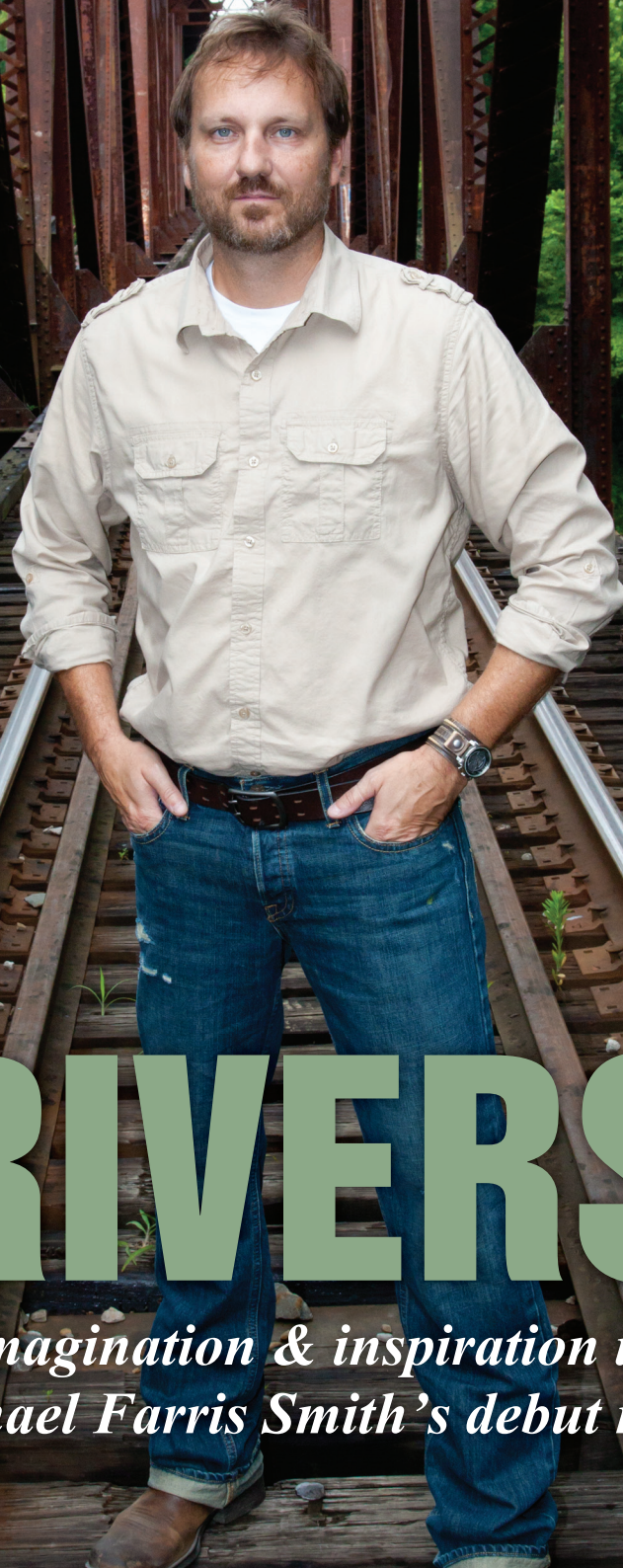


FALL 2013

VISIONS

For Alumni & Friends of The W



RIVERS

*imagination & inspiration in
Michael Farris Smith's debut novel*



VISIONS

FALL 2013
MAGAZINE

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY for WOMEN

FEATURES



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Mississippi University
for Women

A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men

The publication of Visions is funded by private funds contributed to the MUW Foundation.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear W Family and Friends:

The fall has been a particularly busy and rewarding time on campus, as you'll learn from this issue of *Visions*.

In October, we marked the 25th anniversary of the Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium, which began in 1989. Dr.

Tom Richardson, Dr. Bridget Pieschel, Dr. Ginger Hitt, and, more recently, Dr. Kendall Dunkelberg, have been instrumental in the success and continuing quality of this signature event for The W. Their efforts have been richly rewarded, as emerging voices of Southern literature have been eager to participate and often return. For the 2013 Symposium, Ellen Gilchrist returned to provide the keynote address and discuss her many works, including "The Writing Life."

We're pleased that one of the writers represented in this year's Symposium was The W's own Michael Farris Smith, whose work you will see featured in this issue. His first novel, "Rivers," published by Simon & Schuster, was released in September. The W was proud to partner with Catfish Alley magazine, The Columbus Arts Council, The Friends of the Library and the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library to host the official book launch here on our campus. "Rivers" is getting outstanding reviews, and Dr. Smith, currently on sabbatical, is busy making appearances around the South. I encourage you to read his fine novel.

In this issue, we also take a look at some of the remarkable work our students are doing. A feature on student internships gives a sense of the wide-ranging interests and accomplishments of students who pursued off-campus internships in subjects as diverse as history, microbiology and theater. Those students who seek opportunities such as these say they are encouraged to continue their studies and to develop even deeper knowledge of their subjects.

You'll also see two sides of history in the current issue. A new concentration in public history will be the only such undergraduate degree in Mississippi and will provide our students a pathway to careers such as archival management, historic preservation and museum and national park exhibit curation. It is equipping students with skills that can be used in public service as professional historians. And we'll take you back in time to 1913, where you'll get a glimpse of campus through the photos of the 1913 SGA president and see history at work in The W Archives.

Finally, this issue features a list of those students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who have made financial contributions to The W over the last year. Your support is vital to the continued progress of The W. On behalf of all of The W family, I extend my thanks for your investment in the mission and the future of this wonderful institution.

Sincerely,

Passport to Wellness the Ticket to Healthier Lifestyles

A community-wide health initiative targeting lifestyle choices related to diet, physical activity and stress management was launched on The W's campus.

The program, sponsored by The W and in partnership with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation and area schools, targets residents of Columbus and Lowndes County, including students, faculty and staff of The W. It also includes Franklin Academy, Joe Cook Elementary and Annunciation Catholic School.

Passport to Wellness, funded by a \$252,000 grant from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, will enable participants to make healthier lifestyle choices through a series of educational and community events emphasizing health and wellness.

"The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation is continuing to support health and wellness initiatives that improve the health of Mississippians in every area of our state," said Sheila Grogan, executive director, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation.

"Connecting campus to community to deliver services will better utilize the current resources available and identify possible gaps in services," said Kate Brown, director for the Center for Creative Learning located on campus. "This will be accomplished through events held quarterly on campus, in local schools and out in the community, utilizing the expertise of W faculty and community practitioners."

The program will have five primary dimensions, according to Brown. Those areas include a wellness program for W students, a wellness program for W faculty and staff, training for physical education teachers, a wellness program for elementary students and community wellness events.



Dr. Jim Borsig, W president, center; Columbus Mayor Robert Smith, left, and Sheila Grogan, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation executive director, are pictured with Passport to Wellness Advisory Board members Mark Bean, Donna Grant, Joni House, Sharon Patrick, Nancy Carpenter, Barbara Bigelow and Edna McGill.

Specifically, the monies from the program will be used to build a circular walking trail at Franklin Academy, as well as to purchase new physical education equipment.

Katherine Roberts, Passport to Wellness program manager, said, "To really make an impact in improving individual's health and overall wellness, the effort needs to truly be community-based.

"By creating a culture of health, people are more able and apt to make healthier choices. That is the overarching goal of Passport to Wellness—to not only focus on one particular segment of the population, but to incorporate all members of the community, beginning with young elementary students, who are just learning to make their own choices regarding health, to the oldest members of the community," she added.

Need a Kwik Boost?

Students at The W no longer have to panic when a low battery notification pops up on their cell phones and other mobile devices.

The university has purchased six KwikBoost charging stations. One is located in McDevitt Hall computer lab, two in Hogarth Dining Center, two in Fant Library and one in Subway restaurant.

The charging stations are free to use and provide cable connections for most phones, tablets, e-readers and MP3 players.

KwikBoost technology intelligently identifies a user's device and then delivers a safe, full speed charge based on what that device's power demands are.



A Greener Space

Construction is under way behind Kincannon Hall to provide W students with another location on campus to gather and relax.

The green space will have seating for socializing, eating or studying. The area will also have an automatic sprinkler system and trees to add aesthetic value.

Currently, the project is in the beginning phases of irrigation and landscaping. More than 6,000 square feet of sod was put down. The space also will be fenced.

Sirena Cantrell, director of Housing and Residence Life, said, “I am excited about this green space that will allow students to gather and build a community.”

The project is being funded by Housing and Residence Life. Construction started this summer and is projected to end this month.



Renovated Bookstore

The W recently celebrated its remodeled campus bookstore, The Book End, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Various guests were on hand, including members of the campus committee that recommended selection of Barnes & Noble: Angie Atkins, Lyndsay Cumberland, Erich Ogle, Dave Haffly, Dr. Marty Hatton, Dr. Ghanshyam Heda, Dr. Richard Holden, Dr. Tammie McCoy, Anika Perkins, Brandi Malone and Justin Simpson. The committee was under the supervision of Nora Miller, senior vice president for administration and CFO.

