



## PBL takes top honors

EC's Phi Beta Lambda receives first place honors in national competition. **PAGE 3**

# The Tom-Tom

A Student Publication of East Central Community College

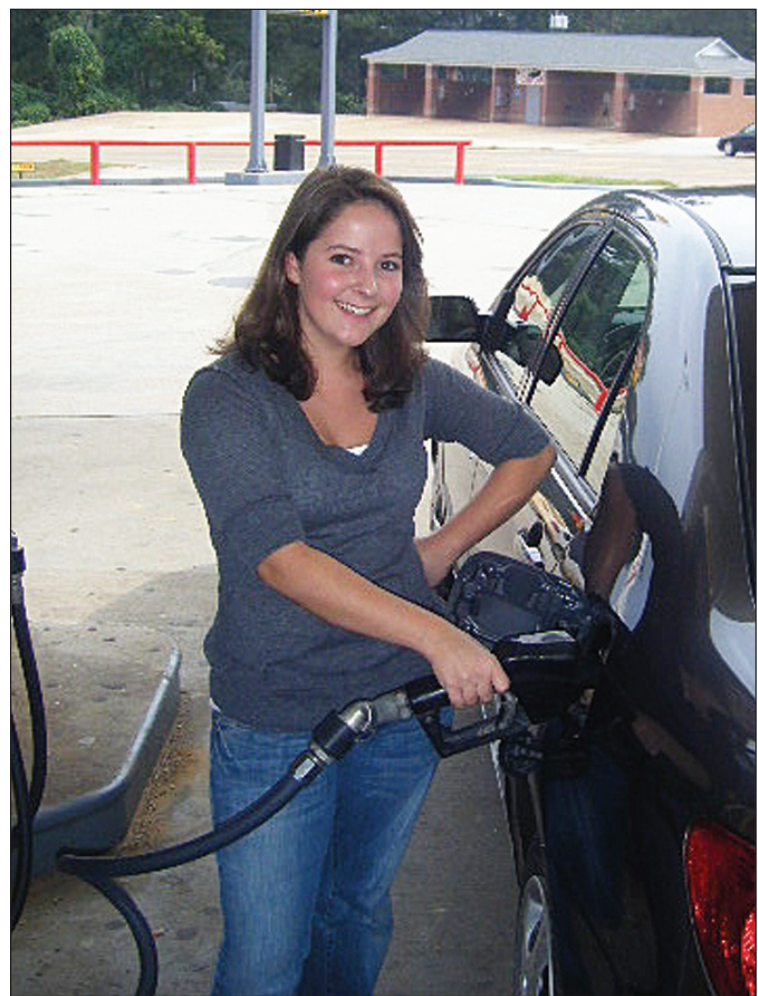
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## Extraordinary student

Josh Underwood shares his love of art, showcases his work, **PAGE 15**



JODY LAWSON/TOM-TOM STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laura Alexander, a freshman nursing major from Little Rock, manages a smile while filling her car's gasoline tank; however, she said she is stressed about the rising gasoline prices.

## Gas prices take toll on students, staff

BY SANTIGIOUS CULPEPPER  
Staff Writer

Gas prices are affecting people throughout the state of Mississippi and on the campus of East Central Community College. Many people try to find ways to conserve fuel. Some have tried carpooling. Others are trading in a larger vehicle for a smaller vehicle.



FOWLER

Pam Fowler, an English instructor from Philadel-

phia said, "Before the spring semester of 2008 was over, I traded my SUV in for a car because of the rise in the gas prices. Over the summer, my husband and I generally tried to limit travel. We have a motorcycle, so we rode on several road trips to take the place of a long road trip in the car. With a smaller car, I can fill my tank up once a week and travel approximately 60 miles daily."

Even though smaller cars can be a good way to conserve gas, some people try to conserve fuel by combining trips.

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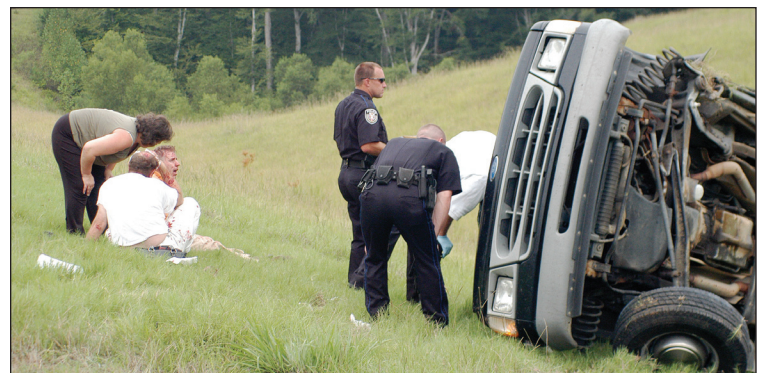
## ECCC reaches second highest enrollment in college's history

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The drive for higher education continues to increase and with that force the enrollment for classes at East Central Community College in Decatur reached the sec-

ond highest number in the College's history. EC enrolled 2,640 students for the fall 2008 term just 99 students shy of the College's highest enrollment of 2,739 reached in 2004.

See **ENROLLMENT** Page 9



THE WINSTON COUNTY JOURNAL/SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Workforce Development staffers Joe Barret and Joseph Knight look on as emergency personnel extract additional staff members from the overturned van following an accident on Aug. 15. The accident injured a total of eight EC staff members.

## Warrior Homecoming 2008



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Members of the 2008 East Central Community College Homecoming Court and their respective high schools include (front row, from left) sophomore maids Candi Vance and Joy Hayes, both of Newton County; queen Emily Thrash, Sebastopol; maid of honor Briana Edison, Collins; and sophomore maid Becky Culpepper, Scott Central; and (back row, from left) freshman maids Hannah Watkins, Sebastopol; Savanna Smith, Newton County; Bailey Brown, East Rankin Academy; and Kayla Hampton, Nanih Waiya. The court will be presented during halftime activities of the Warriors' Homecoming game against Southwest Mississippi Community College scheduled Saturday, Sept. 27 on the Decatur campus. Kick-off is set for 2:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium.

## ECCC announces 2008 Homecoming Queen, Court

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College recently announced members of the Colleges 2008 Homecoming Court following elections held on the Decatur campus.

Honorees and their respective high schools include queen Emily Thrash, Sebastopol; maid of honor Briana Edison, Collins; sophomore maids Becky Culpepper, Scott Central, and Joy Hayes and Candi Vance, both of Newton County; and freshman maids Bai-

ley Brown, East Rankin Academy; Kayla Hampton, Nanih Waiya; Savanna Smith, Newton County; and Hannah Watkins, Sebastopol.

The Queen and her Court will be presented Saturday, Sept. 27, during halftime of the ECCC vs. Southwest Mississippi Community College football game. Kickoff is set for 2:30 p.m. in Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

Thrash is a sophomore nursing major and the daughter of Danny and Susan Thrash of Sebastopol.

She serves as student body as-

sociation president and captain of the cheerleading squad. She is also a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Warrior Corps and the Lady Warrior softball team. She was selected a freshman class favorite and was named ECCC's Most Beautiful for 2007.

A graduate of Sebastopol High School, Thrash was selected Miss SHS, Homecoming Queen and Student Body President. She was selected a UCA All-Star Cheerleader, was an MAC Slow-Pitch

See **COURT** Page 8

### Alumni, Friends encouraged to go 'Walkin', Runnin'

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Alumni and friends of East Central Community College are invited to kick-off homecoming activities by participating in the second annual Warrior Fitness Challenge, a 5K Run and 5K Walk, getting underway at 7:30 a.m. Saturday.

Registration for the 3.1 mile event begins at 6:30 a.m. at the College walking trail on north campus.

Race chairman Dr. Philip Crenshaw, who teaches history at the College, said trophies will be presented to the top overall finishers and to the first- and second-place winners in each age category.

Each participant will receive a medal, T-shirt and the opportunity to win door prizes for completing the "Challenge." Food and drinks will also be provided.

Entry fee is \$10 per person.

### Mayo, Denson selected Alumni of the Year

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Richard E. "Dick" Mayo (Class of 1955) and Marijo James Denson (Class of 1947), both of Decatur, were recently selected Alumnus and Alumna of the Year, respectively, at East Central Community College. They will be honored during the College's annual Homecoming festivities scheduled Saturday, September 27 on the Decatur campus.

**RICHARD E. "DICK" MAYO**

Mayo retired from NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) in 1990 after more than 33 years of federal service. He continued to work as a neering and later Muniz Engineering for another 12 years before retiring in 2002.

He began his career with the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., and was then

See **HONOREES** Page 9

## Workforce Development members recovering from near fatal accident

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Friday, Aug. 15, 2008 is a date that will be etched forever in the minds of eight East Central Community College Workforce Development team staffers Joe Barrett, Chris Clark, Tina Harris, Joey Kenna, Joseph Knight, Kimberly Mott, Roger Whitlock and Lucretia Williams. The staff members were returning to Decatur from a meeting on the Mayhew campus of East Mississippi Community Col-

lege when their EC van was struck by a late model pickup truck, approximately eight miles north of Louisville on MS Highway 25 near Louisville Sturgis Road. The driver of the truck was not injured.

"All of us saw the impact coming, except Joey," Roger Whitlock, Dean of Workforce Development said. "You could sense that everyone who saw it (the vehicle) coming said 'Help us Lord.'"

Marketing Specialist Kimberly Mott said she too saw the oncom-

ing vehicle and recalls the van's driver Joe Barrett warning the group before impact.

"Joe (Barrett) said, 'That guy's not going to stop, is he?' I covered my head and closed my eyes and remember us rolling and thinking 'Is it ever going to stop?'" Mott said.

The truck collided with the van on the driver's side front wheel panel just inches from where Barrett was sitting. The van rolled two

See **ACCIDENT** Page 8



# Page Two

## FEATURE TEACHER

### Covich takes new name

BY AARON MORRISON  
Staff Writer

It may seem like Mrs. Kate Covich is our new speech teacher on campus, but she really is just the same face known as Ms. Kate Keenan. Why you ask the name change? Well, Covich married Sean Covich this summer. *The Tom-Tom* staff congratulates Covich on her marriage and wishes her a happy, healthy and prosperous marriage. This year will be her first year to co-sponsor our Phi Theta Kappa chapter. She has taught at ECCC full time for two years and said she looks forward to many more.

**COVICH'S QUICK FACTS:**  
► Born in: Laurel



**COVICH**  
► Grew up in: Bay Springs  
► Favorite subject to teach: Speech  
► Favorite Movie: Steel Magnolias  
► Favorite Music: Christian  
► Interesting Fact: She's seen Mississippi State University Bulldogs play baseball in all 12 SEC stadiums.

## FRESHMEN 101

### A look at life as a freshman

BY SHARDAE FOLEY  
Staff Writer

The freshmen class of the 2008-2009 fall term was asked a series of questions about their first semester at East Central Community College. The questions showcase how they became interested in EC, plans after graduation, activities and interests and thoughts on EC thus far.

**GERLISA RODRIGUEZ**  
High School: Forest High School

Activities: Environmental Clubs, Gospel Choir  
Interest: Singing and Dancing

How did you learn about East Central Community College? I learned about EC through friends and family.

What made you want to become a student at ECCC? I thought it would be a good place to further my education.

Where do you plan to attend college after graduating from ECCC? I plan to attend Jackson State University.

How do you like being at East Central Community College? Would you recommend more people to come to ECCC in the future? Yes, it has been a great experience. I would tell people that being a Warrior could lead to good things in the fu-

ture.  
If you plan to join any clubs which one would you choose and why? I plan to join the environmental club to help keep the campus clean and safe for other students.

Are you currently a member of any sports teams, band, etc.? No

**SHUNN FRAZIER**  
High School: Ackerman High School

Activities: Wall O' Sound Marching Band  
Interest: Gospel Choir, Church, Movies and Traveling

How did you learn about East Central Community College? I found out about ECCC when the Wall O' Sound Marching Band performed at the M.H.S.A.A Region Three State Marching Band Festival in Meridian.

What made you want to become a student at East Central Community College? What made me want to attend EC are all the good things I've heard.

Where do plan to go to college after East Central Community College? My plans are to attend Mississippi State University.

How do you like being at ECCC? It's a fun, plus well educated place to attend.

If you plan to join any

See **FRESHMEN** Page 14

## STRIKE A POSE



BY LESLIE CRAWFORD  
Staff Writer  
**FRESHMAN: KAYLA MEADERS**

1. **Favorite color?** Pink
2. **Favorite song?** Swing by Savage
3. **Most embarrassing moment?** I went white water rafting and I wore white shorts and I got all wet and you could see that I had polkadot panties on after.
4. **High school you graduated from?** Newton County Academy
5. **Do you sleep with a stuffed animal?** No
6. **Favorite place to shop?** Express
7. **Favorite T.V. show?** Army Wives
8. **Favorite food?** Boneless honey barbecue wings
9. **What is your favorite kind of Jolly Rancher?** Blue raspberry
10. **Do you like going to EC?** Yes

## COOKIN' AT EC

### Faculty, Staff give favorite recipes for Relay For Life

BY SAMANTHA KINARD  
Staff Writer

Cooking has been a great pastime for people throughout the years. Recipes have been treasured literature passed from generation to generation and from friend to friend. In 2007, the faculty and staff of East Central Community College collected their top recipes and created *"Cooking with You in Mind"* as a Relay for Life fundraiser. The cookbooks are available from Stacey Hollingsworth in the alumni office for \$15. All money fundraised will go to the American Cancer Society. The recipes below can be found inside *"Cooking with You in Mind."*

**JOE JOHNSON'S**  
**BLUEBERRY PINWHEEL COBBLER**

Biology instructor and Blueberry farmer Joe Johnson said the Blueberry Pinwheel Cobbler is unlike any other. Johnson recommends when preparing the cobbler to roll the dough into pinwheels similar to making sweet rolls. After pouring the sugar water over the "rolls" and baking, he said, it "miraculously" turns into a delicious crispy brown cobbler. The cobbler is easy to prepare and child-friendly.

**Blueberry Pinwheel Cobbler**  
1 ¼-1 ½ c. sugar  
2 c. water  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
½ tsp. lemon juice  
½ c. butter flavored shortening  
1 ½ c. self-rising flour  
1/3 c. milk  
2 c. fresh blueberries



JOHNSON

½ c. butter or shortening  
Combine sugar and water in saucepan and stir well. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until sugar dissolves; stir in vanilla and lemon juice. Set aside. Cut shortening into flour until mixture resembles coarse meal. Add milk, stirring just until dry ingredients are moistened. Cook dough out onto lightly floured surface and knead lightly four-five times. Roll dough to a 12x9-inch rectangle. Spread blueberries over dough; roll up, jelly-roll fashion, beginning with long side. Set aside. Melt butter in 13x9x2-inch baking dish. Cut dough into 12, one-inch slices. Place the slices, cut side down, in butter. Pour sugar syrup around the slices. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes or until golden brown.

**DEBORAH HAMMONS'**  
**COWBOY CAVIAR**

Computer science instructor Deborah Hammons was first introduced to this recipe when she attended a bunko game where the caviar was being served, and later asked the hostess for the recipe. Hammons said she now serves the caviar at all her family events, and highly recommends serving scoopable tortilla chips with it. Cowboy Caviar is also great over salads.

**Cowboy Caviar**  
1 can White Shoepeg Corn  
1 can Black Beans  
1 can Black-eyed Peas  
½ Bell Pepper (Chopped Fine)  
½ bunch Spring Onions (Chopped Fine)  
1 can Garbanzo Beans (Optional)  
1 sm. Bottle Zesty Italian Dressing (Fat Free)  
Garlic Salt to Taste  
1 tsp. Lemon Juice  
Drain all vegetables cans. Mix all

## STRIKE A POSE



BY LESLIE CRAWFORD  
Staff Writer  
**SOPHOMORE: CODI INGLE**

1. **What is your natural hair color?** Brown
2. **Favorite food?** Steak
3. **Favorite Band?** Jonas Brothers
4. **Do you play a sport?** I played basketball in high school
5. **Have a favorite football team?** I pull for Ole Miss
6. **What time do you usually go to bed?** 2 or 3 in the morning
7. **Have a best friend?** Laken Morgan
8. **How many pairs of sunglasses do you own?** One
9. **Do you like sushi?** Ugh No
10. **What was the last movie you saw in a theater?** Hancock

ingredients. Chill overnight. Serve with tortilla chips or Fritos

**SHERRI CLIBURN'S**  
**CHICKEN POT PIE A LA CAROLINE**

Special populations instructor Sherri Cliburn's chicken pot pie is a favorite of her daughter, Caroline. Cliburn recommends freezing the filling, and having a pie crust on hand for a quick meal during a busy week. It's a great meal to give to families with new babies or new neighbors. Making your own pie crust is optional.

**Chicken Pot Pie A La Caroline**

1 pkg. ready to use pie crust  
1 sm. Pkg. frozen peas and carrots  
½ c chopped onion  
½ c. fresh mushrooms, chopped  
¼ c. butter  
1/3 c. flour  
½ tsp. salt  
¼ tsp. sage  
1/8 tsp. pepper  
2 c. water  
¾ c. milk  
1 t. chicken bouillon (two cubes crushed)  
3 c. cooked chicken or turkey  
¼ c. chopped pimento  
¼ c. snipped parsley

Place one piecrust in the bottom of a deep dish pie plate. Cook peas and carrots according to package directions; drain. Cook onion and mushrooms in butter until tender but not brown. Stir in flour, salt, sage and pepper. Add water, milk and bouillon, all at once. Cook and stir one-two minutes more. Stir in drained cooked vegetables, chicken or turkey, pimiento and parsley; heat until bubbly. Pour mixture into piecrust. Top with other crust. Bake in preheated oven 400

See **COOKIN'** Page 14



# Clublicity



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Displaying awards received at the 2008 National Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference are the above members of Theta Chi Chapter at East Central Community College in Decatur, who captured first-place awards for the first time along with numerous other honors. The ECCC students were recognized for winning more honors than any Mississippi chapter during the three-day competition held earlier this summer in Atlanta. Award winners included (first row, from left) Dollye Packer of Lake, third place, E-business competition; and Leslie Hollingsworth of Forest and Ann Valentine of Hickory, second, Community Service Project; (second row, from left) Sabra Fortenberry of Union, third, E-business; Laura Pearson of Louisville, first, Parliamentary Procedure; and Shaun Cooper of Decatur, eighth, Word Processing; (third row, from left) Leslie Nash of Union, first, Parliamentary Procedure and fifth, Local Chapter Annual Business Report; Brookes Mayes of Newton, seventh, Small Business Management Plan and received special recognition for her induction into Who's Who in Mississippi; and Brooke Barrett of Union, 10th, Partnership with Business Project; and (fourth row, from left) Drew Harrison of Little Rock, first, Parliamentary Procedure; and Josh Dickerson of Union and Carlos Rice of Louisville, who won first place in Parliamentary Procedure and placed seventh in the Small Business Management Plan competition. Theta Chi also received the prestigious Gold Seal Chapter Award.

