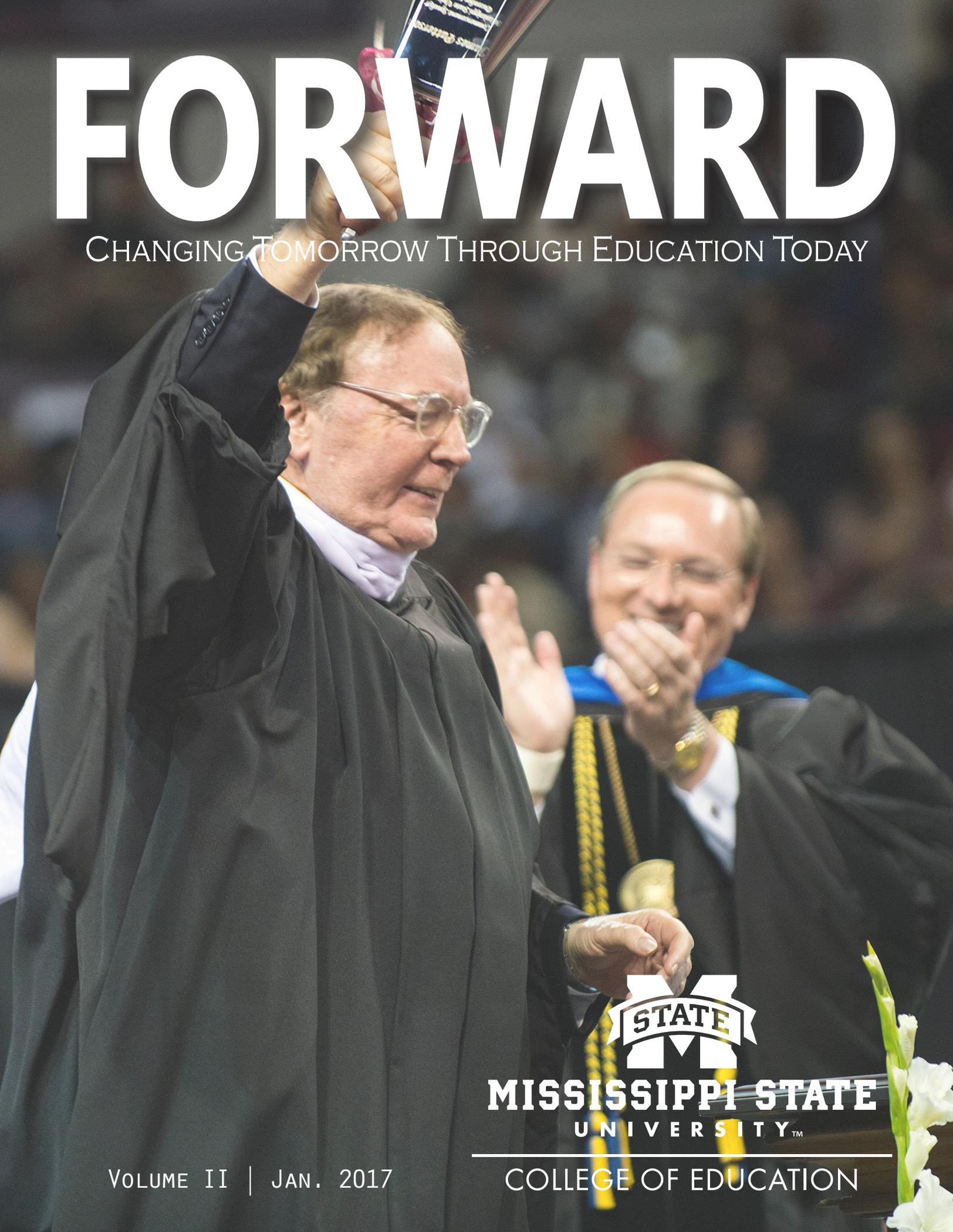


FORWARD

CHANGING TOMORROW THROUGH EDUCATION TODAY



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

VOLUME II | JAN. 2017

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dean's Greeting

The pages of this newsletter underscore the myriad of successes occurring in the Mississippi State University College of Education. As our tag line indicates, we are "Changing Tomorrow Through Education Today." This is not merely a slogan, but a depiction of the ongoing work in our college. While the accomplishments outlined in this publication are impressive, they are a small subset of the total impact of the COE. Our mission is to provide instruction, research, and service to state, national, and international audiences which significantly impact educational attainment, economic development, and quality of life. The accomplishment of this mission is made possible by a network of outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends. In addition to numerous successes occurring in the College of Education this year, we take pride in the following:

- *Expanding the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program*
- *Maintaining our third place rank among MSU colleges with respect to external funding*
- *Providing assistance to the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District in the development of a partnership school on the MSU campus*

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

Best Wishes,



Richard Blackbourn, Dean

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FORWARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE MSU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

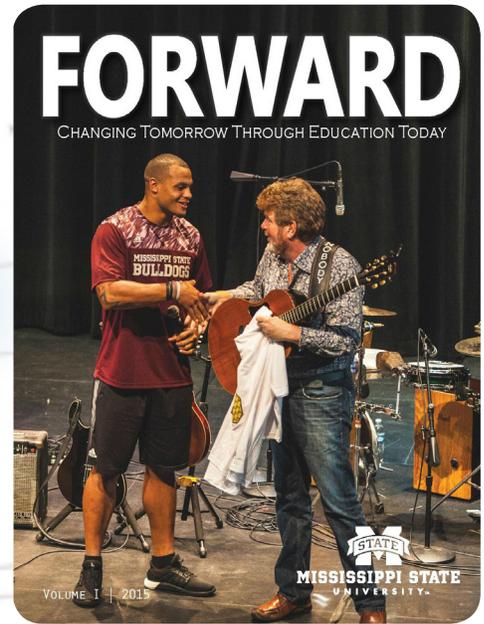
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Where are they now?

The cover of last year's inaugural FORWARD magazine featured MSU College of Education alumnus and former Mississippi State Football quarterback Dak Prescott with 10-time CMA Musician of the Year Award winner Mac McAnally. The duo is pictured after Prescott introduced McAnally to the crowd during his concert at Lee Hall on the MSU campus last year.



Dallas/Ft. Worth



McAnally spent this past year promoting his new country album, "A.K.A. Nobody" and performing on tour with fellow Mississippian Jimmy Buffett. Prescott was selected in the fourth round of the 2016 NFL Draft by the Dallas Cowboys. Due to an injury suffered by the team's veteran quarterback Tony Romo, Prescott began his rookie season as the starting quarterback for the Cowboys.



College of Education debuts television show



The Mississippi State College of Education is pleased to announce the debut of a new television show airing on the HD MSTV digital channel, operated by the University Television Center, available to MaxxSouth Broadband subscribers in the Golden Triangle and those with C Spire Fiber TV throughout the state.

Taping episodes each month, the show is designed exclusively to feature various College of Education faculty, staff, alumni, and students representing the six academic departments and seven centers and institutes. Pictured from left are Trish Cunetto and Dr. Barry Kopetz, guests from the first episode; and Paige Watson, host of the show. All episodes are also available online on the College's YouTube page.



MSU Football family visits Project IMPACT

Megan Mullen, wife of MSU Head Football Coach Dan Mullen, and College of Education alumnus and MSU football player Richie Brown made several appearances at the T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability this year while visiting students in the Project IMPACT program.

