

# FORWARD

CHANGING TOMORROW THROUGH EDUCATION TODAY



VOLUME I | 2015



MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY™



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**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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# FORWARD

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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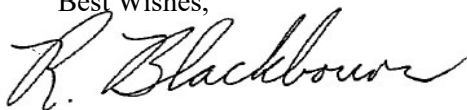
## Greetings from the Dean

In my 11th year as dean, I continue to be impressed with the manner in which the work of our faculty, staff, and students aligns with our COE tagline – “Changing Tomorrow through Education Today.” One just has to review the pages of this newsletter to recognize that the College of Education is having a significant impact in teaching, research, and service. Such work is consistent with our mission to provide instruction, research, and service to state, national, and international audiences which significantly impact educational attainment, economic development, and quality of life issues. It is important to note that the accomplishments outlined in this publication are merely subsets of the outstanding accomplishments taking place in our college. Some highlights would include:

- The continuing NCATE/CAEP accreditation of the COE
- Maintaining our 3rd 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

Accomplishments such as those outlined in this newsletter are difficult during a period of limited state assistance for higher education. However, the support of loyal alumni and friends has enabled us to carry out our mission. We humbly ask for your continued assistance.

Best Wishes,



Dean



## Blackbourn named to National Dean's List

The leader of Mississippi State's College of Education is ranked among the 30 most influential deans of education in the United States.

Richard L. Blackbourn was selected for the honor by Mometrix Test Preparation, a Beaumont, Texas-based company that created the honor to recognize administrators who “have had an invaluable impact not only on the field of education as a whole, but also on the lives of the future teachers of America whom they have shepherded.”

Dean since 2005 and a three-degree alumnus of the land-grant university, Blackbourn is the only Mississippi higher education administrator on the 2015 list.

Blackbourn also has led in development of the Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program, a joint project with the University of Mississippi designed to provide enrichment and scholarship opportunities to the top teacher candidates in the Magnolia State.

After earning bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education in 1974 and 1976, respectively, he went on to complete a doctorate in educational leadership in 1983. His father, the late Joe M. Blackbourn, was a longtime member of the MSU education faculty. Established in the early 1900s as the School of Education, the college has a proud history of preparing many of the state's leading educators and, as a result, having a major positive impact in every area of the state.

For more about the Mometrix recognition, visit [www.mometrix.com](http://www.mometrix.com).





# College of Education Accreditation Visit Shows Strengths

The Mississippi State University College of Education has enjoyed long-standing accreditation on national, regional, and state levels. On the National level, the College has been accredited continuously by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), who recently merged with the Teacher Education Accreditation Council to form the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

Regionally, the College is accredited with Mississippi State University by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Further, the College is accredited yearly by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Dr. Teresa Jayroe, NCATE/CAEP coordinator and associate dean stated, “The College hosted this year’s NCATE/CAEP representatives in late April and received positive feedback. Three strengths were recognized during the NCATE/CAEP review process.”

Richard Blackburn, College of Education dean said, “The College of Education is pleased to receive continuing accreditation from NCATE/CAEP. Through this process, our programs have undergone rigorous reviews which required outcomes-based assessments of the effectiveness of our programs. The fact that the report we received was the strongest in COE history underscores the quality of our faculty, staff, and students.

The teacher preparation program at Mississippi State University continues to produce outstanding educational professionals who are making a difference in our state, region, and nation.”

The visit began with a poster presentation hosted by the faculty and centers, along with a reception at the university’s M-Club building, and concluded with reports and updates on each department and institute.

The College wishes to extend a special thanks to all of the Mississippi State University administrators and faculty who helped make the visit so successful, including President Mark Keenum, Dr. Jerry Gilbert, Dr. Peter Ryan, and Dr. Julia Hodges.

In addition, some departments in the College of Education are accredited separately from the rest of the college. The Counseling, Educational Psychology, & Foundations Department is accredited by the American Psychology Association (APA), by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), and by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE).

The Music Department is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).



# NEW MSU KINESIOLOGY DOCTORAL PROGRAM BEGINS WITH FALL SEMESTER

Leaders agree, Mississippi State's new doctoral program in kinesiology represents the long-anticipated extension of the university's most popular undergraduate major.

The College of Education's inaugural doctorate-level courses in the study of human movement began in August with the 2015 fall semester. Before the introduction of this program, the highest academic level the kinesiology department offered was a Master of Science degree with concentrations in exercise physiology, sport administration or sport pedagogy.

"The new Ph.D. program in kinesiology will strengthen a department that already is strong and growing," said Jerry Gilbert, provost and executive vice president. "We expect to see additional graduate students as well as increased grant funding and research productivity as the new graduate program is implemented."

"It will be a great addition to the doctoral programs of the university," Gilbert emphasized.

MSU's official 2014-15 enrollment totals more than 20,100. More than 6 percent of undergraduate students, approximately 36 percent of College of Education majors, are pursuing bachelor's degrees in kinesiology.

Those high numbers explain why the university's addition of the doctoral degree was the natural next step, said department head Stanley Brown.

"This Ph.D. program will create a new visibility on campus, the state, region, nationally and internationally," he said. "There will be even more research being conducted, which will enhance the program as a whole."

According to college dean Richard Blackburn, kinesiology is one of the fastest growing higher education disciplines. He said MSU's leadership in training doctoral-level researchers and instructors will further enhance the department's national reputation.

"As Mississippi State trains doctoral faculty and researchers who go on to work in other settings, we're going to have a program where our graduates will be very employable," Blackburn said. "Our graduates will be the kind that represent Mississippi State very well on the national and international stage as we continue to spread our influence around the nation."

Graduate students interested in teaching or research careers may focus their doctoral studies in exercise science or sport studies, said Adam Love, associate professor of kinesiology.

"These two concentrations are quite different," he said. "The focus of the exercise science doctoral concentration is the scientific study of how biophysical aspects function during physical activity, exercise and sport, and the sport studies doctoral concentration encompasses such fields as sport management, sport pedagogy, sport sociology, and sport philosophy," he explained.

Whether they become postsecondary teachers or continue their work in research centers, kinesiology doctoral program graduates will contribute to the expanding understanding of health and human performance, Love said.

"With the growth and increasing numbers of students in the field, not just here at Mississippi State but also across the country, there's an increasing demand for people and programs to train those students at the doctoral level."



## CMA Award Winner Mac McAnally performs at Mississippi State

**M**ac McAnally, eight-time Country Music Association musician of the year performed Sept. 10 at Mississippi State University.

The former Tishomingo County resident's concert in Lee Hall's Bettersworth Auditorium was sponsored by the university's College of Education and benefitted the music department.

McAnally currently holds the record for longest winning streak in CMA award history, topping all other recording artists and musicians in the genre. Also known for his exceptional guitar and song-writing skills, he is a regular collaborating performer with other major artists, including Jimmy Buffett, Kenny Chesney, and Zac Brown.

Though born in Red Bay, Alabama, McAnally was raised in nearby Belmont, Mississippi, where he began performing as a child at the Belmont First Baptist Church.

"The College of Education was proud to be able to bring a performer of Mr. McAnally's magnitude to the MSU campus," said Dean Richard Blackburn. "In addition to being a gifted and accomplished musician, he is the type of individual that relates well to our faculty, staff and students."

Trish Cunetto, COE development director and coordinator for the event, said McAnally also toured the academic unit and visited with music majors and other students while on campus.





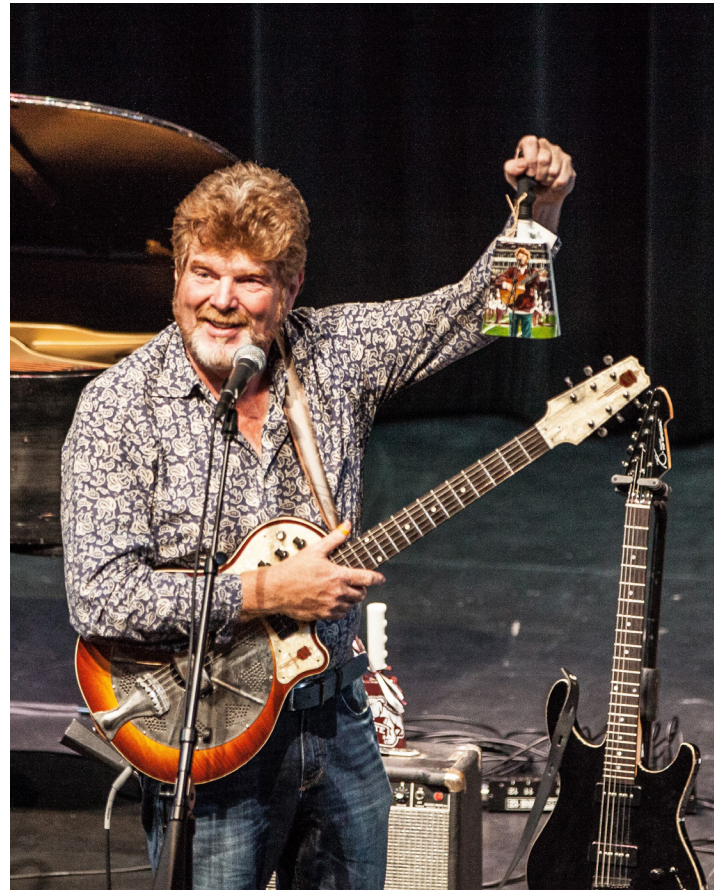
The college hopes to bring other renowned performing artists to campus in the future, she added.

