

Campus Events

Wednesday, March 1-31  
SMCC Foundation  
Scholarship Applications  
open

Friday, March 10  
Tennis @ 11:00  
SMCC @ Northeast

Saturday, March 11  
Baseball @ 2:00/5:00  
Northwest Miss. CC @ SMCC  
Softball @ 12:00/2:00  
Northwest @ SMCC

Wednesday, March 15  
Baseball @ 3:00/6:00  
Pearl River CC @ SMCC  
Softball 3:00/5:00  
SMCC @ Peal River CC

Monday, March 13-17  
Administrative Offices  
Closed (Spring Break)

Saturday, March 18  
Baseball @ 2:00/5:00  
Northeast Miss. CC @ SMCC  
Softball @ 1:00/3:00  
SMCC @ Northeast

Tuesday, March 21  
Baseball @ 3:00/6:00  
SMCC @ Miss. Gulf Coast CC  
Softball @ 3:00/5:00  
Miss. Gulf Coast @ SMCC

Friday, March 24  
Tennis @ 2:00  
Hinds CC @ SMCC

Saturday, March 25  
Baseball @ 1:00/4:00  
SMCC @ Miss. Delta CC  
Softball @ 1:00/3:00  
Miss. Delta CC @ SMCC

Tuesday, March 28  
Tennis @ 2:00  
SMCC @ Miss. Gulf Coast CC

Wednesday, March 29  
Baseball @ 3:00/6:00  
Meridian CC @ SMCC  
Softball @ 3:00/5:00  
SMCC @ Meridian CC

Thursday, March 30  
Southwest Smackdown

Friday, March 31  
Last Day to Drop Full Time Class  
SMCC Princess Ball  
Tennis @ 2:00  
SMCC @ Holmes CC

Saturday, April 1  
National ACT Testing  
Baseball @ 2:00/5:00  
SMCC @ Itawamba CC  
Softball @ 1:00/3:00  
Itawamba CC @ SMCC

Tuesday, April 4  
Registration for Summer and Fall Classes Begin  
Tennis @ 2:00  
SMCC @ Co-Lin

Baseball @ 3:00/6:00  
Jones CC @ SMCC  
Softball @ 4:00/6:00  
SMCC @ Jones

Friday, April 7  
Baseball @ 2:00/5:00  
Holmes CC @ SMCC  
Softball @ 2:00/4:00  
SMCC @ Holmes CC

Wednesday, April 12  
Baseball @ 3:00/6:00

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above: Cailey Browning, Emma Dickerson, Ezra Pattie, and Katherine Bishop smile for the photographer. photo by Chuck Barnes

Southwest's Hall of Fame

By Leah Sterling, Editor

With thousands of students attending Southwest yearly, many demonstrate integrity, leadership, and kindness daily on campus. Faculty chose to recognize individuals for the extra effort that they put in to make Southwest inviting and welcoming. This year, the faculty selected Katherine Bishop, Cailey Browning, Emma Dickerson, and Ezra Patty to the college's Hall of Fame.

Katherine Bishop, daughter of Drs. Steve and Melanie Bishop of Summit, MS, is majoring in Chemistry/ Pre- Optometry. A graduate of Parklane Academy, Katherine was involved in many activities during her high school years such as National Honors Society and Mu Alpha Theta, and she served as Garden Club photographer as well as treasurer of the Parklane Student Body. Additionally, her teammates voted her as Co-Captain of the Cheerleading Team, and her peers elected her as Senior Class Favorite. Katherine also received the Kathy Miller Spirit award. At SMCC, Katherine stays active in several clubs and organizations on campus such as Tri Beta Honors Society and the SMCC Stage Band. Students elected her as Miss SMCC, SMCC Most Beautiful, Freshman Homecoming Maid, SGA Secretary, and Student Body Homecoming Maid. Katherine serves as the President of Phi Theta Kappa, Vice- President of the Bear Trackers, and Co-captain of the Redline. She is also an active member of the BSU. Katherine enjoys dancing, painting, shopping, and serving as a student leader at FBC Summit. Upon graduation, Katherine plans to transfer to the Mississippi State University where she will further her education in her major.

Cailey Browning, daughter of Neil and Carol Furr, of Summit, Mississippi is majoring in Pre-Nursing. Before attending Southwest, she graduated fourth in her class from North Pike High School where she participated in many school activities. She received many awards such as the Band Director's Award, Highest Average award in Spanish I and II, A.P. Chemistry, and she passed the Advanced Placement Chemistry exam. Cailey also graduated with high honors and was a member of the Beta Club. At Southwest she serves as a Phi Theta Kappa officer, Section Leader in the marching band, and performed several solos in the Christmas and Spring Stage Band performances. Cailey is also on the SMCC Dean's list. She participates in hobbies such as playing for the SMCC Band, playing in the local band Ransakk, going to the gym, and playing tennis with friends. After graduating from Southwest, her plans are to attend the University of Mississippi

where she will be pursuing a degree in nursing.

Emma Dickerson, daughter of Clifton and Carol Dickerson of Jayess, is a graduate of North Pike High School and a Chemistry major at Southwest Mississippi Community College. Emma is an active member of St. Alphonous Catholic Church. During high school, Emma was a member of the marching/concert band, Jag2Jag, Reading Club, Drama Club, Beta Club, Spanish Club, Scene Stealers, Geek Squad and she received numerous highest average awards. She was in the top ten of her graduating class, MS Scholar, and Superintendent Scholar. At Southwest, she serves as Phi Theta Kappa Vice-President where she worked with the PTK Honors in Action Project, Tri-Beta Vice-President and Treasurer where she assisted with several projects including "Science is Fun Day" and "Bear Down and Think," and she is on the President's List. Emma received recognition throughout the state and has been awarded the NASA Mississippi Science Grant Scholarship and W.S. Bryan Scholarship. She has worked as a chemistry tutor, chemistry lab worker, and she earned the General Chemistry Certificate of Excellence. After graduation, she plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi to further her education.

Ezra Pattie, son of Derrick and Whitney Pattie, of Osyka, Mississippi is majoring in Kinesiology. Before attending Southwest, he graduated from Parklane Academy where he was selected Senior Class Favorite and Senior Class Beau. At Parklane he was also a part of the ACT 25+ Club, Parklane Garden Club, and played on the varsity basketball team, consequently achieving the Parklane Academy Scholar Athlete Award.

He was involved in many activities such as McComb Garden Club Azalea Court, Honor Society Treasurer, Camp Sunshine Counselor, and Mu Alpha Theta. At SMCC Ezra is a Bear Tracker and serves as Phi Theta Kappa Vice President of Leadership and BSU President. He was also chosen as an SMCC Beau. Ezra enjoys hanging out with friends, playing basketball at his church, playing ping-pong, stock trading, and reading. After graduating from Southwest, his plans are to attend the University of Mississippi.

Nominators consider several aspects when selecting individuals. Academic records, participation in campus organizations, and overall character all play an important role in their decisions. One of the greatest honors as a student at Southwest Mississippi Community College remains to be being selected to the Hall of Fame. The students will cherish the honor forever.



above: Katherine Bishop walks across field with her father, Dr. Steve Bishop.



above: Cailey Browning cuddles a cat at the PTK meeting.



above: Emma Dickerson and Lauren Bates examine the skeleton.



above: Ezra Pattie lights a candle at the PTK induction ceremony.

Bear Football adds 26 on National Signing Day

By Travis Connelley, SID

It may technically be the off-season for Bear Football but for Head Coach Cliff Collins and his staff, Wednesday was like Christmas morning as his team signed 26 new players on National Signing Day.

The new group joins Pascagoula running back Isaiah Benn, a pair of Alabama transfers in quarterback Amani Stewart and wide receiver Mekiel Stewart and offensive lineman Hastings Carruth - a Parklane Academy graduate and transfer from Mississippi State. All four joined the Bears over the winter break.

"This is probably the best signing class that I've had as head coach at Southwest," Collins said. "We have athletic guys, great size, guys who played in championship games, All-Stars. I am very excited about this signing class and how my coaches went about recruiting these guys."

Among the more than two dozen who signed are 13 on offense, 12 on defense and one on special teams.