Project IMPACT is presently a blended program serving the early intervention needs of children in Mississippi by using a family-friendly approach involving both parents and caregivers as essential participants in the evaluation, intervention, and follow-through.

After touring the Express Yourself! art studio, Mullen served as a guest reader for students enrolled in Project IMPACT.

Brown assisted the Junior Auxiliary of Starkville as a guest reader and visited several times throughout the semester during activity time along with his wife, Erin.

The T.K. Martin Center is always welcoming of special guests as celebrity readers and those who wish to assist during activity time.

Tying in with the goals of the Mullen 36 Foundation to lend a helping hand to children in need, Dan and Megan Mullen's focus is to enrich children's lives through healthcare, education, athletics, the arts, and scholarships. Project IMPACT became a Mullen 36 Foundation charity earlier this year.

Kinesiology department features new Bulldog Bike Camp

Mississippi State debuted its first Bulldog Bike Camp to teach participants with disabilities how to independently operate a bicycle.

The May 23-27 program was organized by the university's kinesiology department, in partnership with iCan Shine, a Pennsylvania-based philanthropic organization that helps make bike camps possible throughout the United States.

To be eligible for the camp in upcoming years, participants must be at least 8 years old, weigh less than 220 pounds and have a diagnosed disability. Additionally, they must have a minimum inseam of 20 inches and be able to walk without assistive devices. Teens and adults are welcomed.

A single, 75-minute session will take place daily for five consecutive days. According to organizers, the program has an average success rate of approximately 80 percent.

The attendance fee is \$100 per person and scholarships are available. Gregg Twietmeyer, MSU assistant professor of sports studies and sports philosophy, is the camp director.

He said benefits of the program are two-fold.

“On one hand, participants can learn the joys of riding a bike, which can lead to increased self-esteem and confidence,” he said. “Secondly, MSU students volunteering as spotters for the riders will get to see firsthand the important roles of physical activity and play in human well-being and culture.”

A Pennsylvania State University doctoral graduate, Twietmeyer said “physical activity and play are part of the good life,” adding that, “As kinesiologists, we’re always excited when barriers to physical activity can be removed, which is exactly what this camp does.”

Organizing the camp has been “an amazing experience” because it can “help bring the joys of riding a bike to an underserved population,” he said.

Individuals interested in helping defray costs of Bike Camp participation through financial donations or becoming a camp sponsor should contact Trish Cunetto, COE development director, at 662-325-6762 or tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu.





JAMES PATTERSON

Impacts College of Education, MSU

As an international best-selling author, James Patterson is a man of words.

During Mississippi State's fall 2015 graduation program on Dec. 11, the award-winning writer shared a few more of them as the university's commencement speaker. More than 1,300 MSU students were candidates for degrees.

A New York native, Patterson is best-known for his Alex Cross, Women's Murder Club and Michael Bennett crime novel series.

A summa cum laude English graduate of both Manhattan College and Vanderbilt University, the Florida resident also has produced several popular book series for young adults.

"We all know we're supposed to teach our kids how to ride a bike and kick a football, but the most important thing we have to do is make sure they can read competently because it helps them become better, smarter people and gives them a chance in a harder and harder world," Patterson said in a 2013 interview.



To put action to those words and share their love of reading with current and future generations, Patterson and wife Susan Solie Patterson have been major supporters of literacy education initiatives. Last year at MSU, the couple established the James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship Endowment, with inaugural awards to eight freshman elementary education majors.

“Having our students interact with a speaker with the demonstrated values and commitment to quality education of author James Patterson is indeed exciting for our December graduates,” said MSU President Mark E. Keenum.

“James Patterson and his wife, Susan Solie Patterson, have become a tremendous force for good in higher education, and we are very pleased to have them affiliated with Mississippi State through their foundation.”

“Please dream big,” international best-selling and award-winning author Patterson urged the graduates during commencement.

“Make sure you have a dream when you leave Mississippi State and have a backup dream. When I was a kid, right through high school and into college, my dream was to play basketball in the NBA. I could dunk. I was pretty good. It didn’t happen, but I had a backup dream,” Patterson said.

“I loved to write stories, and I went at the craft of storytelling with passion and perseverance and kind of obsessive stubbornness. My first novel was published when I was 26,” he added. His fictional novels have now sold more than 300 million copies.

Currently holding the Guinness World Record for the most No. 1 New York Times best-sellers of any author and the first to achieve 10 million e-book sales, the New York native also is the first to have No. 1 new titles listed simultaneously on the Times’ children’s and adult best-seller lists.

“You have to work real hard at your dream and even at your backup dream. I’ve always felt compelled to do the best that I possibly can and tell the best stories I’m capable of, especially my stories for kids,” Patterson said.

In addition to “dreamers,” Patterson also encouraged the December graduates to be “doers.”

“There is so much to do right now, and please try not to be cynical about it and skeptical about it. You can do stuff; you really can,” he emphasized.

Following his address, Patterson said he and Susan plan to donate more scholarships for MSU students next year. MSU President Mark E. Keenum also declared Patterson an honorary Bulldog in recognition of his outstanding contributions, impeccable integrity and professional achievements that have set an example of excellence.

College of Education hosts ninth annual Research Forum

Nine Mississippi State College of Education students and two faculty were recently recognized for their significant research achievements at the university.

Honored formally at the ninth annual College of Education Faculty/Staff Research Forum held at The Mill at MSU, the event featured research poster competitions as well as paper competitions, designed to showcase the variety of work produced from the college.

The forum also included keynote speakers from the College of Education at Brigham Young University, as well as a panel discussion session featuring community leaders from the city of Starkville and the Mississippi State campus, as well as representatives from the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District.

The theme for this year's forum was "Fostering Research in Teaching through Partnerships" and the attendance exceeded any previous forum thus far.

Honorees from the competition include:

Graduate Level Research Poster Category

FIRST PLACE – Hallie Smith, Anne Hollis Libscomb, Dr. Kasee Stratton, and Dr. Daniel Gadke

SECOND PLACE – Margaret Bernheim, Hallie Smith, Dr. Kasee Stratton, and Dr. Daniel Gadke

THIRD PLACE – Chris Hill

Undergraduate Level Research Poster Category

FIRST PLACE – Steven Basham

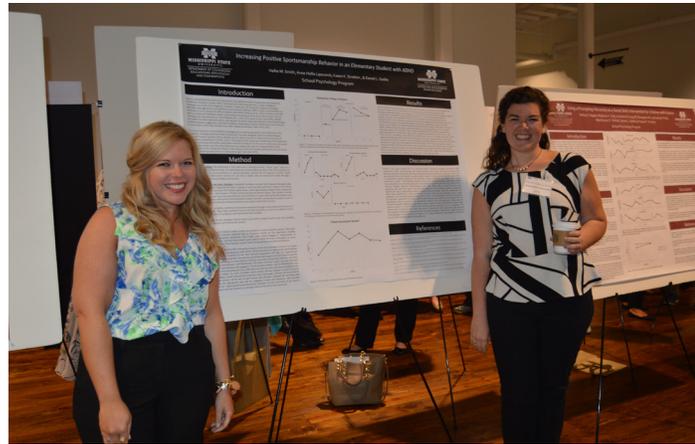
SECOND PLACE – Rachel Blough, and Morgan Bishop

THIRD PLACE – Keely McCulla

Research Paper Category

FIRST PLACE – Jasmine Curtis

The College's 10th annual research forum will be held in the spring of 2017.





Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program offers experiences abroad in Canada

One of Mississippi State University's most prestigious scholarships housed within the College of Education offered its first cohort of students a once-in-a-lifetime study abroad trip this summer.

The Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program is a joint effort with the University of Mississippi and is funded by the Jackson-based Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation.

In an effort to attract the "best and brightest" teachers for the state of Mississippi, the program offers scholarship fellows full tuition, including room, board, books, professional development opportunities, a study abroad component, and a \$1,000 technology stipend. Over four years, the program's value totals approximately \$95,000.

In return, participants must commit to teaching in Mississippi for five years after graduation, though the obligation may be deferred if students decide to pursue graduate-degree programs. Mississippi State had twelve scholars from this year's METP senior class travel to Canada this summer for the study abroad component.

Scholars were able to go on educational visits in Vancouver at Vancouver Technical Secondary School, the Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School, as well as other schools in the area.



In addition to the educational stays and insights at Canadian schools, scholars also experienced many sightseeing and recreational activities throughout the country.

The study abroad also included trips to the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary where students participated in educational panels and discussion, as well as visits at Tuscany School and Calgary French and International School.

The group cruised on Lake Minnewanka, participated in the Banff Gondola Summit of Sulphur Mountain, hiked Johnston Canyon and attended Mahler's Tragic Symphony at the Orpheum Theatre.





America Reads-Mississippi celebrates successful year

A national program impacting the way students are learning to read in the Magnolia State recently celebrated a successful year.

Established in 1998, America Reads-Mississippi (ARM) is an AmeriCorps program administered through the academic affairs office of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. Beginning with 200 full-time AmeriCorps members, Mississippi State University (MSU) is one of only two state universities partnering with the program.

Dedicated to improving the reading skills of students, encouraging public awareness and support of literacy, and helping to increase the number of certified teachers in Mississippi, the program housed in the College of Education's Center for Educational Partnerships hosted volunteers to fulfill the program's mission throughout the year and celebrated with a wrap-up luncheon last week.

Theresa Hall-Brown, regional coordinator for the university's unit said, "About 60 percent of our members want to become teachers and help our school districts grow across the state."

With 18 school districts and 29 school partners, the districts partnering with ARM recruit tutors who then receive training by the participating universities.

Ronjanett Taylor, state program director, who was also in attendance at the celebratory luncheon said, "Members have worked extremely hard this year, and the tutoring our members provide is making a huge difference."

Taylor added, "When our members utilize opportunities to get involved in their communities, it improves the condition of the whole state."

ARM had members volunteer in many local schools including: Coffeerville Elementary, Fair Elementary, Goodman-Pickens Elementary, Holly Springs Elementary, North Pontotoc Elementary, Okolona Elementary, S.V. Marshall, and South Panola Elementary. Funded through the Corporation of National & Community Service, the America Reads-Mississippi program is also overseen on a state level by Volunteer Mississippi.

National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision celebrates 35 years



The NRTC collaborates with all of the major national organizations of and for the blind through their involvement in an advisory council, which provides input and guidance on research and training activities. In addition, many blindness organizations, rehabilitation agencies, and other entities and individuals collaborate with the NRTC on its specific projects.

Led by Director Michele McDonnall, the NRTC is excited to have the opportunity to continue impacting the field following the recent award of two competitive five-year grants totaling more than \$7.3 million.

“Our extensive history of generating new knowledge and developing resources for the field of blindness and low vision is key to receiving ongoing funding,” says McDonnall.

The two new federal grants include six new research projects and six new training and technical assistance projects, in addition to the provision of general technical assistance and training to professionals.

The National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision (NRTC) at Mississippi State University is celebrating 35 years. Housed within the College of Education since 1981, the NRTC has been awarded more than \$31 million to support research, training, technical assistance, and dissemination activities, enhancing employment and independent living outcomes for individuals with blindness and other visual impairments.

The only U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-funded center focused on employment outcomes of persons who are blind or visually impaired, the NRTC is established as a national resource center on blindness and low vision, serving as a valuable resource to both consumers and professionals, ranging from direct-service practitioners to administrators of state agencies and federal programs.





One grant allows for the continuation of the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Employment for Individuals with Blindness or Other Visual Impairments, the center that founded the NRTC, which involves conducting multi-stage research that generates new knowledge about the effectiveness of rehabilitation services and technology used to support employment outcomes for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

The other grant allows for the development of OIB-TAC: the Older Individuals Who are Blind Technical Assistance Center, which allows for the provision of training and technical assistance to designated state agencies and others serving older individuals who are blind or visually impaired through the federally-funded OIB program.

The NRTC has a long history of contributing literature and resources to the field through peer-review publications, monographs and technical reports, online courses, products available for download from the website, and training opportunities, such as the intensive graduate certificate program for Vision Specialists.

These resources are designed for a variety of audiences, although the primary focus is on professionals who work with individuals who are blind or visually impaired, to help them better understand and provide services to the population. Members of the NRTC team disseminate this information at national, regional, and state conferences on a regular basis.

The NRTC was established with a grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), and NIDILRR continues to be its primary funding source. Additional funding has been provided by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Institute of Education Sciences, Office of Special Education Programs, National Institutes of Health, Helen Keller National Center for Deafblind Youth and Adults, and multiple state agencies.



Jayroe named SEC Leadership Fellow, embraces education at MSU

The 14 universities of the Southeastern Conference have each selected several faculty and administrators to participate in the 2016-17 SEC Academic Leadership Development Program, the league office announced.

The SEC Academic Leadership Development Program (SEC ALDP) is a professional growth initiative that seeks to identify, prepare and advance academic leaders for roles within SEC institutions and beyond. It has two components: a university-level development program designed by each institution for its own participants and two, three-day, SEC-wide workshops held on specified campuses for all program participants.

“It is our strong belief that helping to prepare administrators for the next phase of their careers has the potential to impact all of higher education, both now and in the future,” said SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey.

“Our universities make a significant investment in these individuals, and we are proud to work with them through this program.”

One representative from Mississippi State University was the College of Education’s Associate Dean, Teresa Jayroe. When she first stepped foot on the Mississippi State campus in the early 1980s, Jayroe had no idea of the legacy she would carve at the university.



She first spent time as a classroom instructor, was promoted to directing and organizing senior-block classes for elementary education majors, and eventually became part of the COE administration.

Along the way, Jayroe served as the principal investigator for the Dillard’s Reading, Enrichment, Arts, Mathematics and Science after-school and summer enrichment grant program.

A partnership between the COE and the Louisville Municipal School District, DREAMS was a memorial to the late Susan Gregory Dillard, an MSU alumna and longtime Louisville public school teacher who was instrumental in securing its initial funding from the Mississippi Legislature.

Designed to help students in rural kindergarten-fourth grades, it supported extra enrichment activities in reading and mathematics.

“Teachers made a difference in my life, and those teachers came from all different walks of life,” Jayroe said, in explaining her lifetime commitment.

Asked what she hopes today’s MSU education majors will take away from their time on campus, she replied, “My hope is that our students continue to learn and continue making a difference, no matter where they go.”

After graduating summa cum laude in 1983, she would return to the College of Education some years later to become a rising faculty member, then director of the Office of Clinical/Field-Based Instruction, and now its associate dean.

