

Spring 2010

# VISIONS

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF MUW

## REACHING

*Out*



Mississippi University  
for Women  
*A Tradition of Excellence for Women and Men*





## Calendar of Events



### APRIL

#### 16-18 MUW Homecoming

MUW's Homecoming is a fun-filled weekend for the entire family. For more information, call the Office of Alumni Relations at (662) 329-7295.

### MAY

#### 8 Commencement

Graduation ceremonies will be held at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The time-honored Mag Chain ceremony will be held at 8 a.m. on Shattuck Lawn. For more information, contact the Registrar's Office at (662) 329-7135. Whitfield Hall, Rent Auditorium.



To view MUW's full calendar of events, visit <http://www.muw.edu/calendar>.



## *Family First*

Meeting the needs of your family and supporting MUW is made easy through a residuary bequest in your will. A residuary bequest provides that MUW receives all or a stated portion of your estate after all bequests, debts, taxes and expenses have been distributed. With just a little planning, you can make sure your loved ones and your alma mater are supported far into the future.

To learn more about planned giving, please contact  
Brandy Williams in the Office of Development  
toll free at (877) 462-8439, ext. 7151  
or email [bwilliams@dev.muw.edu](mailto:bwilliams@dev.muw.edu).

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SPRING 2010



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it is again time for another issue of Visions. I hope that you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy putting it together for you.

Those of you who remember when cars floated near the library on this campus will be interested to know that no cars floated during the last couple of months even though we had pouring rains several times a week. (Yes, we have definitely improved our drainage system.) I have a rain gauge in my flower and herb garden, and each morning before work, I would check it to see how much rain we had gotten the previous day. After a while, I was not as surprised to see that it contained between two to three inches each morning.

Although we got very tired of wearing rain boots all the time, the good thing about all the rain was that we did not have to do much watering this past summer. Saving money in any way is a very positive thing because of the sad condition of Mississippi's economy and its negative effect on all the budgets of the IHL institutions. In particular, we are anticipating some serious cuts here at MUW and are trying to plan wisely for the future.

In this issue of Visions, you will see many wonderful things highlighted, but please know that so many, many more were left out because of page limitations. One of the things that we are extremely proud of is being ranked as #7 for "Commitment to Teaching" in U.S. News & World Report's newest category of excellence. Of course, that is what we primarily do and what we stress as a campus, so it was wonderful that our commitment to our students was recognized.

There are many other stories for you to enjoy in this issue including a piece about our acquisition of a substantial collection of the works of Eudora Welty. This was made possible by the generosity of Mr. Andy Murray Coffey. The collection contains more than 270 separate items including correspondence, books, periodicals, recordings and photographs and we are proud to have it.



I want to let you know I will be retiring at the end of my second four-year contract in June. This was a very hard decision for me to make, because I fell in love with MUW on the day that I came here to interview. While I did consider a third contract, after talking with my four children, I decided that I want to retire, go back to my writing, and spend time with my children and in my garden. I want to assure you that I will work just as hard for MUW on my last day here as I did on my first day here. We have a great deal more to accomplish, and with everyone's help, we will get those things done. Our focus as always will remain on our students and in making sure that all of their educational and personal needs are met.

Please know that your help and support are very important to us, and we thank you for all that you do for MUW. Until next time, I send you my best wishes.

Sincerely,

*Claudia A. Limbert*

Claudia A. Limbert, Ph.D.

President

(662) 329-7100

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## President Limbert to Retire, Leave Impressive Legacy

By Leah Rupp Smith • Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

When Mississippi University for Women President Claudia A. Limbert finishes her tenure as president of Mississippi University for Women, she will leave behind an impressive legacy that includes enrollment growth and a focus on academics and teaching that has caused many to take notice.

After more than seven outstanding years of service, Dr. Limbert announced that she plans to retire at the end of June 2010, when her current contract ends.

“My MUW family has taken me on a fantastic journey and for that I will always be indebted to them. Looking back on our work together, I am truly honored and humbled to have been a part of it all,” said Dr. Limbert, appointed as MUW’s 13th president in April 2002. “Now that the goals we set out to meet have been accomplished or set in motion, it is time for another to take the reins. It is also time for me to be with my family and concentrate on something that I long to get back to — writing.”

“We are saddened to say goodbye to Dr. Limbert,” Board President Scott Ross said. “She is a remarkable person and her contributions and service to this institution will never be forgotten.”

Trustee Amy Whitten added, “Dr. Limbert has a compelling personal story that has clearly guided her unique approach to academics and institutional life. She has encouraged her students to believe in themselves and recognize the value of getting a quality education because she knows firsthand how important these two things are.”

A native of the Missouri Ozarks, Dr. Limbert is a first-generation college graduate in her family. At the age of 35, after settling

down and starting a family, she decided to pursue a bachelor’s degree in English, history and education from Bethel College in Newton, Kan. She earned her master’s and doctorate in creative writing and English literature, respectively, from Boston University. After earning her degrees, Dr. Limbert served in various high-level positions at Penn State University, Dubois, including Campus Executive Officer and Director of Academic Affairs.

