accreditation officer. "The intense peer-review process exemplifies their commitment to quality business education."

Dr. Marcelo Eduardo said AACSB is the "gold standard" of accrediting bodies for schools of business.

"AACSB is the premier business accreditation organization in the world," Eduardo said. "Re-accreditation matters so much to us because it puts us in the same company with some of the most well-known schools in the country."

"We have been pursuing accreditation for more than 30 years. It's such a difficult thing to maintain. Less than 8 percent of business schools in the world have this accreditation. I feel blessed to lead a group of faculty in obtaining something this challenging."



To achieve re-accreditation, the School of Business went through a rigorous, five-year internal process that culminated with a site visit in February by members of the AACSB's Peer Review Team. Throughout the process, the school focused on developing and implementing a plan that aligned with the AACSB's accreditation standards, which require excellence in strategic management and innovation; faculty, staff, and student participation; learning and teaching; and academic and professional engagement.

"Every year, we document how we have improved the school, how we are engaging our students, that our teaching is innovative, and that our curriculum is dynamic," Eduardo said. "The site visitors consist of deans from other accredited schools who affirm that what we've been doing for the past five years meets the association's exacting standards. They meet with faculty, students, alumni, career services – everyone who plays a role in the School of Business – and make their recommendations to the AACSB."



“It’s a very lengthy process.” But well worth the effort, Eduardo said, especially for those who attend the school.

“The bottom line is that this accreditation is for the students,” he said. “We want our students to be as competitive as any graduates from any AACSB-accredited school. This is the way to do that.”

AACSB accreditation matters to MC students like Cairo Plauche, a senior accounting major from Fairhope, Alabama, who graduated May 5.

“Our AACSB accreditation is incredibly important to me as a student in the School of Business, because it shows that the school has truly prioritized its commitment to academic excellence. It means that I am surrounded by faculty and students who are committed to challenging the status quo by striving to make ourselves better each day. The school is focused on keeping students engaged through its many clubs, challenging coursework, and endless opportunities to obtain real-world experience.”

Graduate students like Parker Brooks of Tupelo, who received his B.B.A. in finance from MC and obtained his M.B.A. with a finance concentration on May 5, 2022, rely on the school’s AACSB accreditation to compete with graduates of larger institutions.

*“As a business student, starting a career in finance and accounting can be extremely competitive,” said Brooks, who recently accepted a junior position with Capital One’s commercial lending services. “Knowing we hold the same accreditation status as top-tier Ivy League schools helps even the playing field.”*

He said gaining re-accreditation reflects how much the MC School of Business faculty cares for the quality of its educational programs.

For this round of re-accreditation, Eduardo said the faculty focused on three significant priorities in the School of Business: a new entrepreneurship major, the school’s ability to offer M.B.A. classes fully online or face-to-face, and the school’s research enterprise.

“The site visitors were impressed by the research output of our faculty and how they’ve managed to continue to remain relevant and at the top of their field,” he said. “Faculty at larger universities teach fewer classes and have more time for research. It’s a little more challenging for our faculty, who have regular teaching loads.”

He credited all 21 members of the School of Business faculty for the successful re-accreditation, while noting that the coordination provided throughout the process by Dr. Sara B. Kimmel, associate professor in the School of Business who served as re-accreditation coordinator, was invaluable.

“This was a total faculty effort,” Eduardo said. “You cannot gain re-accreditation by a handful of faculty participating. Everyone has to perform at the highest level. That speaks so much about how dedicated our faculty members are.”

**“THE BOTTOM  
LINE IS  
THAT THIS  
ACCREDITATION  
IS FOR THE  
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**WE WANT OUR STUDENTS  
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AACSB ACCREDITED SCHOOL.  
THIS IS THE WAY TO DO THAT.”**

DR. MARCELO EDUARDO





“I’VE GOT A WONDERFUL ADMINISTRATION, COLLEAGUES I HAVE SO MUCH RESPECT FOR, STUDENTS I ADORE, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW THEM PERSONALLY.

**THAT’S AS GOOD AS IT GETS FOR AN EDUCATOR.”**

DR. TAYLOR CORSO

·2022·

## YOUNG PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

*Dr. Taylor Corso*

**T**aylor Corso was announced as the 2022 Pittman Young Faculty of the Year recipient during Mississippi College’s Ceremony last May.