## Phi Beta Lambda Students Take Top Honors at National Competition

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College students returned to the Decatur campus with first-place awards for the first time and other honors following competition at the 2008 National Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference held earlier this summer in Atlanta. Four students — Carlos Rice of Louisville, Drew Harrison of Little Rock, and Leslie Nash and Josh Dickerson, both of Union — won top honors in the Parliamentary Procedure competition and will be inducted into the Mississippi PBL Hall of Fame at the organization's State Leadership Conference in 2009. "This is the first time we have had a first-place winner at the national competition," said Business Technology instructor Christy Ferguson, who serves as a club adviser. "Our chapter and

advisers are obviously very proud of them and all our award winners." Brookes Mayes of Newton also received special recognition at the national conference for being selected to PBL's Who's Who in Mississippi. She was given the highest recognition of any Mississippi PBL member. Mayes teamed with Rice and Dickerson to finish seventh in the Small Business Plan competition. Also winning honors at the national event were Ann Valentine of Hickory and Leslie Hollingsworth of Forest, second place, Community Service Project; Dollye Packer of Lake and Sabra Fortenberry of Union, third, E-business; Nash, fifth, Local Chapter Annual Business Report; Shaun Cooper of Decatur, eighth, Word Processing; and Brooke Barrett of Union, 10th, Partnership with Business Project. Theta Chi also received

the prestigious Gold Seal Chapter Award and was recognized for receiving the most awards of any Mississippi chapter. Also attending the national conference were Britni Wright of Louisville, William Cumberland of Union, Jonathan Federick of Hickory and Evans Summers Jones of Walnut Grove, who were among the 17 ECCC students who qualified for the national contest following state competition. Theta Chi advisers Christy Ferguson, Judy Hurtt, Ruth Gregory, Brenda Johnson and Thomas Fortenberry accompanied students to Atlanta. Phi Beta Lambda is the premier Business Education Association preparing students for careers in business and success in life. Its purpose is to foster a better relationship between one another and to cultivate a better understanding of business principles in general.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College Phi Beta Lambda members attended the 2008 National PBL Leadership Conference held earlier this summer in Atlanta. The EC organization won first-place awards for the first time and other honors following competition. Pictured are: front row, Brenda Johnson; second row, Dollye Packer, Thomas Fortenberry, Christy Ferguson, Ann Valentine, Leslie Hollingsworth and Judy Hurtt; third row, Shaun Cooper, Sabra Fortenberry, Brooke Barrett, Britni Wright, Ruth

Gregory, Laura Pearson, erick, Evans Summers Jones, Josh Dickerson, Drew Harrison and Carlos Rice. McDonald, William Cumberland, Jonathan Fed-

## Phi Theta Kappa Takes Chances, Makes Changes

FROM STAFF REPORTS

As the officers of Phi Theta Kappa met for one of their weekly meetings and prepared for the upcoming year, they were in search of an easy way to sum up everything the organization would be striving for. It was at this meeting that the phrase "Taking Chances, Making Changes" was developed as the motto for Theta Xi this year. It is a great motto for the society because it simply states everything they will be working towards. Indeed, they are taking chances with new ideas, policies, advisers and activities. The chances they are taking are causing some major positive changes in how the organization is run and their public reception for the better!

Phi Theta Kappa is the International Honors Society for the two year college. The organization recognizes the top students in education and actively promotes scholarship, leadership, fellowship and service. Through scholarship, members learn about various issues facing our society and implement innovative service projects for the community to reflect what they have learned. To accomplish this, the development of leadership skills and fellowship are key elements to success. Needless to say, Phi Theta Kappa provides the experience that many em-

ployers are searching for. To jump start the year, Phi Theta Kappa officers Aaron Mann, Matt Naylor, Nicole Dunavant, Emilee Lanier and Shaun Cooper, along with advisers Curt Skipper and Deborah Hammons, took a chance and presented information at the Decatur Town Hall meeting about starting a Keep America Beautiful chapter in Newton County. The club's apparent enthusiasm, support from their wonderful advisers, and an informative presentation headed by Matt Naylor must have had a profound effect on the board members because they agreed! The first chance they took became a big change as they have successfully started the ball rolling to start a Keep America Beautiful chapter in Newton County!

Phi Theta Kappa President Shaun Cooper said, "Not only have we begun the process of getting this organization started, but this is a partnership with the town of Decatur that we will be sharing for the duration of the life of Keep America Beautiful - a first for our chapter! The formation of a Keep America Beautiful group in Decatur is a change that we are very proud to have been able to take part in. We firmly believe that this one act will change the face of our town forever!"

According to their Web site, Keep America Beau-

tiful is the country's "largest volunteer based community action and education organization." The main goals include recycling, beautification and litter prevention.

"We are looking forward to working with the Board of Supervisors and the community as we all come together for the common goal of enhancing Decatur's environment," Cooper further went on to say.

Theta Xi has also formed a working relationship with the East Central Environmental Club. The Environmental Club is already known for recycling aluminum cans across campus and donating the tabs to the Ronald McDonald House, so, as a group, the club members all agreed that it's time to begin collecting plastic bottles in addition to the aluminum cans.

"We encourage all individuals to bring your aluminum cans to any of the drop off spots across campus and the plastic bottles to Cross Hall to be recycled," he said. "If we all work together, we can make a huge difference in our world. This is only a glimpse of what our hard work and dedication can accomplish! We are well on our way to reshaping our campus, community and ourselves if we continue to take chances and make changes!"

Kate Covich is also a Phi Theta Kappa advisor.

## CLUBS BRIEFLY

### PHI BETA LAMBDA

Phi Beta Lambda members need to see Mrs. Ferguson if you plan to attend the State Fall Leadership Conference at Meridian Community College on Oct. 18. Registration fees must be paid by Sept. 25 in order to receive the early bird registration fee.

### EAST CENTRAL ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

The East Central Environmental Club would like to get everyone involved in our local recycling program. If you are not already recycling your aluminum cans please drop them off at the east end of Cross Hall (the science building). The club removes the pull tabs and donates them to "Ronald McDonald Houses" and sells the cans to pay for trips and projects. They are also now recycling plastic and would like to get your clean, crushed bottles. Bring them to the same place.

### STUDENT BOOK CLUB

The East Central College Library is proud to announce that the first meeting of the EC Student Book Club was Sept. 16. The Book Club is open to all individuals who enjoy a good read. The Book Club's mission is to promote reading, enhance critical thinking skills, provide cultural awareness among classmates and friends in an open, non-threatening environment, provide discussions on key themes, literary elements and when applicable discuss how the book may relate to today's society. An overview of our initial book discussion included Nicholas Sparks, Edgar Allan Poe, as well as many other authors. If you would like to join or interested in becoming a member of the Student Book Club, please see Ms. Johnson or Mrs. Wood at Burton Library.

— Tyler Watkins

**The 2008 East Central Community College Beauty Pageant will be held on Monday, Oct. 20.**

**The deadline for turning in forms is *Thursday, Sept. 25.* Forms can be turned in to the Career Technical Office in the Tucker Applied Technology Building.**

**For more information, call Joan Grimes at 601-635-6212 or Susan Fox-Smith at 601-635-6113.**



# Warrior Views

## FROM THE EDITOR

### Friend or Foe...Blackboard

In East Central's new campaign for a "paperless classroom," administrators have caused more of a hassle and headache for teachers and students alike. For the past few years, East Central has slowly integrated the Blackboard program which allows teachers to post class documents, assignments, announcements as well as discussion questions. While in theory Blackboard is wonderful, in practice, it becomes a useless headache.

Many teachers have embraced the world of technology and can use Blackboard with a fair amount of ease. However, some still have a problem using computers. With the new requirement of Blackboard use, these teachers must take additional time out of their already hectic day to figure out the site and post things for their students. Even teachers who can use computers without problems must take time out of their day to post papers such as syllabi that the students should be present in class to get and keep up with.

One sophomore student said, "Isn't that the whole point of being in class is to get the assignment? If the teacher posts it on Blackboard, then the kids that skip class can get it too." I can't agree more. If I'm in class to get the assignment and another student is not, he or she should not

have the ease of clicking a few buttons to get the same thing I had to go to class to get.

In addition to helping skippers, Blackboard is a hindrance in another way. In the first day of school, two of my teachers assigned the class to answer a discussion board question. After spending much time trying to figure out how to answer the question for one class I finally gave up. On a later day, I was able to answer the question for one class, but the other class, I was unavailable and not found. Of course, this is on the account that the Internet was actually working.

However, I can't completely bash the entire Blackboard system. In the event that I must miss a class for a school event, I can get the assignment when I return instead of waiting until the teacher's next available office hours. Also, if a paper is due the next day and I need the assignment it will be available at the click of a few buttons.

Perhaps in a few years when faculty and students alike become accustomed to Blackboard, everything will become much smoother. However for now, requiring instructors and students to use it is a bit much. I for one am very uncomfortable with some of my grade in certain classes being dependent on whether or not Blackboard will work correctly.

— Kylie Rigdon



## WORDS OF A WARRIOR

BY J'MARUS DUBOSE

### What do you think of Blackboard being a requirement in classrooms this year?

**Megan Jordan**  
Union • Freshman • Liberal Arts  
"Blackboard makes learning easier."



**C.J. Williams**  
Union • Freshman • Liberal Arts  
"I really haven't used it a lot."



**Daniel Alexander**  
Union • Freshman • Math  
"I think it has the potential to be helpful, but it should not be required."



**Candie Willis**  
Union • Freshman • English Literature  
"Blackboard shouldn't be required in class because everybody isn't technology literate."



**Kristina James**  
Philadelphia • Freshman • Secondary Edu.  
"I don't like Blackboard because it's too much extra work."



**Brittany Morrison**  
Newton • Freshman • Business  
"It's not easy to study online. I would rather see it on paper or have someone talk to me about it."



### Why did you choose to live on campus, off-campus or commute?

**Landsey Sanders**  
Forest • Freshman • Nursing  
"I didn't want to stay at home, and it's cheaper on gas to stay on campus."



**Albert Hunts**  
Louisville • Sophomore • Drafting and Design  
"It's closer and more accessible to stay on campus."



**Tyler Watkins**  
Forest • Freshman • Liberal Arts  
"I stay on campus because it's cheaper than driving from Forest everyday."



**Tiara Quince**  
Bay Springs • Freshman • Business  
"I chose to stay at home to take care of my child and other responsibilities."



**Marques Kelly**  
Louisville • Sophomore • HVAC  
"I live on campus because gas is too high."



**Cody Strait**  
Hickory • Freshman • Pre-med/ Pre Physical  
"It's cheaper for me to drive everyday than stay on campus."



## OTHER VIEWS

### A Year of Epic Proportions

As we start off our new year here for *The Tom-Tom*, I want to personally extend a big, hearty welcome to all of our incoming freshman and returning sophomores! I know that I speak a general consensus among faculty and staff when I say that we are all glad to have you all here! East Central is a place that thrives on the energy of its people, and the positive energy is infectious this year. As I walk around campus, I am so happy to see a lot of familiar faces from last

year and exited to meet all of the new ones! If I have learned one thing at East Central, it's that the people here are amazing! I have personally made so many lifelong friends and great working relationships with all of my instructors.

To the incoming freshman, I say just enjoy yourself this year! Get involved in as many activities as you can rightly fit into your schedule. This is a great way of meeting new people and finding out what interests you.

— Shaun Cooper

## OTHER VIEWS

### Vote, Vote, VOTE!

As I look around myself at the generation of people with which I have been reared in, I sometimes question whether we fully realize the responsibility that has been placed upon us in leading this nation to further prosperity. We are the generation of individuals who will be in near complete control of our nation's government in just a matter of 10 to 15 years. We are the ones who need to be highly active in the political process, and we are the ones who need to be the main focus of candidates running for any office. Well, truth is, we were not until this election. Until this year, it seems to me as if many candidates did not focus enough time on persuading the younger adults on why they are deserving of their votes. As unjust as this may seem, it tended to be a good marketing strategy.

Think about it. In a nation where some 51 percent of young adults age 18-24 are registered to vote, but only 36 percent show up at the polls, a candidate would be wasting a lot of time focusing attention and money on a demographic of people who don't seem to care. After the 2004 election, however, things changed. With voter motivational groups like "Rock the Vote" and "Vote or Die" that emerged around that time, politicians realized the power that is to be reckoned with within the young voter population.

Such a realization has taken form as proven by our national candidates for President and Vice President right now. For the Democrats, you have Sen. Barack Obama. Sen. Obama is young, a great speaker, energetic and a visionary in his own right, who is able to move and shake the souls of many young people across the nation. For the Republicans, you have Sen. John McCain who, at one point in this election, was trailing behind his opponent because many were worried that he was just too old. His appeal to young adults was not where it should have been, so you have the emergence of Gov. Sarah Palin. Gov. Palin is young, energetic, a great speaker and a fresh face to a party that desperately needed to appeal to its younger demographic audience. Both instances show how our national party leaders are realizing to harness the power that lies within the drive and determination of young

people. Now, the shift has turned from getting the attention of young people to getting them to the polls, which has been a hard fight during the years. National voter drive campaigns, often using young celebrity personalities, have been run across the country to get young people registered to vote. In my personal experience, I have heard so many young adults say that they just haven't gotten registered to vote because they haven't had the time or that they don't care to. This frustrates me because I know the countless hours people take to do anything else they feel is important, but they regard registering to vote as being a burden on their busy schedules.

I get the classic "my one vote doesn't count" excuse. This could be farther from the truth, in my opinion. For example, the 2000 election between George Bush and Al Gore came down to less than 600 votes. Think about the magnitude of this. Out of a state with six million votes cast, less than 600 votes determined our next President. Not only on a national level is the importance of just a few votes great.

Plus, if a person doesn't vote, he/she loses their political voice. Quite frankly, if a person doesn't vote, I don't want to hear about any discontent about any political issue. Not one. It's funny to me to see masses of people complaining about the way the government is handling issues, but when asked if they voted quite a few say "no." When a person doesn't take the time to vote, they have given up all opinions on our political system and all reservations they may have been entitled to had they taken the chance to express themselves properly. What's the point of complaining now, when the chance to make a change has long come and gone?

I am urging all readers to not let this opportunity slip by. No matter whom you are voting for, just be an informed voter and vote! Show the media that we are a force to be reckoned with and that we can make changes in this world if we choose to do so. Let's not let the work of the voter activists before us go in vain. It's our chance to step up to the plate and take the first steps towards our future. I know I will.

— Shaun Cooper

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# Warrior Views

## PAGES FROM THE PAST

BY KYLIE RIGDON  
Editor

A look at *The Tom-Tom* from September 1948-1998.

**SEPTEMBER 1948**

► New courses added at E.C.J.C.: Sociology, French, Business Law, Filing Systems, Economics (now for sophomores), Descriptive Geometry for Engineering Majors, accredited course in Band, and Survey and Appreciation in Music Literature.

► Pasteurized Grade A Milk will now be served in the dining hall as opposed to the previous Grade A Milk served.

**SEPTEMBER 1958**

► Construction to begin this fall on E.C.J.C.'s much needed library which will be able to hold 250 students.

► EC expects 500 students for the fall term.

► Dating rules changed for the 1958-59 school year. Freshmen girls may now double date in cars within five-county area on Friday and Saturday nights. Sophomores may now single date in cars in the five-county area on weekends. The new rules now allow students to go past the previous Union-Newton riding limits.

**SEPTEMBER 1968**

► On Sept. 2, EC started classes with 724 students, the largest ever recorded. Students were also welcomed by new buildings and improvements. Agricultural classes will be moved into their new building located north of the Vocational-Technical building adjacent to the college farm by the beginning of second semester. Also, facilities for Biological Sciences have been doubled by the additions to Cross Hall. The new Fine Arts building will have construction underway soon. This building will contain a 200-seat auditorium, a lounge, a choral room, a band room, and electrical piano classroom, combination music library and listening room. Also, it will include a patio and air conditioning throughout the build-

ing. Other improvements include: air conditioning in Jackson Hall, new parking lots, new streets, two new double tennis courts and work on the present football field. Long-range plans for further development include: a physical education building, new men's dormitory and an addition to the sophomore women's dorm.

**SEPTEMBER 1978**

► Homecoming Oct. 7th will be "Something Special" for the ladies chosen to represent EC as the Homecoming Maids. These ladies include: Queen, Angela Hardy from Philadelphia; Maid of Honor, Julie Goodwin of Newton; Sophomore Maids, Carla Halley of Morton, Linda Killen of Union and Rita Gayle Smith of Union; and Freshman Maids, Pam Hatcher of Noxapater, Leisa Richardson of Union and Pam Sinclair of Louisville.

► EC Collegians selected, singers include: Tamara Aammons, Cheryl Gibbons, Melissa Thompson, "Dink" Hight, Evelyn Pierce, Tammy Taylor, Mickey Vance, Barry Phillips, Jeff Gibbos, Gary Rogers, Keigh Moore and Geedie Simmons. Musicians include: Eddie Thorne, Stan Johnson, Charles Burkes, David Walker, Barry Hicks, Elmer Mullins, Lou Ann Harper, Angela Hardy and Lori Vance.

► E.C.J.C. Cheerleaders: Gwen Dickenson of Newton, Julie Wright of Louisville, Julie Goodwin of Newton, Rita Gayle Smith of Union, Brenda Munn of Philadelphia, Malinda Roebuck of Union, Tamara Sammons of Louisville and Peggy Smith of Decatur.

► Fireworks display scheduled for Homecoming Half-Time Event.

**SEPTEMBER 1988**

► East Central Junior College becomes East Central Community College. Following the statewide trend of going from "junior" colleges to "community" colleges to signify that the college offers

more than "junior" level courses. President Dr. Eddie M. Smith placed the final letter on the new sign.

► Dr. Phil A. Sutphin named East Central Dean of Students.

► Renowned hypnotist Colonel Ed Wallington made his 17th straight appearance to EC's campus to hypnotize EC students as a part of Welcome Back Week.

**SEPTEMBER 1998:**

► Phi Theta Kappa Officers attend Conference held at Lake Tiak O'Khata in Louisville. Officers include: Phil Duncan (Leake Academy), president; Tammy Kirkland (Neshoba Central), vice president; Heather Watts (Union), secretary; Mike Cooper (Decatur), treasurer; Reggie Shumaker (Neshoba Central), reporter; Tanya Henry (Union), co-historian; Wade Scott (Leake Academy), co-historian. Advisors include Ann Burkes and Dr. Shelby Harris.

► EC addresses overcrowding and parking problems on campus. A new Student Union is now in the works. The new building will be located next to Winston Hall and Newsome Hall. It will include Director of Student Life, Dean of Students and Tech-Prep Career Center. Academics councilors and recruiters will also relocate to the top floor. The bottom will host financial aid offices and the nurse. Highlights include: two conference rooms and outdoor patio section, admissions along with a new college bookstore in addition to a Student Activity Center. The Student Activity Center will host four fast food vendors and a room for students to study or just hang out. A game room and weight room will also be available to students. ECCC has added 57 new parking spaces. Lots have been made at South Campus, by the football field, around the Vo-Tech, and around Scott and Neshoba Hall.

