

# The PINE BURR

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Summit, MS  
39666  
Permit No. 10

pineburr@smcc.edu

April 21, 2017

Serving SMCC Since 1940

Volume 72, No. 7

## Campus Events

Friday, April 28  
JAN15: Classes end  
Last day to drop

Saturday, April 29  
Baseball Game  
Northeast Mississippi  
CC 1:00- Home

Monday, May 1  
Day Classes end  
QQ: Classes end for  
2nd Term On-Campus  
Accelerated  
Wesley Foundation  
Pancake Study Break  
6:30pm

Tuesday, May 2  
FINAL EXAMS  
8:00-10:00 1 MWF  
10:15-12:15 4 MWF  
1:00-3:00 B TR  
3:15-5:15 6 MW

Wednesday, May 3  
FINAL EXAMS  
8:00-10:00 5 MW  
10:15-12:15 C TR  
1:00-3:00 2 MWF  
3:15-5:15 E TR  
Baseball Game Hinds  
CC 3:00- Home

Thursday, May 4  
FINAL EXAMS  
8:00-10:00 A TR  
10:15-12:15 3 MWF  
1:00-3:00 D TR  
Residence Halls close  
at 5:00pm

Friday, May 5  
MAR08: Ends  
APR04: Ends  
Final Grades due  
11:00AM

Saturday, May 6  
Baseball Game East  
Mississippi CC 2:00-  
Home

Monday, May 8  
Career-Tech practice  
9:00 AM  
MAY03: Begins &  
Last day to register  
Academic Practice  
10:15 AM  
ADN practice 11:30  
AM

Tuesday, May 9  
ADN graduation 11:00  
AM  
Career-Tech  
graduation 3:00pm

Wednesday, May 10  
Academic Graduation  
3:00pm

Friday, May 12  
Last day for 9 month  
faculty

Sunday, May 14  
Mother's day

Monday, May 29  
Memorial Day  
Administrative offices  
closed

Tuesday, May 30  
Evening Classes begin and  
last day to receive 100%  
refund  
JUN08: Classes begin and last  
day to register

Wednesday, May 31  
Evening late registration  
w/late fee begins  
JUN08: Last day for 50%  
refund  
Last day for 10-month faculty

Thursday, June 1  
Students may begin the  
payment of fees for B and fall

Friday, June 2  
A: Fees due and last day for  
100% refund

Tuesday, June 6  
A: Classes begin and late  
registration w/late fee

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Anna Catherine Trantham sings "Ain't No Sunshine."

photo by Chuck Barnes

## SMCC's Stage Band Show "thrills" fans

By Jonathan Scott,  
staff writer

On Friday, April 7th, the SMCC Stage Band took to the stage for their Spring Show. It was a night full of enjoyable music, singing, and dancing. Under the direction of Clay Whittington, the band performed a variety of songs. The show opened with the song "Can't Stop the Feeling" from the film *Trolls*, led by Evan Busbin and the stage band singers. The show continued with the band's groovy instrumental rendition of "Vehicle," before the singers returned to the stage to join then in the foot-stomping, hard-hitting "The House is Rockin'."

Playing assorted genres and musical styles, including rock, funk, jazz, and more, the Stage Band, along with the singers and dancers, took the audience on a musical time machine. A major highlight of this journey through time included the Disco Medley, which featured several disco-era hits. The medley featured "Stayin' Alive," "Disco Inferno," "It's Raining Men," "Celebration," and concluded with "Turn the Beat Around." After the Disco Medley, the Stage Band jumped into the next decade for a nostalgic '80's medley. In this medley, the show paid homage to the Golden Age of MTV with classic '80's hits. Emma Walls began the medley with "Material Girl," and other hits followed. Tate Allen performed "Simply Irresistible," Loryn Hollis performed "Smooth Criminal" and "Rhythm Nation," Anna Catherine Trantham performed "Jump," Evan Busbin performed "Jessie's Girl," and Busbin and Clare Clark performed "I've Had the Time of My Life." These songs featured not only soloists, but also backup singers and energetic dance numbers. The show was comprised of a duet, "Unforgettable," sung by Michael Wilson and Erika Alford, and several solos. Among them were timeless songs like "Ain't No Sunshine" and "I Will Always Love You."

Many moments were favored especially by the audience. One of them was the song "Sharp Dressed Man," sang by Gary Busby featuring a phenomenal guitar solo by Israel Coleman. The finale of the show was Michael Jackson's "Thriller," performed by Erika Alford and completed with the zombie-esque choreography of the dancers. The show took place in the Fine Arts building from Friday night to Sunday afternoon and represented the culmination of all the hard work the musicians, singers, and dancers put into it. In addition to the Stage Band, the show displayed the talents of the Brass Machine, which played Green Day's "Basket Case," and the Steel Pan Band, which played "The Bee's Melody."

Director of bands, Clay Whittington, helped prepare the band and pieced together the musical aspects of the show, while Brandy White assisted the vocalists, and Laci Godbold taught choreography. The totality of the show was a group effort that paid off in what was perhaps the greatest Spring Stage Band Show yet.



Sami Simmons sings the "80's Medley" as she dances on stage.

photo by Chuck Barnes



Kayla McKenzie, Loryn Hollis, Anna Catherine Trantham, Haley Simmons, Shakeya Nobles, Brianna King, Jessi Barnes and Brooke Wells dance to "Thriller." photo by Chuck Barnes

## PTK Catalyst

By Cody Pol,  
editor

Officers from the Omicron Delta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, to attend the 2017 International Convention, Catalyst. The convention aimed to spark a change in the students, prompting them to hone their leadership skills and make a difference in the world around them. Socializing with other Phi Theta Kappa members was a large part of the event, and the officers made many connections with students from across the country and, in some instances, across the world.

The trip began with the first general session. Dr. Jennifer Arnold of TLC's *The Little Couple* spoke at the event about "Thinking Big," an acronym she developed that underlined her philosophy on life and leadership. Her inspiring story of how she decided to become a physician resonated with all who attended. Undergoing countless surgeries in her childhood as a result of her condition catalyzed her desire to pursue a career in medicine.

Exploring downtown Nashville was a pleasure. The officer team roamed the streets of the city, appropriately known as, "Music City." Weaving through the lively crowd and taking in the sights and smells of Tennessee's capitol was a sight to behold. They took in the history of the Ryman Auditorium, a building that was once a church but became known as the "Mother Church of Country Music" because of the fact that it housed the Grand Ole Opry for decades. Crossing city blocks to the Cumberland River, those on the trip strolled across the famous pedestrian bridge. From the highest point of the structure, they witnessed an enchanting view of the city's unmistakable skyline, namely the AT&T building. Nashville was an unforgettable city, and it was the perfect host for Catalyst due to its storied history of nurturing an entirely American genre of music.

Platon, a world-renowned photographer, was the speaker at the second general session of Catalyst. During his speech, he displayed a slideshow of the many world leaders he had the opportunity to photograph. As he presented a portrait of Vladimir Putin, he narrated the story of him being escorted by Putin's bodyguards, blindfolded and held at gunpoint. They took him to an isolated bunker, where Putin was waiting. The Russian leader rarely posed for portraits, so it was a big deal that Platon was allowed to photograph the man. Comically, they bonded over their love for the Beatles. Platon went on to tell the crowd about the many other world leaders he had photographed, including Muammar Gaddafi, former President Bill Clinton, and Muhammad Ali.

The final speaker of the convention was Jamie Hyneman, co-host of the television series, *Mythbusters*. Hyneman participated in a question-and-answer session in which he answered both prepared questions and questions from convention attendees. He debunked some of the myths surrounding *Mythbusters*, explaining why and how the show was produced and what he learned from the experience. Hyneman, a special effects expert, showed a film reel of the dozens of explosions he had encountered over the duration of the series, and he left the audience with a word of advice on working with others and leading by example. Catalyst was a great success, and all who attended took away life lessons and newly-kindled relationships. Southwest represented itself well with college president Dr. Steve Bishop receiving the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction based upon his support of the Omicron Delta chapter.