Although, he's traveled the world with what he calls "the best day job I know of," much of his inspiration comes from a little closer to home.

"Much of my work is Mississippi based. It's a lot about being a small-town Mississippian, and I get to go all over the world and brag about that. I'm probably a walking one-man pamphlet for the state of Mississippi."

Introducing Mac to the crowd the night of the concert was Dak Prescott, College of Education graduate student and MSU quarterback.

McAnally kicked off Bulldog Bash festivities with his concert. After the concert, McAnally made a special guest appearance at MSU's Cowbell Yell Pep Rally.







# Dillard's Reading Enrichment Arts Mathematics and Science



**After-school and Summer  
Tutorial/Enrichment Program**

## Creating a Legacy of Learning in Winston County

In its third year, the after-school and summer enrichment program named for a late Mississippi State University (MSU) alumna is creating a major impact in Winston County.

In 2013, the Mississippi Department of Education awarded a nearly \$2 million grant to MSU's College of Education and Louisville Municipal School District (LMSD) to support extra learning initiatives throughout the school year and summer. Part of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs, the program is open to students from all public and private schools in Winston county from pre-K through fourth grade.

College of Education associate dean Teresa Jayroe, who is also principal investigator, said, "DREAMS is making a huge impact in the Louisville Municipal School District. The faculty from the College of Education are working hard to make sure students have literacy and mathematics enrichment experiences throughout the year."

Dillard's Reading, Enrichment, Arts, Mathematics and Science After-school and Summer Tutorial/Enrichment Program (DREAMS) currently has served hundreds of students throughout the program. DREAMS provides enrichment activities in the areas of science, mathematics, literacy, music, art and physical education. On Fridays during the summer program, MSU's College of Forest Resources provides hands-on learning experiences for the students. In addition, the Good News Club also provides character education activities for the students.

Brittney McAfee, coordinator and mentor, said "Because the summer program is more for enrichment and maintaining academic progress throughout the students' break, we do strive to focus on literacy and mathematics."



Angela Mulkana, a lecturer in the department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education (CISE) is the grant's co-principal investigator. "Our literacy activities are designed to be engaging, and we encourage our students to discuss and interact with the text they are learning to read," she explained.

College of Education associate professor Rebecca Robichaux-Davis is DREAMS other co-principal investigator. "We make our math activities fun for the students so they learn to enjoy learning and become familiar with non-traditional mathematics applications," Robichaux-Davis said.

The state-of-the-art educational approach is named for the late Susan Gregory Dillard, a Nanih Waiya Attendance Center graduate, who taught English at her alma mater until her death in 2010. Dillard was a National Board Certified Teacher and the school's 2010 Teacher of the Year and STAR teacher. Dillard was a Mississippi State doctoral graduate who also previously taught at the university.

Mark Dillard, Susan's husband said, "My wife loved the Lord, our son John Atwell, her family, and her students. Education was her passion."

Dillard said he knows his wife would be so proud of the impact DREAMS has made on so many students' lives. "Susan always believed in never giving up, and I think this program will teach all the students that anything is possible and they can succeed through education," he said.







## MSU celebrates Steinway Artist Rose Sebba

A Mississippi State University faculty member with more than 36 years of experience in piano performance was honored Sept. 15 with a reception celebrating her prestigious Steinway Artist designation. Rosângela Yazbec “Rose” Sebba, the music department’s professor of piano, theory, and ear training, is among the select ranks of some 1,600 highly esteemed musicians from around the world who have chosen to play exclusively on pianos produced by internationally renowned piano manufacturer Steinway & Sons.

“For us to have one of very own, Dr. Rose Sebba, recognized as a Steinway Artist exemplifies the quality that we are achieving and going to achieve at Mississippi State,” Keenum said.

Others featured on the prestigious Steinway Artist roster include classical pianist Lang Lang, jazz stars Diane Krall and Harry Connick Jr., pop icon Billy Joel, and legends Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Vladimir Horowitz and Arthur Rubinstein.

Last spring, MSU formally announced its commitment to make the university’s music department an All-Steinway School with the acquisition of a baby grand and four vertical Steinway pianos. With the All-Steinway School designation, MSU would join a select group of more than 160 institutions of higher learning and conservatories around the world and become the only Mississippi school holding the prestigious honor.

During the program at The Mill at MSU, President Mark E. Keenum expressed pleasure in having the opportunity to “honor one of the most distinguished members of our Mississippi State University family.”



“We are working hard to become an All-Steinway School, and in working at the university level with our Foundation and with our leaders in Jackson and the legislature, I am very confident that we’ll have a new music department building for all of our faculty and students to enjoy,” Keenum added.

Others sharing words of praise for Sebba during the celebration included:—Richard Blackburn, MSU dean of the College of Education, who described Sebba as an accomplished pianist and a great person. “Rose has God-given talent, but she has worked hard to perfect her craft. She loves her students and colleagues and is a true team player, and she is the kind of role model we need for all of our faculty at Mississippi State,” he said.

—Barry E. Kopetz, MSU professor and music department head, echoed those sentiments, adding, “Dedication, character, integrity, and nothing short of accepting perfection—Rose has all of these traits, yet she is humble about being a recipient of this fine award.”

—Robert Klingbeil, director of institutional sales at Amro Music Stores Inc. in Memphis, Tennessee, said after meeting Sebba three years ago, “It didn’t take long for me to recognize her as being a sweet, genuine and exceptionally talented person. It also didn’t take long for me to see her enthusiasm for her students and doing what is best for her department at Mississippi State. Rose’s passion for Steinway pianos is nothing short of infectious.”

A self-proclaimed Bulldog, Sebba said her goal always is “to do what is best for my students and faculty friends. In our department, we are family, and above all, we help each other, so we can help improve the lives of our students. I really want Mississippi State to be an All-Steinway School, and I’m sure that will happen,” she emphasized.

In addition to a certificate officially distinguishing her as a Steinway Artist, Klingbeil presented Sebba with two framed pieces. One was an image depicting a grand piano on which Sebba’s name and those of other Steinway Artists are listed; the other was a portrait taken of Sebba.

Musical entertainment for the program was provided by Sebba and her fellow colleagues and students. They included professor Jackie Edwards-Henry, on piano; junior civil engineering major and music minor Gabrielle Tran of Pass Christian, piano; senior computer science and music double-major Candace B. Moreau of Florence, South Carolina, piano; junior music and foreign language/Spanish major Sarah E. Jenkins of Brandon, piano; senior music education major Tyler J. Stallings of Pontotoc, alto saxophone; lecturer Jeanette Fontaine, voice; instructor Karen Murphy, piano; magna cum laude music graduate Trent Smith of Noxapater, piano; assistant professor Anthony Kirkland, trumpet; and instructor Sheri Falcone, alto saxophone.

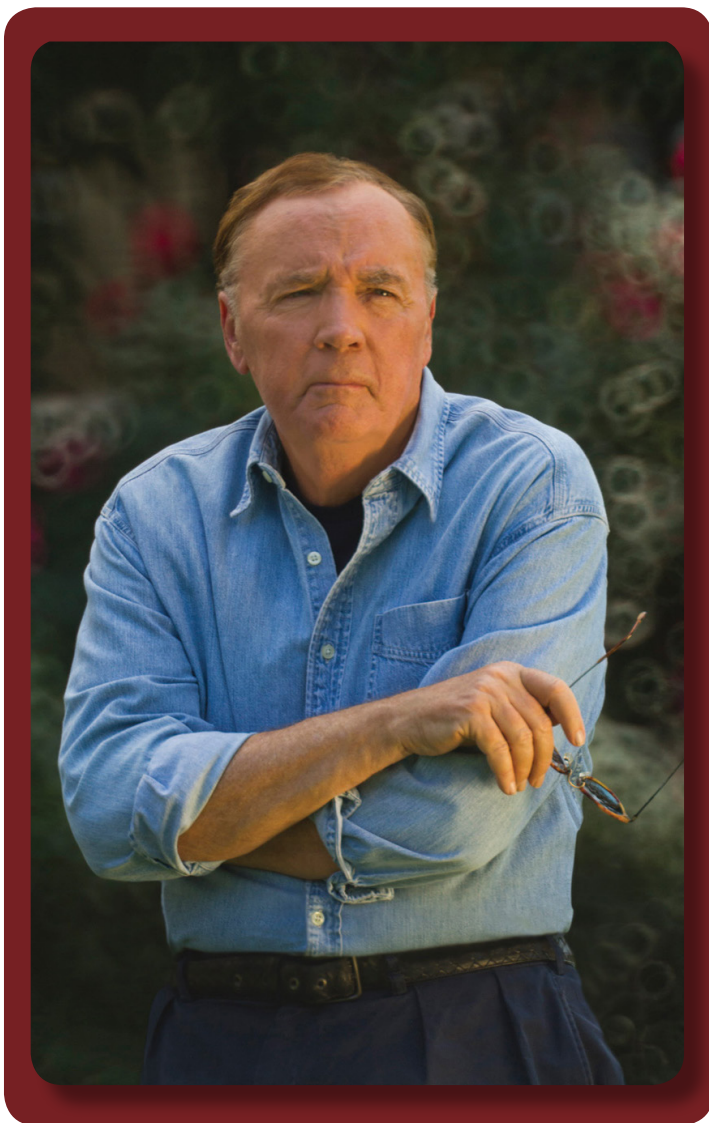
Founder and coordinator of the MSU piano pre-college program and retreat, Sebba currently serves as the Mississippi Music Teachers Association’s vice president for collegiate and national competitions. She also is featured on the Mississippi Arts Commission’s Artist Roster, and has given recitals, master classes and lectures in the United States, Mexico, Portugal, Costa Rica, England, Spain, and her native Brazil.