“We are excited about the partnership with Barnes & Noble and the opportunities they are bringing to our campus,” said Dave Haffly, who chaired the committee.

Max J. Roberts, CEO, Barnes & Noble College, added, “We’re extremely proud of our new partnership with Mississippi University for Women, which has a long tradition of excellence in liberal arts and professional education.

“The newly remodeled space will support that tradition of excellence and become a vital part of The W campus community.”

The Book End offers course materials in a variety of formats, school supplies, university apparel, gifts and other W branded items in the updated space.

For more information about the bookstore, visit muw.bncollege.com or www.facebook.com/muwbookstore.

High Marks for CHAMPS

A W project that has served more than 400 fifth through eighth grade math teachers in 17 high-risk school districts has earned distinction from the U.S.



Department of Education.

Responding to federal initiatives to increase proficiency in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), The W’s Center for Creative Learning established Creating High Achievement in Mathematics and Problem Solving (CHAMPS) in 2004. Since then, the program has received more than \$4 million in continued funding.

In its most recent evaluation of three years of data from more than 590 funded programs nationwide, the federal education department recognized CHAMPS as one of only 16 meeting all of its evaluation criteria. An additional 65 programs were recognized for meeting at least one of the criteria.

“This evaluation is an affirmation of our efforts to help create confident, effective teachers and provide strategies that correlate with rigorous common core standards,” said Melinda Lowe, project coordinator.

kudos



Stevens



Cumberland

Alumni Named

Two W alumni were named to positions in the Office of Development & Alumni. They are **Andrea Nester Stevens** of West Point and **Lyndsay Blackburn Cumberland** of Columbus. Both originally served in interim positions.

Stevens was named executive director of development & alumni and serves as the executive director of the MUW Foundation, the fundraising arm of the university. Cumberland was named director of alumni relations.

Stevens joined The W in 2001 as director of planned giving. In that role, she assisted the university in growing its planned giving program. In 2008, she was promoted to executive director of development.

Cumberland joined The W in 2011 as assistant director of alumni relations. She served in this position for a year before being named interim director of alumni relations.

Born and raised in Columbus, Cumberland moved back home from Savannah, Ga. to rejoin her alma mater. She graduated cum laude from The W in 2007 with a B.S. in paralegal studies and a minor in general business. Prior to joining The W, she worked in the legal field.



QEP Director

Dr. Mark Bean has been selected to oversee the completion and implementation of The W's Quality Enhancement Plan, which is a part of the university's current reaccreditation process.

Bean, who chairs the Department of Health and Kinesiology, assumed his responsibilities as QEP director July 1. Bean, with support and involvement of the university community, will refine and implement the plan.

The QEP is designed to enhance the quality of student learning and is titled "Cultivating Intellectual Curiosity." The goal of the plan is to create a culture of intellectual engagement on campus. It is a major part of the institutional reaccreditation process by SACSCOC, the regional accrediting association of which The W is a member.

The QEP is due to SACS at the end of the fall 2013 term and will be formally launched in the fall of 2014, pending approval from SACS.



Dr. Jiben Roy published his second textbook on organic chemistry in which he specializes.

The book titled, “A Self-Study Guide to the Principles of Organic Chemistry: Key Concepts, Reaction Mechanisms, and Practice Questions for the Beginner,” helps students new to organic chemistry grasp the key concepts of the subject quickly and easily, as well as build a strong foundation for future study.

Dr. Roy said, “It may not be a very comprehensive organic chemistry textbook, and certainly it is not going to replace the existing comprehensive organic chemistry textbook, but it has all the elements and features of organic chemistry to build the student’s skill and foundation in understanding as well as learning organic chemistry.

“This book can be considered as the 21st century ‘Rosetta Stone,’ used to study this foreign language, organic chemistry. By studying this book, students struggling with organic chemistry will be able to grasp the key concepts easily.”

He explained some students taking organic chemistry are very scared of the class, but this central science subject is a requirement for chemistry majors, biology majors or many more related majors.

In the book, Roy stated, “You don’t have to be brilliant to survive organic chemistry, but you have to be willing to work at it.” The book is intended for the courses of both organic chemistry I and organic chemistry II.



Robert Gibson, art professor, recently had artwork on display at the Meridian Museum of Art.

The piece titled “Prayer House #7” was accepted into the 40th annual Bi-State Art Competition in Meridian, the museum’s prestigious annual exhibit that recognizes and celebrates outstanding achievements by artists.

Gibson described his artwork as representational of the human spirit and the ongoing battle between good and evil. “Prayer House #7” is part of an ongoing series of sculpture houses that are fabricated out of exotic wood, lost wax casted silver metal and metal fretwork.

This year only 65 pieces were chosen for the exhibition from approximately 240 entries.

Gibson’s artwork has been accepted into the competition five times and also has been featured in several group and solo exhibitions throughout the Southeast.



James Allen, a longtime associate professor of music at The W, received two honors in the reader’s choice poll “Best of the Triangle 2013” published by The Commercial Dispatch.

Allen, who joined The W in 1965, was voted Columbus’ Hero and Among the Best Teachers in the reader’s choice poll.

In the community, Allen serves as a frequent judge in various piano festivals, most notably as a judge for Mississippi Baptist Hymn Festivals. He also serves as co-founder and chairman of “Columbus Sings Messiah” and board member of The W Wesley Foundation. He serves on the committee for American Wind Symphony Orchestra presentation, as former president of the Columbus Music Study Club and accompanist for the Starkville Symphony Chorus.

“I feel so honored to receive such recognition in ‘Best of Triangle 2013.’ Now I must do my best to live up to it,” Allen said.

The Dispatch’s publication is done once a year in September.

New Concentration Reflects Interest in Public History

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

What do John F. Kennedy, Martha Stewart and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar have in common? They were all history majors.

The Department of History, Political Science, and Geography has launched a new history major with concentration in public history.

The new major reflects a growing interest in public history nationwide as well as among W students, according to Dr. Amber Handy, assistant professor of history. It will be the only undergraduate public history degree program for undergraduate students in the state of Mississippi, she said.

Only a small percentage of history majors go on to be historians, according to research; many become lawyers, businesspersons, politicians and even entertainers.

In studying history, students gain a variety of work-related skills, from effective writing to research techniques to critical analysis. With a history degree and public history concentration, they have job opportunities that range from archival management to historic preservation to working museum exhibits and in national parks.

Handy said, “Having a vibrant public history offering will advance the interests of all history majors, as national research indicates that an undergraduate curriculum that includes public history increases student interest in coursework.

“Ultimately, students who engage in ‘hands-on research’ are more likely to graduate and with a higher GPA than students who did not engage in research. Incorporating public history into the curriculum will allow history faculty to better combine research and public engagement, giving students the opportunity to experience what it is to ‘do’ history.”

The history faculty began discussing this proposal in the spring of 2012. While developing the program, history faculty sought out best practices from national organizations and models from other undergraduate public history programs around the country. The new major concentration exceeds the minimum standards required by the National Council on Public History and will provide students with a strong history background as well as public history training and hands-on experiences.



A researcher at heart, Ashley Cardenas, a history major interested in public history, enjoys handling things that are considered to be old, especially personal objects such as letters or photographs.

“Handling a letter written 200 years ago is so much more interesting to me than trying to instruct a class on an event that has already been researched and written about by many historians and fans,” she said.

“Additionally, I want to aid fellow researchers in their quest toward finding their family tree, the history of their town or of a historical landmark. Essentially, I am interested in public history because I want to be there for the beginning of the research process and help guide people to their desired information, instead of simply retelling facts other people have already discovered.”

Dr. Erin Kempker, assistant professor of history, said, “Every single thing that we have designed is supposed to be a deeply interpretive research experience. They are engaging in some serious research but it is directed toward the wider public as opposed to being directed toward creation of a paper.”

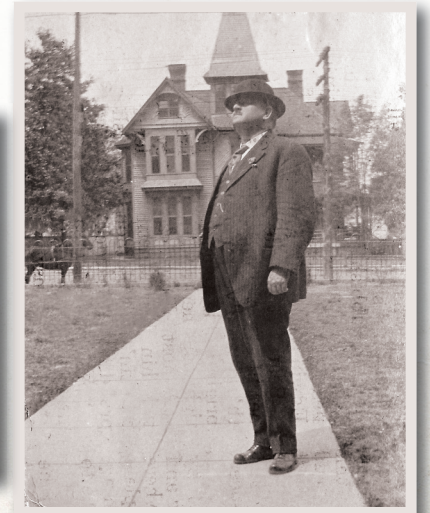
Courses for the new major will be taught by existing W faculty as well as local public historians and archivists. Derek Webb, The W’s archivist, will be teaching a course for the new concentration, and W alumna Mona Vance, who has a degree in public history and is the archivist for the local library, will teach a course in the spring.