Natalie McMahon honored by the MS Humanities Council

By Leah Sterling, Editor

Natalie McMahon, Library Director for the William C. and Lula B. Ford Library, was chosen to speak at the Mississippi Humanities Council Presentation as humanities instructor of the year. Her presentation entitled, "Libraries in a Digital Age" was an overview of the history and development of libraries and their mission statements, as well as how libraries are used today.

Natalie graduated from Southwest Mississippi Community College and earned both her Bachelor of Science and her Master of Library Science degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi. She previously served as librarian at Magnolia Elementary in the South Pike School District and as District Library Director for North Pike Schools, and has been part of the SMCC family for twenty years.

As expected, one of Natalie's favorite hobbies is reading. She also enjoys writing small humorous pieces that usually are inspired by friends, family, and students for the local Enterprise Journal.





# The Pine Burr

Editor.....Leah Sterling  
Co-editors..... Larina Anderson, BrookLynn Bateman, Lainey Dunnaway, Sierra Gatz, Keagan Holliday, Tay Srithong  
Staff Writers..... Connor Brady, Jack Brewer, Caleb Brown, Milloree Brown, Emma Carruth, Phillip Chandler, Jeremy Collins, Austin Etheridge, Ronderrick Faulk, Joshusa Faust, Elise Gillissie, J.P.Johnson, Isaiah Lessard, Levi Lovett, Amber McKenzie, Sarah Grace Meyn, Brooklyn Timmons, Sophie Tomkins  
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.

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## 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 2022. An additional email will be sent to your email account at 9:00 AM with your login information. It's basically the same email that was sent on August 2022. 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.

## Editorial: Welcome to Southwest

by Leah Sterling

Welcome to campus,

Whether you are returning to campus or this is your first semester at Southwest, this spring semester brings several exciting things. The spring weather makes walking to class so enjoyable. Many colors appear all around the campus!

This semester, the college has already prepared many recreational activities for us students to take part in. Bear Necessities Day, a tradition that students anticipate all year long, scores as the biggest hit of the semester. Students form teams and compete in several games and activities on the football field. The day brings so many laughs, smiles, and wholesome moments. The upcoming events guarantee that excitement is here on campus.

Because it is the start of a new semester, we receive completely new schedules filled with a variety of classes specific to each of

our majors. At times, it can be difficult to navigate these courses all by yourself. One of my favorite buildings on campus, Ford Library, offers an immense amount of help and assistance to students needing guidance in these unfamiliar, challenging classes. Free tutoring is even available.

While on the topic of classes, I would like to talk about *The Pine Burr* and *The Whispering Pines*. Students design, make, and write the campus newspaper and yearbook. We welcome all interested in writing, art, and photography. If you possess creativity, you need to join these two organizations! Additionally, work-study and credit hours are available. If interested, reach out to Joyce Mabry, English and Journalism instructor.

Perhaps some new faces wander around campus this semester! I want to share several things that

you should be aware of being a student here out Southwest. You should check out the Southwest Bookstore located in the Holmes Student Union and grab some college apparel to wear to class, games, and outside of the campus. On the topic of athletics, the SMCC Baseball and Softball teams will start their seasons soon. These teams often host games on campus, so be sure to bring your student ID to attend free and support them! Another thing to know about Southwest, Charlie's Grill, located beside the Holmes Student Union, serves as a great spot to check out for lunch, or even for dinner. At noon, students with meal plans can use their meal ticket card at the grill instead of the cafeteria, if they choose. Also, the Baptist Student Union holds "Noon Day" every Wednesday, giving students the opportunity to pay \$2 for a delicious lunch donated by local



Leah Sterling  
Editor

churches to be added to the B.S.U. fundraising collection.

Overall, faculty and staff have put in many hours of work to make this semester enjoyable for you. Be sure to make the most of your last semester before the long summer break. As always, Go Bears!



Queen Debbie Watkins, King Steve Bishop, Caleb Brown and Nathan Wells throw beads.

photo by Joyce Mabry



Zach Mills and Vanessa Mills roll down College Drive.

photo by Joyce Mabry



On our way- Debbie Hodges, Debra Rutland and Dr. Addie Boone wave to fans.

photo by Joyce Mabry



# Bear Trackers: Face of Southwest

By Joshua Faust, staff

In comes the “face of Southwest!” The Southwest Mississippi Community College Bear Trackers are an elite and prestigious group of selected students who take the role of ambassadors for the college. At the beginning of each school year, students go through a selection process, where they are judged based on their competitive application and interview process. During the interview, a panel evaluates each applicant’s scholastic achievements, communication and leadership skills, and knowledge and enthusiasm of Southwest. If a student meets the requirements, they become part of the “face of Southwest.” With the title of Bear Trackers, they take on the responsibility for many different events on campus. These events included the SMCC Homecoming Alumni Reception, the Parade of Beauties Pageant, SMCC’s Transfer College Fair, Faculty and Staff Thanksgiving Luncheon, attending high school college fairs to reach out to prospective students, and serving as ushers for several on-campus events. The Bear Trackers host area high school students during Junior/Senior Night and Kick for Tuition at an SMCC football game. They also stay busy throughout the school year doing fundraising events. Bear Trackers will host the 10th Annual SMCC Princess Ball in March. All of this culminates into one of the highlights of the year: the annual leadership retreat to Gulf Shores, Alabama. The SMCC Bear Trackers sponsors are Karinlee Brister, SMCC Recruiter; Megan Ivy Jones, SMCC Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Counselor, and Recruiter; and Pat Young, SMCC Director of Counseling and Recruitment. The Bear Tracker office includes the following: Lauren Bates, President; Katherine Bishop, Vice-President; Joshua Faust, Treasurer; Morgan Guy, Student Chair of Fundraising; Jackson Fortenberry, Student Chair of Membership. Are you Interested in becoming a Bear Tracker? Applications for it will be available this summer for the fall semester. Become one and show what Southwest is all about! Go Bears!

# Lampley: Player of the Week

By Travis Connelley, SID

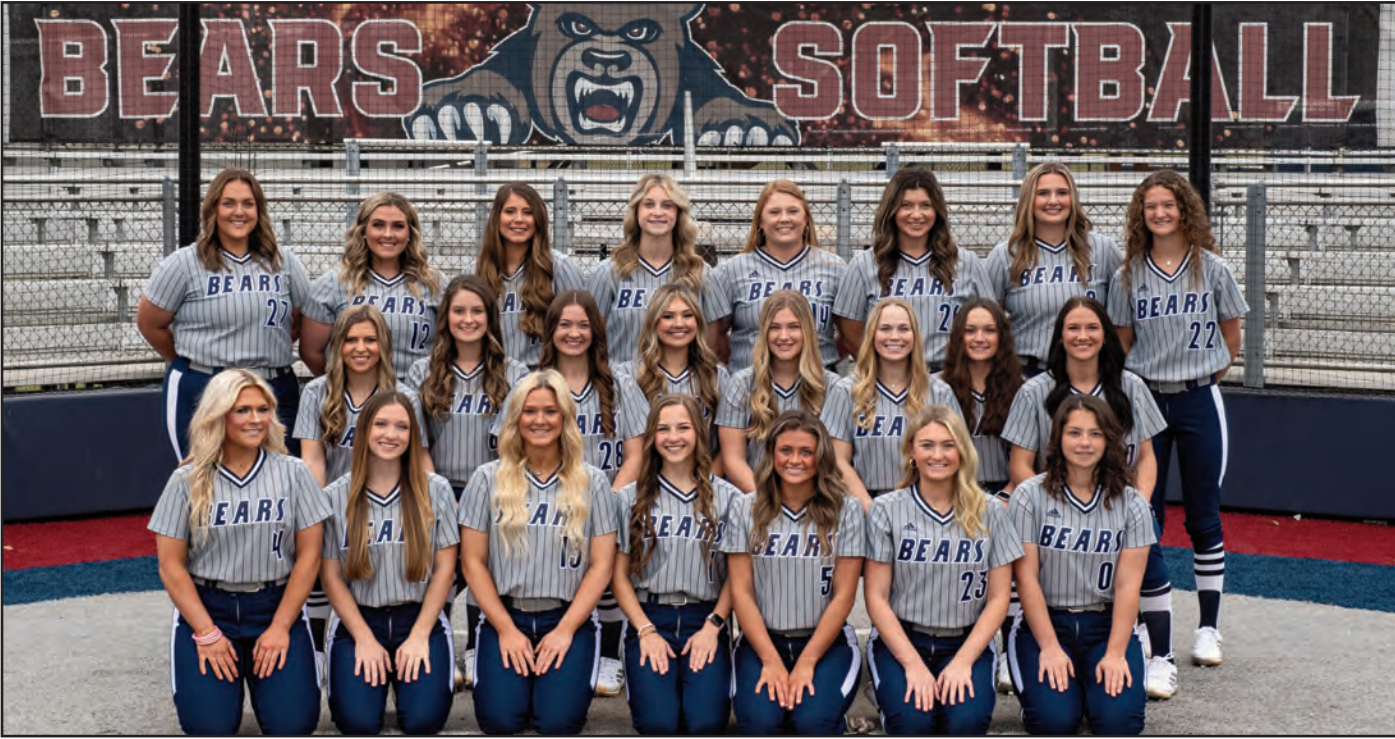
All season long, Mookie Lampley has stood out on the court with her stellar play. On Tuesday her play helped her earn additional recognition as the Lady Bear freshman guard was named the MACCC Conference Player of the Week in Women's Basketball.

