

SUMMER 2014

VISIONS

For Alumni & Friends of The W



The
W

**EVERY
STUDENT
CAN LEARN**



VISIONS

SUMMER 2014
MAGAZINE

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY for WOMEN

FEATURES



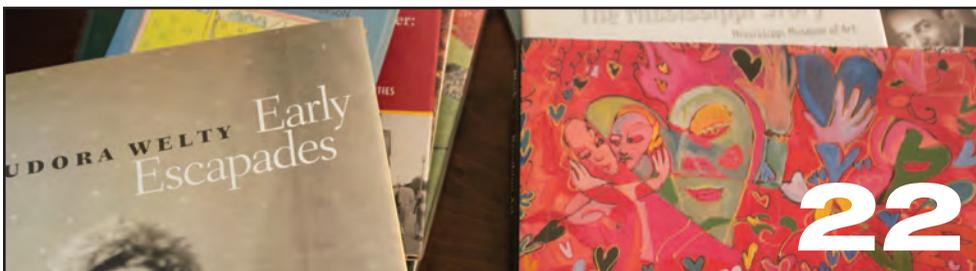
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Mississippi University
for Women

A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear W family and friends:

In this issue of *Visions*, we celebrate teaching. Not only does our College of Education and Human Sciences do an excellent job of preparing the next generation of teachers for Mississippi, but they start early. You'll read about a highly successful program called Kids 'N College, a

partnership between The W and the local Sale International Studies Magnet School. It's broadening the experiences of fifth-graders and introducing them to university resources such as the library and science laboratories while giving their teachers grounding in new classroom approaches. The program has earned a Governor's University Partnership Award.

We're also helping prepare teachers for transition to the Common Core standards being adopted by the state, both through Kids 'N College and through a new summer institute for middle school mathematics teachers, among other efforts. Dr. Richard Holden is helping lead the institute, with a team that includes Dr. Bonnie Oppenheimer of mathematics and algebra teachers from area schools.

You'll see in this issue that graduates of The W are making a huge impact in classrooms around the state. Some, such as Leigh Pourciau, found her calling immediately, and in just five years of teaching has been recognized by the Mississippi Department of Education, which has tapped her to develop Common Core instructional videos. She was selected from more than 3,000 applicants to be a 2013 Dream Team member for LearnZillion. And she's been featured in a Bill Gates videotaped segment on effective teaching.

Others featured in this issue came to teaching by different majors, different careers and different early paths. But all believe that teaching is what they were meant to do and say that they're convinced it's "far better than any other job in the world." We're proud of the inspiration they found from their experiences at The W.

We're also pleased to recognize outstanding faculty members who this year earned the Kossen Faculty Excellence Award and the Faculty Member of the Year Award. These honors recognize outstanding career accomplishments in teaching and scholarship excellence, as well as service and artistic accomplishment.

Finally, you'll read about the outstanding contributions of two graduates who have had a major impact on the arts and culture of the region, and far beyond. Patti Carr Black ('55), who received the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at spring commencement, is an earlier recipient of the Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, recognizing a career that has spanned tenure at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, as well as more recently that of a distinguished writer and editor.

Marchita Mauck ('64) last year received the Elbert M. Conover Memorial Award from the American Institute of Architects for her contributions to religious architecture. She's only the second woman to receive the national recognition, reserved for non-architects.

There's a lot to celebrate at The W. Our educational experience and our graduates are second to none! We think you'll agree they're making a huge impact in their careers.

Sincerely,

Internship Opportunity



Mississippi University for Women student Suvechhya Shresta garnered a \$10,000 national scholarship through the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, as well as a prestigious internship opportunity in Washington, D.C., this summer.

The PCAOB is a nonprofit corporation established by Congress to oversee the audits of public companies in order to protect the interests of investors and further the public interest in the preparation of

informative, accurate and independent audit reports.

Shresta, who was born and raised in Kathmandu, Nepal, is a senior majoring in accounting with a minor in management information systems.

She will graduate from The W in May 2015, with hopes of earning a certified public accountant license and specialize in forensic accounting.

This summer Shresta will intern in Washington, D.C., at The Washington Center Internship Program. She will work for a company called Study Sparkz at Vienna, Va., where she will be updating their accounting systems. Her internship fees will be covered by the William Burke Leadership Award.

Scholarship Program

Anna Watson of Amory has been accepted into the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program. She is currently a sophomore biology major at The W.

The Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program, hosted at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, is for students who are interested in becoming physicians in rural areas. Only 18 undergraduates are accepted into the highly competitive program.

After a lengthy application and interview process, students can be accepted into the program after they graduate, or they can be accepted in the spring semester of their sophomore year. If they are accepted as sophomores, they are given MCAT prep, shadowing opportunities, rural clinical experiences and funding to assist them in medical school.



ASN Program Re-accreditation

The W's Associate of Science in Nursing Program has been granted continuing accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) for the maximum period permitted.

The ACEN Board of Commissioners found the nursing program to be in full compliance with all accreditation standards at its March 2014 meeting and scheduled its next visit in 2021.

Six standards including 56 criteria in the areas of mission and administrative capacity; faculty and staff; students; curriculum; resources; and outcomes have to be met in order to receive continuing accreditation without conditions.

According to the latest ACEN Action Report, 80 nursing programs were visited during spring 2013. Only 24 programs were in compliance with all standards.

Intersessions Offered

With modern students come the need for flexible learning options. That is why for the first time, The W will offer intersessions in August and January.

Intersessions are intensive, two-week courses and learning opportunities that provide faculty with the opportunity to offer innovative courses and students with the ability to earn up to four hours of credit during a compressed period of time.

Also, since students will take only one class at a time, the intersessions will allow students to focus on a single course without the demands of other courses.

Music Collection Donated

A collection of more than 1,100 pieces of sheet music, books, journals and related items have found a home at The W, thanks to the generosity of a Columbus physician.

Dr. Paul Kantack, a retired psychiatrist, made the in-kind donation to the Poindexter Fund to support the university's music program, said Angela Ferraez, director of major gifts. "Dr. Kantack wanted to honor his wife, who was a longtime private music instructor, including serving as piano instructor at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport," she said. Mrs. Catherine Kantack died in 2012.

Included in the collection, now housed in Poindexter Hall, are 495 pieces of sheet music, 243 paperback books, 113 music collections, more than 180 music textbooks, nearly 100 music journals and a number of music encyclopedias and textbooks.

In addition to her musical accomplishments, Mrs. Kantack



also was a founding sponsor of the Martin Luther King National Memorial Project Foundation, as well as a director of the National Women's History Museum in Washington, D.C.

Art Competitions

MUW students took top honors at art competitions held on campus and in Jackson.

Overall Achievement awards for the students who competed in the annual Juried Student Exhibition went to Britney Frazier of Strayhorn (first place), Amber Jamison of Biloxi (second place), Brittany Twilley of Meridian (third place) and Dustin Vance of Oxford (honorable mention).

The Juried Student Exhibition wrapped up the first week of March. It featured 112 works by W students, ranging from freshmen to seniors.

A total of 39 awards were presented in 11 categories,

including mixed media, painting, design, sculpture, ceramics, digital imaging, illustration, graphic design, printmaking and photography.

MUW students also competed in the statewide Mississippi Collegiate Art Competition in Jackson in February.

Eddie Strawbridge from Belden won first place in metal arts. Frazier won second place for the overall jurors award. Anna Stokes of Ecu designed the winning logo for the Mississippi Collegiate Art Competition.

The W submitted 19 works with more than 167 pieces being submitted from colleges throughout the state.

Specialty Car Tag



The W has announced availability of a new specialty car tag, which may be ordered from county tax assessor offices.

The university worked with the state Department of Revenue to submit and receive approval on the design, which also carries the university's web address and the slogan "Long Blue Line."

Those who have the older specialty tag may continue to use it. As with the older tags, the new tags are available for \$51 above the current assessed value of the vehicle tag. Of that, \$31.50 returns to The W to support its programs.

For more information, see www.muw.edu/plate.

New Master of Arts in Women's Leadership to be Offered

In fall 2014, the university will offer its master of arts in women's leadership, which will give students the opportunity to use knowledge of women's issues as a force for change in today's world.

"This graduate degree will be interdisciplinary and although students will study theoretical backgrounds, it will emphasize application and experiential learning," said Dr. Bridget Smith Pieschel, director of the Center for Women's Research and Public Policy and of Women's Studies. "At the heart of this degree is a women's leadership practicum requirement.

"A commitment to improving the social, economic and public policies supporting women is a more important admission criterion than a background in a particular academic discipline," Pieschel added.

The practicum will offer opportunities beyond the classroom in women's centers, businesses, non-profits, community arts councils and museums, legal offices, domestic violence shelters and more.

The interdisciplinary program will provide research opportunities and educational exposure to leadership theory, multiple perspectives and cross-disciplinary scholarship modeled by faculty at The W who are already experienced researchers and writers on women's issues in health, education, law, history, literature, management, entrepreneurship, medicine and government.

A subcommittee of women's studies graduate faculty, including at least one faculty member from the graduate program in educational leadership, will interview all applicants to the program, will plan and develop seminars, coordinate course offerings, approve internship applications, thesis proposals and theses.

Applicants must meet the admissions standards set by the MUW Office of Graduate School. Students are required to complete 33 graduate hours including three hours in a practicum/field experience and three hours in a capstone project report/thesis.

The master of arts in women's leadership is a part of the university's overall efforts to redesign its offerings to expand leadership training to students across disciplines and across campus.

According to Dr. Kate Brown, director of the Office

of Outreach and Innovation at The W, the university is engaged in a process of defining a leadership framework that can benefit more students.

"It is an exciting opportunity to involve the business community, as well as our own faculty, staff and students, in determining

goals and structure going forward," she said. "At this point, we are only limited by our imagination in the goal of broadly involving students in leadership development activities."

Both an external advisory committee and an on-campus committee are at work to define key skill sets, as well as curricular and professional development opportunities in what Brown expects to be a two-year process of developing new programs.

This summer, The W also hosted the second annual Mississippi N.E.W. (National Education for Women) Leadership residential program on campus.

In partnership with the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service, based in Starkville, N.E.W. Leadership is a nonpartisan program designed to develop foundational leadership skills for college women. The national program was developed by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University and now is at 17 universities nationwide.

Students enrolled in the new master's program will be given the opportunity to work with existing programming at The W, including Mississippi N.E.W. Leadership.

Brown said the results of every university self-study over the past 25 years show that leadership development is a unique and valued element of a W education.

"The W provides outstanding academic preparation, and a strong and broad-based program in leadership development will ensure our graduates have value-added skills to make them stand out to future employers," she said.



100 Percent Pass Rate

The excellent quality of The W's nursing program was reflected in test results from 30 master's degree nurse practitioner graduates who took the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Exam.

The W had a 100 percent pass rate and scored above the national average. The W's graduates overall average score was 598, compared to the national average of 583. The W also scored above the national average in the areas of assessment and planning.

The purpose of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners National Certification Program is to provide a valid and reliable program for entry-level nurse practitioners to recognize their education, knowledge and professional expertise. The Academy Certification Program provides a process for validation of an advanced practice nurse's qualification and knowledge for practice as a nurse practitioner. The AANP exam is offered year round at testing centers throughout the nation.



Markers Refurbished

Thanks to the generosity of donors to The W Fund, two historical markers on The W campus have received facelifts.

The markers are located in front of Whitfield Hall and Demonstration School and date back to 1950 and 1991, respectively.

Dewey Blansett, director of facilities management, said their office worked with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History on this project.

Both markers feature gold leaf writing and were refurbished by Sewah Studios, a manufacturer of cast aluminum historic markers, out of Marietta, Ohio.

'Rivers' Prequel

Widely praised by readers and critics, Michael Farris Smith's debut novel, "Rivers," will continue its story of a hurricane-ravaged Mississippi with a prequel, also to be published by Simon & Schuster.

