

Fall 2012

VISIONS

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF MUW



Mississippi University
for Women
A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men

ENCORE! 'TEMPLE OF MUSIC' REOPENS

CALENDER OF EVENTS

February 15

Investiture Ceremony

Join us for the inauguration of Dr. James B. Borsig as the 14th president of Mississippi University for Women. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. in Rent Auditorium, Whitfield Hall. For more information, call Mary Margaret Roberts at (662) 241-7483.

April 19-21

Homecoming 2013

This year's Homecoming promises to be the most exciting yet! MUW will welcome alumni and guests back with a weekend full of events, including a performance by Nash Street band made possible through the Leslie F. Threadgill Lecture and Artist Series. For more information, call the Office of Alumni & Development at (662) 329-7295.

Eugenia Summer Gallery 2013

MUW Juried Student Exhibition Feb. 7 - March 5. Reception is Wednesday, Feb. 13, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

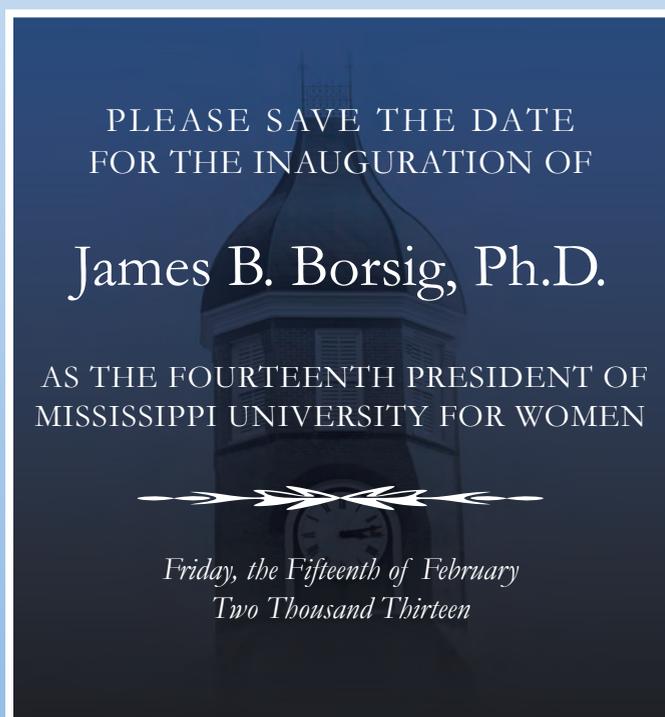
The Congressional Art Competition March 8-23. Reception is Saturday, March 23, 2 - 4 p.m.

MUW Alumni Juried Exhibition March 20 - April 20. Reception is Friday, April 19, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Senior Exhibition April 23 - May 11. Reception to be announced.

Kappa Pi High School Invitational May 15 - 31. Reception Wednesday, May 15, 5 - 7:30 p.m.

The Eugenia Summer Gallery is open to the public 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The gallery is handicap accessible and is located on the southwest corner of the MUW campus, next to the recreation center. For more information, call (662) 329-7341.



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE INAUGURATION OF

James B. Borsig, Ph.D.

AS THE FOURTEENTH PRESIDENT OF
MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN



*Friday, the Fifteenth of February
Two Thousand Thirteen*



APRIL 19 - 21

**HOME
COMING**

2013



VISIONS

FALL 2012
MAGAZINE

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

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**Mississippi University
for Women**

A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men

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Check out Visions magazine

online at:

www.muw.edu/visions
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear MUW Friends:

The W is about building: character, leadership, knowledge, lives. This issue of Visions reflects that long tradition of laying foundations for our physical learning environment, as well as for the educational experiences of those who study here.

It's been 10 years since an F-3 tornado damaged or destroyed more than 20 buildings at MUW—a disaster that could have been much worse had it not been for timing, leadership and response. With the support of many players, The W turned that catastrophe into a triumph, and in this issue we celebrate just how far we've come in the decade since.

We also celebrate the reopening of the grand old Temple of Music, Poindexter Hall. A signature building both architecturally and historically, it now provides a setting worthy of our outstanding music program and the legacy of its champion, Miss Weenona Poindexter. I invite you to visit it soon for a tour or a concert. It is a remarkable facility for which all of The W family can be proud.

Building the physical campus continues with the expansion and renovation of Fant Memorial Library. Phase I of the renovation is now under way, with a complete overhaul of the exterior of the building. The total projected renovation cost is \$18 million and, when completed, will significantly enhance our library and the academic resources we can offer students and faculty.

In fact, we're paying attention to all of our infrastructure, including the "curb appeal" of The W. If you haven't been on campus in a while, you'll be pleasantly surprised at the fresh coat of paint we've applied to perimeter fences. With private support from generous donors, we will be able to undertake additional projects that make our campus

inviting, comfortable, and a "go-to" place for students and the community. The W is a gem that we want to continue to polish.

One of our proudest "building" successes is The W's remarkable ability to nurture leaders. It starts while students are enrolled as undergraduates and are given opportunities through programs such as the Ina E. Gordy Honors College and the Hearin Leadership Program. Both are flagship programs that attract academically gifted students.

Through Gordy, an outstanding lecture series allows students to interact with successful professionals, become immersed in challenging academics and take advantage of leadership opportunities that build their skills and confidence. The Hearin program focuses on scholarship, leadership development and community service. These skills are nurtured and strengthened through monthly meetings and community service activities.

You'll see some of those leaders featured in this issue of Visions. We visit with three outstanding alumnae who have made a commitment to public service and to making a difference in their native Mississippi. Senators Nancy Collins and Sally Doty and Representative Esther Harrison all have a passion for politics and are creating paths for future MUW graduates to follow. They are representing their alma mater with distinction.

As I approach the one-year anniversary of becoming president of this wonderful institution, I realize just how strong our foundation is. I look forward to continuing to build our future with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Borsig
President
(662) 329-7100
jlborsig@pres.muw.edu



CAMPUS BRIEFS

New Police Chief

Danny Patton is Mississippi University for Women's new police chief.

Patton, who has been police chief over five Beville State campuses since 2008, also served as chief of police for Jasper, Ala. moving into that role from earlier positions as assistant chief, commander of the local multi-jurisdictional drug task force, and supervisor of community policing and computer crimes. He was a 25-year veteran of that department.

He is a member of the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the local Emergency Planning Commission.

In 2011, he earned the Above and Beyond Award for employer support of the Guard and Reserve.

Patton has special certification and training in areas that include student safety and security, threat preparedness, cultural sensitivity and a wide variety of other issues.



Patton

University Relations

Maridith Walker Geuder has joined MUW as executive director of university relations.

Prior to joining MUW, the West Point native served as director of university relations at Mississippi State University for 22 years.

At MSU, she was recognized with the Zacharias Distinguished Staff Award, the Friend of the Student Association Award and the Friend of the Libraries Award. She served on numerous committees, including chairing the university's Performing Arts Committee.

As head of university relations, Geuder will be focused on comprehensive marketing and communication strategies as the university streamlines its image.

Geuder earned her bachelor's degree in English from Millsaps College and master's degree in English from the University of Alabama.



Geuder

Photo: Megan Bean

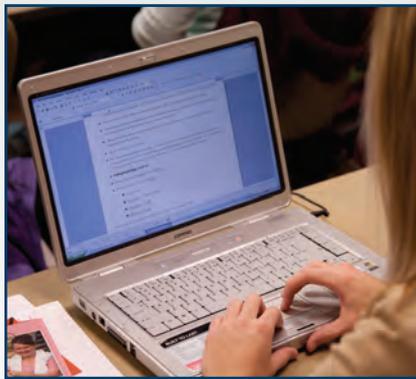


CAMPUS BRIEFS

MUW Expands Online Offerings

This fall, 31 percent of MUW's enrollment is online, representing students from 69 of Mississippi's 82 counties and 15 states. Online courses offer flexibility for students who are working, many full-time.

The College of Business and Professional Studies offers a fully online management information systems degree program and will begin to offer an online master's in global commerce beginning in 2013.



The Department of Health and Kinesiology offers a fully online master's in health education, as well as a recently added fully online bachelor's degree in public health education. After only one year, the new online bachelor's degree has 80 students enrolled. Since it was introduced five years ago, the online health education option has grown by 100 percent.

Since it was introduced in 2002, the online R.N. to B.S.N. Advanced Placement Option offered in Tupelo through the College of Nursing and Speech Language Pathology has increased from approximately 30 students to 414 this fall. The program can be taken completely or partially online.

While many students continue to benefit from the traditional campus educational experience, MUW President Jim Borsig said all educational institutions now must think beyond brick-and-mortar learning. "In an era that requires lifelong learning for all of us, we have to be prepared to meet students where they are, providing skills that will help ensure our state is competitive and responsive to the needs of our citizens."

Golden Triangle Geriatric Collaborative

For elderly, homebound or immobile patients, access to medical care can be challenging. A new, innovative service, founded by an MUW assistant professor of nursing, is bringing health care into the home.

NEW Leadership

Preparing women for leadership roles from the local to the national level is the focus of a new program being launched in May 2013 by MUW.



In partnership with the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, based in Starkville, The W is establishing NEW Leadership Mississippi, a nonpartisan program designed to develop foundational leadership skills for college women who participate. The national program, an acronym for National Education for Women's Leadership, was developed by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University and now is at 17 universities nationwide.

The first such effort in the state, the May 20-24 residential program at MUW will involve approximately 24 female students from Mississippi's public, private and community colleges in leadership training. Those participating may receive two hours of college credit in leadership.

For more information about the NEW Leadership Mississippi, see <http://www.muw.edu/newleadership>.

MTA Theatre Festival/Convention

MUW has been selected as the site of the 2013 Mississippi Theatre Association Theatre Festival/Convention scheduled for Jan. 17-20.

This is the first time that MTA has been in Columbus and on the MUW campus. About 500 participants are expected to attend the festival.

William "Peppy" Bidy, MUW professor and chair of the Department

of Theatre, is the local host and has been working with campus faculty and administrators to prepare for the festival.

MTA Officers are very excited that MUW wanted to host the festival and bring MTA to Columbus. The Secondary and Community Theatre Festivals will be held in Whitfield Auditorium while other events will be held in Cromwell Theatre.

Session Results to be Presented in January

Following six broad-based September sessions that included faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members, Pensacola, Fla.-based idgroup is preparing a multi-media presentation to share results of its analysis.

Led by idgroup President Mona Amodeo, the 11 a.m. Jan. 14 event in Poindexter Hall is open to all who attended initial sessions and anyone interested in learning more, said MUW President Jim Borsig. The presentation also will be streamed on the web.

“Throughout this process, we have encouraged participation and feedback from all of our stakeholder groups,” Borsig said. “We appreciate all who committed their time to being part of the four-hour sessions facilitated by idgroup, and we welcome anyone who has an interest in the future of The W to be at the Jan. 14 presentation.”

