

SPRING 2014

VISIONS

For Alumni & Friends of The W

STUDENTS
in the **KITCHEN**



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



Homecoming 2014

March 27 - 30

Don't miss out on this unforgettable weekend!
Meet up with dear friends and join us for fun events and make new memories!



BLACKLIST 100th ANNIVERSARY

Come and watch the oldest W Social club march through campus ending with a reception open to everyone!



STUDENT & ALUMNI KARAOKE

Bringing it to campus this year! Come on out and participate in singing, dancing and glowing with all of your W friends!



CONVOCATION

Open to all alumni, students and friends to watch the classes' march, presentation of awards, singing of MUW songs and a special student panel you will not want to miss!

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An all alumni cast for a reading of *'Love, Loss and What I Wore'* by Nora Ephron & Delia Ephron. Based on the book by Ilene Beckerman.

Love, Loss,
and
What I Wore

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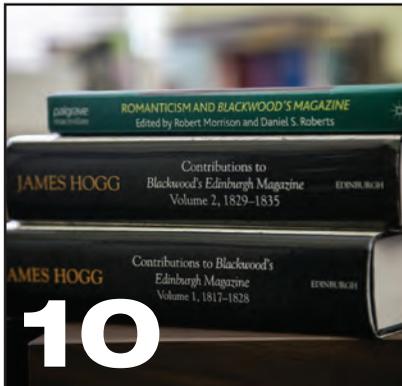


VISIONS

SPRING 2014
MAGAZINE

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY for WOMEN

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Mississippi University
for Women

A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear W family and friends:

As we move increasingly toward a global economy, our students are being immersed in cultural and economic concepts that prepare them for careers in a rapidly expanding world. The College of Business and Professional Studies is taking an innovative approach to how it prepares students,

introducing last summer a completely online master's program in global commerce. Through it, students get exposure to a wide variety of subjects, including international law, cross-cultural management, global marketing, software solutions, telecommunications and a variety of others. The first class of students is now enrolled, and you'll read some of their stories in this issue of Visions.

The Culinary Arts Institute, also a part of the College of Business and Professional Studies, continues to expand its statewide presence and the potential to serve even more students. The institute now has partnerships with Hinds, East Mississippi, East Central and Mississippi Gulf Coast community colleges. Through these efforts, students earning an associate's of applied science degree with one of our community college partners can continue their studies with The W and earn a bachelor's degree. This unique program, which began in 1996, continues to find new ways to benefit students, as well as the food and hospitality industry needs of Mississippi. One of our current students, featured in this issue, is a personal chef for a local family, putting her education to practical use as she continues to learn.

You'll also find a third area of the College of Business and Professional Studies represented in this issue. The

Department of Legal Studies—one of only two programs in Mississippi approved by the American Bar Association—recently prepared its students to be part of regional competition sponsored by the American Mock Trial Association. It was the first time the team had competed, and they worked hard last semester learning court procedure and evidence rules, as well as more about case materials such as witness affidavits, evidence exhibits and statutory law.

We're very proud that the first class in our recently introduced Doctorate of Nursing Practice has completed their course of study and graduated last December. They are outstanding practitioners, each with an interesting story. You'll get to know more about them in this issue. The W is the only academic institution in the state offering nursing degrees from the associate's through the doctorate level. We are making a difference in helping meet the healthcare needs of Mississippi.

Finally, we take note of the distinguished service of Dr. Thomas Richardson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Eudora Welty Chair of Humanities. He will continue to be a vital part of The W community as he turns a page on his academic career and focuses on teaching and his research in early 19th century Scottish literature. He has had a profound effect on our campus in a variety of roles during the past 25 years, and we're confident he will continue to.

As this issue is being delivered, we are preparing to welcome the Long Blue Line back to campus for Homecoming. It's a time of great activity and celebration and is one of the highlights of our year. If you can't join us for the events this year, please visit us anytime!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Basing". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scholarly Writing



Dr. Ty Walton of Oxford, a recent graduate of the Doctorate of Nursing Practice program at The W, received a \$1,000 award for scholarly writing for her capstone project, “Knowledge Assessment of Primary Care Providers Regarding Chronic Kidney Disease Assessment in High-Risk Individuals.”

The award was given through the Mississippi Nurses Foundation and was sponsored by the Arthur L. Davis Publishing Agency, Inc., which recognizes nursing students in undergraduate or graduate nursing program who are active in a professional nursing organization.

Walton has presented her project at several conferences and it is currently being submitted for publication in a national journal. The project focuses on developing an educational tool to increase awareness of primary care providers on the prevalence of kidney disease and also offers a management protocol as a clinical guideline for treatment of chronic kidney disease, which is extracted from the National Kidney Foundation Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative.

Phi Kappa Phi announces two special honors; inducts new members

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at Mississippi University for Women held its initiation ceremony, where two special honors were announced and 27 new members were inducted.

Dr. Brenda Dickey, assistant professor of education and assessment coordinator for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, was named Outstanding Faculty honoree. Alumna Dr. Doris Taylor, director of regenerative medicine research at Texas Heart Institute in Houston, was honored as the Outstanding Alum.

Dickey, who speaks fluent Japanese, has been an educational consultant in Japan and conducted cross-cultural missionary work there for 32 years. She also developed educational programs and English schools for Japanese in Chibo and Tokyo, Japan.

Additionally, she has served as an international educational consultant in Thailand. Dr. Dickey’s resume also includes positions as professor of English as a second language, response to intervention specialist and K-12 guidance counselor. Her other accomplishments include implementing an early literacy intervention program at a school in South Carolina and serving as president of the National Teachers Association of Amite County in Mississippi.

She has experience teaching in both public and private schools in Florida, Georgia and Mississippi. Most recently she taught at Mississippi College in the International Department teaching English as a second language to foreign students. She joined The W in 2011.

Dr. Taylor has been involved in both laboratory and clinical studies using cell therapy to treat disease. Her research focuses on the use of cell and gene therapy for the treatment of cardiovascular disease, tissue engineering of bioartificial organs

and vasculature, cell-based prevention of disease, stem cells and cancer and holistic approaches to using cell therapy for treating chronic disease.

She and her team are internationally renowned for their research on “whole organ decellularization,” in which they have demonstrated that they can remove the existing cells from hearts of laboratory animals, and even humans, to leave a framework for building new organs. The hope is that this research is an early step toward being able to grow a fully functional human heart in the laboratory, which if it can be achieved would revolutionize the field of organ transplantation.

Dr. Taylor holds a bachelor of science degree in biology from The W and a doctorate in pharmacology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas.

Prior to her work with the Texas Heart Institute, Dr. Taylor had been serving as director of the Center for Cardiovascular Repair and Medtronic Bakken chair in medicine and integrative biology and physiology at the University of Minnesota, and before that she was an associate professor in cardiology at Duke University Medical Center.

The 2013 Phi Kappa Phi class includes: Barsha Aangdembe-Subba, Brenda Ballard, LoWanda Wells Butler, Andrea Davis, Ashley Danyel Diviney, Krista Green, Ruth Acosta Hays, Brittany Lea Hicks, Janette Hreish, Samantha Humphrey, Jonathan Tyler Jensen, Megan Johnson, Maggie E. Leake, Claire McElwain, Jacie Meyers, Alison Miller, Laura Elizabeth Moore, Jenna Petral, Jacqueline S. Ricks Phelon, Forrest Pogue, Tram Quynh Pokorney, Dionna Russell, Victoria Scott, Amber Shoffner, Suvechhya Shresta, Alexandra Torres and Emily Wicker.

CRI Essay Contest Winners

Winners of The W's Common Reading Initiative essay contest were recognized at the opening of the annual Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium. First place went to Betsie J. MacLellan, the recipient of \$250. She is an English education major from Jackson. The second place winner and the recipient of \$150 was Elizabeth King, a speech pathology/audiology major from Pascagoula. Winnie Clegg from Brandon was the third place winner and the recipient \$100. She is a music therapy major.

The creative essay contest was open to all students and contest topics were designed to prompt personal reflections that had a connection to themes in this year's CRI book, "Rivers" by The W's own Michael Farris Smith. This was the first year for the Dorothy Clark Hobson Essay Awards to be endowed, according to Dr. Bridget Pieschel, chair of the Department of Languages,



Contest winners: Elizabeth King, Betsie J. MacLellan and Winnie Clegg

Literature and Philosophy. Hobson, a class of 1941 alumna, was honored by a generous donation by her family who want her to be remembered as a person who loved creative endeavors and always supported intellectual curiosity.



Academic Engagement

In a national survey designed to gauge the level of engagement in effective educational practices, students at The W reported high levels of confidence in their academic preparation.

The National Survey of Student Engagement assesses students' perceptions of their development, as well as their overall satisfaction with the institution. The W was one of 568 bachelor's degree-granting colleges and universities participating in NSSE in spring 2013. Nearly 335,000 first-year and senior students participated.

Compared to peers at similar institutions, students at The W reported significantly higher engagement in areas that included higher-order learning, discussions with diverse others, effective teaching practices, a supportive environment and quality of interactions.

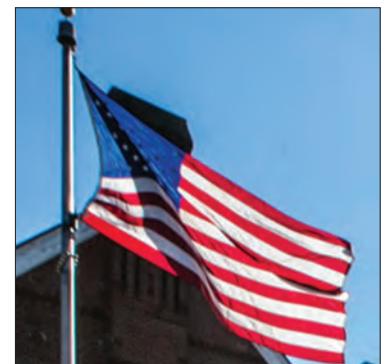
"In this survey, our students reflect what we believe to be the unique experience of The W," said President Jim Borsig. "Our faculty and staff are providing the highest caliber of academic experience in a supportive environment that nurtures individual growth."

Best Colleges for Veterans

U.S. News & World Report released its inaugural Best Colleges for Veterans rankings, placing The W at No. 10 for southern regional universities.