The associate professor of English at The W has been commissioned to continue his account of a post-apocalyptic Mississippi as an e-book single, which will help launch the publisher's new imprint, Simon451 (pages.simonandschuster.com/simon451). The 8-10,000-word piece will appear this fall.

"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.

"The prequel will probably deal with the days surrounding the declaration of 'The Line,'" Smith said.

Simon & Schuster also is reissuing Smith's novella, "The



Hands of Strangers," as an e-book, which will be available this year. Meanwhile, he also is contracted with Silver Lake Entertainment (www.silverlake-ent.com), a literary management and production company, to develop screenplays.

For more information, visit www.michaelfarrissmith.com.

kudos

McCoy receives Kossen Faculty Excellence Award

Dr. Tammie McCoy, department chair of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program at Mississippi University for Women, was honored with the 2014 Kossen Faculty Excellence Award at the university's commencement activities.

The award, which includes a \$5,000 stipend, recognizes the role of faculty as the heart of the university. It was established in 2004 by Connie Kossen, a 1964 alumna of MUW, and her husband Tom.

The award is based on three fundamentals: excellence in teaching, excellence in scholarly or artistic achievement and excellence in service, preferably both on campus and in communities throughout MUW's service area. Further, to be considered for this award, a faculty member must exhibit a commitment to student success in each of these three areas of responsibility.

Dr. Sheila Adams, dean of the College of Nursing and Speech-Language Pathology, said, "Dr. McCoy is a meritorious tenured professor of nursing at The W who has consistently exhibited excellence in teaching and advising, in scholarly achievement, and in service both on campus and in communities throughout The W's service area."

In 2013, McCoy was named one of the top 20 medical and nursing professors in Mississippi by Online Schools Mississippi. She was honored as Mississippi Community Service Nurse of the Year for her breast cancer awareness outreach and community literacy campaigns through the Nightingale Awards in Jackson. She also helps nursing students prepare for their own community engagements as head of the BSN department.

Sally-Anne Tiernan, senior BSN student, said, "Dr. Tammie McCoy has shown great compassion and care for the students in the BSN program. Personally, she showed sympathy and understanding when my husband underwent heart surgery in my junior year, working with my fellow faculty members to ensure I did not fall behind."

McCoy was the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award last year as well. The award is presented to alumni



Connie Kossen and Dr. Tammie McCoy

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

She has been involved with community service during her entire nursing career. In 2012, she served as president of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs, an organization that helps to improve communities through volunteer service.

Some of the other projects McCoy has been involved with in Mississippi include breast cancer awareness and prevention, raising funds for mammograms, teaching students to read, promoting summer reading programs, proper utilization of seatbelts and providing immunizations for students. Internationally she has worked to provide immunizations for children in third world countries.

McCoy and her fellow club members worked across the state to implement Dr. McCoy's President's Special Project, "Feeding Fellow Mississippians," which focused on ways to help individuals across the life span have adequate food. As part of this project she worked with food banks in canned food drives, with local church organizations in feeding initiatives, with schools and weekend backpack programs and with ways to identify and help Mississippian's with basic food needs.

Faculty Member of the Year

Mary Jo Kirkpatrick, chair of Mississippi University for Women's Associate of Science in Nursing program, was named Faculty Member of the Year.

The Faculty Member of the Year Award, which includes an award in the amount of \$1,000, is an honor bestowed upon the faculty member who, above all, values quality teaching. The individual selected is truly a symbol of MUW's highly regarded faculty.



MUW's Star and Scepter Chapter of Mortar Board and the MUW Alumni Association, which provides a generous \$1,000 award, jointly recognize the Faculty Member of the Year. A faculty portrait will be placed with other awardees' photographs on the walls of Whitfield Hall.

Kirkpatrick was recently named Nursing Administrator of the Year at the annual Nightingale Awards sponsored by the Mississippi Nurses' Association and the Mississippi Nurses' Foundation.

A faculty member at The W for 38 years, she has served as head of the program since 1991, leading it through three successful accreditation processes and three major curriculum revisions. The W's ASN program was the first associate degree program in Mississippi to achieve national accreditation status. National licensure rates since its inception are 98.5 percent.

Capstone Project Accepted

Dr. Shonda Phelon, a graduate of MUW's Doctorate of Nursing Practice program and an instructor of nursing at The W, presented her capstone project, "Suicide Assessment and Prevention: A Clinical Practice Guideline for Primary Care," at two national conferences.



The National Nurse Practitioner Symposium tapped Dr. Phelon for a poster presentation at Keystone, Colo., and she will discuss her project in a podium presentation at the American Psychiatric Nurses Association at Indianapolis, Ind., in October.

She has 22 years of experience working as a family nurse practitioner and eight years as a psychiatrist nurse practitioner. As a psychiatrist nurse practitioner, she observed a disconnect between mental health care and primary health care.

Her capstone project focuses on integrating open dialogue about mental health between practitioners and patients, with the hope that patients with mental health issues will be evaluated without having to be transferred to counseling or for psychiatric treatment, if the problem can be handled by a practitioner.

Phelon hopes her project will create a seamless transition from primary health care to mental health care and that the presentations will keep the discussion about suicide and suicide prevention alive.

NEH Summer Scholar

Dr. Erin Kempker, professor of history at The W, was recently selected as a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar.

As a participant, she attended the summer institute supported by the NEH, which focused on "Finding Mississippi in the National Civil Rights Narrative: Struggle, Institution Building, and Power at the Local Level. The three-week program was held in Jackson.



Kempker was one of 25 scholars at the institute whose role was to learn all they could and bring what they learned back to their respective campuses and communities to disseminate.

She was chosen from a national applicant pool to attend one of 30 seminars and institutes supported by NEH. The endowment is a federal agency that, each summer, supports these enrichment opportunities at colleges, universities and cultural institutions, so that faculty can work in collaboration and study with experts in humanities disciplines.

Nursing Recognized at Nightingale Awards Ceremony

The nursing program at Mississippi University for Women received two significant honors in Jackson.

The annual Nightingale Awards honor outstanding nurses and health care professionals, as well as organizations that have made a special effort to excel in healthcare.

The W's College of Nursing was recognized as the School of Nursing of the Year. This is the second time that The W's program has received this recognition since the Nightingale Awards were started in 2006. The program last fall celebrated its 40th year and in December graduated the first class of a recently launched Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree. It is the only nursing program in the state that provides degrees from the associate of science in nursing through the DNP.

Mary Jo Kirkpatrick, chair of The W's ASN program, was named Nursing Administrator of the Year. A faculty member at The W for 38 years, she has served as head of the program since 1991, leading it through three successful accreditation processes and three major curriculum revisions. The W's ASN program was the first associate degree program in Mississippi to achieve national accreditation status. National licensure rates since its inception are 98.5 percent.

Kirkpatrick has served as president of the Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing and was the first chair of the Mississippi Council of Associate Degree Nursing Programs. She currently is a member of the Methodist/LeBonheur Healthcare Board of Directors and chairs the board's Quality and Safety Committee.

Dr. Sheila Adams, dean of the college, said that she's particularly proud of the recognition from a distinguished group of peers. "We have worked hard to build our program around the needs of our region and our state, and we know that our graduates excel in all fields of nursing. Our faculty are committed to our students' success."

MUW President Jim Borsig added, "The nursing program at The W has demonstrated its ability to innovate in delivering the highest quality educational standards for nursing professionals. Graduates of our nursing program have the highest pass rate in the state on the national licensure exam. We're very proud of these honors that recognize the contributions of the faculty and staff of the college."



Estelle Watt, Dr. Jim Borsig and Dr. Sheila Adams



Dr. Tonya Moore and Mary Jo Kirkpatrick

Since its founding in 1971, the college has produced about 5,400 graduates who have successfully moved into the workforce, she added. An online RN to BSN program, launched in 1982, provides a pathway for working registered nurses to earn a bachelor's degree. More than 440 students are enrolled in the program, up from approximately 200 in 2009.

The annual awards gala, also known as the "Academy Award" of quality service in the nursing and health care industry, is sponsored by the Mississippi Nurses' Association and the Mississippi Nurses' Foundation. There were 47 nominees from around the state for the 2014 awards. More than 600 nursing professionals, leaders and supporters gather to honor award winners and their contributions to the nursing profession.

Ward Presents Award

Dr. James D. Ward, professor of political science at The W, presented the Equal Opportunity-Affirmative Action Exemplary Practice award to United States Congressman John Lewis in Washington, D.C.

The American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) gives this award to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to a more equal society.

Ward, who served as chair of the selection committee, said, “Congressman Lewis, along with his compassion, sacrifice and commitment to social justice, epitomizes the standards upon which the award was established.”

Ward has served on the ASPA National Council since 2011 and has been responsible for assisting in the governance of the organization by participating in policy decisions at annual meetings and leadership retreats.



Dr. James Ward and Rep. John Lewis

Faculty Awards

The Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association applauded faculty members’ work inside and outside of the classroom at Homecoming 2014 Convocation.

Faculty awards were presented to Wesley Garrett, New Faculty Award, and Drs. Nora Corrigan and Deborah Miranda, Faculty Enhancement Grant winners.

The New Faculty Award rewards the hard work of a newer faculty member in supporting the academic mission of The W.

Smith Co-authors Book

A record amount of money was spent in the 2012 presidential and congressional elections, and Dr. Melissa Smith expects a record amount to be raised in the 2016 as well.

Smith, assistant professor in The W’s Department of Communication, examines the role of money in U.S. politics in her new book “Dark Money, Super PACs, and the 2012 Election,” co-written with Larry Powell of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. It is published by Lexington Books.

Research in her book was done through analysis of mass-media news reports about campaign finances, financial reports filed by Super PACs and 501(c)(4) groups, analysis of organizations that track spending of outside political groups, Supreme Court decisions and other published reports regarding the raising and spending of money during the federal election.



New General Counsel

A 2002 graduate of MUW was named general counsel for the university.

Karen Gwinn Clay, a magna cum laude graduate of Mississippi College School of Law, assumed the position vacated by Perry Sansing, who currently serves as associate counsel for the University of Mississippi.

While in law school, Clay was executive editor of Law Review and was on the Moot Court Board. She also received the Betty B. Tucker Award for Professionalism and was named the overall winner in the Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush Moot Court Competition. At MC, she has served as an adjunct professor, teaching issues and concepts of personnel manager.

Clay has held professional positions as an associate with Watkins, Ludlam, Winter & Stennis; Jones Walker; and The Kullman Firm. In addition, she has served as a pro bono volunteer with the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project and Mission First.

In addition to the juris doctor, she holds a master’s in college student personnel from the University of Tennessee.

Clay is a member of the Mississippi Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Capitol Area Bar Association and the American Inns of Court, Charles Clark Chapter.



SACRED | spaces

Marchita Mauck's lifetime contributions to design

by Maridith Walker Geuder

Marchita Mauck, a Columbus native, entered The W in 1960 with the intention of becoming an English and history major, a goal she pursued until her junior year. It was then she was assigned a student worker job in the art department and crossed paths with Professor Mary Evelyn Stringer. That meeting changed the course of her career—and her life.

“I took art history, and I was really interested in it,” she recalled 50 years later. Luckily, Stringer was interested in the promising art student as well. “She encouraged me to apply for a Fulbright—which I got,” Mauck said. “I spent 1964-65 in the Netherlands studying at the University of Utrecht.”

Her academic path had changed forever. She followed her undergraduate studies at The W with a master's degree at Tulane University and began teaching at Louisiana State University. “At that time, you could teach university-level courses with a master's degree, so I commuted to New Orleans to work on a doctorate in medieval studies,” Mauck said.

While writing her dissertation, Mauck identified issues in liturgical history that intrigued her. Her interest led to the University of Notre Dame, where she pursued another master's degree.