This past summer, Sebba served as an examiner for the Taiwan-based International Piano Performance Examination Committee (<http://www.iecmusic.org/English/>). The six-week, all-expenses-paid trip to nine cities afforded her the opportunity to speak with more than 100 private piano teachers, as well as instruct more than 1,300 students on technique, style, literature, music history and theory.



# JAMES PATTERSON

## HELPS EDUCATION STUDENTS IMPACT LITERACY



A top New York Times bestselling author who is passionate about promoting reading and literacy is helping future teachers pursuing degrees at Mississippi State University.

The James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarships are being established by a gift from the author's foundation to fund eight separate \$6,000 scholarships for College of Education students at MSU this year.

"This very generous gift for teacher education scholarships exemplifies the values and commitment of James Patterson and his wife Susan Solie Patterson to quality education," said MSU President Mark E. Keenum. "The Pattersons have become a tremendous force for good in higher education and I'm very pleased to have Mississippi State affiliated with the work of their foundation."

Patterson, best-known for his crime novels, including the Alex Cross, Women's Murder Club and Michael Bennett series, also has written several popular book series for young adults. He holds the Guinness record for the most No. 1 New York Times bestsellers of any author and was the first to achieve 10 million ebook sales.

As a writer who is eager to share his enthusiasm for books with younger generations, Patterson and his wife have made it a priority to support others who impact literacy education. Patterson said future teachers can influence children by helping them become lifelong readers.

Scholarship criteria state that recipients must "understand the importance of promoting literacy and have the motivation and intent to instill in their students an enduring and lasting love of reading."



## LEARNING CENTER EXPANDS SERVICES, STRENGTHENS PROMISE PROGRAM

Mississippi State University's Learning Center in the College of Education is reminding students of year-round resources and raising awareness of new offerings, including an ACT preparation course and a program designed to give a head start to those beginning their college experience. Established in the late 1970s, The Learning Center (TLC) serves as a university-wide academic support system for students at all levels.



The Mississippi State Promise Award is designed to help fulfill MSU's traditional role as "The People's University" through tuition assistance and other opportunities for entering freshmen and community college transfers from low-income families.

The Promise award "bridges the gap" between the cost of tuition minus all other gift aid for the fall and spring semesters for each year of eligibility. Sponsored by alumni, private donors, and businesses, the award is designed to help students from low-income families make the most of their college career at Mississippi State.

Through the acceptance of the award, participants are provided with support, academic and otherwise, to help the Promise student in transitioning to MSU and successful completion of a baccalaureate degree program.

To become a sponsor of the Promise Program, or to see a complete list of donors, visit:  
<http://www.sfa.msstate.edu/promise/>.

## 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 several members of its faculty and staff for their service and dedication to MSU. This was the first year for the newly renamed Donnie Prisock Diversity Award to be given. Not pictured: Gary Packwood, recipient of the Lucinda Rose Teaching Award.



**Bethany McKissick,**  
Herb Handley  
Research Award



**Craig Aarhaus,**  
Clyde Muse Service  
Award



**Stephen Lancaster,**  
Betty Purvis Staff  
Award



**April Heiselt,**  
Donnie Prisock  
Diversity Award



## FOUNDATION GRANT TO MSU-MERIDIAN STUDENT AIDS CLARKDALE HIGH

What began for Chester N. “Chet” Nicklas as a graduate class assignment at Mississippi State University-Meridian now is a completed learning-enhancement project made possible by a \$15,000 Phil Hardin Foundation grant.

An Enterprise resident, Nicklas graduated in August with an educational specialist degree. While enrolled in MSU-Meridian’s educational leadership program, he had submitted a grant proposal to the local foundation titled “Sufficient Technology for 21st Century Learners.”

As a chemistry and physics teacher at Clarkdale High School, his goal was to help his school convert and upgrade its Career Center into an Active Learning Center.

Like all educational specialist students, he was required to complete a directed independent study that included the choice of either writing a research paper for publication or submitting a grant proposal on behalf of the school at which he worked.

Penny Wallin, assistant professor of educational leadership, said MSU-Meridian’s addition of a grant-writing option to the graduate curriculum has led to the development of a “pay-it-forward” mindset among many students.

“Over the past four years, 16 students have written grants, and 11 have had their grants funded,” said associate professor Matt Boggan, Wallin’s departmental colleague.

Before they begin composing a grant proposal, students first must collaborate with Boggan and Wallin, as well as site supervisors, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the targeted school’s needs.

Cheryl Thomas is Clarkdale’s principal and Nicklas’ mentor. She placed him on the school’s School Improvement Team to learn more about the leadership process, as well as to demonstrate how collaborative efforts are necessary for schools to be successful.

Nicklas also said his research verified how a majority of students tended to learn best through hands-on experiences. The highest levels of learning take place when they were able to “explore questions by conducting research about topics, presenting information to classmates and collaborating and interacting with one another,” he added.

In addition to new Chromebook laptops in the center, the grant is making possible a Chromebook cart providing another 30 for individual classroom use. Other Chromebooks already at the school will be available when not being used for testing purposes.

Thomas said the Active Learning Center should be completely updated and have students using the computers in time for the spring 2016 semester.

Nicklas and Thomas expressed excitement for Clarkdale students that now will be able to use the center and new computers to read, research, compose, and apply real-world scenarios to their everyday learning experiences.

“We truly are thrilled Chet received the grant funding through the Phil Hardin Foundation for the active learning center at our school,” Thomas said. “We are especially grateful to have a faculty member who gained the practical experience of grant writing through his participation in the educational specialist program at MSU-Meridian.

Robert Ward, president and chairman of the Hardin Foundation board of directors, said he and others at the philanthropy are equally pleased that all Clarkdale students will have enhanced learning opportunities.

“Up-to-date technology has gone from a luxury to an absolute necessity in schools today,” Ward emphasized. “We are impressed with the school’s commitment to updating its Career Center into an Active Learning Center in such a creative and effective way to advance student achievement.



## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HOSTS RESEARCH FORUM

The College of Education at Mississippi State University recently hosted its 8th annual research forum and poster competition for participating students.

Keynote speakers of the event were Lucy Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Rural Outreach, U.S. Department of Education and Dennis Bega, National Director of Regional Operations, U.S. Department of Education.

The research forum also included a poster and paper competition, awarding cash prizes, that was open to graduate and undergraduate College of Education students.

The winners of the graduate student research paper competition were Katerina Sergi, a doctoral educational psychology student, and Ronald Gatewood, a doctoral student in instructional systems and workforce development.

The undergraduate poster winner was educational psychology major Brittany Bane. The award winners for the graduate poster competition were: 1st place, Reeva Morton, 2nd place, Mackenzie Sidwell, and 3rd place, Hallie Smith, who are all school psychology majors.



## AUTISM CLINIC AWARDED MAJOR DONATIONS



The Starkville Civitan Club is donating \$1,500 to the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic at Mississippi State. The recent gift to the university partially supports a graduate assistant position in the College of Education unit and the counseling, educational psychology, and foundations department.

Located in the Barry Box Building on Morrill Road, the public clinic serves clients who have autism spectrum disorders, from birth to college. Services also are available for clients with intellectual or developmental disabilities, various genetic and chromosomal disorders, including Down syndrome, as well as speech and language delays and disruptive behavior disorder.

The Starkville Civitan Club is a part of an international volunteer service organization dedicated to helping people in the local community, and the donation will help Starkville-area children with developmental disabilities.

In expressing appreciation to the club, clinic director Dan Gadke said, “This will go a long way with helping out.” Club president William Oakley said the service organization’s decision to make the donation followed a presentation by Gadke on the clinic’s mission. “At our next meeting, we decided we wanted to help the cause,” he said.

The gift follows another recent financial boost from the Starkville Convention and Visitors Bureau’s 2015 Starkville Restaurant Week fund-raiser that provided \$5,000.





## METP SCHOLARS LEARNING THE RIGHT PATH TO SUCCESS

Students enrolled in a special program at Mississippi State University are already anticipating their first day as teachers in the Mississippi public school system. As beneficiaries of a generous grant for their studies, these scholars are poised to realize their dreams of becoming secondary education English and mathematics teachers.

The Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program (METP) aims to attract more academically talented teachers for Mississippi public schools by educating students recruited specifically for these roles. The program is a collaboration of the state's largest universities to address the educational needs for middle and high school students.