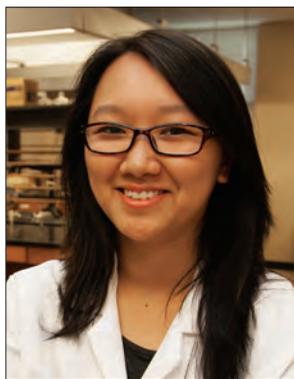
To qualify for the new rankings, colleges had to participate in federal initiatives that help veterans reduce the cost of school, according to U.S. News & World Report. Some of those programs include being certified for the GI Bill and participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Schools also were required to be members of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Consortium, which works to simplify credit transfers and give veterans credit for military training and national tests such as the College-Level Examination Program.





Dickey



Sherpa

HEADWAE Honorees

MUW professor, Shawn Dickey, and student, Tshering Lama Sherpa, were recognized at the Higher Education Appreciation Day, Working for Academic Excellence.

Dickey is chair of the Department of Art and Design. He has exhibited work in more than 119 national juried exhibitions and has had three solo shows. His prints can be found in 12 regional and national collections. Dickey has won 13 awards and purchase prizes. He is a member of The Boston Printmakers, Southern Graphics Printmaking Society, Mid-American Printmaking Council and the Los Angeles Printmakers Society.

An instructor at The W since 1997, he received a bachelor of science in biology and a bachelor of fine arts in printmaking from The W in 1990 and a master of fine arts in printmaking from Texas Tech University in 1993.

Lama Sherpa, of Solukhumbu, Nepal, is a senior biology major with a 3.95 grade point average. She was awarded Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation in Infectious Disease/Immunology at the Southeast Regional IDeA meeting and a Northrop Scholarship for biology majors.

She currently serves as vice president of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and she is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, the Tri Beta Biology Honor Society and secretary of the Stand Up-Speak Up Toastmasters Club. Lama Sherpa is a resident adviser at Hasting-Simmons residence hall. She has served as president of the International Student Association and vice-president of the Kappa Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society. In her spare time, she tutors Biology I, II, Calculus I and math lab students.

Outreach and Innovation



The newly named Office of Outreach and Innovation at The W will be a one-stop coordinator of all campus programs designed to serve the community and the state and will foster collaboration across campus units.

Under the direction of Dr. Kate Brown, the office will oversee all professional learning, as well as the Center for Creative Learning and the Center for Creative Entrepreneurship. It also will be responsible

for outreach projects that include life enrichment programming, youth programming, the NEW Leadership program for college and university women in Mississippi, science enrichment programs and the newly launched Passport to Wellness, among others.

Brown formerly directed the Center for Creative Learning, which has been folded into the new office. “For the first time, we’re bringing all outreach programming under one umbrella to make better use of resources and to more quickly respond to needs,” she said. “We want to increase the outreach between the university and our surrounding communities.”



Preservation Awards

The recently renovated Poindexter Hall earned two preservation awards by the American Society of Interior Designers and the International Interior Design Association.

The work done by local firm Pryor & Morrow Architects and Engineers, PA was noted at the International Interior Design Association Delta Regional Chapter’s Interior Design Excellence awards held in New Orleans. Poindexter Hall was recognized with an Award of Recognition for Renovation for Historical Preservation.

The second honor, which came from The American Society of Interior Designers, was presented at the conference and awards gala in Little Rock, Ark. Poindexter Hall garnered the Silver Award for Renovation for Historical Preservation.

FACULTY & STAFF kudos

Nurse Practitioners Award



Dr. Johnnie Sue Wijewardane, department chair of the graduate nursing program at Mississippi University for Women, has been recognized for her contributions to nurse practitioners and patients in the state of Mississippi.

Wijewardane, of Starkville, was awarded the American Association of Nurse Practitioners 2014 State Award for Excellence. Founded in 1991, the State Award for Excellence recognizes a

nurse practitioner in each state who demonstrates excellence in clinical practice.

Her work on developing and implementing The W's first doctorate of nursing practice (DNP) program started in late 2010, and she has taught in the program since January 2013. The DNP is the university's first doctoral program.

Wijewardane has been a graduate nursing faculty member since 2008.

Wijewardane serves as an adviser to research and clinical student groups. She also stays current on advanced practice nursing guidelines through practice in the college health and nursing home settings. Wijewardane also serves as a legal consultant several times each year where services rendered include plaintiff and defense case review and expert witnessing.

In addition to the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, she maintains memberships in American Nurses Association, Mississippi Nurses Association, Southern Nursing Research Society, Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, and the National Organization for Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

She is actively involved in the Mississippi Nurses Association, where she participates in efforts to influence policy on a state and local level as it relates to nursing, nursing education and nurse practitioner practice.

Director of Admissions



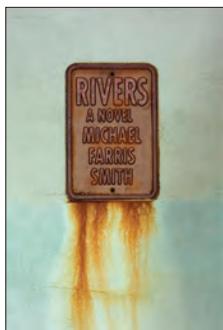
Shelley M. Moss was named director of admissions at The W. Moss, of Kennedy, Ala., had been serving as interim director of admissions since May 2013.

As director of admissions, Moss is responsible for the operation of admissions processes and recruitment efforts for prospective undergraduate students. She supervises a staff of nine professionals and nine student workers.

Her immediate plans are to continue the momentum that has been building in light of all of the work to rebrand and market The W.

“We have a great experience to offer to students and students need to hear more about it,” she said. “We will push students to visit campus and be looking to quickly get admissions decisions and award packages out there to students so that they can make decisions quickly.”

A graduate of The W, Moss is a native of Ethelville, Ala. She earned a history degree from the university in 2004, and currently, she is a student in the masters of science in health education program.



‘Rivers’ Makes Hudson List

Online, bookstores, and now airports are the latest location where Michael Farris Smith's debut novel “Rivers” can be purchased.

Hudson Booksellers, the airports' No. 1 bookseller, announced its Best Books of 2013 with “Rivers” being named in the Best Fiction category. “Rivers” is an apocalyptic love story set on the Mississippi Gulf Coast after a series of devastating storms.

The retailer has 70 full-service bookstores and more than 400 Hudson News newsstands in airports and transportation terminals throughout North America and sells books online.



Holloway



Joyce



Pardo

Provost Fellows

Three faculty members at The W have been named provost fellows to help with future planning and address areas critical to the university, including global engagement, scholarly and creative engagement and teaching innovation and engaged learning.

They are Erinn Holloway, instructor of Spanish; Dr. Beverly Joyce, professor of art history; and Dr. Amy Pardo, associate professor of English.

Dr. Dan Heimmermann, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said, “The provost fellowships in global engagement, scholarly and creative engagement, and teaching and engaged learning are intended to support important and exciting activities already taking place on campus and to develop the leadership potential of our faculty.”

“The provost fellows will be asked to work with and encourage communication and collaboration among faculty, staff, and administrators in order to help inform future planning and

decision making related to these areas,” he added.

Holloway will examine the current status of global initiatives on campus (study abroad programs, student and faculty exchanges, academic and non-academic international programming). She will work with faculty, staff and student groups to explore opportunities to expand global exchange and educational opportunities and will seek out national and international partner institutions to help achieve these goals.

Dr. Joyce has been selected to serve as the provost fellow for scholarly and creative engagement. She will assist the Office of Academic Affairs in devising strategies to encourage and support faculty scholarly and creative activities. Joyce will organize and lead research symposia to promote and exhibit the work The W’s community of scholars, artists and performers. Additionally, she will work with the Faculty Research Committee and other groups to identify ways and means to support the scholarly and creative activities of faculty

Dr. Pardo will serve as the provost fellow for teaching innovation and engaged learning. She will work with campus groups and offices to devise strategies to encourage and promote the development of learner-centered teaching pedagogies and other innovative teaching modalities, including experiential learning, flipped classrooms, competency-based instruction, online and hybrid classes/programs, interdisciplinary classes and team-taught courses. She will organize and lead teaching symposia to exhibit and promote teaching innovation on campus.

Dr. Pardo also will work with the faculty and administration to identify ways and means to encourage and support teaching innovation at The W.

Black History Month Educator



Dr. Kimberly Dean Dorsey of Columbus, associate professor of management at Mississippi University for Women, was selected as the university’s 2013 Black History Month Educator of the Year nominee.

Dr. Dorsey was chosen for consideration of the Mississippi Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning.

Each university, as well as the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Mississippi State University Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, submits one nomination for consideration to the Office of External Relations. Nominees are evaluated based on positive contributions to the campus and the state and advancing diversity among their respective institutions.

Dr. Dorsey was recognized at an IHL event in February and

honored on campus at the 2014 Diversity Award for Excellence Recognition Luncheon Ceremony.

Dorsey serves as the faculty sponsor for the MUW chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success. She has served as Faculty Senate vice president and serves on the Academic Standards Board, the Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Committee, the Faculty Research Committee and the University Conduct Board.

Professionally, she is involved with the Business and Professional Women’s Federation and she has served in Management Exchange, which includes several local companies, and as treasurer for the International Business Symposium.

Dorsey earned a doctorate in business administration with a major emphasis in management and a minor in economics from Jackson State University, where she also earned a master of business administration. She holds a bachelor of business administration in banking and finance from Mississippi State University.



Mock Trial Team Fosters Teamwork

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

Mississippi University for Women is now a member institution of the American Mock Trial Association, along with more than 350 other universities and colleges in the United States.

The AMTA provides a forum for more than 5,300 undergraduate students each academic year to engage in intercollegiate mock trial competitions across the country.

Wesley Garrett, assistant professor and director of legal studies at The W, said the program came at the suggestion of Dr. Dan Heimmermann, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

“He said it may be a good learning opportunity for students interested in the law,” she said. “I researched it and spoke to some colleagues at other competing institutions about their experiences. I decided it sounded like a great challenge.”

During the fall, the team prepared by learning court procedure and evidence rules. They also focused on case materials such as witness affidavits, evidence exhibits and case and statutory law.

Team members are required to register for the course, with members attending class like they would attend any three-credit hour class. As the team begins to develop the case and its strategies, the team meets outside of class for practice several times a week.

Their first dress rehearsal, open to the public, was held in November.

