

# THE TOM-TOM

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March 2004

## Lady Warriors win Region 23, state championships!

A week after winning the state title, East Central Community College's Lady Warriors added another crown to their championship season by posting a 52-45 decision over Copiah-Lincoln Community College in the Region 23 Tournament finals held at Mississippi College in Clinton.

With the win, the Lady Warriors, who improved 29-2 under third-year head coach Brad Hodge, became the first women's basketball team in school history to capture state and region titles in the same season and just the second EC team to accomplish the feat. The 1952-53 Warrior basketball squad won the state and region titles and finished fourth in the NJCAA Tournament.

East Central will now set its sights on a national title by competing in the NJCAA Women's Basketball Tournament scheduled March 16-20 in Salina, Kansas. The bracket for the 16-team tournament will be announced later in the week.

Prior to beginning NJCAA tournament action, the Lady Warriors will be on hand to see former Lady Warrior head coach Lucille Wood be inducted in the NJCAA Women's Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame during a ceremony scheduled March 15. Wood led her Lady Warriors to four state championships and numerous division titles during her 28-year coaching career.

The Lady Warriors got off to a slow start against Co-Lin - a team they defeated twice in regular season - and trailed 8-1 in the early going until a baseline jumper by Britney Burks of Scott Central gave EC the lead for good at 11-10 with just under nine minutes remaining before halftime. The Lady Warriors stretched their advantage to 30-21 at the break and later enjoyed its biggest lead of the game at 38-28 with 12:31 left in the contest. The Lady Wolves rallied to cut the deficit to 46-42 with just over two minutes remaining, but a key basket by Rita Birden, a product of St. Fredrick High School in Monroe, La., and a pair of free throws each from Kristen Chaney of Newton County and Kotreece Bender of Newton during the

game's final 70 seconds clinched the victory.

Chaney was the leading scorer for East Central with 14 points and was named to the All-Region 23 Tournament Team along with Kimyatta Viverette of Lake. Viverette had only three points on the scoreboard but made a key rebound late in the contest to maintain possession for the Lady Warriors.

Other scorers were Bender and Lenore Gray of Newton, seven each; Birden and Kim Cox of Lake, six each; Burks, four; Monique Overstreet of South Leake, three; and India Backstrom of Neshoba Central, two.

Renee Fields of Magee had 14 points to lead Co-Lin, which fell to 19-9.

### ECCC 92, NORTHEAST 67:

The Lady Warriors cruised to an easy victory over the sixth-ranked Lady Tigers in semi-final action on March 3.

Lenore Gray led EC with 30 points. Also scoring were Kim Cox, 11; Kimyatta Viverette and Kotreece Bender, 10 each; Kristin Chaney and Rita Birden, eight each; Monique Overstreet, six; Roxana Rogers of Lake, four; Britney Burks, three; and India Backstrom, two.

Marquetia Thomas of Jackson had 25 points to lead Northeast, which fell to 20-4.

East Central held a 45-26 advantage at the break.

### ECCC 66, DELTA 53:

The Lady Warriors began Region 23 Tournament competition by knocking off Mississippi Delta Community College on March 5.

Lenore Gray had 13 points to lead East Central. Other point makers were Kristin Chaney, 11; Kimyatta Viverette, Kotreece Bender and Rita Birden, nine each; India Backstrom, seven; Kim Cox, four; Monique Overstreet, three; and Miranda Rosar of Neshoba Central, one.

Lawanda Stewart of Leland had 14 points to lead Delta, which dropped to 16-10.

The Lady Warriors led 38-27 at intermission.

## ECCC Lady Warriors Defeat Jones 73-64 for State Title

East Central Community College's Lady Warriors survived a late rally by Jones County Junior College to post a 73-64 victory over the Lady Bobcats for the MACJC women's title Thursday night at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville.

The Lady Warriors, who improved to 26-2 and earned the program's first state title in 25 years, held a slim 69-64 lead until freshman Kristin Chaney's lay-in and subsequent free throw gave EC an eight-point lead with just 49 seconds remaining.

Head coach Brad Hodge later commented that Chaney's three-

point play "put a dagger in their hearts." He added, "She alone made all the stops on their runs. She's got a champion's heart, and you can't teach that. Thank goodness she's on our team."

Chaney, a product of Newton County High School, had 13 points and was one of three Lady Warriors who scored in double figures. Lenore Gray of Newton led EC with 22 points, followed by Kotreece Bender of Newton with 14. Also scoring were Kimyatta Viverette of Lake, nine; India Back-

**see Champs, page 8**



### Headed to Salina, Kansas!

With a 52-45 win over Copiah-Lincoln Community College during the Region 23 Tournament hosted by Mississippi College, the Lady Warriors clinched a spot in the NJCAA National Tournament to be held in Salina, Kansas March 16-20.



### State Champion Lady Warriors

The Lady Warriors celebrate their 73-64 State Championship victory over Jones County Junior College during the MACJC tournament held at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville.

## Wood named to NJCAA Women's Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame

Former East Central Community College women's basketball coach Lucille Wood is being honored for her more than 50 years of service to community and junior college athletics with her induction into the 2004 National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Basketball Coaches' Hall of Fame.

Induction ceremonies for Wood and two other honorees are scheduled Monday, March 15 as part of the weeklong NJCAA Women's Basketball Tournament

being held in Salina, Kansas.

Wood, a Winston County native who continues to serve the College as instructor of health, physical education and recreation and is Chairperson of the Social Science, Business and Education Division, is recognized as a pioneer for women's sports on the state and national levels. She led the Lady Warriors to four state titles (includes two club team championships) and numerous division crowns during her 28-year coaching

career. She also served as tennis and volleyball coach.

"I suppose this (Hall of Fame induction) would be the ultimate honor for a person in junior college coaching," Wood said of her award. "Since I've been out of coaching for several years, to even be remembered is important."

Several individuals nominated Wood for the prestigious honor,

**see Wood, page 2**



Lucille Wood stands behind the numerous trophies and awards her East Central Community College basketball teams received during her 28-year coaching career, which began in 1956. Wood, recognized as a pioneer in women's sports on the state and national levels, will be inducted with two other honorees into the 2004 National Junior College Athletic Association Women's Basketball Coaches' Hall of Fame during ceremonies scheduled Monday, March 15 at the NJCAA Women's Basketball Tournament in Salina, Kansas.



## EC Scholars Bowl team completes successful year

By JENNA L. TALBERT  
Tom-Tom Editor

The 2003-2004 East Central Community College Scholars Bowl team has had a busy and very successful year.

"It was a very good year for competition," says Dr. Linda Lane, advisor for the team.

A four person team comprised of academically promising freshmen and sophomores, Scholars Bowl consists of a series of "toss-up questions" that cover all areas of academics from Science to Physics and Modern American Literature to Ancient Greek philosophy. Each "toss-up question" that is answered correctly is followed by two to four bonus questions. The battle for points is also a race against the clock as team members race to not only buzz before the other team but to also buzz before the ten seconds time limit.

Competition for ECCC began in November of 2003 when two teams of four, ECCC Gold and ECCC Black, along with two alternates, traveled to Meridian Community College to participate in the Eagle Bowl. While there they faced matches against the Marion Military Institute, Jones County Junior College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and several other colleges from throughout the state. After a weekend of tough competition, ECCC Gold placed fourth in the

competition. The next chance for competition came in January of 2004 when ECCC Gold, comprised of Jeremy Gibbs, Allen Davis, Amy Haralson, and Jenna Talbert, along with alternates, Lauren Heard and Brad Cook, journeyed to Jones County Junior College for the Annual South Mississippi Scholars Bowl Competition. After a decisive victory over Meridian Community College in the first round, ECCC fell to the tough MGCCC – Jefferson Davis team in the second round. However, ECCC rebounded and came back with decisive wins over MCC again, Copiah-Lincoln Community College – Wesson, and a sweet victory in a second match against Jefferson Davis. Now into the championship rounds, ECCC pulled a stunning victory over the until then undefeated JCJC team. ECCC and JCJC were then tied for the championship. In a final close match, ECCC narrowly missed the win and with a mere twenty points JCJC took the championship. However, the second place position was the first trophy position that ECCC had obtained in many years.

The next chance for competition was the weekend of February 13-14, 2004 at the University of Mississippi in a statewide competition of fourteen teams. The team consisted of Jeremy Gibbs, Allen Davis, Lauren Heard, Jenna Talbert and Amy Haralson as alternate. The Ken Wooten Scholars Bowl

Competition went well on Friday with ECCC's decisive victories over Copiah-Lincoln Community College – Natchez and Northwest Community College. However, after a close match on Saturday morning, ECCC was defeated by Itawamba Community College and then Southwest Community College, which ended their role in the double-elimination matches. However, the team came away with fifth place and proud smiles.

Jeremy Gibbs, a sophomore from Morton, was also a winner of one of the three "At Large Scholarships" from Ole Miss that was awarded to the three highest scoring individuals from a team that did not place in the top three.

"I am very proud of our team," says Lane. "We played as a team and not as four individuals. The team improved with each competition and I am very pleased with the improvement of the team members. The team could not have done as well without the contribution of each of the team members. I look forward to next year and hope that we can do even better than we did this year."

The Scholars Bowl teams for 2003-2004 were as follows: Gold team – Jeremy Gibbs, Allen Davis, Jenna Talbert, Lauren Heard, and Amy Haralson as alternate. Black team – Jordan Kemp, Brad Cook, Ty Dowden, Holly Pierce, and Jessica Sheehan and Valerie Gibbs as alternates. Dr. Linda Lane serves as sponsor/advisor.



Adam McAdory (left) of Louisville and Brandi Brown of Pelahatchie were recently selected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College.

## McAdory, Brown voted Mr., Miss East Central Community College

Adam McAdory of Louisville and Brandi Brown of Pelahatchie were recently elected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College.

A music major, McAdory is a graduate of Louisville High School and is the son of Margie Thompson and John McAdory, both of Louisville.

He serves as president of the Student Body Association and treasurer of Phil Theta Kappa international honor society. He was selected for Who's Who Among American Community/Junior Colleges and is a National Dean's List Scholar.

McAdory received the Robert G. Fick Memorial Music Scholarship and the Leon Eubanks/Kaljyc Peers

Scholarship and was awarded the ECCC Singers Award. He is also a member of the EC Environmental Club, Presidents Council, Warrior Corps, Wall O' Sound Band and Band Council, Collegians, Ac'cents, Choir, Concert Band and Jazz Band.

In addition, McAdory is a member of the College's Recruitment and Retention Task Force, the ECCC Alumni Association Board and the All-American Academic Association.

Brown, a sophomore psychology major, is a graduate of East Rankin Academy and is the daughter of Bud and Janet Brown of Pelahatchie.

She is a National Dean's List

Scholar and was selected for Who's Who Among American Community/Junior Colleges. She is also a National Dean's List Scholar and was named to the President's and Dean's Lists at East Central.

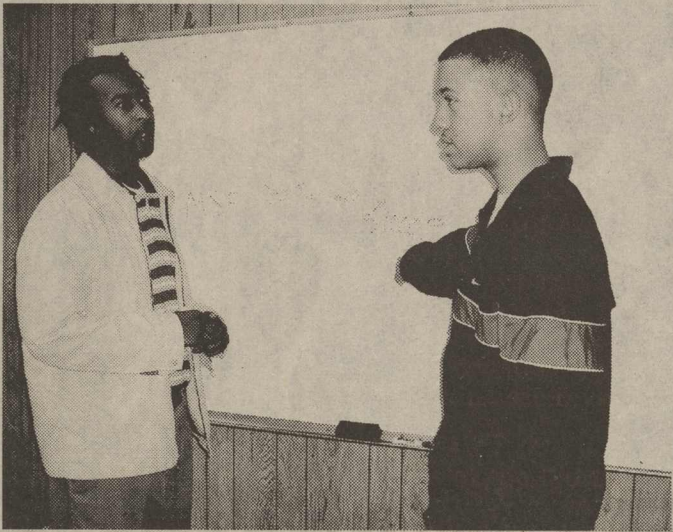
Brown is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Mu Alpha Theta, and the Warrior Corps. She is also active in the Baptist Student Union where she is a member of the Interpretive Movement Team.

She was selected a sophomore Homecoming maid and has been active in a child-mentoring program through AmeriCorps.

Mr. and Miss ECCC will be featured in the 2004 edition of the College yearbook, the Wo-He-Lo.

### SIFE teaches students about buying stocks

East Central Community College SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) members Shuwaski Young (left) of Philadelphia and Brandon Harris of Forest made a presentation to Newton County Academy students on buying and selling stocks. As an exercise, NCA students had to choose a company and purchase \$1,000 worth of stock. At the end of two weeks, students sold their stocks. The one who made the most profit or the least loss won the game. This is just one of many projects that SIFE has completed this college year. Wanda Hurley serves as advisor.



## MILLSAPS COLLEGE

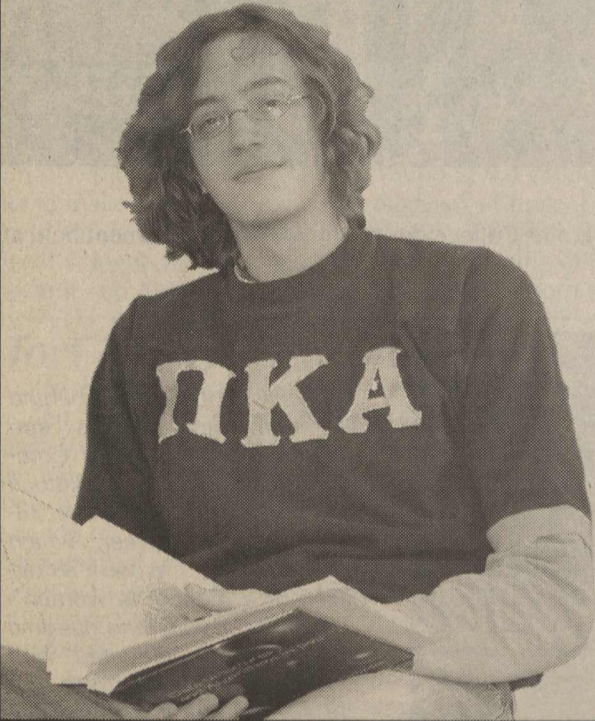
### Transfer to Millsaps and earn one of the top degrees in the South.

Join the only nationally ranked liberal arts college in Mississippi and be a part of a student body that consistently turns out successful young leaders. We offer personalized service – work directly with one of our admission counselors who will make the transfer process quick and easy. Did we mention scholarships? We have tons available for students just like you!

#### Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships Available

Our Fall deadline is fast approaching, please contact one of our admissions staff today to find out more.

Join us for our transfer luncheon in May to learn more about transfer possibilities and what Millsaps has to offer you.



"I love Millsaps and couldn't see myself going anywhere else. As they say, Harvard is the Millsaps of the North!"

– Sophomore Adam Huffman, transfer from East Central Community College

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### WOOD, continued from page1

including ECCC alumni Van Chancellor, head coach of the WNBA Houston Comets, and Sue Gunter, women's head basketball coach at Louisiana State University.

Wrote Chancellor: "As a physical education instructor at East Central Junior College, Coach Wood wore many hats to keep her club teams alive when there were no organized teams on the state level for junior college players. She was coach, fundraiser, lobbyist, driver, equipment manager, trainer and cheerleader. Coaches like her fanned the spark to give women athletes the opportunity to enjoy their own place in the athletic world from the recreational leagues to the professional leagues."

Added Gunter: "Lucille Wood is most deserving to be a member of the Hall of Fame. She has had a profound impact on hundreds of young women who, because of her guidance, went on to become outstanding coaches and teachers. My career was jump-started by my association with 'Miss Wood.' She encouraged me to follow my dream and to believe that the answer to 'impossible' was just around the corner."

Katie Herrington, who serves as Region 23 Director of Women's Sports and formerly coached women's basketball at Jones County Junior College, also nominated Wood and made the following comment: "Miss Wood has been a longtime advocate of women's sports and therefore, in my opinion, is worthy of consideration to receive this honor. Because women like Miss Wood have taken a stand in women's sports, young females today have many opportunities to compete."

In submitting her nomination, Ann Burkes, former ECCC head librarian, said: "Miss Lucille Wood is an individual who is respected by her peers, her former students and her former players. She has devoted her time and expertise to coaching women's basketball and helping to establish women's basketball as an important entity in inter-collegiate athletics on the local, state, regional and national levels. I cannot imagine another individual who has given more of herself or himself to the advancement of this sport."

When the State of Mississippi discontinued women's basketball on the junior college level in 1954, Wood organized and coached "club teams" for women

from 1956-74 at East Central. Wood noted that players did not receive scholarships, competed in homemade uniforms, bought their own meals and, for one tournament, even had to borrow a regulation basketball!

"These girls played basketball simply because they loved the sport," Wood stated. "No one really knows what all we had to go through to get sports for girls. A lot of hard work went into it. Present day players owe a lot to those who played without scholarships. They really paved the way."

In 1968, Wood and colleagues Sue Ross of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Rene' Warren of Hinds Junior College, and Jill Upton and Dr. Mary Kate Miller of Mississippi State College for Women (MSCW, now Mississippi University for Women) organized the Mississippi Extramural Association and the first basketball tournament for college women since 1954. East Central hosted the tournament with Wood serving as coach and tournament director. The Lady Warriors – or Warriorettes as they were known back then – defeated MSCW for the championship.

In 1970, teams were divided into junior and senior divisions and East Central won its first junior college state championship game. Wood later led her 1973, 1976 and 1979 teams to state titles.

This past October, Wood honored members of her former club teams by presenting varsity letters to each player at a reunion held during the College's Homecoming activities.

Wood noted that the reunion and her selection to the Hall of Fame could not have come at a better time.

"Since being notified of my selection to the Hall of Fame, I have thought about how happy I am that we had the Homecoming reunion and that so many girls returned," Wood said.

Those present at the reunion were also elated about attending and had many positive comments to make about their former coach.

"Your hard work and determination to fulfill your goal of awarding these letters was a wonderful tribute to the women who played sports at East Central,"

wrote Lucy Young of Vicksburg, a member of the 1970-71 team at EC. "What you did for us defines you. Determination and perseverance have always been two

of your many fine qualities. Your example will always be our greatest reward."

Patsy Tadlock Hollingsworth of Morton, a member of the 1967-68 team, wrote: "Sometimes when I think about the old days and I am watching these women play ball, I am thinking they do no have any idea how far we have come."

From 1970 to 1975, Wood helped to bring about the Title IX ruling in the colleges of Mississippi. In 1975, the foundation for women's basketball in the state was laid and a limited number of scholarships were awarded. That same year, Wood was elected the first president of the Women's Basketball Coaches' Association in Mississippi.

In 1978, Wood served with Sue Ross as the first coaches of the Mississippi Junior College All-Star Team. The 1978-79 season concluded with Wood being chosen Mississippi Association of Coaches "Coach of the Year." She was also selected to the Top 20 National Junior Colleges "Coaches of the Year."

Wood was again chosen coach of the All-Star team in 1984 and was a member of the Region 23 Women's Basketball Committee during 1985.

She retired from coaching in 1986 and that same year was elected Director of Women's Athletics for Region 23, a position she held for 10 years. During her tenure as director, Wood served as Chairman of the Slow-Pitch Softball Committee for five years, was NJCAA representative to the national slow-pitch tournament for four years and served on the tennis and track and field committees. She was presented the NJCAA Service Award in 1990. Wood was inducted into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986 and the College's gym is named for Wood and former All-American basketball player Denver Brackeen.

Joining Wood in the 2004 NJCAA Hall of Fame are Lorene Ramsey, who spent 33 years directing the Cougars of Illinois Central College to five national championships prior to her retirement in 2003, and Paul L. Bishop, whose 28-year coaching career with the Hudson Valley Community College Vikings resulted in a combined 614 wins in women's basketball and volleyball, making him the most successful coach to date at HVCC.

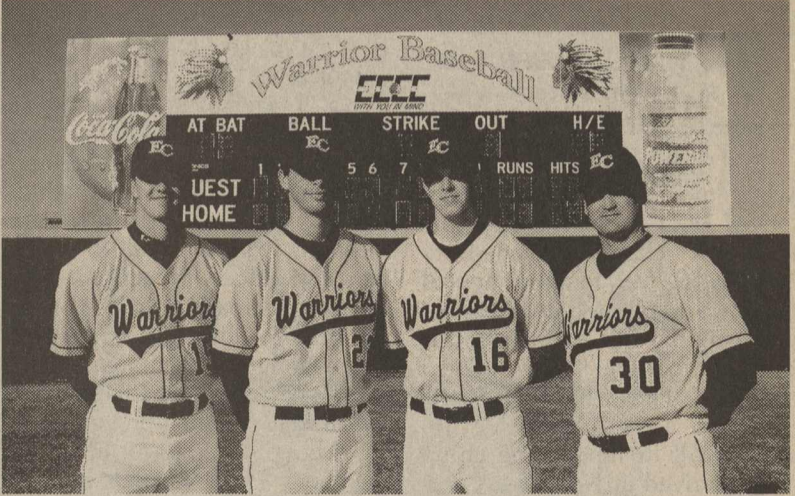


SPORTS



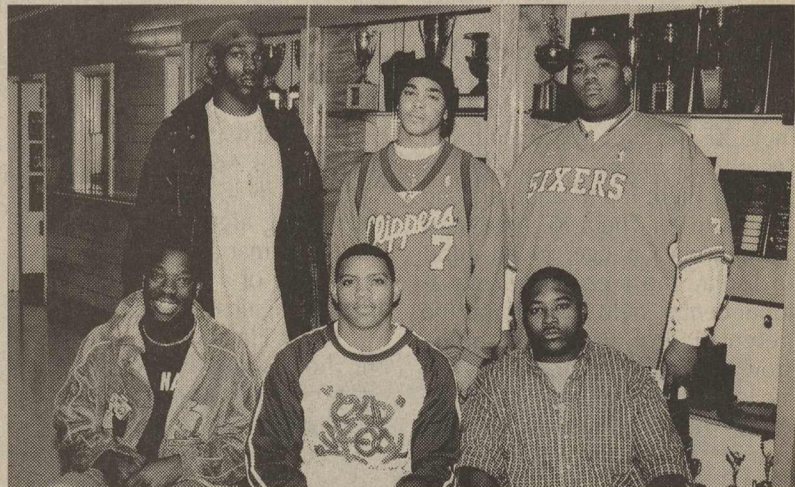
ECCC Diamond Warriors

Above are members of the East Central Community College baseball team for the 2004 season. Diamond Warriors and their respective high schools include, first row, from left, outfielder Andre Coleman, Louisville; second baseman/short stop/outfielder Brian McNeill, Enterprise; catcher Robby Carey, Newton County; shortstop/second baseman Mario Thomas, Forest; third baseman/second baseman Matthew Boggan, Newton County; second baseman/outfielder Daniel Harrison, Lamar; third baseman Michael Dunn, Pascagoula; pitcher/outfielder Dexter Sellers, Bastrop, La.; pitcher Hunter Holley, Philadelphia; pitcher Brent McMillan, Newton; second baseman/shortstop Brandon Ezell, Newton County; and outfielder Derrell Ashford, Louisville; (second row, from left) student assistants Brian Deel, East Rankin Academy, and Chris Lynn, Madison Central; catcher/first baseman Jacob Townsend, Neshoba Central; outfielder Drew Kenna, Forest; pitcher Jonathan Sigrest, Scott Central; pitcher/first baseman Jonathan Booker, Philadelphia; catcher/left fielder Craig Martin, Lake; catcher/first baseman Corey Coward, Noxapater; pitcher Hunter Johnson, Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Central; student assistants Eric Hardy, Vicksburg, and James Sparks, Jackson Academy; and (third row, from left) pitcher/first baseman Jim Tally, Mooreville; pitcher Lucas Poole, Newton; pitcher/first baseman Bryan Bennett, Vidalia; pitcher/outfielder Marcus Davis, Magee; first baseman Destin Moore, Kosciusko; pitcher Kevin Hatch, Carthage; pitcher Cody Savell, Newton; infielder David Frey, Nanih Waiya; Jake Yarborough, head coach; and Reggie Richardson, assistant coach. Not pictured are pitcher/outfielder John Fortenberry of Carthage and pitcher Chris Middleton of Vicksburg.



ECCC Diamond Warrior Coaches, Captains

Jake Yarborough (right) begins his third season as head coach of the East Central Community College baseball team. Reggie Richardson (left) serves as assistant coach. Serving as captains for the 2004 Diamond Warriors are pitcher/ first baseman Jim Tally (second from left), a product of Mooreville High School in Saltillo, MS, and outfielder Drew Kenna of Forest.



Intramural Basketball Champs

The above members of a team called "X-Rated" won the intramural basketball championship held at East Central Community College in Decatur. Seated from left are Derrick Harris of Union, Cedric Gray of Scott Central and Clinton Thomas of Ripley. Standing from left are Eric "LT" Horne of Neshoba Central, Toney Edison of Collins and Jason Wilson of Bay Springs. Coach Scott Hill serves as director of intramural activities.



ECCC Diamond Girls

Members of the East Central Community College Diamond Girls for the 2004 season and their respective hometowns include (front row, from left) Jess Davis, Louisville; Mary Lois Thomas and Jennifer Carson, both of Decatur; Rhonda Stroud, Anna Price and Liz Kirk, all of Louisville; and Ashley Clark of Starkville; (second row, from left) Daphanie Hatcher and Courtney Puckett, both of Louisville; Brandi Patterson, Morton; Lindsey Clanton, Lawrence; Morgan Harris and Brittany Harris, both of Louisville; Lynlee Healy, Macon; and Audra Myers, Louisville; (third row, from left) Candice McCann and Lindsey Knight, both of Union; Erin Plunkett, Lake; Ginger Vance, Decatur; Ashley Nicholson, Chunky; Shana Smith, Union; Holly Jackson, Decatur; and Tracey Blackwell, Union; and (back row, from left) Courtnee Graham, Nanih Waiya; Andrea Chesney, Little Rock; Kimberly Atkinson and Jamie Gilmer, both of Carthage; Dru Fulton, Louisville; Lee Anne Rawson, Carthage; and Amy Warner, Louisville. Not pictured is Renee Thompson of Pelahatchie. Assistant baseball coach Reggie Richardson serves as sponsor.



Sophomore Basketball Players Honored

Sophomores on the East Central Community College Lady Warrior and Warrior basketball squads received special recognition at a ceremony held during the season finale with Mississippi Gulf Coast College February 19 in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building. Lady Warriors sophomores are (4) Kimyatta Viverette of Lake, (15) Ebone'e Leverette of Forest, (21) Lenore Gray of Newton, (22) Monique Overstreet of South Leake, (23) Britney Burks of Scott Central, (25) Rita Birden of St. Fredrick High School, Monroe, La.; (33) Hope Murray of West Jones (34) Miranda Rosar of Neshoba Central and student assistant Andrea Chesney of Newton County Academy, who are shown with family members and coaches Brad Hodge (head) and Lacle Brooks. Warrior sophomores include (3) Tellas Burnside of Philadelphia, (11) Jamaal Martin and (22) Stephen Dyess, both of Northeast Lauderdale; (12) Al Willis of Newton County, (21) Neil Tadlock of Lake, (25) Dewayne Hughes of Sebastopol, (42) Desmond Jones of Neshoba Central and student assistant Corey Burt of Neshoba Central, who are shown with family members and coaches Billy Smith (head) and Kevin McGhee.

### ECCC CHEERLEADER TRYOUTS

Saturday, April 17, 2004  
Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building  
Registration 8:30 a.m.

**Mandatory Pre-Tryout Clinics**  
April 1, 5, and 15 • 6:30 p.m.

For more information contact Katie Sparkman  
or Carrie Underwood at 635-2111, ext 428 or 310.

**Good Luck  
Lady Warriors  
in the NJCAA  
National Tournament  
March 16-20  
in Salina, Kansas!  
Games Can Be Heard  
on WZKR 103.3**

| East Central Community College<br>2004 Tennis Schedule |                          |             |             |        |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| March  |                          |             |             |        |
| 11   | Thursday                 | Gulf Coast  | Biloxi      | Noon   |
| 24   | Wednesday                | Jones       | Ellisville  | 2 p.m. |
| 25   | Thursday                 | Southwest   | Decatur     | 2 p.m. |
| 29   | Monday                   | Holmes      | Goodman     | 2 p.m. |
| 30   | Tuesday                  | Northeast   | Decatur     | 2 p.m. |
| 31   | Wednesday                | Hinds       | Decatur     | 2 p.m. |
| April  |                          |             |             |        |
| 1  | Thursday                 | Holmes      | Decatur     | 2 p.m. |
| 6  | Tuesday                  | Northeast   | Booneville  | 2 p.m. |
| 7  | Wednesday                | Southwest   | Summit      | 2 p.m. |
| 12   | Monday                   | Pearl River | Poplarville | 2 p.m. |
| 13   | Tuesday                  | Jones       | Decatur     | 2 p.m. |
| 14   | Wednesday                | Hinds       | Raymond     | 2 p.m. |
| 15-17  | Women's State Tournament |             | Meridian    | TBA    |
| 22-24  | Men's State Tournament   |             | Biloxi      | TBA    |

| East Central Community College<br>2004 Fast-Pitch Softball Schedule |           |                   |      |         |
|---|-----------|-------------------|------|---------|
| February  |           |                   |      |         |
| 19  | Thursday  | Jones             | Away | 1 p.m.  |
| 23  | Monday    | Co-Lin            | Away | 1 p.m.  |
| 26  | Thursday  | Shelton State     | Away | 1 p.m.  |
| March   |           |                   |      |         |
| 1   | Monday    | Southwest         | Home | 1 p.m.  |
| 4   | Thursday  | Jones             | Home | 3 p.m.  |
| 9   | Tuesday   | Southwest         | Away | 1 p.m.  |
| 11  | Thursday  | Open              |      |         |
| 24  | Wednesday | Co-Lin            | Home | 1 p.m.  |
| 26-27   | Fri.-Sat. | Northeast Tourney | TBA  |         |
| 31  | Wednesday | MS Delta          | Away | 1 p.m.  |
| April   |           |                   |      |         |
| 2   | Friday    | Holmes            | Home | 3 p.m.  |
| 6   | Tuesday   | Meridian          | Away | TBA     |
| 8   | Thursday  | East MS           | Away | 1 p.m.  |
| 14  | Wednesday | Hinds             | Away | 1 p.m.  |
| 16  | Friday    | MS Delta          | Home | 1 p.m.  |
| 20  | Tuesday   | Holmes            | Away | 3 p.m.  |
| 24  | Saturday  | Meridian          | Home | 11 a.m. |
| 27  | Tuesday   | East MS           | Home | 3 p.m.  |
| May   |           |                   |      |         |
| 1   | Saturday  | Hinds             | Home | 1 p.m.  |
| All Games are Double-Header.  |           |                   |      |         |

| East Central Community College<br>2004 Baseball Schedule                       |           |                 |            |           |
|--|-----------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| February   |           |                 |            |           |
| 12   | Thursday  | Northeast       | Booneville | 2 p.m.    |
| 14   | Saturday  | Jones           | Decatur    | 1 p.m.    |
| 16   | Monday    | Gulf Coast      | Perkinston | 2 p.m.    |
| 20   | Friday    | Rush Classic    | Meridian   | 3 p.m.    |
| 21   | Saturday  | Rush Classic    | Meridian   | Noon      |
| 22   | Sunday    | Rush Classic    | Meridian   | Noon      |
| 25   | Wednesday | Southwest       | Decatur    | 1 p.m.    |
| 28   | Saturday  | Beville Fayette | Fulton     | 11 a.m.   |
|  |           | Itawamba        | Fulton     | 1:30 p.m. |
| March  |           |                 |            |           |
| 2  | Tuesday   | Gulf Coast      | Decatur    | 2 p.m.    |
| 5  | Friday    | Jones           | Ellisville | 1 p.m.    |
| 8  | Monday    | Wabash Valley   | Decatur    | 1 p.m.    |
| 9  | Tuesday   | Southwest       | Summit     | 2 p.m.    |
| 13   | Saturday  | Itawamba        | Decatur    | 1 p.m.    |
| 20   | Saturday  | Northeast       | Decatur    | 2 p.m.    |
| 23   | Tuesday   | *Hinds          | Decatur    | 1 p.m.    |
| 27   | Saturday  | Co-Lin          | Wesson     | 2 p.m.    |
|  |           | Delgado         | Wesson     | 4:30 p.m. |
|  |           | *Holmes         | Goodman    | 4 p.m.    |
| 31   | Wednesday |                 |            |           |
| April  |           |                 |            |           |
| 3  | Saturday  | *East MS        | Scooba     | 1 p.m.    |
| 6  | Tuesday   | *Meridian       | Decatur    | 1 p.m.    |
| 9  | Friday    | *Hinds          | Raymond    | 2 p.m.    |
| 14   | Wednesday | Co-Lin          | Decatur    | 1 p.m.    |
| 17   | Saturday  | *Holmes         | Decatur    | 1 p.m.    |
| 20   | Tuesday   | *East MS        | Decatur    | 1 p.m.    |
| 24   | Saturday  | *Meridian       | Meridian   | 1 p.m.    |
| All Games are Double-Header Unless Noted as Single.<br>*Denotes Division Games |           |                 |            |           |



# ECCC's Theta Xi named Most Outstanding PTK Chapter in MS/LA region third consecutive year

By JENNA L. TALBERT  
Tom-Tom Editor

On Friday, February 6, 2003, twelve members and three advisors of ECCC's Phi Theta Kappa, Theta Xi chapter, headed to Booneville, MS for the annual Phi Theta Kappa MS/LA Regional Convention. After an adventurous four hour road trip that included a couple of "HELP! BAD DRIVER!" signs and a quick shopping trip at the mall in Tupelo, the group finally arrived at Northeast Community College, the host of the convention.

That afternoon, Theta Xi announced their wish to run for the position of Regional Secretary and got the campaign off to a good start by tossing Tootsie Rolls and yelling, "Get your tootsies on a roll and vote for Theta Xi!" Catchy, you have to admit, but unfortunately Rho Sigma of Jones County Junior College defeated Theta Xi and won the position of Regional Secretary.

Friday night led to another road adventure for Theta Xi. Northeast Community College, in an effort to display the area's new educational center, held supper and the presentation of two awards at the Crow's Neck Educational Center. The lodge was very nice, however, after an hour-and-a-half of driving around the middle of nowhere with a very bad map, members

of Theta Xi were slightly less than enthusiastic upon their eventual arrival. Nonetheless, Theta Xi was proud when they were recognized for reaching Pinnacle status and receiving the Five Star Chapter Award. These awards represent the hard work of Theta Xi members and officers to recruit a 10% member increase from the previous year for Pinnacle Award and the meeting of all requirements to be named a Five Star Chapter.

Saturday morning proved to be an even better day for Theta Xi members. Students and advisors alike were thrilled when it began to snow that morning. They were also thrilled when East Central's Ashley Fleming, Regional/Chapter Historian, gave a speech regarding the effect that cancer has had on her family. Fleming's mother has battled melanoma and is currently in remission. Theta Xi also put in a good showing in the skit contest with their parody of a satellite seminar entitled - Heads vs. Feds: The Great Debate. The skit consisted of Adam McAdory and Chris Moody in the role of Cheech and Chong arguing for the legalization of marijuana, Allen Davis in the role of a retired FDA agent arguing against marijuana, and Mr. Ricky Harrison in the role of Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director, Mr. Rod Risley, as moderator. The skit was a great success.

The crowning moment of the trip was the Awards Luncheon.

At this luncheon, winners of the four hallmarks as well as the Most Outstanding Chapter in the region are announced and recognized. Awards for the Theta Xi chapter began when Jenna L. Talbert, Theta Xi President, was honored with induction into the Order of the Golden Key. Theta Xi was then awarded with the Service Hallmark Award, which recognizes the hard work of the chapter to be a service to their campus and community. After a nerve-wracking wait, Theta Xi was then named the Most Outstanding MS/LA Chapter for the third consecutive year. The officers, members, and advisors of Theta Xi was overwhelmed with pride as they accepted the award that they had worked so diligently to receive.

"I am very proud of our chapter," says Mrs. Christy Ferguson, Theta Xi advisor. "We worked really hard for this award and I just want to thank all of the officers for all of their hard work."

The chapter, back from Regional, is now looking forward to the International Convention that will be held April 1-3 in Minneapolis, MN.

"We're excited about International. We are hoping that we will come back with the same number of awards last year and maybe even a couple more," said Ferguson.



Members of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college, are shown with awards they received during the Mississippi/Louisiana Regional Convention hosted by Northeast Mississippi Community College. Pictured are (front row, from left) Courtnee Graham of Nanih Waiya, Audra Myers of Louisville, Ashley Fleming of Philadelphia, Jennifer Carson of Decatur and Shana Smith of Union; and (back row, from left) Chris Moody and Adam McAdory, both of Louisville; Allen Davis of Decatur and advisors Christy Ferguson, Debbie Boyd and Ricky Harrison. Not pictured are Jenna Talbert of Newton, Ginger Vance of Decatur, Faith Hessenius of Louisville and Rachel Edwards of Noxapater.

## ECCC to host annual business, education and healthcare expo

East Central Community College students will have an opportunity to meet with representatives of area businesses, industries, four-year colleges and universities, and the military when the fourth annual Business, Education and Healthcare Expo is held Thursday, April 1, 2004, on the Decatur campus.

The public is also invited to attend the free event, which is scheduled from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

Approximately 60 vendors have reserved space for the Expo, according to committee chairman Chris Harris who serves as the College's Work-Based Learning Coordinator.

"We are very pleased with the response we have received from the various vendors, and look forward to another successful Expo," Harris said.

He added, "Our students enjoy meeting the various vendors, and the vendors seem pleased with the students who visit their booths. The Expo offers a great opportunity for businesses and industries, hospitals and health agencies or any other tie business that is in search of quality employees, which we obviously can offer with our students."

Harris noted that the Expo also provides educational opportunities for ECCC students, as a number of booth locations are reserved by various four-year colleges and universities. Representatives from the military will also be present to visit with students.

Harris said more than 600 ECCC

students attended the 2003 Expo, and he expects an even larger crowd this year. Sixty-six vendors reserved space at last year's event.

"Several of our students received jobs as a result of last year's Expo, and many made decisions on where they wanted to continue their education. We certainly expect another great turnout from our student body for the event," Harris stated.

Vendors who have reserved space for the Expo include Air Force ROTC, Mississippi State University; Baptist Medical Center, Jackson; Belhaven College, Jackson; Central Mississippi Residential Center, Newton; Delta State University, Cleveland; Education Services Foundation, Jackson; ESCO Corporation; Newton; Geyser Falls Water Theme Park, Choctaw; Hilltop Manor Nursing Home, Union; Hol-Mac Corp., Bay Springs; Hospice In His Hands, Walnut Grove; Jackson State University, Jackson; Lackey Memorial Hospital, Forest; La-Z-Boy South, Newton; Manpower, Forest; Memorial Hospital, Gulfport; Millsaps College, Jackson; Mississippi Air National Guard, Meridian; Mississippi College, Clinton; Mississippi Power Company, Gulfport; Mississippi Army National Guard, Newton; Mississippi Care Center of Morton, Morton; Mississippi Department of Corrections, Jackson; Mississippi State Hospital, Whitfield; Mississippi State Personnel Board, Jackson; Mississippi Teacher Center, Jackson; Mississippi State

University, Starkville; Mississippi State University, Meridian Campus; Mississippi University for Women, Columbus; Naval Reserve Recruiting Command, Flowood; Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, Pascagoula; Primerica, Laurel; Primerica Financial Services, Brandon; Raytheon Systems Company, Forest; Riley Memorial Hospital, Meridian; River Oaks Health System, Jackson; Rush Health System, Meridian; Scott Regional Hospital, Morton; Silver Leaf Manor, Meridian; St. Dominic Hospital, Jackson; State Home Health Agency, Carthage; State Veterans Affairs Board, Pearl; Tower Loan Corporation, Flowood; Tyson Foods, Inc., Forest; U.S. Air Force, Meridian Recruiting Station; U. S. Army, Philadelphia Recruiting Station; University Medical Center School of Nursing, Jackson; University Hospitals and Clinics, Jackson; University of Mississippi, Oxford; University of Southern Mississippi School of Engineering Technology, Hattiesburg; University of Southern Mississippi School of Nursing, Meridian; Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility, Walnut Grove; Weems Mental Health Center, Meridian; and William Carey College, Hattiesburg.

For more information contact Chris Harris, Expo Committee chairman, East Central Community College, P. O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone 635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 305. The email address is [charris@eccc.edu](mailto:charris@eccc.edu).

### Phi Theta Kappa Inductees

These students were recently inducted into Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at East Central Community College. Pictured are (from left) Kenny Gladden of Philadelphia, Lori Horton of Union, Julie DeBord of Carthage and Shawanda Matheny of Forest. To be eligible for membership in Phi Theta Kappa, students must earn a 3.5 grade point average as a full-time student and maintain an overall 3.5 grade point average. The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to promote scholarship, to develop character and to cultivate fellowship among academically superior students. Christy Ferguson, Debbie Boyd and Ricky Harrison serve as sponsors.



### Transfer Scholarships

#### Community/Junior College Achievement Award

Students who are active members in Phi Theta Kappa honor society may qualify for \$1,400 (\$700 per year for two years). Interested students should submit a scholarship application with the signature of their Phi Theta Kappa sponsor and chapter. Students must have completed at least 54 semester hours and have a 3.5 GPA or higher.

#### Community/Junior College Leadership Award

Student leaders and scholars enrolling for the fall semester on the Southern Miss Hattiesburg Campus may be considered for awards up to \$4,000 (\$2,000 per year for two years). Interested students who have been extensively involved should submit a scholarship application with a resume outlining honors, activities, and organizations with two letters of recommendation. Students must have completed at least 54 semester hours.

#### Mississippi All-Academic Team Award

Students who have been nominated to the state (or national) All-Academic Team are eligible for a one year \$1,000 award. A copy of the letter verifying All-Academic Team selection will suffice as the application for this award.

#### Community/Junior College Presidential Award

Students can qualify for scholarships of \$500 if nominated by his or her respective president. The application process consists of a letter of recommendation/nomination from the community/junior college president to the Southern Miss Office of Admissions.

Printable scholarship applications may be retrieved online at <http://www.usm.edu/admissions/scholarships/>

The University of Southern Mississippi  
Office of Admissions • 5166 • Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001  
(601)266-5000

AA/EOE/ADA1 PPS48630.5166 12/03



#### PTK Official Visits EC

Kathy Hayes (center), Director of Regional Programs for Phi Theta Kappa International, was guest speaker at the spring 2004 induction ceremony for Theta Xi Chapter at East Central Community College. Hayes is shown with Theta Xi officers Jenna Talbert (left) of Newton, who serves as Chapter president, and Ashley Fleming of Philadelphia, regional historian, following the selection of 68 new members into the international honor society for two-year colleges.

### 2004 Spring Semester Calendar (remaining dates)

- March 15-19-Spring Break
- April 9-Easter Holiday
- April 19-Fall Semester 2004 Advance Registration Begins
- April 30-Last Day to Drop a Course With a W
- May 7-Last Day of Regular Classes
- May 10-13-Final Exams
- May 14-Graduation

### Student Health Center Schedule Spring 2004

- March (TBA)**  
April York  
Disease Intervention Specialist  
MS State Department of Health  
Sexually Transmitted Diseases  
Vickers Fine Arts
- April 6**  
United Blood Services  
Blood Drive  
Mall Area 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



# Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa holds spring induction ceremony

East Central Community College's Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college, recently held spring induction ceremonies in Huff Auditorium. To be eligible for membership in Phi Theta Kappa, students must earn a 3.5 grade point average as a full-time student and maintain an overall 3.5 grade point average. The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to promote scholarship, to develop character and to cultivate fellowship among academically superior students. Christy Ferguson, Debbie Boyd and Ricky Harrison serve as sponsors.



Inductees from Leake County included Lee Anne Rawson, Betty Jean Dodd and Kimberly Hayes, all of Carthage; and (back row, from left) Chasity Marie Odom, Mary Kathryn Jones and Emily Morgan Daugherty, all of Carthage.



Scott County inductees included (front row, from left) Amy Renae Ealy of Forest, Kimberly Anne Coley of Morton and Brandi Allen Patterson of Lena; and (back row, from left) Heather Lauren Hanks of Forest, Kyle Taylor Gordon of Morton and Courtney Jo Hollingsworth of Forest.



Inductees from Newton County included (front row, from left) Ashley Leigh Nicholson of Chunky, Shan Michelle Smith of Union, Janet Warnsley McCree of Newton, Dana Renee Boone of Union, Kristin DeAnne Chaney and Meagan Nicole Chaney, both of Little Rock; Erin Autumn Yelverton of Decatur and Valerie Ann Gibbs of Newton; (second row, from left) Ginger Michelle Vance of Decatur, Victoria Dawn Billy of Conehatta, Jessica Suzanne Boswell and Kelly Lane Skinner, both of Union; Heather Lynn Clearman, Sarah Drue Hickox and Stacy Nicole Douglas, all of Decatur; and (back row, from left) Lindsay Marie Knight of Union, Jessica Leigh Sheehan of Little Rock, Ty Aline Dowden of Decatur, Anya Grace Dickerson of Conehatta, Marley Ann Smith of Union, Heath Herndon Smylie of Decatur, Zach Mason Staton of Union and Victoria Loper of Decatur.



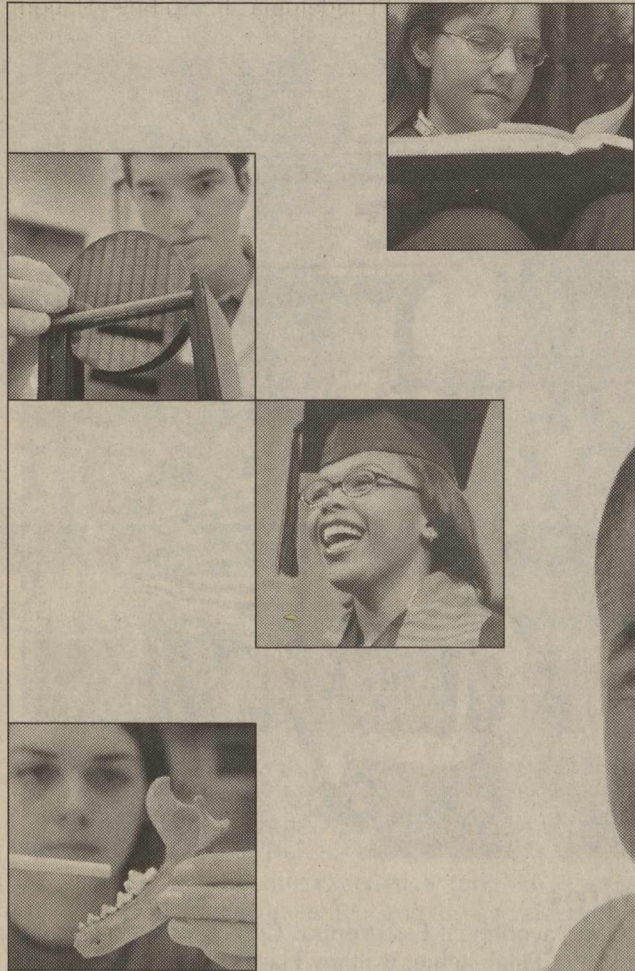
Winston County inductees included (front row, from left) Elizabeth Nicole Anthony, Dana Margaret Quinn and Ronda Gail Stroud, all of Louisville; Shamra Suzanne White and Cindy Hailey Moody, both of Preston; and Jessica Alayne Creekmore of Louisville; (second row, from left) Rachel Edwards of Noxapater and Dru Catherine Fulton, Felicia Dawn Hunt, Faith Michelle Hessenius and Amy Lauren Mayo, all of Louisville; and (back row, from left) Rhyne Marlow Thompson and Bradley Jerome Hill, both of Louisville; Courtney D. Graham of Preston and Corey Adam Coward of Noxapater.



Those inducted from Neshoba County included (front row, from left) Andrew Wayne Moorehead of Union, Mary Ann Oxiner of Collinsville and Laura Elizabeth Sistrunk, Ahlshia DeFrancis Johnson, Elyse Lyndon Willis and Jessica Simone Bell, all of Philadelphia; and (back row, from left) Amanda Joy Clark of Philadelphia, Lacie Lea Stephens and Chris Elbert Rush, both of Union; Troy White and Dwylene Allen, both of Philadelphia; Brant Andrew Winstead of Union and Jason Bruce Richardson of Philadelphia.



Out-of-District students inducted into Theta Xi included (front row, from left) Toney Lee Edison of Taylorsville, Ashley Clark of Starkville and Cyrus C-Max Doe of Liberia, West Africa; and (back row, from left) Sarah Catherine Martin of Pisgah, Benjamin Boyette of Meridian and Jered Ridings of Collinsville.



## Big career plans, but low on cash?

A scholarship from Mississippi State University could help get you started on your future.

The Department of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships provides a list of financial resources at [www.sfa.msstate.edu](http://www.sfa.msstate.edu). To see if you qualify for one of our transfer student scholarships, be sure to apply for the Phi Theta Kappa or Community College Recognition scholarships by April 1, 2004. And, remember you are required to submit the school confirmation form by April 8, 2004. Please call the Office of Enrollment Services if you have questions.

Besides regular classroom lectures, some professors take you outside the classroom. One of my education classes visited the T.K. Martin Center to get a better understanding of technology being developed for children with disabilities.

IAN | Senior

Mississippi State  
UNIVERSITY

Office of Enrollment Services | Post Office Box 6334  
Mississippi State, MS 39762-6334 | telephone/662-325-3076  
fax/662-325-1MSU | Web site/[www.enroll.msstate.edu](http://www.enroll.msstate.edu)  
MSU is an equal opportunity institution.



# ‘Bridging the gap’ to a fulfilling career

By TAMMY FAULKNER  
Special to The Tom-Tom

(The following article was written by ECCC sophomore Tammy Faulkner, a student in the College’s Associate Degree Nursing Program. It was published in The Meridian Star’s 2004 Progress Edition “Bridging the Gap.”)

Even as a young child, I can remember being the one who always needed to try to fix things. It began, I think, with the birth of my brother, Danny , or Bubba as I called him.

From the start, I tried to guard him from injury, protect him, and be his advocate against the world. However, this was not an easy task, but one that I took on with confidence, none the least. Danny seemed to be accident-prone.

Week after week, it seemed, we would have to visit the family physician for Bubba to be treated. As soon as the doctor entered the exam room and before my mother could speak, I would start giving the doctor all of the details of Bubba’s injuries; how it happened, where the injuries were located, the amount of blood that came from the injury, and my thoughts of how it should be treated.

Our family physician, Dr. C.D. Lee, would just smile and say, ‘I think you’re right; we’ll get him all fixed up. He’s lucky to have such a good nurse as you.’

He would even write the prescription out as “Bubba Faulkner” and tell me to make sure that Bubba took all of his medicine. I think that this guided me into the career path that I am following today. However, this path has not been an easy one.

Because of always being the “fixer” of things, I have somewhat had to put my career choice on hold, to help with things that needed my attention more. You see, I am a nontraditional student, who after 20 years, is finally getting a chance to fulfill my dream of being a registered nurse. And East Central Community College is helping me bridge that gap in my career. I am currently enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing Program at ECCC and will be graduating in May 2004.

You may wonder why it has taken so many years for me to reach this

point. After high school, I did attend college, but junior colleges back then didn’t have two year programs in nursing, specifically. One would have to attend two years of regular courses at a junior college and then transfer to a university or go directly to a university for four years. Also, during that time, I was young and was working as an account payable/payroll clerk for a local chain of grocery stores. I was paying for all of my living expenses myself and it would have been hard for me to pick up and move to a university, leave my job and my family.

In 1989, one of the worst things imaginable happened. My father, the backbone of our family, was killed in a head-on collision, caused by a drunk driver. This was a devastating time for me, but more so for my mother. She had been a housewife for all of her adult life and this for her meant a loss of husband, partner, friend and financial provider. This was a call for me, of course, as I saw it, to try and fix things. I became the consoler, decision maker, and financial supporter for my family. I had two younger brothers in school who needed me. Yes, there were two more born later on, after Danny (aka Bubba) who needed a different kind of protector and advocate. So the “fixer” went into action.

Times were hard at first, but began to get better. I got a new, better paying job at a local hospital as a patient representative and soon worked my way up to Medicare/Medicaid Specialist. This position helped me to understand the legal and financial aspect of healthcare, but didn’t give me the hands-on aspect that I so longed for.

After several years, I got offered a job at another local hospital and became an ER tech/clerk. This position got me a lot more into the action and made me wish that I had been able to attend nursing school. But I thought that I was probably too old to start school again. One of my co-workers at that time, Mrs. Jean Wood, talked to me about nursing school and told me that she was attending the ECCC ADN program and that I should consider doing the same. She said that she was older than me and if she could do it, then so could I. She inspired my dream and me. So, with her advice, I did



Tammy Faulkner

start attending college again and was soon accepted into the nursing program.

However, the role of student has not been easy either. In the middle of going to school and working, I was dealt another blow. My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. This took a big toll on me, but I tried not to let my mother know. After all, she needed me and I had to be strong for her. I hid my tears from her and tried not to show how worried I was. I, the fixer, vowed that I would help her get through this.

I was very worried though; worried that there was nothing that I could do to fix the situation; worried that I would lose her. She made me promise to her that no matter what happened that I would finish school and become an RN, as I had set out to do.

My mother survived breast cancer, surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. She had a small setback a few months ago, but overall is doing great. Her situation, I think, has made me even more determined to become a nurse. I thought about all of the other people out there going through the same thing that she had gone through that didn’t have anyone.

Nurses play an important part in the overall health care and emotional support needed by many patients. I am thankful that there are nursing programs like the ADN program at ECCC. I’ve had the opportunity to be there for my family and to work on bridging that gap in my life to a fulfilling career; one of care and compassion; one of the ultimate advocate and “fixer”—a nurse.



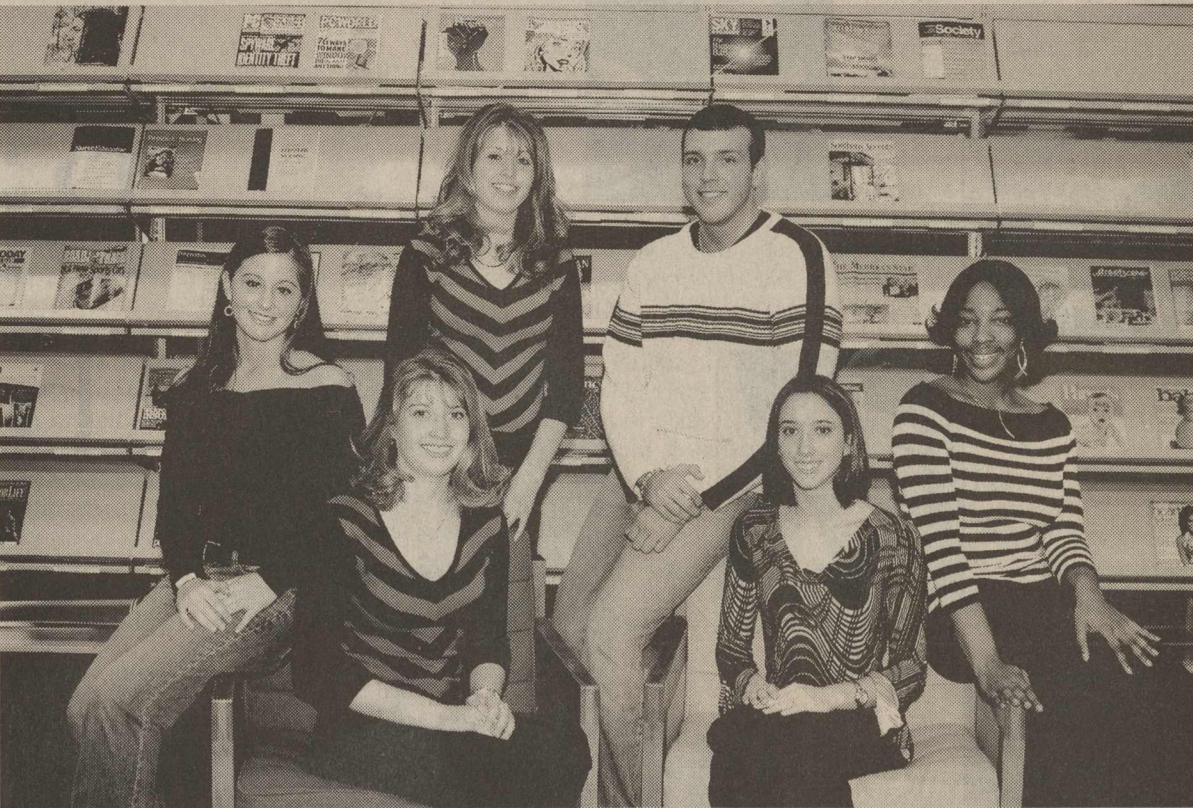
## Smith delivers address during Black History Month celebration

Representative Ferr Smith of Carthage who represents District 27 (Attala, Leake, Madison and Yazoo counties) was the keynote speaker during the College’s annual Black History Month Celebration held February 25 in Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium. Smith has been a member of the Legislature since 1993. He currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Apportionment and Elections Committee and is a member of the Agriculture, Congressional Redistricting, Judiciary B, Legislative Reapportionment, Universities and Colleges, and Ways and Means committees.



