



LIONS' PRIDE

A publication of East Mississippi Community College



EMCC'S FIRST FAMILY

DR. SCOTT ALSOBROOKS NAMED PRESIDENT

Fifth National Championship Title
▶ PG. 20

Sports Hall of Fame
▶ PG. 16

CMTE 2.0 Nearing
Completion ▶ PG. 28



Dr. Scott Alsobrooks was recently named the new president of East Mississippi Community College.

This spring I will join the East Mississippi Community College family, along with my wife, Annabelle, and my son, Ayden.

I can't tell you how exciting that prospect is to us. Annabelle and I both are educators who believe passionately in our chosen field of work.

Since 2011, I have had the privilege of serving as the vice president of Workforce and Economic Development at Pearl River Community College where Annabelle is a Business Management Technology instructor.

We are looking forward to getting to know our colleagues at EMCC who share our commitment to providing an exceptional education to students at an affordable price.

Ayden is a sports enthusiast whose familiarity with EMCC's on-field prowess predates my selection as the college's new president. You will likely find him, along with me and Annabelle, in the stands on game days.

Anyone who knows me can tell you I firmly believe our great state of Mississippi is without peer when it comes to the quality of education offered by our community colleges. You have to look no further than EMCC for evidence of that.

This year, EMCC was ranked No. 1 in the nation among "The Most Affordable Online Colleges with Quality Programs in 2018" in an annual report released by AffordableCollegesOnline.org.

In June, two EMCC Automotive Services Technology Program students competing in national championships earned medals during the 54th National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Ky.

Earlier this year, our Automotive Services Technology Program was among 12 community college automotive programs nationwide selected by Toyota Motor Company to participate in a pilot program that will allow students to earn certifications through the University of Toyota.

As many of you know, On Nov. 29, the EMCC Lions capped off an undefeated season with a 10-9 win over No. 2 Garden City (Kan.) Community College during the NJCAA eTeamSponsor Football

National Championship to claim their fifth national title in eight years.

Equally impressive, the Lions earned 2017-18 NJCAA Football Academic Team of the Year honors in June for posting the highest team grade point average (3.01) among the 65 NJCAA-affiliated schools that compete in football.

EMCC's softball program finished among the NJCAA's top five academic team rankings for the fifth time in the last six years with a 3.65 team GPA during the 2017-18 academic year. In June, Tristan Martin captured the national championship title for individual steer wrestling during the 2018 College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo.

And those are just a few of the highlights. I can tell you that successful community colleges like the one here at EMCC do not operate in a bubble. Many of the impressive achievements of this great college are likely the result of numerous collaborations with community stakeholders in our six-county service area.

My goal is to not only strengthen those existing partnerships but to build new ones. In the coming months I will meet with county supervisors and other local elected officials, as well as our state legislators to determine what we can do to better serve our communities, our region and our state.

We must first identify existing needs and that is why our partners in the private and public sectors are so important.

Once it opens in the fall, the Center for Manufacturing Technology 2.0, or Communiversity, will expand our ability to offer training in courses related to advance manufacturing. Our Workforce Services Division has worked closely with local industries to identify needed employee skillsets that are incorporated into our training programs.

Those ties to area industries are critical to ensuring we continue to provide students with training that will allow them to find good jobs here at home while becoming contributing members to our local economy and tax base.

I want to partner with area high schools to promote dual credit and dual enrollment programs that will allow students to get a jumpstart on their education. The demand for workers in the healthcare fields will continue to rise and I am eager to explore new ways to collaborate with area health care providers to offer programs that match their needs.

Perhaps most importantly, I want to work to identify the vastly differing needs of our student population both inside and outside the classroom.

I have had the pleasure of working in the past with foundations that offer services such as gas cards or childcare. That little extra helping hand can often mean the difference between success and failure.

With your help we can continue to build upon the success of this great college, the students we serve and the community my family and I will soon call home.

Dr. Scott Alsobrooks
EMCC President

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THE LIONS' PRIDE

The Lions' Pride is the official publication of the East Mississippi Community College Development Foundation/Alumni Association. It is published by EMCC's Public Information Office.

Editors: Gina Cotton, Rocky Higginbotham, David Rosinski, Michael Stewart, Marcus Wood
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Lions' Pride
Volume 18, No. 1
Winter 2018



DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

As we pause this holiday season, we want to extend our warmest wishes to all of our alumni and friends.

Without you, our work would not be possible. Our successes are due in large part to your support and continued interest in this great college.

EMCC continues to grow, adding new facilities and instructional programs to meet the ever-changing needs of students at our Scooba, Golden Triangle, Columbus Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Meridian, Lion Hills, West Point Center and online/eLearning campuses.

EMCC's transformation from its humble beginnings in 1927 into the vibrant institution it is today is your legacy to our future students who will become your successors. For that we owe you a great debt of gratitude.

This past year's successes alone are worthy of celebration and we look forward with anticipation to what the coming year will bring with you, our EMCC friends and family, at our side.

EMCC Director of Alumni Affairs and Foundation Operations Gina Cotton can be reached at gcotton@eastms.edu. EMCC Executive Director of College Advancement Marcus Wood can be reached at mwood@eastm.edu.

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EMCC road named after the late Buddy Faulkner



A road on East Mississippi Community College's Scooba campus has been named after the late Buddy Faulkner, an EMCC alumnus. Here, Faulkner's widow, Tina Faulkner, is presented with a duplicate road sign by EMCC Director of Alumni Affairs and Foundation Operations Gina Cotton.

A main thoroughfare on East Mississippi Community College's Scooba campus has been named after Buddy Faulkner, a 1964 graduate of EMCC who was among the college's top supporters up until his death in 2009.

Buddy Faulkner Drive, formerly West Everett Street, was dedicated Oct. 13 during the college's Homecoming at an event attended by EMCC alumni, college administrators and Faulkner's widow, Tina Faulkner.

"That Buddy is still remembered here at EMCC after all of these years he has been gone means so much to our family," Tina Faulkner said. "Buddy had so much passion for this school and it is nice to know he will always be connected with EMCC with the naming of this road in his honor."

A Meridian native, Buddy Faulkner was a standout player and team captain on both the baseball and football teams at EMCC. In 2001, he was inducted into the college's Sports Hall of Fame.

After graduating from EMCC, Faulkner earned a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Mississippi State University and later a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Alabama.

His early career included engineering and manufacturing for large corporations. Later he worked in sales and marketing, specializing in consulting and training, mainly for Fortune 500 companies.

Buddy Faulkner's work took him around the globe but he never forgot his alma mater and was an indefatigable fundraiser for EMCC, those who knew him said. He was among the five founding members of the Sullivan Committee, a group of former football players who played under legendary EMCC Coach Bob "Bull" Sullivan. Faulkner was the original chairman of the group tasked with growing support for the school's athletic and academic programs.

An avid golfer, Buddy Faulkner was a key supporter of the college's golf program. Following his death, the Henry W. "Buddy" Faulkner Excellence in Golf Award was established and presented to the golfer with the lowest score on the seven-round World Class Golf Tour held each fall. The annual EMCC / Old Waverly

Golf Classic takes place each year in memory of Faulkner, who was a member of the Cameron Club at Old Waverly Golf Club.

"I can't say enough about Buddy and what he has done for this college," EMCC Executive Director of College Advancement Marcus Wood said. "He was a person who gave back more than he took."

A self-made man, Buddy Faulkner came from humble beginnings and could not afford to attend a large university after graduating from high school, Tina Faulkner said. He credited EMCC and Coach Sullivan with providing him the opportunity to succeed, she said.

"He never forgot the impact EMCC had on his life," Tina Faulkner said. "What he learned at EMCC drove him to work hard and be who he wanted to be. After he traveled all over the world and did all of the things he did, his heart came back to EMCC. He wanted to help this school progress. He felt as he got older that there was something he had to offer."

Briggs' family roots run deep at EMCC



East Mississippi Community College sophomore John Ross Briggs, at left, is the fourth generation of the Briggs family to attend the college. His mother Lisa Briggs, at right, has worked for the college for 12 years.

Clara Edward Briggs attended high school at East Mississippi Junior College in 1940, which was known as Kemper County Agricultural High School up until 1939.

Seventy-eight years later, her great grandson, John Ross Briggs, is a sophomore at the college. He is the fourth generation of the Briggs family to attend school on the Scooba campus of what is now East Mississippi Community College.

John Ross Briggs' father, John Lyle Briggs, attended EMJC from 1987 to 1989 and played basketball for the school. John Lyle Briggs' father and John Ross Briggs' grandfather, J.K. Briggs Jr., also played basketball for EMJC, where he attended from 1962 to 1964.

John Ross Briggs' mother, Lisa Briggs, has worked for EMCC for 12 years and is the transportation coordinator and administrative assistant for the physical plant on EMCC's Scooba campus.

"It's weird coming to the college because I basically know every single person who works here," said John Ross Briggs, 19, who is attending EMCC on a baseball scholarship.

Couple donates memorabilia



Items donated to East Mississippi Community College's archives by alumni Jim and Virginia Taylor include the couple's lettered sports jackets and issues of the college's newspaper, the "Collegian," that date from 1946 to 1948.

On May 20, 1948, then East Mississippi Junior College students Virginia Rutledge and Jim Hobert Taylor walked to downtown Scooba to celebrate Rutledge's 18th birthday at Briggs Café, which was located at that time near the U.S. Highway 45 and Mississippi Highway 16 intersection.

"When we got to the café, I found out Jim had arranged for a birthday cake to be made for me," Virginia said.

That was 70 years ago. EMJC is now East Mississippi Community College and

Virginia is a Taylor. She married Jim Taylor in 1951 and this past May 20, Virginia and her husband celebrated her 88th birthday.

Recently, the couple donated cherished possessions from their years at EMJC to the Thelma Briggs McConnell Archives collection in

the Tubb-May Library on EMCC's Scooba campus.

Both Virginia and Jim played basketball for the college and the donated items included their lettered sports jackets, along with issues of the college paper, "The Collegian," dating from 1946 to 1948, and a gold bracelet that belonged to Virginia emblazoned with the EMJC emblem.

Also donated were various school documents from their years at the college, such as a meal ticket, football schedule, and pamphlets of a commencement exercise

and a play presented by The Dramatics Club.

"I am just glad the items are going to be preserved," Virginia said. "I am one who is sentimental about old things."

EMCC Librarian Lisa Justis, Assistant Librarian Lillie Thornton and Library Assistant Janet Smelser were excited to receive the items.

"We are very grateful to the Taylors for their generous donation to our archives," Justis said. "Mrs. Taylor's copies of the 'Collegian' will likely be included in our next digitization project."



Jim and Virginia Taylor

ALUMNI REPORT



Craig Hitt, EMCC Alumni Association President

Let me begin by saying thank you for the opportunity to serve as the 2018 East Mississippi Community College Alumni President. It

has been a privilege to work with the administration and staff on the EMCC campus as well as other alumni who continue to support the college.

For many of us the campus was our first "home away from home" and it holds many wonderful memories. From the fall of 1978 until the spring of 1980, I had the opportunity to further my education at East Mississippi Junior College where I earned my associate's degree in Forestry.

That education prepared me for a career in which I spent twenty years working fulltime in land and timber management.

It also helped prepare me for twelve years of serving in public office and currently as the director of the Kemper County Economic Development Authority. Through the years I have realized what a positive impact that my EMJC friends, classmates and instructors have had on my life. Many times, those life lessons learned on campus have proven to be valuable tools in my experiences as an employee, a business owner and as an elected official.

Since 1980, I have continued to follow EMCC and to stay in contact with leadership on campus to some extent. Over the past six years, while working with the Kemper County Economic Development Authority, I have had the opportunity to spend much more time on both the Scooba and the Golden Triangle campuses.

These visits have allowed me to witness the instructors and administrators continue to strive to prepare people of all ages to be productive citizens. Whether it is the wide-eyed student just out of high school seeing what life has to offer and trying to decide on a major course of study, or a non-traditional student seeking a second career, EMCC has opportunities for all.