Lampley turned in two big performances last week for the Lady Bears, both wins. In Monday's road win over Holmes, she had 8 points, 8 assists, 2 rebounds and 2 steals. One of her assists was a pass to Veronica Williams helping to set up her game-winning shot.

In Saturday's road win over LSU-Eunice, she shined with 25 points (including a 5-of-7 effort from 3-point range), 2 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals.

Southwest head coach Brent Harris said that he is really proud of Lampley and she is very much deserving of this honor.

"She had obviously good nights and big buckets in key moments at the end of both of those wins and both were on the road," he said. "That is what makes it special. She has been really good for us all year long so it is nice to see someone get some recognition."



**Softball Team:** Morgan Gras, Anlyssa Richardson, Anne Claire Sistrunk, Robin Neblett, Madi Smith, Emme Wallace, Cheyenne Tyson; second row; Kayleigh Necaise, Sarah Stockstill, Lilli Robertson, Angelle Delcambre, Addie Bagwell, Kayci Beth Wallace, Rowan Braley, Shaylee Ingram; third row; Lana Dalton, Mia Pumila, Abby Myers, Brooklynn Burgess, Lana Bridges, Annelise Elrod, Stacey Stampley, Londyn Robertson

photo by Chuck Barnes



**Baseball Team:** Sam Crowe, Brycen Smith, Bradley Whitaker, Tyler Otts, Luke Lirette, Cole Tillman, Braxton Thoms, Nolan Walther, Jerod Williams, Christian Kell, Justin Thomas, Conner McHenry, JT Thigpen, Garrison Shows, Marcus Jackson; second row: Collin Netto, Gage Hinnant, Trace Dearman, Matthew Latino, Brett Boutwell, Kaiden Rosetti, Hunter Harrell, Jake Martin, Caiden Necaise, Dawson Drennan, Matthew Bienvenu, John Austin Ricks, Colson Thompson, Braiden Jones, Tate Cuevas, and Myles Green

photo by Chuck Barnes



**Golf Team:** Golf Team: Jay O'Hern, Head Coach; Kylen Reeves, Zach Boyd, Whit Price, Jae Ochoa, Ryan Spears, Cade Rush, Carson Simmons; not pictured: Jake Spring

photo by Chuck Barnes



**Tennis Teams:** Sophie Thompkins, Emma Carruth, Larina Anderson, Elise Gillissie, Mary Elizabeth Kuntz; second row: Joyce Mabry, Head Coach; Phillip Chandler, Alex Velazquez, Jackson Stanford, John Pender Johnson, Franco Frasoli, Jacob Fairley, Luke Sowell, Aidan Carter; not pictured: Jack Brewer and Austin Etheridge

photo by Chuck Barnes



**Bear Trackers:** Megan Ivy Jones, Bear Tracker advisor; Melanie Parsons, Allei Reagan, Kelsey Jones, Tylaya Varnado, Brianna Bennett, Eboni Handy, Lauren Bates, Morgan Guy, Laney Boyd, McKenna Pearson, Emily Peltier, Kellcee Smith, Kaylee Pigott, Rebecca Nordstrom, Karinlee Brister, Academic Recruiter and Bear Tracker advisor; second row: Pat Young, Director of Academic Counseling and Recruitment and Bear Tracker advisor; , Kaylea Wall, Claire Busbin, Joli Spears, Milloree Brown, Leah Sterling, Amy Mabile, Sydney Parker, Sydney Williams, Presley Gordon, Katherine Bishop, Madison Brown, Joleah Leavy; third row: Jake Reeves, Marcus Jackson, Alex Wroten, Whit Price, Ezra Pattie, Kylen Reeves, Kaden Reeves, Joshua Faust, Caleb Brown, Jack Brewer

photo by Joyce Mabry

# Student spotlight: Shimi

By Leah Sterling, Editor

Alexandra Shimasaki, “Shimi,” an international soccer player for the Lady Bears, can not say enough positive things about the college when asked about her experience so far away from home. Being a part of a military family, commonly relocating all around the globe, Shimi has learned early on how to adapt to new surroundings and lifestyles. Born in California but currently residing in Italy, the athletic department discover her during the recruitment process. Overjoyed at the offer to play her dream sport at such a prosperous school, Shimi gladly accepts the invitation.

The game of soccer has been a part of Shimi’s life since age four, so her heart truly belongs to the game. She says that the team that she is currently a part of has treated her like a true family and welcomed her with open arms. They continue to show humility, kindness, and support in her time so far away from home. In fact, her teammates vote her as MVP, Most Valuable Player. She adores her time at the college, forming forever friendships with her teammates and making cheerful memories on campus.

Not only has Shimi had a great athletic experience playing at SMCC, but the college’s academics impress her. Shimi greatly expresses her appreciation for the supportive and understanding professors. Over the school year, they maintain leniency concerning student-athletes.

In the future, Shimi would love to see herself still playing the game that she knows so well. While athletics remain a core part of who she is, Shimi is also very passionate about her studies. Her dream is to become an Aerospace Engineer, and maybe one day enlist in the Navy, serving as a Pilot.

While Shimi loves living in South Mississippi, she still greatly misses her home. Shimi expresses that the biggest obstacle of living so far away from home would be the physical absence of her family; however, she makes a point daily to call her family members. Her father remains her role model because he taught her everything that she knows about soccer. Over the years, her family pushes her to never stop chasing her dreams. When asked what she loves most about Soccer, Shimi replies, “I love the competition and the challenge. The adrenaline rush has always been familiar and thrilling.” The love that she holds for this sport will never fade.

# Trip to Washington

By Larina Anderson, Co-editor

This past summer, my family and I traveled to Washington, D.C. There, I discovered one of my new favorite shopping centers, Westfield Annapolis, which includes many different restaurants and fast food places. Asian Food Eatery contained a restaurant called China Wok, where I ordered a Teriyaki entrée. China Wok instantly reminded me of the time I lived in Seattle because I enjoyed eating the teriyaki entrees. The taste and texture took me back to my childhood when I would appreciate eating Teriyaki with my mother after she would get off of work. Other things that I enjoyed was spending time with my family members that reside there.

As I analyzed the many areas we explored, I noticed how the neighborhoods and landscape came together so beautifully. I did not see many eco-friendly areas because of the type of zoning I was surrounded by, but I did see some nature attracting areas that looked absolutely breathtaking. In D.C., cold temperatures surrounded us. Additionally, all of the areas seemed to be calm and quiet. I found interesting how high prices skyrocketed when it came to Maryland’s tax and overall prices on things. After looking at the price for the smallest pack of candy at a gas station, I instantly lost my sweet tooth because of how much it cost! Other than the highly priced items, I felt like Maryland could serve as a possible place of residency because of how many activities flourish there to enjoy.



# Student Spotlight: Saunders

By Brooklyn Timmons, staff

Aoife Saunders, an International soccer player, attends Southwest Mississippi Community College. From Canvey Island, Essex, England, Aoife traveled a very long distance to start her freshman year here at Southwest. She chose Pre-Kinesiology as her major. She started playing futbol back in primary school with the boys in her elementary class at the age of seven. At a later date, she states that she joined the girls' team and made her way up progressing into well-known premier league academy sides.

