

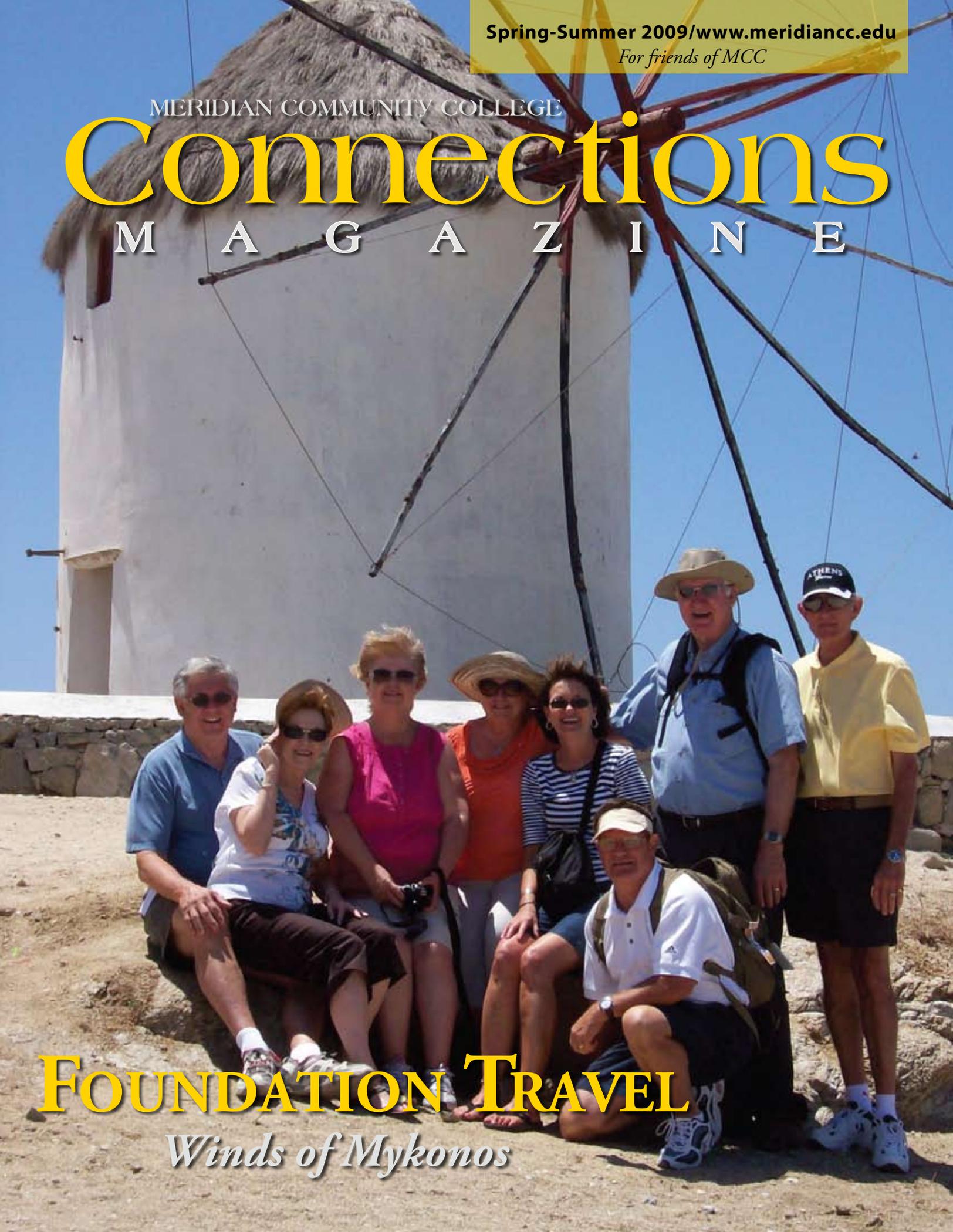
Spring-Summer 2009/www.meridiancc.edu

For friends of MCC

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Connections

M A G A Z I N E



FOUNDATION TRAVEL

Winds of Mykonos

Dr. Scott Elliott, *president*

Barbara Jones, *vice president, operations*

Dr. Kathy Baxter, *assistant to the president
for grants and government affairs*

Shirley Nell Goodman, *associate vice
president, workforce development*

Cathy Parker, *director of institutional
effectiveness and accountability*

Billy Beal, *dean, learning resources*

Amy Brand, *dean, fiscal affairs*

Janet Heggie, *dean, community and
business development*

Dr. Richie McAlister, *dean, career and
technical education*

Soraya Welden, *dean, student services*

Kathy Brookshire, *director, institutional
advancement*

Connections is published by the MCC College
Promotions and Public Relations Department.

Kay Thomas, *college promotions director*
Amy Miller, *graphic designer*
Preston Cooper, *webmaster*

On the cover *Exploring Mykonos, Greece:*
from left, Jimmy & Gayle Boatner, Diane Wells,
Wanda McPhail, Kathy & Brownie Brookshire,
Mark McPhail and Ronnie Wells.

Connections

M A G A Z I N E

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OPENS NEW
DOORS**

*New facility brings
new growth*

THE FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE AHEAD

To be stimulated or not to be stimulated? In my best Shakespeare, that is the question.

Where MCC is concerned for FY10, there can be no doubt that the federal stimulus package will provide some short-term budgetary relief. According to former Mississippi Senate Appropriations Chairman Jack Gordon, the 2009 Legislature used \$546 million of stimulus money and \$253 million more “one-time” money to balance its FY10 budget, and MCC was among the beneficiaries.

That’s a kind of artificial way to prop up a budget, but I’d rather have artificial, short-term support than none at all. MCC didn’t have to lay anyone off or reduce salaries to begin the new school year, thanks in part to the aforementioned interventions.

The really bad news, however, is that Mississippi’s economy is still struggling. Tax revenues for the first two months (July & August) of the new fiscal year were \$31.7 million (or 5.25 percent) shy of projections. If that trend continues, the Governor’s Office predicts a shortfall of as much as \$800 million for the whole of the fiscal year. Already the Governor has cut state appropriations to all publicly-funded education agencies – K-12, universities, and community colleges – by 5 percent and also reduced some stimulus funds originally intended to assist community colleges. For MCC, those cuts totaled about \$800,000. In my 12-year tenure as MCC’s president, we’ve never experienced a reduction in state appropriations so early in the fiscal year.

