

The PINE BURR

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February 24, 2017

Serving SMCC Since 1940

Volume 72, No. 5

Campus Events

Monday, February 27
BSU Worship 7:00pm
Tuesday, February 28
Wesley Foundation
Bible Study 6:30
Wednesday, March 1
Wesley Foundation
Ash Wednesday
Service 6:00

Thursday, March 2
Q: 1st Term On
Campus Accelerated
Classes end

Friday, March 3
QQ: 2nd Term On
Campus Accelerated
Classes begin

Sunday, March 5
Evening Classes 60%
date

Monday, March 6
QQ: Last day to regi-
ter for 2nd Term On
Campus Accelerated
Classes
BSU Worship 7:00pm
FEA Meeting Noon
Room 11, Humanities
Building

Tuesday, March 7
Wesley Foundation
Bible Study 6:30
Residence Hall
Meeting
Softball Game
Copiah-Lincoln 6:00
Summit

Wednesday, March 8
JAN15: Mid-Term
grades due
BSU Noon-Day
11:15-12:30pm

Friday, March 10
FEB04: Ends Mid-
term grades due
Pine Burr News
Deadline
Residence Halls close
at 4:00pm for Spring
Break
Softball Game vs.
Holmes

Monday, March 13
Spring Break
MAR08: Begins &
last day to register
No evening classes

Tuesday, March 14
Spring Break
No evening classes
Softball Game @
Jones

Wednesday, March 15
Spring Break
No evening classes
Administrative offices
closed

Thursday, March 16
Spring Break
No evening classes
Administrative classes
closed

Friday, March 17
St. Patrick's Day
Spring Break
No evening classes
Administrative Offices closed
Softball Game vs. MS Delta

Saturday, March 18
Baseball Game Holmes CC
1:00 Goodman

Sunday, March 19
Residence Hall open at
4:00pm
Softball Game @ East MS

Monday, March 20
APR04: Course requests
begin
BSU Worship 7:00

Tuesday, March 21
Wesley Foundation Bible
Study 6:30

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Madison Martin, Joey Elliott, Alissa Adam, and Cody Pol pose in the red Corvette convertible.

photo by Chuck Barnes

College honors Hall of Fame and HEADWAE honorees

By Cody Pol,
editor

Elected to the 2017 Southwest Mississippi Community College Hall of Fame were Alissa Adam, Joseph (Joey) Elliott, Madison Martin, and Cody Pol. Alissa Adam of Kiln, Mississippi, was an English Education major who planned to transfer to Mississippi State University. Her hobbies included playing basketball, shopping, and crafting. An accomplished athlete, Adam served as the captain of the women's basketball team both years at Southwest; she was ranked number five in the country in assists per game as a freshman and named a member of the MACJC second team as a freshman. In addition, she was an active member of the Baptist Student Union, PTK, and Bear Trackers and a nominee to Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges.

Joey Elliott of Bogue Chitto, Mississippi, majored in General Studies and hoped to transfer to the University of Southern Mississippi as an Accounting major. His activities and accomplishments while at Southwest included Bear Trackers, Baptist Student Union President, State BSU Board, Band, Mr. SMCC, the President's List, and Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges. Elliott also participated in the Seattle and New York mission trips. Madison Martin of Summit, Mississippi, was an Art major at Southwest who would transfer to Mississippi State University to continue her Art major with an emphasis in photography and minor in both floral management and business. Among her numerous accomplishments while attending Southwest, Martin was a decorated member of DECA, a few examples included being named Outstanding Chapter Member of the Year, First Place in Professional Sales, and Chapter Leadership Award. In addition, she earned the International Collegiate DECA Academic Honor Award, the International Collegiate DECA Chapter Community Service Award, and she earned her chapter the honor of First Place Newsletter and Website. She was voted as Campus Favorite, Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges, and she was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa officer team, serving as the Public Relations officer. Also the president of both Bear Trackers and DECA, Martin led by example on campus.

Cody Pol, of Summit, Mississippi, was a biology/pre-med major who intended to transfer to the University of Mississippi. While at Southwest, he served as Phi Theta Kappa President, editor of the Pine Burr, co-editor of the Whispering Pines, Student Government Association Student Body Treasurer, and Tri-Beta Secretary. In addition, Pol was nominated as a member of the All-Mississippi Academic Team, Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges, and was placed on the President's List.



James O'Rourke poses for the photographer.

photo by Chuck Barnes



Matthew Black stands by the lake.

photo by Chuck Barnes



Joey Elliott, Madison Martin, Cody Pol, and Alissa Adam pose for the camera.

photo by Chuck Barnes

Southwest recognizes HEADWAE instructor and student

By Cody Pol,
editor

Higher Education Appreciation Day-Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) is a program developed by the Legislature of Mississippi and sponsored by the Mississippi Association of Colleges. Each year, HEADWAE honors the intellectually talented students and faculty members of Mississippi's higher education institutions for their marvelous contributions to promoting academic excellence. Southwest Mississippi Community College instructor James O'Rourke and sophomore Matthew Black are recognized at the Higher Education Appreciation Day-Working for Academic Excellence ceremony in Jackson, Mississippi.