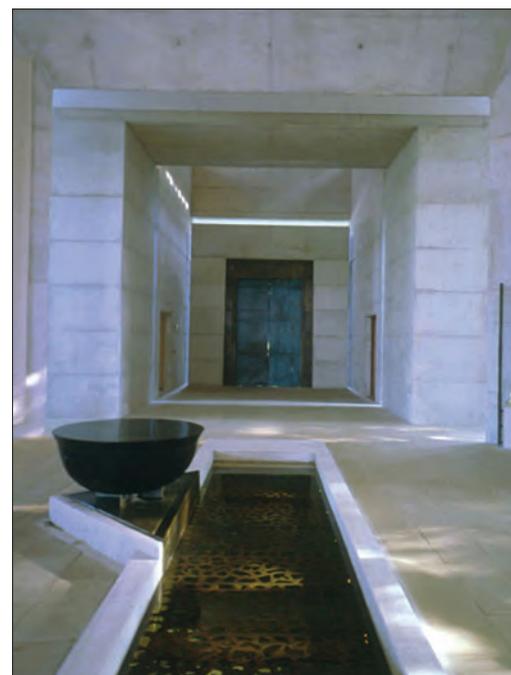
There, while teaching liturgical art and history classes, she was asked to lend her expertise to designing ritual spaces. “That’s how it began,” she recalled.

Since then, in addition to teaching for more than 46 years at LSU, she’s been a national and international consultant on the design of sacred spaces, as well as becoming an internationally recognized expert. Her lifetime efforts were honored last year by the American Institute of Architects, when the national organization presented her its Elbert M. Conover Memorial Award for her contributions to religious architecture.

“The award is given every other year as a career achievement award to a non-architect,” Mauck explained, adding that she’s the second woman to receive the distinction.

For Mauck, though, the real honor lies not in awards but in the significance of her work. Drawing on theology, anthropology, sociology, psychology, and history, she explores designs based in historical precedent and interprets them for contemporary spaces. The idea, she says, is for people to “experience ritual in a way that is transformative. I look at the human dimension of experience and ask ‘what makes the experience memorable?’”





Photos from St. Jean Vianney in Baton Rouge, La.

She recalls a church in which the design placed a tomb-shaped font in the narthex. She remembers watching as family and friends arrived for a funeral service, observing that individuals gathered around the font and spontaneously dipped their hands in the water. “It was an unprompted and powerful gesture,” she said. To Mauck, that’s the beauty of a design that inspires authentic response.

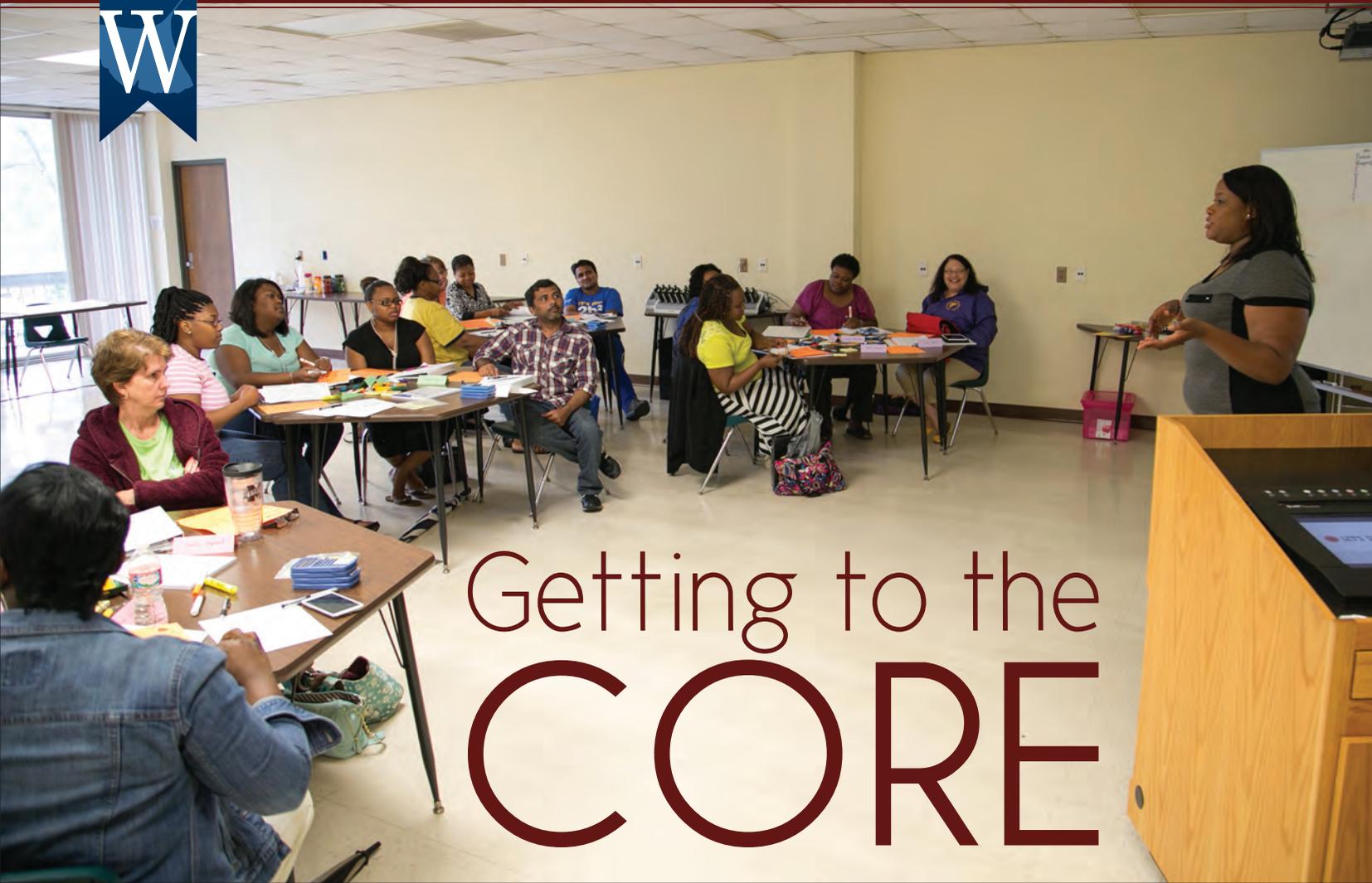
Among the hundreds of designs she’s consulted on—including those in places as diverse as Columbus and Germany—one of her favorite is still St. Jean Vianney, a Catholic church in her longtime home of Baton Rouge. “It is a contemporary church with powerful spaces,” she said. Dedicated in 1998, the church has received more than 18 awards for “the boldness and simplicity” of its design, which includes bronze sculptures by California artist Max DeMoss.

To Mauck, her many contributions aren’t that far afield from her early interest in English and history. “There’s poetry in all of it,” she said, “the text, the power of ritual language. The language aspect is splendid.”

The love of design and language merge for Mauck in works she has authored, including “Shaping a House for the Church” and “Places for Worship: A Guide to Building and Renovating.” The former has been adopted by a variety of denominations, including Lutheran, Catholic and Episcopal. She also provided the introduction for “Sacred Light: Holy Places in Louisiana,” with photographs by A.J. Meek, and “Historic Baton Rouge Architecture,” with photographs by Pat Caldwell and Jim Frasier. In addition, Mauck curated “Treasures of LSU,” published by LSU Press in 2010.

Coinciding with the sesquicentennial of the university, the book features more than 100 significant artworks and artifacts, some of which had not previously been identified, Mauck said.

Now professor emeritus at LSU, Mauck has previously taught at Yale Divinity School, the University of Notre Dame, and the Chicago Theological Union as visiting professor. After her formal retirement, she continues to teach occasional courses at LSU and to consult. A Golden Girl in 2014, the former student of Stringer is still busy, still learning, and still sharing her talent. 



Getting to the CORE

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

Teachers gear up for Common Core at summer institute

Common Core is coming to a school near you this fall, and teachers, students and parents are entering new territory.

In August, Mississippi will join 44 other states that will teach the Common Core education standards designed to have consistent and clear educational goals in math and English for students across the country.

“It (Common Core) is being implemented this year, whether we like or not, and we want them (teachers) to like it,” said Dr. Richard Holden, professor of education at Mississippi University for Women.

Adopted in Mississippi in 2010, Common Core State Standards (CCSS) provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to

learn so that teachers and parents know how to help them. The goal is to provide appropriate academic benchmarks for all students, regardless of where they live.

This summer The W hosted a four-week institute on campus focused on Common Core Mathematics. The institute was made possible through a grant secured by Holden to assist middle school mathematics teachers in developing technology-rich, instructional lessons, strategies and activities that support implementation of the new CCSS for mathematics.

“After the grant was written and approved, I notified the other three instructors to begin planning for the institute. All of us have received training or professional development on Common Core but that

training is ongoing and much of it is through independent study from sources readily available on the Web,” he said.

Holden’s team of instructors included Dr. Bonnie Oppenheimer, associate department chair and professor of mathematics; Lindsay Harrison Miller, Algebra I teacher at New Hope High School; and Tiffany Phinisey, pre-algebra teacher at West Lowndes Middle School.

As part of the institute, 19 participants received additional training on technology hardware items such as the Promethean interactive whiteboard, classroom response systems and mathematics applications for mobile devices. Also, there was instruction on TI-Nspire graphing calculators in solving functions problems and graphing equations. Miller, who teaches ninth graders, said she was excited to be sharing her knowledge with other educators.

“The TI-Nspire calculator allows teachers to send questions to all students to evaluate learning of a new concept or a skill that has been previously taught,” she said. “The software allows teachers to show responses and discuss any misconceptions that the students may have when approaching a problem.”

Miller added that students love real-world application. “This device allows the teacher to bring multiple presentations of real world situations and put it in the students’ hands while in the classroom.”

An example she provided was graphing quadratics and shooting a basketball, where students are able to model a basketball’s flight through the air using a quadratic function. Arrica Chandler Smith is one of the teachers participating in the institute. Smith teaches seventh and eighth grade math at B.F. Liddell Middle School in Noxubee County.

“I want to gain more knowledge about Common Core since it will be implemented in the school and learn



Miller with the TI-Nspire graphic calculator

techniques to keep my students interested and informed and make it relevant to them,” she said.

Simeon Weatherby, who teaches ninth through 12th grade math at West Lowndes, added, “This institute is giving me an advantage on Common Core, and it will give me different strategies that I can implement in the classroom.”

Holden said, “I can only assume the participants will hope to gain a sense of confidence and feeling of preparedness as the state fully implements the Common Core State Standards this coming school year.

“I’m sure they will be looking to leave the institute with concrete lesson plans, activities and ideas on how to present and clarify mathematical concepts. 🍷



WEEKS of SUCCESS

Culture and university experience merge in Kids 'N College program

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

Kyla Norwood is familiar with the term 'namaste'—the way of greeting another in the Indian Hindu culture. The 11-year-old also can you tell you a thing or two about saris, a drape commonly worn by women of India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

On this day, Norwood is among some 50 elementary students learning about the Indian culture in the heart of Columbus on the historical campus of Mississippi University for Women.

Norwood is a student in the Kids 'N College program, a partnership formed between The W's College of Education & Human Sciences and Sale International Studies Magnet Elementary School in the fall of 2009.

She and her classmate, 11-year-old Hezam

Nagi, are veterans of the program, first entering it as kindergartners. The fifth-graders have had an opportunity to visit different parts of the world and experience college by traveling just a few blocks away from home.

"I like how we are able to compare and contrast different cultures," Norwood said, referring to her lesson about the Indian culture. "When we (in America) think about karma, we think in terms of bad luck. When they think of karma, it could mean you coming back in another life as an ant or a king."

In addition to learning about other cultures, the students are also being exposed to the university experience with The W being the first time for some of them to ever step onto a college campus.



Nagi has been able to dine in the university's cafeteria and create a mock class schedule and then walk from building to building to see what it would be like as a college student.

He was most intrigued with the size of the campus that is situated on about 114 acres. "I didn't expect it to be this big," Nagi said. "I did not know you could live on campus."

Kay Ellis, media specialist and International Baccalaureate coordinator at Sale, said these are the hands-on activities that cannot be explained to a student.

"So many of them live in Columbus and don't understand what The W is. It gives them the motivation they need," Ellis said, noting that some of the students will be first-generation college students. "They get to see a dorm room. It's a real hard concept to explain to an elementary student."