Jayroe said she always wanted to become a teacher. After receiving bachelor’s and master’s degrees in elementary education, she taught for 12 years at public schools in Philadelphia and Winston County.

She became an MSU faculty member after beginning work on an education specialist degree in educational leadership, and then a doctorate in curriculum and instruction.





Bulldog CHARGE Lab

earns

national exposure

Housed within the College of Education, the Bulldog CHARGE Lab has earned national exposure through efforts of the university's new branding campaign.

With a goal to highlight national research from across the university, the Office of Public Affairs at Mississippi State recently featured the Bulldog CHARGE Lab in one of 10 newly released commercials.

Airing originally during SEC Network's Mississippi State takeover day, the CHARGE commercial has now been viewed more than 200,000 times through various media outlets, as well as through social media.

CHARGE Syndrome is a genetic condition that causes sight and hearing loss in infants.

Assistant professor Kasee Stratton in the college's Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Foundations is one of only two leading researchers studying CHARGE in the United States.

Viewable at any time through the MSU YouTube page, the commercial features Stratton and her team researching and working with families who have children affected by CHARGE.

Stratton is making quite a difference in helping families while creating learning opportunities for COE students.

For more information on the Bulldog CHARGE Lab, visit the Facebook page: facebook.com/BulldogCHARGELab

Devlin honored, continues efforts for Camp Jigsaw

Sandy Devlin, an MSU professor of curriculum, instruction and special education housed in the College of Education, is garnering honor as a hometown hero from Woodmen of the World for her coordination of a unique camp for youth who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.

Now completing its seventh year, Camp Jigsaw is named after the puzzle-piece symbol associated with autism awareness.

More than 40-50 boys from ages 13 and up participate in the one-of-a-kind camp held during the summer.

Devlin's advanced graduate students who have career goals of working with children with emotional and behavioral disorders assist in carrying out the annual planning and coordination, and serve as camp staff members.

Camp participants will stay in residence halls on campus and experience activities such as horseback riding, swimming, picnics, and other field trips on campus and within the Golden Triangle community.



The activities focus on building social skills, self-determination, and parents of campers say they often enjoy seeing their children in these settings as preparation for when they transition to the college environment.

The camp is one-of-a-kind as it's one of a few in the entire country to be completely free to participants. Devlin said, "Camp Jigsaw appreciates any donations of any kind for those interested in becoming involved or helping out."

Financial and food costs are greatly appreciated, as well as any local business or partnerships interested in providing activity time to participants. Having spread only by word-of-mouth throughout the years, nearly three-fourths of participants come from out of state.

State, local, private, and university donations supporting MSU Autism Clinic



The campus clinic was created several years ago as an expansion of MSU's School Psychology Services Center.

Both are units of the College of Education and its counseling and educational psychology department.

The Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities is a federally mandated body of advocates appointed by the governor to promote a better quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as their families and communities.

Funded by the U.S. Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the Jackson-based organization's administrative and fiscal services are coordinated through the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

"It is because of the support of these organizations, groups and individuals that we are able to keep doing the good work we do," said center director Dan Gadke.

"Even if they do not get to see it first hand, the generosity of these funders positively resonates through the lives of these children and their families in ways they can't imagine," he added.

In addition to recently receiving a new \$157,000 grant from the Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic at Mississippi State University is the beneficiary of two other summer gifts.

They include:

—\$8,000 from United Way of North Central Mississippi, a volunteer organization providing a range of community programs and services to Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston

counties. The check was delivered by Robyn Havard of Starkville, chair of UWNCM's executive board.

—\$1,000 from Quess M. Hood of Ripley. A 2000 College of Business graduate and current head football coach at Falkner High School, Hood is founder of HOPE for Autism Mississippi, a non-profit organization working to raise awareness and assist North Mississippi children with autism.



—The campus governing body for eight Greek-letter sororities at Mississippi State is also naming the university’s Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic as its primary philanthropy, with a \$25,000 commitment over five years.

Senior biological sciences major Kodi D. Long of Jackson, the MSU Panhellenic Council’s community service director, said members feel the clinic’s availability and mission seem a perfect fit for the group to support on a continuing basis, along with other causes.

At MSU, the Panhellenic Council is responsible for Alpha Delta Pi, Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Gamma, Kappa Delta, Phi Mu, Pi Beta Phi and Zeta Tau Alpha.

“Each sorority has their individual philanthropy, but we’re excited to have the clinic as a place to offer hands-on philanthropic work, as well as unite all our sororities in supporting one organization,” Long explained.

Gadke, said the council’s support will be of great benefit to the clinic’s operation.

“We’re so excited to begin working with the Panhellenic Council,” Gadke said, adding that the relationship will enable the center “to raise funds and support a sustainable future here on campus.”

Williams and Long said sorority membership recruitment week at the start of the fall semester featured an entire day devoted to philanthropy and the importance of service dedication throughout the Panhellenic community.

For more information about the Autism and Disabilities Clinic, visit www.addc.msstate.edu.

Faculty Spotlight

REBECCA ROBICHAUX-DAVIS

Hailing from Thibodaux, Louisiana, associate professor in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education Rebecca Robichaux-Davis is approaching her 10th year as a faculty member for the Mississippi State University College of Education.

The Nichols State, Auburn, and Louisiana State universities alumna has been recognized numerous times throughout her time at Mississippi State.

Named the Lucinda Rose Outstanding Teaching recipient in 2013, and most recently the Clyde Muse Service Award recipient, Robichaux-Davis was also honored by her alma mater in 2010 as the Nichols State College of Education alumna of the year.



^Robichaux-Davis pictured with College of Education student and MSU basketball stand out Quinndary Weatherspoon



^Robichaux-Davis shown teaching a student during a DREAMS after-school activity.

As the senior elementary math methods block teacher and a teacher for learning skills math success strategies, Robichaux-Davis says, “To teach something, you have to really understand it, and you have to know more than what you teach your students.”

As research suggests that passing and completing college algebra is the strongest predictor in graduation success, Robichaux-Davis takes pride in teaching for the College of Education and says her job is very rewarding.

Other activities of the professor include serving as co-principal investigator for the DREAMS grant, completing MSU’s 2011 Leadership Institute, and serving on the most recent Provost Search Committee.

Ed Davis receives national rural education award

A well-known and widely respected Mississippi State faculty member is being recognized with the highest tribute of a professional organization representing more than 600 U.S. community colleges.

James E. “Ed” Davis of Starkville is the Rural Community College Alliance’s selection for the 2016 George Autry Lifetime Achievement Award. He formally accepted the honor Sept. 29 at the RCCA’s national gathering in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

An associate professor with three degrees from the university, Davis is interim head of the College of Education’s educational leadership department.

In addition to an MSU career, the Clay County native has held positions as academic recruiting director and vice president during separate periods in the 1990s at East Mississippi Community College in Scooba. After receiving an associate’s degree at EMCC, he went on to earn bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees at MSU in 1978, 1984 and 1992, respectively.

Davis has been associated with Mississippi education for nearly 40 years. He taught for several years at rural state high schools before returning to EMCC as a member of the academic faculty and basketball coaching staff. In 1988, he came back to MSU as an assistant men’s basketball coach.

More recently at the Starkville land-grant institution, he coordinated master’s and doctoral degree programs in community college leadership. He has headed the educational leadership department for the past three years.