O'Rourke, an instructor of thirty years, serves as an English and literature instructor. As Chairperson of the Humanities and Fine Arts departments, he is credited with the Mississippi Humanities Council 2015 Humanities Teacher Award. O'Rourke is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts in English degree and a Master of Arts in English degree, attained in 1982 and 1990, respectively.

Matthew Black, a Criminal Justice major, is an exceptional student who has a GPA of 4.0. He is a graduate of Bogue Chitto high school and the son of Chris Black and Sandra Graham; his achievements while at Southwest include earning the award for excellence in criminal justice, being listed on the President's List, and being inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. Black aims to work in the criminal justice field upon graduation from college.

Every year, the Mississippi Legislature hosts Appreciation Day in Jackson as a way of thanking the students and faculty for their contributions to the future of the state. Honorees are invited to the State Capitol, where the Lieutenant Governor welcomes them. From there, they are introduced to both houses of the legislature. The following luncheon involves a hearty meal and an introduction of the nominees in front of a myriad of guests, institution leaders, corporate sponsors, and legislators.

The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning governs the public universities in Mississippi, including Alcorn State University; Delta State University; Jackson State University; Mississippi State University including the Mississippi State University Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine; Mississippi University for Women; Mississippi Valley State University; the University of Mississippi including the University of Mississippi Medical Center; and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Appreciation Day is meant to foster excellence among those in higher education in order to "further leadership, increase knowledge across the broad spectrum of education, and promote good citizens capable of thriving in today's society who are prepared to meet future challenges," as stated by www.mississippi.edu/headwae. "To this end, one student and faculty honoree are annually selected from each of the thirty-four public and private member institutions of the Mississippi Association of Colleges to participate in the Appreciation Day activities."

The Pine Burr

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Co-Editors.....Jordan Boyd, Kimi

Jeanson, Brooke Smith

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Advisor.....Joyce Mabry

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

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



Words from the SGA Secretary

Dear Fellow Students,

I hope all of you are enjoying your college experience at Southwest! During the 2016-2017 school year, our college has shown excellence in both our academics and athletic teams. The SGA team has worked hard in increasing participation in campus activities. I encourage all of you to get involved on campus by making connections with your fellow classmates. By creating a network of contacts with your classmates, you can enhance your circle of influence while building reliable relationships. For many of you, this spring semester will mark the end of your academic journey at Southwest. Many of you will go on to a four-year institution to set and accomplish higher goals. For some, this transition can be a little challenging as you are forced into choosing a major, selecting the perfect institution to attend, and finding help to cover financial expenses. Although these challenges may be before you, I encourage you to stay motivated with the willingness to succeed. View your community college experience as the foundation that will allow you to build your future. With that in mind, remain driven and focused as this academic year closes. I wish you the best of luck in all that you do!



MeOshia Williams

MeOshia Williams, SGA Secretary

Editorial: continue path to success



Editorial By Cody Pol, Editor

It seems as if February has flown right on by! With Valentine's Day behind us and March quickly approaching, the semester is apt to conclude before we know it. As I always mention, it is vitally important for your grades to be as superb as possible. Your GPA and transcript are permanent, so do not make choices

that you will regret later in life. The month of March will be busy for our Phi Theta Kappa officer team as we travel to the University of Mississippi to the annual MS/LA Regional Conference. While at the conference, the officers will participate in special sessions aimed at honing their leadership abilities. The

attending members will also be there to receive any awards the chapter may have earned.

I hope you all have a safe and happy rest of February and March! As mid-terms approach, be sure to keep up with your studies and continue on your path to success!

Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges

Congratulations to these SMCC students who were nominated by faculty. Not pictured are the following: Bryce Baker, William Bergeron, Mario Doyle, Michael Haygood, Hunter Hughes, Guy Johnson, Jessica Mauer, Christy McKinion, Carlita Newton, Jessica Oliver, Ravian Pierce, Cynthia Ruff, Rodrick Sikes, Sean Smith, Emanuel Thompson, Tamara Whitehead, Tyronica Williams, and Carr Young.



Alissa Adam



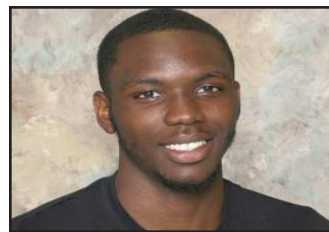
Monica Amic



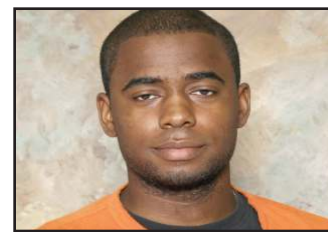
Jessi Barnes



Terica Barnes



Zachary Barnes Jr.



Matthew Black



Kelcey Bremlenkamp



Anna Brown



Rebecca Davis



Sean Dormody



Jenna Duff



Brantley Dunaway



Joseph Elliott



Jordan Fitzgerald



Cody Gisclair



Britni Goldbold



Courtni Goldbold



Whitni Goldbold



James Hawthorne Jr.