In the Beginning

Former Sale Principal Nancy Bragg and Ellis had ideas about what learning should involve for the elementary students under their leadership.

The school was notified about its MDE "Academic Watch" Accountability status for the 2008-2009 academic year. At the same time, administrators and faculty accepted the challenge from then superintendent Del Phillips that it was declared an international studies magnet school, moving toward approval by the International Baccalaureate World Organization and it had elected to participate in an extended school year calendar.

As part of the extended school year, they wanted to use

"Success Weeks" or weeks between academic sessions for both remediation and enrichment. A greater idea influencing their thoughts and decisions was that the students (88 percent of whom were eligible for free or reduced lunch) in their Title I school needed to experience learning outside their own school walls. Their vision--to take their students to experience the greater world. Ideas began to form and they reached out to Dr. Sue Jolly-Smith, education department chair at The W at the time.

"Could they bring their students to the MUW campus for these Success Days and could MUW bring education majors to the Sale campus to reach out to work on remediation for those students who needed increased support?" were questions that were asked, explained Dr. Jolly-Smith.

As long as any of them could remember, the university and the Columbus schools had partnered in the preparation of future teachers, but this would involve something new. From that initial meeting in July 2009, the vision grew into reality when the first Sale Kids 'N College group of 85 students came to The W the fall of 2009.

Just two years ago the program was recognized by the Mississippi Association of Partners with the Governor's University Partnership Award. The Kids 'N College program is now under the direction of Dr. Monica Riley, education department chair.

Moving Forward

Over the course of the program, there have been some minor tweaks. The program has gone from three weeks to two weeks, which are focused on academics, according to Riley. She coordinates the campus activities, which have ranged from cooking in the culinary school to interviewing the president.

"MUW candidates plan lessons based on common core state standards that enhance required learning for the K12 schools," she said. "Activities are hands-on and activity based. Students still have opportunity to learn about campus through a campus tour."

Participants have toured the campus library, which is larger than their school; boarded a boat to learn about archaeology and wildlife; and used a microscope to examine water samples pulled from the river.

Riley recalls one of the boys saying, "I never knew what I wanted to be but now I know I want to go to college here."



Jonathan Latham
and Emerald Hemphill



Nagi

“It makes all of the planning worth it,” she added. “A lot of these children don’t have a concept of college. Early on, they learn that college is doable as part of this program.”

Everybody Wins

There’s no question that all involved with the partnership believe it is a win-win situation. Sale students feel a sense of ownership when they pass by The W’s Clock Tower, and the university teacher candidates bond with the elementary students and gain invaluable experiences that could only be learned in the classroom.

MUW students in their Senior Block plan lessons for the elementary school students. Some of the ED 302, The Art and Science of Teaching, students are placed at Sale Elementary with the intent of their working with the elementary students who do not get to come to campus,” Riley explained. An average of 20 students per semester from ED 302 have a field experience at Sale.

The students gain by having to plan and implement lessons with elementary school children for a sustained period of time before moving into teacher internship. They have to adjust lessons as needed as they implement,” Riley said. “They learn the importance of flexibility in teaching as schedules change... buses are early or late, etc. It is a ‘real world’ experience that



Norwood

allows them to practice what they have been learning in class and prepares them for Teacher Internship when they will be expected to teach for the entire day.”

Jolly-Smith said, “One of the most significant results has been something not fully anticipated nor easily quantified: the feeling of ownership and pride that both groups feel for the other entity. This ownership makes this a true partnership and one worthy of recognition.”

MUW alumna Kimberly Long, principal at Sale, said their Success Weeks involve a lot of teamwork and cooperation between the two entities.

“The Kids ’N College program ties into what we are doing as an IB school and it falls in line what we are teaching daily,” she said. “This is definitely a partnership we want to continue in the future.

“This is a rich environment that we are exposing them to—being able to experience college and campus life,” she added.

Ellis said another important lesson the Sale students learn is giving back.

“The children find wonderful ways to give to say thank you,” she said. “It’s about giving back to the world regardless of what you have. Giving back is a real important piece of what they have learned.” 🌟

EVERY STUDENT CAN LEARN

by Maridith Walker Geuder

Leigh Pourciau gains recognition for her classroom skills



If you want to be inspired, Leigh Pourciau’s classroom at Germantown Middle School in Madison is the place to be. Students lucky enough to find themselves there often are surprised by their own talent as they grow in confidence and competence.

The 2008 English education graduate has rapidly become a teaching star, both with her students and with a larger audience. She developed the school’s first-ever creative writing program and online literary magazine, in the process creating a curriculum so popular some students have returned to her elective class for the third year.

The Mississippi Department of Education has tapped Pourciau to develop Common Core writing lessons and instructional videos to be used statewide. She’s been selected from more than 3,000 applicants to be a 2013 Dream Team member for LearnZillion—a group of “extraordinary” teachers from around the nation who develop and share teaching approaches. And, she’s featured in a videotaped segment on Gates Notes, philanthropist Bill Gates’ blog.

How did she gain such visibility in just five years of teaching? “I say ‘yes’ to everything,” the Louisiana native laughed. “In a new profession, you have to overload yourself,” she believes. “You’re always a learner. You’re never an expert.”



“You’re always a learner.
You’re never an expert.”

She learns because she reads, absorbs, incorporates, questions. . . and more than anything, has fun. Her love of learning is contagious.

On display outside her classroom are samples of student efforts from a variety of writing assignments. They prompt fledgling writers to use imagery, specific structures, and ingenuity to fulfill the assignment. Among them, “Just Because I’m From Mississippi. . .” deflates a variety of stereotypes; two-sentence horror stories create an eerie scene using precise language and vivid images; and “an original protest song” allows students to articulate a message around a predefined format.

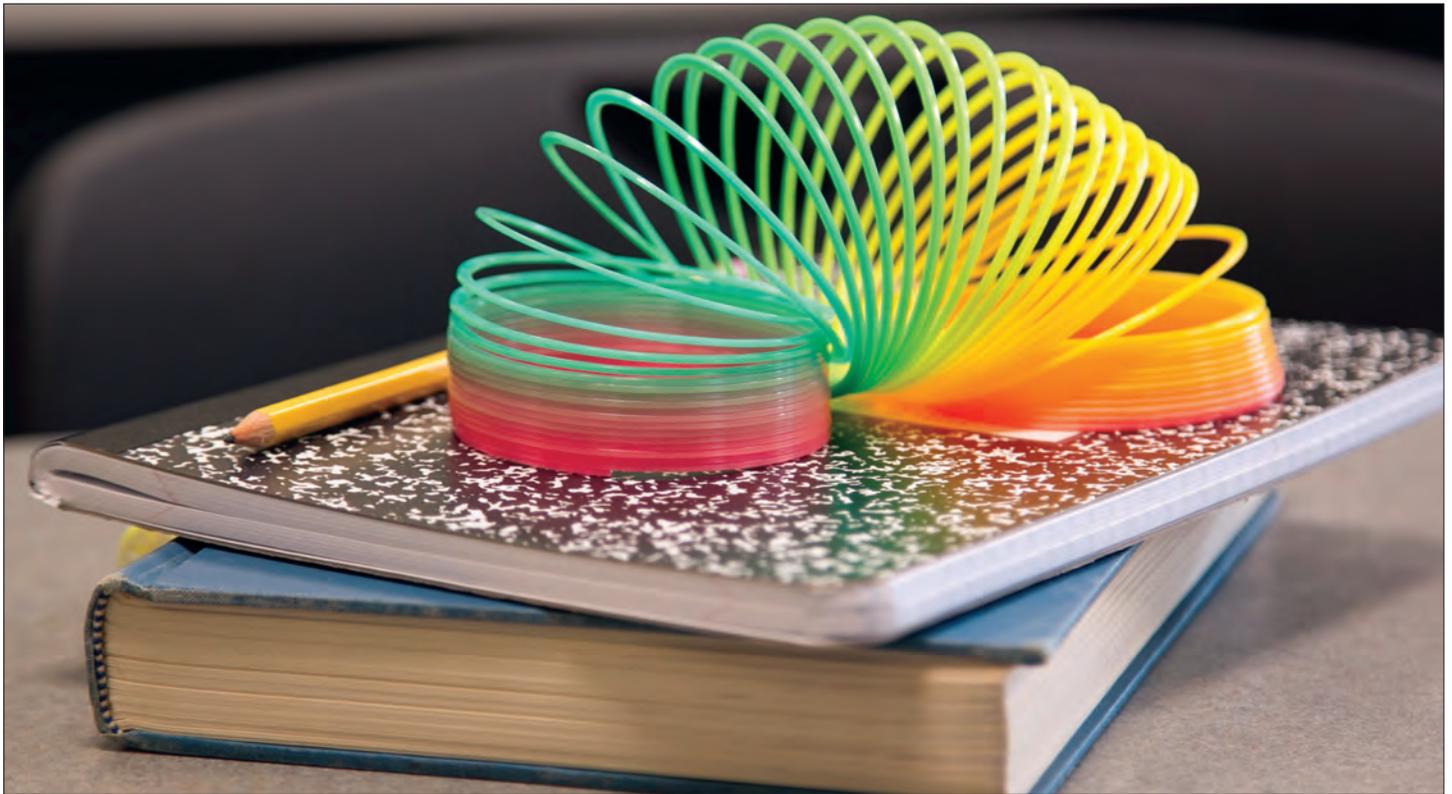
These aren’t boring assignments. The posted examples show think-outside-the-box creativity and talent. They’re amazingly good.

What good teachers do

“Every student can learn,” Pourciau believes. “I believe in relevance. My responsibility is to figure out why they’re not learning if they’re not. I try to start them where they are and find things that hit the middle school target.”

Her students come from a variety of demographic backgrounds. But inside her eighth-grade room on a particular day, they blend seamlessly. She moves from desk to desk, encouraging, answering questions, reminding students of tips to improve the poem they’re working on during the hands-on assignment. She smiles, laughs, jokes, corrects, gently prods. It’s obvious the students love her.

On this day, they’re using a published poem as a prototype and revising their own poems, begun in an earlier class period. The example is written by a former high school classmate



of Pourciau's and celebrates her home state of Louisiana. Students are challenged to use a favorite place—"your grandmother's house, the deer camp, the football field, the beach," a place where they can provide vivid details about the people, the sayings, the taste, the sounds, and the weather. They are bringing to life a location important to them. "Don't just write words," Pourciau tells them. "Write music."

The slinky experiment

What students are actually learning that day is sentence fluency, a term Pourciau doesn't hesitate to use as she discusses their writing. But with her typical energy, she makes it fun.

As students work, Pourciau moves quietly around the room, placing a plastic slinky on each desk. "Don't touch it," she tells them as they eye the neon-colored toy. When students reach the end of the allotted time to revise, she instructs them to watch her read as text is projected at the front of the room. She holds the end of a slinky in each hand.

Each sentence is short. Each sentence begins with a subject. Each subject is followed by a verb. Each sentence is predictable. Each sentence is boring. As she reads, Pourciau holds the slinky and shows students that it doesn't move. There's no sentence variety.

Next, she projects a writing sample with sentence fluency. One sentence is short. Following it, there's a longer sentence, complete with a phrase or two. An excellent example of sentences with variety and liveliness, this writing is much more interesting. The slinky stays still with each short sentence, moving a greater distance with longer sentences. The goal is to have a variety of slinky movements.

Next, Pourciau asks students to read their own poems aloud to another student they're paired with. They use the slinky to visually gauge sentence fluency. It's easily apparent if there's a need to continue revising, incorporating both long and short sentences.

As they read aloud for sound and rhythm, she also encourages students to ask other questions. Did they overuse words? Did they leave a word out? Could they use a different, more specific word? Her approach calls for sight, sound, and feedback.