As your alumni president, I encourage all who read this to find your way to support the college. Whether it is by serving on an advisory committee or board or supporting the many clubs and teams that exist on both campuses, your college needs you. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the campuses lately, I encourage you to do so. I can assure you that you will be amazed at the changes that have and are continuing to take place. East Mississippi Community College is still in the business of preparing leaders for our future.

Building dedicated in memory of instructor, EMCC Development Foundation member



Attendees of the dedication of the Johnny W. Fisher Math and Science building on East Mississippi Community College's Golden Triangle campus included Fisher's family, who are, from left: his son, Jaja Fisher; daughter-in-law, Stephanie Fisher; granddaughters, Blaise and Stefania Fisher; wife, Currie Jean Brewer Fisher; and daughter, Currie Jonniecka Fisher.

The Johnny W. Fisher Math and Science Building at East Mississippi Community College's Golden Triangle campus was officially dedicated Feb. 19 during a ceremony attended by family, friends and co-workers of the building's namesake.

The dedication took place outside the Math and Science Building where a plaque in Fisher's honor was erected.

When Fisher passed away in August of 2017, co-workers of the popular Criminal Justice instructor wanted to do something in honor of his memory.

"Everybody thought highly of Johnny," said EMCC mathematics instructor Alison Alexander, who helped coordinate the event. Alexander's office was located across the hall from the one occupied by Fisher in the building that now bears his name. The two became good friends.

"His interactions with students was by-the-book but he had a heart of gold," Alexander said. "When Phi Theta Kappa would sell Homecoming T-shirts, he would buy 10 of them to hand out to students around campus."

Fisher's wife, Currie Jean Brewer Fisher, said her husband found teaching to be rewarding.

"He was passionate about his students," Currie Fisher said. "He knew what a privilege it was to get an education."

Fisher taught Criminal Justice at EMCC from 2008 until his death. He also served on the EMCC Development Foundation Board of Directors and the foundation's "Bull" Sullivan Memorial Division.

A Columbus native, Fisher enrolled at then East Mississippi Junior College for the 1969-70 academic year, helping lead the 1969 EMJC football team to a 9-1 record. He garnered National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-American honors and was named to the Mississippi Junior College Association's All-State/North Division squad.

He earned a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1977 from Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Johnny Fisher served a long, distinguished career in law enforcement. His first job after graduation was as a correctional officer in Washington, D.C. He later joined the Baltimore City Police Department, where he received commendations and awards from the mayor of Baltimore and the governor of Maryland.

He later joined the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, earning gubernatorial and legislative recognition for his career that included work as an undercover agent.

Anthony Thomas promoted to assistant VP at Great Southern Bank



EMCC alumnus Anthony Thomas was promoted in September to the position of assistant vice president at Great Southern Bank.

After graduating from EMCC, Thomas attended Mississippi State University

where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree specializing in Risk Management, Financial Planning and Insurance. He has been employed at Great Southern Bank since April of 2014 and works in the company's Main office in Meridian. He is a member of the Young Professionals of Meridian and the Optimist Club. He is also a recent graduate of the Leadership Lauderdale program. Thomas is a member of Poplar Springs Baptist Church.

"Marriage should be a love story"
EMCC alumni share secrets of a successful marriage



A plaque installed outside the Orr Center for Christian Activity tells the story of how Jeanie Orr, at left, and Buster Orr, at right met at then East Mississippi Junior College in 1955. The two later married.

Past and present administrators at East Mississippi Community College, students and faculty gathered at the Orr Center for Christian Activity on the Scooba campus Feb. 12 for the unveiling of a bronze plaque titled "The Love Story of Buster & Jeanie Orr."

The plaque recounts the story of the Orrs' September 1955 meeting at then East Mississippi Junior College and their budding romance and subsequent marriage. The couple, who drove down from their home near Memphis, Tenn., to attend the plaque's unveiling, celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in June.

Standing in front of the crowd, Buster Orr enthusiastically kissed his wife and said, "I got my first sugar here 62 years ago and it is still good. ... I don't know of anything that made my life better than starting college right here where I met the love of my life."

The fact that the event took place near Valentine's Day was not accidental.

"For the month of February, in our Orr Center, every Monday we have featured a love story from people who met here, went on and married and had a fine, Christian marriage," Chapel Coordinator Mary "Miss M" Smith said. "They are giving advice to our students."

The event was also intended to pay homage to the contributions of the Orrs, who are long-time supporters of the college. The center, officially titled the Buster and Jeanie Orr Center for Christian Activity, was paid for in large part by the couple. The Chapel in the Pines and Orr Center are home to the Student Christian Fellowship, Baptist Student Union, Wesley Foundation and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Buster Orr had just finished his freshmen year at EMJC playing football and baseball for Coach Roy Knapp when he suffered a knee injury that required surgery. A West Point native, he was on his way home with his mother from Memphis following a post-operative checkup when they were involved in a car accident.

Buster Orr spent weeks in a body cast and returned to school on crutches. While registering for class, he met Jeanie.

"I felt sorry for him," Jeanie Orr said.

Carrying a food tray while on crutches proved awkward and each day Jeanie would bring Buster's food tray to him and they would eat together in the cafeteria. Buster could no longer play sports following his accident but he and Jeanie spent time together singing in the Glee Club and traveling with the group to perform at area schools and churches.

After graduation, Buster Orr accepted a job at a feed mill in Memphis but found he couldn't get his mind off of Jeanie. He bought a ring and hitchhiked to Geiger, Ala., where Jeanie was residing with her parents. He proposed and she accepted.

"I am as happy today as I was the day I got married," Buster Orr said. "Marriage should be a love story."



PRESIDENT EMERITUS

EMCC President Emeritus Dr. Tommy Davis is greeted by a well-wisher prior to the alumni banquet on EMCC's Scooba campus during Homecoming. Davis, who played for EMCC Hall of Fame football coach Bob "Bull" Sullivan, served as the college's president from 1990 to 2004.

Centenarian recalls time at East Mississippi Junior College



Frances McKay is a 1936 graduate of East Mississippi Junior College, which is now East Mississippi Community College.

After graduating from Buena Vista Agricultural High School

in 1934 at the age of 16, then Frances Gray didn't believe she would be able to attend college.

That was during the heart of the Great Depression and the country was gripped in the harshest economic meltdown in the history of the industrialized world. Frances' mother, Alice Hollinsworth Gray, a widow of nine years, couldn't afford the \$7 monthly tuition and board for her daughter to attend what was then East Mississippi Junior College.

"My older sister, Eugenia, who had already gotten a degree and was working as a teacher, paid the \$7 a month for me so I could go to college," said Frances, who later married and is now Frances McKay. "I went to work in the school cafeteria serving tables to help pay my way. A lot of girls did that back then."

McKay, who turned 101 in November, recalls vividly her years at EMJC, where she played on the girls' basketball and tennis teams.

"We had a little tennis tournament one year and I won the singles championship," said McKay, who is a resident at Trinity Personal Care in Columbus.

A native of Chickasaw County, McKay's parents moved to the Delta when she was 1. Her father, Dan Gray, died six years later

and her mother moved the family back to Chickasaw County where she landed a job in the cafeteria at Buena Vista Agricultural High School, which was a boarding school at that time.

McKay, her older sister, Eugenia, and younger sister, Lillian, lived in a small apartment at the boarding school with their mother. McKay's brother, Nolan Gray, was enrolled at Birmingham Southern College in Alabama. Less than two years after graduating, while working and helping pay for Eugenia to attend the Mississippi University for Women, Nolan died of cancer at the age of 22.

"He was a very, very smart and talented man," McKay said.

McKay graduated from EMJC in 1936 with a two-year certificate that qualified her to teach through eighth grade. Her mother landed a job at EMJC not too long afterward.

"There weren't any jobs in those days and my mother got room and board and, I think, \$20 a month," McKay said.

After graduation, McKay taught at schools in Buena Vista, Pontotoc County, Ecu and the community of Wren. She would later earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Mississippi State University.

At Wren, McKay met her future husband, Robert Wilson McKay, an agricultural

teacher she married in 1941, who later worked as an assistant county extension agent in Chickasaw County before purchasing a dairy farm in 1955 in New Hope. Robert McKay passed away in 1992.

The couple had three children: Elaine Teague Wick, who resides in Florida; Barbara Conner, a 1966 graduate of EMJC and retired teacher of 34 years who resides in New Hope; and a son, Robert McKay, Jr., who passed away in 2017.

Frances McKay has six grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. She has fond memories of her

times at EMJC although leaving home at 16 wasn't easy at first.

"I cried the first month I was at school," McKay said. "My mother would write to me every day. I would get the letter and cry but I learned to like it. I really enjoyed my years there."



LONGTIME FRIENDS

EMCC alumni Kline Shepherd (1952-53), at left, and Billy Brown (1952, 1956), at right, chat during the alumni luncheon during Homecoming Week. Both men played football for the college and are Sports Hall of Fame inductees.

HOMECOMING HAPPENINGS



HOMECOMING QUEEN

EMCC's 2018 Homecoming Queen, Stephanie Kauffman of Macon, was crowned at halftime during the Homecoming game. Here, Kauffman is crowned by EMCC Interim President Dr. Randall Bradberry. Kauffman is vice president of the Student Government Association. She is also a Student Ambassador, Resident Assistant and Orientation Leader, and participates in the Baptist Student Union. After graduating from EMCC, Kauffman plans to attend Mississippi State University to major in Educational Psychology. She hopes to earn a master's degree and pursue a career in athletic-academic counseling. She is the daughter of Kevin and Marti Kauffman of Macon and was escorted by her father.



HOMECOMING COURT

Members of EMCC's 2018 Homecoming Court are, from left: (First row) Carley Hurst of Caledonia, India Jones of Laurel, Rylee Bowman of Ackerman, Morgan Jones of Columbus and Kathryn Reeves of Morton. (Second row) Abby Bates of West Point and Lauren Walker of Collinsville. (Third row) Leah Jackson of Starkville, Alexandria Jennings of Columbus, Grace Yarbrough of Louisville and Stephanie Kauffman of Macon. (Fourth row) Blair Madison of Columbus, Ellie Yarbrough of Louisville and Melanie Moore of Caledonia.



GO LIONS!

EMCC's cheerleaders take to the field prior to the start of the Homecoming game.



HOMECOMING LUNCHEON

The annual Alumni & Friends Luncheon in the F.R. Student Union takes place before the Homecoming game and is a time for former students to renew old acquaintances and make new friends.



SCHOOL SPIRIT

Leo the Lion helps pump up the crowd during the Homecoming game in which EMCC defeated Holmes Community College 56 to 21.

John Apple, Dewayne Hull honored at EMCC homecoming



Kemper County native Dewayne Hull, at left, was named East Mississippi Community College's 2018 Distinguished Service Award recipient, while John Apple, at right was presented with the 2018 Alumnus of the Year Award during the college's Oct. 13 Homecoming game.

Two East Mississippi Community College alumni were honored Saturday, Oct. 13, during the college's 2018 Homecoming.

John Apple, Class of 1957, was selected as the college's Alumnus of the Year. Dewayne Hull, Class of 1971, received the Distinguished Service Award.

Apple and Hull were recognized at an alumni luncheon and at halftime during EMCC's Homecoming football game, in which EMCC defeated Holmes Community College 56 to 21.

Alumnus of the Year

Apple has led a busy life. Among other things, he has operated a farm, participated in pro bass fishing tournaments and formed his own motorcycle racing team, all while working full time.

A 2012 inductee into the EMCC Sports Hall of Fame, Apple played both sides of the ball at guard and tackle for football coach Bob "Bull" Sullivan at then East Mississippi Junior College in 1956-57.

He is a member of the EMCC Inner Circle of Excellence and a long-time supporter of the school.

