

THE **WARRIOR**

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From the Desk of the President Dr. Billy Stewart



When I was in high school in the mid 1980s, the A-Team was a popular television show. Each episode began with the narration: *"In 1972, a crack commando unit was sent to prison by a military court for a crime they didn't commit. These men promptly escaped from a maximum security stockade to the Los Angeles underground. Today, still wanted by the government, they survive*

as soldiers of fortune. If you have a problem, if no one else can help, and if you can find them, maybe you can hire ... the A-Team." Then for an hour, Colonel John "Hannibal" Smith, muscleman Bosco "Bad Attitude" Baracus, pilot "Howlin' Mad" Murdock, and handsome Templeton "Faceman" Peck, would fight against injustice and oppression while on the run from authorities.

A famous catchphrase was used frequently throughout the show's five seasons by the team's cigar-chomping leader, Hannibal Smith. At some point in each episode, he would state: *"I love it when a plan comes together."* Well, I now know what Colonel Smith meant.

In 2013, our College adopted the **2020 Vision** strategic plan to represent a shared vision and roadmap for the future of East Central Community College (ECCC). Complementary to **2020 Vision** is a Campus Master Plan, or a physical manifestation of our strategic plan. It is our road map for the physical needs of our campus for the next five, 15, and 25 years.

For almost a year, ECCC has been going through the process of updating its current Campus Master Plan, with the assistance of Neel-Schaffer & Eley, Guild, Hardy (EGH) Architects, two firms with a wealth of experience in two-year and four-year college and university campus master planning. As part of this process and to provide opportunities for as many people as possible to participate, members of the firm met on campus on several occasions with faculty and staff, students, alumni, trustees and others to solicit ideas and feedback on the current and future physical needs of our campus.

From these meetings, and in collaboration with the College administration, the ECCC Campus Master Plan was updated and approved by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on September 13, 2016. This updated Campus Master Plan will guide the College for the next 25 years as we seek to:

- Construct, renovate, and maintain quality facilities to accommodate projected student enrollment as well as local demands for educational programs and services;
- Develop a full complement of facilities associated with a nationally recognized and locally preferred community college with a focus on the five Institutional Commitments of **2020 Vision**: Student Success, Teaching and Learning, Community Partnerships, Resource Planning and Development, and Communication;
- Create a learning environment that promotes increased student and faculty interaction and interdisciplinary and collaborative teaching and learning;
- Provide a visually appealing and welcoming campus environment that enhances the College's well-earned image as a premier college respected within the community;
- Assure the efficient use of staff resources for administration, support, operations, and maintenance;
- Maintain a safe, secure, accessible, and healthy environment for all users of the College's facilities and grounds; and
- Promote the effective and efficient use of natural resources.

I am pleased to report that the updated Campus Master Plan is now available on the College's website, www.eccc.edu. It can be found in two locations: under "About ECCC" at the top left of the website and under "Quick Links" at the bottom of the page. In addition to Campus Opportunities and Campus Challenges over the next 25 years, the Campus Master Plan includes the existing campus layout and detailed images and explanations of our physical campus and facility needs for the next five, 15, and 25 years.

The updated Campus Master Plan identifies well-conceived and well-justified capital outlay projects (including new facilities, infrastructure modernization, facilities remodel and renovation, etc.) and potential property additions that fit within the overall context of the College's vision and mission as well as the College's other planning and budgeting processes. It also proactively anticipates long-range needs, helps to meet current needs, enhances the quality of student life, and supports the implementation of **2020 Vision**.

In addition, the Campus Master Plan identifies, clarifies and shapes a long-term vision for the College campus that will strengthen the overall unity of the campus and the harmony of buildings with each other and within the larger campus context and also serves as a guide for campus maintenance and improvements. The plan will be used to justify to the Mississippi Legislature as well as local leaders the need for state and local funding necessary to develop identified projects. And, the updated Campus Master Plan will be used to support capital projects that do not qualify for State funding and may be included in fundraising campaigns or a future local bond measure.

I hope you will take a few moments and review the Campus Master Plan and the exciting challenges and opportunities it holds for the future of our College. And I trust that when you do, you can utter the words of Hannibal Smith too: *"I love it when a plan comes together."*

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ON THE COVER

Construction continues on the college's new three-story, suite-style women's dormitory scheduled to open in August 2017. The much-needed facility is part of the college's updated Campus Master Plan, which provides a road map for the physical needs of campus for the next 25 years. Read more about the Campus Master Plan in *From the Desk of the President* on inside front cover.

ACCREDITATION

East Central Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of East Central Community College.

NONDISCRIMINATION

East Central Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or qualified disability in its educational programs and activities, employment practices, or admissions processes. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies of East Central Community College:

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI, ADEA, and Title IX are coordinated by Dr. Teresa Houston, Vice President for Instruction, Walter Arno Vincent Administration Building, Room 171, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6202, Fax: 601-635-4011, thouston@ecc.edu.

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The Warrior is printed four times annually and is distributed to all members of the East Central Community College Alumni Association and other friends of the college.

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ECCC Warrior Wellness Initiative

Funded by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation Grant

A grant from the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation is boosting East Central Community College's efforts to create and sustain a culture of wellness on its campuses with a \$127,500 grant to support the college's new Warrior Wellness initiative.

ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart said Warrior Wellness will contribute to the fulfillment of an important action plan in the college's **2020 Vision** strategic plan, which was adopted in 2013 after input from students, employees and members of the communities the college serves.

"The goal of Warrior Wellness is to make a difference on the ECCC campus and in the surrounding communities by nurturing the development of a culture of healthy living," Stewart said. "We are grateful to the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation for this tremendous grant to help make the initiation of Warrior Wellness possible."

"One of the action plans in the Institutional Commitment of Resource Planning and Development in our strategic plan calls for us to promote student and employee wellness initiatives, services and resources that will create a campus culture of health and wellness. The initiatives we implement through Warrior Wellness will help us to further provide a healthier learning environment not only for our students and employees, but our campus visitors and the local communities we serve in our five-county district of Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, and Winston counties."

The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation grant provides funding for ECCC to make transformative equipment upgrades to the existing wellness center on the Decatur campus, equip a wellness assessment center on campus, and cover costs associated with on-campus Warrior Challenges for students, faculty, and staff; healthy lifestyle nutrition and exercise education and demonstration opportunities on campus and in the communities; outreach to primary and secondary schools in the

ECCC district; community events to include walking and running groups, Family Fit and Fun Days, and Kids' College; and campus master planning to create new spaces for program growth and sustainability.

Crystal Fitzgerald of Little Rock, Miss., was hired in August as the college's first Wellness Coordinator. She received her bachelor's degree in exercise science from the University of West Florida, where she played varsity softball. She serves as project coordinator in implementing Warrior Wellness, including planning and carrying out of activities and educational opportunities on and off campus related to fitness, healthy eating and hydration, healthy habits and the overall connection of wellness to the college's academic mission. She also chairs the college's Warrior Wellness Committee, which consists of internal members such as campus administrators, faculty, and staff, as well as external members from the local communities.

"Warrior Wellness is not only for our East Central campus community, but also for everyone in the district we serve," said Fitzgerald. "We are overwhelmed by the response we've received to date both on and off campus from people who want to help, to participate and to be healthy."

Fitzgerald said the college currently is upgrading its Wellness Center located in the Smith Student Union Building and developing a state-of-the-art wellness assessment center, along with other initiatives.

A Warrior Walking Club already has been created with the assistance Dianne O'Neill of Decatur, former

ECCC tennis coach and an external member of the Warrior Wellness Committee. The Warrior Walking Club is for walkers and runners who meet at various times at the college's Dick Livingston Exercise and Walking Trail on the north end of campus.

Other initiatives have already been implemented at ECCC to provide a safe and healthier learning environment for students, employees and campus visitors. On Jan. 1, 2016, East Central Community College became a tobacco-free campus, prohibiting all tobacco products, including smoke-emanating (or electronic) and smokeless products, on all campuses, including vehicles. In addition, healthy eating options are now offered in the college cafeteria and in vending machines on campus.

"The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation is proud to support East Central Community College and the Warrior Wellness initiative in their efforts to provide targeted wellness programs for the staff, faculty, students and members of the community," said Sheila Grogan, executive director of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation. "The research and development they have put forth into this initiative will ensure the programs provide opportunities for individuals to improve their health."

The Warrior Wellness initiative at East Central Community College is in partnership with the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation. The Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation is committed to supporting Mississippi's universities and colleges in implementing healthy eating and exercise initiatives that extend from the campus to the local communities and schools. Learn more about the work of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation at www.healthiermississippi.org. More information on the Warrior Walking Club and other Warrior Wellness initiatives can be found at www.eccc.edu/warrior-wellness.



EAST CENTRAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Blue Cross & Blue Shield of
Mississippi Foundation

A Subsidiary of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi.

Girling Selected ‘Humanities Instructor of the Year’

Director of Bands Ed Girling of Carthage is East Central Community College’s “Humanities Instructor of the Year” and was recognized Nov. 3 on the Decatur campus.

Girling presented a special program, held in conjunction with Arts and Humanities Month, in the Vickers Fine Arts Center auditorium.

During his presentation titled “Music for a Lifetime,” Girling shared about his musical experiences and the benefits of music study in life. He also performed some musical selections at the conclusion of the program.

Girling is in his seventh year at East Central Community College. In addition to his work as director of bands, he is the director for the drum line and front ensemble and also serves as the applied percussion instructor and director of the ECCC Percussion Ensemble.

He has taught band and music for 37 years, including stints at Forest High School, Scott Central, where he received STAR Teacher honors in 1998, Stringer, Neshoba Central, Manchester Academy, Cleveland, North Sunflower Academy, and Yazoo City.



Girling has served as a clinic and contest judge, as a band clinician, and as a guest conductor. He has experience in organizing and administering clinics and contests. He is also a music arranger and composer and has served as a percussionist for various music groups.

He served two years as the director for the Scott County Honor Band, which received superior ratings in concert and sight reading. He has also served as a director of several musicals in addition to performing in numerous theatrical productions.

He is a former president of the East Central Mississippi Band Directors’ Association, the Mississippi Private School Association and the Mississippi Junior and Community College Band Association. He is a longtime member of the Mississippi Bandmasters Association and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (Theta Upsilon) and the Percussive Arts Society.

A graduate of Pass Christian High School, Girling holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music education and a bachelor’s degree in percussion performance from Delta State University in Cleveland.

ECCC PTK Chapter Hosts ‘Super Stellar Night’ Prom



Guests walk the red carpet to enter the “Super Stellar Night” prom hosted by East Central Community College’s Theta Xi Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. The prom for special needs students in the college’s five-county district was the annual “Honors in Action” project for the ECCC PTK chapter. More than 30 special needs students attended the event, which began with dinner and ended with a night of dancing. East Central Community College student-athletes and Student Body Association officers served as dates for the participants. Several individuals and businesses made donations to help support the event, including enough prom dresses for all those who attended. The prom was held in the Mabry Cafeteria on the Decatur campus.

MSU-Meridian, ECCC Announce New Partnership Pathways Program

A new partnership between East Central Community College and Mississippi State University will help area students successfully enter and complete baccalaureate degree programs.

The two institutions signed an agreement Nov. 8 creating a Partnership Pathways program that will ease the transition to a bachelor's degree program for ECCC students. The partnership initially concentrates on 10 academic programs and will allow students to enroll concurrently at ECCC and MSU. As part of the agreement, MSU will place academic advisers at ECCC to assist students with course selection, ensuring efficient degree completion and maximum transfer of credits.