## ASK DR. PHIL

### Campus sees expansions, learning resources added

BY SHAWN COOPER  
Staff Writer

**There are reports of a new science lab to be built behind Cross Hall. Is this true and, if so, how will the construction affect student parking?** *Correct. We are completing the design and construction plans to request bids by December/January and hope to begin construction this summer in the parking lot beside Founders Gym. When the College demolished the maintenance facility near the Childcare/Nursing Building we anticipated making additional parking available there. Our plans are to pave that area during the summer so the parking from Founders Gym and Cross Hall can overflow to that area of campus. There is also parking available across from Todd Hall that is underutilized. In short our goal is to be parking neutral if we can't increase the total number of parking spaces on campus.*

**I am aware that some math courses are now using the My Math Lab feature that allows students to work on homework and get extra practice in addition to what is offered in the classroom. What impact do you think this will have on students who are enrolled in the courses that utilize it?** *The addition of the math lab and the English lab to the programs at East Central will provide additional learning resources for students. These labs are tied directly to the textbooks used in these courses and provide activities to enhance the presentation of class objectives. Students should find more learning opportunities available to them to increase their comprehension of the concepts taught. We would like to see an increase in retention in these classes and an increase in overall gpa for completers.*

**As any returning student can tell, a noticeable change took place regarding East Central's emergency alert system over the summer. Could you describe some of these changes and how you feel they make campus even more secure or prepared in the case of an emergency?** *A couple of major improvements were implemented over the summer. First was the selection of Schoolcast to implement the Warrior Alert System. The second was the installation of cameras and electronic doors in Barber and Jackson Halls. Warrior Alert will be used to notify students of a weather emergency or a lockdown situation. Our first use of the system was a tornado warning where I was able to use the phone to immediately notify students to get to a place of safety. The second improvement will provide a more secure environment for residents of Barber Hall and Jackson Hall. The front doors of those facilities will always be locked and the residents will use and electronic key to gain entry making it more difficult for someone who is not suppose to be there to get in.*

**Our generation is growing up in a society that is becoming increasingly reliant on access to the Internet in all aspects of our lives, whether it be for class or leisure time. What plans are there to make wireless Internet access available to all East Central students in all areas across campus?**



DR. PHIL A. SUTPHIN

*There are no immediate plans to go beyond existing connections. With the addition of bundled cable and internet from Mediacom in our residence halls over the summer we were able to provide wireless internet to students in the residence halls. Other hot spots on campus are the result of specific needs in those areas. We are moving to improve the infrastructure of our campus network but those plans do not include the wide area wireless connectivity available in some areas. The prospects for a long-term solution are under discussion.*

**In response to growing environmental concerns across the world, many schools and businesses are implementing plans to reduce their negative impacts on the environment. Is there any such program at East Central and, if so, what impact do you feel that they are making on local environmental conditions?** *East Central does not have a sustainability plan in place. We are mindful of the environment when we are making decisions and look for ways to become more efficient when changes are being made. An example is the replacement of light fixtures with high efficiency fixtures when a fixtures burn out. For the roofing project that is underway we have specified a more reflective roof to reduce ambient heat in the building. So even without a specific plan we are taking steps to be more efficient. A lot of credit goes to the EC Environmental Club for their role in these areas and also to Theta XI Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa for projects that lessen the impact of the College on the environment.*

**During the summer, East Central went to a four day school week that increased class hours on Monday-Thursday, but also allowed for students to enjoy a three-day weekend. What was the administration's motivation in making this switch and are there plans to revert back to it in the future?** *A four-day class schedule in the summer was implemented to reduce the travel costs to students and faculty during the summer. EC's summer program is strictly commuter; no residence halls are open and no student activities are provided. The program was a success and the surveys indicated a high level of student satisfaction with the schedule. The calendar for the College has a four-day schedule for next summer but the regular semesters remain on the traditional five-day schedule.*

*Editor's note: If you have questions you would like for The Tom-Tom staff to "Ask Dr. Phil," please e-mail them to [godom@eccc.edu](mailto:godom@eccc.edu).*

## OTHER OPINIONS

### People should avoid stereotyping

Why do people categorize others in negative stereotypes? We all are guilty of doing it; some of us even do it intentionally. Do we not realize how hurtful this is? Most of the time, we overlook this fact. We label people based on the way they dress, the music they listen to, and their sexuality.

Many times, we see someone and before we even talk to him or her, we have determined in our mind that a

person is a certain way, when in reality they are the complete opposite.

Every single person is unique, has his or her own mind, and cannot be categorized by these degrading stereotypes. We all are guilty of judging our peers by appearance and the way they act, and that just goes to show that we should all work toward forming and less judgmental society.

— Jody Lawson  
Staff Writer



College 101

THEATER TAKE

Ledger, Quaid on the big screen

BY KYLIE RIGDON  
Editor

THE DARK KNIGHT

While many regard The Dark Knight as Heath Ledger’s last film, the movie is so much more. This film explores the deep psychological breaking point of not only one person but many. To fully understand my last statement, I must explain what I mean by exploring each character individually without revealing too much of the movie, of course.

Heath Ledger’s enactment of the Joker was phenomenal. While his death did plague the view of the Joker, it became easier to see how Ledger himself was affected by his character. In order to play the Joker, Ledger had to go dark very dark. This transformation included locking himself away in a hotel room in solitude for a month in order to develop the Joker’s voice, characteristics and expressions. Considering his previous roles have mostly been the heroic good guy, his portrayal of the Joker is the best of any Batman film thus far, including Jack Nicholson’s Joker in Batman (1989). The Joker has been molded by society and the evil of his life into a psychopath. Heath Ledger’s Joker is a prime example of the extremes that a person can be pushed.

Harvey Dent, played by Aaron Eckhart, shows the breakdown which occurs when a person suffers a severe loss. Dent suffers the type of loss which ultimately turns a good-natured man who wants to save the world into one who wants revenge on the world that turns its back on him the minute he falls. Through his character, audiences see how tragedy can change anyone.

The ultimate protagonist, Batman a.k.a. Bruce Wayne played by Christian Bale, even feels the effect of a psychological break down. Batman, who always saves the day, ultimately cannot handle what his secrecy is doing to the city of Gotham. Then, when his secret threatens the people he

cares most about, he considers giving it all up and revealing his true identity.

While this two-and-a-half-hour film explores such deep psychology, it is also a film that anyone who loves comic-based movies can enjoy. One thing is for sure, anyone who sees this film will never hear the words “why so serious?” the same way again.

I AM LEGEND

After having put off seeing I Am Legend for quite some time, I finally decided to give the title a shot. Basing my opinion upon what many of my friends had said about it, I was not looking forward to the movie. However, it turned out that I like the film. Some scenes dragged on a little long, but the overall effect was shocking and kept me on the edge of my seat.

Robert Neville, played by Will Smith, is the sole New York survivor of a virus-turned-cure-for-cancer which causes recipients to become extremely aggressive and non-human. Neville along with his only companion, Sam, a German shepherd, spend their days hunting for food and the cure; then their nights are spent hiding from the mutated humans who can only survive in darkness.

Neville is immune from the airborne virus in addition to any contact made by an infected “human.” When he finally believes he has found a cure, he begins the roller coaster of excitement, disappointment, sadness, hope and finally, he discovers what he must do to save what is left of the human race. Smith’s ability to portray his character’s feelings is so great that the audience can easily empathize throughout his emotional journey.

Director Francis Lawrence uses great angles and emotional ploys to get audience members mesmerized and drawn into the film. I Am Legend is sure to keep audiences on the edge of their seat. Anyone looking for a paradox of society trying to save a few people from a terrible disease but inevitably nearly completely

destroys itself with something much worse will definitely want to see I Am Legend.

VANTAGE POINT

I went into this film with much anticipation, and then when the film kept starting over for each vantage point — there are eight by the way — I became skeptic, yet intrigued. Audiences first see 23 minutes of the event from the view of an American news crew. We next see more from the view of Secret Service Agent Thomas Barnes, played by Dennis Quaid. Barnes took a bullet for the President six months earlier and the event takes place on his first day back. Other points of view include those of an American tourist who tapes the entire experience, a Spanish cop, three assassins and the President of the United States.

Each vantage point shows a little more into the plot and early on audience begin to see the pattern. Director Pete Travis cleverly keeps key information from being revealed to audiences too soon. As the film continues, the plot twists and turns until even the best of plot guessers have no idea how the movie will end. While constantly seeing the same time frame does get monotonous, audiences can get into trying to solve the assassination of President Ashton before Thomas Barnes does.

Dennis Quaid, usually seen in light-hearted comedies, fits wonderfully into this action-filled film. Some Lost fans may be surprised by Matthew Fox’s character in Vantage Point. In addition, casting directors put big-named stars such as Forest Whitaker and Siobhán Weaver in small parts, which made an interesting contrast to the foreign upcoming actors in larger roles.

I recommend this title to those who like an action packed thriller that will keep them on the edge of their seats. Vantage Point will have you saying, “Wow, I can’t believe it!” at every new point of view.

KID ROCK

When listening to the “Top 40’s” station on the radio at least 75 percent of young teens have suddenly heard the word “COWBOY” blasting through the speakers. That voice they hear is none other than Kid Rock. Born in Atlanta, Kid Rock went through a tough childhood, but he overcame all of that to be one of the top-selling artists of today. Recently Kid Rock produced a song called “Warrior” dedicated the Army.

GAMERS’ GATHERING

Mercenaries 2: World in Flames offers mission play

BY ANTHONY WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer  
**MERCENARIES 2:  
WORLD IN FLAMES**

I recently bought the game “Mercenaries 2: World in Flames” for Playstation 3. The basic story is that you play a mercenary in Venezuela that had just finished a contract, and then you are betrayed by your employer. The mercenary then swears revenge on his former employer, however a war breaks out as your former employer initiates a coup and takes over the Venezuelan government. The player is then tasked with setting up a base of operations and start making money. Venezuela is fictionally portrayed as a group of islands that is controlled by different factions trying to gain back control of the country. To advance in the game, you must help these factions defeat the new army

and each other. You are given specific missions such as rescuing a target or attacking a base. You also have side missions such as destroying certain buildings, capturing officers of factions, and other type of money earning missions that are basically racing or target shooting missions.

The core gameplay is rather simple, the basics are shooting, driving, flying, and swimming. The weapons range from assault rifles, rocket launchers, and others. You can also recruit new members to your team to help you out, such as a mechanic to build custom vehicles, a helicopter pilot to drop supplies or take you places, and a jet pilot to conduct airstrikes. By progressing in the games story missions for the factions, you unlock new parts of the country to venture into and work for new

factions. The country is massive, much larger in scope than some recent Grand Theft Auto titles. The vehicles feel a little heavy, but still drive relatively well, and once you hire a mechanic, you can grapple onto helicopters and commandeer them and fly off. There are also tanks, motorcycles, monster trucks, and more types of vehicles I haven’t unlocked yet. The weapons seem very balanced, but if you go into a mission unprepared, you can get overwhelmed easily end up getting killed, which the game then takes you back to base, without you’re weapons, and charging a hefty ten-thousand dollars for reviving you. However story missions allow you to just retry the mission without penalty. A mercenary 2 is available on Playstation 3 and Xbox 360.

TECH TIME

Apple stores open in Jackson

BY SHAWN COOPER  
Staff Writer

Every year, every month and every day new technologies are connecting people all over the world and fundamentally reshaping our interaction with those around us. With the expansion of the Internet, a new world of possibilities has arisen for computer developers that have taken modern technology to new heights once unknown to be possible just years ago. Not only has the Internet shaped our world, but new inventions like the cell phone have become integrated into our daily lives, thus pushing developers to build upon these new ideas and create things only dreamed of centuries ago.

The first thing I want to make mention of is a huge deal to me. I’m talking really big! Like ‘the first of its kind’ big! Ok, here it goes: Apple has opened its first retail store in Mississippi!! This may not seem like a huge deal to all of the Windows and Linux users out there, but this is big news for an avid Mac lover like me. Apple has been known for its revolutionary products and a streamlined design in the computer and portable

music industry for years, so to bring a store to our state is a great marvel. The new store opened in Madison at the Renaissance at Colony Park on Aug. 30.

Sadly, I missed the grand opening, but I will be sure make a trip down to see what it’s all about. Anyone who has ever been to an Apple store will admit that it is an experience like none other. Just walking through the doors, one is greeted by an Apple “Genius” and taken on a whirlwind of a ride. The store is completely full of Apple computers, iPods, accessories and the new iPhone models. The best part is everything is able to be test run! There are rows and rows of fully functional display products that anyone can spend hours learning how to use or just playing around with. The opening of this store to me means Apple sees Mississippi as an important consumer base. There are many states and countries without even one store, so for us to get one must mean there is something good about us!

While I am on the subject of Apple, I must say that I am also impressed with their new line of

iPod models. The new iPod Nanos now boast an ever slimmer size than their predecessor at an astonishing 0.24” thin and a larger 2-inch diagonal display for viewing videos and surfing music in cover flow. The new line now offers a rainbow of colors and even got a huge upgrade with the inclusion of an accelerometer that responds well to movement. One of the great new features brought on by the presence of the accelerometer is the ability to just shake the player to shuffle the current playlist or playing games that use movement for function.

Not only did the iPod Nanos get an upgrade, but the iPod Touch also got a minor upgrade. I say minor because much that changed in the design or function of the Touch was already present in the iPhone, but they were welcome upgrades regardless. The new model includes volume control buttons on the side of the player, a small built in speaker, and a sleek new stainless steel back. These features, along with the new Applications Store, make the iPod Touch the most coveted of the iPod line.

TUNING IN

Katy Perry, Kid Rock, Across The Universe rock the charts with popularity

BY ASHLEY DUMAS  
Staff Writer

KATY PERRY

At only twenty-three years old Katy Perry is topping the charts so fast with hits like “I Kissed A Girl”, “Hot N` Cold” and “One of the Boys.” Born and Raised in Santa Barbara, Calif. this young adult has been singing and writing songs for a very long time. She was discovered in 2007 and has worked with many performers and critics such as “The Queen of Pop,”

Madonna. She recently received the “Best New Artist” nomination at the MTV awards, and will be going on tour in Europe during the month of September. Perry is one of the featured artists on the 2009 Warped Tour.

If you are interested in learning more about Katy Perry log on to her Web site at [www.katyperry.com](http://www.katyperry.com) and add her on myspace at [www.myspace.com/katyperry](http://www.myspace.com/katyperry). Also check out Perry’s buzzworthy tour diary: Dishing at Denny’s on [www.buzzworthy.mtv.com](http://www.buzzworthy.mtv.com).

com.

BAND BUZZ

By Daniel Alexander Staff Writer	Mudd, Mississippi Coliseum. <b>BILOXI</b> ► Fri 10/03/08 Willie Nelson, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. ► Sun 10/12/08 Sara Evans, Palace Casino.	<b>NEW ORLEANS, LA.</b> ► Mon 09/29/08 Maroon 5, House of Blues. ► Thu 10/02/08 The Benjy Davis Project, Tulane University. ► Fri 10/03/08 Buckcherry, Lakefront Arena.
<b>MERIDIAN</b> ► Fri 10/03/08 WAR, MSU Riley Center. <b>JACKSON, MS</b> ► Fri 10/03/08 Puddle Of		

National Guard (ARNG). The video features the soldiers and also the Nascar #88 driver Dale Earnhart Jr. You can download the song for free by searching “Kid Rock Warrior” at [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com).

ACROSS THE UNIVERSE  
SOUNDTRACK

Across the Universe

is the new DVD that is reflecting back on the songs of The Beatles. The soundtrack includes new twists on the songs “I Wanna Hold Your Hand”, “Let It Be” and the most popular, “A Little Help from My Friends.” It is a love story about Jude (Hey Jude) and Lucy (Lucy in

the Sky with Diamonds) it expresses the lives of these two star-crossed teens with popular Beatles songs. The people that watch this movie and buy the soundtrack get to hear the popular songs of one of the greatest bands of all times with new singers and a more modern sound.



# Faculty Corner

## LAMPLIGHTERS



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

These East Central Community College faculty members participated in the 2008 Lamplighter Conference held Sept. 17-19 at Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia. The annual event recognizes the state’s top community and junior college instructors. From left are Kevin Ryals (speech), Theresa Cole (health-care assistant), Debbie Hammons (computer science), Ruth Gregory (business technology) and Curt Skipper (biology).

## Miles attends Physics Workshop in Calif.

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College physics instructor William Miles of Morton recently attended the Project Based Physics Workshop held at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, Calif. Selected participants included college and high school physics educators representing 11 states. This activity is part of a physics professional development project sponsored by Lee College (Texas), Estrella Mountain Community College (Ariz.), and the Advanced Technological Education Program of the National Science Foundation.

At the Project Based Physics Workshop, Miles had an opportunity to develop new materials for students in a collaborative group effort with other colleagues from other colleges and high schools. The Project Based Physics (PBP) workshop covered two approaches to help implement new project based teaching strategies for students. One approach, “Very Large Contexts” (VLC), allows students to test their analytical skills by doing a project. These projects allow students up to five weeks to complete the project. The second approach utilized a programming language, VPython, to help illustrate and model the physics concepts.

Though these approaches, each student will be able to strengthen his/her skills in technical instruction, complex measurements, computational modeling, and have a better understanding and experience with multimedia presentations. Additionally, Miles worked with tasks developed using results from physics education research. One of the

primary goals of this workshop was to show how these ideas could be implemented at TYCs and HSs.

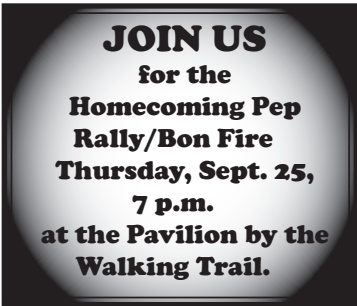
The workshop leaders have many years of experience in developing and refining curriculum for introductory physics students. In addition, and more importantly, the workshop leaders have extensive experience with the implementation and adaptation of curriculum in a variety of institutions and for many types of introductory physics



MILES

students along with the training of faculty in using and developing their own curricula for their technology-oriented students.

This workshop was the ninth of twelve workshops and conferences that will be offered at various two-year college sites around the nation as part of the ATE Program for Physics Faculty.



## DIVISION CHAIRS



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Serving as division chairs at East Central Community College for 2008-09 are (seated from left) Lucille Wood of Louisville, Social Science, Business and Physical Education; Dr. Lisa McMillin of Louisville, Computer Science and Math; Carol Shackelford of Union, Communications; and Betsy Mann of Philadelphia, Health-care; and (standing from left) Thomas W. Carson of Decatur; Fine Arts; Wayne Eason of Collinsville, Career-Technical; and Joe Johnson of Meridian, Science. Also pictured is Dr. Lavinia Sparkman of Decatur, vice president for instruction. The group meets on a regular basis to discuss the College’s academic, technical and career programs of study.

## EC welcomes new faces

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin recently announced new faculty and staff members and staff member changes for the fall semester.