# The Pine Burr

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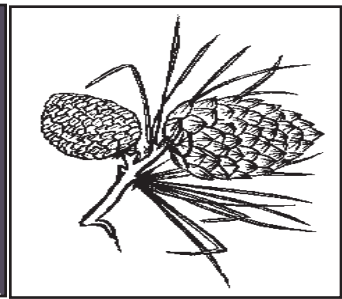
The *Pine Burr* is published monthly during regular academic sessions. Views expressed in the newspaper are not necessarily those of the faculty and administration. Writers express themselves under their by-lines.

Offices are located in Kenna Hall, Room 29; the telephone number is 276-3843. The staff invites readers to submit opinion columns and letters to the editor. Pine Burr, Kenna Hall, Summit, MS 39666.



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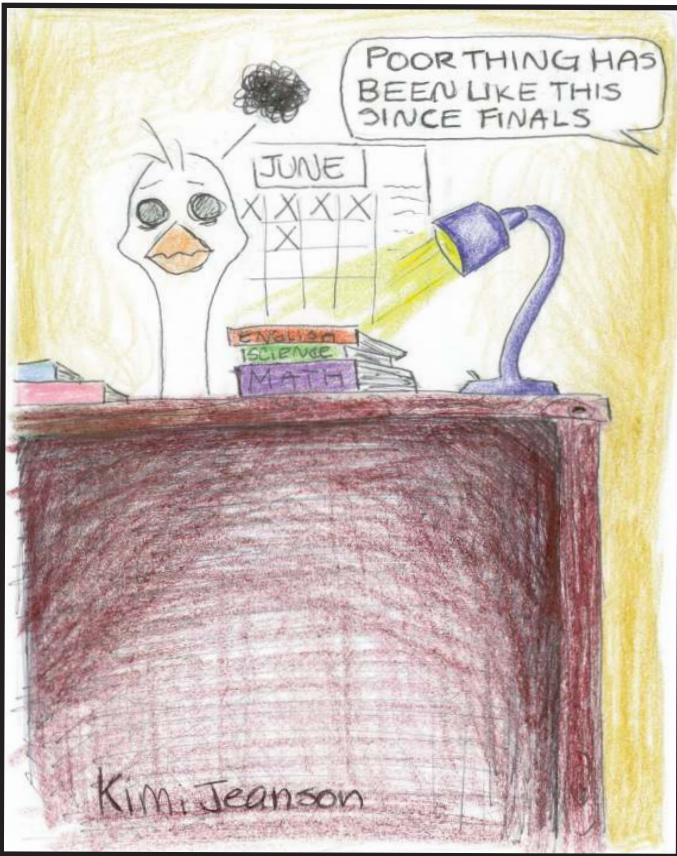
Southwest Mississippi Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and grievances regarding the non-discrimination policies: Rhonda Gibson, Director of Disability Support Services, 601-276-3885; Dr. Bill Ashley, Vice President of Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator and Director of Athletics, 601-276-3717, 1156 College Dr., Summit, MS 39666.



## Quote of the Month

**“When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened for us.”**

**-Helen Keller**



## BEAR AWARE

In order to effectively communicate emergency information to SMCC employees and students, SMCC has implemented a rapid alert and notification system developed by SchoolCast. BearAware is a service that allows employees and students of SMCC to receive alerts, news, or other emergency information via text, email, or by phone. Participation in Bear Aware is not mandatory but encouraged. At this time, the only information entered into the SchoolCast database is the student's "smcc.edu" email address.

Please read the following because our procedures for handling Bear Aware have changed. An email has been sent to all current students, faculty, and staff with their login information for Bear Aware. Students, faculty, and staff no longer need to request this information by emailing [bearaware@smcc.edu](mailto:bearaware@smcc.edu).

Dear Students,

You should have received an email with your Bear Aware Login Information on August 31, 2016. An additional email will be sent to your email account at 9:00 AM this morning (September 26, 2016) with your login information. It's basically the same email that was sent on August 31, 2016. If you have already logged in and set up your account, no additional action is required on your part. We will be sending more of these login information emails on the 20th of each month this semester to encourage participation in the system.

Again, if you have already set up your account, no action is required on your part. We do recommend logging in to Bear Aware at least once a month and verifying the accuracy of your information.

Please read the login information email in its entirety. It will explain why your password may be represented by asterisks (\*) and what to do if you cannot log in or if you forgot your password.

If you have any questions, send them to [bearaware@smcc.edu](mailto:bearaware@smcc.edu) from your SMCC email account. We cannot communicate about Bear Aware accounts from other personal or business email accounts you may have. You do not have to contact [bearaware@smcc.edu](mailto:bearaware@smcc.edu) for your login information unless you don't get a login information email.

# Words from the SGA Treasurer

Dear Fellow Students,

This year is quickly coming to a close, and I have enjoyed every moment of the journey. From hosting coming back parties to planning for Bear Necessities Day, the Student Government Association has worked tirelessly to ensure an enthralling student experience. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as your Student Body Treasurer. The experience has served me well, and I am taking away multiple life lessons as I graduate.

I would like to congratulate the new Student Government Association Officers: Alexcia Carr, President; Brooke Smith, Vice-President; Jaime Lowe, Secretary; and Jonathan Scott, Treasurer. I know they will do an excellent job of serving the student body, and I wish them the best of luck as they navigate their second year at this great institution. Keep in mind that they are there to speak on your behalf, so do not hesitate to come to them with any questions, suggestions, or concerns you might have.

As I come closer to graduation, I am realizing just how much of an impact Southwest has made on me. I came here unsure as to how I would navigate the social aspect of college, but I have forged lasting friendships that I hope to carry on with me. Joining many of the numerous campus organizations has allowed me to become a better leader and make the most of my community college experience; I encourage you to do the same. Becoming a member of an organization on campus will undoubtedly enhance your college experience, and who knows, you might make a new friend or two. I wish you all a great summer, and remember to always put your best foot forward and respect others by treating them with kindness.

Proud to be a BEAR!

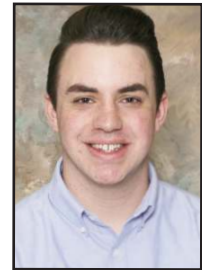
With gratitude,

Cody Pol, SGA Student Body Treasurer



Cody Pol

## Editorial: persistence is key



Editorial By Cody Pol, Editor

It seems as if the year is coming to a close. My experience at Southwest has transformed me in many significant ways. Over the course of the past two years, I have grown as a person, leader, and student. I have forged lasting friendships and made connections that I will carry with me throughout the rest of my academic career.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity of serving as the editor of the *Pine Burr*. Keeping up with campus news and proofing articles can be a slight challenge at times when I am busy, but the experience has sharpened my editing skills and time management. Also, I am definitely a much faster typer than your average Joe as a result of my tenure as editor. Much more work goes into publishing a monthly newspaper than many know, so show your appreciation of the newspaper staff and pick up a copy of the *Pine Burr*. They are free, and it gives insight as to what is going on around campus. Also, there might be a picture of you in it!

Keep in mind that finals are approaching as rapidly as ever,

and it is strongly advised that you study diligently and pay close attention in class in order to ace the final examinations; they often comprise a large percentage of your final grade.

Yearbooks are in! The *Whispering Pines* staff was busy all year capturing memories and preserving them in print. You can pick yours up in the boardroom of the administration building. Just sign the form, and the free yearbook is yours! QR codes are scattered throughout the publication, so download a QR scanner app and you can view the many videos captured throughout the year. Since 2013, the yearbook has won first place in the state three times, which is an enormous feat.