The programs of study featured in the partnership include accounting, business administration, Bachelor of Applied Technology in healthcare services, elementary education (early childhood and middle school concentrations), kinesiology (clinical exercise physiology concentration/clinical exercise physiology medical route), social work and secondary education (English and social studies concentrations).

"MSU's growing partnerships with Mississippi community colleges greatly enhance our ability to reach students who choose this innovative path to accessing higher education," said MSU President Dr. Mark E. Keenum. "East Central Community College serves many of the state's counties where the majority of students already choose MSU, and we value our close relationship with ECCC and their outstanding president, Dr. Billy Stewart. This is a win-win for MSU and ECCC."

"We are grateful for our partnership with MSU and their visionary president, Dr. Mark Keenum, in meeting the educational needs of the citizens of our five-county service area. The announcement of today's agreement between our college and MSU is just another step in the fulfillment of our **2020 Vision** strategic plan and the institutional commitments of Student Success and Teaching & Learning," said Stewart.

"This partnership will allow ECCC students to benefit from coherent, structured educational pathways leading to a baccalaureate degree that will enhance their opportunities for career advancement and upward mobility. Therefore, our students will be the major beneficiaries of today's announcement and that is the way it should be," Stewart said.

Students in the selected programs will be given course and program-specific registration guides that highlight classes to be taken at ECCC and MSU in pursuit of a bachelor's degree. MSU-Meridian Administrative Director and Head of Campus Terry Dale Cruse said partnership pathways "take the guesswork" out of transitioning from a strong community college to a leading research university. MSU has similar agreements with Meridian Community College and East Mississippi Community College.

"Mississippi State shares a common goal with East Central in helping students complete programs of study," Cruse said. "Through clearly articulated academic programs, concurrent enrollment opportunities, financial aid consortiums, and MSU advisers based at the East Central campus, we hope to provide the support network needed to assist students in reaching their educational goals."

For more on MSU-Meridian's partnership pathways, visit <https://www.meridian.msstate.edu/prospective-students/partnership-pathways/>.



East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart (left) and Mississippi State University President Dr. Mark Keenum sign a Partnership Pathways agreement Nov. 8 on the ECCC campus in Decatur.

EC Named a 'Great College to Work For' by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

East Central Community College was named one of the best colleges in the nation to work for in an annual survey of more than 46,000 college and university employees by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The Chronicle, a top trade publication for colleges and universities, released in July its annual report on The Academic Workplace, including its list of the 2016 Great Colleges to Work For.

ECCC was one of only three community colleges in Mississippi and one of only 25 two-year schools in the nation to be honored this year by *The Chronicle*. In all, only six two-year or four-year colleges and universities in the state received recognition.

Only 93 of the institutions that applied for the program achieved 2016 "Great College to Work For" recognition. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with East Central Community College included among the small institutions with 2,999 students or fewer.

East Central was recognized in the categories of Collaborative Governance, for faculty members who are appropriately involved in decisions related to academic programs; Confidence in Senior Leadership, for leaders who have the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience for institutional success; Supervisor/Department Chair Relationship, for supervisors who make expectations clear and solicit ideas; and Work/Life Balance, for policies that give employees the flexibility to manage their personal lives.

"This is a recognition we have worked hard to achieve since I arrived on campus in July 2012," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart upon receiving word that East Central is a 'Great College to Work For.' "This is a well-deserved honor for our campus community and is indicative of the wonderful things that are going on at East Central Community College. It also is a testament to the commitment of our faculty, staff, and administration who desire for ECCC to be among the best places to work in the nation."

The Chronicle's Great Colleges to Work For is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country. Now in its ninth year, it recognizes the colleges that

get top ratings from their employees on workforce practices and policies.

To administer the survey and analyze the results, *The Chronicle* worked with ModernThink LLC, a strategic human capital consulting firm that has conducted numerous "Best Places to Work" programs.

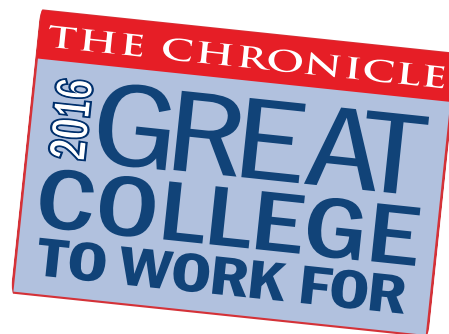
The survey rates institutions on 12 categories in the fields of leadership, careers, the workplace, and compensation.

The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institutional audit that captured demographics and workplace policies, and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff at participating colleges and universities. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was the employee feedback.

"It's especially humbling that East Central Community College is a 'Great College to Work For' based solely on confidential input from our faculty, staff, and administrators," noted Stewart.

"Nine years in, *The Chronicle's* Great Colleges to Work For program is well known as a mark of a college or university that puts thought and effort into serving the needs of its faculty and staff," said Liz McMillen, editor of *The Chronicle*. "The colleges and universities that make the list are highly rated by their employees for creating great work environments, an important achievement that helps them recruit top academic and administrative talent."

For more information and to view all the results of the survey, visit *The Chronicle's* Web site <http://chronicle.com/interactives/greatcolleges16>.



SkillsUSA Participants Win National Honors

East Central Community College students placed in five areas of competition during the 52nd annual SkillsUSA Leadership Conference held in Louisville, Ky. Pictured are (from left) Alan Graham of Forest, seventh, industrial motor controls; Jason Forrest of Decatur, 14th, technical drafting; Ryan Hill of Forest, 21st, heating, ventilation and air conditioning; Jordan Prisock of Louisville, 27th, automotive refinishing; and Enoc Reynoso of Carthage, 11th, restaurant service.



Phi Beta Lambda Members Take Top Honors in National Competition

Members of East Central Community College's Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda received top honors at the organization's 2016 National Leadership Conference held this summer in Atlanta. More than 1,700 students from across the United States participated in the conference to enhance their business skills, expand their networks, and participate in 60 business and business-related competitive events.

Theta Chi Chapter received a first place award and \$700 cash prize in the Local Chapter Annual Business Report category, was awarded sixth place in membership for PBL Big Ten Chapters, and received the Hollis and Kitty Guy Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit.

Group winners included Morgan Jones of Pontotoc and Kimberly Watkins of Philadelphia, third place, small business marketing; Ben Pace, Cody Stevens and Caleb Brown, all of Philadelphia, Madelon Taylor of Louisville and Anna Claire Housely of Morton, fourth place, parliamentary procedures; Memry Thompson and Paxton Holmes, both of Morton, and Jennifer Watkins of Decatur, sixth place, integrated marketing campaign; and Khalil Triplett and Alely Cruz, both of Philadelphia, and Enoc Reynoso of Carthage, 14th, community service project.

Individual winners included Paxton Holmes, seventh place, administrative technology; Madelon Taylor, eighth place, business communication; and Morgan Cain of Carthage, 10th place, business presentation.



Members of East Central Community College's Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda who received top honors at the organization's 2016 National Leadership Conference included (front row, from left) Alely Cruz of Philadelphia and Jennifer Watkins of Decatur; (second row, from left) Madelon Taylor of Louisville and Paxton Holmes of Morton; (third row, from left) Kimberly Watkins of Philadelphia and Anna Claire Housely and Memry Thompson, both of Morton; and (back row, from left) Cody Stephens, Caleb Brown and Ben Pace, all of Philadelphia, Morgan Jones of Pontotoc, Morgan Cain of Carthage, Enoc Reynoso of Carthage and Khalil Triplett of Philadelphia. (Submitted Photo)

Howell, Amis Selected for Master Teacher Team

East Central Community College instructors Luke Howell and Whitney Amis were recently selected for the Mississippi Community College Board Statewide Team Teaching Cadre, which will represent the state by providing training to other college instructors in the MI-BEST program, which allows participants to obtain their GED while simultaneously taking college courses in select programs.

Howell has served as Collision Repair Technology instructor at East Central since 2010. Amis was employed at the college in 2015 as MI-BEST ABE instructor.

The statewide team consists of four highly qualified teaching teams that will focus on providing high quality team teaching lessons and techniques, while working closely with the instructors to support the growth and development of their MI-BEST team-taught programs.

Howell and Amis attended training in August in Seattle provided by the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges staff.

For more information on the college's MI-BEST program, contact Erin Tramill, MI-BEST navigator, at 601-635-6255 or email etramill@eccc.edu.



Luke Howell



Whitney Amis

ECCC Announces New Student Recruiting Team

East Central Community College is making it easier than ever for prospective students to enroll in classes, as members of a new student recruiting team are visiting high schools throughout the district this fall and spring.

The college's Student Services Division recently welcomed new student recruiters/enrollment specialists Jerami Beard of Morton and Sherrell Brown of Forest to the team. They join Romonica Evans of Newton, who has been employed at ECCC since 2003, to form the new team whose main focus will be on assisting prospective students. All three are ECCC graduates.

Dr. Randall Lee, vice president for student services, who also supervises the recruiters, said, "Although ECCC has attracted talented students for many years, the competition has intensified. Creating this dedicated recruiting team allows East Central to provide the prompt attention our prospective students deserve."

Beard covers the following high schools: Carthage Christian Academy, Grace Christian Academy, Leake Academy, Morton, Nanih Waiya, Noxapater, Neshoba Central, Louisville, Winston Academy, Winston County Career & Technical Center and Philadelphia/Neshoba County Career &

Technical Center.

High schools Brown covers include Choctaw Central, Forest, Lake, Leake Central, Leake County, Leake County Career-Technical Center, Philadelphia, Scott Central, Sebastopol, Forest and Scott County Career & Technical Center.

Evans is covering high schools that include Newton, Newton County Academy, Newton County, Union, Newton County Career & Technology Center, Union Career & Technology Center and Newton Career & Technology Center. She also serves as Career Center director.

For more information, contact the



From left are ECCC recruiters Sherrell Brown, Jerami Beard and Romonica Evans.

Student Services office at 601-635-6205 or email jbeard@eccc.edu, revans@eccc.edu or sbrown@eccc.edu. Follow the recruiters on Facebook and Twitter at ECCC Recruiting.

College Launches New Websites

East Central Community College launched a much-needed and redesigned www.eccc.edu website in August.

The new website includes a more modern design that is responsive to all devices and contains better, more intuitive navigation.

The website is one of the college's main tools for recruiting prospective students and creating awareness about the college among all constituents.

U.S.Next of Jackson, Miss., created the design in collaboration with the college's Office of Public Information.

In September, the college unveiled a new athletics website, www.ecccathletics.com.

Powered by PrestoSports, the site is devoted to the college's 10 varsity sports teams. In addition to helping the college better market and promote its varsity sports teams, the site automatically syncs with the National Junior College Athletic Association website for all scores and statistics for each sport.

The new website includes news, schedules, and rosters for each team; up-to-date social media feeds; photo and video sections; an ECCC Athlete of the Week spotlight; and other features.

East Central's Office of Public Information creates and maintains all content on both sites.



Division Title, Playoffs Highlight Outstanding Fall Sports Season



The East Central football team celebrates with fans and the Wall O' Sound Band after clinching its first-ever MACJC South Division title.

Warrior Football Wins First South Division Title

The East Central Community College Warrior football team earned its first-ever Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division Championship with a 42-13 road win over Southwest Mississippi Community College Saturday, Oct. 29, in Summit.

While it was the Warriors first South Division title, East Central did earn a North Division title in 1970.

With the win, the Warriors earned the right to host defending national champion and No. 5 ranked Northwest Mississippi Community College in an MACJC semifinal game Saturday, Nov. 5, in Bailey Stadium in Decatur.