The Jackson-based Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation provided a \$12.9 million grant to fund METP scholarships over a five-year period. Specifically, the grant is split between the College of Education at Mississippi State University and the School of Education at the University of Mississippi. Students enrolled in the program are immersed in an academic atmosphere designed to be the equivalent of an honors college experience for education majors that promotes growth within a support network that crosses universities.

Over five years, up to 80 new teachers will be trained at Mississippi State. For academic year 2014-15, 19 new scholars joined the 19 previously enrolled at MSU. Recruitment of METP students is the domain of Shane Davis, MSU METP project manager. He provides scholars with academic advising and program support for their educational experiences and professional growth.

"METP scholars will have opportunities to travel and study abroad where they will learn from international scholars and visit schools to expand their own knowledge and understanding of teaching. In addition, our inaugural class currently serves as mentors to our freshman class. This great idea was one that came directly from our scholars," Davis said.

By offering a full scholarship package that incorporates technology stipends, study abroad experiences, collaboration opportunities with faculty, staff, and fellow scholars from other campuses, the METP is able to compete with scholarships in other programs that are often perceived to be more prestigious than education. In return, each recipient makes a five-year commitment to teach in Mississippi public schools.

"There is a critical need for highly qualified teachers in the state of Mississippi; this scholarship encourages students to consider teaching as a career choice," said Teresa Jayroe, MSU associate dean of education.

The goal of METP is to increase educational achievement levels of Mississippians and contribute to the state's economic development.

"The biggest benefit that METP scholars gain from participating in this program is that they are immersed in the practices and policies of the teaching profession," Jayroe said. "Their classrooms, and moreover their students, will be influenced by the depth of experience they receive while participating in the METP."

METP is making an immeasurable impact on the lives of the scholars, which in turn will affect students throughout the state of Mississippi for years to come.

The Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation was established in 1995 and primarily supports the state's universities and colleges and economic development through grants.

# FAMOUS MAROON BAND ENTERS 113TH YEAR

With annual band camp concluded, Mississippi State's 330-member Famous Maroon Band is turning its attention to fine-tuning routines for the 2015-16 school year.

Veteran director Elva Kaye Lance said this year's contingent represents 14 states in addition to Mississippi, from which 68 percent hail. While the organization is part of the university's College of Education, membership, as always, includes a wide range of academic majors, she added.

"We are very excited to be entering our 113th year," said Lance, who shares Famous Maroon Band duties with co-directors Craig Aarhus and Clifton Taylor.

"During camp, it was incredible to see our incoming freshmen, many of whom held leadership positions in high school, raise the standard and influence our returning members to become better and better each year," the MSU and Famous Maroon Band alumna said.

Lance said this year's four drum majors will include:

—Twin sisters Ashley S. and Brittany C. Carey from Olive Branch. Ashley is a junior mechanical engineering major; Brittany, a senior double-major in educational psychology and foreign language/Spanish.

—Junior Cooper A. Haywood of Madison, an instrumental music education and vocal music education double-major.

—Junior Jesse D. Newton of Eupora, a human sciences/fashion design and merchandising major.

According to Haywood, this year's camp was "one of the best" he has experienced while at MSU.

Junior Ellen S. Moore of Brandon, also a music education major, joined Haywood in praising the training program.

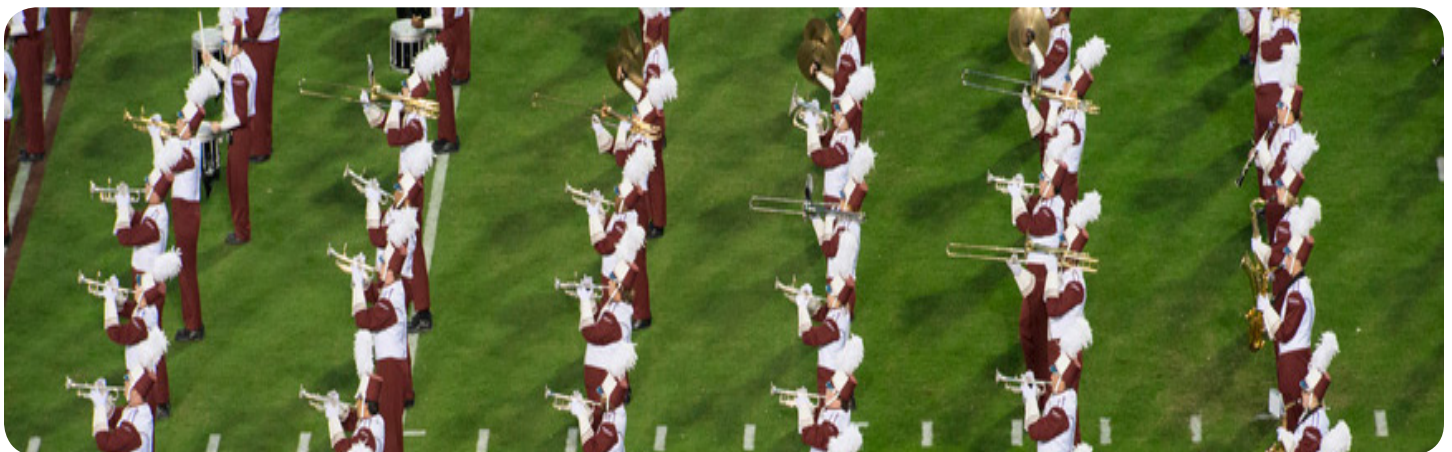
"During band camp, I made a ton of friends and everything was so organized," she said. "The week moved quickly, but we managed to accomplish a lot."

Lance said the MSU marching unit could not be successful without the "hard work and tireless dedication" of Aarhus and Taylor.

"In addition to the band directors, another vital member of our leadership team is Jason Baker," Lance continued, explaining that the music department associate professor "arranges and instructs our percussionists."

At her promotion to director in 2002, Lance became only the eighth leader of the marching unit over its long history. During her time at the helm, "We've received tremendous support from both former band members and faculty in the College of Education, which is a great fit for us," she said.

Lance said 2015 fall football halftime performances will include a variety of popular pieces, including a "Funkytown" theme and a play on Disney classic "The Happiest Show on Earth."





# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HOSTS CAMP INSPIRE

Mississippi State University's College of Education hosted its first Camp INSPIRE (Introduction and Support in Preparing for the Important Role of an Educator).

Nearly 150 high school students from around the state currently enrolled in the Mississippi Teacher Academy program are on campus for a three-day camp of learning and activities to further their knowledge about the K-12 teaching profession.

"We're excited about camp, and we have more than 20 school districts represented from across the state," said Amy Prisock, the College of Education's recruitment coordinator.



Ginger Tedder, Starkville School District teacher and Mississippi Teacher of the Year first runner-up, was the camp's keynote speaker. Prisock said Camp I.N.S.P.I.R.E. featured entertainment from campus groups like Lab Rats Comedy and special sessions including a presentation from the Mississippi Department of Education's Move to Learn program. Students attended scheduled activities and had time to explore the MSU campus.

## MSU ON THE MOVE RECOGNIZES HEALTH HEROES



Two current and one former Mississippi State staff members are being recognized for achievements at the university to encourage healthy lifestyles through regular exercise and healthy eating habits.

Michelle Gerhart, Janice McReynolds and Annette Woods recently received 2014-15 Health Hero awards from the MSU on the Move program for their hard work and dedication to overall health improvement on campus.

Gerhart is a business manager in the athletic department, while Woods is a senior extension associate in the agricultural communications department. McReynolds retired in June as an administrative assistant in the forestry department. All are MSU

Supported by the Jackson-based Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, MSU on the Move involves a series of yearlong activities designed to give participants the skills to modify lifestyle habits and improve overall health.

In 2014, a second-year foundation grant supported a free comprehensive health and fitness program for the MSU community and beyond. In addition to measuring and monitoring participants' progress as part of a pre- and post-program assessment, the \$250,000 award enabled the College of Education's kinesiology department to establish the Health Fitness and Wellness campaign, an extension of the existing MSU on the Move program.

"These standout participants are exemplary of the meaningful impact we hope to achieve with MSU on the Move," said Megan Holmes, assistant professor of kinesiology.

# WARREN WINS MAROON EDITION ESSAY CONTEST

Mississippi State students from four Mississippi cities and one in Tennessee are winners of the 2015 Maroon Edition Essay Contest.

The competition is sponsored by Maroon & Write, the university's quality enhancement program to boost student writing skills. First-place winners receive \$500, while second- and third-place awardees won \$300 and \$100, respectively.

Essay subjects come from the Maroon Edition, an annual common reading experience for incoming freshmen. Sophomores, juniors, seniors, graduate students, and faculty and staff also are encouraged to join in reading the selected book.



"The Invisible Girls" by Sarah Theberge was both this year's ME selection and essay contest topic.

Freshman winners included:

--First, "Beginnings" by Sabrina E. Moore of Starkville, a biological engineering and chemistry double-major and the daughter of Robert and Melissa Moore.

--Second, "Every Ending is a New Beginning" by Kenyata S. Davis of Kosciusko, a liberal arts major and the daughter of Doris F. Davis.

--Third, "Out of the Mouths of Babes" by Kelsey E. Green, also of Starkville, a liberal arts major and the daughter of William Henry and Debra Green.