A Certified Public Accountant and an expert in taxation and financial services, Corso teaches Intermediate Accounting, which covers theory and techniques in the preparation and interpretation of financial statements.

Corso serves as a role model for her students, according to Dr. Eduardo.

“In her short time at MC Business, Taylor Corso has already made her mark in the continuing tradition of beloved accounting instructors that balance high expectations of their students with the nurturing care and attention that brings the best out of these future accounting professionals,” Eduardo said. “Dr. Corso has demonstrated the truth in that approach while teaching a wide range of courses, including Business Law, Accounting, Cost Accounting, Principles of Accounting.”

During every educational encounter, she keeps one thing in mind. “I try to remember the mindset I had when I was a student,” she said. “A lot about the accounting path can be overwhelming. There can be information overload at times. I take time to tell them what they can expect in their careers. I go over some of the basics, give general career and resume-building advice, interview tips, and information about accounting firm culture – things I didn’t know and might have been hesitant to ask when I was their age.”

Corso extends the same open communication policy to her students that she shares with the Dean and her other MC Business colleagues.

***“I focus on being extremely accessible. I like my students to know they can come to me for anything they need. They find a lot of comfort in that, and it’s one of the best parts of my job. My students know my office door is open to them, and I love that they feel welcome to come to see me.”***

Another asset that sets MC Business apart: the ability to discuss matters of faith in the classroom. From the start of her academic career, Corso has injected ethical questions into her lively discussions with students.

“Ethics and accounting – you can’t split those up,” she said. “Those two things are inherently connected. I always talk about how faith plays a part in our professional role as an accountant. It’s not just a professional code of conduct. Who you are as a person is so much more important than who you are as a professional, but you have an opportunity as a professional to exhibit who you are as a person.”

“We have the opportunity at MC to explore how our ethics and morality are led by our faith and belief in the Bible. Being able to discuss those concepts in the classroom is such a privilege. It allows students to further develop in their own faith,” Dr. Corso said.

“We’re blessed in the School of Business to have such outstanding faculty members educating our students,” Eduardo said. “Our commitment to academic excellence and the cause of Christ is being led by faculty that would be the envy of any other institution.”







“THERE’S A SENSE OF  
APPRECIATION AND HUMILITY  
YOU GET ANY TIME YOU  
ARE HONORED FOR

**SOMETHING  
YOU LOVE  
AND GET  
TO DO  
EVERYDAY.”**

DR. SARA KIMMEL

· 2022 ·

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## DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

*Dr. Sara Kimmel*

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**D**

r. Sara Kimmel was awarded the 2022 Distinguished Professor of the Year Award during the Central Ceremony at Mississippi College on May 5, 2022.

Her remarkable ability to instill in her students a greater understanding of international business and her valuable contributions to the school’s student service organization has secured for her the highest honor a faculty member at MC can achieve.

Dr. Marcelo Eduardo praised her for the relationships she has nurtured within the school. “For over 10 years, Sara Kimmel has made a significant impact on our students,” Eduardo said. “She has done this both in the classroom as a demanding but always caring teacher, and outside the classroom through her advocacy and leadership of our student service organization.”

***“As has been the characteristic of all Distinguished Professor Award winners, in the teaching of her area of expertise, Sara excels in providing all our business students with a fundamental understanding of the global dimensions of business. And in her work as the faculty coordinator for the School of Business Service Club, she provides them with an opportunity to live out their faith.”***

Kimmel described the honor as a “career pinnacle” award for those who have spent years teaching at a university. “There’s a sense of appreciation and humility you get any time you are honored for something you love and get to do every day,” Kimmel said. “I am humbled to be in the presence of the people I get to teach with, because they are amazing. On this campus, there are some incredibly outstanding classroom teachers – professors who travel significantly, write books, and are engaged in masterful research that’s going to change the world. “To receive an honor like this, you can’t help but thank God, because He’s where our passion and our motivation comes from.”



She describes her employment in the School of Business as ‘ideal.’ “I get to teach the international business classes, and I get to see every undergraduate student who goes through the School of Business because it is a core class,” she said. “That’s an institutional blessing I could not have created on my own.”

Her teaching philosophy is straightforward but time-tested and applies to everyone in her classes.

What she most enjoys is blending her two passions: education and travel. She has led Study Abroad trips to Spain with Dr. J. Mignon Kucia, MC assistant professor of communication, and to Guam with Dr. Billy Morehead, professor of accountancy in MC Business.

The trips provide another opportunity for her to interact with her students. “The most fun thing is to see them on the day they graduate, knowing what they went through to get there, and particularly, what their families went through to get them to that point. The next day, when they turn that page and begin writing on it for the very first time, you know you’ve done the work to try to help. There’s no better feeling.”

Every Commencement moving forward, a shiny medal on her regalia will represent her premier faculty accolade and the impact she has had on so many MC graduates’ lives.



# “MC TEACHES THE IMPORTANCE OF CARING.”

THE PROFESSORS SHOW GENUINE  
INTEREST IN THE STUDENTS, AND THAT  
IS AN IMPORTANT LESSON FOR  
ENTREPRENEURS TO LEARN.”

ARTY FINKELBERG



·2022·

## ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

*Arty Finkelberg '79*

MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IS PROUD TO RECOGNIZE ARTY FINKELBERG AS ITS 2022 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR.

**A**rty Finkelberg is the managing director of investments at Raymond James and Associates in Ridgeland, Mississippi, and he oversees Finkelberg investments. For close to 40 years, he has built a national reputation as one of the premier financial advisors in the country.

MC always loves the opportunity to tell everyone that Arty is a School of Business graduate — he truly is most deserving of the award.



After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the State University of New York at Albany, Finkelberg pursued a career in the world of business. Following interviews with a number of companies, he accepted a job with American Can Company. To his surprise, his new employer promptly asked him to move to Jackson, Mississippi.

Once in Jackson, American Can asked the newly graduated philosophy major to become their controller. This led Finkelberg to look for a way to prepare himself for the role, which led him to Mississippi College.

After selecting MC as his educational choice, he entered the certificate of accounting program. Acquiring that new skill set that would prove very significant in his career. After completing his accounting certificate, Finkelberg continued his education at MC, earning his Master of Business Administration.

In 1982, Arty entered the financial services industry and joined Merrill Lynch beginning what is now a nearly 40-year career in the industry.

### INVESTING IN SUCCESS

Arty's investment strategy is designed to take emotion and worry away from his clients by steadfastly following a proprietary research model he developed.

This hands-on portfolio management process is joined by a full understanding of the client's risk tolerance.

Long-term business relationships must be built on respect and integrity.

### ACCOLADES

*Financial Times* Top 400 Financial Advisors

*Barron's* top 1,200 financial advisors in the Nation for the last eight consecutive years

*Forbes* Top Wealth Advisors in Mississippi for the last several years





· 2022 ·

# HONORS DAY

EACH SPRING, MC HAS  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR  
OUR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS  
IN THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS.

The various criteria considered  
were grade point average, leadership  
roles, and hard work in the classroom.

For these reasons, we bestowed  
the following awards and  
recognitions to our students.





### SPECIAL AWARDS

ANNA PITTMAN, KAITLYN WILLIAMSON, AND SOFIA MELGAR were selected as recipients of the Amy Brand Memorial Award. This award is given in memory of Amy Brand, an Assistant Professor in the School of Business, to outstanding juniors majoring in business administration, marketing, finance, or entrepreneurship.

AVERY HEDERMAN AND KAYLEE FOSTER were selected as recipients of the Jacqueline Jones Outstanding Junior Accounting Student Award which is made possible by Harper Rains Knight and Company. This award honors outstanding juniors who are majoring in accounting.

JADYN WILLIAMS AND DIERRAH MCINNIS were selected as the recipients of the June Brabham Outstanding Woman in Business Award. Selected by the female business faculty, this award is given to a young woman who has demonstrated excellence, determination, and a promising future in the world of business.

ALANA CANADY was the recipient of the G. M. Rogers Memorial Award. This award is given to the graduating business administration major who has the best record on the department and shows the greatest promise in the field.

