FALL 2014
MAGAZINE
MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY for WOMEN

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Outreach: A cornerstone of The W’s mission

Giving back. Helping out. Building up. Doing our part. Making a difference. All describe a core value of Mississippi University for Women from its earliest days until now. Being good citizens of our region and our state has always been important in the life of our university, and today, our students, faculty and staff are demonstrating that spirit in innovative and meaningful ways.

Through our collective efforts in giving back, The W has consistently been recognized on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The annual award highlights the role universities play in solving community problems and placing students on a lifelong path of civic engagement. In this issue, you’ll read about some of the many projects W students have undertaken: tasks such as sorting and organizing items for the Salvation Army to commitments such as working at a camp for children with learning disabilities. Our students have shown they’re not afraid to roll up their sleeves and do what it takes to help others.

You’ll read about the many programs sponsored by our Office of Outreach and Innovation, reaching both the university community and beyond. From a new “Passport to Wellness” project sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield to a longstanding program that offers new teaching strategies for middle school science and math instructors, this office is providing valuable resources for enriching and improving lives. It also has a significant role to play in facilitating economic and community development through programming that responds to needs identified by those it serves.

Our College of Nursing and Speech-Language Pathology not only educates its students to serve, but models that service through a variety of programs that engage faculty and students in hands-on activities in communities around the region. Whether it’s a long-term care facility or a middle school, future nurses are helping improve quality of life and health outcomes. Last year alone, the college recorded more than 124,000 service hours for faculty, students and staff.

Finally, academic outreach is also important at The W. Through a new partnership with Heritage Academy in Columbus, 35 high school seniors are earning college credit in English composition and calculus, laying a strong foundation for their college preparation. This new effort builds on a longstanding, successful dual-credit arrangement with the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, and it’s a program we hope to expand.

Stewardship to our region and state will continue to be a focus of The W as we chart our future. I’m proud of all our university is doing today, and I’m excited about the possibilities of outreach for the future. We have much to offer!

Sincerely,
Washington Monthly’s Rankings

For the third year in a row, The W has been ranked a top master’s universities by Washington Monthly’s 2014 College Rankings.

The W has moved up to No. 26 after appearing in Washington Monthly’s rankings for the first time in 2010. Different from other ranking publications, Washington Monthly asks, “What are colleges doing for the country?” “The W remains true to one of its founding principles, that access and opportunity to higher education for all of our state’s citizens remains as necessary today as it did in 1884,” said President Jim Borsig. “This ranking is an affirmation that our faculty and staff are changing students’ lives, and that our university community is improving the state and region we serve. I’m very proud of our W family and pleased they have received this recognition.”

According to the release by Washington Monthly, its new college rankings measure institutions on the following criteria: civic engagement, research and social mobility. Next year the Obama administration is expected to release its ratings of colleges and universities. It will include measures of access, affordability and outcome, similar metrics used by Washington Monthly.

“Instead of crediting colleges that reject the most applicants, Washington Monthly gives high marks to institutions that contribute to society, enroll low income students, help them graduate and don’t charge a fortune to attend.”

The W has earned consistent recognition on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for its commitment to service beyond the campus. Students, faculty and staff have completed 231,000 hours of community service as of April 2013.

For all of the listings, visit: www.washingtonmonthly.com/college_guide/2014.php.

U.S. News Rankings

Once again, The W has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top 20 public Southern regional universities.

According to rankings released in September, The W was listed 18th among the public Southern regional institutions, moving up from No. 20 last year, and is the only institution in the top 50 ranked with an in-state tuition of less than $6,000. The W also was recognized as an institution with a low amount of student debt, ranking eighth among Southern regional public universities for least debt.

The W also was named 14th among regional institutions for being veteran-friendly and fourth among the public institutions on that list.

Great Colleges to Work For

For the second year in a row, The W has been named one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to a survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

It was also the second consecutive year the university was named to the prestigious Honor Roll, reserved for a small number of colleges and universities deemed by The Chronicle as “the best of the best.” Only 10 colleges and universities in each category of large, medium-sized and small universities were so designated.

The results were announced by The Chronicle, and are based on a survey of more than 43,500 administrators, faculty members and professional support staff members who provided feedback on what makes institutions great workplaces. Only 92 institutions achieved “Great Colleges to Work For” recognition for specific best practices and policies.

Employees rated The W highly enough in the following categories for the university to be designated as a 2014 Great College to Work For and Honor Roll: Collaborative Governance; Confidence in Senior Leadership; Job Satisfaction; Professional/Career Development Programs; Respect and Appreciation; Supervisor/Department Chair Relationship; Teaching Environment (Faculty Only); Tenure Clarity and Process (Faculty Only/4-year only); Work/Life Balance.
New Music Business Class

A new music business class is being offered at The W this fall under the instruction of Dr. Valentin Mihai Bogdan, assistant professor of music.

The music business class is a course that is focused on teaching students the business side of music, the intricacies of the music industry and how to develop a career in today’s music world.

The class features three main topics of discussion. The first focuses on how an independent musician (someone who is not signed by a record label) can experience the most significant professional and financial success in today’s music industry. The second topic is recording contracts. Students discuss and analyze standard recording contracts in order to ensure that all students are aware of both the advantages and risks of signing one. Students also spend a lot of time looking at royalties which are the method by which the performing artists are paid by the record companies. The third topic centers on music publishing, which covers music in movies, television and some copyright issues.

“This is very interesting for composers and students who believe they might be interested in writing music, either for a film, television show or television commercials,” Bogdan said. All students with other majors were welcome to take the class, but were encouraged to speak to their adviser to find out more about what area of their degree this would cover. According to Bogdan, the class was geared toward students who are interested in music as a career or vocation, such as performing musicians, educators and students interested in working in the music industry (for a recording company, a music publishing company or even a studio). The class is an elective for students with a music major or minor.

“Mississippi University for Women features a vibrant, up-and-coming music department,” said Bogdan. He believes the facilities on campus in recently renovated Poindexter Hall will allow students to take full advantage of such a class. Bogdan added the campus is within driving distance of Nashville and New Orleans, which are two of the main musical hubs in the United States.

For more information about the class, email Dr. Bogdan at vmbogdan@muw.edu.

MUWAA Legacy Scholarship

Sarah Kennedy, a freshman from Rogers, Texas, comes from a long line of W graduates, including her great-great-grandmother, Fanny Evans Hollingsworth, a 1902 graduate of the former Industrial Institute and College.

Kennedy’s grandmother, Frances Hardwick Hairston, who graduated from the then-named Mississippi State College for Women in 1961 and later earned another degree from The W in 2013, said some of her favorite memories were made in Shattuck Dining Hall and walking by Poindexter Hall listening to the music coming from the open windows.

“One of my greatest treasures is all of the friends I made and the many alums I have come to know through the years,” she said, a treasure she has since passed on to her granddaughter.

Kennedy said her heart was filled with pride upon learning she was the recipient of the MUW Alumni Association’s Legacy Scholarship.

“I chose to attend MUW because I believe their standard of excellence aligns closely with my own,” she said. “This scholarship will help me carry on the tradition that women in my family have been forming for over a century.” Kennedy started her undergraduate studies at The W this fall with the goal of continuing on to medical school to become a pediatrician.

“I am confident The W will provide me with a strong foundation for my future goals,” said Kennedy.
Southern Grace Scholarship

Dustin Vance, a senior culinary arts and photography student from Bruce, is the 2014 Southern Grace Scholarship recipient.

The scholarship, endowed in 2006 by the MUW Alumni Association in part from the sales of the “Southern Grace” cookbook, is awarded each year to a promising culinary arts student. “Southern Grace” celebrated its 10-year anniversary this year, including an event at this year’s Homecoming weekend, a milestone Vance appreciates.

Financing his college education on his own through student loans and scholarships, Vance is thankful for the scholarship award. Entering into his fifth year at The W this fall, Vance said his scholarships ended in the spring.

“Receiving this scholarship ultimately helps me finish my degree and alleviates the burden of overextending my student loan debt,” Vance said. After graduation, he plans to pursue a master's degree in hopes of working in higher education.

After working in Portland, Ore., for the summer as part of a two-month internship, Vance returned for his final year at The W. While he was in Portland, he wrote about his food experiences in a blog titled “The Portland Experience,” at www.dustinvance.com/blog.

“We congratulate Dustin on being awarded the Southern Grace Scholarship,” said MUWAA President Jenny Katool of Jackson. “Dustin's coursework and internship embodies all that is 'Southern Grace,' telling his stories of food through his blog and his photography. We look forward to following his career in the culinary arts.”

Vance also is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Mortar Board and the Honors College. He said he is passionate about sustainability efforts in agriculture to support local foods and economies.

Applicants for the Southern Grace Scholarship must have junior or senior hours in the culinary arts department with an overall grade point average of 2.75 and a major GPA of 3.0. Additionally, students must submit a resume, transcripts, a brief essay and two letters of recommendation.

Contributions to the Southern Grace scholarship can be made through the MUW Foundation. For more information, visit www.muwaa.org.

Caregiver Award

Megean Grayson, a junior nursing student at The W, received second place in the Caregiver Awards presented by the Mississippi Health Care Association for her area. Grayson is from Ellisville.

Nominations for the Mississippi Health Care Association Caregiver Award are submitted by residents and/or family members. The award recognizes employees who go above and beyond the regular call of duty, substantially enhance the quality of life for residents and do unique things that are above and beyond the job.

“I feel really appreciated to receive this award. I feel incredibly honored,” said Grayson. “It makes me love working at Carrington even more. It’s my happy place.”

Grayson works at Carrington Nursing Center in Starkville. While at Carrington, Grayson performs her duties as a certified nursing assistant and enjoys the company of the patients. She described receiving the award as an incredible experience that took her by surprise. She is thankful just to be nominated.

Grayson received the award based on her qualities as a careful caregiver, anticipation of the needs of residents and encouragement displayed by her pleasant and positive attitude.