Shalisa Hawthorne



Jeranesia Haynes



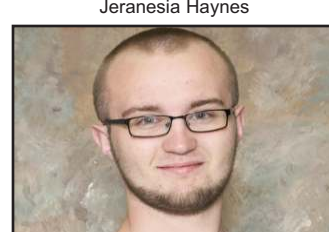
McRaney Hewitt



Brianna King



Emily Landry



Jacob Landry



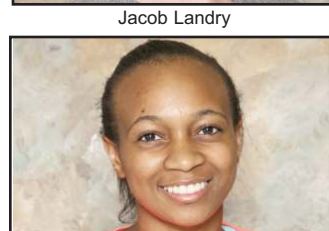
Madison Martin



Ariel McDaniel



Brittany McGuire



Shakeya Nobles



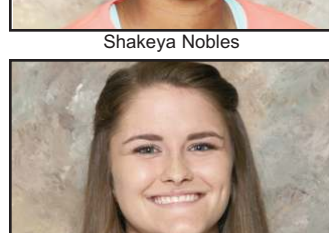
Robert Pickett



Mattie Pigot



Cody Pol



Kayla Sanchez



Kristie Sanchez



Haley Simmons



Jenna Van Dan



Laklyn Waters



MeOshia Williams

Quote of the Month

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character- that is the goal of true education."

-Martin Luther King, Jr.



BEAR AWARE

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

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

Dear Students,

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

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

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

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

Sean Smith Garcia: from Spain to Southwest

By Asa Henderson
staff writer

Standing at 6'8", it is no surprise that 21-year-old Sean Smith Garcia plays basketball. In fact, he is a forward for the SMCC basketball team, but there is much more to his story.

Smith was born in Madrid, Spain, to parents Michael and Claudia Smith. His father was an American who played professional basketball in Europe, and his mom is a native of Argentina. Smith spent his early years moving around Spain, but after his father retired in 2002, the family settled in Seville, located in the southern part of the country.

While Smith's father continued to pursue a career in basketball after his retirement, he never pushed his son to follow in his footsteps. "I actually was not very interested in basketball as a kid. In Spain, everyone grows up playing soccer," Sean says. "When I was about ten, I started getting taller than the other kids, so I began playing basketball."

Eventually, he went on to play at a prestigious basketball academy in the Canary Islands, Canarias Islands Basketball Academy. After graduating, Smith knew that he wanted to come to America. He received offers from many American schools, but he ultimately decided to come to Southwest. "I chose Southwest because the coaches recruited me really well. They showed a lot of interest, even sent me videos. Coach Farrell showed a lot of interest and spent a lot of time talking to me."

Sean had spent summers in Atlanta, Miami, and New York, so he is familiar with America, but Mississippi is a shock to him. "Coming to Mississippi was a lot different than anywhere else I had been before, but I like it down here. It's very peaceful."

After wrapping up the 2017 basketball season at Southwest, Smith, a proficient student as well, plans on continuing his education and basketball career at a university.

SMCC choir on the move

By Michael Wilson
staff writer

Every once in a while at 12:45, many students hear, "Ni, ne, na, no, nu," in the chorus room. Those angelic voices are the voices of many students preparing for a choral festival set to take place in Meridian. The choir is working hard on three pieces to perform at the choir festival. The three pieces include, "Sicut Cervus," by Palestrina, "Sicut Locutus Est," by Johann Sebastian Bach, and "The Eternal Gates," by Howard Helvey.

New and old students are excited to meet and hear other colleges perform their pieces. The students are leaving Southwest on the 23rd of February and are to return the next day. When the students arrive at the choir festival, they are practicing a piece called, "Ubi Caritas," by Ola Gjeilo. After a long day of rehearsal, they perform the piece on Friday, the 24th of February. Some of the songs performed are set to be used in the choir concert on March 7th. Mr. Joe Elliott, voice instructor, said, "I'm excited about the choral festival because our students will be singing with and for other colleges. It is nice to be doing that because the students are preparing for university choirs by singing classical pieces."



Pictured with Merrielyn Ginn are (left to right) T.W. Bearden, Laura Calhoun, Thomas Calhoun, Criminal Justice/Sociology Instructor Ashley Weathers, English Instructor Gwen May, SMCC President Dr. Steve Bishop, Ginn, Vice President for Academic Affairs Alicia Shows, Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Athletics Dr. Bill Ashley, Vice President for Admissions Matt Calhoun, Psychology Instructor Elise Gatlin, and Humanities Chairperson James O'Rourke.

Southwest Mississippi Community College Social Science Division Chairperson and history instructor Merrielyn Ginn received the Wilmon McCaffery Outstanding Educator award presented by the Walthall County Chamber of Commerce.

The award was presented at the Walthall County Chamber of Commerce membership banquet on Saturday, January 28. Chamber 2016 president, Stephanie Miller, presented Ginn the educator award. Merrielyn Ginn has been an SMCC history instructor for 27 years, also heading the Honors Forum class—which has taken on projects including the sending of care packages to Mississippi National Guardsmen serving abroad during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. She is chairman of the Social Sciences Division at SMCC, has been named Who's Who Among America's Teachers and named Mississippi Humanities Council Humanities Teacher of the Year and Phi Theta Kappa Outstanding Instructor. Her passion is history. A 1965

graduate of Tylertown High School, she obtained her B.S. in social studies with an emphasis in pre-law and social work from Mississippi State College for Women (now MUW) in 1969. She graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University with an MA in history in 1980.