If I can leave you with a few words of advice from someone who has been there and done that a time or two, I encourage you to get involved with as many campus activities and organizations as time permits. You will undoubtedly make new friends and develop skills that you can use in other aspects of your life. Being a member of the organizations allows you to stay "in the know;" who does not like to know things before others? In addition to that benefit, scholarship committees take campus and community involvement as seriously as good grades. I hope you all have a relaxing and productive summer! Stay safe, wear sunscreen, and remember to never stop learning!

# Year in review: Southwest excels under leadership of Dr. Bishop

By Cody Pol, Editor

Carrying on his record of excellence in all facets of leadership, Dr. Steve Bishop continued as a driving force of projects on campus. The college once again proved itself unstoppable when *BestColleges.com* ranked the institution as the number one community college in the state. Factors such as academic outcomes and affordability influenced the ranking. In his sixth year as college president, Bishop commissioned multiple projects that were aimed to open the campus facilities for use among members of the community, and he also oversaw programs that greatly enhanced student life.

A major highlight of the year was the construction of the new Alford-Conerly men's dormitory. The modern \$6.5 million complex was equipped with state-of-the-art technology and the utmost of comforts. Maintenance around

campus was an ongoing effort, with the goal being to maintain the many beautiful buildings and landscapes. Through the campus beautification project, the campus's exceptional beauty shone.

E-books were a major change in the realm of instruction. Adopting the new technology allowed instructors and students to access the latest textbooks with the most up-to-date information; furthermore, the electronic books cut back on paper waste and saved students and the college copious funds. With Dr. Bishop's support, Phi Theta Kappa attended regional, state, and international meetings, ranking in the top tiers at each. The Student Success Center continued to help students achieve academic success.

Student activities were plentiful. Organizations achieved ample success throughout the year. The athletic teams, band, choir, student publications, and cheerleaders proved unstoppable.

Growing support from the SMCC Foundation and Alumni Association created new opportunities, and the Bear Backer Club, the athletic fundraising branch of the SMCC Foundation, continued to flourish.

Additional projects included the addition of a new football visitors' press box and a protective structure for the institution's maintenance fleet, which was built by students in the Carpentry program. Building upon campus safety was an item of particular interest; additional security cameras were installed around campus, and campus police gained a new patrol vehicle. In conjunction with the improved infrastructure, bike racks were installed around campus in order to accommodate the influx of bicyclists.

Dr. Bishop was recognized for his multitudinous achievements on numerous occasions. Selected as a recipient of Phi Theta Kappa's prestigious Shirley B.

Gordon Award of Distinction, Bishop attended the annual Catalyst convention in Nashville, Tennessee, to accept the honor. The Shirley B. Gordon award recognized college presidents and chief executive officers who were nominated by their campus's Phi Theta Kappa chapters, based upon their outstanding support of the international organization. With continued involvement in the community, Dr. Bishop continued to represent Southwest on many state and local boards. He continued to serve as a chairman of the state Community College Athletic Committee. Additionally, he remained active in the McComb Rotary Club. Dr. Bishop's contributions to Southwest Mississippi Community College furthered the institution's goals and graduated students who would go on to become contributing members of the community or continue their education at a university.

# Southwest announces speakers for graduations



Ann Bufkin



Colonel Philip Parker



Jack Ryan

Southwest Mississippi Community College's graduation ceremonies are scheduled for the following: A.D.N., May 9, 2017, at 11:00 with speaker Ann Bufkin; Career-Technical, May 9, 2017, at 3:00 with Colonel Philip Parker; Academic, May 10, 2017, at 3:00 with Jack Ryan.

**Ann Bufkin, RN, BSN, JD**, is a Walthall County native. She studied pre-nursing at Southwest Mississippi Community College, receiving her Associate's Degree in 1977. In 1979, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the Ole Miss School of Nursing. Her nursing career has included a focus on critical care nursing, emergency room nurs-

ing, and flight nursing/adult, pediatric, and neonatal rotor wing and fixed wing transport.

Bufkin graduated from Louisiana State University School of Law in 1996. She is licensed to practice law in Mississippi and Louisiana, where she is currently a solo practitioner with an emphasis on medical malpractice.

**Colonel Philip Parker** is the Chief of Staff for the Mississippi Army National Guard. He has over thirty years of service and two combat deployments to Iraq with the 155th Armor Brigade Combat Team. Colonel Parker is a lifelong resident of Summit. He graduated from McComb High

School in 1984. He holds an Associate's degree from Southwest Mississippi Community College, a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Business Administration from the University of Mississippi, and a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. He is married to the former Carol Slaton, and they have two children: Chandler MacDonald of Nashville, Tennessee, and Slaton Parker.

**Jack Ryan**, Editor and Publisher of the *McComb Enterprise-Journal*, grew up in the New Orleans area. In 1983, he graduated from the University

of Notre Dame, where he earned a degree in American Studies. He was hired as a reporter by the *Enterprise-Journal* ten days prior to graduation.

"I've been at the paper ever since," said Ryan. At the end of May, he will have spent thirty-four years at the publication. He became managing editor in charge of the news and sports departments in 1990, and in 2001, he became editor and publisher.

Ryan is married to the former Mary Ann Smylie, a native of Amite County. He has three children, all of whom are in their twenties. One lives in Houston, Texas; another in Starkville, and the other will graduate from the University of Mississippi in May.

His proudest accomplishment as editor of the *Enterprise-Journal* is the fact that the newspaper has remained relevant by reporting the news on many different platforms-through the physical paper, various magazine products, and online. Unlike many papers, those at the *Enterprise-Journal* have not repeatedly reduced the number of people in the newsroom, believing that a community institution willing to invest in the market for local information can be reason-

# Welch: new assistant football coach

By Michael Gunnell, Sports Information Director

Derek Welch is in his first year as an assistant football coach for the Bears. He is in charge of the defensive backs.

A native of Taylorsville, MS, Welch comes to Southwest from East Central Community College where he spent the past two seasons coaching the linebackers.

A two-year member of the Jones County Junior College football team (2007-08), Welch helped lead the team to the state championship his freshman year, leading the team with seven interceptions. He was named First Team All-State while playing both wide receiver and cornerback.

Following his juco career, Welch spent two seasons (2009-10) playing at the University of Tennessee-Martin. At UTM, Welch helped lead the Skyhawks to a 16-9 record. As a senior, he and his defensive teammates led the Ohio Valley Conference in total defense, passing defense, passing efficiency defense and first/third down defense while being ranked fifth in nationally in total defense.

Welch graduated from UT-Martin in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Health and Human Performance. Sports Management.

He began his coaching career as a student assistant strength and conditioning coach at UT-Martin (2011-12) and followed that with a stint as an offensive assistant at the University of Southern Arkansas (2012-13), coaching wide receivers for an offense that ranked second in the Great American Conference in total offense and fifth nationally with 497.6 yards per game.

Welch then spent 2013-14 as defensive coordinator at Kemper County High School before spending 2014-15 as Assistant Defensive Backs Coach at Northwestern State University. He then moved on to East Central before heading to Summit.

Welch prepped at Taylorsville High School in MS, where he was a four-year letter player in football, basketball and track. Welch still holds the touchdown record at Taylorsville (28) which he captured his senior season. Welch was also an all-state receiver his junior and senior season. Welch and his wife, Rachel, have a daughter, Ry

# Tri-Beta

By Cody Pol, Editor

Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, more commonly known as Tri-Beta, spread the importance of biological awareness. Through community outreach projects and campus initiatives, Tri-Beta met that goal of encouraging everyone to consider the impact he or she made on the environment. The undergraduate organization was entirely dedicated to improving the understanding and appreciation of biological studies and extending boundaries of human knowledge through scientific research.