The closeness and size of Southwest remains to be Aoife's favorite part about the campus. She says that the smallness of the campus makes it easier to meet more people and form close relationships with others, especially if they play on another sports team, it makes it easier to get closer and to know people. She also loves the teachers and the education. She admires her teachers in the reason that they continue to support their students to succeed in the classroom. She loves the campus, itself, and enjoys walking to class thanks to the beautiful scenery. Aoife names accents, classes, culture, and food the biggest differences between the United States and her home. She experiences her first trip to the states when she moves here last August. Although it took her a short period to adjust, Aoife easily picked back up the sport that she loves: soccer. Hard work, determination, and resilience led her to being the athlete that she is today. She says, "do not give up when things get hard. Keep pushing yourself to do your best and put in the needed hard work."

Although Aoife loves living in Mississippi, she greatly misses her family and friends. It is hard to leave them, but she can always look forward to seeing them again. Aoife looks up to her mother the most in respect and adoration. She knows that her mother works hard to provide for her and her sisters. She admires her worth ethic and strength. To the younger athletes on the team, she would say, "do not give up if you have passion for the sport you play. You can go very far in life if you keep pushing."

# Student Spotlight: Joseph

By Isaiah Lessard, staff

Jashawne Joseph is a freshman basketball player on the Southwest Men's Team. A native of Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, he also goes by the nickname "Shawne," one given to him by his coaches and teammates.

Joseph prepped at three high schools before finishing up at Westlake Preparatory in Florida. He chose to continue his academics and athletics here at Southwest due in large part to the success Head Basketball Coach Corey Schmidt has in sending players to Division I-level schools. Academically Joseph majors in Business Finance.

Joseph recently reflected on his decision to further his studies and play in America. "I love the United States because I have met people that I know I will keep around me for the rest of my life. Also, I like the hot weather!"

When he needs guidance, Joseph thinks of one of his favorite quotes from Oprah Winfrey. "Be thankful for what you have and you will end up having more. If you concentrate on what you do not have, you will never, ever have enough."

Traveling to any place far from home can bring hardships no matter where it may be. For Joseph, he faces the challenge of remembering that school comes first and basketball stays second priority. Others always tell him that school should remain his first concern and focus; however, he never truly understood their seriousness until his arrival at Southwest. Every day, he learns and grows from this experience.

GO BEARS!



**Well Construction:** Conner Seeley, Jalil McCray, Luis Loy, and Darrit Cotton work on a project. *photo by Clint Dunn*



**SMCC 's Science Super Stars:** Kameron Case, Emma Dickerson, Charlie White, Lauren Bates, Haley Kinabrew; second row: Robertkole Calderon, Dr. Alana Gabler, instructor; and Robin Kuntz, instructor. This group recently attended the Mississippi Academy of Science Annual meeting on the MS Gulf Coast. The students were able to participate in presentations on the latest cutting-edge research in many scientific fields.

2023-24 SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CHEER TRYOUTS

APRIL 1, 2023 12:30PM-3:30PM

SMCC TURF/GRILL GYM

TRYOUT PACKET

Forms can be found on the SMCC Athletic webpage under the Cheerleading tab or from Coach Henderson at SMCC, please call 601-276-4813 for more information.

NO FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT FEE  
Make checks payable to SMCC Cheer  
Forms and Tryout fees may be mailed to:  
SMCC Cheer  
c/o Cindy Henderson  
1156 College Drive  
Summit, MS 39666

\$25.00 Tryout Fee  
make checks payable to SMCC Cheer

Contact Information  
Cindy Reid-Henderson  
chenderson@smcc.edu  
601-276-4813

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SMCC CHEER TEAM  
MANDATORY CLINIC

MARCH 31, 2023 4:30PM-6:30PM  
LOCATED AT THE SMCC TURF/GRILL GYM

OPEN GYM

BEGINNING FEBRUARY 10, 2023  
4:30PM-6:30PM

(Located in the Turf/Grill Gym)  
Open Gym will continue every Friday  
with the exception of 3/17/2023 Spring Break



Around and Around and Around We Go

by Levi Lovett

# GEER

by Jack Brewer, staff, and Leah Sterling, Editor

GEER, Growth in Engineering and Entrepreneurial Readiness, focuses on exploring future entrepreneurial opportunities. The new organization on campus provides several learning opportunities and experiences for its members. Meeting multiple times throughout the semester, the club members enjoyed creating new forms of technology and experimenting with different prototypes. Intending to introduce students to new technology, GEER provides members with several future entrepreneurial opportunities. Under the instruction of Advisor Ron Wilson, GEER pushes the pupils to think about implementing technology into a viable business model. Members nominated official positions, electing Dustin Holmes, President; Colton McGovern, Vice-President; Kameron Case, Secretary; and Thomas Sasser, Treasurer.

GEER works to create and illustrate their work to their peers. Each semester they create new designs to display to the public. Over the first semester, the organization worked proficiently on their human sundial project. Currently, they focus their efforts on building an SMS chatbot. The students design the automated text message system to promptly respond with a link to videos based on the user's interaction with the bot. GEER provides great amounts of technological information for students to engage and learn.

# Languages

By Thewakrit Srithong, co-editor

Communication remains a fundamental necessity in today's time; the college offers several languages and communication courses, including Spanish, literature, English Composition, and Public Communications.

Public Communications consistently show a positive outcome in the students who complete the course. Public speaking does not come naturally for many students; however, by the end of the course, the progress and confidence that each pupil gains show immensely. Not only does this class give students the chance to express their personal passions, thoughts, and opinions, but also it greatly prepares them for the future. The majority of future professions of the students require public speaking at some point in the occupation, so presenting the four types of common speeches give the students extra experience and practice. English Courses also play a positive role in students' education. Instructed individuals learn how to demonstrate proper language skills. The Spanish classes supply students with the necessary information to master a foreign language.

# My Experience

By Levi Lovett, staff

The RWTC a resourceful and assisting building on campus, provides services for Adults, Retirement, and Work Education. Individuals in the department offer a variety of services, such as Adult Basic Education and High School Equivalency free preparatory classes, Testing and Assessment services, a Dropout/Educational Recovery Program, and an Institute for Learning in the Retirement Program. The directors and additional staff in this corporation strive to be helpful and remain available to make education achievable for your personal goals. Additionally, the Adult Education Program assists individuals who have nothriceived their high school diploma. By going through a smart course class on general education and skills for the workplace, students can receive their certification upon completion of this course. After graduation, students receive their diplomas and a choice to enroll in college. The Regional Workforce Training Center heavily aids my future and career. Without its programs and services, I would not have the education that I have, today. The Regional Workforce Training Center helps me pursue the education that I previously lacked, and now I am in college pursuing things that I believed to be impossible. I am grateful for the opportunity to expand my general knowledge and chase my dream of becoming a successful artist.



# Bears and Lady Bears host Regional Play



By Travis Connelley, Sports Information Director

**January 9, 2023**

Despite having the momentum for a large portion of the contest, the Lady Bears could not get that last push, falling to Co-Lin 69-67 Thursday night in the MACCC Conference opener for both teams.

“Not sure our energy level was consistent all night,” Southwest head coach Brent Harris said. “We had our chances and did not take advantage of them.”

The Lady Bears (9-4, 0-1 MACCC) got off to a slow start, falling behind 7-0 about four minutes into the contest. They eventually showed grit, slowly climbing back and reducing the Lady Wolves lead down to three.

Southwest kicked off the second period with a 5-0 run to take its first lead at 15-14. A 14-4 run a few minutes later continued the Lady Bear rally as Mia Wheeler came off the bench hitting two big 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions helping fuel the offensive attack for the hosts.

Southwest led 31-25 at half-time.

The Lady Bears came out swinging in the third with a 9-6 run to maintain its lead but not long afterward, the momentum swung back over to the visitor's side. A 12-2 rally by Co-Lin erased the Southwest lead and put the hosts down 43-42.

Both teams traded the lead before the Lady Wolves grabbed the upper hand, putting the Lady Bears behind 51-47 entering the final frame.