Pedro Acevedo, a senior majoring in communications with a minor in international studies, said, “I think The W’s Mock

Trial Team has a lot of potential, and our first dress rehearsal showed that.”

Acevedo, who is from Caracas, Venezuela, served as a witness at the first dress rehearsal.

He said, “It is not easy for a group of diverse students to get together as a team and learn several rules, procedures and case studies in such a short time, especially without previous experience, but we did it, and we will just get better as time goes on.”

Lucy Oyeleye, a senior majoring in legal studies added that the Mock Trial Team has been a great experience. Oyeleye, from Nigeria, served as an attorney.

“Mock Trial challenges you in so many ways. You have to learn to be adaptable and be willing to make sacrifices. You also have to learn how to work with a team and understand that it’s not about one person but about the team and representing our university to the best of our abilities,” she said.

“Teamwork is the most important thing that I have learned through this whole process. I am going to take everything I have learned from Mock Trial and use it in the future. Most workplaces nowadays require and depend on teamwork. It is a very important skill to have that I don’t think you can learn from any textbook.”

The team participated in the 3rd Annual Argo Mock Trial Invitational at the University of West Florida in Pensacola in January. A total of 15 teams competed in four rounds. The W’s team won one round and its total winning ballots ranked above three other teams. 



Ruth Hart as a young dancer



Hart in class, late 1970



Productions during Hart's tenure ranged from traditional ballet to works of whimsy. Here, a student-directed rendition of "Alice in Wonderland." (1978)



Students perform a number from Frederick Ashton's "La Fille Mal Gardée."



"Happy Days" remade as a musical number. The Fonz here played by Kevin Anderson.

From The W Archives

by Derek Webb

January marks 10 years since the passing of Ruth Hart, professor emerita of Dance. She inspired W students from 1961-80 after living as a professional dancer in New York City and running a studio in Cleveland. Dr. Michelle Harmon, professor of Speech-Language Pathology and former student of Hart's, describes her as one of the most brilliant women she has ever known with an encyclopedic knowledge of both music and dance. She was also an ardent supporter of both MUW and Mississippi State athletics. "Mrs. Hart's classes were an exhilarating experience. She wanted to instill

her love for the dance in each of her students, and she did. She also was a phenomenal educator. Not only were we instructed in ballet, jazz, tap and modern dance, but also in costuming and set design. Furthermore, she encouraged her students to direct as much of the dance productions as possible, even down to creating our own numbers," said Dr. Harmon. A generous gift of digital images from Dr. Harmon preserves the memory of Hart, her dancers and the many musical numbers and concerts they performed. 

A Good Place to Be

by Maridith Walker Geuder

Richardson reflects on 25 years at The W

He arrived in 1988 to chair the then-Division of the Humanities. He was excited to be at The W.

“Everyone was wonderful from the start,” Dr. Thomas Richardson recalled, 25 years later. “It’s been that way ever since.” But immediately on arriving at his new university, he learned first-hand that unexpected adjustment is part of academic life.

He was hired by former President James W. Strobel, who had stepped down after an 11-year tenure by the time Richardson began his formal duties in July. On arrival, he found Harvey Craft had been named interim president, and, under the direction of former IHL Commissioner Ray Cleere, a new policy had been implemented prohibiting teaching overloads.

“That meant that everyone had to teach five classes,” Richardson said. Despite his administrative duties, he felt it only fair that he also assume his share of the teaching load. By the following year, the policy had been rescinded, but his first year at The W was off to a busy start.

By October, things were to change again. Richardson attended a Mississippi Association of Colleges meeting with Craft, riding back from Jackson with the interim president. Following that, Craft was scheduled to attend a regular board meeting of The Institutions of Higher Learning. But he died that night. The Harvey M. Craft Award, later named for him, recognizes the graduating senior with the highest grade point average.

During the interim before Dr. Clyda Rent was named president in 1989, The W's then-CFO Delene Lee held the top administrative position. "So in my first year here, I worked for three presidents," Richardson laughed.

Since then, he's been tapped for positions that include vice president for Academic Affairs, interim provost and, more recently, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He's continued to teach—courses ranging from freshman composition to survey of literature to the popular Welty Symposium seminar. It's something he loves.

Teaching: a constant in the changing world

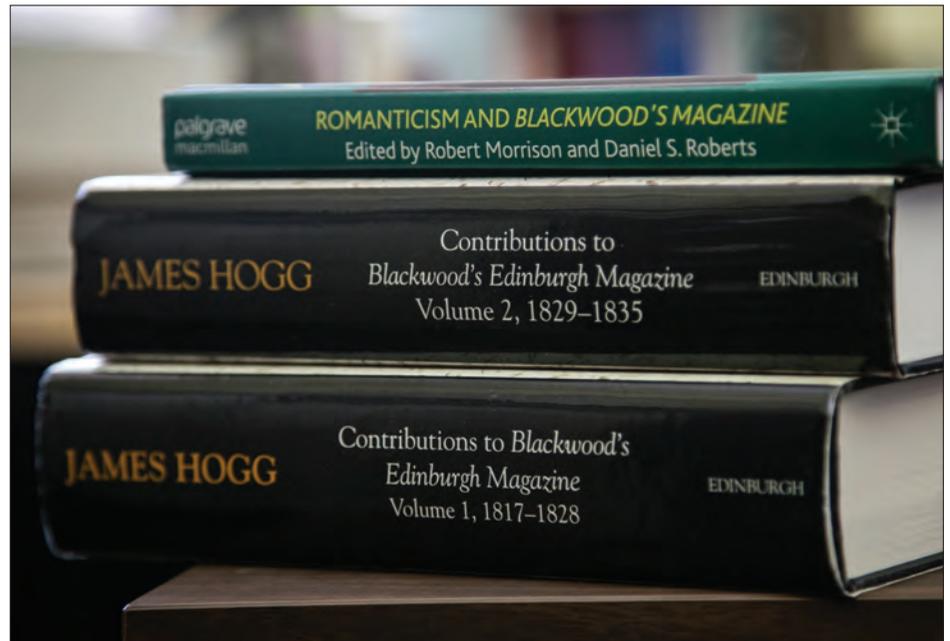
As he prepares to return full-time to the classroom at the end of the spring semester, Richardson believes that today, as when he first began teaching, some of the basics remain the same.

"I'm not sure students have changed," he said. "Technology has changed. How students access information has changed. Our student population has become more diverse. But students still value education here, and they typically work hard. It's not necessarily because they come here from that tradition, but because they see education as important."

Seeing in students a desire to learn has kept Richardson deeply engaged in the life of the classroom. "My favorite class is whatever I'm teaching at the time," he said, although he admits a preference for 19th century Romantics and Victorian literature. This spring, he's teaching a class in 18th and early 19th century novels focusing on the development of the novel. The reading list is diverse, ranging from the early part of the century (*Roxanna*) to the latter (*Emma*, *Frankenstein*).

And, as always, Richardson is looking forward to the experience. "The joy of teaching has not diminished for me," he said.

He said he's taught so many outstanding students that it's hard to single one out, but a recent one who comes to mind is 2012 graduate Stefani Sloma, who pursued graduate studies at the University of Stirling in Scotland. Richardson was able to arrange an interview for Sloma with noted Scottish writer Ian Rankin while she was in the country, and later secured a signed copy of Rankin's latest book, "Saints of The Shadow Bible," for her. This kind of relationship with students, he believes, is a special part of teaching at The W. "It's nice to be able to offer students something outside the routine classroom experience," he said.



A professor and a scholar

A noted scholar of Scottish literature, Richardson also is looking forward to continuing his research about some of the lesser known but important literary figures of the early 19th century. He has published about Scottish novelist, poet and essayist James Hogg, a contributor to *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, and is continuing his research on John Lockhart, who also worked closely with *Blackwood's* before moving to London to become editor of the *Quarterly Review*.

"Lockhart was educated at Glasgow and Oxford universities and studied law in Edinburgh," Richardson said. "He had a strong classics background, and his first published book was a translation of Friedrich Schlegel's essays on literature." While not widely studied, Lockhart knew many of the literary figures of the day and married Sir Walter Scott's daughter. He wrote four novels, as well as biographies of Scott, Robert Burns and Napoleon.

From 1826-53, Lockhart served as editor of the *Quarterly Review*, which Richardson describes as "the dominant literary publication" of the time. "Magazines were highly political and highly personal," he said, noting that Lockhart was challenged to a duel over his role in *Blackwood's*.

While in Scotland on a recent trip, Richardson was able to spend time at the British Library reading letters Lockhart wrote to British Prime Minister William Gladstone. The continuing work is part of a planned critical biography he will write about Lockhart, as well as a planned edition of his letters.

Richardson has many projects ahead and many classes to teach, as well as many nights of research and class preparation. He looks back on 25 years with satisfaction and looks ahead with anticipation. The W, he said, is "a good place to be." 



All The World is a Class

by Maridith Walker Geuder

New paths for working students

Haley Harris has a full-time job at a community college in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. She holds an undergraduate degree in business from The W, and she wants to earn her master's. A new online degree program launched by The W last summer offered her the chance to reach her goal.

"I graduated from The W, so I knew the professors and I knew I would get a quality education," she said. "I'm familiar with the online learning environment, and it appealed to me." She's taking nine credit hours—considered a full graduate load—while also working. "I usually do my classwork at night," she said, adding that she hopes to finish the graduate degree by next fall.

The new master's degree program in global commerce will prepare graduates to work in their local communities with the growing number of international companies in the region, said Dr. Scott Tollison, dean of the College of Business and Professional Studies. The inaugural class has nine students from Mississippi and Tennessee.

"It's designed to be multidisciplinary," Tollison explained. "Students get exposure to international law, cross-cultural management, global marketing, software solutions, telecommunications and other subjects." One area he's particularly proud of is environmental sustainability. "Students need to understand their carbon footprint," he said.

Graduate faculty in the college teach in the program, which also requires that students select one country of primary focus.

"In every course, they have a project that relates to their declared country," explained Dr. Marty Brock, chair of business. "It goes into their portfolio, and they complete the program with a capstone portfolio presented by video to faculty members."