Prior to Southwest, Ginn taught for 18 years in the St. Tammany Parish School System: Pearl River Junior High as a physical education instructor; Slidell Junior High as a classroom teacher, chairman of the social studies department and student council sponsor; cheerleader sponsor, tennis coach and helped with girls' softball. She was named Outstanding Louisiana Educator, Outstanding Young Educator, selected by the Slidell Jaycees; and Outstanding Elementary Teachers of America.

A member of the Organization of American Historians, Southern Historical Assn., Mississippi Historical Society, Mississippi Professional Educators, Friends of the Library, and the board of trustees of Tylertown Methodist Church.

Just a thought

By David Russell,
staff writer

As I sat there watching the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons play in Super Bowl LI, I thought to myself, "Why do so many people tune in to watch this?" That thought led me to do a little research. Roughly 84 million people tuned into the first presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. The debates are a huge part of how we decide who we will vote for to be our next president. Let us compare that to last year's Super Bowl: an average of 114.4 million people tuned in per minute. Why is a game so much more important than something that will help us pick the leader of the United States of America for the next four years?

Now, I love football and pretty much every other sport there is just as much as the next guy, but come on, what is so important that a simple game will bring that many people together? I am not even a fan of either team, but I still watched the game. Some people say that they watch the game for the commercials, others the halftime show, but are commercials and a singer more important than who is the face of this country? I know the debates are over now and it is way too late to decide who you want for president, but has anyone ever thought about why we tune into a game between two teams that we may or may not even like but not to something as important as the debates? I do not have the answer, and I do not know if I ever will, but it does make me think, "Do we as a country have our priorities straight?" Also, while we are on the subject, why do so many people choose not to vote? It is our responsibility as citizens of the United States to vote if we are of age to do so. I do not mean to make this a political article but more of just food for thought, so next year as you plan your Super Bowl party for teams you do not even like, ask yourself, "Why do I do this every year?" Sure, it is a great excuse to throw a party and get together with friends, but can we not do that at any time of the year?

Eat right

By Brooke Smith,
co-editor

With the ever-encroaching "freshman fifteen" looming over our heads and spring break just around the corner, many college students are beginning to pursue healthier eating choices. Staying on a diet or making those "lifestyle changes," to use the trendy term, however, does not have to be challenging. A few simple swaps of what many students are already eating will have you feeling healthier and happier in no time! Are you stumbling around in the dorm room attempting to find breakfast on the go? Don't reach for the Pop-Tarts or sugary cereal; crunch on a heart-healthy protein bar or Greek yogurt and granola. These choices are sure to help you keep up with your "crazy college kid" schedule all day long! Sip on lots of water throughout the day, and if the morning drags on and lunch seems forever away, try these healthy hand-offs. Snack on a handful of almonds in place of candy. Veggie Straws and popcorn are great alternatives to chips. Try swapping that cold pizza in the fridge for beef jerky. You're still getting tons of flavor and being nice to your body at the same time.

It's lunch time, and PB&Js are your go-to-midday staple. Simply grab whole-wheat bread instead of white bread, and you will cut the carbs and take in more of the vitamins your body needs. If you're dining in the cafeteria, stop by the salad bar, but don't load down with tons of cheese and bacon. Also, beware of the croutons! Plus, check out the food lines for grilled chicken or veggies. Grilled chicken is packed with the protein you'll need to make it through those afternoon classes. Have a bunch of your friends decided to eat out one night? No worries; you can go with them and still feel good about your food choices for the day! If it's a Mexican place they choose, simply swap your flour tortilla for a corn tortilla, refried beans for black beans, or Mexican rice for brown rice. Many restaurants will substitute your French fries for sweet potato fries or your loaded baked potato for a baked sweet potato.



BSU presents Spiritual Emphasis Week: Kendyl Adam, Laken Brock, Lauren Burch, Jessi Barnes, Whitney Goldbold, Anna Fraiser; second row: Brandon Bergeron, Trey Hess, Daniel Herndon, Nathan Dodd; not pictured: Joey Elliott, Mariha Beadle photo by Joyce Mabry



Wesley Foundation presents Spiritual Emphasis Week: Johnny Bowlin, Melinda Bowlin, Anna Catherine Trantham, and Rev. Andy Stoddard, Pastor, St. Matthews United Methodist Church. photo by Amy Gazzo



Student Nursing Organization officers: Associate Degree Nursing class officers are the following: Dianne Wilkinson, SNO Advisor; Rose Conerly, SNO Advisor; Shauna Zeigler, Social Committee; Adam Boyd, Social Committee; Jennifer Boyd, President; Nicklaus Brisco, Vice-President; Jack Trimm, Social Committee; Paytience Davis, Secretary; Lisa Alford, SNO Advisor; Not pictured is Veronica Chambers, Social Committee. photo by Joyce Mabry

Support the BEARS!



Soft skills: set yourself apart

By Cody Pol
editor

Soft skills are defined as, "personal attributes that enable someone to interact effectively and harmoniously with other people." Soft skills are vitally important to anyone looking to improve his or her reputation among employers and co-workers. Skills as seemingly simple as a firm handshake can make the difference between two individuals who have similar resumes. Holding the door for someone as he or she exits the room is not only good manners, but the act is an example of exceptional soft skills. Soft skills send nonverbal cues to others that one is reliable and a notch above the rest when it comes to social interactions. Additional examples of soft skills are standing when someone enters a room and maintaining appropriate eye contact. Those two gestures communicate respect for others, and when respect is given, it is reciprocated.