The idgroup is a highly regarded strategic branding and communications firm that has worked with many other universities and nonprofits. “Based on feedback from the sessions idgroup facilitated, we will begin the work of crafting a strategic marketing and communications plan and frame brand messaging,” Borsig said. “It’s an exciting process.”

Working as a complement to a patient’s primary care physician, the Golden Triangle Geriatric Collaborative, developed by MUW’s Mary Atkinson Smith, delivers in-home healthcare services by a staff of board-certified nurse practitioners. Patients are referred by hospitals, nursing homes, case managers, insurance companies, family members and a variety of other sources.

A Louisville native and MUW graduate who earned a doctorate of nursing at the University of Alabama, Smith said she saw a need in the Golden Triangle.

“I watched the decline of my own grandparents, and I saw there are gaps especially for elderly, high-maintenance patients,” she explained. “I wanted to do something to help.”

She spent nearly nine months developing a business plan and protocols that includes affiliation with a collaborating physician—something required by law. Patients with Medicaid, Medicare or other insurance qualify for assistance.

GTGC was formally approved by the Board of Nursing and the Board of Medicine. Clinical staff members include Smith and five nurse practitioners, four of whom are on faculty at MUW. The group recently also has added a registered dietician.

Honey Johnson, 88, a longtime Starkville resident, now lives in Trinity Place Retirement Community in Columbus. “When I ran into Mary and learned about this program, it seemed like an answer to a prayer,” said the very active octogenarian, who’s an avid reader and boasts a Facebook account.

“I’m reaching an age when I can’t drive anymore, and this is an old-fashioned house call that is desperately needed. You need people you can count on, and this allows healthcare to be brought to me.”

Top University

Once again Mississippi University for Women has maintained its standing as one of the top public Southern regional universities in rankings released by U.S. News & World Report.

At No. 18, MUW is the highest ranked Mississippi university in the top public Southern regional category.

In the annual “Best Colleges” guide, the national publication develops its rankings based on quantitative data such as freshman retention, graduation rates and strength of faculty. It also considers qualitative factors such as surveys of peer institutions and high school counselors.





CAMPUS BRIEFS

Founder's Portrait Returned to MUW

An oil on canvas portrait thought to be Annie Coleman Peyton, one of The W's founding mothers, has been returned to campus after a quest for its restoration that started more than 40 years ago.

The story starts with Alan Thurlow, who worked in New York prior to joining MUW in 1965 as a commercial artist instructor.

Because of his many connections in the art world, Thurlow was asked by Dr. Ralph Hudson, head of the art department at the time, to find someone who could restore the painting and find an antique oval frame for the portrait.

"No one wanted anything to do with it," Thurlow said. "I tried several antique dealers and one agreed to find a frame."

The antique dealer, whose information Thurlow no longer remembers, took Thurlow's address and said he would send the painting to Thurlow after he finished it.

"I had forgotten about the picture," Thurlow said, noting he received the painting in the mail about four years ago. "I have no record of the above dealer's name. It was shipped from Washington, D.C."

The painting sat in storage in Thurlow's attic for about a year before he decided to deliver it to front campus with the attached note:

"I taught art for several years at MSCW/MUW and MSU and am now retired here in Columbus and would be happy to give the painting back to where it belongs (still without a frame). Thank you."

The painting is now in possession of the President's Office after being delivered to Richard White by Alex Stelioes-Wills, MUW professor of art. White, a conservator in Columbia, restored the oil on canvas portrait in less than a month.

Dr. Bridget Pieschel, MUW professor of English and director of the Center for Women's Research and Public Policy, and her husband, Stephen, MUW English professor emeritus, were charged with putting a name with the portrait. The two pored over the pictures and debated back and forth and came up with Peyton as their conclusion.

The portrait will soon be framed and housed in a prominent location on campus.



Project Degree Completion

Mississippi University for Women is among approximately 500 public four-year universities recently pledging to boost college completion by 3.8 million students to help the nation reach a goal of 60 percent of adults possessing a college degree by 2025.

Participating institutions are members of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities.

In Mississippi, in addition to MUW, participating institutions include Alcorn State, Delta State, Jackson State and Mississippi Valley State universities, the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

Energy Use Reduced

MUW has reduced its energy use by 22 percent with an estimated cost avoidance of \$1,024,200 over the past six years.

Lighting retrofits in Welty Hall, Hogarth Dining Center, Pohl Gymnasium and Stark Recreation Center, the replacement of two older chillers and tighter control of building energy management software are just some of the ways MUW has ensured greater efficiency of resources, according to Dewey Blansett, director of facilities management.

Future initiatives include an energy study for Cromwell Communications Center, taking the Education and Human Sciences Building chiller offline, as well as coming off the steam plant for winter heating. Projects in the discussion phase include pool lighting, HVAC controls in Hooper Science Building and LED technology for the Art and Design Building.

MGS Accepting Applications

The Mississippi Governor's School (MGS) is accepting applications for the 2013 session from current 10th and 11th grade students enrolled in accredited Mississippi high schools. MGS will be held on the campus of Mississippi University for Women June 2-21. The theme for the session is Going Global.

The Mississippi Governor's School is a residential honors program established in 1981 by Governor William F. Winter and the faculty and administration at Mississippi University for Women. Application materials are available on the MGS website: www.muw.edu/govschool. Applications should be postmarked by Jan. 18, 2013. For more information, please call (662) 241-6096 or e-mail govschool@muw.edu.

Mentoring Program

Mississippi University for Women has joined with a leading social media platform and California-based Harvey Mudd College, sponsors of the first online mentoring program that encourages young women to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

Titled Women in Technology Sharing Online (WitsOn), the six-week pilot program, which is free for students, started in October and includes universities such as the California Institute of Technology, Cornell, Harvard, Princeton, Stanford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The non-credit program has a goal of connecting young women with those who have recognized accomplishments in STEM fields. Mentors will answer submitted questions online, with an emphasis on career demands, rewards and opportunities for success.

Service Noted

MUW is now ranked among the top 100 master's universities in Washington Monthly's 2012 College Rankings.

MUW is at No. 15, moving up from No. 89 after appearing in Washington Monthly's rankings for the first time two years ago.

The ranking formula is based on three broad factors including social mobility, which gives colleges credit for enrolling many low-income students and helping them earn degrees; research production, particularly schools whose undergraduates go on to earn PhDs; and commitment to service.

MUW Finishes First Phase of Athletics Review, Moves to Second Phase

A broad-based committee charged with reviewing the potential for athletic programs at Mississippi University for Women has concluded its work by recommending that the university move ahead with further evaluation. The committee expressed general support for a return to athletics in some form.



Committee chair Perry Sansing, assistant to the president and university counsel, said that an outline of issues and considerations is currently being prepared.

"The committee raised many questions that now must be studied in-depth, including both programmatic and financial considerations," he said. "We will now begin a self-study phase that looks at what is feasible and appropriate."

MUW President Jim Borsig has said he supports a return to athletics as part of the on-campus experience. "That may range all the way from club sports to intercollegiate athletics," he said. "The self-study will tell us more."

Committee members participating in the first phase included:

Carrie Ball-Williamson, athletic director, Itawamba Community College (Class of '81); Menuka Ban, MUW SGA president; Mark Bean, professor of Health and Kinesiology, MUW; Dot Burdeshaw, former athletic director, MUW; Elaine Evans, co-president, MUW Alumni Association (Class of '70); Rusty Greene, athletic director, Columbus Public School District; Bobby Harper, Renasant Bank; Katie Herrington, athletic director, Jones County Junior College (Class of '84); Ruth Jones, chair, MUW Foundation (Class of '76); Jim McAlexander, chair, Columbus LINK Board of Directors; Stan Miller, athletic director, Starkville Public School District; Dot Murphy, assistant athletic director, Hinds Community College (Class of '74); Roger Short, executive director, Columbus-Lowndes Recreation Authority; Jo Spearman, former athletic director, MUW; Andy Thaggard, co-president, MUW Alumni Association (Class of '94); and Royal Toy, president, Faculty Senate, MUW.

A campus committee will undertake the second phase of the study, Sansing said. "We thank each member of the initial committee who participated for their ideas, their commitment and their insights," he said.



FACULTY KUDOS

MHC Recognition

Dr. Beverly Joyce, associate professor in the Department of Art and Design, was Mississippi University for Women's Mississippi Humanities Council Teacher of the Year Award recipient for the academic school year.



Joyce

Joyce is the first art history teacher at MUW to receive this award. The Mississippi Humanities Council grants Humanities Teacher Awards each year to one faculty member from each state institution, including four-year universities and community colleges. She was chosen through nominations and votes by other humanities faculty members at MUW.

She earned her doctorate in art history from the University of Kansas. She is the international treasurer of the Kappa Pi International Honorary Art Fraternity and the faculty sponsor for the organization's MUW chapter. As faculty sponsor, Joyce also helped to establish the annual Art in Autumn Auction and Kappa Pi High School Invitational Art Exhibition. She is also the president of the Columbus/MUW branch of AAUW.

Exam Completion

Mary A. Smith, assistant professor of nursing in the graduate department, successfully completed the CNOR (Certified Nurse Operating Room) exam.



Smith

The CNOR exam is designed and administered by the Competency and Credentialing Institute and is defined as the documented validation of the professional achievement of identified standards of practice by an individual registered nurse providing care for patients before, during and after surgery. The CNOR credential proves successful completion of the certification program for professional achievement in perioperative nursing, demonstrates the knowledge and skills that denote competency in the specialized field of perioperative nursing, and displays commitment to providing the highest quality care to surgical patients.

Smith also was recently appointed to the Mississippi Nurses Foundation Board of Trustees, a charitable organization established by the Mississippi Nurses Association in 1982.

New Archivist to Help Preserve University's History

As Mississippi University for Women's new part-time archivist, Derek Webb is excited about helping preserve the school's history.



Webb

It has been a while since MUW has had an archivist, and Webb will help the university decide what steps to take in preserving documents, as well as making the archives more accessible to students and scholars. He explained that will mean taking measures for basic preservation of the collections, such as cleaning and relocating endangered materials.

In just the few weeks that he has been on the campus, Webb has come across some interesting finds.

"I found the transcription of a letter from Jefferson Davis expressing his regrets at not being able to attend the school's opening ceremony in 1884," he said. "The day before that, I found a folder on a bribery and nepotism scandal. The day before that, I found myself reading poetry composed by students for the 1902 yearbook."

Along with uncovering the university's buried history, another part of his job will include looking for grant funds for larger projects and drafting policies to govern the basic functions of the archives.

"The MUW archive is one of this state's hidden treasures. It's a treasure trove, and it's important that we protect it and make it available to students, faculty, alumni and the public," he said.

Before joining MUW, Webb worked as a librarian in the Medieval Institute at Notre Dame for five years before relocating to Columbus with his wife, Amber Handy, an assistant professor in the Department of History, Political Science and Geography. He is originally from Lubbock, Texas.