Kempker added, “We certainly hope we introduce them to the profession and what is available for historians outside of academia—introduce them to those key jobs and professional tracks they can get into with advanced study if they choose.”

For details about the program, please contact Dr. Brian Anderson, chair of the Department of History, Political Science, and Geography, at banderson@as.muw.edu or www.muw.edu/hpg.



Kate Cunningham, 1913



Henry Whitfield, 1913



From The W Archives

by *Derek Webb*

A scrapbook from the MUW Archives by the class of 1913 Student Government Association president, Kate Cunningham, gives testimony to the lighter side of life on the campus of the Industrial Institute and College. We see several students in costume striking dramatic poses around campus, one in a floor-length, American flag gown, another in a jester's motley; candids of students in pajamas smiling sheepishly at the camera. A few show Kate and a friend sharing a cot out on a balcony. One catches a glimpse of university president Henry Whitfield, his fedora cocked so low on his brow that the rim nearly touches his nose.

Kate herself was well-known on campus. She was the second SGA president of Industrial Institute and College, and already developing a reputation on campus as a future innovator in state education. Her husband, Flavius Josephus Hubbard,

would become Head of Vocational Education in the state; she briefly headed the Home Economics department at Mississippi Southern College (now University of Southern Mississippi) and now has a building on Southern Miss' campus named in her honor. The yearbook from 1913 describes her as "strong in thy self and powerful to give strength" – words Samuel Coleridge once used to describe Wordsworth. Such strength she sorely needed during World War II, when not one, but both of her sons were captured by the Japanese. The US military at one point even notified her that they believed there was "no hope" of recovering one of them, John William Hubbard. Both sons survived the war, however, and she lived to see both of them return to her. Kate passed away in 1946, but the memory of those precious years at the II&C persists through these pictures. ♦

Dauphin Island Expedition

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

Students gain hands-on experience in the Gulf of Mexico.



Candie Willis, from left, Samantha Humphrey and Ariel Finch hold squid and other marine organisms found in the Gulf of Mexico.

students collect and process data from the red snapper.”

Humphrey said before this trip, she had not been able to experience any marine biology studies.

“The experience I gained has helped me determine if marine biology is really the field I want to go into. Now I am able to narrow the direction I will take in the near future,” she added.

Dr. Nicole Welch, professor of biology, who organized the trip, came up with the idea after several family vacations to Dauphin Island.

“It is charming,” she said about the area, adding that it is a wonderful offering of opportunities for students.

As a student, she recalled going on field trips with her professors. “When I was an undergraduate biology major, a lot of my professors took us on field trips—off campus, overnight. I always wanted to do that for my students.”

She started planning the trip for her students in March with overwhelming support from Dr. Dionne Fortenberry, department chair, and Sherry Durkin, administrative assistant.

The goal of the trip was two-fold: first, to get students out in the field and second, to interact with graduate students.

The Gulf of Mexico was the living laboratory for 16 biology students this summer.

Squid, fish, crabs, jellyfish and electric rays native to the Mobile Bay were within their grasps as they explored and researched marine organisms at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Alabama.

Students in the ecology and animal behavior courses at The W spent hours on a large fishing boat as it trawled for samples of marine life in various parts of the Bay. Later, creatures discovered during their excursion were dumped onto the observation table on the back deck of the boat.

Samantha Humphrey, a senior biology major from Senatobia, said, “I loved the hands-on experience. We were able to handle the different animals found in the net and later we were able to help the graduate



Dr. Nicole Welch, professor of biology at The W, and Dr. Paul Mack, associate professor of biology, took their ecology and animal behavior classes to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Alabama this summer.

“Field experiences make courses like ecology and animal behavior real. There’s nothing like seeing it. There’s nothing like doing it. This is hands-on learning.”

“You can read about an ocean in your textbook but then when you are out there on the ocean, sampling the organisms that are found in the ocean habitats, it’s real.


“Field experiences make courses like ecology and animal behavior real. There’s nothing like seeing it. There’s nothing like doing it. This is hands-on learning,” Welch added.

W students were fortunate enough to work side by side with a graduate student conducting research from another university.

“I want them to see how the collection and the processing of the samples leads to the data that are collected on a project. In other words, where the information in their text book is coming from,” Welch said.

“It really is that. Everything they read in a textbook comes out of research and making that connection and realizing that they too can be a part of this research process if that is where their interests take them.”

Dr. Paul Mack, associate professor of biology, and his students also attended the trip.

He said, “I think they got a sense of what it is like to do research. They get to see the precision with which data must be first obtained, then carefully recorded and recorded so that it is also retrievable in the future for large-scale analyses which may not have even been planned yet. It also gives them an idea of what life is like as a graduate student.” 



Paid With Experience

by Janie Guyton Shields

While many students look forward to summer as a time to relax and regroup, several students from *The W* used their time to explore subjects they hope will lead to future careers. All say their experiences gave them a deeper understanding of research methods and their significance, as well as hands-on experience that will expand their knowledge.

Christian Friar of Booneville, a senior history major at *The W*, documented runaway slave advertisements at the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library. By using microfilm and analyzing pre-Civil War era Mississippi and Alabama newspapers, Friar dug into the two states' histories to see how slave owners caught their runaway slaves.

"Friar pored over the more than 20 pre-1865 county newspapers both on microfilm and in hard-copy format. She created a transcription of the advertisements' text as well as captured a scanned digital image of each entry," said Mona Vance, archivist in the Local History Department at Columbus-Lowndes Public Library.

The local project is in conjunction with a larger research project called "Documenting Runaway Slaves" at the University of Southern Mississippi. *The W* is collaborating to help document newspaper advertisements placed by slave masters seeking the capture and return of runaway slaves.

Friar believes that the views on slavery could change if more of the unanswered questions were being answered. She feels that most research on slavery fails to ask the questions of the how and why.



Christian Friar pores through archived newspapers in the Columbus-Lowndes Public Library.

"Yes, we do know the date in which slavery was introduced into this county and related facts because that is what's being taught, but what we fail to realize is that no matter how tired we are of a topic like slavery, there are questions that have not been answered," she said.

"With history, I feel as though we always look back to help understand how an event has shaped us as a society and that regardless of how one views slavery, it is a cornerstone piece in American history," Friar added.

Vance said slavery remains a touchy subject, but researching these advertisements can help shape national perceptions today.

From this internship, Friar is inspired to continue her research into slavery. “This project was important because it sheds more light not only on an important topic such as slavery, but how society was at that time.”

The project will gather these documents and organize them into a full-text searchable online resource for academic researchers, genealogists and anyone who wants to learn more about this time period.

Another W student spent her summer exploring a molecular subject important to wound repair. The Molecular Biology department at Princeton University runs a summer research program that hosts Princeton’s rising seniors as well as students from other universities who are competitively selected.

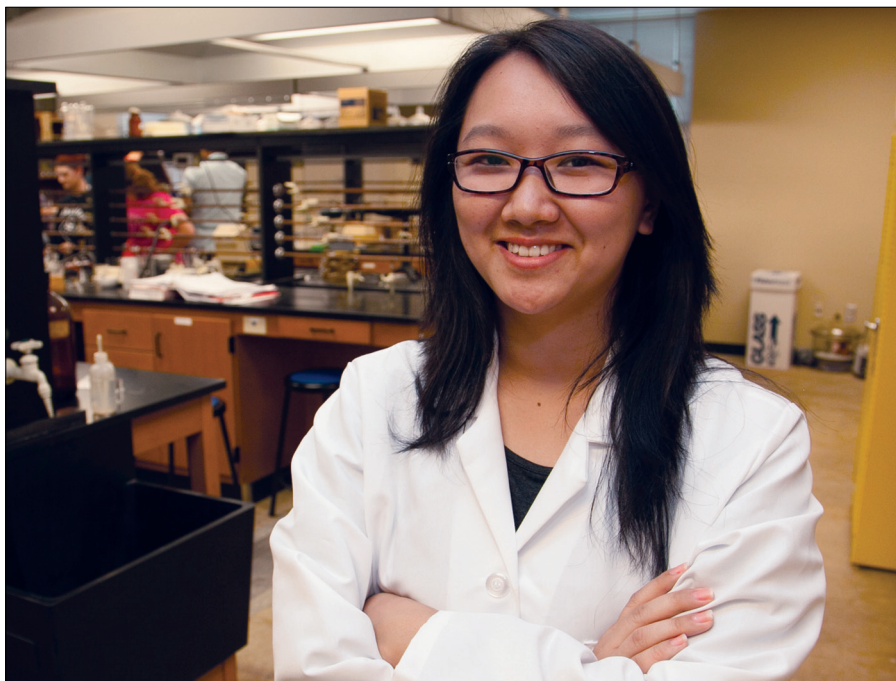
Tshering Lama Sherpa, a senior from Nepal majoring in biology with a minor in mathematics, was one of those chosen. She studied under Dr. Jean Schwarzbauer, associate chair of Molecular Biology at Princeton. “Tesh came to my lab eager to learn and excited about biological research,” said Dr. Schwarzbauer.