Everyone from Governor Barbour to local legislators like Sen. Terry Burton and Rep. Greg Snowden have already warned colleges that Mississippi’s economy will probably continue its downward spiral over the next two years, and in the meantime, stimulus monies will be running out. The consistent message is that “the bottom is going to drop out” by FY12. Rep. Snowden has characterized that forecast as “a train wreck” or “like falling off a cliff.”

Somehow, if current trends continue, MCC will have to strengthen its cash reserves, perhaps by as much as \$1 million annually, over the next two years to avoid a reduction in force and/or programming by FY12. That’s a tall order for a small college.

Personally, I would rather take a beating than have to lay someone off or discontinue a viable program. On the contrary, we want to expand programming at MCC, to offer our constituents more and more diverse learning opportunities.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The paradoxical thing about community colleges having their funds cut is that – and I truly believe this – MCC and the other 14 two-year schools are about the closest thing to a panacea for Mississippi’s economy as exists. Why? Because community colleges offer training in specific skills that are still needed in today’s job market. I would cite nursing as a prime example.

Obviously, people with a job pay more taxes than those harvesting unemployment benefits. I hope legislators will consider that when they go about the formidable and politically nightmarish task of setting budgetary priorities and cutting state agencies into the future.

While community college funding has improved some in recent years, an analysis of the last decade suggests that we still have a long way to go in vying for state support among sister agencies. According to Sen. Gordon, over the last 10 years, the K-12 system statewide has increased its enrollment by 67 students (or less than 7 students per year), yet its state funding has increased 49 percent. Wow!

Likewise, the university system’s enrollment has increased 11 percent, while its funding has gone up 19 percent. Not bad.