“I just try to make everyone feel better,” Grayson said when asked about her time at Carrington.

“Megean is a conscientious, enthusiastic student who becomes animated when she speaks about becoming a nurse or about her job,” commented Nan Anderson, W nursing instructor. “She lights up when she talks about how caring for the elders there makes her feel. She is always smiling. She interacts well with her peers and faculty.”

Grayson attended Jones County Junior College before transferring to The W. She is an active member of the Student Nursing Association and she continues to work at Carrington while being a full-time student in The W’s nursing program.
Co-Lin, MUW Partnership

Copiah-Lincoln Community College and MUW announced a new partnership that will allow culinary arts students to receive a bachelor’s degree from The W.

The enhanced Two Plus Two program will provide a seamless transition for Co-Lin associate degree graduates in culinary arts technology to finish their four-year degree at The W. Co-Lin President Dr. Ronnie Nettles and MUW President Dr. Jim Borsig signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) during a ceremony in Co-Lin’s Rea Auditorium on the college’s Wesson Campus.

“This agreement will provide additional opportunities for students at Copiah-Lincoln who wish to pursue four-year studies in culinary arts at The W. We look forward to providing a seamless transition to their studies with us, and we thank Dr. Nettles for his leadership in creating this partnership,” Dr. Borsig said.

Co-Lin’s Culinary Arts Technology program offered on both the Wesson and Natchez Campuses provide a solid foundation in the methods and science of cooking through exposure to classical, American, and international cuisine as well as the art of baking and pastries. Special emphasis is placed on culinary tools, equipment, techniques, and specialty ingredients. The heart of the Culinary Arts Technology program is hands-on lab instruction in a commercial kitchen.

“We are very pleased that our students will now have an opportunity to build on their associate degree from Co-Lin and continue their education at The W,” said Dr. Nettles. “We are pleased to be partners with MUW in this program. It demonstrates the commitment of both institutions to develop quality programs that focus on the success of students. The W has a strong reputation throughout the state of Mississippi for high academic standards. Dr. Borsig has made the recruitment of outstanding community college students to MUW a priority.”

Established in 1996, The W’s Culinary Arts Institute offers one of the nation’s first four-year baccalaureate degree programs in culinary arts. It is a premier national program that includes concentrations in food journalism, food art, entrepreneurship, nutrition and wellness, and Culinology.

Students entering the new program will earn a bachelor’s degree in technology and professional studies with a concentration in culinary arts. Career options include positions as executive chefs, small business owners, caterers, food stylists and food photographers, among others.

“Our goal is to provide educational opportunities that can allow students to earn stackable credentials to lead to career advancement,” said Jackie Martin, Co-Lin’s Dean of Career, Technical and Workforce Education. “We value this growing partnership with The W and also appreciate professional development opportunities it will afford our culinary arts instructors to enhance the current program. The MOA will provide scholarship opportunities specifically for our culinary arts graduates that desire to continue their education in this field at The W. The ‘Guest Chefs’ program at MUW will also be extended to Co-Lin students and faculty in which demonstrations will be given from culinary experts. It will also assist with marketing efforts and professional development funds for Co-Lin Culinary Arts instructors.”

“Traditionally, career-technical pathways end with an associate’s degree, but with this type of forward thinking it is our hope that we can seek out more valuable opportunities like this for many of the other career technical programs,” Martin added.

To learn more about Co-Lin’s Culinary Arts Technology program go to www.careertraining.colin.edu/culinary
In a national survey that measures the level of student engagement in 10 key areas, students at The W report high levels of confidence in areas ranging from academic challenge to experiences with faculty.

The National Survey for Student Engagement, released in September, assesses students’ perception of their development from their freshman to senior years, as well as overall satisfaction with the university. The W was one of 692 institutions participating in spring 2014. A total of 473,633 freshmen and senior students responded to the survey. Some 40 percent of W freshmen and 41 percent of seniors responded.

NSSE annually collects information at hundreds of four-year colleges and universities about student participation in programs and activities the institutions provide for learning and personal development. The results provide an estimate of how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from attending college, according to NSSE.

First-year students found The W to be significantly higher than those at peer institutions in indicators that included higher order learning, collaborative learning, discussions with diverse others, effective teaching practices and supportive environment.

Seniors at The W reported significantly higher development than peer institutions in eight of 10 engagement indicators, including all indicators for experiences with faculty and campus environment. In addition, The W was significantly higher in learning strategies, higher order learning, reflective and integrative learning, and discussions with diverse others.
Dr. David Brooking is leading The W’s Student Success Center, which focuses on retaining and graduating students.

The center also focuses on learning skills courses and seminars, career planning, developmental instruction, peer tutoring and other support services.

Formerly known as the Center for Academic Excellence, the name was changed to the Student Success Center to better reflect work at the center housed on the first floor of Reneau Hall.

Another change, based on recommendations from a consulting firm and work of the retention committee, was to redefine and expand job descriptions to provide appropriate services to students.

One of those positions is the director, who reports to the provost and is responsible for developing and monitoring progress on the university retention plan; coordinating retention efforts between the center, colleges and other relevant university offices; coordinating the First Year Experience program; providing faculty development around best practices in retention and advising; and more.

Brooking comes to MUW from Enterprise State Community College in Alabama, where he served as Title III director for almost five years. He has about 13 years of experience in higher education at both the university and community college level.

While at ESCC, Brooking led all aspects of the college’s retention-focused Title III Project, worked with personnel in enrollment services and academic affairs to promote retention-focused projects, worked on the redesign and implementation of new student orientation and led the development of a faculty-based advising system.

He earned a doctor of education in higher education administration from The University of Alabama and master of education in college student personnel from The University of Southern Mississippi. His undergraduate degree was in political science from Auburn University Montgomery.

The McComb native said he is excited about joining The W. “I look forward to working to increase student retention at The W. There is a lot of potential for growth in that area, and there is a lot I can do to help make an impact,” he said. “I am spending my time making contacts on campus. I want to hear from people on campus who know what areas are doing well and areas that need improving. They already know the lay of the land.”

The Student Success Center now has a career specialist, formerly housed in Student Affairs. The career specialist will focus on advising undeclared students and guide them toward a career path.

Other positions at the center include a retention specialist, a student success specialist and an additional staff member, who will be responsible for testing services and special projects.

Another addition is navigators for each college. They report to the deans, but will have dual responsibilities with the college and the Student Success Center.

Dr. Kate Brown, director of Outreach and Innovation at The W, said, “The navigators are a great addition to the colleges. They provide support to students as they navigate from admission to their programs through completion of their degree. Connecting with students is a central role, and the navigators help guide students to the many resources that are available to them.”

Ultimately, Brown said the goal is to make a university education more accessible to those who want it.

Brooking added, “We are really focused on student readiness--keeping them here and helping them graduate.”
The American Prize in Piano

Dr. Julia Mortyakova, chair of the Department of Music at MUW, was honored with a Special Judges’ Citation by The American Prize in piano for “Championing the music of Cecile Chaminade.”

An international piano competition, the event names finalists for The American Prize who receive professional adjudication and regional, national and international recognition based on their recorded performances. In addition to written evaluations from judges, winners and runners-up are profiled on The American Prize website, where links will lead to winners’ websites.

“I discovered the music of Cecile Chaminade as a doctoral student writing a research paper and fell in love with it. It has become an important part of my performance repertoire. I also promote the music of other women composers,” said Mortyakova.

Originally from Moscow, Russia, Mortyakova has given solo recitals throughout the United States as well as in Italy, Russia and Ukraine. She has appeared as a soloist with orchestras and as a featured performer in music festivals including: Assisi Performing Arts (Italy), Musica Nueva Malaga (Spain), Zhytomyr’s Musical Spring (Ukraine) and Natchez Festival of Music.

This year she will make soloist appearances throughout the country, including with the Assisi Festival Orchestra (Italy), the Starkville/MSU Symphony Orchestra and the Tennessee State University Symphony Orchestra. Mortyakova will be one of the featured artists of the Clayton Piano Festival in Clayton, N.C.

She was the 2012 winner of the Sigma Alpha Iota Career Performance Grant and performed at the 2012 SAI National Convention in Atlanta. In 2013, Mortyakova had solo recitals throughout the southeastern United States, as well as in Italy.

Mortyakova is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy, Vanderbilt University, New York University, and the University of Miami.

Anderson Dean of Arts & Sciences

A veteran faculty member and department chair is the dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at The W.

Dr. Brian Anderson, who was professor of political science and chair of the Department of History, Political Science and Geography, assumed his new duties in July. He succeeds Dr. Thomas Richardson, now interim provost and vice president for academic affairs.

“Dr. Anderson brings outstanding academic and administrative credentials and a record of distinguished scholarship and teaching to his new role,” said President Jim Borsig. “He is eminently qualified to provide leadership for the seven departments that make up the college.”

A faculty member since 1998, Anderson holds a bachelor’s degree in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia, and master’s and doctoral degrees, both in political science, from Pennsylvania State University. He has been department chair since 2009.

At The W, he has been recognized as the Faculty Member of the Year, as well as The W faculty honoree for the state’s annual Higher Education Appreciation Day, Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE). He also has been The W’s Humanities Faculty Member of the Year, an annual honor presented by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Anderson has published articles or chapters in Ashgate Research Companion to U.S. Foreign Policy, and Interest Group Politics, among others. He has a forthcoming article in PS: Political Science and Politics. In addition, he has served as a conference panelist for topics ranging from homeland and international security to undergraduate student research.

The college he leads, in addition to his current department, includes art and design; communication; languages, literature and philosophy; music; science and mathematics; and theatre.
Professor’s Artwork Accepted

Emeritus professor Thomas Nawrocki may be retired, but he has remained active entering his artwork into various competitions.

His mixed media print, “Zig Zag Zig 80,” was accepted into the 41st Annual Bi-State Art Competition at the Meridian Museum of Art.

One hundred and sixty four entries were submitted with 63 works from 50 artists selected to make up the show. Kim Bernadas of New Orleans was the juror for this year’s exhibition.