Next time you enter a job interview or even the checkout line at the grocery store, consider using a few of the skills mentioned. Others will recognize the fact that you are treating them with respect and courtesy, and they are likely to do the same.

Jamie Delor: outstanding soccer player

By Asa Henderson
staff writer

Twenty-one-year-old Jamie Delor has had quite the career as a forward for the Southwest men's soccer team. As a freshman, he was named the #1 goal-scorer in the nation for JUCO soccer, boasting an impressive thirty-one goals over eighteen games during the 2016 season. In addition, he was named an All-American, and he also broke the college record for career goals in one season. Jamie was able to accomplish these feats while also maintaining a 3.9 GPA in the classroom.

The most impressive aspect of Jamie's career is that two years ago he was in his hometown of Buenos Aires, Argentina, merely playing soccer as a hobby, his favorite sport actually being rugby. Although not opposed to the idea, he had no clue that he would soon be taking up residence in the United States.

"My family owns a [cattle ranch] outside of Buenos Aires," Jamie says. "My plan was to work on the family land. When I heard there were going to be soccer tryouts with American coaches [present], I thought, 'why not?' Several American universities offered me scholarships, but Coach Zach [Mills] gave me the best reasons [of all the coaches], so I came here, to Southwest."

Now a sophomore, Jamie is sure that he made the right decision in accepting Coach Mills's offer. "The culture is a lot different," he says. "I took English classes in school, but I never paid attention because I didn't think I would need it. I was wrong."

Jamie, who graduated from Pilgrim's College (high school) in Buenos Aires, knew hardly any English when he first decided to come to America. However, he has met the cultural and linguistic challenges with poise and character and has succeeded in every way.

While he continues to strive for the best both academically and athletically, Jamie has set his sights even higher, as he intends to continue his education and soccer career at a four-year university, "hopefully in California."



Occupational Safety and Health Technology (OSHA) students recently received their 30-Hour OSHA General Industry cards. Occupational Safety and Health technicians help prevent harm to workers, property, the environment, and the general public. They promote occupational health and safety within organizations by advising management on how to increase worker productivity through raising morale and reducing absenteeism, turnover, and equipment downtime while securing sav-

ings on insurance premiums, workers' compensation benefits, and litigation expenses. Pictured on the front row (left to right) is Vice President for Career and Technical Education Jeremy Smith along with students Lacey Howell of Summit, Tyler Vanderslice of McComb, Laken Nace of Foxworth, and Rufus Breeden of McComb. The back row includes OSHA instructor Mike Flowers and students Cage Ashley of Hattiesburg, Trenton Warren of Kentwood, Amanda Greer of Wesson, Donald Greer of Wesson, and Michael Caston of McComb.



Congratulations to our EMT-B Fall 2016 graduates for successfully completing the EMT Skills that are outlined in the National Standard Curriculum developed by the United States Department of Transportation and additional skills required by the Mississippi Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. We are proud of you! Above are the following: James Troutman III, Matthew Williamson, Joshua Lofton, Steven Catoire, and Bobby Wells; second row: Instructor - Jess Greer, Sam Marsalis, Ronald Butler Jr., Steven Furr, Tyler Howell, Trenten Boggs, Instructor-Warren Agnor



Congratulations to our EMT-B Spring 2016 graduates for successfully completing the EMT Skills that are outlined in the National Standard Curriculum developed by the United States Department of Transportation and additional skills required by the Mississippi Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. We are proud of you! Above are the following: Alexis Singley, Uleashi Smith, and Christina Miller; second row: Instructor- Craig Rowell, Richard Booth, Randall Cas Love II, Robert Turnage, and John Speed.



Congratulations to our EMT-B Fall 2016 graduates for successfully completing the EMT Skills that are outlined in the National Standard Curriculum developed by the United States Department of Transportation and additional skills required by the Mississippi Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. We are proud of you! Above are the following: Instructor - Wade Wicker, Dana Duncan, Noel Grandberry, and Shelle Ard

Oscars: pinnacle for upcoming stars

By Kimi Jeanson,
co-editor

This year marks the 89th Academy Awards where they award the most world-renowned statue to the most brilliant minds in filmmaking whether they were behind or in front of the camera. The film industry has progressed rapidly with new innovative technology and experience. The Oscars are the pinnacle for upcoming stars in film as the Tonys are for upcoming Broadway shows. From the directors to the actors, the Oscars recognize the dedication and passion people put in to bring a vision to the big screen. Awards included are the best picture, actor in a leading role, actress in a leading role, actor in a supporting role, actress in a supporting role, animated short film, cinematography, costume design, directing, film editing, music score, makeup and hairstyling, visual effects, screenplay, and more. Some of the movies that were nominated include *La La Land*, *Arrival*, and *Hacksaw Ridge*.