At Science Fun Day held at Otken Elementary, members stressed the importance of science to the students. Presenting projects on anatomy and physiology, physics, and chemistry reinforced valuable lessons the third graders had previously learned in class. The looks of amazement on their eyes as the carbon dioxide-filled bubble erupted motivated Tri-Beta members to put forth their best effort in fascinating the students. Learning about the internal structures of the eye greatly enlightened the students on the complexity of sight. An experiment based upon Dr. Seuss's "oobleck," a mixture of cornstarch and water, demonstrated physical states of matter. When pressed with a heavy force, the oobleck remained in a solid state; when the oobleck was free of pressure, the substance existed as a liquid. Throughout the day, Tri-Beta members and elementary students alike learned more about each other and the science behind all living creatures.

# SMCC and Millsaps join forces



Pictured above are SMCC President Dr. Steve Bishop and Millsaps College President Dr. Robert W. Pearigen.

Southwest Mississippi Community College and Millsaps College have joined forces to make it easier for SMCC students to transfer their credits to the Millsaps campus in Jackson. The agreement outlines coursework that aligns with curriculum followed by students at Millsaps. SMCC students who wish to transfer to the four-year institution that offers 33 majors and 47 minor fields of study can plan their coursework accordingly. The agreement was recently signed by SMCC President Dr. Steve Bishop and Millsaps College President Dr. Robert W. Pearigen. "Partnering with Millsaps allows our students more opportunities to seamlessly advance their future educational goals at a four-year institution," Bishop said. "Southwest has had a positive relationship with Millsaps for many years. This agreement solidifies Millsaps's commitment to the transfer student. Through the years, Southwest has had numerous graduates successfully transfer to Millsaps, and we look forward to this renewed partnership"

SMCC currently has articulation agreements with Mississippi's eight public universities and colleges and can now add Millsaps to that list. Having these articulation agreements makes it easier for SMCC students to earn a bachelor's degree at those institutions. In addition to the agreement signed with SMCC, Millsaps College also signed identical agreements with the remaining 14 community and junior colleges in Mississippi

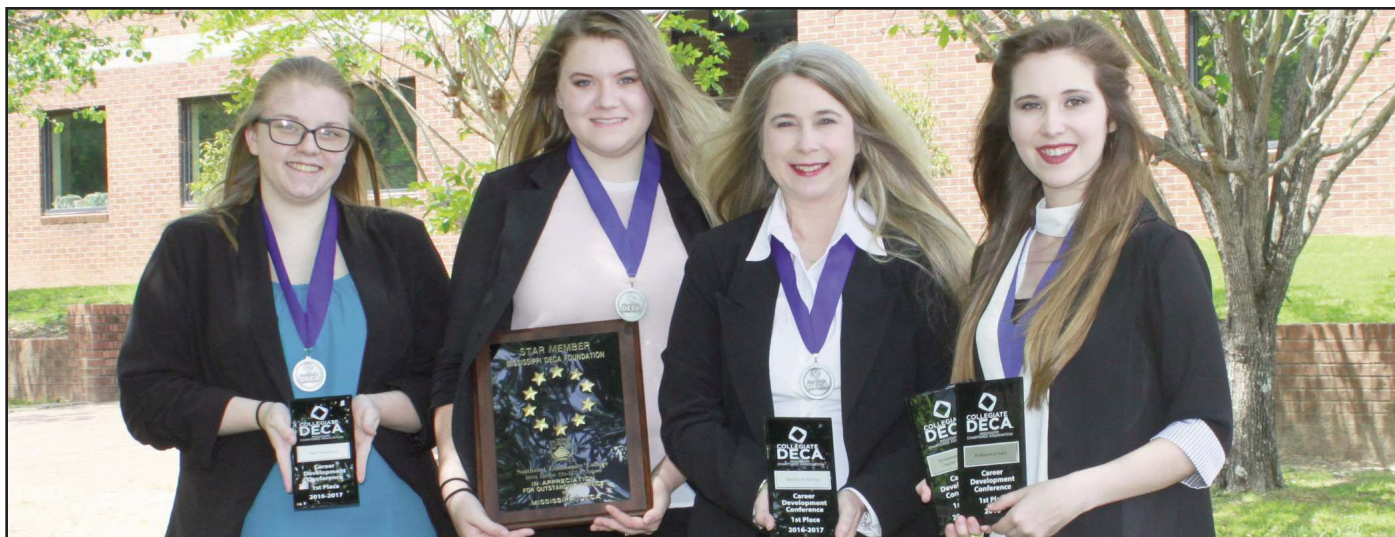
# Pol named Lyceum Scholar



Cody Pol

Cody Pol of Summit was recently named a 2017 Lyceum scholarship recipient by the University of Mississippi. The Lyceum scholarship is a highly-competitive transfer scholarship that requires the recipient to have an outstanding record of academics, leadership, and service. Full tuition for two years is covered by the award. In addition to the Lyceum scholarship, membership in the Chancellor's Leadership Class is included. Membership in the class earns the student an additional \$1,000 scholarship.

Ole Miss also awarded Pol with an \$8,000 Phi Theta Kappa scholarship. As a result of him earning a 3.96 GPA, he also received an additional \$8,000. Serving as the Phi Theta Kappa president resulted in another \$2,000. Membership in the All-Mississippi Academic Team garnered \$1,000 from the University. Pol also earned other scholarships. He received \$1,000 for being placed on the First Team of the All-Mississippi Academic Team. Another \$1,250 scholarship is due in the fall semester. He is extremely grateful for the awards. The assistance will allow him to graduate with his Bachelor's degree debt-free, and he can attend medical school without the burden of accumulating student debt. He credits Southwest with molding him to become an exceptional leader, and if he had not attended the college, he knows that none of this would be possible.



Collegiate DECA award winners: Jasmine Pearson, Cassidy Brecheen, Deanna Martin, advisor, and Madison Martin

DECA members receive awards at the International DECA Awards Program held in Anaheim, California. Southwest received the Presidential Chapter Leadership Passport Award. Madison Martin earned the Gold Individual Leadership Passport Award, and she also earned the Academic Honor Award. The Community Service Award went to Southwest. Cassidy Brecheen and Madison Martin both received the Chapter Leadership Award. Recipient of the Association Leadership Award was Madison Martin.

Cassidy Brecheen: 2016-2017 Collegiate DECA International Chapter Leadership Award; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA 1st Place Web Site Award; 2016-2017 6th place Human Resource Management; 2016-2017 Collegiate DECA Foundation Gold Star; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA Community Service Award; 2016-2017 Southwest Mississippi Community College Collegiate DECA Voting Delegate

Madison Martin: 2016-2016 Collegiate DECA International Chapter Leadership Passport Award - Presidential Level; 2016-2017 Collegiate DECA International Individual Leadership Passport Award -Gold Level; 2016-2017 Collegiate DECA International Academic Honor Award; 2016-2017 Collegiate DECA International Community Service Award; 2016-2017 Collegiate DECA International Chapter Leadership Award; 2016-2017 Collegiate DECA International Association Leadership Award; 2016-2017 Southwest Mississippi Community

College Collegiate DECA Presidential Leadership Award; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA Outstanding Chapter Member of the Year; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA Alumni Scholarship; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA 1st Place-Professional Sales; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA 1st Place Web Site Award; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA Foundation Gold Star; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA Community Service Award; 2016-2017 Southwest Mississippi Community College Collegiate DECA Voting Delegate

Jasmine Pearson: 2016-2017 Collegiate DECA International Chapter Leadership Passport Award- Presidential Level; 2016-2017 Collegiate DECA International Community Service Award; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA 1st Place Web Site Award; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA 2nd Place- Marketing Management

Deanna Martin: Advisor-2016-2017 Collegiate DECA International Chapter Leadership Passport Award- Presidential Level; 2016-2017 Collegiate DECA International Community Service Award; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA Teacher of the Year; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA 1st Place Web Site Award; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA 1st Place Web Site Award; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA Foundation Gold Star; 2016-2017 Mississippi Collegiate DECA Community Service Award



Yearbooks are here! Olivia Dickerson, Alyssa Brister, and Jaime Lowe smile at happy memories in the 2017 "Unstoppable" yearbook.