Upperclass winners included:

--First, "Seeing the Invisible" by senior **Anna M. Warren** of Collierville, Tennessee, an educational psychology major and the daughter of Lance and Helen Warren.

--Second, "When Serving Serves Us" by sophomore Anja C. Scheib of Canton, a business administration major and the daughter of Shane and Cecilia Scheib.

--Third, "Service--The Ultimate Healer" by junior Taylor Watson of Clinton, a human sciences/human development and family studies major and the daughter of Rayburn and Shauna Peacock.

For more about the Maroon & Write program, visit [www.qep.msstate.edu](http://www.qep.msstate.edu); about Maroon Edition, [www.maroonedition.msstate.edu](http://www.maroonedition.msstate.edu).



## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SEC FELLOWS



*Cornelious*

Two College of Education faculty members are among 50 in the nation selected as 2015-16 Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program Fellows.

The MSU College of Education honorees include:

—Linda Cornelious, professor in the instructional systems and workforce development department.

—Linda W. Morse, director of the Center for Teaching and Learning and professor in the counseling and educational psychology department.

Through this academic initiative, the athletic conference works to sponsor, support and promote collaborative higher education programs and activities involving administrators, faculty and students. Designated by provosts at the respective institutions, ALDP liaisons serve as the conference's primary point of academic contact.



*Morse*

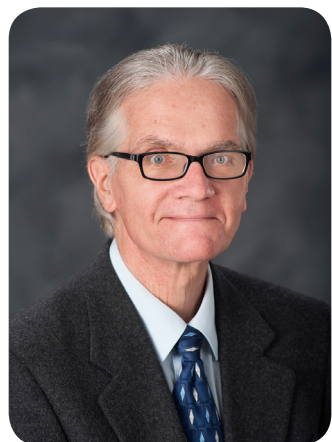
“The individuals selected by their SEC universities to participate in the SEC Academic Leadership Development Program represent the future of higher education administration,” said SECU Executive Director Torie Johnson. “The leadership skills they already possess are sure to be enhanced by the SEC ALDP experience.”

Cornelious is a Florida State University doctoral graduate who was named in 2003 as Outstanding Faculty Woman of the Year by the MSU President's Commission on the Status of Women. A published author, she regularly serves as presenter and leader at national, regional, and state professional conferences. Her primary areas of research include, among others, instructional technology, educational leadership, multicultural education and community service learning.

Morse is a Florida State University doctoral graduate with extensive experience in instructional design, development and evaluation. Along with being a John Grisham Master Teacher, she is a research fellow for the university's Social Science Research Center, where her efforts focus on cognition issues and development.

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## SOBASKIE TAPPED BY IRISH MUSIC SOCIETY



A Mississippi State music department faculty member is a new international representative to Ireland's Society of Musicology. Associate professor James W. Sobaskie recently was invited to serve on the organization's grants committee. In the university department, he coordinates the music theory emphasis area.

A widely recognized scholar on, among others, the works of European composers Franz Schubert and Gabriel Fauré, Sobaskie regularly is invited to share his research with other professionals at conferences throughout North America and Europe.

SMI was founded in 2003 to serve Emerald Isle's growing community of musicologists. With a current membership of more than 200, it supports worldwide research through awards to doctoral students and other emerging scholars.

A University of Wisconsin doctoral graduate, Sobaskie joined the MSU faculty in 2008. He teaches courses in music theory, ear training, orchestration, form and composition. Last year, he was honored with the College of Education's Herb Handley Research Award.

## STRATTON APPOINTED BY GOV. BRYANT TO MISSISSIPPI AUTISM BOARD

Soon concluding her second year as faculty at Mississippi State, Kasee Stratton is one of only two psychology researchers in the world studying CHARGE syndrome. A rare genetic condition (1 in 10,000 births) that can result in multiple congenital anomalies, the syndrome currently is the leading cause of deafness and blindness in children.

Stratton established the Bulldog CHARGE Syndrome Research Laboratory to help improve the lives of children living with the syndrome. The lab is part of the College of Education and one of only two labs in the world studying this illness. Additionally, she serves as co-director of the university's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic.

In addition to campus duties, the Pittsford, Michigan, native is among five members recently appointed by Gov. Phil Bryant to the new Mississippi Autism Board. She also serves as board secretary.

The board was created by the Mississippi Legislature to issue and regulate state licensing for professionals in applied behavior analysis—or ABA—a therapy that has been proven to reduce challenging behaviors and increase skill development for symptoms associated with the disorder.

Stratton holds bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Central Michigan University. She also completed a pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Maryland.



“I’ve always known I wanted a career that would ultimately help people and was torn between becoming a medical doctor and licensed psychologist,” she said. “Once I realized psychology gave me a greater chance to help children with unique presentations, I knew it was the right choice for me.”

Her research is supported by the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation and she recently received an award from the non-profit organization for “significant contributions to those with CHARGE and their families.”

“When I created the lab, I wanted it to be an awareness campaign based out of research,” Stratton said, explaining that “there’s limited research on the day-to-day of how to improve a child’s life with this condition.”

She expressed appreciation to MSU for being “very welcoming in allowing me to do so many things that I love.”



# Faculty Spotlight

## LINDA CORNELIOUS

Department of Instructional Systems and Workforce Development associate professor Linda Cornelious is making great strides through her position in the College of Education.

Pictured below as one of the few chosen for the distinguished 2015 Woman of Color Empowerment Award presented by the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion at Mississippi State University, Cornelious was honored along with five other alumni and faculty for their achievements during an empowerment dinner held at the Mill at MSU Conference Center.

The recognition dinner was a part of the Men and Women of Color Summit held annually at MSU. Six recipients shared powerful remarks concerning their career journey.

Another award for Cornelious was given by the Academic and Business Research Institute (AABRI) this year for “Best Paper of Conference Award” co-written with colleague Elaine Parrish, at the AABRI International Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

2015 also marked 25 years of service by Cornelious to the College of Education.



# MSU PROFESSOR EMERITUS GARNERS HIGH HONOR FROM EDUCATION SOCIETY



A retired Mississippi State faculty member is receiving a major tribute from the leading international honor society in education. Vincent R. McGrath is one of 12 selected this year for Kappa Delta Pi's prestigious Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter, a body limited to only 100 members.

KDP was founded in 1911 to foster excellence and provide support for those in the various teaching fields. A memorial to one of the nation's most influential first ladies, its Roosevelt chapter was established in 2011 to recognize KDP members making "significant and long-time contributions" to the organization, in particular, and profession, in general.

During 21 years as a College of Education faculty member, McGrath served as coordinator of the university's KDP chapter. At retirement in 2010, he assumed emeritus status in the educational leadership department.

Dean Richard Blackburn said he joins others in the college praising McGrath's selection as a member of the society's most esteemed group.

"He has provided quality service to this organization for many years, and done so in a manner consistent with its ideals," Blackburn added, noting that he is "not at all surprised" by KDP's recognition of the Northern Arizona University doctoral graduate.

## MUSIC FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

**Dr. Robert Damm** received a grant from the Office of the Provost for a 2015 Schillig Special Teaching Project. He traveled to Washington to attend the Smithsonian Folkways Certification Course in World Music Pedagogy.

**Rosângela Yazbec Sebba** of Starkville has been awarded a \$ 4,500.00 grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). This grant is a portion of the \$1.61 million in grants the Commission awarded in 2015-2016. The grants are made possible by continued funding from the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. "The arts in Mississippi are now being recognized as a key component to economic development and as a driver for creative strategies for the growth of our communities," said Dr. Tom Pearson, Executive Director of MAC. "Individual artists play a vital role as really the backbone of this movement, and it is an honor for this agency to be a part of their professional growth." The Mississippi Arts Commission is a state agency serving residents of the state by providing grants that support programs to enhance communities; assist artists and arts organizations; promote the arts in education and celebrate Mississippi's cultural heritage. Established in 1968, the Mississippi Arts Commission is funded by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Endowment for the Arts at the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson and other private sources. The agency serves as an active supporter and promoter of arts in community life and in arts education. For information from the Mississippi Arts Commission, please contact Susan Liles, 601/359-6031 or sliles@arts.ms.gov.

**Rosângela Sebba** was also invited to be part of the International Piano Performance Examinations Committee in Taiwan: The International Piano Performance Examinations Committee (IPPEC) exists to provide a graded system of examinations in music in Taiwan. IPPEC provides music examinations, educative services and environment to piano teachers, students and music learners to help them achieve their goals in their careers. Every year two well-known pianists are invited for a 4-6 weeks residency where they perform, examine and teach students in different regions in Taiwan.

**Dr. Jason Baker**, Associate Professor of Music, has had four musical works accepted for publication during the spring/summer of 2015: "Non-Contradiction" (Smith Publications), "Romanian Folk Dances" (Edition Svitzer), "Log Cabin Blues" (Honey Rock Publications), and "Olde Tyme Muster" (Tapspace Publications). He also premiered a new work for solo marimba entitled "Single Source" which he commissioned from New York based composer Frank Picarazzi. The performance took place at the Sam Houston Percussion Festival in Huntsville, TX, where Baker was in residence in June.