### THORNESE BROOKS

Thornese Brooks of Newton was recently selected secretary to the dean of Adult and Continuing Education. Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Brooks served as an administrative assistant for the Mississippi Development Authority in Jackson. In all, she brings 19 years of secretarial experience to the position. The Newton native is a graduate of Newton High School. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Management at Belhaven College. She has a daughter, Courtney Gabrielle.



BROOKS

ing her five-year tenure. She is a graduate of Forest High School, where she served as editor of *The Rambler* yearbook. She served as yearbook co-editor while enrolled at Jones County Junior College and received a bachelor’s degree in journalism at the University of Southern Mississippi. She is married to Allen Odom and is the daughter of David and Glenda Phillips of Forest.

### MELANIE PINTER

Melanie Pinter of Philadelphia was recently selected dual enrollment practical nursing instructor. In the new position, Pinter will teach district high school seniors who qualify for the recently implemented Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Practical Nursing Program. Fall classes begin August 11 on the Decatur campus. Pinter, who joined the ECCC staff on July 14, previously served as chief nurse for District VI of the Mississippi State Department of Health. She also has experience working with dialysis patients, extended care patients and as a medical aid while taking courses for her AAS. She is a 1994 honor graduate of Forest High School where she was selected to the Hall of Fame. She received an associate’s degree from ECCC in 1996 and earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi School of Nursing in Jackson in 1998. She has also completed coursework at the South Central Public Health Leadership Institute at Tulane University in New Orleans and at the Public Health Nurse Academy in Jackson. She is married to Patrick Pinter and they have a son, Payton. She is the daughter Pat and Martha Cleveland of Conehatta, formerly of Forest.



PINTER

### LYNNE SMITH

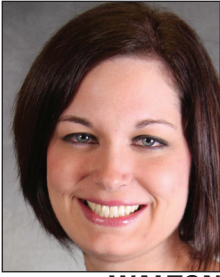
Lynne Smith of Quitman has joined the English faculty. Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Smith served as an English instructor at Quitman High School since 1990. She has also held adjunct positions at Jones County Junior College, Meridian Community College and ECCC. A graduate of Quitman High School, Smith received bachelor and master’s degrees in English from the University of Southern Mississippi and earned an educational specialist degree in English from Mississippi State University-Meridian Campus. She is married to Gregory Smith and they have four children, Mark, 21; Matthew, 19; Eden, five; and Jesse Quinton, two.



SMITH

### AMANDA WALTON

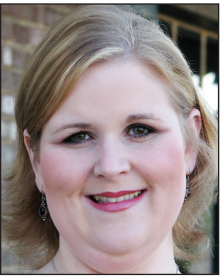
Amanda Walton of Lake was recently named secretary to the athletic director. Walton previously served as secretary to the dean of Adult and Continuing Education. She served seven years as customer service representative at Community Bank in Forest prior to joining the ECCC staff in October 2007. A graduate of Lake High School, Walton holds an Associate in Arts degree from ECCC and a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from Mississippi State University, Meridian campus. She is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Community College Leadership from MSU-Meridian. She is married to Rodney Walton and they have a daughter, Madalyn. They attend Pine Ridge Baptist Church in Lawrence.



WALTON

### GENNIE PHILLIPS-ODOM

Gennie Phillips-Odom of Forest was recently named publications coordinator. In the new position, Phillips-Odom will be responsible for supervising production of *The Tom-Tom* student newspaper and *The Wo-He-Lo* yearbook. She will also provide assistance in the Office of Public Information. Prior to joining the ECCC staff, she served as editor of *The Demopolis Times*, a daily newspaper in west Alabama. She recently received various honors including several first-place awards in the Alabama Associated Press Managing Editors Journalism Contest for 2007. Phillips-Odom is a former managing editor of *The Scott County Times* in Forest, where she served as a staff writer, assistant editor and managing editor dur-



PHILLIPS-ODOM

### SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**ECCC Faculty Members Receive Online Certification:** These East Central Community College faculty members have completed requirements to teach online courses through the Mississippi Virtual Community College. Certified as online instructors and their areas of interest include (first row, from left) Stella Dickerson (computer technology), Roberta Holt (business administration and accounting), Carol Shackelford (English) and Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, vice president for instruction; and (back row, from left) Brent Gregory (economics), Polly Mayes (drafting and design technology), Pam Fowler (English) and Lynne Smith (English). Also shown is Dr. Chris Jenkins, dean of distance learning education. For more information online classes contact Dr. Jenkins, Phone 601-635-2111.





# COURT

FROM PAGE 1

Softball All-Star and was valedictorian of her graduating class.

Serving as the queen’s escort is Daniel Byram, a sophomore liberal arts major and graduate of Sebastopol High School. He is the son of Harlon Jr. and Sandra Byram of Sebastopol.

Edison is a sophomore education major and the daughter of Angela Edison and Thomas Edison of Collins.

She is a member of the *Wo-He-Lo* staff, Gospel Choir, book club and Native American Club. In addition, she served as a freshman homecoming maid in 2007.

A graduate of Collins High School, Edison was a member of the New Directions Club, the marching band, the show choir, and drama club. She served as president of the Covington County Youth Branch of the NAACP and was elected most dependable in high school Who’s Who elections.

Serving as her escort is David Bender, a sophomore education major and graduate of Heidelberg High School. He is the son of Theresa Kelly and Joseph Kelly of Heidelberg.

A drafting and design major, Culpepper is the daughter of

Harry and Janet Culpepper of Forest.

She is a member of the Centralettes danceline, Baptist Student Union Council and Warrior Corps.

An honor graduate of Scott Central High School, she was a Rebel cheerleader and a member of the Beta Club, student council and the school’s mentoring program.

Serving as Culpepper’s escort is Patrick Patterson, a sophomore drafting and design technology major and graduate of Neshoba Central High School. He is the son of Sherlon and Terri Patterson of Philadelphia.

Hayes, a speech pathology major, is the daughter of George and Lynn Hayes of Decatur.

A President’s List Scholar, Hayes is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Warrior Corps and Diamond Darlings. In addition, she is a former member of the Ac’cents show choir and served as a freshman homecoming maid in 2007.

A graduate of Newton County High School, she was a UCA All-Star Cheerleader, homecoming queen candidate and class officer. She was also a member of the Beta Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the show choir.

Serving as Hayes’ escort is

Sam Lewis, a sophomore business major and graduate of Newton County High School. He is the son of Rodney and Venita Tadlock of Decatur and the late Bruce Lewis.

Vance is a speech pathology major and the daughter of Chris and Tracy Vance of Decatur.

A Dean’s List scholar, she is a member of the Centralettes danceline, Warrior Corps, Phi Theta Kappa and the concert choir. In addition, she served as freshman class secretary.

A graduate of Newton County High School, Vance served as a Cougar cheerleader and was a member of the Beta Club, show choir, student council and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Vance’s escort is Zach Pillsbury, a sophomore engineering major and graduate of Newton County High School. He is the son of Todd and Annette Pillsbury of Decatur.

A nursing major, Brown is the daughter of Joe and Martha Brown of Morton.

She is a member of the Centralettes danceline, Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau medical club, Diamond Darlings and Warrior Corps.

A graduate of East Rankin Academy, she served as a varsity cheerleader and was a

member of the basketball and track and field teams. She was also selected for the homecoming court and was a member of the Mississippi High School Rodeo Association and the Mississippi Quarter Horse Youth Association.

Serving as Brown’s escort is Zach Boswell, a sophomore nursing major and graduate of Winston Academy. He is the son of Jimmy and Betty Mann Boswell of Louisville.

Hampton, a liberal arts major, is the daughter of Freddie and Victoria Hampton of Louisville.

She is a member of the *Wo-He-Lo* and *The Tom-Tom* staffs.

A graduate of Nanih Waiya High School, she was selected a senior homecoming maid and served as class officer and student council representative. She was also a member of the Beta Club and the Lady Warrior basketball and softball teams.

Hampton’s escort is Victor Taylor, a freshman physical education major and graduate of Noxubee County High School. He is the son of Ellen and Ricky Hairston of Macon.

Smith is a broadcast communications major and the daughter of Wayne and Carla Westbrook of Ocean Springs.

She is a member of the Centralettes danceline.

A graduate of Newton County High School, she was a member of the Lady Cougar soccer team.

Serving as her escort is Drew Wilson, a freshman liberal arts major and graduate of Newton County High School. He is the son of Dennis and Wanda Wilson of Decatur.

Watkins is a drafting and design technology major and the daughter of Danny and Pat Watkins of Sebastopol.

She is a member of the Centralettes danceline and Phi Beta Lambda business fraternity.

A graduate of Sebastopol High School, she was selected Miss SHS, valedictorian and STAR student. In addition, she served as drum major of the marching band and was a statistician for the Bobcat baseball team.

Watkins also served as president of the Forest/Scott County chapter of Future Business Leaders of America and was selected ACTE Student of the Year.

Watkins’ escort is Josh Dickerson, a sophomore drafting and design major and graduate of Newton County High School. He is the son of Ed and Stella Dickerson of Union.

# ACCIDENT

FROM PAGE 1

to four times and landed approximately 50-60 yards from the point of impact on its passenger side.

“With every rolled I wondered, ‘I made it through that one, will I make it through the next one?’” Whitlock said. “It was almost like being suspended in the middle of something in slow motion.”

When the van came to a stop Whitlock said everyone was conscience except Kenna and the group realized Williams was ejected from the vehicle.

“You could immediately hear prayers being lifted up,” Whitlock said. “We were in God’s hands before impact, while we were rolling and when it was over. It was as though we were seeking Him, resting in Him and comforted in Him during it all. We saw a sense of peace and assurance that we were going to be OK.”

Knight and Clark were the first passengers who were able to move and assist others in need of help.

“After we stopped, everyone came to their senses and got an inventory of what was going on,” Knight said. “I noticed Joey was in the most critical condition and I started working with him to try to get him conscience.”

An artery in Kenna’s arm was severed during the accident and Knight and Clark immediately began trying to stop the

bleeding.

Whitlock said because of his fellow co-workers’ quick thinking, the needed care was administered to Kenna and himself.

“Chris and Joseph were heroes,” Whitlock said. “Especially for the care they gave to Joey. If the injuries he sustained during the accident wouldn’t have killed him, the lack of blood would have, if it wasn’t for their actions.”

Knight and Clark held pressure on Kenna’s arm to reduce bleeding and worked to secure a tourniquet, using Clark’s belt.

Williams, who was thrown from the van, also received severe injuries to her face and leg.

Mott said, “God definitely had a hand in the accident in that Lucretia (Williams) didn’t break her neck (when she was thrown from the vehicle).”

The Louisville Fire Department, Winston County Sheriff’s office, Louisville Police Department and Mississippi Highway Patrol responded to the accident and helped remove the victims from the van. Whitlock said some of the first responders on the scene where two emergency room nurses and a doctor from the bike rally in Sturgis.

Whitlock said although help arrived on scene quickly, time seemed to stand still.

“We all just kept praying and encouraging each other to hold on,” he said.

Kenna, who was first transported to a Winston County Medical Center in Louisville, was later sent by air ambulance to Uni-

versity Medical Center in Jackson where he underwent successful surgery that night. Whitlock and Williams were first sent to Oktibbeha County Hospital in Starkville and later transported to UMC by land ambulance. All other passengers were taken by land ambulance to WCMC.

## RECOVERING

The accident victims are focused on their recovery and improvement and said they are getting better day-by-day.

“We are gradually beginning to put the pieces back together and trying this life again,” Whitlock said. “Lucretia and Joey are still battling recovery the most.”

Kenna underwent two surgeries thus far. Doctors are working to reattach nerves in his arm.

Williams underwent her first facial-reconstructive surgery, which rebuilt her eye socket. It will be at least another four weeks before the next reconstructive surgery will take place. The doctors are concerned with her eye movement at this time, but fear the scaring may be permanent.

Whitlock suffered three broken ribs in the accident as well as fractures in his neck. He expects to be released by the doctors the week of homecoming.

Harris was first sent to Winston County Medical Center and released the night of the accident.

However, she received additional treatment at Rush Hospital in Meridian the following weekend. She received many cuts, rib fractures and

had a hematoma on her pancreas. As a cancer survivor this was Harris’ second near-death occurrence. She sees this accident as another chance at life for herself, but she is still struggling with the emotional toll the accident has taken.

Four other passengers, Barrett, Clark and Mott and Knight were treated and released at a Winston County Medical Center that night.

Barrett received extensive cuts and scrapes to his head as well as a severe sprain to his foot and leg. He also fractured his foot and bruised and cracked one rib. He said he is still dealing with swelling in his leg and knee and remains on crutches.

Mott is being treated for damage to her neck. She will have an MRI done in the near future to determine the extent of the damage. As a result of the accident, Mott miscarried her pregnancy. She said she continues to heal emotionally as well as physically from the accident.

Clark and Knight both battled bruises and aches following the accident, but are near full-recovery.

Although the group is physically recovering, the emotional scars remain.

“I lie down at night and can replay the whole accident,” Mott said.

Barrett said he thinks because he was driving when the accident happened, he now struggles with traveling on the highway, especially MS Highway 25.

“There are so many young people, former students, that I have watched grow up who are in school at Mississippi State (University) and are driving up that road to and from school,” Barrett said. “Every time I see one of them I ask them to be careful. I worry about them so much.”

## THROUGH IT ALL

Collectively as a group of Christians, the accident victims said they immediately turned to God and He answered.

Whitlock said, “He met us right where we were and supplied our need right then and there.”

“When you look back and see all the little things that happened that day, leading up to the time of the accident, you see things that God allowed to happen to help us know what to do during the time following the accident,” Knight said. “God works in mysterious ways.”

Whitlock said it is important to remember, “We were doing nothing wrong and there was nothing we could do to avoid the accident. After impact, as we rolled, flipped, spun and skidded, I did consider that the last time I saw loved ones that morning might just be the last time I saw them so never leave one without expressing a love you want remembered. And those circumstances simplified my life to the only relationship that really matters, the one with the Lord – the one that will last forever or the one that might be lacking forever. The things I had or had

not accomplished mattered very little, but who I might be leaving and whether I had prepared for a forever seemed to be the focus in those few seconds. And please believe, there was assurances in faithfully knowing those blocks were checked before impact.”

Whitlock said he is reassured of his faith through the accident and recovery.

“We could have all been obituaries the next day, just as easy as we are recovering,” he said. “He (God) has a will, a reason we are here and a plan for each life. I was encouraged and impressed that a group of eight people looked to Him so quickly and that He met us in our time of need.”

There are reasons for the events that took place that Friday, Whitlock said in reflection.

“There is time and opportunity left for us and great gratitude to Him for it,” Whitlock said. “We are blessed, aware and grateful; and we know who to give credit to.”

The injured staffers said they have felt a great outpouring of love and faith from the East Central family, their loved ones and church families.

“We are grateful for the people willing to be used by God to help us through this time and the continual love and prayer they have shown us,” Whitlock said.

A reception in honor of the accident victims is slated for 12:30 until 2 p.m., Monday, Sept. 29, in the Workforce Development Building.



# Tom-Tom hosts photography/poem contest

BY KYLIE RIGDON  
EDITOR

Any creative minded Warriors out there? *The Tom-Tom* staff wants to hear and see your creativeness!

## ENROLLMENT

**FROM PAGE 1**

Prospective college students continually feel the need for higher education with the demands of the workforce, ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin said.

“As the economy changes more individuals see the benefits of post-secondary educational opportunities,” Dr. Sutphin said. “Employees must

## GAS

**FROM PAGE 1**

Wanda Hurley, an economics instructor from Union said, “Gas prices have certainly had an effect on my daily life. I have to combine trips, such as appointments with shopping whenever one of my kids or I have an appointment, in order to be conservative on money, time and gas.”

Others limit the use of their vehicles. Ora Mae McAdory who supervises a campus dormitory said gas prices should stay

## HONOREES

**FROM PAGE 1**

selected in 1962 as Subsystem Manager responsible for developing the Environmental Control Subsystem (life support) for the Apollo Lunar Module at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

A few years later, he was selected to lead a group of engineers and technicians assigned to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida who maintained and prepared the space suits and backpacks for the first six manned launches of the Apollo Program.

“We worked closely with the prime and backup crew members to supply the EMU’s (Extravehicular Mobility Unit-space suits and life support) for their training and launch checkout exercises,” Mayo said.

After 18 months at Kennedy Space Center where they were launching a manned Saturn vehicle about every two months, Mayo returned to Johnson Space Center in Houston and was awarded a fellowship to study at Stanford University in California for a year.

From 1970 to 1972, Mayo served as Special Assistant to the Chief, Crew Systems Division and directed efforts to extend the capability of the Apollo EMU for increased lunar exploration time. He served in the mission control center as technical advisor on the EMU during the last several Apollo missions before becoming Chief of the Laboratory Operations

you. We want any short stories, poems or photographs. It does not matter what the subject is, we want to see them!

There will be prizes for winners each issue and their photo/literary work will be published!!! So get your pens out and write your thoughts or take your camera out and capture that perfect photo and send it in with your name, high school

enrollment increase.

“EC continues to provide quality educational opportunities for the citizens of our five-county district and the public relations and recruiting teams have done a good job of telling the EC story,” Dr. Sutphin said.

East Central not only offers students educational opportunities, but also gives them the chance to become involved in extracurricular activities.

want to enroll as a full-time student on campus? Does he or she want to be a part-time student or a full-time?

Rebbie Douglas, a freshman at EC from Camden is a dormitory student because of the distance from his home to school.

Douglas said, “I think that the gas prices right now are out of this world. The price of gas stops me

and classification (grade) to Mrs. Gennie Phillips-Odom in Huff Auditorium Office No. 47. Submissions may also be e-mailed to godom@eccc.edu.

makes East Central a welcoming and inviting student body that prospective students want to become part of.”

In the future, Dr. Sutphin said the College will continue to improve the teaching/learning process.

“We will ensure that students leave with a strong background in their chosen field or the specifics set of skills that they hoped to obtain,” he said.

I live an hour and 30 minutes away from East Central Community College. My family - conservative people - only has one car as of now. If I could have one wish it would be to lower gas prices.”

Finding local stores with low gas prices can also be quite difficult. Recently at MississippiGasPrices.com, a store located in Southaven had a rate of regular gas at three dollars and thirty-eight cents per gallon. For more information about gas prices, visit [www.mississippigasprices.com](http://www.mississippigasprices.com).

was technical advisor/chief of staff responsible for assisting the director in the overall management of engineering and technical support for the development of new space vehicles and technology.

As Deputy Chief, Crew and Thermal Systems Division, from 1981 to 1987, Mayo was responsible for all division testing activities.

His last assignments at NASA were as Director of the European Programs Division of the Space Station Freedom Program Office in Reston, Va., and later as Assistant Director for Space Station in the Engineering and Development Directorate at Johnson Space Center.

During his tenure, he received various awards from NASA including the Exceptional Service Medal in 1988.

He and his wife, Betty, also a 1955 ECJC graduate, have two sons.