Talking Politics

Dr. Melissa M. Smith, visiting assistant professor at MUW, guest lectured at Itawamba Community College about the good, the bad and ugly of political campaign ads.

She has published and presented articles related to political elections and is co-author of the book "Campaign Finance Reform: A Political Shell Game," which was published in 2010.

Her research area is political communication, particularly as it relates to political election campaign advertising.



Smith

Phi Upsilon Omicron Conclave

Dr. Dorothy Berglund, associate professor of psychology and family studies, presented at the Phi Upsilon Omicron Conclave in Lexington, Ky.

In her research for her presentation, she looked at what types of media (newspapers, magazines, television shows, etc.) women use to learn about how to balance work and family. She found in her research that women use new media (Twitter, Facebook, e-mail, WebMD, askHow, etc.) to find support from one another and to find info about how to deal with balancing work and family.



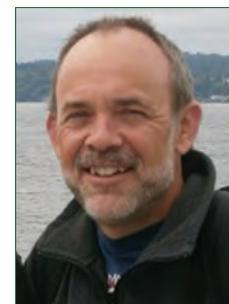
Berglund

Evolutionary Biology Conference

Dr. Paul Mack, associate professor of biology, attended the First Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology conference held in Ottawa, Canada.

This event brought together five of the world's largest academic societies devoted to the study of evolutionary biology and ecology including the Society for the Study of Evolution, American Society of Naturalists, the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution, the European Society for Evolutionary Biology and the Society of Systematic Biologists.

His research is focused on what is known as 'intersexual conflict' - the conflict that arises between males and females over the outcome of reproduction.



Mack

Florida Reading Conference

Dr. Brenda Dickey, assistant professor of education, presented at the Florida Reading Conference.

It was their 50th anniversary conference, and she did a presentation on the new Common Core initiative for English Language Arts and Assessment.



Dickey



The W Remembers

Ten years after an F-3 tornado, The W celebrates rebuilding

by Maridith Walker Geuder

It went on record as the second-largest tornado outbreak ever experienced in the Eastern United States: 76 tornadoes reported in two intense days over 17 states. It was later known as “The Veterans Day Outbreak.”

In a cataclysmic few minutes early on a Sunday evening, Columbus—and MUW—were at the center of what would be remembered as one of the most destructive forces ever to descend on the Friendly City. The date was Nov. 10, 2002.

Like many before it, that Sunday afternoon on the historic campus was quiet and apparently normal. Students prepared for the end of the semester and thought about the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Faculty prepared to go into the home stretch of final papers, exams and grading. The campus was wrapped in a Sunday calm.

According to later reports from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a supercell that formed just before 6 p.m. in Ohio and spread into Pennsylvania created a “northern” outbreak. Simultaneously, a “southern outbreak” spread the deadly tornadoes into Mississippi, Alabama and then into Georgia and South Carolina.

In Lowndes County, a tornado formed about three miles southeast of Artesia and worked its way across 22 miles of the county, bearing in on Columbus proper. In Columbus, a tornado warning was issued 19 minutes before the F3 tornado struck Main Street. In total, three tornadoes moved through Lowndes County between 7 and 8 p.m. that destructive day. The strongest struck downtown and nearby MUW at approximately 7:20 p.m., destroying dozens of homes, a church, and businesses and creating rubble of many campus structures.

In a 2003 “Spectator” account on the one-year anniversary of the event, former student Rich Sobolewski (now MUW webmaster), recalled that he at first scoffed at the warnings to remain indoors and jokingly asked friends

over an evening meal in Hogarth if a tornado could prevent a portfolio assignment that was due.

Seated in his residence hall moments later, however, Sobolewski felt his mood suddenly change. “I could hear the sound of scraping metal and pounding wind,” he recalled in the Spectator. He and a friend braved the elements to venture outdoors, where they discovered confusion, darkness and devastation.

“I caught a glimpse of the art building, ripped to shreds,” he wrote. “I checked my car—all of the windows were smashed.” In their explorations of campus, Sobolewski and his friend were to discover what they heard another student observe: “On front campus it looked as though a storm had hit campus, but on back campus, it looked as though a bomb had gone off.”

Nora Miller, senior vice president for administration and CFO, remembers arriving on campus in the early morning hours Monday. “The sun was just coming up,” she recalled, “and there was an eeriness to the whole scene. It looked like a war zone.”

All around, she saw destruction. “There were pieces of roofing lying everywhere, limbs were down, trees were gone. One scene I’ll never forget is the curtains of the destroyed gym flapping in the breeze.”

In the midst of the mind-boggling disarray, she saw Dave Haffly of Dining Services sweeping up broken glass from Hogarth. “He had the coffee going,” she said. “We had hot coffee.”

For MUW, the damage was overwhelming. On campus, 26 of 60 buildings were damaged. The university lost complete use of two academic buildings and one residence hall for the Mississippi School for Math and Science. With debris everywhere and power outages to contend with, the university cancelled a week of classes. In assessing damages and costs, MUW leaders also made the decision that athletic programs would be discontinued.



“On front campus it looked as though a storm had hit campus, but on back campus, it looked as though a bomb had gone off.”

-MUW Student



Art and Design Building

That was the bad news. The good news was that the storm struck Sunday. Classes weren't in session, and Pohl Gymnasium, one of the hardest hit at MUW, had closed at 7 p.m. In news reports the following day, the local Commercial Dispatch described the building as "a mountain of broken brick, shattered concrete and twisted steel." The report went on to note, "Had the storm hit on a weekday, the gym would have been open and filled with people at the time."

Through the fortune of timing, no lives were lost on campus; in fact, no one sustained injuries that required medical attention. And, through it all, the cafeteria never

missed serving a meal. But the damage would require more than \$22 million in recovery costs. The good news also was the willingness of state officials, neighbors and emergency agencies to respond quickly and decisively.

Both Miller and Perry Sansing, assistant to the president and general counsel, remember the outpouring of help from every source. "I remember how many volunteers there were," Sansing said.

When he first arrived on campus Sunday evening, it was so dark that he had a hard time understanding the extent of the damage. In the light of the next morning, the wreckage



An exhibit in Welty Hall commemorated the anniversary of the 2002 F-3 tornado.

was depressingly apparent. But, in the midst of that, he was encouraged to see just how many people were on hand to lend a hand. Lowndes Emergency Management, Columbus Air Force Base, the National Guard, local police, the Red Cross and many more all were at work, he recalled.

And local church congregations and even community members offered their help, Miller said. “There were individuals who came out to campus with their brooms and shovels just to do whatever they could.”

Declaring “The devastation and destruction on the campus of MUW is the worst I’ve ever seen,” then-Gov. Ronnie Musgrove pledged his help and immediately asked President George W. Bush to declare Lowndes County a disaster area. He was on site throughout much of the following days.

By Nov. 15, the disaster declaration had been issued, opening the door for federal assistance in the aftermath. “With this approval, the people of Columbus and Lowndes County are going to be able to begin the process of rebuilding,” Musgrove said at the time.

Then-Sen. Trent Lott also was instrumental in facilitating funding for restoration, Miller said. “We had started a parking study shortly before the tornado, and that became a long-term master plan once we began to rebuild.” With IHL approval, the brick-and-mortar restoration got under way.

That process was sometimes years in the making. Pohl Gymnasium and the Stark Recreation Center opened three and a half years after the original structure was ravaged, and



Pohl Gym

the Art and Design Building, home to the Eugenia Summer Gallery, had initial repairs completed in 2005. A formal dedication and reopening of the facility was held at the completion of all work in 2009. The tornado also created an opportunity to expand facilities for MSMS, and other facilities received new roofing and other needed repairs.

Out of disaster, The W proved its spirit and determination. From the rubble of twisted steel, broken glass, and toppled structures, from the broken pieces of a campus that sustained unprecedented damage, a new MUW emerged. As it always had, The Long Blue Line moved forward. 



Checking the weather, changing directions

by Maridith Walker Geuder

As he prepared to finish high school near Hoover, Ala., two roads diverged for Rob Smith. A talented trombonist and member of the high school band, he considered a career in music, and the comfortable path of joining his classmates as they chose to attend Alabama universities. In fact, he was offered a music scholarship to the University of Alabama.

But a childhood interest in weather offered a different option. "I had wanted to be a weatherman since I was 12 years old," he said. Smith's Advanced Placement aptitude in the sciences gave him the credentials to earn an academic scholarship, and so he chose the road less traveled. He entered the then-fledgling meteorology program at Mississippi State University.

"It was the early days of meteorology at MSU, and we dialed up on a modem to get four weather maps a day," he recalled.

For many years, the love of weather and the career choice served Smith well. He was able to land a full-time job as a weathercaster with WCBI-TV in Columbus during his senior year at MSU. And, with only a few years' interruption to take jobs in other markets, he returned to WCBI, where he became a well-respected personality on the CBS affiliate for 14 years, serving as chief meteorologist.

Smith loved the weather. More importantly, he loved explaining it. "I always want to know what I don't know," he said. "I've always had an insatiable thirst for knowledge. And I like to explain things to people."

Weathercasting gave him a chance to do that. He enjoyed the challenge of taking a complex explanation for the physics and science behind the weather and putting it into language that viewers could make sense of. That talent was especially important during weather crises, when his television shifts could stretch to 30 hours straight.

"Mississippi tends to have a lot of weather events," he

observed. "Reporting during those times can mean life or death to viewers."

But, after 14 years, Smith took a step back and analyzed his career and his future. His two young children often were still at school when he left for work and in bed when he returned. He saw them growing up without their dad as a daily presence.

"I could go an entire week without seeing my children," he recalled.

"WCBI was extremely supportive and flexible about giving me family time," he said. Meanwhile, he saw the nature of the business changing as mobile media gained increasing popularity with consumers and local television

adjusted. The result: "I began to rethink my career goals."

It was then he fell back on his high school aptitude for science and math. "I briefly considered the medical school path and becoming a doctor," he laughed. Instead, he looked

"MUW should be proud that they challenge students...When you leave, you know that you've accomplished something significant..."

to nearby MUW, where he was accepted into The W's highly recognized nursing program.

"I did my homework and studied about the career," he recalled. "To be a nurse is not to have just one job. There are a multitude of jobs in the field: clinical, administrative, educational. I liked that there were career paths beyond becoming a registered nurse."

And so, he changed directions. He began his studies while still a fulltime weathercaster, but, he said, "It quickly became apparent that I wouldn't be able to sustain both." Once again, he chose the road less traveled. He gave up the safety net of his job and became a fulltime student. There would be plenty of short-term sacrifices for long-term gain.

Now a senior with graduation ahead in May 2013, Smith has excelled in his studies, making just two Bs in the bachelor's of nursing program. He describes the MUW curriculum as "difficult" in the most positive sense of that word.

“MUW should be proud that they challenge students,” Smith said. “When you leave, you know that you’ve accomplished something significant. You’re qualified to be an excellent nurse, but you know you can also think critically and prioritize. They’ve trained us to think exactly how a nurse should think.”