Davis also serves as a Senior Fellow at the University of Alabama’s Education Policy Center and has helped develop the multi-state Mississippi and Alabama Community College Policy Fellows program, a collaborative partnership sponsored by MSU and UA.



With offices in Holdenville, Oklahoma, the Rural Community College Alliance represents community, technical and tribal colleges that serve nearly 90 million rural-residing Americans. For more, visit www.ruralccalliance.org.

The George Autry Lifetime Achievement Award is a memorial to the long-serving president of MDC Inc., a nonprofit North Carolina think tank. Autry (1937-2007) earned national recognition for relentlessly promoting rural community and tribal colleges as vital intermediaries for building human capacity and economic resources in areas impacted by persistent poverty.

Bracey earns grants for education program with technology for teachers



A faculty member twice named as Mississippi's Outstanding University Business Educator of the Year also has landed a prestigious grant.

Pamela Scott Bracey, Department of Instructional Systems and Workforce Development assistant professor at MSU, has received \$4,000 through Mississippi Educational Computing Association and Schillig grants for instructional projects for courses taught within the College of Education.

Bracey said her purpose for applying for the grants was to

solicit funds for enhancement of a technology-rich distance education laboratory for undergraduate students enrolled in the newly renamed Business Technology Education program at MSU.

The program in the College of Education's ISWD department prepares undergraduate students to become secondary business and/or technology teachers in Mississippi. As the presence of distance education continues to grow in K-12 education, pre-service teachers must be adequately trained in ways to effectively reach online audiences.

Items purchased with the funding are now available for checkout for students enrolled in the online program who do not have their own personal equipment to use to complete the required web-based assignments.

"The overall goals and objectives of this project are to prepare BTE majors to efficiently utilize collaborative and creative technology tools to engage secondary students and meet the instructional needs of the new Mississippi Business Technology curriculum framework," Bracey said.

Notable items purchased include headphones with microphones, webcams, digital cameras, memory cards, table tripods, floor tripods, MacBook Air, Microsoft Surface Pro, Google Chromebook, Apple iPad Mini, iTunes gift cards, and several other equipment accessories.

Bracey recently won the Outstanding University Business Educator of the Year Award for the second straight year.

Nominated for the honor by recent MSU graduate Nashandra James, who holds a Master of Science in instructional technology, Bracey was selected through a voting process the Mississippi Business Education Association facilitated.

New MSU-produced CD features percussion talents of Jason Baker

A Mississippi State music faculty member is releasing an album of works for percussion solo.

Titled “Midsummer Songbook,” the CD from associate professor Jason Baker features five songs performed with marimba and vibraphone, among other instruments.

Recorded last fall in the university’s McComas Hall auditorium, the collection was engineered by computer specialist Cary Huser of MSU’s High Performance Computing Collaboratory, with assistance from senior Kevin R. West, a music/instrumental major from Byram.

In addition to Baker, selections were composed by Jason Bahr, assistant professor of music at Florida Gulf Coast University; Casey Cangelosi, assistant professor of music at James Madison University; and Frank Picarazzi, freelance composer and musician from Brooklyn, New York.

Production for “Midsummer Songbook” was funded by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Digital downloads are available via the Amazon and iTunes websites, and physical copies of the production may be obtained by contacting Baker at 662-325-4150 or jbaker@colled.mstate.edu.



Along with directing the music department’s percussion studies, Baker oversees the MSU Percussion Studio. When not teaching, he is an active performer who serves as principal timpanist for the Tupelo-based North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, principal percussionist for the Starkville-MSU Symphony Orchestra and a member of the State Messengers faculty jazz combo.

Baker is a University of Connecticut music graduate who also completed a master’s degree at the New England Conservatory of Music, and a doctorate in musical arts at the University of North Texas. Baker was also recently appointed as chair of the College Pedagogy Committee for the Percussive Arts Society.

Additionally, he holds an MSU master’s degree in business administration.

Hopper named president-elect of Phi Kappa Phi



Missy Hopper, an associate professor in MSU's Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education, was recently elected to serve as president-elect of Phi Kappa Phi's national Board of Directors.

Her election represents a six-year commitment of service to Phi Kappa Phi that will include terms as president-elect, president and past-president.

Hopper has been active within Phi Kappa Phi for the last decade at the local, regional and national levels. In addition to a stint as president of the Mississippi State Phi Kappa Phi chapter, Hopper most recently served a two-year term as the national honor society's vice president for chapter development.

"I would not want any chapter to get left behind as we move into serving the next generations of students," Hopper said. "For this reason, I appreciate the opportunity I've been given to continue my work with Phi Kappa Phi to promote and foster healthy chapters."

MSU's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi has been recognized as a "Chapter of Excellence" by the national organization for seven consecutive years. David Dampier, director of MSU's Distributed Analytics and Security Institute and professor of computer science and engineering, serves as president of the MSU chapter.

A Mississippi State University faculty member has been elected to lead Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Lance honored for 25 years of service



During halftime of this year's MSU Homecoming game against Samford, a presentation was made to Elva Kaye Lance honoring her for her many years of dedicated service to Mississippi State and the Famous Maroon Band. Joining in the presentation was President Mark Keenum, Dean Richard Blackburn, and Department of Music Head Barry E. Kopetz.

This is the 25th year that Lance has been on the band faculty at MSU, first serving as assistant director, and since 2002, as director of bands. Just a few highlights of her tenure include the growth of the band program to its current enrollment of 375, the expansion of the concert band program to four full ensembles, and overseeing the completion of the band/choral rehearsal facility. In addition, the wind ensemble has performed several times at the State Band Clinic and embarked on three international performing tours of Europe. She has also mentored numerous band directors that have come through the COE music education program.

Agiovlasitis now leading continental body



Agiovlasitis, a member of the university's Department of Kinesiology, will be among the organization's top leaders for the next six years. After two years as president-elect, he then serves periods as president and past-president.

NAFAPA is this continent's branch of the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity, a professional body dedicated to the promotion, dissemination and practical application of results and findings in the field of physical activity to benefit populations with disabilities and special needs.

An MSU faculty member since 2009, Agiovlasitis is a researcher focusing on physical activity and fitness for people with disabilities. He is co-founder of the Golden Triangle Down Syndrome Association.

Last year, he received another major recognition when elevated to the prestigious rank of Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, the world's largest sports medicine and exercise science organization. In 2011, he was honored on campus with the MSU Foundation's James W. Bagley Faculty Award.

In addition to bachelor's and master's degrees from Queens College, City University of New York, Agiovlasitis holds a doctorate from Oregon State University.

Stanley P. Brown, MSU kinesiology department head, said having a colleague leading the large international organization "is a first" for the College of Education's largest academic unit.

Associate Professor Stamatis Agiovlasitis of Mississippi State is the new president-elect of the North American Federation of Adapted Physical Activity.

College of Education Award Winners

The College of Education hosted its annual Awards Convocation in the John Grisham Room of the Mitchell Memorial Library. The college honored five members of its faculty and staff for their service and dedication to MSU.