Colonel Jeff Mayo is vice commander of the 66th Air Base Wing at Hanscom AFB, Mass. He and his wife, Stacey, have two sons: Benjamin is on an AFROTC scholarship at Baylor University and will be a junior this fall and Walter will be a high school senior and lives with his parents in Bedford, Mass. Jack Mayo is a market research associate with IMS Research in Austin, Texas. He and his wife, Tracey, have two children: Emily, 13, and Connor, 9. Both attend public schools in Round Rock, Texas.

**MARIJO JAMES DENSON**

Denson currently serves on

Reynolds, Sidney Poitier and Marilyn Monroe.

Denson is also a member of the National Association of Theater Owners of America and served on the Board and as Master of Ceremonies for a meeting in New York City with 1,500 members and executives present. In addition, she is a member of the National Association of Concessionaires and the Will Rogers Foundation.

She serves as secretary of the Mississippi Prison Industries Board, an organization that teaches work skills to inmates so they may become productive members of society upon their release. She previously served as chairperson of this board.

Denson is a lifetime member of the ECCC Alumni Association and the University of Mississippi Alumni Association. She is a member and past president of the Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Newton County Republican Women and Mississippi Republican Women.

She is past president of the Newton County Ladies Golf Association and the Briarwood Ladies Golf Association in Meridian.

Denson is a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Newton, where she plays the organ.

She is married to Burl Hamrick Denson and they have a daughter, Allyson Denson of Greenville.



# Warrior Athletics

## EC Warriors 2008 on-the-field review

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

### EC V. COAHOMA

The Warriors kicked off its 2008 schedule against the Coahoma Tigers at James E. Miller Field in Clarksdale. The Warriors presented a new spread offense which proved it could score points, but the Warrior defense was unable to stop Coahoma’s high-powered attack as the Tigers rolled to a 47-31 season-opening victory.

The Warriors, who took their only lead in the non-division contest at 7-6 following Kendrick May’s 87-yard kickoff return in early first-quarter action, were simply out-gunned by the Tiger squad, which compiled 494 yards of total offense and had 21 first downs.

Freshman Emmanuel Taylor had a successful debut as the Warriors’ signal caller, connecting on 15 of 26 passes for 205 yards. He had one interception. Taylor, a product of Early County High School in Blakely, Ga., also had 78 yards rushing on 10 carries and scored on a 19-yard run late in the game.

Sophomore running back and return specialist Maurice Langston of Meridian had 156 all-purpose yards and led EC rushers with 90 yards on six carries and two scores. Langston, a product of Northeast Lauderdale High School, tallied on a five-yard run late in first-quarter action and added a 29-yard touchdown scamper with 1:40 left before halftime.

Other top EC rushers were Duke Hudnall, a sophomore running back from Newton County High School, who had 48 yards on 11 carries, and freshman running back Derrick Cade of Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Central, 25 yards on five carries.

In all, the Warriors had 244 yards rushing on 35 carries.

East Central registered 20 first downs.

Sophomore kicker Derek Crenshaw of Neshoba Central High School was successful on one of two field goals. He nailed a 40-yarder for the only points in the third period and barely missed a 42-yard attempt early in the second stanza. He also connected on three PATs and had one kickoff sail through the end zone.

### EC V. HOLMES

East Central Community College’s Warriors were unable to maintain their slim 9-7 halftime

lead as the Holmes Community College offense rallied for 30 second-half points en route to a 37-21 victory Saturday afternoon at Bailey Stadium in Decatur.

The Warriors fell to 0-2 under first-year head coach Steve Cheatham following the non-division matchup, which was originally scheduled for Thursday night but was moved to Saturday due to wet conditions at Warrior field. Holmes improved to 1-1.

Emmanuel Taylor — EC’s freshman quarterback — completed 14 of 24 passes for 124 yards. Taylor is a product of Early County High School in Blakeley, Ga. Freshman running back Derrick Cade was the Warrior’s top ground-gainer, with nine carries for 58 yards. The Warriors had 252 total yards of offense with 16 first downs.

Holmes took an early 7-0 lead when Landry and wide receiver David Hampton connected on a 19-yard scoring strike with 8:25 left in the first period, capping an 11-play, 83-yard drive on the game’s first possession. Taylor Putt of Kosciusko added the PAT.

The Warriors responded on their first possession with Neshoba Central product Derek Crenshaw splitting the uprights on a 38-yard field goal. East Central began the drive at its 45-yard line and drove to the Holmes 26 when the drive stalled.

East Central took its only lead of the afternoon when running back Courtney Shelton, a product of Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Central, found pay dirt on a one-yard plunge with 6:13 left before halftime. The PAT attempt was not successful but the Warriors held a 9-7 advantage. The key play setting up the Warrior score was Maurice Langston’s 58-yard punt return to the Holmes 20-yard-line. Langston is a former standout at Northeast Lauderdale High School in Meridian.

The Bulldogs regained the lead for good during third-period action giving the visitors a 15-9 advantage, followed by a 31-yard drive set up by a Warrior fumble and allowing the Bulldog’s a 23-9 lead.

East Central narrowed the Holmes margin when Langston thrilled the Warrior faithful with his 45-yard punt return for a touchdown. The PAT was unsuccessful but the



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Members of the 2008 Warrior football team at East Central Community College in Decatur and their respective high schools include (front row, from left) cornerback Maurice Langston (1), Northeast Lauderdale; free safety Bruce Williams (2), Ridgeland; rover safety Jarvis Wilson (3), Central Lafourche (La.); wide receiver Kendrick May (4), Tuscaloosa County; running back Courtney Shelton (5), Tuscaloosa Central; defensive end Vonzell Jackson (6), Aliceville (Ala.); wide receiver Lamar Truman (7), Northeast Lauderdale; kicker/punter Derek Crenshaw (8), Neshoba Central; quarterback Emmanuel Taylor (9), Early County (Ga.); and wide receiver Dustin Alley (10), Union Grove (Ga.); (second row, from left) tight end Josh Williams (11), Lanier; cornerback C.J. Estelle (12), Childersburg (Ala.); rover safety Clint Coleman (13), Louisville; wide receiver Donovan Tate (14), Hattiesburg; linebacker Quadarius Wallace (15), Union; defensive end Josh Lewis (16), Tuscaloosa County (Ala.); wide receiver Antonio Ricks (17), Carthage; wide receiver Kylanski Hunter (18), Philadelphia; quarterback Tyler McNeil (19), Neshoba Central; cornerback Zerrick Houston (21), Philadelphia; and cornerback Ken Robinson (22), Neshoba Central; (third row, from left) wide receiver Antonio Hughes (23), Morton; linebacker Brad Ellis (24), Forest; running back Duke Hudnall (25), Newton County; running back Ken Griffin (26), Philadelphia; cornerback Preston Felder (28), Meridian; running back Derrick Cade (30), Tuscaloosa Central (Ala.); running back Marcus Travis (32), Perry Central; free safety Elijah Tanksley (34), Meridian; linebacker Guy Holden (35), Newton County; and cornerback Demario Eichelberger (36), Louisville; (fourth row, from left) linebacker Chris Watson (38), West Lauderdale; linebacker Randy Carter (39), Quitman; linebacker Harvey Brown (40), Neshoba Central; rover safety Rashad Horne (42), Quitman; running back Quan Richards (43), Hillcrest (Ala.); linebacker Anthony McDonald (44), 71st High School (NC); defensive end Jeremy Dillon (45), Forrest County AHS; linebacker Damarcus Lewis (47), Quitman; linebacker Kindrick Lyons (48) Philadelphia; offensive lineman Quintin Scott (52), DeSoto Central; and offensive lineman Terry Sparkman (53), South Leake; (fifth row, from left) offensive lineman Chuckie Curry (54), Newton; offensive lineman Damion Young (62), Pelahatchie; offensive lineman Justin Moore (65), Leake Academy; offensive lineman Robert Gaston (66), West Point; offensive lineman Jarred Flemming (70), Louisville; offensive lineman Matthew Lewis (71), Forrest County AHS; offensive lineman Kieandre Jones (74) Hillcrest (Ala.); offensive lineman Lorenzo Hollis (75), Morton; wide receiver Tevin Houston (80), Philadelphia; and wide receiver Radarius Owens (81), Quitman; (sixth row, from left) free safety Zach Jay (83), West Lauderdale; long snapper/tight end Will McBeth (84), Leake Academy; tight end Andrew Perkins (86), Northwest Rankin; defensive tackle James Brown (90), Tuscaloosa Central (Ala.); nose guard Percy Calloway (94), Central Lafourche (La.); defensive end Anthony McMillian (95), Heidelberg; defensive tackle Jasen Fairley (96), Collins; defensive end Cedric Hall (97), Carthage; and nose guard Jeremy Johnson (99), Lake; (seventh row, from left) managers Roosevelt Cunningham, West Point; Zach Evans and Michael Duncan, both of Nanih Waiya; Lamarius Childress, Louisville; Corey Kelly, Lake; L.A. Jones, Carthage; Canvies Triplett, Philadelphia; and Hailey Moody, Nanih Waiya; and (back row, from left) coaches Kyle Watson (offensive line and special teams), Derek Pouncey (wide receivers), Fredrick Lyons (defensive linemen), Steve Cheatham (head coach), James Miller (assistant head coach and defensive coordinator), and Brian Anderson (offensive coordinator); and athletic trainer Derek Jones with the Rush Sports Medicine Team. Not pictured are running back Darrius Spencer (46), Ashleville (NC); wide receiver Brandon Tarriol (82), Jackson; and manager Jared Holloway, Neshoba Central. The Warriors host division foe Southwest Mississippi Community College for homecoming Saturday.

Warriors were within eight points of the Bulldogs at 23-15.

However, Holmes scored on its next possession, thanks mainly to a Warrior penalty when Holmes missed a 40-yard field goal attempt on fourth and 11 with 7:54 left. The Bulldogs, now facing fourth and six from the EC 18, decided to run for the first down and did so successfully followed by a scoring drive, giving Holmes a 30-15 edge.

It took just three plays-covering 58 yards- for the Warriors to respond to the Bulldog score. The first came on Langston’s 30-yard burst to the Holmes 28, followed by Taylor’s 22-yard strike to wide receiver Tevin Houston of Philadelphia to the Holmes six, and Langston’s six-yard run for the score. The PAT again failed but the Warriors closed the scoring gap to 30-21.

East Central was in position for another tally

late in the game after taking possession at the Holmes 26 following a Bulldog penalty. But after driving to the Bulldog 15, Taylor’s first-down pass was picked off by a Holmes defensive back, who returned the pigskin 90 yards for a score followed by a good PAT and the visitors held on for the 37-21 win.

### EC V. HINDS

East Central Community College rallied from a 21-7 halftime deficit to tie Hinds Community College at 21-21 but two fourth-quarter touchdown runs propelled the Eagles to a 35-21 decision at Bailey Stadium in Decatur. The Warriors dropped to 0-3 following the MACJC South Division opener for both teams.

Hinds took an early 7-0 lead on the game’s first possession with a successful PAT. The Warriors tied the contest late in first-quarter action on a five-yard touchdown

strike from quarterback Emmanuel Taylor to running back Courtney Shelton of Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Central. Neshoba Central product Derek Crenshaw added the first of his three PATs.

Taylor, who hails from Early County High School in Blakely, Ga., engineered the 14-play, 75-yard march by completing six straight passes – including the TD toss – for 43 yards. He also had three runs totaling 20 yards, and his 14-yard scamper to the Hinds six followed by a personal foul against the Eagles gave EC possession on the Hinds three-yard-line. EC scored three plays later.

Hinds regained the lead on its next possession with a pass play early in the second quarter.

East Central responded to the Hinds score by driving from its 34-yard-line to the Hinds 10, but the drive stalled and Crenshaw’s 37-yard field

goal attempt was wide left. A key play during the drive was a 57-yard completion from Taylor to wide receiver Dustin Alley, a product of Union Grove High School in McDonough, Ga., which gave EC possession on the Hinds 12-yard-line.

The Warriors were set up for another score later in the second half but an incomplete pass on fourth and two at the Eagle 17-yard-line nixed the scoring threat.

After an exchange of possession, Hinds extended its lead to 21-7 with 3:08 remaining until halftime.

The Warriors took the ensuing kickoff and drove from the 39 to the Hinds 25, but missed again on a field goal attempt as Crenshaw’s 42-yard effort was wide right as the half ended.

East Central cut into the Hinds lead at 21-14 early in the third period



# Warrior Athletics

## Talented Warrior Soccer Squads Begin 2008 Campaign

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

With five returnees on the women’s squad and eight sophomores on the men’s team — including All-State players on both squads — East Central Community College soccer coach Kenneth Thompson has high hopes for a successful 2008 campaign.

Thompson said both squads look to improve from last year’s records and better their standings in division play.

“Only the top two teams from each division advance to the playoffs, so both squads are setting their sights on one of the two spots,” Thompson stated. “There will be many challenges to overcome...but both teams are determined to play with the mantra that ‘they can never be beat if they never give up.’ The one major goal for each team is to play each and every match from start to finish with the same intensity.”

Regarding the soccer squads, Thompson said they “are of one of best groups I have had to work with since I have been here. They all work hard, do what is asked of them and work well together. They are also very supportive of each other.”

He added, “Both squads have terrific kids with outstanding attitudes and never-quit work ethics. This makes my job a lot easier and I look forward to watching both groups compete.”

All-State forward Megan Munn of Decatur, a product of Newton County High School, is the top Lady Soccer Warrior returnee from 2007 along with midfielders Kacy Covert of West Lauderdale and Kristen Pillsbury, and defender Sidney Gutierrez, who are both products of Newton County High School; and keeper/forward Catalina Tarazona of Florence. (Tarazona was injured in an automobile accident in early August but is expected to return to the team during early season action.)

Freshmen include midfielders Marcia Guerreiro of Richland, Juley Taylor of East Rankin Academy and Calli Cumberland of Newton County; defenders Shandahl Hickman of Choctaw Central, Jessica Kilpatrick of Neshoba Central, Sarah Costello of Northeast Lauderdale and Shan Seales of Philadelphia; midfielders/

defenders Daniel Stafford of Philadelphia and Liz Withers of Neshoba Central; keeper/defender Lisa Tubby of Philadelphia; forward/midfielder Alanna Fairchild of Neshoba Central; and keeper Jesse Kemp of Corinth.

Thompson said the strengths of the Lady Warrior team will be speed and skill at the forward position.

“If our forwards can produce goals like they are capable of doing, then good things will happen for this team,” Thompson said.

He noted the Lady Warriors have a “speedster” at forward in Taylor, a first-year player from Lake. He added Withers is another freshman “showing lots of promise.”

Thompson said the Lady Warriors “will face difficulty with numbers (only 15 squad members), so they will have to pace themselves in order to compete in each game. They will have to push the pace when possible.”

On the men’s squad, All-State midfielder Sam Wilson, a former Meridian High School standout, is the top returner. Other sophomores are forwards Patrick Creel of Florence, midfielder/defender Justin Traylor of Florence and Dwayne Furline of Quitman; midfielders Taylor Booker of Stone High School and Zach Pillsbury of Newton County; and sweeper Jerrid Hickman and keeper Mat Turner, both of Mendenhall. First-year defender Webb Compton, a product of Meridian High School, is also listed as a sophomore.

Thompson said the Warriors “have plenty of new freshmen with talent and look to rebound from a disappointing 2007 season.”

First-year players include midfielders Cooper Jordan of Philadelphia, Nathan Rowell of Neshoba Central, Christian Craft and Dustin Tucker, both of Richland, and Cameron Lesley of Neshoba Central, a transfer from Meridian Community College; forwards Alex Galistel of Northeast Lauderdale and Bass Price of Neshoba Central; defender/midfielder Steven Stanley of Richland; defender Hunter Wyrick of Laurel; and keeper Paul Sewell of Cherokee High School in Centre, Ala.

In analyzing the men’s

team, Thompson said the Warrior defense on the entire field “is reaching new levels. Team speed and individual skill level are really good, and if this team works together from start to finish each game, they have the potential to be successful.”

He further commented, “The Warriors look to play an attractive style of soccer that will complement the team’s skill. They will be playing under a new attacking and defending system from previous years as the skill level, fitness and game awareness of this group as a whole is good. Attacking from many unexpected directions will be a key for this team.”

Thompson noted both squads will be sporting new uniforms for the first time in several years and “look forward to showing off their new look.” New professional-level goals have also been added to the Warrior pitch.

In an effort to attract more attention on game day, Thompson said infoboards will be displayed on campus as a reminder to the student body regarding the day’s opponent and game times.

Thompson said he is pleased that the popularity of soccer continues to grow.

“Soccer is the number one sport in the entire world by far and here in the United States the popularity of the sport is really starting to take off. Just in the East Central district this past year, three new women’s programs and two new men’s programs got started.”

Thompson said a new youth soccer program is underway in Winston County and East Central continues to offer the “Serious Soccer” youth program, that has been averaging close to 200 participants the past two years.

Although the emphasis continues to be winning matches, Thompson said both squads are also dedicated to having another strong academic showing exhibited by previous teams. The 2007 men’s squad finished second and the women fourth in the annual NJCAA academic competition and expectations are even higher for the 2008.



THOMPSON



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**ECCC Soccer Warriors:** Pictured are members of the East Central Community College men’s soccer team for the 2008 season. Soccer Warriors and their respective high schools include (first row, from left) manager McClain Mullins, Faith Christian; defender Dwayne Furline, Quitman; forward Alex Galistel, Northeast Lauderdale; defender Webb Compton, Meridian; forward Nathan Rowell and midfielder Bass Price, both of Neshoba Central; midfielder Christian Craft, Richland; and manager Dimitri Uhl, West Lauderdale; (second row, from left) managers Sara Williams of Philadelphia and Jeff Grimshel, Vicksburg; midfielders Sam Wilson of Meridian and Cooper Jordan of Philadelphia; defender/midfielder Steven Stanley, Richland; midfielders Jerrid Hickman of Mendenhall and Taylor Booker of Stone; forward Patrick Creel, Florence; manager Jerrid Hickman, Mendenhall; and (back row, from left) keeper Paul Sewell, Cherokee County HS, Leesburg, Ala.; defender Hunter Wyrick, Laurel; midfielder Dustin Tucker, Richland; midfielder/defender Zach Pillsbury, Newton County; midfielder Cameron Lesley, Neshoba Central; defender Justin Traylor, Florence; and head coach Kenneth Thompson.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**ECCC Lady Soccer Warriors:** Above are members of the East Central Community women’s soccer squad for the 2008 campaign. Team members and their respective high schools include (first row, from left) manager Demitri Uhl and midfielder Kacy Covert, both of West Lauderdale; forwards Megan Munn of Newton County and Julie Taylor of East Rankin Academy; forward/midfielder Alanna Fairchild, Neshoba Central; midfielder Marcia Guerreiro, Richland; defender/midfielder Danielle Stafford, Philadelphia; and manager Jeff Grimshel, Vicksburg; (second row, from left) managers Sara Williams of Philadelphia and McClain Mullins of Faith Christian; midfielder Elizabeth Withers, Neshoba Central; keeper/defender Lisa Tubby, Philadelphia; defenders Sara Costello of Northeast Lauderdale, Shan Seales of Philadelphia and Jessica Kilpatrick of Neshoba Central; and manager Jerrid Mullins, Faith Christian; Mendenhall; and (back row, from left) defender Sidney Gutierrez, Newton County; midfielders Kristen Pillsbury and Calli Cumberland, both of Newton County; keeper Jesse Kemp of Corinth; defender Shandahl Hickman, Choctaw Central; keeper/forward Catalina Tarazona, Florence; and head coach Kenneth Thompson.