That’s a real advantage to MUW nursing students, he added. “The MUW program is recognized by the nursing community. Hiring managers know that if you finish this program, you really know the field.”

As he nears 40, Smith said he has especially appreciated the opportunities he’s been presented. “At this age, I see the value of learning for learning’s sake,” he said. “It’s a case of doing the work to understand what you need to understand. In a crisis situation, that ‘A’ you made really doesn’t matter; what you know, does.”

Last summer, Smith interned at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Columbus, where he worked in cardiothoracic care. It was something he felt was a real fit. “I think I’d like to work in the critical care environment, perhaps a cardiovascular ICU.” But, with many options open, there could be different roads that diverge, perhaps even that of nursing school instructor.

True to his earlier career, Smith is drawn to the challenge of taking difficult concepts and explaining them to others. “I like the puzzle,” he said. “I like figuring out what’s wrong. In doing that, the patients I serve will get better care.”

In this new phase of his life, Smith continues to follow the road less traveled. And for him, that has made all the difference. 



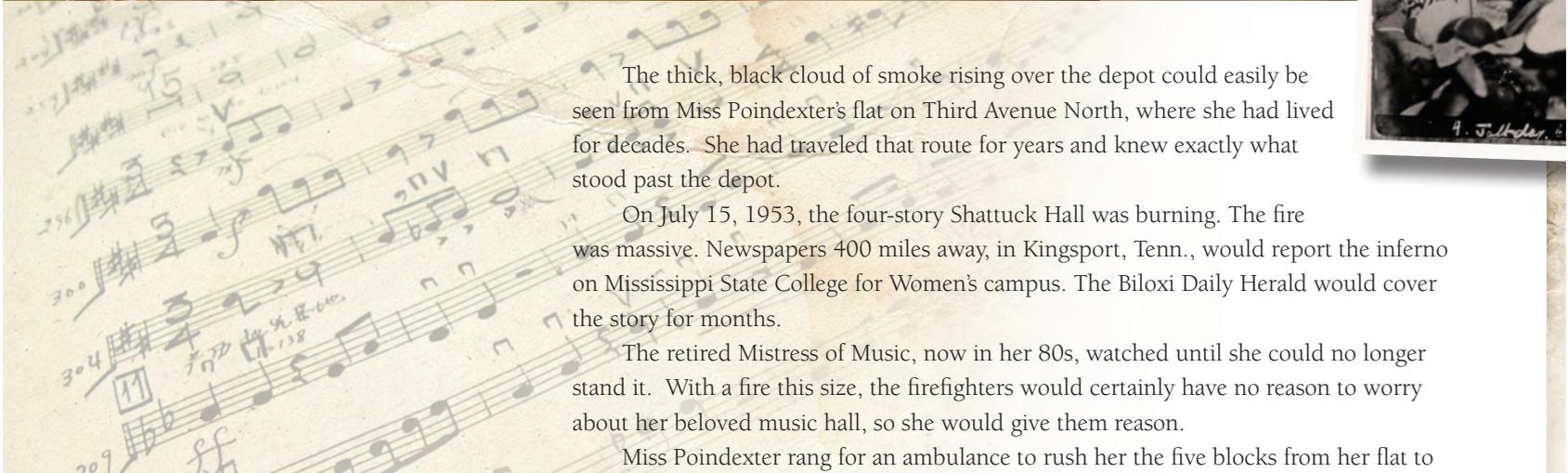


ENCORE! 'TEMPLE OF MUSIC' REOPENS

by Rich Sobolewski

Since its construction, Poindexter Hall has hosted a President, two future-governors and countless world-famous musicians. Now entering its second century, having just completed an extensive renovation, Poindexter returns to its rightful spot as the musical heart of our historic campus.





The thick, black cloud of smoke rising over the depot could easily be seen from Miss Poindexter's flat on Third Avenue North, where she had lived for decades. She had traveled that route for years and knew exactly what stood past the depot.

On July 15, 1953, the four-story Shattuck Hall was burning. The fire was massive. Newspapers 400 miles away, in Kingsport, Tenn., would report the inferno on Mississippi State College for Women's campus. The Biloxi Daily Herald would cover the story for months.

The retired Mistress of Music, now in her 80s, watched until she could no longer stand it. With a fire this size, the firefighters would certainly have no reason to worry about her beloved music hall, so she would give them reason.

Miss Poindexter rang for an ambulance to rush her the five blocks from her flat to the campus. From there she rushed inside, and headed for an upper floor. She knew that if her building was "occupied," this fact would force the firefighters to keep the blaze from spreading from the nearby hall.

Miss Weenona Poindexter truly believed the newly named Poindexter Hall was her building, and she had every right to do so. After all, after Miss Poindexter had built the music department from a series of elective courses in 1894 in to the conservatory-style program similar to the ones she had studied at in New England. President Andrew Kincannon eloquently petitioned the state Legislature in 1903 for the funds to build the hall for the rapidly expanding music program. "With such a departmental building it would be an easy task to make Industrial Institute and College the center of musical, as it is already of industrial education," he said.

In 1904, the famed Chattanooga architect, R.H. Hunt, drew up the plans and began construction on the new Music Hall. The draftsman dubbed the hall "The Temple of Music" based on its neo-classical design, with the six imposing Ionic columns, elaborate molding, cornices and pilasters. Appropriately, at the center of the temple lay the sanctuary, an intimate concert hall to hold 200 guests and crowned with an oval skylight.



Portrait of Weenona Poindexter



As the first load of bricks for the new Temple of Music arrived on campus, photographers were on hand to mark the event. Overcome with delight at the prospect this new building would hold, Miss Poindexter seized the building plans from the engineer and hopped up on the pallet to have her picture made.

In the 1905 edition of the *Meh Lady*, the students note:

“Ask Miss Poindexter why the Music Hall was built, and she would probably turn upon you with pity in her eyes, for such ignorance. Nevertheless, a joyous light would illumine her countenance as she answered ‘To fill a long-felt want; to provide fitting facilities for the development of the wonderful musical talent we have here!’ Mr. Kincannon’s answer would no doubt be different. With a shake of the head he would say, ‘Could I, as a gentleman refuse a lady a request? Imagine a hundred pleading with me! Why, my dear young woman, the Music Hall was

built to gratify the teachers and pupils of our music department.’”

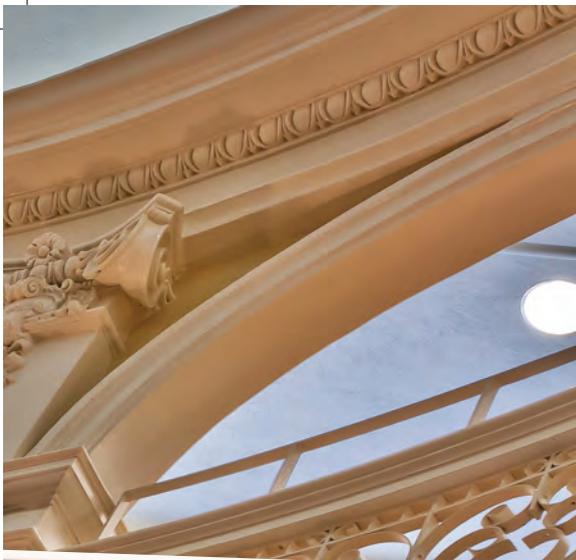
To mark the opening of the Temple of Music in 1905, Miss Poindexter would use her personal funds to invite world-renowned pianist Ignace Paderewski to perform on campus. The event drew such a large crowd that she made a thousand dollar profit, which Miss Poindexter used to invite other famed musicians to her hall.

The prestige of her building only grew when the recently-elected President William Howard Taft chose to speak from the front steps of the hall on a victory tour of the country in November of 1909. Taft stood with II&C president Henry Whitfield to show his support for the college’s mission. “A girl has the right to demand such training that she can win her own way to independence, thereby making marriage not a necessity, but a choice,” the President said.

As the years went on, the college continued to expand. New buildings began to spring up on campus; II&C changed its name to Mississippi State College for Women in 1920 to better reflect the expanding number of programs. Presidents would come and go. One constant was Miss Poindexter and her Music Hall.

In the 1930s, the nation became lost in the grip of the Great Depression. Enrollment in the music program began to wane. The extra costs associated with the program, private lessons and the cost of instruments, made it difficult for all but the most affluent students. Soon, even the State of Mississippi was bankrupt. The college was forced to pay the faculty in “warrants,” IOUs that could be exchanged at a later date for cash. Many of the faculty members, including Miss Poindexter, were forced to live off their savings. After a year without pay, the faculty members had no money for rent and only a little for food. With only a few students now using the building, MSCW President Burney Parkinson and Miss Poindexter invited the faculty to use empty practice rooms on the upper floors of the hall as apartments until the end of the Depression.

All the while, Miss Poindexter was hard at work to have her program recognized by the National Association of Schools of Music. Miss Poindexter was able to reduce salaries of faculty and hire





Memories of POINDEXTER

By Anika Mitchell Perkins

As a student, Connie Sills Kossen remembers the sound of music drifting from the windows of Poindexter Hall.

“There was no air conditioning in the building and the windows would be opened. You could hear everyone practicing,” she said. “Poindexter was the center of campus.”

Poindexter Hall recently recaptured that honor with a grand reopening in November to celebrate its renewal. The building, which was built in 1905, holds special memories for many, especially former music students.

“Performing on that stage was so intimidating to us,” said Kossen, who graduated in 1964 with a bachelor of music education. “You were being graded and of course everything was from memory.”

Kossen recalls Dr. Sigfred Matson, who chaired the music division from 1949-1978. She described him as a very strict German.

“Dr. Matson wrote a composition for each one of his seniors that was performed for the recital. Mine was titled “Why?” Kossen is attempting to collect the manuscripts, which were a special gift to each one of the seniors.

“I spent almost all of my time in Poindexter my senior year. Every class I took was in Poindexter. I was practicing three hours a day,” she said.

Nancy Kennedy remembers the many hours of practice and even Saturday classes. She earned her bachelor of arts in piano in 1956 and returned in 1960 to earn a bachelor of music in piano.

“When I was there, we had assigned practice rooms. The teachers would come by and peek in the cubby holes and make sure you were there,” she said.

additional instructors. With the new staff, the MSCW Department of Music became the first fully accredited music program in the state.

In 1945, after 50 years of dedicated service to the college she loved so dearly, Miss Poindexter, at the age of 73, decided it was time to retire. In honor of everything she had done to build the Department of Music into a renowned conservatory, president Parkinson announced in 1947 that Miss Poindexter’s Temple of Music would bear her name.

Poindexter Hall was spared from the flames that nearly destroyed Shattuck Hall in 1953, thanks to the aging Miss Poindexter rushing to her building’s aid.

Weenona Poindexter passed away on Feb. 17, 1956, following a long illness, but her legacy, her Temple of Music, continues on as the musical heart of the campus.

