

Spring 2011/www.meridiancc.edu

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Connections

M A N E



*Special guests
rock the Foundation
with fundraising efforts*

MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Pam Harrison, *assistant to the president,
finance*

Cathy Parker, *director of institutional
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Kathy Brookshire, *director, institutional
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On the Cover . . . *Team
captains Michael Jackson (C.D. Smith),
left, and Elvis (Tim Hogan) performed at
the kick-off meeting of the 2011 President's
Roundtable campaign. MCC Foundation
board members call on local businesses to
help fund the Tuition Guarantee Program at
Meridian Community College.*



Helping his alma mater

*Philadelphia Phillies' Pitcher Cliff Lee
returned to his alma mater when his MCC
jersey number was retired.*

Former Meridian Community
College pitcher, Cliff Lee, became the
third Eagle to have his jersey retired,
following coaches Corky Palmer and
Scott Berry. Lee was on campus for the
“Meet the Eagles Day,” to visit with the

team, and be honored as the City of Meridian proclaimed Jan. 24, 2011, “Cliff Lee Day.”

In turn, Lee is giving back to his alma mater. Eagle Baseball Coach Chris Curry, said Lee has offered to match any funds raised for the improvements of the baseball complex, Scaggs Field. Curry said Lee wants to do his part and help with the renovations and improvements.

Curry is hoping enough money is raised to build a new batting cage, replace the netting behind the home plate area and to refurbish the outfield fences. He said the fundraising effort has been ongoing for a couple of months, but with Lee's help, he hopes to boost even more interest among the local community.

“The community has been so important to us, and we hope they will come through for us again,” Curry said. “And with Cliff on board to match all that is raised, that is a great incentive.”

Curry, who said the fundraising period is at its halfway point, said the goal is for the community to donate about \$75,000. That amount would then be matched by Lee and in Curry's estimation be enough to make the necessary improvements.

Curry said those wanting to make a contribution to the Meridian Community College Foundation for the field renovations can do so online or call the Foundation at (601) 484-8612.

*Accountability:
It's not just
about statistics*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friday the 13th of this year was actually a “lucky” day for Meridian Community College as we graduated an all-time record number of students in ceremonies at the mammoth Evangel Temple sanctuary. Including the honorees, faculty, and audience, the total crowd was estimated between 3,500-4,000 people.

For the 2010-11 school year, MCC graduated 819 students – the first time the college has ever cracked the 800-graduate mark. That number as compared to our total credit enrollment, I believe, would cause MCC to post one of the top graduation rates among the state’s two-year colleges.

Of course, it’s always a point of pride for our faculty and staff to see students attain their educational goals – to finish what they started, so to speak. It’s a good habit for young folks to develop, building one success upon another.

All that said, graduation rates for community colleges as a performance indicator is a somewhat misguided barometer of success. Why? Because the mission of community colleges is, to say the least, diverse and doesn’t always involve closure activities. For instance, community colleges like MCC enroll numerous students who come to us with no intention of earning an Associate Degree or certificate. They simply desire to get some of their basic core curriculum courses out of the way before transferring to a senior college or university. It’s very common for some students to accomplish that during the summer before they enter a university.

Other students who enroll in community colleges are engaged in developmental classes, attempting to remediate basic skills deficiencies (reading, writing and mathematics). Still others are interested in taking just enough technical classes to be able to qualify for an entry-level job in industry.

In respect to those type activities, community colleges are more concerned with “value added” than the achievement of a degree. Think of it this way – if a student comes to MCC with a 7th grade reading level and takes a developmental class and exits that course with a 10th-grade reading level, does that mean MCC failed? I would suggest not. We have helped that individual

become a more functional human being. He or she may never qualify for a degree, but his or her communications skills may have at least been elevated to the level that qualifies the student for a minimum wage job. And, hey, a minimum wage job is better than some other outcomes, i.e., the average inmate in Mississippi has a 5th grade reading level.

Beyond that of which I’ve already written, the mission of community colleges includes non-credit continuing education courses for professional and/or personal enrichment; short-term workforce training designed for specific industries; and cultural enhancement programs for the community such as MCC’s Arts & Letters Series. Lots of local folks, as another for instance, use the MCC natatorium several times weekly. It is part of their physical therapy program.