# Local color: A day with Truman

By David Russell, staff writer

It was late morning when my dog and I finally left the house. We climbed into the car and headed off to Percy Quinn State Park. Truman, my dog, was sitting in my lap with his head out the window enjoying the breeze. We pulled into the parking lot and headed for the trail. This was my first time bringing Truman along with me to go on the trail. "Let's take the trail to the right," I said to him as he looked to me for direction. The trails were slightly muddy at points, as it had recently rained. "Do not eat that!" I snapped as I noticed Truman starting to lick a mushroom. We wound down trail after trail, taking our time and enjoying all the beauty that nature had to show us. We stopped and talked to anyone we came across on the trail. The people we encountered were all very friendly and loved petting Truman; I could tell Truman loved it as well.

Once Truman and I reached the end of the trail, we still had to walk around the lake to get back to the car. We started down the road toward the cabins, which are usually empty. As we began getting closer to the cabins, I noticed an usual amount of traffic. There were dozens of cars driving up to the cabins. Trying to make sure Truman was not hit by a car, we moved off into the grass a little way from the road. I walked up to a man who had just gotten out of his truck and asked, "Are you all having some kind of retreat?" He smiled and replied while petting Truman, "We are all from Oak Forrest Middle School, and we are bringing our kids' class out here to go camping for the night." "That sounds like a great time," I replied. We said our goodbyes and continued on our way.

Now that we were through the woods and walking along the lake, we met even more people. They were mostly anglers, but also families out enjoying their spring break. Everyone loved Truman, and I enjoyed hearing from the anglers how the fishing was going since the lake reopened. A little further on was the RV campground. Everyone was out cooking on his or her grill or roasting hotdogs over the fires, as it was now right about lunchtime. The smells made Truman and me start remembering that we had not eaten that day. We made our way through the campground, talking to people as we went. An RV campground is a place where one can find almost any type of person. From families to young couples, all the way to the little old couples with their grandchildren, one can find them there.

We made our way back to the tennis courts where the trail started. By this time, I could tell Truman was ready to go home. It had been roughly four hours since we had started out, and we were both tired. No sooner than had we gotten back in the car, Truman was fast asleep on the floor. He slept like that the entire ride home. Percy Quinn had been fun, but we were ready for a nap. I know I will be taking Truman back for another adventure sometime soon.



Administration Building, Boardroom 8:00-3:00 NO FEES!

## Adam and Sikes receive honors

By Michael D. Gunnell  
Sports Information

Southwest guard Alissa Adam has capped off her outstanding basketball career by being named to the NJCAA All-Region 23 team.

A graduate of Hancock High School, Adam made her mark in the MACJC during her two years as a starter for the Lady Bears. As a freshman, she set career highs for points (32 vs. East Central) and assists (11 vs. Meridian) and finished 5th in the NJCAA with 166 assists. For her achievements in her initial season, she was named 2nd Team All-State. As a sophomore, she twice equaled her assists mark in games against Meridian and finished the season ranked 16th in assists per game. Also, she helped the Lady Bears finish as the MACJC state runners-up. She was selected to the MACJC All-State tournament team and the NJCAA All-Region 23 tournament team. She has also been named to the Southwest Hall of Fame. Commenting on his departing standout, Lady Bears' head coach Brent Harris said "Alissa's been great for us for two years and is extremely deserving of this honor. She (did) so much more for us than just getting assists and scoring; she (helped) change offenses and defenses in the midst of the action." "She's been our coach on the floor," Harris continued. "She's accomplished a great deal and she's going to be missed here at Southwest." For her part, Adam said "I am overly grateful" to receive the award and "grateful for the opportunity to be at Southwest and everything that Coach Brent and Coach B (assistant coach Britta Stephens) have done for me. I personally don't think I would have been successful at any other Juco in the state."

Asked what she will miss most about Southwest, Adam listed several things. "Basketball in general," she said. "I'll miss the (closeness) with my teammates and getting to know them. The teachers have been great in preparing me for the next school (she will attend) and, probably, Coach Brent because I talk to him every single day." After graduating from Southwest, Adam plans to attend Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in English Education. "I want to get my Master's and come back and teach at a junior college one day and go on and maybe pursue a doctorate."

Guard Rodrick Sikes has received yet another honor for his performance as a member of the Southwest Bears basketball team. The St. Martin High School graduate has been named to the NJCAA Region 23 All-Region team. Though he only averaged just over 9 points per game as a freshman, Sikes served notice of things to come when he broke loose for 31 points in the 2015-16 MACJC tournament championship game to help the Bears claim their first state title in 53 years. In 2016-17, Sikes led the Bears and the MACJC, and was ninth in the NJCAA, with 22 points per game. He scored in double figures in each of the Bears' 27 games and scored over 30 points five times, including his Southwest-career best 38 in a 97-92 road win over eventual state champion Jones County. He was also a two-time league Player of the Week and was named to the MACJC All-Region 23 tournament team. Southwest head coach Thomas Gray said he was "really excited for Rodrick getting this great honor, to be one of the top players in the region. It just shows the hard work that he's put in in the past couple of years. I'm just so proud of his growth as a basketball player and as a young man." "He's really been recognized, not only by people in this state and this region," Gray went on, "but also across the country with his multiple Division 1 scholarship offers and it's just a testament to the hard work that he's put in and the character that he has to go with his great ability to play the game of basketball." Sikes said receiving the award "is truly an honor. But, it's not something that I did on my own. I'm thankful for, first of all, God and all the coaches and all the support that I had throughout the season. I definitely could not have done this without my teammates and coaches and family."

# President Dr. Steve Bishop receives 2017 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction



Dr. Steve Bishop

Southwest Mississippi Community College President Dr. Steve Bishop recently received the 2017 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction at Phi Theta Kappa Catalyst 2017, which is Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Selection for this award is based on outstanding efforts given toward promoting the goals of Phi Theta Kappa. The award is named for the late Dr. Shirley B. Gordon, Phi Theta Kappa's longest-serving Board of Directors Chair and President Emeritus of Highline Community College in Des Moines, Washington. Gordon was named Phi Theta Kappa's Most Distinguished College President in 1984. Nominees should have served as president at least five years at the current institution, demonstrated a strong level of support for Phi Theta Kappa during their tenure, and must attend the Phi Theta Kappa annual convention to receive the award.

Dr. Bishop was the first onstage to accept his award at Catalyst. Standing tall among college presidents from around the nation, Bishop served as an outstanding representative of all that Southwest has to offer. The MS/LA region and all other regions of Phi Theta Kappa applauded raucously as Southwest's name and college president were announced. A PTK International Officer presented the award, and Bishop departed the stage with a frenzy of applause from the audience. The Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction was an appropriate representation of all that Bishop does for the Omicron Delta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. His endless promotion of the honor society and genuine support for all that the chapter stands for made him a fitting candidate for the honor. The PTK chapter looks forward to future partnerships with the faculty and administration of Southwest Mississippi Community College.

## Reggie Jones inducted into MACJC Sports Hall of Fame



Jones

Reggie Jones has been chosen as a member of the Mississippi Community and Junior College

Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2017. Mr. Jones was recently honored at a ceremony at the Muse Center on the Hinds Community College campus.