Lama Sherpa’s summer project was to investigate the role of the extracellular matrix in adult stem cell differentiation into myofibroblasts.

“Myofibroblasts are important in wound repair, an area with which Tesh had no prior experience. Thus, I was very impressed with the clarity with which she understood her project and also with how quickly she picked up new techniques,” added Dr. Schwarzbauer.

The Department of Theatre had four students at two productions at professional theatre companies this summer.

Tommy Parsons, a senior from Ethelsville, Ala., worked at Tecumseh! Outdoor Drama in Chillicothe, Ohio, as a sound engineer and intern and Chris Ambrose, a senior from Durant, performed as an actor.



Tshering Lama Sherpa in the chemistry lab.

Lee Crouse, visiting assistant professor, said, “While at Tecumseh! Outdoor Drama, our students had the opportunity to put into practice their educational training in real-world situations. It is difficult to bring the same energy and focus night after night, six nights a week, for a total of 74 shows. As one student told me last summer, ‘I get it now,’ he said. I asked him what he meant. His reply, ‘I understand why you, Peppy and David have us work the way we do.’ I took that as a great compliment to our faculty.”

In Banner Elk, N.C., at the Lees-McRae Summer Theatre, Mary Wildsmith, a senior from Damascas, Md., worked as a stage manager for “The 39 Steps” and as assistant stage manager for “Chicago” and “Singin’ in the Rain.” Also, Casey Duke, a senior from Corinth worked on the lighting crew for “Chicago,” “The 39 Steps” and “Singin’ in the Rain.”



College, Department Maintain Accreditation

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

The College of Education and Human Sciences and the Department of Art and Design at The W announced continued accreditation of their undergraduate and graduate programs.

The College of Education and Human Sciences maintains accreditation at the initial teacher preparation and advanced preparation levels for all educator preparation programs. The official letter from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education indicated "... the unit and its programs meet rigorous standards set forth by the professional education community."

There were six main accreditation standards including candidate knowledge, skills and professional dispositions; assessment system and unit evaluation; field experience and clinical practice; diversity; faculty qualifications, performances and development; and unit governance and resources.

The college was first accredited in 1964 and has been continuously accredited since that date.

Dr. Sue Jolly-Smith, dean for the College of Education and Human Sciences, said, "We are pleased to receive this affirmation from our accrediting body. The high standards and credibility of NCATE are respected nationally, so this accreditation provides a meaningful endorsement for our graduates."

The next on-site visit for education and human sciences will take place in fall 2019.

"The work and preparation for continuing accreditation is truly a team effort. We express appreciation to our faculty, staff, educator candidates, administration and partnering schools for their work and dedication toward achievement of this goal."

- Dr. Sue Jolly-Smith

The National Association of Schools of Art and Design voted to continue The W's art and design program in good standing. It was first accredited in 1986.

The department was commended for a number of its procedures and practices, including replacement of equipment, expansion of space and electrical wiring upgrades in the woodshop. The Commission further commended the institution for the testing conducted to indicate that the ventilation system in the ceramics studios is performing at an optimal level.

Department Chair Shawn Dickey said, "We are pleased that our re-accreditation has been approved and we continue in good standing with NASAD. I am so thankful for the faculty's hard work and sacrifice as well as Dean Thomas Richardson's and the administration's timely assistance in meeting the demands of the evaluation process. This was truly a team effort."

The next full review for the Department of Art and Design will take place the in 2021-2022 academic year. 

Change of Heart

by Anika Mitchell Perkins



A visit with a longtime friend to The W's campus changed the course of Summer Ward's life. The 18-year-old was set to attend a major college of art and design in Georgia, where she would study graphic design this fall.

"I was happy I was going—very happy," she said about being accepted into the college; however, there were some reservations, including cost and being nine hours away from her small hometown of Hernando.

Also, in the back of her mind: was the memory of her visit to The W with two of her friends for their orientation in June. "When I got here, I just fell in love with it because it reminded me of where my sister went to college at Berea (Kentucky). It's a small town, a small campus and everything is within walking distance," Ward said of The W.

"The grounds are well kept, and I thought all of the buildings were very interesting," she added. "I guess I'm a bit of a history person so I like the architecture and all of the historical value."

While the picturesque campus left an impression, Ward said it was the people she met during the visit that really sold her on The W.

"The people were very friendly. The faculty members were nice," she said.

And then there were brothers Paul Turner and Dalton Nail

she met. Turner worked as an orientation leader, and Nail, a Weeks of Welcome corps member. "They were very funny, friendly and outgoing."

Ward decided to make a second trip back to campus where she attended an ice cream social and was able to meet Dr. Jim Borsig, university president, and Jonathan Cumberland, assistant professor of art.


"I was surprised that I really got to meet the president," she said. "He is very kind."

While The W has been described as one of the best kept secrets in the state, Ward was able to keep a huge secret of her own with help from some of her new W friends.

It was August when Ward decided she would be attending The W instead of her other college choice. She did not tell her friends Hasina Haynes and Jennifer Dowdy, both from Hernando and entering W freshmen, until Move In Day. She made surprise visits to both of their residence halls with the University Relations photographer/videographer in tow.

Haynes' initial thoughts were, "What are you doing here? We are going to the same school. That's great!"

Just two days before, Ward had spent the night at Haynes' parents' home in Hernando.

Ward said, "The friendly atmosphere makes The W so special. I feel like everyone here will try to help me achieve my goals." 



Dr. Thomas Richardson greets Ms. Eudora Welty at the Book and Author Dinner, part of the Welty Writers' Symposium, October 1989.

Welty Symposium Milestone

by Maridith Walker Geuder

A 25-year tribute to writing and writers

John Grisham when he was “an emerging young writer.” Elizabeth Strout before the Pulitzer Prize came for “Olive Kitteridge.” Jesmyn Ward, not yet a National Book Award winner. Natasha Trethewey, twice before being named the nation’s poet laureate.

And many more: Will Campbell, Larry Brown, Ellen Douglas, Clyde Edgerton, Ellen Gilchrist, Rick Bragg, Ann Patchett, Mark Childress, Nanci Kincaid, Clifton Taulbert, Lee Smith, John Dufresne, Hillary Jordan, Ace Atkins, Ron Rash, Brad Watson, Kaye Gibbons, Haven Kimmel, Lewis Nordan, Jill McCorkle, Al Young, Yusef Komunakaa.

And the grand lady for whom the series was named: Eudora Welty, a W alumna and herself a Pulitzer Prize-winner.

Twenty-five years into the Eudora Welty Writers’ Symposium, a host of the South’s—and the nation’s—literati have visited the historic W campus to share their talents and their insights during what has become a signature W event.

At its inception, Dr. Thomas Richardson was a new faculty member, fresh from North Carolina State University. He was given the assignment of developing a Symposium that celebrated famed alumna Eudora Welty and commemorated the inauguration of Dr. Clyda Rent as president.

“Several of us worked together,” he remembered. “Drs. Jane Hinton, Bridget Pieschel, Ginger Hitt, Millie Moore and many others. It was a group effort.”

To identify potential writers, they attended the Southern Literary Festival, held that year in Birmingham, Ala. “We met Vicki Covington, and we invited her to attend,” Richardson recalled. Through an earlier tenure at Campbell University, Richardson knew Clyde Edgerton; he was added to the list of invited authors. Gradually, the idea became reality.

“The Symposium began with more of a scholarly emphasis,” Richardson said. “We had great support from the Mississippi Humanities Council for many years. As the event grew, we began to focus more on writers.” For the last 14 years, the Symposium has had the generous support of the Robert M. Hearin Foundation.

Over the years, the Symposium has attracted promising and established talent and provided a platform for discussing writers’ work within the framework of an overarching theme. Many not-yet-famous have gone on to become best-sellers and winners of some of the most prestigious national literary awards and fellowships.

The inaugural Symposium, held in venues ranging from Poindexter Hall to Pohl Gymnasium, was “When Separate Journeys Converge: Southern Women, Southern Writing.”

Dr. Bridget Pieschel, who helped plan the first Symposium and many subsequent, remembered that at the inaugural Symposium Miss Welty “came to all of the events, including the children’s production of ‘The Shoe Bird,’ her only work written for young people.

“She sat on the right side of the Poindexter auditorium close to the stage. When the children finished, they all stood on stage flapping their arms in the brightly colored feathered bird costumes. When it was time for the final applause, Miss Welty stood up and very seriously gave her standing ovation, flapping her arms toward the stage full of children.”