At MUW, Dr. Limbert hit the ground running. Four months after she began her tenure in June 2002, a tornado devas-

tated the campus and community. Twenty-six buildings were damaged, some severely, losing entire roofs and suffering extensive water damage. Within a week, under Dr. Limbert’s leadership, all classes resumed.

Dr. Robert Khayat, former Chancellor of the University of Mississippi, said that Dr. Limbert’s strength during that trial was awe-inspiring.

“Dr. Limbert is a courageous leader and it has been my privilege to work with her,” Dr. Khayat said. “The success of a university president’s tenure is usually measured by the answers to three questions: Is the university stronger? More appealing? Does it have more resources? The answer to all three of these is ‘yes’ because of Dr. Limbert’s efforts.”

Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Hank Bounds added, “Clearly, Dr. Limbert’s record speaks for itself. She is a shining example of an educator we should all seek to emulate because her head and her heart are in exactly the right place. She is in constant contemplation about the futures of her students and the university, and we thank her for her commitment and dedication these past seven years.” 🏛️

### Notable accomplishments during Dr. Limbert’s tenure:

- Increasing enrollment to nearly 2,500 students this semester, a 17.5 percent increase from Fall 2002 to Fall 2009 enrollment
- Increasing foundation endowment levels, up from \$16 million in 2002 to more than \$27 million in 2009
- Securing more than \$5 million in congressionally-directed grants for academic programs, institutes and other campus initiatives
- Earning top spots in prestigious rankings including No. 7 out of 80 southern institutions in U.S. News & World Report’s “Commitment to Teaching” category.



## U.S. News Recognizes MUW for Its 'Strong Commitment to Teaching'

By Anika Mitchell Perkins

Once again, Mississippi University for Women has garnered top honors from U.S. News & World Report. The latest rankings recognized MUW for its strong commitment to teaching as well as being a top Southern public master's university.

MUW was the only Mississippi institution to appear in the strong commitment to teaching category, landing at No. 7 among other Southern institutions including Elon, James Madison and Mercer universities. MUW also was ranked No. 34 in the Best Universities--Master's Southern region category and the highest ranked school from Mississippi in this category as well.

The commitment to teaching is a new classification, according to U.S. News' sources. "These 80 colleges and universities were singled out most often when experts were asked to identify schools where the faculty has an unusual commitment to undergraduate teaching."

This news should come as no surprise to MUW given its 13:1 student-faculty ratio. Small classes are taught by professors who are not only experts in their fields but also demonstrate a genuine concern for their students.

MUW President Claudia A. Limbert said, "Not only are we providing our students a quality education, we also are providing it in a highly personalized learning environment, which is made possible through the dedication of our faculty."

Dr. Hal Jenkins, who is currently serving as MUW's interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, added, "At MUW, outstanding teaching is our primary focus. Many universities treat teaching as something faculty may do if they have time after research. At our school, quality teaching is prized. Our faculty does research that contributes to their discipline but also improves the quality of their teaching. Our faculty is to be commended."

MUW has been prominently ranked in other leading publications such as Kiplinger's Personal Finance and Consumer's Digest magazines. 

## Professor Returns from Study Abroad

By Sarah Perry



William "Peppy" Biddy, from left, seated on the front row, is pictured with students participating in the MFA physical theatre program in Italy.

Mississippi University for Women's chair of the department of music and theatre, William "Peppy" Biddy, recently returned from a trip to Arezzo and Torino, Italy, where he was overseeing and assessing one of the university's newest degrees to be offered.

The degree, which was approved in November 2007 by the IHL Board, is an MFA in physical theatre and is offered in conjunction with Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. Courses are primarily on the Arezzo campus, with modules offered in Torino, Berlin and Venice. In September 2009, 12 students from the inaugural class started the semester in Arezzo.

The MFA in physical theatre combines the study of movement/dance, Italian language, voice and music with the study of circus arts, techniques of the commedia dell'arte and contemporary mime/masks.

"Taking full advantage of its European setting, the Accademia has designed a program that brings together some of the most exciting and innovative artists and approaches to physical theatre currently available in Europe," commented Biddy. "The program provides students with a high level of technical training for the actor, as well as a study of the aesthetic, historical and social contexts of the commedia dell'arte."

For more information on this program, please contact Biddy at (662) 329-7260 or at [wbiddy@as.muw.edu](mailto:wbiddy@as.muw.edu). 



## A Model Chapter

By *Cydney Archie*

While its membership may be few, the Alpha Omicron Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., at Mississippi University for Women, has had many accomplishments this year.

Despite being one of the smaller fraternities in Mississippi, it was awarded Superior Chapter of the Year, Highest GPA Award and Model Chapter among nine other chapters.

Michael Sipp, Pascagoula resident and graduate member of the chapter at MUW, was named a Hall of Fame inductee for the Southern region. Rodney Morgan, a senior nursing major from Verona, won the oratorical contest for Mississippi.