Reggie Jones of Liberty, Mississippi, went to Liberty High School until his senior year when the basketball program was removed. While at Liberty, he was inducted in the Hall of Fame. He graduated from Hattiesburg High School in 1970 and went on to play at Southwest Mississippi Junior College where he graduated in 1972. He was selected All-State his sophomore year and was later inducted in Southwest MS Community College Sports Hall of Fame. Reggie then went to Millsaps College where he led the team in scoring for two years and graduated in 1974. Reggie Jones

still holds the record for most points in a season---610 for the 1973-74 season, and he also still holds the record for scoring average in that same season at 24.4 points per game. Reggie was later inducted in the Millsaps College Sports Hall of Fame. He received his J.D. from The University of Mississippi School of Law in 1977.

Reggie is Past President of Liberty Area Chamber of Commerce and Past President of Amite School Center Board of Trustees. He is presently serving on the Board of Trustees of Field Health System and has served on the Board of Trustees for Southwest MS Community College for the past 39 years. He has served as President of SMCC Board of Trustees since 2011.

Reggie is a member of the Southwest Mississippi Bar Association and the Mississippi Bar Association. He has been the Attorney for the Amite County Board of Supervisors for 32 years, Attorney for Town of Liberty for over 20 years, and is currently serving as Attorney for Magnolia Electric Power Association and Amite County Youth Court Referee. Reggie is currently a practicing attorney at Jones Law Group, P.A. with his daughter in Liberty.

Reggie is a lifelong member of Liberty United Methodist Church. Reggie is most proud of his children, Reg Jones of McComb, and Sara and Patrick Hemphill of McComb, and his first grandchild, Bess Hemphill.



**Southwest Independent Indoor Percussion group wins first place:** Demetrius Townsend, Daniel Little, Preston Vaughn, Jack Stogner; second row: Nick Mueller, Janice Spicuzza, Jacob Landry, Bryce Boyd, Scott Molason, Julia Cates, Maleigha Taylor, Anna Grace Thomas, John Shannon; third row: Andrew Garner, Michael Martin, Wyatt Fortenberry, Jonathan Scott, David Russel The Southwest Independent Indoor Percussion group, led by band director Clay Whittington, won first place in their division in the State Championship. The event was held in Jackson at the Mississippi Coliseum, where a number of percussion groups competed. Southwest Independent traveled to Dayton, Ohio, on April 18 to compete in the World Championship.



**ADN student receives scholarship:** Pictured are the following: Dr. Melissa Temple, ADN Director; Kelli Dawson, ADN student; Rosalyn Howard, MS Nurses Foundation representative; and Erica Myers, ADN instructor. Kelli Dawson receives a scholarship from the Mississippi Nurses Foundation. The vision of the Mississippi Nurses Foundation is to be the charitable organization in the state of Mississippi that is most influential in impacting the professional image of nursing, sponsoring continuing nursing education, and funding for nursing. The Mississippi Nurses Foundation scholarships are sponsored by the Mississippi Nurses Foundation and recipients are selected based on GPA, resident of Mississippi, scholarship, and service.

photo by Kimi Jeanson

## Why Not Southwest?

By David Russell,  
staff writer

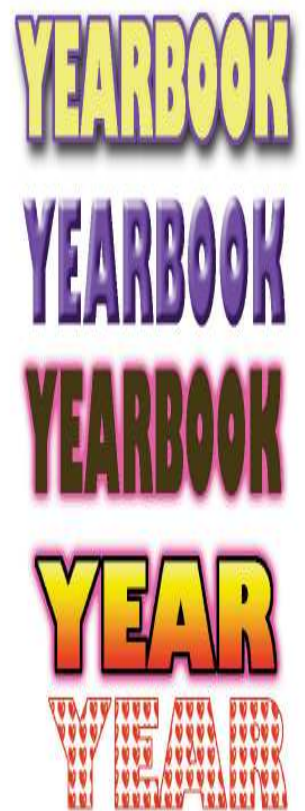
Southwest Mississippi Community College is the right choice for college due to the affordable prices, the low student-to-teacher ratio, and the excellent general education courses it provides. Southwest is an excellent choice to prepare for one's future education. The affordable pricing makes the institution accessible to a diverse group of people. The low student-to-teacher ratio allows the students to have more one-on-one time with the instructors. The excellent general courses allow one to take the correct classes to get started on his or her degree.

The price of tuition, as well as room and board, is vitally important to anyone considering attending college. At Southwest, the affordable pricing allows many students who cannot afford to go to a university to get their first two years of higher education at a reasonable price. This allows the student to save up money during those two years to be able to continue on to a university. Furthermore, there are scholarships available to help cover the already low price of tuition. No matter one's financial situation, Southwest Mississippi Community College is an excellent option for a top-quality education.

In addition to the numerous other benefits of attending Southwest, the low student-to-teacher ratio is very important, as it allows for smaller class sizes and more face-to-face time with faculty. Due to the smaller class size, the instructors get to know and help each of their students. The instructors learn the students' names, majors, and the classes they are taking. The student is afforded the opportunity to visit his or her instructor and get help with any problem he or she might have in the classroom or with assignments. The importance of a low student-to-teacher ratio can be a huge deciding factor in where one decides to attend school.

Southwest boasts exceptional general education courses. No matter what a student's major might be, he or she will have to take some general courses. Southwest Mississippi Community College allows the student to take these courses at an affordable price. The instructors for these courses are engaging, fair, and want the best for their students. These courses set the student up for future success for when they move on to a university or a career.

Overall, Southwest Mississippi Community College is a quality option for school due to its affordable pricing, the low student-to-teacher ratio, and the excellent general education courses it provides. Southwest is an institution where the administration, faculty, and staff want what is best for their students. No matter what major a student may choose to enter into, Southwest is a great place to begin. The atmosphere at Southwest is very friendly and makes the campus feel like home. There are also many activities that a student can participate in after class. A student has many options to fill his or her free time. Southwest Mississippi Community College is a phenomenal school to begin one's major and continue one's pathway to success.





# Football schedule set

By Michael Gunnell, Sports Information Director

The schedule for the 2017 edition of the Southwest Bears football team has been set.

Among the Bears' nine games, five will be played at home. They will open the season on August 31, with a home date against the Coahoma Tigers. That will be followed by a home game versus Holmes (September 7).

The Bears will take the road for their next two contests, traveling to Hinds and Northeast on September 14 and 21, respectively.

They will return home for a September 28 matchup against Jones County followed by Homecoming on October 7 against Pearl River.

The Bears will travel to Gulf Coast on October 12 before returning home for the final time for an October 19 game against arch-rival Co-Lin. They will then close out the campaign in Decatur when they take on East Central.

All home games, with the exception of Homecoming, will be played on Thursday night. Kickoff for the first three home games will be at 7:00. The Homecoming game will kick off at 5:00 with the Co-Lin game set for a 6:30 start.

# Southwest Mississippi Community College exceeds expectations

By Justin Griffin, freelance writer

Southwest is a good school that has a home-feeling atmosphere, has great instructors, and has a lot of activities. When I was choosing where to go to college, Southwest was at the top of my list. I had planned to go to Southwest when I was a junior in high school. I was a Southwest basketball game, and I knew then I wanted to be a part of the Bear family. I toured Southwest and knew that this is where I wanted to be.

Southwest having a homey atmosphere was my main reason for coming here. I went to North Pike, which is right across the street from Southwest, so coming to Southwest was just like going to my high school again. I also live eight minutes away from the school. I have grown up here my whole life. I was a little nervous about going to college, but Southwest took those nerves away from me.

Southwest has exceeded my expectations. The main reason for this is because of the faculty. The faculty at Southwest has been great. They have helped me with everything I have needed. They will do anything in their power to help their students.