“This talented group of artists brings us journey through explosive color, strong line and delicious compositions that leave you begging for more,” she said. “Meridian Museum of Art presents a Bi-State Competition that will move you to understand what true art is about.”

Nawrocki also has prints accepted in the 75th American Color Print Society Exhibition at the Plastic Club in Philadelphia, Pa., and Miniatures and More National Art Competition at the Albuquerque Museum in Albuquerque, N.M.

Cantrell Dean of Students

Following a national search, Sirena Cantrell of Caledonia was named dean of students at The W.

As dean of students, Cantrell reports to the vice president for student affairs. She leads the offices of dean of students, international student services, housing and residence life, campus recreation and student conduct. She also serves as Title IX coordinator of the university’s Behavioral Intervention Team.

Cantrell said, “I am very excited to serve the campus community in the role of dean of students. This position will allow me the opportunity to work with recruitment and retention efforts on campus in order to enhance the overall W student experience.”

Since September 2013, Cantrell served as interim dean of students in addition to serving as director of housing and residence life for five years. In these roles, she led a team of 66 professional and student staff members in the areas of housing and residence life, counseling services and campus recreation.

Dr. Jennifer Miles, vice president for student affairs and professor of educational leadership, said, “Sirena has contributed a great deal to The W and to the division of student affairs in her work as director of housing and residence life. We know that she is going to bring that same energy, dedication and professionalism to the position of dean of students.”
Ward Co-Authors Book

Dr. James D. Ward, professor of political science at MUW, has co-authored a book titled “Institutional Racism, Organizations and Public Policy,” which was released by Peter Lang Publishing, New York, N.Y., this summer.

Co-written by Dr. Mario A. Rivera, professor of public administration at the University of New Mexico, the book focuses on giving individuals information needed to identify structural and institutional racism in the organizations they are in.

Ward describes institutional racism as “a self-perpetuating and opaque process where, either intentionally or unintentionally, barriers and procedures which disadvantage ethnic minority groups are supported and maintained…”

“Too often, organizational leaders become comfortable and blameless in accepting organizational customs, traditions and processes which were put in place for homogenous work settings,” he explained. “However, these same organizational norms too often impede the recruitment and promotion of racial and ethnic minorities and allow unintentional racism to flourish. Upon identifying elements of institutional racism, organizational leaders who resist change and continue to promote the status quo become guilty of intentional racism.”

Ward said after his book proposal was accepted by the publishing company, he invited Dr. Rivera to join him. The two worked together at the University of New Mexico.

“My purpose was to broaden the book’s approach to the understanding of institutional racism from the perspective of a highly accomplished Latino-American scholar,” Ward said.

Research for the book, both quantitative and qualitative, consisted of personal interviews, as well as case studies and attitudinal surveys of public officials, civic leaders and nonprofit managers. Established research and content analysis of media coverage related to institutional racism was also used.

“It is my hope that readers will find the book useful in identifying elements of structural and institutional racism within their own organizations and thus prompt leaders to take a decisive course of action to eliminate it,” he said.

Dr. Ward has authored more than 30 academic journal articles and book chapters on various topics of public policy and public administration. He also is the author of the novel “Fuhrer’s Heart: An American Story,” which takes place on a university campus and addresses issues of racial justice and social equality.

Mississippi Author Award

Michael Farris Smith, associate professor of English at The W, was awarded the 2014 Mississippi Author Award for fiction by the Mississippi Library Association.

Smith was recognized his for novel “Rivers,” which made its debut with Simon & Schuster in September of 2013.

“It’s so nice to be recognized from your own home. All the recognitions for ‘Rivers’ have been wonderful, but it’s a little sweeter when it comes from Mississippi.

“The response to my work has been both flattering and humbling. I am always hoping to write stories that have an impact on the reader, and I hope I’ve done that, and will keep doing it,” he said.

Widely praised by critics, “Rivers” imagines a world of never-ending hurricanes that have devastated the Mississippi Gulf Coast, causing the government to abandon everything below a line 90 miles north of the battered region.

Smith, along with other recipients in nonfiction and children’s literature, was honored at the Mississippi Library Association’s annual conference in Vicksburg.

For more information about Smith and his work, see www.michaelfarrissmith.com.
Jerry Gravat has gray hair, but he holds on to a dream he has cherished since he was much younger. Now 43 and enrolled in The W’s associate of science in nursing program, Gravat says “I’ve known since I was 18 that I wanted to be a nurse.” He saw his mom battle cancer, and Gravat said he felt a calling to seek his lifelong goal. “Taking care of people is in my heart.”

He commutes from Houston, nearly 60 miles away, to make his dream a reality. Committed to his academic preparation, he also maintains a commitment to put service into action. That’s why you’ll often find him at Trinity Place in Columbus, a residential community for senior adults. While he checks blood pressure and overall well-being, he jokes with residents and gets to know them. “I love being able to talk to the residents,” he says. “They have a lot more life experience than I do. It’s not all about the medical need. It’s also about the daily interaction and conversation.”

As a student, Gravat reflects an equally strong commitment within the College of Nursing and Speech-Language Pathology to serve communities and the region, said Dr. Karen Nabors, associate professor in the associate of science in nursing program.

“Our students annually are part of a health fair at Trinity, usually spending about five hours with the residents,” she explained. “We cover topics such as safety, blood pressure, relaxation techniques to improve sleep, and the risks and benefits of alternative therapies.”

Residents love the interaction, she says. “We suggest ways to take care of any health deficits, but an important part of our being there is the socialization. It’s all about adding to quality of life.”

ASN students also annually participate in a health fair at Franklin Academy, a magnet school in Columbus. “We usually see about 400 students,” Nabors said. Topics include nutrition, safety, hygiene, dental care, and exercise, she said. “We usually do this in the spring, and our efforts are all about reinforcing health and wellness, which is a mission of Franklin Academy.”

Another ASN student group has for three years provided a health fair at Traceway Retirement Community in Tupelo. “It’s a voluntary program for the residents, with about 48 of our students participating,” explained Mary Helen Ruffin, instructor in the ASN program.

Typically held in the fall, the fair includes student-led stations that provide blood pressure screenings, as well as education on hypertension. Students also provide information on preventing falls, vaccinations, exercise management, and the importance of hydration, Ruffin said. “We teach residents how they can exercise using items around the home, and we provide resistance bands they can use,” Ruffin said. “Perhaps the biggest surprise to participants are some of the at-home risks. We talk about area rugs, electrical outlets, and nonstick mats in the bathtub, as examples.”

Ruffin said ASN students also have worked with Monroe County Schools in providing a pediatric clinic for middle school students. In collaboration with Monroe County, W students provided information on sun safety, MRSA (an antibiotic-resistant staph bacteria), the hidden dangers of energy drinks, and other topics. Students also have worked with Access Family Health Services in Smithville to provide glucose testing, blood pressure screenings, and vision tests to approximately 500 school-age youth.

Bachelor of Science in nursing students also are active in community projects that involve all ages around the region. For the past two years, they collaborated with Pontotoc County United Way and numerous other county stakeholders during its annual backpack project.
“United Way fills approximately 550 backpacks for K-6 grade students, and we participate by offering training on a variety of topics,” explained Tammie McCoy, chair of the BSN program. Approximately 50 members of the BSN junior class and faculty were on hand when more than 1,500 students, parents and educators arrived to collect and help distribute the backpacks.

“We provided training on topics that included fire safety, nutrition, dental hygiene and proper medication dosing, among others,” McCoy said. The Mississippi Forestry Commission supported the educational efforts by providing kerchiefs with health activities illustrated on them. “The kids and ‘adult’ kids alike enjoyed the kerchiefs,” she said.

This fall, BSN students will be collecting age-appropriate books and personal items for youngsters at Louisville’s Diamond Grove, a long-term residential treatment center for children and adolescents. “Students not only are helping residents but also are gaining valuable clinical experience,” McCoy said.

Additionally, students will be part of the health fair at North Pontotoc Attendance Center, a BSN project for nearly a decade. “We help check blood pressure along with height and weight as well as provide information about diet, handwashing and dental health for almost 1,000 students,” McCoy explained.

Tupelo RN to BSN nursing students, under the leadership of emerita faculty Dr. Linda Cox, last summer collected about $2,500 to support Operation Back to School in Alcorn County. Their resources helped provide non-perishable food, clothing, and school supplies for students returning to the classroom.

These activities, part of the more than 124,000 service hours recorded by the college last year, illustrate the regional stewardship the faculty pride themselves on. Student Jerry Gravat sums it up in his own experience.

“I’ve learned many lessons at Trinity Place,” he said. “Developing the skills of interaction and encountering new situations are skills that will benefit my nursing career.”

But just as important to him are other intangibles he gains from the experience. “I love being able to say something to brighten someone’s day. Showing compassion and letting the residents know I love them even though I don’t know them is important. This is the greatest lesson I’ve learned.”

Communication specialist Tyler Wheat contributed to this story.
Many high school seniors have their sights set on the end of their final year: graduation, parties and a summer of fun between finishing their last exam and beginning their next academic undertaking.

But a group of Heritage Academy seniors in Columbus have their sights set much farther ahead. They’re actually enrolled in college-level classes earning credit through Mississippi University for Women. Thanks to a partnership established just this year, 35 students are enrolled in dual-credit English composition classes through The W and 12 are enrolled in Calculus I. It’s the first such dual-credit articulation agreement with The W, said Headmaster Greg Carlyle.

“It started with a conversation with Dr. Sue Jolly Smith of education, and we went from there,” he recalled. “We worked with Dr. Marty Hatton and Dr. Thomas Richardson to develop a memorandum of understanding, which was signed by President Brosig and Heritage Aug. 1, and we’re offering this option to our students who qualify.”

Dual-credit and dual-enrollment programs follow Mississippi Department of Education guidelines, explained Dr. Richardson, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. Students are able to earn both high school and college credit and get a leg up on their college requirements. “We’ve offered these courses for many years to students at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, and we’re in the process of renewing our collaboration with Columbus High School,” he explained.