## Pouncey joins Football Staff

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Derek Pouncey has joined Steve Cheatham’s staff and will serve as wide receivers coach.



POUNCEY

“Derek is a huge asset to our football program,” Cheatham said. “He’s a great coach who not only has knowledge of the game but also has experience with computers and video equipment. We’re just very glad to have him as a member of our staff.”

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Pouncey served from 2006-08 as assistant head coach, line coach and teacher at Kemper County High School.

He was offensive line coach and teacher at Meridian High School in 2005-06 and helped lead the Wildcats to the South State 5A Championship.

Pouncey served the previous year as defensive coordinator, wide receivers coach and teacher for Philadelphia Public Schools.

He is also a former athletic director and head football coach at Northwest Junior High School and was performing arts instructor at Meridian High School from 2000-03. In 2003, he was selected as a Coca Cola National Educator of Distinction.

He began his coaching career in 1998 as an assistant football coach at Kate Griffin Junior High School, when he was also named performing arts instructor at MHS.

A Meridian native, Pouncey is a 1993 graduate of West Lauderdale High School and received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Mississippi College in 1998.

His parents are Curt and Cythia Pouncey of Meridian.

If you or someone you know is

Talking about suicide  
Writing about suicide  
Thinking about suicide

*Don't keep it a secret  
shatter the silence!*

For help call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK or the Mississippi Department of Mental Health at 1-877-210-8513 or visit [www.dmh.ms.gov](http://www.dmh.ms.gov) for more information.

Funding for this project was made available through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Hurricane Katrina Federal Youth Suicide Prevention Grants. The views and opinions contained in the publication do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and should not be construed as such.

Supporting a Better Tomorrow...Today



# Warrior Athletics

## ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame to include Kilpatrick, Clark

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Former East Central Community College athletic coordinator and head football coach A. J. Kilpatrick of Grenada and the late Diamond Warrior head coach Jamie Clark will be added to the College's Athletic Hall of Fame during homecoming activities Saturday, Sept. 27 on the Decatur campus. The induction ceremony is held during the annual Alumni Luncheon beginning at noon in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

Kilpatrick, a former ECCC football and basketball standout who led the Warrior football program from 1982 to 1992, successfully guided community/junior college

and high school football teams to an overall 238-138-12 record during his 36-year career as a head coach. His resume includes a state junior college championship and several division titles, conference crowns on the high school level and several bowl game victories. He also won championships as a high school basketball and track coach.

Kilpatrick, a Philadelphia native, has a long list of personal honors, including his recent selection to the National Junior College Athletic



KILPATRICK

Association (NJCAA) Football Hall of Fame. He was inducted into the Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame in 1986.

**JAMIE CLARK**

Clark led the ECCC baseball program from 1988 through 2001, amassing an overall 365-301-1 record. His 1998 squad won the program's first state championship and finished with a 32-22 mark.

His first squad went 17-25, followed by 11 straight non-losing campaigns (the 1991 team



CLARK

finished 20-20). The most season wins came in 1997, when the Diamond Warriors — led by current major leaguer Marcus Thames of the Detroit Tigers- collected 40 victories and finished state runners-up. Five of Clark's teams appeared in Region 23 Tournaments.

Clark, a West Point native, lost his battle to cancer at age 49 on July 18, 2001. The Diamond Warrior stadium was named in his honor the following year. Clark's jersey #41 was also retired and is prominently displayed in the lobby of the Bracken-Wood Physical Education Building. A replica of the jersey is displayed on the right field fence at Clark Stadium.

## REGION 23 CHAMPS



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Members of the 2007-08 East Central Community College women's basketball team displayed their Region 23 Championship rings presented during halftime ceremonies of the East Central/Holmes football game Sept. 6. EC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin and Lady Warrior head coach Bill Smith made the presentation to team members: Carlena Clemmons, Union; Sha Coleman, Newton County; Mystee Dale, Choctaw Central; Tawayatha Evans, Newton; Queena Gage, Scott Central; Chotsani Henderson, Newton; Courtney James, Magee; Rashima Jenkins, Airline High School, Bossier City, La.; Michaela Lee, Nanih Waiya; Alisha McAfee, Northwest Rankin; Courtney Miller, Louisville; Jaleesa Sanders, South Leake; Allison Phillips, Leake Academy; and Katherine Taylor, Carthage. Not pictured are team members Tanesha Brown of Jackson Provine, Jordan Patterson of Oak Hill Academy and Nicole Williams of Newton, and assistant coach Blessing Chekwa. After winning the Region 23 title, the Lady Warriors advanced to the NJCAA Division 1 Women's Basketball Tournament in Salina, Kansas, and finished with a 22-8 record.

## CHEERLEADERS



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Members of the 2008-09 cheerleading squad at East Central Community College and their respective high schools include (laying in front) Warrior mascot Daniel Cheatham, Neshoba Central; (front row, from left) Anna Williams and Abby McMillan, both of Newton County Academy; Adrienne McDill, Newton County; Erin Huffman, West Lauderdale; and Cayla Boyd, Carthage; (second row, from left) Emily Thrash, Sebastopol; Kacy Covert, West Lauderdale; Juley Taylor, East Rankin Academy; Anna Munn, West Lauderdale; Kayla Adcock, Winston Academy; and Dekota Anthony, Neshoba Central; and (back row, from left) Daniel Steverson, Newton County Academy; Will Emmons, Lake; Randy Carl Arledge, Neshoba Central; Jonathan Federick, Newton County; and Kolby Sisson, Noxapater. Huellen Watson serves as coach.

## Former Tennis Players to be honored

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Former EC tennis players are among special groups being honored during homecoming activities scheduled Saturday, Sept. 28, on the Decatur campus. And according to one former coach, the recognition is well-deserved and long overdue.

"I think it's a very good idea to recognize our former tennis players," said Lucille Wood, longtime ECCC staff member who served as women and men's tennis coach from 1958-76 in addition to her successful career as women's basketball coach.

"I also think that tennis players should be considered for our Athletic Hall of Fame," she stated, "because we have had a lot of good tennis players on this campus."

Included in the list of award-winning tennis players are state singles champions Lamar Buntyn of Morton (1961-1962), Tommy Irby, also of Morton (1968), Wanda Elliott Nowell of Neshoba Central

(1968) and Julie Latham of Morton (1977), all coached by Wood. Tommy McCool and Charles McAdory, both of Louisville, won the state doubles title in 1977. Joe Clark served as coach and led the program from 1976-95.

Other tennis coaches include Natalie Vance, 1995-97; Marty Cooper, 1997-98; Jay Bowen, 1998-2001; Brad Hodge, 2001-2005; Mike Volarvich, 2005-2006; and Susan Fox-Smith, 2006-2007. Current coaches are Kyle Watson and Dianne and Pat O'Neill.

Tennis competition has obviously changed through the years, from playing on a dirt surface to a smooth acrylic surface over concrete. Scholarships are provided and players compete in uniform. Efforts to improve the tennis facility at East Central are currently underway.

"The College has been working over the last several months to develop a plan to renovate the exist-

ing courts," said ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin. With these proposed renovations, we hope to bring the College's tennis program to the level of other Mississippi community and junior colleges."

Dr. Sutphin said the "most current needs" include resurfacing the present courts and adding bleachers, backboards, water fountains and other court amenities when funding is available.

"Funding received will be used to resurface the four existing courts including: filling and leveling all cracks and low areas; installing a coat of acrylic resurfacer; installing coats of acrylic color; and installing white textured playing lines," said Dr. Sutphin. Cost to complete the project is estimated at \$20,000.

For more information on the tennis team reunion or to contribute to the ECCC Tennis Court Renovation Fund, call 1-877-462-3222, ext. 327. The e-mail address is [sholing@eccc.edu](mailto:sholing@eccc.edu).

## Warrior Fall Baseball Schedule announced

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

East Central Community College's Diamond Warriors begin their fall campaign by hosting Jones County Junior College and Beville State Community College Friday, Sept. 26 at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex on the Decatur campus.

The ECCC/Jones matchup gets underway at 11 a.m. followed by the Beville-Fayette contest at 4:30. Both games- as well as all fall contests- are nine inning affairs.

The Diamond Warriors will challenge Mississippi Delta Community College and Holmes Community College Friday, Oct. 3 at Delta State University in Cleveland, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., respectively. East Central will participate in the Belhaven Tournament, scheduled Wednesday, Oct. 8 at Smith-Wills Stadium in Jackson. The Diamond Warriors battle Southwest Miss. Community College at 1 p.m. and Delgado Community College at 4 p.m.

The Diamond Warriors return to campus on Wednesday, Oct. 15 for doubleheader action beginning at 2 p.m. with Northwest Mississippi Community College.

Fall competition concludes with the annual Black and Gold World Series scheduled Oct. 19-23 at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex.

The Diamond Warriors are led by third-year head coach Neal Holliman and assistants Michael Avalon and Roberto Martinez.

## Annual Golf Tournament Benefitting the Warrior Baseball Program Set for Oct. 11

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Area golfers can show their support for the East Central Community College baseball program by participating in the annual fundraising golf tournament scheduled Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008, at Decatur Country Club.

Tee-off time for the two-person scramble is set for 8 a.m.

Cost is \$30 per person. Hole sponsorships are available for \$100.

Lunch will be provided and players will have the opportunity to win various door prizes.

For more information on the ECCC Baseball Benefit Golf Tournament, contact Chris Clark (ext. 245) or Chris Harris (ext. 401), at 601-635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222. The e-mail addresses are [cclark@eccc.edu](mailto:cclark@eccc.edu) and [charris@eccc.edu](mailto:charris@eccc.edu).



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**Supporters of ECCC Athletics Meet:** East Central Community College athletic director Chris Harris addresses a crowd of supporters at the first annual Warrior Club banquet held recently on the Decatur campus. Coaches representing all the College's sports provided remarks from their respective areas and expressed appreciation to the Warrior Club for financial support. Club members played a key role in helping send the Region 23 champion Lady Warrior basketball team to the NJCAA Tournament in Salina, Kansas, and providing support for other sports needs.



# Warrior Athletics



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College freshman quarterback Emmanuel Taylor (9) looks for an open receiver during the Warriors’ division battle on Sept. 11 with Hinds Community College in Decatur. Taylor, a product of Early County High School in Blakely, Ga., completed 17 of 28 passes for 188 yards and one score. He also had 21 rushes for 140 yards and two touchdowns. EC fell to the visiting Eagles by a 35-21 margin.

## GAME REVIEW

### FROM PAGE 10

on running back Derrick Cade’s two-yard burst, capping a 12-play, 77-yard drive, which was set up by Warrior defensive end Vonzell Jackson’s interception at the EC 23.

Key plays during the march were Cade’s 15-yard run to the EC 38, an 18-yard pass completion from Taylor to wide receiver Donovan Tate of Hattiesburg to the Hinds 37, and a 13-yard pass from Taylor to wide receiver Lamar Truman of Northeast Lauderdale. Cade is a product of Tuscaloosa Central High School.

East Central tied the contest early in the fourth stanza on Taylor’s 16-yard run, capping a four-play, 46-yard drive. The key play during the short drive was a 20-yard completion from Taylor to wide receiver Kendrick May of Tuscaloosa County, who made the catch at the Hinds 16.

Hinds responded to the EC score with a TD run with 10:29 left in the game. The Warriors were unable to move the pigskin on the ensuing possession but the Eagles later found success with a 25-yard touchdown scamper with 4:44 remaining in the contest.

The EC offense totaled 402 yards, with Taylor accounting for 328 yards. He completed 17 of 28 passes for 188 yards and one score, and rushed 21 times for 140 yards and two scores. Cade had 13 rushes for 58 yards and a TD. The Warriors had 18 first downs.

### EC V. JONES

Mark Gray’s controversial interception on the

two-yard line with 2:47 remaining nixed a possible game-tying score by the East Central Community College Warriors and nationally-ranked Jones County Junior College survived a 42-35 cliff-hanger Thursday night in Ellisville.

East Central dropped to 0-4 overall and 0-2 following the MACJC South Division battle, while the Bobcats, ranked fifth in the latest NJCAA poll, improved to 4-0 and 2-0.

East Central’s miscue came on a first-and-goal situation from the Bobcat six-yard-line. Quarterback Emmanuel Taylor, a product of Early County High School in Blakely, Ga., lofted a pass which appeared to have been caught by wide receiver Kendrick May of Tuscaloosa County, but officials ruled the Bobcat defender was in possession when the two players fell to the ground.

East Central was set up for the possible late score thanks to a heads-up play by long snapper Will McBeth during a Warrior punt. The Leake Academy product stripped the ball while tackling Jones return specialist Rafael Pollard near the 30-yard-line and then bulled his way to the Jones 19. EC reached the six following two plays: a nine-yard completion from Taylor to May, and Dustin Alley’s four-yard run.

First-quarter action featured a gallant effort by the Warrior defense, which held Jones on fourth and one at East Central’s six-yard-line. Jones had gained possession when the Bobcats intercepted Taylor’s pass and returned the pigskin to the EC 15-yard-line.

But the Bobcat defense took advantage of another

Warrior mistake with an interception return with 3:56 left in the first period gave Jones a 7-0 lead following the PATs.

EC responded by capping a 40-yard drive in just three plays with Maurice Langston, a former Northeast Lauderdale standout, tallying on an 18-yard run. Neshoba Central product Derek Crenshaw connected on the first of his five PATs for the night. The short scoring drive was set up by May’s 43-yard kickoff return to the Bobcat 40.

The Warriors took their only lead of the night late in the initial period on a 29-yard strike from Taylor to Langston. The score was set up when EC defensive back Clint Coleman of Louisville intercepted an Early James pass on the Bobcat 30.

EC’s advantage was short-lived, however, as the Bobcats found pay dirt early in second-period action on a 13-yard run, capping a nine-play, 55-yard drive.

The Bobcats regained the lead at 21-14 when the Bobcats stripped the ball from Taylor while making a tackle and raced 44 yards for the score.

Jones missed on an opportunity to extend its lead as the Warrior defense again responded. The Bobcats had taken possession on the EC 13 following a blocked punt but thanks to a stubborn Warrior defense and penalties, Jones was forced to attempt an unsuccessful 42-yard field goal.

The EC offense took advantage of the opportunity by scoring on a 64-yard pass play from Taylor to Langston, knotting the score again at 21-21.

The Bobcats took the ensuing kickoff and

marched 60 yards in nine plays, with the go-ahead 28-21 score with 43 seconds remaining before halftime.

Third-quarter action resulted in the Warriors tying the contest at 28-28, as Taylor connected with Donovan Tate of Hattiesburg on a 22-yard pass play with 10:14 left in the stanza. A key play during the 85-yard, seven-play march was a 39-yard completion from Taylor to May, which gave EC possession on the Jones 22-yard line.

Jones threatened to take the lead on the ensuing possession but the Warrior defense again held the Bobcats in-check on fourth and eight from the 30-yard-line.

But the Bobcats scored later with a pass play on third and 16. The TD was set up when Jones intercepted Taylor’s pass as Allen tried to make a juggling catch.

The Warrior defense rose to the occasion once again late in the third period by stopping Jones on a fourth and one play near midfield.

East Central tied the contest a final time early in the final quarter, when Langston zigzagged across the field on a 71-yard punt return with 11:13 remaining in the game.

Jones put the game’s final points on the scoreboard with 5:53 remaining.

East Central finished with 336 yards of total offense, most of which came through the air. Taylor completed 16 of 28 attempts for 248 yards and three scores. He also had three interceptions. Langston was the top receiver with five catches for 113 yards and two touchdowns. Tate



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

EC head coach Steve Cheatham questions an official’s decision during the Warriors’ 42-35 setback to nationally ranked Jones on Sept. 18 in Ellisville. The division matchup featured several controversial rulings, including one near the game’s end, which awarded shared possession of a Warrior pass to Jones at the two-yard-line, thus nixing a possible game-tying score for East Central. In the background is Warrior Kendrick May (4) who was involved in the controversial call. May is a product of Tuscaloosa County High School.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central defensive end Josh Lewis (16) corrals a Holmes runner during the Warriors’ 37-21 loss to the Bulldogs Sept. 4 in Decatur. Lewis is a product of Tuscaloosa County High School.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Warrior wide receiver Kendrick May (4) and Jones defender Mark Gray (22) fight for possession on this pass play near the goal line in the game’s final minutes held Sept. 18 in Ellisville. Officials awarded the ball to the Bobcats, who held on for the 42-35 division victory. May is a product of Tuscaloosa County High School.

had three receptions for 65 yards and a score. Taylor led EC rushers with 50 yards on 19 carries. Langston had five rushes for 23 yards and one score. EC had 10 first downs.

Crenshaw punted three times for a 42-yard average.

Jones had 159 yards rushing and 152 passing

for a 311 total. The Bobcats had 13 first downs. The Warriors host division foe Southwest Mississippi Community College for homecoming Saturday, Sept. 27. Kick-off is set for 2:30 p.m. at Bailey Stadium. The Bears fell to 0-3 and 0-2 following their 20-0 loss to Copiah-Lincoln Community College.



# Constitution Day dubbed a success in part with national program

BY DANIEL ALEXANDER  
Staff Writer

Constitution Day took place at East Central Community College on Sept. 15. Constitution Day is part of a national program focused on raising students' awareness of their rights and duties as American citizens. The program on campus was headed up by Dr. Crenshaw and focused on the two separate versions of the Patriot Act passed by the US Senate and House of Representatives.

The day started with Dinner on the Mall, where George Washington (Dr. Crenshaw) and Martha Washington (Mrs. Fox-Smith) handed out research on the Patriot Act and pocket-sized copies of the Constitution. This was followed by a "Constitution Signing" where attendees were invited to sign a large piece of parchment with quill pens to symbolize the signing of the US Constitution by members of the Constitutional Convention. After signing the "constitution" attendees were treated to a showing of The Siege featuring Bruce Willis and Denzel Washington. The film was followed by an open-forum discussion of the Patriot Act and its effect on the daily life of US citizens.

Constitution Day is a practice that is a direct result of congressional legislation approved in 2004. It requires all institutions of higher learning receiving federal funds to host a Constitution Day. This legislation also requires colleges of all classifications to include constitutional education into their curriculum. Many see this legislation as violating the very constitution which it is meant to uphold because the

ment with quill pens to symbolize the signing of the US Constitution by members of the Constitutional Convention. After signing the "constitution" attendees were treated to a showing of The Siege featuring Bruce Willis and Denzel Washington. The film was followed by an open-forum discussion of the Patriot Act and its effect on the daily life of US citizens.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Dr. Philip Crenshaw, dressed as George Washington and Susan Fox-Smith, dressed as Martha Washington, distribute literature on the Patriot Act as part of EC's Costitution Day ceremonies while students enjoy Dinner on the Mall.

constitution ensures that the federal government does not have the power to regulate what schools teach.