## ECCC Freshman Class Favorites

These students were recently elected freshman class favorites at East Central Community College. Pictured are (from left) Jessica Holmes of Louisville, Amy Ealy of Forest, Kevin Hatch and Lacey Brantley, both of Carthage; and Brian Sibley of Newton. Not pictured is Matthew Brown of Philadelphia.



## ECCC Sophomore Class Favorites

These students were recently elected sophomore class favorites at East Central Community College in Decatur. Pictured are (seated, from left) Renee Thompson of Pelahatchie, Brittany Harris and Liz Kirk, both of Louisville; and Lashandriea Luckett of Carthage; and (standing, from left) Morgan Harris of Louisville and Dan Henry of Netwon. Not pictured are Chris Moody and Brandon Walker, both of Louisville.



## ECCC Gospel Choir

Above are members of East Central Community College’s Gospel Choir for the 2003-04 term. First row, from left, are Kenata Morgan, Carthage; Latoya Coleman, Louisville; Latasha Hall, Decatur; Quintisa Moncrief, Newton; Cassandra Loper, Forest; Pamela Carter, Philadelphia; Gary Hathorn, Bassfield; Calvin Miller, Louisville; Katrina Moore, Louisville; Crystal Bobbitt, Lake; and Stephanie Hord, Pulaski. Second row, from left, are Amy Ealy, Forest; Latoya Triplett, Philadelphia; Tamika Stribling, Walnut Grove; Yolanda Johnson, Newton; Kizzy Miller, Jackson; Keith Watts, Forest; Johnny Jones, Newton; LaShandria Luckett, Carthage; Jessica Holmes, Louisville; and Anita Griffin, Carthage. Third row, from left, are Eldner Graham, Noxapater; Obreisha Davis, Decatur; Tanisha Hawkins, Newton; Ashley Glass, Trista Haynes and Banita Houston, all of Noxapater; Daniel Townner, Meridian; William Davis, DeKalb; Shana Marks, Kosciusko; Kimberly C. Wilson, Columbus; and Mrs. Brenda K. Johnson, sponsor. Fourth row, from left, are Damien Wash, Decatur; Kenny McWilliams, Philadelphia; Avery Jackson, Walnut Grove; Fred Denson, Morton; Dantavis McClendon, Lena; Andre Stewart, DeKalb; Connie Henry, Carthage; Jonathan Griffin, Philadelphia; and Austin Lloyd, Morton. The group will perform in San Antonio, Texas, April 22-26, 2004.

# Articulation agreement between junior, senior colleges is a ‘safety net’ for transfer students

By JENNA L. TALBERT  
Tom-Tom Editor

Everyone has heard the horror story of senior universities refusing to accept transferred courses from local community colleges. However, what many students are unaware of is that there is a method of insurance against this refusal. That insurance is the Articulation Agreement between Institutes of Higher Learning and community colleges in the state of Mississippi.

The Articulation Agreement, in essence, is an agreement between the eight public universities and the community colleges in Mississippi that state the senior universities will accept those course hours completed at the community college.

“The Articulation Agreement is a safety net for our students so that when they transfer, they can know without a doubt that their courses will be accepted at any of the eight public universities,” says Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, Vice President for Instruction at East Central Community College.

Although the agreement is supposed to be updated every two years, the present agreement has been in place since 1992, according to an article in a November issue of the Clarion Ledger. However, the Articulation Agreement

is scheduled for an update in June of this year.

“The update is definitely needed,” said Dr. Sparkman, who is also a member of the eight-person committee created to update the agreement. “It will not solve all of the problems but it will help.”

Lanette Hanna, Academic Counselor at ECCC, agreed, “It definitely needs an update. We use the agreement quite a bit, especially for those students who are still unsure of where they will be transferring after graduation.”

There are the horror stories of a student transferring to a university only to be told by a dean or academic counselor that some of his or her courses will not transfer.

“The problem has arisen that a lot of the new deans, vice-presidents, and administrators of the universities are unaware of the Articulation Agreement,” said Dr. Sparkman. “Our mission is to insure that the Articulation Agreement stays in place and continues to work for transfer students.”

The agreement does insure that courses will transfer, however, it does not insure that those said courses would be credited toward the degree of the student’s choice. Although every course from ECCC will transfer, some courses will only count as an elective toward a specific degree. This is mainly the case for those students who changed his or her major mid-

stream. For example, if a student majored in Electrical Engineering at ECCC, but changed to Secondary Education at The University of Southern Mississippi, some of his or her courses previously taken for engineering would not count towards a degree in education.

It is also important to remember that each university requires different courses for different majors. For example, Mississippi State University might require that an engineering major have Calculus I and II while The University of Mississippi might require Calculus I, II, III, and IV.

“It is very important that students look at the catalog of the university they are interested in,” recommends Dr. Sparkman. “Find out what the universities require and take as many of those courses as you can.”

The best solution or insurance against transfer tragedies is to stay updated on what the college wants. However, if a student finds him or herself in such a situation, there is a path of recourse. A telephone call to Dr. Sparkman can clear up any misunderstanding.

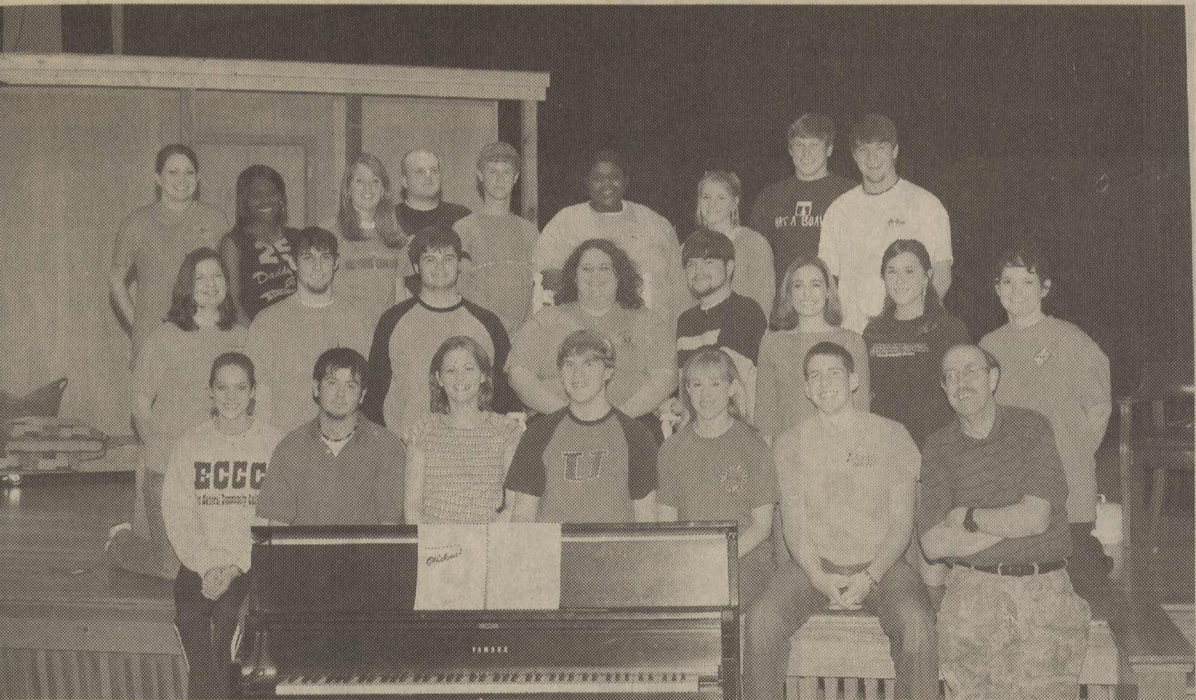
“I will be happy to call the Dean of the university and get the problem worked out,” says Dr. Sparkman. “My door is always open and I am more than willing to help students in any way.”

## Receive Healthcare Scholarships

Associate Degree Nursing students Suzette Crocker (left) of Little Rock and Carri Myers of Newton are the 2003-04 recipients of the Newton Community Healthcare Scholarship at East Central Community College. The scholarship was established last fall by Newton community Healthcare, Inc., in partnership with the Grow Your Own Program. The program received grant funding to establish a scholarship that would benefit students of Newton County as well as the community. It was designed to attract students to the healthcare profession and have them remain in Newton County to work after graduation. To qualify, students must 1) register as full-time students at East Central Community College in the Associate Degree Nursing or Licensed Practical Nursing program; 2) reside in Newton County; and 3) maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average or “B” average.







The East Central Community College Players will present "Oklahoma" April 15-17 in Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium. Cast members include (front row, from left) Katie Ford of Newton, Shelby Anderson of Raleigh, Dinah Howell Lachney and Luke Howell, both of Decatur; Amy Chamblee of Carthage, Steven Irby of Meridian and music director Len Bobo; (second row, from left) Ty Dowden of Newton, Daniel Thomas and Steven Thomas, both of Philadelphia; Kristal Burton and Alan Williams, both of Decatur; Jessica Creekmore of Nanih Waiya, Amy Kennedy of Forest and director Lori Muse; and (back row, from left) Morgan Richards and Shay Moncrief, both of Newton; Morgan Harris of Louisville, Phillip Dickerson of Union, Bryon Whitley of Philadelphia, Krystal Moore of Lake, Ashley Nicholson of Chunky, Zach Logan of Newton and Sam McDill of Decatur.

# ECCC Players to Present 'Oklahoma' April 15-17

The East Central Community College Players will present the musical "Oklahoma" April 15-17 in the Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium. Performances begin at seven o'clock each evening. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling the College's switchboard at 635-2111 or toll free 1-877-462-3222.

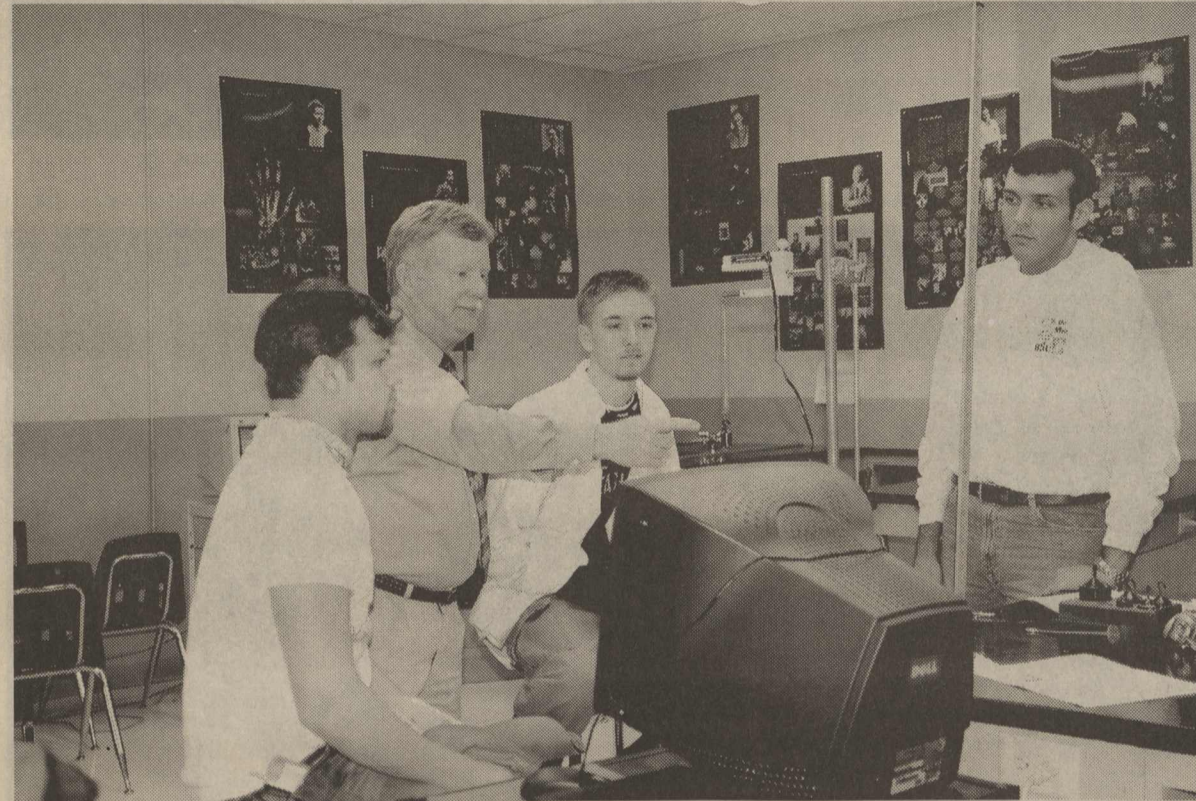
"Oklahoma" is set on Indian territory during the turn of the century as land wars between the cattlemen and farmers are raging. Against this backdrop are two other feuds. The first is between a cowboy named Curly (Luke Howell of Decatur) and a farmhand named Jud (Steven Thomas of Philadelphia) who are both in love with a girl named Laurey (Dinah Howell Lachney of Decatur). The second is between Ado Annie (Amy Chamblee of Carthage), a fellow named Will Parker (Shelby Anderson of Raleigh), and a traveling salesman named Ali Hakim (Steven Irby of Meridian).

Additional cast members include Katie Ford (Gertie) and Zach Logan (Cord Elam), both of Newton; Daniel Thomas (Ike, Slim and Fred) of Philadelphia, Alan Williams (Carnes), Kristal Burton (Aunt Eller) and Ty Dowden (Sylvie), all of Decatur; Krystal Moore (Ellen) of Lake; Jessica Creekmore (Kate) of Nanih Waiya and Dee Carpenter



## Outstanding ECCC Teacher, Student Honored

East Central Community College biology instructor Sharon Lejeune (third from left) of Meridian and sophomore music education major Jennifer Carson (fifth from left) were among outstanding faculty members and students representing Mississippi's public and private universities and colleges who received special recognition from the Mississippi Legislature during the Seventeenth Annual HEADWAE program. Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck (fourth from left), HEADWAE chair, served as mistress of ceremonies during the awards luncheon, which was held at the Clarion Hotel. Governor Haley Barbour was featured speaker. Also pictured with the honorees are, from left, ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin; Johnny Roberson of Meridian, Lejeune's father; and Brenda and Thomas W. Carson of Decatur, Jennifer's parents. The HEADWAE (Higher Education Day/Working for Academic Excellence) program was established in 1988 by legislative resolution to honor individual academic achievement and the overall contribution of the state's public and private institutions of higher learning. (Photo courtesy Elvin Williams of Entertainment Media and Print Services in Jackson)



## Miles Returns To Classroom

Physics instructor Billy Miles of Morton resumed his teaching duties in January after serving almost a year in Operation Enduring Freedom. Miles is a member of the 2nd Battalion of the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) located in Jackson, which was deployed to Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. Miles said his battalion conducted over 1000 combat missions resulting in no casualties and only a few injuries. Miles, who was assigned to the intelligence section, said he is "very appreciative" to the administration, faculty, staff and student body for their prayers and support during his deployment. He is shown in the physics lab with (from left) students Chris Bounds of Newton, Juston Dean of Decatur and Dan Henry of Newton.



## Manning Joins ECCC Board

Neshoba County Superintendent of Education V. C. Manning of Philadelphia was recently welcomed as a new member of the East Central Community College Board of Trustees. Manning, who previously served two terms as county superintendent, is also a former a state legislator, having served a term in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. He is shown with Board Chairman Prentice Copeland (left) of Philadelphia and ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin. County superintendents of education serve as trustees due to their elective office.

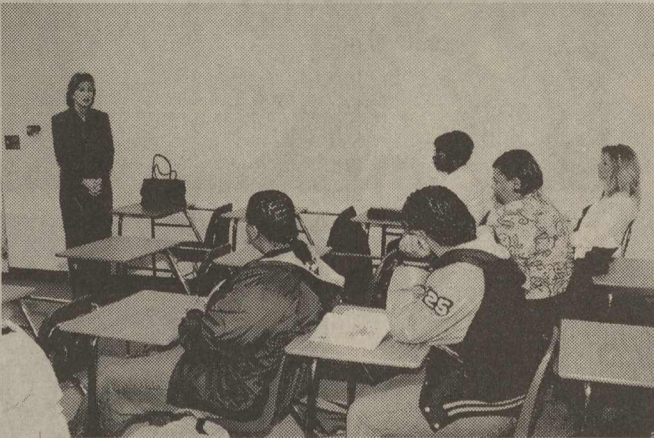
## Clark Presented Alumni Award

Cay Clark (right) of Chunky is the 2004 recipient of the Shelby Harris Alumni Award, which is presented to an East Central Community College alumnus in recognition of "outstanding and continuing support of academic excellence" to the College's Theta Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. Martha Sibley, an ECCC staff member who serves as president of the Theta Xi Alumni Chapter, presented the award during Theta Xi's 2004 spring induction ceremony held in Huff Auditorium. Clark is a 1991 graduate of ECCC, where she was selected a Phi Theta Kappa All-American and was tapped for the Hall of Fame, the highest honor a student can receive at the College. Clark is also a graduate of the University of Mississippi, where she received bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting. Clark, a certified public accountant and certified internal auditor, serves as financial director for Newton County Schools. The annual award honors the late Dr. Shelby Harris, longtime Theta Xi sponsor and ECCC math instructor.



## February: Vocational-Technical Education Month

### Gerontology Students Hear Alliance Representative

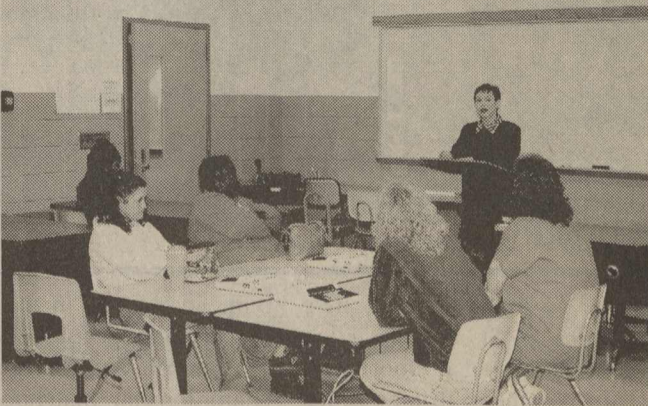


Cindy Dyess of Alliance Health Center in Meridian was among representatives of area businesses and industries who spoke to vocational-technical classes at East Central Community College during "Industry in the Classroom" activities. Dyess, shown speaking to gerontology students, serves as administrative assistant for the Adult/Geriatric Unit and Risk Management coordinator at the facility. She spoke on the advances her facility is making in Adult/Geriatric mental health for this area. She also spoke on eligibility for employment

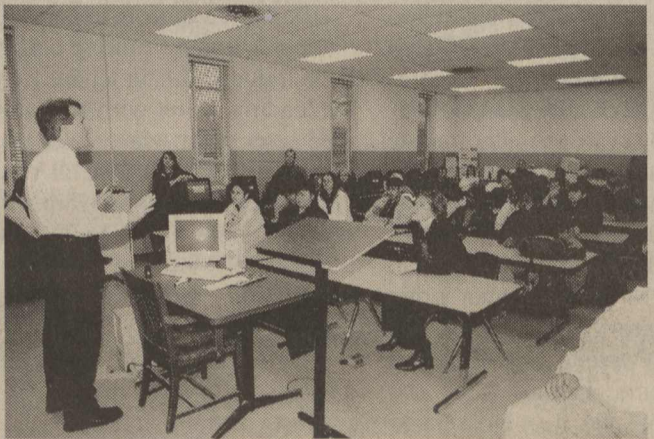
at the facility. The special event was held in conjunction with Vocational-Technical Month activities in February.

### Local Banker Speaks To ECCC Business Technology Students

Patty Graham, vice president of Great Southern National Bank in Decatur, was among representatives of area businesses and industries who spoke to vocational-technical classes at East Central Community College during "Industry in the Classroom" activities. Graham spoke on personal and professional development to business technology students. The event was held in conjunction with Vocational-Technical Month activities in February.



### Computer Expert Speaks To East Central Class



Mark Wakefield of Information Systems Business, LLC in Ridgeland was among representatives of area businesses and industries who spoke to vocational-technical classes at East Central Community College during "Industry in the Classroom" activities. ISB is an IBM Business Partner and authorized agent of BellSouth Telecommunications. Wakefield, shown speaking to computer technology students, works mostly with mainframe systems and discussed software and programming. Teresa McGhee of ISB also spoke to the group about networking. The special event was held as part of Vocational-Technical Month activities held in February.



# Scenes From State and Region 23 Tournaments



The crowd cheers as the Lady Warriors take the lead during the Region 23 Championship game.



The Lady Warriors celebrate after capturing the College's first women's basketball state championship in 25 years!



The Lady Warrior bench prepares to storm the court as the final seconds tick off the clock during the Region 23 Championship.



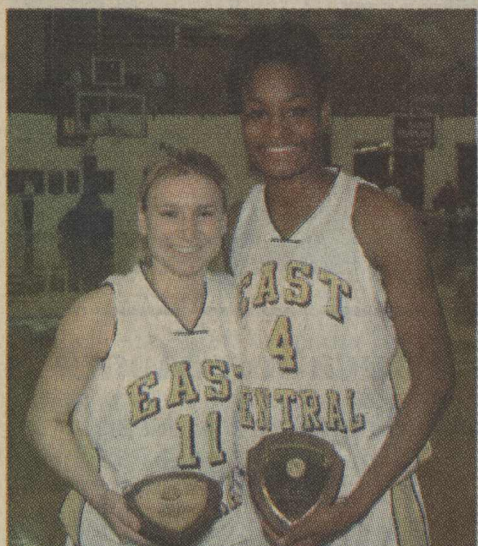
Head coach Brad Hodge gives encouragement to the Lady Warriors during the State Championship game against Jones County Junior College



Assistant coach LaCole Brooks (right) gives head coach Brad Hodge a hug after the Lady Warriors captured the Region 23 Championship.



Coach Hodge calls a play during the State Tournament.



Freshman Kristin Chaney (left) of Little Rock and sophomore Kimyatta Viverette of Lake were selected for the Region 23 All-Tournament Team.



Head coach Brad Hodge talks to his Lady Warrior team members as they try to maintain the lead over the Lady Wolves of Co-Lin during the Region 23 Championship game.



Freshman India Backstrom of Neshoba Central fights for possession during the championship game.



Freshman Kotreece Bender of Newton tries to maintain possession as Lady Wolf defenders try to steal the ball away.



Freshman Kristin Chaney of Little Rock guards a member of the Co-Lin Lady Wolves.



Sophomore Kimyatta Viverette of Lake grabs the rebound.

## CHAMPS, continued from page 1

strom of Neshoba Central, five; Rita Birden of St. Fredrick High School, Monroe, La., four; Kim Cox of Lake, three; Britney Burks of Scott Central, two; and Miranda Rosar of Neshoba Central, one.

Natalie Jordan of Waynesboro and Brittany Baham of New Orleans each had 23 points to lead the Lady Bobcats, who fell to 14-13.

The Lady Warriors, who never trailed in the contest, held a 35-30 advantage at intermission.

East Central, ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the latest NJCAA poll, will now have its sights set on the Region 23 Tournament scheduled March 1-4 at Mississippi College in Clinton. The Lady Warriors begin first-round action against Mississippi Delta Community College at 6

p.m. Semi-finals in the women's bracket are set for 12:30 and 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, with the championship matchup planned at 6 p.m. Thursday.

Lady Warrior tournament action can be heard on WZKR-FM (103.3) in Meridian.

**ECCC 72, GULF COAST 63:** The Lady Warriors, after trailing throughout most of the first half, rallied for a nine-point win over the Lady Bulldogs.

Rita Birden led EC in scoring with 18 points. Other point makers were Kristin Chaney, 15; Kimyatta Viverette, 14; Kotreece Bender, nine; Lenore Gray, six; Kim Cox of Lake, five; India Backstrom, three; and Britney Burks, two.

JoAnna Williams of Gulfport

had 25 points to lead Gulf Coast, which fell to 20-7.

The score was tied 29-29 at halftime.

**ECCC 72, ITAWAMBA 58:** The Lady Warriors began tournament action by cruising past the Lady Indians. Kristin Chaney was the leading scorer with 18 points. Also scoring were Kotreece Bender and Rita Birden, 11 each; India Backstrom, nine; Kim Cox, seven; Lenore Gray, six; Britney Burks, five; Monique Overstreet, three; and Kimyatta Viverette, two.

Tiffany Garth of Tupelo led Itawamba (13-13) with 27 points.

East Central held a slim 28-26 lead at the break.



Excited Lady Warrior team members show off their Region 23 Championship plaque after their 52-45 win over Copiah-Lincoln Community College.





# THE TOM-TOM

Volume 57, Number 5

A Student Publication of East Central Community College

April 2004

## EC campus smoking policy gets overhaul for 2004-05

By JENNA L. TALBERT  
Tom-Tom Editor

East Central Community College will be enforcing a new smoking policy for the new term this fall. In a recent decision made by Dr. Sutphin and the Board of Trustees, the current smoking policy that allowed smoking in dorm rooms with roommate consent has been changed to state that smoking is not allowed in any campus building.

Of the fifteen community colleges in the state, only four campuses, including ECCC, allowed smoking in the dormitories. However, all four colleges have been reviewing the smoking policy. On February 23, 2004, Dr. Phil Sutphin, ECCC College President, signed his agreement to the revision of the smoking policy. The new policy states that no smoking will be allowed in any campus smoking and that any breach of this policy will result in a class "C" offence and a twenty-five dollar fine. Smoking will now only be permitted in designated areas outside.

According to Joe Killens, Vice President for Student Services, there were several factors that led to the decision. "There was no one thing in particular. There had been a few complaints, but it was just really hard to control. The ventilation of some of the dorms allowed smoke into other rooms," said Killens.

Apparently, the majority of the East Central campus is in favor of this change.

"We conducted a survey and 66% of students stated that they thought the smoking policy

should be changed," says Killens. "All of the SBA officers were in complete agreement."

Lauren Heard, a freshman from Madison who resides in Jackson Hall, agrees with the policy change to a degree. "Not smoking in the dorm room is understandable. The ventilation system does take the smoke from one room to another," says Heard. "I don't necessarily agree with the change but I can understand it."

Liz Tullos, a freshman from Philadelphia in Jackson Hall, agrees with Heard. "I can understand no smoking in the rooms but I think that we should be able to smoke anywhere outside – not just in the designated areas," said Tullos.

However, not all students are pleased with this decision.

"I think you should be able to smoke inside the room if the roommate agrees," said Krystal "Burger" Moore, a sophomore from Forest in Jackson Hall.

The new policy will take effect in the fall of 2004. In consideration of smoking students, funds will be provided for several new designated smoking areas near to the dorms.

"We will do our best to provide areas to smoke in close proximity to all of the dorms," assures Killens. "We are not trying to discriminate against smokers. We are merely trying to find the best solution for all students involved."

Despite mixed reactions from the students, Killens remains confident that the change is needed.

"There is no doubt that this policy change is needed," said Killens. "There may be some students who choose not to live in the dorm because of this change, but we are trying to make the best

## Six named to ECCC Hall of Fame

East Central Community College in Decatur recently observed its annual Awards Day ceremonies where numerous students were honored, including six students who were named to the College's Hall of Fame, the highest honor presented at the two-year institution.

To be considered for this honor, students "must demonstrate exemplary character, superior scholarship, worthy leadership and contribute to the betterment of East Central Community College," according to Dr. Phil Sutphin, College president.

Hall of Fame inductees for 2003-04 include Ashley Buckman of Bay Springs, Jennifer Carson of Decatur, Jenna Talbert of Newton and Adam McAdory, Audra Myers and Amy Warner, all of Louisville.

A business administration major, Buckman is a graduate of Heidelberg Academy and is the daughter of Kathy and Chris Elliott and Dewayne and Anna Buckman, all of Bay Springs.

She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Students in Free Enterprise, Warrior Corps, Mu Alpha Theta, Presidents' Council and AmeriCorps.

Buckman has been a cheerleader for two years and served as captain her sophomore year. She is a Dean's List and United States Achievement Academy Scholar. She received the Entergy of Mississippi Scholarship and was selected to *Who's Who Among Students in American Community Colleges*.

She was selected East Central's 2003 Most Beautiful.

Those nominating Buckman wrote, "Ashley is a young woman with high goals and aspirations that she will undoubtedly meet. She is highly

motivated to achieve her goals and does not mind hard work necessary to making these goals a reality. She upholds the tradition and spirit that is unique to ECCC graduates."

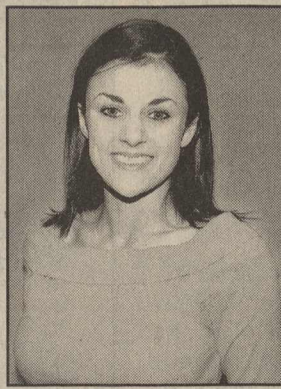
Carson is a vocal musical education major and a graduate of Newton County High School. She is the daughter of Thomas and Brenda Carson of Decatur.

She is a member of Warrior Corps, Phi Theta Kappa, Presidents Council, Student Education Association, Wall O' Sound Marching Band, Collegians, Baptist Student Union, Concert Choir, ECCC Players and Diamond Girls.

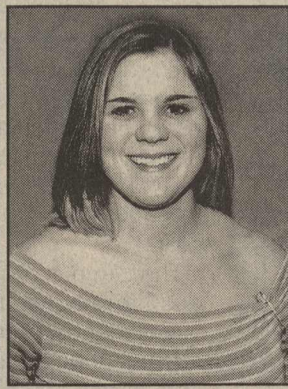
Carson serves as Phi Theta Kappa's vice president for leadership, was selected freshman secretary, sophomore class president, secretary of the Presidents' Council and Collegians president.

She received various scholarships, was named a National Dean's List and Collegiate All-American Scholar, was selected for *Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges* and was named East Central's HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day-Working Toward Academic Excellence) Student of the Year.

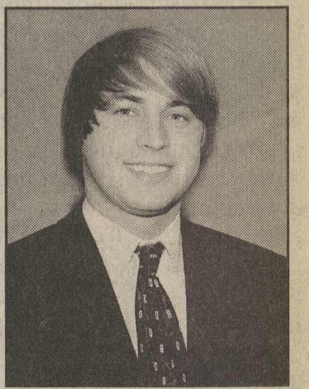
Those nominating her wrote, "Not only has Jennifer kept a 4.0 grade point average, she is truly an ideal representative of what a model student should attain: high grades, active participation in activities, deep involvement in honor organizations and an exceptional, positive attitude towards the quality education



Ashley Buckman



Jennifer Carson



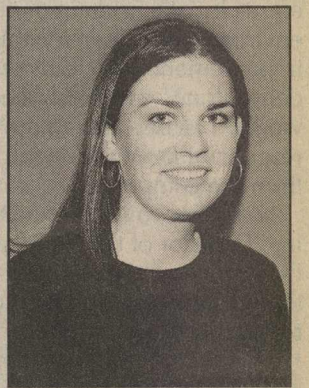
Adam McAdory



Audra Myers



Jenna Talbert



Amy Warner

she has received at East Central."

A music education major, McAdory is a graduate of Louisville High School and is the son of Margie Thompson and John McAdory, both of Louisville.

He serves as president of the student body association and treasurer of Phi Theta Kappa. He is a member of Warrior Corps, Presidents Council, EC Environmental Club, Recruitment and Retention Task Force, Collegians, Ac'cents, Concert Choir, Concert Band, Jazz Band, and the Wall O' Sound Marching Band.

McAdory is a Dean's List and National Dean's List scholar and was named to *Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges*.

He received the Robert G. Fick Memorial Scholarship, the Leon Eubanks-KALJYC Peers Scholarship and the ECCC Singers Award.

Those nominating him wrote, "He has been one of the most outstanding young people I have worked with in my 21-year teaching career. As student body association president, he has been an exciting presence, always willing to listen to new ideas and to try new things. He has been involved in so many campus activities. He is responsible and always willing to help even if it's not his job. It has been said that some students bleed black and gold and Adam

See HALL, page 6

## Commencement exercises scheduled May 14 in Warrior Stadium

More than 500 students are scheduled to receive diplomas Friday, May 14, 2004, when East Central Community College holds its 75<sup>th</sup> commencement exercises beginning at 8 p.m. in Warrior Stadium.

Included in the total are those who completed degree requirements following the 2003 summer and fall terms, according to Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, Vice President for Instruction.

Those participating in the program include Kimyatta Viverette of Lake, who will give the invocation; Amy Warner of Louisville, who will present the keynote address and Cyrus Doe of Liberia, West Africa, who will give the benediction. In addition, the East Central Community College show choir, Ac'cents, will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's "You'll Never Walk Alone" for the musical selection.

Dr. Sparkman will present candidates for graduation and ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin will award degrees and certificates to the following:

SUMMER AND DECEMBER 2003 GRADUATES

Thomas M. Comfort, Tammy Jordan, Richard D. Lee, Christine Luckett, Robin M. McDonald, Debbie McNabb McClinnish, W. Brody Perkins and Jamie L. Stewart, all of **Conehatta**;

T.J. Archie, Jennifer Clark and Christy T. Gressett, all of **Chunky**; Timothy Ray Byrd of Collins; Phillip R. Johnson and Veronica Renae Moore, both of **Collinsville**;

Stephanie Dawn Cooksey, Lynette Farmer, Billy W. Johnson, Erin McDill and Leslie Ann Patrick, all of **Conehatta**;

Garrick Bishop, Ada Jenkins, Billie S. McCune, William Brent Sutphin and Virgie Buckley Thames, all of **Decatur**;

Jade N. Williams and Jason R. Williams, both of **DeKalb**; Jennifer Kersh of **Enterprise**; Miranda Perkins of **Eupora**; Jason Lee Graffenread, Stacy T.

Harris, Corey Hayes, Lucy Mae Hughes, Cynthia Parker, Diane G. Patrick, Kerri Smith and Shameka Spivey, all of **Forest**;

Samantha Styburski and Richard Walker, both of **Hickory**;

Odena Cox, Terri Graham and Isaac W. Moore, all of **Lake**;

John W. May of **Lawrence**;

Heidi Marie Shannon and Kyna Rena Wash, both of **Lena**;

Tara Moore of **Little Rock**;

Twanda Brazzle, Cindy K. Commer, Wanda F. Drewry,

LaQuesha Monshay Goss, William M. Hibbler, Amber R. Jewell,

Cortney Jae Sullivan, Jarrod Vaughn and Ashley Rochelle Hemphill, all of **Louisville**;

Casey Files, Terry Dustin Holloman, William Berry Holloman,

Derrick J. Love, Dina Minter, VerNon Tonya Wakefield and Natasha Lynn Yeager, all of **Meridian**;

Rebekah J. Alawine, Tina M. Campbell, Frederick Dean Denson, Kenny Gomillion and Robin McGuffee, all of **Morton**;

Michelle Arrington, Antonio Terrell Hoyer, Patsy Denise McKee, Lorne Matthew Parks,

Myriam St. Clair and Pamela F. Watts, all of **Newton**;

J. E. Haynes, T. Danyell Hudson, Jason Scott Robinson and Carla Rushing, all of **Noxapater**;

Melissa D. Willis, Melinda M. Ben, Kenyoda R. Boler, Sharon Cole, Luppie Lorenzo Cotton,

Kristen M. Dunn, Amber Matthews, Angelina K. McMillan,

Barry C. Nowell, Amanda Reed, Chasity Robertson, Lindsey Lee Smith, Vickie Ann Steve, Jaxie Willis, Arrah M. York, Cindy K.G. Young and Tara Salome Long, all of **Philadelphia**;

Kristee Conner of **Quitman**;

Samuel Knight of **Scooba**;

Natalie Chapman of **Stonewall**;

Dana Rene Buckley, Leslie Christine Cleveland, Judith Carman Daniels, Sarah D.

Gordon, Pamela L. Lane, Brandi Shante' McDougle, Patricia Phillips, Alice Pinkston, Betty Lou Ripley, Kenneth Wesley Spears

and Sharon Taylor, all of Union;

Vanessa G. Barton, Stacy L. Chandler, Jennifer Clark, Kristopher R. Dolan, Janice B. Fortune, Ardria Harris and Ashley Dawn Hillman, all of **Walnut Grove**.

Chris Allen and Alfred M. Binion, both of **Tuscaloosa, Ala.**;

Robert Corey Hornsby of **Baton Rouge, La.**;

Donzell K. Crenshaw of **Memphis, Tenn.**;

Rudy Sue' of **Pensacola, Florida**.

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION MAY 2004

Ashley Buckman and Casandra Kemp, both of **Bay Springs**;

Jennifer Gerstner, Sarah Martin and William L. Sessums, all of **Brandon**;

Jacqueline A. Veenstra of **Byram**;

Todd Alderman, Lauren A. Allen, Anthony G. Ashwood,

Amber Kelly Atkinson, Ginger Nicole Britt, Jonathan Carlos Brooks, Amy Chamblee, Lee Faucette, Jessie E. Fortune, Mitchell Frazier, James A. Freeny, Anita Griffin, Deanna Sharon Gunn,

Jennifer Leigh Harpole, Brian J. Harrell, Kimberly Hays, Almedia Roschelle Hines, Kenita J. Leflore,

Ashley Luckett, Lashandrea D. Luckett, Loretta Lynn Mingo,

Donna Renea Moore, Joshua Curtis Moore, Kenata Morgan,

Darlene Pickle, Brecken Rush, Edward Russell, Eva Sam, Theresa Sims, Terrance Carroll Smith,

Peggy B. Smith, Kishone Levette Sparkman, Sandy Dewayne Stewart, Randy Dwight Stewart,

Kyle W. Stokes, Lindsay Thomas, Tanya Thornton, Clementine Vivians, Steve Allen Wallace, Jennifer Perry Wallace and Melanie Weaver Watkins, all of **Carthage**;

Amanda Frazier, Brant Abrem Isaac and Christopher X. Lewis, all of **Choctaw**;

Gary S. Fisher and Dustan Todd, both of **Chunky**;

Joshua Woodall of **Collinsville**;

Nelda Engram, Brenton W. Farmer, Kristin Milea Hedrick,

Billy W. Johnson Sr., Patricia Kay



These graduating sophomores at East Central Community College were selected to participate in the commencement program schedule Friday, May 14, at 8 p.m. in Warrior Stadium. From left are Kimyatta Viverette of Lake, Amy Warner of Louisville and Cyrus Doe of Liberia, West Africa.

Johnson, John Anthony Lampkin, Stephanie Longmire, Johnny Moore, Daniel J. Morgan and Chase Allen Nicholson, all of **Conehatta**;

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# Campus grounds get ‘extreme makeover’

-an editorial

By JENNA L. TALBERT  
Tom-Tom Editor

Several months ago, in an editorial in this newspaper, I called attention to the major litter problem on ECCC’s campus. I would again like to address the condition of the campus; however, this time I would like to take note of the extreme improvement.

In the past couple of months, I, as well as others, have noticed that the trash has slowly begun to disappear. The “sea of cigarette butts” has begun to gradually recede and the piles of empty cardboard pizza boxes are beginning to find their way to the trashcan. Cups no longer perch in the bushes and paper handouts, if not used, are at least in a trashcan or crumpled in a backpack instead of scattered amid the parking lot.

I would like to congratulate students on their renewed efforts to take pride in their environment. However, this improvement is not due to students alone. A maintenance worker has been given the sole responsibility of picking up litter from the campus.

According to Mr. Mike Dearing, Director of the Physical Plant, the trash problem was the reason for this shifting of responsibilities.

“The litter was a problem

and the old method of sharing responsibility for litter was overwhelming our workers with their other duties. Therefore, we gave the job to one individual,” said Dearing.

Although student involvement in litter control has improved, there are still large amounts of trash and debris that find their way to the ground.

“We get about 7 to 8 bags of litter alone every day,” says Dearing. “That does not include the trashcans. That is litter from the ground.”

Sadly for our class, litter has never been such a problem before. “It seems to be worse this year,” observes Dearing. “It has never been this bad in years past.”

The campus has improved dramatically and the students have extended some effort. But it is not enough. Students must continue to take that extra two seconds to walk to the trashcan instead of merely tossing that paper or box onto the ground.

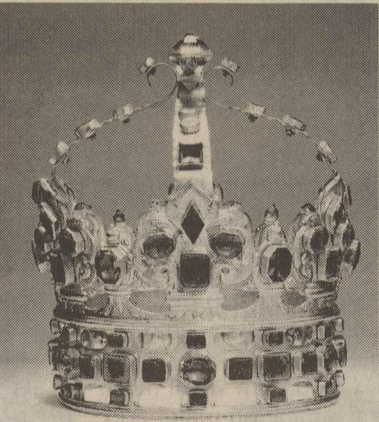
“Picking up litter costs money. The money that students pay that goes to the support of ECCC is what is involved in this person’s salary,” says Dearing. “Throwing trash in the trashcan doesn’t cost anything.”

So throw that cup and that wrapper in the trashcan. Don’t just toss it on the ground. Show “warrior pride” in our campus and keep it clean and beautiful.

# The Glory of Baroque Dresden

By TONY KINTON  
Special to The Tom-Tom

That anyone can actually produce such magnificent artistry is amazing. That it survived war’s destructive forces is unbelievable. That the collection is on display in Mississippi and is open for all to see is incredible. Reference



Crown, artist unknown, 1697, silver, precious and semi-precious stones. From the Rüstammer Arms and Armor Collection, State Art Collections Dresden, Germany. Photo © Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden.

here is to The Glory of Baroque Dresden exhibit that is now at the Mississippi Arts Pavilion in Jackson, MS. The exhibit runs through September 6, 2004.

“Six major American museums as well as Japan have inquired about bringing this exhibition to their museums, but Dresden officials have decided to present it only in Jackson,” says Jack Kyle, Executive Director of The Mississippi Commission for International Cultural Exchange, Inc. “We want this to find its way into the lives of all Mississippians and enrich those lives.”

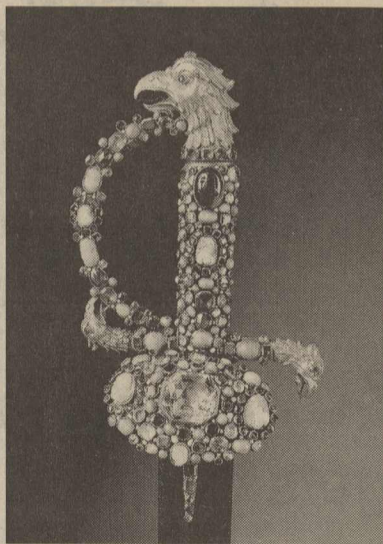
This exhibit is certainly one that will enrich. Dresden is a name closely associated with art, architecture, and music. It reached its highest cultural point during the Baroque Era, and the collection now on display focuses on two historical figures from that time period – Augustus the Strong (1670 – 1733) and his son/successor, Augustus III (1669 – 1763). Both were Elector of Saxony and King of Poland. And both were keenly interested in the various forms of art. Their enlightenment and propensity toward the grandiose led to this visual extravaganza now on display.

Typical to Baroque, the

treasures of Dresden can be described as busy. Baroque music is filled with notes. Those long, acrobatic passages of Handel’s Messiah or Bach’s Magnificat are good examples. Baroque paintings seem to suggest that the artist was attempting to fill every space available on the canvas with some action. Dishes and clothes and armament are all “moving” because of this pronounced proclivity during the Baroque. It is all quite spectacular.

What is the goal of bringing such exhibits to Mississippi? “I’m in this to improve the lives of citizens of Mississippi,” adds Kyle. “We just haven’t had this art and culture as part of our daily lives. By the time a young person has gone K through 12 and has seen a few of these exhibits, [the art and culture] has to have had an impact on his or her life.”

And what art and culture can you expect to find at the Dresden Exhibit? Art, for one: Reni, Rubens, Rembrandt! Jewels, sculpture, porcelain, coins. And the hunting castle of Moritzburg. This contains some of the most exquisite wheel locks and flintlocks in the world. Shooting tools to be sure, but immaculate works of art as ornate as the finest painting or tableware of the period. All



Jewel Handed Sword, artist unknown, 1698. From the Rüstammer Arms and Armor Collection, State Art Collections Dresden, Germany. Photo © Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden.

of the exhibit must be seen, and it can be through September 6, 2004

For more information, contact The Mississippi Commission for International Cultural Exchange, P.O. Box 2447, Jackson, MS 39225-2447; 601-960-9900; www.gloryofdresden.com.

# BSU spends spring break on New Hampshire mission

By ANDREA JAY  
Special to The Tom-Tom  
Photos By BRIAN SIBLEY

During the week of March 13-22, 27 members of the East Central Community College Baptist Student Union went on a mission trip to Concord, New Hampshire. The trip consisted of many challenging and stimulating activities. Activities included leading church services at two area churches, door-to-door advertising, prayer walks, a county-wide lock-in, and moving the pastor to a new home.

The Way, the BSU’s ministry team lead the two churches in worship at different times throughout the week. Tuesday and Wednesday the

majority of the group went door-to-door advertising for one of the churches while a few people stayed at the office and did work around the church.

Thursday was a day of fun and relaxation. Part of the group went shopping and sight seeing and the other part went skiing/snow tubing. During the fun on the slopes there was a small mishap when Jordan Kemp had a run-in with a tree. Thankfully he was not hurt too badly.

Friday night the group helped with a county-wide lock-in. There were around 300 youth and college-age people at a big indoor sports arena. The night consisted of a worship service in which 50 kids came to know Christ as their Savior. The rest of the night was spent playing basketball, soccer, playing on the inflatable games and building friendships.

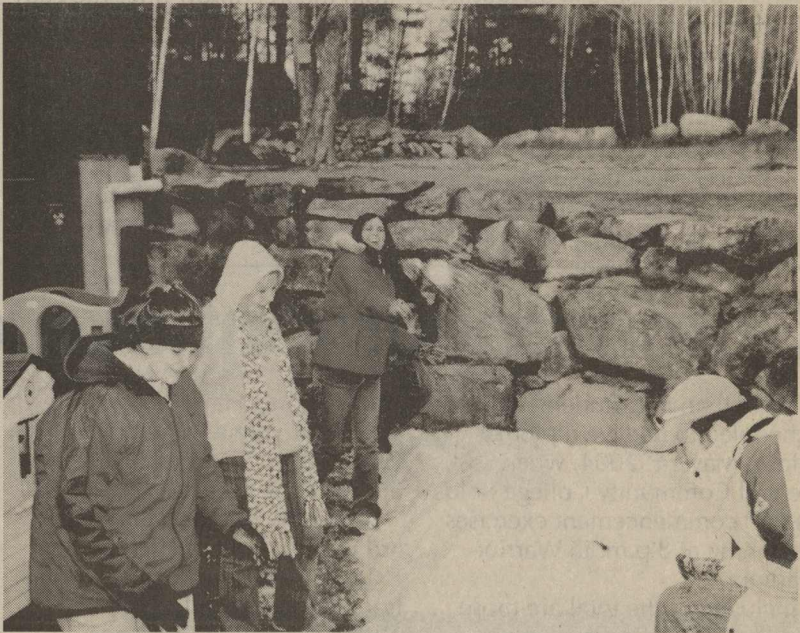
Over all, this trip was an exciting and very challenging time that not only changed the lives of those in New England, but also changed the hearts of the 27 people from East Central.

The mission team included: Austin Griffin, Rachel Stephens, Shelley Brake, Brian Sibley, Amy Warner, Cassidy Crenshaw, Brian Deel, Dinah Lachney, Chaney Hollingsworth, Luke Howell, Adam Bobo, Kellie Jo McGee, Andrea Jay, Jordan Kemp, Allison Gresset, Kristen Rice, Jim Dilley, Ronda Stroud, Stephnie Cullpepper, Lee Anne Rawson, Blair Anderson, Brandi Brown, Anna Price, and Dru Fulton, Director Scott Vaughn and his wife, Lisa, and Assistant Director Joey Lang.

For more information on BSU missions, contact Director Scott Vaughn at 601-635-2481.



The BSU mission team is shown unloading a truck piled with Pastor Brad’s belongings.



After the work was done, BSU members decided to have a snowball fight!

# MILLSAPS COLLEGE

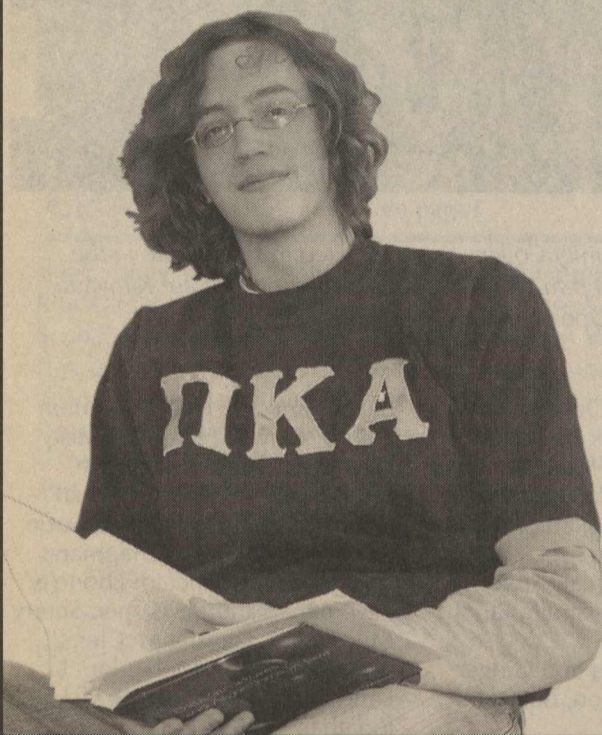
## Transfer to Millsaps and earn one of the top degrees in the South.

Join the only nationally ranked liberal arts college in Mississippi and be a part of a student body that consistently turns out successful young leaders. We offer personalized service – work directly with one of our admission counselors who will make the transfer process quick and easy. Did we mention scholarships? We have tons available for students just like you!

## Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships Available

Our Fall deadline is fast approaching, please contact one of our admissions staff today to find out more.

Join us for our transfer luncheon in May to learn more about transfer possibilities and what Millsaps has to offer you.



“I love Millsaps and couldn’t see myself going anywhere else. As they say, Harvard is the Millsaps of the North!”

– Sophomore Adam Huffman, transfer from East Central Community College

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## Award-Winning ECCC Surgical Technology Students

These surgical technology students at East Central Community College won various honors at the Mississippi HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) Conference held March 24-26 in Biloxi. Seated from left are Jessica Martin of Meridian, second place, Outstanding HOSA Chapter; Keith Jacoby and Ben Boyette, both of Meridian, first place, Community Awareness; and Latrice Spivey of Forest and Jennifer Perkins of Carthage, who placed second and third, respectively, in the Clinical Specialty competition. Standing from left are Jeffrey Brantley of Forest, fifth place, Clinical Specialty; Shanna Jones of Union, National Healthcare Issues Exam; Mary Vega of Newton, first place, Human Growth and Development and National Healthcare Issues Exam; Jashemia Cherry of Porterville, fifth place, Extemporaneous Health Poster; and Lindsey Harris of Hickory, fourth place, Clinical Specialty. The top three finishers in each category qualify to compete at the National HOSA Conference scheduled in June in Orlando, Florida. Leann Shirley and Kristie Pilgrim serve as surgical technology instructors.



# Lady Warriors complete spectacular season

**Brad Hodge named MACJC and Region XXIII Coach of the Year**

East Central Community College's Lady Warriors completed their most successful season in school history following competition in the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship held March 15-20 in Salina, Kansas.

The East Central women, who finished with a record 31 wins and just four defeats under third-year head coach Brad Hodge and first-year assistant LaCole Brooks, advanced to the NJCAA Tournament after earlier claiming Region 23, State and South Division titles - the first such accomplishment by a Lady Warrior squad in a single season.

The Lady Warriors began competition in the week-long tournament by falling 76-64 to Three Rivers (Missouri) Community College, then reeled off victories over Lake Region State College of North Dakota (74-66) and Weatherford College, Texas (63-52) to advance to the finals of the Consolation Bracket, where they were outscored 58-48 by the College of Southern Idaho. EC finished eighth in the final NJCAA poll.

Kimyatta Viverette of Lake was named to the All-Tournament Team, after previously being selected on the All-Region 23 Tournament Team and All-State second team. She was also chosen to the All-Star squad. Also receiving post-season honors were Kristen Chaney, a product of Newton County High School, who was named to the All-Region 23 Tournament Team and All-State first team; Lenore Gray of Newton, All-Region 23, All-State first team and All-Star; and Rita Birden, a product of St. Fredrick High School in Monroe, La., selected second team All-State and All-Star.

Other Lady Warrior team members included India Backstrom and Miranda Rosar, both of Neshoba Central; Britney Burks, Scott Central; Kim Cox and Roxanna Rogers, both of Lake; Ebone'e Leverette, Forest; Monique Overstreet, South Leake; and Hope Murray, West Jones.

Coach Hodge was also recognized for his team's success, and was named Region 23 and MACJC Women's Basketball Coach of the Year.

Prior to beginning tournament action, the Lady Warriors were on hand to see former Lady Warrior head coach Lucille Wood inducted into the NJCAA Women's Basketball Coaches' Hall of Fame during a ceremony on March 15. Wood led the Warriorettes (as they were previously known) to four state crowns and numerous division titles during her 28-year coaching career.

**NJCAA TOURNAMENT SUMMARY**

**COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO 58, ECCC 48**

The Lady Warriors rallied from a 52-34 deficit to cut Southern Idaho's lead to 52-48 with 45 seconds remaining, but the Lady Golden Eagles made all six of their free throws down the stretch to post the 10-point win and the Consolation Bracket championship on March 20.

Bender led EC with 10 points and five rebounds. Cox had nine points and three steals; Gray had seven points, seven rebounds and three steals; Viverette had four points, eight rebounds, three assists, two blocks and two steals; and Chaney had five points, three rebounds and three assists.

East Central trailed 31-27 at halftime.

**ECCC 63, WEATHERFORD COLLEGE (TEXAS) 52**

The Lady Warriors got off to a fast start against Weatherford College of Texas in semi-final action on March 19, making six of nine of three-pointers during the game's first 10 minutes.

Chaney started the trifectas and Bender knocked down the next three during a three-minute span. Cox came off the bench to bury two bombs and the Lady Warriors were up 26-11 with 9:45 left before halftime. Two baskets by Viverette and two free throws from Leverette gave EC its biggest lead of the game at 34-14 with 6:16 left before intermission.

East Central held a 38-27 lead at the break, thanks to 52 percent (13-of-25) shooting from the floor and 85.7 percent (6-of-7) from the free-throw line. The Lady Warriors also had a 21-14 advantage on the boards.

The ECCC women went scoreless for six-and-a-half minutes midway through the second half as the Coyotes rallied to cut the EC advantage to 46-39. Viverette's basket with 9:19 left stopped Weatherford's 8-0 run, and she later gave the Lady Warriors a 50-39 lead.

East Central put the game out of reach when Bender buried her fourth three-pointer for a 63-48 lead with 7:04 remaining.

Viverette led EC with 15 points, 11 rebounds, two blocks and two

steals. Bender had 14 points, five rebounds and five assists. Gray had 11 points, four rebounds and two assists. Chaney had seven points, seven rebounds and three assists. Cox had six points and three rebounds, while Birden had four points, seven rebounds, four assists and three steals. Leverette added four points.