Northwest would end East Central's season in the semifinals with a 21-14 win. The Warriors held a 14-0 halftime lead, but could not muster any second half points in the loss.

East Central and Northwest also met during the regular season in a game played in Senatobia. The Rangers jumped out to a 20-0 halftime lead and held on to beat the Warriors 20-14.

It was the second straight season that the two teams met in an MACJC semifinal. Northwest defeated East Central last season 27-20, also in Senatobia.

The last time an East Central football team competed in the state playoffs two years in a row was 40 years ago in the 1975 and 1976 seasons.

East Central finished the 2016 football season with a 5-5 overall record. In September, the Warriors ended a 13-game losing streak to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College with a 42-28 win in Decatur.

Eleven members of the 2016 East Central Community College Warrior football team received postseason honors from the MACJC and the National Junior College Athletic Association. In addition, for the second year in a row head coach Ken Karcher was selected as the MACJC South Division Coach of the Year.

EC Soccer Teams Compete in Postseason Play

For the second straight season, both East Central soccer teams competed in postseason play.

The East Central men's soccer team saw its season come to an end with a 5-1 loss to the Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears in an MACJC quarterfinal matchup in Bailey Stadium in Decatur on Oct. 25.

Coach Kenneth Thompson's squad finished 9-8 on the season and 5-3 in the

North Division.

The Warriors posted the longest winning streak in the program history during the regular season at six games. Sophomore midfielder Fredy Gutierrez was the leading scorer in the North Division.

The sophomore players on this year's team advanced to the playoffs both seasons at East Central.

Gutierrez, sophomore goalkeeper Zack Vickers, and sophomore forward Blake Bonds were invited to play in the MACJC All-Star Game in November.

The East Central women's soccer team ended its season after falling 1-0 to Pearl River Community College in overtime of the quarterfinals of the MACJC playoffs Oct. 25 in Bailey Stadium.

Coach Gray Massey's East Central squad finished the season 12-4 overall and 6-2 in the North Division.

This year's team had the best start in school history at 9-0, besting last season's 8-0 start. The Lady Warriors have finished in the second place in the MACJC North Division three years in a row.

Sophomores forward Kenzie Jenkins, goalkeeper Kaitlyn Knuth, and defender Gabby Gross were selected to participate in the MACJC All-Star Game.

2016-17 ECCC Warrior Golf Team



The East Central Warrior golf team competed in four matches in the fall, and will also compete in four this coming spring, including the MACJC State/NJCAA Region 23 Tournament. Members of the 2016-17 team, and their respective high schools, include (from left) Bailey Threlkeld of Choctawhatchee (Fla.) High School, Bryant Jordan of Baldwin County (Ala.) High School, David Barry of West Jones High School, Noah Parnell of Vancleave High School, and Seth McCormick of Newton County Academy. Also pictured is head men's golf coach Chris Clark.

JOIN THE **WARRIOR CLUB**



Warrior Club Levels:

- \$1,000 or more - Super Chief
- \$500 - Chief
- \$250 - Super Brave
- \$100 - Brave
- \$50 - Young Brave
- \$25 - Papoose

*For more information,
contact David LeBlanc,
Director of Alumni Relations
and the Foundation,
at 601-635-6327
or email dleblanc@eccc.edu.*



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East Central Basketball Teams Begin 2016-17 Seasons

New Faces Highlight 2016-17 ECCC Women's Basketball Team

Fresh off a state championship season, East Central Community College women's basketball coach Crandal Porter has a lot of holes to fill if the Lady Warriors want to repeat their magical run of last season.

The Lady Warriors won the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State Championship last February with a 75-63 win over Itawamba, before falling in the first round of the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Tournament. Along the way, East Central won 19 straight games.

Gone from that team are eight sophomores who either started or played significant minutes. That leaves Porter, in his fifth season at East Central, with no returning starters off last season's 24-3 team.

"We lost all five of our starters and a good portion of our bench off last year's team," explained Porter, who now has a 60-38 record at East Central and was the MACJC and Mississippi Association of Coaches Coach of the Year last season. "But we have a talented group of returning players and new players we feel can play our style of basketball."

Gone are starters Samantha Duncan (Southern University), Alexia McDonald (Dillard University), Miracle Rushing, Kalybria Haskin (Florida A&M University), and Johnta' Hughes (Spring Hill College). Also gone are their 64 points and 26 rebounds per game.

Duncan was first team All-State, All-Region, and Honorable Mention All-American. McDonald was first team All-State. Haskin and Rushing were second team All-State. Hughes was honorable mention All-State.

But despite the loss of so many key players, Porter says his goal has not changed.

"When I took this job, our goal was to win a national championship," he said. "Nothing has changed. Our expectations are always the same, to play harder and execute better than any team. That is 'Lady Warrior basketball.'"

To fill the void left by graduation, Porter will turn to three returning players along with incoming freshmen and transfers.

Among those returning off last year's team are guard Shadejha Brown of Lake High School, who averaged six points per game last season, and guards Aniyah Marshall and Bryona Stewart, both of Itawamba AHS, who averaged about three points each.



Members of the 2016-17 East Central Community College women's basketball team, and their respective high schools, include (front row, from left) Laneisha Jeans, Pensacola (Fla.) Pine Forest; Naja Gammage, Taylorsville; Shantavis Hughes, Hattiesburg; Aniyah Marshall, Itawamba AHS; Shadejha Brown, Lake; Bryona Stewart, Itawamba AHS; and Carisma Thomas, Morton; and (back row, from left) assistant coach Ronneka Robertson; manager Rodman Walker, Newton; manager Ra'Jah Hodges, Newton; Autumn Taylor, Newton; Curtisha Coleman, Wayne County; Jessica Powers, Pearl River Central; Kaylin McCree, Newton County; Khelsea Foster, Arcadia (La.); Alexis Odom, Scott Central; manager LaDeja Connley, Pearl River Central; and head coach Crandal Porter.

Sophomore shooting guards Laneisha Jeans, a transfer from San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Texas (Pine Forest High School, Pensacola, Fla.), Shantavis Hughes, a transfer from Pearl River Community College (Hattiesburg High School), and Khelsea Foster, who prepped at Arcadia (La.) High School, are expected to fill the perimeter shooting void left by Duncan and Haskin.

Jessica Powers, a 6-6 transfer from the University of Southern Mississippi (Pearl River Central High School), and 6-0 freshman Curtisha Coleman from Wayne County High School will provide an inside presence.

Porter said that freshman forwards Autumn Taylor of Newton High School and Kaylin McCree from Newton County High School will add versatility to the position that could create major offensive problems for opponents this season.

"The strength of our team will be our guard play and right now our weakness is post play," noted Porter. "However, we expect to get better as the season goes on."

Also new this season is Ronneka Robertson, the Lady Warriors' assistant coach. Porter did not have an assistant coach during 2015-16.

A native of Kentwood, La., Robertson played her college basketball at the University of South Alabama, where she

was an all-Sunbelt Conference player. She was most recently the girls' high school basketball coach at Kentwood High Magnet School in Louisiana.

"Coach Robertson brings a wealth of knowledge both on and off the court," said Porter. "She's played at the D1 level, where most of our kids want to play. She can share her experiences and help our program take the next step. Also, she has a network that spreads throughout the South, and this will certainly help us in recruiting."

This year's regular season schedule of 23 games includes 11 home games.

Team Unity, Depth are Keys to East Central Men's Basketball Season

If the East Central Community College men's basketball team is to return to the state playoffs after a year's absence, it's going to be because of quality depth and team unity.

Along with a lot of new faces.

Head coach Robert Thompson enters his fourth season at the helm of the Warrior basketball program with a dozen new players, all freshmen. Gone are all five starters and the top reserve from last year's

See BASKETBALL, next page

BASKETBALL (continued from previous page)

team, which finished just short of making the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs.

Thompson's 2015-16 team finished 13-10 overall and missed postseason play on the last game of the season.

Gone from that team are Prince McDaniel, 16 points a game; Randy Phillips (Radford University), eight points and six rebounds per game; Derrick Dandridge (Florida A&M University), nine points and seven rebounds a game; Isaiah Traylor (Stephen F. Austin University), 10 points per contest; Ravion Henry (Delta State University), a dozen points a game; and Keion Peoples, 11 points and five assists a game.

Returners include 6-5 forward Tonzell Handy, who prepped at Lanier High School in Jackson, and his eight points and seven boards a contest. Also back is 6-10 center Shaquille Benson out of Hahnville (La.) High School, and 5-8 point guard Jaylon Bardley out of New Hope High School.

Thompson will also count on a talented freshman class that includes a pair of big guards in 6-4 Jaquan Dotson out of Neshoba Central High School and 6-7 Thurston McCarty of Quitman High School, as well as 6-9 post player Cameron Diggs out of Blount High School in Mobile, Ala.

"Jaquan will bring athleticism and toughness from the guard spot," noted Thompson. "McCarty will bring length and athleticism to the wing position, and Diggs brings size and scoring ability in the post."

What the Warriors may lack in experience for the 2016-17 season Thompson believes will be made up with a team unity and depth that was not evident in last year's team.

"Our team goal is to be one of the top four teams in the MACJC South Division and make the playoffs," explained Thompson. "But we want to do that while being true champions both on and off the court."



Members of the 2016-17 East Central Community College men's basketball team, and respective high schools, include (front row, from left) Jaylon Chiles, Biloxi; Alvin McFarland, West Point; Jerome Adkins, Clarkdale; Tavonta Jones, Meridian; head coach Robert Thompson; Jaquan Dotson, Neshoba Central; Tonzell Handy, Jackson Lanier; Cayman Ruffin, Neshoba Central; and Jaylon Bardley, New Hope; and (back row, from left) manager Javontae Spivey, Forest; manager Dalton Hilliard, St. Martin; Josh Beard, Quitman; Thurston McCarty, Quitman; Cameron Diggs, Mobile (Ala.) Blount; Shaquille Benson, Hahnville (La.); Marshun Gladney, Northwest Rankin; Dalton Hanna, Jumpertown; Antonio Clark, Leake Central; assistant coach Dylan Shields; and manager Rashaan Lang, West Lowndes.

"The strength of this team will be team unity and depth. The key for us to be successful will be to excel in the fundamentals of basketball: passing, dribbling and shooting. Add to that team unity, unselfish play, and a little luck and we can reach our goal."

Thompson also adds a new assistant coach for the 2016-17 campaign.

El Dorado, Ark., native Dylan Shields' main responsibilities will be recruiting coordinator with a focus on out-of-state players, opponent preparation, and coordinating East Central men's basketball camps. Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Shields served as the assistant director of basketball operations and video coordinator at the University of North Texas in Denton for two seasons. Prior to

that he was a student basketball manager at the University of Arkansas.

"Dylan brings Division I experience and an eagerness to succeed to East Central," noted Thompson. "His ability to get along with anyone and his professionalism will have a tremendous impact on our program."

The Warriors play 23 regular season games this year, including 13 at home.

East Central Hosts Military Appreciation Breakfast

CMSgt. Robbie Knight of the Mississippi Air National Guard delivered the keynote address at this year's Military Appreciation Breakfast held Nov. 10 in the Gold Room of Mabry Cafeteria. The annual event to honor veterans also included members of the college's vocal music ensemble Voce singing the national anthem and trumpeter Anastasia Crout of Lake, a member of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, playing Taps. Posting of the Colors was by Boy Scout Troop 46 from Decatur United Methodist Church. More than 70 local veterans attended.