Even though the school

is required to host the function, student attendance is by no means compulsory. Students attended on a volunteer basis to all of the events

which made up East Central's Constitution Day, and though it went off with many hitches, it was generally successful. East Central's Constitu-

tion Day is held as an annual event and will take place again in the fall semester of the 2009-2010 school year.

## ECCC HAPPENINGS

**SEPT. 25**  
**Beauty Pageant participation form deadline**

The 2008 East Central Community College Beauty Pageant will be held on Monday, Oct. 20. The deadline for turning in forms is Thursday, Sept. 25. Forms can be turned in to the Career Technical Office in the Tucker Applied Technology Building. For more information, call Joan Grimes at 601-635-6212 or Susan Fox-Smith at 601-635-6113.

**Pep Rally/Bon Fire**  
The 2008 Homecoming Pep Rally/Bon Fire will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25 at the pavilion by the Walking Trail.

**SEPT. 26**  
**EC vs. East MS**  
Soccer matches between East Central and East Mississippi Community College will be held in Decatur at 2 p.m., Friday, Sept. 26.

**SEPT. 27**  
**Homecoming 2008**  
The 2008 Homecoming Football game against Southwest is set for 2:30

p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 at Bailey Stadium.

**SEPT. 28-29**  
**ECCC Golf**  
The Warriors will play in the Wolfepack Fall Invitational at Co-Lin Wolfe Hollow Golf Course.

**SEPT. 29**  
**Petition deadline for Most Handsome/Beau Elections**

Most Handsome/Beau elections will be held on Oct. 1 and 2. Petitions are due on Monday, Sept. 29 and can be picked up in student services or from Ms. Christi Gregory or Ms. Joan Grimes in the career/technical building.

**SEPT. 30**  
**EC vs. Southwest**  
Soccer matches between EC and Southwest Community College will be held at 2 p.m. in Decatur.

**Career-Technical Showcase**  
The Career-Technical Showcase will be held from 4:30 until 7:30 p.m. in the South Campus Gymnasium.

**OCT. 2**  
**Football - EC at**

**Northeast**  
East Central plays Northwest Community College at 7 p.m. in Boon-evilve.

**OCT. 3**  
**EC vs. Co-Lin**  
EC will host Co-Lin Community College in soccer matches in Decatur at 4 p.m.

**OCT. 5**  
**Gospel Choir Reunion Concert**

Former East Central Community College Gospel Choir will hold a 20th anniversary concert at 5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5 in Huff Auditorium. The event is being held in recognition of Brenda K. Johnson's 20 years of service as gospel choir sponsor. For more information contact Mrs. Johnson at 601-683-6383 or Kathy Smith Sanders at 601-635-6215.

**OCT. 7**  
**EC vs. Jones**  
EC soccer teams v. Jones County Junior College in Ellisville at 5:30 p.m.

**Student Education Association meeting**  
The Student Education Association meeting has

been rescheduled for 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7 in Room 90 of Newton Hall. A representative for the Mississippi Teacher Center in Jackson will be the speaker for the program. All education students need to attend.

**OCT. 9**  
**ECCC Softball Tournament**  
EC hosts a softball tournament held at Esco Park in Newton beginning at 11 a.m.

**OCT. 10**  
**EC vs. Gulf Coast**  
EC plays Gulf Coast Community College in a soccer matches in Perkinston at 1 p.m., Oct. 10.

**OCT. 11**  
**ECCC Benefit Baseball Golf Tournament**  
EC hosts a benefit baseball golf tournament at 8 a.m., Oct. 11 at the Decatur Country Club. The event will include a two-person scramble, 18 holes, card playoff, if needed and door prizes. Lunch is included with the registration fee of \$30. To enter, contact Chris Clark at 601-635-2111 ext. 245 or Chris

Harris at ext. 305 or 401. All proceeds go to the ECCC Warrior Baseball Team. A hole sponsorship is \$100.

**EC at Gulf Coast**  
Warrior football plays Gulf Coast Community College at 3 p.m., Oct. 11 on Gulf Coast's campus.

**OCT. 13**  
**ECCC Cake Decorating Class Gets Underway**

Registration and the first of six sessions on cake decorating will be held Monday, Oct. 13, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Gold Room of Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. Classes, which are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m., continue on successive Mondays through Nov. 17. Joy Munn of Decatur serves as instructor. The cost is \$50 per student. Participants are also responsible for purchasing a cake decorating kit.

**EC vs. Southwest**  
EC travels to Southwest Community College for a soccer match at 2 p.m., Oct. 13.

**OCT. 15**  
**EC vs. Pearl River**  
East Central hosts

Pearl River in soccer matches at 2 p.m. on Oct. 15 in Decatur.

**OCT. 16**  
**Co-Lin at EC**  
EC hosts Co-Lin Community College at Bailey Stadium at 6:30 p.m.

**OCT. 18**  
**Wall O' Sound Band Performance**  
The EC Wall O' Sound Band will perform at Union High School at 5 p.m.

**OCT. 20**  
**EC Beauty Pageant**  
The 2008 East Central Community College Beauty Pageant will be held on Monday, Oct. 20. For more information, call Joan Grimes at 601-635-6212 or Susan Fox-Smith at 601-635-6113.

**OCT. 20-21**  
**ECCC Golf**  
The Warriors will play in the MGCCC Fall Invitational at River Highlands.

**OCT. 23**  
**EC at Pearl River**  
EC plays Pearl River Community College on the PRCC campus at 7 p.m.

## FRESHMEN 101

**FROM PAGE 2**  
clubs which one would it be and why? I would join the Wesley Foundation, because I want to be drawn closer to Christ our Savior.

Are you currently a member of any sports teams, band, etc.? I am a member of the Wall O' Sound Band, and I play the tuba.

**JAMES SMITH**  
High School: Thomas-town Attendance High

School  
A c -  
tivities:  
Basket-  
ball  
H o w  
did you  
l e a r n  
a b o u t  
E a s t



SMITH

Central Community College? I saw an advertisement on the television about ECCC.

What made you want to become a student at East Central Community College? I found the college very intriguing and decided to come.

Where do you plan to attend college after ECCC? I plan to attend Mississippi State University.

How do you like being at East Central Community College? It is very intriguing to be at a college that gives me the motivation to succeed.

If you plan to join any clubs which one would you choose and why? The clubs here at ECCC do not interest me.

Are you currently a member of any sports teams, band, etc.? No, but I would like to play basketball next year.

## COOKIN'

**FROM PAGE 2**  
degrees for 25-30 minutes or until golden brown.

**GLORIA MCRAE'S TAILGATING SLAW**  
Math instructor Gloria

McRae first got her recipe for Florida State Slaw while tailgating at a University of Southern Mississippi game in Florida. She then brought



MCRAE

the recipe back to Mississippi and gave it a name of her own. The recipe is now known as Tailgating Slaw. The slaw is unique from others with its oriental twist and is wonderful for those who do not like mayonnaise. McRae said it makes a great side to fried fish.

**Tailgating Slaw**

2 Lbs. Slaw mix  
8 green onions, chopped  
2 tsp. Sesame seed (3/4 oz)  
10 T. slivered almonds  
2 pkg. Ramen noodles, un-cooked  
½ c. oil  
4 T. sugar  
4 T. vinegar  
1 tsp. Pepper

2 tsp. salt  
Mix together the slaw mix, onions, sesame seed and almonds. Combine the oil, sugar, vinegar, pepper and salt. Pour over the slaw mixture. Chill. An hour before serving, add coarsely crushed ramen noodles. (Discard seasoning pack.)



# EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT

## Underwood takes artwork to a new level

BY TIFFANY LOWERY  
Staff Writer

What is art? According to East Central art major Josh Underwood, it is “the view of the artist whether it is in the world around them or in their mind.” How does Underwood know? He has been drawing since he was eight years old but, in his own opinion, his artwork did not mature until much later. His role models were Disney animators because he considers their work to be beautiful.

Much like those Disney animators he admires, Underwood’s artwork was at one time only of animals. That has just recently changed because his focus has shifted from solely animals to a broader spectrum that includes nature as a whole because he says that nature inspires him the most.

Underwood’s favorite thing to do is to take nature and give it an anthropomorphic twist. His reasoning for this is that he feels it “gives viewers a closer connection to the work of art.” Underwood also draws people, but seldom does. His reasoning behind this is he doesn’t want to make the individual appear to be false. He believes that “there must be something [special] about the person” before he is able to draw them.

In his work, Underwood is skilled in several different mediums, such as graphite and charcoal. However, since coming



TIFFANY LOWERY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Josh Underwood, an ECCC art student has drawn since he was eight years old. Inspired by Disney animators, Underwood began his artwork capturing images of animals.

to EC he has been using charcoal much more because his art teacher, Chris Brady, “crams it into our heads.”

For all those that are interested in art, Underwood’s says, “If you have a knack for art or can draw, go for it, but just know that there is always going to be someone trying to knock you down. Don’t let them get to you. Learn from the experience and use it to improve yourself. I can tell you from experience [that] your biggest critic is yourself. Try to look past that and go with your heart. When you can do that, you can truly express yourself as an artist.”

After Underwood graduates from East Central, he plans to attend a university so that he may further his career and his



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Josh Underwood, student at East Central Community College, said his favorite thing to capture in art is to take nature and give it an anthropomorphic twist. Underwood is skilled in art mediums such as graphite and charcoal.

skills. Even though he has these future plans, he says the only way to further his ability is “practice, practice, practice.” In addition to creating art here at East Central, Underwood’s art is also

posted all over the Internet. He says he loves the fact that his art is not limited to Mississippi, the South or even the United States. He has fans all over the world and truly enjoys that fact.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The first group of district high school seniors enrolled in the new Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Practical Nursing Program offered at East Central Community College include (seated from left) Brittany Brown and Ethan Lewis, both of Newton County Academy; Ashton Acord, Stormie Corsaro and Amanda Graham, all of Newton County; and (standing from left) Audriann Thomas, Newton County; Sha’Nequa Pinkston, Union; Fallon Mattar, Neshoba Central; and Casie McCleendon, Morton. Also pictured is instructor Melanie Pinter.

## Several High School Seniors Enrolled In New Nursing Program

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Brittany Brown of Decatur has hopes of becoming a physician one day. Brown, a senior at Newton County Academy, is getting a head start on her medical training by enrolling in the Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Practical Nursing Program being offered at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Brown and eight other high school seniors from ECCC’s five-county district are taking advantage of the new program, which was funded by a grant from the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges. Thanks to the grant, the nine students who qualified for the four-semester program can attend classes free of charge while in high school. The only cost for students is transportation to the Decatur campus, where classes are held at the Associate Degree Nursing/Childcare Technology Building.

Classes began August 11 and are held from 1 to 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursday. Melanie Pinter of Philadelphia, who recently joined ECCC’s healthcare division, serves as class instructor.

Brown said she was “really excited” when she heard about the special program, and expects no problems juggling her activities as a busy high school senior and a college freshman taking nursing courses.

“I think I can work it out...everyone has been real supportive,” said the 17-year-old. “I think it’s (the program) going to be good. I’ve always wanted to be a doctor and taking this program is getting me a step ahead of everything else,” she stated. “It will make me or break me!”

Brown, the first member of her family to enter the medical field, said being able to take the nursing course free of charge “is a major blessing.”

“I feel very blessed to have this opportunity,” she stated. “I have faith in the program and in myself to be successful.”

Brown is involved in

various high school activities. She is a member of the high school basketball team, honor society and various clubs and organizations. She also serves as FBLA State Secretary.

Her parents are Todd and Susan Brown.

Fallon Mattar, a senior at Neshoba Central High School, is also excited about the new nursing program.

“I think it is very good that East Central started this program and I’m very excited about it,” she said. “It is also a great opportunity for us high school students to get out (of school) and start working early. When we’re taking the LPN exam everybody else will be in their first year of college.”

Mattar is just as grateful as Brown about the free tuition.

“It’s very nice,” Mattar stated. “Since the cost of classes is taken care of I can definitely take care of the gas expense. It’s a big help...a big help!”

She is also excited about the four-day schedule.

“I really like having Fridays off,” she said, “which will not only save on gas money but will allow us to participate in Friday activities at school, such as pep rallies, ball games, etc.”

Mattar said her interest in a medical career came about just recently.

“I wanted to be a teacher when I was real young,” said the 17-year-old. “I became interested in the medical field after taking allied health classes. When this program came along I was very excited about it.”

She said her parents, George and Sheila Mattar, are also excited about the program and are supportive of her taking classes. Her father is also a former EMT (emergency medical technician.)

Other class members and their respective high schools include Ethan Lewis, Newton County Academy; Ashton Acord, Stormie Carsaro, Amanda Graham and Audriann Thomas, Newton County; Sha’ Nequa Pinkston, Union; and Casie McCleendon, Morton.

East Central is one of five new pilot sites for the Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Nursing Program.

## ‘Short’ Term Semester set to begin in October

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Registration is under way for “short” term semester classes offered at East Central Community College.

The special eight-week term begins Monday, Oct. 13 and continues through

Friday, Dec. 4. Classes meet twice each week from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Final exams are scheduled Monday, Dec. 8 and Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Courses include English Composition I, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra and Public Speaking

I, which are offered Mondays and Wednesdays, and English Composition II, American (U.S.) History I, Music Appreciation and General Psychology, scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The deadline to register is Friday, Oct. 17.

Tuition and fees are non-refundable after the initial class meeting.

For more information contact the ECCC Office of Admissions, Records and Research, Phone 601-635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 206.

## ECCC Cake Decorating Class gets underway Oct. 13

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Registration and the first of six sessions on cake decorating will be held Monday, Oct. 13 at East Central Community

College in Decatur. Activities begin at 6 p.m. in the Gold Room of Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.

Classes, which are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m., continue on succes-

sive Mondays through November 17. Joy Munn of Decatur serves as instructor.

Cost is \$50 per student. Participants are also responsible for purchasing

a cake decorating kit.

For more information contact the ECCC Office of Adult and Continuing Education, Phone 601-635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 278.

# Homecoming Schedule 2008

7:30 a.m.	Homecoming 5K Run and 5K Walk-North Campus	11 a.m.	Homecoming Honorees' Meeting-Mabry Memorial Cafeteria, Gordon Room
8:30- 11:30 a.m.	Bookstore Open-Eddie M. Smith Student Union		Warrior Club Annual Meeting
9 a.m.	Homecoming Registration Begins-East Mall Patio near Mabry Memorial Cafeteria		Newton Hall, Room 60
	Refreshments Available on the East Mall	Noon	(All former athletes and current supporters of athletics at EC.)
9 a.m.	Memorabilia Room Open-Burton Library		Alumni Luncheon-Mabry Memorial Cafeteria
10 a.m.	Reunion Groups Meet	2:30 p.m.	Football Game-ECCC vs. Southwest
10:30 a.m.	Awarding of 50th Anniversary Diplomas to Class of 1958		Halftime Presentation of the Queen and Court
	Vickers Fine Arts Center, Aud.		Performance by the Wall O' Sound Marching Band



# Warrior Scene



**WAYNE EASON/SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

**Patriotic Beginning At ECCC Game:** Two Mississippi Army National Guard helicopters from Charlie Company 1st 151st Aviation stationed in Tupelo are shown flying over East Central Community College's Bailey Stadium prior to the Warriors' MACJC South Division matchup with Hinds Community College Thursday, Sept. 11. The flyover was held to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the terrorist attack on American soil on Sept. 11, 2001. Flags were ordered at half-staff in memory of those who lost their lives following the attack. ECCC alumnus Bo Burkes piloted the Apache helicopter. Burkes, who recently returned from a year's duty in Iraq, is a former Diamond Warrior and member of the 1998 state championship squad. He is married to the former Lindsey Cheatham, daughter of Warrior head football coach Steve Cheatham and his wife, Brenda. ECCC alumnus Bill Freeman of Newton, Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard, also attended the game and was recognized with other military representatives and veterans for their service. ECCC staff members Vicki Blaylock, Maria McLeod and Natalie Emmons performed the national anthem.



**TYLER WATKINS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Dr. Philip Crenshaw, dressed in character, lectures about the Roman Gods to his World History class. Crenshaw is often found around campus wearing various attire to coordinate with his lectures.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Brandon Gibbs of Lake takes a piece of candy from Emily Thrash while she campaigns for Homecoming Queen.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Warrior mascot Daniel Cheatham of Neshoba Central cheers the crowd during the EC v. Hinds game held Sept. 11 in Decatur.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

East Central Community College Centralettes perform during the Meet the Warriors Pep Rally held Aug. 25.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Cody Walters, a EC freshmen from Forest and other students perform ballerena dances while under hypnosis as part of EC's Welcome Back Week.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Warrior Baseball Coach Neal Holliman hands off a Boston Butt to a Baseball Manager Justin Joyner who is preparing them for their fundraiser.



**ASHLEY DUMAS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

**Martha & George:** Dr. Philip Crenshaw, dressed as George Washington and Susan Fox-Smith, dressed as Martha Washington, smile for a photo during Constitution Day ceremonies.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Students and faculty donated blood during a mobile blood drive held on Monday, Aug. 25. Above, at left, ECCC sophomore Brittany Harrison of Lena prepares to have her blood taken by United Blood Services technician Carrie Silliman of Meridian. Below, at right, ECCC sophomore Kolby Sisson of Philadelphia is assisted by United Blood Services technician Sherry Bourrage of Meridian while giving blood for the cause.







**Brady holds world record**  
Instructor Christopher Brady inked in Book of World Records. **PAGE 15**

# The Tom-Tom

A Student Publication of East Central Community College  
Volume 61, Number 8  
October 2008



**Sutphin honored by city**  
ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin named Citizen of the Year. **PAGE 16**

## Most Beautiful, Handsome 2008



Adrienne Bird (second from left) of Morton and Randall Hudson (third from left) of Forest were recently selected ECCC's Most Beautiful and Most Handsome. Also pictured is ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin (left), who crowned Most Beautiful 2008, and 2007 winner Emily Thrash, who presented the new titleholder with a bouquet of roses.

## Bird, Hudson take pageant titles

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
Thirty-one East Central Community College students vied for the title of Most Beautiful 2008 in the annual Beauty Pageant themed "Hooray for Hollywood" held Monday, Oct. 20 in Huff Auditorium, however, only one most beautiful was selected, Adrienne Bird.

Bird is the 19-year-old daughter of Jennifer Thompson and Mark Bird of Morton. An honor graduate of East Rankin Academy, she served on the student council, was a homecoming maid and was selected Miss ERA. In addition, she was a member of the Lady Patriots basketball team.

At East Central, she is a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau and Warrior Corps. She served as a class officer her freshman year.

A sophomore occupational therapy major, she plans to continue her education at Mississippi State University and then the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

As one of the five contestants elected by the student body to compete for the title of Most Handsome, Randall Hudson took the award.

Hudson is the son of Ronald and Mamie Hudson of Forest. A graduate of Forest High School, he is a freshman Business Administration major.