The Lady Warriors shot 50 percent from the floor, making 22-of-44 attempts. East Central was 12-of-21 at the free-throw line, and the Lady Warriors out-rebounded the Coyotes 42-32.

**ECCC 74, LAKE REGION STATE COLLEGE (NORTH DAKOTA) 66.**

The Lady Warriors earned their 30<sup>th</sup> win of the season by defeating Lake Region in first-round action of the Consolation Bracket held March 18.

East Central jumped out to the game's biggest lead by scoring the first 10 points over the first four minutes of play, only to have the Lady Royals draw even at 22-22.

Lake Region held a slim 35-32 lead over EC at halftime, and took its biggest lead of the game at 40-35 on a three-pointer with 16:25 remaining.

The Lady Warriors responded with a 12-0 run to go up 45-40. Chaney had two big plays in the run as she converted a pair of three-point plays in a 15-second span to tie the game at 40 and later gave EC the lead for good.

Lake Region closed within 60-57 on a three-pointer with eight minutes remaining, but Birden's back-to-back baskets put EC out front 64-47 with 4:13 left.

Viverette made two free throws 70 seconds later for a nine-point advantage, and Bender, Viverette, Burks and Chaney combined to go 8-for-8 at the line over the final 51 seconds.

The Lady Warriors made their last 18 free throws and were 24-of-29 for the game.

Chaney led EC with 18 points, four rebounds, two steals and two assists. She played a team-high 34 minutes. Viverette had 11 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks. Bender had 10 points and five rebounds. Birden added eight points, Gray had seven points, four rebounds and three steals, Burks had seven points and three steals, Overstreet had six points and Backstrom had five points and six rebounds.

**THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE (MISSOURI) 76, ECCC 64.**



Members of the East Central Community College Lady Warrior basketball team and their respective high schools include (seated, from left) LaSaundra Harrison of Union, Kimyatta Viverette of Lake, Kristin Chaney of Newton County, Roxana Rogers of Lake, Ebone'e Leverette of Forest, Kim Cox of Lake, Lenore Gray of Newton, Monique Overstreet of South Leake and Krystle Hunter of Noxapater; and (back row, from left) student assistants Ashley Clark of Starkville Academy and Courtney Yates of Nanih Waiya; Britney Burks of Scott Central, Kotreece Bender of Newton, Rita Birden of St. Frederick (Monroe, La.), head coach Brad Hodge, assistant coach LaCole Brooks, India Backstrom of Neshoba Central, Hope Murray of West Jones, Miranda Rosar of Neshoba Central, student assistant Andrea Chesney of Newton County Academy and athletic trainer Derrick Jones of Rush Sports Medicine.

The Lady Warriors began competition in the double-elimination tournament by falling to Three Rivers Community College on March 16.

East Central scored the game's first four points, only to have Three Rivers tally the next seven.

The Lady Warriors trailed by as many as six points in the first half before Chaney tied the game at 23 on a three-point play with 6:53 left before the break.

The teams swapped leads 10 times over a four-minute span before Three Rivers closed the half with a 5-0 run to carry a 40-36 advantage at the break.

Chaney's three-pointer with 16:46 left gave EC a 44-42 lead.

Three Rivers buried a trey to take a 49-46 lead with 13:25 left, and the Lady Warriors never caught the Lady Raiders again.

Chaney led EC with 16 points, followed by Birden with 13. Also scoring were Bender, nine; Cox, eight; Viverette, seven; and Gray, five. Cox and Gray had seven rebounds each, while Viverette had six and Bender had five to go with four assists. Viverette also had eight blocks.

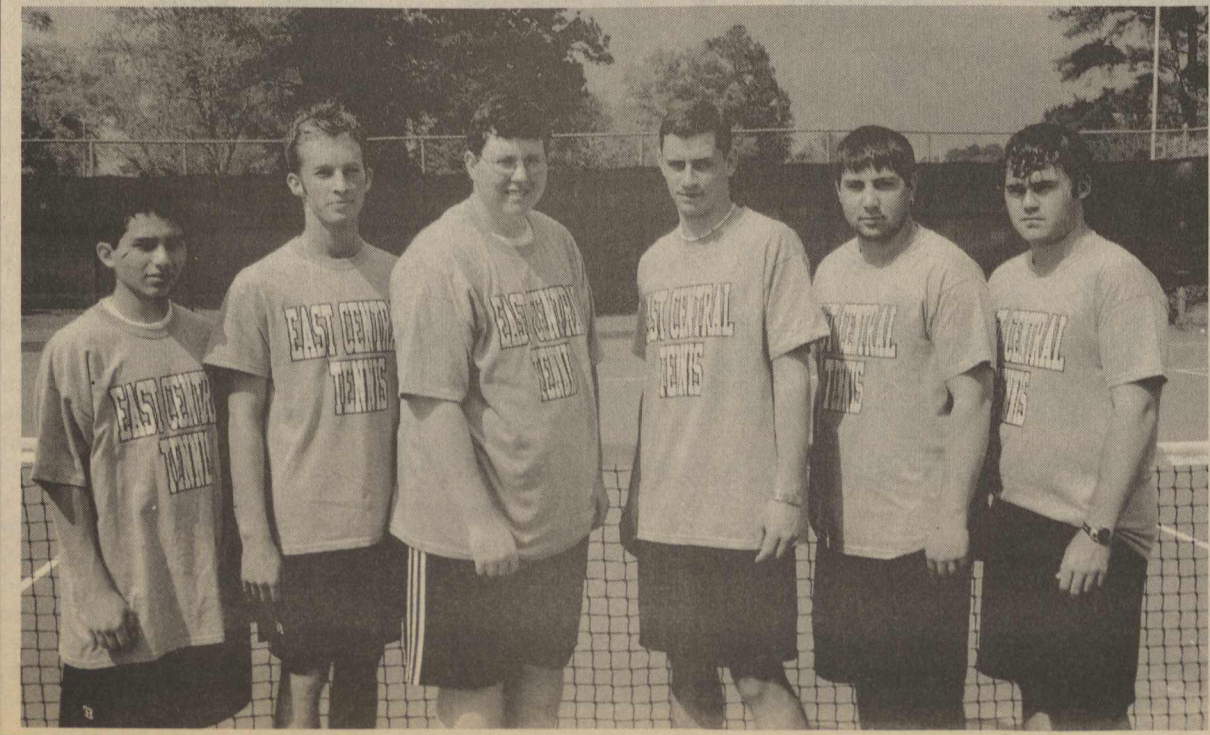
(Marty Stamper of The Meridian Star contributed to the report.)



East Central Community College women's basketball coach Brad Hodge was named Region 23 and MACJC Women's Basketball "Coach of the Year" after leading the Lady Warriors to the South Division, State and Region 23 titles and a berth in the 2004 NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship held in Salina, Kansas. The Lady Warriors posted a 2-2 mark in the weeklong tournament and finished runners-up in the Consolation Bracket. The ECCC women, who finished eighth in the final NJCAA poll, completed the 2003-04 campaign with a record 31 wins and just four defeats. Hodge is completing his third season as head coach at ECCC, where he served the previous two years as an assistant for the Lady Warrior and Warrior programs. He is also a former assistant at Northeast Louisiana University and Athens State College. He is married to the former Alida Jones of Decatur, Ala., who serves as a counselor at Neshoba Central High School.

## Lady Warrior Tennis Team

At right are members of the East Central Community College women's tennis team for the 2004 campaign. Front row, from left, are Anna Price, Courtney Puckett and Ronda Stroud, all of Louisville. In back row, from left, Lynlee Healy of Macon, Valerie Gibbs of Newton, Kery McDill of Decatur and Jess Davis of Louisville. Brad Hodge serves as coach.



## ECCC Warrior Tennis Team

Members of the East Central Community College men's tennis team for 2004 are (from left) Roberto Orellana of Forest, Kyle Gordon of Morton, David Dennis of Collierville, TN; Brandon Walker of Nanih Waiya, Jeremiah Gillett of Louisville and Alan Taylor of Philadelphia. Brad Hodge serves as coach.

## ECCC Warrior Golf Classic Set June 24

Scholarships for area students will again be the top prize when the third annual East Central Community College Warrior Golf Classic is held this summer at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club on the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, MS.

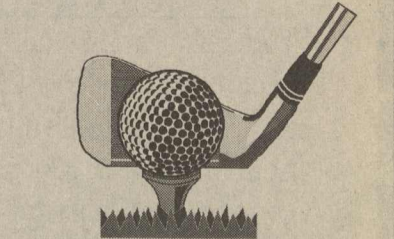
Sponsored by the College's Alumni Association, this year's event is scheduled for Thursday, June 24 on the Oaks Course, with a shotgun start set for 9 a.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Association president Tam Cooper of Brandon said she anticipates another successful tournament, as indicated by the early response from alumni and friends of the College for the fund-raising project.

"We already have 11 teams entered, eight Gold Corporate Sponsors, one Silver Corporate Sponsor and two Hole Sponsors as of mid-March. We are looking for the tournament to be filled within the next few weeks," Cooper said.

Entry fee for the four-person scramble is \$125 per player, which includes green fee, cart, T-shirt, box lunch and the opportunity to win various door and on-course prizes. Prizes will also be awarded to the top three finishers in each flight, and an overall corporate winner will be recognized.

Corporate sponsorships are also available on various levels. Gold Sponsorships are \$650 and includes a hole sponsorship and fees for one four-person team. A Silver Sponsorship is \$400, which includes a hole sponsorship and fees for two players. Also available are Hole Sponsorships, for



\$200, and T-Shirt Sponsorships, which can be purchased for \$100.

The ECCC Alumni Association is also selling chances for a new golf cart. Tickets may be purchased from a county representative or by contacting the Alumni Office. The golf cart will be presented at the awards ceremony following tournament play.

Proceeds from the one-day tournament will help fund scholarships for ECCC students who reside in the College's five-county district, which includes Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott and Winston counties. Approximately \$5,000 was raised for scholarships in last year's event, which was cancelled after only a few holes were played because of inclement weather. About \$7,000 was raised in the inaugural tournament in 2002. Scholarship winners are announced at the annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon held in May.

For more information contact Stacey Hollingsworth, administrative assistant, Office of Foundation and Alumni Relations, East Central Community College, P. O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone 635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 327. Her email address is [sholling@eccc.edu](mailto:sholling@eccc.edu)





ECCC Lady Warriors Land Scholarships

These members of East Central Community College's championship women's basketball team signed national letters of intent to continue their athletic careers on the university level. Forward Lenore Gray (left) of Newton and guard/forward Monique Overstreet (center) of South Leake High School inked with Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, and guard/forward Kimyatta Viverette of Lake signed with the University of South Alabama in Mobile. Gray, who averaged 13 points and eight rebounds for the Lady Warriors, was selected honorable mention All-American and was named first team All-Region 23 and All-State. She also made the All-Star squad. Overstreet averaged seven points and three rebounds, while Viverette averaged 10 points and six rebounds. Viverette was named to the NJCAA All-Tournament Team, All-Region 23 Tournament Team, second team All-State, and received co-MVP honors in the MACJC All-Star Game. Lady Warrior head coach Brad Hodge is pictured with the standout basketball players, who helped lead ECCC to the South Division, State and Region 23 titles and the Consolation Bracket runner-up title in the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship held in Salina, Kansas. The Lady Warriors finished eighth in the final NJCAA poll with a 31-4 record.

Contributes to ECCC Golf Program

East Central Community College's golf program recently received a financial boost thanks contributions made by longtime College supporter Jim Wood (right) of Louisville. Wood (Class of 1949) donated 25 dozen golf balls and made a monetary contribution to the Warrior golf team. He is pictured with his sister, Lucille Wood (Class of 1951), ECCC physical education instructor and former Lady Warrior head basketball coach, and ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin.



EC rodeo team has successful season

East Central Community College's rodeo team completed the 2003-04 season on a positive note, as members of the men's and women's teams won honors during season-ending competition held at the University of Tennessee-Martin April 15-17.

Matthew Burks of Philadelphia successfully competed in the Bull Riding competition, finishing second in the Average and in the Long Go, and Lacy Sanborn of Noxapater won first-place honors in the Long Go in Barrel Racing.

The Warriors finished seventh overall in the final standings with 755 points. The University of Tennessee-Martin won the top spot with 3,465 points. Other teams and their respective point totals included Missouri Valley College, 2,508.83; University of West Alabama, 1,513.00; Troy State University, 1,208; Murray State University, 1,124.83; Southern Arkansas University, 1,114.50; University of Arkansas-Monticello, 590.00; Southwest Missouri State University, 457.50; Mississippi State University, 40.00; and Faulkner State Community College, 35.00.

In the women's competition, the Lady Warriors finished ninth with 225 points. The University of Tennessee-Martin was again the top team with 1,409 points. Other teams and their respective point totals were Missouri Valley College, 1,296.50; University of Arkansas-Monticello, 1,202.50; University of West Alabama, 838.50; Troy State University, 366.00; Murray State University, 360.00; Arkansas State University-Beebe, 335.00; Southwest Missouri State University, 295.00; Faulkner State Community College, 60.00; Southern Arkansas University, 50.00; and Mississippi State University, 20.00.

Two members of the ECCC men's team placed among the top in individual scoring for 2003-04. Chance Smart of Newton finished second place in Bull Riding with 325 points and placed 12<sup>th</sup> in Saddle Bronc Riding with 10.0 points. Drew Walters of Louin finished eighth in Bull Riding with 120 points. Smart qualifies to compete in the College National Finals scheduled June 10-19 in Casper, Wyoming.

Lady Warrior Kasidi Griffin of Newton finished 11<sup>th</sup> in Breakaway Roping and placed 13<sup>th</sup> in Barrel Racing.

East Central, a member of the Ozark Region, competed in 10 rodeos during 2003-04.

Larry Dial serves as coach of the ECCC Rodeo Team.



ECCC Golf Team

Above are members of the East Central Community College golf team for the 2004 season. From left are Tony Warren of Union, Jason Sistrunk of Sebastopol, Chris Bounds of Newton, John Bergin of Forest and Jim Dille of Forest. Also pictured is Tim Coats who serves as coach. Not pictured is Philip Dickerson of Union.



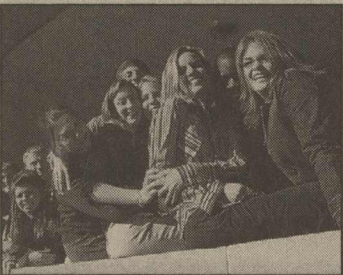
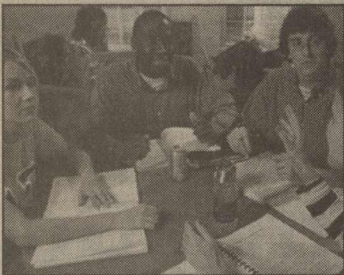
ECCC Intramural Soccer Champions

The ECCC All-Stars won the intramural soccer championship following tournament action held at East Central Community College. Team members include (kneeling from left) Chris Reed, Decatur; Cyrus Doe, Monrovia, Liberia; Mike Slaughter, Meridian; and Cortez Washington, Jackson; and (standing from left) Avery Jackson, Walnut Grove; Joseph LeBlanc, Louisville; Brooke Thrash, Sebastopol; and Eric Ferry, Meridian. The competition is held under the supervision of Warrior soccer coach Kenneth Thompson.



ECCC Intramural Soccer Tourney Runners-Up

The "Nuggets" placed second in the intramural soccer competition held at East Central Community College. Team members include (kneeling from left) Mitch Myers, Brandon; Morgan Harris, Louisville; Daphne Hatcher, Nanih Waiya; Brittany Harris, Louisville; and Coach Daniel Puckett, Philadelphia; and (standing from left) Joe Theobald, Vicksburg; Matt Corrigan and Austin Posey, both of Philadelphia; Ted Thompson, Meridian; and Jon Holland, Philadelphia. Not pictured are Holly Escue of Carthage and Liz Kirk of Nanih Waiya. The competition is held under the supervision of ECCC soccer coach Kenneth Thompson.



Transfer Scholarships

Community/Junior College Achievement Award

Students who are active members in Phi Theta Kappa honor society may qualify for \$1,400 (\$700 per year for two years). Interested students should submit a scholarship application with the signature of their Phi Theta Kappa sponsor and chapter. Students must have completed at least 54 semester hours and have a 3.5 GPA or higher.

Community/Junior College Leadership Award

Student leaders and scholars enrolling for the fall semester on the Southern Miss Hattiesburg Campus may be considered for awards up to \$4,000 (\$2,000 per year for two years). Interested students who have been extensively involved should submit a scholarship application with a resume outlining honors, activities, and organizations with two letters of recommendation. Students must have completed at least 54 semester hours.

Mississippi All-Academic Team Award

Students who have been nominated to the state (or national) All-Academic Team are eligible for a one year \$1,000 award. A copy of the letter verifying All-Academic Team selection will suffice as the application for this award.

Community/Junior College Presidential Award

Students can qualify for scholarships of \$500 if nominated by his or her respective president. The application process consists of a letter of recommendation/nomination from the community/junior college president to the Southern Miss Office of Admissions.

Printable scholarship applications may be retrieved online at <http://www.usm.edu/admissions/scholarships/>

The University of Southern Mississippi  
Office of Admissions • #5166 • Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001  
(601)266-5000



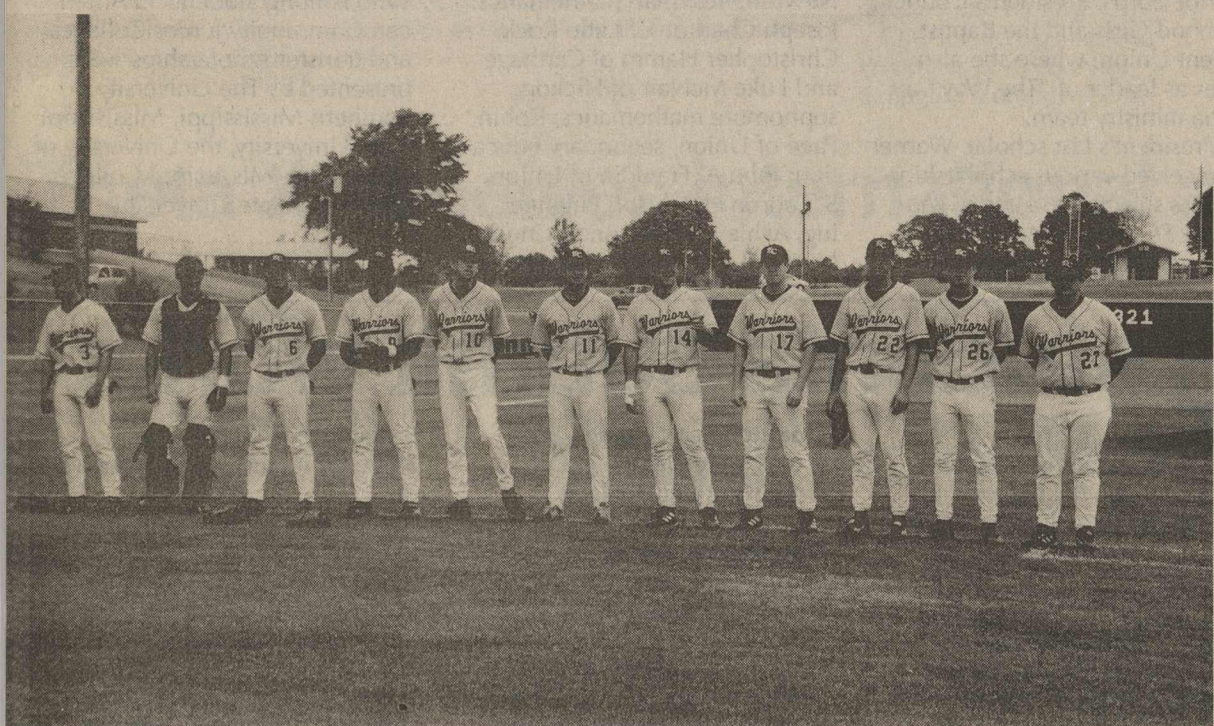
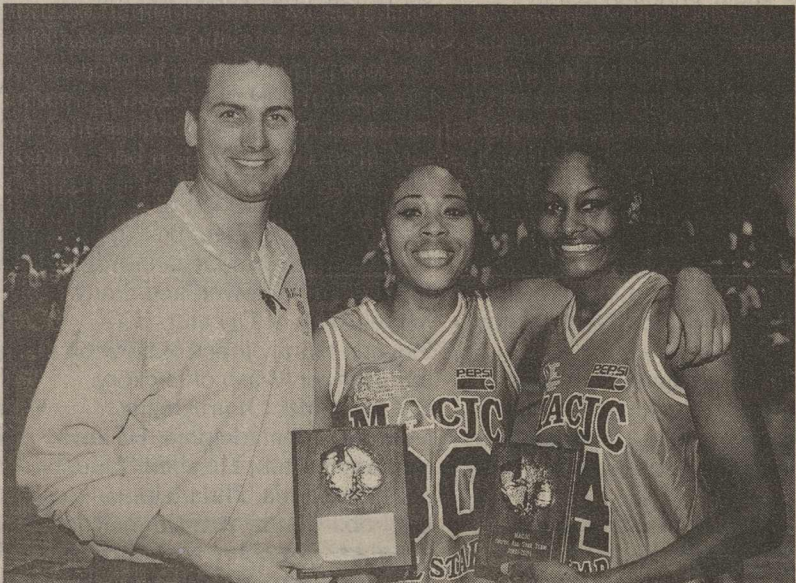


## Lead South All-Stars To Victories

East Central Community College coaches and players were on winning teams in the annual MACJC All-Star Basketball Games held Saturday afternoon at Choctaw Central High School. Lady Warrior head coach Brad Hodge (left) directed the South women to an easy 88-70 victory over the North All-Stars, and Warrior head mentor Billy Smith (right) directed the South men to their 97-94 come-from-behind win. Representing the Lady Warriors on the South roster were Rita Birden (20), a product of St. Fredrick High School in Monroe, La.; Kimyatta Viverette (34) of Lake and Lenore Gray of Newton. Viverette poured in 14 points and shared most valuable player honors with Gulf Coast's JoAnna Williams, who also scored 14 points. Gray had nine points and Birden added three. Jamaal Martin (22), a product of Northeast Lauderdale High School in Meridian, was the lone Warrior representative on the South squad and scored three points. ECCC assistant coaches LaCole Brooks (women) and Kevin McGhee (men) also served as assistants on the All-Star teams. The Pearl River Resort, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Pepsi, Mississippi Sports Medicine and ECCC sponsor the All-Star games.

## South All-Stars Co-MVPs

JoAnna Williams (center) of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and Kimyatta Viverette of East Central Community College Community College shared most valuable players honors after leading the South All-Stars to a 88-70 thumping over the North squad in the annual MACJC All-Star Games held Saturday afternoon at Choctaw Central High School in Choctaw, MS. Williams, a former Gulfport High School star, and Viverette, a former standout at Lake, each had 14 points to lead the South. They are shown receiving the MVP award from South All-Star coach Brad Hodge, who serves as women's head basketball coach at East Central Community College in Decatur. ECCC, the Pearl River Resort, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Pepsi and Mississippi Sports Medicine sponsor the All-Star games.

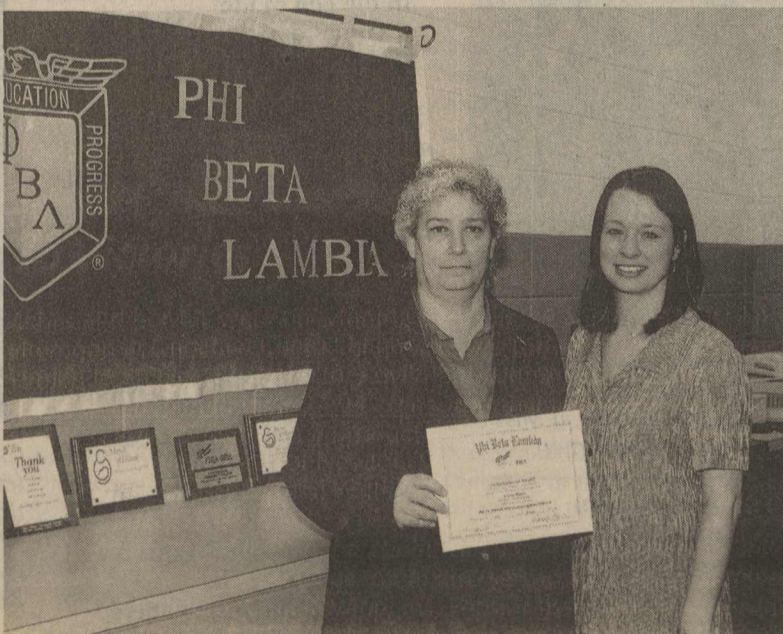


## Sophomore Diamond Warriors Honored

Sophomores on the 2004 East Central Community College baseball team were recognized prior to the Diamond Warriors' home doubleheader finale with East Mississippi Community College on April 20. From left are second baseman/shortstop/outfielder Brian McNeil, Enterprise; catcher Robby Carey, Newton County; third baseman/second baseman Matthew Boggan, Newton County; right-handed pitcher/outfielder Dexter Sellers, Bastrop, La.; left-handed pitcher Hunter Holley, Philadelphia; right-handed pitcher Brent McMillan, Newton; catcher/first baseman Jacob Townsend, Neshoba Central; right-handed pitcher Jonathan Sigrest, Scott Central; right-handed pitcher/first baseman Jim Talley, Mooreville; right-handed pitcher Chris Middleton, Vicksburg; and first baseman Destin Moore, Kosciusko. Not pictured is outfielder Drew Kenna, Forest. East Central fell 13-3 in the first game and rebounded for a 17-7 victory in the second contest. The Diamond Warriors finished season action with a 12-29 overall mark and were 3-13 in division play.

## Moody Receives Phi Beta Lambda Honor

East Central Community College sophomore Linda Moody (left) of Walnut Grove was recently selected to *Who's Who in Phi Beta Lambda*, an organization for business students. Moody, a nontraditional student majoring in office systems technology, received the award at the State Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference held at Itawamba Community College in Fulton. Moody also teamed with Megan Stovall of Philadelphia to capture first-place honors in the American Enterprise Project and Multimedia competitions. She is shown with Christy Ferguson, ECCC business technology instructor, who serves as a sponsor for the College's Theta Chi chapter of Phi Beta Lambda.



# Clopton resigns ECCC posts to take head coaching job at Wesson High

Stating "the draw to be home is very strong" and "there's nothing like Friday nights and high school football," East Central Community College assistant football coach and faculty member Tommy Clopton has announced plans to return to Wesson High School, his alma mater, to lead the school's football program.

Clopton, 29, has been employed at East Central since 1999. He served five years as an assistant to Coach Terry Underwood, serving in various capacities including offensive line coach, secondary coach, and wide receivers/tight ends coach. The Warriors made two appearances in the state playoffs during the five-year period.

Clopton also taught chemistry, and was selected the College's HEADWAE (Higher Education Day: Working Toward Academic Excellence) Instructor of the Year for 2002-03.

In his letter of resignation, which was approved at the March meeting of the College's Board of Trustees, Clopton wrote: "The past five years at East Central have had an enormous impact on my life and the life of my family. I appreciate the opportunity to work for a school that is truly interested in the welfare of the students. I wish you

the best of luck in the future, and will always hold East Central in the highest regard."

Ronald Greer, Wesson athletic director/high school principal, said the school "was fortunate" to obtain someone of Clopton's caliber in a recent article in the *Brookhaven Daily Leader*. He further stated, "We are tickled to death to get someone of his quality and character. We had 21 applicants for the job and narrowed it down to five. He was the most qualified candidate we had for the job."

Clopton graduated from Wesson in 1992. He was a member of the Cobra football team, which was coached by his father, Rickey Clopton. The Cobras enjoyed three straight successful seasons, compiling an overall 31-4 record. They advanced to the South State 2A finals in Clopton's junior year. Clopton, an All-District offensive lineman, continued his athletic career at Copiah-Lincoln Community College. He served as football equipment manger at the University of Southern Mississippi, from where he received bachelor and master's degrees in chemistry education. He completed additional coursework at Mississippi State University. Clopton, who is certified as a



Tommy Clopton

chemistry and biology teacher, will teach biology in addition to football duties at Wesson.

He will continue teaching at East Central until his contract expires on May 31: He began commuting to Wesson in late April to conduct spring football drills. He is scheduled to coach golf and track at Wesson next spring.

He is married to the former April Hegwood of Taylorsville and they have two sons, Micah, nine, and Trace, four. They are members of Clarke-Venable Baptist Church in Decatur.

## East Central golfers finish runners-up in MACJC, Reg. 23 Division competition

East Central Community College's golf team placed second in Division III competition at the MACJC/Region 23 Championship Golf Tournament held April 20-21 at Canebrake Golf Club in Hattiesburg.

The Warriors linksters, coached by Tim Coats, posted a two-day total of 661, while Northwest Mississippi Community College won the top spot with 638. Also competing were Jones County Junior College (666), Southwest Mississippi Community College (718) and Copiah-Lincoln Community College (failed to qualify).

Philip Dickerson of Union carded a 156 total (82-74) to lead East Central and was named to the All-Region 23 Division III Team, which qualifies him to compete for the second-straight year in the NJCAA Division III Golf Tournament scheduled in New York during June.

Also scoring for East Central were Jim Dilley of Forest, who shot 166 (86-80); Chris Bounds of Newton, 172 (90-82); Jason Sistrunk of Sebastopol, 172 (85-87); and John Bergin of Forest, 174 (85-89).

Hinds Community College was the overall winner with a 602 score. Other teams and their respective results included Meridian Community College (604),



East Central Community College golfer Philip Dickerson (right) of Union was named to the All-Region 23 Division III Team following competition in the MACJC/Region 23 Championship Golf Tournament held April 20-21 at Canebrake Golf Club in Hattiesburg. He is shown receiving a plaque commemorating his achievement from Chris Calcote, Region 23 director. With his selection to the All-Region 23 Team, Dickerson qualifies for the second-straight year to compete in NJCAA Division III Golf Tournament scheduled in New York during June. (Photo courtesy Mitch Deaver, Pear River Community College Public Relations Department)

Northeast Mississippi Community College (623), Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (624), Pearl River Community College (638), East Mississippi Community College (661), Itawamba Community College (670) and

Holmes Community College (695), all of whom compete in Division II.

Pearl River served as host for this year's event.



## ECCC Phi Beta Lambda Students Earn State Honors

East Central Community College's Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, an organization for business students, won various honors at the State Leadership Conference held at Itawamba Community College in Fulton. The ECCC group was one of two recipients of Gold Seal awards and placed second in the March of Dimes fundraising competition. Theta Chi was also recognized as a Foundation Member. Individual honors were presented to, first row, from left, Linda Moody of Walnut Grove and Megan Stovall of Philadelphia, who placed first in the American Enterprise Project and Multimedia Presentation; (Moody was also named to Who's Who in Phi Beta Lambda and Stovall won first place in the Annual Business Report); Chris Clark of Louisville, first place, Computer Concepts; Ginger Richardson of Enterprise, first place, International Business; (second row, from left) Nolan Burchfield of McCool, Ken Triplett of Louisville and Keely Morgan of Walnut Grove, who placed second in Web Page design; (Triplett also finished second in Telecommunications); Amanda Sanders of Carthage, who teamed with Richardson and Casey Griffin of Newton to place third in Web Page design; and sponsor Christy Ferguson; and (back row, from left) sponsor Brenda Johnson; Chris Rush of Union and Brad Walton of Decatur, who finished second in Multimedia; (Rush also placed third in Visual Basic Programming); Casey Griffin of Newton, who as earlier mentioned teamed with Sanders and Richardson to place third in Web Page design; and sponsor Kelly Cluff. The first and second-place finishers qualify to compete at the National Leadership Conference scheduled July 9-13 in Denver, Colorado.





ECCC LPN Students Winning State Honors

This group of Licensed Practical Nursing students at East Central Community College won various honors at the Mississippi HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) held March 24-26 in Biloxi. Award-winners included (first row, from left) Gloria Martin of Madden, first place, Nursing Assisting; Laura Sumner of Decatur, fourth place, Extemporaneous Health Poster; Elise Harrell of Carthage, first place, EMT; Celeste Martin of Carthage, first place, Health Education; and Jessica Bricker of Lena, National Healthcare Issues Exam; (second row, from left) Shelby Swanner of Bailey, fourth place, Nurse Assisting; Anne Steptoe of Forest, third place, Creative Problem Solving; Laura Rosar of Union, first place, Health Education; Ashley White of Philadelphia, first place, EMT; Genna Pope of Philadelphia and Vincent McElhenney of Union, third place, Creative Problem Solving; Valerie Nicholson of Philadelphia, second place, Pathophysiology Test; April McCurdy of Philadelphia, fifth place, Concepts of Healthcare Test; and John Johnson of Meridian, National Healthcare Issues Exam. The top three finishers in each category qualify to compete at the National HOSA Conference scheduled in June in Orlando, Florida. Kathy Buckman Elliott and Lori Luke serve as LPN instructors.

Teacher Spotlight: Martha Graham

By LATORIA MCBEATH  
Tom-Tom Reporter

**Born:** Louisville, MS, but grew up in Jackson.

**Education:** Central (Jackson) High School, East Central Community College and Mississippi State University. Bachelor's degrees in English, history and landscaping; Master's degree in psychology.

**What inspired you to become a teacher and why did you choose psychology?** I just love school and I love learning. Helping others through counseling lead me to become a psychology teacher.

**Years in Education:** I've been teaching since 1958. I taught at East Central 20 years and then retired. I have been back for three years.

**What do you enjoy best about teaching?** Watching people grow and change over the years.

**What advice would you give to students studying psychology?** Be certain that psychology is the field that you really want to go into because it takes a lot of your time.



Martha Graham

HALL (continued from page 1)

is no exception.” Myers is a pre-nursing major and is a graduate of Louisville High School. She is the daughter of John and Bonnie Myers of Louisville. She serves as secretary of the Student Body Association and co-captain of the cheerleading squad. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Warrior Corps, AmeriCorps, EC Environmental Club, Diamond Girls and Concert Choir. Myers is a National Dean’s List Scholar and was selected to *Who’s Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges*. She was also a member of the 2003 Homecoming Court. Those nominating her wrote, “Audra has a very pleasant personality and displays courtesy and respect at all times. She is always willing to help others. She is an excellent student who does not settle for average work. She is a great ambassador for ECCC.” A communications major, Talbert is a home-school graduate and the daughter of Dan and Sue Talbert of Newton. Talbert serves as president of Phi Theta Kappa, Editor of *The Tom Tom*, and co-captain of the Scholar’s Bowl team. She is a member of the Wo-He-Lo yearbook staff, Presidents Council and Students Against Destructive Decisions. A Dean’s List scholar, Talbert received various scholarships and was named to the 2004 Phi Theta Kappa Mississippi All-Academic First Team. Those nominating her wrote, “She is the very best kind of leader. She is knowledgeable, thoughtful, responsible and encouraging. She never seeks the limelight. Rather, she pushes her team or staff to achieve. She is there to provide the necessary spark of inspiration to encourage her peers, and to work side by side with them. She is willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done right. She has a creative mind and is not afraid to think for herself.” Warner is an elementary education major and graduate of Winston Academy. She is the daughter of Jack and Pat Warner of Louisville. She serves as treasurer of the Student Body Association, secretary of Mu Alpha Theta and president of the Student Education Association. Warner is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Mu Alpha Theta, Warrior Corps, Presidents Council, Diamond Girls and the Baptist Student Union, where she also serves as leader of “The Way,” a drama ministry team. A President’s List scholar, Warner has received various scholarships and was selected to *Who’s Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges*.

Those nominating her wrote, “She is of the highest moral character and is always willing to do for others. She is the most kind-hearted, ambitious and humble person I have ever met. She tries as hard as she can at everything she does and she will accept nothing less than perfection. If Amy Warner is not Hall of Fame material, I don’t know who is.” Photographs of these students will hang in the Hall of Fame collection in the lobby of Huff Auditorium. ADDITIONAL AWARD RECIPIENT In addition to the Hall of Fame honorees, various academic, technical, vocational and special awards were presented. Vocational award recipients included Herbert D. Miller of Decatur, cabinetmaking; Jonathan Stokes of Louisville, carpentry; Judy Bugg of Conehatta, cosmetology; James Aaron Boatner of Decatur, welding and cutting, and “Vocational Student of the Year,” and Valerie Nicholson of Philadelphia and Dereck Wright of Meridian, licensed practical nursing. Those receiving technical awards included Robert Steven Snuggs of Philadelphia, collision repair; Joshua Wolf of Forest, automotive; Deborah Wren of Philadelphia, child development technology; Amy Burnham of DeKalb, computer technology; Jackie Finley of Union, electrical; Randal Cumberland of Philadelphia, electronics; Lozena King of Hickory, gerontology; Walter Fillingane of Meridian, heating and air conditioning; Jason D. Sistrunk of Sebastopol, machine shop; Talmadge Parker of Little Rock, computer network support; and Keith Jacoby of Meridian, surgical technology and “Technical Student of the Year.” Special awards were presented to Amy Warner of Louisville, Citizenship; Jenna Talbert of Newton, *The Tom-Tom* student newspaper; Dinah Lachney of Decatur, ECCC Players; Luke Howell and Emily Mayes, both of Decatur, ECCC Singers; Johnny Jones of Newton and Damien Wash of Hickory, ECCC Gospel Choir; Deana Morrow of Philadelphia, EC Environmental Club; Elizabeth Tullos of Philadelphia, Philadelphia/ Neshoba County Arts Council Scholarship; Ashley Nicholson of Chunky, Kappa Kappa Iota; Ashley Clark of Sturgis, Ashley Fleming of Philadelphia, Julie Debord of Carthage, John A. Franklin of Union and Austin Griffin of Newton, freshman mathematics; Joseph Charlton of Little Rock, Christopher Hamm of Carthage and Luke McNair of Hickory, sophomore mathematics; Robin Page of Union, secondary education; John A. Franklin of Union, S. Lebrun Hutchison Engineering; Ashley Nicholson of Chunky, Myrtle R. Hutchison Elementary

Education; Shana Smith of Union, Margaret Mosal Phi Theta Kappa Award for Leadership; Courtnee Graham of Nanih Waiya, Ann H. Burkes Phi Theta Kappa; Yolanda Johnson of Newton, Sherry Jones of Meridian and Megan Stovall of Philadelphia, Mississippi Business Education Association student awards; Amber Cherie King of Philadelphia, Alyne Simmons Recruitment Grant; Holly Pierce Pattillo of Union, Spanish; Tiffany Price of Preston, ADN Outstanding Achievement; and Kery Layne McDill of Decatur, Walter Arno Vincent Award for Academic Excellence. Alumni Memorial awards were presented to Jonathan Sigrest of Forest, Billy Wayne Baucum Secondary Education; Tammy Faulkner of Morton, Ruth Carr-Vincent Award for Academic Excellence in Nontraditional Education; Amy Warner of Louisville, Opal McMullan Dickerson Elementary Education; Katie Ford of Newton, Alatha Chaney English; Chris Hamm of Carthage, W. A. Coursey, Jr. Engineering; Tanya Watkins of Philadelphia, Sara Carr Deaton Business Technology; Chris Harrison of Union, Sue Yarbrough Fulgham Speech; Avery Jackson of Walnut Grove, William S. Giffin Men’s Intramural; Cory Burt of Philadelphia, Homer F. Hunter Award for Athletic Managers; Luke McNair of Hickory, Danny Ray Killens Engineering; Jenna Talbert of Newton, Jack B. Mayo Phi Theta Kappa; Ashley Brown of Philadelphia, Dr. Edwin Miller Medical Services; Dewayne Hughes of Sebastopol, Howard Sessums Men’s Basketball; Rita Birdin of Monroe, La., and Kimyatta Viverette of Lake, Earline Wood Women’s Basketball; and Cory Hayes of Forest, Andrew F. Webb Football. Faculty Memorial Award recipients included Ashley Buckman of Bay Springs, J. Wallace Bedwell Business; Grant Morris of Philadelphia, Robert G. Fick Music; Valerie Gibbs of Newton, Frank Edwin and Nena Holt Leatherwood Biological Science; Roberto Orellana of Forest, J. Andy Miller Freshman Engineering; Ryan “Nick” Meeks of Morton, O.L. Newell Drafting; Ginger Richardson of Enterprise, Charles E. Pennington Business Technology; Allison Gressett of Decatur, Ruth Hull Wo-He-Lo yearbook; and Jordan Kemp of Louisville, L.B. Simmons History. Various students were also recognized for being named to *Who’s Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges* and transfer scholarships were presented by The University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State University, the University of Mississippi, Mississippi College and Delta State University.

East Central creative writing students submit works

The following works of poetry were submitted by East Central Community College students enrolled in Carol Shackelford's Creative Writing class.

Poetry is a breath,  
A breath of life  
That gives me life  
And the chance to breath  
I inhale the essence  
Of the world.  
Whether it be a bold statement  
Or a tinge of emotion,  
I write.  
It flows from my liops  
To my fingertips,  
And the pen in my hand  
Records my soul.  
I exhale and discover  
My subconscious  
And the dreams  
I feel so strongly about  
That the world goes  
Strongly against.  
Call me rebellious  
But never selfish.  
My emotions are for me  
And the world can partake  
Of the way I present them.  
When I take a breath,  
It's been inhaled before  
But not interpreted  
Through the filter  
Of my individuality.  
It's my breath of life  
But the air is not mine;  
It's God's divine intervention  
Between the heart and mind  
That combines, converts  
And joins my soul  
To produce a song,  
The song of my life.  
The life is mine  
But the breath  
Is for tomorrow,  
For the poets  
Who are steadfast  
On the love of writing  
And expressing  
Their innermost being

From the depths  
Of their souls.  
The thought is of today  
But the breath is for  
Tomorrow.  
  
baby  
soft, innocent  
growing, learning, playing  
change, puberty, love, maturity  
working, learning, loving  
stronger, wiser  
adulthood  
  
Neenah Kirkland is a liberal  
arts major from Philadelphia. She  
plans to declare a major in radiology  
next year.

I am not giving up.  
In don't wonder who is better  
than me.  
I don't hear the demons calling  
me.  
I don't see the easiest path.  
I don't wnat to take the easiest  
path.  
I am not giving up.  
  
I don't petend to better than  
others.  
I don't feel better than others.  
I don't touch things that will hurt  
me.  
I don't worry about those that  
are distressy to me.  
I don't cry when people make  
fun of me.  
I am not giving up.  
  
I don't understand why the world  
is so mean.  
I don't say things that will hurt  
others.  
I don't try to be someone I am  
not.  
I don't hope for things that won't  
change.  
I am not giving up.

Girl  
Pure, innocent  
Playing, dancing, laughing  
Naive, child, grow, knowledge  
Searching, seeking, finding  
Prepared, wise  
Woman  
  
Single  
Alonge, independent  
Waiting, trying, crying  
Sad, helpless, hope, love  
Laughing, caring, sharing  
Happy, healthier  
Married  
  
Flame Reese is a freshman journalis  
major and plans to graduate  
next May.  
  
Jasmine blows in the wind as  
Eternity  
Spreads its wings to  
Show the world that  
Yesterday  
Can not change or  
Affect the path that our  
Lives take  
Over the course of tomorrow  
Victory is ours to capture  
Even though sometimes it may  
Seem hard to hold on  
Join your hand with mine,  
together we will  
Overcome anything life  
Happens to throw our way, as  
long as we  
Never forget that we love each  
other  
  
Caterpillar  
Long, slimy  
Stretching, crawling, chewing  
Creature, insect, cocoon, leaf  
Sleeping, changing, waking  
Graceful, beautiful  
Butterfly  
  
Jessica Harris is a sophomore  
English major from Forest.

Mom  
Understanding, beautiful  
Laughing, talking, smiling  
Always there for me. She's  
wonderful!  
  
Sassy  
Happy, engergetic  
Running, playing, barking  
Always moving. Will she ever  
calm down?  
  
Monday  
Long, boring  
Never ending, struggling,  
continuing  
I hate Mondays. Will it ever end?  
  
Mind Games  
Mean, harmful  
Changing, hurting, upsetting  
Never fun. Will they ever stop?



Natalie Tanksley is a pre-nursing  
major from Sebastopol and plans  
to complete her degree at Missis  
sippi University for Women.

Stone Haiku  
Ripples in pain  
Reaching out for shore  
Touch every inch

One stone can change all  
If only to move one grain  
From its previous place

One stone to one grain  
Nothing is ever left unchanged  
Life is in motion

People are like stones  
Held in the palm of God's hands  
Waiting to be dropped down

Down into the water  
To make their own ripples  
To change the world's shore

The shore is waiting  
One splash to set in motion  
One ripple to spread

One grain to move inches  
A thousand things to become  
You start the process

Have you been dropped yet?  
Are you stagnant in God's palm?  
What ripple are you?

In the end of life  
It comes down to one question  
Did you really live?

Kimberly Hays is a nursing  
major from Carthage. She is  
presently involved in band, choir,  
Environmental Club and Phi Theta  
Kappa.

Shattered Dreams  
Aim high they always say  
To bright minds of any day.  
The sky is the limit,  
And this is no gimmick.  
If you try and don't succeed,  
Try, try, and try again.  
and one day you will soon  
awaken  
To find that your dreams have  
been taken.  
Shattered dreams! Shattered  
dreams!

Excellence is the very best,  
Strive for it, and you will get the  
best.  
A mind is a terrible thing to  
waste,  
Young minds prepare for now  
and make haste.  
Knowledge is as precious as a  
jewel,  
Wisdom is seasoned by time.  
“Get knowledge! Get wisdom!  
But in all thy getting,  
Get an understanding,” they say.  
Then one day you soon awaken  
To find that your dreams have  
been taken.  
Shattered dreams! Shattered  
dreams!  
Starting all over is going to be  
tough,  
The road you take will be rough.  
Detours and exits will be your  
game,  
You will be the one without a  
name.



Carolyne Momon Hardy is a non-  
traditional English major from Car-  
thage. Before joining the Creative  
Writing class at East Central, she  
published a book of poems called  
Reflections.





ECCC EMT Students Take Top Honors

Emergency Medical Technology-Paramedic students at East Central Community College in Decatur recently took top honors in the MEMTA (Mississippi Emergency Technician Association)/MAEMSE (Mississippi Association of Emergency Medical Service Educators) Student Competition. The ECCC students were named Overall Competition Champions and also received various individual awards. Chris Vaughn of Meridian (second from left) received a gold medal for Random Basic Skills, a silver medal for Airway Management and bronze medals for Static Cardiology and on the Written Exam. David Clark (third from left) of Preston received silver medals for Static Cardiology, Airway Management and on the Written Exam. They are pictured with ECCC EMT-Paramedic instructors Barry Mason (left) and Patrick Black.



ECCC Nursing Program Honored

East Central Community College's Associate Degree Nursing program received honors at the 2004 meeting of the Mississippi Organization for Associate Degree Nursing held on the Gulf Coast. Sophomore Jodi Kelley (left) of Louisville received the Bobbie Anderson Scholarship Award and was presented a \$1,000 check to help with her education expenses. Part of her selection was based on her essay titled "Personal Influences That Directed Me Toward the Nursing Profession." The Association of Student Nurses (ASNEC) at East Central was presented The Spirit of Community Award, in recognition of its work in raising funds for the cystic fibrosis foundation. ADN instructor Dana Dear (center), who serves as ASNEC advisor, is shown displaying the "Spirit of Community" award, which will remain at EC until the 2005 convention. At right is Melanie Gilmore, who serves as dean of the ECCC Associate Degree Nursing program.

Theta Xi receives international awards; Talbert, Ferguson honored

By JENNA L. TALBERT  
Tom-Tom Editor

On March 31, 2004, nine students and three advisors of East Central Community College's Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college, made their way to the Jackson airport to begin the journey to the annual Phi Theta Kappa International Convention in Minneapolis, MN. The journey proved to be both memorable and rewarding. After an uneventful flight, the group arrived in Minneapolis and began the task of finding the rental SUV while pulling the monstrous amount of luggage that accompanies any trip of that magnitude. Half of the group stayed behind at the airport while the first "wave" entrusted their safe arrival at the Hyatt Regency to sponsor Ricky Harrison who had been volunteered to drive. Unfortunately for the second "wave," the city of Minneapolis consists of three major interstates and a downtown area of one-way streets that resulted in quite a lengthy wait. However, after a brief stop at Burger King, everyone eventually made it to the hotel. Thursday morning dawned bright, cheerful, and about 40 degrees colder than the Mississippi natives were accustomed. After registering for the convention and shopping through the Academic Marketplace, Theta Xi headed out on foot for downtown Minneapolis and the required lunch at the Hard Rock Café. Despite the forceful wind, the group made it to the Hard Rock and spent quite a bit of time in the gift shop where the local clerk was quite taken with the Mississippi accent. After a discussion on common slang phrases and Southern rodents, the group finally made it to lunch before heading back to the hotel for the

opening session of the convention. Arriving in the Minneapolis Convention Center, Theta Xi was dismayed to find the long lines that waited for the opening of the doors to the auditorium. However, the wait was made infinitely more enjoyable by the arrival of a small band. The band regaled the large numbers of impatient Phi Theta Kappans with their fun numbers and kept the group dancing until the doors were finally opened. The opening session proved to be enjoying and really exciting for first time attendees. Theta Xi was also elated to learn that sponsor Christy Ferguson, had been chosen to receive the Paragon Award for New Advisors. This award is given to only the top 25 new advisors in the nation and Theta Xi was thrilled that Ferguson was given this honor in recognition of all of her hard work. After the session ended, the majority of the group decided to find somewhere to eat. Therefore, 10 adults piled into the Ford Excursion and went in search of a Denny's or Waffle House at 12:30 a.m. However, the three major interstates and one-way streets again proved to be a problem that resulted in the group eventually finding an open Denny's in St. Cloud, MN. Although the food was not as good Mississippi cooking and grits were nowhere to be found on the menu, the group enjoyed the fellowship and eventually made it back to the hotel. Friday began with a morning session that included the feature speaker, Linda Ellerbee, a renowned journalist and cancer survivor. Phi Theta Kappans from around the world laughed with Ellerbee and also cried with her as she described the effect that breast cancer had had on her own life and the life of her family. Ellerbee spoke on behalf of the American Cancer Society. Phi Theta Kappa has partnered with

the American Cancer Society the past two years on the organization's International Service Project of fighting cancer. The 2004-2006 service project will remain the American Cancer Society and will be titled "Continuing the Fight." Friday afternoon, Theta Xi managed to fit 13 adults (all Theta Xi members, advisors, and one "adopted" member from Northeast Mississippi Community College), into the Ford Excursion and headed for the Mall of America. Once again, the three major interstates and one-way streets presented a problem. However, the group did manage to make their way to the entrance of Macy's with a little help from a local. The group was awed with the size of the mall that could probably fit Bonita Lakes Mall into a very tiny corner of one floor. Friday night also proved to hold an exciting session when pop culture icon, Dick Clark, spoke to the group. Clark spoke in honor of the 2004-2006 Honors Study Topic, "Pop Culture: Shaping and Reflecting Who We Are." Saturday was a more relaxed day with an opening session and then free time that was spent wandering about the downtown area for some, a movie for some, and naps for a couple of the group members. After a pizza party, the group made their way to the Convention Center for the Awards Gala. The Awards Gala proved to be very rewarding for Theta Xi. Chapter president Jenna Talbert of Newton was presented the Distinguished Chapter President Award. The group was then ecstatic to hear Theta Xi recognized as one of the top 25 chapters in the nation. This was a major accomplishment for the rather small chapter to be named in the top 25 out of some 575 chapters nationwide. The group also discovered later that they had been named to the top 25



East Central Community College's Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college, received various honors at the organization's annual convention held in Minneapolis, Minn. Theta Xi was presented a Distinguished Chapter Award, Jenna Talbert (seated second from left) of Newton received a Distinguished Chapter President Award, and advisor Christy Ferguson (standing fourth from left) was the recipient of a Paragon Award for New Advisors. Representing ECCC at the international convention were (seated from left) Allen Davis of Decatur, vice president of service; Talbert; Jennifer Carson of Decatur, vice president of leadership; and Ashley Fleming of Philadelphia, regional and chapter historian; and (standing from left) club members Ginger Vance of Decatur and Shana Smith of Union; advisors Debbie Boyd and Ferguson; club member Faith Hessenius of Louisville; and advisor Ricky Harrison.

in the Fellowship Hallmark. The Awards Gala was followed by a farewell dance. The entire group, advisors included, enjoyed the dance and the fellowship among the chapter and other Phi Theta Kappans. Sunday morning dawned entirely too early for the group that had had very little sleep. However, a return flight to Mississippi awaited the group and last minute scurrying for personal belongings was rampant among the bleary-eyed students and advisors. The return flight proved

Composition II, Human Growth and Development, American History I, College Algebra, World Civilization I and American Literature I. The last day to register is May 28.

**EVENING CLASS SCHEDULE (SCOTT COUNTY)**

Registration for evening classes offered in Scott County will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 18 at the Forest/Scott County Career and Technology Center. Classes begin the week of May 24 and end July 30.

Course offerings include American History II, Oral Communication, Principles of Accounting I, English Composition I, World Civilization I, Music Appreciation, English Composition II and College Algebra. The last day to register is May 28.

**EVENING CLASS SCHEDULE (WINSTON COUNTY)**

Registration for evening classes scheduled in Winston County will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, May 17 at the Winston/Louisville Vocational Complex. Classes begin the week of May 24 and end July 30.

Course offerings include College Algebra, American National Government, English Composition I, Trigonometry and American History I. The last day to register is May 28.

**EVENING CLASS SCHEDULE (NESHOPA COUNTY)**

Registration for evening classes scheduled in Neshoba County will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 19 at the Philadelphia/Neshoba County Vocational-Technical Center. Classes begin the week of May 24 and end July 30.

Course offerings include College Algebra, Legal Environment of Business, English Composition I, Introduction to Sociology, and Personal and Community Health. The last day to register is May 28.

**VO-TECH SUMMER CLASS SCHEDULE**

Various vocational-technical classes are also scheduled this summer on the Decatur campus. Registration for a Nurse Externship class will be held May 24. Class begins the same day and ends July 30. For more information contact Melanie Gilmore (ext. 294), dean of the College's Associate Degree Nursing program.

Two Emergency Medical Technical Technology-Paramedic classes are being offered, which include Maternal/Child Emergencies and Clinical Internship III. Registration and the first class meeting are scheduled May 17. Classes end July 16. For more info contact Patrick Black (ext. 425), program director.

Three Licensed Practical Nursing courses are scheduled, including Maternal-Child Nursing, Psychiatric Concepts and Nursing Transition. Registration and the first class meeting take place on May 17. Classes end July 30. For more information, contact instructors Kathy Elliott (ext. 283) or Lori Luke (ext. 289).

Two Surgical Technology courses – Basic and Related Surgical Procedures and Advanced Surgical Procedures – are offered beginning May 17, the same day as registration. Classes end on July 14. For more information, contact instructors Kristie Pilgrim (343) or Lee Ann Shirley (344).

Four Cosmetology courses are also offered, and include Cosmetology Theory III, Thermal Techniques, Facials and Makeup, and Beauty Salon Management. Registration and the first class meeting are set for May 17. Classes end July 30. For more information, contact instructor Wanda Brackeen (ext. 216).