In 1986, to mark the historic nature of the Mississippi University for Women campus, the National Register of Historic Places recognized The W Historic District, placing 24 buildings, including Poindexter Hall, on the Register. As a result, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History declared Poindexter Hall, along with the other historic buildings, to be a Mississippi Landmark.

President Taft wouldn’t be the only political figure to use Poindexter Hall as a backdrop. On Oct. 28, 2003, Vice President Dick Cheney stood on the same steps during a campaign stop for Haley Barbour. Vice President Chaney noted, “It’s great to be back in a great state, and have an opportunity to visit The W.”

In 2007, as Poindexter Hall reached its centennial, the Mississippi Legislature appropriated \$9.5 million in bond funds to restore the Temple of Music. In 2009, renovations began. Miss Poindexter’s hall would not only be restored, it would be fitted with the latest energy efficient materials and a state-of-the-art digital energy management system.

On Nov. 2, 2012, 103 years to the day since President Taft stood on her steps, Poindexter Hall was re-opened with a gala celebration and concert.

Now, entering its second century, Poindexter Hall will continue to shine as one of the most well-known and beloved jewels on MUW’s campus.

To find out more about how to donate to the MUW Department of Music, contact the MUW Foundation at (662) 329-7148 or 1-(877) 462-8439, ext. 7148. 

Information taken from: Loyal Daughters by Dr. Bridget Smith Pieschel and Stephen Robert Pieschel; Women and Music in the Victorian Age One Woman’s Legacy: The Music Department of Mississippi University for Women Under Weenona Poindexter 1894-1945 by Dr. Cherry Watkins Dunn; 1905 Meh Lady Industrial Institute and College Yearbook; Biloxi Daily Herald July 15, 1953.



Connie Kossen (L) and Nancy Kennedy

Most days were fun; however, there were the dreaded jury performances that were held in Dr. Matson's studio where the faculty would judge their performances.

Other faculty members and instructors credited for their dedication were voice teacher Ocie Higgins, piano teacher Maggie Allen and choral director Marilyn Swingle. She also praised the work of faculty still on staff including James Allen, Doug Browning and Dr. Cherry Dunn.

Their efforts manifested in students' lives as discipline, concentration, organization and structure, according to Kossen, who later earned a graduate degree in church music and taught at St. Richard Catholic School in Jackson. She also taught private piano and voice lessons and sang professionally with the Mississippi Opera and the Mississippi Symphony.

Kennedy enjoyed privately teaching in the school system for about 15 years.

"One of my goals of teaching was to instruct the basic skills, but especially to instill a love of music," she said. Both are thrilled about Poindexter being restored to its original splendor – especially the addition of elevators.

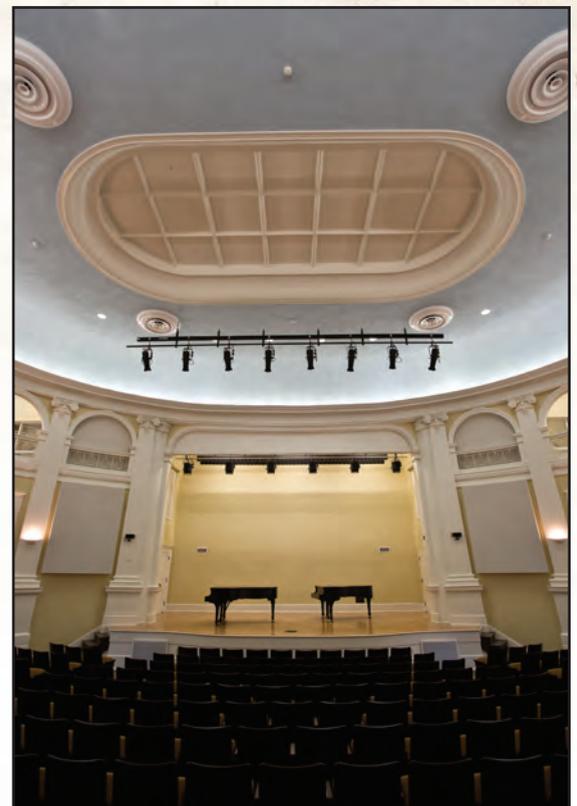
Kossen said, "I think it's marvelous and long overdue. It will add a new dimension to the entire university. It will allow the university to expand its additional offerings to the campus and community."



Top: Dr. Doug Browning conducts the MUW singers in "Invisible Choir," which was commissioned for the opening of Poindexter Hall. The piece was composed by J.D. Frizzell.

Middle: A beautiful grand piano is the centerpiece of the practice room named for Nancy Kennedy.

Bottom: Connie Sills Kossen Auditorium is a vibrant, yet intimate, space for MUW music students and visiting artists to perform.





A Woman's Touch

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

By definition, a public servant is described as a person who holds a government position by election or appointment. While this description holds true for those who have a passion for politics, three Mississippi University for Women alumnae also find themselves serving in a variety of other roles: advisers, marketers, negotiators, caregivers and...experts in a little bit of everything.

Woman—multi-tasker--the words are interchangeable. Just ask Senators Nancy Collins and Sally Doty and Representative Esther Harrison, all of whom are bringing a woman's touch to their roles in the Mississippi Legislature.

An Honor to Serve

Collins, who represents District 6-Lee and Pontotoc counties, is in her second year as a state senator. She won a special election in January 2011 to fill the seat vacated by Alan Nunnelee, who was elected to the U.S. House.

"I think we have a responsibility to leave a legacy—a responsibility to help our country. I have always enjoyed the benefits of my country, but I had never sacrificed," she said. "My father taught me it was an honor to be a public servant."

At the age of 63, Collins, decided the time was right to run for office. "I had worked. I had time to do this."

The 1969 graduate once worked as a registered nurse and later became the founding president of Sanctuary Hospice House, an in-patient facility for individuals who do not have caregivers. Since opening its doors in 2005, more than 1,600 have been served by the in-patient facility.

"It was a very heartwarming project. It's a blessing to know that I played a little part in that," she said, looking back to a time when she and other women were told that they could not open the facility. "That mindset helps me in the Senate."

Collins certainly believes that women have unique gifts, especially as mothers, and often have to exercise their gift of creativity.



Collins



"We do a multitude of things and we don't give ourselves credit. It comes very naturally for us. When our children become a certain age, we have to have tough love and draw boundaries," she said. "This (skill) has served me very well when someone demands something from me."

And when it comes to solving some of the state's problems, Collins said, "We have to be creative and innovative with our state. We have a lot of natural resources."

Building Relationships

In 2011, Doty won the election for Mississippi Senate District 39, which includes Lawrence, Lincoln and Simpson counties.

She discovered politics at MUW, serving in the Student Government Association. As a student at The W in the 1980s, Doty spent a lot of time in Jackson.

"It was a difficult time. There was talk of closure. I spent a tremendous amount of time my sophomore year lobbying," she said. "We would take the Senate Directory, go on the floor and talk about the school. I enjoyed it. I was very intrigued with the process. This has always been in the back of my head even as I began my law practice in Brookhaven."

She also recalls sitting in the gallery of the Senate at the age of 19. "I remember looking over the rail and for the most part it was all white males. I thought 'this is not right.'"

Today, there are eight women out of 52 serving in the Senate.

"I think women approach things in a different way. I think we get deeper into the facts. I think we like to gather a lot of information before making a decision," she said.

Doty has completed her first session and learned quite a bit.

"You are expected to be an expert in everything. It's a lot to grasp. It really fits with my skills and what I like to do. It is about relationships and who you trust. So much of it is relationship building and I think women are particularly good at that."



Doty



A Longtime Advocate

Harrison of Columbus is celebrating her 13th year and fourth term in the House of Representatives, District 41-Lowndes County.

The former history and English teacher has spent most of her life registering citizens to vote and helping others with their political campaigns.

Harrison had two unsuccessful bids for the state Senate in the late 70s and then in the 80s.

“I’ve always loved politics. I’ve helped a lot of people in their campaigns, so it was the natural thing for me to do,” she said about a third run.

Harrison laughs thinking back about a good friend who told her she would not win because she was a woman, African-American and a member of the African Methodist Episcopal church.

The third time was a charm, and her determination paid off. Harrison was elected to the House in 1999 and completed her master’s of education at MUW in 2000.

While the work is challenging, Harrison said it’s rewarding being able to help others.

As for being a woman in the state Legislature, she said, “Women bring a lot to the table. I think women work better together.”

The three agree that their time at MUW helped shape who they are today.

Some of Doty’s early memories involved The W because her sisters also attended the university. She was student body president and a member of the Lockhearts and Jester social clubs.

“I had the most wonderful time here, especially with some of the girls who were my close friends” she said during a recent campus visit. “To this day, they are some of my closest advisers. We keep up with each other on Facebook. They have been encouragers.”



Harris

After she graduated from MUW with a degree in business administration, Doty went on to law school at the Mississippi College School of Law. It was at that time she realized the educational foundation that had been laid at MUW.

“I did extremely well in my law classes. I attribute that to my undergraduate education,” she said.

Collins’ mother, aunt and grandmother also attended The W. Her time at the university was the first time that she had been away from home.

She was active in the Glee Club, Lockhearts and Student Government Association. She also won second alternate in the Miss W pageant and first alternate as Miss MUW.

“I had a lot of wonderful friends there, and I got a lot of great experience from The W.”

Harrison’s daughter and sister attended MUW before she did.

“My daughter said you should go back to school, and that’s what I did. I could walk here, which I did most of the time,” she said.

As for those who aspire to be public servants, the legislators suggested getting involved.

“Make contact with people in an elected office. Work on a campaign. Get involved in your county organization or just run yourself,” Doty said. “If you see this in your future you have to get involved at some level.”

Harrison added, “Read and get involved in their campaigns so you know how to operate a campaign if you decide to run.”

She noted that people need to know how the process works, especially youth. “More emphasis should be placed on government operation, particularly at the state level. Everything you do revolves around the activities of the state Legislature.”

Collins also believes that more youth should be involved in the political process, which is why she started District 6 Leadership Camp (D6LC) for fifth, sixth and seventh graders. “If I am not doing that then I am not helping the next generation,” she said. 



Gordy, Hearin Develop Student Leaders

by Janie Guyton Shields

College is about exploration, learning and growth. It is about knowledge that prepares for life and for productive careers, but it's also about self-knowledge and the expansion of personal horizons and self-confidence.

Two programs at The W give students exceptional opportunities to challenge themselves both academically and individually, providing unique learning and leadership experiences. The Ina E. Gordy Honors College and the Hearin Leadership Program prove that leaders come in many forms—and there are many ways to step out of one's comfort zone to develop the “whole” person.

In 2005, alumna Ina E. Gordy, class of 1929, made a commitment to the University, which produces more than \$2 million in support of scholarships for top students who are a part of the MUW Honors College, directed by Dr. Thomas Velek.