In the summer of 1956 he arrived at Scooba, which Apple said boasted at the time between eight and 10 stores, a barber shop, a service station and a small theater with a leaky roof.

"When it was raining you couldn't sit in the first five or six rows of the theater because there was standing water on the floor," Apple said. "You would see water coming down in front of the screen while you were watching the movie."

Apple later transferred to Tennessee Tech where he continued to play football.

He later worked in construction, truck driving and golf-course maintenance before landing a job in 1967 at Boswell's Harley Davidson and Golf Cars in Nashville. Apple initially worked as a salesman and later as a sales manager at Boswell's, where he is still employed after 51 years of service. He has stayed busy over the years. Among other things, he raised cattle, wheat, corn, soybeans and hay before selling his farm in 2012.

"I did that on the weekends," Apple said. A member of the Professional Bass Fishing Association, he competed in tournaments across the country. He was also a contender in state open and amateur golf tournaments and has four hole-in-one-shots to his credit. He also sponsored his own motorcycle racing team, which finished third in the nationals in 1979.

About 10 years ago, Apple reconnected with EMCC and he and his wife Patsy had been regular attendees at football games



EMCC's 2018 Alumnus of the Year, John Apple, speaks during the annual Alumni & Friends Luncheon prior to the Homecoming game.

and other events ever since, making the 700-mile-round trip from their home in Nashville to Scooba and back again.

Apple has two sons, John Jr., a music minister and ordained preacher in Illinois, and Jim, an engineer with Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama in Huntsville.

Over the past few years, Apple has donated five golf carts to EMCC, including one with an enclosed cab that is heated and another that seats six people that is used to ferry visitors around campus.

"We can't thank John enough for all he has done for us," EMCC Director of Alumni Affairs and Foundation Operations Gina Cotton said. "He has not only been generous in his gift of golf carts to the college but is active in promoting the college and supporting our various events. He is a real joy to have on campus and it is a treat for all of us when he comes to visit."

Distinguished Service Award

Hull's roots run deep at East Mississippi Community College.

Hull sits on the EMCC Foundation Board, is a regular at the Lions' football games and is a former member of the EMCC Forestry Advisory Committee. He has helped

establish a scholarship fund at EMCC in the name of his wife, Lucy Hull, a popular instructor on the Scooba campus who passed away in 2015.

He is also working on an endowment that will have long-term benefits for the college.

Hull has been an avid supporter of EMCC athletics since his days as a student. At home football games, Hull can be found outside the fence on the visitors' side of Sullivan-Windham Field.

"I don't sit in the stands," Hull said. "A buddy of mine and I walk up and down the field following the action. We listen to the players on the other team on the visiting sideline. It is kind of a tradition for us. We have been doing it for more than 30 years."

Hull attended what was then East Mississippi Junior College from 1969 to 1971, playing second base for baseball coach Gerald Poole. A member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, he credits his time at the college dubbed "Scooba Tech" by many with giving him direction in life.

"I didn't know what I wanted to be," Hull said. "Scooba Tech gave me an opportunity to kind of find myself and see what I wanted to do."

He graduated in 1974 from Mississippi State University with a degree in Forestry Management and a minor in Wildlife Management. He was hired in May of 1974 by Weyerhaeuser Company, which is now one of the largest sustainable forest product companies in the world.

He served in a variety of roles at the company, including that of forester and timber fund manager, earning numerous awards before retiring in 2016 after 42.5 years of employment. He has since formed his own forestry consultant business titled Hull Properties and Management.

"I have enough work to keep me busy but not enough to stress me out," Hull said.

In 1985, he married Lucy Hull, who worked for 25 years as an instructor at EMCC where she taught classes in Economics, Government and Leadership.

"Lucy was a kind, compassionate person to students and faculty alike," said EMCC Humanities instructor Janet Briggs. "She was a role model for students in that she

set high standards but she was always looking for someone she could help."

In 2016, Dewayne Hull donated \$25,000 to set up the Lucy Hull Memorial Scholarship fund, which was established with help from Briggs. Lucy Hull's co-workers also donated to the fund.

"I continue to try and give between \$1,000 and \$5,000 each year to the fund," Dewayne Hull said. "I think we have enough in there now with the interest that it is going to provide one or two scholarships a year to a deserving student. I know Lucy would have been real proud."

Recently, Hull decided there was one more contribution he would like to make to EMCC. He and his wife's only child, Johnathan Luke Hull, was stillborn in 1991 and the couple will leave behind no heirs.

Hull is going to endow part of his forestry land to EMCC.

"I was blessed to be raised by parents who gave more than they had," Hull said. "Then, Lucy came along and she had a real giving nature. I was taught it is always better to give than receive and that is especially true when those receiving are less fortunate than the giver. You never know when a simple gesture of giving and kindness could be a life changing act for those less fortunate than yourself."



EMCC's 2018 Distinguished Service Award recipient, Dewayne Hull, watches the Homecoming game from the visitors' side with friends as he has done for the past three decades.

WILD GAME DINNER AND AUCTION

The "Bull" Sullivan Memorial Division of EMCC Development Foundation hosted the 15th Annual

Billy Joe Cross Wild Game Dinner and Auction March 2 at the Lion Hills Center with presenting sponsor Renasant Bank. The annual event is a fundraiser for EMCC's academic and athletic programs.

Auction items included guns, hunting and vacation packages, collectibles, and signed sports memorabilia, among other things. The 2019 Wild Game Dinner will take place March 1. For more information on the fundraiser or other EMCC alumni/development foundation events, contact Marcus Wood (662.476.5025 or mwood@eastms.edu) or Gina Cotton (662.476.5063 or gcotton@eastms.edu).



PRESENTING SPONSOR

Renasant Bank was the presenting sponsor for the 15th Annual Billy Joe Cross Wild Game Dinner and Auction at the Lion Hills Center.



GOOD FRIENDS

Former EMCC Vice President of Institutional Advancement Nick Clark, at center, served as auctioneer for the Wild Game Dinner and Auction. Here, Clark and his wife, Jane Clark, at right, visit with Theresa Simpson, at left.



FELLOWSHIP

Tom Scarborough, Max Johnson, and Mack Robinson were among the attendees at the Wild Game Dinner and Auction at the Lion Hills Center.



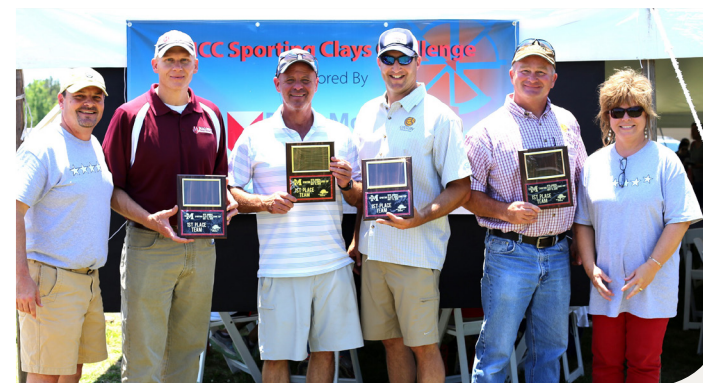
TABLE SPONSORS

One way in which area businesses such as Gregory Construction support the Wild Game Dinner and Auction each year is by sponsoring a table at the fundraising event to support EMCC academic and athletic programs.



AUCTION ITEMS

EMCC's Sullivan Committee and college supporters donate items each year auctioned off during the Wild Game Dinner and Auction.



CENTURY CONSTRUCTION, TEAM CHAMPS

The overall 2018 team champion was Century Construction, with the team members busting 356 out of 400 clays. The team members are pictured here with EMCC Executive Director of College Advancement Marcus Wood, far left, and Director of Alumni Affairs and Foundation Operations Gina Cotton, far right. Members of the Century Construction team are, from left, Jud Jernigan, Bill Prater, Casey Bruce and Danny Cash. Bruce was the overall 2018 individual shooter award winner with a score of 96 out of a possible 100 points.



LION LEAD SLINGERS

The Lion Lead Slingers took second place in the morning competition, scoring 340 out of 400 possible points. The team members are, from left, Elliott Stroud, Jim Bearden, Mike Duke and Alan Hall.



TRUE GRIT

True Grit took first place in the afternoon shoot with a score of 336 out of a possible 400 points. The team members are, from left, Ethan Ewing, Randy Ewing, Charles Patterson and Billy Dunser.

EMCC SPORTING CLAYS CHALLENGE

East Mississippi Community College's 10th Annual Sporting Clays Challenge took place Friday, May 11, 2018 at Burnt Oak Lodge in Crawford.

PryorMorrow was the presenting sponsor for the fundraiser to benefit the college's academic and athletic programs. Huck's Place provided lunch. For the first time, this year's event featured two competitions, with one held in the morning and the second in the afternoon. The 11th Annual Sporting Clays Challenge will take place May 10, 2019 at Burnt Oak Lodge. For information on the clays challenge or other EMCC alumni/development foundation events, please contact Marcus Wood (662.476.5025 or mwood@eastms.edu) or Gina Cotton (662.476.5063 or gcotton@eastms.edu).



JOHNSON TIMBER

Johnson Timber took second place in the afternoon competition with a score of 315 out of 400 possible points. The team members are, from left, Marc Wood, Kevin Pugh, Jacob Wooten, and Jonathan Duke.



PULPWOOD HAULERS

Members of the Pulpwood Haulers, one of the teams fielded by the presenting sponsor, PryorMorrow, take aim at one of the sporting clays stations. Team members are Chris Morrow, John Payne, Joey Payne and Barry Wren.



EMCC - OLD WAVERLY GOLF CLASSIC

The 23rd Annual EMCC-Old Waverly Golf Classic took place Oct. 22, at the Old Waverly Golf Club near West Point. The 2018 tournament, presented by BankFirst, was held in memory of EMCC alumnus and longtime college supporter Buddy Faulkner.

Nearly 100 golfers participated in the four-man scramble, which included dozens of prizes and plenty of fun and fellowship. The 2019 tournament will take place on Oct. 21. For information on future tournaments or other EMCC alumni/development foundation events, please contact Marcus Wood (662.476.5025 or mwood@eastms.edu) or Gina Cotton (662.476.5063 or gcotton@eastms.edu).



TEERING OFF

Alex Kelly tees off during the EMCC-Old Waverly Golf Classic.



LENDING A HAND

EMCC's Accountant/Student AR Manager Brandy Hill, front left, Recruiting Coordinator Tawana Bauer, front right, Executive Director of College Advancement Marcus Wood, back left, and Director of Alumni Affairs and Foundation Operations Gina Cotton, back right, were on hand at the golf classic to ensure everything went smoothly.



PRESENTING SPONSORS

From left, Jason Trufant, Chase Frazure, Alex Kelly and Clint Butler comprise one of the teams for BankFirst, which was the presenting sponsor for the EMCC-Old Waverly Golf Classic.



BANKFIRST

One of the BankFirst teams that participated in the EMCC-Old Waverly Golf Classic consisted of, from left, Carey Upton, Monty Yates, Bruff Sanders and Gray Flora.



GOLDEN TRIANGLE COMIC-CON

The Golden Triangle Comic-Con returned Aug. 18, 2018 to the Trotter Convention Center in Columbus. EMCC was the presenting sponsor and co-organizer for the event that included gaming and costume contests. EMCC's Culinary Arts Technology instructors and students provided meals for VIP guests. Here, Jose Torres, at left, and Esao Asato of Columbus were among the attendees at the event.