Phillip Cockrell, the fraternity's advisor and director of student life, stated, "The fraternity's greatest accomplishment is being recognized on a state, regional and national level for its hard work."

The chapter is involved on campus and in the community. Each spring, the fraternity hosts the Miss Phi Beta Sigma Pageant where the winner receives a \$500 scholarship. This past spring, Keidra White won the pageant at MUW and represented the fraternity on a state, regional and national level.

The fraternity also has a youth auxiliary, Sigma Beta Club, which was founded on the principles of culture, athletics, social and educational needs. Its purpose is to help "develop values and leadership skills."

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. also partners with the American Cancer Society to fight cancer and educate people about cancer. The



*Members of the Alpha Omicron Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., include Lesly Griffin, Jeromie Jones, advisor Phillip "Flapp" Cockrell, Timothy Hopkins, Joshua Williams and Kamara Tucker.*

Alpha Omicron Alpha Chapter held "100 Men & Women in Pink" where students, faculty and staff of MUW wore pink to honor those who have and still are fighting against breast cancer.

In the past, the chapter has hosted essay contests and spelling bees for monetary prizes.

For more information about Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., visit [www.pbs1914.org](http://www.pbs1914.org). 

## Career Services Helps Graduates Stand Out

By *Nikonie Brown*

The Office of Career Services at Mississippi University for Women is assisting graduates who are facing a tighter job market through various offerings.


"People are looking for the right edge in job searching. They realize that in order to meet the high demands and measure up to the competition, you must have something that sets you aside from everyone else that is out there searching," said Towanda Williams, assistant director of career services.

Career services assists students in defining personal career objectives and assists them with the job search process. Students also get

advised in the areas of career and life planning and employer relations.

Popular services include resume writing and critiquing, work study/job placement and online job searching, business etiquette and job/career fairs, according to Williams. These services are available and free to everyone, including alumni.

Thanks to faculty and student participation, career services has posted more than a 75 percent student worker placement success rate over the past three years.

For more information, visit the Office of Career Services on the fourth floor of Cochran Hall or call (662) 241-6786. 



## STRENGTHENING THE LONG BLUE LINE

Dear Alumni and Friends of MUW,

As we continue to have a successful academic year, we are reminded that it is the current student body of MUW that deserves our support. Your financial contributions to the university make it possible for our students to have outstanding educational opportunities. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to each of you who support MUW through the Foundation.

The MUW Foundation provides support for a number of events including the annual Welty Gala. This fall we were able to bring the Honorable William S. Cohen to campus. More than 80 students from the Honors College along with over 100 guests were in attendance for the evening.

For the first time this fall, the Foundation hosted a Scholarship Donor Appreciation Dinner. The dinner was held in the Pope Dining Room with more than 80 guests in attendance and was a wonderful opportunity for donors who have endowed scholarships to be introduced to the scholarship recipient. This event was such a huge success we hope to make it an annual event.

MUW continues to celebrate its 125th anniversary with the MUW 125 Years-A Legacy of Light Challenge. Thanks to an anonymous donor, all gifts to the MUW Annual Fund have the potential to be matched on a 1:1 basis. Our student telefund ambassadors have been very successful with this challenge and are reporting an increase in new gifts being made to the Foundation. If you have made a gift, we thank you and if you have not yet made a gift this fiscal year, our student telefund ambassadors will be contacting you soon.

This year will be financially challenging for the university. The ongoing work of the Foundation is so important to the continued success of the university. As we work together, our primary goal is to assure the future of MUW. Please join me in being a part of that success by contributing to the MUW Foundation. Each gift makes our university stronger and allows us to provide greater opportunities to enrich the campus and its offerings.



Sincerely,

R. Edward Betcher, M.D., Class of 1988

Chairman

MUW Foundation Board of Directors





## MUW Announces Eudora Welty Collection Gift

By Anika Mitchell Perkins

**M**ississippi University for Women is now the home of a major collection of works by alumna Eudora Welty.

The collection, which contains about 270 separate items including correspondence, books, periodicals, recordings and photographs, was made possible through Andy Murray Coffey and his wife Katherine and son Glenn H. Coffey, all of Lafayette, La.

MUW President Claudia A. Limbert announced the gift at the opening of the Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium, which honors the world-renowned MUW alumna.

Coffey described the collection as "one of the most, if not the most complete collection available of books by or written about Eudora Welty."

Gail Gunter, dean of library services, said, "I believe this is the most significant collection that has been given to Fant Memorial Library."

Cathy Young, reference/information literacy librarian and assistant professor, added, "Murray, Katherine and Glenn Coffey have honored not only Mr. Coffey's sister, Elizabeth Gladney, by the gift of this magnificent Eudora Welty Collection, but their generosity has greatly enriched Fant Memorial Library's collection."

About 20 years ago, Coffey learned about the collection while buying books from a book dealer in Beverly Hills.

"We talked about (William) Faulkner books and war books, but he mentioned he and a group of 13 other dealers who were friends of his and had assembled a great collection of books by or about Eudora Welty. The dealers had been amassing this collection for about 35 years."