Janie Cirlot-New,
Donnie Prisock
Diversity Award



Joni Branning,
Betty Purvis Staff
Award



Dr. Anastasia Elder,
Herb Handley
Research Award



Dr. Rebecca Robichaux-Davis,
Clyde Muse Service Award



Dr. Jessica Ivy,
Lucinda Rose
Teaching Award

Beauty & BRAINS

College of
Education
students crowned
Miss Mississippi &
Miss Hospitality



Laura Lee Lewis, image courtesy of the Miss Mississippi Pageant Corporation

Two students in the Mississippi State University College of Education won statewide pageant titles this year. Laura Lee Lewis was named Miss Mississippi 2016 and Mary Elizabeth Stringer was named Mississippi's Miss Hospitality 2016.

Lewis, a Brookhaven native, and an elementary education major, is a President's List scholar at MSU as well as a member of Chi Omega. She was also Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen in 2009.

For the talent competition in the pageant, Lewis showed off her vocal skills. Her platform is "Mentoring Matters," which encourages kids who are victims of bullying across the state to be their best.

Lewis says winning the crown has been a dream and a goal. "I looked over to my left and I went 'There's a crown and a sash that say Miss Mississippi next to me. Is this real?'"

“Four long years of working towards a dream to be Miss Mississippi and it’s a reality; I’m so glad to be an ambassador for this program.”

In her first official news conference the new Miss Mississippi talked about preparing for Miss America and possibly becoming the first state representative in 30 years to win the national title.

“I want that,” she said. “I want that for our state. I want to be the fifth Miss America for Mississippi.”

Lewis represented Mississippi in the Miss America Pageant held in Atlantic City, New Jersey in September and placed fourth.

Lewis and Stringer have both served the College of Education as student ambassadors.

Stringer, a Starkville native, was crowned Miss Hospitality while representing Mississippi’s College Town at the state pageant in Hattiesburg.

Stringer is currently a senior at Mississippi State where she is studying kinesiology with plans of being a physician’s assistant specializing in pediatrics.

She has served on the executive council of her sorority, Phi Mu, and is actively involved in the Student Association.

Stringer will also be serving as an intern for Senator Thad Cochran in Washington, D.C., for the fall semester.



Mary Elizabeth Stringer, image courtesy of the Hattiesburg American

Stringer is the 67th Mississippi Miss Hospitality, a tradition that began in 1949.

She will travel more than 30,000 miles during her reign, promoting Mississippi’s tourism and economic development programs and serving as the state’s goodwill ambassador, sharing the spirit of the hospitality state with everyone she meets.

Last year’s Miss Hospitality Erin Morgan, was also a College of Education student.

The Miss Hospitality Pageant offered more than \$100,000 in scholarship dollars to its contestants, while the Miss America Organization continues to be the largest provider of scholarships for young women in the United States.

“I’m so excited to represent the state of Mississippi this year,” Stringer said. “Mississippi is so special to me, and I know I’m going to have such an amazing year representing and visiting the state from the tip top to the Gulf Coast.”

College of Education graduate student awarded national counseling fellowship



A doctoral student in Mississippi State's Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology and Foundations is among a select student group receiving major recognition from the National Board for Certified Counselors.

As one of 23 NBCC Minority Fellowship recipients, Kimberly Mason Peoples of Starkville will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations.

Peoples is the first MSU student to be recognized by this program since its 2012 inception. Strengthening the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to under served populations is the program's primary mission. For more, visit www.nbccf.org/Programs/Fellows.

Originally from Jackson, Peoples holds bachelor's degrees in psychology and sociology, as well as a master's in counselor education from MSU. Along with pursuing a doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision, she coordinates the university's departmental counseling training clinic.

Additionally, Peoples recently received the Approved Clinical Supervisor credential and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. Her research primarily focuses on microaggressions in the supervisory relationship, a topic she has discussed during presentations at state, national and international conferences.

As an acute therapist, she has worked with under served at-risk youth, primarily African-American children ages 5 to 17.

In addition to the level of care and diagnosis differentiation for African-American males, Peoples’ interest in underserved populations includes prison families and adolescent offenders.

“As a counselor, it is my duty to be the change I want to see in our society, specifically in the mental health field,” she said. “Being a counselor means that I not only do therapy, but I advocate for my clients. I always say I am being a voice to the voiceless.”

Peoples said she is thankful for the fellowship, which will provide her with the means to participate in continuing education opportunities. She also is grateful to be able to represent her family and MSU, especially counseling and educational psychology professor Joan Looby.

“Dr. Looby’s support has been a major contributing factor in applying for this fellowship and other opportunities; she sets the bar high for me,” Peoples said. “To represent my university on a national level and be the first fellow from Mississippi State since this program started is indescribable.”

Based in Greensboro, North Carolina, the NBCC is the nation’s premier professional certification board devoted to credentialing counselors who meet standards for the general and specialty practices of professional counseling. Currently, there are more than 60,000 National Certified Counselors in the U.S. and more than 50 countries.

OUTSTANDING TEACHER INTERNS NAMED

.....
 Outstanding Teacher Intern awards are given in the College of Education to teacher interns who go above and beyond expectations. Teacher interns are nominated for this award by their classroom mentor teachers and university supervisors and receive this recognition based on their effectiveness throughout their teaching internship.

Fall 2015



L to R: **Rhonda McCann, Jimmy Miles, Derek Huffman, Teal Abernathy**
 Not Pictured: **Blakeney Bryant, Jenny Grier, Brandi Searcy, Mallory Self, Ashley Trosclair**

Spring 2016



Front L-R: **Mona Daniel, Lynn Baker, Lauren Colloredo, Cayla Anne Leach, Mollie Beth Ott, Lauren Hollingsworth, Maggie Clover, Sam Kealhofer**
 Back L-R: **Mary Kathryn Fairley, Liza Scott, Brittany Waltman, Amy Arinder, Caroline Ray, Addison Camp, Annie Blass**
 Not Pictured: **Amanda Haney, Lauren Powell Harrell, Devon Napps**

Charlie Sorto

Legendary saxophonist Charlie Parker once said, “Don’t play the saxophone, let it play you.” For MSU College of Education graduate Charles E. “Charlie” Sorto, that famous quote could be a dead-on description of his young life so far.

Having recently completed a degree in music education/instrumental studies at Mississippi State, Sorto came to the university from Pontotoc after being a selection every year during high school for the prestigious Mississippi All-State Band.

For three of those years, he also qualified for the highly competitive Mississippi Lions All-State Band that has won top international performance awards for more than 30 years.

Since he arrived on campus in 2012, Sorto was a member of the Famous Maroon Band.

As such, he has been able to travel throughout the Southeast as the 114-year-old musical assemblage accompanied Bulldog athletic teams to regional games.

While he calls football his favorite spectator sport, power lifting is his personal athletic activity. His dedication is such that fellow members of the recreational sports club elected him president.

Sorto is proud to tell everyone he was born a Bulldog since both of his parents are graduates of the land-grant institution and he grew up following Maroon and White teams on television and in person.

“I love Mississippi State; I couldn’t imagine myself going to school anywhere else,” he said.



Melissa Baneck

Since first enrolling at Mississippi State in 2012, Melissa L. Baneck has made her mark at the university.

After graduating summa cum laude last spring in elementary education, the Olive Branch native now is pursuing a master's degree in the major.

She also is developing a teacher practitioner journal.

She credits what she considers Mississippi State's strong teaching program as the main reason she enrolled at the university.

"I felt warmth from the teachers and felt that they've really cared about their students," she said.

During the 2015-16 school year, she has led in coordinating a number of activities to assist current education majors and elementary students in local schools.