IN RECOGNITION

Here are a few of the many achievements garnered by EMCC this year:

- In January 2018, EMCC was among 12 colleges nationwide selected by Toyota Motor Company to participate in a pilot program that will offer Automotive Technology students certification through the University of Toyota. Up until this point, only Toyota employees could receive certification through the University of Toyota, which is required of mechanics who work for the company.
- In June, EMCC's literary magazine, "Syzygy" took top honors for the second year in a row among in-house college publications that were professionally bound in the 2018 Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association's annual workshop and contest. The magazine won first place in 2017 and placed second in 2016.
- In August, one EMCC Automotive Technology Program graduate earned a national championship title and another took second place in the 54th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Ky. Matt Walsh earned a gold medal in the Job Skills Demonstration, Disc Brakes category. Kyle Bluitt took second place in Job Skills Demonstration, Oil Change. During the annual competition, more than 6,000 career and technical education students from colleges and universities from across the country compete hands-on in 100 different trade, technical and leadership fields.



TEXAS FANS ATTEND FOOTBALL GAME

From left, Christine Latch, former EMCC Interim President Dr. Rick Young, Jaye Latch, Randall Latch, George Shankle, Jr., Tracie Shankle, and EMCC Executive Director of College Advancement Marcus Wood in the skybox at Sullivan-Windham Field during the college's Aug. 30 football game against Hinds Community College. The Latch and Shankle families are both from Longview, Texas. Fans of the Netflix series "Last Chance U" that featured the EMCC's football team, the two families decided to attend a game at the college. Although they hailed from the same Texas town, the families had not met prior to the game.



PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS MEDICAL PROGRAMS

Officials with East Mississippi Community College and Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle hosted a ribbon cutting and open house Tuesday, Oct. 23, at a facility provided by the hospital that will house EMCC's Paramedic and Surgical Technology programs.

Classes for the programs will begin in January at the building located on the Baptist Golden Triangle campus at 515 Willowbrook Road in Columbus. Hospital officials offered the use of the space and supplied equipment for the programs that will be taught by EMCC faculty. The Surgical Technology program is the first of its kind in the Golden Triangle area.



Dr. Scott Alsobrooks, at right, his son Ayden, left, and his wife Annabelle, center, inside EMCC's Center for Manufacturing Technology Excellence 2.0, or Communiversiity.

DR. SCOTT ALSOBROOKS EAGER TO TAKE HELM AS EMCC PRESIDENT

Incoming East Mississippi Community College President

Dr. Scott Alsobrooks attended Mississippi K-12 public schools and earned degrees from one community college and two universities in The Magnolia State.

"Having the opportunity to grow up here in Mississippi and obtain an education through our community college system and universities got me to the point I am at now," Alsobrooks said. "I could not have done it had it not been for the education I received here."

A first generation college graduate, Alsobrooks experienced first-hand the transformative power of education and the impact it can have on individuals and their families.

While working in manufacturing, the space industry and higher education within the state and on national initiatives across

the country, he was exposed to the role community colleges here and elsewhere play as economic drivers, innovators and community partners.

During the course of his career, Alsobrooks became convinced that Mississippi community colleges are second to none.

"Our state may be trailing in other areas but not in the quality of education offered by our community colleges," Alsobrooks said. "We are tops."

Alsobrooks, who will take the helm at EMCC early in the spring term that began in January, said he is looking forward to his role in the college's continuing evolution.

"I am super excited," Alsobrooks said. "I am ready to roll up my sleeves and go to work with the team and staff at East Mississippi Community College, as well as the community stakeholders, which includes economic and community development

entities and members of local governments. There are so many people I am looking forward to engaging with."

EMCC Director of Athletics Dr. Randall Bradberry has served as the college's interim president since September and will resume his normal duties once Alsobrooks arrives.

Early Years

Aside from a few years in Selmer, Tenn., Alsobrooks' youth was spent in Picayune. After graduating from high school, he enrolled at Mississippi State University, changed majors and starting taking classes at Pearl River Community College, where he now serves as the vice president of Workforce and Economic Development.

After earning an Associate of Arts degree at Pearl River, he reenrolled at Mississippi State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering. That stint at MSU would be his first major brush with the area known as the Golden Triangle. He landed a job as an operations engineer for Rockwell International at the John C. Stennis Space

Center in Hancock County, which is the location of NASA's largest rocket engine testing facility. He later served as a supervisor for the Fluid Component Processing Facility, Johnson Controls World Services, moving into management while in his late 20s.

"We were doing some really fun, exciting things," Alsobrooks said. "We were manufacturing and remanufacturing valves, piping systems and control systems for testing rocket engines and testing different components of aerospace products."

Changing Course

The University of Southern Mississippi is among 40 resident agencies at the Stennis Space Center, according to NASA's website. USM had received a grant to work with Mississippi manufacturers to make them more competitive in a global market and was hiring engineers to train workers.

"I thought, 'Wow, wouldn't that be exciting to work with all these companies around the state and really help our economy,'" Alsobrooks said.

In 1997, he began work with USM's College of Science Technology and the Lean Enterprise Center.

It was his first brush as an educator.

"What we were doing was training workers in lean manufacturing and upgrading their skill levels," Alsobrooks said. "I was really an educator going out to industry and teaching the employees there how to be more competitive. I just fell in love with it."

His work took him all over the state, including the Golden Triangle where he worked with area manufacturers, including Bryan Foods before that West Point plant closed and the former Baldor Electric Company, which merged into ABB.

He started teaching engineering classes on the side. Realizing he had found his niche, he enrolled at USM where he earned a master's degree in Engineering Technology.

Full Circle

Alsobrooks was spending a lot of time on the road and was looking for something more stable after the birth of his son, Ayden Alsobrooks, who is now 15, when an opening for a director of the Workforce Education and Woodall Advanced Technology Center at Pearl River Community College came open.

He applied for and got the job at his alma mater. That was in 2005. The president of PRCC at the time, Dr. William Lewis, encouraged Alsobrooks to go back to school, which he did, earning a Doctor of Philosophy in Human Capital Development from the University of Southern Mississippi.

In 2011, he was named Pearl River Community College's vice president of Workforce and Economic Development.

Family

Alsobrooks is married to Annabelle Alsobrooks, who is a Business Management Technology instructor at Pearl River Community College.

She too is a product of Mississippi's community college system, having attended both Jones County Junior College and Pearl River Community College. She later earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Business Administration and a master's degree in Community College Education from Mississippi State University.

Scott Alsobrooks credits his wife with keeping him in tune with students' needs.

"Now that I am in administration I am not face-to-face with students like I once was," he said. "I am at the dinner table with my wife every night though and she really keeps me close to what is going on in the classroom and how much faculty support means to our students."

As for Annabelle Alsobrooks, she is looking forward to joining the EMCC family.

"Our family is truly honored that Scott was chosen to lead East Mississippi Community College," she said. "We are excited about meeting the EMCC family and members of the community."

Ayden Alsobrooks, who is in 9th grade, is an avid sports fan who loves to play ball — especially baseball — and is looking forward to watching EMCC games in person.

"I am really excited to be a part of the Lion family and am looking forward to watching EMCC athletics," Ayden Alsobrooks said. "Go Lions!"

Getting to Work

EMCC Board of Trustees Chairman Jimmie Moore said the board conducted a deliberate search while searching for the college's next president.

"I think Dr. Alsobrooks was an excellent choice," Moore said. "Every time I talk to him, he continues to impress me a little more. He is knowledgeable with all aspects of a Mississippi community college. He is an excellent communicator, an innovator, and he isn't afraid of challenges."

Scott Alsobrooks said academics, workforce services, adult education, allied health and career technical are all critical components to the college's mission of helping people. Among other things, he wants to work with area high schools to promote dual credit and dual enrollment and to explore options to improve student services.

What excites him most is when a student graduates and lands a well-paying job.

"When students earn that certificate, credential or degree and go out there and are successful in their work, their children see that," Alsobrooks said. "Now they can help their children understand the importance of going to college and following the same path. That is the cultural phenomenon we have got to have in Mississippi to advance and promote our citizens, our community and our state."



From left, Ayden, Annabelle, and new EMCC President Dr. Scott Alsobrooks enjoy the Christmas decorations at the F.R. Young Student Union at EMCC's Scooba Campus.

Ten members inducted into Sports Hall of Fame



EMCC Sports Hall of Fame inductees were the guests of honor at a banquet and awards ceremony during Homecoming 2018. Pictured in the foreground are, from left, former EMCC Interim President Dr. Randall Bradberry, Larry Vick, Lynn Ethridge Roberson, Melinda Brown (representing Jack Lewis Dudley), Kate McCarty, Tona Wert, Johnny Fulton (representing Mary Ann Hodges Fulton), Dwane Taylor and EMCC Executive Director of College Advancement Marcus Wood. In the back row, from left, are Raleigh Wood III, Michael Dudley (representing Jack Lewis Dudley), Larry Anderson and Mike Luke.

Ten new members were formally inducted into East Mississippi Community College's Sports Hall of Fame Oct. 12 on the Scooba campus. The 2018 Sports Hall of Fame inductees were honored with a reception and banquet at the F.R. Young Student Union and were recognized Oct. 13 at EMCC's Sullivan-Windham Field during halftime of the college's homecoming game.

The inductees are:

LARRY ANDERSON
Basketball (1981-1983)

A 23-year coaching veteran at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Larry Anderson was a standout basketball player at Noxubee County High School before taking his talents to play at East Mississippi Community College during the early 1980s. After playing and later coaching at Rust College, Anderson was hired at MIT in 1995 and has become one of the most successful and respected coaches within the NCAA Division III men's basketball ranks. The Macon native owns a career coaching record of 375-244 at MIT, including a 216-68 mark and eight national tournament appearances over the past decade that has included a 2012 Final Four berth and an Elite Eight showing last season.

JACK LEWIS DUDLEY
Baseball and Basketball (1956-1958)

Honored with a roadside sign located at the intersection of Highways 45 and 16 in

Scooba as the "Birthplace of World Champion Turkey Caller Jack Lewis Dudley," the late local legend initially made a name for himself as a two-sport letterman (basketball and baseball) at DeKalb High School and East Mississippi Community College. Born and raised in Kemper County, Dudley became best known as a superstar in the world of wild turkey hunting and turkey calling. Using only his natural voice, he ascended to the forefront of turkey calling in the Magnolia State by winning the Mississippi State Championship during back-to-back years (1968-69) while claiming the Mississippi Open title and National Championship in 1969.

MARY ANN HODGES FULTON
Basketball (1950-1952)

Mary Ann Hodges Fulton was one of the state's most talented women's basketball players of her era during her two productive seasons at East Mississippi Community College in the early 1950s. She was raised in the Martin community of Collinsville and was a prep standout at

Hickory High School. As a two-year starter for Coach Clayton Blount, she helped lead the EMCC Lions to a state tournament appearance as a sophomore. In addition to her community service work and involvement with volunteer activities, she lovingly supported her husband's (Bobby Royce Fulton) coaching career following his retirement from the United States Air Force. She was an avid sports participant and loyal sports enthusiast throughout her life.

LANCE LEWIS
Football (2009-2010)

Lance Lewis made an immediate impact as a game-changing wide receiver at East Mississippi Community College and his pass-catching exploits helped initially bring the Lions to the forefront of the NJCAA football ranks a decade ago. A two-sport standout (football and basketball) at Concord (N.C.) High School, Lewis transferred to EMCC following a season at West Hills College in California. He collected NJCAA All-Region 23 honors as a member of the Lions' 2009 MACJC state championship team after averaging 17.3 yards on 52 re-



EMCC's 2018 Sports Hall of Fame inductees Raleigh Wood III, Larry Vick and Dwane Taylor, who are accompanied by family members, are honored at halftime during the college's homecoming game.

ceptions with 16 touchdown catches. Following a very successful two-year career at East Carolina University with 149 career catches for 1,716 yards and 22 TD grabs, Lewis has had brief NFL playing stints with the Redskins, Cowboys, 49ers and Saints.



Lynn Roberson, a 2018 inductee into EMCC's Sports Hall of Fame, waves to the crowd from Sullivan Windham Field where she and nine other inductees were recognized during halftime of the college's homecoming game.