'The W' is everything

A visual person, Pourciau says she likes to use "the tangible and visible. I figure out every way to be interactive." She says she learned her teaching approach at The W by "watching teachers I liked and modeling myself after them. The W is

everything in my teaching,” she said. In particular, she remembers the lasting influence of English professors such as Dr. Bridget Pieschel and Dr. Gloria Bunnell. “I learned to make things happen.”

A risk-taker herself, Pourciau has encouraged her students to take writing risks such as entering contests sponsored by the New York Times. The latest nationwide student competition required they submit a 450-word opinion piece, arguing a thesis persuasively. Their topics ranged from whether Mississippi should change the state flag to whether competitive sports benefit youngsters, among others. They earlier had proved their abilities to stretch themselves—and reinforced their teacher’s faith in their skills—by earning three honorable mentions when they entered a New York Times competition to do a 2013 recap rap.

Part of Pourciau’s teaching approach is to give herself the same writing assignments she gives her students. “I always write everything they write,” she said. She also encourages students to read, believing “it’s hard to make an artificial writer from someone who doesn’t read.”

For an independent reading assignment in another class, accelerated English, students are exploring books such as J.D. Salinger’s classic, “The Catcher in The Rye,” Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mockingbird,” and Nigerian author Chinua Achebe’s “Things Fall Apart.” “They could select any book worthy of a college-bound experience,” Pourciau said.

Discovering that her creative writing students knew very little about the city of Jackson’s history in the Civil Rights movement, Pourciau introduced reading about Freedom Riders and the surrounding times. In every sense of the word, her class is an exploration.

At the end of the school year, Pourciau looked ahead to a bittersweet transition in her career. After five years of building a program and forging many bonds, she prepared to return to Louisiana and begin teaching duties at Kipp Believe College Prep in New Orleans. “This has been a dream of mine,” she said.

As she anticipated her new role, she was excited that she would take a tangible symbol of her alma mater with her. “Homerooms are identified by the teacher’s college or university,” she explained. “The W will be on my door.” 





AN ARTIST, RECOGNIZED

The W's Patti Carr Black receives honorary doctorate of humane letters

by Maridith Walker Geuder

During her junior year of high school in Sumner, a small Mississippi Delta hamlet, Patti Carr Black could count her classmates by using less than 10 fingers. When the county schools consolidated the following year as West Tallahatchie High School, her 1951 graduating class was 30 students.

For college, she recalls, there were just two choices. “My family wanted me to go to Blue Mountain College because I had relatives there. I was happy to go to The W. It was a good choice for me.”

In many ways, her professors and her studies in Columbus would influence more than five decades of accomplishments that were to follow.

In Sumner, she had gained some notoriety as an artist, primarily from drawing Halloween illustrations on storefront windows. “I wanted to major in art,” she said. Two professors had a lasting impact on her interest—Mary Evelyn Stringer and Eugenia Summer. “They were very encouraging,” Black said. Thanks in part to their influence, she never lost the love of art.

The W, she said, was “a very exhilarating experience for a small-town person. I loved the stir and the atmosphere. We had so many doors opened for us—social activities, academics, friendships. It was all fun.”

But, as she quickly discovered, she wasn't really a very good artist. She began to look at other options as





well. “At that time, there were really just three professions for women,” Black said. “You could be a teacher, a secretary, or a nurse.” Black chose to major in art history and library science, because “it seemed a doable career.” In fact, it was to be an entrée to many opportunities.

She graduated from The W, magna cum laude, in 1955, having made good use of her time. Not only was she student body president but Miss MSCW. She soaked up all that The W had to offer her, and, as she has said publicly, the experience changed the course of her life.

Following a brief tenure at Ole Miss, she married and moved to Jackson in 1957. There, she secured a job with the Department of Archives and History, where she was an immediate fit. Charlotte Capers, longtime director of MDAH, hired Black and mentored her. She would rehire Black several times after professional and personal absences. From the talented Capers, Black would hone her skills. It was Capers, a close friend of Eudora Welty, who oversaw the restoration of the Old Capitol and, later, the restoration of the Governor’s Mansion. Her book, “The Capers Papers,” was a collection of essays written for Jackson newspapers. She died in 1996.

Black would go on to earn a master’s at Emory University in 1968. After a divorce, she and her only child, Betty, moved to New York City, where Black worked for the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Time magazine, among others. But she returned to her roots. It became difficult to work and be a single parent, so, she said, “I came home.”

Within a short while, she was back at MDAH, and, she laughs, “I stayed there for the rest of my career.”

What a career it was. She first joined MDAH as a research librarian, but became curator of exhibits and ultimately the director of the State Historical Museum, where she worked for almost 18 years. Early in the 1970s, she created a venue for folk and blues concerts and said “no one really came.” But she’s delighted to see that times have changed and “folks have come to recognize what we were trying to show.”

An innovative and creative thinker, she excelled in creating exhibits that showcased the art and culture of Mississippi. One of her favorites was “Made by Hands,” a 1980 exhibition of the state’s folk art. “I traveled throughout Mississippi and got to see things I otherwise wouldn’t have seen,” she said. From her travels, she rounded up items that included

everything from Choctaw basketry and cookware to hand-made tombstones. During her tenure, Black curated hundreds of exhibits, including the first permanent exhibit in the South on the Civil Rights movement. The latter won an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. She also was coordinator for Mississippi's participation in the 1974 Folklife Festival sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

After her retirement from MDAH in 1993, Black began a career in writing. "Archives wanted to do a series of history books," she recalled. "They asked me to do a book on art." It became a four-year project during which she traveled around Mississippi and researched artists. "It was a constant revelation, a constant discovery," Black remembered. She found so many good prospects that she finally had to limit her choices to those artists who had exhibited. The book, "Art in Mississippi: 1720-1980" won the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for nonfiction in 1998.

Among the approximately dozen books that Black has authored or edited are "Documentary Portrait of Mississippi: The Thirties" (1982); "The Natchez Trace" (1986); "Approaching the Magic Hour: Memories of Walter Anderson" (1989); and, on Eudora Welty, "Early Escapades" (2005); and "Eudora Welty's World: Words on Nature" (2005).

For "Early Escapades," she said, "I used a lot of Eudora's W days." Welty, by all accounts, "hit the campus running. She became involved in everything—the student newspaper, theater, a variety of campus activities," Black said. 'Escapades,' as many of Black's books, was published by University Press of Mississippi.

Among her many creative contributions to Mississippi, Black also was one of the founding members of New Stage Theater in Jackson. "A group of us used to meet to do readings of plays," she said. "We decided we needed a theater that would do serious theatrical works." The group took a wild creative leap and opened New Stage in 1965.

Black never took a starring role in anything—that's not her style--and she describes herself as "scared to death to act." "But I was once an off-stage voice. I'm thrilled and excited that New Stage is still going strong."



With an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, Black can add the honor to an already-long list that includes the Noel Polk Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters; the Mississippi Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts/Career in the Arts; and a special award from the Mississippi Craftsman's Guild.

Although she retired in 1993, she has not, in reality, ever stopped working. She has served as a consultant for projects as varied as the Crosby Arboretum, the British Broadcasting Corp., the Smithsonian Institution, the Eudora Welty House, and many others. And she continues to write.

She's currently working on a biography of Meridian-born musician Jimmy Rodgers for University Press and "my first and only novel"—about growing up in the Mississippi Delta. Her days are full, with family, travel, and creative pursuits. The small-town girl from little hamlet of Sumner is leaving a huge legacy for the arts and culture of her state. 🍷



A Love for Learning

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

While Thomas Richardson has just completed his fourth year of teaching, he still sees himself as the student.

In addition to teaching creative writing and public speaking at New Hope High School, he also teaches pre-advanced placement English II to sophomores and AP literature and composition to seniors.

Every day is a new adventure in the classroom. “It may sound strange, but being a perpetual student is the best part about being a teacher,” he said.

“When we discuss literature—themes of short stories, novels and plays, or how we have come to interpretive decisions with a poem—no matter how many times I’ve read the text I am picking up new perspectives every day.”

Richardson is able to write alongside his students and they help each hone their skills. “I am the authority in the room, but that does not mean I have to dictate everyone’s cognitive or artistic experiences; I just keep our train on the tracks while we sort through big ideas and our communicative craft.”

It was just a few years ago that Richardson’s life was on another course. As a student at Millsaps

College, Richardson majored in religious studies with a minor in history. He later earned a master of theological studies degree from Vanderbilt University.

“I like to tell people that while at Vanderbilt Divinity School, I had a crisis of conscience,” he said. “I was full steam ahead toward a doctorate in religion, comparative literature, or something of that sort, but I wasn’t really sure why.

“Those topics were interesting to me and I was pretty good at my coursework and research, but something didn’t feel right,” he added. “All of my classmates at Vanderbilt Divinity were having these ‘call’ moments about ministry, non-profit work..., and I was feeling selfish by comparison; I wanted to discern my ‘calling.’”

Through introspection and the realization of opportunities afforded to him through academics, specifically in Mississippi, Richardson knew he had to go back home.

“I knew I wanted to teach in Mississippi—a place with both great potential and great need—so I started looking at programs at the state’s major universities,” he said.

There wasn't much time to make a decision which led Richardson back to his days as a youth on The W's campus.

"The W helped raise me. I went to Demonstration School, summer camps, Governor's School and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science. I was familiar with the dynamic possibilities here," he said.

Richardson made the decision to get his master of arts in teaching as an alternate route for secondary licensure in Mississippi.

He said The W's program provided a mix of theory and practicality. Richardson was expected to teach while taking classes.

"My professors provided me with not only the researched-based foundation for best practices, but they were also peeking in on my classroom and helping me develop lessons suited for the types of learners I had," he said. "I was in a trying position my first year of teaching—five different 'preps' at a tiny rural high school—so I leaned on people like Dr. [Barbara] Moore, Dr. [Royal] Toy and Dr. [Monica] Riley for direction. They were teachers, mentors and psychiatrists that year."

About face

Teaching is what Thomas Cousin always wanted to do; however he decided to join the military first.

The junior high school teacher at Tupelo Middle School joined the National Guard in the 11th grade and then later joined the Army.

"I enjoyed my time in the military, but I had to leave the Army for family reasons," he explained, noting that most of his time was spent in Georgia.

With more than 16 years of experience under his belt, the Fulton resident decided to exit the military and enter the classroom.

"Well, when I got out of the Army, I started to look at the area schools in order to see which one would be the best fit for me," he said. "While comparing the schools, I saw how much respect that MUW's education program had so I decided to visit the campus and from there I knew that was the place that I wanted to be."



Cousin said The W prepared him well for his new career. "Professors at The W taught me everything from making lesson plans, resumes and how to present oneself in an interview. I was placed in situations that allowed me to find a job very quickly."

He has just wrapped up his first year as a seventh grade science teacher at Tupelo Middle School.

"Working with the students and seeing how excited they get when they realize that they finally grasp what is being taught," he said. "When that happens, they gain confidence and become more willing to participate in future activities."

Team of educators

Matt Keith has been around teaching most of his life and knew that he wanted to be a teacher at the age of 10. His mother taught high school math for 35 years in Mooreville and still teaches college algebra, he explained.

Keith, who coached football at New Hope School for seven years, said his mother was an amazing role model because she highlighted the importance of focusing on the educational and social enhancement of each child.

“I witnessed current and former students approach her for years with stories of things that had happened while they were in her class, and it opened my eyes to the impact that teachers can have on shaping the whole person,” he said.

Prior to earning his master’s, Keith was sure that he wanted to be a head football coach.

“However, the decision to pursue an administrative job now instead of later was fueled by the love I had of the intern experience that The W provided me within the New Hope campus.

“For 18 months I was allowed to work hand in hand with great administrators at both New Hope Middle School and New Hope High School,” Keith explained, noting the confidence he gained through that experience to become an administrator.

He credits principals and assistant principals Sam Allison, Matt Smith, Kelly Brown, Stephanie Jones and Sammy Sullivan for his success.

As part of his preparation, Keith chose The W’s educational leadership program to help him create personal and professional relationships. “I was attracted to the graduate program at The W because of the personal face-to-face education that it offered.”