For many years, the Symposium was a labor of love, led by faculty members in the Division of Humanities: Dr. Jane Hinton, Dr. Rebecca Stockwell, Dr. Ginger Hitt, and from 2000-08, Dr. Pieschel. In 2009, Dr. Kendall Dunkelberg became director and continues in the role today.

“I’ve been involved with the Symposium for about 20 years,” Dunkelberg said. He coordinates the major event while also teaching world literature, creative writing and a poetry workshop.

“We have developed a good reputation as a writing Symposium,” he said. “Writers generally are happy to be here because they’ve heard about us. We especially try to attract writers who are early in their careers so we can continue to invite them back.”

As the writers gather each year, Dunkelberg said there’s a special dynamic that occurs. “There is something that happens when you bring a group of writers together,” he said. “They

share with each other and become genuinely interested in each other’s work. It creates a kind of community. Many become friends.”

One of the director’s challenges is to determine a theme for each year’s program. In 2013, that was “Alive as Ever, on the Brink of Oblivion’: Southern Writers in the Eye of the Storm.” Past themes have been creative and varied: “Teaching and Learning in Southern Literature” (2006); “The Power of Landscape in Southern Literature” (2003); “The Comic Spirit in Southern Literature” (2001); “Murder, Mayhem, and Mystery: Gothic Elements in Southern Writing” (1996); “A Southern Trinity: Politics, Family, and Religion” (1995); “Hearing Voices: The Southern Tradition of Storytelling” (1991).

Mark Childress, author of “Crazy in Alabama” and, more recently, “Georgia Bottoms,” participated in the 1996 Symposium and recalls being impressed that Eudora Welty was the inspiration for a gathering of writers. “I remember thinking how wonderful for her to be honored in a specific way that is not granted to many writers: hearing her work discussed in a serious, critical way while she is still around to respond.”



Rick Bragg, author, journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner, 1999

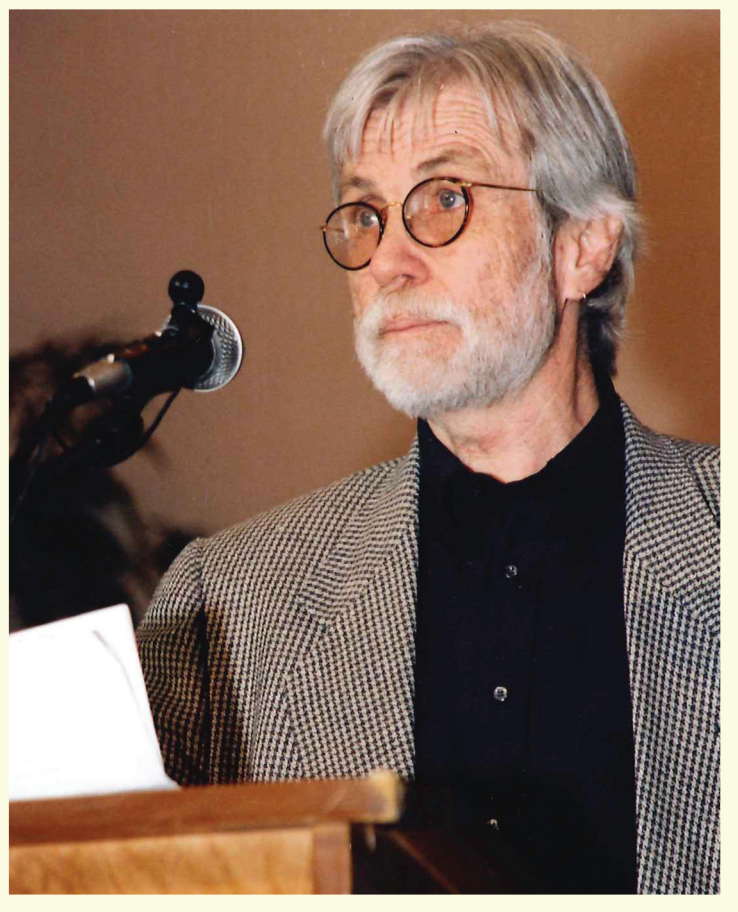
Natasha Trethewey, U.S. Poet Laureate, speaks in 2009.



Jesmyn Ward, author and National Book Award Winner and Mississippi native, speaking in 2009

Michael Kardos, author of the well-received 2011 novel “The Three-Day Affair,” who participated in the 2012 Symposium, came away a fan of the experience. “Having lived in a number of states, I can say Mississippi is unique in its enthusiastic support of its contemporary literary community—and the Welty Festival has been a pivotal part of this community-building for the past 25 years,” he said. “For writers, it has been a place to gather: to spend a weekend meeting other writers, sharing ideas, encouraging one another’s efforts in what is typically a solitary pursuit. For readers, it has meant a chance to experience the amazingly diverse range of styles and voices and personalities that constitute Southern writing.”

Equally important to Richardson, since the Symposium’s inception, is its impact on students. He annually teaches a Welty class that asks participants to read all of the works featured in that year’s Symposium. It quickly reaches capacity. “The Symposium is a wonderful opportunity for our students,” he said. “The writers are always accessible to those attending, and some of our students have gone on to become writers.” In




Lewis Nordan, author and Literary Excellence Award winner, in 1999

2012, for example, W alum Christopher Lowe [“Those Like Us: Stories”] was among featured writers. “For students who participate, it’s the highlight of their year,” Richardson said.

For the past few years, those students also have included more than 100 area high school students. “The Symposium events are free, and we have seen increased interest from local schools,” Dunkelberg said. “It has been good exposure for students, because it helps them to get excited about reading.”

Looking back on the past 25 years, Richardson is quick to give credit to others “who have done the bulk of the work.”

In the end, he said, “I’m thrilled to have been a part of this.” Dunkelberg is equally enthusiastic about the Symposium and its impact. “I don’t think I’ve ever seen a less than excellent year,” he said. “By and large, you get a group of very good writers. Most want to connect with an audience and want to communicate.”

As the Symposium celebrates a milestone in its history, Dunkelberg is already looking ahead. “I’m excited about the next 25 years.” 

For more information about the 2013 Eudora Welty Writers’ Symposium and dates for 2014, see www.muw.edu/welty.





RIVERS

a perfect storm

by Maridith Walker Geuder

All the cities you once knew are gone. Biloxi. Gulfport. Ocean Springs. The Gulf of casinos, water-fronted mansions, seafood restaurants, quick-stop gas stations and grocery marts, destroyed and gone. In Michael Farris Smith's novel, "Rivers," (Simon & Schuster, Sept. 2013) the familiar Gulf landscape suffers an irreversible transformation, the product of unrelenting hurricanes and pounding rains that gather intensity and wreak destruction on both the physical and moral landscape.

“It had been raining for weeks. Maybe months. He had forgotten the last day that it hadn’t rained, when the storms gave way to the pale blue of the Gulf sky, when the birds flew and the clouds were white and the sunshine glistened across the drenched land. It rained now, a straight rain, not the diagonal, attacking rain, and it seemed that the last of the gusts had moved on sometime during the night and he wanted to get out.”

It is a sinister and unrecognizable place, the anti-Coast, with sun-drenched beaches and Coppertone smells of countless Mississippi vacations a distant memory. The government has abandoned the drowning land, where few structures survive, where rats teem in unsuspecting hideouts and where bands of soggy scavengers are more likely foe than friend.

In this world, the government draws a line 90 miles north of the coast and declares everything below a no-man’s land. But some few hang on—to their memories, desperate shreds of survival or greed. Some believe there are trunks of casino money buried and waiting to be discovered.

Against this landscape, Smith introduces a cast of characters who form unlikely allegiances and harbor life-changing secrets. Like the storms that beat around them, the characters find their actions building to a powerful crescendo. The novel has won early praise from writers such as James Lee Burke, who said:

“Every once in a while an author comes along who’s in love with art and the written language and image and literary experiment and the complexity of his characters and the great mysteries that lie just on the other side of the physical world, writers like William Faulkner and Cormac McCarthy and Annie Proulx. You can add Michael Farris Smith’s name to the list.”

Released in September, “Rivers” is The W’s selection for the 2013 Common Reading Initiative. Throughout the fall, Smith

is being featured in book signings across the state and the region and was a featured writer at the annual Eudora Welty Writers’ Symposium.

Associate professor of English at The W, Smith is a native Mississippian who grew up in McComb, within the shadow of the Gulf Coast. A preacher’s son, he was particularly captured by the sounds and rhythms of gospel music, which he believes helped shape his narrative voice.

“When I had the idea for this novel in the fall of 2009, Katrina was on my mind,” he recalled. “Like everyone else, I knew folks who were in the path, and I recalled the days after and wondering what happened to them. We all were affected.”

As his idea developed, he knew he didn’t want the novel to be a realistic recreation of the past. “I really wanted to step out on a ledge,” he said. His goal was “to put the reader in a headlock from the very beginning.”