The dealer, knowing Coffey's Mississippi roots, advised him that if he would buy the Eudora Welty collection, he would also



*Gail Gunter, dean of library services; Cathy Young, reference/information literacy librarian and assistant professor; and MUW President Claudia A. Limbert sift through the Eudora Welty collection donated by the Coffey family.*

sell Coffey some Faulkner war books that he wanted. Coffey continued to add to the collection.

"I elected to give the Eudora Welty collection to MUW because she was a student there (when the college was Mississippi State College for Women). It was always special to her, and she was obviously one of MUW's best known alumni, hence MUW was the absolutely best place for this collection," he said.

He added, "I have had so many wonderful relatives and friends from everywhere, and I want to leave all the wonderful books for all to love and enjoy."

Coffey also noted that *Firsts Magazine*, the premier publication in the book collector's field, will soon be making a special edition on Eudora Welty. 📖

# REACHING

# Out

By Macaulay Knight Whitaker



The College of Nursing and Speech-Language Pathology at Mississippi University for Women has a long-standing tradition of community outreach and involvement. Fostering education both in and out of the classroom, the college promotes community health and awareness in Lowndes County and throughout the state.

Students in the associate, bachelor and master nursing programs interact with the community during their curriculum and develop strong bonds of community with the people around them.

“Our college, the individual programs, faculty, staff and students highly value giving back to the community as an integral part of our academic programs,” said Shelia Adams, dean of the College of Nursing and Speech-Language Pathology. “[The program] benefits the community, students, faculty and staff by providing needed health care services to our community while providing opportunities for students to engage in service learning activities.”

Each year the college participates in the MUW Health Fair to provide the campus and community with information about prevention, treatment and lifestyle habits.

In light of recent efforts to prevent and treat the novel H1N1 virus, the College of Nursing hosted multiple programs to educate the surrounding communities on the growing pandemic.

BSN faculty member Janice Giallourakis led students in a campus wide effort to educate MUW about the virus, presenting a number of health teaching projects to faculty, staff and students during September of 2009. Associate nursing students also took part in the movement, providing H1N1 vaccinations to the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science students last fall.

BSN students hosted two informational sessions for MUW faculty and staff, offering educational materials created through a joint effort between MUW, Mississippi State University and the Mississippi Department of Health. MSN faculty member and chair of the graduate nursing program, Patsy Smyth, presented “H1N1 Flu, What we can do for our patients,” and “Having a Green Practice,” at the Mississippi Nurses Convention this past fall.

“We are developing nurse leaders who can meet the health needs of individuals, families and populations,” said Debbie Miranda, assistant professor of nursing at MUW. “We not only teach our nursing students about the principles of the U.S. Public Health System, we engage them in the actual practice of public health.”

Each degree program within the college also collaborates with the community to provide various outreach services.

The associate nursing program at MUW participates in various annual events to promote wellness and healthy lifestyles. For the past four years, ASN students and faculty have hosted Body Walk to encourage kindergarten – third grade students to develop healthy habits. Each year between 400–600 students from local elementary schools are introduced to the body through fun and interactive educational methods.

ASN faculty and students also partner with the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians each year to promote TAR Wars, an anti-smoking campaign.

Faculty members of the associate program have participated in a March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon sponsored by the Mississippi Partnership for Comprehensive Cancer Control. They have also served local areas as consultants for Traumatic Life Inc. and other area healthcare agencies.



*Nursing students provide blood pressure checks at the annual health fair.*

The BSN program's educational goals reflect a strong relationship with the community. Training students to become leaders, the bachelor program extends its community reach to include all of North Mississippi.

The program hosted health fairs at elementary and middle schools across the state last fall. Nursing students educated youths on the importance of healthy lifestyles and illness prevention.

The bachelor's program, in partnership with the Mississippi State Department of Health, conducted flu shot clinics at 10 public schools in Lowndes County. The effort aimed to provide vaccination protection for the novel H1N1 virus was given to approximately 1,600 children in the local community.

This fall, the program hosted a Disaster Table Top Exercise, welcoming local health leaders from the Golden Triangle to share their expertise on planning, response and communication elements of disaster planning during pandemic and bioterrorist events.

The MSN program also participates heavily in community health outreach programs.

Faculty member Terri Hamill administered flu shots and organized Operation Shoe Box, an effort to provide international and local underprivileged children with Christmas gifts. Sueanne Davidson hosted local sports physical clinics and a stroke prevention seminar in Louisville. Amelia Higginbottom participated in a medical mission trip to Peru and Chile. She also taught CPR courses to foster parents.

"MUW values the community by preparing and promoting student engagement in outreach programs," said Joy Richardson, BSN nursing student. "These opportunities allow student nurses to put knowledge into practice while benefiting the community." 📍

## SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Mississippi University for Women Speech-Language Pathology department is an active member of the local and educational community.

Graduate students in the program provide speech and language evaluations and treatment to people with communication disorders at the Speech and Hearing Center on the MUW campus. Students also participate in screening the speech, language and hearing of children enrolled in the Head Start program.