Southwest battled back eventually taking a 56-54 lead with 7:49 to go on a make from Lynn Griffin, who led the Lady Bears with 14 points on 5-of-7 shooting.

In similar fashion to the mid stages of the third quarter, both teams went toe-to-toe before Co-Lin jumped ahead by one with just under 4:00 to go.

Unfortunately for the Lady Bears they couldn't fully recover, pulling within striking distance but unable to close the deal.

January 12, 2023

In similar fashion to the non-conference game on Dec. 5th, the Lady Bears were locked in a close battle with Holmes Thursday at home. Unfortunately, this time, Southwest was on the losing end,

dropping a heartbreaker to the visiting Lady Bulldogs, 74-69.

The Lady Bears (9-6, 0-3) struggled on the defensive end for most of the evening as the Lady Bulldogs shot 62% from the field.

In the early stages of the contest, both teams battled back-and-forth. Trailing 12-11, Southwest went on a 13-0 run to take a commanding lead but struggles in the second quarter resulted in a Holmes surge that cut the Lady Bear lead down to four at 29-25 at the half.

Just like the opening of the game, both teams traded blows in the third quarter. Nearly all of Southwest's scoring in the period came from the duo of Nia Hardison and Veronica Williams who combined for 14 of the Lady Bears's 18 points. Despite this, Holmes hung around and drew even with Southwest at 47 entering the final frame.

Even though a JoJo Briggs three-point play and another basket from Hardison helped pace the Lady Bears early on in the fourth, the Lady Bulldogs kept up. They regained the lead following a 9-0 spurt consisting of a three-point play followed by a pair of 3-pointers.

Unfortunately for Southwest, the Lady Bears could not fully recover, even reducing the Lady Bulldog lead down to one at 65-64 but unable to jump ahead. Down the stretch, a Hardison 3-pointer put Southwest within three but Holmes capped-off a strong showing at the free throw line to seal the win.

Hardison led the Lady Bears with 22 points while Williams and Mookie Lampley each poured in 11.

Following a bit of an up-and-down journey through non-conference play to open the season, the Bears are beginning to get into rhythm and at the right time, winning two of the first three conference games, the latest a 77-68 decision at Holmes on Thursday.

“Like we talked about all year, we were gearing up for when we were going to hit our stride,” Southwest head coach Corey Schmidt said. “These young guys are growing up and figuring some things out. It is not perfect and we have a lot of things to clean up. But we are starting to figure out how we want to play.”

The Bears (9-6, 2-1), were a bit short-handed without starting forward Jahshawne Joseph. But it allowed others to step up and take the reins. One of which was Joe Holloway who finished with a team-high 20 points including half of the team's first 12 points.

Another key player was Isaiah Morey who scored in all facets

with two made 3-pointers, four buckets and two free throws totaling 16 points, a new season-high for the freshman guard from Brandon.

While the Bear offense shined, the defense had its hands full, trying to slow down the Bulldogs who took a 39-38 lead at the half.

In the early stages of the second half, the Bear offense was anchored by Mark Drone who had four of Southwest's first six points in the period. He then handed the torch over to Holloway who went on to score the Bears' next 10 points.

Down the stretch, Southwest grabbed the lead and was able to maintain its lead before running out the clock and preserving the win.

In addition to Holloway and Morey's big performances, the Bears also got double-digit scoring from Drone, who had 14 points and Corey Lombard who had 12.

**January 26, 2023**

Winners of their previous two contests, the Lady Bears entered Thursday's home game against Pearl River hoping for a third. But the visiting Lady Wildcats had other ideas grabbing an early lead and fending off a valiant Southwest effort as the hosts fell 66-42.

“(I'm) very proud of our effort,” Southwest head coach Brent Harris said. “PRCC is a really good team and they were very physical. We are growing and we still believe we are improving and there is a lot of basketball left to play.”

The Lady Bears (11-8, 2-5 MACCC) got off to a bit of a slow start as the Lady Wildcats grabbed an early 6-0 advantage. Southwest eventually got into rhythm and pulled within two with 2:41 to go in the first quarter following a pair of free throws from Mookie Lampley. But Pearl River scored the final four points of the first to take a 13-7 lead at the end of the quarter.

Back-to-back 3-pointers from Veronica Williams and Lampley provided offense for the Lady Bears in the early stages of the second quarter. Later in the period a Courtney Bradford make narrowed the visitors' lead down to one at 19-18 but Pearl River pulled away once again putting Southwest down 29-23 at the half.

In an act of déjà vu, the Lady Bears got into a groove towards the beginning of the third quarter but went cold towards the end. Southwest managed to narrow the Pearl River lead to four on two occasions around the midway point of the period but couldn't

get over the hump.

In the fourth, the Lady Bears couldn't keep up with the Lady Wildcats as Pearl River maintained the upper hand before running out the clock and sealing the win.

JoJo Briggs led the Lady Bears with 10 points on 5-of-7 shooting. Lampley posted nine points while Bradford had seven. After the game, Harris praised Bradford and the way the sophomore center handled the physicality of Pearl River in the paint.

Early struggles proved to be too much for the Bears as the host Pearl River Wildcats jumped ahead in the beginning stages of Thursday's game and never let up, handing Southwest a 69-54 loss.

“Tip your hat to Pearl River, they made more plays and shots than us to win the game,” Southwest head coach Corey Schmidt said. “They dominated the boards in the first half and built a lead. Then when we tried to cut into it a little bit in the second half, they hit some really big shots, a couple at the very end of the shot clock.”

The Bears (10-9, 3-4) took the lead first with a Joe Holloway make, but unfortunately, it was the only lead of the game for Southwest. Pearl River quickly grabbed the upper hand and despite being on top, Southwest kept pace for the majority of the first half. Unfortunately for the Bears, the Wildcats got into rhythm at the tail end of the first half going on an 8-0 run putting Southwest down 34-20 at half-time.

Southwest opened the second with an 8-2 run to narrow the gap. But yet another cold stretch on offense proved costly for the Bears. The Wildcats took advantage, piecing together a 13-2 rally further putting the Bears in a hole.

Not long afterward, the Bears showed tremendous grit and tenacity rallying to pull within six at 51-45 following a basket in the paint from Isaac Brice.

Southwest managed to keep the deficit within single digits for the next several minutes until the closing moments of the contest when Pearl River began to pull away.

After the game, Schmidt praised his defense.

“I thought our guys were really locked in on the defensive end,” he said. “We had a great focus and out effort was there. We just have to be able to find more ways to score. A lot of that falls on me to put our guys in better positions.”

Holloway paced the Bears

with 16 points and eight rebounds. Jahshawne Joseph also had a strong showing with 12 points and eight rebounds.

February 27, 2023

The No 6 seed Bears entered Monday's NJCAA Region 23 First Round game at home against No. 11 Coahoma with a great deal of momentum built from a strong finish to the regular season. However, after losing a late lead, efforts to go for a tie in the closing moments came up short as Southwest fell 71-69 thus ending the season for the Bears.

"I feel like heartbroken is a little overdramatic but it is probably the best word choice that I have. And it is not even for myself, it is for these guys, just everything that they gave this year," Southwest head coach Corey Schmidt said. "We had three amazing days of practice leading up to this game. When you come up short in a game like this you look back and question everything."

Both the Bears (16-11) and the Tigers battled hard early on. Coahoma held a slight lead before Southwest jumped ahead 16-15 on a 3-pointer from Deon Brown. The score came at the 12:45 mark and was the first lead for the Bears since the game's opening basket.

Not long afterwards the Bears got out of rhythm as the Tigers found new life. Southwest fell behind by as much as 10 but narrowed the gap to 3 on multiple occasions before closing it and taking a 43-41 lead at the half on a Blake Hart make at the buzzer.

With the momentum on its side, Southwest looked to build some distance between itself and Coahoma. A fast start from Isaac Brice providing the first four points of the second half coupled with a 3-pointer from Jahshawne Joseph pushed the Bear lead to nine at 50-41.

Other than a brief moment at the 12:15 mark when the score was tied at 51, the Bears maintained the lead for several minutes, even pushing it to double-digits at 10 points following a pair of free throws from Joe Holloway.

However, the Tigers went on a 13-0 run to take a 70-67 lead with about a minute to play. Even though Southwest had a chance to win it at the end, trailing by only two, the Bears could not get the ball in the basket before time ran out.