**ONLINE COURSE SCHEDULE**

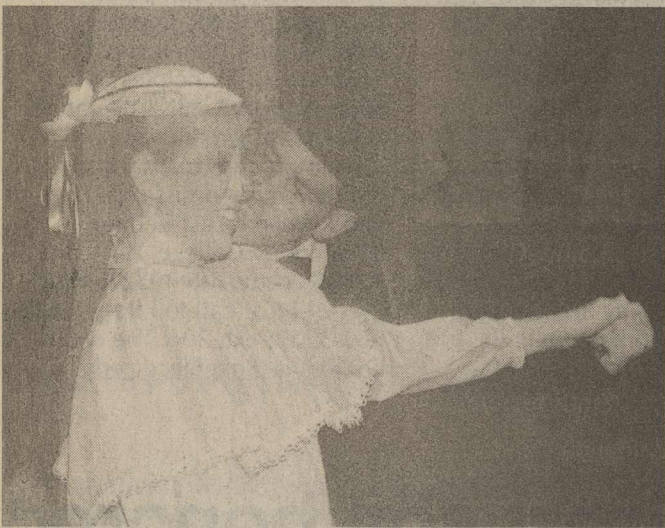
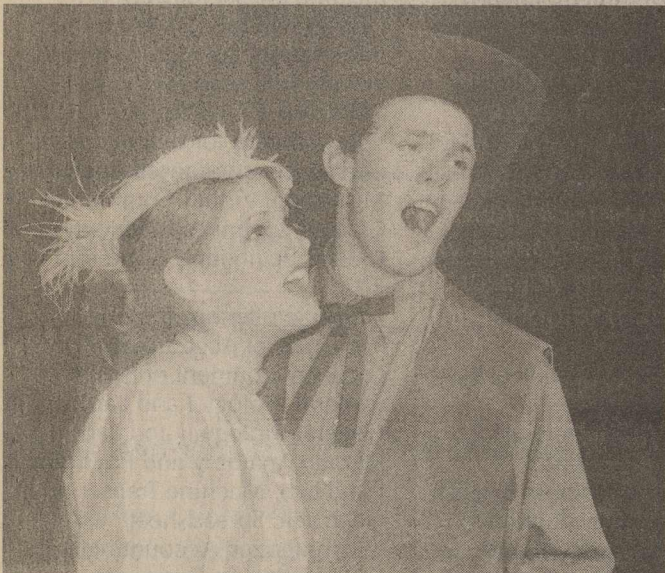
Registration for online classes offered this summer through the Mississippi Virtual Community College continues to June 4. Classes begin June 7 and end July 30.

Course offerings include Principles of Accounting, The Legal Environment of Business, General Biology I and Lab, General Biology II and Lab, Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab, Machine Transcription, Electronic Spreadsheet, Computerized Accounting, Introduction to Computer Concepts, Microcomputer Applications, Principles of Economics I, Principles of Economics II, English Literature I and English Literature II.

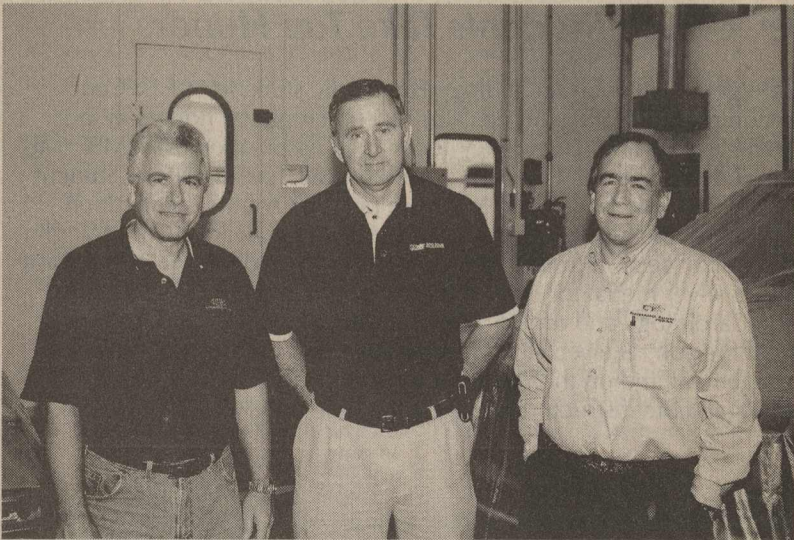
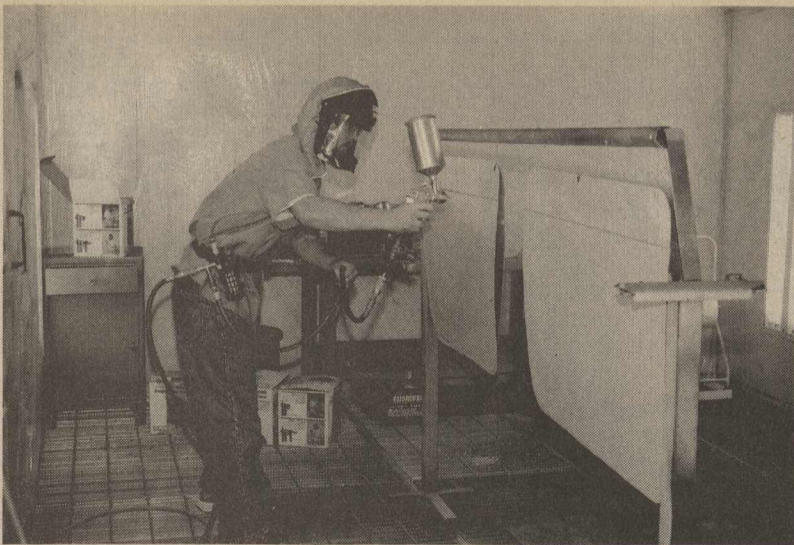
For more information contact the Office of Admissions, Records and Research, East Central Community College, P. O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone 635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 206. The email address is [dluke@eccc.edu](mailto:dluke@eccc.edu).



# ECCC Players Present ‘Oklahoma’



The ECCCC Players presented Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Oklahoma” April 15-17 in Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium. Lori Muse served as director and Len Bobo was director of music. Pictured clockwise from left are Amy Chamblee of Carthage as Ado Annie and Steven Irby of Meridian as Ali the travelin’ salesman; Dinah Howell Lachney and Luke Howell, both of Decatur, in the lead roles of Laurey and Curley; the entire cast and crew of Oklahoma; Luke Howell as Curley sings to Kristal Burton in the role of Aunt Eller.



## ECCC Hosts Refinishing Clinic

Area body shop personnel and advanced students in collision repair technology at East Central Community College recently participated in a Certified ChromoSystem Refinishing Class sponsored by DuPont and held on the Decatur campus. In addition to receiving certification, participants who completed the two-day class also have the opportunity to receive I-Car Gold Class Points. Class members also received information about the DuPont refinishing products that offer a lifetime warranty, and were taught “best practices” and proper application and techniques of the products. In the top photo, Don Brackeen of the Perfection Collision Center in Meridian sprays a side panel using one of the new products. In the lower photo are (from left) Gerald Hansen of Marietta, Georgia, a sales representative for DuPont; Buddy Dew of Meridian, territory sales manager for O’Reilly Auto Parts; and Scott Wood of Marietta, Georgia, business consultant for DuPont Finishes.

## ECCC Lady Warriors Qualify For Region/State Tournament

East Central Community College’s fast-pitch softball team needed just one win against Hinds Community College to earn a berth in the Region 23/ MACJC Tournament and that’s what they received after earning a split of their Saturday afternoon doubleheader held on the Decatur campus. The Lady Warriors, led by first-year head coach Scott Hill, posted a 4-3 victory in the first game and fell 10-0 in the second contest. East Central completed regular season action with a 26-14 overall record and finished second in the Central Division with an 11-5

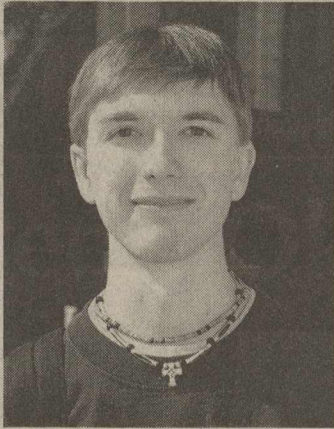
mark behind first-place finisher Meridian Community College. The top two teams in the North, Central and South divisions qualify for the annual competition, scheduled May 7-9 at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville. The Lady Warriors begin action in the double-elimination tournament at 3 p.m. Friday against the host Lady Tigers. The winner takes on Copiah-Lincoln at 7 p.m. Friday, while the loser will play at noon Saturday. Finals are scheduled Sunday at 1:30 p.m. (Consolation Bracket) and 3:30 p.m. (Championship).

# Survey: The Generation Gap

By Jenna Talbert, Tom Tom editor and Brian Sibley, photographer

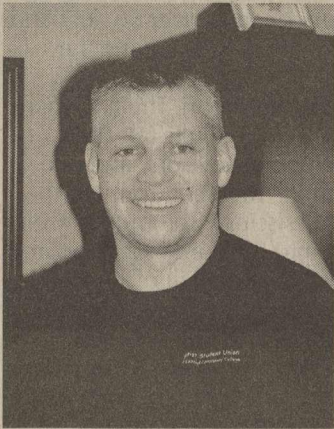
During a recent brainstorming session in the Public Information office, we were inspired by Karen Yates’ urging to call attention to some of the generation gaps that face the faculty, staff and students of East Central Community College. With this in mind, we armed ourselves with a list of four generation-gap questions, a camera, a notebook and ready smiles. The varied answers we received were quite humorous and the facial expressions behind them

even more hilarious. Although we can’t share with the campus the expressions, we would like to share the answers! Enjoy! Question #1: Who shot J.R.? Question #2: What fast food chain’s trademark slogan was “Where’s the Beef?” Question #3: Can you name a cast member from *The Real World*? Question #4: What does this sentence mean to you? “My homey is trippin’ because my phat bling-bling is dopier than his.”



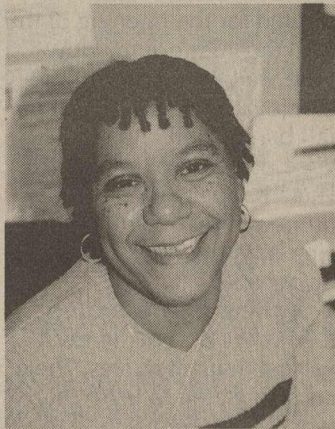
Juston Dean

- #1: “No clue.”
- #2: “Chik-Fil-A?”
- #3: “Don’t watch it.”
- #4: “He is jealous of my possessions.”



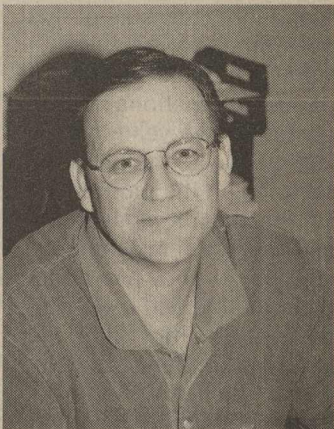
Scott Vaughn

- #1: “Krystal. I know it was the sister-in-law.”
- #2: “Wendy’s.”
- #3: “Daffy Duck. I don’t watch it.”
- #4: “My friend is freaking out because my face is funnier than his.”



Terri Windham

- #1: “It wasn’t Sue Ellen.”
- #2: “Wendy’s.” (Side whisper from co-worker.)
- #3: “T.J.”
- #4: “I know this. I have kids! My friend is mad because my diamond is bigger than his!”



Ron Davis

- #1: “His wife’s sister. I can see her face, but I can’t remember her name. I think it was Kristen.”
- #2: “I can see the old woman. Was it Burger King?”
- #3: “No idea what that is.”
- #4: “I have no idea. What language is that?”



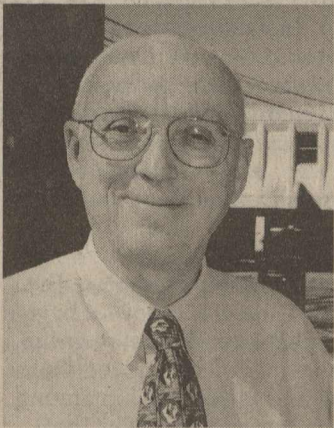
Linda Pierce

- #1: “I think that J.R. is from Dallas, but I don’t remember who shot him!”
- #2: “Wendy’s”
- #3: “I can’t do that.”
- #4: “I can not translate that. I do know that ‘homey’ means friend.”



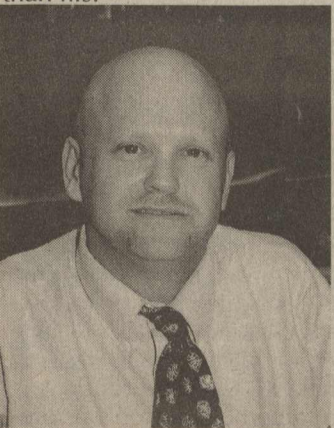
Debbie Boyd

- #1: “I know who J.R. is, but I don’t remember who shot him!”
- #2: “Burger King?”
- #3: “John...” (laughing as she guesses)
- #4: Boyd laughs again as she checks her email!



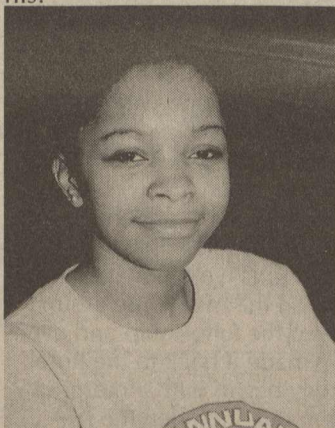
R.T. Purvis

- #1: “I don’t have a clue.”
- #2: “Wendy’s.”
- #3: “I’m not from the MTV generation. I’m more of a Loretta Lynn generation.”
- #4: “I haven’t got a clue.”



Joe Killens

- #1: “I don’t know. I know that it was one of the women from Dallas!”
- #2: “Wendy’s.”
- #3: “No idea.”
- #4: “Absolutely nothing!”



Courtney Yates

- #1: “Who’s that?”
- #2: “Dang! Wendy’s?” (A little help from a friend.)
- #3: “I don’t watch that stuff.”
- #4: “My friend is acting crazy over my jewelry because it looks better than his!”

We hope that you enjoyed these answers. In case you are curious, J.R. was a character from Dallas who was shot by his sister-in-law, Kristen; Wendy’s used “Where’s the Beef” featuring a little old lady; T.J. was a cast member from the reality show *The Real World* on MTV; and the sentence translates: My friend is upset because my cool jewelry is nicer than his. Thank you to all of the participants for your time!





## Large Crowd Attends ECCC Expo

Hundreds of East Central Community College students attended the College's fourth annual Business, Education and Healthcare Expo and explored the various job opportunities available at businesses, industries and health-related agencies located throughout the state. Representatives from the military and numerous colleges and universities were also on hand to meet ECCC students. Approximately 70 booths were set up for the April 1 event, which was held in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.



## ECCC State VICA Contest Winners

These East Central Community College students won various honors at the Mississippi SkillsUSA VICA Vocational Industrial Clubs of America competition held at Jones County Junior College in Ellisville. Award winners included (first row, from left) Kizzie Miller of Jackson, fourth place, Job Skills Demonstration; Cassandra Lopper of Forest, second place, First Aid/CPR; Quintisa Moncrief of Newton, third place, Technical Teaching Assistant; James Boatner of Decatur, ninth place, welding; and Michael Chapman of Newton, fourth place, Collision Repair; (middle row, from left) Aubrey Cleveland of Union, fourth place, Cosmetology; Denise Shoemaker of Decatur, third place, Promotional Bulletin Board; Samantha Partridge of Meridian, sixth place, Technical Drafting; Matthew Smith of Morton, first place, Industrial Motor Control; and Josh Weaver of Louisville, first place, Major Appliance Technology; and (back row, from left) Jason Strunk of Sebastopol, third place, Precision Machining Technology; Sean McDaniel of Louisville, third place, CNC Turning; Jonathan Stokes of Louisville, second place, Carpentry; Jabari Mapp of Decatur, fifth place, Architectural Drafting; Randy Sanders of Carthage, fourth place, Residential Electricity; and Josh Loper of Forest, fourth place, Automotive Service Technology. Not pictured is Jessie Chunn of Union, fifth place, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology. First-place winners advance to the National SkillsUSA VICA Competition in Kansas City, MO, in June.



## Linda Pierce Receives 'Power of One' Award

East Central Community College English instructor Linda Pierce (right) is shown being presented with a Mississippi Power of One award from First Lady Marsha Barbour at the 2004 Mississippi Women's Conference held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Jackson. The award was presented to nine Mississippi women who have made difference in their respective communities. (Photo by Lois Cooper.)

## Former ECCC student Joshua Ladd killed in Iraq

Former East Central Community College student Joshua Ladd of Philadelphia was one of two soldiers killed Saturday in separate incidents in Iraq, according to news reports.

Ladd, 20, was a member of the 67th Maintenance Company of the Army National Guard. He had joined the Army following his 2001 graduation from

Neshoba Central High School.

Ladd enrolled at East Central at the beginning of the fall 2003 term but left "after about two weeks" when his guard unit was deployed for military service, according to Donna Luke, director of admissions, records and research.

No other details were available at press time.

## GRADUATION (continued from page 1)

Denise Lashell Hunt of **Harperville**;

Yukie Watts of **Heidelberg**;

Cassie L. Cleveland, Felicity Dee Godwin, Danna Jones, Lozena Rochelle King, Kellie Jo McGee, Luke Timothy McNair and William Allen Willis, all of **Hickory**;

Mary Bolela, Tiffany Chambers and Carmella Harper, all of **Jackson**;

Brian Beckwith, Meredith V. Edwards, Steven Kelly, Holly Paige Mabry, Craig Martin, Jason R. Massey, Wynona Cooksey Moore, Courtney Wooten Rushing and Kimyatta Viverette, all of **Lake**;

Nicole Love, Steven McGee, Beth Stephens and LaToya Thames, all of **Lawrence**;

Shilah R. Craig, Melissa Gail Grantham, Jowonsia Dewayne Mitchell, Michael T. O'Bannon and Jason Vasquez, all of **Lena**;

Eddie Marshall Alexander, Jody Morgan Chaney, Rhonda E. Chapman, Ray B. Chapman, Joseph Allen Charlton, Andrea Lachele Chesney, Candy Chesney, Suzette Crocker, Mark Graham, Daniel R. Munn, Teresa L. Sheherd and Dianne Corley Watkins, all of **Little Rock**;

Ruth Bennett, Jacob Childs, Shaneaka Cistrunk, Daphne Palmer Cockrell, Adrian Coleman, Colleen Coleman, Corrado Curtis, LaToya Davis, Chauncey G. Doss, Alisa F. Duncan, Charles Harold Hanna II, Brittany Harris, Mary Morgan Harris, Cornelius Hathorn, Larae Hemphill, Page Williamson Holdiness, Ashley Howard, Samuel I. Jackson, Andrea Johnson, Marinda L. Johnson, Jordan E. Kirk, Amanda Lynn Loyd, John Adam McAdory, Tracey McCracken, Anthony

## Dear, Vaughn Announce Plans to Leave ECCC

Associate Degree Nursing instructor Dana Dear of Hickory and speech teacher George Vaughn of Decatur have decided to leave their respective positions at East Central Community College at the end of the 2003-04 term.

Both submitted their letters of resignations at the April meeting of the College's Board of Trustees.

In her letter to the Board, Dear wrote, "I have enjoyed being a part of this program and will continue to feel that East Central has the best ADN program in the state, if not the nation. I feel that I will be leaving a part of my heart here at ECCC. ASNEC (Association of Student Nurses at East Central) has been my joy in teaching. The relationships I've developed over the years with the students have been invaluable. I'll miss teaching tremendously. . . I may one day wish to return to teaching and hope that the door might stay open for me."

Dear said she plans to work with the TelEmergency hospitals as a nurse practitioner while completing certification requirements for Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.

Dear has received various honors since joining the ECCC faculty in 1999. She was selected the College's Academic Instructor of the Year for 2003, and was chosen Mississippi Association of Student Nurses Advisor of the Year for 2002, in recognition of her service as ASNEC sponsor.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Dear served as a staff nurse and family nurse practitioner at Riley Hospital in Meridian. She also served a year as an instructor at Meridian Community College.

She received an associate's degree in nursing in 1992 from MCC and completed requirements for a bachelor's degree

at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1993. She received the master of science degree in nursing from the Mississippi University for Women and became a certified Family Nurse Practitioner in 1995. She has also received certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Basic Life Support and Adult Critical Care Nursing.

She is married to Talmadge Dear of Hickory, an electrician for Ratcliff Electrical Services, and they have two sons. Billy works with his father as an electrician and is married to the former Lori Proctor of Meridian. Ben, an ECCC alumnus, attends physical therapy school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Vaughn is completing his second year as an instructor at East Central. In addition to his teaching duties, he has been involved with the College's drama department. He was a participant in the fall dinner theater production of *Something Old, Something New, Something Gospel and Something Blue*.

He plans to continue his career in education at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois, where he will teach Development English and other transfer English courses.

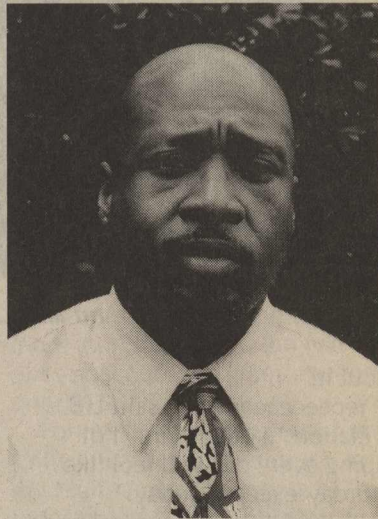
In his letter to the Board, Vaughn said, "Teaching, teaching preparation and advising have been rewarding here at East Central, and I will continue to work as hard as I have and will continue to be just as diligent in my service to the college until I teach my last class."

Vaughn previously served as English instructor at Maysville (Kentucky) Community College and advisor for the College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter.

He is also a former graduate



Dana Dear



George Vaughn

assistant in the Office of Minority Student Affairs at Morehead State University in Kentucky.

Vaughn studied criminal justice at Jackson State University and later earned a bachelor's degree in English from Tougaloo College. He holds a master's degree in English from Morehead State University, where he has also completed 18 graduate hours in Communications.

## McCurdy Joins ECCC Board

Scott County Superintendent of Education Frank McCurdy (center) of Morton was recently welcomed as a member of the East Central Community College Board of Trustees. McCurdy, shown with ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin (left) and Board Chairman Prentice Copeland of Philadelphia following the Board's April meeting, previously served on the ECCC Board when he was School Superintendent from 1992-99.

McCurdy is also a former counselor at the Forest/Scott County Vocational-Technical Center. He began his career in education as a teacher at Betty Mae Jack Middle School in Morton.



McLaurin, Marcia Mitchell, Joanna Mae Mowdy, Kenisha Nicholson, Connie O. Pruitt, Troydell D. Snow, Jenna Lillian Talbert and Zachary Kirk Thames, all of **Newton**;

Barbara Ann Carter, Lacey Sanborn and Rhonda Darlene Thomas, all of **Noxapater**;

Brandi R. Brown and Gretta Marlo Evans, both of Pelahatchie;

Anthony Allen, Brandi Bates, Roxie Ann Boyd, Joseph Scott Bozeman, Ashley Elizabeth Brown, Miski Dawn Brown, Matthew Burks, Pamela Grace Burks, Tellas R. Burnside, Corey Wade Burt, Lee R. Chickaway, Latisha C. Chunn, Amanda Clark, Steven

Cole, Randal Cumberland, Stephanie D. Davis, Sylvia H. Dennis, Byron Donald, Amanda R. Eakes, Samuel J. Eakes, Sandra M. Earnest, Melissa Nannette Farmer, Ashley Lorraine Fleming, Tonya M. Townsend Flowers, Amanda D. Gomillion, Johnathan Robert Griffin, Hunter Holley, Eric Marino Johnson, DeAnna Lynn McMillan, Christopher R. Mills, Jessica Moore, Tammy Melissa Moore, Celeste Moss, Alicia M. Murphy, Janna LeShea Nowell, Leigh Grace Phillips, James C. Pilgrim, Jason Richardson, Michael Drew Robertson, Brian Shaffer, Christopher T. Shepherd, Laura Michelle Sistrunk, Steven Snuggs, Jhaun Sparnack, Amanda Stokes, Timothy J. Stokes, Megan L. Stovall, Ashley Nichole Thomas, Cassidy Thompson, Jacob Townsend, Eugene Truss, Laura B. Walley, David Walters, Dian Walters, Jennifer Leigh Watkins, Tanya Watkins, Elyse Lyndon Willis, Norma J. Willis, Kevin R. Willis Sr., Deborah A. Wren, and Shuwaski A. Young, all of **Philadelphia**;

David R. Clark, Ranny DeMarcus Crosby, Gary Griffin, Cindy Marie Hickman, Desiree L. Parker and Tiffany Price, all of **Preston**;

Salathia Thomas and Lorenzo White III, both of **Quitman**;

Shelley M. Brake of **Florence**;

Heather Cheesman, of **Raymond**;

Debra Lee of **Richland**;

Clint Smith of **Rose Hill**;

Montrail Lee of **Ludlow**;

Malissa Ann Bryant, Teresa G. Ray, Jason Sistrunk and Earl Blake Warren, all of **Sebastopol**;

Hope Murray of **Soso**;

Patty Rosilyn Curtis of **Sturgis**;

Christopher L. Vaughn of **Toomsuba**;

Heather Ammon, Jodie Barker, Matthew Belk, Brandy Bennett, Beverly Diana Burrage, Wynnease Carter, Jessie Chunn, Jackie Finley, Jason Gilmore, Amanda Holloway, Leticia Horn, Shellie Gail Keyes, Robin Leach, Erin Richardson, Leslie Ann Mangrum, Aaron Joseph McElfish, Deedra Gray Munn, Mike Nester, Robin B. Page, Heather Palmer, Holly D. Pierce, Casey W. Robinson, Jamaal Rogers, Miranda Rosar, Alan Taylor, Janna Adkins Thornton and Brooklyn N. Winstead, all of **Union**;

Avery Jackson, Linda McKelvey Moody, Karita Monique Overstreet, Monica Sanders, Vickie Smith, Tamika Stribling, Timecah L. Wilder and Taniya Williams, all of **Walnut Grove**;

Dexter Sellers of **Bastrop, La.**;

Gregory C. Mitchell of **Butler, Ala.**;

Charita Birden of **Monroe, La.**;

Maurice Thoroughbred Calhoun of **Shorter, Ala.**; and

Cyrus C-Max Doe of **Liberia, West Africa**.



# East Central faculty members look forward to retirement

**Bullocks Excited About Retirement**  
Ann and L.B. Bullock began their tenure at East Central together, so it's only fitting that they retire together. After 15 years at the College, the couple will retire in May. So how do they feel



Ann and L.B. Bullock

about it?  
"Yeeeeeeaaaaaah!" said L.B. "Elation," added Ann. "I'm hoping every day will feel like Saturday-except Sunday!"  
Although they are excited and ready for a relaxing retirement, the Bullocks will miss some things at East Central.  
"I think I will miss seeing co-workers and students daily," said Ann, "being part of that daily hustle/bustle and purpose. I can't imagine, but I can't wait to find out, what it will be like not to start school in the fall. I have started, and finished, every school year since I was five!"  
"I will miss friends and colleagues, especially those in the mathematics and computer science division," L.B. said. "However, I won't miss grading papers and projects or doing that Audit Report on the those long, blue sheets!"

Ann teaches Operating Systems, Word Processing, Keyboard Concepts, Keyboard Skillbuilding and Administrative Office Procedures in the College's Vocational-Technical Division. In addition, she has served on various committees and has been a sponsor for Phi Beta Lambda business fraternity and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.  
L.B. has taught computer science courses in the Academic Division and has also served as Chairman of the Mathematics and Computer Science Division. In addition, he serves as chair of the College's Discipline Committee and is a member of the Curriculum Committee. He is a legislative representative for the ECCC Administration, Faculty and Staff Association.  
Neither of the Bullocks knew from the beginning that they wanted to be teachers.  
"I knew I wanted to go to college," said Ann, "but I had no idea what I wanted to do for a career. Miss Beatrice Hamill, my high school business teacher, encouraged me to consider Business Education as a college major."

L.B. said, "I liked mathematics and I knew that I wanted to do something with mathematics, but I didn't know what anyone did with math, except teach. By the time I found out how many other things were available, I had a family to support and it was difficult to stop teaching to try anything else!"  
When asked what he would've been had he not chosen the teaching profession, L.B. added, "A meteorologist, engineer, accountant, astronomer, horticulturist, writer or a migrant fruit picker!"  
Ann began her career as a graduate assistant at Mississippi State University for one year and then as an instructor at Copiah-Lincoln-Natchez Campus. She also taught as an adjunct instructor for the University of Southern Mississippi. That's where they Bullocks met.  
L.B. spent 24 years in the Natchez-Adams School District as a mathematics and computer science teacher. He also served as an adjunct instructor at the Natchez campuses of Co-Lin, USM and Alcorn State University.  
Both say technology has been the most difficult aspect of teaching.  
"Keeping up with the changes

in technology and software has been the biggest challeng," said L.B.  
Ann added, "Because software and books change so often in my area, providing quality instruction is always a challenge. I sometimes teach only one or two semesters from the same book

and software."  
During her spare time Ann said she loves to read.  
"I particularly enjoy Bible study," she said. "I also enjoy 'hanging out' with my family."  
Among L.B.'s hobbies are fishing, gardening, reading, traveling and numismatics, the study of coins.  
When asked how they plan to spend their retirement years, Ann said, "I hope L. B. and I will travel. We also want to be more involved in our grandchildren's activities. As is common to most working folks, we have missed many events we would love to have been involved in with our children and grandchildren. Also, I would love to be more involved in the work of the church. I currently teach an adult Sunday school class. It is the highlight of my week."  
L.B. said he plans to spend time "doing all the things that I have done only in my spare time for the past 50 years."

Ann is a graduate of Philadelphia High School. She attended East Central Community College (1969-70) and received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Education from Mississippi State University. She has completed additional coursework from MSU and the University of Southern Mississippi.  
L.B. is a graduate of Collins High School. He received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree in mathematics from Mississippi State University. He has completed additional coursework at USM and Jackson State University.  
The Bullocks have four children: Michelle Bullock Locastro, Terry Bullock, Jo-Shannon Bullock Hartnett and Emily Bullock. They have six grandchildren: Will Locastro, Weston Locastro, Parker Bullock, Rachael-Catherine Hartnett, Sam Hatnett and Eli Hartnett.

**Kirby Looks Forward to Retirement**  
Although she is looking forward to her upcoming retirement in May, East Central Community College Associate Degree Nursing instructor Brenda Kirby says it's the friendships and students she will miss the most.  
"I am looking forward to watching the sun rise as I lounge on my deck with a good cup of coffee," Kirby said. "And I won't miss the 45 miles I have to drive to work every day. However, I am not looking forward to being disconnected from the friendships that I have forged with the EC family and I will miss having students to encourage in their journey toward the profession of nursing. I will also miss the academic environment that is abound with the vitality of youth and promise."  
Although Kirby plans to view the sunrise, she doesn't plan to sit still long.  
She said, "After retirement I plan to stay busy doing some mission work with the church building groups and maybe some Red Cross-type nursing in areas after disasters. I also plan to continue participation on various organizational boards and civic groups."  
"My husband (Bobby Kirby) and I also plan to spend time enjoying the mountains of North

Georgia at our residence where a nearby waterfall can be heard in the quiet little college town of Young Harris."  
Kirby has taught at East Central since 1994 when the College admitted its first associate degree nursing class.  
"I have most enjoyed participating in the growth of the associate degree nursing program and helping to develop it into one of the most recognized programs in the state for preparedness of registered nurses ready for the job market," said Kirby. "It has been a joy to watch students enter the program and semester by semester grow to successfully achieve their goal and hearing those words 'Oh, I see' or 'Now I understand.'"  
Prior to her career in education, Kirby served as a staff nurse at Rush Hospital-Newton and held many positions in public health including school nurse in the Meridian Public Schools, Perinatal High Risk Management, Maternal High Risk and Child Heath. She also has experience in Mental Health through her part-time employment in adolescent behavior modification, adult stress management and chemical dependency at Laurelwood in Meridian.  
Kirby attained her nursing degree as a nontraditional student and says she was preparing for her master's degree when she was asked to return to East Central to teach.  
"While preparing for the Master's degree at the University of Southern Mississippi, I was asked to come to EC, my alma mater, in the role of instructor," Kirby said. "Because it was my alma mater, I chose to leave the Public Health environment and dedicate my efforts in the establishment of a highly commended program that graduates the most sought-after nurses in the state."  
When asked what profession she would have chosen other than teaching, Kirby said, "I likely would have continued nursing in Public Health, but since I did choose to enter the teaching aspect of nursing, I cannot imagine another choice."  
Kirby said her biggest challenges working at East Central have been changes in administration and the frustration of dealing with budget cuts while being understaffed with enrollment increasing.  
"All of those things combined with the efforts in preparing registered nurses for the tremendous responsibilities that are required of the profession have been the biggest challenges," Kirby said.  
In addition to her teaching duties, Kirby has served as sponsor of ASNEC (Association of Student Nurses at East Central), and has served on the College's Admissions Committee, Homecoming Committee, Associate Degree Nursing Resource Com-



Brenda Kirby

Year, School Nurse of the Year, Educator of the Year and Public Health Nurse of the Year.  
She has served on the boards of the Mississippi Nurses Association, Mississippi Nurses Foundation and the Mississippi Alliance for School Health. Kirby was selected East Central Community College Alumnus of the Year in 1996.  
Kirby is a 1960 graduate of Harpersville High School, 1962 graduate of East Central Community College and a 1987 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi. She is married to Bobby Kirby of Forest who has been instrumental in the construction of the ECCC Baptist Student Union Building, the Hispanic Mission in Forest, Clifton Baptist Church and most recently the Scott County Habitat for Humanity Home.  
Kirby has three children: Angela Whatley Gunn of Hickory, Lynda Whatley Adkins of Brandon and Jamie Whatley of Collinsville.

**STAR Teacher Never Considered Another Career**  
East Central Community College mathematics instructor Gary Ann Moore never considered anything besides teaching as a career. But after 34 years in the field of education, she will put



Gary Ann Moore

away her white board marker in May.  
"I really believe it was the hand of God," she said. "I never considered another career nor have I ever regretted going into education. It never crossed my mind to have a backup career choice. I have spent 34 years doing what I know I was intended to do. And as I near retirement I am thankful that God has let me reach this milestone in my life, but I am apprehensive about what He has in store for the rest of it."  
Moore said she does hope to continue working part-time after her retirement as well as spend time with family.  
"I hope to have time to do some things with my family, but I intend to continue working as long as I stay healthy," Moore said. "However, in trying to convince me that it was time to retire, my husband (Truman Moore) did remind me that the library has a lot of good books that I have not read and there are lots of stores that I have not shopped in!"  
Moore has been a member of the East Central staff for seven years. From 1984 to 1997, she was a mathematics teacher at Carthage High School. She began her career at South

Leake High School where she taught mathematics from 1970 to 1984. During her tenure as a high school instructor, Moore was selected Star Teacher eight times!  
Throughout her career, Moore has been active in the Mississippi Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.  
"When I started teaching," said Moore, "I never dreamed or envisioned that one day I would be part of the EC faculty. It has been

a memorable experience and I will always cherish the experiences and associations I have had.  
"I have enjoyed the people I have been privileged to work with, especially those in the Computer Science and Mathematics department. The ECCC faculty and staff are truly a 'family' who all genuinely care about each other. When one member hurts, we all hurt. When one rejoices, we all rejoice."  
In addition to teaching classes in Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Trigonometry, Elementary Functions and Geometry and Measurement, Moore is also a past president of the College's Administration, Faculty and Staff Association (AFSA). She has served as Co-Chairman of the Mississippi Council of Teachers of Mathematics Junior High Mathematics Tournament on the district and state levels for the past seven years.  
Moore and her husband, Truman, have been married 30 years and have two daughters. Amanda Moore Roberson is a graduate of East Central Community College and Mississippi State University. She and her husband, Chris, reside in Ridgeland. Donna Moore of Carthage is schedule to graduate from the ECCC Associ-



Patsy Moore

ate Degree nursing program in May 2004.  
**Moore Plans to Spend Lots of Time Fishing After Retirement**  
Patsy Moore has spent a little over three decades teaching high

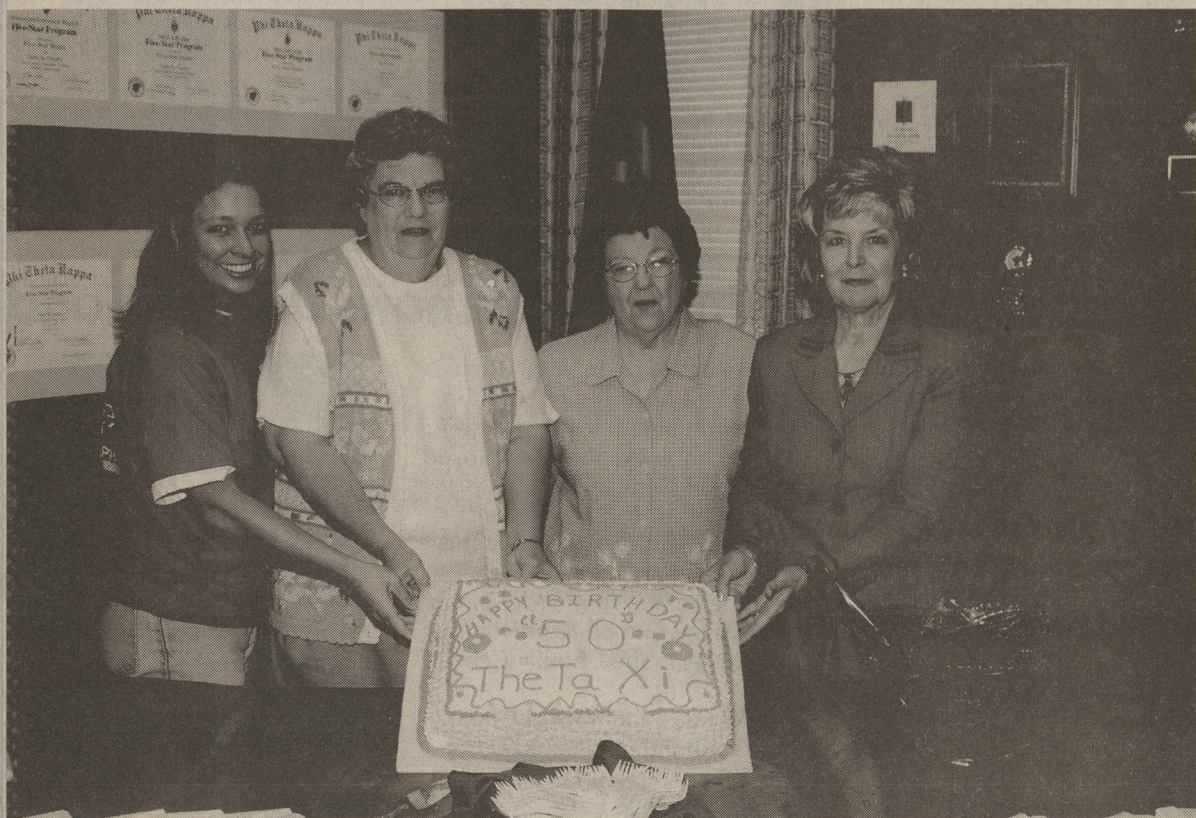


Patsy Moore

school and college students English and literature. Now she plans to spend her days fishing and hunting with her husband, Ernie.  
"Ernie retired two years ago from the Louisville Vocational Center," Moore said. "He's just waiting on me. We love to camp and fish and I'm going to start hunting again. I love to deer hunt! We want to just get out and enjoy life before our health begins to fail."  
Moore has taught English Composition I and II and American literature at ECCC for six years. The first three years she also served as advisor for the Wo-He-Lo college yearbook.  
"The yearbook was an experience for me, because I had not produced a yearbook since I was in high school," said Moore. "But I learned from that. I learned how important it was to be organized and I had some good students that really helped me. If I had not had a full load of classes, I probably would have enjoyed it more. But it really was a learning experience."  
Moore began her career in the Noxubee County School System where she taught for 11 years. Prior to accepting a position at East Central, she taught English at Louisville High School for 13

years.  
She said, "I suppose the highlight of my career is to have taught students who have gone on to do very well in life. In a span of 30 plus years, I have taught doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, teachers and many others from all other walks of life, and that makes me feel really good."  
Moore said the most difficult aspect of teaching has been requirements handed down by the State Department of Education.  
"We've gotten away from the basics," Moore said. "And I can see that trend in the students that come to me. Many of them have very little literature background and they hate to read. I don't know what we can do. Students also hate to write. When you say 'write,' it just turns them off."  
"I think as teachers we need to get back to the basics and make students learn grammar, make them write, get that literature, make them read and give them something to read that they can enjoy instead of books like War and Peace. What child would enjoy that?"  
She added, "We have brought a lot of new things into the classroom to try and improve test scores, but in reality, it's not really improving them because we have gotten so far away from the basics."  
Moore said she has always known she wanted to be a teacher.  
"I have always wanted to be a teacher," she said. "I started out majoring in history at Holmes Junior College. But after I got to Delta State and married Ernie, who was also a social studies teacher, I decided to change and get a double major in history and English."  
After marrying and moving back to her husband's hometown of Brooksville, Moore completed her degree in history and English at Mississippi State University.  
"I have thoroughly enjoyed being a teacher," said Moore. "I don't think I would've enjoyed doing anything else!"  
What will she miss most after retirement?  
"I suppose the things I'll miss most are the wonderful staff and the students. I won't miss the loads of paperwork, but I'll just miss being with the students and





## ECCC's PTK Chapter Turns 50!

Fifty years of excellence was recently observed by East Central Community College's Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college, during a reception held in the Phi Theta Kappa room located in Burton Library on the Decatur campus. Shown in the top photo displaying a cake appropriately decorated for the occasion are Theta Xi advisors (from left) Debbie Boyd, Christy Ferguson and Ricky Harrison. In the lower photo, Ferguson is pictured with former Theta Xi advisors Ann Burkes and Sarah Heard, both of Decatur, and Norma Hammil, who serves Phi Theta Kappa as regional coordinator. Theta Xi is regarded as one of the outstanding chapters among the 1,200 members of the international organization, consistently winning various honors in state, regional and international competition.



## ECCC Art Students Win Awards

East Central Community College freshman art majors Stephanie Culpepper (second from left) of Forest and Lindsey Knight of Union won honors at the state community and junior college art competition held in the Jeff Davis campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Culpepper won third place honors in the drawing competition for her entry titled "Gloomy Fall," and Knight also placed third in the two-dimensional category for her entry, "Bejeweled." Each received a \$25 check and ribbon for their award-winning entries. Culpepper is a graduate of Scott Central High School and is the daughter of Harry and Janet Culpepper of Forest. Knight is a product of Union High School and is the daughter of Thomas and Linda Knight of Union. They are pictured with Bruce Guraedy (left), ECCC art instructor and Chairman of the Fine Arts Division, and ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin. The state art contest is sponsored by the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

## Receives ECCC Nontraditional Scholarship

Veronica Holmes of Louisville began the 2004 spring semester at East Central Community College by receiving a non-traditional student tuition scholarship, valued at \$700. Holmes, 30, is a freshman majoring in computer technology. Scholarships are available to qualified Mississippi residents, age 23 or older, who enroll as full-time academic or technical students on the Decatur campus. Tuition is provided for three consecutive semesters following the first 12 semester hours earned as part-time or full-time students. Qualifications include maintaining a 3.0 grade point average. For more information contact Student Services, East Central Community College, P. O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone 635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 375. The email address is [jkillsen@eccc.edu](mailto:jkillsen@eccc.edu).



## Photography class scheduled at ECCC

Instruction on how to improve one's photography skills will be available beginning Monday, May 10 when a Basic Photography class gets underway at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Registration for the six-week course is scheduled at 6 p.m. in the Gordon Room of Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. The first class meeting follows registration. Classes are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m.

Cost to take the course is \$50 per student. Participants must also provide a 35 mm camera and film.

Alan David, a veteran portrait, commercial and documentary

photographer with more than 35 years of experience, will serve as class instructor. He operated studios in New York, London and Atlanta prior to moving to Newton County.

David also served as instructor and academic administrator in photography at the Art Institute of Atlanta, the Southeastern Center for the Arts, the Portfolio Center and the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center.

He said the intent of the class is "to introduce students interested in photography to the history of development of the medium; to impart an understanding of how photography works; and provide a basic knowledge of how to

control cameras, lenses and light so that the student can move from 'taking pictures' toward 'making pictures.'"

A Navy veteran, David is a graduate of Florida State University. He also completed graduate studies in photography at Georgia State University.

For more information contact the Office of Adult and Continuing Education, East Central Community College, P. O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone 635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 278 or 279. The email address is [mdavis@eccc.edu](mailto:mdavis@eccc.edu).

## East Mall renovations to proceed

completed.

First, the pavement will be removed. New drainage and earthwork will be done. The stumps from the recently removed trees will be disposed of and work will begin.

No need to worry, the beloved trees will be replaced, probably by six maples, which will mature faster and provide a nice look to the mall, especially in fall.

The area will be paved, but not completely. There will be plenty of landscaping. The greatest addition to the Mall will be a stage. This stage will be placed around the area that is in front of Newton Hall.

Sutphin said, "This will provide a neater area for EC's Jazz band to perform and perhaps will be beneficial to such activities as Senior Day or Meet the Warriors."

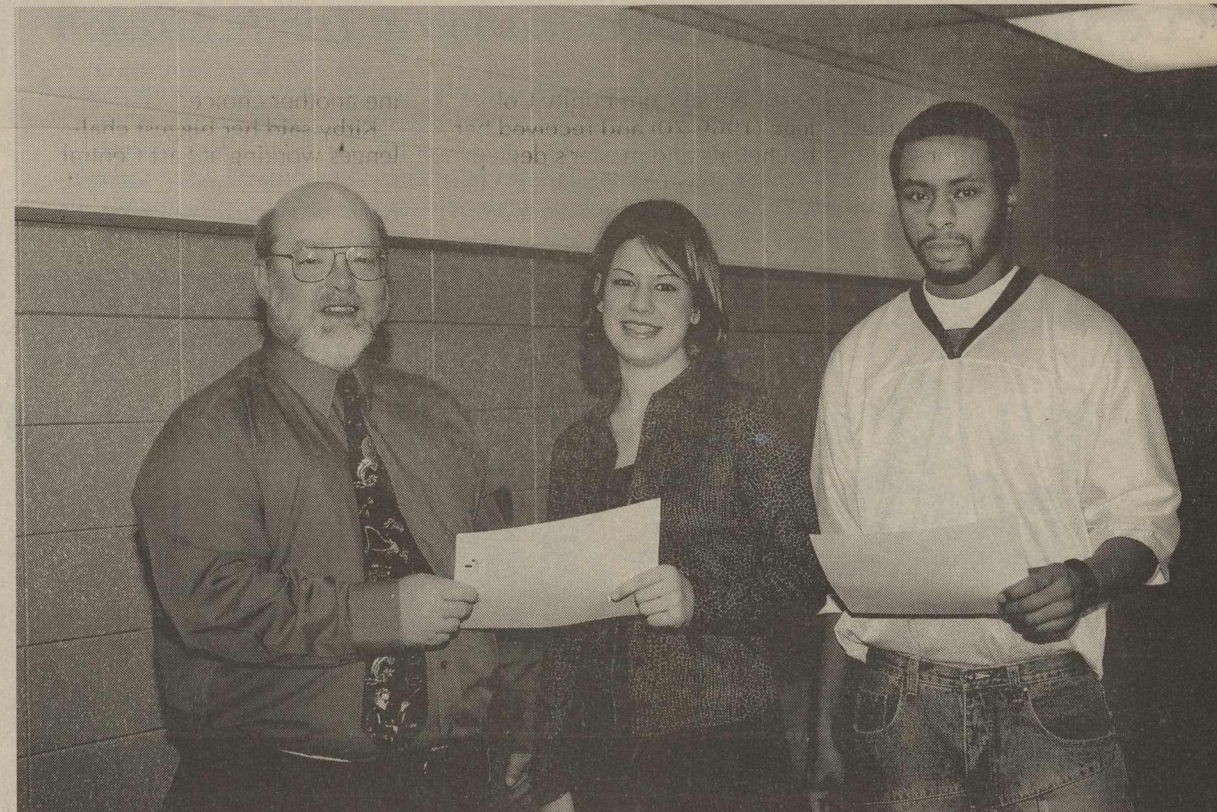
The electric lines that are currently hanging over the Mall area will be removed and replaced by underground fiber optic cables and electric cables. This is a part of the project that won't be seen but will give the mall a better look.

However, this is pending

approval of funds from the Urban and Community Forestry Project. They will grant EC a certain amount for the project and then EC will in turn match that. According to Sutphin, EC more than did this on the first phase because the grant was for only \$15,000.

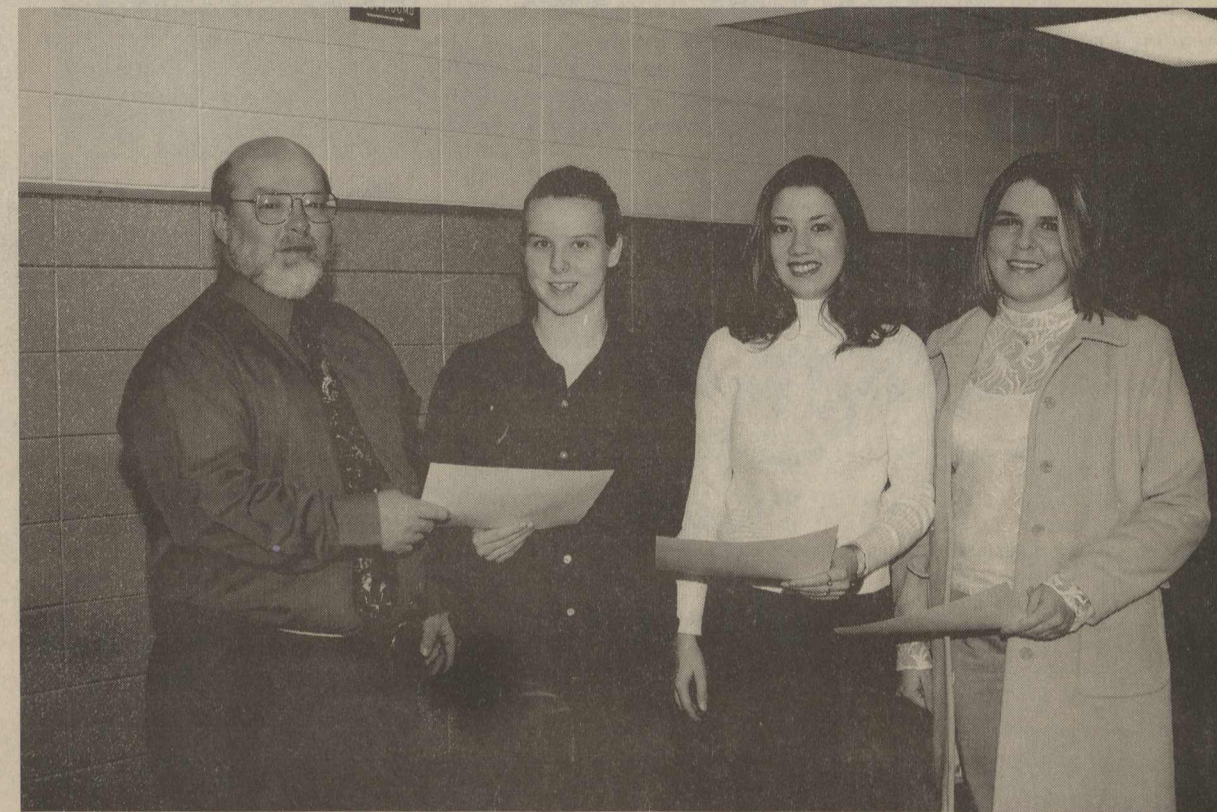
For those wondering why the College is spending so much on the Mall, and not on some of the more "needy" areas of campus, fear not because there are several other projects underway.

The first floor wing of Rives Educational Building, the area under the computer lab, will be renovated into two or three classrooms. Cross Hall will also be refurbished and will receive a new heating and cooling system. Newsome, Newton, and Todd halls will all receive new roofs, as well as the student union, whose first roof had a few minor glitches. Phase II of the Student Union could be finished 12 to 18 months after construction begins, which is scheduled to start over the summer.



## Receive ECCC Art Service Scholarships

Lauren Alexander (center) of Philadelphia and Chris Cooley (right) of Newton are the recipients of Art Service scholarships at East Central Community College. They are shown receiving certificates from Bruce Guraedy, ECCC art instructor and Chairman of the Division of Fine Arts. Art Service scholarships are valued at \$350 (half-tuition) and are awarded to full-time students majoring in art. They are service-based and recipients are required to assist with set designs for dinner theater and musical productions, design layouts for art shows, drama production or the like and serve as lab assistants for art and ceramics.



## Receive ECCC Art Scholarships

These students received Academic Art scholarships at East Central Community College. They are shown receiving certificates from Bruce Guraedy (left), ECCC art instructor and Chairman of the Division of Fine Arts. Pictured are (from left) Sarah Hickox and Victoria Loper, both of Decatur; and Lindsey Knight of Union. Academic Art scholarships are valued at \$700 (full tuition) and are awarded to students who have maintained the highest grade point averages after the first semester. Recipients must maintain a 3.0 GPA in art courses and a 2.0 in other academic courses.





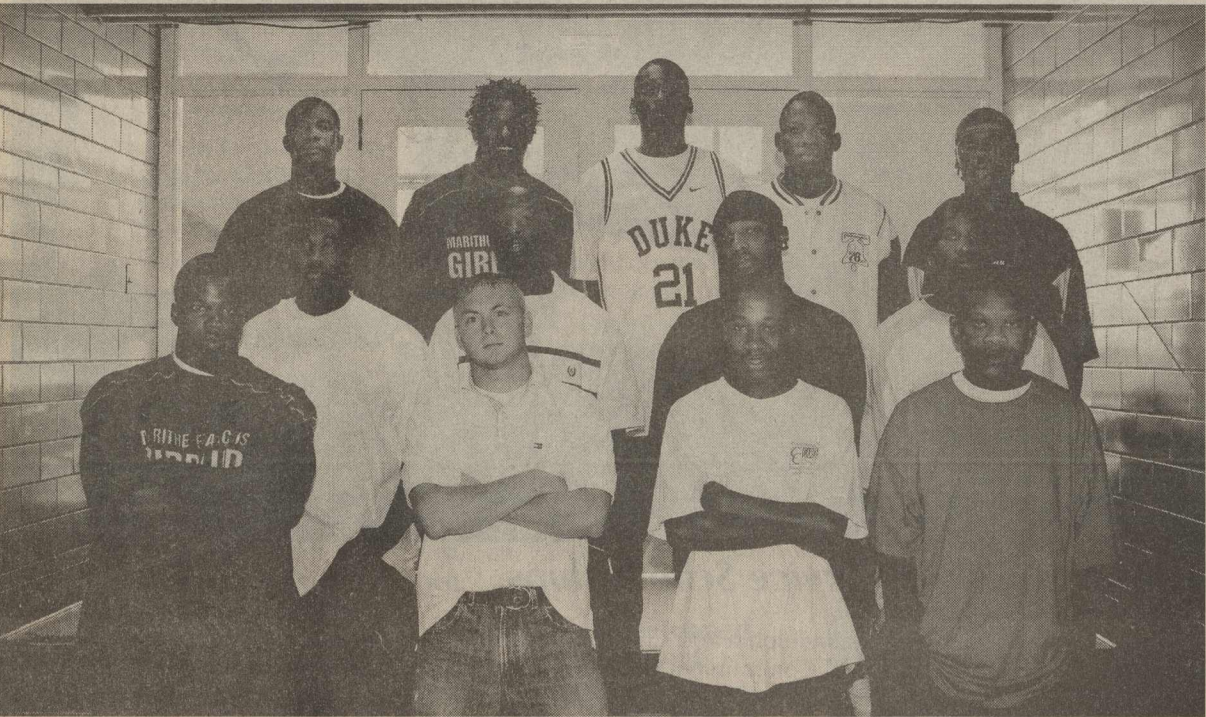
Peavey Addresses ECCC Students

Hartley Peavey (center), owner and founder of Peavey Electronics, delivered a motivational address to mostly business students at East Central Community College during a program held April 1 in the Vickers Fine Arts Center and sponsored by the College’s SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) chapter. During his remarks, Peavey challenged students “to find out what their talents are” and “use them to best of their abilities.” Peavey told students that he had always wanted to be rock star, but after being replaced several times in rock bands by other musicians, he decided to concentrate his efforts on making musical instruments instead of playing one. He also stressed the importance of setting goals and told students, “don’t waste time, don’t rationalize and don’t quit.” Peavey is shown following his remarks with ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin and Wanda Hurley, SIFE sponsor and economics instructor.