Headmaster Carlyle called the arrangement a “win-win.” “It’s a great opportunity for college credit that also gives students a meaningful challenge,” he said. One advantage, he noted, is that the courses are incorporated into students’ regular school days, allowing them to pursue their extracurricular interests. “It’s the best of both worlds for our students.” In fact, Carlyle would like to see the academic options expanded.

Ms. Brenda Polk, who teaches the English composition I class, said it meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Heritage, and students pursue their normal senior studies the remaining two days of the week. A former community college English instructor, Polk was certified to teach as a W adjunct and developed an approved syllabus for the semester’s work.

“The composition class requires a lot of higher order thinking skills,” she explained. “Students are learning to think for themselves.”

Her students agree. Nick Ellis, who has already set his sights on a particular university, said his dual-credit work is giving him material to write a college entrance essay. “For
the descriptive essay assignment, I chose a prompt that I'll be using when I write an essay to apply to Vanderbilt,” he said. His essay described a moment that helped change his life—a narrative that required reflection as well as descriptive writing. In another assignment that asked him to recall an experience, he described a family beach trip that helped his family grow closer together.

This kind of writing, said student Kat Kerby, helps students “step out of our normal boundaries. Most of the writing we’ve done until now is informative; now, we’re discussing our lives. We can’t write like we did last year if we’re writing for college.”

This is exactly the experience that both Heritage and The W intended for the dual-credit program. Students are pushed to stretch their abilities, writing approximately eight to 10 college-level essays. The classes require more preparation, more thought and a deeper challenge.

With this kind of experience, Ellis said, he feels confident that he’s prepared for the next step. “Heritage is a challenging school,” he said. “I know I can meet college and university challenges now.”

Students in Dr. Agnes Carino’s Calculus I class also are meeting university challenges. Twelve Heritage Academy students are enrolled in the class taught on The W campus, and “I don’t treat them any differently,” she said.

“The high school students are doing as well as the college students,” she added. “They like to ask questions, which is a good thing, and they’ll often email me to clarify.” She has had to make some minor adjustments. The Heritage students, for instance, don’t have access to Blackboard, an online resource The W uses to post class materials, videos, and other resources. But the adjustments are minor, and a math software the class uses is helping all of the students.

Lauren Pole, one of the Heritage students enrolled in Calculus I, is getting a head start on her goal of becoming a doctor. “I really like math,” she said. “This class is definitely challenging. It’s different from everything I’ve done until now.” But she feels confident enough in her abilities that she’s planning to take Calculus II, also on The W campus.

For both Polk and Carino, the experience of teaching college-level courses to high school students is proving rewarding. Both enjoy seeing the students expand their abilities and grow.

And Heritage students, for their part, are responding enthusiastically. There was so much interest in the English composition class that Polk said she teaches two sections of the course. Next semester she’ll also teach English composition II. “This is a big advantage for the students,” she said. “I’m ecstatic that this worked out.”
Since 2010, Mississippi University for Women has been recognized on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll on three occasions. Community service at The W provides an opportunity for students to develop into leaders, not just leaders in our community, but leaders across the region and the United States.

“New York, New York, is everything they say and no place that I’d rather be,” sang the 80’s pop-rock band Huey Lewis & The News. The same holds true today for W student Christina Russell, a junior majoring in culinary arts, who has spent the last two summers in a New York kitchen.

Her journey to New York first started when she saw a sign. Literally, a sign on a campus elevator that advertised a position in New York, and New York was all Russell needed to see. After a few phone calls and an interview, she was on her way to Camp Ramapo for Children.

Located in Rinebeck, N.Y., Camp Ramapo is a residential camp that serves children ages 6 to 16 who are affected by social, emotional or learning challenges, including children affected by autism spectrum disorder.

Having never been to New York, Russell was excited about the opportunity. During her first summer, she spent her time divided between working with children and working in the kitchen. When she returned in 2014, she would exercise her culinary muscles for the entire summer.

“I got to meet people from all around the world, people from the United States, Ukraine, Poland and Mexico. It was really hard work, but it was a great experience,” said Russell.

Russell’s time at Ramapo would bring many first time events. Camping, canoeing, roasting marshmallows and a high ropes course were all a new adventure for her. She even struggled being, as she would describe, “cut off” from the outside world. Despite the challenges, relationships and memories were made.

“When I worked with the kids, they wanted to be around you. When they had to option to leave you, they didn’t want to. It’s nice to know that these kids, who come from a difficult background, do trust you,” stated Russell.

Russell’s experience, both in the classroom and on campus, really prepared her to be successful in the kitchen. Whether it was from knowing the kitchen, food sanitation or proper nutrition, Russell felt she was more than capable of serving Camp Ramapo.

Georgia has always been known for being on Ray Charles’ mind, but the past spring it was on the mind of another student, Jonathan Adams.

For alternative break this past spring, Adams led a group of students to the Atlanta, Ga., area. To serve the communities, students spent the weekend up-keeping and cleaning local graveyards. Adams helped plan this event and coordinated with the different nonprofit organizations in the Atlanta area to manage the group’s projects.

Adams, a nursing student from Saucier, has always had a desire to go into the medical field. He knew that his first step was to attend a great nursing school. After visiting other colleges and universities, Adams came to campus to interview for The W Leadership Program. That day, he realized that he wanted to be a part of The W community.
He served as intern in the community service office for Student Life in the spring of 2014. As part of being an intern, he planned and organized alternative break and community service projects both on campus and across the South. For alternative breaks, students travel for a selected weekend to do community service projects.

Adams really favors the trip to Georgia, but not because of its impact on the community. It was the impact on his fellow students. He describes the trip as a time where students really took the opportunity to shine.

“You take 45 individuals you don’t know and you see the dedication that everyone has. You see the mentality of The W in these individuals,” he said.

Adams has made the most of his time at The W. Knowing that the demands of nursing school would be in his future, he dedicated his early years of college to community service. He has served as a member of The W’s Student Planning Board, Student Alumni Association, Residential Life Student Staff and tutored in anatomy and physiology. Since starting nursing school this past summer, Adams has decided to focus his time with the Student Nursing Association.

Being involved with various community projects, Adams has gained a sense of self-awareness and awareness of the surrounding communities.

“It has become a real eye-opener. We served 700 kids in one day,” Adams said at a recent backpack event sponsored by the nursing school. The event was hosted to help the members of the Pontotoc area. A total of 550 backpacks was distributed.

Adams credits his experience with outreach and the community with giving him a drive and passion for nursing school.

“The only way to get through nursing school is to have a drive. That drive can’t be self-centered,” Adams stated, “Just knowing that there is a purpose for you, that helps a lot.”

Already applying knowledge from nursing school, Adams has been inspired to continue his community involvement.

“One thing we have been learning is that nursing is going to community health,” stated Adams.

His goal, once he completes his education, is to create an organization in a metropolitan area to raise awareness of hygiene and help with social economic needs. Hygiene is important for infection control Adams pointed out.

Getting involved on campus and the community is easy and messy at times. Student projects have ranged from planting bulbs on campus, working in the kitchen and helping out at the local Palmer Home Thrift Store.

Adams believes that working at the local soup kitchen has made a meaningful impact on the local community. While at Loaves and Fishes, students worked to clean both the kitchen and the whole building.

“This made a great impact. You could see how grateful the people felt,” he said.

When asked about volunteering on campus, the community or in another state, both Adams and Russell expressed how easy it is to get involved.

“Have the courage. Just ask,” said Adams. “There is always a way for you to get involved.”

Likewise, when asked about getting involved Russell encouraged everyone by saying, “Go for it.”

“Going for it” allows students to live out the mission of The W. With more than 200,000 hours of community service completed annually at The W, students are able to learn about themselves and give back to their communities.

To see upcoming community service opportunities sponsored by the Office of Community Service, visit muw.edu/service.
A Community Effort

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

Chances are if you live in Columbus, Lowndes County or one of the surrounding cities, your life has been impacted by one of the many programs run by the Office of Outreach and Innovation on the campus of Mississippi University for Women.

Teacher development, environmental education, professional learning, wellness education, leadership training, life enrichment classes and summer camps…the Office of Outreach and Innovation offers these services and so much more.

Goals of the program are to support economic and social advancement of the community, develop and implement innovative programs and support professional growth, according to its Director Dr. Kate Brown.

“The Outreach and Innovation team is made up of committed, innovative people who are passionate about creating change and engaging in meaningful works,” she said.

Worthwhile service is what the Office of Outreach and Innovation is all about.
Life Enrichment Program

On this particular evening in Room 121 of the Education and Human Sciences Building, Theresa Riddick is having a conversation with her students. They discuss a variety of subjects ranging from food to the weather. There’s just one thing about this conversation that is different; they are mostly using their hands and a lot of facial expressions.

“Seventy-five percent of this language is facial,” said Riddick, who taught Sign Language 101 on campus during the Life Enrichment Program’s fall term. “Signing without facial expression is equivalent to and parallel with someone writing a paragraph without using any punctuation.

“Imagine signing you won the $50,000 lottery looking sad,” Riddick said, adding “Unless of course you were trying to win it also.”

A native of Brooklyn, she lives in Starkville and is a certified licensed sign language interpreter, providing interpreting services to any deaf student in the West Point School District. The Howard graduate started doing sign language in her church in Washington, D.C., as a ministry.

Upon her family moving to Starkville, they joined Peter’s Rock Church of God In Christ, where her pastor embraced the start of a deaf ministry. The ministry has grown with interpreting services being provided on Sundays and Wednesdays for as many as eight deaf people.

As the result of her work with the church, the ministry became more noticeable in the community with requests for her services.

“An increasing number of calls for this service is what prompted me to pursue a degree and have a license in sign language,” she said. “An interpreter should have credentials
that make them accountable to state officials, to the public
they are servicing and to the deaf community who deserve
confidentiality, professionalism and even protection from
interpreter error.”