**Dr. Jason Baker** also received a Mississippi Arts Commission Grant for his solo CD upcoming recording to take place in January, 2016. He has also received notification that one of his articles will be published in the May 2016 issue of Percussive Notes.



## BRENNER SERVING AS POLICY FELLOW FOR SENATOR THAD COCHRAN



A College of Education administrator at Mississippi State is beginning work as an education policy fellow for U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran.

Devon Brenner, head of the curriculum, instruction and special education department, recently joined the Mississippi Republican’s office staff to provide expertise and insights on upcoming education bills now making their way through Congress.

Brenner is a specialist in literacy curriculum and teaching at the elementary and middle-school levels, as well as teacher education and professional development in literacy. For the past few years, she and other colleagues in the college and its CISE department have been focusing research on rural education.

Janice Nicholson is serving as acting department head during her absence.

Brenner said three pieces of legislation expected to have a large impact on Mississippi include the Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, and Individuals with Disabilities Education acts.

“Some policies (in the bills) may not consider the unique needs of small rural schools, and I’m hoping to be able to help think about these issues, among others,” the Michigan State University doctoral graduate said. “My role as fellow will be to consider the impact of various policies and offer insight to Senator Cochran.”

During her time on Capitol Hill, Brenner said she also hopes “to learn as much as I can about the policy process and about resources that can support the university, teacher education and K-12 learning.”

## BRACEY NAMED OUTSTANDING UNIVERSITY BUSINESS EDUCATOR



MSU assistant professor, Dr. Pamela Scott Bracey, was recently awarded 2014-15 Outstanding University Business Educator of the Year for the second consecutive year.

She was nominated by recent MSU graduate (MSIT) Nashandra James, and was selected through a voting process facilitated by the Mississippi Business Education Association. Dr. Bracey teaches business and technology education courses in the department of Instructional Systems & Workforce Development (ISWD).

Bracey was also elected Vice President of the Mississippi Business Education Association (MBEA).

## NEW ADMINISTRATOR



Having been in higher education for 22 years, **Dr. Mitzy Johnson** joined the College of Education in August 2015 as the assistant dean. Prior to this, she served as the associate director for the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at Mississippi State University, working with 386 units to comply with regional accreditation regarding institutional effectiveness/assessment. Prior to joining MSU in 2007, she held positions as an assistant executive director for Research and Planning at the Mississippi Community College Board, and served as the associate vice president of Planning and Research at Northeast Mississippi Community College, in which she established an Institutional Research and Effectiveness Office and served as Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Liaison for seven years. She has served as Past President, President, and Vice President of the Mississippi Association for Institutional Research (MAIR) and was honored in receiving the Jim Nichols Service Award, which is the highest award presented to a current or former member of MAIR who has shown exemplary service and leadership to the organization and to the field of institutional research and effectiveness. She recently completed a two-year term on the board of directors for the Southern Association for Institutional Research (SAIR) as a Member-at-Large, raising over \$114,000 in vendor relations for the organization, and is a Past State President for Mississippi's Kappa Kappa Iota, one of the oldest organizations for educators in the United States. She earned her Ph.D. in Community College Leadership from Mississippi State University and a Master of Science and Bachelor of Arts in mathematics from the University of Mississippi.

## NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



**Dr. Harish Chander** is an assistant professor of Biomechanics and the Co-Director of the Neuromechanics Laboratory in the department of Kinesiology at Mississippi State University. Dr. Chander received both his Masters and Doctorate in kinesiology and biomechanics from The University of Mississippi and earned his undergraduate degree in physical therapy from The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University in India. Chander's research efforts are focused in areas of biomechanics of human factors and industrial ergonomics, with special emphasis in human balance, gait and slips, trips and fall prevention in the workplace. His research area also focuses on occupational

footwear biomechanics, cognition in occupational tasks, work related musculoskeletal disorders, muscular fatigue and response to postural perturbations. Dr. Chander's research applications include occupations such as firefighters, heavy industry workers, hospital employees and military populations. His secondary research emphasis comprises biomechanics of athletic human performance and injury prevention. He is a member of the American Society of Biomechanics, the South-Eastern Conference of American College of Sports Medicine and the Indian Association of Physiotherapists.



**Dr. Paul E. Binford** holds the rank of assistant professor in the department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education at Mississippi State University. He served as both a middle school and high school teacher and administrator from 1985-2011 while earning his Ph.D. from Indiana University. He is a recipient of a Lilly Teaching Creativity Fellowship (2002), a MAC Grant (2003), and The William and Madeline Welder Smith Research Travel Award from the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin (2009). He is also a member of several national organizations. Binford currently serves as a member

of the NCSS House of Delegates. Binford began his university teaching at Louisiana State University in 2011 before moving to MSU in 2015. He has published two state history (Louisiana and Mississippi) teacher wraparound editions for Clairmont Press and a historical classroom simulation with Social Studies School Service. His scholarly work on the history of the social studies and cross-curricular connections has appeared in a variety of journals, including Theory and Research in Social Education, the International Journal of Social Education, American Educational History Journal, Sound Historian, Louisiana English Journal and the ALAN Review.



**Dr. Zhujun Pan** is an assistant professor in the department of Kinesiology at the Mississippi State University. She received her Bachelor's degree in Electronic Engineering from southwest Jiaotong University, Chengdu, in 2005, received her Master's degree in Sport Psychology from the Capital University of Physical Education and Sport, Beijing, in 2009, and received her Ph.D in Kinesiology from Louisiana State University, in Baton Rouge, in 2014. Dr. Pan's research interests include effects of aging and

Parkinson's disease on the control and learning of fine movements, in particular related to inter-limb transfer and bimanual coordination. Her long-term research goal involves the integration of motor behavior and neuroscience to determine associations of changes in motor behavior and brain function caused by aging and aging related disease.



**Dr. Gregory Twietmeyer** earned a bachelor's degree in Art at Concordia University-Ann Arbor. At Concordia, Twietmeyer worked in the Sports Information Office, competed as a varsity athlete on the men's soccer team, and coached at Concordia's Summer Sports Camps. He received his master's degree in Sport Management from the University of Michigan. Twietmeyer was the Assistant Sports Information Director at Albion College, in Michigan, where

he was involved in media production, web design and game management, when he decided to pursue a Ph.D. in Sport Philosophy at Pennsylvania State University. Twietmeyer left Penn State in December 2007 for a job in the School of Kinesiology at Marshall University. While at Marshall he completed his dissertation and graduated from Penn State in August 2008. During this time, he initiated and directed the Lose the Training Wheels Camp, which teaches children with disabilities (usually Down Syndrome or autism) how to ride a two wheel bike. He was also recently awarded the honor of giving the 2015 Delphine Hanna lecture at the annual meeting of the National Association for Kinesiology in Higher Education (NAKHE). Twietmeyer came to Mississippi State University in the fall of 2015.









## **ERIN MORGAN NAMED MISSISSIPPI'S MISS HOSPITALITY**

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The winner of the 2015 Mississippi Miss Hospitality Pageant is Erin Morgan of Laurel.

Morgan is a senior at Mississippi State University, pursuing a degree in kinesiology with plans to attend physical therapy school. She placed in the top three for the speech awards on the Friday morning of the pageant. Each contestant presented a 90-second speech to a panel of judges on how they would sell Mississippi to a visitor.

Morgan will now represent the state for the next year, promoting tourism and economic development.

“Well, I would love to change people’s perception on Mississippi,” said Morgan. “And that starts within the state. So, just talking to people, locals, about why others think about Mississippi the way they do and really, just shine a positive light on that.”

The first runner-up is Anne Tatum McPherson from Madison County. The pageant took place at Hattiesburg’s Saenger Theater.

The Mississippi Miss Hospitality is a program of VISITHATTIESBURG™, and is presented by VISITHATTIESBURG™, The University of Southern Mississippi and the City of Hattiesburg.





# *Student Spotlight*

## **Brooke & Brittany Bane**

Brooke and Brittany Bane of Winona, Miss., made their decision to come to Mississippi State University (MSU) soon after touring campus. As founding members of the university's Quiz Bowl, both Brooke and Brittany have left a lasting impact on MSU.

Brooke said, "We love Mississippi State because it was so easy to make incredible friends, and the teachers were so helpful."

Both students majored in educational psychology but chose two different career paths after graduation.

Educational psychology associate professor and Quiz Bowl advisor Ty Abernathy said, "Both were a delight to teach, they were a joy to have in the classroom, and honestly, I was excited to be a small part of their journey."

Now in her second semester of occupational therapy school at The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) Medical Center, Brooke is using her degree in the medical field while Brittany was accepted into law school at Ole Miss and received a full scholarship due to her high academic achievement.

"I feel like law school is the best way to keep growing intellectually and still continue to work on academic service," said Brittany.

After both sisters worked at a camp the summer after their freshman year, Brooke chose occupational therapy because she learned she enjoyed helping children and those with disabilities.

The Bane sisters were also involved in various organizations around campus including the Shackouls Honors College, Wesley Foundation and Day One. Much of their free time was spent volunteering around the Starkville community.

"I loved how applying to graduate school was so easy with the faculty we had as students, teachers at MSU really cared for their students and were so friendly," said Brooke.