Davis Crowned Queen



Sophomore Latesia Davis (second from left) of Decatur was crowned Homecoming Queen at East Central Community College during ceremonies held Saturday, Oct. 15, at Bailey Stadium. Davis received her crown from President Dr. Billy Stewart (left) during halftime of the Warriors' 45-14 victory over Hinds Community College. Serving as Miss Davis' escort was Tonzell Handy (third from left) of Jackson. At right is 2016 queen Skylar Davidson of Morton who presented the new queen with a bouquet of roses.

ECCC Homecoming Court



Members of the 2016 Homecoming Court at East Central Community College included (front row, from left) freshman maids Jessica Everett of Decatur, Mackenzie Johnson of Philadelphia, Brady Thrash of Sebastopol and Leah Woods of Louisville; queen Latesia Davis of Decatur; maid of honor Makenzie Byrd of Sebastopol; and sophomore maids Emily Dykeman of Forest, Taylor Fulkerson of Decatur and Mackenzie Gray of Mendenhall; and (back row, from left) escorts Brandon Hamilton of Philadelphia, John Mark Vincent of Decatur, Matt Mitchell of Lake, Isaiah Woods of Louisville, Tonzell Handy of Jackson, Colton Tharp of Sebastopol, Tomaz McNair of Forest, Nathan Roseberry of Purvis and Gage Leifried of Meridian. The queen and her court were presented during halftime of the ECCC vs. Hinds Community College football game.

Chief Anderson Selected Alumna of the Year

Phyliss Anderson ('94), a native of the Red Water Community in Leake County, has served as Tribal Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) in Choctaw since 2011 and is the first woman to serve in the position. She previously served as Red Water councilperson and played an integral role in the Tribe's success while serving as secretary/treasurer for MBCI from 2003 to 2011. She is also a former director of natural resources.

She has more than 30 years of experience in tribal government management and is fluent in the Choctaw language.

In honor of her outstanding service to her community and to the Choctaw Tribe, Anderson was selected 2016 "Alumna of the Year" at East Central Community College.

Upon receiving word of her selection, Anderson said, "This is quite an honor! To join the prestigious list of East Central's Alumna of the Year is something I humbly accept while filled with great pride in my school. There are so many tribal students who have walked the halls on the East Central campus like I did years ago, and I share this award with them. I have many wonderful memories during my time at ECCC. This school gave me a platform to start a professional career while still staying close to home to care for my family. In the native Choctaw language to express one's gratitude is to say 'Yakoki chitto,' Thank you very much!"



Chief Anderson said the highlight of her career was when tribal members chose her to serve as the first female Tribal Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

"I've always thought the position was about leadership; never about gender. I have been so honored and grateful to the Choctaw people for allowing me to be a part of this piece of our history. I truly believe our successes are a collection of tribal members working with a deep sense of unity and desire to do what is best for our Tribe."

In her role as Chief, Anderson wears many hats. In addition to leading tribal government, she serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, and is often called on to represent the Tribe on a national level.

She says her principal role is to "maintain a strong and stable government, progress the economic well-being of our growing tribe and provide resources and services to members of our great Tribe, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians."

In nominating Chief Anderson for this award, Melissa Carleton, also an ECCC alumna who serves as deputy attorney general for the Tribe, wrote, "As an employee who reports to and works with her daily, I can attest to her unparalleled work ethic and sincere dedication to the betterment of the Choctaw people and the surrounding area. She has made enormous strides in many areas since taking office,

which have directly benefited both tribal members and non-Indian tribal employees. It is my opinion that she is well-deserving of this honor. ..."

Chief Anderson has been featured in numerous national publications as a rising leader in the Southeast and in Indian country. She has been honored and recognized with various awards and accolades including the Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women "Woman of the Year" award in the political/state and local government category, and Mississippi Business Journal's Top 50 Leading Business Women.

She has served on a number of governing boards and committees for multi-million dollar enterprises, including those in tribal manufacturing, tribal government contracting, and the gaming and hospitality industry.

Chief Anderson said she has met many inspiring people in her lifetime, many who she has worked with or called close friends and some who continue to encourage her now.

"I have been so blessed to have mentors in my career such as Chief Phillip Martin, but personally my mother has been the greatest influence in my life. She taught me and my sisters the value of hard work, a passionate heart, fairness, patience, and kindness. She instilled in her seven girls



Chief Phyliss Anderson
Class of 1994

See ANDERSON, next page



Homecoming Honorees

Receiving special recognition at East Central Community College's 2016 Homecoming celebration held Saturday, Oct. 15, were (from left) Prentice Copeland (Class of 1949) of Philadelphia, Alumnus of the Year, Chief Phylliss Anderson (Class of 1994) of Choctaw, Alumna of the Year, and new Athletic Hall of Fame members Lynn Russell Hayes (Class of 1975) of Decatur and Kendrick Clancy (Class of 1997) of Gluckstadt. Copper etchings of alumni honorees will be permanently displayed in the college's Memorabilia Room located in Burton Memorial Library and Athletic Hall of Fame honoree etchings will be displayed in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium. The awards presentations were made at the annual Alumni Luncheon held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

ANDERSON (continued from previous page)

a strong Christian faith and a belief in prayer."

Chief Anderson said East Central Community College provided the education she needed while allowing her to remain close to home during an important time in her life.

"East Central Community College provided a great opportunity for me to advance my education during a very difficult time in my life as I was caring for my ailing mother. I am a native of the Red Water community in Leake County and the proximity of East Central to my home gave me time to attend classes, work and share the responsibility with my sisters to be a caretaker for Mom.

"During that time, I really strengthened my time management, critical thinking and problem solving skills. I believe in

life we are presented with opportunities, not challenges. I had many wonderful professors, administrators and classmates who encouraged me and wanted success for me. I think that one of the best things about ECCC is the hometown experience and personal attention each student gets. You get higher education experience and earn a degree while not getting lost in a crowd."

In addition to her previously mentioned duties, Chief Anderson's experience also includes board and committee representation for Tribal Tax Commissioner, Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, Chahta Enterprise, Choctaw Development Enterprise, First American Printing and Direct Mail Enterprise, Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise, Leake County Development

Association, Leake County Foundation, Mississippi United Methodist Conference, United Methodist Church - Choctaw Mission, John Memorial United Methodist Church - Finance Chair, Choctaw Business Loans Review Committee, Tribal Government Services 401k Fiduciary Committee and Tribal Council Committees - Children and Youth, Education, Recreation, Culture, Government Affairs, Lobbying, Public Relations and Politics, and Human Resources.

She is a member of John Memorial Methodist Church in Carthage.

Chief Anderson and her husband, Ricky, Sr., have been married 16 years. Together, they have eight children and 16 grandchildren.

Education Has Always Been Important to Alumnus of the Year

From his early days as a student at Bond High School in Neshoba County, Prentice Copeland ('49) loved school and knew he wanted to go to college. He wasn't sure how a young boy growing up on a cotton farm in Neshoba County would pay for it, but he figured he would work like everyone else and earn enough money to go.

However, before he could get that job or enroll in college, Copeland was drafted and served a two-year stint in the Army during World War II.

But, it was that military service and the G.I. Bill which would finally make his dream of a college education a reality. And it was then that Copeland decided to make education his career choice.

"When I was in school, a teacher was something," Copeland said. "They were looked up to and I loved and respected them. Most of my friends growing up didn't like school, but I loved school and my teachers."

He would go on to complete his college degree and serve 37 and a half years as a teacher/administrator in Neshoba County.

In recognition of his longtime service to his community and career, Copeland was named 2016 East Central Community College Alumnus of the Year.

When notified of his selection, Copeland said, "It is such an honor and I accept it with much humility. I will forever display this award. East Central means so much to me."

In a letter supporting Copeland's



nomination for this award, his pastor, the Rev. David Upshaw, wrote, "... anyone who has more than a passing acquaintance with him knows that Mr. Copeland has the highest regard for ECCC. He is proud of his association with the school over the years, both as a student and board member, and takes great pride and pleasure in telling others about the advantages and benefits of being a student there. Truly, I cannot imagine that the college has a better ambassador."

Copeland's entire career was spent in Neshoba County beginning at Coldwater High School as a math teacher and basketball coach in 1952. In 1954, he accepted the same position at Zephyr Hill High School and was also senior class sponsor, assistant principal and later principal.

Copeland said early in his career he had the chance to go to Florida and teach for almost double his salary, but decided to "go home to Zephyr Hill."

"I was a homebody and Neshoba County was home for me," Copeland said. "I knew if I took that job I would spend more money coming home than I would make. I did get a raise that year though."

When Neshoba County consolidated the local high schools, Copeland became the first principal when the new Neshoba Central High School was built.

He served in that position until he was selected to fill the unexpired term of Neshoba County Superintendent T.C. Ward, who died while in office.

He would go on to be elected for five additional terms and would serve a total of 21 years as Neshoba County Superintendent of Education. Among the highlights of his tenure was successful completion of the school consolidation process.

"I feel like I served during the 'glory years' of education," Copeland said. "We went to school eight months of the year and parents really supported education. Serving as superintendent of my home county was the highlight of my career. To see the changes that took place and the caliber of students we graduated each year was amazing. I was proud to be a teacher!"

In addition, Copeland has served 48 years as a member of the East Central Community College Board of Trustees, making him one of the longest-serving trustees in the state of Mississippi. He has work with four of East Central's presidents and was chairman of the board from 1996 to 2011.

"Our 30-member board consists of men and women who are dedicated to the college and concerned about education in our district. We support the administration of the college and I feel we have a great board," Copeland said. "Serving on the board keeps me interested and involved in education and if not for my service, I might miss out on something."

Copeland also credits his time as an East Central student with "putting him on the



Prentice Copeland
Class of 1949

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Former Women's Basketball Standout Named to Hall of Fame



Hayes said, "I played guard and handled the ball. I believe that they had just started having women's basketball again after not having a team for so long. Under the direction of Coach Wood my basketball skills really improved. ... Coach Wood instilled in me, and my teammates, the joy of working hard not only in basketball, but in everything we did. She was tough but fair and always encouraged us to be the best both on the court and off," Hayes said.

She said one of the greatest aspects of playing sports at East Central was being able to make new friends and represent the college in a way other students did not have the opportunity to do.

The Decatur campus was Hayes' childhood playground as she basically grew up on campus. Her father, the late Clinton Russell, was director of maintenance and grounds for a number of years and the family moved to campus when she was nine years old.

"My neighbors were other faculty members and their children. We all grew up together and I have wonderful memories of growing up on campus. When I started going to school at EC, the faculty were not only my teachers, but many of them were part of my EC family. Their children were close friends of mine. EC has a very special place in my heart."

Hayes said she believes that she grew as an individual during her time at East Central and felt she learned so much under the teachers there, who took a personal interest in the students and always encouraged them in all efforts.

She said, "I was blessed to have people like Lucille Wood, Denver Brackeen, Joe Clark, Ann Burkes, Ovid Vickers, Dr. Brad Tucker, Raymond McMullan, Lois McMullan, Alice Pouncey, Martha Graham, and many others who taught at EC who cared that we did well in our studies and our sports. The teachers were interested in how well we played. Many of them would attend all of our games and cheer us on. They also made sure we got our classroom work done as well so that we would not be behind and could exceed in the classroom as well as in sports."

Hayes was also a member of the EC tennis team, but like many players during the Lucille Wood era, had never picked up a racquet until the coach asked her to play.

"I learned the game and one summer taught tennis lessons to local children and adults to earn some extra money," she said.