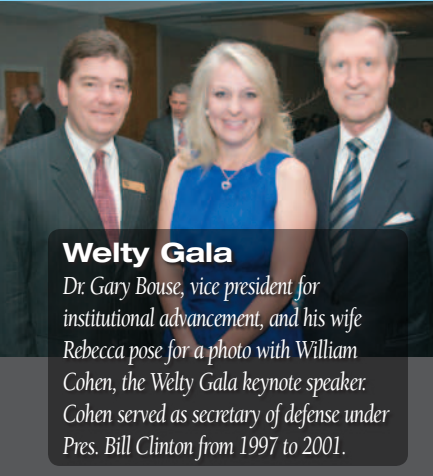
For the past 10 years, graduate students have participated in Camp Jabber Jaw sponsored by the T.K. Martin Center for Technology and Disability on the Mississippi State University campus.

"The camp is designed for children with complex communication disorders who rely on assistive technology," said Joy Townsend, director and chair for the Speech-Language Pathology department at MUW. "This experience provides students and campers with an invaluable, memorable experience."

The Speech and Hearing Center faculty and students have actively been involved in the HEARTS (Helping Every Age Reach and Teach Students) summer reading program. HEARTS also conducts after-school tutoring programs.

In the Spring of 2009, the SLP-Education Teaching Circle at MUW sponsored the presentation, "Lighting the Pathway to Reading Success" for parents, students and educators to learn strategies for helping students become more proficient readers.

The MUW chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association sponsors the Cinderella Project of Lowndes County, providing prom dresses and accessories to local high school students. Students in the organization also collect gift packages for soldiers deployed to Iraq, and raise financial contributions for HEARTS and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



**Welty Gala**

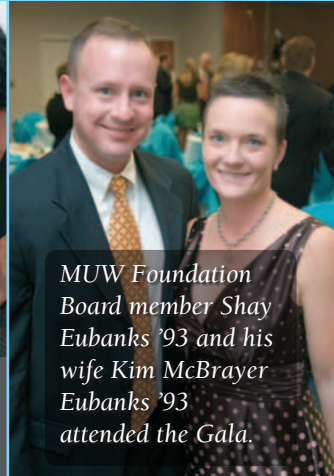
Dr. Gary Bouse, vice president for institutional advancement, and his wife Rebecca pose for a photo with William Cohen, the Welty Gala keynote speaker. Cohen served as secretary of defense under Pres. Bill Clinton from 1997 to 2001.



Dr. Hal Jenkins, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, and Dr. Bouse visit with Fox News political analyst Angela McGlowan at the Welty Gala.



Cohen autographs a copy of his book for Vickie Bogan, senior foreign policy major at MUW.



MUW Foundation Board member Shay Eubanks '93 and his wife Kim McBrayer Eubanks '93 attended the Gala.



**Writers' Symposium**

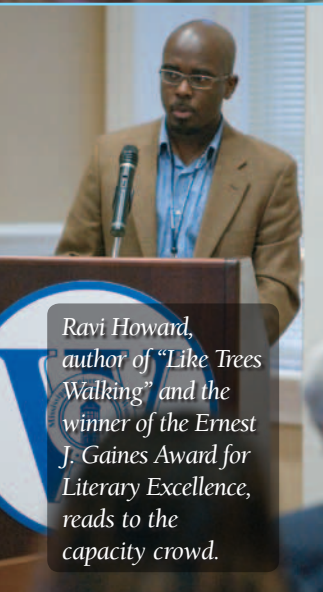
Natasha Trethewey, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and author of "Native Gold," was the opening speaker at this year's Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium.



Trethewey signs copies of her books for Chris Hamon, Adele Elliot and Dr. Martha Jo Mims '64.



The 2009 Welty Prize winner Pearl McHaney reads from her book "Eudora Welty as a Photographer."



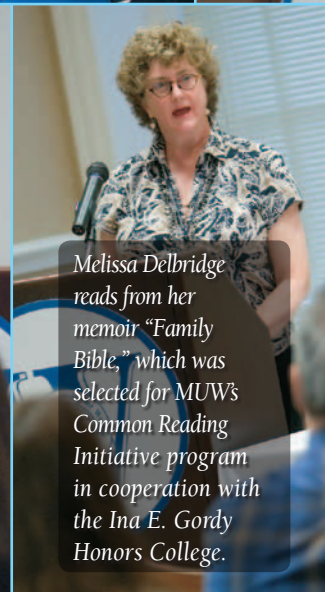
Ravi Howard, author of "Like Trees Walking" and the winner of the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, reads to the capacity crowd.



Author Tony Earley reads excerpts from "The Blue Star" during the morning session.



Becky Gould Gibson, who wrote "Aphrodite's Daughter," reads passages from her book.



Melissa Delbridge reads from her memoir "Family Bible," which was selected for MUW's Common Reading Initiative program in cooperation with the Ina E. Gordy Honors College.



Jim Murphy reads selected passages from his book "Heaven Overland."