One project that developed from a conversation with a teacher involved the study of fifth graders' perceptions of what makes a hero.

Baneck said she utilized teaching skills developed on campus to help students understand and appreciate how a hero may have human flaws but can overcome them and serve as a role model for others.

She also helped spearhead another local partnership that included the schools of Architecture and Human Sciences, along with her own department in the College of Education and plant and soil sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.



The collaboration led to the development of lesson and teaching plans for a community garden teaching program at the Starkville Boys and Girls Club.

Of her time on campus, Baneck said, "I feel very taken care of and that I've been given a lot of opportunities here at MSU."

Pittman receives national teaching honor



A Meridian public school educator who recently earned a Mississippi State graduate degree is receiving a national honor.

Melanie S. Pittman of Carver Middle School is a 2016 selection for the National Association for Alternative Certification's Teacher Intern of the Year award. A seventh-grade mathematics instructor, she graduated this May with a master's degree in teaching.

Each year, the Washington, D.C.-based NAAC recognizes three new teachers for demonstrating successful classroom instruction that contributes significantly to the profession. Other winners this year work at schools in Austin and Irving, Texas.

After a decade with the Regions banking system, Pittman said she decided to volunteer with Mississippi Gulf Coast middle schools "to teach financial literacy through a program that Regions offered." When her family decided to move to Meridian, "I knew it was the perfect time for me to go back to school to get my teaching license," she said.

Propelled by a passionate belief that all children deserve good teachers, Pittman enrolled in the alternative-route teacher certification program in Mississippi State's College of Education.

The training holds participants to the same standards and coursework requirements that all state teachers must meet.

A Meridian public school educator Associate professor Rebecca Robichaux-Davis recommended Pittman for the NAAC award "because she was one of the best first-year teachers I ever have observed in my 20-plus years of observing pre-service and beginning in-service mathematics teachers."

Pittman admitted recently that "becoming a teacher and actually teaching have been some of the hardest things I ever have done." "They also have been among the most rewarding," she quickly emphasized.

Brown named Outstanding Graduate Student

The Graduate School at Mississippi State University recently honored seven scholars with induction into the Graduate School Hall of Fame.

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Graduate School Dr. Lori Bruce welcomed the new inductees during a ceremony held in the Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library. The 2016 College of Education Graduate School Hall of Fame Scholar is Audri A Brown, Ph.D., Educational Psychology.

Students must be nominated by their dean and/or department head to be considered for induction.

One outstanding graduate student who has contributed significantly to the growth of MSU through exemplary leadership and outstanding research or teaching skills in his or her college of study is selected by the dean of the college. In addition to being honored, a commemorative canvas of each inductee will hang in the Hall of Fame of the Office of the Graduate School for the academic year.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AMBASSADORS



Abby Legge	Jordan Kirchgessner
Abby Sweeney	Kaitlyn May
Amber Chamblee	Katherine Johnson
Chandler Roberts	Kelsey English
Claire McNatt	Margot Copeland
Emily Crace	Mary Aultman Hurley
Haley Herndon	Mary Enger
Hannah Duke	Olivia Byrd
Jamie Clare Curry	Owen Brown II
Jasmine Hallman	Russell Mullins
Jordan Hutton	Taylor Rhodes

NEWEST CLASS OF MISSISSIPPI EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING PARTICIPANTS ANNOUNCED

Abbey Ragan	Jacob Golden
Abigail Snow	Jordan Lloyd
Alana Cadman	Kate Hester
Amy Stanford	Katie Morton
Andrea Long	Kaylie Hyde
Aubrey Oswalt	Kaylin Brennan
Austin Elders	Kelsey English
Beth Duncan	Kelsey Holder
Brandi Smith	Kenley McMullan
Brianna Spragio	Leigh Trimm
Claire McNatt	Mary-Hannah Swan
Darbie Coleman	Meghan McGowan
Elizabeth Peters	Pamela Pfeffer
Emily Skipper	Tanner Smith
Harrison Armour	Ty Pearson



College of Education Scholarship Recipients

George W. Bush Scholarship

Kristen Walker

Amanda Catherine Richards Endowed Scholarship in Special Education

Vera Dooley

Matt Collier

Cox, Mills & Tingle Endowed Scholarship in Counselor Education

Tina Martin

Merchants & Farmers Bank Scholarship

Emily Williams

Jack Beall Endowed Scholarship

Harrison Armour

Kaylie Hyde

Taylor Slaby

Adrianna Ligon

Hardin T. & Katie Rose McClendon Endowed Scholarship

Natalie Bray

Kathryn Freeman

Elizabeth Tillman

Ellen Curtis Ricci Memorial Endowed Scholarship

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Elizabeth Tillman

Kathryn Freeman

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Louise Long Lishman Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Tristan Symonds

Nan Carpenter Cain Endowed Scholarship

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Bailey Daughtry

Quinlan Gray

Standford Bush

Desmond Cunningham

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Judy O'Neal Gressley Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Brandi Smith

Barbara Pilkington Endowed Scholarship

Shelby Bush

Nicole Fustos

Barry F. & Mary H. Box Endowed Scholarship

Amy Pate

Dewey & Marie Malouf Endowed Scholarship

Shelby Malouf

Alaina O'Bryant

Bebe R. Freeman Annual Scholarship

Sarah Ladnier

Frank and Ann Chiles Annual Scholarship

Courtney East

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Lauren Tonos

Bobby & Regina Sanford Endowed Scholarship

Victoria Weber

Taylor Howard

Dr. Nancy Kubin Wallner Martin Scholarship

Darby Chaney

Candace Morgan

Dr. Peggy Slaughter Loyalty Scholarship

Lela Brown

Mary and Wendell Ladner Loyalty Scholarship

Kahleighya Taylor

Frank and Gayle Gallaher Loyalty Scholarship

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Kelsey Trotty

Carol Moss Read Loyalty Scholarship

Alexa Hull

David & Peggy Tiffin Loyalty Scholarship

Anna Matheny

McKayla Tucker

Meredith Bass

Hannah Duke

Dr. Clinton Graves Endowed Piano Scholarship

Leah Ann Boyd

Katherine Gardner Thomas Endowed Scholarship

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Jalen Jackson

Margaret Jock DeMotive Annual Scholarship

MSU Famous Maroon Band Flag Corp Members

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Brittany Gasmus

Clara Self Andrews Endowed Scholarship

Claire Kendall

Zach Kendall

Kaitlyn Kornoely

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Jeonai Batista

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Taylor Newton

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Smith-Moore Music Scholarship

Gracie Tew

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Brooke Leggett	Caitlin McFarland
Mary Hannah Swan	Caroline Thomas
Abigail Yann	Kristen Hicks
Tayla Crawford	Sydney Ogletree
Anna Young	Hillara Summerford
Britney Bassett	Elizabeth Williams
Natalie Duncan	Jodie Newsom

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Walker Isbell	Zachery Bettinger

Larry & Florence Box Endowed Scholarship

Jacquelyn Brooks

Paul L. Lightsey Endowed Scholarship

Jenna Boyd

Charles Kenneth Irby, Sr. Endowed Scholarship

Trevor Flack

Burrage receives Milken Educator Award

A Mississippi State graduate with two degrees from the university is the state's 70th selection for a prestigious national Milken Educator award.

Rhonda R. Burrage, who teaches at Meridian's Magnolia Middle School, earned a mathematics education degree in 2003 and master's in secondary mathematics in 2010.