Nominated a staggering fourteen times, *La La Land* stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone in a smash hit musical about the difficulties in the music and acting business. Ryan Gosling is the dreamy jazz pianist named Sebastian, and Emma Stone plays the aspiring actress who waits tables. They fall deeply in love, but they struggle to hold together when their dreams pull them apart. Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone are both up for Oscars in the category of best actor and actress in a leading role. This is Gosling's and Stone's second nomination for the Academy Awards. His first is in a film called *Half Nelson* in 2006 where he played a leading role. Stone's first is from her performance in *The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance* in 2014. *La La Land* is also nominated for best picture, music score, three original songs, production design, costume design, directing, film editing, cinematography, and screenplay.

Arrival stunned audiences with its striking visuals and intriguing plot. Amy Adams plays a linguist, Louise Banks, who leads a team to investigate an unknown spacecraft. With war on the brink, she fights to keep the peace between humanity and the extraterrestrials. This riveting movie is nominated eight times for best picture, cinematography, directing, film editing, production design, sound editing, sound mixing, and screenplay. Shawn Levy, Dan Levine, Aaron Ryder, and David Linde are up for their first Academy Award. They are the minds behind this incredible movie.

Hacksaw Ridge is the heartfelt true story about the courage and bravery of an unsung hero of World War II. Andrew Garfield plays the real-life veteran named Desmond Daves. His story is a legend within the army and continues to inspire everyone today. Mel Gibson beautifully portrays Daves's unbelievable personality and strength. Daves is a combat medic, but also is a conscientious objector. He does not believe in killing or even touching a gun despite the pressure he is under during basic training. Many of the soldiers and his superiors think he is crazy and do not want him to serve with them because they think he is a coward for not having a gun. Daves struggles to have the right to serve without a gun even though he will be on the front lines. Andrew Garfield is nominated for actor in a leading role for his phenomenal performance. Nominated six times, *Hacksaw Ridge* is up for best picture, actor in a leading role, directing, film editing, sound editing, and sound mixing.

These three movies are just the beginning of the amazing lineup of films that are nominated. Make sure to tune in to the Academy Awards, which are airing on February 26. Your favorite movie stars and directors are attending. Without these movies, we lose an enormous part of our culture and miss out on the emotional moments we all feel while watching their movies.



Maximiliao Gigli travels to land of opportunity

By Assa Henderson,
staff writer

One day, a young man in a place far away was working and putting himself through college in the hope that he could eventually make it to America. His home country was experiencing an economic crisis, and it had seen almost 40% inflation in the past two years. He knew that the "Land of Opportunity" could offer him a better life.

An opportunity to come to America presented itself; there were soccer tryouts not far from his home town. American soccer coaches attending would offer scholarships to only the best players. Thinking of the situation as a long shot, he went to the tryouts, and he was offered an athletic scholarship by Coach Zach Mills; he immediately knew it was the chance he had been waiting for.

Today, nearly a year later, Maximiliano Gigli of Sante Fe, Buenos Aires, sits across from me in his dorm room at Southwest Mississippi Community College and tells me he is wholly confident that he made the right decision in accepting the scholarship from Coach Mills.

"I was already determined to come to America, one way or the other," Maximo says. "My plan was to send in applications to American companies in hopes of getting a job or apprenticeship in America. When the soccer tryouts came and I was offered a scholarship, I knew it was the best opportunity I could have asked for."

Maximo was red-shirted for the 2016 soccer season, which means he will go into the 2017 season as a freshman. He will play as a defender for the team, but do not let his athleticism fool you. Maximo is also quite the student, boasting a 4.0 GPA.

We can all agree that Maximo made a truly brave and daring decision in coming to a school he knew nothing about in a country far away from home. He has truly met the challenge with poise and character. Hopefully we can all find the time to cheer him on from the sideline this season.

Cole named Player of the Week

By Michael Gunnell,
Sports Information Director

For his performance in last week's doubleheader in Pineville, LA, Southwest freshman outfielder T Tez Cole has been named the MACJC's Position Player of the Week for February 13-18.

Against the Louisiana College JV squad on February 18, the Lawrence County High School graduate went 4-7 (.571) while scoring five runs and driving in five. His four hits included two doubles and a solo homer.

Bears' head coach Ken Jackson "I think it's a big honor for him and a big honor for our team to have somebody who had that kind of a week. Let's hope we can continue to the way we've been hitting it." Cole will now automatically be nominated for the NJCAA's Position Player of the Week award.

Southwest alumnus Michael Farris Smith releases new book *Desperation Road*



Pictured above is Michael Farris Smith as he signs his new book, *Desperation Road*, as Sean Doyle watches.

photo by Matt Williamson

By Kimi Jeanson,
co-editor

Michael Farris Smith grew up moving around a lot. His father was a Baptist minister. Smith attended Southwest Mississippi Community College, where he played baseball under Butch Holmes for two years. He then transferred to Mississippi State University and majored in Communications. After college, Smith lived in Europe for a time and discovered his love for reading. He would sit at home or in a café and read the classics written by authors like Hemingway, Dickens, and Faulkner. As he read more and more, something

him to write. Being a Southern writer, Smith felt drawn to Faulkner and connected with the deeply rooted sense of home Faulkner's works portray. Though Faulkner was a strong influence, Larry Brown was the writer who really influenced Smith and inspired him to write. After living in Switzerland and France for several years before returning to Mississippi, he began writing fiction while at the Center for Writers at the University of Southern Mississippi.