Abernathy added, "I was honored to write recommendation letters for both sisters, and it was rewarding to be a small part of their journey."

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SPIRIT OF STATE RECIPIENTS

More than 30 Mississippi State students are receiving the university's premier student recognition for exceptional personal contributions to campus life.

Now in its tenth year, the Spirit of State Awards program organized by the university's Division of Student Affairs formally honors those who have made a positive impacts on peers and the broader campus community through organizational involvement, service to the institution and personal actions promoting school spirit and tradition.

Those selected have been nominated either by faculty and staff members or fellow students. A minimum 2.25 grade point average and good academic and disciplinary standing within the university are among the eligibility criteria.

The 2015 Spirit of State College of Education Award recipients include:

**NEW ALBANY--** Roderick Erby, a junior business information systems & information technology services major.

**MERIDIAN--**Adrian L. Cross, a community college education master's student at the MSU-Meridian Campus.

**SHAW--**Roderick D. Davis, a senior kinesiology/health fitness studies major.

**STARKVILLE--** Chasity R. Swoopes, a senior kinesiology/clinical exercise physiology major.



# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SOCIETY OF SCHOLARS

Twenty-three Mississippi State seniors are new members of the university's prestigious Society of Scholars in the Arts and Sciences.

The honors organization recognizes top university students each semester from all majors who have demonstrated the highest standard of academic excellence while pursuing a broad exposure to courses in the arts, sciences and humanities.

Those selected for the rigorous screening process must have demonstrated a sound foundation in languages, mathematics, sciences, oral and written communication, humanities or social sciences.

Both from Mississippi, representing this year's class of Society of Scholars from the College of Education include:

**RALEIGH—**Tyler Smith, a secondary education major.

**TUPELO—**Emily L. Williams, a secondary education and foreign language/Spanish double-major.





## BESTSELLING AUTHOR AWARDS FUTURE TEACHERS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP



Academic success is a broad assessment that is unique to each individual. Many different components can contribute to a person's academic success; however, the most influential of these factors can often be the instruction of a devoted teacher.

James Patterson, a top New York Times bestselling author, understands the need for quality educators and is helping future teachers pursue their degrees at Mississippi State University.

The James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarships, established by a gift from the author's Patterson Family Foundation, funds eight separate \$6,000 scholarships for MSU students in the College of Education.

This year, MSU is one of nearly 20 colleges and universities to be awarded the scholarships, which support students pursuing degrees in education and committed to careers in teaching.

"This very generous gift for teacher education scholarships exemplifies the values and commitment of James Patterson and his wife, Susan Solie Patterson, to quality education," said MSU President Mark E. Keenum.

The 2015-16 MSU James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarship recipients are all freshmen majoring in elementary education. They are:

- Hannah Duke of Birmingham, Alabama
- Amanda Hayes of Madison, Alabama
- Brooke Leggett of Centerville, Alabama
- Caitlin McFarland of Franklin, Tennessee
- Jodie Newsom of Laurel
- Mary Hannah Swan of Madison
- Caroline Thomas of Cumming, Georgia
- Abigail Yann of Franklin, Tennessee.

In addition to upholding a 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) and expressing an interest in English language arts, the scholarship recipients were expected to “understand the importance of promoting literacy and have the motivation and intent to instill in their students an enduring and lasting love of reading.”

“Being a recipient of the James Patterson Scholarship means the world to me because of what it stands for,” said Leggett. “Literacy is so important to me and story time was one of my favorite parts of the day in elementary school. I cannot wait for the day I get to share that with students in my own classroom.”

Patterson, himself a passionate promoter of reading and literacy, is best-known for his crime novels, including the Alex Cross, Women’s Murder Club, and Michael Bennett series. He also holds the Guinness World Record for the most No. 1 New York Times bestsellers of any author and was the first to achieve 10 million e-book sales.

The James Patterson Teacher Education Scholarships are one of several philanthropies supported by the Pattersons, including the James Patterson Pageturner Awards and the Middle School and College Book Bucks programs. Additionally, Patterson’s website, ReadKiddoRead.com, was established to help parents and teachers ignite the next generation’s excitement about reading.

“The Pattersons have become a tremendous force for good in higher education, and I’m very pleased to have Mississippi State affiliated with the work of their foundation,” Keenum said.

Valuable support from benefactors like James Patterson and the Patterson Family Foundation allow Mississippi State to foster individual academic success, while also preparing the next generation of educators to do the same.

“I have wanted to teach my entire life,” Hayes said. “It is rewarding to know that out of so many students, I was chosen to receive the scholarship award. It gives me all the more assurance and confidence in my career choice.”

## OUTSTANDING TEACHER INTERNS NAMED

Outstanding Teacher Intern awards are given 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. Teacher interns receiving the awards were selected because of outstanding teaching performance, resourcefulness, initiative, professionalism, and demonstration of a high level of commitment to the teaching profession.



Front row (l to r): Lindsey Porter, Victoria Kwasny, Rachel Rochester, and Emily Marler.

Back row (l to r): Kaleigh Davis, Malory Bowers, Anastasia Lankford, Rachel Cheatham, Gineca Garriga, Alex Russell, Diamond Butler, and Ashley Banks.

Not pictured: Brittany Binder.



L to R: Ashlee Owen, Terri Peeler, and Caroline Pochop.

Not pictured: Margie Sligh and Ariel Turner.



## DAK PRESCOTT SUPRIZES CAMPERS AT CAMP JABBER JAW



Participants in Camp Jabber Jaw arrived at the T.K. Martin Center for their annual summer camp helping children who require augmentative and alternative devices for speech and communication, and got a huge surprise this year when a College of Education graduate student showed up as the special guest.

The camp, whose theme is superheroes this year, is geared toward helping children who need and use typing devices, eye-detecting computers or other services to aid in their verbal communication. Participants are immersed in an environment where they can be comfortable, and are also provided with instruction from full-time staff at the T.K. Martin center as well as graduate students

in speech pathology programs across the state of Mississippi. The camp is a unique one, attracting campers both new and returning from all over the United States every summer, and with parents and siblings invited it's also an opportunity to learn together that they don't often have.

Prescott waited just outside the door to the room where all the kids waited as he was being introduced. "We've been talking about superheroes all week," one of the camp directors told the room, "so we wanted you to meet one of our heroes here at Mississippi State – Dak Prescott!"

She motioned for Prescott to walk inside, and as soon as he did

the room erupted in cheers and clapping, as well as several excited looks from one camper to another.

Many of them knew who Prescott was, being Mississippi natives. But even the ones who didn't looked at him with awe. The contrast between he and the campers was not lost on Prescott, whose 6'2", 235-pound frame, shaved head, bulging muscles and big smile made him look every bit of an other-worldly action hero to the pint-sized kids, many of whom were bound to wheelchairs.

Prescott's appearance, as well as the hard work and dedication from T.K. Martin Center staff made for one of the most successful camps to date.



# NEWEST CLASS OF MISSISSIPPI EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING PARTICIPANTS ANNOUNCED

Rebekah Comer  
 Hannah Barulli  
 Kimberly Bates  
 Zachery Bettinger  
 Rebekah Blythe  
 Sawyer Byars  
 Olivia Byrd  
 Amanda Caillouette  
 Emily Crace  
 Morgan Derden  
 Tanner Hamilton  
 Kelsey Harris  
 Abigail Legge  
 Allie Nichols  
 Chandler Roberts  
 Garrett Williams  
 Brooklyn Woodrow  
 Andrew Woodruff



# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AMBASSADORS



Rachel Blough  
 Jensen Bosarge  
 Amber Chamblee  
 Emily Crace  
 Hannah Duke  
 Ali Graham  
 Hayley Henderson  
 Haley Herndon  
 Mary Hurley  
 Jordan Hutton  
 Ben Jacobs  
 Madison Lessley  
 Laura Lee Lewis  
 Briantae Maddox  
 Kaitlyn May  
 Jailyn Montgomery  
 Marion Richmond  
 Amber Stokes  
 Brock Taylor  
 Breanna Temple  
 Hannah Thomas  
 Taylor Tubertini  
 Shelby Williams



# College of Education Scholarship Recipients

## **George Bush Scholarship**

Teal Abernathy  
Dani Leaf  
Kamaran Malone  
Anna Matheny

## **Amanda Catherine Richards Scholarship**

Hunter Andrews

## **Cox, Mills and Tingle Scholarship in Counselor Education**

Samantha Ashmore  
Cassie Munn

## **Merchants & Farmers Bank Scholarship**

Hannah Ball  
Amber Chamblee

## **David and Peggy Tiffin Loyalty Scholarship**

Meredith Bass  
Hannah Duke  
Hannah Garrard  
Megan Grice  
Abbey Hess  
Mary Mitchell Hill  
Lauren Iupe  
Anna Matheny  
Kinsey McCreary

## **Jack Beall Scholarship**

Sarah Bayles  
Jasmine Gibson  
Allison Moore  
Lauren Swee  
Susanah Tovar  
Lihn Voung

## **Margaret Jock DeMoville Annual Scholarship**

Mary Michael Bellin  
Kelli Olivieri

## **Hardin T. and Katie Rose McClendon Scholarship**

Jenna Boyd

## **Ellen Curtis Ricci Memorial Scholarship**

Jacob Boyer  
April Burney  
Elyssa Lambert

## **Clara Self Andrews Scholarship**

David Brown  
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# *Alumni* Spotlight

**GLEN BLAINE**

**MAKING AN**

**IMPACT**

**IN CHOCTAW COUNTY**

Not a typical undergraduate student, Glen Blaine received his bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mississippi State University (MSU) in 1999. "What people may not know about me is that I was a jeweler for a long time before I became a principal," said Blaine. "I loved people too much though, I'm a people person, and I knew that I wanted to do something bigger," he said.