Riddick is one of the many volunteers who teaches LEP
classes at The W. Interested individuals are able to take up to
five classes for only $35. What they gain is invaluable.

Yvonne (Joy) Mast, a 24-year-old from Brooksville, is one
of Riddick’s students. Mast, who was home schooled, also was
born deaf.

Typically, she reads people’s lips when she communicates
with them in-person. “I face the person so I can see the
lips and facial expression and body language so I can more
completely understand what is being said.”

When Mast is not reading lips, she communicates as most
people her age would—via texts and emails. As a child she
learned a little sign language, but decided to take Riddick’s
class after learning a few basics from a friend.

“Now, I am learning more and I like it,” she said. “It’s fun
and interesting.”

Mast said one of the most challenging parts of the class was
the pace.

“I learn slowly, not always understanding what was being
said so it was hard for me to stay caught up with what was
being taught,” she said. “I really appreciate the teacher taking
time to make sure I could read her lips as much as possible.”

Riddick said Joy was “amazing” in the class, describing her as
“oral.”

“She reads lips skillfully. While teaching, I had to remember
to turn directly toward Joy so that she could read my lips,”

Riddick added. “I had a group of students who were very
passionate about learning sign language. They were absorbent,
quick learners. I enjoyed every moment working with them.”

Mast said, “I am thankful that MUW offered this class and
that a friend invited me to attend. I really enjoy learning
more signs. I only knew a few and am glad for the chance to
learn more.”

According to Brown, the Office of Outreach and
Innovation excels at developing innovative new programs and
models, piloting those programs and when possible, bringing
them to scale.

“This team of people collaborate with each other,
departments across campus and community groups to identify
problems, develop solutions, secure funding and implement
strategic activities,” she said.

One of those partnerships is made possible with
professionals in the community who volunteer to teach courses
each semester. They are experts in their fields who have a
passion for teaching and learning.

“I really appreciate the teacher
taking time to make sure I could
read her lips as much as possible.”

-Joy Mast
CHAMPS for Teachers

“The Lucy Show” is in full effect this week. Games including Operation Scramble, hula hoops and even characters such as Katniss, a fictional character in “The Hunger Games,” are brought out as part of McKellar’s instruction to rev up her colleagues during an intensive, two-week seminar.

The approximately 50 teachers were on The W’s campus participating in the Creating High Achievements in Mathematics and Problem Solving (CHAMPS) program this summer. The goal of the program is to give teachers fun, hands-on lessons and activities that will promote critical thinking and problem-solving in their math classrooms.

McKellar, who teaches seventh grade at Fifth Street Junior High in West Point, was one of the three full-time instructors leading the sessions.

“I try to teach them (teachers) lessons that will be easy to implement, fun for the students and gives the students a deeper understanding of the concepts.” she said. “Students learn more when they are engaged and having fun.”
McKellar and Melvin Morgan, teacher at Shannon Middle School, act out math concepts and symbols in a game of McKellar Says, a take on Simon Says.

What she terms as the “The Lucy Show” may involve tossing basketballs into hula hoops and jumping rope to emulate a mini Olympic competition. Students conduct a series of similar activities to collect data. This data is then analyzed and charted.

Another activity may involve stations being set up where the teachers become students, rotating from station-to-station, completing tasks that later would be used for their students in the classroom.

“How am I going to talk with you?” she asked the teachers. “Both hands must go up.”

A few of the teachers prepare for a game of Shut The Box. McKellar uses math games throughout the stations to encourage the students to think strategically, while having fun.

“This game is easy to play, but hard to win. There is a strategy to use, but do not tell your students the strategy, let them figure it out,” McKellar said.

McKellar said these activities are done with her students two to three days before nine-week exams. “This is a good review,” she explained to the teachers. “The questions attached to each station are the types of questions they see on their nine-weeks exam and the end of year assessment.”

It was about 10 years ago that McKellar participated in one of the first CHAMPS seminars offered at The W as a teacher participant. McKellar and Lauren Zarandona, who teaches at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, both were recruited by Debbie Fancher to serve as CHAMPS instructors. Fancher, who has almost 40 years of experience in K-12 classrooms, is a consultant, an adjunct at The W and also taught at MSMS.

“I got my teaching style through CHAMPS,” she said. She describes that style as high energy, innovative and student-centered.

McKellar wants the teachers to walk away from the seminar excited about teaching. “Through a Facebook group, the teachers and I stay in touch all year, conversing about lessons and sharing ideas.”
Passport to Wellness

When 31-year-old Amanda Shelton heard the “c” word in the doctor’s office, her mind began racing, jumping to the worst conclusion.

“I was in tears. I heard cancer. I started planning my funeral,” she said. Thanks to early treatment, Shelton’s skin cancers, both melanoma and carcinoma, were caught at very early stages.

That may have not been the case if Shelton had not attended the Passport to Wellness program titled Healthy Skin: Prevent, Protect, Perfect at The W this summer. Her purpose for attending the program: to make sure she was wearing the appropriate SPF on her body.

Before she left the program, she had the speaker Dr. Bethany Hairston, a board certified dermatologist, take a look at a spot on the side of her leg. Hairston suggested Shelton set up an appointment with The Dermatology Clinic to take a closer look.

Shelton kept putting the appointment off with every intention of getting to it eventually. In the meantime, she received a gift card for a massage to The Vitality Clinic, which is connected with The Dermatology Clinic. A few weeks later, Shelton finally made it to the clinic for her massage. During that session, the massage therapist noticed the same spot on her leg and went over to the clinic to set up an appointment for later that week.

A biopsy was ordered. Shelton was relieved to learn that the cancer had not spread to her lymph nodes. A week later, Shelton was at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson having outpatient surgery—a procedure that lasted about two hours.

Today, the guidance counselor at Heritage Academy and former W admissions counselor, is cancer free. She continues to have checkups on a routine basis.

Her advice to others, “If you see something out of the ordinary, you definitely want to get it checked out.”

Of course she is grateful for the advice she received at the Passport to Wellness program, as well as the gift card. “I am very thankful The W had that program to raise my awareness.”

Whether it is a leadership program for college women or assistance with facilitating a conference, the Office of Outreach and Innovation has the perfect program for you. Details of those programs can be found at www.muw.edu/outreach. For additional information, please call (662) 241-6101 or email outreach@muw.edu.

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“I am very thankful The W had that
program to raise my awareness.”
-Amanda Shelton
On May 31, 1965, Miss Emma Ody Pohl, secretary of the MSCW Foundation, signed the charter of incorporation to be filed with the state of Mississippi for the legal creation of the Foundation with the goal of providing Mississippi University for Women support and encouragement to enhance and enrich The W.

The Foundation’s volunteer Board of Directors has helped lead the way to endowments reaching millions of dollars and unrestricted scholarships, accomplishments that may have been unimaginable by Miss Emma Ody Pohl. The Foundation lived up to its name in the late 80s by providing just what its name implies. During a time that was characterized by the threat of closure and lack of state support, the Foundation created the Tomorrow Fund that would bring together individuals, businesses and industries of Columbus to exceed its own goals to support The W, with the rally cry of “There must be a tomorrow for Mississippi University for Women.”

But perhaps the greatest accomplishment of the Foundation has been its impact on individuals. Often, these milestones are measured not by the names that linger in W history, but with names never known to others.

Meet Lauren Clark from Little Rock, Ark. A Google search is what brought Clark to The W. More specifically googling “top ten nursing schools in the south.” Seeing the high NCLEX passing rate of The W, Clark scheduled a campus tour and visited a few days later. The next week she brought her parents to visit campus. The next week she moved onto campus.

“This was one decision my parents let me make on my own. They could see that I was happy,” said Clark.

Shortly after being on campus, life turned upside down for Clark. Lauren’s father was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Due to his battle with cancer, he would have to leave his job to fight for his health and his family. With her father’s illness, the realization of out-of-state tuition and being away from her family, Clark began to look for answers.

Clark started reaching out to everyone she knew from her short time on campus. She found answers in the Foundation. The Little Rock Alumni Chapter invited Clark to attend an event that was being hosted in her home town, and they asked if she would speak to The W alumni. After returning to campus, little did Clark know that she would be awarded a foundation scholarship.

Soon after, Clark would be asked to speak again about The W, this time at a scholarship luncheon to donors of scholarship endowments. Clark was unaware that her heart-filled thank you would make it to YouTube. One week later, a friend of The W who resides in Florida, would contact Andrea Stevens, executive director for the Office of Development & Alumni Relations, to make a donation to the Foundation after being impacted by the words of Clark. During the luncheon, Clark would meet Carolyn Kimbrough, class of 1963 president. That day they would build a friendship that is continually strengthened by phone conversations.
“These scholarships mean I can go to school and not have to worry about debt,” Clark stated. “Before I was stressed!”

Since then, Clark has been accepted into The W’s ASN program and will continue on with the RN-BSN bridge program. Her plans do not stop there. Her ultimate goal is to complete a master’s degree in nursing and return to Arkansas to work for the state hospital.

Clark also has been working with the Foundation’s Telefund since this past spring; she thoroughly enjoys making the calls and connecting with alumni. Recently she talked with an alum who was celebrating her 96th birthday. The stories, connections and bonds are what she truly finds inspiring from the Long Blue Line.

“To hear how much they love The W is awesome. They have so much advice. They have so much to say and know a lot about the campus,” Clark said. “They had fun.”

Clark is just one of the many who has been blessed by The W’s alumni and family over the past 50 years.

“Supporting student opportunities through private giving to the MUW Foundation is beneficial for our donors, our students and our university as a whole. We speak with many alumni who tell us the Foundation scholarships they received made a college education possible, allowing them to give back to The W,” said Stevens.

Stevens sums up the anniversary by saying, “The 50th year of the Foundation is significant not only because of the milestones we have reached, but the opportunities that are now present. We are allowed to not only look back at what we have accomplished, but to look forward to what we will achieve.”