See HAYES, next page

Lynn Russell Hayes ('75) started playing basketball in the sixth grade at Decatur Junior High School. She continued her career throughout high school and upon graduation was offered a scholarship to then East Central Junior College by legendary coach Lucille Wood.

The standout guard was a member the 1974 and 1975 Lady Warrior basketball teams and also excelled as a member of the

tennis team.

She received the sportsmanship award and was named MACJC All-State in basketball during her freshman season. During her sophomore year, she was selected captain of the basketball team and was named MACJC All-State Honorable Mention in 1975.

In honor of her success as a student-athlete, she joins an elite group of former Warrior and Lady Warrior athletes and coaches who have been inducted into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame.

"I was very humbled by this," Hayes said. "It is a great honor to be recognized by East Central Community College. I loved being a student at ECCC and some of the best memories of my life were made there."

Other honors received during her time at EC include Hall of Fame, Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges, Miss EC, and Student Body President in 1975

In a letter supporting her nomination for Athletic Hall of Fame, retired ECCC English instructor Ovid Vickers wrote, "While a student at East Central, Lynn was a member of Coach Lucille Wood's girls' basketball team and helped to reinstate community college girls' basketball which had been suspended for a number of years. Not only was she an outstanding player, her Christian principles made her a role model for the team to follow. The fact that she was elected president of the student body attests to her abilities as a student leader and an athlete. ..."



Lynn Russell Hayes
Class of 1975



Observe 'Golden Anniversary'

These members of the East Central Community College Class of 1966 observed their 50th class reunion during the 2016 Homecoming festivities held Saturday, Oct. 15, and received Golden Anniversary diplomas from college President Dr. Billy Stewart during the annual Alumni Luncheon held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

HAYES (continued from previous page)

In addition, she was active on the intramural volleyball team, also led by Coach Wood.

After graduating from East Central, Hayes attended Mississippi State University where she continued to play intramural sports and also worked as a referee for flag football and intramural basketball. Sports continued to be an important part of Hayes' life after marrying and having a family.

"Athletics has always been an important part of my life," she said. "My children were encouraged to participate in softball, baseball, basketball, soccer,

and cheerleading. I have always felt that children who are involved in sports become more focused and well rounded by participating in a team sport. This teaches one how to work with others and be part of a team. Lifetime friendships are made when one feels part of something bigger than themselves."

Hayes is self-employed as a vocational consultant serving as a vocational expert for the U.S. Social Security Administration and as a rehabilitation counselor for the U.S. Department of Labor/OWCP. She was previously employed as a vocational

counselor for Crawford & Co./Broadspire Services, Inc. from 1981 to 2013.

She and her husband, George Hayes, have been married for 34 years. They have one son, Hunter (Sara) Hayes, and a daughter, Joy Hayes. Her mother, Barbara Jo Davidson Russell, continues to reside in Decatur and was inducted into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993.

Hayes' parents, siblings and children are all graduates of East Central Community College.

COPELAND (continued from page 17)

right track."

"East Central was very hard academically. I had to really study. But the teachers and advisors knew I had come from a small school and they took me where I was and they helped me succeed," he said.

Instructors he recalled included East Central legends Una Harris, Stella Newsome, Frank Cross, Frank Leatherwood, Lynn Ferguson and Arno Vincent.

"My teachers were just great," Copeland said, "and I wanted to be a teacher like them."

He added, "Education has always been important to me. If I had to start again today, I'd still want to be a coach and teacher, even with the problems of today. Each generation has problems, but teaching is still a very honorable profession."

When asked what his advice would be to young teachers and administrators today, Copeland said, "Be dedicated. Know it's what you want to do. Keep your head straight. Put the welfare of the child first. Support your teachers. Involve parents as much as possible. You must realize that this is a hard, but very rewarding job.

Plan to work hard and to always give 100 percent."

Copeland continues to reside in Neshoba County where he is a cattle farmer and active member of Sandtown United Methodist Church. He and his late wife, Dorothy Irons Copeland, have two sons, Lynn Copeland and Rex Copeland, who both attended East Central, five grandchildren, who all attended ECCC, and 11 great grandchildren.

NFL Veteran Inducted Into 2016 Athletic Hall of Fame



As a young high school athlete, Kendrick Clancy ('97) hoped a football scholarship might provide the opportunity he needed to continue his education and provide for a good future.

Thanks to the advice of a friend, Clancy not only had an opportunity to receive his college education, but his success on the

football field at East Central led him all the way to the Southeastern Conference and then 10 years in the National Football League. Now he joins a distinguished group of former Warrior and Lady Warrior athletes and coaches who have been inducted into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame.

"It's an honor to even be considered for this prestigious award," Clancy said. "When I left Tuscaloosa, I was just coming here to get away and play football, to get an education and to make a better life. To accomplish what I have and to be inducted into the ECCC Hall of Fame is humbling."

Clancy is a native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and a graduate of Holt High School. Although he had an offer from a small NCAA Division I school, Clancy accepted an offer to play football for Coach Willie "Tenny" Coats and his staff at East Central.

"Xavier Thomas was from my neighborhood and was already on the team at EC. He convinced me to come here. A lot of people had made it to the SEC from junior college and I thought maybe that would be a great route for me," Clancy said.

It turns out Clancy's gamble paid off. He was a standout defensive tackle on the 1996 Warrior football team that finished with a 10-1 record, captured the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl Championship and was ranked No. 5 in the nation. He was also a member of the 1997 team that finished 7-3, creating the best two-year period in ECCC football history.

Terry Underwood, who served as defensive coordinator at the time and later as head coach of the Warriors, recruited Clancy and wrote in a letter supporting his nomination for hall of fame, "Kendrick always kept EC in mind and gave a significant gift to the football department after beginning his career. He is a man of integrity and impeccable character. It is my honor to have coached him."

Clancy had a very successful career at East Central, finishing with almost 200 tackles and numerous sacks. He was also named MACJC First Team All-State and was an All-Star selection. But, he said he was very nervous during his first college game.

"I was so nervous. We were playing Northwest and they had this big guy playing against us who was like 6-10. He seemed so big. Going into that game, I kept wondering what I would do. I had never played against anyone that big. I just kept moving though and thought I was having a good game. I looked over at Coach (Terry) Underwood (then defensive coordinator) and while everyone else was getting a break, I think I played every snap. After that game, I wasn't so nervous anymore."

Clancy came to East Central during a time when football was struggling to find success, but the 1996 and 1997 teams had something special and would find themselves among the most successful in school history.

As usual, the team began "two-a-days" just prior to the fall season and Clancy said he remembers all the players screaming "10 and 0" during all those practices.

"We screamed it every day, although I'm not sure we really believed it after the team went 2-9 the previous season. But then we won our first game against Northwest. And the next thing we know, we are 5-0 and then 9-0. Now we are going into the Hinds game thinking 'we can do this.' Then we lost that last game of the season and were a little let down. I felt like on a different day, we could have beat them. Maybe we would have been more focused. But then we were selected for the bowl game and it really picked up the morale of the team."

The Warriors were selected for the 1996 Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl and traveled to Brunswick, Ga., where they defeated Middle Georgia College 7-6 to capture the Warriors first bowl victory in 46 years.

"Being able to come here to a program where recent history was that of losing and

See CLANCY, next page



Kendrick Clancy
Class of 1997

1996 Football Bowl Champions Reunite



Members of the 1996 East Central Community College football team reunited Saturday, Oct. 15, during Homecoming activities. They served as honorary team captains for the Warriors' 45-14 victory over Hinds Community College. Team member Kendrick Clancy, who was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame earlier in the day, tossed the coin. The 1996 Warriors completed the season with a 10-1 record and a 7-6 victory over Middle Georgia College in the Huddle House Golden Isles Bowl and were ranked No. 5 in the nation. Willie "Tenny" Coats served as head coach.

CLANCY (continued from page 20)

to have our team turn it around in just one year was amazing," Clancy said. "We had some great leaders on that team like Xavier, Ashanti (Webb), Wilbur (Holmes) and Kemba (Bryant). They really helped us freshmen find our direction."

Clancy was also an outstanding student and was one of only a few players during that time to complete his associate degree in just three semesters.

In reflecting on his days in Decatur, Clancy said, "East Central was a lot of fun. There was a lot of school pride. The baseball team lived across the street from us and there was always something going on with them. There was not a lot to do at EC, but we had each other and we had to be creative with our good times. There were always jokes and pranks going on. We played a lot of cards back then."

It's that kind of camaraderie that Clancy said he misses most from his football days. And it was something he found at every level of play.

"Just like at East Central, I met new guys at Ole Miss and made great friends there, too. Football breaks all barriers of race, religion, and etcetera. We look at guys like

brothers. You don't realize until it's over you spent the majority of your time with them."

Clancy was a defensive tackle on the 1998 and 1999 Ole Miss teams, which finished 7-5 and 8-4, respectively. As a senior, he was a team captain, was a First Team All-SEC selection and was named a Third Team All-American for the Rebels.

His successful career at Ole Miss caught the attention of the National Football League and he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2000.

He also had stints with the New York Giants and the Arizona Cardinals before signing with the New Orleans Saints in 2007. Clancy remained with the Saints through their 2009 Super Bowl Championship season before retiring in 2010.

"I never expected all that has happened," Clancy said. "It's like a storybook ending. I just kept working at each level and rode the wave. The Lord has blessed me and I am thankful."

Clancy and his wife, Jennifer, have six children and are expecting another one this year. They currently reside in Gluckstadt where she is a school teacher.

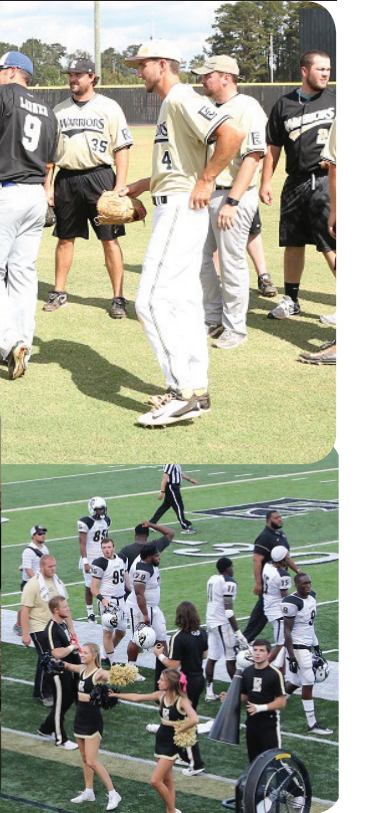


Clancy Tosses Coin

Kendrick Clancy, a 10-year NFL veteran who was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame, is shown meeting with referees prior to tossing the coin for the Warriors' Homecoming game against Hinds Community College. In addition, to being a member of the Hall of Fame, Clancy was also a part of the 1996 Golden Isles Bowl Championship Team, which met earlier in the day and served as honorary captains for the game.