Visitors to the Eugenia Summer Art Gallery enjoyed an exhibit by artist Terry Strickland titled *Figurative Paintings and Drawings*.



**British Invasion**

Beatles fans of all ages enjoyed the 2009 Threadgill Concert Series performance by "Beatlemania Magic," a Beatles tribute band from Ohio. The performance was funded by the Leslie Farrell Threadgill Lecture and Artist Series, an endowment established by her family to promote family and cultural influences, to advance the artistic and intellectual environment of the university and to strengthen the cultural bond between the university and the public.



Hello Fellow Alumni, Faculty, Staff and Friends,

MUW has weathered many storms in more than a century of existence, but our university is now facing a “perfect storm” -- a confluence of turbulent factors that threatens to derail the resilient old lady. The W has faced such threats before and won because of the dedication of her students, alums, faculty and staff. We need your help again.

The state’s dire budget crisis is the driving force at the center of this perfect storm and it has once again raised the specter of closure or merger of smaller state university campuses. The conventional wisdom is that consolidation of systems will save money. There is ample reason to question this conclusion. Consolidation always requires additional layers of bureaucracy. The same numbers of students must be served in any case. How will it be cheaper to serve the students of MUW elsewhere when The W consistently provides them exceptional educational experiences at the lowest tuition and with one of the leanest budgets of any Mississippi university?

Conventional wisdom also holds that larger universities provide more varied campus experiences. The counter argument has always been that smaller universities provide a more personal experience to students, especially those who would tend to become “invisible” on larger campuses. Students of these stormy times need more personal attention, not less. My son attended one of the large state universities and was invisible. I attended MSCW and was not allowed to be invisible.



While the economic facts are dire and must be faced with determination, creativity and flexibility, the almighty dollar must not become the single determining factor in the fate of the smaller universities like MUW.

We alums, faculty, staff and friends of MUW must band together once again to stand against the economic storm that is upon us. We may have differing concerns about The W, but we can all agree that our university deserves our undivided loyalty. What The W needs now is your personal strength, your financial contributions to the MUW Foundation and your assistance in recruiting students. Please reach out to The W and give her your help now.

Patricia Ainsworth, M.D., Class of 1970  
President, MUW Alumni Association

 Find us on  
**Facebook**



## JOIN THE MUW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

Please visit [www.muwaa.org](http://www.muwaa.org) for additional information including membership forms



# Classnotes

## 1940s

**Marietta Brians Rutledge '48** was named a 2009 Star Teacher at Delta Academy.

## 1950s

**Perian Conerly '50** was featured in Delta Magazine in the article "The Football Wives Club."

**Peggy Woodward Crawford '58** was named one of the "Women of the Year" by the Winston County Economic Development Partnership and the Louisville Pilot Club. Crawford was honored for her work with breast cancer awareness project BATTLE and school volunteerism.

## 1960s

**Faye Berry Culp '61** was awarded the 2009 Florida 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Diane Carter '64** of Louisville retired from the Louisville Municipal School District after 44 years of teaching.

**Claire Taylor Field '67** had her poem "Photophobic" published in the Ball State University journal *The Broken Plate*. Her recent work also has been featured in a Katrina/Rita national anthology and national literary journal *Straylight*. She is currently a writing consultant for the College of Business at Auburn University.

**Mary Ellen Tutwiler Fox '68** received a 15-year service pen as a real estate officer for the city of Mobile.

**Mary Hudspeth Oswalt '68** was chosen as Senatobia Middle School Teacher of the Year.

## 1970s

**Susan Ingram '73** was a featured artist on display at the Southern Breeze Gallery in Ridgeland in August.

**Cynthia Shackelford '74** was named vice president for university advancement and interim executive director of the University of Montevallo Foundation.

**The Rev. Pamela Chesser Turfa '77** was ordained on by Bishop Herman Yoos of the South Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She is pastor of Corinth Lutheran Church and St. Mark Lutheran Church, in Saluda County, S.C. Turfa is a May graduate of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC.

**Paik Hee-young '74** was designated as the new gender equality minister of Seoul. She is a renowned nutritionist widely acclaimed for her efforts to promote the health benefits of Korean cuisine to a global audience. She earned her doctorate from Harvard Univeristy.

## 1980s

**Kathy Gibson Burk '80** is a 2009 recipient of the Alton B. Cobb Lifetime Achievement award. This award is given to those who show the service standards Dr. Cobb established.

**Jody Hoff '82** of Bogue Chitto received the Co-Lin Performance Award at Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

**Melisa Lepard '82** was named associate dean of nursing at Itawamba Community College.

**Kaye Harbison Truitt '84** was selected as Columbus High School Teacher of the Year in 2009.

**Sheri Baggett-McMinn '85** received the 2009 Honor Award from the Southern district of the American Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. A professor at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark., she serves as a state representative to the SDAAPERD executive board and is an evaluator of teacher education programs for the National Council on Accreditation of Teacher Education.

## 1990s

**Debra Taylor '91** received the Shields Sims Humanitarian Award from the Mississippi Association of Housing and Redevelopment

Officials. She is the resident services coordinator with the Columbus Housing Authority.