MIKE LUKE
Basketball (1970-1972)

A native of Kemper County, Mike Luke continues to represent District 4 since being elected to the Kemper County Board of Supervisors in 1977. He hails as the longest-reigning supervisor in the state of Mississippi. The former basketball standout at DeKalb High School and East Mississippi Community College has spent four

decades of loyal service representing the citizens of District 4 in addition to having taught and coached at Carthage, Kemper Academy, Noxubee County, Neshoba Central, Kemper County, Philadelphia and Choctaw Central. As a long-time elected official, Luke played an integral role in getting roads cleared for emergency crews following the area's 2010 tornado and worked diligently with the board of supervisors to bring John C. Stennis Hospital to DeKalb.

KATE NEELY McCARTY
Softball (2006-2012)

Kate Neely McCarty guided East Mississippi Community College's fast-pitch softball program to unparalleled heights during her seven-year association with the Lady Lions. Along with directing the team to postseason play during each of her four seasons as head coach, including the program's first fast-pitch division championship in 2011, Neely McCarty's EMCC teams also consistently earned Top 10 All-Academic Team national recognition. She stayed on at EMCC to work in wellness and intramurals before getting back into coaching this past year at Clarkdale High School. The Tupelo native played softball at Meridian Community College and went on to earn her bachelor's and master's degrees at Mississippi State University.

LYNN ETHRIDGE ROBERSON
Basketball (1972-1974)

As part of a three-generation family of East Mississippi Community College student-athletes, Lynn Ethridge Roberson enjoyed a rewarding and successful 42-year teaching and coaching career in the state of Mississippi. The daughter of EMCC

Sports Hall of Famer Ikie E. Ethridge, she graduated from West Lauderdale High School before earning a band scholarship to EMCC while also playing an integral role in the school administration's decision to reinstate the women's basketball program during the early 1970s. After continuing her collegiate career playing basketball and softball at Southern Miss, Roberson embarked on her four-decade career in education. The two-time Teacher of the Year recipient retired earlier this year from Clarkdale Middle School.

DWANE TAYLOR
Football (1972-1974)

Dwane Taylor helped bring Southeast Lauderdale much recognition during his three-plus decades of loyal service and dedication as an educator and administrator at his high school alma mater. Following a successful two-year playing stint as a quarterback at East Mississippi Community College during the early 1970s, Taylor stayed close to home to further his college education at Livingston University (now West Alabama). His influential career as a well-respected football coach and social studies teacher was established at Southeast Lauderdale during his 34-year association with the school. Taylor served 25 years as Southeast's head football coach before taking over duties as the school's director of athletics and later as principal before retiring in 2013.





EMCC's 2018 Sports Hall of Fame inductees are joined by members of their families on Sullivan Windham Field at halftime during the Homecoming game. Pictured are Kate McCarty, third from left, Johnny Fulton, Tona Wert, Mike Luke, Michael Dudley, Melinda Brown and Larry Anderson.

LARRY VICK
Baseball and football (1972-1974)

Kemper County native Larry Vick has spent nearly 40 years working in the education field as a teacher, coach and administrator. A multi-sport performer at Kemper Academy, Vick played both football and baseball as an East Mississippi Community College freshman before concentrating on baseball during his sophomore year. He earned a baseball scholarship to Livingston University (now West Alabama) and played in the 1976 NCAA Division II College World Series. Following a 10-year teaching stint coaching baseball and assisting in football within the Mississippi Private School Association (now MAIS), Vick worked 22 years as an administrator within the Lauderdale County School District and has spent the past four years as the district's transportation director.

RALEIGH WOOD III
Baseball (1981-1983)

With 30-plus years of experience within Mississippi's public school system as a teacher, coach and administrator, Raleigh Wood III joins his brother, Marcus, as East Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame inductees during successive years. The Starkville High School product pitched for the EMCC Lions during the early 1980s before earning his undergraduate degree from Mississippi State. Wood began his education career in his hometown and helped guide his high school alma mater to three Class 5A state baseball titles as an assistant coach. After subsequent stops as head baseball coach at Winona and Grenada, he began his administrative career within the Grenada School District, where he has served as elementary school principal since 2012.



EMCC Sports Hall of Fame inductee Mike Luke gives a thumbs up to the crowd during halftime festivities of the Homecoming game.

Israel consul general and U.S. senator attend EMCC football game



From left, U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker, EMCC Executive Director of College Advancement Marcus Wood and Israel Consul General Lior Haiat prior to an October football game on EMCC's Scooba campus.

Israel Consul General Lior Haiat and U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker visited East Mississippi Community College as special guests during the Oct. 18 football game on the Scooba campus.

Haiat and Wicker served as honorary game captains and Wicker handled coin-toss duties prior EMCC's 47-0 victory over visiting Coahoma Community College. Haiat, a fan of the Netflix series "Last Chance U," which featured EMCC's football program for two seasons, began planning the visit while in Mississippi in 2017. Presented a No. 70 EMCC jersey with "Israel" across the back in recognition of Israel's 70th "birthday" celebration earlier in 2018, Haiat was accompanied by representatives from Israel-based Emilia Resources, LLC.

Emelia has announced another expansion of its DeKalb manufacturing facility, which manufactures over-the-counter cosmetic and personal-care products. The company is adding new equipment and is expected to hire an addition 27 employees.

Starkville Bridges donates \$22.5 K for veterans' scholarships

A \$22,500 donation by the nonprofit organization Starkville Bridges to East Mississippi Community College will provide scholarships to eligible U.S. military veterans who served on foreign soil.

On July 19, Starkville Bridges President Lynn Phillips-Gaines presented a \$22,500 check from the organization to EMCC Executive Director of College Advancement Marcus Wood. The money was used to establish a scholarship fund that will provide up to \$1,500 per semester to qualified veterans who are enrolled in technical programs offered through EMCC's Manufacturing, Technology and Engineering Division.

"We want to recognize the sacrifice paid by our veterans, many of whom have fought in wars far away from home. We feel the establishment of this scholarship fund is one way in which we can accomplish that," Phillips-Gaines said. "Many of our veterans return home and find they don't have the resources needed to obtain an education or training for a vocation. Our hope is these scholarships will help address those needs."

Wood said he cannot think of a more worthy cause than that of expanding educational opportunities to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have served overseas.

"East Mississippi Community College is honored to partner with Starkville Bridges to provide these scholarships to our returning military veterans," Wood said. "We are grateful to Lynn and her organization for providing the funds to make this possible."

MTE Division Veteran Scholarships will be available to qualified veterans enrolled in one of the following programs: Automation & Control, Automotive, Computer Networking, Computer Programming, Database Administration, Diesel Mechanics, Drafting & Design, Electrical, Electro-Mechanical, Industrial Maintenance, Mechatronics, Network Security, Precision Manufacturing & Machining, or Welding Programs.



Starkville Bridges President Lynn Phillips-Gaines, at left, presents East Mississippi Community College Executive Director of College Advancement Marcus Wood with a check for \$22,500. The funds will be used to provide scholarships to qualified military veterans enrolled in select programs at the college.

The scholarships will be made available to qualified returning veterans who were deployed and are not on active duty. Preference will be given to veterans from Oktibbeha County who served in the Middle East.

To qualify, veterans must use their GI Bill educational benefits and demonstrate a financial need.

The mission of Starkville Bridges is to eradicate poverty in Oktibbeha County by providing the education and resources needed to transition into the middle class, according to the organization's website.

Phillips-Gaines, a certified financial planner, said many returning veterans find themselves unprepared to meet the demands of a changed civilian workforce and that the scholarships are in keeping with her organization's mission of helping those in need achieve financial stability.

"I am just so thankful we have EMCC right here in our backyard that trains people for employment in the new industries moving into our area," she said. "What appeals to me is that not everyone needs to attend a four-year university to obtain a skillset and earn a good wage."

Perfection



The EMCC Lions earned their fifth NJCAA football national championship - and second time with back-to-back titles - with their 10-9 victory over No. 2 Garden City during this year's championship game played in Pittsburg, Kan.

While so many strive for it in college athletics, very few reach that lofty goal.

However, coach Buddy Stephens' East Mississippi Community College football program continues to be like no other in the nation.

EMCC completed its fourth 12-game perfect season in program history this fall. The Lions also captured the program's fifth National Junior College Athletic Association national championship.

EMCC made it back-to-back national titles for the second time with a hard-fought 10-9 win over Garden City (Kan.) Community College in the NJCAA eTeamSponsor Football National Championship played at Pittsburg State (Kan.) University's Carnie Smith Stadium with a first-ever live television viewing audience courtesy of CBS Sports Network.

"The ultimate goal of this program is winning national championships," EMCC sophomore wide receiver Kalem Reddix said. "That's why I came here. I wanted to be part of a championship program. I had never won a championship playing football. To be a state champion and then a national champion here

is a humbling experience. That made all the hard work and sacrifice worthwhile."

REGULAR SEASON

EMCC began the season ranked No. 1 nationally for the fifth time in program history. This would eventually be the first time the Lions were ranked No. 1 for every poll throughout the regular season and postseason.

In the season opener, EMCC sent an early statement by beating preseason No. 13 Hinds, 50-0. The teams had played a wild 51-41 affair the previous season in Raymond. In this year's installment of the series, EMCC totally dominated, while getting strong showings from transfers Messiah deWeaver and Deon McIntosh in their East Mississippi debuts.

The early-season offensive heroics continued with a 59-10 road win at Pearl River and a 56-26 road win at rival Itawamba to start MACJC North Division play.

"There are a lot of new faces on offense," EMCC sophomore wide receiver Dontario Drummond said after his team put up 629 yards of total offense in a sixth straight win

over the Indians. "Once we get everybody more comfortable playing with each other, this can become a championship team."

In the fourth week of the season, the Lions scored 50 or more points for a fourth straight time with a 54-13 home win over Mississippi Delta.

By this time, sophomore quarterback Vijay Miller had played himself back into football shape after spending two minor league baseball seasons pitching in the San Diego



Notre Dame transfer running back Deon McIntosh was named by the state's head football coaches as the MACJC North Division's Offensive Back MVP after ranking second in the nation with 17 rushing touchdowns and seventh nationally with 1,150 rushing yards this past season.

Padres organization, giving deWeaver a nice compliment in the backfield. The contrasting styles of quarterback play were shaping up to be a difficult challenge for opposing teams. However, Miller saw his comeback season cut short a week later with an injury during the opening series of a 24-21 road win at East Central. This contest had the rare last-second dramatics, as freshman Josh Smith kicked a 19-yard field goal in the closing seconds for the narrow victory.



Named the NJCAA Football National Championship Player of the Game, all-region defensive end Everitt Cunningham ranked among the national leaders with 13 quarterback sacks this past year as a sophomore.

"Championship teams always face some challenges," EMCC sophomore defensive back JaQuez Akins said after the dramatic victory in Decatur. "Winning a game like this will help this team grow. Defensively, we have to play better to get where we want to go. However, this team has lots of confidence. We will keep getting better."

The defense got right the following week with its best performance in several seasons to pave the way for a 34-6 win at Northwest Mississippi. EMCC's last loss had also taken place in Senatobia during regular-season play a year ago. This season, the Lions made sure there was no encore by holding the Rangers to 98 total yards.

Overall, EMCC finished the season by holding four teams under 100 yards of total offense.

The collision course for a ninth MACJC North Division regular-season championship under Stephens continued with a 56-21 Homecoming win over Holmes, a 47-0 home victory over Coahoma and a 26-7 rain-plagued win at Northeast Mississippi.

"Winning the division is always an accomplishment," Stephens said. "Having home-field advantage in the playoffs is important. Winning the division allows you to have a better chance in the playoffs. It's also good to have momentum for your team entering the postseason."

STATE PLAYOFFS

EMCC earned its 10th playoff appearance under Stephens. In the postseason, the Lions have been dominant with a composite 14-3 record during the MACJC state playoffs.