Not only does the project-based approach give students content that's real, she said, "it also gives them something they can take to an employer. It makes them more marketable."

Dr. Dee Larson, graduate coordinator and professor of marketing, said that the new online program offers an opportunity to evolve up-to-the-minute content and present it in an innovative format. The spring semester, for instance, she is using a marketing simulation software in two courses.

"Students use the program to simulate product and brand development as well as global marketing management," she said. "Simulation games offer students a hands-on experience. In this 'learn by doing' approach users compete against other firms, simulated by the computer, and make marketing and business decisions. It is a fun and highly interactive way to learn."



Harris, who is focusing on Italy in her studies, said that the different business culture appealed to her. “I especially wanted to contrast it with ours,” she said. Her goal is to continue her studies at the doctoral level and teach at a university.

Savannah Tubbs of Pascagoula, a 23-year-old 2012 W graduate, also is among the inaugural class. “Having this degree, especially from such a prestigious university, will help me gain that ‘something extra’ against my competitors,” she said of the increasingly global job market.

Like Harris, Tubbs holds a full-time job while taking a full graduate course load. “Shifting from an in-class schedule to online is a big adjustment,” she said. “However, I could not imagine going through this program any other way.” Choosing to focus on the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, she also is contrasting commerce in her native and her selected countries. “I am on track to complete the degree in August,” she said.

Both students said they’re enjoying the opportunity to expand their cultural and business horizons by learning aspects of their countries such as work attire and lunch etiquette, as well as the economy and financial climates. “The work is project-based, and the projects are interesting,” Harris said.

For non-business majors, the program offers the option of taking all required prerequisites in one semester, the professors said. “We also can accommodate part-time students,” Brock said, “and students can enroll in the fall, spring or summer. We’re finding these options appeal to many students who are learning about our global commerce master’s degree.”

Technical degrees welcome

Aaron Brooks, who works at nearby East Mississippi Community College, held a two-year technical degree that had given him skills for his position as district director of administrative computing and systems representative. But in order to advance, he knew he’d need additional education.

“I’m already in a management position, and my supervisor encouraged me to further my education,” he said.

He looked around and weighed the options. Because he lives in Lowndes County, he could get tuition benefits at The W. And, as an additional incentive, he could earn a degree completely online in a program that would accept his technical credits. The choice was simple: he enrolled in the bachelor of technology in professional studies degree program last fall.

“Our program is unique,” explained Dean Scott Tollison. “There are few opportunities nationally for career/technical students to pursue bachelor’s degrees without surrendering huge amounts of course credit.” The program has attracted students from as far away as Delaware.

For students enrolling, the B.T. degree offers concentrations in areas that include entrepreneurship, general business, human resources management, legal administration and management information systems. Allowing students to transfer up to 43 hours of technical/career credit, the B.T. requires a total of 124 course hours. Brooks, who is taking 12 hours in his first semester, hopes to complete the degree in 2015.

“Everything I’m learning will contribute to my job,” he said. “It’s all pertinent to my work.” His wife, Tonya, who earlier had completed the program, is now pursuing an online master’s degree through another university, and they are so impressed they’re encouraging their daughter to attend The W.

From Delaware, nearly 800 miles from The W, first-semester student Elissa Troise-Greco says she’s “very pleased” with her curriculum and her professors. “I’ve learned a lot,” she said. With a two-year degree in entrepreneurship from Delaware Technical and Community College in Dover, Del., she now is pursuing the general business concentration in the B.T. program.

Troise-Greco and her husband own a home improvement business and she said “I’m used to working for myself.” But

her ultimate goal is to continue her education and earn a doctorate. Last fall, during her first semester, she took courses that included principles of management, principles of marketing, arts entrepreneurship and personal and community health. “It’s a good curriculum,” she said.

As she studies, she also holds onto a goal of completing a book that she

has begun. Her early life was difficult, and she found herself sinking further and further into trouble. “I want to tell my story,” she said. “I would like for young people especially to know that there is hope.”

Troise-Greco, despite a rocky beginning, became student government president at Delaware Technical and Community College and was named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Academic Team. “That led to my getting a scholarship to The W,” she said. “I am very grateful to be here.”

Tollison said he thinks the online programs are filling a need.

“Our faculty are committed to providing quality educational opportunities that transcend time and place to working adults across the state and now the world,” he said. “It is incredibly rewarding to see the difference we are making in the lives of our online students – many of whom might not have been able to attend college otherwise. Thanks to our online programs, there is no limit to how far the Long Blue Line can reach.” 

“I graduated from The W, so I knew the professors and I knew I would get a quality education.”

**-Haley Harris
online student**



First Class

DNP graduates Ty Walton, Wanda Stroupe, Sally Pearson, Teresa Hamill and Jacqueline Shonda Phelon

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

Doctorate of Nursing Practice Graduates Receive Degrees

Ty Walton never imagined a career in nursing. But, after working in the field for more than a decade, she knows that it was meant to be.

In December, Walton and four of her colleagues received their doctorate of nursing practice (DNP) degrees from The W, the first graduating class of the program, which was created to help advance healthcare in the state.

“I never dreamed that nursing would be my career. As a teenage mother and a high school drop out who later graduated with my class, nursing was a call from God for me,” she said. “As God allowed the doors of nursing to open for me, it was in his divine timing and plan that I pursue my doctorate.

“The program allows me the opportunity to let others who have had detours in life to see the reality of what purpose, hard work and determination can produce,” she added.

Walton, a wife and mother of three teenagers, currently works at the North Mississippi Regional

Center, which promotes independence and enhances the abilities of individuals with intellectual and related developmental disabilities. She is the only full-time nurse practitioner on the campus in Oxford, serving 260 individuals.

“This DNP program has helped me to see the big picture of nursing and has provided me with the necessary skills to operate as an expert clinician as well as nurse leader in the profession,” she said. “This program has equipped me with--what I describe--as the best of both worlds as I have the skills to work at the bedside and in the administrative fields of nursing.”

Also sharing the spotlight with Walton in December were Wanda Stroupe of Ripley, Jacqueline Shonda Phelon of Grenada, and Teresa Hamill and Sally Pearson, both of Starkville.

Stroupe owns a family practice clinic in Ripley that employs two nurse practitioners, five nurses and two office staff.



Courtesy Photo

Walton works with one of her patients at the North Mississippi Regional Center, which promotes independence and enhances the abilities of individuals with intellectual and related developmental disabilities.

She sees children and adult patients with a special interest in childhood obesity and adult hypertension and diabetic care. Her clinic also is participating with North Mississippi Medical Center in a pilot project with TransferMed as a Patient Centered Medical Neighborhood.

Stroupe chose to pursue her DNP to reach the maximum education in her field and increase her knowledge base for patients.

“I felt this would enhance my ability to provide high-quality care to my patients. I also enjoy training future nurse practitioners and have served as preceptor for nurse practitioner students. I feel as a clinical site, I needed to have a terminal degree to serve as preceptor.”

Phelon, who teaches part-time in the graduate nursing program at The W and serves patients as a nurse practitioner for Region VI Mental Health, said she always wanted a clinical nursing doctorate degree, which is the focus of the DNP.

“When I learned that The W was starting this program, I wanted to be a part of it. I obtained my MSN at The W in 1992 and earned two post master’s certifications at other universities. Obtaining my DNP from The W has brought me full circle in my nurse practitioner education.”

Hamill and Pearson, both of whom have completed the DNP program, are instructors in The W’s College of Nursing. Dr. Johnnie Sue Wijewardane, department chair of the graduate nursing program, said 10 students have been

admitted into the program, with six scheduled to enroll. Launched in January 2012, the DNP is The W’s first doctoral program.

“Utilizing a consultant from Texas Tech University, Dr. Mary Fenton, we revised some of our course content to better focus on chronic illness as well as to strengthen coursework such as informatics, leadership, and health policy,” said. Wijewardane.

She added, Dr. Fenton is an expert in DNP curriculum development and has a keen understanding of the DNP concept and how coursework should be structured.

“An exciting part of our coursework has been adding course content that focuses on quality and safety in healthcare and critical analysis of the diagnostic process,” Wijewardane said. Two highlights of the year for the DNP students were spending a day at the Alabama Crime Lab in Montgomery and spending a day at the Mississippi State Capitol where a program was put together by Sen. Terry Burton specifically for these DNP students to be updated on and become comfortable with health care needs in the state from a legislative and lobbying perspective.

“The five students who graduated last December represent The W in a very positive manner. Their DNP projects have been presented. They have each submitted to national journals for publication. We are very proud of our first DNP graduates. They have set the bar high for those who come behind them,” Wijewardane said. 



COOKING MADE PERSONAL

by Anika Mitchell Perkins



It is about 4 p.m. on a Monday evening and Quintara Wright is busy preparing dinner in the kitchen. The menu: beer braised country style pork ribs, roasted carrots and potatoes and baguettes.

Sounds like a generous meal for one person? It is. Wright is cooking for her clients--a family of four, make that five if you include the Griffin's 11-year-old Weimaraner, Polly L. Griffin. Wright, a senior culinary arts major at The W, started working as the Griffin family's personal chef in August 2013.

There's Dr. Josh Griffin, a urologist at Columbus Urology, and Dr. Meredith Griffin, an obstetrician/gynecologist at Physicians and Surgeons OB/GYN clinic. Then there are sons Anders, who is 3-years-old, and the youngest family member, 6-month-old Harrison. Both originally from Mississippi, the Griffins decided to move back to the area upon the completion of Josh's oncology fellowship at the University of Kansas.

Initially, Wright was hesitant about pursuing the offer which she learned about through The W's Office of Career Services. With school and lots of involvement on campus and in student organizations, Wright was concerned that she would not have enough time to work.

"Mrs. Towanda Williams (assistant director of career services) said 'I have a family that needs you to cook for them. I think you should do it.'"

A foodie since middle school, Wright knew the personal chef opportunity could not be overlooked and would be the perfect way to fulfill her passion of cooking.