Bottom line - it’s hard to quantify every little component of a community college’s mission. In some sense, the State of Mississippi is trying to do that through its Educational Achievement Council, which next year will make recommendations to the Legislature as to how colleges and universities should be evaluated in the future. The results of those evaluations may ultimately impact on each community college’s funding.

It’s not that I’m opposed to accountability or publicly stacking MCC against other higher education agencies. All I’m saying is that, as government seeks to make such evaluations, the breadth and purpose of the community college mission should be taken into consideration. As a final anecdote, MCC staged Pinocchio this school year, involving dozens of elementary school-age children in the cast and providing those youngsters an opportunity to showcase their talents and develop leadership skills and a sense of responsibility and poise. It was a terrific experience for all concerned. But it won’t count toward any funding formula or performance indicator on a state level. It’s just the type of thing a college like MCC routinely does. Remember the operative word in our title will always be COMMUNITY.

You see, accountability isn’t just about statistics. I mean, how do you measure a smile?

John D. Elliott

First Renewed and Recycled Scholarship presented



“I’m the winner.”

That’s how Meridian Community College alumnus Thomas Walker described being the recipient of a kidney from another MCC student, Brandi Haney.

“She gave me a second chance at life,” he said.



For Haney, it was just something that she thought she needed to do. After prayerfully considering it, she was led to donate her kidney in 2006, admitting the hardest part was leaving her daughter for the hospital stay.

As an Associate Degree Nursing Program student, Haney sees compassionate acts as a way of life.

Because of her generosity, she was selected as the first recipient of the Recycled and Renewed – Second Chance Scholarship established through the MCC Foundation by Angela and Shawn Gamber. Angela Gamber was the recipient of a liver transplant in 2009; she and her husband established the scholarship to honor her donor.

The \$1,000 award is earmarked for tuition, books, fees and supplies, and it is designated for an allied health student who is an organ donor or immediate family member of an organ donor; or a living organ donor or immediate family member of a living organ donor.

Above: Angela Gamber, left, Brandi Haney and Thomas Walker pose at the announcement of the first Renewed and Recycled Scholarship.

Left: Brandi Haney receives her Associate Degree Nursing pin from instructor Sandra Cross.

“I was honored, blessed and ecstatic to be the first recipient of the Recycled and Renewed Second Chance Scholarship,” the 1999 graduate of Clarkdale High School said. “It was a wonderful scholarship started by wonderful people,” she added.

The Gammers said the name of the scholarship came from several places. “My daughter has a T-shirt that says, ‘My mom contains recycled parts’ so that’s where recycled came from. I have been renewed through God and made into a new person through Him. He and my donor family gave me a second chance,” Angela said.

Writer’s note: Brandi Haney, the recipient of this scholarship, lost her husband, grandmother, step-father, home and car in the violent storms that tore through Mississippi in April.

Foundation Scholar



Benjamin R. Fraysur has been selected to receive the **Lucile Reisman Rosenbaum Scholarship** at Meridian Community College. This \$2,500 award is funded through the MCC Foundation from an endowment established by Mr. I. A. Rosenbaum. Mrs. Rosenbaum was a World War II veteran, a board member of the National Girl Scouts of USA, and a Meridian School Board member of long standing. She led the drive to restore the Dentzel Carousel in Highland Park and establish an endowment to maintain the historic facility.

Ben is a 2009 honor graduate of Southeast Lauderdale High School. At MCC, he was a member of the Ivy League Recruiters, the Baptist Student Union, and board member of Phi Theta

Kappa, the international honor society for two-year college students. A Dean’s List scholar, Ben was recently inducted into *Who’s Who Among Students in American Community and Junior Colleges*. His plans are to obtain a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Mississippi State University and pursue a career in the medical field.

MCC Foundation President's Roundtable -

Mississippi Power presents future plans

"I think it's safe to say that Mississippi Power is going to support the tuition program here at MCC."

That's what Ed Day, Mississippi Power Co., president and chief executive officer told members at the MCC Foundation President's Roundtable Luncheon when the group held its annual meeting last fall. Day served as the keynote speaker.