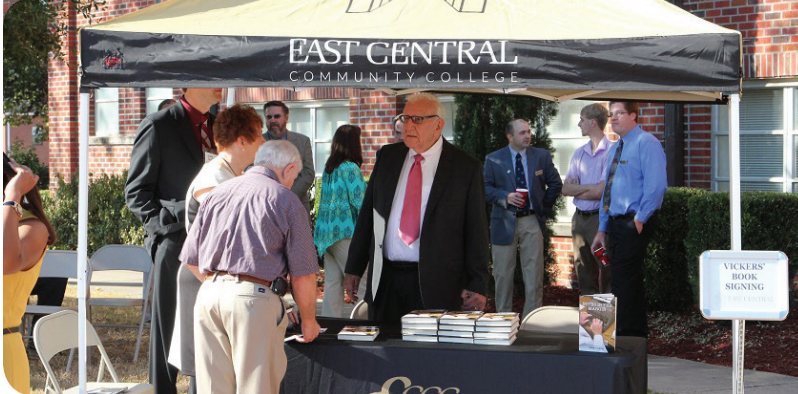


SCENES FROM HOMECOMING 2016





SCENES FROM HOMECOMING 2016



Previous ECCC Alumni Honorees

Alumni of the Year

1964-B.O. Smith, Louisville
 1965-Lucille Wood, Decatur
 1966-Henry D. Horton, Louisville
 1967-Crawley Alford, Carthage
 1968-W.H. Johnson, Jr., Decatur
 1969-Arthur Winstead, Philadelphia
 1970-Leon Sims, Philadelphia
 1971-Charles Carter, Jackson
 1972-Dr. William L. Weems, Jackson
 1973-Arno Vincent, Meridian
 1974-Elizabeth K. Darby, Philadelphia
 1975-W.C. Spence, Walnut Grove
 1976-John Risher, Philadelphia
 1977-Jessie M. Everett, Decatur
 1978-Class of 1928, First Class
 1979-Glenn D. Walker, Union
 1980-Russell Walton, Union
 1981-Dwight Mulholland, Collinsville
 1982-Denver Brackeen, Union
 1983-Frank Hunter, Brookhaven
 1984-Herman Alford, Philadelphia
 1985-Carl B. Cooper, Decatur
 Dr. Beverly Oliphant,
 Washington, D.C.
 1986-Kenneth Madison, Philadelphia
 Dr. Pam Kirk, Louisville
 1987-Dr. Brad Tucker, Decatur
 Dr. Addie R. Lee, Birmingham, AL
 1988-Henry B. Hudspeth, Louisville
 Dr. Verbie Prevost, Hixon, TN
 1989-Dr. Eddie M. Smith, Decatur
 Dr. Walterine Herrington Bell,
 Jackson
 1990-Larry Hogue, Flowood
 Jo McMullan Taylor, Forest
 1991-Dr. Clyde Muse, Raymond
 Lois Blount Cooper, Decatur
 1992-Earl Marshall, Clinton
 June Bailey, Biloxi
 1993-Melvin Tingle, Decatur
 Patsy Dunigan Clark, Louisville
 1994-Paul V. Breazeale, Jackson
 Jane Todd Gurry, Raleigh, NC
 1995-Dr. John Gipson, Newton
 Wanda Comans Sharp, Sebastopol
 1996-Ray Britt, Walnut Grove
 Brenda Whatley Kirby, Forest
 1997-Dick Livingston, Pulaski
 Carol Farish Vickers, Decatur
 1998-T.H. "Tam" Etheridge, Jackson
 Nell Allen Rogers, Philadelphia
 1999-Dr. Shelby L. Harris, Decatur
 Illene Richie Gordon, Union
 2000-S. LeBrun Hutchison, Littleton, CO
 Jeanette Beevers Thrash, Decatur
 2001-Dr. Joe Todd, Cincinnati, Ohio
 Betty Lewis Gomillion, Walnut Grove
 2002-Harvey Trapp, Newton
 Imogene Johnson Borganelli,
 Greenville
 2003-Dr. Milton Matthews, Pearl
 Frances Harris Smith, Decatur
 2004-Dr. John G. Hollingsworth,
 Commerce, GA
 Ann Hunter Burkes, Decatur
 2005-Bill Lovett, Forest
 Maxie Dodson Phillips,

University Park, MD
 2006-Judge Marcus Gordon, Union
 Dr. Sandra Rivers Weeks,
 Commerce, Texas
 2007-Houston Patrick, Martin, TN
 Ollie Fay Wood Woodward Flint,
 Philadelphia
 2008-Richard E. "Dick" Mayo, Decatur
 Marijo James Denson, Decatur
 2009-Jack Winstead, Lawrence
 Mary Rosalyn Rogers Folks, Picayune
 2010-William "Bill" Bailey, Decatur
 Brig. Gen. Amelia Kennedy, Ret.,
 Louisville
 2011-Dr. Frank Bowen, Sr., Carthage
 Dr. Nicole Flint Harrison, Union
 2012-Wallace Strickland, Meridian
 Carole Pace Henry, Madison
 2013-Max Huey, Picayune
 Carolyn Huey, Picayune
 2014-Dr. Michael Waldrop, Clinton
 Cheryl Comans, Cleveland
 2015-Dr. Jack Evans, Laurel
 Polly Matthews Gordon, Union
 2016-Prentice Copeland, Philadelphia
 Chief Phyliss Anderson, Choctaw

Athletic Hall of Fame

1985-Denver Brackeen, Union
 1986-Lucille Wood, Louisville
 1987-Billy Wayne Baucum, Decatur
 1988-Howard Jean Sessums, Harperville
 1989-Lamar Blount, Decatur
 Arno Vincent, Meridian
 Earl Marshall, Clinton
 1990-Jeff Loper, Decatur
 Richard Harris, Hickory
 Sherrell Ray Marshall, Jackson
 1991-Larry Henderson, Daphne, AL
 Diana Lyons Jones, Bay Springs
 Wayne Tullis, Belle Glade, FL
 1992-Evelyn Bender, Newton
 Joe Clark, Decatur
 Bert Thompson, Clinton
 1993-Esther Thomas Coleman, Louisville
 Barbara Jo Davidson Russell,
 Decatur
 Louis Watwood, Arlington, VA
 1994-Charlene Bates Jones, Forest
 Charlie Hope, Sharpsburg, GA
 Malcolm "Puddin'" Jones, Decatur
 1995-Clayton Blount, Decatur
 Nan Huston Keenan, Rose Hill
 James T. "Jim" Wood, Louisville
 1996-M.E. "Boe" Davis, Cary, NC
 John W. Golden, Stone Mountain,
 GA
 Julie Latham, Morton
 Malcolm Phillips, Newton
 1997-Tommy Williamson Alfonso,
 Gulfport
 Lester Baucum, Wiggins
 James L. "Creeper" Nelson, Newton
 1998-Van Chancellor, Houston, Texas
 Deborah Norwood Duncan,
 Philadelphia
 Howard Sessums, Clinton

1999-Daisy Kate Williams Chaney, Union
 Sam Rutigliano, Forest, VA
 Charles E. Ward, Pace, FL
 2000-Billy Ray Dill, Escatawpa
 Sue Gunter, Baton Rouge, LA
 Jimmy Rea, Madison
 2001-Willie "Tenny" Coats, Decatur
 Sammy Pace, Decatur
 Charlie Payne, Florence
 2002-Freddie J. Bagley, Forest
 James E. "Jim" Nabers, Louisville
 Robert Thomas, Philadelphia
 2003-Roy Baker, Clinton
 Imogene Johnson Borganelli,
 Greenville
 Rex Keeton, Taylorsville
 Mark Killens, Newton
 2004-Marcus Mann, Forest
 Ken Pouncey, Decatur
 2005-Dr. Bob Tom Johnson, Forest
 Lucy Young-Vicksburg
 2006-Melvin Carpenter, Ocala, FL
 Wilmer James, Brandon
 2007-Joy Eichelberger Hannah, Tupelo
 Gaines Massey, Brandon
 Dr. Clyde Muse, Raymond
 2008-Jamie Clark, Decatur
 A.J. Kilpatrick, Grenada
 2009-Donald Acton, Knoxville, TN
 Wanda Blackwell McPhail, Collinsville
 2010-Chris Harris, Decatur
 Dr. Howard Carlton McMillin, Carthage
 2011-Kenneth Dunagin, Decatur
 James "Jim" Fisackerly, New Orleans
 2012-Granville Freeman, Lake
 Tom McCullough, Philadelphia
 2013-Pete Lucovich, Carthage
 Marcus Thames, Tampa, FL
 2014-Richard Fulmer, Deatsville, AL
 Troy Henderson, Raymond
 2015-Dan Chatwood, Fairhope, AL
 Thomas Hannah, Spartanburg, SC
 2016-Lynn Russell Hayes, Decatur
 Kendrick Clancy, Gluckstadt

Lifetime

Achievement Awards

1991-Dr. Austin P. Boggan, Decatur
 1994-Homer Hunter, Decatur
 Ovid Vickers, Decatur
 1996-W.H. Johnson, Jr., Decatur
 J.W. Thrash, Decatur
 2001-James E. Land, Union
 2010-Chief Phillip Martin, Choctaw
 2014-Bobby Everett, Decatur

Nominations

Those wishing to make nominations for East Central Community College Alumna/Alumnus of the Year or Athletic Hall of Fame should contact David LeBlanc, director of alumni relations and the foundation, at 601-635-6327. The e-mail address is dleblanc@eccc.edu. Nominations are accepted through June 1 each year.

Anderson Finding Success With White Sox



ECCC head baseball coach Neal Holliman (left) visits with former Diamond Warrior and current Chicago White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson (right), his wife, Bria, and their daughter, Peyton, during the Homecoming football game Oct. 15.

Former Diamond Warrior Tim Anderson ('13), current shortstop for the Chicago White Sox and the 17th overall pick in the 2013 MLB draft, made a visit to East Central Community College during Homecoming 2016 and said it felt good to be back on campus.

"It feels like forever since I've been back here," he said. "It's good to be back on campus."

ECCC baseball coach Neal Holliman said, "It was great to have Tim and his family back on our campus, as well as many other alumni. It is very humbling for each of these former players to take time out of their schedules to attend our Homecoming Alumni Game. There have been so many tremendous players and people who have come through our program and built the standard for success that we currently strive for on a daily basis.

"Obviously, Tim has been a tremendous representation of our baseball program and institution and we all are so thankful for him to take the time to continue to come back and visit."

Anderson was a standout for the Sox's Triple A club Charlotte Knights in North Carolina when he got the news on June 10, 2016, that he would be making the trip to Chicago.

It's been an exciting few months for Anderson since he was "called up" to the big leagues.

"I was in the lineup that day when I went out for BP (batting practice), but when I came back to the dugout my name had been taken off," Anderson said. "I really didn't know what to think sitting there. But after the game, the coach

called me in and told me I was being called up. I flew out the next morning and played that night."

Anderson said his first at-bat was surreal, almost like an "out-of-body" experience.

"I was excited and nervous. I didn't feel like myself. It was almost like I was watching myself from afar. Then I stepped up to the plate and hit a double and I relaxed after that."

Anderson said getting the call up was exciting and he knew that his mother was going to be so proud. After contacting his family, including his now wife, Bria, and his parents, Anderson called Holliman to give him the good news.

Holliman and his family also flew to Chicago for Anderson's debut.

In a radio interview with Melvin Wooten during the homecoming football game, Anderson said of Holliman's trip to Chicago, "That let's you know how good of a man he is. It meant a lot to have him there."

According to an article by Mark Inabinett on al.com, Anderson played in 99 games and hit .283. In 410 at-bats, Anderson had 57 runs, 22 doubles, six triples, nine home runs, 30 RBIs, 10 stolen bases and a .432 slugging percentage.

He recently finished 7th in voting for the 2016 American League Rookie of the Year Award.

Anderson's advice to others: "Take advantage of every opportunity you get. I got to play with some good guys. It prepared me well."

Tim and Bria Anderson currently reside in North Carolina, along with their eight-month old daughter, Peyton.

ECCC Hosts Annual Scholarship Reception



East Central Community College recognized numerous scholarship recipients and donor representatives during the annual ECCC Scholarship Awards Reception held earlier this fall.