A year ago, the Lions took an unusual path to the state championship with road wins over Jones and Northwest Mississippi. This season, the task would again prove daunting with a pair of nationally ranked opponents. However, the good news was the Lions

would open with a playoff game at home. In that playoff opener, EMCC put its best foot forward with a surprisingly easy 31-7 win over Copiah-Lincoln before a large, supportive crowd at Sullivan-Windham Field on the Scooba campus.

The following week, EMCC took to the road with a stirring comeback at Jones to capture a seventh state championship during a 10-year span.

Former Laurel High School teammates TyQuan Ulmer and Drummond hooked up on a pair of long touchdown passes, as EMCC scored in the fourth quarter to take a 19-14 victory in Ellisville.

The Lions forced six turnovers to beat the Bobcats in the title game.

"Being a state champion is a great feeling," EMCC sophomore defensive lineman Everitt Cunningham said. "We can't let up, though, with one more game to win."

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

A large crowd of EMCC supporters loaded up and made the 600-mile trek to Pittsburg, Kansas for the 2018 NJCAA eTeamSponsor Football National Championship game played at Pittsburg State University. For the first time in NJCAA history, the national title game featured a live television viewing audience on CBS Sports Network.

The top-ranked EMCC Lions beat the second-ranked Garden City Broncbusters, 10-9, to claim their fifth national championship in eight years and move closer to the all-time NJCAA



With their 19-14 road win over Jones College, the EMCC Lions claimed their seventh MACJC state football championship - and third straight - in 10 years under the guidance of head coach Buddy Stephens.



All-Region 23 wide receiver Dontario Drummond closed out his standout EMCC career as the Lions' career leader in receptions (95), receiving yards (1,466) and touchdown catches (21) during the Buddy Stephens era (since 2008).

standard of six national football titles shared by Butler (Kan.) and Northeastern Oklahoma A&M.

Cunningham was named the contest's eTeamSponsor Player of the Game with a strip and score for the Lions' only touchdown of the game coming in the opening half of play. The West Point High School product had two fumble recoveries in the contest, while twin brothers Jacob and Joseph Anderson each had interceptions.

Sophomore linebacker Untareo Johnson made the eventual championship-saving stop on a two-point conversion attempt when Garden City went for the lead following its lone touchdown of the game with less than eight minutes left to play.

"Playing with my brothers this year has been the best experience of my life," Johnson said. "This was for everyone in the state of Mississippi. It's great to be bringing home another championship."



With eight sophomores on their 2018-19 men's basketball roster, the EMCC Lions look to be championship contenders within the talent-laden MACJC during the 2018-19 hoops campaign.

East Mississippi Community College fourth-year men's basketball coach Billy Begley really likes working with a veteran team.

"In junior college, you only have them for two years, so it's rare when you have a team full of sophomores," Begley said. "It just puts your team so far ahead with everything you are trying to do. That first year it's all about learning college life and learning how to practice and adapt to a new coaching staff, new teammates and everything.

"In that second year, you just start way ahead. There is an expectation already established between players and coaches."

Begley was an assistant coach during EMCC's previous run to national prominence. His first season as head coach saw EMCC return to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I National Tournament for a fifth time in seven seasons.

Now a 13-man roster with eight sophomores will attempt to lead the Lions back to the national stage. A year ago, EMCC finished 12-12 with a first-round loss to eventual state champion Pearl River in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) state tournament.

The Lions suffered several close losses throughout last season but grew closer and

played their best basketball in the final six weeks of the season.

"It was an adjustment period for everybody," EMCC sophomore guard Terryonte Thomas said. "Once we started playing team ball, we played a lot better. Everybody has something different they can bring to this team. That's what makes us successful."

Thomas, who starred at New Hope High School, averaged 12.5 points per game last season and is the team's leading returning scorer.



Fourth-year men's head basketball coach Billy Begley figures to have his experienced Lions team challenging for this year's MACJC North Division hoops title.

Begley has always prided himself in being one of the best defensive coaches in the state. This season, the Lions appear to have more offensive punch.

"This team has a little more size," Begley said. "They work hard and they enjoy their time in the gym. Everybody is in there every day working to get better. It's a very coachable group. The good news is we can bring our freshmen along at a little bit slower pace. They don't have to make an immediate impact."

Former Starkville High School standout Darrious Agnew is back after seeing his season cut short by injury a year ago.

Agnew can score from long range but his 6-foot-8, 225-pound frame is best designed to be one of the team's leading rebounders. Fellow sophomore Markedric Bell and freshman Donte Powers round out the Starkville connections to the team.

Guard Dewayne Cox is another Lion expected to play a prominent role on this year's team. Cox led the team with 40 steals last season, while averaging 10.1 points and 4.7 rebounds per game.

Bell averaged 8.7 points and 6.0 rebounds per contest a year ago as a freshman.

Florida native Malik Harper is also back after an injury-plagued season a year ago.

"Rebounding and defense will again be the keys," said Begley, who also welcomes former Lion DJ Evans to the staff as an assistant coach this season. "We have a very challenging schedule to start the season with some road trips against ranked opponents. You can do that with a veteran team.

"Most practice sessions are only taking about 90 minutes. We get in and do what we need to do. That's a team that knows the expectations and works well together."

For EMCC, the expectation is a return trip to Hutchinson, Kansas for the NJCAA Division I National Tournament.

"Hutch is the goal," Thomas said. "We just have to work hard every day even though this is an experienced team. You have to always keep working hard to get better."



The youthful Lady Lions basketball team will forge through the 2018-19 hoops season with seven freshman players suiting up among their 10-member squad.

East Mississippi Community College women's basketball coach Sharon Thompson has returned to her original roots this season.

As she begins her 14th season as EMCC's head coach, Thompson is back in her role as teacher, helping a new set of Lady Lions learn the fundamentals of a sport she loves the most.

"I'm just having a lot of fun coaching this team," the former Mississippi State All-SEC forward said. "They are young and energetic. Each day, they like coming to the gym and working on their game. It's been rewarding. We have some talented players. It's just a matter of playing time and experience. When you have a young team, you want to be clicking when conference play begins. "This team will get better throughout the season because of the work ethic. They want to be great."

Thompson has led EMCC to three Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) North Division championships, with one appearance in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I National Tournament.

After finishing 11-10 last season, this year's Lady Lions squad will dress 10 players, with

only three of those being sophomores. That group includes Briana Green (Columbus), Brianna Page (West Jones HS) and Emily Evans (Southaven).



Veteran women's basketball coach Sharon Thompson looks forward to the challenge of guiding seven first-year players this season.

Page is the team's leading returner with averages of 6.7 points and 4.5 rebounds per game a year ago as a freshman.

After dealing with a sophomore-laden team a year ago, Thompson said leadership will be one of the bigger challenges for this year's youthful team. A group of three players will have to help set the tone for the team. At the same time, she is confident that some of her first-year players can catch on and

contribute right away.

"My main concern is scoring the basketball," Thompson said. "We should be able to defend, and rebounding is all about work ethic. This team likes to work hard. We will continue to work on the fundamentals. A lot of players rely on natural talent in high

school. Our job here is to teach some more aspects of the game.

"For the sophomores, leadership will be important, but we will also need them to contribute more offensively. They will be asked to step up and make shots, while making sure we are doing the things we need to do in practice to be successful."

Headlining a talented group of newcomers to the EMCC program are guard Tye Metcalf (Southaven), post player Maddie Riley (Velma Jackson HS) and forward Aamiya Rush (West Point).

"Tye has a bright future ahead of her in this sport," Thompson said. "She can do a little bit of it all. She has a great attitude and you can tell she is already showing some of those leadership qualities you like to see from a freshman. Maddie is doing a great job scoring the ball and rebounding on both ends of the floor. Aamiya has a high energy level. She did everything for her high school team, so now it's just a matter of her getting comfortable on this level. When everything falls in place for her, she is going to be a tremendous player."

Thompson said the squad will benefit from a challenging schedule. The good news for the Lady Lions is they have already made great strides in a short time together. "We have grown up each week," Thompson noted. "You could see a lot of growth from the first week of practice all the way through the preseason jamboree games. The missing ingredient is experience. These players will keep growing together every time they step on the court."



Baseball coaching veteran Brett Kimbrel has been rewarded with his first head coaching opportunity at the collegiate level after spending the past two years as an assistant with the EMCC Lions.

Brett Kimbrel has been waiting patiently for this opportunity.

Now, he plans to make the most of it. After two seasons as an assistant coach with the East Mississippi Community College baseball program, Kimbrel got the promotion and has taken over as head coach of the Lions.

"I've worked for what I consider to be the best coaches in the country," Kimbrel said. "The lessons I've learned working for them are the same things we are implementing here at EMCC – faith, family, academics, baseball and social life.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity. To get the opportunity here at East Mississippi is a humbling experience. This is a destination job for me."

Kimbrel says the transition has been smooth since he was already familiar with the roster and had a good working relationship with the players. Prior to coming to EMCC, the 24-year coaching veteran spent 12 seasons as an assistant coach at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, Ala. During his time at Shelton State, Kimbrel was part of four trips to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I World Series.

"The challenge is recruiting, and it will always be like that," Kimbrel noted. "It has to start at home with quality in-district kids. We have some very good baseball programs here in our area. We need to compete for those

kids, but we also need to win those kids. We need to establish that you can come to our program, play on a high level, have academic success and then prepare to take the next step."

Kimbrel said the team made great strides during fall practice and throughout the fall schedule. The keys to this season's success will be having quality contributions on the mound, playing solid defense and learning how to compete on each pitch.

"At any level of baseball, the success of the team hinges on how well you pitch it," Kimbrel noted. "We have a good mixture of sophomores and freshmen, but you can never have enough arms. We looked at a lot of guys during the fall. That should help us

going forward. In Mississippi, it's a compact season, so you play a lot of games in a short amount of time."

Perhaps the biggest assets for Kimbrel are his hard-working, knowledgeable assistant coaches. Pitching coach/recruiting coordinator Trent Waddell played at Mississippi State University after starring on the Scooba campus for the Lions. Graduate assistant Tucker Willard was an all-conference player at Faulkner University and works with EMCC's outfielders and baserunners.

"We are fortunate to have both of them on our campus," Kimbrel said. "Trent is great with the pitchers. He works tirelessly on the recruiting trail as well. He is well connected with a lot of people. From a pitching standpoint, we really like our match-ups this season. Tucker is a first-year addition to our staff as a graduate assistant. He is very energetic and is also an excellent recruiter with a lot of contacts."

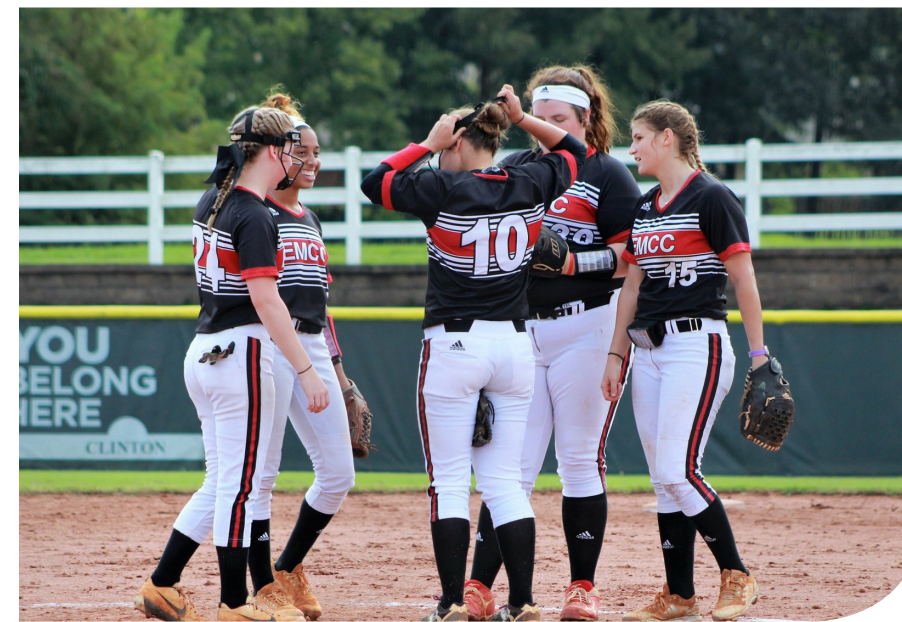
Widely respected for his offensive coaching philosophy and teaching methods, Kimbrel will primarily coordinate the team's offense.