Students such as Katelyn Calvert have benefited through this program both financially and intellectually. “I am so thankful to have had all of the experiences and opportunities that MUW and the Honors College have presented me with,” said Calvert.

“To this day I still thank Dr. Velek and all involved for giving me the wonderful opportunity to attend The W and receive the Centennial Scholarship. I had received my acceptance letter to The W previously, but if I did not get any scholarship support, I knew that I would be going to Northeast Mississippi Community College just like everyone else,” she added.

The scholarship allowed her to begin her studies at The W, a choice that has opened many doors and presented life-changing challenges. And, says Velek, the program is intentionally rigorous.

“The Ina E. Gordy Honors College is a means of adding depth to undergraduate education,” he said. “It encourages curiosity and initiative and provides an opportunity to apply learning to significant projects. Honors students are expected to exhibit academic excellence, not only in their grades, but also in their willingness to pursue knowledge in various fields other than their chosen majors.”



Calvert

In addition to living in Grossnickle Hall together, Honors students take classes together, study abroad the summer after their freshman year and participate in field trips and presentations from upper-level student mentors and from faculty.

The Hearin Leadership Program, also a rich and academically challenging program, focuses on developing leadership skills in those students who participate. It teaches students the commitment, knowledge and values that will enable them to blaze new trails in their chosen paths. Specifically, Hearin focuses on scholarship, leadership development and community service.

“Hearin has really helped me to meet new people, especially as a transfer student,” said Julesa Oglen, a junior communication major from Fayette, Ala. “This is a new environment for me and even though I was blessed to bring my friends with me from my community college it still is refreshing to be able to know other transfers.”

She added: “It helps because we are all coming from similar backgrounds and it gives you a feeling of a community because all of us are experiencing the same things.”

Jessica Harpole, coordinator of leadership and service at The W, said the Hearin Program strives to develop “better leaders by focusing on scholarship, personal development and servant leadership.” Harpole, who once was a Hearin leader herself, said “The difference in being a Hearin Scholar and directing the program is getting to see the growth in students and being able to facilitate that growth. Being a Hearin leader was a very transformational experience for me, and now I get to see that happen for others.”

She now helps guide the transformation that allows students to develop self-knowledge, self-discipline, initiative and teamwork. “We emphasize leadership skills through monthly events that highlight components of leadership,” she explained. “Hearin Leaders also participate in numerous community service projects that qualify our leaders to positively impact the workplace and the world around them.”



Oglen





Dear Alumni and Friends,

One of the perks of being Foundation chairman is that I get to sit with the Welty Gala speaker at dinner. Byron Pitts, award-winning CBS journalist, claimed the starring role that night, drawing a crowd of over 240 alums and friends of the University. We're already planning for our next Gala, your Foundation's annual fundraiser. I hope you'll join us in October 2013 for a fine dining experience, excellent fellowship and another outstanding speaker.

In November, we celebrated the grand re-opening of Poindexter Hall, home to the University's music program. What a gorgeous building! Thanks to the many people whose contributions made this renovation possible. Nora Miller '83, senior vice president for administration and CFO, spearheaded the project. Connie Sills Kossen '64, for whom the auditorium is named, and her husband Tom gave generously. Ken and Nancy Kennedy,'56 sponsored the refurbishing of a grand piano practice room named in Nancy's honor. These are just a few examples of giving to make Poindexter a shining jewel in The W's crown.

Fall semester was busy at The W. Now we look forward to an equally robust spring. Dr. Jim Borsig's inauguration as our University's 14th president is scheduled for February 15. Homecoming is set for April 19-21, 2013. Mark your calendars now for those weekends as we celebrate The Long Blue Line.

Last year, faculty and staff contributed more than \$34,000 during the annual Faculty/Staff Giving campaign, placing a strong dollar figure on their loyalty to MUW. Almost 50 percent of faculty and staff supported the MUW Foundation. This year, we're fostering a culture of giving with our current students, encouraging them to donate \$10 for a T-shirt. This campaign introduces them to the MUW Foundation and enables them to make their first gift. An educational component has also been incorporated, giving these students an important lesson in philanthropy. And they've already raised \$570! I'm very grateful for their generosity.

If you haven't made a gift to The W this year, I encourage you to support our alma mater. We have several new donor societies, described on page 35. Choose one that fits your checkbook. Honor a fellow alum. Donate to your class scholarship fund. Make a contribution of \$40 or more and become an active, voting member in MUW's Alumni Association.

Time, Talent, Treasure. Your gift makes a difference, and we thank you.

Warm regards,

Ruth Pettey Jones, Class of 1976
Chairman
MUW Foundation Board





Dear Alumni,

If you haven't been on campus lately, you are missing a real treat to the eyes! The ginkgo trees have begun shedding their bright golden leaves as winter approaches. Grass is green and the campus with its many historical buildings looks as lovely as you can imagine.

After seven years of meticulous planning and work, gone are the construction barricades around Poindexter, and the renovated building is just a magnificent structure. What a delight to hear our inspirational alum, Elizabeth Gwin, Class of 1930 give an extemporaneous speech at its re-dedication telling about her classes and experiences while a student under Miss Weenona Poindexter for whom the building is named.

President Borsig has been busy visiting various groups while sharing the good news of what's happening at The W and our plans for new growth. New faculty and staff are bringing new excitement to some old programs.

Our membership is growing! If you haven't paid your dues, please do so. All it takes is at least a \$40 contribution to the MUW Foundation to become an active, voting member. Local chapters have either begun meeting again or planning to start soon. If you have questions about your area or would like to start a chapter, Lyndsay Cumberland, interim director of Alumni Relations, is willing and ready to assist. Please either give her a call at (662) 329-7126 or email her at lcumberland@alumni.muw.edu.

Please know that your co-presidents are excited about all the good news and great leadership we are witnessing. We will be happy to help you or work with you in any way possible. We want each of you to plan to be on campus for April 19-20, 2013, so we can have a wonderful Homecoming!

Sincerely,

Elaine Logan Evans, Class of 1970
Andy Thaggard, Class of 1994
MUW Alumni Association Co-Presidents, 2012-2013



Classnotes

1970s

Patti Henson '74 had artwork displayed in the fall in Hinds Community College's Marie Hull Gallery, located on the Raymond Campus. A Jackson native, Henson is a colorist and image maker, using lino-cut prints, watercolors and silk paintings. Her art spans from printmaking, lino-cuts and fabric dying to her recent endeavors of watercolor painting and still-life arrangements. She is inspired by the everyday life around her: bugs and birds, emotions and music.

1980s

Julie Brunt Cunningham '80 was elected chancery clerk of Winston County for the 2012-2015 term.

Letitia Cannon Owens '87 received a master's of science degree in health services administration from Central Michigan University, Atlanta, Ga., campus in December 2011.

1990s

Lorri Smith '93 was ordained as a minister and was voted in as Mississippi Assistant Women's director at the Mississippi District Council. Smith is a biology teacher at Northwest Rankin High School and serves as Ladies' Minister at River of Life Assembly of God in Brandon.

Dustin Thompson '93, director of the Prosthetic Treatment Center for the Palo Alto Healthcare System, Palo Alto, Calif., has been selected as a 2013 Excellence in Government Fellow by the Partnership

Dr. Turner Retires after 28 Years

By Julessa Oglen

After teaching for 28 years at The University of Mississippi Medical Center, Dr. Helen Turner can truly say her hard work and dedication have paid off.

Turner retired from UMC in July 2012 as the first woman to serve as associate vice chancellor for academic affairs. While there, she was blessed with many opportunities to excel and impact the lives of students and patients.

Her path to success started at Mississippi University for Women, where she majored in biology and graduated in 1964. Turner credits teachers at The W who inspired her to go into the medical field. In 1971, she entered graduate school at UMC and earned her doctorate in medical microbiology in 1975. Also in 1975, she entered medical school and graduated in 1979, subsequently training in internal medicine and infectious diseases, for a total of 13 years as a trainee at UMC.

When asked how she was able to withstand the rigorous work as a graduate student, medical student, internal medicine resident and infectious diseases fellow, she replied, "With the support of my husband, determination and a strong work ethic, I was able to succeed."

She was named to "Best Doctors in the Southeast Region" and "Best Doctors in America" for several years. In 2012, she received the Distinguished Alumnus award from the School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences and a citation from the Mississippi State Medical Association for her contributions to medical education and to the practice of medicine. Turner was recognized by the Women Physicians Congress of the American Medical Association in their Physician Mentor Recognition Program in 2010.

Turner received the Alumnae Achievement Award from MUW in 2003. She has served as president-elect and president of the Mississippi State Medical Association and 10 years on the Mississippi delegation to the American Medical Association.

"The award I am proudest of is being named Alpha Omega Alpha Teacher of the Year," she said. "I was very honored to have been selected by the medical students in the honor society."

Turner has been married to her husband, Jim, for 48 years. They have one son, a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.



A conference room at The University of Mississippi Medical Center has been named in honor of Dr. Helen Turner, who is pictured with Dr. James Keaton, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.





Herrington Ministers During Olympic Games



Jones County Junior College athletic director Katie Herrington was among 15 people who represented the Jones County Baptist Association in London, England, for two weeks as part of a ministry to a youth summer camp and the Olympic Games.

“Someone backed out of going and they asked me if I would like to go,” she said. “I felt that was somewhere the Lord wanted me to go and share my love for God.”

Between 700-900 children participated in the youth summer camp.

for Public Service, a program designed to prepare Federal leaders to solve national issues by driving innovation, inspiring employees and delivering results.

Bonnie McMillan '96 was recently welcomed by the board of trustees of Singing River Health System. She is a certified family nurse practitioner.

Amy Strickland Tate '97 graduated from Vanderbilt's Leadership and Management for Accelerated Performance (LMAP) Program through the Owen School of Management. The six-month program is part of the overall talent management and succession planning strategy for TVA. Leadership and management courses are taught by nationally regarded faculty providing the latest thinking and experience from research, business and industry. Classes included organization management, finance, accounting, economics, operations and marketing and leadership strategy.

Dr. Teresa P. Stanford '99, family nurse practitioner, was announced by the Mississippi Nurses Association as Gov. Phil Bryant's appointment to the Mississippi Board of Nursing for a four-year-term effective July 1, 2012. Stanford will represent the nurse educator position. She is a hospitalist at Gilmore Memorial Regional Medical Center in Amory and was previously an assistant professor in the graduate nursing program at Mississippi University for Women. Her professional career spans 30 years as a registered nurse. She will represent the First Congressional District. She will replace Darlene Lindsey of McComb, who has served on the board for two terms.

2000s

Katy L. Pacelli '00 was named a top 5 Volunteer of the Year for the Distinguished Young Women of Mississippi Program. She was selected from nominations from all over the state.

Dr. Phillip “Flapp” Cockrell '03 joined Jackson State University as the associate vice president for Student Life/Dean of Students.