His book, *Desperation Road*, is his third novel. The story is set in McComb, Mississippi. An unfortunate ex-con named Russell Gaines runs into a lonely woman named Maben whose choices left

her damaged. Their paths converge, and they take a journey to redemption together. When writing his books, Smith envisions his stories from a single image and draws his inspiration from that image. *Desperation Road* began as he pictured a woman and a child alongside the road. The story flourished from there as Smith kept inquiring the reasons of how the mother and child got there.

Smith has won many awards, including Mississippi Arts Commission Literary Arts Fellowship and the Transatlantic Review Award for Fiction. He also won 2014 Mississippi Author Award for Fiction for his novel *Rivers*. *Rivers* was men-

tioned in numerous Best Books of the Year lists. His short fiction has been nominated on two occasions for a Pushcart Prize. His essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Catfish Alley*, *Deep South Magazine*, and more. Smith signed copies of his new book, *Desperation Road*, in Oxford, Jackson, and McComb. Though he just finished, he already has another book on the way called *Fighter*, which is set in the Mississippi Delta. The book's publisher is Lee Boudreaux Books, a specialty fiction imprint with Little, Brown. He lives in Columbus, Mississippi, with his wife and daughters. He continues to inspire writers in the South and represent southern culture.



ADN students: Chrisuna Bell, Daley Roberts, and Mattie Riels play the game "Into Aging."

photo by Joyce Mabry

By Lisa Alford,
ADN instructor

The Southwest ADN students recently played a game called "Into Aging;" the purpose of this game was to help students understand the challenges faced by the elderly population. The game was a microcosmic experience dramatizing the certain attitudes and beliefs underlying society's way of dealing with the elderly.

Each student played the role of an elderly individual and began the game with five cards. Each card represented one of the following: their residence, their occupation, and three favorite possessions they were allowed to bring with them. They also started with five pennies representing their income.

The elderly individuals (students) experienced three stages of life:

starting out independent, then progressing to semi-dependent and finally dependent. At the independent stage the elderly individual experienced several losses, like their hearing, home, possessions and income. In the semi-dependent stage the losses continued, lastly at the final dependent stage, some found themselves confined to wheelchairs, restrained, unable to hear, confused and many were in what seemed a hopeless situation. Some were even sent to the "Cemetery."

After the game the students reflected on how it felt to experience the loss of possessions, self-esteem, health, income and their home. It gave the students insight as to how the aging process might feel: powerless, sad, bullied, and helpless. Then the students discussed the role of the nurse in helping the elderly adjust to the many challenges of aging.

("Into Aging" is a product of SLACK Inc. Created by S. Dempsey-Lyle RN, MSN, CS and Therese Lemire Hoffman, RN, BSN, MSN)

Art gallery: beauty at its best

By Hannah Karabelen,
staff writer

Friday I went somewhere I have never been before: an art gallery.. I visited the Gulf-South Art Gallery in McComb, MS. The gallery was an old-looking little white house that was quite small. Inside this little white house were all kinds of paintings, old and new, as well as black-and-white pictures, colorful vases, and other works of art.

There were a few paintings and pictures that I quite liked. The first was a painting of some Wood Ducks. In the painting, the beautiful drake, which had many colorful feathers, was in the water swimming out into the gray lake. On the land, in the grass, stood the hen with her five ducklings; they were not as colorful as the drake, having only brown, yellow, and white feathers. As the drake was swimming away, one of the ducklings started to get into the water to follow him.

In the second painting, the picture was of splattered paint of many different colors, such as red, green, orange, and a lot of blue on a white canvas background. These combined colors made for a beautiful painting.

The third and fourth were both black and white pictures. In the third one, the picture was of two walls connected at the top by four wooden slats with spaces between each of them. As the walls come down, they meet at the bottom. The most spectacular part of the picture, in my opinion, is through the openings in the slats. At the top, the sunlight shining through forms shadows of triangles along the enclosing walls.

The fourth picture was of two tall, almost leafless trees, one standing to the left and the other standing to the right. Both were standing to the front of the picture with a large lake behind them that had a dock leading into it, stopping right behind the tree to the right.

The last pieces are of a pitcher that was pitch black at the base and merged into a thick-looking, grayish-blue at the top; a vase, also pitch black at the base, had a cutoff place at two-thirds of the way down in a wavy line that wrapped all the way around. Above the wavy line was a beautiful, bright royal blue that stretched toward the top and a cup about six inches in height and octagonal in shape was, like the pitcher and the vase, pitch black at the base and drawn upward to the top by orange, thin lines into royal blue above. These made a gorgeous trio.

These seven pieces intrigued me the most out of the entire collection. Some were colorful, others not so much, but all of them were unique. I would even like to think that each of them had their own hidden story. None of these, nor any I did not write about, were disappointing; all were beautiful in their own way.

Movie Review: *Split*

By Gregory Johnson,
staff writer

Split is an M. Night Shyamalan movie full of uniquely interesting twists and turns. It is an abstract tale of childhood trauma, mental illness, and the power of belief that can power us to manifest elements within ourselves we never knew existed.