He plans to continue his education at the University of Mississippi.

The judges chose four beauties for 2008. The beauties chosen were: Bailey Brown of Morton; Amber Madison of Philadelphia; Anna Johnson of Union; and Denetra Dardin of Louisville.



**ECCC Beauties, Beaus:** Adrienne Bird (fifth from left) of Morton and Randall Hudson (sixth from left) of Forest were recently selected Most Beautiful and Most Handsome, respectively, at East Central Community College in Decatur. Also pictured are beauties and beaus (from left) Lance Goodin of Louisville, Anna Johnson of Union, Cody Ming of Louisville, Amber Madison of Philadelphia, Bailey Brown of Morton, Clint Sloan and Denetra Dardin, both of Louisville and Van Williams of Lawrence.

din of Louisville. The four beaus selected by the student body were Lance Goodin, Cody Ming and Clint Sloan, all of Louisville; and Van Randolph Williams of Lawrence.

The event hosted entertainment by EC instructor and award-winning music composer/performer Natalie Emmons, First Runner-Up to Miss Mississippi 2008 and

Miss Mid-South Ashley Buckman, EC student performer Drew Harrison and staff member Maria McLeod.

Buckman is a member of EC's Hall of Fame and former EC Most Beautiful and also served as Mistress of Ceremony. She is a native of Bay Springs and is currently in her second year of law school at

See **PAGEANT**, Page 15

## Haunted House of Hoops set for Wednesday night

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
A first look at East Central Community College's basketball talent for the 2008-09 campaign will be available Wednesday, Oct. 29 when the annual "Haunted House of Hoops" gets underway at 8 p.m. in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

Brief scrimmages are planned by the Lady Warriors and Warriors who will also be introduced by their respective head coaches, Bill Smith and Maurice Bowie. The ECCC women are the defending Region 23 champions.

Also scheduled are a women's three-point shooting contest and a slam-dunk competition featuring Warrior team members.

A three-point shooting competition is also planned between Lady Warrior softball head coach Scott Hill and his assistant, former ECCC All-American basketball and softball player, Kristin Chaney. Chaney also assists the women's basketball team.

In addition, one lucky student will be selected to try his or her

skills at three-point range with free tuition- valued at \$700 – on the line.

The Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band; the Wall O' Sound Drum Line; and cheer-leading squad will also perform.

"Trick or treat" candy will be available for youngsters wanting to get an early start on Halloween activities. A Halloween costume contest sponsored by *The Tom-Tom* is scheduled for ECCC students and staff members. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate.

Refreshments will be furnished by Valley Food Services, Inc., event sponsor.

Door prizes will also be provided.

There is no charge for admission and the public is invited to attend.

For more information contact ECCC Student Services, Phone 601-635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 205. The e-mail address is jkillens@ecc.edu.

## False Fire Alarms Cause Havoc in dormitories

**BY ZACHARY EAVES**  
**Staff Writer**

Since the beginning of the fall semester, East Central Community College has been plagued with numerous false fire alarms across campus. The false alarms have become a problem due to the fact that many of the alarms are being pulled when students are resting for the next day. Jolting interruptions from sleep often cause minor cases of sleep deprivation for many students; however, a greater problem is beginning to arise.

When students are constantly woken up by false alarms, they tend to become accustomed to the interruption and often roll back over and go back to sleep. This is a large problem because this places the students at a dangerous risk. If this trend continues, the next time the alarm sounds the possibility of a real alarm may not register in the minds of many students accustomed to false alarms and someone could end up fatally wounded.

Even with all of their hard work, the security department has yet to obtain the guilty parties involved in these false alarms. Director of Student Life Jonathan Peebles reports

because the parties have not been caught the college is shifting its focus from solely catching them to preventing false alarms because research shows that prevention is the key to stopping false fire alarms. According to Peebles, any student caught pulling a false alarm faces severe punishment that includes being charged with a Class A Offense and possible expulsion from East Central. When questioned on the best solution to the problem, Peebles simply replied, "don't pull the fire alarms unless there is actually a fire."

Jackson Hall Dorm Hostess, Mae McAdory, said throughout her time working for EC she has experienced many false fire alarms. She said she firmly believes, "fire alarms are good, but they are being abused." In every false alarm case, McAdory follows procedure and evacuates all the residents and does a thorough dorm check. Not only does this keep the students safe, but also it teaches them what to do in the misfortune that a fire actually be present. She hopes that eventually the residents will get tired of the false alarms and turn in the culprits responsible for the disturbances.

## ECCC Players Present 'Who Killed Elvis'?

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
An Elvis Presley impersonation contest goes awry and results in "death" to the "King" in the comedy/murder mystery, "Who Killed Elvis?" being presented by the East Central Community College Players as this year's dinner theatre production on the Decatur campus.

Two matinee performances – scheduled Monday, Nov. 3 and Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 9 a.m. - begin the week long presentation in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. Tickets are \$5.

Four dinner theater performances will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4 and Thursday, Nov. 6 through Saturday, Nov. 8, beginning at 7 p.m. each evening. Tickets are \$12. Elvis fans will especially enjoy such menu items as "Love Me Chicken Tenders," "Viva La Pasta," "Rock 'n' Roll Roast Beef" and "Rockin' Rolls." Assorted desserts-including some of the "King's"

favorites- will also be on the menu.

The largest cast of East Central students ever assembled is involved in the two-act presentation, which was written by Craig Sodaro and approved for production by Pioneer Drama Service, Inc.

Director Joan Grimes provided the following synopsis of the play, which takes place in Butter Bluff, Tenn. in 2002, on the 25th anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley:

"When the Verelli family holds an Elvis impersonation contest for their newly renamed business, the "Elvis Ate Here" Inn, a host of star-struck Elvis fanatics shows up with the media in tow – just what they needed to boost profits. Unfortunately, the Verellies get more than they bargained when the a couple of thieves on-the-run after making off with priceless Elvis memorabilia show up in disguise and a pair of suspicious thugs wan-

ders in, followed by a group of high school students who desperately need to win the prize money for the prom. Add to the mix a fortune teller who mysteriously predicts 'death to the King,' a troupe of ogling Elvis fans (including one father in the midst of a mid-life crisis) and a banker intent on foreclosing, and it's general Elvis hysteria! Order up for one 'Heartbreak Hoagie,' some 'Love Me Chicken Tenders' and an 'All Shook Up Shake,' but who asked for two murders? Crack cop Betty and her partner Bernice try to apply a strong-arm approach to their investigation with aid from Chief Ralph. Meanwhile, Madam Laski conducts a séance to contact the real Elvis, who speaks through his impersonators to reveal some cryptic clues using titles of his many songs. This madcap mystery-comedy offers a simple set and

See **ELVIS**, Page 16



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
The College Players will present Craig Sodaro's "Who Killed Elvis?" at 7 p.m. Nov. 4, 6-8. Cast and crew members and their respective hometowns include (front row, from left) Briana Edison, Collins; Nicole Franklin, Philadelphia; Hannah Watkins, Sebastopol; Miranda Edwards, Byram; Laura Alexander, Little Rock; Amanda Hampton, Louisville; Kristina Harrison, Union; Brittany Smith, Walnut Grove; and Leslie Graham, Forest; (second row, from left) Zach Gibbs, Forest; Tiffany Spence, Decatur; Emilee Lanier, Little Rock; Casey Rowzee, Newton; Courtney Gammill, Lake; Anna Laurie Ezell, Union; Holly Webb and Rachel Ramirez, both of Forest; Christina Gibbs, Lake; Erin Tramill, Newton; Kylie Rigdon, Union; and Josh Underwood, Sebastopol; and (back row, from left) Cody Walters, Forest; Chris Smith, Union; McClain Mullins, Tupelo; Logan McDonald, Conehatta; J'Markus Dubose and Logan Copeland, both of Union; Colton Amis, Decatur; Drew Harrison, Little Rock; Michael Sanford, Carthage; Brandon Hughes, Union; Aaron Morrison, Newton; Aaron Mann, Carthage; and Lance Goodin, Louisville.



# Page Two

## FEATURE TEACHER

### Holt shows decades of diligence

**By Santigous Culpepper**  
Staff Writer

There are many familiar faces on the East Central Community College campus. Some have been around for several years. In fact, some have been at East Central Community College for decades, such as Roberta Holt. She has a career in teaching accounting classes. She has taught at EC full time for 27 years. Holt has also served as the curriculum advisor for business administration majors. She said she looks forward to continuing to teach.



**HOLT'S QUICK FACTS:**

- Born in: Centreville
- Reared in: Crosby
- Favorite subject to teach: Accounting
- Favorite movie: Gone with the Wind, Jeremiah Johnson
- Favorite music: '70s
- Interesting fact: She's a CPA. She taught Mrs. Wanda Hurley and Mrs. Ruth Gregory. Mrs. Holt has a masters of science in business administration with an emphasis in accounting.
- Interesting hobbies: She

**HOLT**

makes all types of crafts.

- What she does during her free time: She likes to read during her free time.
- What inspired her to become a teacher: Her sister, who was her accounting teacher in college, inspired her to become a teacher.
- What she likes the most about her job: preparing students for senior college.
- College alma mater: She attended the Mississippi University for Women.

## Emmons Featured in Humanities Program

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

East Central Community College music instructor Natalie Emmons will present a concert of original work Thursday, Oct. 30 in recognition of her selection as the College's Humanities Instructor of the Year. The special program is sponsored by the Mississippi Humanities Council and is held in conjunction with the annual Arts and Humanities Month celebration.



Emmons' presentation, "Honoring Those Who Serve," begins at 7 p.m. in the Vickers Fine Arts Center auditorium on the Decatur campus. A reception in the Fine Arts Center lobby follows her performance.

Emmons, a Lake resident, is an award-winning vocalist and composer. She won the National Quartet Convention Talent Search in 1990 and 2001 and is recognized as the competition's only two-time award recipient. She has recorded three solo projects, two of which were produced by a major label – Son Sound Records of Gastonia, N. C. She signed a writer's contract with Heartland Records in March 2007. As of date, she has had more than 30 original songs published, six of which were recorded by major artists and two songs made the national charts.

Her music has also played a role in several statewide political campaigns. The "Mississippi" song, written specifically for

Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant, was often used as the theme song of his campaign. She also composed the "Haley Barbour Song," which was especially written for Gov. Barbour and was used during his 2007 campaign. In January 2008, Emmons performed the national anthem at Gov. Barbour's inauguration ceremony and during the Mississippi Republican State Convention in May 2008.

Emmons also serves as music director at Salem Baptist Church in Lake and her original compositions are often used for special services and other church events. Her most recent project involved co-writing a Christmas drama/musical with her sister, Nicole Smith, which will be performed by their church choir in December.

A home-schooled student, Emmons attended ECCC from 2000-02, where she served as Concert Choir president and was secretary of the President's Council. She continued her education at Mississippi College, receiving bachelor and master's degrees in music with emphasis in piano performance. While at MC, she received the Mary Nelson Piano Award in 2003 and 2004 and was Mississippi Music Teachers' Association Student of the Year in 2003. She accompanied the Mississippi College Chorale, directed by Dr. Jamie Meaders, and served as a graduate assistant in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

She is married to Joey Emmons and has a daughter, Tallie Johnston, age 10.

Emmons is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Larry Duncan, also of Lake.

## STRIKE A POSE



**BY LESLIE CRAWFORD**  
Staff Writer

**KEYSHAWN HARRISON**

1. What is your major at ECCC? Sports Trainer
2. Do you participate in any school functions? No
3. What is your favorite type of music? Rap
4. Who are your best friends? Tiwana and Dekia
5. What is your favorite drink? Strawberry Gatorade
6. Where was your last vacation? The Coast
7. What is your favorite color? Blue
8. How long have you been at ECCC? This is my first year.
9. Have you ever played a musical instrument? No
10. What kind of phone do you have? Sony Ericsson

## STRIKE A POSE



**BY LESLIE CRAWFORD**  
Staff Writer

**LANCE GOODIN**

1. Do you style your hair? Yes
2. What is your favorite color? Orange
3. Who is your favorite football team? Mississippi State University
4. Who do you hang out with on a daily basis? Darneisha Sanders
5. What kind of car do you have? Chevy Aveo
6. Do you like tennis shoes or flip flops? Flip flops
7. What kind of music do you listen to? Country
8. Where is your favorite place to eat on campus? The Grill
9. Where could you be found on the weekends? The Movies
10. Do you have any weird habits? I am a neat freak.

## Foreman conveys passion for wood carvings

**BY SHARDAE FOLEY**  
Staff Writer

The faculty and staff members of East Central Community College portray a plethora of hidden talents. From songwriting to art creating, the group exhibits great gifts in the ability to do extraordinary tasks. This talent doesn't stop short of the maintenance department, where Artie Foreman, demonstrates his skills in wood carvings.

Recently the Burton Library exhibited Foreman's creation in a showcase in its entryway. Foreman uses his flair to make bowls and other items out of various types of wood.

Foreman said he first learned of the art while watching a television commercial. Since then, he has worked to master the art. He has been carving wood products for about a year and a half.

Foreman has many years of experience in working with wood products and carving wood bowl is just one of his many talents. He said he carves wood bowls by using the wood he has available. Depending upon the wood he said it would approximately take him one to two hours to finish a carving. In making the wooden bowls, Foreman uses lathe, bowl gouges and chisel. Although Foreman said he enjoys his pastime of wood carving, the art does have some requirements. Foreman said prospective woodcarvers "would need to have patience."

Foreman, a native of Little Rock, has worked at EC for 14 years. He has been married for 12 years and has an 11-year-old son, Peyton, who attends Newton County Middle School. Foreman's wife, Pam, is an office manager for mobile services in Meridian. They are members of the Hopewell Baptist Church. Foreman said he and his



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

ECCC staff member Artie Foreman's woodwork was recently featured with an exhibit at Burton Library. Foreman began woodcarving about a year and a half ago and has mastered the skill with a lot of "patience," he said. Foreman has worked for 14 years in the maintenance department.

family enjoy "hanging out with friends and having cookouts."



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

**Homecoming Honorees:** East Central Community College recognized its Alumni of the Year award recipients and new Athletic Hall of Fame members during homecoming activities held Saturday, Sept. 27 on the Decatur campus. From left are Decatur residents Richard E. Mayo and Marijo James Denson, who were selected Alumnus and Alumna of the Year, respectively. Mayo had a long, distinguished career with NASA and completed service as Director of the European Programs Division of the Space Station Freedom Program Office in Reston, Va., and later as assistant director for Space Station in the Engineering and Development Directorate at the Johnson Space Center. He retired in 1990 after more than 33 years of federal service. Denson serves on the Board of the Mississippi Regional Housing Authority #5 and is vice president of Commissioners of the Southeastern Regional Conference and Redevelopment, an organization covering 10 states. She has spent the majority of her career as a member and officer of the Motion Picture Theater Company, with operations in four states. The late Jamie Clark was inducted posthumously into the Athletic Hall of Fame and was represented at the awards ceremony by his widow, Audrey Clark Hastey (third from left) and their daughter, Nikki Clark, both of Austin, Texas. Also pictured is Athletic Hall of Fame inductee A. J. Kilpatrick of Grenada. Clark led the Diamond Warriors from 1988 through 2001, amassing an overall 365-301-1 record. Clark's 1998 squad won the program's first state title and was among reunion groups receiving special recognition during the homecoming celebration. Kilpatrick served as ECCC athletic coordinator and head football coach from 1982-92. His overall record during his 36-year career as a head football coach is 238-138-12. He is also a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Football Hall of Fame and Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame.



# Clublicity



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**Wall O' Sound Marching Band:** Above are members of EC's Wall O' Sound Marching Band for 2008-09. Thomas W. Carson serves as director of bands and Jared Brownlee is assistant director. Band members and their respective hometowns include (front row, from left) Savanna Smith, Decatur; Lauren Luke, Preston; Bailey Brown, Morton; Hannah Watkins, Union; Denetra Darden and Alison Lowery, both of Louisville; Anna Johnson and Candi Vance, both of Union; Brooke Culpepper, Forest; Tiffany Thomas, Noxapater; Ysabel Avalos, Morton; Lacy McMurry, Carthage; Lana Adkins, Union; Nicole Dunavent, Newton; Becky Culpepper, Forest; Jacqueline Robinson, Greenwood; Anna Fulton, Louisville; and Erica Dowell, Carthage; (second row, from left) Amanda Hampton, Louisville; Kimberly Amerson, Decatur; Miata Evans, Lawrence; Racheal Day, Union; Deandra Graham and Erin Goldmon, both of Philadelphia; Wendy Cater, Conehatta; Celeste Franklin and Shea Williamson, both of Philadelphia; Brandy Gomillion, Walnut Grove; Monika McMahan, Collinsville; Crystal Walker, Philadelphia; Rachel Oatman, Saucier; Kim Amerson, Decatur; Brittany Snow, Jordan McMichael and Josh Talbert, all of Philadelphia; and Chris Corley, Carthage; (third row, from left) Anthony Williams, Decatur; Shaterica Curry and Brooke Caraway, both of Newton; Meagan Vaughn and Brittany Fedrick, both of Philadelphia; Candi Wade, Pulaski; Candie Willis, Union; Megan Sharp, Philadelphia; Reagan Mayes, Conehatta; Lee Hunt, Ackerman; Lindsey Donald, Alison Walker, Ashton Lowrey and Allison Rogers, all of Louisville; Beverly Stokes, Philadelphia; Nicole Gray, Forest; and Nichole Franklin, Philadelphia; (fourth row, from left) Shardaee Foley, Hickory; Marquitta Moore, Newton; Jerica Taylor, Demetria Coleman and Conashya Headd, all of Louisville; Jessica Cherry, Carthage; Margie Black, Pulaski; Paula Parker, Jasmine Earby and Kristina Ealy, all of Morton; Julia Patrick and Rachel Ramirez, both of Forest; Marlee Deweese, Philadelphia; Olivia Scott and Sallie Evans, both of Carthage; Naomi Massey, Forest; and Brandi Tollett, Louisville; (fifth row, from left) Chris Evans, Philadelphia; Bobby Branning, Collinsville; Christina Gibbs, Lake; J.D. McNeil, Louisville; Chris Smith, Decatur; Graylon Foster, Philadelphia; Ruby McCurdy and Jacklyn Billingsley, both of Carthage; Whitney Bryan, Philadelphia; Aaron Mann, Carthage; Van Williams, Newton; Courtney Patrick and Matthew Moore, both of Forest; Stacy Henderson, Pulaski; Kevin Haynes, Louisville; and Paige Jones, Newton; (sixth row, from left) Neil Smith, Louisville; Griffin Burk, Philadelphia; Leslie Graham, Forest; Drew Johnston, Carthage; Patrick Parker, Raleigh; Corbin Jenkins, Carthage; Fred Burks, Forest; Deandrea Boyd, Carthage; Matt Woods, Mathew Long and Clay Winstead, all of Philadelphia; Kristina Harrison, Decatur; Lacey Gilmore, Union; Meaghan Mayes, Conehatta; and Emilee Lanier, Little Rock; (seventh row, from left) Kyle Barrett, