

# MC MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS / WINTER 2011

# BUSINESS



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

POST OFFICE BOX 4014  
CLINTON, MS 39058  
601.925.3214  
mcbusiness@mc.edu

DEAN  
Marcelo Eduardo

DIRECTOR OF  
DEVELOPMENT  
Katrina Pace

EDITOR  
Chad Phillips

STUDENT EDITOR  
Julie Hall

DESIGNER  
Alecia Porch

PHOTOGRAPHY  
Robby Followell  
Barbara Gauntt

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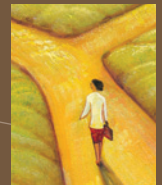
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## WELCOME *to the* SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

### *New Faculty*

THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS WELCOMES DR. SARA KIMMEL as the leader of Mississippi College's new Flowood center, which will serve as the home of MC's Accelerated Degree Program. A McComb native and 1995 Belhaven graduate, Kimmel has previously been a business professor and the coordinator of international studies at Belhaven University. She received her MBA from Millsaps College in 1998 and her doctorate in international development from the University of Southern Mississippi. Along with her duties as director, Dr. Kimmel will also be teaching classes at the center as a full-time member of the School of Business faculty.

The expansion of the Accelerated Degree Program to the bustling Flowood and Rankin county area is one that the School of Business is very excited about. "This move will allow Mississippi College and the School of Business to pursue a market of tremen-

dous growth that is consistent with the traditional Clinton campus, while creating a more convenient and accessible location for working professionals from around the Jackson Metro area," said Dean Marcelo Eduardo of the new location. The center is housed in a building adjacent to the Flowood Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center on Lakeland Drive. Mississippi College was able to fit the newly constructed building specifically for educational purposes, with 8000 square feet, eight state of the art classrooms, presentation technology, and wireless internet connectivity. More than 30 classes are being taught this fall, with plans to eventually add graduate and continuing education courses.

The Accelerated Degree Program targets working adults, and the School of Business classes will allow students to earn degrees in business administration, accounting and marketing. Courses are offered in eight-week sessions that meet two nights per week.

"We're looking forward to being an enthusiastic member of the Flowood community and a great corporate contributor to the surrounding area. The School of Business is looking forward to reaching more of the Jackson Metro community and providing this opportunity to working professionals." — DR. SARA KIMMEL



## CENTER *for* ECONOMIC EDUCATION & ANALYSIS (CEEA)

### *Partnering with Educators and Business Leaders*

IN ITS FIRST YEAR, THE NEW CENTER FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION and Analysis (CEEA) in the MC School of Business has exceeded expectations. As a partner to Mississippi's K-12 educators, the center has already:

- Hosted a Statewide International Summit for over 100 K-12 students throughout Mississippi. At the summit the students learned about the global economic climate by simulating international economic situations between various countries.
- Held a Master Teacher in Economics program for 20 junior high and high school teachers in central Mississippi;
- Created and lead a teaching module for personal financial education for 40 of Mississippi's K-12 teachers; and
- Established a partnership with the Clinton Public School systems to train teachers in the district.

Chris Smith, Instructor of Accounting and Co-Director of CEEA, leads the Center's efforts in K-12 Economics and Personal Financial Education. In this work, the MC CEEA partners with the Mississippi Council on Economic Education, which is the state's leading organization promoting economics education programming for Mississippi's students.

As a partner to Mississippi's business community, it is the goal of the CEEA to become the primary resource for state agencies, public companies and private sector organizations seeking economic research and data relating to the Jackson-metro area.

Dr. Mark McComb, Associate Professor of Management Science and Co-Director of CEEA, leads the center in these efforts to strengthen our school's relationships with area business leaders. The website for the CEEA is set to launch in spring 2011.

ABOVE LEFT: Mark McComb received his Ph.D. in Management Science from the Stuart Graduate School of Business at the Illinois Institute of Technology, his M.A. in Mathematics and M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Louisville, and his B.S. in Mathematics from Mississippi College. / ABOVE RIGHT: Chris Smith received his Bachelors and MBA from MC. Chris was recognized last May as the Outstanding Teaching Award Recipient in the School of Business.



# FACULTY PROFILES

Coming from industry where he held management positions at Case International and American National Can, **MARK McCOMB**'s area of expertise is quantitative management. Mark received his Ph.D. in Management Science from the Stuart Graduate School of Business at the Illinois Institute of Technology, his M.A. in Mathematics and M.A. in Philosophy from the University of Louisville, and his B.S. in Mathematics from Mississippi College.

**MICHAEL CUDD** has been teaching for 35 years. He received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering and MBA from Mississippi State University and his Ph.D. in Finance from the University of Arkansas. Mike also holds the designation of Chartered Financial Analyst. For Mike, MC has been a "challenging and rewarding experience."

**BRYAN HAYES** received his DBA from Mississippi State University, MBA from Mississippi College, and B.S. in Business Administration from University of Southern Mississippi. He has been teach-

ing for eleven years after an extensive career as a senior marketing analyst. He is currently teaching Principles of Marketing, Consumer Behavior, and Market Administration.

For **TAMMY ARTHUR**, teaching is not only a job but a calling. She has a B.S. in Computer Science from the University of Southern Mississippi, MBA from Millsaps College, and Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration from Mississippi State University. She has been a professor for twelve years and teaches Management Information Systems and Entrepreneurship.

**PRESS YORK** received his B.S. from Mississippi College, B.A. and MBA from Millsaps College, and his DBA from Mississippi State University. Press has been a professor for 28 years teaching Marketing Principles, Marketing Strategy, Marketing Management, and Personal Selling.

**ED SENTELL** received his B.A. and Juris Doctorate from the University of Alabama. He has been teaching college courses for 32

years, the last twelve at Mississippi College. Ed teaches Business Law and Ethics courses. Before he began teaching, Ed was Southern Farm Bureau's Senior Vice President and General Counsel.

**SHEREE CORKERN** has been teaching at Mississippi College since 1984. She received her B.S.B.A and MBA from MC and her Ph.D. from Jackson State University. Sheree teaches Principles of Accounting, Accounting Information Systems, Intermediate Accounting, and Managerial Accounting. She enjoys teaching alongside an "excellent faculty who really cares about their students."

For **RANDALL ROBBINS**, teaching at Mississippi College for 27 years has been "rewarding because of the opportunity to impact young people and prepare them for the workplace." He received his B.S. in Marketing and MBA from Arkansas State University and his DBA from Mississippi State University. Randall teaches Principles of Management, Human Resource Management, and Organizational Behavior.

Having begun his career in 1966, **FRANK HOOD** is the longest tenured faculty at Mississippi College. He received his B.S. from Mississippi College, M.S. from University of Southern Mississippi, and Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi. Frank teaches Economics and Global Dimensions of Business. Frank enjoys teaching in the environment provided by Mississippi College that is "necessary to excel in the business of teaching others."

For **JACKY JONES**, Mississippi College has given her the opportunity to team up with other colleagues whose common goal is to prepare students and be involved with them. She has been teaching courses in Accounting at MC for 38 years. Jacky received her B.S.B.A. and MBA from the University of Southern Mississippi, and she completed her coursework for a DBA at Mississippi State University.

**MARCELO EDUARDO** received his Ph.D. in Finance from the University of Mississippi and an MBA and B.A. from Delta State University. He serves as the Dean of the School of Business and teaches Finance courses.

**GERALD LEE** has taught Economics at Mississippi College since 1970. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Mississippi, an MBA from University of Southern Mississippi, and his undergraduate degree from MC. He serves as Director of the MBA program.

**SANDRA PARKS** received her B.A. from the University of Mississippi and her MBA from Mississippi College. She had 10 years of public accounting experience at various firms before she pursued a career in teaching. She is beginning her 35th year of teaching Accounting courses at MC, which she enjoys because she loves Mississippi College and its Christian mission. She believes that some of the finest people attend and work for MC.

Joining the School of Business is **SARA KIMMEL**, the leader of Mississippi College's new Flowood center, which serves as the home of the Accelerated Degree Program. She received her bachelor's

at Belhaven, her MBA at Millsaps College, and her doctorate in International Development from the University of Southern Mississippi. She will be teaching classes at the Flowood center as a full-time member of the faculty.

A Chartered Financial Analyst, **NANCY ANDERSON** is a member of our Finance faculty. She recently published a book, *Tough Talk for Tough Times: Real Conversations for Real People* about Money and Finance. Dr. Anderson is a frequent columnist for *The Clarion-Ledger* and the *Mississippi Business Journal* and is featured on a public radio spot titled *Money Talks*. She is the president of New Perspectives, Inc., a financial planning and investment firm. Nancy received her B.S. in Biology and her MBA from Mississippi College and her Ph.D. from Mississippi State University.

**BROOKS POOLE** is our tax expert in the School of Business. He graduated from MC in 2002 with a B.S.B.A. with Accounting Emphasis and holds a Masters of Taxation from the University of Mississippi and is a Ph.D. candidate in Accounting from Ole Miss.

**CHRIS SMITH** is the leader of the MC Center for Economic Education and Development and teaches accounting and finance. He received his Bachelors and MBA from MC. Chris was recognized last May as the Outstanding Teaching Award Recipient in the School of Business.

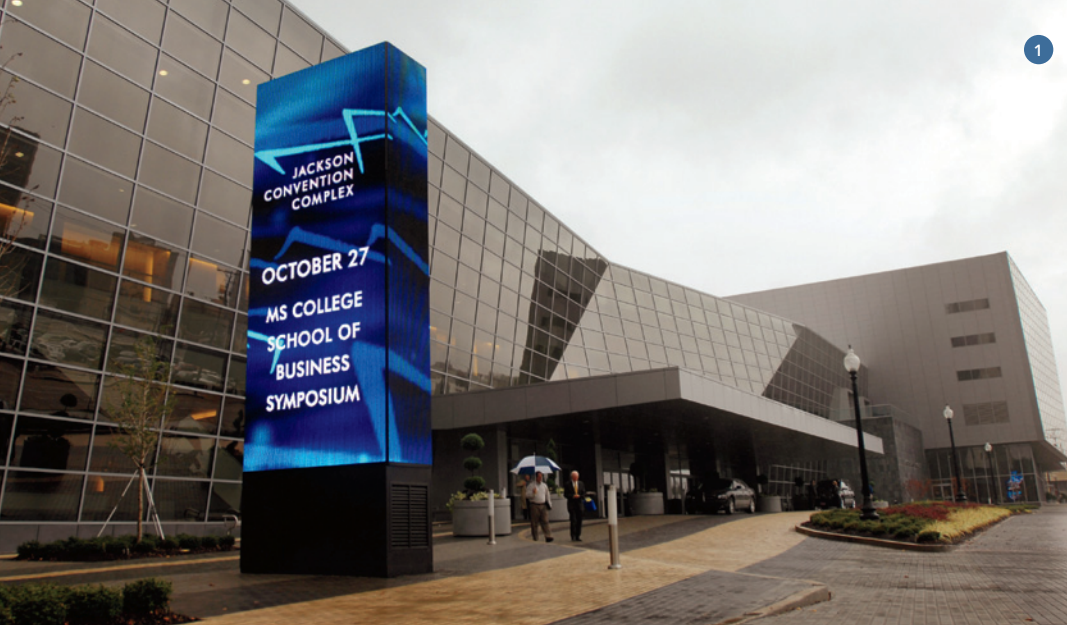
**MICHELE RICKER** is the Assistant Dean and directs the academic advising for the Accelerated Degree Program. She has many family ties to MC by being a third generation MC Choctaw. Michele received her BS in Accounting at MC and her MBA from Mississippi State University.

**RETHA PRICE** is a professor of Marketing and recently began teaching a new class, Retailing and E-Commerce. She previously taught at the University of West Georgia, Belmont University, and Mississippi State University. Retha received her bachelor's, MBA, and DBA from Mississippi State University.

**LLOYD ROBERTS** is a professor of Strategic Management and also teaches Policy Formulation and Administration. He formerly served as interim president of Mississippi College and also formerly served as dean of the School of Business. Currently he oversees the Mississippi College Foundation.

**KEVIN PAULI** is an Assistant Professor of Management and serves as the MBA-MIS coordinator. He holds a BBA in Management from the University of Alaska, and an MBA and Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska.

**STEPHEN TROUARD** brings to the classroom nearly twenty years of practical business management expertise. He currently teaches Business Statistics and Operations Management. Stephen holds a B.S. in Management from Tulane University, an M.S. in Management from Belhaven University, and a Ph.D. from Jackson State University in Management and Marketing.



# MC BUSINESS EVENTS

MC BUSINESS HOSTED A NUMBER OF LEADERS ON AND OFF CAMPUS FROM AROUND THE STATE AND OTHER PARTS OF THE NATION.



## HONORS DAY

On April 20, 2010, the MC School of Business was pleased to honor its students at the School of Business Honors Day Luncheon. Many of the school's scholarship donors were in attendance to meet the students that they have graciously and generously assisted throughout the years. Chris Smith, professor of accounting, was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Award. Michael Howard of Howard Industries received the Executive Excellence Award and served as keynote speaker for the event, where he spoke highly of his experience at the School of Business and how it had shaped his career.

## SPEAKER SERIES

### DAVID ABNEY

"Integrity, a strong work ethic, and the desire to learn new skills are key ingredients for college students striving to succeed in today's troubled economic climate." These words were among the advice delivered by David Abney, Chief Operating Officer of UPS, when he spoke to hundreds of MC School of Business students on October 8 at the Ed Trehern Lecture Hall. Abney, a native of Greenwood, MS, is truly a success story as he began his UPS career in 1974 loading and unloading packages, and worked his way up the corporate ladder to be president of UPS International and now the chief operating officer.

## BUSINESS OF HEALTHCARE EVENT

On October 27, 2009, the MC School of Business hosted a half-day conference in downtown Jackson that brought together the state's political and medical leaders to tackle one of the most critical issues facing America: healthcare. Governor Haley Barbour was the keynote speaker and the symposium featured comments from Lt. Governor Phil Bryant, Mississippi State Medical Association President Dr. Randy Easterling, and Dr. Thomas C. Fenter, corporate medical adviser for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi. Participants addressed the current healthcare discussions taking place in Washington and how the national dialogue will affect Mississippi businesses.

### HALEY FISACKERLY

On November 19, 2009, the School of Business welcomed Entergy Mississippi President and Chief Executive Officer, Haley Fisackerly, to speak to students as part of the Executive Speaker Series at Mississippi College. Students listened attentively to Fisackerly's comments as they centered on such timely topics as decreased energy costs, green initiatives, and the keys to success in business.

### STEVE FORBES

"We will get a 3 to 4 percent growth this year. We are in somewhat of a recovery. This year will be far better than last year." This is just one of the economic predictions made by Steve Forbes when he visited Mississippi College on March 29, 2010, to speak to the School of Business and at the university's spring scholarship dinner that evening. Forbes is the Chairman and CEO of Forbes Media as well as a two-time prospective candidate for the Republican presidential nomination.



## INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The School of Business served as host to a summit attracting 70 students from around the state on April 16, 2010. The International Economic Summit was the first of its kind for Mississippi and encouraged students to engage in a simulated world trading competition.

### FREDDIE J. BAGLEY

The School of Business welcomed Freddie J. Bagley, President and Chief Executive Officer of Community Bancshares, Inc., as a guest lecturer for the Executive Speaker Series. Bagley addressed the economic crisis, banking and finance opportunities, the keys to success, and offered advice to students as they venture out into the work world. Freddie J. Bagley is President and CEO of Community Bancshares, Inc.—the parent company of Community Bank. Community Bank is a \$2.4 billion Mississippi-based bank with 36 offices across the South and more than 650 staff members.

1. The Jackson Convention Complex in downtown Jackson was the venue for the Business of Healthcare Event • 2. Mississippi Governor, Haley Barbour  
3. David Abney • 4. Steve Forbes • 5. MC Business students prepare for the Business of Healthcare Event • 6. Mississippi Lieutenant Governor, Phil Bryant



A  
**ROAD**  
WELL TRAVELED  
REGINA SCHOFIELD

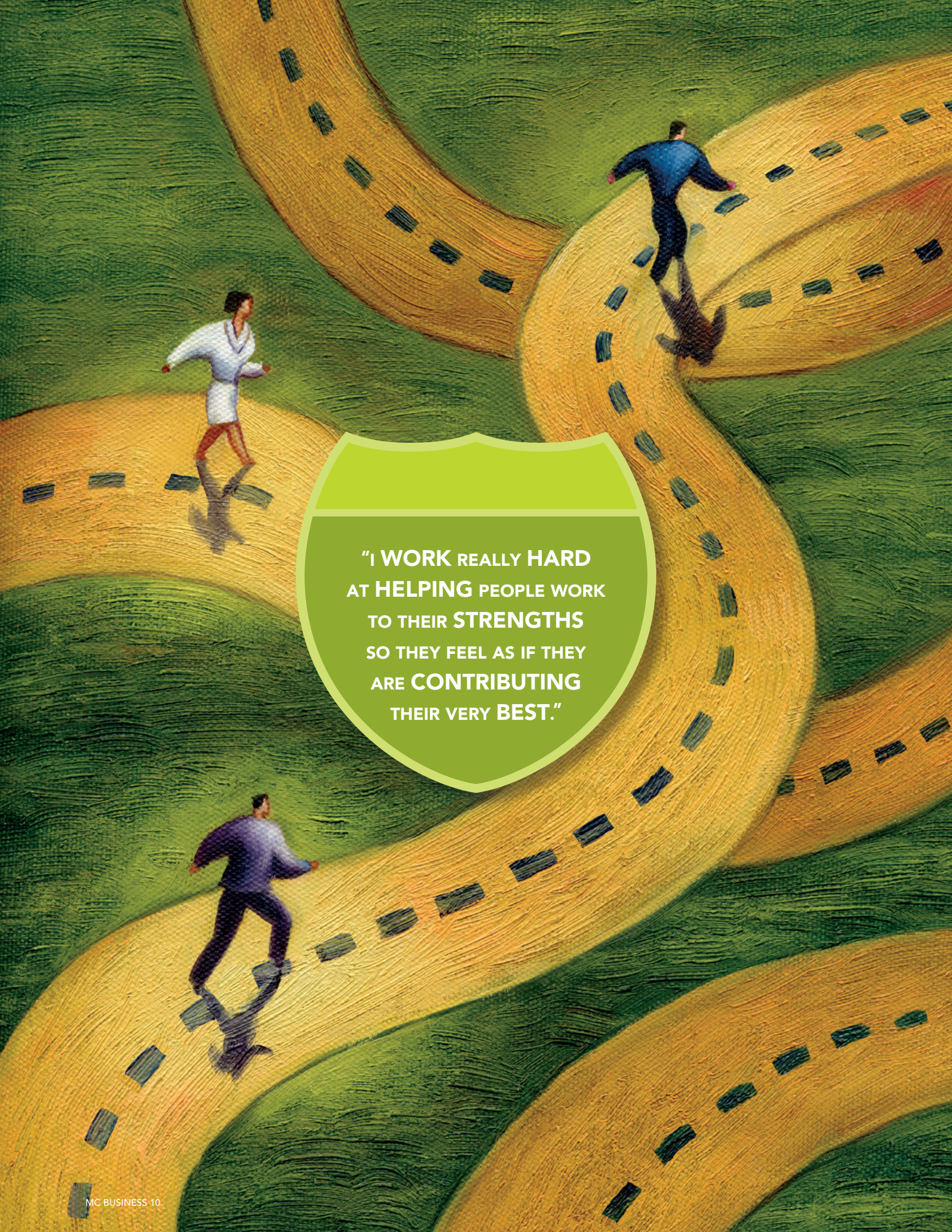


A 1983 GRADUATE OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, REGINA SCHOFIELD IS A WOMAN OF incredible achievement. Her involvement in governmental relations in both the public and private sector is impressive and her resume boasts stints as U.S. Assistant Attorney General, White House Liaison and Director for Intergovernmental Affairs for the Department of Health and Human Services. She has recently taken a new job with Battelle, the world's largest, independent research and development organization as Director of Corporate Engagement and Educational Outreach Efforts.

SCHOFIELD FONDLY REMEMBERS HER YEARS AT MC AND RECALLS that it truly felt like home. Her first visit was in the spring of her senior year of high school, “with all the flowers blooming and kids hanging out on the Quad—I just fell in love.” The strong business school solidified her decision. She names living in Jennings Hall and being surrounded by a close-knit group of friends as some of her favorite memories. Schofield says her classes were challenging and that often times she learned more than just about business—she learned about life. “I built relationships with the faculty and was struck by their lasting impact on me. Gerald Lee with his calm steadiness was a reminder that rough seas are overcome by steady steering. Sandra Parks was always there for her students, serving as a cheerleader, counselor, and friend.” Schofield was also very involved in campus activities. From Delta Sigma Pi to Kissimmee Social Tribe to College Republicans, she did it all—and even managed to work at the radio station as an announcer.

Upon graduating in the midst of the recession that plagued the 1980s, Schofield searched for a permanent job for many months, often working several part-time jobs. She kept in close contact with Dr. Lloyd Roberts during her persistent search. She says, “I learned from him to ask for what you wanted in a job, but make sure you deliver the highest quality work you can.”

Schofield's transition into the world of government came as no surprise. “I first became interested in politics during Nixon's re-election campaign in 1972 and had political commentary everyday for my parents!” Ms. Schofield had also been the chair of the MC College Republicans and Haley Barbour's run for Senate. Every other year, she was volunteering for a political campaign. Finally, she moved to DC in 1990 and began applying for jobs in federal government—seeing this as a way to put her business background to use. After learning the ropes in DC, she landed her first political job with the U.S. Department of Education.



**"I WORK REALLY HARD  
AT HELPING PEOPLE WORK  
TO THEIR STRENGTHS  
SO THEY FEEL AS IF THEY  
ARE CONTRIBUTING  
THEIR VERY BEST."**



**"I HAD THE HONOR OF MEETING PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH in Iowa in 2000 and I traveled with First Lady Laura Bush to Paris for a meeting with other First Ladies from around the world to talk about the Attorney General's Project Safe Childhood Initiative."**

**T**he move to Washington DC wasn't an easy one. After spending so much of her life in Mississippi, Schofield found herself missing the simple things and experienced a bit of culture shock. "It was very difficult! I used to either call Senators Lott & Cochran's offices to hear the voice of the receptionists or just go sit in the lobbies of their offices so I could regain my balance

by hearing voices that sounded familiar," laughs Schofield.

In January 2001, Schofield was called to interview for a White House Liaison position. "Even though I was not interested at the time, I have a personal rule to never turn down an interview. Of course I changed my mind during the interview process and was asked which Cabinet Secretary and federal agency I would like to work with the most." Ms. Schofield chose Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and worked with him confronting challenging issues including 9/11, the flu vaccination crisis, Medicaid waivers, and threats of pandemic flu. She represented Secretary Thompson as his liaison to the White House and took on another full-time job as his Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. This led to an eventual nomination by Attorney General Gonzales and the President for the position of Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice.

While at the Department of Justice, Schofield was faced with an incredible responsibility of working as the nation's Amber Alert coordinator. She worked with parents of missing, abducted, and exploited children as they began the terrible searching process. Her work at the Department of Justice led to a significant professional accomplishment, the publication of a siblings guide titled, "What About Me? Coping with the Abduction of a Brother or Sister." She says, "Parents of missing children had their own guide, but often during family tragedies, siblings of missing children become invisible. We brought siblings to DC and taped their experiences and even included a young adult who had survived her experience and was blessed to be able to return home." This was an immensely satisfying experience for

Schofield and has touched many lives since.

Schofield has been afforded the opportunity to meet many influential people throughout her career in government. Topping the list is President and Mrs. George W. Bush. "I had the honor of meeting him in Iowa in 2000 and I traveled with First Lady Laura Bush to Paris for a meeting with other First Ladies from around the world to talk about the Attorney General's Project Safe Childhood Initiative."

Schofield's business education at MC has been put to good use. She says, "Working in the federal government at the levels I've had access to has engaged all of the passion, skills, and strengths that my interest in business and political science have afforded me over the years and has also allowed me to keep challenging myself and learning new ways to solve problems." Realizing that government service allowed her to apply the problem-solving skills she learned at the MC School of Business has allowed Schofield to take on some of the most complex problems facing U.S. citizens.

Schofield cites that the most valuable lesson she's learned throughout her career is working to make others feel valued. "I work really hard at helping people work to their strengths and finding creative ways to work around their weaknesses so they feel as if they are contributing their very best at work. I don't accept mediocrity and make sure my staff works along with me to excel." Much of Schofield's success stems from that philosophy.

When it comes to giving advice to recent MC Business graduates who are concerned they will never find their dream job in the midst of this recession, Schofield says, "My advice is to take a job, excel at it, constantly challenge yourself and stop thinking about how you are going to get to the next job. Keep building on your strengths and learn from your weaknesses. Knowing your weaknesses will keep you from taking jobs that are not best suited for you. Let the next person take that job and you keep working at being excellent and your dream job(s) will come."

Coming from a woman who's had several dream jobs and has done it all with an MC Business degree, that sounds like good advice.



## MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS **ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR** **MIKE BRITT**

MIKE BRITT IS THE 2010 SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR. Mike graduated with a BSBA from MC in 1980 and received his MBA from the University of Michigan in 1994. In 2006, Mike joined Accident Fund Insurance Company of America as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, with more than 25 years of experience in the insurance industry, Mike was promoted to President of Accident Fund Insurance Company in 2009 and serves in that role today. Accident Fund, operational in 43 states and the District of Columbia, in one of the largest writers of workers compensation insurance in the United States. Mike and his wife, Judy, are the parents of two adult children.

### ON MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE . . .

Your father and grandfather both graduated from Mississippi College. Did their being graduates of MC influence your college choice? And do you think following in their footsteps to MC made your college years seem more significant in any way?

My primary focus in choosing a college was being able to play baseball. Unfortunately, I wasn't very focused on an education or future job opportunities. Ultimately, I ended up walking on at Mississippi State in an attempt to make the baseball team. While I lasted through the fall season, I ended up not making the team. Still wanting to play baseball somewhere, my dad encouraged me to go to MC. I had grown up going to a few MC football games and was familiar with the campus, so I transferred to MC. While my grandfather had already passed away, it was a source of pride for both my dad and my grandmother (his mom) that I was going to MC. It was a good experience being able to talk to my dad about some of the things he did on campus, traditions that were still in place, and campus rivalries. There were a few faculty members that knew my dad or knew of my grandfather, so it felt much more like a family than MSU, where I was just another kid.

What's the first thing you remember about your years at MC? In more general terms, what were your years at MC like?

The immediate memory from my years at MC is the close-knit group of friends on the baseball team. While there were people from different parts of the country, we bonded quickly and had a great college experience. At MC, I learned that, left to my own devices, I didn't have enough discipline to do all the homework

and studying required to maintain good grades. I learned that the world was just a little bit bigger than what I left behind in Baton Rouge, LA. And I learned that faith could mean a lot more than just my experiences at First Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.

You played baseball. Who was the coach?

When I came to MC, Moose Perry was the coach. He had been a very successful high school coach in Jackson, MS, and my freshman year was his first year of coaching at MC/the college level. He was very much an inspirational type of coach, and he spent as much time talking about how we led our daily lives as he did about baseball. I think he had a positive impact on quite a few of us.

Is there a faculty member from your MC days that made such an impact on you that you still remember what he/she taught you in the classroom?

There were a couple of professors that stand out, both in terms of what they taught me, as well as their teaching abilities. Sandra Parks taught me about accounting, but also about patience. She went over and over all the accounting homework until everyone understood it, no matter how long it took. She never seemed to have a bad day or take less than whatever time was needed to help a student understand. Frank Hood's business law class has proven to be invaluable over the years. He was a bit more intimidating as a professor, mainly because he knew so much more about business that I did not. He was responsible for helping me understand how much discipline was needed (and that I lacked) for both learning and being successful in business.



“AFTER I STARTED TO WORK IN THE BUSINESS WORLD, I began to realize just how helpful my education at MC really was. My education helped me see how the different pieces all fit together, and as opportunities presented themselves, I was able to capitalize on them as a result of that education.”

How did the classes you took at MC prepare you for your career? In all honesty, I didn't realize how prepared I actually was for a career after graduation. I really had no clue as to what I wanted to be when I grew up. I majored in Business Administration because my father felt it would provide me with the broadest range of future employment options if I wasn't sure what I was going to do. He was right on the mark with that advice. After I started to work in the business world, I began to realize just how helpful my education at MC really was. My education helped me see how the different pieces all fit together, and as opportunities presented themselves, I was able to capitalize on them as a result of that education.

ers compensation, etc; managing two different branch operations for both personal and commercial lines that spanned specific geographic areas; and eventually became president.

You have worked your way up the corporate ladder to be president of two companies. What would you tell our young alumni and current students who want to achieve similar career success to do in their early careers to move them toward their goals? While there's not much I consider myself an expert in, there are a few things I've learned over the years that would be applicable to any person in any industry. They would include:

Two things in my life that were severely underappreciated by me when I was college-age were my family and my education. My parents provided me with a great upbringing, instilling the right set of values and teaching me how to carry myself as I went through life. As I look back today, though, most of who I am is because of my parents and how they raised me. My education at MC is similar. At the time, I saw college as an enabler to play more baseball. When it finally dawned on me that my baseball career had a very short shelf life, I was already a senior and had fewer options left available to me. What I didn't realize or appreciate at the time was just how valuable my education at MC had been.

a. *No one else is watching out for your career so you have to* – If you're working for yourself or a small business, this is probably self-evident. If you're working for a big organization, most other things are taken care of for you by some other department. That does not apply, however, to your individual career. No one is making sure you get the training, education, and experience you need or want to get you ready for that next promotion. You need to manage your career by understanding where you want to go, what you need to do to get there, and then taking on any obstacles that are in your way.

ON CAREER . . .

What was your first job upon graduation? Why did you choose it? Having interviewed for most of my final semester and not being offered a job, I was quite frustrated. Then I was suddenly offered 2 jobs in one day, both in New Orleans. One was as a commercial underwriter with Aetna Life and Casualty for \$12,000 annually, and one was as a repo man with GMAC for \$12,500. With my keen business instincts at the time, I wanted to take the GMAC job for the extra \$500 a year. My father, fortunately, intervened and persuaded me to take the Aetna job.

b. *Clearly understand your potential future options* – If you're working for a small company, that might be an easy task. If you're working for a large corporation, where organizational charts can change 2 – 3 times a year, that becomes much harder. In either case, though, you need to know what you want to be when you grow up and if your current employer will allow you to reach that goal. If the answer is no, and much of the time that will be true, then your potential future options need to be much more focused on employment opportunities with other companies.

c. *Take advantage of all company-sponsored educational opportunities* – Many companies provide numerous levels of educational assistance. Having worked for 4 different companies, I can tell you very few employees actually take advantage of them. By doing so, you will learn at a faster rate than your peers, you will gain a reputation as a hard worker, and you will have more opportunities available to you.

Give us an overview of your work experience & career path in your own words. My work experience started out by underwriting commercial accounts. I then spent time as a marketing representative, calling on independent agents and trying to convince them to sell our products. I moved into management after that, and have been managing people since I was 26. As I gained management experience, I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time when opportunities became available. My jobs have since included running a personal lines organization, handling personal accounts for policies such as homeowners, automobile, excess liability/umbrella, etc; running a commercial lines organization, handling commercial accounts for policies such as commercial auto, package, work-

d. *Don't lose sight of what's important to you as an individual* – If you focus too hard on any one thing, other areas of your life will inevitably suffer. If grabbing the brass ring is the single most important thing to you, then at some level you will be happy. However, if you also value friends, family, and activities other than work, you need to periodically stop and assess whether your work life/personal life balance is out of whack.



JUDY AND MIKE BRITT WITH TILLMAN AND MARGARET ANNE BRITT AND SUSIE ROBERSON







ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT, MIKE BRITT  
AND MC BUSINESS DEAN, MARCELO EDUARDO

“SURROUND YOURSELF WITH HIGH-QUALITY PEOPLE,  
and give them the latitude and support to do their jobs, and it’s amazing  
how good of a manager you suddenly become.”

e. Every interface with every person is important – things are constantly changing, and you never know who you may ultimately end up working for. Each person you meet or know, whether you think it’s important or not, could end up having an influence on your career, for better or worse. A current customer could become a future employer. A current direct report of yours could one day become your boss. It’s important to be consistent and manage your reputation and image as much as you can. It’s also a small world, so someone who might not appear to be in a position to help you might be related to someone who is. Usually, when two people discover they have a common acquaintance, they will tell each other what they think of you, particularly if they dislike you. Make sure you get a positive reference each and every time.

Given your vast professional experience and successful management career, what is the one thing you know now, as CEO, that you wish you would have known starting out in the industry? Or, what has been the most valuable lesson you’ve learned throughout your career?

When I first started in business, I just made an assumption that every manager in every company in every industry was smarter than I currently was, and that the executives of those companies were smarter than I would ever be. Over time, I began to realize there were good and bad managers, just like there were good and bad employees. I found this to be true across all industries. Once I figured out that I could potentially move up higher in an organization than I originally thought, I began to apply myself more, took advantage of more educational programs, and more actively positioned myself for future opportunities.

In terms of most valuable lessons, it’s a slightly different story. Having managed people for 26 years now, I learned early on that people thought I was a better manager when I had better people working for/with me. Surround yourself with high-quality people, and give them the latitude and support to do their jobs, and it’s amazing how good of a manager you suddenly become.

#### ON FAMILY, FAITH & FUN . . .

What do you do for fun? What are your hobbies?

Outdoor activities have always occupied a big part of my recreational time. Hunting, fishing and golf are the big 3 hobbies, in that order. My son John and I played a lot of golf as he was growing up. However, since he has now moved away, my Sunday afternoon matches have dried up and my 10 handicap is in jeopardy. We also have a cottage on a lake up in northern Michigan that’s a favorite family hangout. We can boat, ski, wakeboard or fish during the summer, while snowmobiling in the winter. The kids and their friends all seem to congregate there whenever possible.

Because you are from the south, what was it like to move to Michigan?

Having lived in St. Louis, Missouri for 10 years prior to moving to Michigan, I was prepared for what cold, snowy weather could be like. Michigan is a great outdoors state, with much of the geography being devoted to undeveloped state-owned land. The state land is free for anyone to access at any time. There is great hunting and fishing on state land, and literally thousands of miles of snowmobile trails. Since our family likes the outdoors, it’s a good fit. Truth be told, I’ve grown to dislike heat and humidity fairly intensely. I miss the people and the food, but not the weather. My motto is ‘you can always get warm, but sometimes you just can’t cool off.’

Insurance is all about being prepared for a crisis. What kind of trials have you faced in your life and how did you overcome them? In all honesty, we’ve been fairly blessed in our lives. My wife and I are both healthy, as are our kids, and we still have both of our parents with us. Whatever trials we’ve had pale in comparison to real trials/crisis. Probably the single biggest issue we’ve faced over the years (although I still would not call it a crisis) was the movement of our family from one city to another while our kids were growing up. We have a son – John – and a daughter – Elizabeth – and both were born in St. Louis. Shortly after that, when the kids were 3 and 1, we moved to Brighton, Michigan, in the fall of 1990. 6 years later we moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, about 100 miles away. 2 years later we moved to Chicago, Illinois. Then we moved back to Brighton, Michigan 2 years after settling in Chicago. Basically, there was a 5 year stretch during that time period where our kids lived in 4 different houses and cities. It’s tough to uproot your children from their friends, much less have them deal with the stress of making new friends, in new schools, with new teachers, new sports teams, etc. We were able to get through it by focusing on the benefits they would have from that experience that others would not i.e. broader perspectives on life, different cultural experiences, friends in multiple states, etc. and how those experiences would better prepare them for life. The other challenge we have had, though not related to multiple moves, is the distance between our family and both sets of grandparents. My family is 1,200 miles away and Judy’s family is 500 miles away. Having the grandparents at family birthdays or other big family events was, and continues to be, a rarity for our kids.

How does your faith impact your business?

Faith has been a constant in my life, both at home and at work. Being a Christian, with Christian values and principles, has helped shape my career. Most corporations tend to push religion to the curb except to promote tolerance of all viewpoints. Being kind to others, helping others to succeed, doing the right thing – those are values and principles that clearly help guide your business life, as well as your home life.

# 20 QUESTIONS

—With an MC Business Faculty Member, Alumnus & Student—



FRANK HOOD  
Faculty

What is the last book you read?  
My favorite book though is definitely *Lord of the Rings*.

What keeps you up at night?  
Stress about evaluating my courses and trying to think of ways to improve my teaching methods.

What was your first job?  
I was a “soda jerk” at Clinton Drugstore in 1957. I have worked every summer since then with the exception of this past one!

What did you want to be when you grew up?  
My daughter says I still haven’t grown up, but in high school I wanted to be a lawyer. A lot of people say that I should have been a race car driver—I have a need for speed!

What is the quality you admire most in a person?  
Loyalty.

What is the most thrilling/adventurous thing you’ve ever done?  
I was given VIP status to the World Expo in Nagoya, Japan, which gave me entry into all the nations’ exhibits. I was able to skip all the lines and see everything first. That was definitely thrilling.

If you were to have 3 people to dinner—living or dead—who would they be?

Thomas Jefferson—classical liberal reasons for revolution  
Abraham Lincoln—discuss healing a divided nation  
Billy Graham—provide the spiritual underpinnings of the greatest nation on earth

What is your favorite junk food?  
Cheeseburgers!

What is the best gift you have ever received or given?  
My wife, Carolyn, truly is a gift.

What is your idea of the perfect day?  
To do something with great enthusiasm that leads to comfortable fatigue at the end of the day.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?  
Retired and happy.

What causes you to be optimistic every day?  
I’m truly just an optimistic person, and I’ve always said that the glass is half full. I know that the future holds great promise for MC and those associated with it.

What is your pet peeve?  
When people do not follow through on something they promised to do. I want to be able to count on someone.

What is the first website you check in the morning?  
The MSN Home page for all the latest news stories.

What is your proudest moment?  
The day that I married my wife.

What is your favorite place in the world?  
Without a doubt, Tokyo!

What is your favorite quote?  
I love Psalm 23.



What would you choose for your last meal?  
Steak and lobster!

Why did you choose Mississippi College for your education or to teach?

Since 1870, every generation of my family has been associated with Mississippi College. In fact, my great uncle died in the fire of President Webb's home 1895 and I believe he still haunts Provine Chapel. Because I had grown up in Clinton and had been surrounded by MC all my life, I originally did not want to go to school here, and felt that I would like Ole Miss better. I ended up transferring to MC and was encouraged by Dr. Gray Miley to pursue my degree and return here. I've turned down job offers over the years to stay here at Mississippi College and I've never regretted it.

If you could give one piece of advice to our 2011 grads of the MC School of Business, what would it be?

Always set high goals and standards and do not become discouraged. Never stop learning.



KYLE FULCHER  
*Alumnus*

What is the last book you read? Or, what is your favorite book?  
My favorite book is *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose.

What keeps you up at night?  
Being away from home in hotel rooms.

What was your first job?  
Working for a natural gas company clearing right-of-ways and painting gas meters during high school.

What did you want to be when you grew up?  
A professional football player.

What is the quality you admire most in a person?  
Trustworthiness

What is the most thrilling/adventurous thing you've ever done?  
Having 3 children

If you were to have 3 people to dinner—living or dead—who would they be?

1. My Wife
2. My Grandfather
3. John Deere

What is your favorite junk food?  
Ice Cream

What is the best gift you have ever received or given?  
My grandfather took me to buy my first suit when I went to college. I still have it today!

What is your idea of a perfect day?  
Spending time with my family – eating a big breakfast, doing some activities around water during the day (pool, lake, or ocean), grilling out with family and friends in the evening. Temperature should be warm but not hot!

Where do you see yourself in ten years?  
Still working for John Deere, probably back in the corporate headquarters in Moline, Illinois. The company has been good to us, so I can't see me leaving right now. However, 10 years ago I would have been way off answering this question!

What causes you to be optimistic every day?  
Faith, family, and friends.

What is your pet peeve?  
Someone on a long cell phone call while riding in a vehicle with other people.

What is the first website you check in the morning?  
The John Deere intranet news site.

What is your proudest moment?  
Every time one of my children accomplishes something.

What is your favorite place in the world?  
Vienna, Austria

What is your favorite quote?  
"Be clear, so the audience will understand. Be interesting, so the audience will listen. Be persuasive, so the audience will agree."  
— Marcus Tullius Cicero; Roman Orator

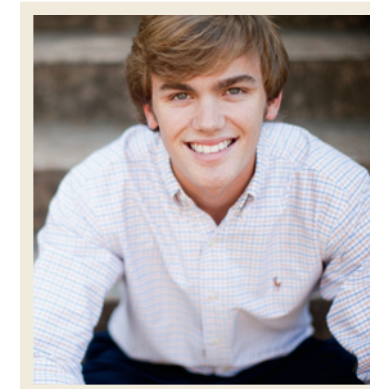
What would you choose for your last meal?  
A seafood platter with Key Lime pie for dessert.

Why did you choose Mississippi College for your education?  
I went to Mike Jones' basketball camps at MC for a few years while I was in high school and had a great time. I really loved the campus and all the MC people I met at the camps. However, being raised Methodist, I was originally set to go to Millsaps. MC then offered me a football scholarship and it did not take long for me to change my mind.



If you could give one piece of advice to our 2011 grads of the MC School of Business, what would it be?

Doing well in school is just the beginning. Building relationships with people is the most important thing you can do for your career. Never miss an opportunity to build a relationship that could help you in the future – and never burn any bridges.



SAWYER SMITH  
*Student*

What is the last book you read? Or, what is your favorite book?  
*The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis

What keeps you up at night?  
Closet monsters and bedbugs!

What was your first job?  
Pakmail, a privately owned packing and shipping store similar to a UPS store (which happened to be my second job!)

What did you want to be when you grew up?  
A race car driver!

What is the quality you admire most in a person?  
Loyalty

What is the most thrilling/adventurous thing you've ever done?  
Whitewater rafting the Blue Nile River in Africa. Definitely adventurous!

If you were to have 3 people to dinner—living or dead—who would they be?  
C.S. Lewis, Mark Twain, F. Scott Fitzgerald

What is your favorite junk food?  
Twizzlers

What is the best gift you have ever received or given?  
At the end of my senior year in high school my dad gave me a Bible, and to go with it, a full size replica of the sword used in the movie *Braveheart*. It hangs on my wall as a reminder of the power of the sword of the Spirit.

What is your idea of a perfect day?  
Spending the day on the boat at Smith Lake with a bunch of my friends.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?  
Hopefully married, living where I am called to live, and thoroughly enjoying all the blessings in my life.

What causes you to be optimistic every day?  
The fact that every day is a chance to do something new or different and that you never know what adventures the day could hold.

What is your pet peeve?  
People clicking their fingernails together, even the thought makes me cringe. Ahhh!

What is the first website you check in the morning?  
The Weather Channel Mobile on my phone. I always like to know what the day is going to be like!

What is your proudest moment?  
There are few but the most recent was completing pledgeship last fall for Civitan Men's Club here at MC.

What is your favorite place in the world?  
Africa, without a doubt.

What is your favorite quote?  
"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God"  
— Corrie Ten Boom

What would you choose for your last meal?  
Poppyseed chicken casserole, cheddar mashed potatoes, fried okra, corn muffins, a slice of peanut butter and chocolate cheesecake, and a large Vanilla Diet Coke. All my favorites!

Why did you choose Mississippi College for your education?  
I came to visit a couple times as a junior in high school and I always felt included in everything that was going on despite how much younger I was than the people I was hanging out with. The staff was consistently very accommodating and made me feel comfortable in a place that wasn't my home. I liked the idea of the smaller classes, and had heard how personal the professors were which is a hard thing to find at most colleges today. The open Christian environment was a big draw as well because I wanted to be able to go to college and develop my faith more everyday instead of letting it fade away. Through my senior year I was constantly put in contact with recruiters and sent letters, making me feel like I was really wanted at MC. During the fall of my senior year I applied only to MC and was accepted as well as offered the Hederman business scholarship before Christmas. MC was definitely the right place for me and I'm excited to see what lies ahead in my second year here.

If you could give one piece of advice to our 2011 grads of the MC School of Business, what would it be?  
Enjoy the real world! I'll see you there in a few years!



A SUCCESS STORY IN *All* ASPECTS OF

# LIFE

RENARD ELLIS, AN MBA STUDENT AT THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS has proven himself over and over again to be a hardworking and determined individual. That description might describe an average MBA student, and yet Renard's life has been an uphill climb since the beginning. Renard's story is filled with hope, strength, and triumph and is truly the portrait of a young man with a bright future.

When Renard Ellis was only five years old, his parents were in the midst of a bitter divorce. Upon being put out of their home, he and his mother moved across the country—from California to Florida—with very little money and a bag of clothes in their Honda Prelude. They lived in that Prelude for weeks on end as they journeyed to Winter Haven, Florida, in search of Ellis' aunt. At her one-bedroom apartment, they slept on the floor of the living room. His mother began working tirelessly at numerous jobs to make a better life for them. Renard says, "Those times were tough, but the guidance and strength my mother showed me then has shaped my life and steered me towards striving for excellence."

Ellis says he endured much teasing in his younger years. "Because I was new in town and because of my mixed descent, (his mother is Asian and his father is African-American) and because I was obviously poor, I seemed to be an easy target for a lot of other kids. However, my mother always taught me that we are all God's people and that we all deserve respect, regardless of color or race." Renard says that teasing motivated him early on to face challenges with great determination. "I really think it pushed me to work hard because I wanted to prove people wrong." Without a doubt, the people who once bullied Ellis would surely admire him now.

When he was young, Renard didn't get the chance to spend much time at home. When he started elementary school, his mother would drop him off early in the morning at daycare. He would go from there to school, and then back to daycare. His mother couldn't pick him up until late at night because of work.

All that sacrifice paid off when she was finally able to get them their own apartment. Even though there was no furniture, Renard says, "It was a blessing to finally have a place to call home."

Because of all the adjustments he had to make early in his life, coupled with the absence of a father figure, Renard got into some trouble in school. All that changed when his third grade teacher, Rosa Drayton, had him tested for the Gifted Program. Renard scored very high on the tests and was placed in the program. This new challenge motivated Renard to take his schoolwork more seriously. That discipline has followed him well throughout his college years and on into his work on his MBA.