During the event, 118 students received 130 Foundation scholarships valued at \$99,574.

"We are thankful for the many individuals, businesses and industries who provide these scholarship opportunities for our students," said David LeBlanc, director of alumni relations and the foundation. "I would also like to congratulate the record number of scholarship recipients on their outstanding achievements. These students truly represent our institution's commitment to excellence."

Scholarship recipients included:

Bobby Addy Memorial Scholarship-Destiny Barrett, Newton County High School

Alumni Association East Central Scholars Scholarship-Olivia Cain, Newton County High School

Alumni Association Lifetime Membership Scholarship-Makenzie Byrd, Sebastopol High School

Dr. L.B. and Dixie Adkins Scholarship-Logan Nester, Union High School

ATCO Loan, Inc., Scholarship-Grace Addy, Leake Central High School

AT&T Scholarship-Julia Johnston, Florence High School

Bank of Morton Scholarship-Diana Buitrago and Kalen Brown, both of Morton High School, and Victoria Shoemaker and Lee Sugg, both of East Rankin Academy

BankPlus Scholarship-Cain Cleveland, Newton County High School

Dr. Conrad C. Barnes, Jr., Math and Science Scholarship-Kaylin McCree, Newton County High School

W. Clayton Blount Scholarship-Hayden Hudspeth, Winston Academy

Board of Trustees Scholarship-Hailey Morris, Union High School

Dr. Austin P. Boggan Scholarship-Amber Self, Scott Central High School

Iris Pellegrine Boggan Scholarship-Brandy Quick, Leake Academy

Ernest Harrison Boswell Memorial Scholarship-Dillon Reed, Nanih Waiya High School

Dr. Frank and Bobbie McPhail Bowen Scholarship-Diamond Whittington, Leake County High School

Denver Brackeen Scholarship-Abby Hollingsworth, Newton County High School

Ann Burkes Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship-Kaitlyn Ware, Lake High School

Landon Burt Memorial Scholarship-Hannah Payne, Union High School

Jessica Cager Memorial Scholarship-Callie Baughn, Union High School

Mable Moore Carr Scholarship-Javontae Spivey, Forest High School

Jones & Carrie Williamson and Bascom & Hattie Chilsolm Memorial Scholarship-Andrew May, Leake Academy

Citizens Bank of Philadelphia Scholarship-Brittney Watkins, Forest High School

Class of 1964 Scholarship-Alejandro Salgado, Sebastopol High School

Classes of 1957, 1958 & 1959 Scholarship-Joseph Atkison, Leake Central High School

Kenny Coleman EMS Scholarship-Johnathon Moore, Neshoba Central High School

Prentice and Dorothy Copeland Scholarship-William Fanning, Neshoba Central High School

W.R. Covington Scholarship-Tyler Miles, Noxapater High School

Frances Brown Crenshaw Nursing Scholarship-Sarah Beth Whittle, Newton County High School

Aaron R. Davis Scholarship-Katie McCool, Winston Academy

Tony Dobbs Memorial Golf Scholarship-Ta'Nissa McNair, Forest High School

Kyle Dunkerson Memorial Scholarship-Shelby Carey, Newton County High School

Eastside Pawn & Gun Scholarship-Tyler Withers, Leake Academy

Etheridge Family Scholarship-Meagan Perry, Leake Academy

Leon Eubanks Kaljyc-Peers Scholarship-Makenzie Byrd, Sebastopol High School

Robert G. Fick Scholarship-Anastasia Crout, Lake High School

Friendship Breakfast Club Scholarship-Larry Reed, Jr., Newton County High School

Hubert D. Gilmore Scholarship-Bellani Yarbrough, Lake High School

John Grace Scholarship-Blake Jones, Forest High School

Sue Gunter Memorial Scholarship-Kalen Brown, Morton High School

R.O. and Bertha Hanna Scholarship-Anna Edwards, Scott Central High School

Nancy Auline Hiatt Harris ADN Scholarship-Breona Moore, Union High School

Pam Harris Memorial Scholarship-Mallorey Myers, Newton County High School

See SCHOLARSHIPS, next page

SCHOLARSHIPS (continued from previous page)

Richard L. Harris Scholarship-Chaney Mills, Newton County High School
 Shelby L. Harris Scholarship-Katie McCool, Winston Academy
 Dan Harrison Rush Health Systems Scholarship-Tavarius Hughes, Lake High School
 Jeffery G. and Kathy L. Hitt Memorial Scholarship-Jordan Tadlock, East Rankin Academy
 Albert F. and Fannie M. Hollingsworth Scholarship-Andersen Adcock, Lake High School
 Hudspeth Scholarship-Melinda Nolt, Grace Christian School
 Martha Kate Tullos Hummel Scholarship-Charlie Wilcher, Leake Academy
 Kelly Humphries Scholarship-Denise Glover, Oak Grove High School
 Myrtle Hutchison Scholarship-Emily Beckham, Neshoba Central High School
 S. Lebrun Hutchison Scholarship-Charlie Wilcher, Leake Academy
 Johnson-Taylor Memorial Scholarship-Katilyn Walker, Leake Central High School
 Dr. Earl L. Laird, Sr., Scholarship-Breona Moore, Union High School
 James E. Land Memorial Scholarship-Madeline LeBlanc, Union High School
 Land Bank South Scholarship-Tytiana Wraggs, Louisville High School
 Andrew Wilson Latham Scholarship-Victoria Sanders, Scott Central High School
 La-Z-Boy Scholarship-Mikiyala Wells, Newton County High School, and Samuel Moore, Union High School
 Frank Edwin and Nena Holt Leatherwood Scholarship-Weiying Wang, of Noxapater Edwin and Marie Lowe Scholarship-Denise Glover, Oak Grove High School
 William Wade Long Memorial Scholarship-Brianna Porter, Lake High School
 Dr. Beverly Oliphant-Martin and John E. Martin Scholarship-Jacob Mott, Newton County High School
 Thomas Rudolph Mayes Memorial Scholarship-Jared Graham, Newton County High School
 Russell McCann Memorial Scholarship-Joseph Blount, Neshoba Central High School
 Dr. Howard Carlton McMillin Memorial Scholarship-Samantha Sistrunk, Sebastopol High School
 Mississippi Automotive Manufacturer's Association Scholarship-Tyler Richardson, Newton County High School, and Peyton Penson, Philadelphia High School
 Robert J. Moody, Jr., Special Education Scholarship-Patricia Jones, Leake Central High School
 Dr. Vernon Clyde and Vashti Muse Scholarship-Erin McGrath, Leake Central High School
 Ben Myers Memorial Scholarship-Sydney Breazeale and Nicole Ferguson, both of Neshoba Central High School
 Rev. John Lambert Neill Scholarship-Gage Leifried, Southeast Lauderdale High School



New Directions Scholarship-Hunter Duncan, Florence High School
 Stella Weathersby Newsome Scholarship-Melanie Kelly, West Lauderdale High School
 Newton Rotary Club Scholarship-John Griffin and Kenlynn Morgan, both of Newton County High School
 Polk and Jennie Pace Scholarship-Eden Ware, Lake High School
 Charles P. and Bonnie Saxon Phillips Scholarship-Alex Wilcher, Union High School
 Coach Ken Pouncey Memorial Scholarship-Emily Beckham, Neshoba Central High School
 Shirley Renaud Memorial Scholarship-Mackenzie Johnson, Nanih Waiya High School
 Regina Gail Gibbs Rigby Scholarship-Blake Jones, Forest High School
 Ruth Round Volunteer Scholarship-Reagan Gorgas, Newton County High School
 Sam Rush Memorial Scholarship-Cayman Ruffin and Samuel Singleton, both of Neshoba Central High School
 Elva Smith Sigrest Memorial Scholarship-Emily Dykeman, Forest High School
 Dr. Omar Simmons Scholarship-Lucas Bates, Lake Attendance Center
 Willis E. Blum and Frances Gaines Blum Slagle Memorial Scholarship-Jonathan Hall, Philadelphia High School
 Jay B. and Frances Harris Smith Scholarship-Jarod Ivey, Newton County High School
 Willis W. "Bubba" Smith Scholarship-Jacob Edwards, Newton County High School
 SouthGroup Cox Scholarship-Tyler Anderson, Leake Academy, and Anna Rushing, Leake Central High School
 Square County Auctions Scholarship-Cassandra Shuler, Leake Central High School
 State Farm Insurance Company Scholarship-Alexandria Lee, Louisville High School
 Jacob Stovall Memorial Scholarship-Shanagia Sims, Philadelphia High School
 Wallace Strickland Rush Health Systems Scholarship-Carley Puckett, Winston Academy
 Taylor Machine Works Machining Scholarship-Brady Griffith, of McCool

Taylor Machine Works Welding Scholarship-Kwasniewski Glenn, Louisville High School, and Nicholas Black, Philadelphia High School
 Larry Therrell Memorial Scholarship-Colton Estep, Leake Academy
 Charles and Judy Dowdle Thomas Scholarship-Trashad Wragg, Philadelphia High School
 Thomas East Central Scholars Scholarship-Kristen Kennedy, Union High School
 Albert P. and Blanche W. Thompson Memorial Scholarship-Tanner Elders, Newton County High School
 Thomas W. Thrash Memorial Scholarship-Amanda Creekmore, Newton County Academy
 U.S. Electrical Motors Scholarship-Steven Reynolds, Nanih Waiya High School
 James M. Vance Scholarship-Matthew Beasley, Sebastopol High School
 Arno and Ruth Carr Vincent Scholarship-Parker Lemm, Starkville High School
 Lavern and Elizabeth Vowell Memorial Scholarship-Destiny Carter, Sebastopol High School
 Captain Charles E. Ward USN/RET Scholarship-Kaytlyn Burrage, Nanih Waiya High School
 Warrior Golf Classic Alumni Association Scholarship-Laicon Partain, Newton County High School, and Eric Malone, Leake Central High School
 Weems Family Scholarship-Easlen Love, Leake County High School
 Harvey and Martha Wheeler Scholarship-Lindsey Ayllon, Newton County High School
 J.C. White Scholarship-Rachel Keen, Union High School
 Jack and Mary Jo White Scholarship-John Mark Vincent, Newton County High School
 Bob Wilkerson Memorial Vo-Tech Scholarship-Jordan Adcox, Lake High School
 Wilks-Palmer Scholars Scholarship-Thomas Gunnin, Noxapater High School
 General William Patrick Wilson Memorial Scholarship-Khalil Triplett, Philadelphia High School
 Lucille Wood Scholarship-Katie McCool, Winston Academy

Vickers' Second Book 'Notes in the Margin' Now Available

Ovid Vickers, retired East Central Community College English instructor and longtime weekly newspaper columnist, released his second book, "Notes in the Margin: A Collection of Columns About East Central Community College," during the college's annual Homecoming festivities.

Copies are available for purchase for \$30, which includes tax, with net proceeds being designated for the ECCC Foundation. Books can also be shipped for a minimal fee. For more information visit www.eccc.edu/estore.

"Notes in the Margin" is a collection of essays Vickers pulled from his weekly newspaper columns, which highlight various people, places and events associated with East Central Community College.

Vickers, who retired from the college in 1995 after 40-plus years of service, continues to live with his wife, Carol, near the campus in Decatur.

He said in a recent interview, "EC afforded me a livelihood for years and I thought I would do something to compensate the college for all it had invested in me."

ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart wrote in the book's message from the president, "I trust that as you read this book you will enjoy the history of East Central contained in it, including stories about the college's faculty, student body, and campus facilities."