"Why wouldn't we? We're going to need capable people to operate this plant ... technology is really the answer for energy independence ... and the technology of tomorrow will be developed right here in this college," Day said.

Mississippi Power is building a \$3 billion lignite-fueled power plant in Kemper County using a new technology called Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle, which will use a more economical type of coal called lignite.

Day reminded the audience of the overall economic impact of the facility. Meridian, he noted, is in the center of job creation and technology in connection with the plant. "We're going to turn this into a very positive economic endeavor for this part of the state," he said.

Day added, "Don't think it's (the new power plant) going to only affect Kemper County; it's going to affect all of East Central Mississippi."



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- 1 - Ed Day discusses the lignite-fueled power plant in Kemper County
- 2 - Richard Armstrong and Kyle Temple
- 3 - Ed Day with luncheon guest
- 4 - Christine and Billy Riley with David Buckner
- 5 - "Hoot" Gibson with Sue and Bud Thompson

MCC Foundation Annual Celebration honors Rush Health Systems

It's been said that partnerships stand to amplify mutual interests and success. The same holds especially true for the relationship between Rush Health Systems and MCC.

"The value of the partnership between MCC and Rush Health Systems through the years can hardly be overstated," said Dr. Scott Elliott. "In fact the college couldn't possibly offer some 12 nursing and allied health programs without the support of the professional health care community."

Because of its continued support, Rush Health Systems was honored at the MCC Foundation's Annual Celebration at Northwood Country Club last November.

According to Elliott, Rush has been there for MCC since 1963 when the two entities collaborated in developing a school of practical nursing. "I would say that our partnership with Rush and other members of the medical community has proven to be a model that has benefitted the entire East Mississippi/West Alabama region," the College's president said.

Vice President of Human Resources and Public Relations for Rush Health Systems Donnie Smith said, "We all need to be looking after the continuing education of the young men and women of Lauderdale County and the surrounding area, and anything we can do to support that is very, very important."

To cite examples of Rush's support of MCC, they have donated equipment and supplies to MCC's health occupations programs; sponsored athletic events and other student activities on campus; provided scholarships to students pursuing medical careers; partnered with the college on numerous employee training programs; supported Tuition Guarantee; and given MCC four buildings, including one that currently houses science laboratories and another that is among the finest schools of practical nursing in the state.



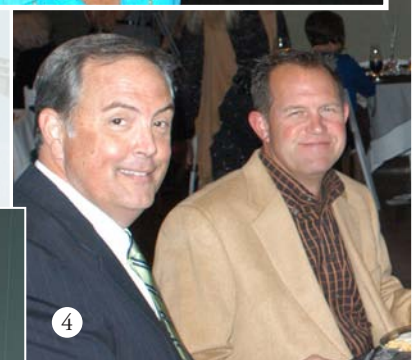
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7 - Teresa Church and Shirley Griffin
 8 - Melida and Bill Patterson
 9 - Angela and Larry Payne
 10 - Carol Merrill Academy dancers, from left, Hannah Grace Hannington, Emma Kate Uithoven and Ava Partridge

1 - Chris Rush and Donnie Smith receive recognition from MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott

2 - Kathy Brookshire and Tim Walker

3 - Wilhelmine Damon and Norma Bourdeaux

4 - David White and Donnie Massey

5 - Virginia and Robert Hodges

6 - Rush family members Frances Rush, left, Mary Rush, Chris Rush, Dr. Vaughn Rush, Dr. Ben Rush and Laura Rush



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New officers introduced

In addition to the salute to Rush, the Membership Celebration also served as a way to introduce the new officers of the MCC

Foundation Board of Directors.

Accepting their charges were Jeff McCoy, president; Tony McDaniel, vice president; Alan Lamar, treasurer; Kathy Brookshire, secretary; and Pam Harrison, advisor. Hayley Shirley was also recognized as a new board member.



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Hall of Fame Honorees

Well-wishes were the order of the day when MCC welcomed alumni to its annual homecoming festivities. Inducted into the MCC Hall of Fame by President Dr. Scott Elliott were Dr. Jennifer L. Avara-Lott, Dr. David Batarseh, Dr. Randy Nance, Von Burt and Syria Hayes Sturdivant, Juris Doctorate.



Jennifer L. Avara-Lott

A 1982 highest honors graduate and Phi Theta Kappa member at MCC, Dr. Avara-Lott earned a bachelor's degree from Mississippi College and a doctorate in dentistry from the University of Mississippi at a time when few women were being accepted into dental school. Ultimately, Dr. Avara-Lott established the first private female practitioner's dental office in Meridian. She is also an honor graduate of Northeast Lauderdale High School, where she was voted "Most Likely to Succeed" and served as student council president and drum major for a band that achieved a superior rating. In support of her community college alma mater, Dr. Avara-Lott has been a member of MCC's Dental Hygienist Advisory Committee and the MCC Foundation. She has also addressed graduates as a commencement keynote speaker. She has served on the United Way Board. She is married to Dr. Tracy Lott, with whom she shares their North Hills dental office. A classical pianist and oil painter, Dr. Avara-Lott enjoys travel as her favorite leisure activity.



Syria Hayes Sturdivant

A 1968 honor graduate of Meridian Junior College, Sturdivant earned a bachelor's and juris doctor degrees from the University of Mississippi. At MJC, Sturdivant was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa international honor society as well as being named to the *Who's Who Among Student in American Junior Colleges* list. Sturdivant ascended to the heights of a practicing attorney in Meridian and also served as a municipal judge pro-tem, legal consultant for Weems Mental Health and counsel for the Department of Human Services for the State of Mississippi, among numerous other official and community service posts in which she utilized her legal expertise. She has been an outstanding community servant, including service on the MCC Foundation Board; 22 years service on the Civil Service Commission; East Mississippi State Hospital advisory board; Board of Directors of the Lauderdale County Mental Health Association; Board of Directors of the Mississippi Action for Progress; organizer of blood drives and voter registration drives, as well as lengthy service to her church in several capacities from Sunday School teacher to newsletter editor.



Randy Lynn Nance

An alumnus of Meridian Junior College from 1969-72, Nance earned a pharmacy degree from the University of Mississippi in 1975 and a medical doctor degree from the University of Kansas City School of Medicine and Biosciences in 1983. At MJC, Nance was a member of the inaugural Eagle basketball team. He also met his wife, Nancy, at MJC, where she was a cheerleader. Nance achieved medical

licenses in both Mississippi and Missouri in 1984. During his medical career, Nance has served as chief of staff of Laird Hospital in Union; and medical director for hospice and home health care organizations in the East Mississippi region; medical director for the Collinsville Family Medical Clinic; staff physician at the North Hills Family Medical Clinic in Meridian; and staff member of Rush Hospital. In addition to his medical practice, Nance founded New Gulf Homes, designed to provide affordable housing along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He is the co-author of a book entitled *The Health Zone Diet*. Nance is the proud father of two children and has three grandchildren.



David Towfig Batarseh

A 1994 4.0 highest honors graduate of Meridian Community College, Batarseh earned a bachelor's degree in biological engineering from Mississippi State University, Summa Cum Laude. In 2001, he graduated from the University of Mississippi College of Medicine. He served an internship at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga medical unit and a residency at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. He entered his current practice with the Meridian Anesthesiology Group. Batarseh was a prolific student and athlete for Northeast Lauderdale High School, from which he graduated. At MCC, he played on two Eagle baseball teams that made it to the NJCAA World Series, once slamming a decisive home run in a playoff game. He was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa international honor society and an NJCAA Academic All-American at MCC. Moreover, he became the first and still only Guistwhite Scholarship winner in MCC history. Batarseh has served as a keynote commencement speaker at MCC and also volunteers his time for Habitat for the Humanities.



Lavone Oscar "Von" Burt

A 1976 highest honors graduate of Meridian Junior College, Burt earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Southern Mississippi. At MJC, Burt was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa international honor society, was voted Mr. MJC, and made the *Who's Who List Among American Junior College Students*. Moreover, he earned two letters playing on the Eagle baseball team. Burt amassed an impressive career in the banking industry, reaching the position of Meridian Regional President of Citizens National Bank. His community involvement includes past treasurer and board member of Habitat for Humanity; past treasurer and youth baseball president of the North Meridian Optimist Club; adjunct instructor for Meridian Community College in small business accounting; past president and board member of the University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association; past treasurer and executive board member of the American Red Cross; and many years as a youth baseball and soccer coach. He and his wife, Cindy, are the proud parents of two children, Lon and Ivey.

Nursing scholarship added at MCC



It's the message that every parent dreads to receive – your child has been in an accident. Five years ago Ray Humphreys and his wife, learned that their beloved daughter, Kelley, who was just 22 years old and starting her life as a registered nurse, was killed in an automobile accident.

Kelley, with blonde hair, blue eyes and a bright smile, was often referred to as “Sunshine” by her oncology patients at St. Dominic’s Hospital in Jackson. Colleagues

remembered Kelley as the nurse who would take her work breaks and make milkshakes for her charges.

To pay tribute to Kelley’s life – one that overflowed with love of family and friends - the Humphreys acted on a recommendation to establish a scholarship fund from the gifts given in memory of Kelley. Thus the Kelley Elizabeth Humphreys Nursing Scholarship Endowment was begun with the CREATE Foundation.

According to the Foundation, “the fund’s purpose is to honor Kelley’s life and her selfless giving spirit by providing assistance to deserving nursing students who demonstrate need and whose lives reflect Kelley’s deep compassion and love for God and others.”

“My wife and I were blessed with the response,” said Humphreys of the initial starting of the scholarship, and the outpouring of love remains. “People continue to give and the scholarship grows.”

Initially, the scholarship was given to nursing students at Mississippi Delta Community College, Hinds Community College and Delta State. Since the Humphreys moved to Meridian – where he serves as chief executive officer at Anderson Regional Medical Center – they took the opportunity to have the scholarship include students at Meridian Community College through the MCC Foundation.



Elizabeth Nichols, a third semester Associate Degree Nursing Program student, is the first Kelley Humphreys Scholar at Meridian Community College.

Nichols knew from taking care of her own father, who was sick when she was growing up, the importance of nursing. She came to nursing school after getting married and having children, she said.

Her area of nursing preference: “I like labor and delivery and pediatrics.”

The appreciation notes they receive from the recipients are heartwarming. “They (the scholarship recipients) are upholding the values she had,” Humphreys said. “Many people contribute to this scholarship,” he said. “This is a way to let them know that they’re making an impact on others.”



Congratulating - Meridian Community College students Susanna Pace (front row, second from left) and Krystal Mason (front row, fourth from left) are presented with \$2,000 scholarships each from Mary Anderson (front row, third from left), executive director of the Anderson Support and Development Foundation during a gathering at Meridian Community

College. Pace is a student in the College’s Physical Therapist Assistant Program; Mason is a student in the Medical Laboratory Technology Program. On hand at the presentation were, front row from left, Kimberly Ennis, Physical Therapist Assistant Program coordinator; Pace; Anderson; Mason; Holly Fettingter, Medical Laboratory Technology Program instructor; back row from left are Kathy Brookshire, MCC director of institutional advancement; Dr. Betty Davis, MCC dean of nursing; Dr. Scott Elliott, MCC president; Dr. Richie McAlister, associate vice president of workforce education; and Shelia Johnson, Medical Laboratory Technology Program coordinator.

Tommy Dulaney: Man of steel with a heart of gold

November - December 2010
LEGENDS
the Mississippi Arts & Entertainment Review

By *Richelle Putnam*

Reprinted from the November-December 2010 issue of Legends The Mississippi

Arts & Entertainment Review with permission by Publisher Marianne Todd.

“A business that makes nothing but money is a poor kind of business.” - Calvin Coolidge

Tommy Dulaney never overpowers the room he walks into. Instead, he slips discreetly through the doorway and into the crowd.

“He fits nicely into the room with everyone else,” says Becky Farley, executive director of The Riley Foundation. “It’s never about power with (Tommy).”

Dulaney, founder and CEO of Structural Steel Services, Inc., takes more than pride in his lifelong Meridian community. He rolls up his sleeves, steps in, and takes action.

“Tommy is the first person to call if you need something done,” says Wade Jones, executive director of East Mississippi Business Development Corp. “He is a true servant.”

True to that description, Dulaney always steers conversations away from himself and to the organization or cause he is supporting. “He is a behind-the-scenes person,” says Rebecca Combs, executive director of The Phil Hardin Foundation. “He wants to be part of the process.” Luke 12:48 reads: “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded, and from the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be asked.”

“Tommy thinks this way,” Combs says.

Dulaney can’t give a rundown on soap operas, nighttime dramas, sitcoms or reality TV, but he can fill you in A-to-Z on current affairs. “He’s a news addict,” says Combs.

“The world is so interconnected now,” Dulaney says. He’s an avid Internet user, which keeps him informed of world events. “What happens in China will ultimately affect this country.”

From a young age, Dulaney learned to be observant. “As a boy, he swam in the Chunky (River) and he can still describe the details of the setting, from the foliage, to the way the river curved, to how the water flowed,” Combs says.

Since his father passed away when Dulaney was 12, he and his brother, Charles, had to help support the family. One of Dulaney’s childhood jobs was working as a soda jerk at Brookshire’s Ice Cream Parlor. “Tommy understood what survival was,” says Combs. “There were no days off.”

“He empathizes with the worker because he gets where they’re coming from and the hardships they face,” says Manny Mitchell, owner and chairman of Mitchell Distributing. “He helps people realize how much they can do as individuals.”

Now a successful businessman, Dulaney collects and surrounds himself with art, revering every piece, from canvas to sculpture, truly appreciating its worth. Therefore, he donates time and resources to support the arts, adhering to the belief that the arts define the quality of life and that everyone, regardless of social or cultural status, should have access to this quality.

“He sees all the components,” Jones says, the components being business, education, entertainment, artists, service organizations, and family, and how each affects the other.

“There’s a reason he’s asked to serve on so many boards,” says Jones. Those board memberships include Meridian Community College, Meridian Community College Foundation, The Riley Foundation, Meridian Little Theatre, Hope Village for Children, Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center, Aldersgate Retirement Center, Trustmark Advisory Board-Meridian, the Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development, Mississippi Manufacturers Association, Mississippi Power Association, and the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation. With his firm belief that an empire cannot be built without first building community, it’s no wonder Dulaney was recently named 2011-12 Chairman of the Mississippi Economic Council.

Born in Louisville, Miss., Dulaney graduated with the Class of ’57 at Meridian High School and attended Meridian Junior College, which is now Meridian Community College. In March, 1967, Tommy went to work for Bates Steel. In 1975, with the backing of Sammy Davidson and Tommy Webb, he started Structural Steel.

What propelled Dulaney to start his own company? Guts?

Wade Jones doesn’t think so. “It was competence that turned into confidence.”

Structural Steel started with half a dozen people in a temporary site off Grand Avenue in South Side Meridian where a poultry processing plant had been located in the 1950’s. At that location, the new business carried on while Plant One, a 60 x 200 square-foot building, was being constructed on seven acres in the South Industrial Center.

Through the years, Structural Steel has expanded to include four fabrication plants, a machine shop and a warehouse where maintenance is done, encompassing about 800,000 square feet, with present plans to enlarge Plant One. With approximately 350 employees, Structural Steel is the largest steel fabricator in Meridian. But to Dulaney, the strength of a company develops from something other than numbers and a heavyweight product. Strength comes from giving.

“Meridian is my home,” says Dulaney. “The community’s been good to me. My success is due to my employees and those who helped me get started. I feel like you owe back to the community.”

Committed to education as well, Structural Steel has contributed to the building fund for the University of Mississippi Law School and has awarded endowment scholarships for students at University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and students at both the Meridian and Starkville campuses of Mississippi State University.

"It's like being in a boat," says Dulaney. "If everybody is paddling, we're making progress. If someone's not paddling, we're going to be zigzagging."

Dulaney's track record of contributing time and resources to so many entities proves neither the man nor his business lifts that paddle out of the water very often. To Dulaney, volunteerism must extend also into the arts, because the arts create culture and culture defines community. In other words, what the community does in its off-time for enjoyment and entertainment is as important as what it does during office hours.

Therefore, it makes perfect sense that Dulaney serves as president of the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center (MAEC) Board, which was established in 2001 by the Mississippi Legislature. The Center's Walk of Fame and Hall of Fame will venerate Mississippi artists in every category, including literature, music, drama, dance, and the visual arts, as well as provide showcases to inform and educate the public on their contributions to the world.

"There is power in partnering together," says Dulaney. "Businesses, governmental agencies, and citizens are all in the same boat. ... We all need to paddle."

Yes, there is the art of business, but there is also the business of art, which includes a vast audience that keeps this business thriving. Thus far, to crowds gathered on the block in front of The Riley Center, Dulaney has chaired Walk of Fame Bronze Star presentations to honor Jimmie Rodgers, B.B. King, Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams, William Faulkner, Sela Ward, and Marty Stuart.

Incoming President of East Mississippi Business Development Corporation (EMBDC)

Ann Alexander serves on many boards with Tommy, including EMBDC and MAEC.

"(Tommy's) been a success because he's such a giving and caring person," says Alexander. "He has always put others before him."

And Dulaney is a star in his own right having been awarded the 1994 Hartley D. Peavey Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence and, in 2008, the Lifetime Achievement Award by East Mississippi United Way. In addition, Tommy has been inducted into the Meridian Community College (MCC) Hall of Fame, which is housed in the Dulaney Room.

"You're always proud to get any award and recognition," says Dulaney, "It does make you feel good and I'm always stunned and amazed."

Scott Elliott, MCC President and good friend of Tommy's for more than 12 years says,

"Tommy represents everything MCC strives to produce in its students in character and integrity. He is a model of entrepreneurship."

As a young man, Tommy completed the drafting program at Meridian Junior College (now Meridian Community College) when it was located at Meridian High School.

"That gave him his start in the industry," says Elliott.

Dulaney grew up around 49th Avenue in Meridian. And from his teen years, he loved to rock'n'roll.

"I grew up in the Elvis Presley era. You couldn't help but love music."

Combs says he's the first on the dance floor. "Music is our big commonality, from rock to pop to country, to classical. Music is always on."

Dulaney admits his love for music and dance and to being a bit nostalgic in his reminiscing about the good old days. However, being CEO of one of the largest steel fabricators in the Deep South, he is also a visionary.

Tommy's grandmother once told him, "If a job is worth doing, it's worth doing right. Even if you're digging a ditch, you dig the best ditch possible."

That's advice he took to heart. And people notice.

"If my own grandson could grow up to be the kind of man Tommy Dulaney is," Elliott says, "I would be so proud."



"A business that makes nothing but money is a poor kind of business." - Calvin Coolidge

Return Service Requested

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Laura Beth Wray, second from left, is the second recipient of the HMP Nursing Scholarship at MCC. The scholarship was established by HMP Nursing Services. Shown with Wray at the presentation are, from left, Jay Slaughter, director of HMP Nursing Services; Melissa Mitchell and Sherri Clopton, Practical Nursing Program instructors.

“Hattiesburg Medical Park Management has been in the healthcare industry since 1982. Our corporation owns and manages five long term care nursing facilities, as well as a retail and institutional pharmacy located in south Mississippi. . . .HMP Nursing Services, Inc. (founded in 1993) offers dependable and reliable nursing services to hospitals, long term care facilities, clinics and other medical facilities.”



All smiles –

Dr. Cedric Bradley, seated, is congratulated by MCC Language and Literature Division colleagues Katherine Stewart, Tracy Buie, Kelly McKee, Dr. Annie Burns, Dr. Alexis Lee and Morgan Boothe. Bradley, a six-year MCC employee, was tapped as MCCer of the Month. Bradley received his doctorate from Mississippi State University in December 2009.

Foundation Scholar



Daniel A. Allen of Greenwood has been selected to receive the **Robert F. Cochran Memorial Scholarship** at Meridian Community College. This award is funded through the MCC Foundation by Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Roberts. Lieutenant Cochran, Mrs. Roberts' brother, was killed in Vietnam while on active duty with the United States Navy. He was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously.

Daniel is a 2009 highest honors graduate of Pillow Academy. A President's List scholar, he was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Community and Junior Colleges and inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year college students. In addition to excellent performance in the classroom, Daniel played on the Eagle Baseball Team. His plans are to transfer to Mississippi State University and continue his quest to become an orthopedic surgeon.