After the game, Schmidt reflected on his first year as head coach and how excited he is about returning the majority of his team for next season.

"You build off of the momen-

tum and you build off the positives and learn from the negatives and we've done that all year," he said. "It's when you have a whole offseason to do that and get in the gym and work. We are going to put in the work and when you have that much time to improve and work with the same group and if you can keep that camaraderie, we are going to be looking to make some noise next year."

March 1, 2021

The momentum built from Montday's thrilling win over Co-Lin to open NJCAA Region 23 Tournament play unfortunately did not carry over to Wednesday as the Lady Bears put up a fight and put together a valiant effort in the end but fell short to host Pearl River 60-41.

"We settled a lot and they are great defensively," Southwest head coach Brent Harris said. "This is a great atmosphere and a tough place to play. At times I think that bothered us. We lost our composure, at times. We competed, our defense was absolutely phenomenal in the first half."

During the first quarter, the defenses took center stage as both offenses struggled to find much success. The Lady Bears (17-11) got a 3-pointer at the buzzer from Savannah Hailey to take a 10-9 lead after the first 10:00 of play.

In the second quarter, however, Southwest had difficulty trying to match the intensity put on display by Pearl River. The Lady Wildcats began to pull away and took a 23-12 lead at the half.

Makes from Nia Hardison and Michaela Payton helped fuel Southwest in the third, but Pearl River put together another strong quarter to maintain its lead.

In the fourth, the Lady Bears began to get into rhythm again, trimming the hosts' lead down to as little as 12 but it was too late as the Lady Wildcats got a few late baskets and ran the clock out to preserve the win, thus ending the season for the Lady Bears.

Hailey and Mookie Lampley led the way for Southwest scoring 12 points apiece.

After the game, Coach Harris said that he talked with his team following the game and highlighted the highs of the season.

"I told them that we had a good year. I told them that we beat the No. 1 team in the country and I doubt there are many teams in the world that can say that," he said. "We had some ups and downs. We could have packed it in and not rallied and not got ourselves a home playoff game, and we did not do that."

## Baseball Bears play to win

**March 3, 2023**

Against the Southeastern Iowa Blackhawks, the Bears made sure to end Friday on a high note, picking up a 13-2 win.

"Our guys get after it," Southwest head coach Jack Edmonson said reflecting on his team's resilience. "We have a great group of kids, great leadership. They play hard and they want to win. I told them that you have 30 minutes to reset and let's leave here 1-1 today."

In Game 1, the struggles for the Bears (10-9) came early as the Blackhawks got five hits and plated seven runs immediately putting Southwest behind the 8-ball.

The Bears tried to respond but were unable to.

Another strong inning offen-

sively for the visitors put Southwest in an even deeper hole. Southeastern plated an additional 10 runs to take a 17-0 lead.

Southwest got its run in the bottom half of the inning. Jerod Williams reached on an error and touched home two at-bats later when Colson Thompson singled to center.

The Bears then settled down and did not allow a run in the third inning. The Blackhawks scratched two runs across in the fourth, another in the fifth and two more in the sixth rounding-out the scoring in the game.

In the nightcap, the Bears quickly righted the wrongs that plagued them in the opening contest. Luke Lirette got the start on the mound and made his mark

early getting a strikeout while retiring three of the first four batters that he faced.

His offense also got off to a fast start as in the bottom of the first a pair of passed balls during consecutive at bats allowed Tyler Otts and Hunter Harrell to score putting Southwest up 2-0.

Another strong inning from Lirette in the second kept the momentum on the home side and the Bears used that to add to their lead. With Brett Boutwell on at first and Marcus Jackson at third, Boutwell stole second while Jackson used his speed and raced home making it a 3-0 lead.

The Blackhawks quickly got that run back, opening the third inning with a solo home run. They pulled within one the following inning

on a fielder's choice double play.

Maintaining the one run lead, Lirette continued to deal, striking out a pair of batters in the fifth preventing the visitors from pulling any closer.

In the bottom half of the inning, the Bear offense broke the game open. A single from Harrell was followed by a double from Braiden Jones. Next up was Connor McHenry who grounded out but not before Harrell scored making it a 4-2 game.

Two batters later Jackson doubled in Jones before Colson Thompson cleared the bases with a 3-run shot into the Summit night sky and over the left field wall increasing the Bear lead to 8-2.

"It feels good," said Thompson

who went 1-for-4 with three RBIs and a run scored. "At beginning of the game I wasn't really feeling my swing and I was struggling a little bit. But then things started clicking and I was making good contact."

The hits kept coming in the inning for Southwest. After three-consecutive walks to load the bases, Boutwell raced home on a passed ball before Harrell doubled to left allowing Matthew Latino and Otts to score. Next up was Jones who continued to add to his already strong week with yet another home run, this time a two-run line drive shot over the left field wall, pushing the Southwest lead to 13-2.

Lirette came back out and retired six of the next seven bat-

ters he faced in order to help seal the complete game win.

"I'm very excited," he said. "I think that this is my first complete game ever, even high school." Lirette struck out seven while giving up only five hits, two runs (one earned) and three walks.

Offensively, Jones led the Bears with a home run, a double, two runs scored and two RBIs. He finishes the week playing in all six games, tallying six home runs, one double, nine runs scored and 10 RBIs. Also shining in the win against the Blackhawks was Harrell, who like Jones, finished with two hits and two RBIs. He also added three runs scored.

## Softball Lady Bears on the move

**March 3, 2023**

The recent stellar play of the Lady Bears was on display once again Wednesday at home as the host Lady Bears shut down the visiting Lady Bears of Baton Rouge CC winning Game 1 9-5 before taking Game 2 3-2.

"I think that we are playing good and we are battling," Southwest head coach Shea Johnson said. "Playing those hard teams last week is paying off. Our pitching seems to be a lot better."

The pitching of the Lady Bears (10-6) flexed its muscle in the first game as Mia Pumila went the distance for Southwest giving up only five runs (three earned) and one walk while striking out two.

She faced some adversity in the first inning as Baton Rouge plated three runs, but the sophomore did not let it affect her one bit as she got out of the inning.

Her offense plated one run in the bottom of the first when Anne Claire Sistrunk laid down a sacri-

fice bunt bringing Kayci Beth Wallace home.

Baton Rouge pushed another run across in the second but Southwest answered back and in a big way. A six-run inning consisting of RBI doubles from Kacey Stampley and Abby Myers and Kayleigh Necaise reaching on an error put the host Lady Bears on top 7-4.

In the third, Necaise provided the next Southwest run which on a single to center, scoring both

Lilli and Londyn Robertson.

Baton Rouge inched a bit closer in the sixth before Pumila shut the door on any future chances for the visitors, sealing the win.

Offensively Wallace had a huge game with four hits and two runs scored. Stampley had three RBIs while Necaise and Myers had two apiece.

In the second game, the combination of Madi Smith and Emme Wallace on the mound, shined for Southwest. The duo gave up only

six hits, and three walks.

After Baton Rouge produced the game's first run in the first inning, Southwest drew even in the second when Londyn Robertson reached via an error allowing Sarah Stockstill to touch home, tying the game at 1.

Baton Rouge took the lead once again in the fourth, opening the inning with a solo home run to center making it a 2-1 game.

But just like she has done several times already this year,

Stampley stepped up once again. In the fifth, the sophomore smacked a double to center scoring Necaise and Robin Neblett giving Southwest its first lead of the game at 3-2.

The hosts were able to keep their opponents at bay for the remainder of the game, picking up their fourth win in a row.

# GO BEARS!!!!



# Test Anxiety: Real

By Milloree Brown, staff

Test anxiety can cause many students to feel nervous or even panicky during testing! While it's normal to feel a bit nervous or anxious before a test, some students can find this to be debilitating. If you have racing thoughts, an inability to concentrate, or feelings of dread combined with physical symptoms like a fast heartbeat, headache, or nausea before a test or quiz, it can be attributed to testing anxiety.