**Andy Thaggard '94** was promoted to rank of captain in the Mississippi Army National Guard. He will soon deploy to Iraq along with the 155th Brigade Team.

**Shelanie Wise '97** of Baldwyn was voted 2009 Community Volunteer of the Year by the North Mississippi Medical Center for her work with the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life.

## 2000s

**Ray Van Dusen '01** joined the writing staff at the Monroe County Journal.

**Jana Rice '01** is a paralegal and office manager for a law firm in Tuscumbia, Ala., that specializes in insurance defense, workman's compensation, medical malpractice and personal injury. She previously served as campaign advisor for a candidate for the circuit clerk's position in Colbert County and advised another candidate in the 2008 election of County Commissioner.

**Emily Rea '04** is the new chorus director for Baldwyn Middle and High Schools.

**Lauren Hall Sparks '05** joined Booneville Internal Medicine as a certified family nurse practitioner.

## Tell Us Your News or News About a Friend!

Have you been promoted? Earned another degree?

Have you married or had an addition to the family?

Send us your news, comments and suggestions to

Alumni Relations, Mississippi University for Women,

1100 College St., MUW-10, Columbus, MS 39701-5800.

Please circle the line that tells us what has changed - such as your name, address, etc. Use an additional sheet to tell us your news.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ College \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_



**Dr. Marat Yanavitski '05** received the Merck Award for superior academic achievement and the Ralph Denny Wright Memorial Award for compassion in medicine at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine honors convocation. He is a member of the Alabama Beta Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Yanavitski will begin his internal medicine residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard University, Boston, Mass.

**Alisha Varnado Jackson '06** has completed the two-day certified Legal Assistant/Certified Paralegal examination.

### **FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS**

**Kristi Miles Higginbotham** published a book.

**Lisa Mason** is currently specializing in pediatrics and family medicine at Aberdeen Family Medical Clinic Care.

**Kelly White** of Starkville recently placed first in the female category of the Heart O' Dixie Triathlon.

## **Weddings**

### **1990s**

**Tracey Geneva Lewis '96** and Rev. Marcus Robert Hoover of Corinth were married Oct. 3, 2009.

**Christina Amy Valsamakis '99** and Benjamin Childers of Aberdeen were married Oct. 10, 2009.

### **2000s**

**Martha Byrd '01** of Shaw and Kenneth E. Jackson of Memphis, Tenn., were married July 18, 2009.

**Leslie Hunter Lann '07** and Charles Nicholas Dimino of Aberdeen were married Oct. 4, 2009.

**Jenna Leigh McGee '07** of Fulton and Matthew Joseph Nassar of Madison were married Aug. 22, 2009.

**Anne McCrary Temple '07** and Howard Temple, both of Columbus, were married Oct. 24, 2009.

**Jennifer Marie Berryman '08** and Jacob Robert Briggs, both of Columbus, were married Aug. 1, 2009.

**Kimberly Ann Cooper '08** and Michael Todd Doolittle, both of Louisville, were married Nov. 5, 2009.

**Amanda Anne Husted '08** and Brandon Wayne Kirk of Hattiesburg were married Oct. 10, 2009.

**Rachel Perry Ledbetter '08** and Howard Marcus Hearst of Ridgeland were married Nov. 7, 2009.

**Kathryn Lynley McAfee '08** of Rolling Fork and Joel Scott Cox of Leland were married July 11, 2009.

**Kathryn Diana Oaks '08** and Dr. Jonathan Ryan Cooksey of Corinth were married Oct. 10, 2009.

**Christina Renee' Reese '08** of Terry and Mark Tyler Hardy of Byram were married Aug. 29, 2009.

**Laura Benton Tubb '08** and David Andrews Prestwich, both of Tupelo, were married Aug. 23, 2009.

**Dana Louise Derrick '09** of Vicksburg and Daniel Olen May of Chantilly, Va., were married Oct. 17, 2009.

**Tiffani Lynn Floyd '09** of Carrollton and Frank Matthew Powell Grenada were married Sept. 26, 2009.

**Laura Katherine Foster '09** of Louisville and John Franklin Maxcy of Fulton were married Sept. 5, 2009.

**Brooke Newell '09** of Collinsville and Justin Campbell of Bailey were married Sept. 26, 2009.

**Mackenzie Leigh Shanklin '09** and David Gevry Cousino, both of Leland, were married Sept. 19, 2009.

**Briana Nicole Stinson '09** of Philadelphia and Jason Taylor Petty of Philadelphia were married Sept. 19, 2009.

**Margaret Ann Thomas '10** and Casey Kyle Parkman '09, both of Columbus, were married Dec. 6, 2009.

### **FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS**

**Teresa Anne Jenkins** of Louisville and **Kyle Joshua Eaves** were married June 10, 2009.

## **Births**

**Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Davis (Amy Johnson) '93** announce the birth of their daughter, Drew Elise Davis, July 22, 2009.