At Southwest, there are so many activities for all students. There are many clubs, groups, sports, and intramural sports that a student can join. This year I played intramural basketball and had a great time. The football, basketball, baseball, soccer, and softball games are all great to go to. There is also the Baptist Student Union, where students hang out and go on trips all the time doing missionary work. There is something for everyone at Southwest.

In conclusion, Southwest has definitely exceeded my expectations. I am so glad I made the decision to come here. If someone out there is trying to decide on where to go, Southwest needs to be at the top of your list. Southwest is helping me so much in achieving my goals. Coming to Southwest will prepare me for whatever life throws my way.



**Pine Burr staff and journalism students win awards:** Pictured are Kimi Jeanson, Garrett Graves, Jonathan Scott, Cody Pol, and Joyce Mabry, journalism instructor and Pine Burr advisor. SMCC's campus newspaper the Pine Burr and journalism students won 11 awards in the Mississippi Press Association's Community College Newspaper Competition at the O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference in Jackson, MS. Garrett Graves, Kimi Jeanson, Cody Pol, Jonathan Scott, and the Pine Burr staff won. Kimi Jeanson won First Place in Spot News Photo, Second Place in Graphic, Third Place in Graphic, Third Place in Feature Photo, and Third Place in Spot News Photo. Jonathan Scott won First Place in Editorial Cartoon. Garrett Graves won Second Place in the Sports Photo Division. Cody Pol won Third Place in In Depth or Investigative Report. The Pine Burr staff won Second Place in the Best Front Page Division, Second Place in Design, and Third Place in General Excellence.



**ADN and PN students give back to the community:** Pictured above are the following: Stephanie Greer, Melissa Temple, Tanya Boyd, Alecia Hollis, Rose Conerly, Shellah Young, Adrian Hammon, Nona Deer, Dewanna Achord, Brenda Wilson, Barbira Olander, and Dianne Wilkinson. SMCC nursing faculty, ADN and PN, attended the Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Foundation Operation fundraising event on March 30th in honor of Gayle Cornwell, who was a Foundation member who recently lost her battle to pancreatic cancer. Everyone came dressed in scrubs. There was a "Go Wild for Gayle" scrubs contest that Shellah Young entered. We helped decorate her scrubs, and she won second place.



**Beta Beta Beta inducts new members:** Robin Kuntz, advisor; Kristen Parnell, Lindsey Wallace, Alexcia Carr, Shinah Moore, Simarjit Kaur, Corey Dillon, MeOshia Williams, J.C. Gardner, Andrew Boyd, Kaylin Boyd, Emma Walls, Ariel McDaniel, Alana Gabler, advisor photo by Joyce Mabry



**Sikes signs with the University of South Alabama:** Pictured are the following: Robin Sikes, father, Rodrick Sikes, Gloria Sikes, mother, Kristiaen Sikes, sister; second row: Southwest assistant coach Andy Farrell, Southwest head coach Thomas Gray. With the stroke of a pen, Southwest basketball standout Rodrick Sikes has signed to continue his collegiate career with Head Coach Matthew Grave's University of South Alabama Jaguars. The Jaguars play in the Sun Belt Conference.

Sikes, a graduate of St. Martin High School, played an integral part of the Bears' success over the past two years as they went 35-17. As a freshman, he served notice of things to come when he scored 31 points in the MACJC tournament championship game to help the team win their first state title in 53 years and was named tournament MVP.

As a sophomore, Sikes led the Bears, and was ninth in the NJCAA, with 22 points per game. He scored in double figures in all 27 of the Bears' games during 2016-17 and had over 30 points five times, including a Southwest-career high 38 in a 97-92 win over eventual state champion Jones County, and was an NJCAA All-Region 23 selection.

Sikes also excelled in the classroom. As a freshman, he compiled a 3.6 GPA to help the Bears finish with the highest cumulative GPA in the NJCAA among all men's basketball teams. It was also the fifth-highest men's basketball GPA in NJCAA history.

Sikes said of his decision to move to South Alabama, "I believe they have all three things I was looking for in a school-academics, a competitiveness as a team and also I felt like I could be at home there."

Also, Sikes said South Alabama is much like Southwest in that "they're like a family. There's a family aspect that you can see at

Southwest and I see that at South Alabama, which is big because if your team is together then you can go far."

Graves said he was "very pleased to add Rodrick to our roster for the upcoming season. Assistant Coach Russ Willemsen did a great job identifying Rodrick early in the process as a person who really fits the student-athlete profile we want here at South Alabama. He brings a great ability to shoot the basketball from the three-point range and enhances our athleticism on the perimeter."

"Rodrick has really improved his overall skill in two years at Southwest under Head Coach Thomas Gray and his staff," Graves continued, "and I am excited to begin working with him this summer."

For his part, Gray said he would first like to say thank you to St. Martin head coach Charlie Pavlus for the job that he did preparing Rodrick to be successful at the college level. It always makes our job as college coaches easier when they come from a great program like Coach Pavlus has at St. Martin."

"Rodrick was a guy who meant a lot to this program," Gray went on, "not only on the floor as he led us in scoring this year, but also off the floor as he led us in the classroom. He's a young man who's worked hard and earned everything that he's being given right now and the opportunities that he's had."

Gray said Sikes came to Southwest "from high school where had didn't even have any NCAA Division 2 offers to working so hard to where had over 15 Division 1 offers. "I'm just so excited for him in realizing this dream, this goal, and just so excited for South Alabama. They are getting not only an excellent basketball player, but a great guy who's going to lead them and help build their culture and help them be successful on the floor and off the floor."

# "13 reasons why"

By Kimi Jeanson, co-editor

The new hit show "13 Reasons Why" reopens the issue of bullying and teen suicide. In the past, we have had many iconic movies, such as *Mean Girls*, to expose the harsh truth of words and the damage they cause. "13 Reasons Why" goes even further into the psyche of not just the victim but also the bullies. For those of you who have not watched it yet, do not fear because there are no spoilers ahead. "13 Reasons Why" differs from the rest in that it is told as a suicide note to all of those whose actions caused a young girl, Hannah Baker, to kill herself. She records her experiences on tape and sends them to the people on the tapes. Her confrontation drastically affects the guilty group. As more people discover their secrets and what they did, they resort to desperate measures which includes even attacking each other. Little did they realize, it was what they did not do that killed her. Going through high school is not an easy task. This show perfectly illustrates many things you might have experienced; it may even be relatable. Whether you were the victim or the punisher, you can relate to at least one character in the show. Teen movies or shows cannot pull away from the stereotypes of the jock, the cheerleader, or the nerd; there will always be that stereotype. "13 Reasons Why" is no exception; however, the show definitely blurs the lines. Things are not what they seem, and neither are people.

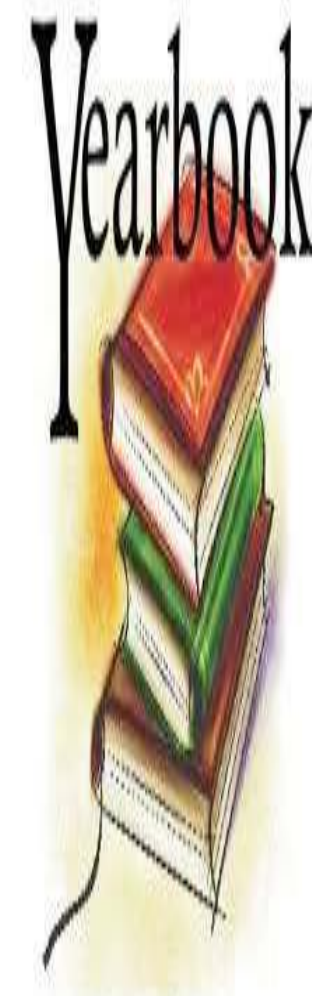
# Sikes receives post-season honors

By Michael Gunnell, Sports Information Director

Southwest standout Rodrick Sikes has added to his post-season honors by being named 2nd Team All-American. He was earlier named to the NJCAA All-Region 23 team.