ECCC Students Participate in Workshop at Trinity Mission

East Central Community College SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) and Spanish students recently assisted with a job application workshop at Trinity Mission Church in Forest. The workshop was a partnership between Wanda Hurley’s SIFE class and students in Dr. Linda Lane’s Spanish classes and was funded through a Service Learning Grant at the College. Students assisted Hispanics in English As a Second Language classes as they prepared job applications. Two sessions were held and included approximately 40 participants. (Photo courtesy of Wanda Hurley)



Intramural softball champions!

The “Playmakers” won top honors during the East Central Community College intramural softball championship. Pictured are (front row, from left) Derrell Ashford of Louisville, T.J. Rushing of Philadelphia, and Desmond Coleman and John Hawthorne, both of Louisville; (second row, from left) Chauncey Doss, Alven Coleman, Jerrick Porter and Sam Jackson, all of Louisville; and (back row, from left) Cortney Owens and Mantrell Ashford, both of Louisville; Lorenzo White of Quitman, Alvon Coleman of Louisville and Quincy Patrick of Union. Scott Hill serves as director of intramurals. (Photo by Brian Sibley)



Runners-up in intramural softball championships

The “Backwoods Boys” won runners-up honors during the East Central Community College intramural softball championship. Pictured are (front row, from left) Justin Lovern, Shane Patterson and Josh Cumberland, all of Philadelphia; (second row, from left) Justin Copeland of Philadelphia, Randy Stewart of Carthage and Heath Manning of Philadelphia; and (back row, from left) Steven Davis of Enterprise, Jeremy Hamm of Union, Wesley McGee of Philadelphia and Sandy Stewart of Carthage. Scott Hill serves as director of intramurals. (Photo by Brian Sibley)

A student’s goodbye and thank you

By JENNA TALBERT  
Tom-Tom Editor

If someone had told me two years ago that I would so enjoy my time at East Central Community College, I probably would not have believed him or her. However, I have come to love ECCC and the time that I have spent here has been a happy time (except for a couple of tests). I will be graduating in a couple of weeks and though I am excited and hopeful about the things to come, I discovered that I would miss ECCC and the comfortable familiarity that it holds for me. I have made so many memories – so many friends. And I want to thank a couple of those friends and teachers that have so impacted my time here.

To Mr. Bubby Johnston and Maria McLeod, I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve as editor and a writer for this campus newspaper. You have both supported me throughout these two years and I thank you for the memories and experience as member of the Tom-Tom staff. You work so hard to make the

paper look great and you deserve a standing ovation for all of your efforts.

To Karen, Brian, and Sharlie, I would also like to thank you for the support of the Tom-Tom and all of your help for both the paper and the yearbook. You have all been a great help in searches for pictures and cut-lines and were always willing to help in anyway. Thank you for your help and friendship.

To Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. Harrison, and Mrs. Boyd, I would like to thank for their support, encouragement, and friendship throughout this past year in Phi Theta Kappa. You have all been such a source for encouragement and your doors were always open to me whenever I needed you. Thank you so much!

To all of my Phi Theta Kappa officers, thank you so much for all of the hard work that you poured into Theta Xi this past year. We have accomplished so much and I am so very proud of your efforts. Thank you for the memories and friendship!

To Dr. Linda Lane and the Scholars Bowl team, I would to thank for their encouragement and all of their hard work this

past year. I am so proud of the trophy that we brought home!

To Mr. Kinton, Anna, and the yearbook staff, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve on the staff of the yearbook and I thank you for the experience.

To Mrs. Linda Pierce and all of my teachers, I want to thank you for sharing your time and effort to further my education. Mrs. Pierce, you have been so encouraging and I thank you for that. I have learned so much in your English and Literature classes. To all of my teachers, thank you for all of your hard work. The knowledge that I take from all of my classes at ECCC will be of such benefit as I make my way to senior university.

Thank you East Central Community College for the experiences, memories, opportunities, and friends that have been made available to me over the past two years. I will always remember my time here. And though I know that this fall will bring me new exciting opportunities, I will miss ECCC. So good luck and God bless as we all continue on our road to a successful and happy future.

Tragic accident claims sophomore Dustan Todd

East Central Community College sophomore Dustan Todd of Chunky was killed Wednesday, April 28, when the motorcycle he was driving was struck by a vehicle on Hwy. 503 near Interstate 20.

Todd, 20, was a drafting and design technology major and was scheduled to graduate with his classmates on May 14.

Ricky Harrison, one of his instructors, said Todd “was a top student and was well-liked by everybody. He always had a smile on his face and was a joy to be around.”

Harrison said Todd assisted him in conducting surveys several afternoons a week.

“Dustan was a hard worker and always did a great job for me. He was looking forward to graduating, getting married and beginning his employment with MDOT (Mississippi Department of Transportation.”

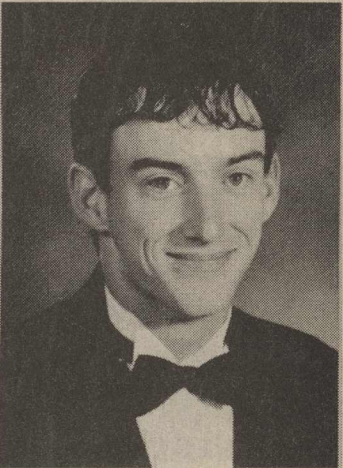
Harrison said Todd was engaged to Yvette Richardson of Chunky and the couple planned

to be married on June 18. Richardson graduated from ECCC in 2003 with a certificate in business technology. She is employed at Citizens Bank in Union.

Services for Todd were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 1 at the Barham Funeral Home Chapel with the Revs. Winnie McMahan and Wayne Campbell officiating. Burial was in the Chunky Cemetery.

Todd was a member of Chunky Baptist Church and a 2002 graduate of Newton County High School. While at ECCC, he was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, and was named to Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. He was also selected to the National Dean’s List and was an award winner for the United States Achievement Academy. He was an avid fisherman, hunter and loved golf. He especially enjoyed being with family and friends.

Survivors include his parents,



Dustan Todd

David and Ann Todd of Chunky; a brother, Travis Todd and his wife, Brenda, of Hickory; his grandmother, Ethel Cain of Chunky; grandparents, W. A. and Janie Todd of Hickory; a niece, Tanna Todd, and a nephew, Taylor Todd, both of Hickory; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, E. L. Cain Sr.

‘Reading Improvement’ to be offered at EC beginning with fall ‘04 semester

Beginning in the fall of 2004, East Central Community College’s Communications Department has a new class in the line-up. The new course, “Reading Improvement,” will be a requirement for those students who range from an ACT score of 1-11 on the English portion of the test.

“We have known for a long time that reading is directly related to a student’s success in college,” said Linda Pierce, Communications Chairperson. “The developmental courses focus more on grammar instead of on reading.”

According to Pierce, the classes will encompass spelling, punctuation, vocabulary, and other reading skills. The main focus of the course will be to improve the student’s reading level.

“Good readers usually make good writers,” Pierce said. “This should be a real help in the English Composition classes.”

The course will include a textbook, vocabulary workbooks, and extensive work on the PLATO computer software in the Learning Skills Center where the classes will be held. Mary Hanson, Director of the Learning Skills Center, will be teaching the courses.

“Many people graduate from high school without the reading skills needed to succeed in college,” said Hanson. “Some nontraditional students need to review skills that they have not been practicing.”

Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, Vice-President for Instruction, feels that the course is a needed addition.

“We have been adding more and more developmental classes each semester,” said Sparkman. “I think that this course will definitely help. It will allow students to get the tools that they did not get in high school.”

Hanson, who has had 25 years of experience with the program in Texas, is confident that the program will be very successful.

“My experience has been that students who apply themselves in this course will improve at least two grade levels in one semester – often several,” explained Hanson. “All community colleges and many universities need to have the Reading Improvement program. It works.”

Those students who are enrolled in the Reading Improvement course will also take Developmental English. The course is worth three hours of semester credit that is applicable for graduation, grants, and scholarship hours.

“Our goal is to help students be more successful in all courses in their college career,” said Pierce. “If students will take advantage of this course, it will be a great benefit.”

Miles Honors Davis

East Central Community College physics instructor Billy Miles (left) presents an employee support award to Ron Davis, Science Division chairman and biology instructor, in recognition of Davis’ support of Miles’ recent deployment to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. Miles, who returned to the classroom in January after serving almost a year overseas, said Davis’ support during his deployment was “exemplary.” He further commented, “Leaving home for military service is difficult for all citizen soldiers. I want you to know that by finding a replacement instructor (Susanna Stewart) and putting up with all the headaches associated with my absence, you did a great service for me and also helped with the war against terrorism.” Miles is a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) located in Jackson, which was deployed to Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.







# THE TOM-TOM

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## Homecoming court to be presented during festivities on Saturday, Oct. 9

The East Central Community College Homecoming Court will be presented Saturday, October 9, during halftime activities of the East Central/Co-Lin football game.

Members include queen Shelly Ferguson of Newton County High School, maid-of-honor Quintisa "Shay" Moncrief of Newton High School, sophomore maids Lindsey Clanton of Newton County Academy, Stephanie Culpepper of Scott Central and Amy Ealy of Forest; and freshman maids Ally Burton of Newton County High School, Clancy Cleveland of Union, Misty Mayes of Newton County Academy and Pharen Nelson of Forest.

Ferguson is the daughter of Johnny and Cheryl Ferguson of Hickory.

A sophomore communicative disorders major, Ferguson is a member of the Lady Warrior Fast-Pitch softball team and the Centralettes danceline for the Warrior Wall O' Sound Marching Band. She is also a Dean's List Scholar.

At Newton County, Ferguson was selected Homecoming Queen, Class Favorite, Wittiest Girl and Best All Around. She was involved in various clubs and organizations and was selected to attend American Legion Girls State.

In addition, Ferguson was a member of the Lady Cougar soccer and softball teams, where she received various honors.

Her escort will be Joseph Cavanaugh, a sophomore political science major and graduate of Newton County High School. He is the son of Sandra Neese of Chunky and the late Alton



Members of the East Central Community College Homecoming Court include (from left) sophomore maids Stephanie Culpepper and Amy Ealy, both of Forest; and Lindsey Clanton of Lawrence; queen Shelly Ferguson of Hickory, maid-of-honor Quintisa "Shay" Moncrief of Newton, and freshman maids Clancy Cleveland of Union, Aly Burton of Decatur, Misty Mayes of Newton and Pharen Nelson of Forest.

Cavanaugh.

Moncrief is the daughter of Lycindia Moncrief and Micheal Evans, both of Newton.

A sophomore child development technology major, she is a member of the ECCC Gospel Choir, the Centralettes, Students Against Destructive Decisions and the Drama Club.

A Dean's List Scholar, Moncrief is a former Vo-Tech Student of the Month. She is also a member of VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America),

where she received second place honors in the Child Care division of the SkillsUSA/VICA competition.

At Newton High School, Moncrief was a cheerleader and a member of the Tiger Marching Band where she served in the color guard and played clarinet.

She was also a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions and the media club and she served as a student assistant for the Lady Tiger basketball team.

During Who's Who elections, Moncrief was voted Best School Spirit, Friendliest and Wittiest. She was also selected a class favorite.

Serving as Moncrief's escort will be Orlando Blaylock, a freshman drafting and design major and graduate of Union High School. He is the son of Joyce Blaylock and Larry Blaylock of Union.

Clanton is the daughter of

**See COURT, page 2**

## Hollingsworth, Burkes receive alumni awards

The East Central Community College Alumni Association recently announced award recipients who will be honored during Homecoming festivities October 9, 2004.

Recipients include Dr. John G. Hollingsworth of Commerce, Ga., Alumnus of the Year; and Ann Hunter Burkes of Decatur, Alumna of the Year; Sharon

**Dr. John G. Hollingsworth**

When Dr. John G. Hollingsworth walked into the classroom, "the entire environment changed," wrote one former student, who further commented: "Never have I seen one teacher so concerned with the success of his students in learning the material and grasping the concepts of mathematics. The only thing I felt was lacking in the class was my ability to live up to the standards and expectations he established."

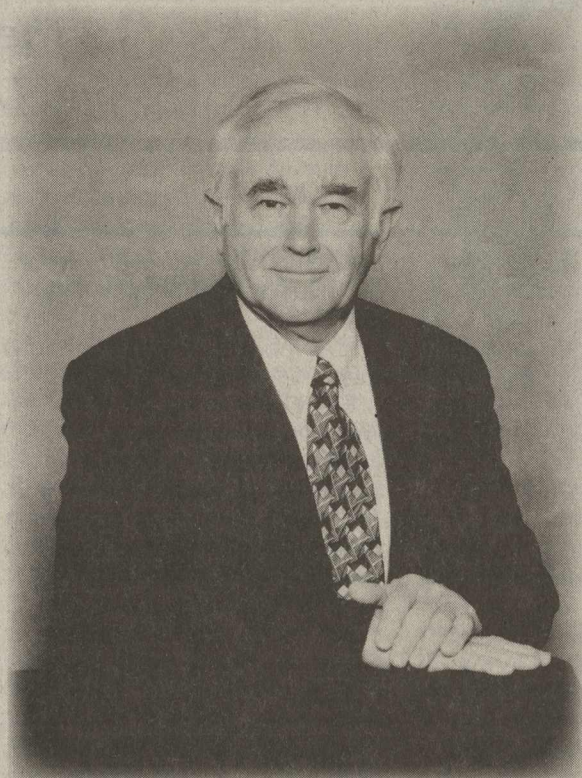
Comments like those above were frequently made by students of the now retired department head and professor of mathematics at the University of Georgia, selected as East Central Community College's Alumnus of the Year for 2004.

Dr. Hollingsworth, a Conehatta native, resides in Commerce, Ga.

Regarding his selection for the prestigious award, Dr. Hollingsworth replied: "Receiving this award is indeed a great honor. I am keenly aware of the outstanding people that came through East Central, and to be singled out in this way is humbling."

Dr. Hollingsworth retired in 2000 from the University of Georgia, where he was a member of the math faculty since 1967 and served as department head from 1992-95. He joined the UGA faculty as an assistant professor, was promoted to associate professor in 1972, and received full professor status in 1981.

He is also a former math instructor at Rice University, serving in 1966-67. He began



**Dr. John G. Hollingsworth**

his career as a mathematician for Texaco, Inc., in Bellaire, Texas, in 1961.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities at UGA, Dr. Hollingsworth was involved in numerous research projects and was responsible for various administrative duties.

He received numerous honors during his teaching career, including Outstanding Honors Professor on three occasions, and the Josiah Meigs Award, the university's highest teaching award. He also received a Special Sandy Beavers teaching award and was later presented a Sandy Beaver Professorship. He was also granted substantial funding research by the National Science Foundation and published numerous papers. In addition, he was selected in 1969-70 as a visiting member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

But for Dr. Hollingsworth, the highlight of his career was "inter-



**Ann Hunter Burkes**

acting with truly outstanding students and watching them excel in their chosen careers."

He further commented about his career: "I was paid a living wage for doing almost exactly what I would have done for free if I had been able to afford to work without a salary."

When he retired from teaching, the University of Georgia established the J. G. Hollingsworth Undergraduate Mathematics Scholarship Fund, in recognition of his "unusual contributions to undergraduate teaching."

The award further recognized Dr. Hollingsworth "for being a heroic force as an undergraduate teacher. He has been a role model to many of us of what it means to be a dedicated, engaged teacher at all levels. He has taken on students having trouble with college algebra, has unflinchingly taught the introductory calculus course, which he views as the most

important course we teach, and has inspired students in various upper level division classes and, the last 18 years, the wonderful Calculus with Theory course."

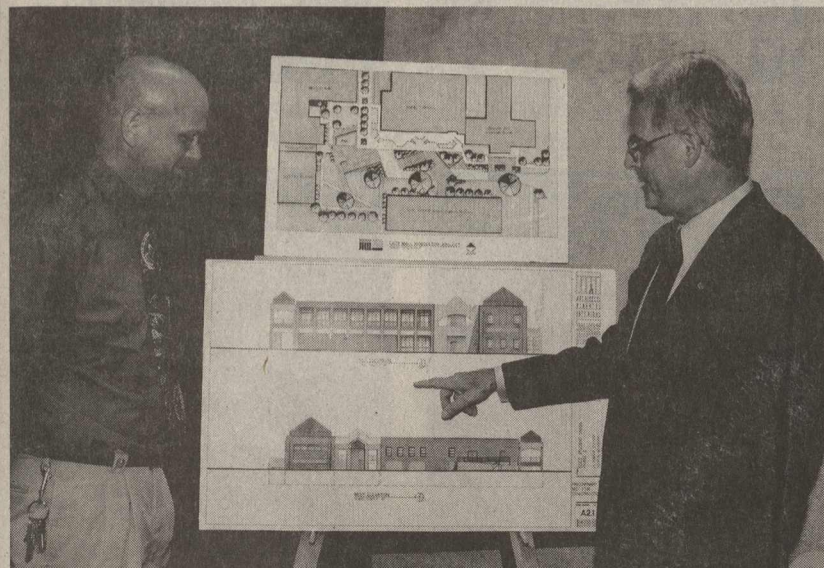
Dr. Hollingsworth was also the recipient of numerous honors while attending East Central Junior College from 1955-57.

He was named to the Hall of Fame, served as sophomore class president and received the Beginning Physics award.

When asked to comment about his remembrances of EC, Dr. Hollingsworth replied: "Wow! EC was blessed with wonderful people; wonderful classmates; and a wonderful, helpful and caring but tough faculty!"

He further stated: "East Central served me extremely well. It was almost as if someone saw me coming and tailored the school specifically to meet my needs. I am grateful for the edu-

**See HONOREES, page 2**



ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin (right) and Vice President for Student Services Joe Killens look over plans for the East Mall renovation project and construction of Phase II of the Eddie M. Smith Student Union.

## EC campus taking on new look during 2004-05 college term

Renovation of the East Mall area and construction of the second phase of the Eddie M. Smith Student Union building are among projects underway on the East Central Community College campus in Decatur.

The East Mall, which refers to the area between the W. Arno Vincent Administration Building and Mabry Memorial Cafeteria/Jackson Hall, is taking on a new look, as asphalt and curbing is being replaced with a patio surface, concrete sidewalks and various landscaping. A wooden deck has also been constructed and will be used as a stage for various entertaining groups. The nearly completed first phase of the project has also included relocating all utility wiring underground, and the installation of outdoor lighting.

Phase Two of the \$90,000 project begins sometime in the spring of 2005 and includes replacing the remaining asphalt and curbing with the same patio surface as in Phase One. Additional landscaping and outdoor lighting are also included the second phase. When completed, the East Mall area "will be an inviting location for many campus events, as well as serve as a 'living room' for the campus," said ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin.

Dr. Sutphin said the focal point of the area will be a fountain and permanent marker memorializing the Day Arboretum project on campus. Officially named the Day Family Memorial Campus Arboretum and Outdoor Classroom Project, it was established in memory of Samuel Marion Day and Elizabeth Frances Day of Newton County, and involved the planting of more than 250 trees in 1999 in an effort "to transform the campus into a living classroom for the benefit of students and the enjoyment of the community," said Dr. Sutphin.

Partial funding for the East Mall project is provided by two \$15,000 grants from the Mississippi Forestry Commission. Private funding is also being used in the project, most of which is being completed by the College's maintenance department.

Construction on the second and final phase of the Student Union is underway, with the project expected to be completed by October 2005.

Included in the 20,750 square-foot facility will be a student grill area, lounge, conference room, computer lab, bookstore, game room and the Office of Admissions, Records and Research.

Most of the funding for the \$3.6 million project is provided by state bond monies. Addison Construction of Petal, Miss., is the contractor.

Other projects underway at the College include the renovation of two classrooms in the Frank Rives Education Building, and fundraising activities for the Memorabilia Room, to be located in Burton Library.

Dr. Sutphin said the additional classroom space in the Rives Building will help accommodate the record number of students currently attending East Central.

"Our enrollment in credit programs – academic, technical and vocational- reached a record 2,739 students this fall, and marks the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year we have experienced an increase in enrollment. The additional classroom space is very much needed but we obviously need even more classrooms to meet the demands placed on us by our growth," Dr. Sutphin stated.

The Rives Building is part of the old Newton County High School the College purchased years ago to be used for classroom and office space. The Building now houses the Mathematics and Computer Science Division, and the Practical Nursing and Emergency Medical Technician programs.

Plans for the Memorabilia Room are well underway, as alumni and friends of the College have contributed approximately \$10,000 to fund the project. The special area will be used to store and exhibit items related to ECCC's 76-year history. Books, film and video tapes will also form a part of the historical collection to be housed in the archives. In addition, the College's display of Alumni Association award recipients is included in the project.

Among the more interesting items in the memorabilia collection is a hat worn by Mrs. Stella Newsome, one of the College's first two instructors. The first ECCC yearbook is also a part of the collection.

Tax-deductible contributions for the Memorabilia Room may be sent to the Office of Foundation and Alumni Relations at the College.

Although much is happening with the growth of the College, Dr. Sutphin said there are still several major physical needs that need to be met.

"Because of our reliance on State bond issues for money to construct major facilities such as the Eddie M. Smith Student Union, we are always behind in meeting our facility needs. The College desperately needs a new science building with expanded capacity for lecture and labs. As enrollment grows, the need for class sections grows, but the available facilities for those classes are not keeping up at the same pace," Dr. Sutphin said.

"Another significant need," he added, "is a band hall for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band. The existing facility is just not adequate to meet the needs of the current band program. A new band hall would meet those needs and also expand the space needed for the vocal program by allowing the current band hall to become the choir room."

Dr. Sutphin said the College's long-range plan outlines many significant needs for the East Central, and the ones previously mentioned only touch the surface.

"As the College continues to grow, new programs and facilities will be required and we look forward to the challenging opportunities that continued growth affords," he stated.



COURT (continued from page 1)

freshman drafting and design major and graduate of Union High School. He is the son of Joyce Blaylock and Larry Blaylock of Union.

Clanton is the daughter of Barry and Melinda Clanton of Lawrence.

A pediatric nursing major and Dean's List Scholar, Clanton is a member of Sigma Sigma Mu Tau medical club, the drama club and the Centralettes. She is also a former member of the ECCC choir.

At Newton County Academy, Clanton was salutatorian of her graduating class and was selected Miss NCA and Homecoming Queen.

She was selected 2002 Most Beautiful, served as a cheerleader and was president of the Honor Society.

During Who's Who elections, she was selected Most Talented, Friendliest and Most Popular.

Clanton will be escorted by Austin Bonds, a sophomore ag major and graduate of Newton High School. He is the son of Bubba Bonds of Lawrence and Delia Bonds of Decatur.

Culpepper is the daughter of Janet and Harry Culpeper of Forest.

A nursing major, Culpepper is a member of the Warrior Wall O' Sound Marching Band Color Guard and the Warrior Corps. She is also involved in the Baptist Student Union, where she serves as a member of The Way, an interpretive movement team.

At Scott Central High School, Culpepper was a member of the Rebel Marching Band and Color Guard, the annual staff and HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America).

Serving as Culpepper's escort will be Brian Sibley, a sophomore radiology major and graduate of Newton County Academy. He is the son of Martha and Henry Sibley of Newton.

Ealy is the daughter of Alexan-der and Willie Ealy of Forest.

A psychology major, Ealy is a

member of the Centralettes, War-rior Corps, Gospel Choir, Drama Club and Baptist Student Union. A Dean's List Scholar, she serves as sophomore class secretary. She was selected a freshman Home-coming maid and also served as freshman class secretary.

At Forest High School she was valedictorian of her graduat-ing class and was named to the FHS Hall of Fame. Ealy was a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Choir and FCCLA. She was also participated in basketball, softball, track and cross country and was a member of the cheerleading squad.

Ealy will be escorted by Todd Body, a sophomore psychology major and graduate of Forest High School. He is the son of Sharonda Body of Forest.

Burton is the daughter of Robert and Charlotte Burton of Decatur.

A broadcast journalism major, Burton is a member of the Centralettes and the drama club.

At Newton County High School, she was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and served as a varsity cheer-leader. She was also a member of Vivace, the show choir, where she served as president for one year. In addition, she was selected Most Talented during Who's Who elections.

Serving as Burton's escort will be Bud Loper, a freshman liberal arts major and graduate of Newton County High School. He is the son of Randy and Beverly Loper of Rose Hill.

Cleveland is the daughter of Jerry and Cindy Cleveland of Union.

A liberal arts major, Cleveland is a member of the Centralettes, the Baptist Student Union and the ECCC Tennis Team. In addition, she serves as freshman class secretary.

At Union High School, Cleveland was salutatorian of her graduating class and was named to the UHS Hall of Fame.

She was selected Home-

coming Queen, Miss UHS and Student Body President. She was a member of Future Business Leaders of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and served as president of the Beta Club. She was selected State Beta Club Secretary for 2003-04. She was also captain of the tennis team and served as a class officer.

Serving as Clanton's escort is Grant Morris, a sophomore music education major and graduate of Neshoba Central High School. He is the son of Jackie and Delbert Matthews of Philadelphia.

Mayes is the daughter of Billy and Jill Mayes of Newton.

A marketing major, she is a member of the Centralettes.

At Newton County Acad-emy, she served as a varsity cheerleader and was a member of the National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America. She was selected Most Beautiful for 2001 and 2003 and during Who's Who elections was voted Most School Spirit and Best Dressed.

Mayes also served as the 2004 Newton County Junior Miss.

Her escort will be Jacob Lowery, a freshman liberal arts major and graduate of Winston Academy. He is the son of Joe and Glynda Lowery of Louisville.

Nelson is the daughter of Joe and Delore Nelson of Forest.

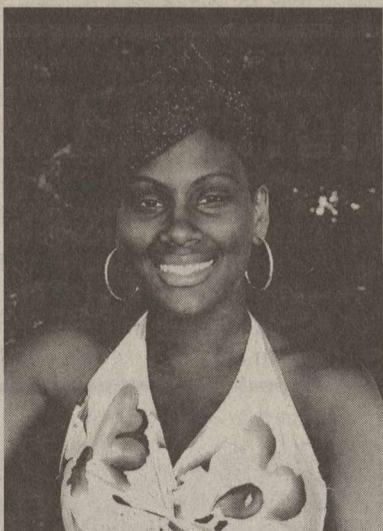
A sports medicine and mas-sage therapy major, Nelson was selected Forest High School's Homecoming Queen and Senior Class President.

She was a member of the Beta Club, Health Occupation Stu-dents of America and the Student Council. She was also selected a class favorite and participated on the basketball, track and cross-country teams.

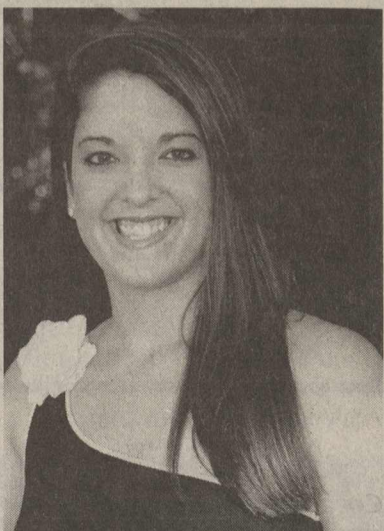
Serving as Nelson's escort will be Jacques Jones, a freshman drafting and design major and graduate of Forest High School. He is the son of Arvanette Jones and Michael Robinson of Forest.



Shelly Ferguson  
QUEEN



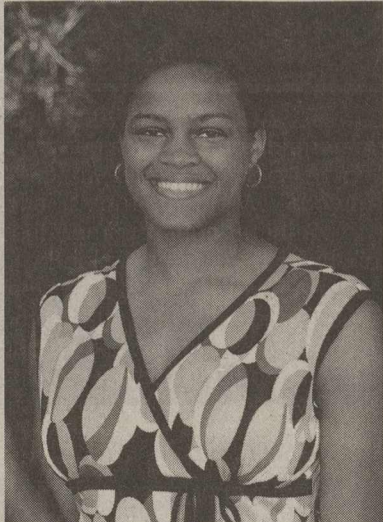
Quintisa "Shay" Moncrief  
MAID-OF-HONOR



Lindsey Clanton  
SOPHOMORE MAID



Stephanie Culpepper  
SOPHOMORE MAID



Amy Ealy  
Sophomore Maid



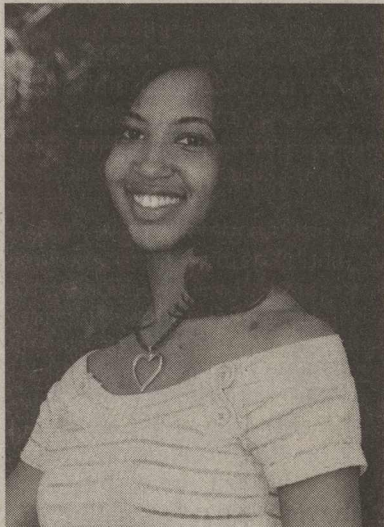
Aly Burton  
FRESHMAN MAID



Clancy Cleveland  
FRESHMAN MAID



Misty Mayes  
FRESHMAN MAID



Pharen Nelson  
FRESHMAN MAID

Phi Theta Kappa Mock Election Results

Total Voting: 321  
George W. Bush: 57%  
John Kerry: 38 %  
Other Candidates: 5%

Theta Xi Thanks Everyone Who Participated  
and Used the Opportunity to Voice an Opinion.

HONOREES (continued from page 1)

cation received at ECJC."

After receiving his associate's degree at East Central, Hollingsworth continued his education at Mississippi State University where he received bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics. He later earned a doctoral degree in mathematics from Rice University.

Since his retirement, Dr. Hollingsworth and his wife of 44 years, the former Elsie Johnson (also an ECCC alumnus) of Decatur spend a lot of their time with the South Georgia Sacred Heart Singing Convention, of which Dr. Hollingsworth has twice served as president and once as co-treasurer.

They also enjoy spending more time with their two sons and daughter. Randy Hollingsworth, 43, is a restaurant consultant in Atlanta, Georgia. Angela Hollingsworth Benton, 41, resides in Commerce, Ga., and is employed at technology solutions manager at BellSouth. Bill

Hollingsworth, 29, is a graduate student in computer science at Cambridge University in England.

**Ann Hunter Burkes**

What do ECCC alumni Ann Hunter Burkes (Class of 1963) of Decatur, her father, the late Homer Hunter, and her uncle, the late Frank Hunter, all have in common, aside from being family? When Burkes was named East Central Community College's Alumna of the Year for 2004, she became the third member of her family to be recognized as the College's outstanding alumnus.

"My father was 'Alumnus of the Year' in 1960," Burkes said. "As far as I know, we are the only father and daughter to receive the award."

Frank Hunter was named Alumnus of the Year in 1983. Homer Hunter also received a Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994.

Burkes grew up next door to the campus, received her associate's degree from East Central in

1963 and later returned to serve 32 years as the College's librarian.

"As long as I've had conscious memory, I have had memories of East Central," Burkes said. "As a child, our family activities centered around the College. We would attend ball games and May Day celebrations. I can even remember roller-skating on the sidewalks of the campus!"

"I thought everybody spent their Saturday nights watching Denver Brackeen and others play basketball," she said. "That is what our family did."

After graduating from Decatur High School, Burkes enrolled at ECJC. She has many memories of her college days.

"I remember the commuter room," Burkes said. "It was a little, tiny room in Newton Hall. There were a few chairs and lockers and a bathroom. It was a place for commuter students to visit between classes."

Burkes also has memories of attending chapel.

She said, "Each person was assigned a seat for the entire semester when they registered for classes. So you wanted to be in the registration line with someone you didn't mind sitting by each day in chapel!"

"Chapel was mandatory and if you missed three times you were sent before the discipline committee."

She also has fond memories of her instructors.

She said, "I was the 'Sis-A-Boom' in Dr. (Richard) Ethridge's class. The 'Sis-A-Boom' would have to tell him where he left off the day before and also was the object of any examples he might give during class."

Burkes said she thought the name "Sis-A-Boom" was selected in an earlier class when the person in that position was also a cheerleader!

"During Miss Una Harris' class, I learned to write fast and to outline properly, which helped me to excel in my classes after I went to senior college," Burkes said.

Burkes was also a member of the Warrior Band, Wesley Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa international honor society.

After graduating from East Central, Burkes attended Delta State University for one semester and then transferred to the University of Southern Mississippi where she received her bachelor's degree in English.

Upon receiving her degree, Burkes taught one year at Hickory High School and served three years as librarian in Meridian elementary schools. It was at that time, she learned of the opening at East Central.

"I was eating at a Meridian restaurant one day when I saw Denver Brackeen who was acting Academic Dean at the time," said Burkes. "He mentioned that the College was looking for a librarian and asked if I wanted a job. I really thought he was kidding at the time. I had only been out of college four years and hadn't even started on my master's degree."

"My Uncle Frank called me later to ask if I was going to take the job. After I found out Dean Brackeen wasn't joking, I accepted the job. I later completed my master's and educational specialist degrees."

During her 32 years as the college's librarian, Burkes has

seen many changes.

When she became librarian in 1969, the library was located in what is currently the W. Arno Vincent Administration Building.

"Books were housed mostly in the area that is now the business office," she said. "We primarily had books and magazines and just a few pieces of audio visual materials. As funds were available and equipment more accessible, we began to get more things."

Burkes was also involved in the design of Burton Library in the early seventies and was very much a part of the computer revolution of the nineties that has changed the way many services are offered through the library.

In addition to her duties as librarian, Bukes also served as an advisor to Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college.

She became a co-advisor of Theta Xi Chapter in the fall of 1981 when then-college president Dr. Charles Wright asked her to serve with faculty members Sara Heard and Rudolph Mayes. When Heard retired, Burkes served with Mayes until he retired. Dr. Shelby Harris succeeded Mayes. Burkes and Harris served as co-advisors for 20 years.

During Burkes tenure, Theta Xi Chapter had two Academic All-Americans, three Guistwhite Scholars, and several students who made Mississippi All-Academic Teams.

Burkes was also very much involved in the planning of Homecoming while she was employed at East Central and continues to be involved as a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Since her retirement in 2001, Burkes has been involved in various community activities.

"Every Friday I work at the Newton County Historical and Genealogical Society," Burkes said. "We have a new location in the old Newton County Jail Building. We are very proud of this facility. Bess Hollingsworth, who is also a retired librarian and EC graduate, and I have been organizing and color coding the different collections."

"I am also beginning a three-year term as Regent for the local DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Chapter and I am chairman of the state scrapbook committee."

In addition, Burkes is involved in the Decatur Chamber of Commerce and serves part-time as the Newton County Schools Public Relations Officer.

Burkes is a member of the Newton County Retired Education Personnel, the Mississippi Retired Education Personnel and the University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association. She has served as a scholastic judge for local Junior Miss programs and a volunteer judge for Phi Theta Kappa International.

Among her honors are the 2002 MS/LA Region Most Distinguished Alumnus for Phi Theta Kappa, the 2002 Dr. Shelby Harris Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Award and the 2002 Phi Theta Kappa Mosal Award for Leadership. In 2000, the Ann H. Burkes Phi Theta Kappa Endowed Scholarship was established in her honor.

Burkes and her husband, Roger, live in Decatur.

(SEE RELATED HOMECOMING ARTICLES ON PAGES 3 AND 5)

The Tom Tom is the official campus newspaper of East Central Community College in Decatur, Miss. It is printed three times a semester by the Office of Public Information. For more information you may contact the staff at P.O. Box 129, Decatur, Miss., 39327, Ph. 635-2111, ext. 242, or toll free 1-877-462-3222.

Accreditation

East Central Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone Number 404-679-4501) to award the Associate Degree.

Non-Discrimination

East Central Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or handicap. The college is in compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Right to Know Campus Security Act of 1990.

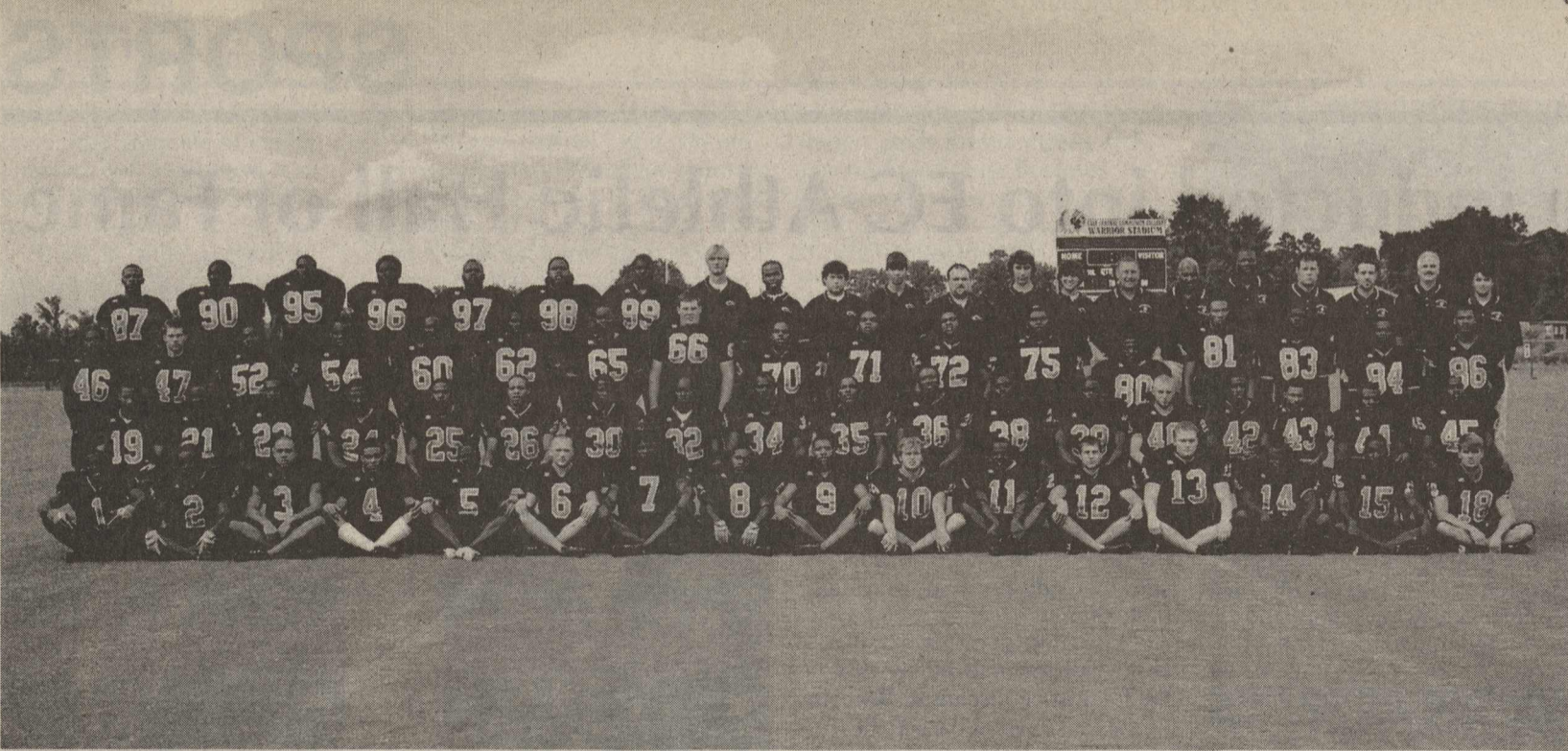
Sponsors are Bubby Johnston and Maria McLeod.  
Staff members are Bradley Cook, Narell Monroe,  
Lacey McAdory and Stephanie Culpepper



# Mann, Pouncey to be inducted into EC Athletic Hall of Fame

See HALL OF FAME, page 4





## ECCC Warrior Football Team

Members of the East Central Community College Warrior football team and their respective high schools include (first row, from left) wide receiver (#1) Derrick Harris, Union; fullback (#2) Kelvin Horne, Northeast Lauderdale; quarterback (#3) Robbie Morse, Walton County (Defuniak Springs, Fla.); strong safety (#4) Tony Edison of Collins; tailback (#5) Terrance McFadden, American Heritage (Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.); wide receiver (#6) Chris Smith, Ridgeland; defensive end (#7) Mantrell Ashford, Louisville; fullback (#8) Clinton Thomas, Ripley; strong safety (#9) Cedric Gray, Scott Central; free safety (#10) Jay McMillin, Winston Acaemy; linebacker (#11) Paul Tolbert, Clinch County (Homerville, Ga.); free safety (#12) Anthony Stanford, Louisville; tight end (#13) Cameron Tawater, Philadelphia; linebacker (#14) Sed Eichelberger, Noxapater; quarterback/wide receiver (#15) Jarius Neal, Pickens County (Tuscaloosa, Ala.); kicker/punter (#18) Ryan Gale, Oak Mountain (Birmingham, Ala.); wide receiver (#19) Chris Lark, Pickens County (Reform, Ala.); cornerback (#21) Joe Mingo, Clinch County (Homerville, Ga.); linebacker (#23) Hedrick Ficklin, South Leake; tailback (#24) Darryl Mapp, Newton County; cornerback (#25) Nick Robinson, Morton; cornerback (#26) Marcus Arrington, Heidelberg; linebacker (#30) Derrell Ashford, Louisville; tailback (#32) JiMichael Gordon, Hillcrest (Tuscaloosa, Ala.); fullback (#34) Justin Ficklin, Morton; linebacker (#35) Derek Mapp, Newton County; defensive end (#36) Courtney Coleman, Louisville; linebacker (#38) Derrick Qualls, Forest; cornerback (#39) RayShawn Smith, Paul W. Bryant (Tuscaloosa, Ala.); linebacker (#40) T.J. Rushing,, Neshoba Central; free safety (#42) Brian McNair, Florence; cornerback (#43) Jonathan Thornton, Morton; defensive end (#44) Greg Hathorn, Louisville; linebacker (#45) Prentiss Vivians, Forest; linebacker (#46) Maurice McDonald, West Lauderdale; linebacker (#47) Ken Gordon, Morton; center (#52) Nathan Weaver, Columbus; offensive guard (#54) Josh Moore, Neshoba Central; offensive guard (#60) Leroy Bowden, Newton; offensive tackle (#62) Jimmy Coleman, Forest; offensive tackle (#65) Derrick Cleveland, Newton County; offensive tackle (#66) James Ozment, Sumter Academy (Eppes, Ala.); offensive guard (#70) Montero Baker, Columbus; center (#71) Javares Dobbins, Tuscaloosa County (Tuscaloosa, Ala.); offensive tackle (#72) Jimmy Spencer, Hillcrest (Tuscaloosa, Ala.); offensive guard (#75) Josh Curry, Tuscaloosa Central (Tuscaloosa, Ala.); wide receiver (#80) Letez Fortune, South Leake; tight end (#81) Willie Hickmon, Lake; wide receiver (#83) Alex West, Southeast Lauderdale; wide receiver (#84) Cornelius Caraway, Newton; wide receiver (#86) Eric Lyons, Philadelphia; defensive back (#87) Ivon Hickmon, Lake; noseguard (#90) Henry Smith, Aliceville (Aliceville, Ala.); linebacker (#95) Trey Hopkins, Noxapater; defensive tackle (#96) Kendrick Perry, Hillcrest (Tuscaloosa, Ala.); defensive tackle (#97) Michael Johnson, Newton County; defensive tackle (#98) Greg Cooley, Heidelberg; noseguard (#99) George Maddox, Tuscaloosa County (Tuscaloosa, Ala.); managers Patrick Woodward, Winston Academy; Telly Carter, Noxapater; Josh Crowson, Winston Academy; Chris Ryals, Kemper Academy; Michael Fondren, Union; Daniel Wood, Kemper Academy; and Patrick Leone, Winston Academy; and coaches Terry Underwood (head), James Keys, Terry Evans, Cary Melvin, Chris Boone and Tim Coats; and athletic trainer Derrick Jones, Rush Sports Medicine Team.

## Warriors Trounce East Mississippi 44-7

East Central Community College's offense had its most productive outing of the 2004 season Thursday night, compiling 458 yards en route to a 44-7 thrashing of visiting East Mississippi Community College at Warrior Stadium.

The Warrior defense –which held the Lions to minus rushing yardage - also contributed to the scoring onslaught by contributing a touchdown and forcing a Lion safety.

With the win, East Central improved to 3-2 overall while East Mississippi remained winless in five tries.

Warrior head coach Terry Underwood offered words of praise for his offensive and defensive units following the lopsided victory:

"I thought our offense had its best game of the year. We're getting better and Robbie is getting more settled in our offense. Our offensive line played its best game of the year. They blocked well and we ran the ball well.

"Our defense was also outstanding except for the big passing play when they scored. We've got a great defense; that's our backbone. Not taking anything away from our offense, but that's where it's got to start."

East Central scored first in the longtime rivalry when tailback Terrance McFadden of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., crossed the goal line from one-yard out on the Warriors' opening drive. Winston Academy product Jay McMillin added the PAT.

The key play on the nine-play, 67-yard drive was Ken Gordon's 47-yard run on a fake punt that

gave EC possession on the Lions' nine-yard-line. Gordon is a freshman from Morton.

East Mississippi tied the contest on their first play following the Warrior score, when quarterback Chas Brown of Columbus hooked up with wide receiver Julius Randle of Starkville on a 77-yard pass play. Shawn Millison of Hernando added the PAT.

East Central took the lead for good on a safety late in the first quarter when Lion running back Cordae Campbell of Meridian slipped in the end zone trying to avoid Warrior defenders.

The Warriors tacked on 13 points in the second stanza, beginning with McMillin's 26-yard field goal. Quarterback Robbie Morse of Defuniak Springs, Fla., connected with speedy wide receiver Derrick Harris of Union on a 41-yard scoring pass play midway in the stanza, and McMillin added a 32-yard field goal late in second period. McMillin also booted the PAT following Morse's touchdown pass.

ECCC running back Darryl Mapp, a product of Newton County High School, added his name to the list of scorers as he tallied on a four-yard scamper early in the third period. McMillin kicked the PAT.

The six-play, 46-yard march was set up when Warrior corner-

back Marcus Arrington of Heidelberg picked off Brown's pass near midfield.

East Central put 15 points on the scoreboard in the final stanza – a 33-yard field goal by McMillin, a 30-yard run by tailback JiMichael Gordon of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and a 20-yard fumble return by backup linebacker Ken Gordon. PATs were not successful following the two touchdowns.

East Central had 24 first downs, compared to just four for East Mississippi.

McFadden was again the workhorse for the Warrior offense, as he rambled for 141 yards on 25 carries. Morse also had a productive evening, as the freshman signal caller completed 11 of 26 passes for 197 yards. He had one interception. Harris was the top receiver with four catches for 82 yards.

The Lions had minus 40 yards rushing on 27 carries. Brown completed seven of 18 passes for 109 yards. He had one interception.

East Central returns to South Division action this week to host Copiah-Lincoln Community College Saturday afternoon for Homecoming. Kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m. at Warrior Stadium. Co-Lin (1-4) fell to Gulf Coast 38-35 Thursday night in Perkinston

| Score By Quarters |   |    |   |    |       |
|-------------------|---|----|---|----|-------|
|                   | 1 | 2  | 3 | 4  | Final |
| EMCC              | 7 | 0  | 0 | 0  | 7     |
| ECCC              | 9 | 13 | 7 | 15 | 44    |

## ECCC Soccer Warriors Defeat East Mississippi

East Central Community College's soccer team snapped a three-game losing streak by edging non-division foe East Mississippi Community College 2-1 Tuesday afternoon in Scooba.

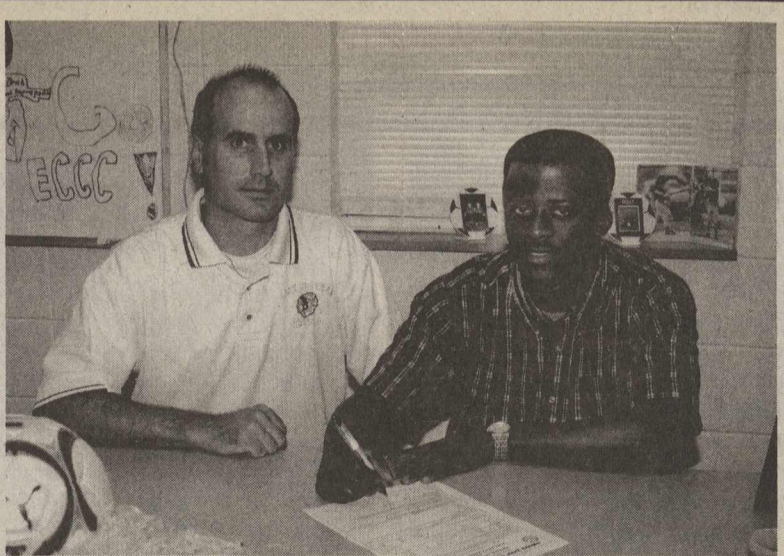
The Soccer Warriors, who improved to 4-4-1 under sixth-year head coach Kenneth Thompson, scored on goals by freshman

Kyle Vowell of Neshoba Central and sophomore David Prewitt of Clarkdale. Prewitt was also credited with an assist on Vowell's goal and freshman Trey Whitehead of Southeast Lauderdale provided an assist when Prewitt scored.

Alan Robertson scored for the Soccer Lions, who fell to 0-7.

Robbie Greco was credited with an assist.

Next up for East Central is a non-division match-up with Itawamba Community College (1-7-2), scheduled at 3 p.m. Friday on the Decatur campus. The match-up was originally scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday in Decatur.



### Former Soccer Warrior Inks With DSU

Former East Central Community College soccer standout Cyrus Doe is continuing his athletic career at Delta State University in Cleveland. Doe, a native of Monrovia, Liberia, is shown signing a national letter of intent with DSU as ECCC soccer coach Kenneth Thompson looks on. Doe, a midfielder/forward, led the Soccer Warriors in assists during the 2003 campaign and was named an NJCAA Academic All-American.

### Presents Matching Gift to ECCC Foundation

Stephen W. Brown (left), account manager at BellSouth, is shown presenting a check to ECCC President Dr. Phil Sutphin. The check represents a matching gift of personal donations made by employees through the BellSouth Matching Gift Program. The ECCC Foundation encourages donors to seek matching gifts from their employers when available.



### HALL OF FAME (continued from page 3)

finalized the deal. Dan Chatwood was the head coach and I was hired to be his assistant. I was also named head baseball coach and physical education instructor."

Pouncey served one year as Coach Chatwood's assistant. The Warriors finished 4-5-1 in 1966, and following the season Chatwood was hired to lead the football program at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

Pouncey was named as Chatwood's successor, and the late Billy Wayne Baucum served as Pouncey's assistant. The Warriors experienced a successful season during the 1967 campaign, winning the North Division title with a 7-3 record, which included impressive victories over Hinds (41-25), Co-Lin (27-6), Itawamba (42-14) and Northwest (41-15).

The Warriors struggled the following two seasons, but experienced back-to-back 7-3 seasons during the 1970 and 1971 campaigns.

The 1970 team also shared the North Division title with East Mississippi, and qualified for the state playoffs on a flip of the coin. The state championship game was played in Decatur with Pearl River winning the contest 27-8. East Central posted key wins during the 1970 campaign over Jones (34-30), Itawamba (10-9), Northwest (14-13), Holmes (28-14), Delta (13-7) and Southwest (27-13), and completely handled Northeast (52-15).

Although the loss to Pearl River for the state title was a memorable contest, it was a close contest with Gulf Coast in 1971 that Pouncey said stands out most in his coaching career:

"Gulf Coast was ranked number one in the nation, and we were ranked 11<sup>th</sup>. The game was played in Pascagoula, and we had the game won until they completed a long pass for a touchdown with 15 seconds remaining. Our defensive back was in perfect position, but the Gulf Coast quarterback threw a perfect pass and the receiver made a great catch. We lost the game 28-27."

Another contest that stands out to the former ECCC head mentor was a contest held later the same season with Itawamba, a game played in hurricane-like conditions:

"The weather was awful but we managed to lead by three touchdowns at halftime. We scored another touchdown at the beginning of the third quarter, and their coach decided they had had enough and left the field. We won the game 30-0, and it was the first and only time that I was involved in a game where the opposition left the field before the game was over!"

Another "memorable" contest also involved an Itawamba team, this time in 1975.

"The game was played in Decatur," Pouncey explained, "and both teams had winning records. With the score tied at 26-26 and time running out, Itawamba tried a 45-yard field goal. It looked like it was going to be good, especially since a strong wind was behind the kick. But the ball hit the cross bar and bounced straight back, and the kick was not successful. We felt fortunate to tie the game."

East Central completed the season with a 7-2-2 mark, and captured Pouncey's third division championship.

His Warriors again enjoyed success in the mid to late 70's, reeling off winning campaigns in 1975 (7-2-2); 1976 (6-4-1); and 1978 (6-3-1). It was during this period when East Central left the North Division and began competing in the South Division of the MACJC.

East Central dipped below .500 during Pouncey's remaining three seasons, with his final squad posting a 4-7 mark in 1981. The same year marked the end of Pouncey's coaching career.

In addition to the three division championships previously mentioned, Pouncey led the Warriors to three division runner-up titles (1971, 1978, 1981) during his 15 years as head coach. Pouncey was honored for his success on the gridiron by being selected to coach MACJC All-Star squads in 1971, 1975 and 1978.

In addition to his duties as head coach, Pouncey taught several academic classes along with physical education courses. But he admitted his "love" was coaching football:

"I thoroughly enjoyed coaching, and especially the association with my players. What I missed more than anything when I got out of coaching was the camaraderie I had with the players. Sometimes I would be like a father to them; other times I would have to be a mean you-know-what. My role would obviously change depending on the situation. A lot of the boys I coached became some of the closest friends I've ever had or will have. I also enjoyed the association with my assistants (Baucum; Willie "Teeny" Coats; David Bradberry; Chris Harris; and Freeman Horton), and the other coaches in the junior college association."

He added, "To me, junior college ball was very exciting; and we were fortunate to have many great players on our teams throughout the years. A lot of them were overlooked in high school by the universities and four-year colleges and were trying to make their mark on the junior college level so the bigger colleges would give them another look. And many players did continue their careers at other colleges when they left East Central."

He said he does have one regret during his tenure at East Central, and it involves the College's non-participation in the National Junior College Athletic Association.

"When I coached at East Central, we were not allowed to join the NJCAA, which meant that none of our athletes could qualify as All-Americans. I can think of numerous players that could have made All-American had we paid our dues to the Association. It's a shame that so many deserving athletes were denied the national recognition that they deserved," Pouncey stated.

When he left the coaching profession in 1982, Pouncey went into private business and operated Pouncey Hardware in Decatur from 1982-88. He was Newton County Superintendent of Education from 1988-92, followed by two years' service as assistant principal at Bay Springs High School. He served as Superintendent of Education for the Enterprise School District from 1994 to 2001, and has since retired, devoting much of his time to family and community projects.

He and his wife Alice, who retired in May 2001 after serving 32 years on the faculty at ECCC, have three grown children: Alicia, Amy and Nick. Alicia lives in New Orleans where she established a company called Aureus Research, which monitors drug studies for pharmaceutical companies. Amy is an instructor in the Child Development Technology Program at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson. She is married to Russ Lewis and they have two sons, Landon and Larson. They live in Brookhaven. Nick is a pharmaceutical sales representative for AstraZeneca. He and his wife, Denise, have a son, Carson, and are expecting another child next March. They reside in Brandon.

When he is not "spoiling" his grandchildren, Pouncey tends to his duties as president of the Newton County Retired Teachers Association and as a trustee at Decatur United Methodist Church. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Mid-Mississippi Development District and is a member of the Decatur American Legion Post #89. Pouncey previously served on the ECCC Board of Trustees and is a former member of numerous professional organizations.

Pouncey is also a military veteran, having served with the Mississippi Army National Guard from 1956-62.

A graduate of Enterprise High School, Pouncey holds a Master of Education degree in School Administration from Livingston University; a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education from the University of Southern Mississippi; and an Associate of Arts in Secondary Education from Jones County Junior College.