And with the opening lines, he does that:

“It had been raining for weeks. Maybe months. He had forgotten the last day that it hadn’t rained, when the storms gave way to the pale blue of the Gulf sky, when the birds flew and the clouds were white and the sunshine glistened across the drenched land. It rained now, a straight rain, not the diagonal, attacking rain, and it seemed that the last of the gusts had moved on sometime during the night and he wanted to get out.”

The winter of 2010, as Smith was writing “Rivers,” he recalled that it rained almost every day. “Everyone in my

household would get up in the morning and say, 'oh no,' and I would think, 'good.'" As he worked in his study, fronted by a big window, Smith saw a literal world that helped shape the fictional world he was creating.

And as he wrote, two things happened that propelled the future publication of "Rivers." He applied for and received a Mississippi Arts Commission artist fellowship based on the first 25 pages of his draft novel. Coinciding with that, The W hosted the Southern Literary Festival, where he was asked to read.

"I wanted to read something new and different, so I read from the work in progress," he said. It got such a tremendous response that he knew he must be on the right track.

Writing around his teaching load, he finished the novel in about a year and a half and began to carefully look around for an agent. "I sent queries to around 10 agents," he said. "Five or six wanted to see the manuscript."

This affirmation came after any number of rejections and "a tremendous amount of doubt," Smith said. "I had had some success with my novella, 'Hands of Strangers,' but the idea for the novel was very different." When he found agent Peter Steinberg, he felt confident about the future of his book. "He knew my first publisher, and he had worked with Mississippi writers."

After 90,000 words, six months of revisions, and countless discussions, "Rivers" became a reality. There currently is a film agent for the book and the possibility that it will one day also become a movie.

Perhaps Smith's background didn't prepare him to become a novelist, but his life experiences did. He attended Mississippi State University, where he majored in communication with a public relations emphasis. By his own description, he wasn't an outstanding student. "I was interested in sports," he said.





Smith signs a copy of “Rivers” during the book launch party held in The Hogarth W Room, Sept. 10.

He fell into a sports marketing job with the NBA and worked for a couple of years in Europe, where “I had plenty of time. I started reading.” Never a serious reader, Smith said he started with the big names: Faulkner, Hemingway, Dickens. “It turns out, that was a good place to start,” he said.

But his turning point came when he discovered Mississippi writer Larry Brown. “I said, ‘I know those people,’” Smith recalled. When he returned to the United States, he took a chance and applied for the writing program at The University of Southern Mississippi.

“I didn’t impress them with my grades,” he laughed. “I think the European experience helped.” He admits that the first year of the challenging program was difficult. “I was intimidated but not scared,” he said, noting that “you can be paralyzed by that or face it.” By 2002, he had published three stories, affirming not only his ability but offering what Smith

described as “another moment of propulsion.”

After completing the program, he taught at Auburn University before coming to The W in 2007. “Rivers” was written in Columbus.

While the book has all the hallmarks of success, Smith is not resting from his labors of love. “I’m about 10,000 words into a new novel,” he said. Although he won’t reveal the details, he said that when he began “Rivers,” it had “an intense, emotional feel about it. I have the same feeling about this book.”

As he writes, he said he sometimes likes to read authors whose books have similar styles or subjects. “I couldn’t find anything like this,” he said.

Once again, Smith is on a ledge. And once again, he’s taking a now-signature creative leap. 🍀



The W Enables Wound Care Specialist to Reach her Goal

by Anika Mitchell Perkins



Dorothy “Dottye” Hammett, from left, shows the new Aquacel® Ag Surgical cover dressing to Melonie Sue Marchak, nursing director from Baptist Golden Triangle; Martha Ullrich, director of Perisurgical Surgical Services for the Baptist Memorial Health System; and Patricia “Pat” L. Richards, manager-central sterile supply from Baptist Golden Triangle.

It has been reported often that the 1980s were the backlash years—a time when women were told they could not have it all.

Fortunately that was not the case for Dorothy “Dottye” Hammett, who decided to go back to school and earn her master’s degree—some days attending classes with her preschool daughter at her side.

“Even when I was at a point in my life when there were lots of strikes against me—when I had a young child and still wanted to get a master’s,” she said. “In 1980, I was able to take my little girl to class in order to complete a goal.”

Hammett said The W gave women an opportunity to see themselves as leaders.

“Women compete fiercely with men for the same opportunities, so here it was easy to know that you could be a leader, and I feel like The W facilitated that.”

Hammett started in the nursing program at The W in 1969. She lived in The Mag at the time, was an honor student and even tutored biology. Shortly after, she married and completed her BSN at The University of Southern Mississippi. In 1980, she decided to return to The W and pursue her master’s in nursing. While she was back at The Mag for a second time, things were a bit different. Hammett was a single parent with a 5-year-old, with whom she shared a dorm room.

Her two suite mates would keep Kimberly (also known as Kimbie) while she worked the 3-11 shift at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle.

However, there were times when Kimbie, who is now in her 30s, would attend classes with her mother.

“The professors would look at me in horror when I first brought her in, and I guaranteed them that she would not open her mouth during class, that she would not disrupt the class in any fashion.

“I brought English workbooks and math workbooks, and at 5-years-old she loved those workbooks. For an hour and a half class, she would sit and go through those workbooks and not open her mouth.”

Hammett was determined to reach her goal. She already had her mother, Mabel Wilborn Shaheen, and grandmother, Mamie Allen Wilborn, who had gone on before her at The W.

“My mother saw women as leaders. She got a degree in chemistry and she went on and got her Ph.D. at Vanderbilt in chemistry, worked at DuPont, and she was the chief chemical engineer for DuPont during the war,” Hammett said.


Her mother and father, who was also a chemist, worked together on the Manhattan Project, a research project that produced the first atomic bombs during World War II.

“Mother learned early on she could be a leader and then she gave us impetus to become leaders ourselves,” she added. “When you found a road that was a difficult road, even though you were a woman, you could still navigate that road.”

Hammett is a nurse practitioner with ConvaTec, an international company that is a development and marketer of medical devices with four business units—ostomy care, wound therapeutics, continence and critical care and infusion devices.

Her territory includes Columbus, which affords her the opportunity to visit campus, where she started her nursing career.

As a wound care specialist, she has other nurses across the state who call on her to heal their wounds.

“I don’t feel like I could have gotten any better education anywhere else. The foundation of my knowledge based here (The W) prepared me for leadership roles.” 

Alumna Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

by Maridith Walker Geuder



Patty Carr Black accepts Lifetime Achievement Award.

She grew up in the small Delta town of Sumner, and by her own account, her time at Mississippi University for Women changed the course of her life.

In ceremonies held this summer on the campus of her alma mater, Patti Carr Black of Jackson received the Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. The event was hosted by The W, with President Jim Borsig serving as master of ceremonies for the awards ceremony.

“I came to The W, and my first art course introduced me to a lifetime passion,” Black told more than 100 assembled, citing the influence of professors such as Eugenia Summer.

A 1955 magna cum laude graduate in art history, she

also served as president of the student body, evidence of “her leadership ability then, and now,” said Borsig.

Black has been a leader through two careers, serving in a variety of positions with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for more than 30 years before retiring and turning to writing.

At the MDAH, she significantly enhanced the number and types of exhibits, establishing the Mississippi folklife program at the State Historical Museum in 1972 and coordinating Mississippi’s participation in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in 1974.


MIAL also recognized Black for breakthrough projects such as creating the first permanent exhibit in the South on the Civil Rights Movement. It won the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History in 1987.

Over her tenure at MDAH, she designed more than 100 temporary exhibits, as well as several permanent exhibits. After 30 years, she retired, but, she told the MIAL audience, she found herself at loose ends.

“I was happy to get a call one day to come to a committee meeting.” That single meeting about a writing project led to a second career and the publication of numerous award-winning books.

Among Black’s titles are “Art in Mississippi: 1728-1980”; “Eudora Welty’s Early Escapades”; “Eudora Welty’s World”; “Approaching the Magic Hour: The Memories of Agnes Anderson”; and “American Masters of the Gulf Coast.” She previously received the Non-Fiction Award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters in 1989, and she also has received the Governor’s Award for Career in the Arts, among many other awards.

A strong advocate for the performing, as well as the visual, arts, Black was a founder of Jackson’s New Stage Theater and has held a variety of positions with state and national arts and historical organizations.

She joins other Lifetime Achievement honorees such as writers Elizabeth Spencer, Ellen Douglas and Shelby Foote, as well as cultural historian William Ferris. Noel Polk, for whom the award is now named, was a widely recognized William Faulkner and Eudora Welty scholar. He died in 2012. 

a message from

MUW Foundation



Dear Alumni and Friends:

Autumn is my favorite season for a variety of reasons: the slow ease into cooler, less humid weather after the brutal heat of summer. The pageantry of football season. Green leaves morphing to gold and scarlet. The smell of wood smoke wafting from a chimney. I do love these things. But I suspect the true reason autumn stakes a claim on my heart is because it reminds me of my days at The W, first as a freshman and later as an upper classman. For me, returning to campus each fall always felt like coming home.