A few ways to overcome test anxiety are found here! One of the ways is by getting to class early so that you don't feel rushed, as this may ramp up any previous anxieties. Also, make sure to be prepared with everything you need and eat a nice breakfast that morning, or at the very least something to keep your energy levels up! Have a positive attitude toward the test, and pretty soon you'll find that it's fairly easy to overcome test anxiety.

www.princetonreview.com

# Lady Bears Win

By Travis Connelley, SID

At a time when the No. 7 seeded Lady Bears needed to put their best foot forward, they played arguably one of their best games of the year Monday topping the visiting No. 10 seed Co-Lin Lady Wolves 73-48 in the first round of the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament.

"Our defense was really good," Southwest head coach Brent Harris said. "We are still improving and we want to keep our season going. I'm really proud of us. We've got some people who can play when we are focused, when we are engaged, when we are listening to the scout. We can do some things."

The balanced attack from the Lady Bears (16-10) produced three scorers in double-figures. Veroinca Williams posted 13 points and Michaela Payton had 11 while Southwest was led by Nia Hardison who recorded 15 points. While Hardison was one of the key contributors on offense, she said that play on the other side of the court was just as, if not, more important "We had our mind ready tonight," Hardison said. "We came in focused and remained key. Tonight's game was defense and the whole team came ready to play and we wanted to keep our season going." The defense of the Lady Bears (17-10) had much success slowing down a talented Lady Wolves team. Co-Lin shot 40% from the field and only one Lady Wolf scored in double-figures. Right out of the gate, the combination of Southwest's stout defense and tough offense paid dividends. The Bears raced out to a 14-4 advantage. However, the Wolves rallied to pull within two at 14-12 at the end of the first quarter.

In the second, things quickly escalated for Southwest. The Lady Bear defense held Co-Lin in check, not allowing any points in the period. Meanwhile, the offense got a pair of makes from Hardison to kick things off. She was complemented by makes from Veronica Williams, Michaela Payton, Savannah Hailey, and an impressive steal and 3-point play on the fast break by Tee Bryant bringing the many fans in attendance inside the packed Bear Basketball Center to their feet. Southwest led 30-12 at the half. In the third, the stellar play from the Lady Bears picked up where it left off before the half. Williams kicked off the period with a 3-pointer before Hardison provided the next six Lady Bear points. Her final make started a 10-0 run highlighted by 3-pointers from Payton and Hailey ballooning the Southwest lead to 47-17. With just under 2:45 to go in the third, Williams connected on another 3-pointer before grabbing an offensive rebound and making a put-back on the ensuing possession. The Lady Bears took a 59-28. Co-Lin showed fight, cutting into the Southwest lead. But makes from Mia Wheeler and McKenzie Amos helped keep the Lady Bear offense moving in the right direction as Southwest ran out the clock, picking up the win.



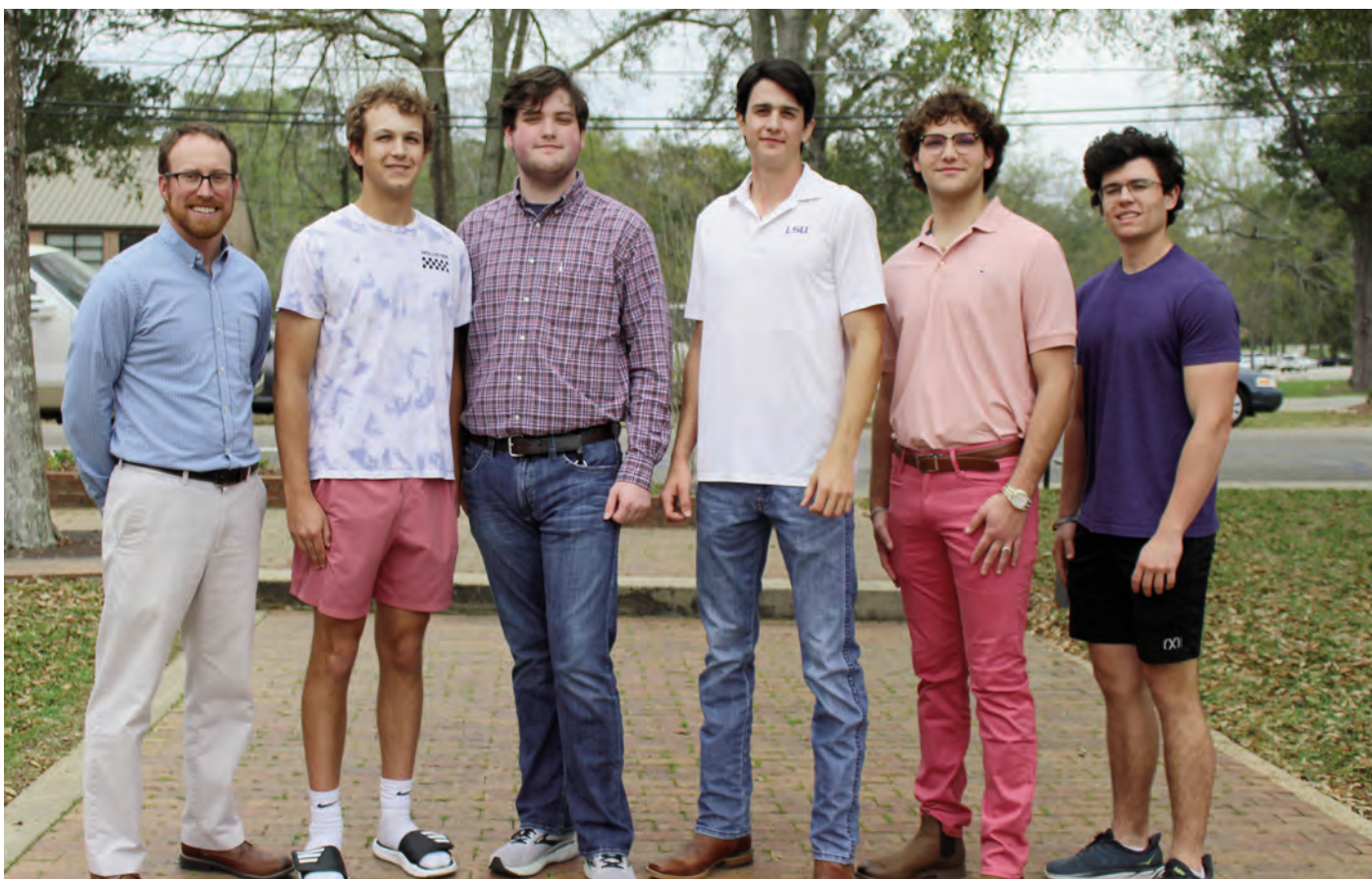
**SMCC Alumni Association Scholarship recipients:** Kimberly Wooley, Alumni Association Board President; Tylaya Varnado, Ty'Kevious Robertson, Ashley Allen, Charles White, Kristana Howard, and Loran Gerald, Alumni Association Executive Director. Not pictured: Krisceia Chandler, Alexis Freeman, and Blaire Martin

photo by Joyce Mabry



**Fellowship of Christian Athletes:** Jacob Fairley, Elise Gillissie, Sophie Tompkins, Dredarius Robinson, JP Johnson, James Kate, Austin Etheridge, Luke Sowell, Phillip Chandler, and Alex Velazquez

photo by Joyce Mabry



**GEER:** Ron Wilson, advisor; Jackson Stanford, Levi Sasser, Dustin Holmes, Colton McGovern, Jack Brewer

photo by Joyce Mabry



**In the Zone.....** Demuriyun Montgomery dives for the end zone.

photo by Chuck Barnes

# Men's and Women's tennis teams beat Northeast

By Travis Connelley, SID

The men's and women's tennis teams posted strong outings Friday, picking up wins against visiting Northeast Mississippi.

Both teams posted scores of 6-3. Tennis head coach Joyce Mabry was proud of her teams' efforts.

"Fierce and exciting competition was evident on each court," she said. "I am proud of the players' determination and grit as they fought for every point. Their strong work ethics in practice continued to carry over to the matches."

On the women's side in doubles play, the #1 doubles team of Larina Anderson and Mary Elizabeth Kuntz won 8-5 while the #2 doubles team of Emma Carruth and Sophie Tompkins followed suit, winning their match 9-7.

In singles play, #1 singles Anderson won 6-0, 6-3, #2 singles Kuntz won 6-3, 6-4, #3 singles Carruth won 6-0, 6-0 and #4 singles Tompkins won 6-3, 6-1. #5 singles Elise Gillissie fell 3-6, 4-6.