The outcome ended up being more than what he expected with his five-member cohort becoming an extension of his family. “We were continuously leaning on each other’s strengths to meet deadlines and produce the most effective product that we could for our professors.”

He said his professors, including Dr. Sue Jolly-Smith, Dr. Bob Fuller, Dr. Shelley Bock and Dr. Monica Riley, were a perfect example of what educational leaders should be.

“Together they taught us to be confident, meticulous and ethical leaders.”

And speaking of family, Keith’s wife, Beth Keith, is also in the education field. She is completing her third year at Columbus High School, where she teaches technology. Initially she was the school’s career center director until she finished her master’s in teaching from The W.

“Working with the students and seeing how excited they get when they realize that they finally grasp what is being taught. When that happens, they gain confidence and become more willing to participate in future activities.”

“For me, teaching has always been a career favorite of mine since elementary school,” she said.

As a student, Beth Keith earned her degree in business marketing from The W and then went on to work as a sales account executive for an office, computer and school supply company.

“When I would visit the schools and see teachers who taught me and brought a smile to my face, I realized that I was missing out on something that I truly wanted to do—teach,” she said. “So, when I went back to The W to complete my master’s in business and technology education. With having my background in business, being able to teach it was a dream come true.”

While the Keiths work in different areas of education, both agree that the people they work with make their jobs special. Beth Keith said being a positive role model and encouraging students is the best part of being a teacher.

“If I did not have the students to teach and help grow every day, I would not have a job. To be the one who to help mold and shape their lives to follow a positive pathway, is far better than any other job in the world.” 

Endowment to Help Students, Permanent Collection

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

Mississippi University for Women's art gallery has always had a special place in Larry Feeney's heart; the retired art professor is hoping that it will have the same effect on others thanks to an endowment established in his honor.

The Larry Feeney Endowment for the Eugenia Summer Gallery was announced at The W's homecoming this spring.

"This is a way we can keep getting some funding for the art department," he said. "And indirectly, it will help all students, the whole university and the larger community through workshops, expanding the permanent collection and visiting artists."

His passion for giving back through the arts was made possible through the efforts of his daughters, Katherine Feeney Munson of Columbus, and Elizabeth Richardson, who lives in St. Louis. Both graduated from The W and spent many days as young girls on the campus.

"Very often my father and I will run into an old student of his, and they will tell me that my sister and I were their 'models' during a figure drawing class because we had fallen asleep on a couch somewhere. That always makes me smile," Munson said.

Munson said her father often talked about how he wanted to help the art department; however he was never clear about how that was supposed to look.

Her sister encouraged her father to act now and do something he could see concrete results from. The endowment quickly presented itself as the best option.

"Once that was settled upon, I had the idea to have a retrospective show coinciding with Homecoming for the announcement of it. Then my father did all the hard work of creating all the beautiful art for the show. All of us as a family really worked together on this project to execute it, and it is something we all take great pride and joy in."

Shawn Dickey, chair of the Department of Art & Design, said, "Larry's impact has been impressive. As a faculty member for 35 years and many of those years our gallery director, he



has been an integral part of the arts at The W, in Columbus and the surrounding region. Larry is such an outgoing, social person, whose stories, memories and recollections of students and artists are the stuff of legend among the faculty."

Feeney said the arts add value to a community--socially, culturally and economically. "People don't understand how the arts can help a community grow." He recalls a man visiting the gallery about 20 years ago. "He was coming through Columbus interviewing for a job. He was just checking on what kind of places he and his family could go to find art and music."

It was in 1968, that Feeney, a native of Davenport, Iowa, was first introduced to The W's gallery, which is now known as the Eugenia Summer Gallery. He joined the art department, where he would teach calligraphy, drawing and painting for 35 years and served as The W's gallery director for eight years.

"I walked into the gallery in July. It had a fine art collection at that time and they had put together a fine representative Mississippi collection," he said. "The gallery struck me right then."

And now more than 40 years later, the gallery still brings a smile to his face. "This is an impressive little place," he said. 

Diane Legan Howard Art History Lecture Series

Diane Legan Howard's passion for the arts can now be enjoyed by many others thanks to a lecture series established in her honor.

In the spring, Mississippi University for Women hosted the first Diane Legan Howard Art History Lecture Series, featuring Dr. Temma Balducci, associate professor of art history at Arkansas State University. Her lecture was titled "Paris Seen from a Balcony: Imagining the Boulevard Differently."

"Dr. Balducci's interesting lecture and the lovely reception afterward kicked off what our family hopes will be a valued enrichment program in the days ahead for The W community, as well as to the city of Columbus" said Marion Howard Wallace, the oldest of the Howard children.

Howard studied art history at The W and graduated summa cum laude from the university in 1959. Her husband, Malcolm Beard Howard, and their four children chose to honor her love for the arts through a scholarship and lecture series they started at The W in 2012.

"The W was always near and dear to our mother's heart; though she graduated with a degree in English, she studied art history while attending The W and remained an active student of art history all of her life," Wallace said. "She would be deeply honored by the scholarship and lecture series established in her memory and that her legacy will play an ongoing part in all of the exciting things happening at her alma mater."

Howard was born in Macon and resided in Columbus for many years before moving to Arizona.

She was noted for numerous contributions to her community, including being a life member of the Columbus Junior Auxiliary. Howard served the Junior Auxiliary on the national level as president, first, second and third vice president and finance chairman.

Howard was a member of the Soroptomist Club of Columbus; the Junior League of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; and the Junior League Sustainer Transfers of Phoenix, Ariz. She was also involved in the Milady Garden Club in Columbus,



the Historic Columbus, Inc., and the Columbus Historic Foundation. She served both organizations as chairman of the annual Antique Show and Sale.

An avid antiques collector, Howard owned and operated Les Bijoux, an antique consignment business in Columbus, for several years. She also worked with her husband at their family-owned business, Universal Industries, where she served as president.

She was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Columbus as well as the Valley Presbyterian Church in Paradise Valley when she moved to Arizona. There, she taught Sunday School, the Mom's group and was a member of Ruth's Circle and the Presbyterian Woman.

At the age of 63, Howard died in Scottsdale, Ariz., after a lengthy illness. 💎

a message from

MUW Foundation



Homecoming is always a joy for me, this year in particular. The Foundation kicked off a year of celebrating our 50th anniversary with a delicious buffet luncheon in The W Room at Hogarth Student Center. Music and laughter filled the room as we marked the Foundation's important role in supporting MUW. From very humble beginnings with the first two gifts of \$1,000 from Miss Emma Ody Pohl and Mrs. Pratt Thomas, the Foundation's assets have grown to more than \$40 million today, due to the generous giving of alumni and friends of the University. I hope you'll join us next year at Homecoming when we wrap up our year-long celebration with another festive party.

At Convocation, the Golden Girls Class of 1964 presented Dr. Jim Borsig with a check for \$150,000. Their total class giving since graduation exceeds an astonishing \$900,000! This seems to have sparked some friendly competition with other classes. That evening, several other reunion classes challenged each other in upping the ante for their class gifts. I can't wait for next year's Homecoming!

In Foundation Board news, we say goodbye to outgoing directors Nell McAllister Thomas, Don Spaulding, Pat Stone Meiners, Kathy Stephens Randall and Sarah Lee Cheek. Their fiscal leadership has been an incredible boon to the Board. We welcome new board members Ramona Smith Jones, Lee Kennedy Waring, Lugene Spagnola Vincent, Anne Lipscomb Webster, John Bean, Mike Waters and Jenny Katool, who represents the MUW Alumni Association. I look forward to working with them.

You might have seen the movie "The Monuments Men" earlier this year starring George Clooney, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Kate Blanchett and Matt Damon. Or perhaps you read the book by Robert Edsel. He'll be our speaker at this year's Welty Gala scheduled for October 24. Monuments Men is the true story of a World War II troop tasked with finding Western Europe's art treasures stolen by the Nazis. If you enjoy tales of courage, nail-biting suspense and solid writing, I strongly recommend this book. Once you read it, you'll want to meet Robert Edsel and hear him speak about his own adventures in researching and writing it.

The W has many wonderful traditions – Homecoming, Mag Chain, the Old Maid's Gate, social clubs, gathering to sing our special songs. Another tradition is a passionate support of our alma mater, providing scholarships, faculty assistance and general support of our University. Many, many thanks for each and every gift you make to the Foundation. One Long Blue Line. What a fine tradition! What a brilliant legacy!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Pettey Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ruth Pettey Jones, Class of 1976
Chairman
MUW Foundation Board

a message from

MUW Alumni Association



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Milestones are meant to be celebrated! This year our Alumni Association is celebrating 125 years of supporting our university.

It all began in 1889 when Fannie Camp Duggar became the first president of our Alumni Association. Her goals were to promote school loyalty, maintain class ties and coordinate alumnae scholarship gifts. Her legacy has endured for 125 years. The Alumni Association continues to promote strong relationships between our alumni, current students, faculty and the university.

Each year we award scholarships and fund faculty grants. At graduation, along with Mortar Board, we sponsor the Faculty Member of the Year. We celebrate 100th Night which honors the senior class during the last few months of their college careers. Each organization on campus pays tribute to their seniors with a candle lighting ceremony in hopes that the flame will light their way and ensure that their memory of the The W will always burn brightly.

The W is fortunate to have a huge group of passionate and loyal alumni. You can play a crucial role in helping us translate our incredible alumni loyalty into increased MUW Alumni Association membership. If you are already an active member, we are so thankful for your support. If you are not an active member, we ask you to join the Alumni Association. If you have friends who are also alums, urge them to join the Association. Just think, if each current member asks at least two alums to join, our membership will drastically grow in no time!

Membership in the MUW Alumni Association is a chance to become engaged in The W. Our chapter network, the foundation of our Association, is growing. It is a great opportunity to become involved, meet new people and to rekindle old friendships. In honor of the 125th anniversary of our Alumni Association, please join with me in becoming an active member of our Association. A minimum contribution of \$40 to the MUW Foundation is all it takes. The link to join can be found at www.muw.edu/foundation/giving. You may choose your preferred option for giving. Your commitment will be appreciated and will truly make a difference.

My hope is that your flame will always burn brightly and lead you back home to The W!

With Heartfelt Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Katool". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey rectangular background.

Jenny Katool, Class of 1978
President
MUW Alumni Association



Nashville Chapter Meeting

Front: Marion Neubert, Julie Dyess, Amanda Scott, Anne Rayner, Patty Outlaw; Back: Ashley Dean, guest speaker MUWAA President Jenny Katool, Jennifer Camilletti, Michelle Rice Adams, Melissa Ahler, Aimee Parker, Keely Schult, Ginny Thompson, Mary Gring Moody, Nancy Huguley and Lyndsay Cumberland



Hattiesburg Alumni Gathering

Front: Mary Polk, Virginia VanWart, Kaye Chanblene, Sylvia McCarty; Back: Pansy Jager, Mary Warden, Betty Mitchell, Glenda Brown, MUWAA President & Guest Speaker Sherrie Cooper, Lydia Pierce holding daughter Anna Wesley, Emily Trussell and Lyndsay Cumberland



Little Rock Chapter Luncheon

Front: Mary Virginia Harrell Smith, Helen Kimbrough Caruthers, Pat Parish Acklin; Back: Sarilea Deaton, Marian Cox Crawford, Jane Dearing Dennis

MUWAA announces new board members

The Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association recently announced its new board, welcoming back four new board members this year and another for a second term.

The newly elected board members are Katherine Shell Benson of Southaven, Brandy N. Burnette of Horn Lake, Christopher T. Halbrooks of Southlake, Texas, and Carrie Pate of Ocean Springs. Malinda Mabry-Scott of Clarksville, Tenn., was elected to a second term, as she joined the board in 2011. Board members were elected by the general membership of the MUWAA and sworn in at the university's annual Homecoming in March.

Benson graduated in 2003 with a culinary arts degree and is the co-owner of Bella Baxter Special Events, an event planning and design company with offices in Little Rock, Memphis, Charleston and Nashville. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Junior League of Memphis, where she serves as the 2014 vice chair of Merry Marketplace. Benson has been active in the Mid-South chapter of the MUWAA and is currently the organization's president.