To add structure to his life, Renard's mother enrolled him in a martial arts class to help him to develop discipline and life skills. He studied a martial arts combination of Tae Kwon Do and Jiu Jitsu under Sensei Raymond Northern, his mentor. Renard says, "I was committed to my practice and loved every bit of it, but there was a time when I wanted to give up martial arts because it was so tough. Sensei Northern always stressed to me that if I gave up then, that I would give up in life when things got hard." That advice has stuck with Ellis and he has learned to persevere and be dedicated to achieving his goals. He was a World Champion in sparring (fighting) in the U.S. Open in 1999 and 2001. Ellis eventually became a second degree black belt and says, "Martial arts taught me a lot about respect, responsibility, perseverance, and dedication. I still hold onto those lessons today." Renard says that being involved with martial arts taught him even more about how to pursue success in all aspects of life, especially in football and business.



**JUGGLING FOOTBALL AND SCHOOL IS QUITE A FEAT FOR ANYONE, BUT RENARD DID IT WITH MUCH SUCCESS. HE GRADUATED WITH HIS DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION IN DECEMBER 2009 WITH A 3.65 GPA AFTER ONLY 3.5 YEARS.**

“**W**

hen I was involved in martial arts, we had the 3 D's. They were discipline, dedication, and determination. You have to be disciplined in order to even go about achieving anything because there will be times when things don't go your way. Dedication comes in because you have to be willing to put all your effort into your goal. And last, you have to be determined to finish what you start.”

By the time he was in high school, Renard and his mother were able to move into a house. “The move to our own house was a very special moment for both of us, and I truly realized how blessed I was and how all of our hard work had paid off. My mom had worked so hard to provide me with everything she could, from having very little money and working five jobs at a time, to having a house and working only one good job.” He truly counts his mother a hero, saying, “I've seen my mother go through a lot in my life, and at times I think back to the hard times we've encountered and I realize that we can make it through anything. My mother has been the most influential person in my life and has inspired me and made it possible for me to always achieve my goals.”

In high school, Renard decided to commit himself to another goal: football. At Winter Haven High School, he was successful as a linebacker and defensive end. He earned All-Area and All-State selections, was team captain, and Defensive Most Valuable

Player. When he talks about football, Renard doesn't talk about the awards he has won, or the attention it has gotten him. He talks about what football has taught him and what it has meant to him. “I learned about teamwork and commitment. I learned that in some aspects of life I cannot always do things by myself. I've learned the valuable skill of being able to work as a team. I got to know other people and learn how to motivate them and how to talk to them when something goes wrong.” When he wasn't playing football, Renard was staying on top of his studies and was involved in a vast array of extracurricular activities. He graduated high school in 2006 with a 4.25 GPA out of 4.0 and was ranked 16 out of 400 in his graduating class. Impressive, to say the least.

Following graduation, Ellis began his search for the perfect college at which to play football. Although he was looked at by a few Division I schools, he chose Mississippi College. He hit it off right away with the coaching staff and immediately felt at home. Ironically, Ellis had never played one down on offense in high school, and yet he was approached by Coach Norman Joseph to make the transition from defensive end to tight end. This turned out to be the best move of his college career. Coach Joseph said, “I was so impressed with his speed on the field and I knew that he would bring the depth necessary for that position. He had a great attitude about making the move to the offensive side of the ball. He was willing to do whatever he could to help the team

win. We felt that if he stayed in our program for four years that he would become an outstanding football player. We were right.” For the first two years, Ellis was the starting tight end and was mostly used as a blocking tight end as he combined for only six receptions for 74 yards and one touchdown in 2006 and 2007. He became more of a passing game weapon as a junior, with 23 receptions for 327 yards and four touchdowns. His senior year, Renard had 58 receptions for 748 yards with eight touchdowns. That production on the field earned him a First-Team All American selection by the American Football Coaches Association, a First Team All American selection in the American Southwest Conference and by D3football.com. He was also honored as Second Team All South Region and was chosen All American in two polls. “It's a great honor for me to win these awards. To know that all of your hard work is being noticed by other teams and coaches is a humbling feeling and I'm just so happy to have received these awards,” said Ellis.

Juggling football and school is quite a feat for anyone, but Renard did it with much success. He graduated with his degree in Business Administration in December 2009 with a 3.65 GPA after only 3.5 years. It's rare to see a traditional student complete their degree that quickly, much less a very busy football player. Renard says, “I would do my work after football practice and often when we traveled I would bring my books with me. It was tough to get it all done and there were times when I took 18, 19, and even a 21 hour semester!” Even with all of his time commitments, Renard was able to make the Dean's and President's List several semesters, served on the School of Business Advisory Board, and was awarded the prestigious Mississippi College Distinguished Scholar Athlete Award.

Renard found that he really connected with the professors within the School of Business. “If I had a question about something in class, I knew I could ask and have it answered. The professors were always there to talk about anything and I always felt like they truly wanted to get to know me as a person and not just as a student. That was something I really valued within the School of Business and I know it has shaped the way that I will treat people in my career.” Dr. Lloyd Roberts, who taught Renard Strategic Management, is the professor that he says made the greatest impact on his college education. “Dr. Roberts explained everything he taught in great detail and went further by relating it all to current events that are happening today. He always knew that I had the potential to do better and he continually pushed me to go the extra mile.” Dr. Roberts also took a special interest in MC football and always made it a point to talk over every game with Renard. “He was usually in the stands and he always knew most of the statistics of every game. We would talk football a lot and he always made sure to tell me ‘good game’. I am so grateful to have encountered Dr. Roberts and count him as a great friend.”

For the coming year, Renard will be putting his football skills to good use as an assistant coach for MC's football team as a tight end coach. He will complete his MBA in summer 2011 and plans to either attend law school and emphasize in sports law or transition into coaching football and teaching either on the college or high school level. One thing is for sure: great things are in store for Renard Ellis and he will continue to prove himself a success in all aspects of life.

“I'VE SEEN MY MOTHER GO THROUGH A LOT IN MY LIFE, and at times I think back to the hard times we've encountered and I realize that we can make it through anything. My mother has been the most influential person in my life and has inspired me and made it possible for me to always achieve my goals.”

BEGINNING IN 1967, KEN TOLER WAS RANKED **#1** BY THE MISSISSIPPI TENNIS ASSOCIATION AND HELD THAT RANKING FOR **40** CONSECUTIVE YEARS.



# KEN TOLER

A TENNIS SENSATION

GROWING UP IN THE SMALL MISSISSIPPI DELTA TOWN OF INVERNESS, KIDS PLAY JUST ABOUT EVERY SPORT AVAILABLE.

Ken Toler, a 1956 graduate of the MC School of Business, was no different. He participated in football, baseball, basketball, track, and tennis as a student at Inverness High School, going on to play quarterback at Ole Miss from 1952 to 1954 and then at Mississippi College from 1954 to 1956.

However, it was tennis—a sport that played second fiddle to football and something that he became serious about as an adult upon moving to Jackson in 1960—that led Toler to the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

“I played [tennis] all through high school, but played all the other sports too, so I didn’t devote as much time to tennis,” Toler said. “We were a small school and had to play everything, so I did. Tennis more or less came last at that time.”

When Toler eventually did make tennis his first priority, he became one of the most dominant players in the Mississippi amateur ranks. Beginning in 1967, Ken Toler was ranked No. 1 by the Mississippi Tennis Association and held that ranking for 40 consecutive years. His streak ended in 2008 after having knee sur-

gery. “We won’t ever see that record duplicated,” said Anne Brady, executive director of the Mississippi Tennis Association. Toler also won five gold medals and two silver medals in the National Senior Olympic Games.

Of all his tennis accomplishments, Toler has said that he is most proud of being ranked No. 7 in the country in doubles with his partner, Albert Lyle, and No. 1 in the Southern Region in doubles in his age group. He says, “The state rankings were important, but when you get outside of your state and can compete on that level, it carries a little more prestige. A lot of players ranked in Mississippi couldn’t win a match outside of the state.”