Known as "the Oscars of teaching," the annual recognition program was established in 1987 by the California-based Milken Family Foundation to reward and inspire excellence in education. Burrage is among 40 honored this year.

Each award is accompanied by a \$25,000 check and, to date, more than 2,600 totaling in excess of \$65 million have been presented. Winners also become part of a resource network to assist U.S. policymakers, researchers and members of the news media and general public on matters involving their respective academic subject areas.

At Magnolia Middle, Burrage additionally mentors first-year teachers, tutors students outside of class and chairs the school's BETA Club. She has not missed a teaching day in the past four years.

Richard Blackburn, MSU College of Education dean, praised Burrage's selection. Her achievement exemplifies the quality of teacher education at the 137-year-old land-grant institution, he added.

"We in the College of Education take great pride in this outstanding accomplishment," Blackburn said. "Ms. Burrage has worked diligently to perfect her craft, and her students have benefited greatly from it."



Photo: Mississippi Department of Education

Jane Foley, senior vice president of the Milken Educator Awards program, also commended Burrage.

"Middle school math can be a challenging subject both to teach and learn, but Rhonda is an exceptional instructor and students are known to thrive in her classroom," noted Foley, a former public school teacher and principal who holds a doctorate from Purdue University.

Foley also expressed confidence that Burrage will continue to grow as an exemplary Milken Educator and remain a leader in the education field for years to come.



Tiffins continue support for College of Education

A new Loyalty Scholarship at Mississippi State University is being designated for students seeking a degree in education.

David Tiffin, along with his wife Peggy, of Red Bay, Alabama, recently established the scholarship in MSU's College of Education to provide annual support for students with demonstrated academic achievement and community leadership skills. In an effort to enhance the college's recruitment, the award will benefit entering freshmen and community college transfer students.

A 1967 business education major, Tiffin is the president and owner of Tiffin Supply Company, a hardware and appliance store based in his hometown. He also serves as Red Bay's mayor, a position he has filled since first appointed in 2013.

Candidates for the David and Peggy Tiffin Loyalty Scholarship must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale). Transfer student applicants also are required to have earned at least 48 college credit hours. Recipients may be considered to receive the award for up to four years, provided they maintain academic eligibility.

Along with the Tiffins' prior support to Bulldog academics and athletics, the David and Peggy Tiffin Loyalty Scholarship also marks the couple's second MSU scholarship. Their previous award, also a College of Education Loyalty Scholarship, began in 2010 and has assisted 13 students since inception.

As a Loyalty Scholarship, the Tiffins' gift will receive a matching contribution from the MSU Bulldog Club, which currently provides up to \$500,000 for Legacy and Loyalty Scholarship gift matches each year. The organization's ongoing commitment to grow these annual awards increases the university's ability to attract emerging scholars.

For more information on utilizing the Bulldog Club's matching program to establish scholarships at Mississippi State, contact Jack McCarty, executive director of development for the MSU Foundation, at (662) 325-9580 or jmccarty@foundation.msstate.edu.

College of Education names Mayfield alumna of the year



Each of MSU's eight academic colleges honored a graduate for outstanding personal, professional and community achievements. This year's selection from the College of Education was Andrea Scott Mayfield of Pelahatchie.

Mayfield is an MSU 2009 doctoral graduate in community college leadership who became executive director of the Mississippi Community College Board in 2015, overseeing the state's 15 community and junior colleges. Prior to this, Mayfield served as president of Shelton State Community College in Alabama. She earlier spent 18 years at East Mississippi Community College, where her roles included vice president of the Scooba campus. Mayfield also holds a Bachelor of Science in biology and a Master of Arts in teaching, both from the University of West Alabama.

Knighton named College of Education Alumni Fellow



Graduating from Mississippi State University allowed Celia Thomason Knighton to make the most of her education both in her home state and beyond. As the 2015 Alumni Fellow for the College of Education, she is happy to share those experiences with the faculty and students of her alma mater.

"It humbles me to be selected an Alumni Fellow and to be appreciated in a field of study that is not always valued means so much," she said.

Knighton received a Bachelor of Science in special education from MSU in 1972. She also received a master's degree in administration from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree in public affairs from Baruch College.

She credits her time at MSU for giving her the confidence to try and accept any opportunity and says the quality of education she received was tremendous. Following graduation from MSU, she initially taught in the Migrant Education program on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Knighton later moved to New York City and taught in special education for 13 years before accepting an administrative position. In 1994, she became principal of Career Technical High School, making her the first female principal of the largest such school district in New York state. In 2000, she became the first female appointed as superintendent of New York's Germantown School District.

At the time of her retirement in 2010, Knighton was the superintendent of schools for the state of New York. Since retirement, she has returned to her native Mississippi where she resides in Rosedale with her husband, Joseph.

Alumni Notes

'01, '02, **Zackory Kirk**, named president of the Georgia Language Arts Supervisors (GLAS).

'10, **Dr. Jennifer Lindon**, named president of Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) in Kentucky.

'10, **Dr. Rebecca Parrott**, named to Board of Directors for the National Council for Student Development (NCSD).

'12, **Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner**, now president and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa. She is only the third CEO in the honor society's 98 years.

'12, **Ellen Jussely Ellis**, named Teacher of the Year at Northside Elementary School in Pearl, Miss. for the 2016 year.

'14, **Corey Deer**, of Hawkins Middle School in Forest, Miss. named Herb Handley Outstanding New Teacher by the Mississippi Science Teacher's Association.

'15, **Brittney Naylor**, named Teacher of the Year of West Elementary School in the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District for the 2015 - 2016 academic year.

Dear MSU College of Education Alumni and Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous support to the College of Education at Mississippi State University during the past year. Your gifts each year help with scholarship support, trips for students to participate in conferences and competitions, faculty support, recruitment of new students and many other activities and opportunities within the college.

This year we had a total of nine new endowed scholarships in the college: The Frank and Gayle Gallaher Loyalty Scholarship, Mary and Wendell Ladner Loyalty Scholarship, Dr. Peggy Slaughter Loyalty Scholarship, David and Peggy Tiffin Loyalty Scholarship, Vincent and Linda McGrath Kappa Delta Pi Endowed Scholarship in Education, Paul L. Lightsey Endowed Scholarship, Larry and Florence Box Endowed Scholarship, Amanda Catherine Richards Undergraduate Endowed Scholarship for Special Education and Dr. V. Clyde and Vashti U. Muse Endowed Scholarship.

We had generous support from donors to the T.K. Martin Center for Disabilities and Technology, the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic and the MS Writing/Thinking Institute's Rural Voice Radio Program. National best-selling author James Patterson continued his support of teacher education by funding eight new scholarships in education making the number of James Patterson Teacher Education Scholars total 16.

As Mississippi State University continues its first ever \$1Billion Infinite Impact Campaign, you have the opportunity to be a part of history with your gift to the College of Education. A gift of any size can help support students who will one day make local, national and global impacts on the world in which we live and learn. If you would like additional information about giving to the College of Education please contact me at 662-325-6762 or at tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu. Please visit the college anytime you are on campus. We would love to see you!



Trish Cunetto
Director of Development

College of Education Donor List

The College of Education wishes to thank the generous donors who contributed \$100 or more to the college from April 1, 2015 to October 31, 2016.

\$750,000 - \$150,000

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