Sikes, a St. Martin High School graduate and University of South Alabama signee, led the Bears and was ninth in the NJCAA with 22 points per game during the 2016-17 season.

As a freshman, Sikes became a household name after scoring 31 points in the MACJC tournament championship game to help the Bears win their first title in 53 years. He also finished with a 3.6 GPA to help the Bears become the NJCAA men's basketball Academic Team of the Year with the fifth-highest GPA men's basketball GPA in NJCAA history.



# Whispering Pines: Southwest is Unstoppable

By Brooke Smith, co-editor

Whispering Pines staff, instructed by Joyce Mabry, worked diligently all year long to perfectly capture every important event and freeze moments in time at which students may look back and remember their favorite times at Southwest Mississippi Community College.

The yearbook staff spent countless hours cropping pictures, proofing student names, and choosing the most fitting photographs for each spread. Members learned to use Adobe InDesign CS6 and Adobe Photoshop Elements, all while racing against time to meet ever-approaching deadlines. Southwest's passion for excellence in both athletics and academics inspired the Whispering Pines staff to design this year's yearbook with the word "unstoppable" in mind.

Campus functions were assigned to a member each week in order to keep up-to-date on all things Southwest. Mrs. Mabry and the yearbook staff made it a priority and goal to cover every event possible in order to publish a yearbook that best represented the accomplishments and fun times had at Southwest Mississippi Community College.

After all their hard work, the staff ultimately hoped to create a book even better than the prior year's, which won First Place Overall in the Mississippi Community College and Junior College Press Association (MCJCPA) yearbook competition. The publication won first place in the categories of Cover, Structure, Typography, Copy, and Design, and the staff continued to adamantly pursue excellence every day so that Southwest could continue to boast award-winning yearbooks.



**Intramural Basketball Champions:** 3K: Michael Martin, Chris Wells; second row: Ladarius Young, Jaterrious Wilson, Trivillian Williams, Detavious Bonds, Dequarius Bonds

# Pine Burr: Voice of Southwest

By Cody Pol, Editor

Pine Burr, Southwest's very own monthly student publication, was always on the pursuit of the latest campus news. Whether taking pictures at student events or interviewing alumni for biographical pieces, the Pine Burr staff never sat idle. The Pine Burr was an important part of Southwest students' lives; whenever someone had the desire to learn about current events on campus, the first place they turned to was the newspaper. Members of the staff took great pride in knowing that they were the sole documenters of the happenings on campus.

Working full-force to meet deadlines, the Pine Burr staff of the editor, co-editors, and staff writers was nothing other than insuppressible in every task they set forth to complete. Working late into the afternoon to ensure that articles were proofed and the pages were laid out just so, members persevered relentlessly to publish the best newspaper possible. After hours, staff photographers toiled endlessly in pursuit of the perfect shot at sporting events and student activities. The collective work of all members of the Pine Burr staff resulted in a collection of priceless documents that will forever live on in the campus archives.



**New members of the Cheer Team:** Haven Johnson, Kelsey Hedgepeth, Leanne Fuqua, Tiffany Prevost, Aleigh Flynn, Anna Morgan Smith; second row: Edward Howard, Latreall Smith, Hannah Owen, Marcus Kees, Jay Palen

by Michael D. Gunnell  
Southwest Sports Information Director

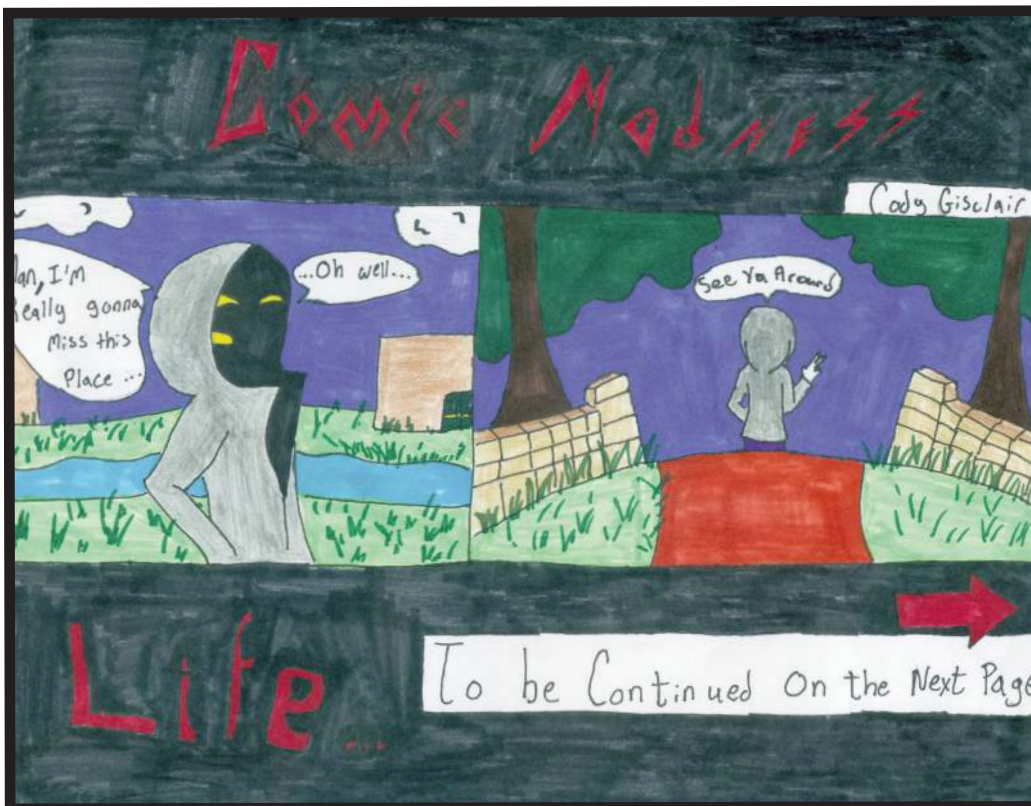
Following recent tryouts, eleven new members have been selected for the 2017-18 Southwest cheer squad. The young ladies joining the squad are Aleigh Flynn (Mendenhall HS), Leanne Fuqua (West Lincoln HS), Kelsey Hedgepeth (Lawrence County HS), Haven Johnson (Lawrence County HS), Hannah Owen (North Pike HS), Tiffany

Prevost (WCCA) and Anna Morgan Smith (Brookhaven Academy). The new young men on the squad are Edward Howard (McComb HS), Marcus Kees (Lawrence County HS), Jay Palen (North Pike HS) and Latreall Smith (Loyd Star HS).

The new members will join returners Mario Lindsay and Katajah Mahaffey (Mendenhall HS), Alleon Thigpen (Amite County HS), Will Fauver and Summer Martin (Bogue Chitto HS), Keyvarious Lucas (McComb HS) and Emma Walls (Centreville Academy).



# Cartoons.....



# Ads.....



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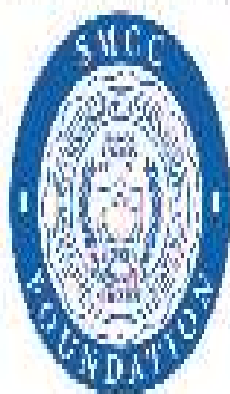


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For More Information,  
Contact Lee Touchstone at  
601-276-4809.

Clip and send to:



1156 College Drive  
Summit, MS 39666  
or Call Rhonda Gibson  
at 601-276-3885

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