Burnette, who graduated from The W with a psychology degree in 2000, was active as a student. She was involved in the Mortar Board Honor Society, serving as student representative on the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Burnette continues to be active as an alumna of the university, and she serves alongside Benson as the Mid-South chapter secretary. After graduating from The W, she went on to law school at the University of Mississippi. She practiced law in Memphis before moving to her current position, working for Congressman Alan Nunnelee in the area of constituent services for Mississippi's First Congressional District.

She said, "The W has been such an integral part of my life since I first set foot on campus years ago. I feel blessed to be allowed to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and give back to the institution that has given me so much, personally and professionally."

Halbrooks graduated with a degree in management information systems in 2001 and is currently a manager for the Tenet Healthcare, where he is responsible for the



Katherine Shell Benson, Brandy N. Burnette, Malinda Mabry-Scott and Carrie Pate

integration of the company's physicians. Prior to Tenet, Halbrooks has worked for Perot Systems and Nuance Communications. While at The W, he was involved in student government, Alumni Ambassadors, Chorale and was voted Henry L. Whitfield Man of the Year.

Pate, a 2007 graduate, also serves as president of the MUWAA Gulf Coast. For the past four years, she has worked as a therapist for the Gulf Coast Family Counseling Agency, a non-profit counseling center. After earning her master's degree in social work at the University of Georgia, she has returned back to school to gain her doctorate in psychology.

Mabry-Scott, class of 1978, majored in fashion merchandising and journalism while at The W, and has a marketing degree from Austin Peay State University. She is founder and owner of Mabry-Scott Transcription Services. In her community, she volunteers at Loaves and Fishes, a local soup kitchen, and helps coordinate the Trinity Episcopal Church Empty Bowls Luncheon. Mabry-Scott was elected by the board as the MUWAA treasurer for the 2014-2015 term. 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 of \$40 is considered a general member. A \$40 donation to the university constitutes active membership and voting rights for the calendar year. Board members are elected by the general membership, are required to be an active member and serve a three-year term.



Mid-South Alumni Hosts Family Day at Memphis Zoo

Members of the Mid-South chapter of the Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association gathered at the award-winning Memphis Zoo for a family and friends day in May.

The Mid-South chapter used the fame of their city's landmark to plan their event, drawing in families from as far away as Columbus.

The group offered a light breakfast while officers announced upcoming events, including a student send-off in August. Chapter president, Katherine Shell Benson of Southaven, also kicked off the Mid-South scholarship campaign. The scholarship, once endowed at \$10,000, will be awarded annually to a Memphis-area student planning to attend MUW.

"The scholarship was opened several years ago, but we really wanted to jumpstart the campaign and get the scholarship endowed," Benson said. "The W has a great chapter here and we pull many students from this area. We'd love to award a deserving W student from the Mid-South as soon as we can."

The chapter has been holding events throughout the year to re-engage MUW alumni in Memphis and surrounding areas, but this was the first family-oriented event, which offered door prizes, games for kids and an interactive scavenger hunt.

Hope Edwards Hogan drove two hours from Columbus to attend the event with her family. "We decided to come



because we haven't been to the Memphis Zoo in years, and it was a great opportunity to catch up with classmates," Hogan said.

After the chapter meeting, members participated in a scavenger hunt by taking photographs of special animals, such as the grizzly bears and Ya Ya the panda. Members were encouraged to post them to Facebook with the hashtag "MidSouthZooDay." The photos that garnered the most likes by the end of the day won a prize.

"It was the perfect opportunity to take the girls to the zoo and to continue to share my alma mater with them. My oldest actually made a small donation, all on her own, to the scholarship fund," said chapter treasurer Amy Johnson, of Hernando. "Plus, you couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day."

For more information on the Mid-South chapter of MUWAA, contact Katherine Shell Benson at midsouth.muwaa@gmail.com.



First Row: Carol Jones, Evelyn Palmer, Dawn Palmer De Armond, Beth Reed-Richardson, Angela Williams Gregory, Alma Ellis, Mary Libby Payne, Jenny Katool, Lyndsay Cumberland, Betsie MacLellan, Anna MacLellan, Katy Canion Pacelli; Second Row: Chellie Revord, Vickie Lundy Conerly, Peggy Scott Hampton, Ricki Rayner Garrett, Jane Ellen Wolf, Kimberly Griffin, Sarah Asmus, Shara Reed, Paulette White, Glenna Collums Morgan, Sue Simmons Freeman, Betty Lou Sutherland, Cindy Lyons, Elizabeth Robinson, Jenny Thomas; Third Row: Emily Myers Garner, Judy Rankin, Dana LeBlanc, Gus Argrett, Dr. Jim Borsig

Jackson Metro Chapter Helps Support Long Blue Line

by Anika Mitchell Perkins

The Jackson Metro Alumni Chapter is doing its part to help shape the lives of Mississippi University for Women students.

Members of the chapter partied for a worthy cause, hosting the Spring Scholarship Soirée at the Mississippi Craft Center in Ridgeland.

The talent of local alumni was brought in to raise money for the Jackson Metro Scholarship, where more than \$2,000 was raised and added to the chapter's endowment to benefit a student from the area.

This year's recipient was Betsie MacLellan, an English major, who plans to earn her secondary teaching certificate and certification to teach English as a second language. MacLellan is from Jackson.

Alumna Katy Canion Pacelli, president of the Jackson Metro Chapter, said it is important for chapters to host such events.

"First, most of us received some type of scholarship when we were students at The W, and this is a great way to give back and make sure the Long Blue Line continues," she said. "Secondly, it is important for alums to gather for various

types of events throughout the year. It is a great way for alums to network, fellowship and support their alma mater. Each chapter event I attend, I meet a new alum that I did not previously know."

According to Jenny Katool, president of the MUW Alumni Association, participants were taught how to make a fused glass trivet by alumna Elizabeth Robinson '76. Paulette White, class of 1977, prepared a buffet of hors d'oeuvres, and Sheri Cox '76, director of events and education at the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, was instrumental in securing the venue. The fused glass trivet made by Dr. Jim Borsig, W president, was placed in the Long Blue Line silent auction at Homecoming. "I believe there was a bidding war over it," Katool said.

Alumni and friends paid \$40 to attend the event, according to Katool, who noted that food and beverages were donated and the chapter paid for the art supplies so all the money raised would go toward the scholarship.

Pacelli said, "Even a contribution as small as \$40, when added to other donations from the chapter, can make a lasting impact on a student's education." 

Emily Myers Garner Recognized for Volunteer Efforts

Alumna Emily Myers Garner '95 of Jackson was presented the Active of the Year award at the Junior League of Jackson's annual spring luncheon and meeting.



Garner has served the League for more than eight years, helping with the Mississippi Children's Museum, Mistletoe Marketplace and the JLJ communications team. Garner also is an active member of the Susan G. Komen Society and the Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association.

The Junior League of Jackson is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. As one of the largest volunteer groups in the State, the JLJ is committed to improving the lives of children and youth in the Jackson community.

Earlier this year, Myers was presented with the 2014 Alumni Service Award by the MUWAA for consistently demonstrating outstanding commitment, dedication, leadership and service to the advancement of the university and alumni association.

Her 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.

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 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.

SAVE *the* DATE
 SHARE *the* STORIES
 RELIVE *the* MEMORIES

Thursday, March 26 - Sunday, March 29

HOMECOMING
The Long Blue Line
Comes Home 2015

Class Notes

1950s

LaNelle Hill Nash '55 of Roswell, Ga., was voted 2013 Music Teacher of the Year by the Georgia Music Teachers Association.

1990s



Dr. Selena Nawrocki '93, professor of interior design at Valdosta State University in Georgia, received the "Best of Show" award at the 17th Annual Rio Brazos National Juried Art Exhibition in Granbury, Texas. The competition featured works from 50 artists across the United States in all art media. Nawrocki's mixed media award-winning work, "Rotary Steps Square," represented a room interior utilizing multiple staircases as the dominant motif.

2010s

Christopher Dunnells '11 of Biloxi graduated with a juris doctorate from Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson. Dunnells worked for the Capital Defense Counsel, Office of the State Public Defender, and numerous civil law firms during his three years of law school. He was the recipient of several awards in law school, including latin graduation honors, Dean's List multiple times and numerous advocacy awards for trial competitions.

Weddings

2000s

Misty McDermitt '01 and Steve Taylor of Vicksburg were married June 29, 2013.

Mona K. Vance '02 of Columbus and Dr. Saleem Ali of Atlanta were married Oct. 12, 2013.

Abigail Claypool '06 and Douglas Branch of Columbus were married Jan. 18, 2014.

Deaths

1930s

Juanita McCown Hight '34 of Louisville, April 16, 2014.

Martha Howell Sudduth '39 of Madison, Jan. 13, 2014.

1940s

Mary Elizabeth Swain Bacon '40 of Kent, Ohio, March 30, 2014.

Willagene Greene Bradford '40 of Memphis, Tenn., July 30, 2012.

Carolyn Justice Cooper '40 of West Point, 2014.

Betty Sherwood Cox '40 of Jackson, Jan. 25, 2014.

Dona Wilson Warshaw '40 of Dodge City, Kan., May 4, 2010.

Ruth Howorth Wells '40 of Chattanooga, Tenn., Nov. 11, 2013.

Edith Ruff Thomas '41 of Tupelo, Dec. 25, 2013.

Patricia Christopher Cline '42 of Pensacola, Fla., Oct. 19, 2013.

Sara Emmons '43 of Meridian, Oct. 21, 2013.

Emily Gilmore Fontaine '43 of Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 23, 2014.

Ruth Hood Hunter '43 of Winona, Sept. 11, 2012.

Mary Kathryn Kerr Wiggers '43 of Ridgeland, Feb. 14, 2014.

Catherine Bogan Brackin '44 of Everett, Wash., Mar. 5, 2014.

Earlene Gladney Carrubba '44 of Hattiesburg, Jan. 28, 2014.

Carolyn Smallwood McManus '44 of Las Vegas, Nev. Nov. 10, 2013.

Dorothy Kerr '45 of West Point, Jan. 4, 2013.

Betty Taylor Dabney '45 of Ridgeland, May 22, 2013.



Betty Carman Flowers '45 of Magnolia, Jan. 23, 2014.

Emogene Hudspeth Maples '46 of Millington, Tenn., Nov. 2, 2013.

Edith Davis Millsaps '46 of Starkville, Feb. 14, 2014.

Elaine S. Rice '46 of Baytown, April 3, 2014.

Margaret Hafner Rogers '46 of Natchez, Dec. 5, 2013.

Emma Thompson McCain '47 of Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 24, 2014.

Lillian Lindsey Sledge '47 of Meridian, Nov. 15, 2013.

Rosemary Thompson Harrison '48 of Jackson, Feb. 27, 2014.

1950s

Claudette Mills Cox '50 of Columbus, Feb. 2, 2014.

Rebecca Brehm Gaddis '50 of Ridgeland, Feb. 11, 2014.

Betty Barnard Kennedy '50 of Manlius, N.Y., Jan. 4, 2014.

Robby Carmichael Poirier '51 of Diamond Bar, Calif., Aug. 31, 2013.

Maybelle Street McBride '52 of Ripley, Jan. 15, 2009.

Carolyn Scanlon McClendon '52 of Jackson, Oct. 24, 2013.

Dolores Sullivan Bailey '55 of Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 9, 2014.

Mary Collier Nagle '55 of Signal Mount, Tenn., Jan. 26, 2014

Eva Nickels Ginn '56 of Collierville, Tenn., Jan. 8, 2014.

Jo Nell Thomas Hales '57 of Vestavia, Ala., Jan. 15, 2014.

1960s

Margaret Harris Brumfield '60 of Inverness, Dec. 27, 2013.

Annanette Hill Harper '60 of New Braunfels, Texas, Feb. 9, 2014.