Starting with the original $1,000 in gifts by Miss Emma Ody Pohl and Mrs. Pratt Thomas, the Foundation has a lot to celebrate in its 50 years. The Foundation has provided an avenue for alumni and friends of The W to pay it forward. The legacy of the Foundation will not be measured just in dollar signs, but by the students who proudly say, “I graduated from The W.”

Dr. Jim Borsig, W president, said, “For 50 years, the Foundation has provided support, enabling a level of excellence that can’t be achieved by state appropriations and tuition alone. The lives of countless students have benefited from the generosity of donors to the Foundation. We are thankful for our alumni, faculty, students and friends who give to The W.”

Above is the growth of the Foundation endowment. The first 2 gifts of $1,000 each were given by Miss Emma Ody Pohl and Mrs. Pratt Thomas.

Chairmen of the MUW Foundation
Board of Directors

Charles Hogarth*, 1965-1969
Geraldine Rousseau Dean*, 1969-1971
Martha Allen*, 1971-1976
Hyacinth McCormick Hayman*, 1976-1982
Doyce Hancock Deas, 1982-1988
Jan Lee Arnold*, 1988-1993
Adelaide Williams Fletcher, 1993-1996
Carolyn Smithson Ritter, 1996-1999
Andrea Godwin Overby, 1999-2002
Connie Sills Kossen, 2002-2006
Edward Betcher, 2006-2010
Jo Anne Arnold Reid, 2010-2012
Ruth Pettey Jones 2012-present

* deceased

Source: MUW Foundation
Instead of thinking about the days to follow after graduation Saturday, Aug. 2, Savannah Tubbs was thinking about the one way she could improve the lives of other students before she left campus.

The Friday afternoon before she was set to walk across the stage of Rent Auditorium in Whitfield Hall, the then 23-year-old made her way to Welty Hall to establish the S.C. Tubbs Scholarship to benefit others students entering Mississippi University for Women’s master’s of science in global commerce program.

“I felt like it was fitting, given I was the first student admitted into The W’s master of science in global commerce program,” she said. “I wanted to give back to the program that is now a part of who I am and will shape my future for the rest of my life.”

Tubbs said the MUW Office of Development & Alumni Relations made the process worry free. “Literally, I walked into the office and wrote a check. It was very easy.”

Andrea Stevens, executive director for the Office of Development & Alumni Relations, said, “On behalf of the MUW Foundation, we are very appreciative of Savannah’s generosity in supporting our scholarship program. Receiving such a meaningful gift from a student just hours before her graduation is a testament to the caliber of our students and alumni. Savannah’s decision to give back to her alma mater prior to graduation is truly inspiring.”

The Pascagoula native started at The W in 2010 to obtain her general business degree. Three years later, she was enrolled in the university’s online global commerce program, where she focused on the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, an area close to her heart because her fiancé’s father is from that area.

“Attending The W for my bachelor’s degree allowed me to get to know my professors and helped to establish a familiarity that would allow me to work comfortably with the faculty in launching this program,” Tubbs said.

Throughout the program she received support from graduate faculty members. “Everyone on the faculty recognizes the importance of communication, and their dedication to the success of the program was evident.”

She added, “With this degree and the knowledge that I gained from this entire process, as well as my capacity for cultural empathy and adaptation, I am prepared to be successful in the international business sector,” she said.

Tubbs currently works at a bank on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. As a student at The W, she was the recipient of the Haas Outdoors/Mossy Oak Outstanding Student in Global Commerce and served as president of the university’s TVA Investment Club. She also worked as a community adviser and in the Office of Admissions.

Individuals who are interested in establishing a scholarship, should call the Office Development & Alumni Relations at (662) 329-7148.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Celebrations are always fun, and our continued fete of the Foundation’s 50th year is no exception. Imagine – 50 years of hope provided through scholarships, excellence in education and the continued greatness of our alma mater. Your MUW Foundation has a long legacy of sustaining The W as a university of distinction.

There is much we can look to with pride during the last year. The Foundation saw an increase in the number of overall donors, as well as a 13 percent increase in the number of donors to The W Fund. These included 219 new donors. Among W faculty and staff, there was a 42 percent participation rate in giving and there was a robust interest from students in a student giving campaign. Everyone is a part of the 50th anniversary celebration; and everyone—no matter how small the contribution—can help strengthen our university.

As loyal daughters and sons of MUW, you are the driving force behind our financial success. I applaud the 1,900 donors who contributed a whopping $3.6 million dollars last fiscal year. These gifts enabled the Foundation to provide $1.9 million dollars in university support. The endowment at year end was $45 million—a first for The W.

Scholarships. Faculty awards. Campus maintenance. There are so many worthwhile uses for our contributions. In honor of the Foundation’s 50th anniversary, won’t you consider a gift of $50 toward continued excellence?

With our new online giving community, it is now easier than ever to support our alma mater. I invite you to join today at http://longblueline.muw.edu and do whatever you are able to ensure The Long Blue Line remains strong.

For 50 years, our Foundation’s purpose has been to solicit, invest, manage, administer and recognize private gifts supporting the educational research and service mission of Mississippi University for Women. Let’s keep the party going!

Warm regards,

Ruth Pettey Jones, Class of 1976
Chairman
MUW Foundation Board
Dear Alumni and Friends,

The last few months have been buzzing with activity for the Alumni Association. We awarded the Legacy Scholarship to Sarah Kennedy, the Southern Grace Scholarship to Dustin Vance and the Culinary Arts Advisory Board Scholarship to Callie Hampton. All three are outstanding students and possess the characteristics necessary to be leaders in their respective fields. It will be exciting to see what the future holds for each of them. I hope in some small way our Association contributed to their success. We also hosted a luncheon to welcome new faculty members to The W. It was well received and plans are to continue this in the coming years.

Our Board has been working diligently to define goals and expand our contributions to the overall success of our beloved W. Our focus over the coming months is to:

- Increase active participation and financial support among the members of the Alumni Association. There are more than 50 chapters and constituency groups to connect alums to The W. For a minimum $40 contribution—which can be designated to the fund of your choice—you can become an active member. To join, simply go to longblueline.muw.edu/give and contribute. All alumni are encouraged to attend an Alumni Development Workshop that will take place on campus, Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015. Alumni will have the opportunity to hear University, Foundation and Alumni staff share information on ways to get involved.

- Planning The Long Blue Line Silent Auction. This popular Homecoming event funds the Legacy Scholarship and Faculty Grants. W memorabilia, alumni and staff created items, chapter baskets and vacation get-a-aways are some of the items up for bid. Contributions of items are needed, as well as high bids! To contribute, contact Katherine Shell Benson at longbluelineauction2015@gmail.com. Make plans to attend and don't miss this opportunity for some great deals!

- Increase the sales of “Southern Grace.” Proceeds are used to fund the Southern Grace Scholarship and the Culinary Arts Advisory Board Scholarship. You can purchase this award-winning cookbook at the campus bookstore, The Bookend, online at http://muw.bncollege.com or by calling (662) 329-7409. Be sure and stock up for holiday gift-giving.

As 2014 draws to a close, I can't stop thinking about spring…and Homecoming! It's my favorite weekend of the year, and it's not too soon to start making plans to attend. On the weekend of March 26-29, 2015, you can turn back the hands of time to when you were a student and connect with your classmates, friends, students and faculty. Come home to campus so you can experience The W of today. Information on how to register will be in the mail before the holidays. Re-connect, be inspired—come home to The W!

With Heartfelt Thanks,

Jenny Katool, Class of 1978
President
MUW Alumni Association
Ask Mississippi artist Wyatt Waters how he paints, and his likely answer will be “the hard way.” He doesn’t paint from photographs. He doesn’t believe in using rulers for architectural subjects. He paints using a wooden easel of his own design and construction. And he paints in the moment.

“I believe in real experience,” he said. “I paint whatever speaks to me, and I like having the subject in front of me.”

A graduate of Mississippi College, Waters has earned many accolades for the unique and recognizable style that is his trademark, among them the 2010 Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts for his lifetime achievement.

His most recent project has been at The W, where his cousin once attended and where he said one of his influences was Charles Ambrose, longtime head of The W’s art department and a noted watercolor artist. The MUW Foundation commissioned Waters to paint a landmark image of campus, and he chose the Callaway clock tower.

Both the architectural features and the historical significance of the campus icon interested Waters. “Historically, this is where you’d look to tell time,” he noted. “We didn’t have wristwatches and iPhones; we looked up at the tower.”

He sketched and painted the image in two separate visits to Columbus, finding some challenges in the undertaking. “A good painting is a problem you have to solve,” he said. In the case of the clock tower, which he describes as “architecturally beautiful,” he had to discover how best to treat the vertical elements of the subject. “When I do a painting I try to let the subject tell me how to approach it,” he explained.

The light becomes important and is a characteristic of his work. “There’s a mottling of light and dark patterns—this is most typical of my work.” Unlike traditional watercolor artists, he paints the dark and mid-tones first. Using transparent watercolor, he allows the light to bleed through. The more water he adds, the more light infuses the painting. “It’s intuitive in knowing how much water to add,” he said.

While the architectural elements have to be accurately represented, the foliage surrounding the tower could be more fluid, Waters said. “I saw it as I wanted it in my mind’s eye and integrated it with the architecture.” Because he likes to include “real people” in his paintings, he painted cars in front of the building—an amalgam of vehicles that came and went while he painted.

He works the hard way, but the results transcend the problem with which he began. Looking at the finished clock tower, he said, “I feel good about this.”

A limited edition of 500 prints is available from the MUW Foundation. For more information, call (662) 329-7148.

Clock Tower: En Plein Air

by Maridith Walker Geuder
CLASS NOTES

Atlanta Picnic

DC Picnic

GTR Social

New York Picnic
Jackson Metro Send Off

Lowndes Send Off

Gulf Coast Send Off
W alumna’s first book focuses on parenting and humor

Mississippi University for Women alumna Annie Oeth of West Point is a new author of a parenting/humor book titled “Because I Said So: Life in the Mom Zone.”