The University remains as beautiful now as it was when I was a student. Callaway's clock tower still presides over front campus. The Old Maid's Gate continues to beckon. Things change, though, and often in a good way. Poindexter Hall has been returned to its former glory. A most-welcome library expansion is under way. And in what used to be the Goose, a Subway sandwich shop recently opened. The renovated patio behind Hogarth Student Center now offers a spot to visit over coffee or eat a bite next to a beautiful fountain.

Your contributions to The W Fund helped pay for these improvements. In fact, the Foundation's provided more than \$1.7 million in University assistance in FY 2013. Just over 1,800 of you contributed more \$2.2 million to The W. What a wonderful way to honor our alma mater! On behalf of the Foundation Board, thank you for your generosity.

If you haven't made a contribution to the Foundation this year, I encourage you to consider how you can support the Long Blue Line. A gift of forty dollars or more makes you an active, voting member of our alumni association and gives you the opportunity to participate in MUWAA activities.

Feeling more generous? Endowing a scholarship requires a minimum gift of \$15,000 and can be paid over a five-year period. All endowed scholarships are named according to the donor's wishes, and the donor works with University staff to establish criteria used to award the scholarship to deserving students. I can't think of a more gracious way to honor our MUW.

I hope you enjoy this gift called autumn. Soon enough, winter will be here with all the beauty of another season. As we move quickly toward the holidays and year-end, I have much to be thankful for. As part of the Long Blue Line, we all do.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Petty Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ruth Petty Jones, Class of 1976
Chairman
MUW Foundation Board

Legacy Scholarship Awarded to Columbus Student

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

It is only fitting that Virginia Claire Turman be awarded the Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship. She comes from a line of W graduates, as well as nurses.

Her mother, Victoria Fikes Turman, and her sister, Elizabeth Chapman Coleman, both graduated from The W. They both said it was the best time of their lives.

“MUW holds a very treasured place in my heart. No one can quite understand the sense of confidence and accomplishment that being a part of MUW instills within you unless they’ve been there,” said Victoria Fikes Turman.

Virginia Claire Turman’s great-grandmother was in one of the first nursing programs in the state. Her grandmother and two aunts also were nurses.

Virginia Claire Turman entered The W the fall of 2007. “I fell in love with the people, the campus and my new home away from home.”

In 2009, she had to leave due to medical problems that kept her away from class. She continued to pursue her pre-nursing education at other institutions. Since February 2012, Turman has been living in Columbus and working at Baptist Memorial Hospital–Golden Triangle in the psychiatric unit.

“My goal has always been to come back to The W and finally finish my nursing degree,” she said.

That dream recently came true with the news that she was the recipient of the Alumni Association’s Legacy Scholarship.

“We are thrilled to award the Legacy Scholarship to Virginia Claire Turman, whose mother and sister are both MUW graduates. She embodies The W spirit which is celebrated by this very special scholarship,” said Cheryl “Sherrie” Jackson Cooper of Ocean Springs, president of the MUW Alumni Association.


The MUW Alumni Association has supported The W continuously since it was founded by the first graduating class



Dr. Elaine Evans, former co-president of the MUW Alumni Association and Virginia Claire Turman

in 1889. In 2009, 120 years later, the Alumni Association established the Legacy Scholarship to help make The W experience possible for future generations of MUW legacies, according to Cooper. Each year, this one-time award of \$2,500 is presented to a deserving student who is a legacy, defined as the child, grandchild, sibling, niece or nephew, daughter-in-law or son-in-law, great grandchild, great-niece or great-nephew, or cousin of an alumnus.

Recipients complete an extensive application process, and in addition to the application form, are asked to provide a resume, a letter of application indicating why the student has chosen to attend The W, and letters of recommendation, including one from a sponsoring alumnus. Applications are reviewed by a selection committee and evaluated based on academic achievements, extracurricular activities, volunteer and philanthropic activities, work activities and reasons for choosing to attend MUW.

Virginia Claire Turman said, “When I realized my passion for nursing, I knew The W would be the best place to earn my education.” 

a message from

MUW Alumni Association



Dear W Friends,

Here it is! This is my chance!

As President of the MUW Alumni Association, I have been given this forum. I have the opportunity to speak to you, the women and men who are alums and friends of The W. What do I say to motivate you to become more active in the MUW Alumni Association? What words will encourage you to be an even stronger supporter of Mississippi University for Women?

I could tell you about all the wonderful work being done by MUW President Dr. Jim Borsig and the faculty and staff of America's first public institution of higher learning for women, which continues to honor its historic mission while embracing the realities of today's co-ed environment. But the good news of stable enrollment, a renewed vision for long-term success and the thrilling strategic planning process now under way are things you will no doubt learn elsewhere, some of it in this edition of "Visions."

I could share some of the amazing stories of today's W students and remind you of the importance of scholarships to ensure we continue to attract bright and motivated young women and men to our alma mater. For me, as the oldest of five children and with a recently widowed mother, a scholarship made all the difference. Because financial aid was critical, I HAD to make the right choice. I did. In meeting today's students and hearing them speak of their W experiences, I know they did too. But I can't effectively communicate that to you, you really have to come back to campus and meet them yourself.

Then there are the fantastic alumnae and alumni who are volunteering their time and talents on behalf of the MUW Alumni Association. The MUWAA Board of Directors who are fashioning the framework for a fully unified association which supports and serves Mississippi University for Women today, just as it has done continuously since it was founded in 1889. It is a vital organization; "the Long Blue Line" is alive and well. It is at work in local chapters, in online groups, in formal and informal ways all over the country. Not only are alums doing important work in terms of growing membership and establishing chapters, we are having FUN! And I don't think you need me to tell you that.

Maybe the most important thing I can say is this: you matter and what you do for MUW makes a difference. Your involvement and support are vital to the success of our association and The W. What you do counts. It really does. Any time and talent you can share with the MUWAA makes this association stronger. Any donation in any amount you give to the university helps make The W experience possible for someone else.

Please get more involved in the MUWAA and in supporting MUW this year! Just contact the Alumni Office (662) 329-7295 to find out how you can link up with other alums in person and online. Attend a local chapter meeting, visit a Facebook page, attend an Alumni Board Meeting, make plans to come to Homecoming, send in a check for at least \$40 and activate your Alumni Association membership. Do something that is a little more than you did last year, and you will be a part of the good things happening at MUW.

Hoping to see you soon,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherrie".

Cheryl "Sherrie" Jackson Cooper, Class of 1982

1960s

Augusta Scattergood '65 was nominated for the Mississippi Magnolia award for 2014. Her first novel for middle school students, "Glory Be," has won numerous awards including the Crystal Kite award given by the society of children's book writers and illustrators. The book also has been featured on the National Public Radio's Backseat Book Club. Scattergood is a book reviewer for Delta Magazine and The Christian Science Monitor. She has also written for Highlights, Skirt! and Mississippi magazines.

1980s

The University of West Alabama honored **Sylvia Burkhalter Homan '84** of Demopolis, Ala., for her academic achievement and leadership during the institution's annual Honors Day convocation. She was inducted into the Society of the Golden Key, the highest honor bestowed upon a UWA graduate.

Kimberly Jobe '85 of Fulton, Ky., was named project director for Fulton Independent School's 21st Century Community Learning Center. She oversees the 21st CCLC grant for the district, planning and directing the afterschool program and summer camps program for FIS grades third through eighth. She also is doing photography and public relations for the district as well as maintaining the website. Jobe was project director for the Corinth School District where she oversaw its Teaching American History Grant, public relations, publications and photography for five years.

1990s

Leslie Randle Chapman '99 was promoted to Global Security programs coordinator at Newmont Mining in Denver. She also works as an actress and performed in two different productions of "Avenue Q" as well as "Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?" this year.

2000s



Katy Pacelli '00 has been named executive director of the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Charitable Foundation, which awards scholarships to students who have achieved academically and have financial need. Pacelli started working with the Foundation in July 2012 and became executive

director after working with the former longtime director who retired at the end of June. The Foundation currently awards scholarships at six colleges in Mississippi. Additionally, it awards grants to teachers in two parishes in Louisiana and supports other projects that fall within its mission.

David Crews '02, Mississippi chef, has been crowned "King of American Seafood." The executive chef of Six Shooter Land and Timber in Drew, a private farm and hunting preserve, won the title in New Orleans during the 10th annual Great American Seafood Cook-Off.

Elizabeth Chapman Coleman '05 is the new school psychologist for the Monroe County school system. After completing her master's in psychometry and her education specialist degree in school psychology at Mississippi State University, she has served for the past five years in the Anderson, S.C., and Union County, S.C., school systems.