After receiving advice and encouragement throughout his life from Terry Stacy, former Ackerman Elementary School (AES) principal, Blaine continued his education and received his master's degree from Jackson State University. Soon after, Stacy's position opened up and Blaine became principal at AES.

"He's one of my boys," Stacy said. "I was his principal and he did his internship under me, so it was really opportunistic that after he received his administrative certification I was ready to retire," said Stacy.

AES is now the seventh best of the 422 elementary schools in the state of Mississippi, and many educators credit that to the hard work of Glen Blaine. "When I first became principal, I didn't know I'd have to do half of the things I do on a daily basis," he said. "I have done everything from unclog toilets to get a Frisbee off the roof for a student, and I would never ask any of my staff to do anything I hadn't done," he added.

Former Superintendent of Choctaw County Schools, Dr. Donna Shea said, "Glen Blaine is one of the most effective administrators that I have ever witnessed, and he does whatever it takes to motivate his students."

Blaine says, "I pay a lot of attention to small things at AES because those small things end up having big effects on nearly everyone." Along with managing teachers and support staff, who he credits as equally important to the success of AES, Blaine focuses on student needs as well.

"A lot of principals in different school districts have too many children with special learning needs and here at AES, we have more children who are gifted and educationally inclined," he said. A good problem for the school district to have and one that along with teachers performing exceptionally, reflects on state test scores.

"When everyone comes together and does their job correctly, the outstanding test scores will follow," said Blaine. Being principal does not come without challenges, however. "The most challenging thing about my job is the constant changes with testing and requirements for schools, just when you get used to something, it almost always changes," said Blaine.

"I don't do negativity though, it isn't good to have a bad outlook on the job, so no matter what I just try to remain positive and encourage everyone to just simply do their job," he said. Blaine added, "On Sundays, I can't wait to get back to work on Monday mornings."

Principal Blaine recently had the opportunity to speak to MSU teacher interns at the annual Program for Research & Evaluation for Public Schools (PREPS)-Mississippi Association of Partners in Education (MAPE) conference at the Pearl River Resort. When asked about his future Blaine said, "I really love speaking with students, I loved speaking to the MSU students at the conference and helping them better understand what it's like in the classroom because until you get your internship a teacher isn't really prepared."

Blaine's own teacher intern advisor was Dr. Teresa Jayroe, current associate dean of the College of Education at MSU. "Dr. Jayroe was really helpful during my time at MSU," said Blaine. "I'm so thankful for my experience there and the education program at MSU is excellent," he added.

Stacy said, "He is just an absolutely good fella. I knew teachers would respect him and the students would love him, and that's what you look for in a good principal." The future is bright for MSU's Glen Blaine, and the positive impact he makes on hundreds of students' lives daily will certainly make a lasting impression.



## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SELECTS DEBRA WEST AS ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR



Mississippi State University's eight academic colleges have selected a slate of impressive Bulldogs as their 2015 College Alumni of the Year honorees. These individuals are honored for their many accomplishments and the Bulldog spirit they embody in their personal and professional lives.

The College of Education recognizes Dr. Debra J. West of Flora as its Alumna of the Year. She earned a Ph.D. in community college leadership from MSU in 2007.

A native of Forrest City, Arkansas, West has served as Deputy Executive Director for Programs and Accountability for Mississippi Community College Board since 2009, and previously she was the board's Associate Executive Director for Workforce, Career, and Technical Education and the Director of Postsecondary Career & Technical Education. The MCCB is a state agency that oversees the 15 community and junior colleges in Mississippi.

West was appointed Chancellor at Arkansas State University Mid-South earlier this summer and will succeed Dr. Glen Fenter. "I am extremely honored to be named the first chancellor of Arkansas State University Mid-South," West said. "As an East Arkansas native and former employee of Mid-South Community College, I am well-acquainted with the institution's reputation as a leader in learner-center education and workforce development. I look forward to the opportunity to build upon the tremendous foundation that Dr. Fenter established, and I am equally excited about working with Dr. Welch and the great faculty, staff and students at Mid-South as we start a new chapter in the history of this outstanding institution."

West also serves as an advisory board member of MSU's Community College Leadership Advisory Committee.

## LARRY BOX NAMED 2014 ALUMNI FELLOW



Dr. Larry Box has been selected as Alumni Fellow for the College of Education for 2014. Box has enjoyed a long history with Mississippi State.

Box lived in Starkville for many summers due to his father's job as a visiting school instructor. Starkville became his permanent residence when he was in high school after his father accepted a full-time teaching position in MSU's College of Education.

He holds three education degrees from Mississippi State--a 1966 Bachelor of Science, a 1968 Master of Education and a 1985 Doctor of Education.

“Mississippi State has always been a major part of my life and if required to select a fondest memory, it would be that Mississippi State has always been there,” said Box. “My life would be completely different without the influence of MSU.”

Now retired, Box served as Starkville School District's Superintendent of Schools from 1991-2002.

His professional experience also includes serving as Assistant Superintendent for the Starkville School District, principal of Henderson Junior High School, and principal of Sudduth Elementary School. He began his career as a math teacher.

Box credits his many achievements to his time spent at Mississippi State. “My classes were a good mix of practical applications and theory,” he said. “Most classes, particularly at the graduate level, were built around a ‘hands-on’ approach to learning and the learning process.”

Box still resides in Starkville with his wife Florence, who is a retired school librarian. Their son Warren is a human resource administrator in California.

## ALUMNI NOTES

**‘86, William W. Housley, Jr.,**

of Plantersville, Miss., recently announced the release of his new website for Housley Law, [www.housleylaw.com](http://www.housleylaw.com).

**‘04, Amanda Koonlaba,**

of Saltillo, Miss., was selected to write a recommendations report on accountability for the National Education Association. She represented the Southeastern states in presenting this report to senior NEA officials in Washington, D.C. After the presentation, Koonlaba was able to extend the work and lead a panel of teachers at the Network for Public Education National Conference in Chicago for developing a published Authentic Teacher Voice rubric for use with national teacher leadership projects.



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*Cunetto*

Dear College of Education Alumni and Friends,

It is hard to believe another year has come and gone. The College of Education has had a very busy and exciting year. We received the highest ever scores on our recent accreditation visit by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)/Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). This can be attributed to the high caliber faculty, staff, and students that we have in the MSU College of Education. We continue to graduate more teachers annually into the Mississippi workforce than any other university in the state.

This year we celebrated the inaugural class of James Patterson Teacher Education Scholars with eight students who are receiving substantial scholarships generously given by the author James Patterson and his wife, Sue Patterson. Mr. Patterson believes that strong, quality teacher education is the key to educating students to become successful, contributing members of society who have a love and understanding for the importance of reading. The Mississippi Excellence in Teaching Program (METP) is in its third year and is funded by a private gift from the Hearin Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and friends we have several new annual and endowed scholarships. Thanks to your generosity we have also been able to continue the Steinway Initiative in our music department as we continue working towards becoming the first All-Steinway School in Mississippi. All of this would not be possible without your generous support of the College of Education and we thank you for your gifts and your desire to make a difference in educating our future teachers.

Every gift to the college is important, no matter the size. There are many ways to give some of which include scholarships, faculty support, and naming opportunities. These gifts can be made as outright gifts, pledges or planned gifts through your estate. Other giving opportunities include charitable gift annuities and charitable trusts. If you would like additional information about giving opportunities please contact me at 662-325-6762 or [tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:tcunetto@foundation.msstate.edu).

I am very thankful to have the opportunity to build new friendships and relationships with people who want to make a difference at Mississippi State University. I cannot think of a better way to make a positive change than investing in the young people who will educate our children. I would love to visit with you any time you are on campus. Please feel free to stop by the Deans Office, 309 Allen Hall for a visit.

Trish Cunetto  
Director of Development

# MSU College of Education

## Did you know?

48

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION CURRENTLY HAS  
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS



158

STUDENTS WERE  
AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS  
FOR 2015-2016



770

COE ALUMS  
MADE GIFTS IN  
2014-2015



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YES! I want to support Mississippi State University and the College of Education this year! Enclosed is my gift of \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_ One-time credit card charge

**My employer will match my gift.**  
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Please return this form and your contribution to:

MSU Foundation, P.O. Box 6149, Mississippi State, MS 39762 or make a contribution online at: [www.msufoundation.com](http://www.msufoundation.com)

Send us your news! We would love to continue to feature updates and accomplishments of our outstanding alumni in future editions of *Forward*. Send an email or letter to:

**Paige Watson**  
Communications Specialist  
Mississippi State University  
College of Education  
P.O. Box 9710  
[opw4@msstate.edu](mailto:opw4@msstate.edu)







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