Her book looks at life, love, parenting and Oeth’s childhood memories. In “Because I Said So: Life in the Mom Zone,” Oeth suggests that family is the center of her life, and she enjoys watching the lives of her children unfold.

“There is a mixture of laughter and tears in there—just like in life,” she said.

Oeth has written for magazines including Today’s Christian Woman and for newspapers such as The Commercial Appeal in Memphis and The Commercial Dispatch in Columbus. Currently, she writes about fun and family for The Clarion-Ledger in Jackson and in her blog, The Mom Zone.

“I was a journalism major at MUW and am still a working journalist and I credit that to the start I got from The W. Being a small campus, there are so many opportunities for leadership there, and it was very empowering for me,” Oeth said, crediting one of her faculty members—the late Bill Sorrels, who was the Harriet Stark Gibbons Distinguished Professor of Journalism Chair while she was a student.

“He was one of the best mentors I ever had, teaching me how to be strong and persistent while remembering to laugh and enjoy life.”

Oeth is a mother of four—James, 26, a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and an assistant manager at First Heritage Credit in Ridgeland; John, 23, a doctoral student in music at the University of Arizona and a graduate of Mississippi State University and the University of Memphis; Michael, 16, a high school sophomore; and Lauren, 13, an eighth-grader.

“Because I Said So: Life in The Mom Zone” is available online at Amazon, Barnesandnoble.com, Booksamillion.com, Smashwords and Lemuria.com.

Class Notes

1980s

Lisa Cox Hall, ’82 a longtime administrator with the Lauderdale County School District, has been named superintendent of the Philadelphia Public School District.

1990s

Dr. Selena Nawrocki ’93, professor of interior design/art at Valdosta State University in Georgia, received Best of Show award at the Dimensions 50th anniversary, National Juried Art Exhibition in Winston-Salem, N.C. The exhibition at the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts consisted of 52 pieces selected by juror Jean W. McLaughlin, director of the Penland School of Crafts. Nawrocki’s award-winning work, “Plane Aero Square,” features a series of curving and angled staircases in a surreal, reflective environment.

Lorri Smith ’95 was elected to serve as General Presbyter of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, representing the women of the Gulf Region for 2014-2015. She is the Mississippi A/G Asst. Women’s Director and serves as Ladies’ Minister at River of Life A/G in Brandon. She also teaches Health Science Academy at Northwest Rankin High School.

Shondolyn Young Richardson, ’99 achieved National Board Certification. She earned certification in the area of literacy: reading-language arts/early and middle childhood.

2000s

Jonathan D. Hagood ’01 of Saltillo has been named a partner with the accounting firm of Franks, Franks, Jarrell & Wilemon, PA.

Candy Grant ’06 of Columbus released her debut children’s picture book “The Pigs Did It!” in May 2014. She will release more picture books this year with some up and coming illustrators. Candy is a certified teacher, holding endorsements in English, Spanish, social studies and health education. She received a bachelor of arts in English, with a minor in Spanish, and a master of science in health education from MUW. She
also is a breast cancer survivor. When she is not writing children’s books, she likes to read picture books from other authors. She also likes to crochet baby blankets and Afghans to give as gifts to family and friends.

Carrie Pennington Mastley ‘08 of Caledonia graduated from Mississippi State University in May with a master of arts in English literature. While attending MSU, Mastley worked as a graduate assistant in the English department and her duties included teaching various composition classes, tutoring, completing research and contributing to a composition textbook. She graduated with a 4.0 grade point average, and is working as an English lecturer at MSU this fall.

2010s

Christian Allison, ’13 has been hired as Golden Living’s first nurse practitioner in Amory. She started in April in the position to provide in-house medical care. Allison has worked as a nurse at Baptist Memorial Hospital–Memphis and in long-term acute care in Tishomingo County. She received her nursing specialist degree as a family nurse practitioner in August 2013 from MUW.

Angela Tanner ’10 of York, Ala., and Chad Bryan of Scooba were married May 17, 2014.

Jana Johnson ’11 of Morton and Justin Hewitt of Monticello were married July 26, 2014.

Genean Bland ’12 and Michael Banks of Vicksburg were married July 5, 2014.

Emily McPhail ’12 and James Taylor of Oxford were married May 31, 2014.

Layla Smith ’12 of Hatley and Ben Kennedy of Amory were married May 31, 2014.

Laura Wilemon ’12 of Aberdeen and James Nabors III of Kosciusko were married June 21, 2014.

Kelli Holloway ’13 and Thomas Honnoll of Hamilton were married on May 17, 2014.

Kelsey Smith ’14 of Baldwyn and Trey Schubert of Barton were married June 7, 2014.

Weddings

2000s

Lesley Norwood ’06 and Ross Davis of New Orleans were married April 4, 2014.

Rebekah Strickland ’06 of Fulton and James Carsten II of Tupelo were married May 18, 2014.

Kimberly Lancaster ’07 of Houston and Andrew Reynolds of New Augusta were married June 14, 2014.

Carmen Green ’08 of Columbus and Kyle Kelly of Starkville were married July 13, 2013.

2010s

Megan Swanson ’10 of Bruce and Jon Hardin of Vardaman were married May 17, 2014.

Carmen Green Kelly ’08 and Kyle Kelly of Starkville announce the birth of their daughter, Katelyn Elizabeth Kelly, on Nov. 10, 2013.

Jade Lucas Bennett ’07 and Jim Bennett of Nashville, Tenn., announce the birth of their daughter, Adelaide Isabella Bennett, on June 5, 2014.

Nick Adams ’07 and Chelsey Adams ’10 of Columbus announce the birth of their daughter, Ramona Plum Adams, on July 28, 2014.

Jonathan Cumberland ’09 and Lyndsay Cumberland ’07 of Columbus announce the birth of their daughter Oliva Grace Cumberland, on August 7, 2014.

Births

2000s

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Deaths

1930s

Margaret Ward Faris ‘34 of Columbus, Aug. 11, 2014.
Mary Wagstaff Tomlinson ’36 of Nashville, Tenn., April 24, 2014.
Margaret Hobbs Smith ’38 of Canton, June 14, 2014.

1940s

Minnie Harvill Bardwell ’41 of McComb, July 8, 2014.
Charlotte Cloud Mertz ’41 of Pascagoula, Nov. 26, 2013.
Jane Burrous Gable ’42 of Marietta, Ga., Sept. 21, 2013.
Martha Clark Smith ’42 of Louise, Feb. 3, 2014.
Mildred Oliver Williams ’42 of Greenwood, July 7, 2014.
Celeste Swoope Williams ’44 of Columbus, June 20, 2014.
Dorothy Cobb Chance ’45 of Canton, March 12, 2012.
Sara Moak Godwin ’45 of Athens, Ga., June 2, 2014.
Frances Graves Shelburne ’45 of Laurel, April 8, 2014.

1950s

Ruby Shewmake Henry ’52 of Carriere, April 12, 2014.
Betty Davis Huntley ’52 of Knoxville, Tenn., June 28, 2014.
Anita Mize Polk ’52 of Terry, April 24, 2011.
Betty Irvin Windham ’52 of Conroe, Texas, April 27, 2014.
Frances Burnette Ayers ’54 of Columbus, June 24, 2014.
Eleanor Anne Drake ’54 of Jackson, May 12, 2014.
Mary (Kim) Alexander Farley ’54 of Burnet, Texas, July 24, 2014.
Helen Maute Evans ’55 of Columbus, July 6, 2014.
Dorothy Murray Terry ’55 of Madison, April 28, 2014.
Helen Dornbusch Beard ’59 of Ridgeland, April 6, 2014.

1960s

Glenda Murphree Criddle ’62 of Verona, April 26, 2014.
W loses longtime supporter Elizabeth Gwin

Mississippi University for Women lost its oldest living alumna and a strong supporter in Elizabeth Gwin of Starkville, class of 1930. She passed away Aug. 12, 2014.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Gwin stayed in close contact with her alma mater, serving as an Alumni Association Board member, including a tenure as president in 1988-89, as well as a Foundation Board member. For her many contributions to The W, she was awarded the university’s Medal of Excellence. As recently as 2012, on the occasion of rededicating Poindexter Hall, Mrs. Gwin spoke eloquently of her studies in the “Temple of Music,” without benefit of prepared comments. She was 103 at the time.

In her senior year, as recorded in the book “Golden Days,” the Meh Lady yearbook described the graduating Spanish major as someone with “good common sense, a clear mind and excellent judgment.” She lived her life that way, working as a fashion model in New York City, and, on her return to Mississippi as director of the Girl Scouts for 20 years. For her volunteer efforts over her lifetime, she was recognized in 2003 as a Blue Cross Blue Shield Ageless Hero.

President Jim Borsig said Gwin was a personality that engaged all who knew her. “Our entire university community feels the loss of one of the proudest and most beloved members of The Long Blue Line. Elizabeth Gwin was an elegant and eloquent representative of her alma mater, a role model to countless young people, and cherished not only by The W, but by all who knew her. She had a keen memory, a quick wit, and a presence that commanded respect. When Mrs. Gwin spoke, we listened. She enriched our lives, and she will be keenly missed.”

Rebecca Griffin Porter ’63 of Columbus, Aug. 4, 2014.
Sylvia Ferrell Webber ’64 of Jackson, April 17, 2014.
Peggy Southern Hawkins ’65 of Columbus, July 25, 2014.
Kathy Jo Hutcherson Trippe ’68 of Marks, July 13, 2014.
Harriett Montgomery Teasler ’69 of Algoma, April 29, 2014.

1970s

Debra Lindley Daniel ’73 of Flora, July 8, 2014.
Grace Robinson Floyd ’77 of Houston, April 17, 2014.

1980s

Lori Camp Kesler ’85 of Columbus, April 27, 2014.
Marilyn Hathcock ’88 of Smithville, July 22, 2014.