Elizabeth Adams '07, a native of Indianola, is the promotions coordinator for the Island View Casino. A three year resident of the Gulf Coast, Adams also is excited to join the John Westley School of Music as the piano and voice instructor.

2010s

Elizabeth Ashley Chisolm '10, of Meridian, recently graduated with a juris doctorate from Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson. She was the recipient of several awards in law school, including the Regions Private Wealth Management Award, the Best Paper Award for Wills and Estates and the Best Paper Award for the Child Advocacy Clinic in Youth Court. Chisolm was also on the Dean's List for spring 2011 and fall 2012.

Weddings

2000s

Lindsay Pollard '08 of Starkville and Christopher Ball of Jackson were married June 15, 2013.

2010s

Lindsey Russell '10 and Adam Rowe, both of Birmingham, Ala., were married July 6, 2013.



CLASS NOTES

Codye Hunter '11 of Louisville and Lester Estes III of Macon were married July 20, 2013.

Jacob Veenstra '11 of Hickory and Kathryn Kyle of Carrollton were married June 22, 2013.

Anna Beth Hisaw '12 of Louisville and **William (Clint) '12** of Columbus were married June 8, 2013.

Tiffany Hobson '12 and Bryan Wood, both of Pontotoc, were married June 22, 2013.

Leah Kohl '13 and Ethan Smith, both of Corinth, were married on June 22, 2013.

Sydney Sanders '13 and E.J. Nolen, both of Hamilton, were married June 1, 2013.

Monica Vincent '13 of Decatur and Jordan Smith of Union were married July 20, 2013.

Deaths

1920s

Mary E. Norsworthy '20 of Waynesboro, May 25, 2013.

1930s

Susan Hull Lea McGowan '36 of Bradenton, Fla., May 12, 2013.

1940s

Hazel Martin Howell '40 of Canton, June 15, 2013.

Virginia Dixon Tucker '40 of Roseland, Va. April 15, 2013.

Evelyn Pearson Weems '42 of Madison, Aug. 12, 2013.

Sara Raney Ridgway '43 of Jackson, July 14, 2013.

Elizabeth (Beth) Boozer Brevard '45 of Tupelo, Aug. 16, 2013.

Ada Carver Bounds '46 of Arlington, Texas, Sept. 9, 2011.

Helen Parker Davis '47 of Brandon, June 1, 2013.

Mona Manning Lyon '47 of Clarksdale, June 16, 2013.

Joan Bailey Allen '49 of Meridian, July 5, 2013.

Cherry Wilkinson Word '49 of West Point, May 20, 2013.

1950s

Catherine Bankston Varner '50 of Jackson, July 20, 2013.

Carolyn Seery Dickert '52 of West Point, July 3, 2013.

Elizabeth (Beth) Vail Keys '59 of Columbus, July 6, 2013.

1960s

Nell Callihan Hubbard '60 of Batesville, July 14, 2013.

Barbara Oliver White '60 of Dallas, Texas, July 12, 2013.

Jorena Tatum Farrow '61 of Iuka, March 9, 2013.

1970s

Elizabeth "Betty" McGowan Montgomery '70 of Tupelo, July 31, 2013.

Martha McHaney Buford '71 of Cleveland, Texas, Aug. 10, 2012.

Mary Gaston Anderson '72 of Memphis, Tenn., May 31, 2013.

1980s

Hazel "Jeanette" Ashcraft Colson '80 of Caledonia, July 27, 2013.

Verna Ray Logan Rickman '84 of Caledonia, Aug. 12, 2013.

Karen Gay Ford Dukes '85 of Brandon, May 18, 2013.

Johnny McCauley '86 of Slatton, June 8, 2013.

Births

2000s

Jean Manning Goley '09 and Dustin Goley of Biloxi announce the birth of their daughter, Ellington-Anne Goley on March 18, 2013.



Tell us your news or news about a friend!

Have you been promoted? Earned another degree? Have you married or had an addition to the family? Send us your news, comments and suggestions to:

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Former State Rep. Dies

Alumna **Eloise Scott '53**, a former member of the Mississippi House of Representatives, died Oct. 2 at the age of 81.

A legislator from 1988 to 2003, Scott took special interest in issues affecting youth, families and the underprivileged. She was a leader in efforts to improve education.

Prior to her legislative career, she had a 30-year career in home economics education.

The Benton County native was honored with The W's Woman of the Year Award in 2005, and she was the recipient of The W's Medal of Excellence and Alumni Achievement Award.

Scott earned a bachelor's degree in homemaking from The W and a master's degree from the University of Mississippi.

Longtime Educator Passes Away

Dr. Sue Stringer Coates, 86, of Columbia died June 14.

Coates served as head of the former Division of Fine and Performing Arts at The W from 1991 until 2005.

She received many professional recognitions during her career, including having her biography published in the eighth edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers," her nomination to be included in the ninth edition of "International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women," her selection for membership in the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., her nomination to be included in "Who's Who of Women in Education" and her nomination for "Woman of the Year" by the American Biographical Institute Board of International Research.

Her vocational expertise included that of designer, builder and decorator of residential structures. She was a specialist in space planning.

Coates attended Washington University in St. Louis, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree, followed some years later with a master's degree and doctorate at the University of Missouri.



Rayburn Music Scholarship Fund

Corbett Estes, left, of West Point is the recipient of the Sara Griffith Rayburn Music Scholarship Fund. Estes met Sara and Frank Rayburn of Winston Salem, N.C., who established the fund in 1999. As a student at The W, Sara Rayburn '54 majored in music education.



1. Dr. Brian Anderson's Political Science 101 class took advantage of cooler fall temperatures and met outside between Carrier Chapel and Painter Hall.

2. Russell Blair, energy management specialist at The W, replaces the metal halide bulbs in a campus light pole with LED lights. The change will yield a 55 percent reduction in utility cost for each light, and they are much brighter. A total of 66 fixtures will be converted to LED lights.

3. Shana Stanton, senior art major from Vicksburg shows an item up for bid during this year's Art In Autumn Auction. The event, held in the Eugenia Summer Gallery, raised more than \$2,500, part of which will go to the Mooreville High School art program.



SNAPSHOTS



4. Raleigh Poole '13 helps with the Culinary Kids Camp as they prepare to make biscuits. The camp's are held during June each summer and this year hosted almost 60 attendees, ranging from young fourth graders up through high school seniors.

5. The W held a simulated disaster drill in September involving several city, county and state agencies, as well as Columbus Air Force Base. Pictured are MUW nursing students acting as victims of an explosion.

6. Orientation leader Quintera Wright, senior public health education major from Greenville, leads a session on traditions during last summer's transfer orientation.

7. The release of Michael Farris Smith's novel "Rivers" was celebrated on campus with a book signing on Sept. 10.





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Your generosity to The W enables our unique University to improve the way our students will experience their lives. Together, The W and its supporters, provide solutions, opportunities and hope- what a wonderful gift to our children and grandchildren.

We are very grateful for your financial support of our students, faculty and staff. Thank you for advancing the mission of The W through your involvement and investment.

Andrea Nester Stevens, CPA
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Each year, talented and dedicated student Telefund Ambassadors call our alumni and friends seeking support for The W Fund. These students care about our university and are making a difference by asking our alumni to give back to The W. Your gifts to The W Fund support scholarships, academic programs, extra-curricular activities, Visions magazine, and campus beautification projects. Join our Telefund Ambassadors and make a difference at our university with a gift to The W Fund today!

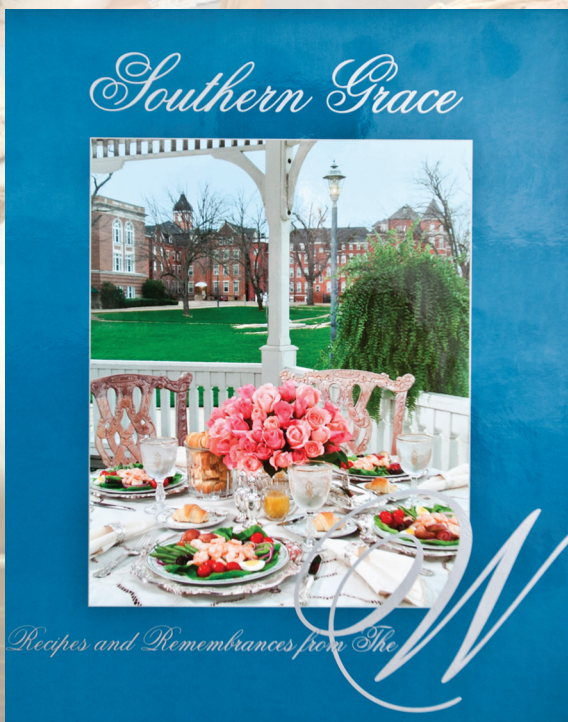
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Michaela Donohue
Junior, MUW Transfer student from Pearl River Community College



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