Rosalyn Pendergrast Anthony '63 of Columbus, Ga., Dec. 13, 2013.

Martha Kerr Childress, '63 of Ft. Meyers, Fla., Jan. 12, 2014.

Martha Ford Abernathy '65 of Madison, March 17, 2014.

Linda Atkins Dellavalle '67 of Brandon, Dec. 29, 2013.

Karen Spinning Daniel '68 of Beaumont, Texas, Dec. 19, 2013.

Frances Coburn McReynolds '68 of Charlotte, N.C., Jan. 12, 2014.

1970s

Anne Curtin Wilson '74 of Columbus, April 6, 2013.

Mary Elaine Byrd '75 of West Point, Dec. 12, 2013.

1990s

Mitzi McDaniel McGill '80 of Columbus, Dec. 13, 2013.

Jimmy Hudson Stuckey '89 of Booneville, Oct. 20, 2013.

Faculty & Staff

Patricia Edwards Berry '03 of Columbus, Feb. 22, 2014. She taught several courses at The W and was a teacher for the university's Culinary Camp for Children.

William Cornelius Jr. of Columbus, Jan. 7, 2014. He taught banking and finance classes at The W.

Evelyn Ewing Gillis '43 of Columbus, March 20, 2014. She taught at The W for 22 years.

Retired Major Edward 'Murf' Murphy of Pontotoc, July 28, 2013. He taught computer science at The W.

Barbara Oswald of Columbus, Sept. 7, 2013. She retired from the Center for Special Children at The W.

Mary Alice Tate of Columbus, March 1, 2014. She was a cook at The W.

Maude Dee Yow '45 of St. Petersburg, Fla., Dec. 17, 2013. She served as dean of the School of Education at The W.

BlackList Celebrates 100 Years at Homecoming



Above: BlackList line '92-'93; Michelle Bellew #4, Rillia Gurley #6, Angie Stephens #8 and Nellie Alliston #9 in action

Far Left: Virginia Smith Scott, class of 1944, most senior alumna at the march.

Left Top: BlackList line 1991-1992; Audra Odom #13, Jennifer Scott #9, Tara Fort #5, and Beth Greene #2. Tara and Audra were instrumental in organizing the march and reception.

Left Bottom: BlackList line 2013-2014; Lexus Killingsworth #1 and Chris Friar #4 hanging out at the reception after the march

BlackList Alumnae Association Fun Run/Walk



Back Row: Kim Swartz #12, Catasha Munn #3, Joy Eads #4, Rebecca Rogers #2, Kristi Mosley #1, Ashley Nun #8, Cindy Wright #10, Audra Odom #13 **Front Row:** Whitney Westbrook #3, Shelly Buffa #11, Mary Beth Thorman #7, Bronwyn Teague #9

The BlackList Alumnae Association (BLAA) hosted its first Rattle ‘Dem Bones - 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk for Be The Match last fall on the campus of MUW. Costumes were encouraged, and prizes were donated by local businesses, including gift cards to Peppers, The Grill, Skate Zone, Starbucks and more. The prizes were awarded to those with the best costumes in various age groups. As a companion to the Fun Run, the BLAA also held a bone marrow donor drive for Be The Match which allowed eligible persons to be added to the National Bone Marrow Registry for free. It costs Be The Match about \$100 to add someone to the registry, and 26 people were added to the registry during this event. While organizing and preparing to Rattle ‘Dem Bones, the BLAA also raised and donated more than \$2,700 to Be The Match. The BlackList Alumnae Association hopes to make this an annual event and would like to thank the MUW Alumni Association, the MUW Recreation Center staff and volunteers, MUW Police, current MUW students and everyone who participated in the Fun Run, Donor Drive and costume contest.





Atlanta Mag Chain Chapter Meeting: A group of MUW alumni met at the Atlanta Country Club for the purpose of re-establishing a viable and active MUW Alumni Association Chapter in the metropolitan Atlanta area. The group decided that the chapter will function as an informal chapter, meet quarterly on Sunday afternoon, and due to the size of the area that the place of the meeting, would be moved around to accommodate members having to drive long distances for meetings.



Sisters Mae Ellard Pearsall '46 of Charlotte, N.C., and Dot Ellard Aycock of Birmingham returned to The W while visiting their home state in the fall. Pearsall turned 90 in March. Both have enjoyed full lives, remembering good times at The W and still follow events at the school through their cousin, Dr. Bridget Pieschel.



Three W grads got together at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association in Jackson in October. They are, from left, Virginia (Segrest) Hughson '70, associate professor emeritus of academic information services, Rowland Medical Library, University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson; Jan (Hawkins) LaBeause '66, library professor emerita, Medical Library & Peyton T. Anderson Learning Resources Center, Mercer University School of Medicine, Macon, Ga.; and Brenda Faye (Poole) Green '78, associate professor, Health Sciences Library, University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center, Memphis, Tenn.



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.

Name _____

Occupation _____

Class Year _____

College _____

Social Security No. _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone (H) _____

(W) _____

E-mail _____



Alumni from the class of 1973 met in Jackson, Tenn., for a mini reunion. They are, from left, Kyle Witherington of Covington, Tenn.; Peggy Thornton Corey of Grenada; Michelle Rice Adams of Rochester, N.Y.; and Mary Gring Moody from Columbus. Witherington is a retired teacher of 37 years. Corey is a teacher in Southaven. Adams is a teacher, and Moody is an attorney.



Members from the class of 1955 met for a mini reunion at the home of Ann Rogers in Melbourne, Fla. From left, Jane Armstrong Dannel, Ann McCoy Rogers and Helen Graddy Thomas.



Delta MS Chapter Meeting: MUW Director of Institutional Research Carla Lowery, Helen B. Jenkins, JoAnn Box, Maggie Parker, Guest Speaker MUW President Jim Borsig, Joyce Kennedy, Adelaide W. Fletcher, Christina King, MUW Director of Alumni Relations Lyndsay Cumberland, not pictured – Mary Anne Allen.



SNAPSHOTS

1. Amy Strickland Tate '97, Martha Jo Mims '64 and Kristi Hipp Mosley '99 enjoyed a reception for the 50th anniversary of the MUW Foundation.
2. Generous donations to The W Fund are helping to make enhancements to the landscaping of campus.
3. W Alums Elise and Nate Wilson and their daughter Rhyn enjoy Homecoming activities.





4. The class of 1964 Golden Girls are all smiles at Homecoming Convocation.



5. Emily Myers Garner '94 belts out some 80's classics at the 2014 Homecoming Karaoke.

6. Olympic Gold medalist Amanda Beard speaks to the Swim Columbus team during her visit to the Ina E. Gordy Honors College.



OCTOBER 23 - 25

EUDORA WELTY

WRITERS' SYMPOSIUM

Featuring Tim Parrish

Baton Rouge native, **Tim Parrish**, will return to the Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium, Oct. 23-25, as the keynote speaker to read from his recent memoir "Fear and What Follows: The violent education of a Christian racist" and his new novel "The Jumper."

In "Fear and What Follows," Parrish takes an unflinching look at his own bigoted upbringing in a newly desegregated South and his encounters with racial violence. In a starred review, Booklist called Parrish's memoir "one of those books that, once read, is never forgotten."

"The Jumper," follows the story of Jimmy Strawhorn, an orphaned, illiterate ranch hand in West Texas, who returns to Baton Rouge to find his father. There he discovers a complex family history and confronts his desire to jump from high places. Eric Miles Williamson, in awarding the George Garrett Prize for Fiction, noted "Parrish has written a novel of such force and magnitude that he's entered the constellation of American literary stars."

The theme of this year's symposium is "Homesick for Somewhere: Displacement, Loss, and Longing in the South." Other authors who have been invited include **Deborah Johnson**, author of "The Secret of Magic," which has also been selected as the W's Common Reading Initiative book; **Matthew Guinn**, author of "The Resurrectionist"; **Mary Miller**, author of "The Last Days of California"; **Chantel Acevedo**, author of "A Falling Star"; and poets **John Bensko**, author of "Visitations"; **Derrick Harriel**, author of "Cotton"; and **Amy Fleury**, author of "Sympathetic Magic."

Along with the published authors, the W will welcome several high school students, winners of our first Eudora Welty Ephemera Prize for fiction, essay, or poetry. The selected students will be invited to read their work and have lunch with the authors. We will also be filming interviews with some of the authors for a half-hour program, which we will make available to schools and media outlets.



Learn more by visiting:
www.muw.edu/welty



EVERY GIFT MATTERS

It matters to Lauren, Stephen and Callie

As current W students, scholarship recipients and telefund ambassadors, they recognize the value of annual giving and understand that gifts from you combine with many other gifts from alumni. These gifts add up to help overcome challenges and provide new opportunities. Any contribution you make matters to every W student! Your gift matters!

"I am so honored to be receiving the Class of 1963 Scholarship. This scholarship has allowed me to further my education as a nursing major here at the W. Thank you to all of the alumni for all that you do."

— Lauren Clark, Class of 1963 Scholarship

"My scholarship means that I have the opportunity to pursue my own success and livelihood without placing a heavy burden on those I love. To me, that is truly priceless."

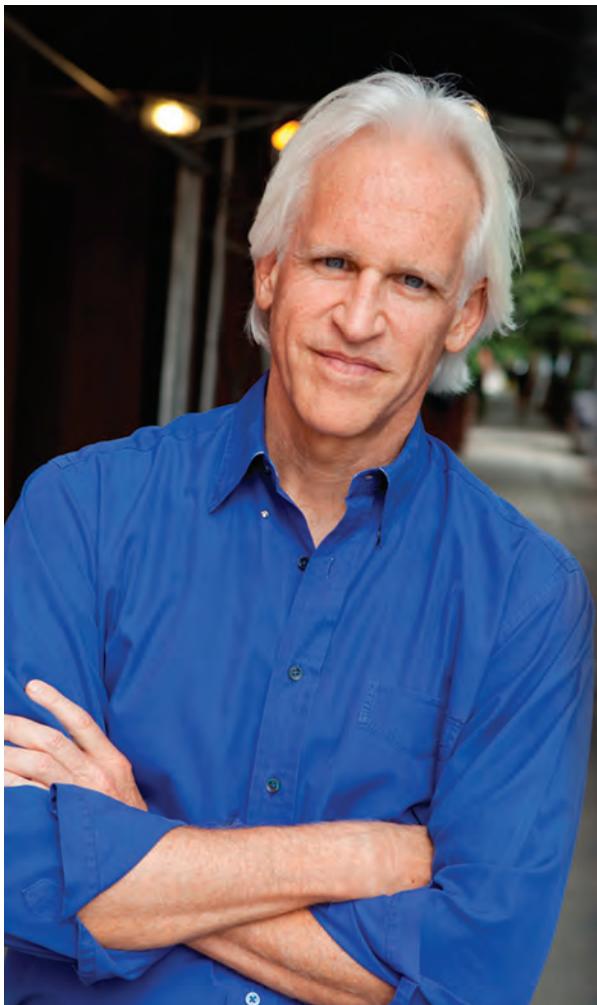
— Stephen Williams, Laura M. Young Memorial Scholarship

"I am so thankful to be a recipient of the Class of 1986 Scholarship, not only because it was my dad's graduating class, but because it financially supports my dreams and passions here at the W."

— Callie Hampton, Class of 1986 Scholarship



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WELTY GALA

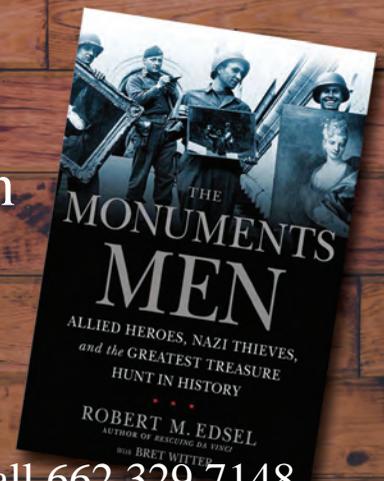
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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



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Norma Hickman, class of 1954
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75/80	5.3%
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