"Our goal will always be to score one more run than the opponent," Kimbrel said. "We will defend the field, and we will compete. Offensively, we will be aggressive. The key is to put pressure on the other team. Our schedule is very challenging to start the season.

"The kids are hungry, though. Seeing the success enjoyed by other programs here at EMCC, that can be done in every sport. It's our job to bring in the types of players who can help us reach that level of success."



Sophomore right-hander Jaxen Forrester, one of three current EMCC players from Spanish Fort, Ala., hails as the Lions' leading returning pitcher for the 2019 baseball campaign.



With a freshman-dominated softball roster, first-year head coach Austin McNair's EMCC Lady Lions will open the 2019 season with only five sophomores.

East Mississippi Community College first-year softball coach Austin McNair feels like his enthusiasm was a key characteristic that helped him land the job.

"You have to be passionate about what you are doing to be successful," McNair said. "I was told that my energy level is what stood out. They saw that I had a vision and had a burning desire to be successful. That's the main thing about this softball program. We are going to play with pride and passion. We are going to be committed to what we are trying to do."

McNair began his coaching career with previous successful stops at Philadelphia High School and Pontotoc High School. While at Philadelphia, McNair won a fast-pitch state championship and two slow-pitch state titles.

At EMCC, McNair has set the bar high right away despite the Lady Lions having finished 17-26 last season.

"The top eight teams make the (MACJC) state playoffs, so we have set that as our primary goal. We are going to be young. We will have new players learning new coaches and new coaches learning new players. We still plan to be competitive right away."

That competitiveness factor was challenged during a productive fall campaign capped by a road doubleheader split with Hinds.

"During the fall season, we played several close games," McNair noted. "We have got to learn to grow, to keep getting better and to find a way to win more of those close games. If we can do that, we can reach our goal of making the playoffs."

A freshman-dominated roster will only include five sophomores – Kiara Conner (Columbus), Kelsey English (Birmingham, AL), Avery Bouchillon (Ethel) and Megan Cummins (Germantown) plus the addition of transfer Blake Bond (Winona).

"Offensively, we should have a good year," McNair said. "It always comes back to pitching in softball. It's a situation where we are going to mix and match with our pitchers. We have a lot of confidence in several different players. We just have to see who performs the best and gives us the best chance to win on any given day."

Despite the newness of everything and the players getting used to a different system, McNair has been pleased with the team's effort and enthusiasm to this point.

"I was very proud of how the fall went. We didn't get started until the summer and I only knew a few of the players. The attitude has been great. They come to practice ready to work every day. When we completed our exit interviews at the end of fall practice, everybody was excited and looking forward to the season."

The excitement largely stems from McNair's coaching style of trying to apply pressure on the opponent and to be the team on the attack.

"The main thing we try to do is take the other team out of their comfort zone," said McNair, who is being assisted by former ICC standout Kimmy Nicholson. "Our goal will be to run the bases aggressively and to put the ball in play with good at-bats. We want to apply the pressure. At the end of the day, it's about playing smart and being fundamentally sound."

For the year ahead, another challenging schedule awaits. McNair is proud of the inroads already being made on the recruiting trail.

"The coaches and players we have talked to are excited," McNair noted. The exposure of the football program has helped us with some out-of-state prospects. They know who we are now. This is just the starting point. We will continue to bring in quality student-athletes and keep making this program better."



Head coach Austin McNair (right) and assistant coach Kimmy Nicholson are reunited at EMCC after previously working together at Pontotoc High School.



Coach Morgan Goodrich's rodeo program has earned three consecutive national Top 10 men's team finishes at the prestigious College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming.

East Mississippi Community College rodeo coach Morgan Goodrich is preparing for her next individual national champion and eyeing another Top 10 national team finish.

With current professional cowboys and former EMCC rodeo standouts Marcus Theriot and Tristan Martin having earned individual national championships at the prestigious College National Finals Rodeo in 2016 and 2018, respectively, Goodrich's Lions look to also continue the team success that has produced Top 10 men's team finishes each of the last three seasons within the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association.

"We have been kind of spoiled around here," Goodrich said. "We have been blessed with these individual national champions. We have established a standard within our program and now this year's team is eager to live up to those expectations."

"Right now, we are trying to build up our women's program. We have a talented group this year and they keep getting better, so that's a very good sign."

This year, EMCC has had new individuals emerge on both the men's and women's teams during the fall portion of the competitive Ozark Region schedule, which is comprised mostly of four-year universities and only a handful of two-year colleges.

The team's collective improvement during the six-event fall slate is evident with team-best showings during the final two rodeos.

"I'm proud of this team and the improvements they have made through the fall," Goodrich said. "We get great experience against some very good competition within our region. Hopefully, we can continue the momentum and make a strong run in the spring to get back to nationals."

Standing fifth as a team on the men's side through the fall's Ozark Region schedule, the Lions have been led by the team roping tandem of Clay Green and Weston Pender. During the last two fall rodeos, they finished third at Southern Arkansas University and second at Murray State University. The Lions will also look for reigning Jr. Ironman Champion Myles Neighbors, a transfer from Northeast Texas Community College, to be a factor in the steer wrestling and tie down

roping events during the spring slate.

"Our biggest challenge with a young team is the level of competition we face on a consistent basis within our region," Goodrich said. "We have competed well on the national level during recent years and this year's group wants to continue that trend."

For the EMCC women, sophomore Jadi Gibbs started and finished the fall season with individual wins in the breakaway roping competition at rodeos hosted by Pearl River Community College and Murray State, respectively. The East Rankin Academy product will head into the spring campaign ranked second in the event among Ozark Region competitors. Talented freshmen Abbey Jo Kilgore and Kayley Kennemer also made significant strides during the fall.

"Jadi is putting together a great year," Goodrich said. "She has really put in some hard work and I am very proud for her. She is a veteran and we are expecting big things from her the rest of the season."

Now in her ninth season as EMCC's head rodeo coach and assisted by her husband, Wes, a veteran professional cowboy, Goodrich understands the challenges that lie ahead for this year's youthful squad after having achieved so much individual and team success on the national scene during recent years.

"To break through and be able to compete at nationals during consecutive years has been a major achievement for our program and for our college as a whole," Goodrich noted. "Now, this year's team has seen what it takes to get there and they are working hard to go back."



Transfer Myles Neighbors (left) hails as the reigning Jr. Ironman Champion, while sophomore Jadi Gibbs (right) enters the spring season ranked second among the Ozark Region's leading breakaway ropers.

EMCC ranked No.1 by Affordable Colleges Online



Courtesy of AffordableCollegesOnline.org

EMCC was ranked No. 1 in the nation among "The Most Affordable Online Colleges with Quality Programs in 2018," in an annual report released Feb. 7, by AffordableCollegesOnline.org.

Colleges that made the Top 50 list "have met that goal of blending a high-quality education with a manageable cost," according to the AffordableCollegesOnline.org website. "Our ranking ... takes into account which schools provide the most programs, financial aid options with lower rates and services necessary for online students while also keeping tuition and fees at a reasonable level."

EMCC was the only college on the list to earn a perfect score of 100.

According to the AffordableCollegesOnline.org website, the rankings are backed by data collected and analyzed from The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, a program managed by the National Center for Education Statistics.

"Surveying over 7,500 colleges annually, it is among the most longstanding and trusted providers of U.S. postsecondary information," the website states.

Factors considered while compiling the rankings include tuition costs, count and breadth of online programs, student-teacher ratio, scholarship and grant aid from the college, and availability of academic, career counseling and job placement services, to name a few.

In October, AffordableCollegesOnline ranked EMCC's Art programs in the nation among two-year colleges. According to the report titled "Best Online Art programs 2018-2019," only accredited colleges were included in the study that looked at affordability, quality, flexibility and program offerings to compile the list of Top 20 schools.

EMCC traditions: Skull and Crossbones



The skull and crossbones and stars featured on the EMCC football team's uniforms and helmets hark back to the time when the college's legendary coach, Robert Victor "Bull" Sullivan, ruled the gridiron. A U.S. Marine who served during

World War II, Sullivan was the sole survivor of a fierce battle in Okinawa in which he lost five of his wartime buddies.

Sullivan ordered jerseys emblazoned with five stars as a way to pay tribute to those he served with who died during that battle. The jerseys are still in use today. When Sullivan died in 1970, a sixth star was added to the front left shoulder of the jerseys in his honor.

The skull and crossbones on the football team's helmets is also attributed to Sullivan, who believed the hard, modern helmets in use today caused as many injuries as they prevented. As a result, EMCC's football players were among the last in the country to stop using leather helmets. Sullivan had his wife, Virginia, paint a skull and crossbones across the front of the leather helmets as a way to intimidate opponents. The skull and crossbones was eventually retired but was brought back in 2011.

The skull and crossbones in use today was drawn by the football team's former offensive coordinator, Marcus Wood, who now serves as the executive director of College Advancement. The letters "MPW" are incorporated into the jawbone of the skull in honor of Wood's three sons, Marc, Parker and Will.

EMCC VOLUNTEERS HELP BUILD WEST POINT PARK



A group from EMCC was among volunteers who helped construct a playground in November 2017 at Marshall Park in West Point. Yokohama Tire Corporation and KaBOOM! partnered to provide the community playground. From left, Student Government Association member Daniel Kilpatrick, Recruiting Coordinator Tawana Bauer and Associate Dean of Instruction Dr. Michael Busby were among the contingent from EMCC, which also included employees from the college's West Point Center and the Workforce Services Division.

SPREADING THE MESSAGE



EMCC installed a new electronic billboard sign located on Highway 45 adjacent to the Highway 16 turnoff to the college's Scooba campus. The lit-up full-color message board displays rotating messages about happenings at the college and the community. The sign was installed with help from the Kemper County Board of Supervisors. Prince Oil Company donated the land for the sign.

CMTE 2.0 nearing completion



East Mississippi Community College's Center for Manufacturing Technology Excellence 2.0, or Communiversity, is expected to open to students in the fall of 2019.

The final phase of construction on East Mississippi

Community College's Center for Manufacturing Technology Excellence 2.0 is under way as construction crews shift their focus from infrastructure and framing to flooring, lighting and other finish work.

"A dream that began in December 2013 is coming to fruition," EMCC Workforce and Community Services Vice President Dr. Raj Shaunak said. "Hopefully the CMTE 2.0 shall be ready for occupancy and we will be teaching students there in the fall of 2019. Our staff has been working diligently to ensure the transition to the new facility is smooth."

A coalition of partners that included EMCC and local, state and federal officials worked for three years to secure funding, nail down a site location and hammer out program details for the \$42-million facility dubbed the "Communiversity," which will house EMCC Workforce Division programs in advanced manufacturing.

The Appalachian Regional Commission provided more than \$10 million for the project. Other funding partners include the Mississippi Legislature and Clay, Lowndes and Oktibbeha counties. The Golden Triangle Development LINK has also been instrumental in the project.

Area business and industry leaders comprise the advisory board for the Communiversity.

"They are our partners in every sense," Shaunak said. "Not only are they guiding

The CMTE 2.0 will be at the center of the region's workforce training.

Much of the instruction will take place in 21 high-bay laboratories designed to allow easy access for the setup and removal of heavy machinery. Most of the bays will be housed inside two, single-story wings that will intersect the main building at 45-degree angles.

Programs that will have dedicated space in the bays are: Automation and Control Technology; Electrical Technology; Electro-Mechanical Technology; Drafting and Design; Mechatronics Technician; Precision Manufacturing and Machining Technology; and Industrial Maintenance. Workforce services not directly related to advanced manufacturing, such as Automotive Technology, Welding and Fabrication, and Information Systems, will remain in the original Center for Manufacturing Technology complex on the college's Mayhew campus.