## **Deaths**

### **1930s**

**Lessel Pepper Deason** of Vaughan '31, Aug. 9, 2009.

**Jewel Alice Green '34** of Oxford, Sept. 11, 2009.

**Mildred Cavett Taff Pearson '36** of Macon, July 28, 2009.

**Mary Helen Graves Cranwell '39** of Corinth, Oct. 1, 2009.

**Eloise Monroe Keith '39** of Starkville, July 13, 2009.

### **1940s**

**Dot Russell '40** of Bay St. Louis, July 5, 2009.

**Sarah Lovie Parks Wooten '40** of Greenwood, July 26, 2009.

**Virginia Livingston Kittle '41** of Magnolia, Aug. 18, 2009.

**Mary Evelyn Scruggs Mitchell '41** of Tupelo, Sept. 25, 2009.

**Linda Massey Berryhill '42**, Sept. 25, 2009.

**Jimme Dennis Wailes '42** of Florence, Oct. 10, 2009.

**Norma Alford Hodges '47** of Meridian, Sept. 27, 2009.

**Joan Elizabeth Bolton Rakestraw '47** of Booneville, July 10, 2009.

**Rebecca Andree Benoist-Williams '49** of Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 6, 2009.

### **1950s**

**Bobby LaGrone Dudley '50** of Huntsville, Ala., July 14, 2009.

**Clara Galtney Dupree '52** of Lexington, Ky., Feb. 21, 2009.

**Eleanor Nabors Failing '55** of Indianola, July 13, 2009.

### **1960s**

**Bettye Smythe McClendon '62** of Forest, July 30, 2009.

**Victoria Helen Coury of Southhaven '67**, Sept. 6, 2009.

**Mary Frances Wilhite '67**, Sept. 29, 2009.

**Patsy Carol Muse '69**, Oct. 12, 2009.

### **1970s**

**Cheryl Zeponi Biggers '73** of Marietta, Ga., July 6, 2009.

### **FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS**

**Eloise Blackwell Aycock** of Laurel, Aug. 31, 2009.

**Sherry Ann Decker**, Sept. 19, 2009.

**Dorothy Collins Graham**, Oct. 9, 2009.

**Michele Devereaux Hardy**, Oct. 3, 2009.

**Louise Hunt**, Nov. 17, 2009.

**Dorothy Jennings**, Nov. 28, 2009.

**Rita Ann Jones**, Sept. 9, 2009.

**Christine Powell Louk** of Gautier, Aug. 19, 2009.

**Betty Thomas Frost McLemore**, Sept. 10, 2009.

## Get Connected with The W



By Brandi Watkins '06 • MUW Office of Admissions

It's easier than ever to stay connected with the MUW family. In an effort to keep up with today's tech savvy student, MUW has ventured into the world of social networking with accounts on both Facebook and Twitter.

"I believe interactive social networking such as Facebook, Twitter and Chat reaches prospective students, faculty, staff and current students and offers unparalleled opportunities to connect and let everyone know what wonderful things are happening not only on MUW's campus but also in the city of Columbus," said Cassie Derden, admissions director.

As part of an ambitious recruiting campaign, the Office of Admissions has implemented several new strategies involving social networks including an MUW fan page on Facebook, individual Facebook accounts for admission counselors, a university Twitter account, instant messaging and student blogs.

"The professional admissions office staff has been very aggressive in seeking out ways to better connect with today's college bound students. Their vision is to reach out to prospective students and other friends of the university, not only in Mississippi but around the globe. These new technologies have kept MUW on the 'cutting edge' and have allowed us to provide new informational updates about exciting changes occurring daily on the campus," said Dr. Bucky Wesley, vice president for student services.

MUW has more than a thousand fans on its Facebook page including faculty, staff, current students, prospective students and alumni and more than 80 followers on Twitter. The MUW Facebook page posts press releases, pictures and special events occurring on

campus. People can post comments to the stories as well as engage in lively conversation on the wall and message boards. In addition, Wesley posts a parent blog on the Facebook page for parents of current and prospective students. Other offices on campus are getting involved with social networks too: the art and design department, theatre, the Stark Recreation Center and several others have Facebook fan pages that they use to promote their respective services.

According to statistics made available on the Facebook website, there are over 350 million active users worldwide and 50 percent of those users log on at any given day. Worldwide more than eight billion minutes are spent on Facebook each day.

"In this day and time you need to meet students and families where they are and where they are is on Facebook and Twitter," said Derden. The research proves this point; the Pew Internet and American Life Project found that of American 12- to 17-year-olds, 93 percent of teenagers use the Internet, 89 percent use it at least once a week and 50 percent of online teens have some sort of social network profile.

Social networking is not just for potential students. Alumni from all over the country can become a fan of MUW on Facebook and reconnect with old friends, stay up to date with what is going on at the university and share their insights with current students.

Derden added, "MUW is a family and by being involved with social media, we are helping to grow and connect our family like never before."

You can become a fan of MUW by going to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Mississippi University for Women and follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/muwadmissions](http://www.twitter.com/muwadmissions).