While the family was still in Kansas City, Wright and Meredith began corresponding via email to discuss the Griffins' food likes and dislikes, what the boys ate and how often Wright would cook. She works about 10-15 hours a week, Mondays, Fridays and Sundays.



“Initially, I didn’t know what they liked,” she said. “They always say ‘try something new; use us as your guinea pigs.’”

Wright keeps it interesting with themed food nights. She has delighted the family’s taste buds with Mexican, Greek, Italian and soul food.

“I’ve learned a lot. You only learn so much in the class,” Wright said. “It has taught me to do research and learn more about the different products I cook with.”

Meredith said, “We usually discuss what the next meal or two will be when Quintara is at our house cooking. We try to eat healthy but occasionally give her free rein to go all out.

“Anders is a very good eater, but Quintara quickly learned his preferences and accommodates them perfectly,” she added. “Harris would love to eat what she cooks too, but for now is limited to what his two little teeth can handle.”

The Griffins chose to hire Wright as a personal chef to optimize the time they had to spend at home with their boys. As full-time physicians both have very busy days and sometimes unpredictable hours.

“The best part of having Quintara as our personal chef is the freedom it gives us to devote to our children the time that we would otherwise spend in the kitchen preparing meals.

“We have found that we don’t spend much more each month having a personal chef, than we would spend to eat out a few nights per week,” Meredith added. “Quintara is also very good about making extra food so that we have leftovers on

nights she does not cook.”

Professionally, Meredith said Quintara is “an amazing chef.” Personally, the Griffins said she is an amazing young lady.

“She is professional, very humble, enthusiastic and a pleasure to be around. She is accommodating of our schedules, our sometimes hectic household and our food requests,” Meredith said. “We feel like Quintara is a part of our family. We enjoy being in the kitchen with her. Anders, our 3-year-old, loves talking to her about all kinds of interesting things a toddler knows.”

Wright said she could not have picked a better family to cook for. “They are incredible individuals with hearts of gold. They are flexible when my schedule gets chaotic with academics and extracurricular activities.”

“The biggest reward of this job is knowing that I leave this family satisfied,” she added. “I am able to give them back a little of their time to spend it with the people they love the most.”

Eventually, the Greenville native and her twin sister, who is in the public health program at The W, plan to move to Atlanta, Ga., to pursue their dreams.

Wright believes she is well prepared for the next step in her career. “The W’s Culinary Arts Institute is the perfect place for me. The instruction I have received from the faculty has been awesome. I couldn’t have made a better choice.” 



Beer-Braised Country Style Ribs

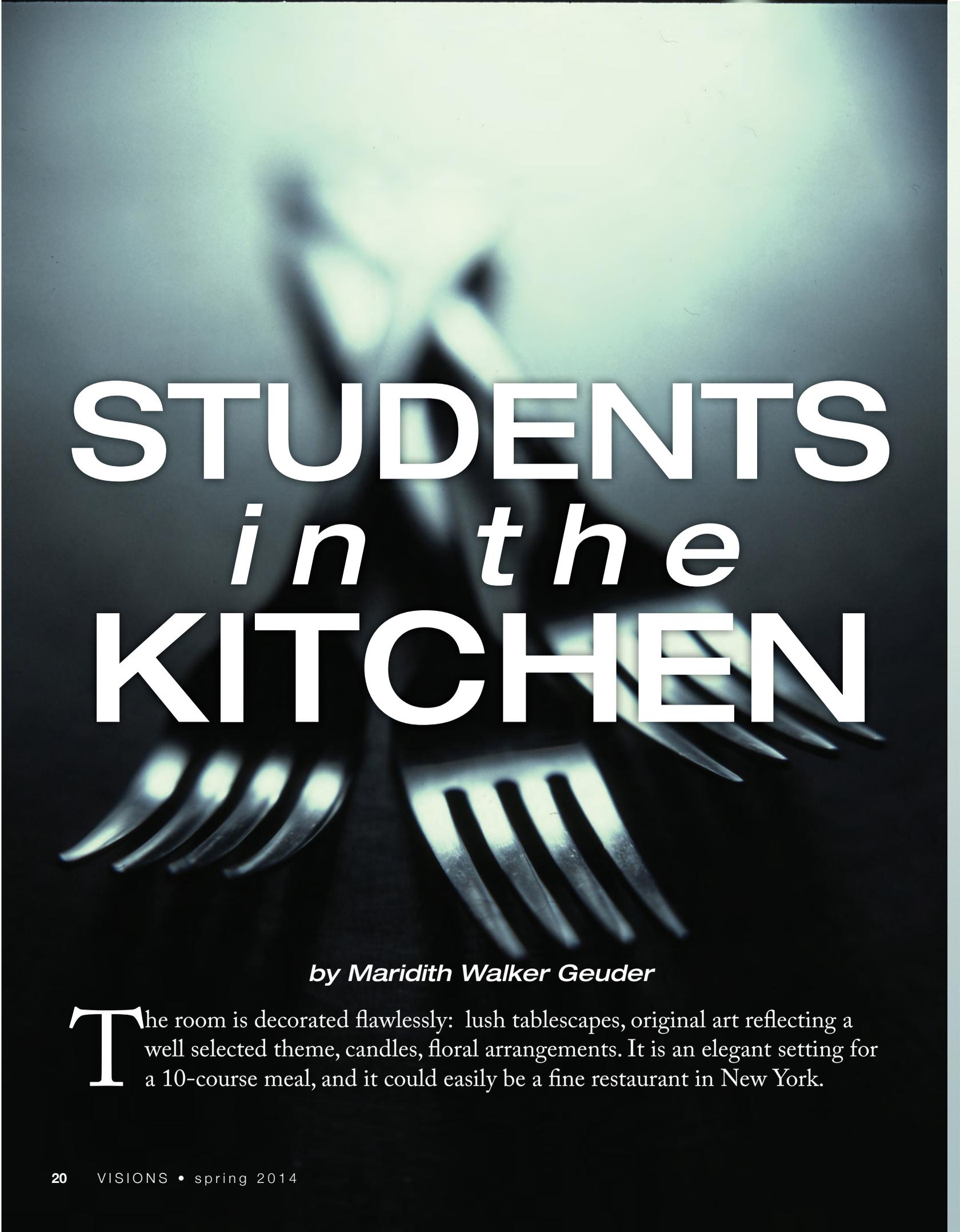
4 pounds bone-in St. Louis-style pork ribs
Kosher salt as needed
1 1/2 teaspoons smoked paprika
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
3 medium onions, peeled and cut into wedges
1 12-ounce bottle amber or dark beer
1 1/2 cups low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
2 bay leaves
6 sprigs thyme
2/3 cup apple cider vinegar
3 tablespoons honey

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Pat the ribs dry, season with salt and rub with 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika. Heat the olive oil in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the ribs in batches and cook until browned, about 4 minutes per side. Set aside. Add the onions and cook until browned, about 10 minutes.

Once onions are brown, add the remaining 1 teaspoon paprika, and the beer; bring to a simmer and cook until the liquid is reduced by half, about 8 minutes, scraping up the fond on the bottom of the pot with a wooden spoon. Add the chicken broth, bay leaves and thyme; when the liquid begins to simmer, return the ribs to the pot and transfer to the oven. Cook, uncovered, turning the ribs once or twice, until the meat is almost tender, about 45 min.

While ribs are in the oven, mix the vinegar and honey. After 45 min, remove the pot from the oven and remove the ribs and set aside. Place Dutch oven on the stovetop; bring remaining liquid to a simmer over medium heat. Add the vinegar mixture and bring to a simmer. Return ribs to the pot then return the pot to the oven. Continue to braise, uncovered, until the ribs are tender, 15 to 20 more minutes. Return the pot to the stovetop and transfer the ribs to a plate. Bring the sauce to a simmer over medium heat; skim the sauce and cook until thickened, 10 to 15 minutes. Return the ribs to the pot and heat through. Cut ribs into portions and serve immediately.



STUDENTS *in the* KITCHEN

by Maridith Walker Geuder

The room is decorated flawlessly: lush tablescapes, original art reflecting a well selected theme, candles, floral arrangements. It is an elegant setting for a 10-course meal, and it could easily be a fine restaurant in New York.



It's actually Shattuck Hall, home to The W's Culinary Arts program, and the setting—as well as everything to follow—is all done by students in culinary arts as part of their final exam. Students play every role that one would find in a top-tier restaurant: chef, sous chef, pastry chef, sommelier, maître d', server. It's a well-orchestrated three-hour dining experience planned, prepared and presented by students.

“At the beginning of the semester, the class as a whole elects officers to be team leaders for the event,” said Chef Erich Ogle, director of the program. “They elect each position, and we talk about a theme, from a dining room and menu perspective.”

Once they agree, the class divides into committees charged with developing three to four different recipes within a category. “It's really up to the students to do everything,” Ogle said. “They plan, cost the menu—everything involved.” He estimates that students log several thousand hours on the project by the end of the semester. “It's a very real-world experience.”

For the 15th annual finals dinner, held last November, the theme was “A Jazzy Trip Down the Mighty Mississippi.” Music, food, and the dining room design reflected the theme, all selected to create a mood set by the river itself.

The diners during the black-tie optional event were treated to a wide selection of river-themed foods, all paired with just the right wine. On the menu: succotash and crab salad; pecan crusted redfish with tasso grit cake and red pepper coulis; oysters casino and oysters Johnny Reb; crawfish cheesecake with green onion sauce; turtle soup; roasted loin of rabbit with roasted parsnips and carrots with plum gastrique demi-glaçe; seared duck breast with sweet potato purée, strawberry fig sauce, and Swiss chard; seared pork belly with garlic potatoes and moonshine barbecue sauce; and a dessert trio of pecan baklava, blackberry mousse in a white chocolate cup, and dark chocolate cupcakes with white ganache filling.

Following the last bite, diners gave the exhausted students a rousing round of applause. Students' efforts throughout the semester, culminating in the evening of fine dining, resulted in their grade.