Brittany Moore '08 of Okolona is currently employed as an Education and Training specialist for the United States Air Force in Okinawa, Japan. Her main duties include education counseling for college enrollment, military tuition assistance and enlisted promotion testing.

Weddings

1990s

Anna Myers '91 and Paul Bolton, both of Columbus were married Oct. 12, 2012.

Stacey Caroline Lee '98 of Nashville, Tenn., and Brett Boyett of Evergreen, Colo., were married Sept. 29, 2012.

2000s

Annie Laura McShane '02 of Amory and Stefan Schulenberg of Taylor were married June 15, 2012.

Honey Natalie Taylor '04 and Bryon Nowell both of Louisville were married Oct. 13, 2012.

Rose Marie Goodin '05 of Millport, Ala., and Dr. Reagan Ford II of Ackerman were married June 23, 2012.

Emily Kay Carpenter '06 of Amory and Jeremy Alford of Rolling Fork were married June 16, 2012.

Nick Adams '07 of Ethel and **Chelsey Trayal '10** of Meridian were married April 21, 2012.

Courtney Lanae Adams '08 of Crystal Springs and Eric Armstrong of Florence were married Sept. 22, 2012.

Christina Patterson '08 and Richard Spann, both of Columbus, were married June 23, 2012.

Amanda Nicholas '08 of Preston and Joe Jones of Scooba were married Oct. 6, 2012.

Audrey Kimbrough '08 of Fulton and Michael Noy of Columbus were married Oct. 7, 2012.

Elizabeth Anne Kalich '09 and Christopher Tardio, both of Nashville, Tenn., were married Aug. 11, 2012.

Laura Anne White '10 of Meridian and Christopher Cox of Hattiesburg were married July 14, 2012.

Jillian Karsten Sparnecht '10 and Samuel Mars, both of Philadelphia, were married Sept. 29, 2012.

Kayla Aldridge '10 of Bentonia and D.L. Ashley III of Yazoo City were married Oct. 6, 2012.

Crystal Blair Walker '11 of Philadelphia and Joshua Walton of Meridian were married Sept. 29, 2012.

Jaren Wilburn '11 of Tupelo and Derek Earnest of Golden were married April 14, 2012.

Shantita Nicole Suber '11 and Reginald Odom II, both of Orange City, Fla., were married July 21, 2012.

Marcy Leeann Cavin '11 and Kyle Dunaway, both of Natchez, were married Aug. 18, 2012.

Paralympic Games in London

Ginny Boydston of Jackson, a 1976 MUW physical education graduate, earned a spot at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London as team leader of the U.S. Wheelchair Fencing Team. A therapeutic recreation director at Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson for more than 30 years, Boydston introduced wheelchair fencing to Mississippi in 2006. Now the hospital's Blade Rollers team is the largest wheelchair fencing squad in the nation and two of its members competed in the Paralympics, an international competition for people with physical disabilities and the second largest sporting event in the world.



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Support The W Fund and make a real difference at Mississippi University for Women. Your gift, big or small, helps deserving students. MUW students are making a BIG impact in Mississippi and all over the world, and you can be a part of it. Your gift can make a BIG difference. By making a gift to The W Fund, you support student scholarships, provide funding for critical needs at MUW, and most of all you make MUW the best campus for students to learn and grow.

Make your gift now at www.muw.edu/give

For more information contact
Brandy Williams at bwilliams@dev.muw.edu or (662) 329-7148.

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WHEMN Leadership Award

Dr. Jan Reid-Bunch '88 of Saltillo received the 2012 Women in Higher Education-Mississippi Network Leadership Award. Bunch, center, is pictured with Anna Faye Kelley-Winders, vice president at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and WHEMN President Amy Tuck, Mississippi State University vice president for campus operations.



The mission of WHEMN is to identify, develop, advance and support women in higher education in Mississippi. To that end, WHEMN is dedicated to promoting and supporting women in leadership in higher education, assisting in career development and mentoring of women in higher education, and enhancing the visibility of women administrators on Mississippi's campuses.

Reid-Bunch has worked at Itawamba Community College since 2003 where she serves as the dean of academic instruction.

She received her bachelor of music in vocal performance from MUW where she served as Miss W, was senior class president and a member of the Hall of Fame. She earned her master of music in vocal performance from the University of Mississippi and her doctorate of philosophy in community college leadership from MSU.

Brittany Elizabeth Heard '12 of Louisville, Ms. and Brady Eyer of Cincinnati, Ohio, were married July 21, 2012.

Lindsey Erin Seawright '12 of Waynesboro and Kyle Boswell of Meridian were married Aug. 11, 2012.

Krystle Elyse Wolverton '12 of Union and Ryan Monk of Lake were married Sept. 15, 2012.

Beverly Ann Hannaford '12 of New Albany and Cody Russell of Houlika were married Sept. 22, 2012.

Births

2000s

Antwaunette Jones-Taylor '07 and Everett Taylor of West Point announce the birth of a son, Jordan Alexander Taylor on Aug. 4, 2011.

Deaths

1930s

Zemuly Sanders Potts '33 of Kosciusko, June 12, 2012.

Nan McKeigney James '34 of Jackson, July 20, 2007.

Bernice Marshall Deterding '37 of Tallahassee, Fla., Dec. 3, 2011.

Mary Broadfoot Simpson '37 of Yazoo City, June 22, 2012.

Dorothy Bearden Hill '39 of Sylvania, Ga., May 30, 2011.

Mary Sanders McKee Phillips '39 of Baton Rouge, La., Oct. 7, 2012.

1940s

Evelyn Bridges LeTard '42 of Metairie, La., June 25, 2012.

Lillian Egger Brookes '43 of Hot Springs Village, Ark., Nov. 9, 2008.

Barbara Hull Green '43 of Itta Bena, July 16, 2012.

Virginia Speed Lamke '43 of Baton Rouge, La., July 19, 2012.

Otera Bennett Haggard '44 of Columbus, Aug. 17, 2012.

Ouida Purvis Still '45 of Pensacola, Fla., March 3, 2009.

Helen Miley Prince '45 of Brinkley, Ark., July 14, 2012.

Jimmie Owens Brown '46 of Knoxville, Tenn., May 18, 2012.

Virginia Burris Bonner '46 of Columbus, July 29, 2012.

Martha Hamilton Hammond '46 of Jackson, Aug. 26, 2012.

Dorothy Thompson Coats '47 of Meridian, Aug. 16, 2012.



Rosemary Holderith Evans '47 of Kenner, La., Oct. 8, 2012.

Edna Ozborn Moore '47 of Philadelphia, Oct. 19, 2012.

Erion Corn Smith '48 of Quitman, July 14, 2012.

Dorothy Clark Lott '49 of Sumrall, June 19, 2012.

Betty Pounds Crawford '49 of Jacksonville, Fla., April 15, 2012.

1950s

Lucille Fountain Hairston '50 of Silver City, July 15, 2012.

Elsie McCoy Whitt '52 of West Point, Aug. 13, 2012.

Dorothy Eloise Williams Comer '53 of Solana Beach, Calif., July 12, 2012.

Frances May Boswell Blakeney '53 of Macon Oct. 12, 2012.

Eleanor Gillis Parks '54 of New Albany, July 16, 2012.

Frances Ann Baggett Dornbusch '55 of Edinburg, Texas, June 26, 2012.

Elsie Drake Brindley '56 of Champaign, Ill., May 7, 2012.

Joyce Anderson '59 of Woodville, May 11, 2012.

1960s

Harriet Embry Walker '61 of Eupora, Oct. 7, 2012.

Toni Underwood Thompson '63 of Columbus, June 22, 2012.

Madeleine Bell McNeely '65 of Natchez, Aug. 18, 2012.

Kyra Watson Robertson '65 of Clewiston, Fla., Oct. 7, 2012.

Kay Carr Parvin '69 of Starkville, June 23, 2012.

1970s

Sue Bright Hoskins '71 of Lilburn, Ga., June 20, 2012.

Dr. Lois Perkins Hood '72 of Columbus, May 25, 2012.

Delores Kirk Mitchell '75 of Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 30, 2011.

1980s

Rachel Duncan Lawrence '83 of Caledonia, Aug. 25, 2012.

Beverly Grace Hudgins '83 of Columbus, Sept. 29, 2012.

Hulon David Clowers '85 of Columbus, Oct. 21, 2012.

Sylvia Tutor Plunk '89 of Thaxton, June 3, 2012.

1990s

Carol Tumej Morgan '99 of Pascagoula, Aug. 8, 2012.

Faculty & Staff

Alma J. Roberts of Gilbertown, Ala., Dec. 12, 2011. She was a retired faculty member of MUW.

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 the Office of Alumni & Development, Mississippi University for Women, 1100 College St., MUW-10, Columbus, MS 39701-5800.

Please circle the line that tells us what has changed - such as your name, address, etc. Use an additional sheet to tell us your news.

Name _____

Occupation _____

Class Year _____ College _____

Social Security No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail Address _____



Furniture Finds Its Way Back to Campus

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

Hand carved furniture made by Adelaide (Addie) Beatrice Hampton Furr while she was a student at The Industrial Institute & College in the late 1800s has made its way back to campus.

Venn and Carlene Long of Elizabethton, Tenn., traveled to campus this summer to donate the two antique pieces created by his grandmother. Venn's mother had them in her home before she passed away.

"I am just so fond of them. I wanted them preserved," he said. "If they went to a museum with no connection, they may have ended up in a closet."

Dr. Bridget Pieschel helped facilitate the gift, and now the furniture, a tribute to Furr's craftsmanship and eye for detail, has a new home on campus in the development and alumni office.

Furr received her industrial certificate in wood carving in 1894 from II&C, now known as Mississippi University for Women. She apprenticed two years under Sallie Catching McLaurin, mistress of industrial arts at II&C, who also served as secretary of the faculty.

Student and teacher were described as women ahead of their time.

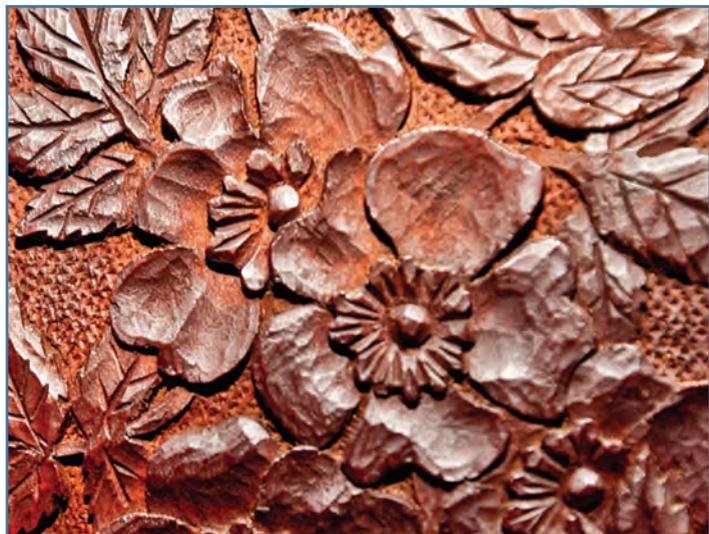
"Young women like Addie Hampton were coming to the II&C to be certified in a skilled profession, and their teachers assumed they could do anything male artisans could do. In her modern design program, Sallie McLaurin introduced her students to the latest in art and design movements. The national trend was toward arts and crafts which were both useful and beautiful, and individual to the artist. I think it is interesting that Addie chose to carve blackberries on her furniture. She wanted the pieces to reflect her Mississippi home, and I can't think of a more familiar north Mississippi sight than blackberry flowers, berries and brambles." said Pieschel, professor of English and director of the Center for Women's Research and Public Policy at Mississippi University for Women.