Community colleges? Our enrollment has increased 25 percent, but we nevertheless only command 7.2 cents out of every dollar in the general fund invested in education, versus 72.3 cents for K-12 and 20.5 cents for universities. Ouch!

Perhaps the bottom line is this – if Mississippi was going to accept President Obama’s stimulus money, as Gov. Barbour reluctantly did, then let’s think twice about cutting the agency that has the most potential to actually stimulate the economy. There’s something fundamentally illogical about that.

You wouldn’t be a MCC Foundation member and reading this somber piece if you didn’t have a keen interest in your local community college. You are part of our family. And the family deserves to know exactly what we’ll be up against the next couple of years. The demand for services will likely increase, i.e., MCC’s enrollment climbed about 10 percent this fall, while our financial resources to deliver those services dwindles.

No matter what, somehow MCC will keep on keepin’ on. We must. In that process, we thank you for your advocacy and support. It means more than you know during these most challenging times.

SCOTT ELLIOTT

LOYAL SUPPORTERS HONORED WITH A SPECIAL LUNCHEON

Some very special ladies were honored with a luncheon this spring at the home of Kathy Brookshire. Combined, they are responsible for over a half million dollars in contributions to the MCC Foundation. There is no way to measure the impact of their generosity. MCC students covering two decades have benefited from scholarships, awards, and program enhancements made possible by their philanthropy.

Honorees included:

Wilma Bounds

Norma Bourdeaux

Winifred Davis

Mel Crooks Evans

Becky Farley

Ann Holladay

Mathilde Howell

Alice James

Ann Johnson

Elizabeth Kahlmus

Sara Jo Malone

Sula Marsalis

Emma McCain

Mabel Merritt

Christine Riley

Mary Ann Riley

Sue Thompson

Mae Carroll Thornton

Jo VanDevender



FOUNDATION TRAVEL *By Kathy Brookshire*

It is with great pleasure that I update you on MCC Foundation Travel.

We have just returned from Italy, Croatia, Greece and France with 65 travelers. Our first stop was Venice, Italy. Romantic, relaxing, charming, lovely...there are so many words to describe Venice. I fell in love with this remarkable city two years ago, on my first visit to Italy. From the gondoliers in their cheery stripes to the bustling shopping districts, Venice is a must see Italian adventure.

The second stop was Split, Croatia. Split is busy and big; it is Croatia's second largest city. Split offers a wealth of museums and Roman ruins under a dramatic mountain backdrop and opens on to a vast expanse of seas. One of the places we visited was Diocletian's Place. The massive stone building was the residence for the Roman emperor Diocletian. Although it was built over 1500 years ago, most of the structure is remarkably intact.

Next we headed to Athens, Greece. Wow! Athens is extraordinary. The city is both a port and a seaside resort. It is hilly and mountainous. With 5,000 years of history, my favorite site was the Parthenon on top of the Acropolis, in the heart of the centre.



The next stop was Mykonos. I have always heard about the "Greek Islands," but this island was beyond belief! I have never seen more beautiful water. The color of the Aegean was magnificent! It was the bluest of blue. Mykonos has the cubist charms of a traditional Cycladic town; narrow alleyways wriggle between the white-walled buildings and the flower-bedecked churches are scattered everywhere. Mykonos claims to have 400 churches. The houses are stark white with parallel staircases and multicolored doors. Thatched windmills on the hill overlook the ocean. I have to admit, Mykonos was my favorite place.

Last but definitely not least, we toured Paris. Paris is famous for museums, countless historic buildings and monuments as well as some of the finest art galleries in the world. It is a fantastic city for sightseeing! We visited the gothic cathedral of Notre Dame and the impressive Arc De Triomphe. We sailed on the Seine to see the wondrous sights at night. The Eiffel Tower was one of the most awesome sights...twinkling with lights. The next day, we actually went all the way to the top of the Eiffel Tower. It took my breath away to see the gorgeous city of Paris! We visited the Louvre Museum, the Tuilerie Garden and the Concorde Square. I must not leave out the food of Paris. On every corner, we visited delicious French pastry shops. Yes, I gained several pounds sampling the many various pastries. I think, what I love most in Paris was the French food. Yum!