**It's not just a yearbook, it's YOUR BOOK!**  
**The Wo-He-Lo staff will be "Bringing Good Things to Life" in the 2005 yearbook, and we want you to be one of the good things we bring to life. Be sure to have your picture taken on Wednesday, October 6 from 7:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Gordon Room of Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.**





# ECCC Warrior Soccer Match Summaries

## ECCC Soccer Match Summaries

|                                      |  |  |  |                           |  |                    |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| <b>Match 1</b>                       |  |  |  | <b>August 28, 2004</b>    |  |                    |  |
| East Mississippi 1 @ East Central 4  |  |  |  | Records                   |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EM 0-1-0                  |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EC 1-0-0                  |  |                    |  |
| Scoring Time                         |  |  |  | Scorer                    |  | Assist             |  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> minute               |  |  |  | EC #08 David Prewitt      |  | #15 Diego Perez    |  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EC #02 Taylor Nichols     |  | None               |  |
| 42 <sup>nd</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EC #14 Kyle Vowell        |  | #06 Micah Lanier   |  |
| 79 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EM #03 Robbie Grecco      |  | None               |  |
| 82 <sup>nd</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EC #14 Kyle Vowell        |  | #08 David Prewitt  |  |
| <b>Match 2</b>                       |  |  |  | <b>August 31, 2004</b>    |  |                    |  |
| East Central 1 @ Mississippi Delta 3 |  |  |  | Records                   |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EC 1-1-0                  |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | MD 1-0-1                  |  |                    |  |
| Scoring Time                         |  |  |  | Scorer                    |  | Assist             |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | MD #09 Paul Mahoney       |  | #24 Quintiss Smith |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EC #06 Micah Lanier       |  | None               |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | MD #11 A. J. Barnes       |  | #19 Kyle Sheppard  |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | MD #19 Kyle Sheppard      |  | #09 Paul Mahoney   |  |
|                                      |  |  |  |                           |  | #11 A. J. Barnes   |  |
| <b>Match 3</b>                       |  |  |  | <b>September 1, 2004</b>  |  |                    |  |
| East Central 2 @ Itawamba 2          |  |  |  | Records                   |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EC 1-1-1                  |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | ICC 0-2-1                 |  |                    |  |
| Scoring Time                         |  |  |  | Scorer                    |  | Assist             |  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EC #08 David Prewitt      |  | #07 Jose Castillo  |  |
| 65 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | ICC #18 Johnny Bruce      |  | None               |  |
| 78 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EC #15 Diego Perez        |  | #04 Jason Lopez    |  |
| 90 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | ICC #12 Mitchell Bulley   |  | None               |  |
| <b>Match 4</b>                       |  |  |  | <b>September 8, 2004</b>  |  |                    |  |
| Holmes 1 @ East Central 2            |  |  |  | Records                   |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | HCC 1-2-0                 |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EC 2-1-1                  |  |                    |  |
| Scoring Time                         |  |  |  | Scorer                    |  | Assist             |  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> minute               |  |  |  | #09 Trey Whitehead        |  | #10 Luis Araya     |  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> minute               |  |  |  | #07 Jose Castillo         |  | #15 Diego Perez    |  |
| 80 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | #09 Michael Newton        |  | None               |  |
| <b>Match 5</b>                       |  |  |  | <b>September 11, 2004</b> |  |                    |  |
| Co-Lin 1 @ East Central 4            |  |  |  | Records                   |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | CL 0-6-0                  |  | 0-2                |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EC 3-1-1                  |  | 1-0                |  |
| Scoring Time                         |  |  |  | Scorer                    |  | Assist             |  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EC #08 David Prewitt      |  | #07 Jose Castillo  |  |
|                                      |  |  |  |                           |  | #04 Jason Lopez    |  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EC #15 Diego Perez        |  | #08 David Prewitt  |  |
| 48 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | CL #08 David Furlow       |  | None               |  |
| 57 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EC #04 Jason Lopez        |  | #08 David Prewitt  |  |
| 88 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EC #07 Jose Castillo      |  | #12 Ryan Stewart   |  |
| <b>Match 6</b>                       |  |  |  | <b>September 22, 2004</b> |  |                    |  |
| East Central 0 @ Gulf Coast 3        |  |  |  | Records                   |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EC 3-2-1                  |  | 1-1                |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | GC 5-3                    |  | 3-0                |  |
| Scoring Time                         |  |  |  | Scorer                    |  | Assist             |  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | GC #01 David Brentz       |  | none listed        |  |
| 35 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | GC #22 Jason Steele       |  | none listed        |  |
| 62 <sup>nd</sup> minute              |  |  |  | GC #03 Freddy Howe        |  | NA                 |  |
| <b>Match 7</b>                       |  |  |  | <b>September 24, 2004</b> |  |                    |  |
| East Central 0 @ Meridian 4          |  |  |  | Records                   |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EC 3-3-1                  |  | 1-2                |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | MCC 4-3                   |  | 2-1                |  |
| Scoring Time                         |  |  |  | Scorer                    |  | Assist             |  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | MCC #20 Travis Brown      |  | none               |  |
| 39 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | MCC #20 Travis Brown      |  | none               |  |
| 75 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | MCC #03 Chad Brunson      |  | none               |  |
| 86 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | MCC #20 Travis Brown      |  | none               |  |
| <b>Match 8</b>                       |  |  |  | <b>September 25, 2004</b> |  |                    |  |
| Jones @ East Central                 |  |  |  | Records                   |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EC 3-4-1                  |  | 1-3                |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | JC 4-1-3                  |  | 3-1-1              |  |
| Scoring Time                         |  |  |  | Scorer                    |  | Assist             |  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> minute               |  |  |  | JJC #33 Jerred Clark      |  | #03 Ben Pace       |  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> minute               |  |  |  | EC #8 David Prewitt       |  | None               |  |
| 37 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | JJC #10 Tim Shoemake      |  | #03 Ben Pace       |  |
| 45 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | JJC #33 Jerred Clark      |  | #10 Tim Shoemake   |  |
| 84 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | JJC #38 Josh Satcher      |  | #11 Lee Hubbard    |  |
| 86 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | JJC #21 Matt Reid         |  | #38 Josh Satcher   |  |
| <b>Match 9</b>                       |  |  |  | <b>September 28, 2004</b> |  |                    |  |
| East Central @ East Mississippi      |  |  |  | Records                   |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EC 4-4-1                  |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EM 0-7-0                  |  |                    |  |
| Scoring Time                         |  |  |  | Scorer                    |  | Assist             |  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EC #14 Kyle Vowell        |  | #08 David Prewitt  |  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EC #08 David Prewitt      |  | #09 Trey Whitehead |  |
| 47 <sup>th</sup> minute              |  |  |  | EM #21 Alan Robertson     |  | #03 Robbie Greco   |  |
| <b>Match 10</b>                      |  |  |  | <b>October 1, 2004</b>    |  |                    |  |
| Itawamba @ East Central              |  |  |  | Records Entering          |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | ICC 1-7-2                 |  |                    |  |
|                                      |  |  |  | EC 4-4-1                  |  |                    |  |



## ECCC Soccer Warriors

Members of the East Central Community College soccer team for the 2004 season and their respective high schools include (seated, from left) midfielder Taylor Nichols (#2) of Newton County, midfielder Zach Joiner (#3) of Carthage, defender/midfielder Daniel Warren (#5) of Clarkdale, midfielder Micah Lanier (#6) of Newton County, and forward/kicker Jose Castillo (#7) of Raleigh; (kneeling, from left) midfielder David Prewitt (#8) of Clarkdale, defender Trey Whitehead (#9) of Southeast Lauderdale, midfielder Luis Araya (#10) of Forest, midfielder/defender Ryan Stewart (#12) of Northeast Lauderdale, and defender Jared Weir (#13) of Clarkdale; and (back row, from left) manager Ben Snyder of Northeast Lauderdale, midfielder Kyle Vowell (#14) of Neshoba Central, forward Diego Perez (#15) of Columbia, South America, kicker/defender Ragan Denham of Northeast Lauderdale, midfielder Austin Herrington (#17) of Neshoba Central, defender Zach Kilpatrick (#18) of Neshoba Central, and head coach Kenneth Thompson.



## Cheering for the Warriors

Members of the East Central Community College cheerleading squad for



# ECCC Athletic Department Adopts New Drug Test Policy

By **BRADLEY COOK**  
The Tom-Tom Reporter

The Athletic Department at East Central Community College has mandated a new drug testing policy beginning this semester. Under the new policy, every athlete, cheerleader, student assistant, and manager is required to undergo a drug screening as a part of pre-season physicals. The participant is also required to sign a release form before the examination. This policy differs from only random screenings that were performed in the past. As Athletic Director Terry Underwood explains, the new procedure will continue the goal of a drug free program.

“Every person, whether it be player, manager, or cheerleader, that participates in an athletic program at East Central Community College will take a drug screening before the respective season. Then during the year we will continue to run our random tests unannounced.” After a student has tested positive and no error is found, he or she will meet with the Athletic Director, Head Coach, and Vice President for Student Services. The legal guardian of the student will also be notified. The student will then be tested again at a unannounced time. After a second positive test by an athlete, the athlete will be released from the team, lose all athletic scholarships, and be removed from campus

housing on a permanent basis. The athlete will be banned from all ECCC athletic teams, varsity and intramural. He or she will be encouraged to seek counseling and treatment for this problem. Coach Underwood assures that the procedure has received no opposition from any athletes. “We’ve had no problems with anyone. They sign the release form before they can play, so each one knows the procedure. I can say everything has gone great so far and hopefully will continue.” The tests indicate use of marijuana, cocaine, phencyclidine, amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepenes, and opiates. The tests are performed by an independent company.

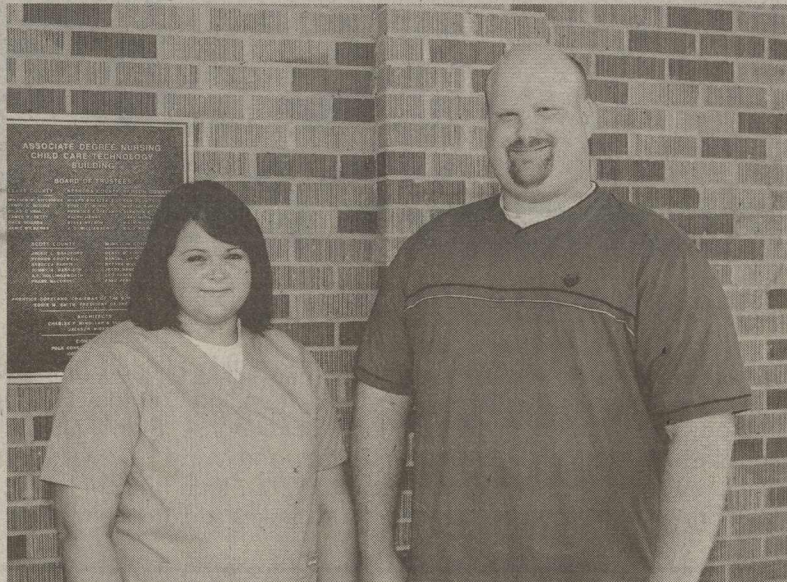
# ASNEC selects officers for 2004-05 term

By **SHONDA NOWELL**  
Special to The Tom-Tom

The fall semester was launched with excitement for the Association of Student Nurses at East Central (ASNEC). The first two meetings have proven that this organization can expect a successful year. At the first meeting, students gathered to pay membership dues, discuss bylaws and become familiar with the history of ASNEC. All students seemed to be excited and ready to serve the community as they signed up for project committees for this term. All projects are aimed towards helping others in the community and at East Central.



Serving as officers for the Association of Student Nurses at East Central are (seated, from left) Gina Nazary of Carthage, secretary, and Alan Krajewski of Louisville, president; and (standing, from left) Shonda nowell of Philadelphia, reporter; Joanna Page of Union, vice president; and Bethany Garrison of Decatur, treasurer.

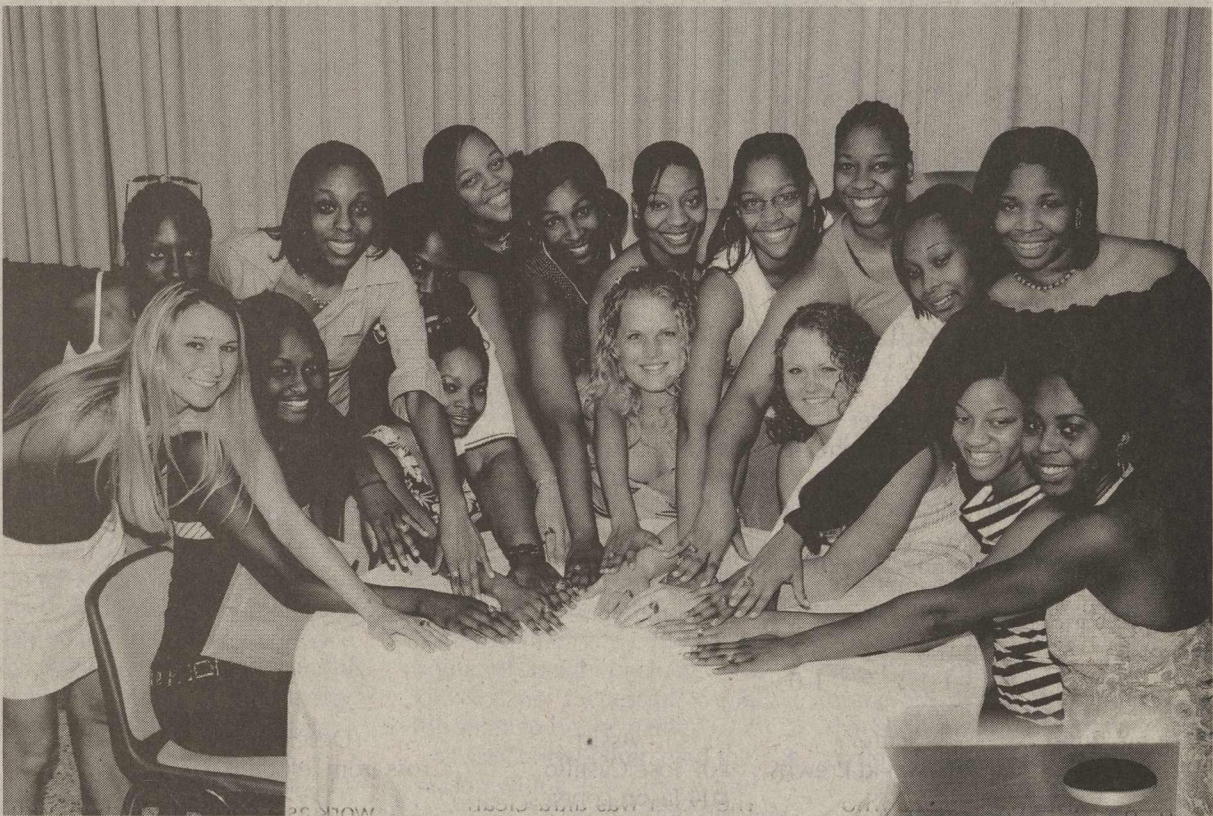


Dana Roberson (left) of Carthage and Alan Krajewski of Louisville were recently selected by second-year ADN students for the Mississippi Association of Student Nurses Hall of Fame.



## ECCC Centralettes

Providing entertainment during halftime activities of East Central Community College football games are the Centralettes, the dance line of the Warrior Wall O’ Sound Marching Band. Members include, (first row, from left) Amanda Dickson, Newton; Tracy McMahan, Little Rock; Clancy Cleveland, Union; Misty Leigh Mayes, Newton; Aly Burton, Decatur; Amanda Wilcher, Edinburg; and Jennifer Key, Philadelphia; (second row, from left) Ashley Franklin, Union; Sherrell Brown, Forest; Madison Brantley and Hali Rainer, both of Union; Lindsey Sessions, Newton; Amanda Dowell, Edinburg; and Jana Sansing, Philadelphia; and (third row, from left) Lindsey Clanton, Lawrence; Quintisa Moncrief, Newton; Jess Davis, Louisville; Morgan Richards, Newton; Amy Ealy, Forest; and Shelly Ferguson, Hickory.



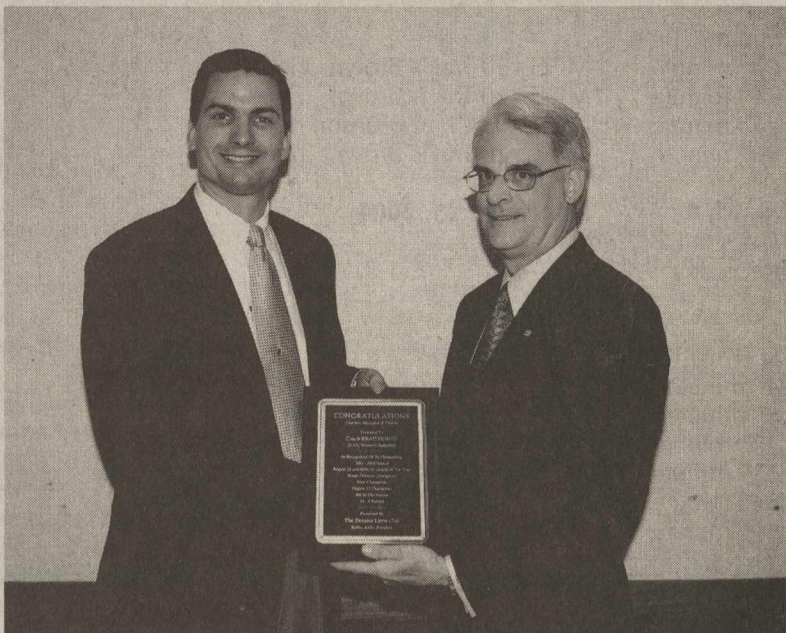
## Proud ECCC Lady Warriors!

Members of the East Central Community College women’s basketball team display championships rings they were presented during a ceremony held June 17 on the Decatur campus. The Lady Warriors won the South Division, MACJC, and Region 23 titles and were Consolation Bracket Runners-Up in the NJCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Championship held in Salina, Kansas. The East Central women completed the 2003-04 campaign with a 31-4 record and were ranked eighth in the final NJCAA poll. Seated from left are Kimyatta Viverette, Lake; Courtney Yates ( student assistant), Nanih Waiya; Miranda Rosar, Neshoba Central; Andrea Chesney (student assistant), Newton County Academy; India Backstrom, Neshoba Central; and Rita Birden, St. Fredrick High School, Monroe, La. Standing from left are Kristin Chaney, Newton County; LaSaundra Harrison, Union; Roxana Rogers, Lake; LaCole Brooks, assistant coach; Krystle Hunter, Noxapater; Britney Burks, Scott Central; Kim Cox, Lake; Ebonee’e Leverette, Forest; Lenore Gray, Newton; Monique Overstreet, South Leake; and Hope Murray, West Jones. Also recognized at the special program were the numerous contributors who helped send the Lady Warriors to the national tournament. Coach Brad Hodge also received a plaque commemorating the team’s success from the Decatur Lions Club. Hodge was named Region 23 and MACJC Women’s Basketball Coach of the Year and most recently was selected MAC (Mississippi Association of Coaches) Community/Junior College Women’s Basketball Coach of the Year.



## Attend PTK Honors Conference

These officers representing East Central Community College’s Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, recently attended a regional mini-honors conference held at Delta State University. Selected as the theme for the 2004-05 honors study topic is Popular Culture: Shaping and Reflecting Who We Are. Students from Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana participated in the six-day meeting, where they discussed ways to incorporate this year’s honor study topic with chapter projects. Participants were also encouraged to become involved in pop culture and learn how it shapes students’ lives. From left are Courtnee Graham of Nanih Waiya, chapter president; Faith Hessenius of Louisville, vice president of scholarship; Shana Smith of Union, vice president of leadership; Ginger Vance of Decatur, vice president of service; and ECCC English instructor Debbie Boyd of Meridian, who serves as a Theta Xi advisor.



## Hodge, Lady Warriors Honored

East Central Community College women’s head basketball coach Brad Hodge (left) receives a plaque commemorating his team’s success from ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin on behalf of the Decatur Lions Club. The presentation was made during a program held June 17 during which team members received rings in recognition of their championship season. The Lady Warriors won the South Division, MACJC and Region 23 titles and were Consolation Bracket runners-up in the NJCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Championship held in Salina, Kansas. The East Central women completed the 2003-04 season with a 31-4 record and were ranked eighth in the final NJCAA poll. In recognition of his team’s success, Hodge was named Region 23 and MACJC Women’s Basketball Coach of the Year and was selected Mississippi Association of Coaches Community/Junior College Women’s Basketball Coach of the Year.



# LeJeune, Brackeen receive ‘Instructor of the Year’ awards

East Central Community College faculty members Sharon LeJeune and Wanda Brackeen were recently selected by the College's Alumni Association as Academic and Vocational-Technical "Instructors of the Year," respectively.

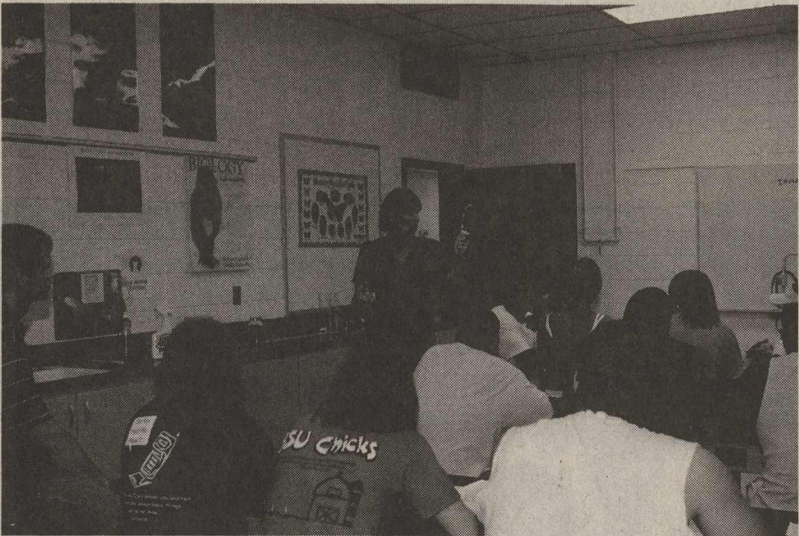
**Sharon LeJeune**

Sharon LeJeune', East Central Community College's "Academic Instructor of the Year" has always loved science. Being able to work with students and share her love of science is why she became a teacher.

For many years, LeJeune wanted to be a medical technologist.

She said, "After I finished my graduate degree, I started teaching adjunct at the University of West Alabama and I loved it (teaching).

"My former college instructors, Dr. Richard and Becky Holland were very influential in my decision to become a teacher.



LeJeune explains lab procedures to students in Biology class.

My parents, Johnny and Valerie Roberson, and my brother, Mike, have also been very influential individuals in my life."

Using life experiences is just one of the ways LeJeune reaches her students.

"I reference life experiences and try to make science concepts relevant to the students. I tell a lot of stories!" she said.

LeJeune said the best thing about teaching is working with students, but it's sometimes challenging motivating students who don't particularly care for science.

"The students are great fun!" she said. "Most of my students are very motivated. They want to do well."

Working in a science department can often be an exciting place.

"We have countless animal stories in our building," LeJeune said. "So many people have donated animals to our department over the years. Many times they have escaped, usually while we were trying to clean their cages or feed them.

"We've had to recapture hamsters, gerbils, and flying squirrels, just to name a few! One day there were two flying squirrels and four science teachers in the mix. The squirrels almost won!" said LeJeune.

Other animals that one may wish to visit in Cross Hall are Iggy the Iguana and Julius the python snake!

LeJeune said being able to work at a community college is great.

"I just can't express how

wonderful it is to work with my colleagues in the science department. Ron Davis is absolutely one of the best administrators I have ever worked with. He really keeps us all together. If we have computer problems, he will walk down the hall and fix them. If we have questions about policy or procedure, Ron always has answers. It doesn't matter what is happening. He really keeps things running smoothly!

"And it's not just Ron, but the others as well. We are truly great friends and we just have a wonderful time together in Cross Hall."

Prior to East Central, LeJeune taught science at Meridian High School where she was selected a STAR teacher, received the Tandy award and was selected for *Who's Who Among American High School Teachers*.

In the summers of 1991 and 1992, LeJeune was selected to participate in the NASA Summer

She serves as co-sponsor of the College's Environmental Club and LeJeune was selected East Central Community College's HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working Toward Academic Excellence) Instructor of the Year in 2004.

LeJeune is a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Meridian and Phi Delta Kappa Honorary Fraternity. She has one daughter, Leslie, 21, an advertising major at the University of Southern Mississippi.

**Wanda Brackeen**

For East Central Community College cosmetology instructor Wanda Brackeen, the 2004 Vocational-Technical Instructor of the Year, cosmetology wasn't supposed to be a life-long career.

"I was working in a finance company and raising a family," Brackeen said. "I really never intended to become a cosmetologist. But my husband's uncle (Denver Brackeen) was working at East Central at the time and he suggested that I go back to school."

Brackeen wanted to become a social worker. But she decided that she would attend cosmetology school at East Central and then earn her social work degree while she was working as a cosmetologist.

"After I finished cosmetology school (ECCC Class of 1978), I opened my own shop," she said. "I started with just the bare minimum thinking that I would go back to school. But I made really good money and I really liked the job. And I have always felt that being a cosmetologist was a little bit like social work!"

Brackeen said she considered becoming an instructor while receiving her initial training.

"After Leslie, my youngest daughter, started Kindergarten, I returned to get my instructor's license, which I received in 1984," she said.

Brackeen taught four years at Hatfield's in Laurel and one year at Final Touch in Meridian before returning to her alma mater six years ago.

"I have always wanted to work at East Central," she said.

Brackeen said continuing her work as a cosmetologist, in addition to being an instructor, is just one of the ways she reaches her students.

"I plan to continue working as a cosmetologist as long as I teach, because I want to be able to tell students the way things really are," Brackeen said. "Not only will I be able to give them State Board expectations, I can give them real world expectations."

According to Brackeen, cosmetology is also a job about helping people.

"If you like to help people, you can fill many roles in this profession," she said. "Not only can you make people look better, you can make them feel better about themselves."

Brackeen said she is also known for "telling it like it is" when it comes to her students work.

"I want them to know their strong and weak points," she said. "I don't lie to them about their work or their ability. And I want them to know that personality counts very much in this profes-

sion. Statistics show that only 10 percent of people go to a hairdresser for his or her ability. The other 90 percent go because of their people skills. No matter how good you are, you won't make it in this profession without a good personality.

"I stress to them that they have to put personal feelings or discomfort aside because the most important person in the world at that time is the lady or gentleman sitting in your chair. If they can do that they'll make a lot of money!"

Teaching cosmetology is "fun every day" for Brackeen.

"As long as I'm teaching, I forget that I'm 54 years old!" she said. "You're around younger people all the time and not just the young, but the young at heart. Most hairdressers just like to have a good time. Most people that go into this field enjoy life and enjoy having a good time.

"I like the activity of this job and being busy. I like the fact that it's not a sit-down job, but constantly demanding. I like being 'the boss.' I'm hyper and I like the fact that I don't get bored. I have 20 people to supervise at one time, so I'm constantly moving and doing something different and I like that.



Sharon LeJeune

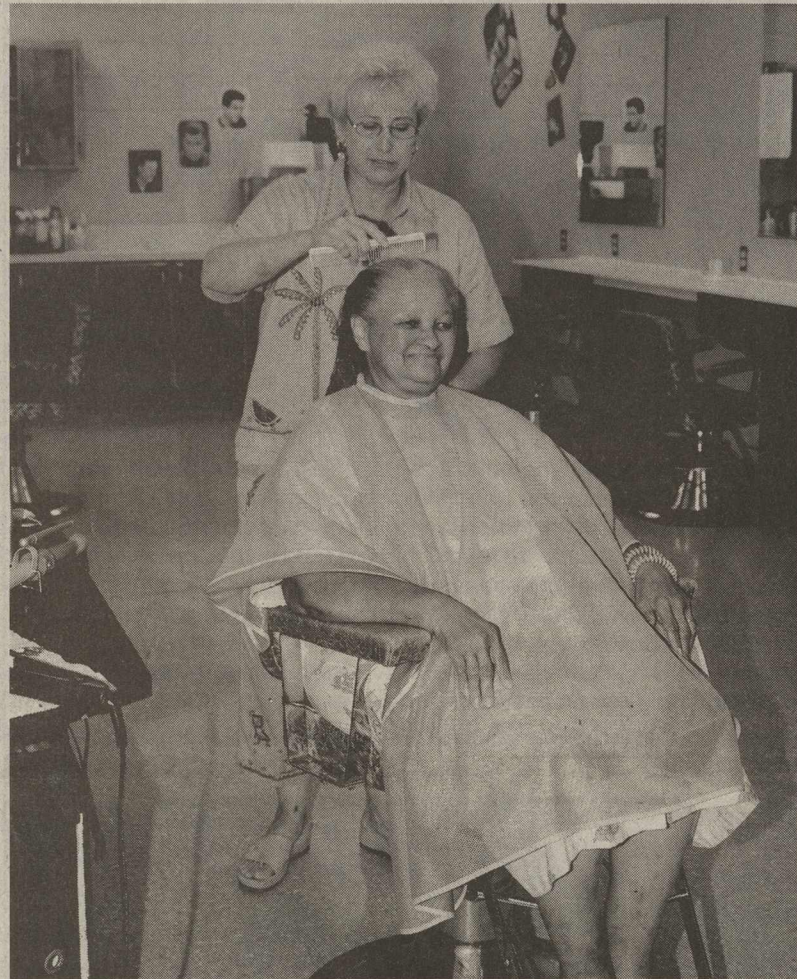


Wanda Brackeen

just teach people how to fix hair," Brackeen said. "I have to not only teach them the theory and the lab work, but I have to teach them how to have people skills, how to manage a business, pay taxes and set up shop.

"Cosmetology also has a large population of nontraditional students. Many of them are insecure, worried about their grades and concerned about being in the workplace. I have to also teach them confidence."

Brackeen said she also has to deal with the fact that there are



Brackeen is shown combing the hair of Ms. Lula Hoskin of Newton who has her hair done each week in the ECCC cosmetology department.

"I love the fact that students come back after they've been working a few weeks and they say 'Mrs. Brackeen, you were right and I appreciate you making me stay busy and keep things neat and clean.' Because I try to tell them that the habits they form at school will go with them into the workplace.

"I've never had a successful student come back and say 'Mrs. Brackeen, you were too hard.' And I am hard sometimes. I expect them to be busy."

Like most jobs, there are challenges to teaching cosmetology.

"I have found that you don't

many different personalities all in one room for eight hours a day.

"Some days I have to be teacher, psychologist, mother, warden and maintenance supervisor all at the same time!" she said. "But I like to be able to do all these things, so it's not really a challenge."

Brackeen said she likes the lab instruction much more than the classroom theory portion of instructing.

"When I started teaching," said Brackeen, "I just wanted to teach them how to do hair. I always wondered why other instructors didn't have time to teach them how to cut hair with

a razor or other things like that. I was that naïve. After I started teaching, I found out why.

"I have some students come into this program and the first thing I have to teach them is the difference in vertical and horizontal. I wasn't prepared for that in the beginning. And I wasn't prepared to have to teach a student how to say good morning to a client or to hold a conversation with a client."

Brackeen said those who have most influenced her career are former teachers.

"I suppose I'm like a first-grader who wants to be like their teacher," Brackeen said. "I just wanted to be like Shirley Hurt. She taught like I liked. She used the concepts and was really good at what she did. She had a lot of confidence. And I would love to have the compassion that Mrs. (Sarah) Griffin has."

Her advice to new students or those considering a career in cosmetology is "Don't give up."

"It's really frustrating when you first start," Brackeen said. "Most students are not prepared for how demanding it is physically and they are overwhelmed when they first start.

"We have to satisfy a lot of people. We have to do what the school says, what the state department says, what the state board says and what I say. But if they just won't give up and will keep trudging, this field will be good to them. Just don't give up!"

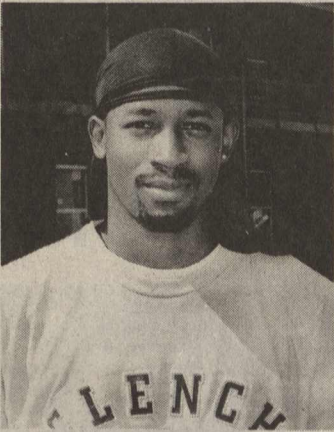
Brackeen is a member of SkillsUSA/VICA, the Association for Careers in Technical Education, Mississippi Association for Careers in Technical Education, Mississippi Cosmetology Association, and the National Cosmetology Association.

She is a member of Sands Springs Baptist Church.

Brackeen and her husband, the late Wayne Brackeen of Hickory have three children. Bill and his wife, Jennifer, live in Hickory. They have three daughters: Emily, 12; Olivia, 3; and Claudia, 9 months. They are expecting a fourth daughter this fall. Lisa and her husband, Glen Hollingsworth, also of Hickory, have four daughters: Alex, 10; Anna, 7; Abby 6; and Aubrie, 3. They are also expecting a daughter this fall. Leslie and her husband, Jason Eason, reside in Arkansas and have one son, Cole, 8 months.

## Student Survey: What do you want to be for Halloween?

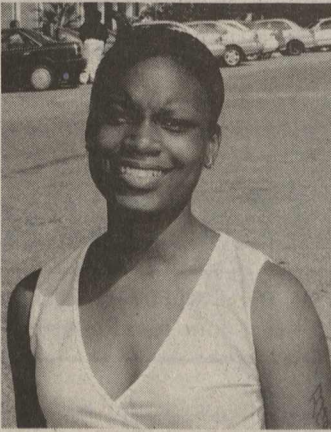
By: BRIAN SIBLEY AND STEPHANIE CULPEPPER, student photographers



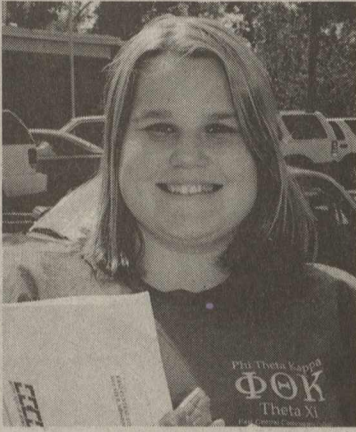
**Adam Lyon**  
Freshman  
Neshoba County  
"Batman."



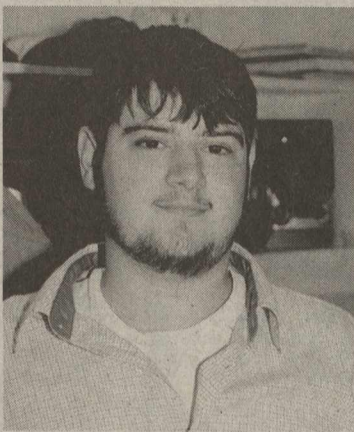
**Lauren Jones**  
Freshman  
Clarke County  
"Pocahontas. I always wanted to run with my hair down."



**Brittany Triplett**  
Freshman  
Winston County  
"Tweety Bird."



**Ginger Vance**  
Sophomore  
Newton County  
"Barbie."



**J.J. Weatherford**  
Freshman  
Scott County  
"A milk cow. The one at Wal-Mart with the udders looked real nice."



**Anthony Carothers**  
Freshman  
Lafayette County  
"A plumber."



# EC students win various national honors

Numerous East Central Community College students won honors at various national competitions held this summer.

In the SkillsUSA Competition held in Kansas City, Missouri, Josh Weaver of Decatur placed second in Major Appliance Repair, and Matthew Smith of Morton finished eighth in Industrial Motor Controls.

Students enrolled in the College's licensed practical nursing and surgical technology programs won honors at the HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) National Leadership Conference held in Orlando, Florida.

LPN students who received awards include Ashley White of Newton and Shelby Swanner of Bailey, second place, EMT; Anne Steptoe of Forest, Vincent McElhenney of Union and Geena Pope of Philadelphia, Top 10 Creative Problem Solving; Celeste Martin of Carthage and Laura Rosar of Union, Top 10 Health Education; and Gloria Martin of Carthage, Top 10 Nursing Assisting.

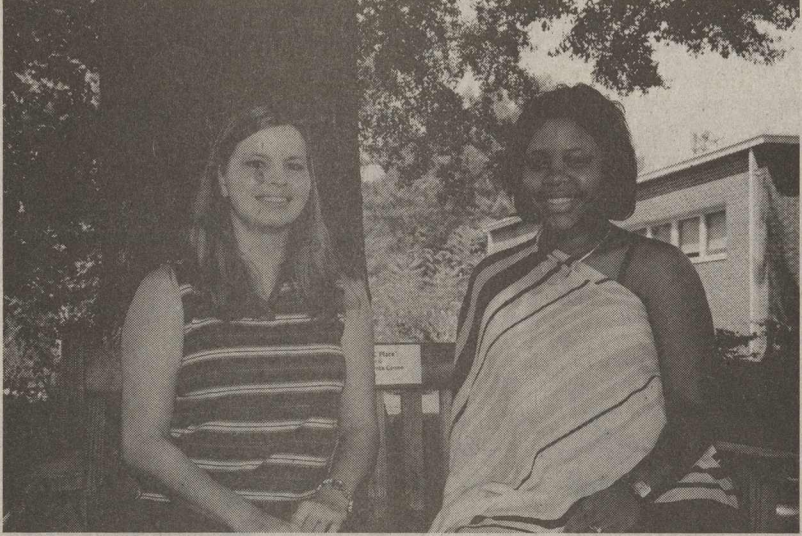
Representing the surgical technology program were Mary Vega of Newton, who won first place honors in Human Growth and Development; Jashemia Cherry of Porterville, fourth, extemporaneous health poster; and Ben Boyette and Keith Jacoby, both of Meridian, fifth place Community Awareness. DeAna Morrow of Philadelphia was selected to serve as Central District Representative for Mississippi.

Students who are members of the College's Phi Beta Lambda chapter also won honors at their national convention held in Denver, Colorado.

Linda Moody of Walnut Grove and Megan Stovall of Philadelphia placed sixth in Multimedia, and Brad Walton of Decatur and Chris Rush of Union finished ninth in the same category. Moody and Stovall also finished sixth in the American Enterprise Project, and Stovall placed ninth in the Local Annual Business Report.



Students in East Central Community College's Phi Beta Lambda chapter won various honors at the organization's national competition held in Denver, Colorado. Award winners included (seated from left) Megan Stovall of Philadelphia, who placed ninth in Local Annual Business Report and teamed with Linda Moody (not pictured) of Walnut Grove to finish sixth in Multimedia and sixth in the American Enterprise Project; ECCC business technology instructor Christy Ferguson of Philadelphia, who received an Adviser Service Recognition Award for five years' service; and (standing from left) Ken Triplett of Louisville, who participated in the Web Design competition with Nolan Burchfield (third from left) of McCool; and Brad Walton of Decatur, who teamed with Chris Rush (fourth from left) of Union to finish ninth in Multimedia.



These Surgical Technology students at East Central Community College recently took top honors in the national (HOSA) Health Occupation Students of America competition held June 22-27 in Orlando, Florida. Mary Vega (left) of Newton won first place honors in Human Growth and Development and Jashemia Cherry (right) of Porterville received fourth place in extemporaneous health poster. Not pictured are Ben Boyette and Keith Jacoby, both of Meridian, who received fifth place in Community Awareness; and DeAna Morrow of Philadelphia who was selected to serve as Central District Representative for Mississippi. Lee Ann Shirley and Kristie Pilgrim serve as advisors.



These Licensed Practical Nursing students at East Central Community College won various honors at the HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) National Leadership Conference held June 23-26 at the Marriott World Center in Orlando, Florida. Seated from left are Ashley White of Newton and Shelby Swanner of Bailey, second place, EMT; Anne Steptoe of Forest and Vincent McElhenney of Union, Top 10 Creative Problem Solving; Celeste Martin of Carthage and Laura Rosar of Union, Top 10 Health Education; and Gloria Martin of Carthage, Top 10 Nursing Assisting. Kathy Elliott and Lori Luke serve as LPN instructors.

# EC Staff Members Complete Leadership Program

Two East Central Community College staff members participated in the Mid South Community College Fellowship Program held recently at Lake Tkak-O'Khata near Louisville.

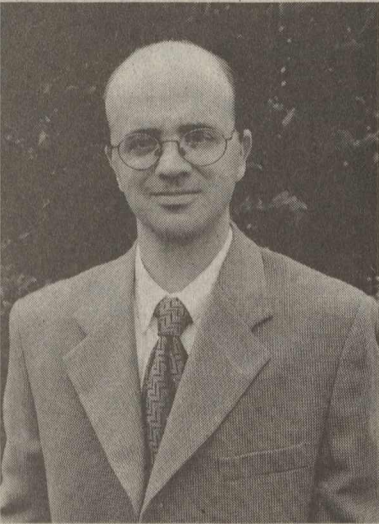
David Case, Director for Technology Management, and Chris Harris, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, spent six days at the annual conference, with most of the time engaged in intense problem-based learning exercises designed to strengthen the Fellows' abilities in performing their college duties and better prepare them for leadership roles in their field.

Featured speakers for the weeklong activity included State Senator Grady Tollison, D-Oxford; Mississippi State University President Dr. Charles Lee; Dr. Marty Wiseman, director of the Stennis Institute of Government at MSU, and numerous community college presidents – both active and retired – from inside and outside the state.

The 32 Fellows came from four states – Mississippi, Louisiana, Kentucky and Alabama – and brought the total number of MCCFP participants to 275 since the program started in 1994. It is a project of the Community College Leadership Program in MSU's College of Education. It was funded for 10 years by the Phil Hardin Foundation in Meridian, Miss., and is underwritten



Chris Harris



David Case

by the Lower Pearl River Valley Foundation.

Over the years, educators from Georgia and Arkansas also have taken part in the program. Three community college presidents have emerged from its ranks so far.



## ECCC Surgical Technology Graduates

Above are graduates of the East Central Community College surgical technology program who were recognized at the College's annual pinning ceremony held on the Decatur campus. Members of the Class of 2004 include (seated from left) Felicity Adkins, Decatur; Jeffery Brantley, Forest; Ben Boyette and Krystal Busby, both of Meridian; Lindsey Harris, Hickory; and Keith Jacoby, Meridian. Standing from left are Anthony Kidd and Jessica Martin, both of Meridian; Alicia Murphy, Philadelphia; Jennifer Perkins, Carthage; Virginia Robinson, Newton; Connie Smith, Philadelphia; and Latrice Spivey, Forest. LeAnn Shirley and Kristie Pilgrim serve as instructors.



## ECCC LPN Graduates

The above graduates of the Licensed Practical Nursing program at East Central Community College received pins during a special ceremony held recently on the Decatur campus. Pictured are (front row, from left) Keneshia Thomas and Bonnie Harrell, both of Carthage; Katie Burrage-Allard of Philadelphia, Jessica Bricker of Lena and Gloria Martin of Carthage; (second row, from left) Valerie Nicholson of Philadelphia, Shelby Swanner of Bailey, Laura Rosar of Union and Ashley White of Newton; (third row, from left) Anne Steptoe of Forest, Genna Pope and April McCurdy, both of Philadelphia; and Celeste Martin of Carthage; and (back row, from left) Vincent McElhenney of Union, Derek Wright and John Johnson, both of Meridian; and Chris Weaver of Louisville. Kathy Elliott and Lori Luke served as instructors.



## ECCC Trustees Honored for Service

Members of the East Central Community College Board of Trustees were recognized for various years of service at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College Trustees held July 16-17, 2004, at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi. The honorees, shown with Board Chairman Prentice Copeland of Philadelphia (left) and ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin (right), include Silas O'Neal (second from left), 15 years, and Jerry Moore, 40 years, both of Carthage; and Vernon Crotwell, 15 years, of Morton. The trustees were also presented plaques of appreciation and were recognized at the ECCC Board's August meeting held on the Decatur campus.

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: SUE FORD

By NARELL MONROE  
The Tom-Tom Reporter

Years at East Central: 6

Courses you teach: College Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, Trigonometry, and Linear Math.

What or who inspired you to become a teacher? I just always wanted to become a teacher.

What is the best and worst part of being a teacher? The best part

is helping someone understand something. The worst part is teaching students who don't care.

Where did you attend college? Mississippi State University.

Family: husband Daryl Ford; two daughters, Allegra Davis and Shelley White; and son, Stephen Ford.

What advice would you give to today's generation? Always be true to yourself and to your God.



Sue Ford



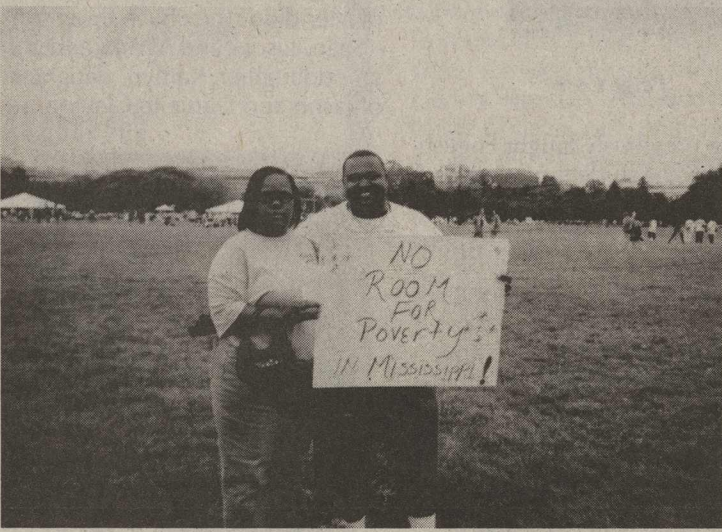


# ECCC Alumnus Returns Book – 50 Years Later!

Mike Pope was such a fan of Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* that he "borrowed" the prized novel for some 50 years from the East Central Community College library! Pope, who resides in Petersburg, Virginia, is a Neshoba County native who graduated from ECCC in December 1954. He recently returned the book to the College's library and is shown presenting it to Gloria Johnson (center), head librarian, and Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, Vice President for Instruction. Johnson said she was "elated" to have the first-edition copy of the Hemingway novel returned to Burton Library and did not impose a "late fee" fine on the ECCC alumnus. To show his appreciation, Pope made a contribution to the College's Memorabilia Room Project. The Memorabilia Room is located in Burton Library and will include items related to the history of the College. For more information about the project contact the Office of Foundation and Alumni Relations, Phone 635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 375. The email address is [sholling@eccc.edu](mailto:sholling@eccc.edu).

# Jones Attends D.C. Rally

Marjay Jones of Philadelphia, a sophomore gerontology technology major at East Central Community College, was among participants at the "No Room for Poverty" national rally held in Washington, D.C. Jones, shown with a fellow Mississippian at the Sept. 4 event, said the rally "spotlighted five 'pillars' poverty: jobs, education, health-care, housing and telecommunication." She added, "Poverty is no one's fault but everyone's fight." The Mississippi Association of Community Action Agencies (MACAA) helps sponsor the annual event.



# Church.....Fun?

By SCOTT VAUGHN  
Special to The Tom-Tom

Everyone comes in, gets into their assigned seat. You know, the pew, with the cushion that has your rear end's imprint in it. Get your bulletin out, so you know when to tell God that He is allowed to show up.

People are called on to pray, whom you could be the ventriloquist for and recite his or her prayer because you heard the same from them each time since you were three.

You sing hymns, doing the same ones over and over, but you hardly ever sing the third verse, which is usually the most convicting verse of the hymn, which is why we are *not led* to sing that verse!

The announcements always last longer than the invitation to respond to what God has convicted us about, if we heard God at all through the monotonous, theological, shallow liturgy that most times you can't understand without a thesaurus and dictionary.

By now you are probably saying when did this dude come to visit my church?

This is not what God intended the church, the Body of Christ, the people of God to be like. However, he did say that He was and is to be worshipped in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

In fact, if most people were to be involved with a congregation that was truly worshipping

God in spirit and truth, it would be an extreme makeover of their spiritual perspectives of what church and true worship is actually to be.

College life is all about new experiences. There is freedom to do things without restrictions. There are harder decisions and life choices to make. There are more responsibilities to fulfill and prove your abilities, skills and talents.

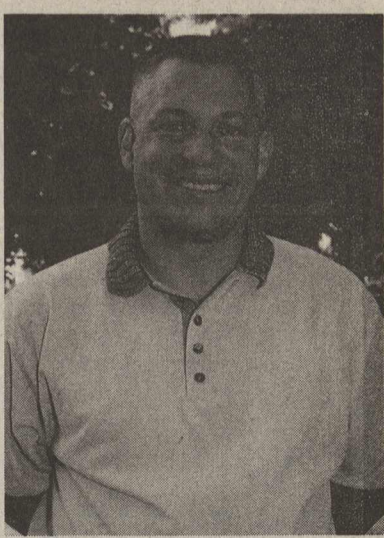
Meanwhile, in the midst of all these new things, you once again have to decide, "How does God fit into my lifestyle?"

Many of you have probably written God off, even though you have never really experienced Him yet, because of what you perceive that church, Christianity, and God are about from the characterization mentioned at the beginning of this article.

Whether you realize it or not, GOD IS ON THIS CAMPUS! Of course, the devil is too. You can choose who you want to experience. You must realize that you will experience at least one of them.

To not choose God automatically means you choose the evil one. "...do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (James 4:4)

There is an opportunity for you to experience true worship and service to Jesus Christ, the one true God, on the campus of East Central Community College. The Baptist Student Union



Scott Vaughn  
Director of the ECCC Baptist Student Union

is open to every student of this campus. When we meet to worship on Monday nights at 8:30 at the center, it is actually a small taste of heaven.

For every "brand" of Christianity, not just Baptist, has come together to worship Jesus Christ. We have not bulletins! Our music is contemporary. The Bible is preached boldly. Fun is greatly encouraged. There is freedom of worship and responding to the Holy Spirit is necessary.

Jesus wants to meet you and we want you to meet Jesus!

(The Baptist Student Union is located across the street from the Administration Building next door to Decatur United Methodist Church.)

# Ac'cents getting a fresh start in 2004-05

The 2004-05 edition of the Ac'cents, East Central Community College's show choir, has "very few returning members and quite a few new faces," according to director Vicki Blaylock.

"Costumes and music have been ordered and a pre-semester camp was held August 9-11 to start rehearsing new musical material," Blaylock said. "Ac'cents members worked hard during the camp on musical selections by artists such as

Hillary Duff, Billy Joel and many more."

Ac'cents members returning from last year's talented group include Luke Howell, Sam McDill and Victoria Loper, all of Decatur.

New members include Joanna Daugherty of Carthage, Amy Kennedy and Mollie Cieglo, both of Forest; Bryon Whitley and Cassidy Crenshaw, both of Philadelphia; Kelly Bankston and Grant Comans, both of Sebastopol;

Eddie Smith, Felecia Chapman and Anthony Engram, all of Decatur; and Zach Logan of Newton.

Blaylock said, "It is always a challenge to have a group with so many new members. However, this challenge will be easily met by these outstanding young people."

The Ac'cents fall semester concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 9 at 7 p.m. in Vickers Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

# Take it to the next level.

Transferring from community college to Mississippi State University in spring 2005? Apply for admission the easy way: online at [www.admissions.msstate.edu](http://www.admissions.msstate.edu).

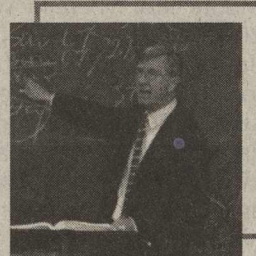
To apply for a Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship, complete a School Confirmation Form for Transfer Students, available at [www.sfa.msstate.edu](http://www.sfa.msstate.edu). The form must be completed and returned to the Department of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships.

At Mississippi State, we believe the college you choose is more than just a school—it becomes your home, your place. We'll help you find it here.

Mississippi State  
UNIVERSITY

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Mississippi State, MS 39762-6334  
Telephone: 662-325-3076 ■ Fax: 662-325-1MSU  
[www.enroll.msstate.edu](http://www.enroll.msstate.edu)

MSU is an equal opportunity institution.





# ECCC welcomes new faculty, staff members for 2004-05 term

Several new faces have joined the East Central Community College family in recent months. They include Nan Anderson of Madison, Ala., Associate Degree Nursing Program instructor; Teresa Black of Forest, secretary for the Office of Admissions, Records and Research; Chris Boone of Thibodaux, La., assistant football coach; James W. Boykin of Conehatta, interim carpentry and cabinetmaking instructor; Judy Brooks of Carthage, business and computer technology instructor; Debbie Buntyn of Tuscaloosa, Ala., computer science instructor; Paige Case of Meridian, English instructor/yearbook adviser; Rhonda Chandler of Meridian, Childcare Attendant; Peggy Clayton of Meridian, chemistry instructor; Tammie Rigdon Edwards of Decatur, licensed practical nursing instructor; Janice Evans of Hickory, Childcare Attendant; Terry Evans of Taylorsville, assistant football coach; Susan Fox-Smith of Decatur, psychology instructor; Ruth Gregory of Little Rock, business technology instructor; Dusty Hillman, assistant baseball coach; Judy Hurtt of Chunky, business technology instructor; James Keys of Collins, assistant football coach; Betsy Mann of Philadelphia, Associate Degree Nursing instructor; Carey Melvin of Thibodaux, La., assistant football coach; Kevin Ryals of Louisville, speech instructor; Mary Wall of Decatur, secretary for the Office of Admissions, Records and Research; Kim Willis of Philadelphia, interim biology instructor; and Sylvia Wright of Louisville, mathematics instructor.



**Nan Anderson**

Anderson previously served as clinical instructor for the Nursing Faculty at Calhoun Community College in Decatur, Ala.

She is also a former clinical instructor and course manager for the master's program in Nursing Administration at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Ala., where she also served as a graduate teaching assistant.

In addition, she has numerous years of experience serving as a nurse at various area hospitals and health clinics.

In all, she has 29 years experience in the nursing field, both as a practitioner and educator.

Honors she has received include the Carlton W. Kelley Teaching Excellence Award, presented by Calhoun Community College and the Calhoun Foundation; Alabama College System Award of Excellence; and a NISOD (National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development) award, presented for teaching and leadership excellence at the University of Texas at Austin. She was selected for inclusion in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2004*.

Anderson holds a master of science degree in nursing from the University of Huntsville, and has a bachelor of science degree in nursing as well as an associate's degree in nursing from Mississippi University for Women.

She is married to Mike Anderson, who serves as plant manager at Remy Reman in Meridian. They have two children, Anna Claire, 15, and Melissa Grace, 12.

Anderson is the daughter of Mrs. Fred Davis and the late Dr. Fred Davis of Starkville.



**Teresa Black**

Black was previously

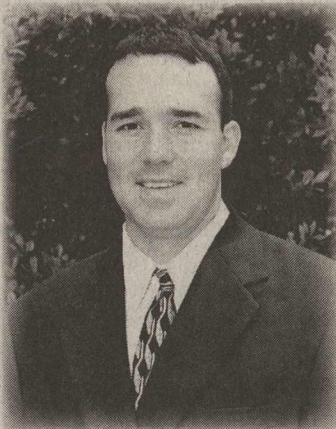
employed as a receptionist for Forest Elementary School, where she also performed various secretarial duties including data processing and maintaining student files.

She is also a former pressman for Hall's Printing in Morton and she worked in the production department of The Scott County Times weekly newspaper in Forest.

A 1975 honor graduate of Forest High School, Black received her associate's degree from East Central this past spring and is continuing her education at Mississippi State University-Meridian Branch.

In addition, she serves as a board member for the Forest Community Arts and is pianist at East Forest Baptist Church. She also performs with the gospel group, First Born.

Black and her husband, Dennis, have two sons, David and Randy.



**Chris Boone**

Boone, who serves as defensive coordinator and also coach defensive backs and special teams for the Warriors, comes to East Central from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La., where he served as linebacker coach for the past two years.

Boone helped lead NSU to its first appearance in the Southland Conference title game in 2003, and the 2002 squad had its first winning season since 1996 with a 7-4 mark. The 2002 Colonels finished third in the Southland Conference and were ranked 21<sup>st</sup> nationally by USA Today. The defensive unit went from 84<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> nationally and finished first in the Southland Conference in scoring defense. The Colonels also improved from 76<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> in pass defense, and from 81<sup>st</sup> to 36<sup>th</sup> in total defense.