MADELYN LASTRAPES was selected as the recipient of the Beta Gamma Sigma, which is given to graduating senior business majors with the highest quality grade point average.

DANIELLE BROWN AND MATTIE KAITLYN NOWELL were the recipients of the Outstanding Marketing Major Award, which is given to the graduating marketing major based on scholarship, leadership, and school participation.

KAITLYN DORTCH AND CAIRO PLAUCHE were selected

as the recipients of the Mississippi Society of CPAs Award which is given to senior accounting majors with the best general promise in the field of accounting.

BEATRICE CURRIE AND FAISAL MOHAMMED were both selected as recipients of the Outstanding Finance Major Award, which is given to the top finance majors based on scholarship, leadership, and school participation.

OWEN CLEMENTS was the recipient of the *Wall Street Journal* Award. This award is given to the best all-around senior in the School of Business based on scholarship, leadership, and school participation.

LAURYN RAWLINS was the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Student in Accounting Award, which is given to the graduate student with the most promise in the field of accounting.

JOSEPH BAILEY SMITH was the recipient of the Outstanding Governmental Accounting Award, which is given to the Outstanding Student in Governmental accounting.

ALLEN ENGLAND AND KOLBY MCWILLIAMS were both selected as recipients of the Outstanding Junior in Finance Award, which is given to the junior majors in finance who has shown outstanding academic and leadership qualities.

CARTER ZATECHKA was the recipient of the Outstanding Entrepreneurship Major Award, which is given to the senior entrepreneurship major who has shown outstanding academic and leadership qualities.

KAITLYN DORTCH was the recipient of the Cathy Jeffcoats Servant Leader Business Award, which is given to the school of business student who has demonstrated outstanding service to the school, university, and community.







2022  
HONORS DAY

**SANDRA PARKS OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** — This recognition, named in honor of beloved Mrs. Sandra Parks is one of the highlights of the luncheon. Mrs. Parks, an Assistant Professor of Accounting, is legendary on her concern and commitment for the well-being and academic success of the MC Business students. So it is only appropriate that the outstanding academic achievement award is associated with her name.

Jay Berrios	Beatrice Currie	Hutch Hendrickson	Mattie Kaitlyn Nowell	Joshua Bailey Smith
Joshua Bryan	Kaitlyn Dortch	Madelyn Lastrapes	Nathaniel Phillips	Kara Ashlee Sowell
Danielle Brown	Bradly Ducote	Traylon Lewis	Cairo Plauche'	Alex Walters
Samuel Ciaccio	Elizabeth Fleming	Brady McDaniel	Hannah Grace	Hannah Waters
Dawson Clark	Kathryn Fontenoy	Faisal Mohammed	Plunkett	Jadyn Williams
Owen Clements	Brandon Gardner	Matthew Montgomery	Shane Samyn	Anna Jane Vancor

**BETA GAMMA SIGMA INDUCTEES** — Beta Gamma Sigma is a national honors society for business students. Membership signifies that these students are in the top 10% of their class.

Justin Atwood	Sidney Courtney	Luke Horst	Olivia Mitton	Scott Stanchfield
Mark Bean	Lauren Crain	Simon Hulshizer	Anna Pittman	Lane Sumrall
Filippo Bellu	Beatrice Currie	Sidney Kelly	Mary Grace Powers	Silvia Viana Carvalho
Everest Benson	Emma Doucet	Nathan Killebrew	Lexi Pund	Kaitlyn Williamson
Amanda Blissard	Josephine Fevig	Tham Le	Caleb Ries	
Anna Caroline Callender	Katherine Garris	Wilson Logan	Sydney Sawyer	
Anna Kathryn Charbonnet	Meagan Gautier	Kolby McWilliams	Abbie Smith	
	Rollins Gordon	Zachary Meilstrup	Joseph Bailey Smith	
	Jacob Gunter	Sofia Melgar	Preston Speed	

**STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD**

Danielle Brown	Owen Clements	Avery Hederman	Sofia Melgar
Alana Canady	Beatrice Currie	Luke Horst	Faisal Mohammed
	Peyton DePriest	Annah Kleinpeter	Jadyn Williams
	Kaitlyn Dortch	Madelyn Lastrapes	
	Allen England	Traylon Lewis	
	Kaylee Foster	Dierrah McInnis	

**BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Harley Bowman	Mary Grace Powers	Joshua Sumrall	Abby Smith	Aveeya McAllister
Brennan Heard	Annah Kleinpeter	Dalton Moore	Brock Kelly	Deacon Robinson
Chris Loftis	Elaena Hutcherson	Tyler Heard	Megan Bryant	William Shea
Michael Long	Owen Clements	Carolyn Simpson	Brandon Gardner	Alex Riley
Sofia Melgar	Megan Collins	Preston Speed	Bryson Jones	Nethanya Zapata
Hannah Favara	Peyton DePriest	Loren Pate	Wesley Thurman	Dalton Stevens
Kayla Lindsey	Elizabeth Fleming	Mia Foster	Robert Lewis	Josephine Fevig
Megan Ogle	Lindsey Harris	Conner Clark	Meagan Gautier	Jonathan Youngblood
Spence Butler	Luke Horst	Jonathan Pyburn	Walker Ellis	Nathan Yow
Braeleigh Flickinger	Zachary Meilstrup	Emily Scott	John Corkern	Jonathan Crump
Kaitlyn Dortch	Faisal Mohammed	Lauren Crain	Luke Williams	Adam Martinez
Traylon Lewis	Anna Pittman	Katie House	Joseph Bailey Smith	Mattie Kaitlyn Nowell
	Harrison Ray	Jack McIntyre	Emma Doucet	Jacob Russell
	Alondra Reyes	Meleah Brunson	Kara Ashlee Sowell	Haddon Anthony
	Will Salter	Malia Kossina	Jacob Caillouet	
	Peyton Scoggin	Braxton Moak	Jake Cotton	





## CORPORATE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

*Vergent*

vergent

**“OUR CULTURE IS WHAT MAKES OUR COMPANY SUCCESSFUL.**

NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE GROW, WE NEVER WANT OUR EMPLOYEES TO BECOME JUST A NUMBER. WE TAKE PRIDE IN PROMOTING FROM WITHIN THE COMPANY.”

SCOTT PUTNAM '82



Scott Putnam '82  
Vergent CEO

VERGENT IS A MIDSIZED IT AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT FIRM THAT SPECIALIZES IN LOAN MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE FOR THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY. THE COMPANY CURRENTLY HAS OVER 100 IT PROFESSIONALS AND IS ONE OF THE LARGEST IT FIRMS IN MISSISSIPPI.

**S**cott Putnam, a 1982 MC School of Business alumnus, is one of the founders and the CEO of Vergent. Putnam attributes the tremendous growth and success of the company to its culture. “It’s important for employees to enjoy what they do,” Putnam said. Regardless of the planned growth, his overriding goal is to foster an environment where each employee is known by name, recognized for their hard work, and known for what they excel at.

*Putnam reflects fondly on his time in the School of Business. He recalls that the professors were exceptional and helped shape his mind for business. He also credits MC for encouraging his development and instilling the confidence to pursue his dreams.*

After graduating from MC, Putnam knew that he wanted to start and grow a business. He entered the world of software where he became a sales director who opened consumer finance loan offices. In studying the business closely, he pursued his entrepreneurial instincts and began selling software to hundreds of companies all over the country.

Vergent’s plan is to stay at the cutting edge of the loan management technology industry. As most systems in the industry are dated, the company is dedicated to venturing into every possible sector where its product can be used — consumer finance, auto lending, and traditional banking. Vergent strives to be known as the “go-to” loan management system. In pursuing their plan, Vergent will continue to create software that gives their customers the best value and experience possible.





***“OUR  
CORPORATE  
PARTNERS  
ARE  
INTEGRAL  
TO THE LIFE  
OF THE  
SCHOOL OF  
BUSINESS.”***

Their support is far reaching in that they are supporting the larger cause of allowing us to mold and shape a valuable work force for our economy.

But just as important, their support is also a strong vote of confidence and encouragement to pursue our mission to provide an outstanding business education in a Christian environment.”

DR. MARCELO EDUARDO

*School of*  
**BUSINESS**