A different approach

“The beauty of what we do at The W is that students not only get the fundamentals of how to cook, but the “why,” Ogle said. “They learn what happens to food when it’s cooked, as well as the ecology of food.” When possible, the culinary program uses locally sourced foods, always with an emphasis on small-quantity food preparation.

An average of 90-100 students are enrolled in an expanding program, which was established in 1996 and is part of the College of Business and Professional Studies. It not only prepares chefs, but also equips students for employment and leadership in diverse areas of food studies such as journalism, food photography and styling, nutrition and wellness, and culinary entrepreneurship. “We basically cover the industry,” Ogle said. “Students can tailor their degree to their interests.”

In the last year, culinary arts has considerably expanded its footprint in the state, entering partnerships with Hinds Community College, East Mississippi Community College, East Central Community College and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Announced last March, the Hinds partnership will allow those completing an associate’s degree at the community college to finish their four-year degree on the Jackson campus with instruction from The W. Students in the program will earn a bachelor’s degree in culinary arts. Courses will include, in addition to general education requirements, those in food preparation, nutrition, world cuisines, management, principles of accounting, economics, marketing, and the legal environment of business.

In November, The W announced a similar program with nearby East Mississippi Community College that will allow students completing their associate of applied science degree in hotel and restaurant management technology to seamlessly continue their bachelor’s studies at The W; and in January, continued the expansion with the addition of ECCC; and in early March with MGCCC.

“We have a strong partnership with our community colleges, and we’re happy to strengthen the pathway for students in our state to earn a bachelor’s degree,” said President Jim Borsig.





From a small beginning

Ogle was one of the first seven students in the then-fledgling culinary arts program that began at The W in 1996. Although he was working as a graphic designer in Columbus, he had put himself through school working at restaurants, and it was an area he loved.

“I heard The W was starting a culinary program, and I was excited, because I was looking at other, more expensive, programs,” he said.

The beginnings were humble. The kitchen was in an old home economics classroom with one refrigerator and one electric range. “It was like a kitchen in a home,” he said. But The W had hired Sarah Labensky, and Ogle knew her credentials. “I was impressed with that.”

Now director of hospitality and food service at EMCC Lion Hills Center and Golf Club, Labensky is the author or co-author of 14 cookbooks and a past president of the International Association of Culinary Professionals. She directed The W’s Culinary Arts Institute for more than seven years.

While he was in school, Ogle worked for Old Waverly Golf Club in West Point, eventually becoming executive sous-chef. He later worked for several restaurants, including Flamingo Café with Chef Andi Bell and Cuvee Beach with Chef Stephen Vanderpool. He joined the Culinary Arts faculty I 2005 and since his arrival has worked with renowned Iron Chef Mario Batali on several NASCAR events in 2006 as well as finishing his Le Cordon Bleu Master of Arts in Gastronomy through the University of Adelaide in Australia in 2011.

One of Ogle’s first students was Linkie Marais, a native of South Africa whose family had relocated to North Mississippi when she was 16. She came to The W with the intention of majoring in public relations, but she quickly fell in love with the culinary arts program. Marais is best known as a finalist in season eight of Food Network Star, and has since made many national and regional appearances. She regularly returns to The W often for demonstrations for current students and in 2013 received the Alumni Association’s Outstanding Recent Graduate Award.

“I am so thankful for the culinary arts program at The W. With caring instructors, who dedicated each and every moment to help the students understand far more than the basics of culinary arts, I learned what it is to have goals and how to work hard to achieve them,” Marais said. “Chef Erich taught me to embrace new ideas while keeping the true art of cooking and culinary intact. This gave me the confidence to tackle the culinary world with full force and has helped me achieve some of my greatest goals.

“When people see my cooking skills at live demos around the country, they immediately ask me where I went to school. I am always so proud to say that I went to The W’s culinary school; this is where I found top instructors and a competitive atmosphere, while at the same time experiencing a sense of ‘family caring’ for everyone to achieve their goals,” she added.

Ogle said, “Our students and alums work across the region. We have a big presence in the Golden Triangle, but graduates also work for organizations such as the Ritz Carlton, Kraft, restaurants, schools and hospitals. Our program is unique, and it provides unique opportunities. We’re proud of its success.”



W President Dr. Jim Borsig with Mary Ann Petro

W Alums Among Girl Scouts' Women of Distinction

by Julesa Oglen

The top leadership development organization for girls in Mississippi, Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi, held its annual Women of Distinction award ceremony to honor seven outstanding women, including two W alumnae.

The Women of Distinction ceremony held last September celebrated women of courage, confidence and character who have shown a desire to give back to their communities.

Residential and commercial interior designer Mary Ann Petro, was honored for her continued focus on creating beauty throughout the Southeast. Her award-winning work has allowed her to receive the Alumni Achievement award from The W and Who's Who of Interior Design.

Petro's most notated achievement was the design of her home garden "Swan Lake," which placed her in the Garden Club of America Collection of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Her work also has been featured in several well-known magazines including Mississippi Magazine, Atlanta Homes and Lifestyles and Bespoke International.

When she is not designing for clients, she makes room in her schedule for philanthropy. She has served



Lampton

on the Red Cross and Jackson Symphony League boards and the Trust Board for Baptist Hospital.

Maggie Lampton, also a recipient of the Women of Greater Distinction award, was honored for her involvement in many community and church projects.

Lampton was the former president of the Junior League of Jackson, which is Mississippi's largest non-profit organization that focuses on volunteerism and improving the quality of life in the community. As president, she secured partnerships with the Cancer League and Art for Heart.

Her volunteer work has spanned from her high school years as a nurse's aid to her adult life as a preschool and youth Sunday school volunteer. Like Petro, Lampton has also served on multiple boards including First Presbyterian Day School, Jackson Preparatory and Palmer Home. 

a message from

MUW Foundation



I recently celebrated a significant birthday. My cake was covered in a blaze of candles, but I managed to blow them out in a single breath without aid from the local fire department. I plan to keep the party going for the rest of the year – and why not? Birthdays and anniversaries are special occasions, some more festive than others, but each one noteworthy. This year, your MUW Foundation will celebrate its golden anniversary. Fifty years of service to our alma mater, and we plan to do it up right. With Homecoming set for March 27-30, the Foundation's 50th celebration will be at noon March 29. Call your classmates, register for this wonderful weekend and plan to join the Foundation as we toast half a century of support to our university and her students.

During the years we've been in existence, Foundation assets have grown to an amazing \$46 million. Your continued financial support made this possible. In the last 10 years, the Foundation has provided more than \$10 million in scholarships to Mississippi University for Women students. Donations for FY2013 topped \$2 million. If you haven't made a contribution to the MUW Foundation lately, I hope you'll choose this year to generously support your alma mater. Take a look at the donor listing in your last copy of Visions. These names represent all the individuals, foundations and companies who helped turn the desire for a college education into reality for so many of our students. Make a gift before June 30, and your name will be listed in the pages of our next Visions.

The Foundation Board meets three times a year, and we last met in early February. During the meeting, the Office of Development showed us a video made during the annual Scholarship Donor Appreciation Luncheon held each fall. Several scholarship recipients shared their stories of how The W's financial aid enabled them to pursue their career goals through a college education. Each one drove home a clear message: without this support, they would never be able to finish college. Your contributions, no matter how large or small, make a considerable difference in the lives of these students. If you'd like more information about supporting a particular scholarship, please call the Development Office.

Celebrations are important. Today, I celebrate the Long Blue Line and her generous giving to Mississippi University for Women's Foundation. As chairman of the board, I urge you to join us. Not just the celebration of years that mark our existence, but a salute to every dream we've made come true. Together, we've accomplished great things. Thank you. And welcome to the party!

Warm regards,

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

Ruth Pettey Jones, Class of 1976
Chairman
MUW Foundation Board

a message from

MUW Alumni Association



"We were strangers for such a long time, but now we're friends 'til the end of time."

The Long Blue Line Comes Home. That is the theme for Homecoming 2014, and this year that phrase is particularly meaningful to me. Homecoming at The W is always a special event, we return to a remarkable place, reunite with cherished college comrades and connect with alums, students and faculty. It is not whether we win or lose a game, but that we are coming together – to remember, to relive, to laugh, to cry (only a little) and to celebrate (a lot). Homecoming rejoices in friendships, old and new, and this year I have so many more special W friends to come home to.

Mississippi University for Women is almost indescribable. It is widely known that we W alums are a passionate and vocal group - and absolutely loyal to our alma mater. Yet, too few take the opportunity to return to campus. Last year, I remember hearing a number of the Golden Girls say that their 50th Class Reunion was their first time to be back on campus! Hearing that made me determined to urge alums to revisit the university in hopes that no one will miss out on the wonderful and restorative experience of coming home.

We can't really recapture our youth in a return to campus, but I do believe Homecoming is the closest thing to time travel I ever expect to experience! For one weekend each year, I am once again a W girl, that essential me who joyously revels in the unique "W-ness" of our amazing university. There's no doubt that attending MUW shaped the course of the rest of my life. I am equally convinced that taking part in Homecoming rekindles The W magic for me; much like a Disney vacation refuels my inner child. And I know the women and men around me feel the same way.

This year has been a banner year for MUW, and it is thrilling to learn of steady enrollment, the state's best degree completion ratio, the most degrees conferred by a regional university, growth in the numbers of donors and dollars plus new ventures on the horizon. The Homecoming schedule reflects the enthusiasm of the current campus atmosphere with a smorgasbord of activities and events stretching from Thursday afternoon when Registration opens to Sunday Brunch which caps off the festivities (March 27-30). Yet there is no doubt that despite our appreciation for and enjoyment of dinners and parties and performances, the highlight of the weekend – what we will remember most fondly and what will endure – is sure to be the fellowship we share with one another.

I hope to see you at Homecoming 2014 as I conclude my year as President of the MUW Alumni Association. But even if you cannot join me on campus this year, you can always join me in supporting our amazing alma mater through active membership in the MUWAA – and by visiting when you can. Just like home, The W is always here for you.