Boone is also former assistant at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, where he served from 2000-02. He served as defensive line coach, recruiting coordinator and secondary coach. He was also special teams coordinator and academic coordinator. The 2000 Boll Weevils finished with an 8-3 mark and were ranked as high as 18<sup>th</sup> nationally. UAM finished third in total defense in the Gulf South Conference.

Boone's coaching experience also includes stints at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, Wayne County High School in Waynesboro, Pearl River Community College in Poplarville and the University of Southern Mississippi.

At UAB, Boone was a graduate assistant for defensive coordinator Bill Clay from June 1999 to May 2000, working mostly with linebackers.

He served as linebacker coach/special teams coordinator/power lifting coach at Wayne County from June 1998 to May 1999. The Wayne County defense was ranked in the top 10 in scoring defense in Class 5-A, and the War Eagles qualified for the State Class 5-A playoffs for the second time in school history.

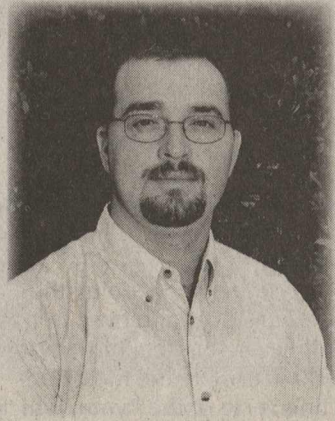
Boone was also linebackers and special teams coach at Pearl River, where he served from June 1997 to May 1998.

He began his coaching career as a student assistant at USM, serving from June 1996 to May 1997. His duties included assisting defensive coordinator John Thompson in coaching linebackers. The Golden Eagles were conference co-champions that season and finished with an 8-3 record.

Boone is a 1996 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, where he received a bachelor's degree in coaching and sports administration. He was also a member of the USM football team from January 1995 to May 1996. He received an associate of arts degree in 1993 from Jones County Junior College in Ellisville, where he was a two-year starter at linebacker on the Bobcat football squad. He was also voted team captain his sophomore season. Boone also had a stellar football career at

West Jones High School, where the three-year starter was named to the All-District, All-Conference and All-County squads.

He is married to the former Coco Walker of Waynesboro and they have an infant daughter, Cameron.



**James Boykin**

Boykin is filling the position held by Fredrick Lyons whose guard unit has been activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Boykin was a carpenter for Choc-taw Development Enterprise in Philadelphia.

He is a 1996 graduate of the advanced carpentry program at ECCC and won various honors for his expertise in the field. He placed first in cabinetmaking in the State VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) competition and received the carpentry and cabinetmaking award.

He also received a building trades certificate at the Forest/Scott County Vocational-Technical Center and won various awards. He placed first in the framing competition at the District High School VICA Contest and was selected Most Outstanding Student in the carpentry program.

The Sebastopol High School graduates also completed requirements to become a certified Surrell Solid Surface Countertop installer.

He is married to the Regena McCraw of Sebastopol, who serves as technology management assistant at ECCC. They have a two-year-old son, Wesly.



**Judy Brooks**

Brooks previously served as business and computer teacher at the Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility. She is also a former business and computer teacher at Leake Academy. She began her career in education as a business teacher at Utica High School.

A graduate of Carthage High School, Brooks holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business education from Delta State University and has an Associate in Arts degree from East Central Junior College. She also completed a Career Discovery Endorsement course from Mississippi State University.

She and her husband, Robert, have two daughters, Maggie and Rebekah.

They are active members of Trinity Baptist Church in Carthage.



**Debbie Buntyn**

Buntyn previously taught business technology courses at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa. She is also a former faculty member at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, Ala., and at Ayers State Technical College in Anniston, Ala.

She has served 15 years in education, and said she "enjoys

working with students and sharing the knowledge that I have acquired."

Honors include her selection as a NISOD (National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development) participant, an annual conference that recognizes outstanding community and junior college instructors. She was also named to *Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2004* edition.

Buntyn is a graduate of Jacksonville State (Ala.) University, where she received a master of arts degree in general studies (with concentration in educational computer technology) and a bachelor of science degree (special honors) in computer information systems. She is also a graduate of Sidney Lanier High School in Montgomery, Ala.

She was recently married to Dale Buntyn and they reside in Collinsville. They have six children, Heather, Shana and Jordan Hammons, and Susan, Trey and Kathryn Buntyn.



**Paige Case**

Case previously taught English and served as student newspaper adviser at East Mississippi Community College in Scooba.

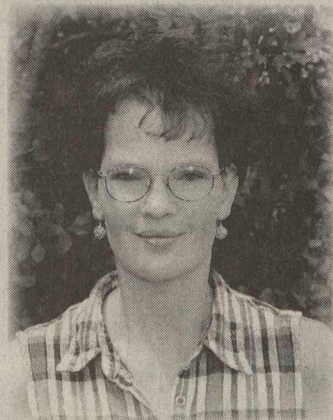
She is also a former English instructor at Kate Griffin Junior High School in Meridian, Hillcrest High School in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and the Brookhaven Public School District. In addition, she is a former faculty member and yearbook adviser at Velma Jackson High School in Camden and Morrison Christian Academy in Taichung, Taiwan.

She also previously served as Newspaper in Education Coordinator at *The Meridian Star*.

Her activities include serving as a Girl Scout leader and a member of the Children's Ministry Team at Central United Methodist Church in Meridian.

Case holds a master's degree in English from the University of West Alabama in Livingston and has a bachelor's degree in English from Millsaps College in Jackson. While at Millsaps, she was sports editor of the college yearbook, *Bobashela*. She also attended Mississippi State University and served as sports editor of the MSU yearbook, *Reveille*. She is a graduate of Brookhaven High School.

She is married to David Case, who serves as director of technology management at ECCC. They have three children, Elizabeth, 12; Catherine, 10; and Mary Madelon, seven.



**Rhonda Chandler**

Prior to her employment at East Central, Chandler served as a preschool teacher at Kindercare Learning Center in Meridian. She also has experience as a Pre-K4 Teacher at Playcare Day Center in Meridian and Nancy's Kiddie Land in Newton.

Chandler received her associate's degree in Child Development Technology from East Central Community College in 1990.

She is married to Michael Chandler of Meridian. They have two daughters, Leah, 8, and Shelby, 6.

Clayton previously served as science instructor at Southeast Lauderdale High School in Meridian. She is also a former adjunct chemistry and physical science instructor at Meridian Community College. In addition, she has taught science classes at Northeast Lauderdale (Meridian), Enterprise and Utica high



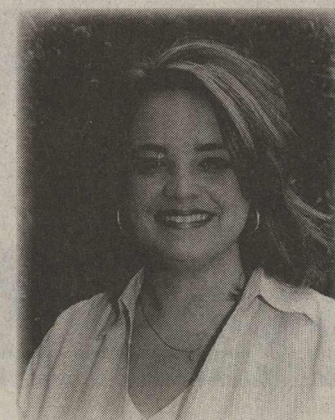
**Peggy Clayton**

schools.

She holds the bachelor of science degree in chemistry from Millsaps College, the master of education degree from Mississippi State University, with additional coursework from the University of Alabama and the University of Southern Mississippi. She also holds National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification in Adolescent/Young Adult Science. She is a graduate of Lamar High School in Meridian.

In addition to her classroom teaching activities, Clayton has made several presentations at professional meetings and workshops in connection with her work with the Mississippi Section of the American Chemical Society. She is also a member of several science-related professional associations.

She is married to Tom Clayton of Meridian. They have three sons - Sean, Jason, and Adam, and a granddaughter, Kaitlyn, daughter of Jason and Danielle Clayton.



**Tammie Edwards**

Edwards was previously employed as a registered nurse at Laird Hospital in Union. She is also a former nursing staff member at Horizon Hospice in Decatur, Newton Regional Hospital and Rush Foundation Hospital in Meridian. In addition, she is a former Skills Lab/Computer Lab instructor at ECCC.

A graduate of Decatur High School, Edwards received an Associate in Science degree from ECCC in 1992, where she was a member of Mu Alpha Theta, Phi Theta Kappa, Warrior Corps, Centralettes and the Lady Warrior basketball team. She received a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1993 and received the Citizenship Award.

She is married to Matthew Edwards and they have two children, Jacob, six, and Jackson, two.

They are members of Clarke-Venable Baptist Church.



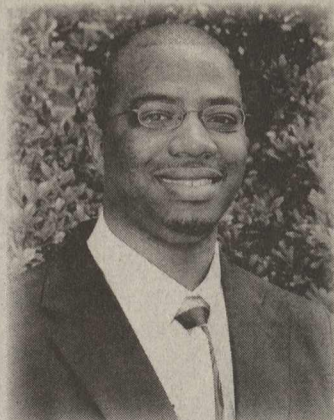
**Janice Evans**

Janice Evans is a 2004 graduate of the College's Child Development Technology Program where she served as a student caregiver and teacher.

She was previously employed with Brooks Manufacturing in Union and Bon-Homme in Decatur.

Evans is married to Rodney Evans, who serves as a security guard for the College. They have two children, Kristian, 17, and Roderrian, 4.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Terry Evans was defensive line coach at Wayne County High School and helped lead the 2003 War Eagles to Class 4A state title. Evans also was a substitute teacher at Wayne County and Taylorsville high schools.



**Terry Evans**

Evans served the previous year as defensive end coach at Taylorsville High School, which captured the Class 2A championship in 2002. Evans also coached basketball at Taylorsville during 2002-03.

He is also an agilities instructor and served as an assistant coach at the Adaluis Thomas Football Camp.

Evans received a bachelor's degree in coaching and sports administration at the University of Southern Mississippi and earned an associate's degree from Jones County Junior College. He also attended Delta State University. He is a graduate of Taylorsville High School.

Evans has two sons, Terrance and Cameron, who reside in Laurel.

Evans' parents are Alice Ducksworth and Artis Evans, both of Taylorsville.



**Susan Fox-Smith**

Smith previously served as Career Discovery teacher and tennis coach at Neshoba Central High School, where she is also a former girls' head basketball coach. She served as an assistant girls' coach prior to taking over the program. She is also a former adjunct psychology instructor at ECCC.

In addition, she is a former elementary physical education instructor and tennis coach at Lamar School in Meridian. She began her coaching/teaching career at Mississippi College in Clinton, where she served as a graduate assistant coach for the women's basketball team. She later served as an assistant women's basketball coach and was women's tennis coach.

Smith has a master's degree in counseling from Mississippi College and a bachelor of science degree in physical education from Mississippi State University. She also attended Mississippi University for Women. She is a graduate of Leake Academy.

She is married to Billy Smith, ECCC men's head basketball coach. They have three children, Andy, Chandler and Mackie.



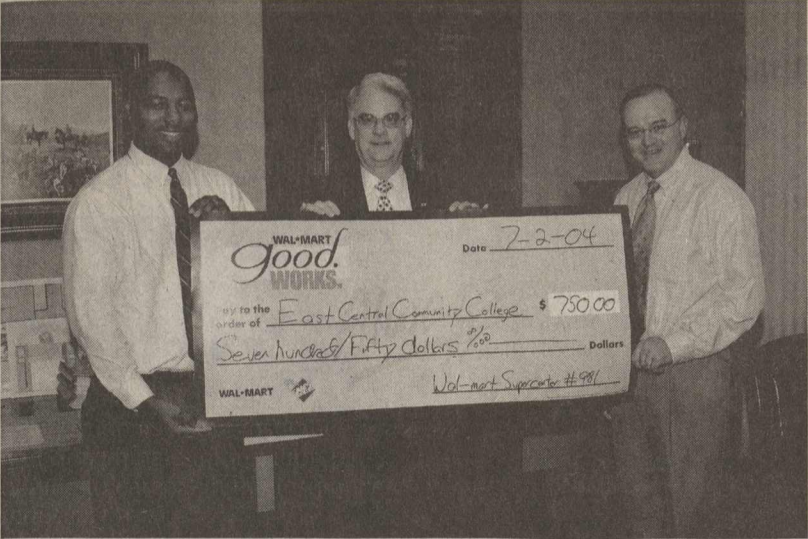
**Ruth Gregory**

Gregory previously taught business technology courses at Union High School. She has also served as an adjunct instructor at ECCC.

In addition, her teaching experience includes stints at Scott Central Attendance Center, Lake High School, Forest-Scott County Vocational-Technical Center and Poplarville High School. She also taught classes at England Air Force Base in Louisiana for Northwestern State University and at Kaiserslautern American High School in Kaiserslautern,

**See STAFF, page 11**





Wal-Mart contributes to ABE/GED program

East Central Community College’s efforts to combat adult illiteracy recently received a financial boost thanks to a \$750 contribution made by the Wal-Mart Super Center Store #981 in Meridian. Kirk Ingram (left), assistant store manager, is shown making the presentation to ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin (center) and Gene Davis, Dean of Adult and Continuing Education. ECCC is currently serving approximately 1,800 students through its Adult Basic Education/GED Program. Wal-Mart and SAM’S Clubs donated nearly \$6 million to support literacy programs throughout the country on National Literacy Day, which was observed July 1. For more information about ECCC’s ABE/GED Program, Phone 635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 278/279.

YEARBOOK PHOTOS!

Wednesday, October 6

7:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Gordon Room

Mabry Memorial Cafeteria

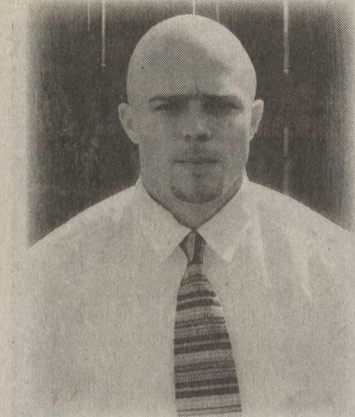
STAFF (continued from page 10)

West Germany. Honors she has received include her selection to attend the first Mississippi State University Insurance Educational Foundation Institute held in July. Teachers from throughout the Southeastern part of the United States were invited to attend the conference to study risk management and insurance. Gregory said the goal of the Institute was “to provide teachers with training to teach students about insurance and disseminate information pertaining to careers in the insurance industry.”

She is a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and the National Business Education Association.

Gregory holds master’s and bachelor’s degrees in business education from the University of Southern Mississippi. She received an associate in arts degree from East Central Community College in 1982 and finished high school at Beulah-Hubbard where she was salutatorian of the 1980 graduating class.

She is married to Michael D. Gregory of Union, who is manager of Central Transport, which operates in east central Mississippi and west Alabama. They have two children, Troy and Danielle, who attend Newton County Schools.



Dusty Hillman

Hillman begins his first season as assistant baseball coach.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Hillman was a member of the Mid-Missouri Mavericks, an independent professional baseball team based in Columbia, Missouri.

A 1999 graduate and baseball standout at Taylorsville High School, Hillman continued his athletic career at Delta State University until transferring to William Carey College in December 2002. He helped lead William Carey to the NAIA Gulf Coast Conference championship and a

second-place finish in the NAIA Regional Tournament for two consecutive years.



Judy Hurtt

Hurtt previously served as business and office technology and medical office technology instructor at Meridian Community College.

She has also taught classes for the Naval Technical Training Center in Meridian, where she served as a Yeoman “A” instructor for the San Diego (Calif.) Community College District and earlier held the same position at Meridian Community College. In addition, she served as part-time night director at Draughon’s Business College in Jackson, and is a former legal secretary for law firms in Jackson and Hattiesburg.

Hurtt was selected to attend the 2003 Lamplighter Conference, which recognizes the state’s outstanding community and junior college instructors. She is also a recipient of the Good Practices in Teacher Award and serves as community college representative for the Mississippi Business Education Association. She was also recently named to Who’s Who Among Community College Teachers.

She is a member of Delta Pi Epsilon, honorary graduate business education organization, and the Mississippi Department of Education Hospital Billing and Coding Curriculum Writing Team.

The Forest High School graduate received master’s and bachelor’s degrees in business education from the University of Southern Mississippi. She also has an associate in arts degree from East Central Junior College.

She is the daughter of Johnnie and Earline Hurtt of Forest.

Keys’ main area of responsibility will be coaching linebackers and assisting with special teams.

He is a former football standout at ECCC, where he was a member of the 1998 and 1999 squads. He was an honorable

Work-Based Learning offers full schedule of fall workshops

The East Central Community College Work-Based Learning Center will offer various self-improvement workshops during the fall 2004 semester.

All sessions will be held in Room 48 of the Association Degree Nursing Building from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and there is no charge to attend. Instructors will be members of the Workforce Development Center staff.

Courses offered include Time Management (October 11), Conflict Management (October 18), Strategies for Success (October 25), Basic Supervision (November 1), Sensitivity Training (November 8) and Communication Essentials (November 15).

Time Management is often the major cause of stress in the workplace and in school. This session will explore the possibilities of managing time and being more productive, establishing priorities and learning how to set them.

Conflict Management will help students learn to deal with the unexpected and the sometimes expected confrontations of day-to-day processes and procedures. The session will explore the methods to deal with confrontation. A segment from the “Mildred Ramsey” library video entitled “The Super Supervisor” will be viewed and discussed.

Having trouble concentrating or focusing in the classroom or at

work? Strategies for Success will take a look at some processes that will help prepare students to learn and be successful. This session takes a look at the “cause and effect” of the habits learned through years, both good and bad.

Basic Supervision instructs students on what it takes to earn respect from employees and maintain that respect over the duration of the relationship. This course will examine the “responsibility and accountability” in a supervisor’s role and take a comprehensive look at Mildred Ramsey’s “The Super Supervisor.”

For those who have ever put their “foot in their mouth” by

saying or doing something totally inappropriate, Sensitivity Training will teach the importance and necessity of being sensitive to other people without becoming over sensitive. It focuses on the issue of respect and the willingness to accept the differences in the people encountered in life.

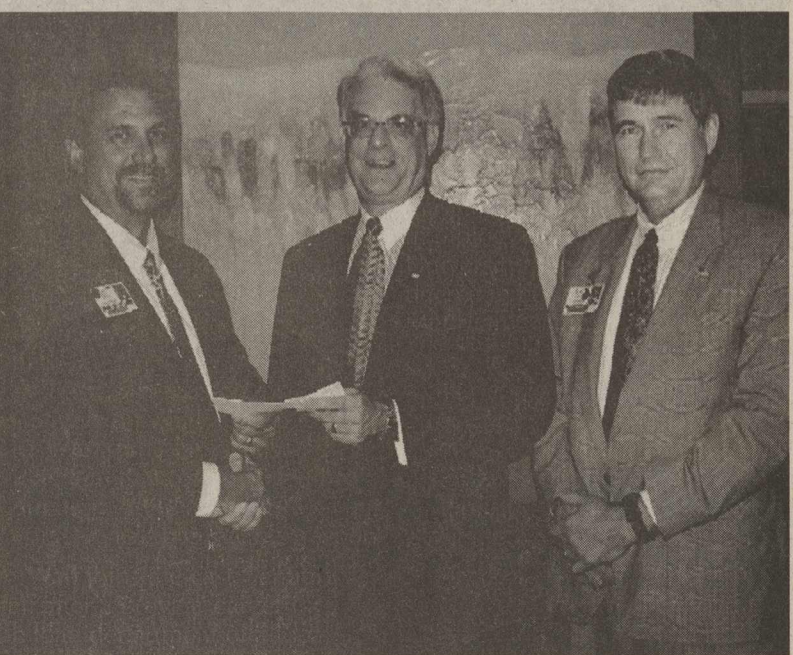
Communication Skills are some of the most important skills students could possess. In this session, students explore the different methods of communication and how to practice them.

For more information on the above courses, contact Chris Harris, Work-Based Learning Coordinator at 635-2111, ext. 305.



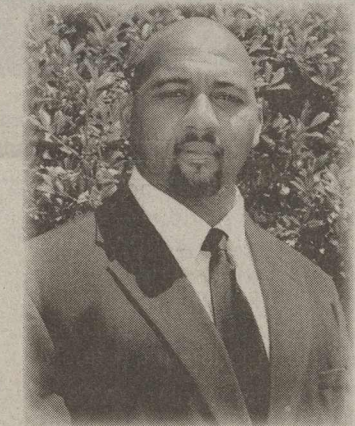
Contributes To Memorabilia Room Project

Kenneth Jones (center), president of the Decatur branch of The Citizens Bank of Philadelphia, presents a \$500 check to East Central Community College President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, with funds designated for the College’s Memorabilia Room, to be located in Burton Library. The special area will house various items related to the history of the College. Also pictured is Gloria Johnson (left), head librarian. Lucille Wood, longtime faculty member and former Lady Warrior basketball coach, is spearheading the fundraising project with assistance from Johnson, assistant librarian Gail Wood and Ovid Vickers, retired faculty member. For more information about the ECCC Memorabilia Room, contact Gloria Johnson, Phone 635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 219. The email address is [gjohnson@eccc.edu](mailto:gjohnson@eccc.edu).



Rush provides funding for instructor

A new adjunct faculty member will be added to the Associate Degree Nursing Program staff at East Central Community College in Decatur thanks to a \$25,000 contribution made to the College by Rush Health Systems of Meridian. Dan Harrison (left), Rush Senior Vice President, is shown making the check presentation to ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, while Wallace Strickland, RHS President and CEO, looks on. Dr. Sutphin said the new faculty member “will allow the admission of additional students to the program.” For more information regarding the College’s Associate Degree Nursing Program, contact Melanie Gilmore, dean, Phone 635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 294. The email address is [mgilmore@eccc.edu](mailto:mgilmore@eccc.edu). (Photo courtesy Laura Davis, Rush Health Systems).



James Keys

mention All-State selection as defensive end in 1999 and helped lead the Warriors to a berth in the state playoffs en route to an 8-3 record. Keys was voted permanent defensive team captain following the 1999 campaign.

He continued his athletic career at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, Oklahoma, which finished runners-up for the 2000 NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) championship. Keys won various honors following the 2000 season, including second team All-American, first team All-Conference and Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

Keys also played two years in the Arena Football League as a member of the Billings (Montana) Outlaws.

He returned to Northwestern as a graduate assistant prior to joining the ECCC staff.



Betsy Mann

Mann previously served the College’s ADN program as adjunct clinical instructor, a post she has held since 2002.

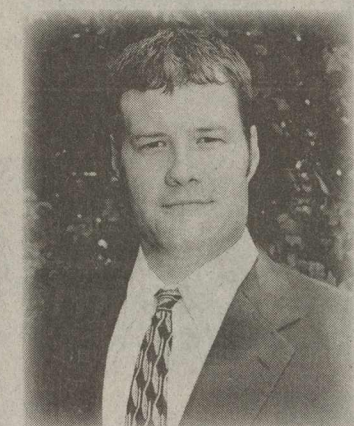
She has also served on nursing staffs at Airpark Medical Clinic, Neshoba County General Hospital and Neshoba County Nursing Home, all in Philadelphia, and at St. Dominic Health Services in Jackson.

Mann is a member of the Mis-

issippi Nurses Association and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. She attends St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

She holds master and bachelor degrees of science in nursing from University Medical Center in Jackson and has an associate degree in nursing from Meridian Community College. She is a graduate of Neshoba Central High School.

She is married to Dr. John Mann.



Carey Melvin

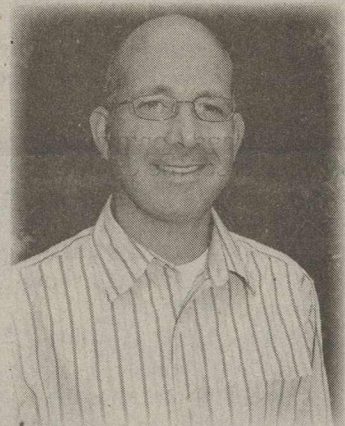
Melvin serves as defensive line coach and assists with special teams. He served as an assistant defensive line coach and student assistant at Nicholls State during 2003-04 and helped lead the Colonels to their first appearance in the Southland Conference title game.

Melvin is also a former defensive coordinator/assistant track coach at Garland Christian Academy in Garland, Texas, where he served from May 2001 to May 2003. His duties also included coaching linebackers.

The new ECCC assistant was a linebacker at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia. He also played linebacker at McEachern High School in Powder Springs, Georgia, and was previously a tight end for North Mesquite (Texas) High School. He was a member of nationally ranked track 4 x 400-meter relay teams at both high schools.

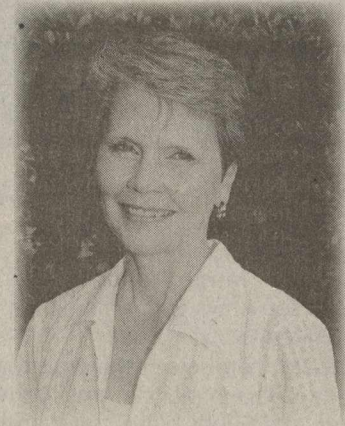
Ryals previously served as oral communication instructor at Mississippi State University. He is also a former adjunct speech instructor at ECCC.

A Winston Academy graduate, Ryals received a master of science degree in speech communication from the University of Southern Mississippi and has a bachelor of arts degree in communication management from Mississippi State.



Kevin Ryals

He is married to the former Shonna Harvey of Kosciusko, who teaches English at Louisville High School. They have a six-year-old son, Peyton, a first-grader at Winston Academy.



Mary Wall

Wall joins the East Central staff after a 26-year career in the loan department of a local bank. She was also previously employed as a legal secretary for Judge Marcus Gordon.

She is a graduate of Decatur High School and East Central Community College.

Wall is married to Larry Wall, who is retired from newspaper and military careers. They are active members of Clarke-Venable Baptist Church.



Kim Willis

Willis is filling in for Ron

Davis who is on medical leave.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Willis served as continuing education coordinator/instructor for Progressive Pipeline Construction Company. She is also former biology and human anatomy instructor at Philadelphia High School and previously taught general science at Kosciusko Middle School. In addition, she is a former science methods and creative writing instructor at Mississippi State University.

Willis has received several awards for teaching excellence. She was the recipient of Mississippi’s 1993 Herbert M. Handley Outstanding Science Teacher Award presented by the Mississippi Science Teachers Association, and was the 1992 recipient of the Science and Mathematics Teacher Award presented by the Mississippi State University Chapter of Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society.

A graduate of Neshoba Central High School, Willis received her master’s and bachelor’s degrees in biology from Mississippi State University. She also has an A.A. degree in dental hygiene from Meridian Community College.



Sylvia Wright

Wright previously taught math at Nanih Waiya High School and was the recipient of STAR Teacher recognition on two occasions. She also serves as an adjunct mathematics instructor for ECCC and previously taught adjunct classes at East Mississippi Community College in Scooba.

She has a master’s degree in secondary education and a bachelor’s degree in mathematics education from Mississippi State University. She is also a graduate of Louisville High School.

She is married to John Wright and they have three children – Matthew, 19; Morgan, 17; and Mallory, 15.





Members of Hollowell, an emo rock band based at ECCC, are from left to right, Zack Logan of Newton on bass, Philip Dickerson of Union on vocals, Tyler Cahoon of Harpersville on drums and Jeremy Gibbs of Clifton on guitar.

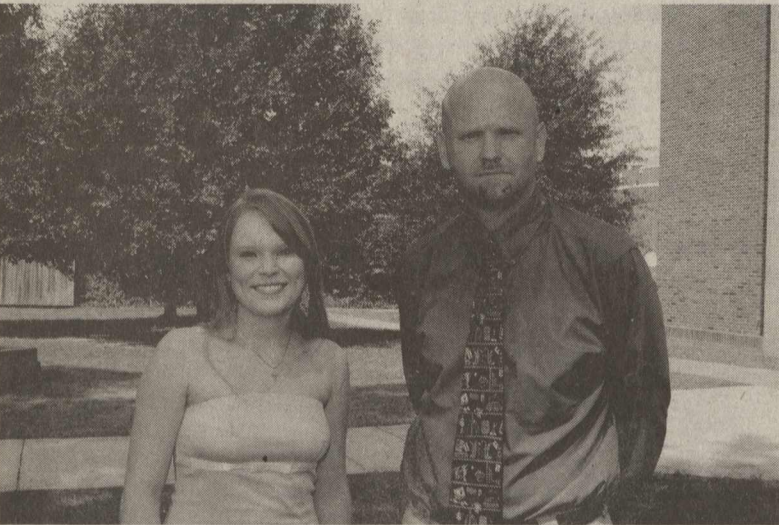
# Rockin’ Out: ECCC students rock with emotionally-inspired music

By TAMI K. PHILLIPS  
Special to The Tom-Tom

Four East Central Community College students are well on their way to achieving their dreams of becoming professional musicians. Tyler Cahoon, 18, of Harpersville, Jeremy Gibbs, 20, of Clifton, Philip Dickerson, 24, of Union, and Zack Logan, 20, of Newton play in a band called Hollowell. Cahoon and Gibbs grew up together in Scott County and played in a band together as teenagers. They met Dickerson and Logan in college, and the rest, they say, is history. The four young men are all music majors at East Central Community College and decided to start a band together in January.

The band plays a type of music called “emo,” or emotionally-melodic rock. The genre has hardcore punk roots and is characterized by whiney, complaining lyrics with energetic, up-tempo music. Current bands like Brand New, Taking Back Sunday and Thursday are all classified as emo bands. The genre is one that is hard to trace but becoming increasingly popular among college-aged students. One of those students drawn in by the genre is Cahoon. He grew up listening to classic rock and country music but has found a new appreciation for music in emo. “It took some time to adjust,” he said about learning the different ranges of emo.

After forming the band, next came choosing a name. The name “Hollowell” was Dickerson’s idea. He had a friend who attended prep school and lived in Hollowell dorm. One day his friend wore a t-shirt displaying the dorm’s name. “I thought it looked cool on the shirt,” Dickerson explained. Once a musical genre and name were established, gigs soon followed.

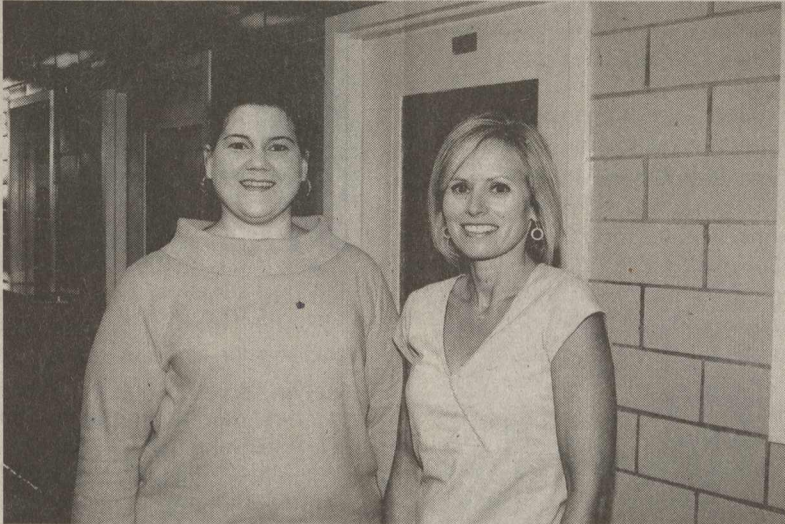


## Boswell receives healthcare scholarship

Jessica Boswell of Union recently received a Newton County Community Healthcare Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. The scholarship was established in August 2003 by Newton Community Healthcare, Inc., in partnership with the Grow Your Own Program. The two-year award is designed to attract students to the healthcare profession. Boswell, shown with Joe Killens, Vice President for Student Services, is a first-year student in the College’s Associate Degree Nursing Program.

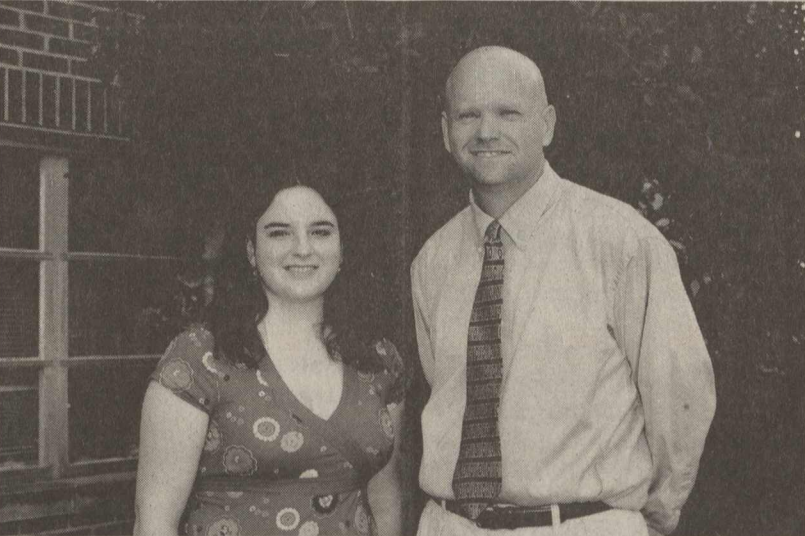
Hollowell played their first show at Dollar Bills Saloon in Meridian earlier this year when they headlined for Hillcrest, another college band that was well known in the area. “I was really nervous at the first show because we were not on our own equipment,” Dickerson said. The band borrowed Hillcrest’s instruments at that first gig and consequently made a name for themselves. But they are quick to admit that they had a fan base before they even started playing shows. By distributing sample CDs, they developed a decent following, with fellow ECCC classmates make up their “biggest crop” of devoted fans. Other gigs followed at parties and places like The Underground in Meridian. The guys soon came up with the idea of recording a CD. “Jeremy has recording equipment at his house, and we decided it was time to make a real album for fans who come to our shows,” Dickerson said. Hollowell recorded their first CD during the summer. Each member contributes his own special attribute to the band. Logan is known as the comedian of the band and plays bass. He is also newest to the music business. “This is the first band I’ve ever been in, and they have to show me a lot of things,” he said. Logan played guitar for three years before learning bass and has merged well into the band. Still, the first few gigs were nerve-racking, he said. “You think if you mess up, it messes the whole thing up,” he said. “But I’m recovered from it now.” Dickerson is in charge of chord progressions, and the others develop their music around his riffs. Dickerson plays guitar and sings lead vocals. All band members write lyrics for songs. Cahoon plays drums in the band, and Gibbs plays guitar and sings. Ideas for songs, typical to the emo genre, come from experiences that allow for complaint. “We write about everyday things that

happen,” Gibbs said. Past traumas and heartaches also find their way into songs. “I’ve gotten inspiration from some of my old flames for some lyrics,” Dickerson added. Working around classes, part-time jobs and practice with the ECCC marching band sometimes proves difficult, but the boys try to practice at least once a week. Being on stage is their favorite part, they said. One show is always different from the next. Playing clubs gives them a more professional vibe, but the party atmosphere allows a more relaxed, creative atmosphere. The party sets are different from club sets because the boys feel freer to play their original songs. Club settings usually call for some Top 40 covers. Hollowell covers classic rock songs from bands like Tom Petty, Lynard Skynyrd and the Steve Miller Band. Those attending a Hollowell show can expect “a good time,” band members said. While the boys are having fun with the band, they work with a professional mindset and constantly think about Hollowell’s future. “We don’t want it to be just a hobby,” Gibbs said. “We want it to be a career.” Hollowell plans to distribute their CD to area radio stations soon. They are always looking to play new venues and are considering



## Gatlin presented Harris scholarship

Alicia Ann Gatlin (left) of Morton is this year’s recipient of the Nancy Hiatt Harris Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship presented at East Central Community College in Decatur. Gatlin, a first-year nursing student, is shown with academic counselor Lanette Hanna. The annual scholarship was endowed in the fall of 1998 and honors Nancy Hiatt Harris of Philadelphia, the first director of the College’s ADN Program.



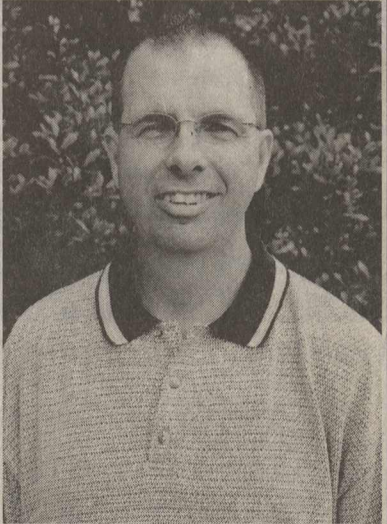
## Receives Merchants and Farmers scholarship

Erin Smith (left) of Philadelphia, a graduate of Neshoba Central High School, is the recipient of a Merchants and Farmers Bank Scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. She is pictured with ECCC Vice President for Student Services Joe Killens.

# Crenshaw selected East Central Humanities Teacher of the Year

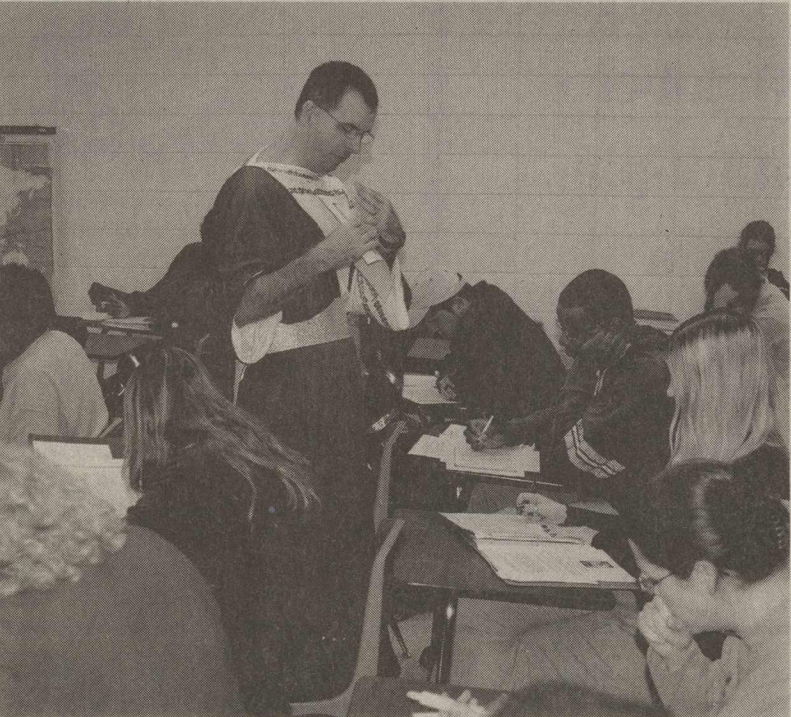
A social science instructor known for lecturing students while donning costumes related to the period of his subject matter is being honored as East Central Community College’s “Humanities Teacher of the Year.” Phillip Crenshaw of Meridian is this year’s recipient of the annual award, which includes a \$500 honorarium from the Mississippi Humanities Council. Crenshaw will lecture on the topic, “The Person That Refuses to Study History is Doomed to Repeat It: A Comparison of the Peloponessian War to the Current U.S. –Iraqi Conflict,” during a presentation scheduled at 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 26 in the Vickers Fine Arts Center. The public is invited and there is no charge for admission. Members of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, will host a reception following the program. Crenshaw joined the ECCC faculty in January 2003, following at 10-year stint at Meridian High School, his alma mater. While at MHS, he mostly taught world history and law education

classes. Crenshaw received various honors at Meridian, having twice been named “Teacher of the Year.” He was also selected “Teacher with the Most Character,” which was chosen by the student body. He is also a former instructor at Clarkdale Attendance Center, where he taught world history, American History, economics, sociology, Mississippi History, and law-related education, while at the same time serving as head coach of the girls’ softball team and assistant baseball coach. During his tenure at Clarkdale, he also sponsored the Mock Trial Team, which made numerous appearances in the state finals, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Honors he received at Clarkdale include his selection as “Teacher of the Year” for the 1992-93 school year. At East Central, Crenshaw teaches World Civilization I, World Civilization II and American History I. During his lectures, Crenshaw may appear as Napoleon, Henry the Eighth, Alexander the Great, or an Egyptian



Phillip Crenshaw

merchant. Regarding his unique approach to teaching, Crenshaw commented, “I want students to ‘live’ history, not just receive the information from a book. I can also hold their attention longer by appearing in various costumes during my lectures.” Crenshaw said he previously rented his outfits, but has recently employed the services of a costume maker in Ventura, Calif. For his Humanities Program lecture, Crenshaw said he will appear in a Greek costume, as he compares the Peloponessian War to the current situation in Iraq. Crenshaw holds a bachelor’s degree in athletic administration with emphasis in secondary education/social science from the University of Southern Mississippi, where he graduated with highest honors. He received a master’s degree in history from the University of West Alabama, and is currently pursuing a PhD in community college leadership from Mississippi State University. He is married to the former Kim Hatcher of Meridian, who is employed at Working Solutions in Meridian. They are active members of Northcrest Baptist Church, where Philip serves as children’s church pastor and Kim is an AWWANA director. Phillip has a daughter, Alexandria, and two stepsons, Hunter and Dalton.



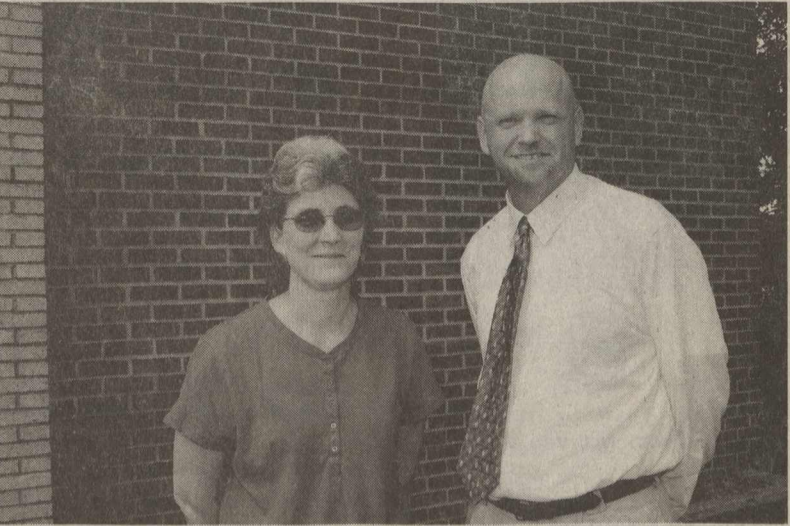
During his lectures, Crenshaw may appear as Napoleon, Henry the Eighth, Alexander the Great, or an Egyptian merchant.

attending the same university to receive music degrees. Hollowell will play their next show Oct. 2 at Bonita Lakes Pavilion. Copies of their CD can be purchased at The Underground or through [www.hollowell.tk](http://www.hollowell.tk). The Web site offers samples of songs as well as news about upcoming shows.



## Jackson receives ECCC scholarship

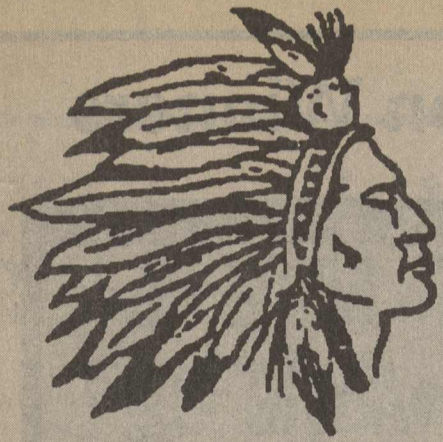
Sheila Jackson of Meridian recently received a nontraditional student scholarship at East Central Community College in Decatur. Jackson, a freshman gerontology technology major, is shown with Joe Killens, Vice President for Student Services, who presented the former Forest High School student with the award. Nontraditional student scholarships are available to qualified Mississippi residents, age 23 or older, who enroll as full-time academic or technical students on the Decatur campus. For more information contact Student Services, East Central Community College, P. O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone 635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 375. The email address is [jkillens@eccc.edu](mailto:jkillens@eccc.edu).



## Receives nontraditional scholarship

Betty Bevin of Decatur is a 2004-05 recipient of a non-traditional student scholarship presented at East Central Community College. Bevin, shown with Joe Killens, Vice President for Student Services, is a freshman majoring in surgical technology. Non-traditional student tuition scholarships are available to qualified Mississippi residents, 23 years of age or older at the time of initial enrollment, who enroll full-time at ECCC. Scholarships are available for three consecutive semesters following the first 12 hours earned as either part-time or full-time student at East Central. For more information contact Student Services, East Central Community College, P. O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone 635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 375. The email address is [jkillens@eccc.edu](mailto:jkillens@eccc.edu).





# THE TOM-TOM

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November 2004

## ECCC Honors Brackeen, Wood During Nov. 1 Ceremony

East Central Community College paid tribute to two of its most outstanding alumni in the field of athletics during a ceremony held Monday, November 1 in between games of the Lady Warrior and Warriors' season-opening contests with Bevill State (Ala.) Community College on the Decatur campus.

Denver Brackeen of Union, the College's first All-American athlete and the state's first inductee into the National Junior College Athletic Association Hall of Fame, and former ECCC coach Lucille Wood of Louisville who was inducted into the NJCAA Women's Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame last spring, were recognized for their accomplishments during the special program held in the facility that bears their names – the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin introduced the College's distinguished alumni, and additional remarks about each honoree's career were made by current Lady Warrior head coach Brad Hodge and Warrior head mentor Billy Smith. Brackeen and Wood also provided remarks. Brackeen gave credit to his teammates and players for the success he achieved on the hardwood, and Wood thanked her many players for their hard work and determination to succeed. She also had two current Lady Warrior teammates – Kristin Chaney of Newton County and Kotreese Bender of Newton – join her at the podium, and referred to them as the "ideal" female student athletes.

The brief program concluded with the unveiling of banners designating Brackeen and Woods' NJCAA inductions. The banners are among the numerous sports championship banners on display in the gym.

After leading Hickory High School to a 51-1 record his senior year, Brackeen continued his success on the hardwood by helping the 1952-53 Warrior basketball team win district and state championships and a fourth-place finish in the National Junior College Tournament. Brackeen, who averaged 32 points during the Warriors' championship season, was named the nation's most valuable player in addition to receiving All-American honors.

Brackeen was also a standout at the University of Mississippi, averaging 28 points per game. He was named by Look magazine as the most valuable basketball player in District V, which consisted of nine southern states. He was later inducted into the Uni-

versity of Mississippi Athletic Hall of Fame.

He played professionally for the New York Knickerbockers for a short period of time before returning to ECCC as men's basketball coach. He led the Warriors for seven seasons, posting a record of 137 wins and 52 losses.

Brackeen also served 21 years as the College's dean of students and is recognized as the first person to hold such a title in the Mississippi Public Junior College system. In all, Brackeen served 28 years on the ECCC staff. While employed at EC, Brackeen also received Alumnus of the Year honors.

In 1985, Brackeen was selected the first inductee into the ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame.

Brackeen also had a distinguished military career with the Mississippi National Guard, advancing through ranks from a private to Brigadier General. He served as Mississippi's Adjutant General during Desert Storm.

Wood, the second inductee into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986, is recognized as a pioneer for women's sports on the state and national levels. She led the Lady Warriors to four state titles (includes two club team championships) and numerous division crowns during her 28-year coaching career. She also served as tennis and volleyball coach.

From 1970 to 1975, Wood helped bring about the Title IX ruling in the colleges of Mississippi. In 1975, the foundation for women's basketball in the state was laid and a limited number of scholarships were awarded. The same year, Wood was elected the first president of the Women's Basketball Association in Mississippi.

In 1978, Wood served with Sue Ross as the first coaches of a Mississippi Junior College All-Star women's basketball team. The 1978-79 season concluded with Wood being chosen Mississippi Association of Coaches "Coach of the Year." She was also selected to the Top 20 National Junior College "Coaches of the Year."

Wood was again chosen coach of the women's All-Star team in 1984 and was a member of the Region 23 Women's Basketball Committee during 1985.

She retired from coaching in 1986 and the same year was elected Director of Women's Athletics for Region 23, a position she held for 10 years. During her tenure as Director, Wood served as Chairman of the Slow-Pitch Softball Committee for five years,



Lucille Wood (pictured in left photo) and Denver Brackeen (pictured with his wife, Charlotte, in right photo) were recently honored for their inductions into the National Junior College Athletic Hall of Fame by having banners placed in the Gymnasium of Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

was NJCAA representative to the national slow-pitch tournament for four years and served on the tennis and track and field committees. She was presented the NJCAA Service Award in 1990.

She is also a recipient of a "Power of One" award, which is presented to women in the state "who have given selflessly of their time and talents to make a difference in the lives of all Mississippians."

She was honored for her more than 50 years service to community and junior college athletics with her induction into the 2004 NJCAA Women's Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame on March 15 during the NJCAA Women's Basketball Tournament in Salina, Kansas.

Wood, a Louisville native, teaches health, physical education and education courses at ECCC in addition to serving as Chairperson of the Social Science, Business and Education Division.



### Bufkin Selected Most Beautiful

Kristin Bufkin (fifth from left) of Newton County and Jacob Lowery (sixth from left) of Winston Academy were recently selected Most Beautiful and Most Handsome at East Central Community College. Beauties and beaus included (from left) Coty Stokes of Nanih Waiya, Reagan Melton of Leake Academy, Kurt Nelson of Newton County, Megan Jones of Enterprise, Bufkin, Lowery, Niki Torrence and Kyle Gordon, both of Morton; Aly Burton of Newton County and Carl Spence of Neshoba Central.

## East Central students named to Who's Who Among Junior College Students

Seventy-three students were recently named to Who's Who Among American Community and Junior College students at East Central Community College in Decatur, according to Joe Kilens, Vice President for Student Services.

Students were nominated by faculty and staff and were selected based on academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular clubs and organizations. They will be recognized during the annual Awards Day celebration scheduled for May 2005.

Students and their respective hometowns include India Backstrom, Jennifer Ellen Johnson, Jodi K. Partridge, Cameron Michael Tawater, Elizabeth A. Tullos, Tanya L. Watkins and Robert Bryon Whitley, all of Philadelphia;

Lauren Nichole Barrett, Kristin Deanne Chaney, Heather Lynn Clearman, Ty Aline Dowden, Sarah Drue Hickox, Victoria Joy Loper, Darryl Levon Mapp, Sharli Amanda Moulds, Diego Andres

Perez, Heath Herndon Smylie, Ginger Michelle Vance and Erin Autumn Yelverton, all of Decatur;

Todrick Jabar Body, Amy R. Ealy, Ashley Nicole Harrell, Courtney Jo Hollingsworth and Mary Sawana Jones, all of Forest;

Jessica Suzanne Boswell, Lori Annette Horton, Lindsey M. Knight, Joanna K. Page, Marley Ann Smith and Shana Michelle Smith, all of Union;

Cynthia Denise Brantley, Valerie Ann Gibbs, Quintisa Shay Moncrief, Brian Henry Sibley, Mary T. Vega and Christopher Scott Walker, all of Newton;

Lindsey Marie Clanton of Lawrence;

Ashley N. Clark of Sturgis;

Benjamin Joseph Clark, Jessica Alayne Creekmore, David W. Frey, Dru Catherine Fulton, Daphanie Marie Hatcher, Faith Michelle Heessenius, Bradley Jerome Hill, Ryan Lacardiss Hudson, Jordan Denson Kemp, James Theron McMillin, Anna Alissa Price, Anthony Novak Stanford and Ronda G. Stroud, all of Louisville;

Bradley A. Cook and Jessica Leigh Sheehan, both of Little Rock;

Corey Adam Coward, Rachel Leigh Edwards, and Lashedrick Mon Eichelberger, all of Noxapater;

Julie K. DeBord, Betty Jean Dodd and Lee Ann Rawson, all of Carthage;

Anya Grace Dickerson, Sharon E. Griffin and Kristin Nicole Taylor, all of Conehatta;

Toney Lee Edison of Taylorsville;

Shelly Ferguson of Hickory; Courtnee D. Graham, Cynthia H. Moody and Shamra White, all of Preston;

Craig R. Martin and Roxana Marie Rogers, both of Lake;

Ashley L. Nicholson of Chunky;

James Edward Ozment of Epes, Ala.;

Brandi Patterson of Lena;

and David Lee Prewitt of Enterprise.



### Ferguson Crowned ECCC Homecoming Queen

East Central Community College sophomore Shelley Ferguson of Hickory receives her crown from College President Dr. Phil Sutphin during halftime ceremonies of the Warriors' 31-20 homecoming victory over Copeiah-Lincoln Community College October 9. Ferguson, a graduate of Newton County High School, is the daughter of Johnny and Cheryl Ferguson of Hickory. Serving as the queen's escort is Joseph Cavanaugh of Chunky. He is the son of Sandra Neese of Chunky and the late Alton Cavanaugh. Also pictured is 2003 queen Renee Thompson of Pelahatchie, who presented this year's honoree with a bouquet of roses. Thompson is the daughter of Randy and LaDonna Thompson of Pelahatchie.



# Nightmare or Reality?

By SCOTT VAUGHN  
Special to The Tom-Tom

It is August 2010 and I am registering to attend East Central Community College. After waiting in line for an hour, I am given a stack of forms and papers to fill out in a room with some 40 people that I have never seen before.

As I read and answer questions, some of them obvious such as name, address, phone number, etc., they begin to turn weird in "orientation."

I come to such questions as "State your sex by checking the box: male-female-other. State your sexual 'orientation:' male-female-animal-other. How sexually active do you plan to be on campus: Abstinent-Once-Often-Regularly-I'm a Rabbit."

I begin to look at the other ridiculous questions that are being asked and wonder why is the administration of this school wanting this kind of information? I'm looking around to see if others are having problems with these questions and they are answering them casually and methodically.

I hear two girls (lesbians) talking about applying for rooms in Winston Hall because straight girls wouldn't understand. There is also a guy who is sitting with them who is gay and talking about getting onto the second floor of Barber Hall.

Is it just because I am a Christian that these questions and conversations seem inappropriate? Should I have a problem with this or should I just be "tolerant?"

What has this country become if it "always" has to please everyone?

...Beep...Beep...Beep...  
Whew! The alarm! It was only a dream...or is it a prophecy of what is to come?

I do not think that people understand the magnitude of chaos that certain decisions make for nations. There is a saying that history repeats itself. I am by no means a history professor or expert, but I can look at common trends as well as causes and effects. Every great empire or civilization (Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Babylonian, Persian, etc.) that has risen in history all have one common decision that was made



Scott Vaughn  
Director of the ECCC  
Baptist Student Union

just before that empire or civilization collapsed.

They accepted the decision to deviate from what was "created" by God (which is for one man and one woman to make up marriage) and go into wholesale acceptance of "any" type of sexual activity. This is not, to my knowledge, made known to students, because it would be "politically incorrect" and be considered hate language.

So, just for the record, so that people will not think I am politically correct, I believe what God says in His Word (the Holy Bible) that sex should be for one man and one woman in the confines of marriage...to each other. I believe that "anything" different from that is a sin, and God says that sins have consequences. The consequences of sin are death, disease and misery. I believe God said for me to love sinners, but hate sin!

I believe that God said for men and women to create rules, laws, principles, concepts and standards of living based upon His law, so that men and women could live productive, fruitful, and socially beneficial lives for all those around them. I believe that God said that men and women could hold other people accountable and judge them for not obeying those said rules and laws.

I believe that if you think that I am a fool for these beliefs, that in all actuality you are the fool, because "A fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good." Psalms 14:1

## UPN Mississippi comes to ECCC

UPN Mississippi is on the dial at East Central Community College. North Mississippi's newest television station will be available beginning Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> on MediaCom Cable Channel 7. Viewers at ECCC and Newton County are the latest to receive UPN MS, north Mississippi's fastest growing station.

UPN, the United Paramount Network offers viewers the latest reality hit - America's Next Top Model, produced and hosted by supermodel Tyra Banks. Wrestling fans can reserve Thursday nights for WWE Smackdown! And, the space legacy continues Friday nights with Star Trek: Enterprise. UPN MS also features the highly successful Monday night comedy block featuring Eve, Girlfriends, Half and Half and new program Second Time Around, featuring real-life couple Boris Kodjoe and Nicole Parker ("Soul Food"). Two new dramas are also on the schedule; Kevin Hill, starring Taye Diggs ("Chicago"), Wednesdays at 8 p.m. and Veronica Mars, Tuesdays at 8 p.m., featuring Kristen Bell ("Everwood").

UPN MS, part of WCBI-TV's digital television channels, is Mississippi's first all-digital television station. The stations, owned by Morris Network, Inc, offer state-of-the-art, all digital picture and sound.