"Mr. Long told me that there was once a third piece, a large carved book case, but sadly, it was lost decades ago. I believe Addie must have been carving furniture for a study or library. These pieces are truly priceless treasures, and I am so grateful to the Longs for bringing them back home to us."

Furr was born in 1874 and was from Lafayette Springs, Mississippi. She married Venn A. Furr and they had two sons and one daughter. She died in 1906 at the age of 32 after being diagnosed with tuberculosis. 



Carlene and Venn Long, right, present the hand carved, century old furniture to Interim Executive Director of Alumni and Development Andrea Stevens and Dr. Bridget Smith Pieschel, director of the Center for Women's Research and Public Policy



SNAPSHOTS



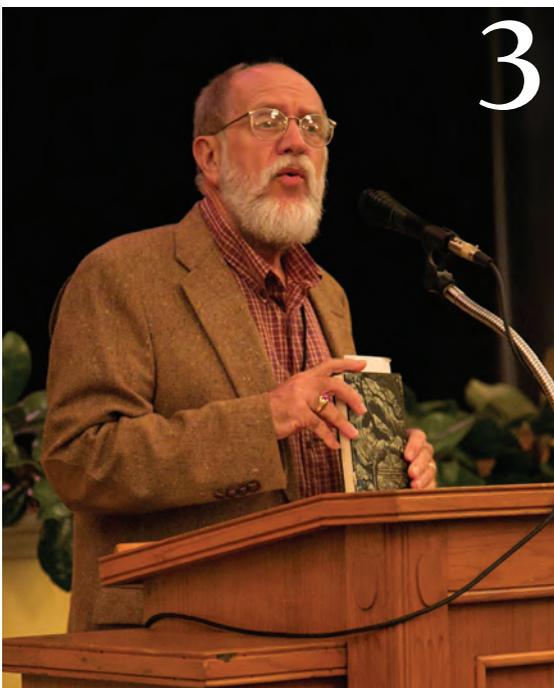
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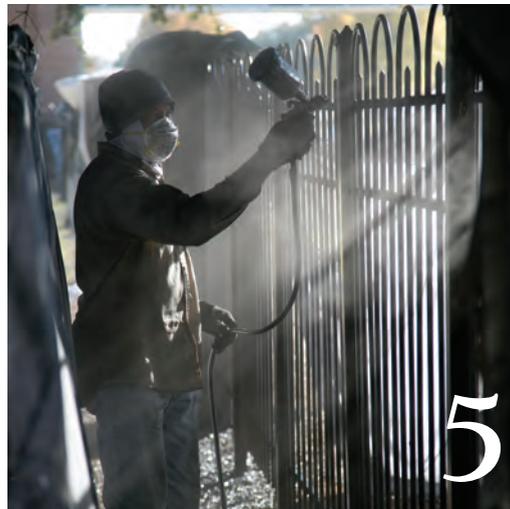
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6



7

1. 60 Minutes correspondent Byron Pitts addresses Ina E. Gordy Honors College students about his struggles in his early life. Pitts was the keynote speaker at this year's Welty Gala.

2. Once again, MUW was beautifully decorated for the holiday season. The Bryan Gazebo brightened central campus.

3. The 2012 Welty Writers' Symposium kicked off with Sonny Brewer, author of "The Widow and the Tree," a novel of a 500-year-old live oak, the ghosts that inhabit it and the widow who must live its history and decide its destiny.

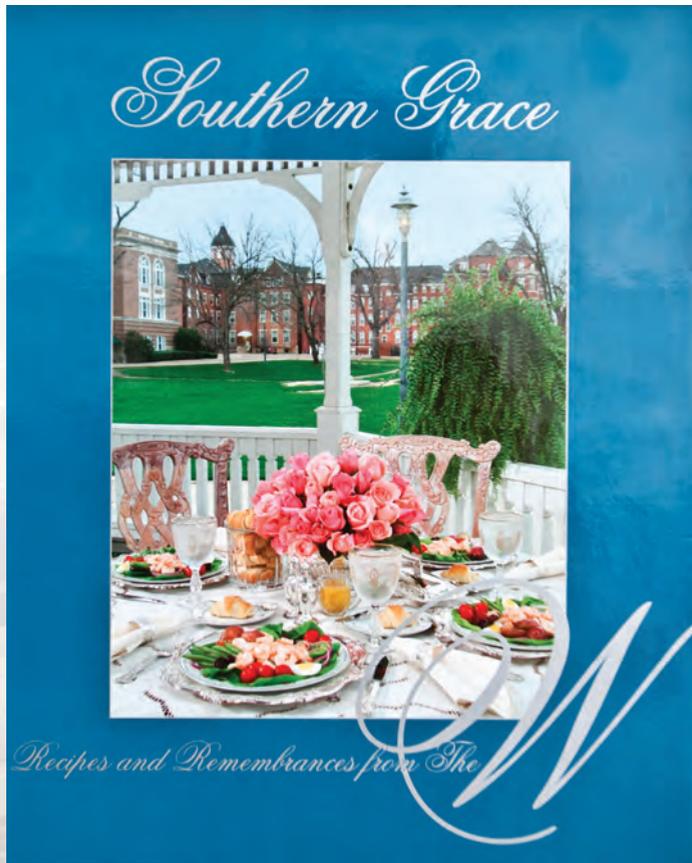
4. Subway Café opened its doors on the MUW campus on Oct. 10. It is located in the former Goose.

5. Campus perimeter fences are being painted as a part of improving the "curb appeal" of The W.

6. HIV AIDS activist Hydeia Broadbent speaks during HIV AIDS Awareness Week at MUW. Broadbent was diagnosed as HIV-positive with advancement at age 3 to AIDS. Now, at age 27, she spends time spreading the message of HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention by promoting abstinence, safe sex practices and the initiative "Knowing Your HIV/AIDS Status."

7. Dwight Lockett, superintendent of Canton Public School District, was the keynote speaker at the annual Educators are Essential event at MUW. The program was sponsored by The LINK Education Committee as part of American Education Week, Nov. 11-17. Approximately 1,000 local teachers were in attendance.

EVERYONE COULD USE A LITTLE...



Open the book *Southern Grace Recipes and Remembrances from the W*, and what spills from the pages is a treasure trove of memories, for this beautifully prepared slice of history of Mississippi University for Women combines all that is best about the South. This is a collection of lovingly prepared recipes that have beckoned many a group of family and friends to gather around the dinner table and share not only a delicious meal but also stories about those “W” days and life in the beloved South.

MUW alumni and friends submitted the approximately 200 recipes included, many having been passed down from generation to generation and so well received they have become traditional fare at social and family events. Each recipe was tested by the culinary students at the MUW Culinary Arts Institute and met the challenge of receiving a high rating before inclusion in the book. Easy to follow instructions and readily available ingredients are hallmarks of every recipe, and the variety of choices will make this the “go to” book for weeknight suppers or celebratory events.

Sprinkled with anecdotes about life at the “W” and the joy of living in the South along with a mix of photographs of the campus and prepared recipes, the casual glimpse becomes a sit-down read as one flips through the pages. Worthy of finding a home on your coffee table, this recipe collection will become a staple in your kitchen, for it offers the opportunity to effortlessly put together a menu for any occasion and create an atmosphere that will produce memories of your own. When given to mark a special occasion, the recipient will use *Southern Grace* time and time again and the first memory will be of the person who so wisely chose the perfect gift. Of course, this is the gift anyone would also want personally, so be sure it finds a place in your home as well.

The proceeds from *Southern Grace* will be used to fund student scholarships.

For more information please contact MUW Book Store at (662) 329-7409

The Official Miss Forbus' Squash Casserole

Miss Mary Cecil Forbus, the legendary “W” Director of Food Services, assures us the following is her official recipe.

8 yellow squash, sliced
1 cup chopped onion
½ teaspoon salt
Dash of pepper
1 tablespoon margarine
1 cup bread crumbs
3 eggs, beaten
¾ cup milk
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded cheese

Directions:

Combine the squash, onion, salt, pepper, margarine and a small amount of water in a saucepan. Cook until the squash is tender; drain well. Mix the cooked squash, bread crumbs, eggs and milk in a bowl. Spoon into a baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. Top with the cheese and bake for 5 to 6 minutes longer or until the cheese melts.

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

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For more information, contact:

Angela Crossley Ferraez
Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving
aferraez@dev.muw.edu
1 (877) 462-8439, ext. 7151 or 1 (662) 329-7151

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The W **OW** FACTOR

MUW by the NUMBERS

50 majors ——— 11 graduate programs ——— 4 colleges

ranked
no. **15**
Washington Monthly
Top 100 master's universities

ranked
no. **18**
U.S. News & World Report
Best Colleges (Southern Public
Regional Universities)



1st publicly chartered
college for women
in the U.S.
Co-ed since 1982

ANNUAL TOTAL
3483
HEADCOUNT
18% increase from 2008 - 2012

student-faculty ratio
14:1

NCLEX pass rate for
baccalaureate
nursing grads
97.5%

increase in
undergraduate degrees
2007 - 2012
57%

impact on local
economy
\$43m

The 'Wow' Factor has been a part of The W since its 1884 beginning, when it was founded on the radical idea that women should have the opportunity for a higher education. Today, MUW continues its historic focus on academic leadership development for women, as well as its long tradition of excellence in liberal arts and professional education for both women and men. MUW prepares our students for a wide variety of roles, both professionally and personally.

Going Above and Beyond

MUW's student team dominated the 2011 **TVA Investment Challenge** competition, earning a 14.94 percent return on its portfolio with the second place team earning only 6.8 percent. The portfolio it manages is now worth over \$500,000.

MUW's College of Education & Human Sciences and Sale Elementary were awarded the **Governor's University Partnership Award**, which recognizes the innovative partnership between two outstanding educational entities. They have partnered together for the "Kids 'N College" program which has provided unique learning experiences every semester since 2009.

For the second year in a row, MUW earned recognition on the **President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll**. MUW students, faculty and staff completed 263,000 hours of community service in 2010-2011.

The signature **Welty Series**, held annually in October to honor the university's world-renowned alumna Eudora Welty, draws noted authors, scholars and artists.

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