2000s


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:

Office of Alumni Relations & Development
Mississippi University for Women
1100 College St., MUW-10
Columbus, MS 39701-5800
or e-mail to developmentandalumni@muw.edu

www.muw.edu
1. Members of the President’s Cabinet serve a late night breakfast to students as they are welcomed back to school during Blues Week.

2. Dr. Lorraine Gaddis, assistant professor of graduate nursing, presents a diploma to her daughter Allison Taylor during the August commencement ceremony.

4. Students from Nepal enjoy a game of Cricket in the new green space behind Kincannon Hall.

5. Tim Parrish, author of “Fear and What Follows,” delivered the keynote speech at the 26th Annual Eudora Welty Writers’ Symposium in October.

6. Marion McEwen ’76 participates in MUW Campus Recreation’s charity fitness event in September.

7. Former Demonstration School principal Alma Turner ’81 fights back tears as her portrait is unveiled at a reception honoring her many years of service in education.
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Gifts to the MUW Foundation provide exceptional opportunities for learning and growth at The W. Your gifts are vital resources that help us continue the tradition of excellence for which The W is known. Thank you for changing lives by transforming students’ dreams into realities with your generosity.

Andrea Nester Stevens, CPA
Executive Director
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Mrs. Louie K. Tolbert
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Mrs. Janet H. Tomlinson
Mrs. Darlene S. Tomsk
Mrs. Rebecca P. Tousley
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FY 2014

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Mrs. Vicki L. Williams
Mrs. Martha J. Williamson
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Mrs. Carolyn Metcalfe Williford
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Ms. Desiree B. Wilson
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Ms. Kyle W. Witherington
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Ms. Shannon S. Wyggul
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Ms. Amy P. Wood
Mrs. Olivia K. Wood
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Mrs. Helen S. Woods
Mrs. Kathryn B. Woodson
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Dr. Anne Wright
W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.
Dr. Ginny Wright
Mrs. Nita K. Wyman
Mrs. Gwendolyn C. Yanber
Mrs. Cathy Young
Mrs. Emily B. Young
Mrs. Irma R. Young
Mrs. Tina W. Younger
Mrs. Kristin B. Zapien
Mrs. Mary Clare L. Zelenka
Anonymous (8)
### MUW FOUNDATION

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The 1884 Loyalty Giving Societies honors and thanks those who have given generously throughout the years. Membership is based on a donor’s cumulative lifetime contributions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Callaway Society - ($1,000,000.00+)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptist Memorial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital Golden Triangle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. John E. Brenneman               *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Ina E. Gordy                     *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Ann Coleman Peyton               *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<th>Whitfield Society - ($500,000.00 + )</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbus Warehouse, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drs. Connie and Tom Kossen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Corinne McCullough</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Ruth R. Smith Estate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Marie Charlotte Stark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy and Bill Yates</td>
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<th>Orr Society - ($100,000.00 +)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anonymous (3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Louise R. Barnes Estate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Agnes Ridley Bell*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Cross Blue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shield of Mississippi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Christine Brand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Henry Brevard, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Catherine W. Bryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary C. Bryan Estate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Eda Burlack</td>
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<td>Mrs. Jean B. Butler</td>
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<td>C Spire Foundation</td>
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<td>C. A. and A. M. H. Ferrill Trust*</td>
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<td>Cadence Bank</td>
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<td>Dr. Lillian E. Cannon</td>
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<td>Miss Aubrey Carlisle</td>
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<td>Miss Catherine A. Carruth</td>
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<td>Mrs. Beno Cates</td>
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<td>Mrs. Abbie B. Collins</td>
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<td>Mrs. Elizabeth G. Daniel</td>
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<td>Deerbrook Charitable Trust</td>
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<td>Mrs. Grace B. Dirlam</td>
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<td>Mrs. Clara G. Dupree</td>
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<td>Entergy Mississippi</td>
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<td>Exxon Education Foundation</td>
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<td>Miss Sallie J. Farrell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Ora Louise Howard Estate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth and Birney Imes</td>
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<td>Mrs. Nancy M. Imes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Aileen Janney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Alice G. Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Charitable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Rose S. Kelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Maxine E. Kussy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colonel Carl J. Lamberth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jane Loomis</td>
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<td>Mrs. Virginia M. Marble</td>
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<td>Mrs. Margaret R. Million</td>
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<td>Dr. Shirley Graves Modell</td>
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<td>Mrs. Merle B. Montjoy</td>
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<td>Ms. Ann J. Moore</td>
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<td>Dr. Emma S. Moss Estate</td>
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<td>Nissan North America</td>
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<td>North Mississippi Medical Center</td>
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<th>Northrop Grumman Foundation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Virginia Ollivier</td>
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<td>Mrs. Mary Parker Estate</td>
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<td>Mrs. Frances G. Patterson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Corinne W. Pierce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Hazel E. Pierson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Emily J. Pointer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Whitfield Price</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Martha B. Rice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Ritter, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanderson Farms Incorporated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary B. Steadham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Eugenia Summer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Edith R. Thomas</td>
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| Mrs. June Walcott                 |
| Mrs. Frances Wolfe                |

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<th>Shattuck Society - ($50,000.00 + )</th>
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<tr>
<td>Anonymous (6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Mary L. Epps Estate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Jessie G. Farber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Carole M. Ferguson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Juanita Hight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Virginia Segrest Hughson</td>
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<td>Mrs. Odizelle P. Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson Electric</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Claudia A. Limbert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen McDevitt Estate</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUW Lowndes County Alumni Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Lynne Faulkner Nelson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oktibbeha County Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea and Charles Overby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Mary Ellen Pope</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Emma Rogers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sodexo Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Margaret E. Swain</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Phil Hardin Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Frances Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leslie and William J. Threadgill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Marian Tisdale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. C. O. Waters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Eudora Welty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Needham Whitfield</td>
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</tbody>
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*deceased
Thank you for supporting The W Fund!

The MUW Foundation is celebrating its 50th year of supporting The W. Join the Celebration today by making a gift to The W Fund!

give.muw.edu

Contact Brandy Williams at bmwilliams@muw.edu

Chapter Development Workshop

Are you looking to start an alumni chapter in your area? Are you a part of a chapter that wants to increase its activity? Then plan to join us for the MUW Alumni Association Chapter Development Workshop on January 24th.

- We host sessions on chapter basics, social media, hosting a fundraising event and send off party.
- Hear from campus leadership including President Borsig.
- Attend the MUW Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting
- Network with other chapter members and leaders
- Lunch will be provided

For more information, contact the Office of Development & Alumni Relations ldcumberland@muw.edu or visit longblueline.muw.edu

Mark Your Calendars!

A first-ever Alumni Travel Abroad opportunity is coming in June.

We’ll visit Scotland and England, experiencing first-hand the culture, history and beauty of the British Isles.

Detailed information will be forthcoming. Stay tuned!
Please Mark Your Calendars for the 
2015 Long Blue Line Silent Auction 
All Proceeds Benefit The MUWAA Faculty Enhancement Grants, 
Legacy Scholarship and New Faculty Award

This year we are pleased to bring you two separate 
Long Blue Line Auction Events!

UNABLE TO ATTEND HOMECOMING?

Exclusive Online Auction Event
March 1st - March 23rd
Online Bidding Site:
www.biddingowl/MUWAA2015

We are requesting help from MUW Alumni & Friends to make the Long Blue Line Silent Auction a success by partnering with us as a Silent Auction Donor or Table Sponsor.

Vintage W memorabilia, alumni art & services, other awesome auction items greatly appreciated. 
All Donations & Sponsorships are Tax Deductible.

Please contact longbluelineauction2015@gmail.com for more information.
TUSCAN BEAN SOUP

8 oz cannellini beans, soaked
2 tbs olive oil
1/2 tsp chili powder
1 large red onion, chopped
3 carrots, sliced
1 rib celery, chopped
1 bunch parsley, chopped
3 garlic cloves, minced
3/4 cup dry red wine
2 large tomatoes, peeled & chopped
2 cups chicken broth
4 oz fresh spinach, rinsed & stems removed
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Place the beans in a large saucepan and add enough cool water to cover. Bring to a boil and cook for 30 minutes. Drain and discard the cooking liquid. Mash 1/3 of the beans in a bowl with a fork.

Heat olive oil and chili powder in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion, carrots, celery and parsley. Saute until the carrots are tender. Add the garlic and saute for 2 minutes. Increase the heat and add the wine. Cook until most of the liquid evaporates. Reduce the heat. Add the mashed beans, remaining beans, tomatoes and chicken broth to the saucepan. Simmer for 45 minutes. Spread the spinach on top of the soup and season with salt and pepper.

Yield: 6 to 8 servings
Could making a bequest to support The W be for you?

Hundreds of alumni and friends have chosen to make a simple but meaningful bequest to provide a legacy of support for the educational opportunities we offer our students.

You may make a bequest to the MUW Foundation for a set dollar amount, a percentage or fraction of your estate, or the remainder of your estate. You may give cash, personal property, real estate, securities, insurance policies, or retirement plan assets. You also may choose to create a trust providing income to someone for his or her life with the remainder of the trust designated to go to the MUW Foundation upon the death of the income beneficiary.

Those who make a bequest are automatically granted membership in the Reneau Society recognizing those who have made thoughtful gifts for the future.

Remembering the MUW Foundation in your estate planning today helps secure an even brighter tomorrow for The W.

For more information on bequest options, please contact Angela Ferraez, Director of Major Gifts and Special Events
MUW Office of Development & Alumni
1100 College Street MUW-1618
Columbus, MS 39701
(662) 329-7151  acferraez@muw.edu

Wise-up about capital gains tax!

It is often more tax-wise to contribute appreciated stock instead of cash. Gifts of securities generally offer a double savings:

- The donor avoids paying any capital gains tax on the increased value of the stock. To avoid capital gains taxes, you must donate the actual securities and not the proceeds of their sale.

- The donor receives an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift if the asset has been owned for at least 12 months.

For more information on gifts of stock, please contact Angela Ferraez, Director of Major Gifts and Special Events
MUW Office of Development & Alumni
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Columbus, MS 39701
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