"Now WCBI's news is available to the viewing public through UPN MS," announced

Carl Bruce, WCBI General Manager. "Our intention is to increase the benefit to our viewers by offering our news in central Mississippi." WCBI's award winning news broadcasts include WCBI News at Sunrise, Midday, Five, Six and Ten.

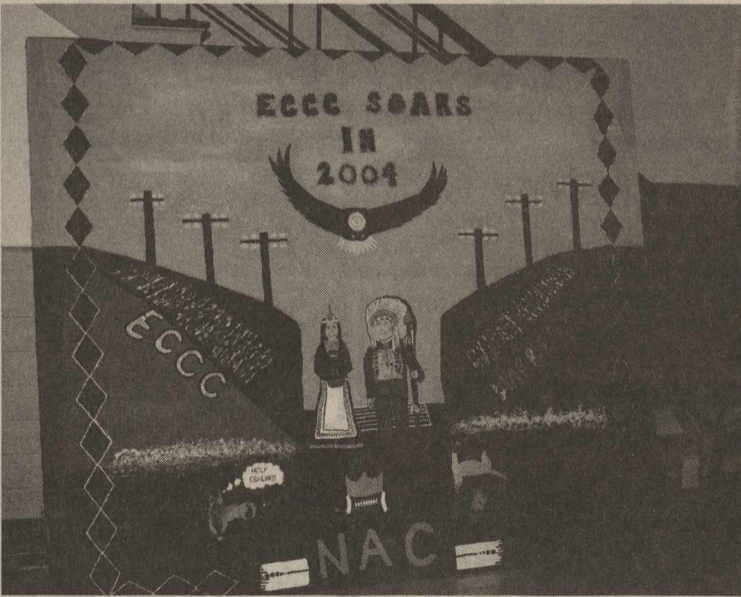
"Newton County is a vital part of our market," says Derek Rogers, UPN MS Sales and Marketing Specialist and ECCC Alum. "We are excited about this opportunity and the efforts of MediaCom to offer the college the newest and best programming."

UPN MS offers viewer favorite programming include the hit comedies - The Simpsons, Friends, Frasier, King of the Hill, Becker, and The Parkers. The latest in the world of entertainment is featured daily in the popular Extra and Good Day Live along with very popular Judge Hatchett and new program Pat Croce: Moving In.

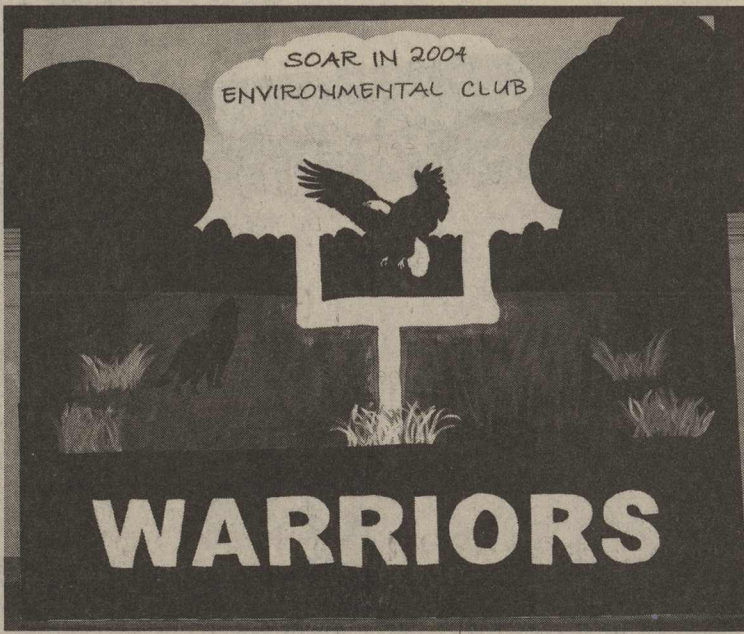
Movies dominate the weekend lineup on the station and outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy a variety of weekend hunting and fishing programs. The latest trends are featured on UPN MS's home and garden series. Also, a new local wrestling program, All-Pro Championship Wrestling will air Thursdays at 6 p.m., just before WWE Smackdown!.

A full program schedule is available by logging on to the station's website; [www.upnms.com](http://www.upnms.com) and the e-mail address is [upnms@wcbi.com](mailto:upnms@wcbi.com).

# Homecoming Sign Competition Winners



Winners in the annual East Central Community College Homecoming Sign Competition included (clockwise from top left) Native American Club, first place; Association of Student Nurses at East Central (ASNEC), second place; SkillsUSA VICA, third place; and East Central Environmental Club, fourth place.



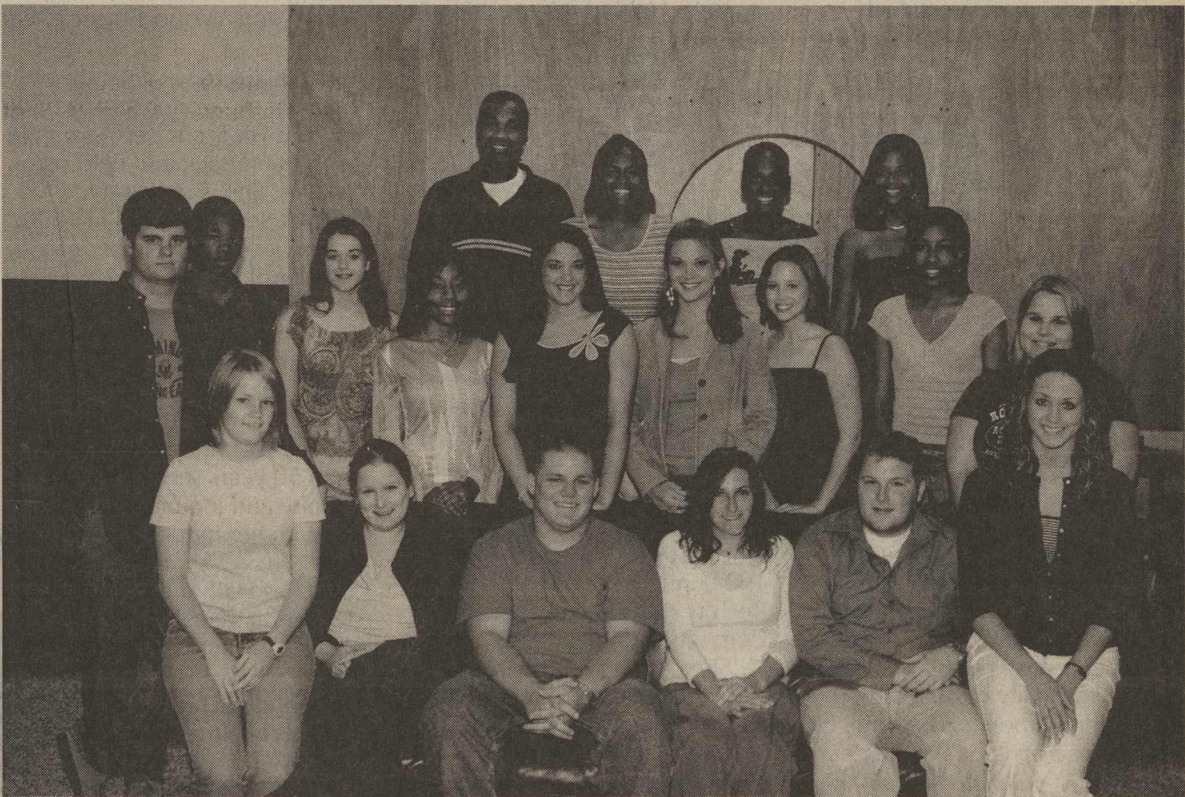
## ECCC Players to Present 'Father of the Bride' Nov. 11-13

The East Central Community College Players will present Caroline Francke's "Father of the Bride" for the annual fall dinner theater production November 11-13 in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

The play is based on the novel "Father of the Bride" by Edward Streeter and tells the story of Mr. Banks (Chris Smith of Union), who learns that one of the young men he has seen occasionally about the house is about to become his son-in-law. Although Mrs. Banks (Misty Smith of Union) and her sons are happy, Mr. Banks is in a dither. When the groom-to-be, Buckley Dunstan (Cliff Blaylock of Miami, Fla.) appears on the scene, Mr. Banks realizes that the engagement is serious!

Additional cast members include Dru Fulton of Louisville (Kay Banks), Steven Thomas of Philadelphia (Ben Banks), Chris Shuler of Harpersville (Tommy Banks), Tyler Triplett of Louisville (Buzz), Jennie Vance of Morton (Peggy Swift), Shay Moncrief of Newton (Delilah), Aly Burton of Decatur (Miss Bellamy), Morgan Richards of Newton (Massoula), Lindsey Clanton of Lawrence (Jolene), Amanda Dowell of Edinburg (Ms. Pulitzki), Samantha Partridge of Noxapater (Red), Ronda Stroud of Louisville (Patty), and Alisha Crockett of Louisville (Florist).

Crew members include Bryon



Cast members include (seated from left) Ronda Stroud of Louisville, Misty Smith of Union, Cliff Blaylock of Miami, Florida; Dru Fulton of Louisville, Chris Smith of Union and Amanda Dowell of Edinburg; (second row, from left) Steven Thomas of Philadelphia, Tyler Triplett of Louisville, Jeannie Vance of Morton, Amy Hathorn of Louisville, Lindsey Clanton of Lawrence, Morgan Richards of Newton, Aly Burton of Decatur, Alisha Crockett of Louisville and Ginger Vance of Decatur; and (back row, from left) Otiko Anthony of Carthage, Amy Ealy of Forest, and Shay Moncrief and Falind Pace, both of Newton. Not pictured is Chris Shuler of Harpersville. Lori Muse serves as director. For ticket information contact the college switchboard at 635-2111, ext.215 or 1-877-462-3222, ext. 215.

Whitley of Philadelphia, technical advisor; Otiko Anthony of Carthage, lighting; Ginger Vance of Decatur, stage manager; Sarah

Hickox of Decatur, production manager; and David Walters of Philadelphia, Falind Pace of Newton, Amy Ealy of Forest and

Amy Hathorn of Louisville, stage crew members. Lori Muse of Decatur serves as director.

## 275 Attend Annual ECCC Choir Festival

Two hundred seventy-five students participated in the annual East Central Community College District Choir Festival held recently on the Decatur campus. Dr. Jamie Meaders, Chairperson of the Music Department at Mississippi College in Clinton, served as guest clinician. Choir students from Morton, Newton County, South Leake, Union and Carthage high schools participated in the one day event.



The Tom Tom is the official campus newspaper of East Central Community College in Decatur, Miss. It is printed three times a semester by the Office of Public Information. For more information you may contact the staff at P.O. Box 129, Decatur, Miss., 39327, Ph. 635-2111, ext. 242, or toll free 1-877-462-3222.

### Accreditation

East Central Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone Number 404-679-4501) to award the Associate Degree.

### Non-Discrimination

East Central Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or handicap. The college is in compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Right to Know Campus Security Act of 1990.

Sponsors are Bubby Johnston and Maria McLeod.  
Staff members are Bradley Cook, Narell Monroe, Victoria Goodman  
Lacey McAdory and Stephanie Culpepper



# SPORTS

## ECCC Lady Warriors Aiming To Repeat Championship Season

If the NJCAA preseason poll is an indicator for success, then East Central Community College women's basketball team should be making plans for a return trip to the national tournament in Salina, Kansas, in 2005.

The Lady Warriors, ranked sixth in the recent rankings, finished eighth in the nation in 2003-04, after winning runner-up honors in the NJCAA Consolation Bracket and finishing with a 31-4 record. Led by third-year head coach Brad Hodge and then assistant LaCole Brooks, the East Central women advanced to the national tourney after capturing the Region 23, MACJC and South Division crowns.

Although the pre-season ranking is flattering to the program, Hodge said the Lady Warriors "have a lot to prove" if they are to make a return trip to the prestigious tournament.

"We've got another competitive and talented group that should be fun to watch. We'll continue to play up-tempo as we always do, and will defend and play hard, but we must rebound better this season. We've also got the depth we need to be successful in the league, although our incoming freshmen have yet to learn what it takes to compete night-in and night-out at this level. Once they figure that out, we've got a chance to be productive," Hodge said.

Hodge said the strength of this

year's squad is team leadership.

"We return five players off last year's group, including two starters and two players that saw a lot of action coming off the bench. Their leadership and experience is a big plus for the program, because they know what it takes to be successful. This group has the same competitive nature as last year, but the bottom line is that this team is also very talented and I expect us to do well once we have a complete understanding of playing to our potential every night," Hodge said.

Hodge said the Lady Warriors are "passionate" about winning, and have made it clear that they want to continue the winning tradition and hopefully return to the NJCAA Tournament.

"Our goal is always to win the division, state and region tournaments and make it to the national tournament, and I think this group is determined to succeed. However, I believe the league is stronger this year and everybody will be giving us their best because of our success last season," Hodge stated.

Top returnees are guard Kristin Chaney (5'6"), a product of Newton County High School, and guard/forward Kotreece Bender (5'10"), of Newton. Chaney, who was named to the All-Region 23 Tournament Team and was selected All-State, averaged 11 points per game while Bender had nine points per con-

test.

Other returnees are guards Roxana Rogers (5'7") and Kim Cox (5'7") both of Lake, and forward India Backstrom (5'11") of Neshoba Central.

Freshmen are guards Ashley Flint (5'10") of Choctaw Central, LaSaundra Harrison (5'3") of Union, Heather Steele (5'9") of Nanih Waiya, Tierra Young (5'8") of South Leake, Erica Hardin (5'9") of Louisville and Aja Loveless (5'9") of Newton and red shirt Emily Massey (5'6") of East Rankin Academy; forwards Dominatrix Hunter (5'9") of Philadelphia and Sara Judice (6') of Teurlings Catholic (Lafayette, La.); and centers Shannon Loyd (6'2") of West Lauderdale and April Viv-erette (6'1") of Lake.

Beginning her first year as an assistant is Zareth Gray, a former standout at Michigan State University. She also played professionally in Europe.

"Zareth is doing a great job with our post players," Hodge stated. "She brings another perspective to the game having been a player at a Big 10 program. Additionally, she has worked at the Division 1 level under some good coaches. She has a wealth of knowledge we must tap into for us to be successful. She's responding well to the players and vice versa. I think she will be a valuable asset to this program and the college."



Members of the defending Region 23 and MACJC Champion Lady Warriors of East Central Community College and their respective high schools include (front row, from left) freshman guards Aja Loveless of Newton and Emily Massey (redshirt) of East Rankin Academy, and student assistants Lakeisha Bobbitt of Scott Central, Ashley Clark of Starkville Academy, Kasenda Overstreet of South Leake, Monica Carter of Noxapater, Jaimee Jones of Nanih Waiya and Krystle Hunter of Noxapater; (second row, from left) freshman guard Ashley Flint of Choctaw Central, freshman center Shannon Loyd of West Lauderdale, freshman guard LaSaundra Harrison of Union, sophomore guard Kristin Chaney of Newton County, freshman guard Heather Steele of Nanih Waiya, sophomore guards Roxana Rogers and Kim Cox, both of Lake, and freshman guard Tierra Young of South Leake; and (back row, from left) head coach Brad Hodge, freshman forwards Dominatrix Hunter of Philadelphia and Sara Judice of Teurlings Catholic (Lafayette, La.), sophomore guard/forward Kotreece Bender of Newton, sophomore forward India Backstrom of Neshoba Central, freshman guards Erica Hardin of Louisville and Lauren White of Union, freshman center April Viverette of Lake and assistant coach Zareth Gray.

## ‘Young’ ECCC Warriors Ready To Begin Season

A mostly freshman squad will be called on to lead the East Central Community College men's basketball team to success in 2004-05.

Although the Warriors will be young this year – only four players return – fourth-year head coach Billy Smith said he has been pleased with his squad's progress.

"So far our team has really worked hard, and their closeness on the court has been great. This team has really jelled as far as getting along and working together. We hope that this togetherness will help win a few games when things don't necessarily go our way," Smith stated.

To be successful this season, Smith said his Warriors "will have to be aggressive on offense and defense," due to the team's lack of size. He also plans to play a lot of people "in order to wear down teams hopefully."

The only returning starter from last year is Ryan Hudson, a 6-6 center from Louisville, who averaged 12 points and 3.5 rebounds in leading the Warriors to a 10-14 record. Other returnees are guards Garrick Nichols (6-1) of Thomastown, Tawon Walker (6-1) of Neshoba Central and Andrew Lewis (6-0) of Morton. Another sophomore on the squad is first-year player Ryan Rodgers, a 6-4 forward and product of Tri Cities

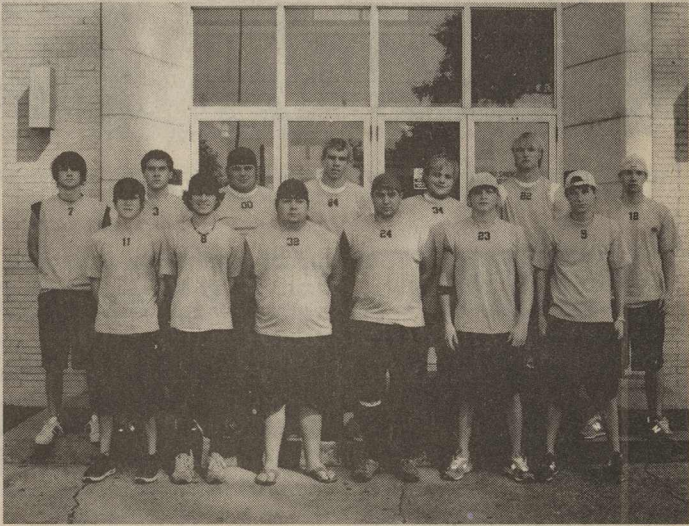
High School in Atlanta, Ga.

Freshmen are guards Ricardo Alcantar (5-10) of Newton County, Pierre Barlow (6-1) of Scott Central, Andre Coleman (6-2) of Louisville, Jerry Luckett (6-1) of South Leake, Terrance McNichols (6-1) of Gautier and Anthony Simonds (6-3) of Noxubee County; and forwards Jacques Jones (6-4) of Forest, Chavlon Ellis (6-3) of South Leake, Coshune Bingham (6-5) of Newton and Justin Harris (6-5) of Southside High School in Atlanta, Ga.

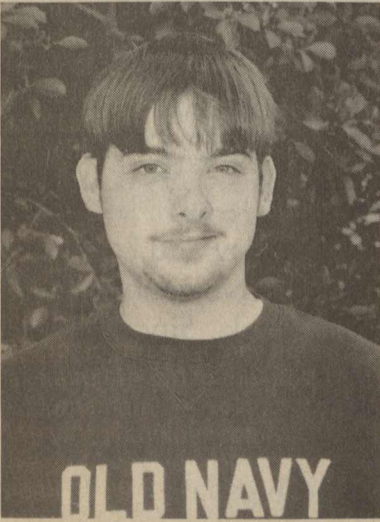
Kevin McGhee returns for his second season as assistant coach.

## ECCC Intramural Football Champions

Kamikockeyes were winners in the annual East Central Community College intramural football competition. Pictured are (front row, from left) Marty Quinn, Patrick Leone, Andrew Addkison, Jeremiah Gillett, Jeremy Clark and Stan Smith, all of Louisville; and (back row, from left) Joe Buck Peterson, Ben Clark, Michael Gregory, Chase Boyston, Zac Richardson, Patrick Woodward and Kevin Gregory, all of Louisville. Scott Hill serves as intramurals director.

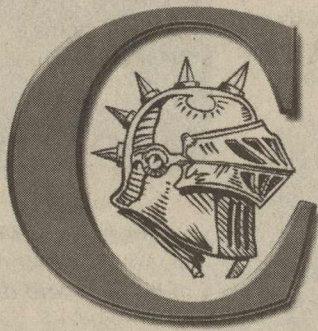


Members of the 2004-05 East Central Community College Warrior basketball team and their respective high schools include (front row, from left) student assistant Handel Hughes of Forest, freshman guard Jerry Luckett of South Leake, sophomore guards Andrew Lewis of Morton and Garrick Nichols of Thomastown, freshman guards Pierre Barlow of Scott Central and Ricardo Alcantar of Newton County, sophomore guard Tawon Walker of Neshoba Central, freshman guard Terrance McNichols of Gautier and student assistant Chase Slaughter of Newton County; and (back row, from left) assistant coach Kevin McGhee, freshman guard Andre Coleman of Louisville, freshman forward Jacques Jones of Forest, freshman forwards Chavlon Ellis of South Leake and Justin Harris of Southside (Atlanta, Ga.), sophomore center Ryan Hudson of Louisville, freshman center Derrick Harris of Los Angeles, California; freshman forward Coshune Bingham of Newton, sophomore forward Ryan Rodgers of Tri Cities (Atlanta, Ga.), freshman guard Anthony Simonds of Noxubee County and head coach Billy Smith.



## ECCC Pool Shark!

Nolan Burchfield of Labutcha won top honors in the intramural eight-ball tournament held at East Central Community College. Burchfield, a sophomore computer network support technology major, is a graduate of Louisville High School. Coach Scott Hill serves as director of the College's intramural program.



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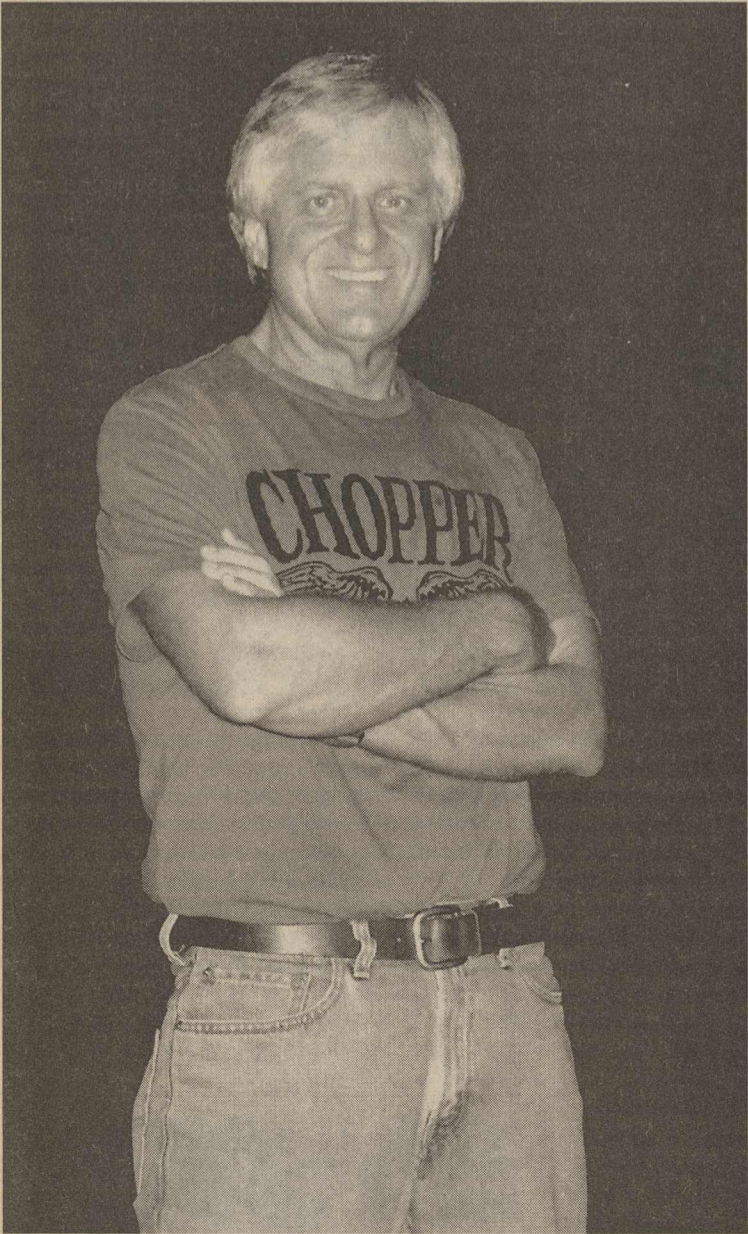


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# Director of Bands Tom Carson: How He Became East Central’s Biggest Loser!!!!



“Skinny” Tom Carson is shown after losing 160 pounds this past year.

By **BRADLEY COOK**  
Tom-Tom Reporter

When the Wall O’Sound Marching Band took the field for their first halftime performance of the 2004 football season, many students and faculty could hardly recognize the band’s director. Tom Carson has been synonymous with East Central’s music department for nearly 25 years. But never before had he appeared so slim!!! Carson had dropped nearly half of his weight seemingly overnight (11 months to be exact). But, the question burning on the minds of everyone was simply “How did he do it?” The journey began on November 11, 2003. “I remember it like it happened yesterday,” said Carson. “One day before my 48 birthday, I was sitting on my couch drinking

a Coke and eating a Snickers bar. I weighed 335 pounds. I was miserable. I had trouble breathing, my bones were aching, and I was tired all of the time. My blood pressure was high also. I sat on my couch and told myself that at the rate I’m going, I’ll be dead before I turn 50.” As a result of Carson’s revelation, he embarked on what he calls the “I Don’t Want To Die Before I’m 50” diet. His main goal was not just to lose weight, but to change his entire lifestyle. His first task was to change his eating habits. He eliminated what college students know as the four major food groups, beginning with his vile addiction to Coca-Cola. “I cut the Coke,” he said. “I would drink up to 2 liters a day. I stopped drinking all soft drinks.” Along with the soft drinks, Carson expelled fried foods, fast food, and sweets out of his vocabulary. No more burgers and

shakes for Carson. He began to study the food he would eat. “I write down everything I eat,” Carson said. “I have stacks of papers charting every meal I’ve eaten over the last 11 months. I count the calories and decide what to eat.” Next, Carson wanted to start an exercise program to complement the diet. He began by searching the Internet for information on proper exercise habits. He learned that any good exercise routine must focus on aerobic work-outs and weight training. With the new information in his grasp, Carson purchased a treadmill and a set of 15-pound barbells. “I couldn’t use my treadmill at first because the weight limit was 250 pounds. And I could barely lift one of the 15 pound barbells over my head when I first started. I didn’t give up. I started trying to do push-ups and other types of exercise to get started,” Carson said. Within a few weeks, the initial “water weight” began coming off. He began to work his way up from the 15 pound barbells to 25 pounds. He was able to do a few push-ups. Soon he reached 260 pounds. “I was so excited that I couldn’t wait any longer. I jumped on the treadmill anyway,” he said. “I crawled through a half-mile my first time, but it was a start.” Like he had with the barbells, Carson gradually increased his distance on the treadmill. Today, Tom Carson runs 3 miles every other day on his treadmill. He has joined a gym and proudly boasts his current bench press high of 160 pounds. The results? In less than one

year, Tom Carson has dropped down from 335 pounds to an amazing 175 pounds, a total which he has maintained for 5 weeks. He has fallen from a 56 inch waist line to a cool 33 inch waist line. His family has bought in to his lifestyle change as well. His wife Brenda, Financial Aid Director at ECCC, has dropped 45 pounds. And each of his children has adopted a passion for exercise. He has encountered a few “negatives” to go along with his new lifestyle. “I had to purchase brand new clothes,” he said. “It was the first time in a long time I could walk into any store and buy clothes. I’m now addicted to sugar-free chewing gum. I keep it in my mouth to prevent serious cravings. And I drink three cups of coffee every day. I didn’t drink as much before.” So what does he say to those who want to lose some weight of their own? “As the Nike ads say, ‘Just Do It’. That’s all I can say. It has to be something you want to do and you just have to do it. You have to work at it. Weight loss doesn’t come overnight. It does take time and effort. In the end it’s whether or not your life is more important than the Twinkie or the Cupcake. You can’t have it both ways.” Now with a fresh start on life, this band director has a new “beat” in his step. “I feel better than ever. And I’ve made a permanent change in my life,” he said. “The way I live now is how I will live when I’m 90.” Carson can now pride himself in the fact that he has become East Central’s “Biggest Loser.”



Carson is shown with the Centralettes last year at his 335 pound self. He soon started what he calls the “I Don’t Want to Die Before I’m 50” diet and dropped to a 33-inch waist!

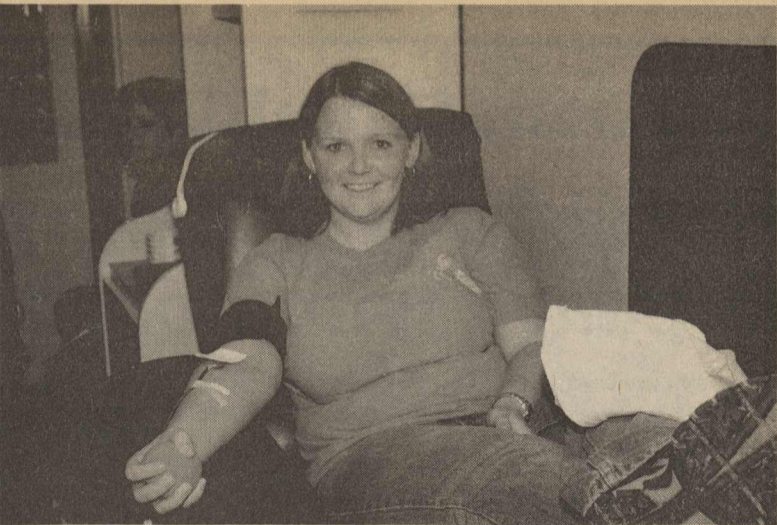
## EC Warriors Fall 29-13 To Jones in season finale

Football season came to a disappointing end for the East Central Community College Warriors who were outscored 29-13 by the visiting Jones County Junior College Bobcats at Warrior Stadium. With the loss, East Central finished at 4-5 overall and 2-4 in South Division action, while Jones improved to 7-2 and 4-2. The Bobcats took control early in the division match-up, scoring on the game’s first possession when wide receiver Milton Collins of New Orleans crossed the goal line on a 17-yard reverse play with 12:34 left in the initial period. Michael Story of Enterprise booted the PAT. Jones scored again late in the first quarter on a 14-yard touch-

down strike from quarterback Brett Hyatt of Soso to running back Harold Hadley of Laurel. The PAT was blocked. The Bobcats stretched their lead to 20-0 early in the second period when Hyatt and Collins teamed on a 64-yard pass play. Story again added the PAT. Hyatt, the state’s number-four passer, would finish the division contest by completing 18 of 28 passes for 241 yards. He had one interception, which was made by Warrior linebacker Derrell Ashford of Louisville on the ECCC one-yard line as the first half came to a close. Collins was the top receiver for Jones with seven grabs for 137 yards. He is also the state’s number-two receiver, averaging 76.4 yards in recep-

tions per contest. East Central got on the scoreboard on the ensuing possession when quarterback Jarius Neal and wide receiver Chris Lark, both products of Pickens County (Ala.) High School, combined talents on a 72-yard pass play. Ryan Gale, a former standout at Oak Mountain (Ala.) High School added the PAT, and EC trailed 20-7 at halftime. Neal would finish the night by completing eight of 30 passes for 138 yards. Lark was the leading receiver with four catches totaling 116 yards. The Warrior defense stiffened in the second half, limiting Jones to just two Michael Story field goals – a 32-yarder in the third period and a 37-yard boot

in the final stanza. The Bobcats managed just 13 yards rushing and 35 yards passing during second half action. East Central owned the state’s third-best rushing defense prior to the contest, allowing just 94.6 yards. However, the Warrior offense could muster just one score in the second half – a three-yard run by tailback Terrance McFadden which cut the Jones’ lead to 26-13 with 8:38 remaining. McFadden, a product of American (Fla.) Heritage High School, led the Warriors in rushing with 69 yards on 17 carries. East Central completed the contest with 231 yards and 11 first downs, while Jones totaled 368 yards and 13 first downs.



### Giving for Others

Sophomore Brooke Winstead of Philadelphia was among East Central Community College students and College personnel who donated blood during a recent drive sponsored by United Blood Services. College nurse Gloria Rigdon reported 38 pints were collected during the one-day event. (Photo by Tom-Tom staff member Brian Sibley).



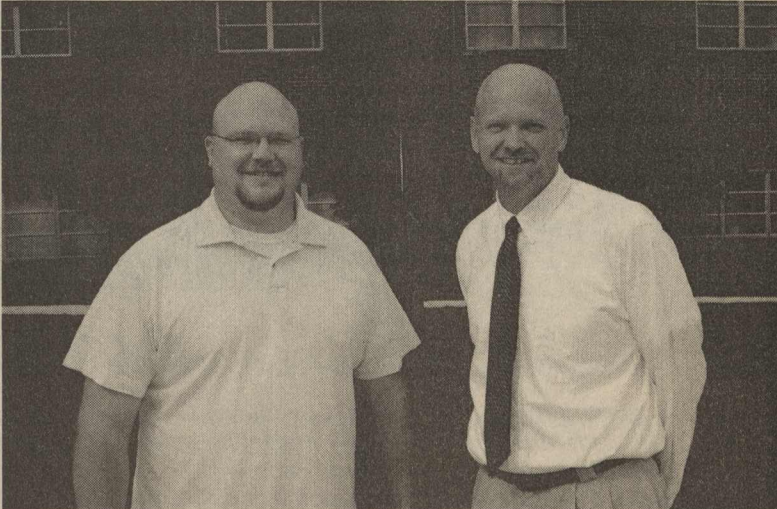
### Former Governor Visits Campus

Former Mississippi governor William Winter recently visited the East Central Community College campus where he met with community leaders to discuss efforts of the Institute of Racial Reconciliation at the University of Mississippi. Purpose of the Institute, named in Winter’s honor, is “to foster reconciliation and civic renewal wherever people suffer as a result of discrimination or alienation,” according to Institute’s Web site. Promoting racial harmony is also a goal of the organization. “If we are to take advantage of the progress we have made in the area of civil rights, we must make a renewed resolution to work together,” Winter said during the meeting, held in the Board Room of the Vincent Administration Building. Winter added that “public education” is the Institute’s top priority. Governor Winter is shown talking with ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin who also attended the meeting.



### Lead ECCC’s PBL Chapter

These students serve as officers of Theta Chi chapter of Phi Beta Lambda at East Central Community College for the 2004-05 College term. Seated from left are Romeka Smith, treasurer, and Veronica Holmes, president, both of Louisville, and Ashley Luckett, secretary, of Carthage. Standing from left are Jeffery Davis, vice president, of Louisville; Brad Walton, parliamentarian, of Decatur; and Ken Webster, reporter, of Philadelphia. Phi Beta Lambda is an organization for business students. Kelly Cluff, who teaches computer network support technology, serves as lead adviser.



### Receives ECCC Engineering Scholarship

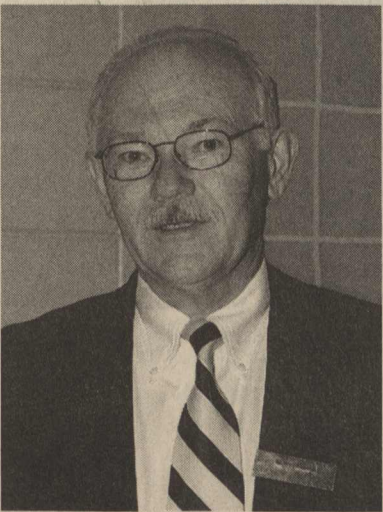
East Central Community College sophomore engineering major John Franklin (left) of Union is the 2004 recipient of The S. Lebrun Hutchison Scholarship, which is presented to a member of Alpha Alpha Epsilon, “The Engineers,” who has the potential to succeed in the field of engineering or science. The scholarship, which provides \$300 per semester during the recipient’s sophomore year, was established by S. Lebrun Hutchison, a 1949 ECCC graduate who was the founding vice president of the College’s AAE chapter. Shown with the scholarship recipient is Joe Killens, Vice President for Student Services.

### MAKE UP BAD WEATHER DAYS!

East Central will meet Thursday and Friday classes on Monday and Tuesday (November 22-23) of the week of Thanksgiving Break. Since we met the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday classes before Hurricane Ivan, we will make up the Thursday classes (day & night) on Monday and the Friday classes on Tuesday.

## Teacher Spotlight: Tony Kinton

By **NARELL MONROE**  
The Tom-Tom Reporter



Tony Kinton

Years at EC: 6

Courses You Teach: English Composition I, Developmental English2 and American Literature

What Inspired You To Become a Teacher: My senior English teacher inspired me to teach.

What Is The Best And Worst Part Of Teaching? The best part is interacting with the students while helping them learn. The worst part is the paperwork and having to grade so much material.

Where Did You Attend College: Mississippi College

Family: Wife, Susan.

What Advice Would You Give To Today’s Generation? Be who and what you are and don’t expect that the world or anybody owe’s you anything. Expect and plan to make your own way.



## ECCC Collegians to Present Campus Concert Nov. 15

The Collegians, East Central Community College's rock-n-roll band, will present their fall campus concert at 8 p.m. November 15 in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. The popular group will present music by today's hottest radio artists. Special guest will be the band "Hillcrest" from Hattiesburg. Admission is free. Pictured are (front row, from left) bass guitarist Grant Morris of Philadelphia, vocalists Leigh Quick of Carthage, Griff Misso of Starkville, Luke Howell of Decatur, Carmelita Naylor of Meridian and Kailey Johnson of Philadelphia; and guitarist Phillip Dickerson of Union; and (back row, from left) trumpeter Chris Smith of Union, keyboardist Jeremy Gibbs of Morton; trombonist David Walters of Philadelphia, technicians Jonathan Walker of Hickory, Joseph LeBlanc of Louisville, Lee Dooley of Lake, Jeremy Hamm of Union, Richard Burton of Little Rock and Bryon Whitley of Philadelphia; saxophonists Liz Tullos of Philadelphia and Eric Henderson of Forest; and drummer Jeremie Jordan of Newton. Not pictured is vocalist Victoria Loper of Decatur and director Thomas W. Carson, who also plays guitar.



## ECCC Homecoming Court Presented Oct. 9

Members of the 2004 East Central Community College Homecoming Court were presented Saturday, October 9, during halftime ceremonies of the Warriors 31-20 win over Copiah-Lincoln Community College. The court included (first row, from left) freshman maids Aly Burton of Decatur, Pharen Nelson of Forest, Clancy Cleveland of Union and Misty Mayes of Newton; queen Shelly Ferguson of Hickory, maid of honor Quintisa "Shay" Moncrief of Newton, and sophomore maids Lindsey Clanton of Lawrence, and Stephanie Culpepper and Amy Ealy, both of Forest; and (back row, from left) escorts Bud Loper of Rose Hill, Jacquas Jones of Forest, Grant Morris of Philadelphia, Jacob Lowery of Louisville, Joseph Cavenaugh of Chunky, Austin Bonds of Decatur, Brian Sibley of Newton and Todd Body of Forest. Not pictured is escort Lando Blaylock of Union.



## 2004 Homecoming Honorees

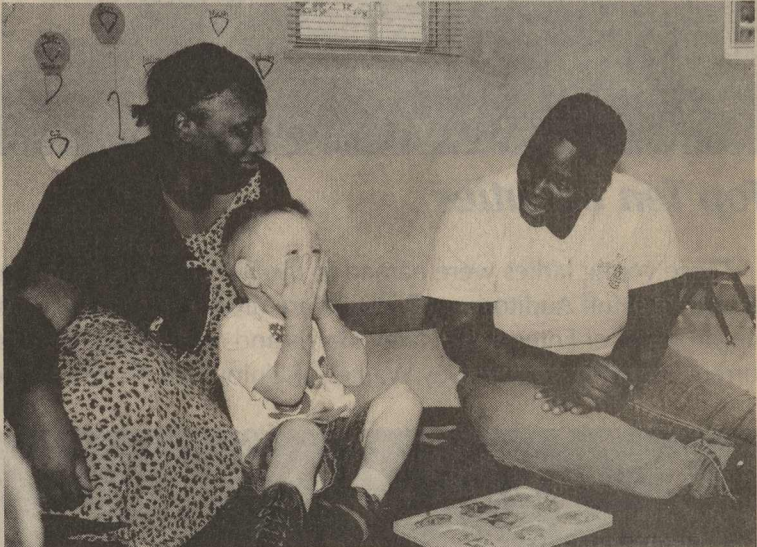
The East Central Community College Alumni Association presented honors to the above individuals during homecoming activities held Saturday, October 9, 2004. From left are Ann Hunter Burkes of Decatur, Alumna of the Year; Dr. John G. Hollingsworth of Commerce, Ga., Alumnus of the Year; Marcus Mann of Forest and Ken Pouncey of Decatur, Athletic Hall of Fame inductees; Sharon Lejeune of Meridian, Academic Instructor of the Year; and Wanda Brackeen of Hickory, Vocational-Technical Instructor of the Year.

## Mother, Daughter Enjoy ECCC Child Development Program

By NARELL MONROE  
Tom-Tom Reporter

Erma Pace and her daughter, Lakeshia Pace, are both students in the East Central Community College Child Development Technology Program. They decided to attend East Central because it is close to their home. Erma became interested in Child Development Technology after volunteering at a Headstart Center in Forest. She said she instantly became intrigued with young children, so she decided to devote most of her time working with them. A close friend of Lakeshia told her how exhilarating it was interacting with children. Although Erma makes better grades, she and Lakeshia still enjoy working together because

of the learning experience for both of them. Outside of the program, Erma devotes much of her time to the church and she is also a Girl Scouts leader. Lakeshia said she enjoys talking on the phone and singing gospel music. Erma said, "After graduating I plan on transferring to a University and then opening my own daycare center." Lakeshia added, "I plan on attending Southern Mississippi and hopefully I'll become an elementary teacher." This dynamic duo strives to enrich the lives of today's young children. They believe their love, patience and guidance are imperative to ensure proper growth. These women believe today's children have the ability to impact tomorrow with incredible greatness!



ECCC Child Development Technology students Erma (left) and Lakeshia Pace (right) enjoy "Show and Tell" time with C.J. Adkins (center) of Decatur.

## EC Student Education Association Discusses Transfer Requirements

By AMA BURNS  
Special to The Tom-Tom

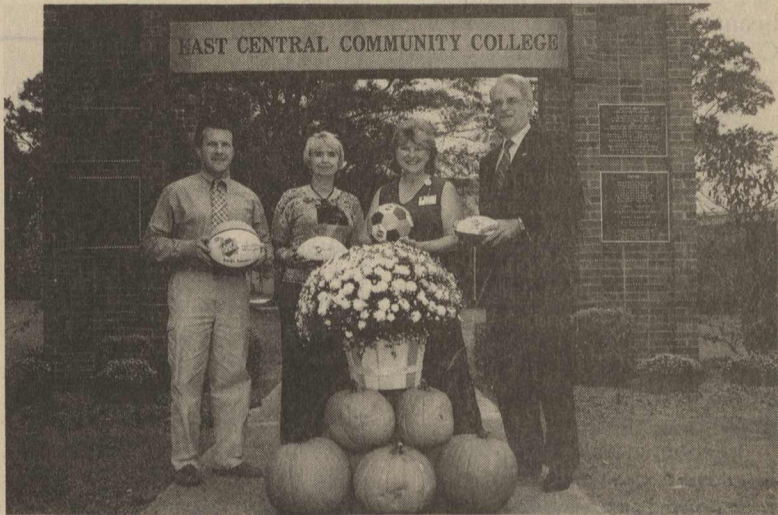
On October 5, 2004, the Student Education Association held its second meeting in Newton Hall Room 90. At the meeting, the guest speaker was Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, ECCC Vice President for Instruction. She informed education majors about the graduation requirements and how to apply for graduation in May. She

also talked about the Praxis I and the recommended time to take it. Also, several of the education advisors discussed the changes that the University of Southern Mississippi has made to its requirements for transfer students in the field of education. The sponsor and officers of the Student Education Association would like to extend an invitation to all education majors to attend our next meeting.



## Special Guests for Lunch!

Members of the College's maintenance staff were treated to a recent lunch at the ECCC pavilion compliments of the Vocational-Technical Division and Workforce Development Center. Roger Whitlock, Center director, expressed appreciation to the group for their "capable, quality efforts" in all they do for the College. The meal consisted of hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixings.



## Bearing Gifts from Sam's

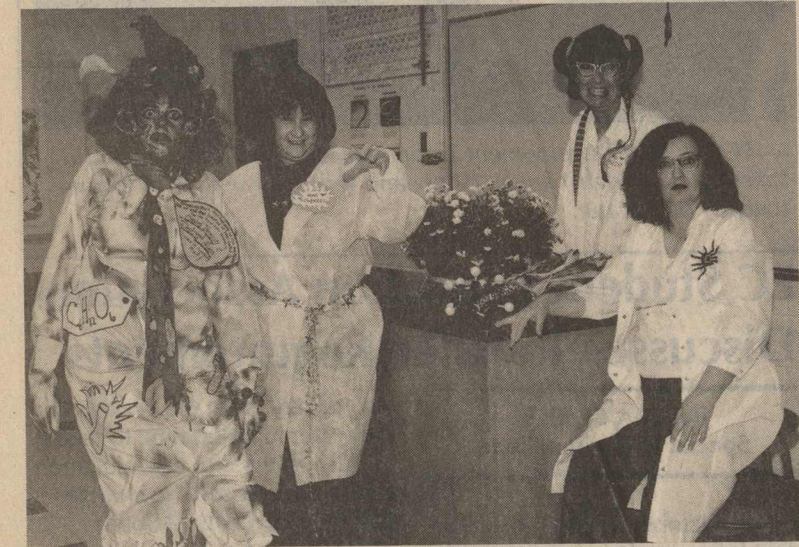
East Central Community College and Sam's Club of Meridian have partnered to provide free memberships for all East Central personnel for one year. In appreciation for the College's support of the new business, company representative Susie Broadhead (third from left) recently presented various gifts to ECCC as displayed by administrators (from left) Mickey Vance, vice president for business operations; Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, vice president for instruction; and Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, president. The ECCC Foundation purchased the one-year memberships for approximately \$3,000.





Top Ten Beauties

These young ladies were named to the Top Ten during the annual East Central Community College Beauty Pageant held recently in Huff Auditorium. Pictured are (from left) Reagan Melton of Leake Academy, Misty Mayes of Newton County Academy, Megan Jones of Enterprise, Haley Harris and Most Beautiful Kristin Bufkin, both of Newton County; Julie DeBord of Carthage, Niki Torrence of Morton; Lindsey Walker of Union, Aly Burton of Newton County and Jennifer Johnson of Neshoba Central.



Those Crazy Science Teachers....

Having a little fun in Halloween costume are the above members of the College's science department who include (from left) Kim Willis (biology), Peggy Clayton (chemistry), Sharon Lejeune (biology) and Patti Davis (biology). Students reportedly enjoyed their teachers' break from normality, and some even stayed awake for an entire lecture!



Phi Beta Lambda Service Project Chairman Jeffrey Davis (left), and PBL sponsor Christy Ferguson make preparations for the groups' SOS: Support for Our Soldiers service project.

Phi Beta Lambda Begins Project SOS: Support for Our Soldiers

Members of Phi Beta Lambda began a new community service project recently. Project SOS: Support for our Soldiers will entail members collecting letters to soldiers, selling patriotic beanie babies and decorating a Community Christmas Tree in red, white and blue.

The collection of letters to soldiers will be held through November 12. Each letter should be a generic letter to a soldier. Names will be added on the letters before they are mailed.

Currently members are creating the mail list, which will include EC students who are currently serving our country, plus friends and family members of EC students and faculty.

Phi Beta Lambda members would like to get the world out and request that letters be submitted by November 12 to Christy Ferguson, PBL advisor.

Patriotic beanie babies are also on sale at a cost of \$5. All proceeds from the beanie babies will go to the March of Dimes.

More information will be available on the Community Christmas Tree at a later date.

Phi Beta Lambda asks everyone to please help support the

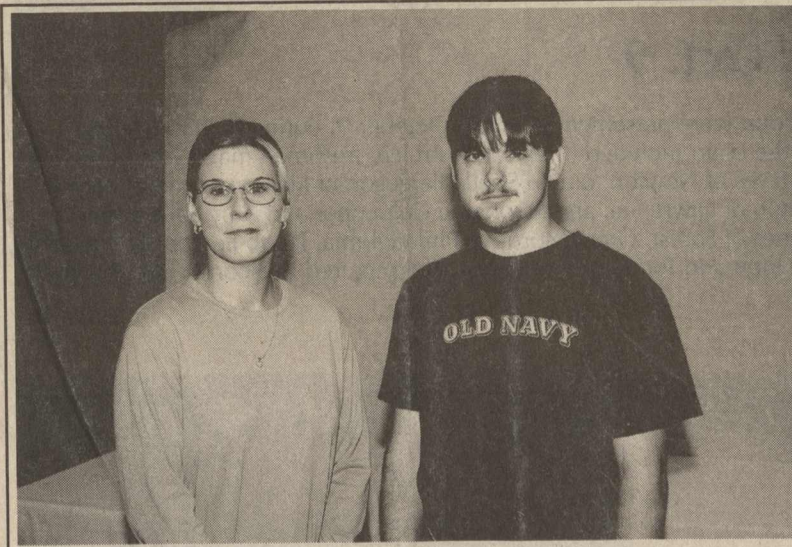
troops by taking part in this project.

For more information contact Jeffrey Davis, PBL Service Project Chair, or Christy Ferguson, PBL sponsor.



Bufkin Selected Most Beautiful

Kristin Bufkin (second from left) of Newton County and Jacob Lowery (third from left) of Winston Academy were recently selected Most Beautiful and Most Handsome at East Central Community College. Crowning Most Beautiful was College President Dr. Phil Sutphin (left) and 2003 Most Beautiful Ashley Buckman presented roses. Buckman is also the state's reigning Miss Hospitality.

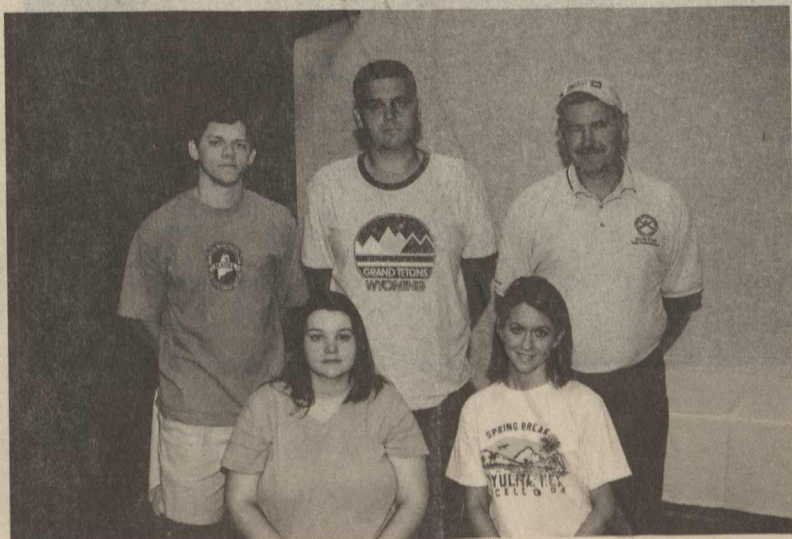


Winston Students in WBL Program

These East Central Community College students from Winston County are among participants in the College's Work-Based Learning Program, which provides students the opportunity to receive work experience and competitive wages in their chosen field of study in addition to receiving classroom instruction. From left are Fran Warmack (computer programming option) of Louisville and Nolan Burchfield (computer network support technology) of Lobutch. Chris Harris serves as Work-Based Learning Coordinator.

Area Students in ECCC Program

These East Central Community College students from the Newton County area are among participants in the College's Work-Based Learning Program, which provides students the opportunity to receive work experience and competitive wages in their chosen field of study in addition to receiving classroom instruction. Seated from left are Tina Morgan (pre-bachelor of science in nursing) of Lake and Denise Poole (associate degree nursing) of Decatur. Standing from left are Wade Hollingsworth (computer network support technology) of Newton, Shane Johnston (electronic technology) of Lake and Jeff Laird (electronic technology) of Hickory. Chris Harris serves as Work-Based Learning Coordinator.



College Life and the Nontraditional Student

By VICTORIA GOODMAN  
The Tom-Tom Reporter

Being in college is definitely not an easy task. Expensive books, two-hour lectures and late-night cramming for early morning exams are among the many reasons why learning how to manage time is essential in preparing for college courses.

Without that preparation, college is even more difficult to sustain. It seems as though professors make it their duty to dig up information from the deep, dark corners of their mind and put it all into question form on the next pop quiz.

Imagine having to deal with these extreme pressures of being in college. Now imagine having to deal with them while working and taking care of a family. This is a reality for freshman Veronica Larkin.

Larkin is a Decatur native. She has been married for nine years to husband Billy Lark and is the mother of three children: Kimberly, 13; Dominique, 8 and Billy Jr., 3.

Although Larkin dropped out

of school at an early age, she knew that having an education was the only way to obtain the career for which she was destined.

On August 22, 2003, while on medical leave from Peavey, Veronica made the decision to continue her goals of higher education.

She took GED classes at East Central and then passed the GED examination. In January of this year, she enrolled as a college freshman.

Veronica said "balancing college life with family duties is hard, but I am determined."

She also said that her children look to her as their role model and the support of her husband is very comforting.

Veronica is majoring in Surgical Technology and hopes one day to return to school and become an elementary school teacher.

She said, "Put God first and you can accomplish anything behind her, and many more to come, Larkin has definitely achieved what some may call impossible."



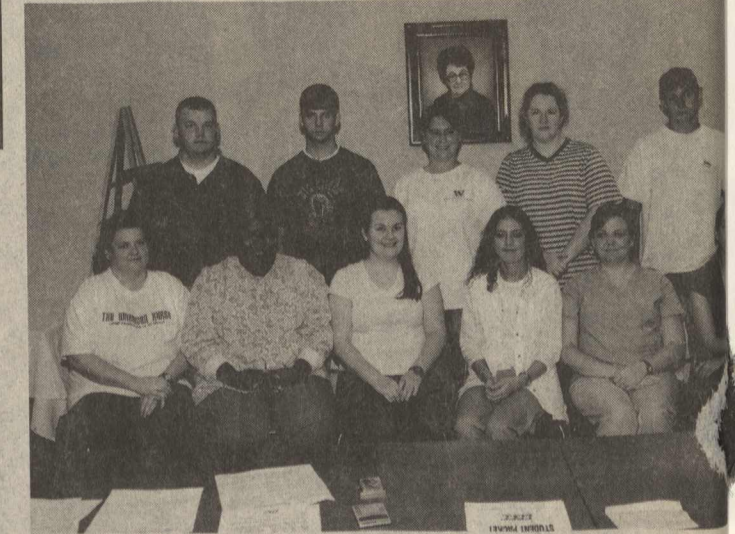
Scott Students in ECCC WBL Program

These East Central Community College students from Scott County are among participants in the College's Work-Based Learning Program, which provides students the opportunity to receive work experience and competitive wages in their chosen field of study in addition to receiving classroom instruction. Seated from left are Larry Evans (electronic technology), Jonathan Sawyer (welding) and Patrick Spivey (welding), all of Forest. Standing from left are Lee Dooley (welding) and T. Chris Anderson (electronic technology), both of Lake, and Rue (welding) of Forest. Chris Harris serves as Work-Based Learning Coordinator.



Participate In ECCC Work-Based Learning Program

These East Central Community College students from Lauderdale County are among participants in the College's Work-Based Learning Program, which provides students the opportunity to receive work experience and competitive wages in their chosen field of study in addition to receiving classroom instruction. From left are Mildred Cole and Donna Clark, both associate degree nursing students from Meridian. Chris Harris serves as Work-Based Learning Coordinator.



ECCC Work-Based Learning Students

These East Central Community College students from Philadelphia are among participants in the College's Work-Based Learning Program, which provides students the opportunity to receive work experience and competitive wages in their chosen field of study in addition to receiving classroom instruction. Seated from left are associate degree nursing students Martha Boswell, Rhonda Moore, Erin Nowell, Carla Chamblee and Melissa Mayo, and Misty Phillips, whose major is child development technology. Standing from left are Brant Winstead and Brent Nance, both drafting and design technology majors; Kristi Partridge (associate degree nursing); L. Morrow (surgical technology); and Joe Dertinger (welding). Chris Harris serves as Work-Based Learning Coordinator.