In the beginning of the movie, we meet one of the main characters, Kevin, who is much more complex than he seems. In fact, he suffers from DID (dissociative identity disorder). He has his main personality, Kevin, the twenty-two other personalities that fight for dominance, and the one hidden deep within that is known as the beast.

The other main character is Casey, who Kevin kidnapped, along with two teenage girls. The girls are kept to become sacred food. To what creature the girls are to become sacred food is not known until the end of the movie. *Split* is a must-see if you enjoy psychological thrillers and intriguing movies.



Intramurals: Basketball power

Bill Wallace, Director of Intramurals



Ashton Planche, Trivillian Williams, Demario Richard and Michael Martin wait for a rebound. photo by Asa Henderson

Coach Bill Wallace, Christopher Wells, Darren Carter, Trivillian Williams and Michael Martin watch Sean Perry attempt a goal. photo by Asa Henderson



Elijah Brown dribbles the ball down the court. photo by Asa Henderson

Trivillian Williams defends Darren Carter. photo by Asa Henderson

Cartoons.....



Ads.....

Southwest Mississippi Community College
Bear Trackers
Present

The 6th Annual
Princess Ball
at SMCC
2017

Come enjoy refreshments, music, and dancing with your princess!
Friday, March 31, 2017
6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
(Pictures will begin at 5:30 p.m. Doors to the ball will open at 6:30 p.m.)
at the SMCC Horace C. Holmes Student Union

For princesses ages 4 through 12
Tickets are \$20 per person.

Princesses **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.
Tickets are limited and **MUST** be purchased in advance at the SMCC Academic Counseling Center located in Kenna Hall Room 112. No tickets will be sold the day of or at the door the night of the event.

For more information contact:
Pat Young at 601.276.3844 or Karinlee Brister at 601.276.3849

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Southwest Mississippi Community College
Bear Trackers
Present

THE 2ND ANNUAL
S M C C
SUPER HERO BASH

Come enjoy refreshments, music, and dancing with your super hero!
Saturday, April 1, 2017
6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
(Doors will open at 6:15 p.m.)
at the SMCC Horace C. Holmes Student Union
for super heroes ages 3 through 10
Tickets are \$20 per person.

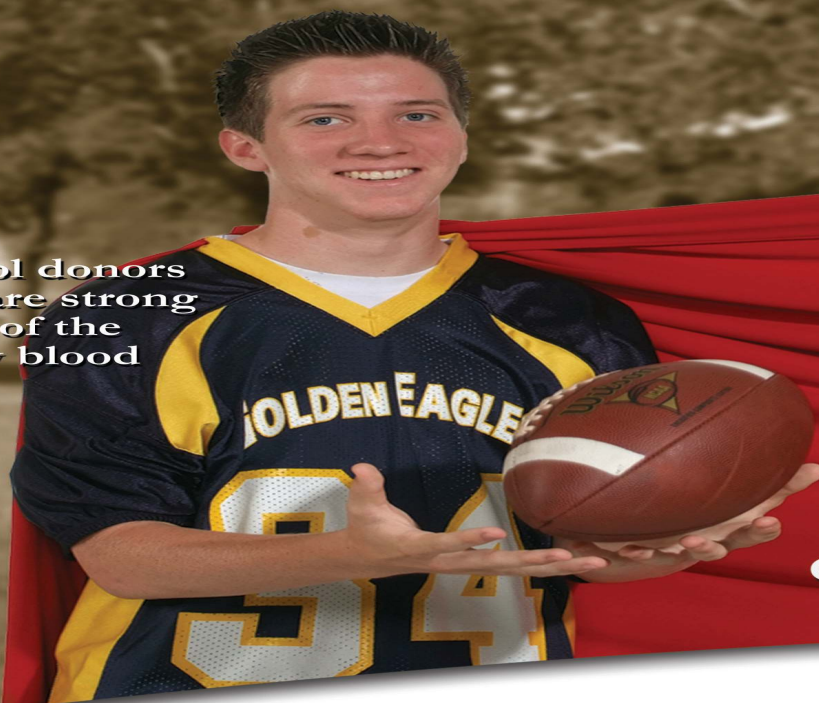
This is a night for supermom and their sons!
Superheroes **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.
Costumes are encouraged but not required!

Tickets are limited and can only be purchased in advance at the SMCC Academic Counseling Center located in Kenna Hall Room 112. No tickets will be sold the day of the event.

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High school donors like Brian are strong supporters of the community blood program.



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Give blood 3 times a year!

SMCC Blood Drive

Monday, March 20 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 21 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Workforce Training Center-Auditorium



Free T-shirt to all donors (while supplies last).

To make an appointment, go to www.bloodhero.com (sponsor code: SWMCC) or contact Kim Tynes @ 601-276-2434.

Some weight & height restrictions apply for donors younger than 23. See chart at www.unitedbloodservices.org for eligibility.



Please bring your photo ID and donor card. Free cholesterol testing with every donation!



Southwest Mississippi Community College

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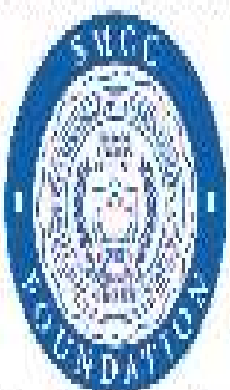


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