Toler is the ninth athlete to be inducted in the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame for tennis. Membership in the Hall of Fame is the just the latest in a list of honors for Toler, who was also inducted in to the Mississippi Tennis Hall of Fame in 1996, the Mississippi College Sports Hall of Fame in 1999, and the Mississippi Senior Olympics Hall of Fame in 2009. “I’ve just been fortunate to get into tennis, and have some good wins and success over the years,” says Toler of his accolades.

If anyone can do it, Ken Toler is the one who can.

# CONTINUED EXCELLENCE



## SELF HALL TRANSFORMATION

When we began our largest, and most aggressive fund-raising campaign in the history of the School of Business, our number-one goal was the renovation of Self Hall, the now 46-year old home of the School of Business. The response from you, our alumni and friends, was tremendous. Through your generosity, we have been able to transform our classrooms into state-of-the-art learning centers equipped with the latest teaching technologies. Since the beginning of our campaign, many have made significant contributions to the MCBusiness effort and these individuals and companies are highlighted on page 30. The renovation is almost complete, with only the bottom floor of Self Hall left to be remodeled. This final project will complete the \$2.4 Million makeover.

As we continue to work together to advance our School of Business, we turn our efforts to achieving Accreditation to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business or AACSB. America's most prominent business schools hold AACSB accreditation. With this seal of approval, our ethics-based business curriculum, and our outstanding faculty, we will increase our ability to attract and retain top business students.

Your financial support is meaningful to all of us in the MCBusiness family – students, faculty, alumni and friends. The gifts you give this year will help us complete the renovation work and embark of the 5-year candidacy process to achieve AACSB accreditation.

Thank you for your continued and active interest in the MC School of Business and our students.

## YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS MEANINGFUL

to all of us in the MCBusiness family – students, faculty, alumni and friends. The gifts you give this year will help us complete the renovation work and embark of the 5-year candidacy process to achieve AACSB accreditation.



## HUFFMAN DEDICATION

Family, friends, and MC leaders were in attendance on April 28, 2010, when Room 307 in Self Hall, home of the School of Business, officially became known as the Tony Huffman, CPA & Terrell E. Wise Accounting Classroom.

Since earning his bachelor's degree in business administration, Huffman, a 47 year old Pensacola, FL native, has shined in the business world. He was the MC School of Business Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 1999 and MC's Young Alumnus of the Year in 2004. He founded his Flowood-based accounting firm, specializing in small business taxes, accounting and advisory services, in 1991. Huffman & Company now has ten employees and serves 1500 individual and small business clients. A former MC track star, Huffman is the co-founder of the Mississippi Blues Marathon, and is active with Habitat for Humanity, the Mississippi Track Club, and Jackson Friends of the Library, among other organizations.

The late Terrell Wise, who died at age 88 in July 2008, was also a Pensacola, FL native and founder of Wise Construction Company in 1948. His company built commercial structures throughout the Southeast, including banks, churches and stadiums. He served 17 years on the board of governors of Hinds General Hospital in Jackson, was the former president of Goodwill Industries, and served as chairman of the Woodland Hills Baptist Church deacons. Huffman spoke highly of Wise at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the high-tech classroom, saying, "Mr. Wise was an entrepreneur and a fine gentleman."

The newly named classroom enhances Self Hall, which has

undergone extensive renovations since 2007, including upgrades of lecture halls and installation of the newest technology. These renovations are part of the School of Business's Continued Excellence Campaign.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

At 93-years old, Mr. Aven Whittington continues to have an impact on Mississippi business and on students at Mississippi College. Throughout the years, he has served the college as a member of the Board of Trustees and has provided generous funding for numerous campus projects, including Whittington Hall, built in 1962, and Aven Hall, built in 1959.

Although a Princeton graduate himself, his mother, Anna Ward Aven Whittington, is a Mississippi College Alumnae. In fact, in 1907 she was the only female graduate from Mississippi College. In order to provide our day and night students with a place to study, especially after work and before class, we are transforming the bottom floor of Self Hall into the Anna Ward Aven Business Student Center, equipped with a student lobby and updated computer labs. Aven Whittington has launched this initiative by generously contributing to the project. These night students often need a place to study after work and before class, and to meet this need we are transforming the bottom floor of Self Hall into the Anna Ward Aven Business Student Center, equipped with a student lobby and updated computer labs. Aven Whittington has launched this initiative by generously contributing to the project. We are grateful for his family's long-standing interest in Mississippi College and thank him for making this project a reality for our students.

A former MC track star, Huffman is the co-founder of the Mississippi Blues Marathon, and is active with Habitat for Humanity, the Mississippi Track Club, and Jackson Friends of the Library, among other organizations.

*Above: Tony Huffman with his family and the family of the late Terrell E. Wise at the dedication of the Tony Huffman, CPA & Terrell E. Wise Accounting Classroom*



**CONTINUED  
EXCELLENCE**

**CONTINUED  
EXCELLENCE  
CAMPAIGN  
SUPPORTERS  
2002 TO 2010**

**DEAN'S CIRCLE  
\$100,000 AND  
HIGHER**  
Samuel D. Anderson  
Mr. and Mrs. John  
F. Brock III  
Randall Crenshaw  
Robert M. Hearin  
Foundation  
Henry Hederman  
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**EXECUTIVES  
\$10,000 TO \$99,999**  
Dorsey Barefield  
Charitable Trust  
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**CONTINUED  
EXCELLENCE**





## RIVER OAKS CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT

*MC Business* RECENTLY SAT DOWN WITH DENNY BRUNS, CEO OF RIVER OAKS HOSPITAL IN FLOWOOD, TO DISCUSS THE HOSPITAL'S SUPPORT OF MC AND THE GROWING COMMUNITY.

Since 1981, River Oaks Hospital has been committed to serving the metro Jackson area. One of the ways in which it contributes to the community is by actively supporting business education through a partnership with the MC School of Business. Mr. Bruns looks at this relationship with the college as an investment into the future.

"MC consistently produces outstanding students especially from their business program, both undergraduate and graduate. We will need these students as young executives to face the challenges not only in healthcare, but in all facets of business in the future. They will have to work smarter and be creative. MC students traditionally come equipped with the best education in every aspect of study—religion, business, pre-medicine, etc."

River Oaks has recently been faced with new challenges in healthcare due to the reform legislation signed into law on March 23 and March 30, 2010. These challenges have been met head-on by adapting to the changing market, while still meeting the needs of the ever-growing metro Jackson area.

The population of Rankin County has grown by 20% in the last seven years and is expected to grow an additional 7% over the next five years. River Oaks Hospital is constantly making strides to keep up with the tremendous growth of Rankin County and the Flowood area. In July of 2009 River Oaks opened a 145,000

square foot building. Of the new 50 licensed beds, 15 enlarged the hospital's NICU, 13 were designated for obstetrics and 22 for medical/surgical which are primarily used for orthopedic patients. The expansion continued as the hospital filed an additional certificate of need for the relocation of the ER and the addition and expansion of surgical suites. The new ER is expected to open in March 2011.

River Oaks attributes its success to focusing on the metro Jackson community and the patients it serves. "We strive to provide quality, compassionate care everyday to the hundreds of people who walk through our doors. Whether it is an expectant mother or a concerned relative, we treat everyone with courtesy, respect and dignity," stated Bruns.

River Oaks has been nationally recognized for this level of care. Orthopedic services including joint replacement and spine surgery were ranked among the top five percent in the nation by HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization. River Oaks Hospital was also rated 5-star for total knee replacement, total hip replacement, back and neck surgery without spinal fusion, and spinal fusion surgeries. The HealthGrades study evaluates objective patient outcomes in the nation's 5,000 hospitals.

As its history shows, River Oaks is committed to serving the community by using successful business practices to deliver quality healthcare. They aim to be the first choice healthcare provider for patients, physicians and payers and strive to meet the healthcare needs of the community.

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"MC consistently produces outstanding students especially from their business program, both undergraduate and graduate. We will need these students as young executives to face the challenges not only in healthcare, but in all facets of business in the future. — DENNY BRUNS