On the men's side, the #1 doubles team of J.P. Johnson and Phillip Chandler won 8-0 while the #2 doubles team of Alex Velasquez and Jackson Stanford claimed an 8-2 victory and the #3 team of Jacob Fairley and Luke Sowell won 8-3.

In singles play, #1 singles Chandler won 6-0, 6-0, #2 singles Johnson won 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, #3 Asingles Stanford fell 2-6, 6-7 (4-7), #4 singles Velasquez won 6-4, 4-6,10-8, #5 singles Fairley lost 4-6, 5-7 and #6 singles Sowell lost 4-6, 2-6.

# The SMCC Experience

by Jeremy D. Collins Jr., staff

Several positive thoughts come to mind when asked, "What do you like about Southwest?" Thanks to my curiosity, I decide to interview two students on campus and ask them what they enjoy about Southwest Community College. Both of these two classmates have unique, optimistic experiences.

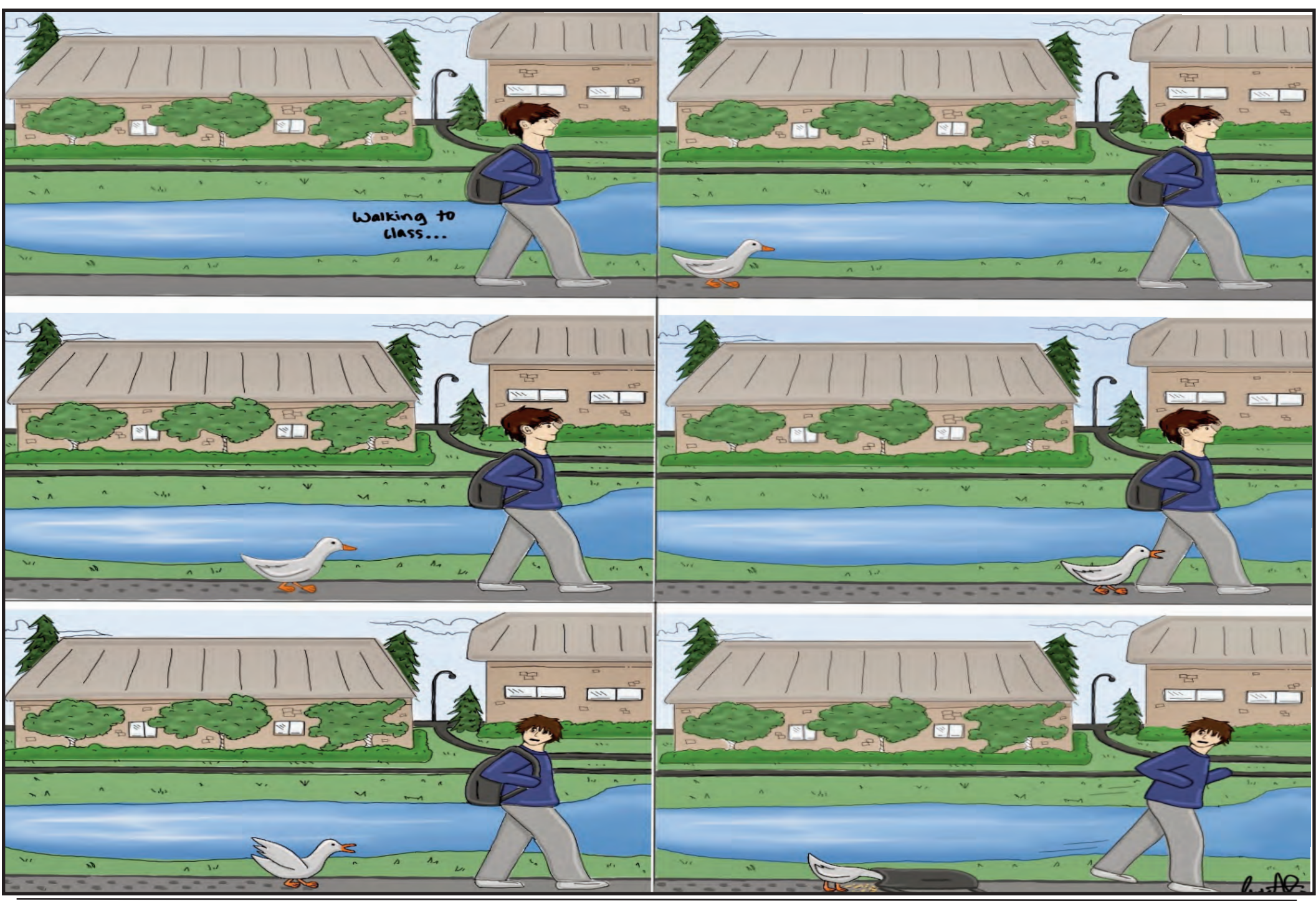
Joshua Ephrom Jr, a new student at Southwest, has found the college to be very motivational and peaceful. Native to Louisiana, the town of Summit provides Joshua with new scenery, activities, and a new group people. So far, he loves life on campus. He says that everyone is extremely friendly and helpful. He notices that students remain determined in their studies, while still having fun and enjoying college. He decides to attend SMCC because of the promising football team. Joshua dreams of playing Division 1 Football, and Southwest serves as the first step in his plan. He hopes to see an impact and improvement on his football skills and also in his education. Although he has only roamed around campus for a few weeks, Joshua already owns a love for Southwest in his heart. Wyatt Fava, another student of Southwest, mentions several favorable things that he likes about the college. He says that a welcoming atmosphere surrounds the campus, which acts as a main reason of why he chooses to attend. He discovers the BSU and all of the many things that it offers. He loves attending Bible Study on Tuesday nights and Noon Day at lunch on Wednesdays. All in all, Southwest offers much enjoyment to its students. Whether academically or athletically, SMCC offers something for you.







RANDOM THINGS by Joshua Faust



ADS

Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center

Aladdin

POWERADE

Coca-Cola

B-Kwik

MarketMax

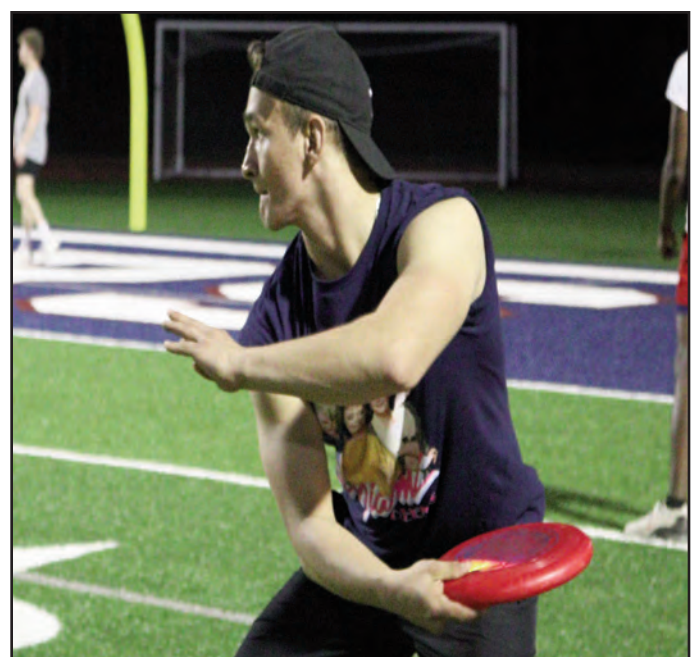
KEITH WHITE

RM



# In the Zone for B.S.U. Frisbee Tournament

photos by Sarah Meyn



## SMCC Alumni Association Scholarships

*High school seniors from Pike, Amite, Walthall, and Wilkinson counties planning to attend SMCC this fall can now apply online for an SMCC Alumni Association scholarship [www.smcc.edu/Alumni](http://www.smcc.edu/Alumni)*



**Deadline is Friday,  
March 31, 2023**



**Pike, Amite, Walthall  
and Wilkinson county  
graduates only**

**\*One recipient per county  
will be selected and  
awarded a scholarship.**

For more information, contact Mrs.  
Loran Gerald at 601-276-2442 or  
[lgerald@smcc.edu](mailto:lgerald@smcc.edu)



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