We have planned several upcoming MCC Foundation Travel trips. A cruise to Cozumel in November is definitely a hit.

We have planned an England, Scotland, and Ireland tour in July 2010. This trip is completely booked.

Plans are under way for a visit to Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard September 2010. Let me know if you are interested in traveling with us. We would love for you to be a part of MCC Foundation Travel. I can be reached at (601)484-8612.



Above: Linda Bruister gets a lesson in navigating the gondola in Venice.

Left: Standing on top of the Acropolis in front of the Parthenon in Athens are, from left; Tanya Thompson, Fran Byrd, Kathy Brookshire, Taylor Thompson, Karen Davis and Brittany Davis.

PRESIDENT'S ROUND TABLE



MIKE & CHARLOTTE PARKER

Several years ago, the movie *Pay It Forward* generated the idea that by doing good works for others to repay the good that has happened to you makes the world a better place. A real-life example can be seen in the way Charlotte and Mike Parker live their lives.

Thirty-five years ago, Mike and his partners started their business which became Fleming Robinson Parker & Goforth Insurance Agency. Charlotte is the current director of finance for the Lauderdale County School District where she has been employed over 33 years.

Both Charlotte and Mike follow the pay-it-forward mantra. "Whatever success we have in either our business or personal lives is because someone else helped us," Mike said. "In return, we realize that we are blessed and we want to share our blessings with others." Talking to the couple, you'll quickly

learn that they are compassionate, caring people.

"There's nothing special about us. We've been very blessed and we've been given opportunities to help," Mike said. A part of their generous spirit can be seen in how they give back to their alma mater, Meridian Community

College. Both express how they believe that MCC is one of the greatest assets in our community. This is evident by the fact that the three Parker children, Dana, Susan and Michael, are also MCC alumni. For them, it is a family affair.

When the Parkers reflect on their experiences at MCC, their fondest memories are how they recall the dedication of the faculty.

Mike remembers an evening marketing instructor who inspired his students. "He was a really sharp guy," Mike said,

adding in addition to teaching the subject, "he taught us the realities of life. He lived in the real world and taught us how to as well."

All the teachers were helpful, good examples, the Parkers said. Charlotte recalls teachers like Mary Taylor who would assist students. "She'd take the time with you," she said. This continued to be true over time when she took business and accounting classes. Their MCC teachers have left a lasting, positive impression.

"Whatever we are, it was because someone else helped ... teachers, friends, customers," Mike said, adding, "We realize we're a piece of the big puzzle of life." Mike notes that it was his family and friends who helped him to be successful. "It was the people and our customers who had faith in us."

The Parkers continue to enjoy what they do and both have successful careers, and as in the movie, *Pay It Forward*, they want to pass it on.

NEW TO THE MCC FOUNDATION



KARRIE & BILLY GOODMAN

MIKE REED



MEMBERS AT A GLANCE . . .

For more than half a century, Guy Purvis has been in the loan business in Meridian.

“We feel like we’re doing a service,” he said of his business, Financial Management and Investment Corporation. The company serves individuals in a two-state region. “We have 41 offices in Mississippi and Louisiana,” he said, noting the company employs 140 people.

He chose Meridian to locate his business. “I love Meridian and the junior college,” he said. “I think we’re so lucky to have colleges here,” Purvis said.

The 86-year-old entrepreneur grew up in Lakeland, Fla., and served his country in World War II in the Scouts and Raiders – a predecessor to the modern day Navy Seals. On his desk in his Downtown Meridian office is a photo of him and a fellow sailor in

a kayak, serving as a reminder of Purvis’ military service.

Purvis moved to Meridian in 1955 and opened King Loan Service that year. “With him he brought his wife Toni and two young sons Warren and David. Business grew and so did Guy’s family with the addition of yet another son, Tag, in March of 1963,” according to a program printed about the company. In May of 1988, Purvis bought the 200 22nd Avenue building with encouragement from his wife with the idea of restoring it as closely as possible to its original condition. The Purvis Building, where Financial Management and Investment Corp., is located, was built in 1871 and restored by Purvis in 1989 after a fire nearly destroyed the structure.