Soft space in the new facility will be dedicated for start-ups and industries locating to the area and seminar rooms will be available for educational, business and civic purposes. Future plans call for a full-service cafeteria. The 145,638-square-foot facility will also feature a two-story imagination center, or museum, which will include interactive exhibits and displays of products built by area manufacturers.

At its heart, the mission of the Communiversity will be to serve the community, Shaunak said.

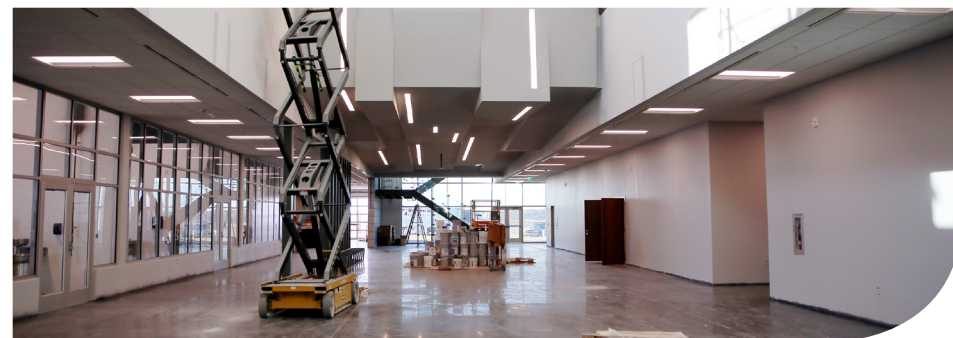
"On the one hand, we want to meet the needs of individuals who want to get a job," Shaunak said. "On the other hand, we want to serve the needs of business and industry so they will have a skillful workforce and can remain globally competitive. The new CMTE 2.0 will better help us to achieve that mission."

us as to what activities should occur but they are also supporting us both through the purchase of equipment and additional resources for operating the Communiversity."

The Golden Triangle area has experienced a manufacturing renaissance in recent years, with an influx of new industries. Construction of the CMTE 2.0, which will expand the college's capability to meet current and future industry needs, has garnered widespread attention.

In October 2017, officials from Harvard Business School met with local elected officials, members of the Golden Triangle Development Link, Mississippi State University and EMCC on a fact-finding mission to determine if the success experienced in the region could be duplicated elsewhere.

"We came here to see what is going on that is special and to figure out what we might apply to other settings in other communities," said Jan Rivkin, senior associate dean for Harvard Business School.



Finish work is under way on the 145,638-square-foot CMTE 2.0, or Communiversity, which will house training related to advanced manufacturing.

The East Mississippi Community College Development Foundation proudly recognizes and thanks all of our generous donors. We gratefully recognize the following who have made contributions from Nov. 1, 2017 through Oct. 31, 2018.

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Dr. Randall Bradberry and his wife, Debbie, at the Sports Hall of Fame reception and banquet held Oct. 12 on the Scooba campus. Bradberry, EMCC' director of athletics, is the college's interim president until incoming President Dr. Scott Alsobrooks assumes the post this spring. A former EMCC standout quarterback and head football coach, Bradberry was an all-star signal caller for Hall of Fame football coach Bob "Bull" Sullivan during the 1967 and 1968 seasons and later returned to EMCC for a successful 12-year stint (1976-87) as the Lions' head football coach. Bradberry has also previously held positions at the college as director of athletics, dean of students and interim president.

BOBBYE MAY HENDERSON

Madison, MS | Dec. 24, 2017



Bobbye May Henderson attended East Mississippi Junior College (1951-53) on a basketball scholarship, helping the team earn a state

championship title with a record of 40 wins and no losses.

While at EMJC, she was invited to join the All American Red Heads, a professional basketball team, but chose to attend the University of Southern Mississippi, where she graduated with a degree in Home Economics Education.

Henderson was inducted into the EMCC Sports Hall of Fame in 2006. She helped run Henderson Oil Company, which was owned by her husband, Ray Ferguson Henderson, who passed away in 1988. Bobbye Henderson was elected as the city of Carthage's first female alderman and later served for three terms as the city's first female mayor.

She was named Woman of the Year by the Carthage Chamber of Commerce and honored as Outstanding Woman of Achievement by the Business of Professional Women's Club.

IKE HOPPER

Porterville, MS | Dec. 6, 2018



Ike Hopper, a member of the EMCC Development Foundation Board, attended East Mississippi Junior College from 1952-54, enrolling after serving a year on

reserve duty and two years active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps.

An EMCC Sports Hall of Fame inductee, Hopper graduated in 1954 and worked at Mississippi Power Company before taking a job at George Watson Sporting Goods in Tupelo.

He later accepted a job as a manufacturer's representative, selling sporting goods for H.B. Hughes Company in Dallas. In 1966, Hopper and four others formed a corporation to import, distribute and be sales agents for Adidas products. In 1989, he sold his interest in the company and moved to Porterville where he and his wife, Betty, operated Timberview Hunting Lodge.

He was a charter member of the EMCC Inner Circle for Excellence and past president of the EMCC Development Foundation.

DENNIS WAYNE MORGAN

Toomsuba, MS | July 27, 2018



Dennis Wayne Morgan served on EMCC's Board of Trustees for 23 years as a Lauderdale County representative, holding various positions

including that of chairman of the Athletic Advisory Committee.

Morgan played basketball at East Mississippi Junior College from 1954-56 and was inducted into the EMCC Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

After graduating from EMJC, Morgan earned a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from Mississippi State University and joined Morgan Plant Farm, his family's business in Toomsuba, which later expanded with the opening of Morgan's Horticultural Center in Meridian.

He was a lifelong resident of Toomsuba, where he resided with his wife of 60 years, Anna Judson (Judy) Purvis Morgan.

Mr. Morgan served as deacon and Sunday school teacher at Toomsuba Baptist Church. He was also president of the Toomsuba Cemetery Association.

DEBORAH WARREN VALENTINE

Starkville, MS | June 13, 2018



Deborah Valentine was a popular counselor at EMCC's Golden Triangle campus. Valentine was born Sept. 17, 1953 in Palmedale, Ala. She graduated

from Hewitt-Trussville High school in 1971. She then attended the University of Alabama where she received a Bachelor of Arts in education/biology in 1975 and a Master of Arts in Student Personnel, Higher Ed/Counseling in 1976.

After working at the University of Alabama's Athletic Department, Valentine joined the staff of Mississippi State University where she was sponsor for the MSU Fashion Board. She also had a successful career in education. She was the secondary guidance counselor at Starkville Academy and later served as academic counselor at EMCC's Mayhew campus.

She was an active member of Starkville First United Methodist Church.

Valentine was preceded in death by her husband, William Rush Valentine, Jr. She had a son, William Rush Valentine III, and a daughter, Mary Malinda Hill.



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January 22, 2018

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Florence, MS
May 10, 2018

Frank Lohman
Purvis, MS
November 5, 2018

Adriana M. Rogers-Hill
Columbus, MS
June 10, 2018

Charles Francis "Chuck" Arndt
Steens, MS
June 28, 2018

Wyatt Hale
Tupelo, MS
March 26, 2018

Andrew "Drew" McClendon
Rolling Fork, MS
June 21, 2018

Diane Sayad-Assadi
Columbus, MS
June 6, 2018

Jerry Butler
Meridian, MS
July 12, 2018

Sam R. "Tiny" Heard
Brooksville, MS
May 8, 2018

Larry O'Neal McGregor
Pittsboro, MS
July 8, 2018

James Ralph Sennett
Keller, TX
May 4, 2018

Joshua David Carlson
Meridian, MS
June 4, 2018

Terri Lynne Mosley Howard
July 3, 2018
Scooba, MS

William H. "Trey" Pope, III
Laurel, MS
June 7, 2018

Robert Fuller Ellis
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Flora Kathryn Jones
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April 1, 2018

Michael Roy Putt
Como, MS
March 30, 2018

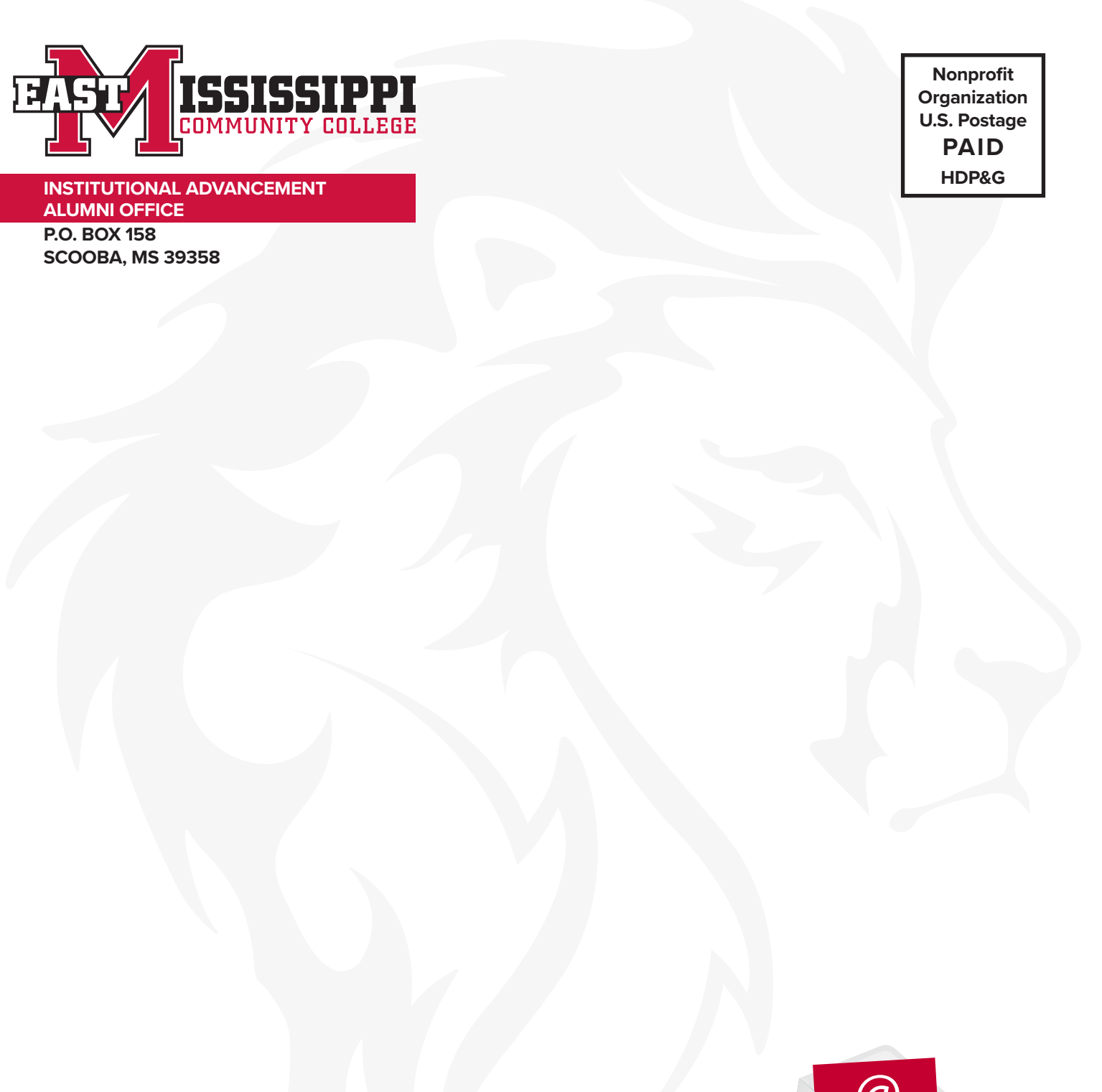




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