Come home to The W, and join me in celebrating all we are, all we have been and all that we will be.

"Our hearts were joined together, by the mighty bonds of love."

God bless, my friends.

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

Cheryl "Sherrie" Jackson Cooper, Class of 1982

Regional Alumni Gatherings



MUWAA Mid-South Chapter Luncheon

MUW President Dr. Jim Borsig is pictured with Katherine Benson, Brandy Burnette, Bridget Ellis, Rebecca Rogers, Cara Hechinger, Kittie Loynandran, Amy Johnson, Sylvia Star, Bettye VanVuurpen, Maryanna Popper, Lee Henderson, Amber Meserve, Susan Hanlon, Phil Brown, Ginger Pride, Connie Starfield and Yvette Warren at the First Baptist Church of Memphis in November 2013.



East MS Alumni Gathering

Novelist Michael Farris Smith, author of the critically acclaimed "Rivers," was the special guest for the meeting at Merrehope in Meridian. He was accompanied by alumni James Oloughlin, Amy LaFleur, Sherry Morgan, Sandra Johnson, Nevella Massey, Syble Majure, Georgia Jackson, Leta Palmiter and Betty Lou Jones. Smith, a native of McComb, is an associate professor of English at The W.



New Orleans Alumni Gathering

Dr. Borsig visited with alumni at Copeland's Cheesecake Bistro. They are Del Hamilton, Sarah Wood, Jill Garner, Ann Severance, Kathy Randall, Sherrie Cooper, Lanie Griffin, Ruth Curcuru, Carol Bosage, Theresa Braud, Ruth Avila, Lesley Norwood, Cindy Craft, Tonya Jones, Deena Fortner and Nelwyn Hair.



Gulf Coast Chapter Meeting

Dr. Borsig was the special guest for the alumni meeting held on the coast at Phoenicia Gourmet Restaurant in Ocean Springs. Alumni in attendance: Judy Abide, Reba Branch, Ann Chapman, Sherrie Cooper, Kay Cox, Susan Daniels, Michelle Daugherty, Ann Dees, Norma Dees, Lauren Drummond, Rhonda Eick, Pam Foster, Nick Gault, Treva Goff, Carol Gray, Cheryl Hall, Del Hamilton, Deborah Hodges, Peggy Hoover, Judy Hunter, Barbara Marshall, Sara McKie, Bess Moffatt, Charlotte Orr, Carrie Pate, Rachael Patterson, Peggy Peterson, Beth Quave, Dawn Rebatchik, Amber Smith, Sally Scordino, Rebecca Stevens, Amelia Taylor, Sheila Vickery and Lana White.

MUWAA announces 2014 alumni award recipients



Murphree

Four deserving individuals are being recognized for contributions to their respective career fields and The W by the MUW Alumni Association.

The award winners are Dr. Mabel M. Murphree of Tupelo and William “Peppy” Biddy of Columbus, as well as Emily Myers Garner and Katy Pacelli, both of Jackson.

“On behalf of MUWAA, we are pleased to announce the 2014 Alumni Awards,” said Sherrie Cooper, president of MUWAA. “Their accomplishments reflect well on their success and also on the merits of the university that is honoring them.”

Dr. Mabel M. Murphree is the 2014 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. This award is extended to MUW alumni who have achieved professional distinction and made significant community service contributions at the local, national or international level, bringing distinction and honor to the university.

The Columbus native is the district director for Congressman Alan Nunnelee and oversees the congressman’s offices and activities in the first congressional district. Previously Murphree served as senior vice president of the CREATE Foundation. Prior to that, she served as Appalachian Regional Commission state director by appointment from Gov. Ronnie Musgrove.

Currently Murphree serves on the boards of the Community Development Foundation, North Mississippi Medical Center and Natchez Trace Parkway Association. She is a member of the Tupelo Rotary Club, the Link Center, Tupelo Symphony League and Tupelo Junior Auxiliary.

Murphree graduated in 1970 from The W and later received her master’s degree and Ph.D. from Mississippi State University. She and her husband, Bill Murphree, reside in Tupelo and have two sons and three grandchildren.

William “Peppy” Biddy is the recipient of the 2014 Distinguished Achievement Award. The award is presented to alumni and friends of

the university who have achieved professional distinction and made significant community service contributions at the local, national or international level, bringing distinction and honor to the university.

Biddy is currently chair of both the Department of Theatre and Department of Communication at The W. During his tenure at The W he has received the Kossen Award for Faculty Excellence, the Lowndes County Educator of the Year Award and was named the 2008 Outstanding Faculty Honoree by HEADWAE. On campus Biddy has directed more than 35 full productions for MUW theatre.

He earned his MFA in theatre at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and has worked as either actor, director or stage manager at such companies as the Dallas Theatre Center, Dallas Summer Musicals, Casa Manana in Ft. Worth, Texas, Dallas Children’s Theatre, Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, Va., and New Stage Theatre in Jackson. He has served as the production manager for the Sundance Theatre Lab in Utah since 2000.

Emily Myers Garner is being presented with the 2014 Alumni Service Award for consistently demonstrating outstanding commitment, dedication, leadership and service to the advancement of the university and alumni association.

Garner’s professional ventures include SOIRÉE, LLC, Event Planning & Public Relations and McLaughlin Garner Group, LLC. An avid volunteer, Garner currently serves as the 2013-14 chair of the St. Mark’s Preschool Parents Association and is an active member of the Junior League of Jackson where she has served in many leadership positions.

Garner was instrumental in endowing a scholarship in her family’s honor and recognizing the three generations of family members who claim MUW as their alma mater. She also helped create the Long Blue Line Silent Auction held



Biddy



Garner



Pacelli



at spring homecoming to benefit the MUWAA Legacy Scholarship Fund and MUW Faculty Awards and served as the guest speaker of the 2013 Magnolia Chain ceremony. Named 2006 Young Alum of the Year, Garner continues to support her university through student recruiting, lectures to the Division of Business & Communications and volunteer service.

Katy Canion Pacelli is the recipient of the 2014 Outstanding Recent Graduate Award, which recognizes alumni for outstanding contributions in their careers and to the university within 15 years of graduation from MUW.

Pacelli is the director of the Kelly Gene Cook, Sr. Charitable Foundation where she oversees day-to-day operations of the office in Jackson, managing more than 50 scholarship students as well as the budget and the teacher grant program.

She serves as president of the Jackson Metro Chapter of the MUWAA and is a member of the Junior League of Jackson. She also served as coordinator of community college recruitment for MUW and associate director of admission at Millsaps College.

The MUWAA exists to support and promote the mission of Mississippi University for Women while providing alumni engagement opportunities. Any person who has been officially enrolled for at least 12 semester hours and has not met donation requirements is considered a general member. A \$40 donation to the university constitutes active membership and voting rights for the calendar year.

*For more information, visit
www.muw.edu/alumni/alumni-association*

Class Notes

1970s

Barbara Travis '70, executive director of the Mississippi World Trade Center, has been awarded recertification by the International Economic Development Council. With 24 years of experience in economic and community development, Travis has served in statewide retail development and marketing positions in the private sector as well as in entrepreneurial, community and global business divisions of the Mississippi Development Authority and as Rankin County's director of economic development prior to her current position. She has also operated a consulting company for 15 years.

1980s

Sylvia Sheedy Dugai '82 had an original poem, "The Call of the Blue Ridge," published in Blue Ridge Parkway Celebration. The silver anniversary commemorative edition of photographs, poetry and prose celebrates the Parkway and the 25 years of service provided by Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Mountain Trail Press publication may be purchased online at blueridgeparkwayfriends.org or from several major book retailers.

Dawn Powell Woo '87 received the Mississippi Tennis Association 2013 Junior Local League Coordinator of the Year award. This award is presented to a local league coordinator who shows program growth, outstanding organizational skills

and implements new and innovative ideas. She was presented this award at the MTA annual awards luncheon at the Country Club of Jackson in January. In addition to working as a teaching pro at the Cleveland Country Club, Dawn serves as the Delta Area Jr. team tennis coordinator, serves on the MTA Jr. Team Tennis Committee and serves as the Delta Community Tennis Association's pro's representative. She also was named PTR's 2013 State Member of the Year for Mississippi.

Weddings

2000s

Lea Alexander '06 of Columbus and William Liles Jr. of Rex, Ga., were married Sept. 28, 2013.

Jordan Wooley '09 and Luke Harrington of Summit were married Nov. 9, 2013.

2010s

Allison Hill '10 of Louisville and Kevin Cole of West Point were married Sept. 7, 2013.

Hollie Thomas '11 and Andrew Breland of Philadelphia, were married Sept. 14, 2013.

Ginny Wigginton '11 and Joseph Salvino of Seattle, Wash., were married Oct. 26, 2013.



Courtney Weeks '12 and Kyle Lee of Winfield, Ala., were married Oct. 12, 2013.

Traci Rico '12 of Eupora and Gregory Holloway of Ridgeland were married Nov. 9, 2013.

Meagan Coody '13 of Yazoo City and Evan MacMillan of Brandon were married Oct. 12, 2013.

Births

2000s

Lydia Coffey Pierce '09 and Jared Pierce of Hattiesburg announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Wesley, on Dec. 3, 2012.

Deaths

1930s

Miriam Randall Wilder '35 of Brandon, Sept. 30, 2013.

Ruth Virginia Nanney Mann '37 of Starkville, Nov. 11, 2013.

Lena Boutwell Griffin '38 of Ripley, Sept. 30, 2013.

Bernice Johnson Heuser '38 of Virginia Beach, Va., Jan. 13, 2012.

Dorothy J. Stout '38 of Vicksburg, May 16, 2013.

Sarah Frances Brooks McDonald '39 of Mobile, Ala., Aug. 14, 2012.

1940s

Annie Lewis Myrick Smith '40 of Greenwood, Nov. 5, 2013.

Helen Callahan Vaughan '41 of Evansville, Ind., Nov. 30, 2013.

Nell Thomas Wiygul '41 of Ridgeland, Nov. 10, 2013.