For more information, contact David LeBlanc, director of alumni relations and the foundation, at 601-635-6327 or email dleblanc@eccc.edu.



Weddings

Jordan Caitline Jay ('15) to Taylor Ray Dickerson
Kelsey Faith Porter ('15) to Keifer Martin Wolfe ('15)
Rebecca Carole Wilbanks ('09) to Jacob Layne Shelley
Tabby LaSchae Eakes to Jeremy Ryan Watkins ('15)
Allison Brooke Johnson ('15) to James Dylan Spears ('15)
Mary Margaret Bailey ('14) to Andrew Talbert Hanna ('13)
Alexandria Renee Meador ('15) to Joseph Calvin Williamson ('11)
Tiana Lynn Grover ('13) to Darin Ryan Hillman ('13)
Chelsea Carroll Wade ('05) to Coker Harvey Fulton
Madelyn Nicole Peterson ('15) to Regan Curtis Monk ('15)

In Memoriam



Joe Clark ('55), a former coach and teacher at East Central Community College for 37 years, died Sunday, July 17, 2016. Clark coached basketball, tennis and started the golf program at the college. He is also a former dean of men and is a member of the college's Athletic Hall of Fame and the MACJC Sports Hall of Fame.

Illene Richie Gordon ('46) August 23, 2016
Georgia Wilke ('47) April 6, 2016
James L. "Jimmy" Lovorn ('52) July 2, 2015
Larry Adcock ('58) September 13, 2016
David E. McKeehan, Sr. ('58) July 4, 2016
Henry "Hank" B. Moreau ('59) June 24, 2016
Jack R. Fulton ('60) May 13, 2016

Special 2-Book Deal!

"The East Central I Knew"
and "Notes in the Margin"

Both Books for \$50*

*(\$51 if ordered online and picked up
and \$56 if ordered online and shipped)*

**While supplies last! A limited number available.*

Alumni: Send Us Your News!

The Warrior
P.O. Box 129
Decatur, MS 39327

mmcleod@eccc.edu
dleblanc@eccc.edu

Alumni Updates

40s The Andrew Jackson Council of the Boy Scouts of America recently presented Dr. Clyde Muse ('49) with the Distinguished Citizens Award for his outstanding services to the Boy Scouts of America.

50s Dr. Gerald Walton ('54), University of Mississippi Provost Emeritus and former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Ole Miss, was recently featured in a hottytoddynews.com online publication. The article was titled "Refelctions 1950s: A Path from East Central to 'Southern' to a Journey at Ole Miss." In the article, Walton reflects on his time as a student at then East Central Junior College, Mississippi Southern University and later Ole Miss. Walton is a native of the Dixon community in Neshoba County. He retired in 1999 and now lives in Memphis.

60s Dr. William E. Thomas ('61) attended the 50th Anniversary Reunion of his graduating class of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson in August 2016. After graduating from ECJC, Dr. Thomas received his bachelor's degree from Ole Miss in 1963 and completed his medical degree in 1966. He completed his internship at Mobile General Hospital in Mobile, Ala., before entering military service. He spent a one-year tour of service in Vietnam with the First Infantry Division. After completing his service obligation at Fort Rucker, Ala., he started a general surgery residency at the University of South Alabama Medical Center in Mobile, Ala. He started the practice of surgery in Atmore, Ala., where he practiced for 27 years. After raising his family of three children (one daughter and two sons), he retired in 2001 and he and his wife of 47 years moved to Gulf Shores, Ala., where they have resided since 2008.

Paul Breazeale ('65) was recently reappointed to the Mississippi Ethics Commission by Chief Justice Bill Waller, Jr. Breazeale is vice-chairman and has served for eight years, having first been appointed in 2008. Breazeale has been a CPA for 46 years and is a shareholder in the Jackson accounting firm of Breazeale, Saunders & O'Neil, Ltd., which he co-founded in 1981.

Dr. Micky Rigby ('66) has accepted a position at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Dr. Rigby will be a member of the speech communications faculty.

Dr. Jerry Turner ('66) recently retired and sold his dental practice after many years. He and his wife, Diana, reside in Starkville.

Barry T. Irons ('69), a former Warrior football player, recently donated his letterman's jacket and a copy of a *Tom-Tom* article from 1968 to the college's Memorabilia Room. Irons was an All-State and All-Star selection. He is a lifetime member of the ECCC Alumni Association and the Warrior Club. He is retired and lives in Philadelphia.

70s At the National Association for Professionals in Infection Control meeting held recently in Charlotte, N.C., Susan Johnson Taylor ('73) was recognized to be among the first 162 "Fellows of APIC," which recognizes exemplary members who are not only advanced practitioners of infection prevention, but also leaders in the field. A resident of Decatur, Taylor is the infection prevention coordinator of Jackson's Baptist Medical Center.

80s Dr. Jamie Satcher, ('80) has accepted a position as Dean for Research and Service at the University of Alabama. He is a Union native.

Dr. Scott Long ('81) is currently serving as professor of pharmacology and toxicology at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Bethany, Okla.

Brigadier General Todd Wall ('82) of the Mississippi Air National Guard, a former East Central football and baseball student-athlete, participated in the pre-game Military Appreciation Night festivities at ECCC on Sept. 8. He served as an honorary captain and participated in the coin toss.

Dr. Chris Gilmer ('85) has accepted a position as vice president of academic affairs at Adams State University in Alamos, Colo.

90s Justin Fisher ('93) was recently featured in *The Newton County Appeal* following the release of his third book, "Of Gravity and Grace." The article stated, "The author weaves the stories of a life filled with disability, difficulty and disappointment, with God's need of mercy and thread of grace, and a good dose of Southern-fried story-telling into a tapestry for the glory of the King." In addition to his writing, Fisher is an economics instructor at Jefferson State Community College in Birmingham, Ala.

Dr. Lori Wilcher ('93) has accepted a position as the assistant principal of Philadelphia High School and was the subject of a recent article in *The Neshoba Democrat*.

Jason Roberson ('94) was recently appointed as the Newton County Elementary School principal.

Ronnie William Anderson ('98) has returned to his hometown of Philadelphia to serve as a Patrol Sergeant with the Philadelphia Police Department.

10s Jennifer Pope ('11) was named Teacher of the Year for 2015-16 at Scott Central Attendance Center.

East Central Community College alumnus William Meruvia ('13) of Philadelphia was recently awarded the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship valued at \$30,000 per year for his medical training at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson. He received his bachelor's degree from Mississippi College.

Clarissa Smith ('16) of Philadelphia spent her summer volunteering at the Vervet Monkey Foundation in Tzaneen, South Africa. She is currently a junior at Mississippi State University and plans to study veterinary medicine or dentistry after completing her undergraduate degree.

East Central Community College graduates Louise Berryhill ('16) of Union and Taylor Lott ('16) of Forest were recently selected to participate in the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program.

Evan Derrick ('16) of Morton and Ben Pace ('16) of Philadelphia were recently selected to participate in the undergraduate portion of the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program.

LEGACY

your gift. our future.

*"To Live; To Love; To Learn; And to Leave a Legacy."
-Stephen Covey*

Send your tax-deductible donation to the
East Central Community College Annual Fund
on or before December 31, 2016

Donate:
Online - www.eccc.edu/estore
or
Mail - ECCC Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 129
Decatur, MS 39327



East Central Community College's official website is located at www.eccc.edu.



East Central Community College's official Twitter account is @ECCC_MS.



The college also hosts an official Facebook page with more than 7,400 "likes" at Facebook/EastCentralCC.



Find us on LinkedIn at East Central Community College.

The ECCC Alumni Association Facebook page is Facebook/ECCCAlumni.



The college's official Instagram account is ECCC_MS.

Remarkable Semester for Alumni Relations and Foundation

The 2016 fall semester has been remarkable. The scholarship recognition reception was held on Thursday, Aug. 25, in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium for donors and recipients. Over 130 Foundation scholarships were awarded and the new event format was well received. The hour-long reception featured donor and recipient speakers, hors d'oeuvres by Chef Barry Karrh and the ECCC Culinary Arts program, and allowed donors and recipients to fellowship together. Thank you to all scholarship donors for your continued support and we hope to see everyone again in the fall of 2017. Please contact the Foundation office for more information if interested in donating to an existing scholarship or funding a new endowment to help students attend ECCC.

Homecoming activities were held on Saturday, Oct. 15, concluding with the Warriors defeating Hinds on the gridiron. The class of 1966 was honored for their 50th year reunion and the 1996 Golden Isles Bowl champion Warrior football team was also recognized. The ECCC Friends group, Coach Dan Chatwood group, Classes of 1957, 1958, and 1959, and the 1960-1962 football teams all had reunions at Homecoming as well. Plans for Homecoming 2017 will begin soon!

Mr. Vickers' new book "Notes in the Margin" debuted at Homecoming. Mr. Vickers signed copies and visited with many former students and colleagues. The book, a collection of Mr. Vickers' newspaper columns about EC, makes a great Christmas gift for any Warrior on your list. It sells for \$30 tax included or \$35 tax and shipping included and can be purchased in the EC Bookstore or online at www.eccc.edu/estore. All proceeds go to benefit the ECCC Foundation.

Congratulations to Athletic Hall of Fame inductees Lynn Russell Hayes '75 and Kendrick Clancy '97 as well as alumni of the year Chief Phyliss Anderson '94 and Prentice Copeland '49 who were all honored at the annual Homecoming luncheon. The 2016 Homecoming Queen, Ms. Latesia Davis, and her court were presented and a new slate of Alumni Association officers were installed for the 2016-2017 year. Paul Chamblee '75 was elected president, Bruce Lee '93 was elected vice president and Deborah Perry Hayes '78 was elected secretary. Please be sure to thank them for their service and I am confident they will all do an outstanding job!

With regards to the Alumni Association and ECCC Foundation boards, I want to thank several members who have recently decided to retire from service. On the Alumni board, Mrs. Jeanette Thrash '58 and Mr. Harvey Trapp '57 of Decatur, and Mr. Jerald Everett '64 of Clinton have retired. Mr. Bob Posey '82 has also left the Alumni board due to his recent appointment to the ECCC Board of Trustees. On the Foundation board, Mr. George Taylor '67 of Forest has retired and Mr. Gilbert Thompson of Choctaw is the new board chairman. We thank all of these outstanding individuals for their dedication to East Central Community College!

Spring events coming up soon are the 2nd annual WarriorFest tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 2017, and the 16th annual Warrior Golf Classic slated for May 11, 2017, at Dancing Rabbit Golf Club. More information about these events will be available through social media, the website, and the next edition of *The Warrior*.

Finally, the end of the calendar year is great time to make a tax-deductible donation to the college. Whether it's a gift to the Warrior Club for athletics or to the Foundation for scholarship endowments or capital projects, we can advise on how best to structure your contribution.

Thanks for your continued support of East Central Community College!



David LeBlanc
Director of Alumni Relations and the Foundation

The ECCC Alumni Association Needs Your Support!

Name: _____

Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Years Attended EC: _____

Please note: Either your membership dues or a contribution to the College will assure that you continue to receive The Warrior.

Return form to: ECCC Alumni Association, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327

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Individual Membership \$25

Husband and Wife \$40

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Warrior Spirit!

The East Central Community College cheerleaders celebrate a Warrior touchdown at Bailey Stadium this fall. The squad of 16 men and women that cheer at all home and away football games and home basketball games used new field runner flags this fall to build Warrior spirit. All three fall sports—football and men’s and women’s soccer—qualified for postseason play.