Twenty years later, the building continues to house a busy office with Purvis still on the job. “I work every day and travel,” he said, adding, “if the good Lord sees fit.”



GUY PURVIS

WILLIAM M. PATTERSON

Tucked quietly back from the hustle and bustle of a state highway, Alliance Health Center serves the needs of individuals with acute behavioral health disorders and alcohol and substance abuse issues.

“We’re meeting the people where they are,” said William M. Patterson, chief executive officer for the 154-bed acute care psychiatric and chemical dependence hospital, located on Highway 39 North, Meridian.

With a mantra of “hope, healing and recovery,” the facility offers a comfortable environment to facilitate the healing process. Serving as a regional provider in a local setting, the center responds to needs throughout the region.

The Alliance campus is also home to The Crossings, a 60-bed residential treatment facility for adolescents.

There are specific programs geared for patients according to their diagnosis and age. And the facility treats individuals of all ages – from 5 to 95, Patterson said. Behavioral health programs are offered to children, adolescents and adults. It’s a challenge – one in which staff are cross-trained. “We focus a lot on education,” he said.

Patterson adds that MCC serves as a pipeline for the center to help staff the facility – not just associate degree nurses or practical nurses but also certified nurse assistants. “The technical programs at MCC are outstanding and essential to all health care providers,” he said.

Alliance supports MCC through the MCC Foundation’s President’s Roundtable. “We need to support the programs ... we want to ensure their continuation and promote excellence in training.”



M.L. WATERS - ENTREPRENEUR OF EXCELLENCE

Each year at the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation's Main Event Business and Industry Expo, the Hartley Peavey Award is presented to a local business person for entrepreneurial excellence. This year's recipient of the Hartley Peavey Award was M. L. Waters of Waters International Trucks, Waters Idealease, Waters Maintenance, Waters Brothers Warehouse and Plantation Land & Timber.

A native of Columbus, M.L. holds a degree in business management from Mississippi State University. At 11, he began his career as a truck mechanic assistant and got a "feel" for big wheels as a heavy equipment operator for a construction company and then moved into truck sales at his family's business in Columbus.

As a senior in college, he and his two older brothers signed the note to purchase and open their business in Meridian. Since 1977, this family-owned business has grown into four businesses that have expanded into five different cities.

His community involvement is widespread. He is the chairman of the board, a deacon, Sunday school teacher and on various committees at Central Baptist Church. He has served as president, vice president and currently serves on the finance committee of the MCC Foundation board of directors.

He also serves on the executive committee and board of directors of EMBDC and Aldersgate Retirement Community. He serves on the



Hartley Peavey, founder and CEO of Peavey Electronics, presents M.L. Waters of Waters International Trucking Co., with this year's Entrepreneur of Excellence Award at the 21st Annual Main Event Business and Industry Expo.

endowment committee at Lamar School.

"All of us at MCC are so proud of M.L." - Kathy Brookshire director, institutional advancement.

- Story and photo contributed by EMBDC

FAMILY ROOTS RUN DEEP IN BROWN PRINTING

Joe Brown, founder of Brown Printing, had ink running in his veins long before he opened his business in 1973.

As a young man, he asked for a job in a Meridian printer shop working there until he finished high school.

The military called - the Marines specifically - and his printing vocation was put on hold until after he returned home to Meridian from serving in the Korean Conflict. After he got home, Joe went to a printer's school in Tennessee to learn more and landed jobs with local printers and publishers.

"I liked the printing business," Joe said. So much that he enlisted the assistance of his wife, Choxie, to help with the bookkeeping of the business. Their children, Benji and Paige, grew up in the business, too.

Today, Benji is president of the company his dad began; Joe retired due to health reasons in August 2006. Paige is senior graphic designer and Choxie still keeps the company's books in order.

With 12 employees, Brown Printing continues to make its mark in the printing industry - an industry that is ever changing. The business is a member of the Allegra Print and Imaging franchise - the only one in Mississippi. This allows them to expand their lists of services beyond that of just printing.