Margery Catledge Brown '43 of Fort Worth, Texas, Oct 5, 2013.

Joyce Whittington Hughes '43 of Greenwood, Oct. 15, 2013.

Kathleen Ishee Warnock '43 of Laurel, Sept. 16, 2013.

Geneva Cleveland Bernard '44 of Port Allen, La., Aug. 18, 2013.

Mary Benson Graves '45 of Ackerman, Feb. 19, 2011.

Annie Saxon McPhail '45 of Madison, March 30, 2013.

Allene Ray Brandon '46 of Pontotoc, May 17, 2013.

Lucy Puckett Fisher '46 of Indianola, Oct. 14, 2013.

Ann Dabney Nimmo '48 of Suffolk, Va., Dec. 1, 2010.

Jean Allen Price '49 of Baton Rouge, La., March 16, 2013.

Bonnie Mann Simpson '49 of Winona, Oct. 14, 2013.

1950s

Eleanor Watson Ray '50 of New Albany, Sept. 20, 2013.

Mary Massey Boyles '51 of Natchez, Oct. 16, 2013.

Helen Tyler Lott '51 of Kilmichael, Feb. 22, 2013.

Theda Duke Malvaney '51 of Gautier, Oct. 12, 2013.

Laurice Ferguson Smith '51 of Columbus, Oct. 11, 2013.

Annette Graddy Jackson '52 of Brandon, April 18, 2012.

Frances Pigott Perkins '54 of Houston, Texas, Oct. 12, 2011.

Edith Sanford Bland '55 of Corinth, Oct. 12, 2013.

Mary Edna Long Oates '55 of Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 8, 2013.

Shirley Arnold Waddle '57 of Desoto, Texas, Nov. 4, 2013.

Susan Crais Hovanec '58 of Oxford, Md., Oct. 10, 2013.

Amelia Porter Hurst '58 of Kingsport, Tenn., Nov. 7, 2013.

Carlene Myers Scanlon '59 of Jackson, Oct. 24, 2013.

1960s

Betsy Boyd Cook '60 of Tullahoma, Tenn., July 12, 2013.

Dr. Terrell Ann Ford '61 of Pascagoula, June 15, 2013.

Susan Astin Dawson '63 of Holly Springs, April 17, 2013.

Vivian Redditt Hemphill '68 of Clarksdale, Aug. 30, 2013.

1970s

Gertrude Magby Lewis '74 of Columbus, April 13, 2013.

Hilda King Craig '77 of Pfafftown, N.C., Nov. 17, 2013.

1990s

Cathy Stalnaker Hartzog '91 of Madison, Aug. 23, 2013.

Faculty & Staff

Elizabeth "Betty" Jane Dice of Norman, Okla., Aug. 22, 2013. She was a retired faculty member at The W, where she taught costume design and art education and started both the ceramics and weaving departments.

Strobel, 11th President of The W, Dies in Florida

James W. Strobel, who served 1977-88 as president of The W, died Jan. 8 in a car accident in Florida, where he was living. He was 80.

A native of Steubenville, Ohio, Strobel received his bachelor's degree in botany at Ohio University and earned a doctorate in plant pathology at Washington State University. He was named the 11th president of The W in 1977, coming to Mississippi from North Carolina State University where he had served as professor and head of the Department of Horticultural Science.

During his 11-year tenure at The W, Strobel was instrumental in the founding of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, a residential program for high-achieving high school students. His legacy also includes starting the Mississippi Governor's School, a summer residential honors program for high school juniors and seniors; establishing the university's Centennial Scholars Program for superior students; and overseeing the creation of Plymouth Bluff Environmental Center. He also oversaw the construction of Cromwell Communication Center, home to the university's theater and communication departments.

Strobel was president in 1984, when the university celebrated the centennial of its founding.

"Dr. Strobel provided strong leadership to the university during some of its major milestones such as the 1982 admission of men," recalled Dr. Sheila Adams, dean of the College of Nursing and Speech-Language Pathology. "He was an approachable leader who supported faculty and the academic mission of The W."

President Jim Borsig said that he first met Strobel in 1977, when Borsig was a student and chair of the Council of Student Body Presidents. "Dr. Strobel was a strong influence in encouraging me to pursue my career," he said.

After being named president of The W in 2011, Borsig said he had a chance to renew his acquaintance with Strobel. "I know from these conversations how deeply he loved this university. Our entire university family extends our sympathy and prayers to his family during this difficult time."



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.

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

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Class Year _____

College _____

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(W) _____

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SNAPSHOTS

1. Kevin Price, of Bradley Tree Service, took care of some dead limbs on the big oak tree on the Dem School lawn, on the corner of 5th Avenue and 11th St. South.

2. Ruth Brown and Mary Morgan light a candle at one of The W's many traditions, the 100th Night Ceremony, where it is celebrated that there are roughly 100 days until commencement.

3. Institutions of Higher Learning Board of Trustees member Ed Blakeslee delivered the December 2013 commencement address.

4. Katherine Roberts, of The W Office of Outreach and Innovation, gets her blood pressure checked at the annual health fair held on campus.



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4

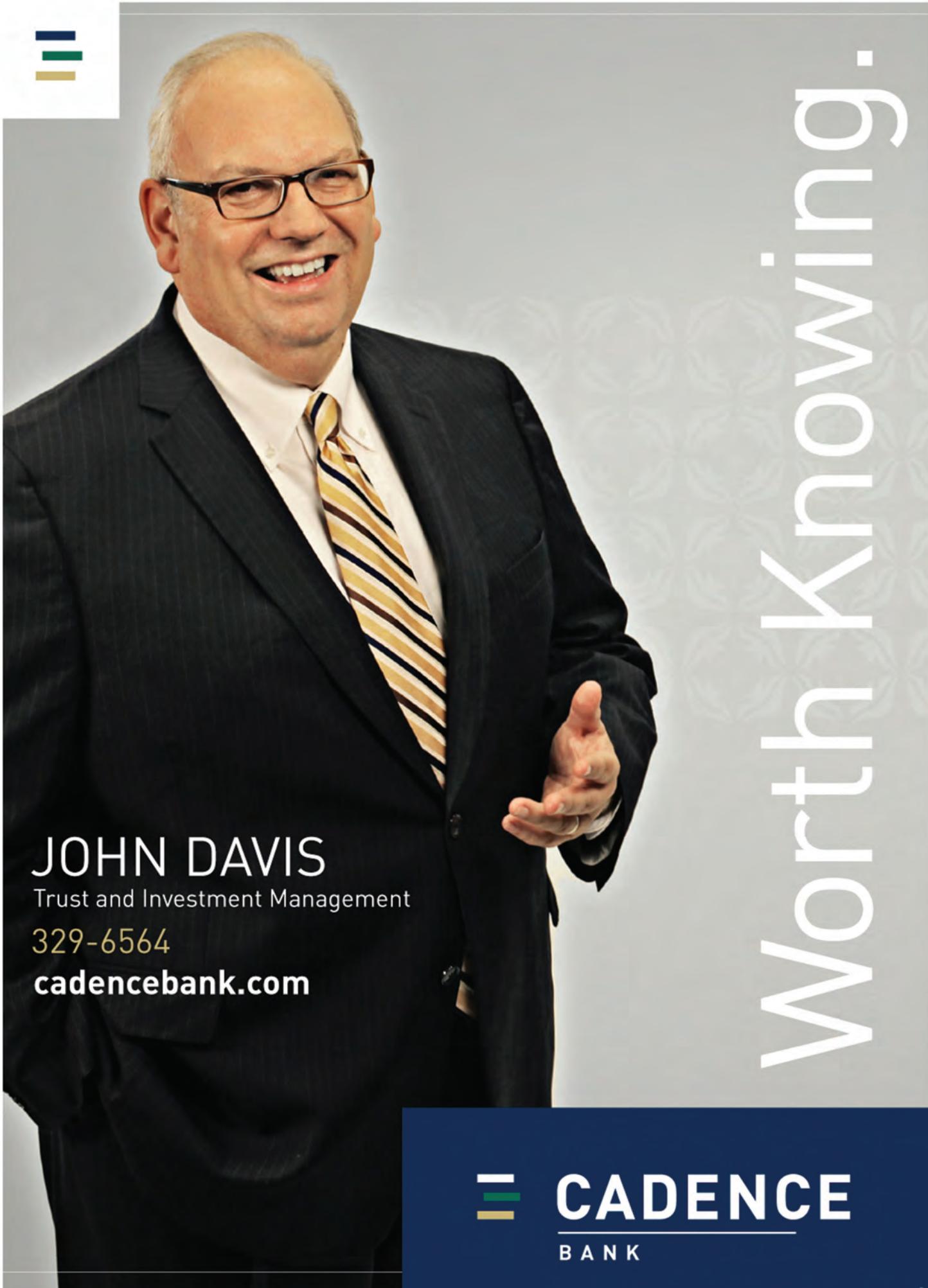


5. A polar vortex swept the country in January, causing temperatures to drop below freezing for several days. The Legacy Garden fountain was transformed into a beautiful ice sculpture until warmer temperatures made their return.

6. Sweta Adhakari, of Katmandu, Nepal, was crowned the 2014 Miss Phi Beta Sigma at The W.

7. About 100 high school students from throughout the state gathered at The W to compete in the annual Regional Science Bowl in January.





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The Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association's **LONG BLUE LINE SILENT AUCTION** will be held along with the Southern Grace Dinner at Homecoming. Come and enjoy delicious food and cocktails from the famous cookbook while mingling with friends and bidding on items. While the Long Blue Line Auction is a free event, tickets for the Southern Grace Dinner are **\$25 each**.

We are requesting help from all MUW Alumni and friends to make the **LONG BLUE LINE SILENT AUCTION** a success by partnering with us as a Silent Auction Donor or a *Table Sponsor*. For more information, please contact us at longbluelineauction2014@gmail.com.

For those not able to attend Homecoming this year, there will be a select number of items that will be available for bidding online. You'll also be able to preview items that will be at the **LONG BLUE LINE SILENT AUCTION**.

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