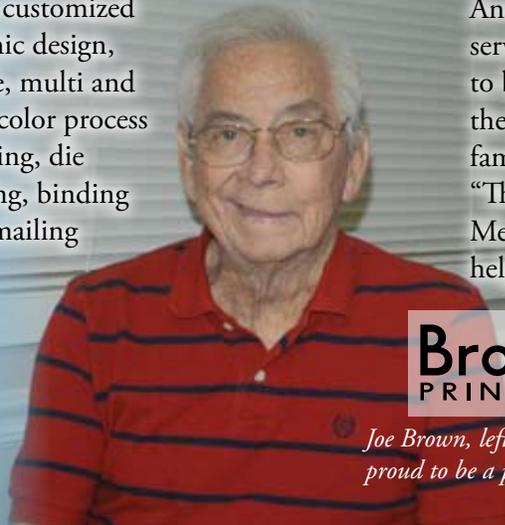
Their work, ranging from customized graphic design, single, multi and four-color process printing, die cutting, binding and mailing

services, continues to please clients near and far.

Brown Printing is a longtime supporter of the MCC Foundation. Kathy Brookshire, director of institutional advancement, is so appreciative of the support the Brown family has given MCC. "We have a close relationship with the entire Brown family," she said.

Being involved in the community is important to Joe and his family - he has reminders of his volunteer efforts from the Lions Club and the Boy Scouts in his office.

And community service continues to be a mantra for the Brown Printing family. Choxie noted, "That's the way Meridian is. You help each other."



Joe Brown, left, and son Benji Brown are proud to be a part of the family business.

VITAL CARE OPENS NEW DOORS

Vital Care of Meridian offers a state-of-the-art facility at its new location

Previously located in Acme Plaza, the 22-year-old pharmacy opened the doors this spring to its new home at the corner of 15th Street and 23rd Avenue (across from Jeff Anderson Regional Medical Center). The 16,000-square foot facility is equipped with many new features: sterile and non-sterile pharmaceutical compounding labs, several private infusion suites, patient education areas and office space for employees. Vital Care of Meridian is a high-tech, specialized pharmacy that provides many products and services to patients in the East Mississippi/West Alabama area, as well as across the Southeast. In sterile rooms, pharmacists and highly trained pharmacy technicians prepare medications for IV use. Jonathan Bell serves on the MCC Foundation Board of Directors. He is also an avid supporter of the Tuition Guarantee Program.



Tracy and Jonathan Bell are proud of the new state-of-the-art Vital Care facility.



OWNER OF POPULAR RESTAURANT CARES ABOUT MCC

Chino Suarez has a seat at the table of the American dream: He's the owner of his own business.

For 15 years, San Marcos has been a fixture in the western section of the City of Meridian. "It has been excellent," Suarez said of the business.

"I was working all my life in a Mexican restaurant – and I was working for someone else," Suarez said. So in 1991-92, the opportunity to buy into a partnership came available and he later bought out the partner.

Coming from Montgomery, Ala., Suarez opened an eatery in Marion, but closed it and moved west – to the College Park area. "I was the first one to come to Meridian – there were no other Mexican restaurants at the time," he said.

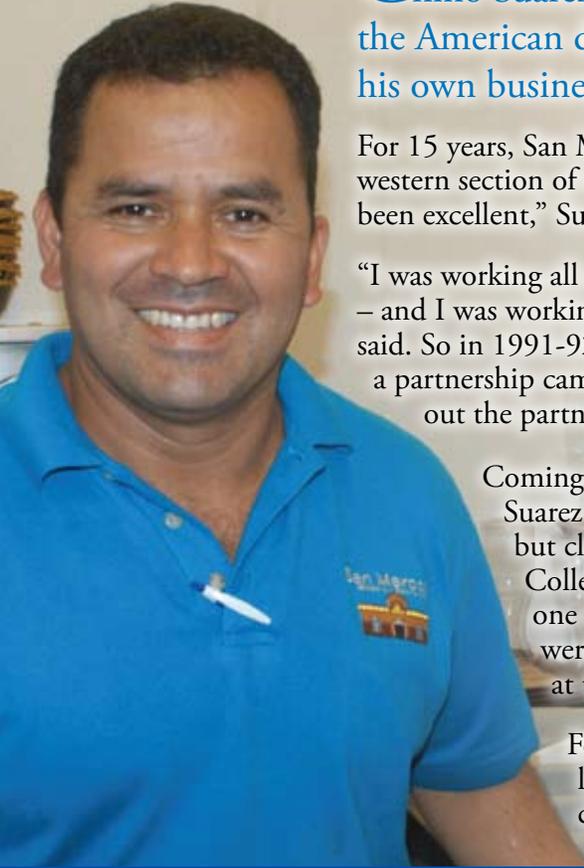
For 10 years, the business was located in College Park, but the chance to own his own building

developed and for five years, customers have been delving into the Mexican food that San Marcos delivers. "We send a message to our customers: They are No. 1. They are very important to us," he said.

"I am very blessed to have excellent results," he said.

With 14 employees under its roof, San Marcos is open seven days a week – from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. As a restaurateur, Suarez knows that consistent, top-notch foods and service are vital. "These guys are my family," Suarez said of his employees, "and when I'm not here, they take good care (of the business)." And he stresses to his workers, because of the country's current economic situation, "now is the time to work harder, do extra for our customers."

San Marcos is a member of the MCC Foundation President's Roundtable. Suarez contributes annually to the Tuition Guarantee Program. He's also happy to be a neighbor of MCC and a supporter by offering discounts to employees and donating to the baseball team.



IVY SCHOLARS

Tim Johnson, left, Saydrienne Harris and Gabrielle Morgan bask in accolades after they were named H.M. Ivy Scholarship recipients. The three scholars received \$1,500 each for their junior year of study at a senior institution, and if their academic excellence continues, they will receive \$1,500 more for their senior year of study. The students were recognized at the May 2009 graduation.

TOP-NOTCH TEACHERS

MCC instructors Sheryl Beddingfield, left, Cathy Parker, second from left, and Beth Calderon, right, are congratulated by Vice President for Operations Barbara Jones, third from left. The instructors were recognized as Clarence Roberts Teachers of the Year for 2009. The honor is bestowed on outstanding instructors who make a difference. The MCC Foundation underwrites the award, which pays tribute to former MCC Vice President Dr. Clarence Roberts.





Katherine Newby McDaniel Scholar

Jenna McEachin Johnson has been selected to receive the Kathleen Newby McDaniel Memorial Scholarship at MCC. This \$1,530 award is funded through the MCC Foundation from an endowment established by the McDaniel Family. A retired corporate officer, McDaniel was a

devoted member of Highland Baptist Church where she taught an adult Sunday school class for many years.

Johnson is a 2009 home school graduate. A vocalist, she has sung with the Cambiata Singers and appeared in Meridian Little Theatre productions. Johnson and her siblings perform as Track 45, a professional vocal and instrumental group. She teaches tennis lessons to children and recently participated in a mission trip to Guatemala. Johnson is studying for a career in occupational therapy.



Bebe Roberts Freeman Scholar

Jessica Threatt Wilson was tapped to receive the first Bebe Roberts Freeman Memorial Scholarship at MCC. This \$1,000 award is funded through the MCC Foundation by Harry Freeman of Starkville. Bebe Roberts Freeman, who

lost a valiant fight against cancer in 2007, is remembered as an excellent teacher, a social and political activist and a proud feminist.

Wilson attended Meridian High School and completed her GED at MCC. She is a sophomore in the University Transfer Program studying education. A Dean's List scholar, Wilson is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year college students. Her goal is to teach second or third graders.



Lucile Reisman Rosenbaum Scholar

Kelly Elizabeth Sterling has been named to receive the Lucile Reisman Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarship awarded through the MCC Foundation. This \$2,500 scholarship is funded by the Rosenbaum Family.

Rosenbaum was a World War II veteran, a board member of the National Girl Scouts 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.

Sterling graduated from Meridian High School in 2007 with a Scholar's Diploma, achieving a 4.0 grade point average. A member of the varsity soccer and tennis teams, Sterling received the MHS Scholar Athlete Award. At MCC, Sterling was a member of the Lady Eagle Tennis team and received the National Arthur Ashe Award. A President's List scholar, she was a vice president of PTK, an Ivy League recruiter and was one of six students named to the Appalachian Leadership Honors Program. She is studying kinesiology at Mississippi State University this fall with plans to become an occupational therapist.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARS

G.V. 'Sonny' Montgomery

Scholars Four students, **Shaquanda Janee Clark**, **George Anthony Hogan**, **Kenneth Roberts** and **Olivia C. Whitlock**, are recipients of the G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Scholarships at MCC. These \$1,250 awards are funded from an endowment established by a bequest to the college from Rep. Montgomery.



Clark is a graduate of West Lauderdale High School. She was a member of the National Honor Society, student council, and Health Occupation Students of America. Clark is active with her church youth group and works part time at the Dentzel Carousel. Her career goal is to become a neonatal nurse practitioner.



Hogan is a highest honors graduate of West Lauderdale High School. An Eagle Scout, he was a member of the National Honor Society, Christian Fellowship Club and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Hogan plans to pursue a degree in engineering and then become an officer in the military.



Roberts is a highest honors graduate of Meridian High School. He was a member of the Key Club and the Wildcat Baseball Team. Roberts will be playing baseball with the MCC Eagles. He will study accounting while hoping for a career as a professional baseball player.



Whitlock is a highest honors graduate of Clarkdale Attendance Center. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Chorus Club and Health Occupation Students of America. Whitlock played for the four-time State Championship softball team. Her goal is to obtain a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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ALL SMILES

Kathy Brookshire, MCC's director of institutional advancement, and Raymond W. Smith, president of CEFCO Convenience Stores, pose for a photo. CEFCO is helping MCC students by making the first installment on the endowment the business established last year.

The endowed scholarship is named in honor of C.E. Fikes, a native of Cameron, Texas, and the founder of Fikes Wholesale Inc., the holding company for CEFCO Convenience Stores, Fleet Fuel, Sunbelt Ice, CORD Financial Services and Group Petroleum Services.

MISSISSIPPI POWER SUPPORTS TUITION

GUARANTEE

David Buckner, Meridian Division manager for Mississippi Power Co., presents a \$7,500 check in support of Meridian Community College's Tuition Guarantee program to MCC President Dr. Scott Elliott and Kathy Brookshire, director of institutional advancement. Buckner was the guest speaker for a recent faculty/staff meeting at the college.



McLeod

AND THE WINNERS ARE - Each spring the MCC Foundation funds two \$500 John A. Johnson Awards and this year the recipients were Nursing/Health Education Secretary Brenda McLeod and Director of Administrative Computing Phillip Brooks. This recognition applauds the most outstanding staff members and is named in honor of Johnson, who served as business manager of the college for 23 years prior to his retirement.



Brooks

DESTINATION:
QEP 2011

MERIDIAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A Quality Enhancement Plan to lead MCC in a new direction.

MCC needs your input . . .

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), Meridian Community College's regional accrediting agency, requires every institution seeking reaffirmation to create a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) tailored for that institution's needs.

According to Cathy Webb, chair of the QEP steering committee, "Although there are several SACS requirements for a QEP, the most important are that the plan will improve one aspect of student learning and be measurable with actionable results."

The first step in the development of a QEP at Meridian Community College is to identify potential QEP topics. MCC has been soliciting ideas for a topic from students, faculty, staff, alumni, board members and the community since May.

Cathy Parker, director of institutional effectiveness and accountability, said this is an opportunity for the community to provide guidance and feedback to the college. "The mission of MCC is to improve the quality of life in Lauderdale County. The Quality Enhancement Plan is a great way for our school to meet our mission by improving the quality of life through enhancing student learning."

The most important source of ideas is the MCC community, and the college is asking for input. Go to the school website, <http://www.meridiancc.edu>, to find the QEP submission form, and to send ideas that will enhance student learning.

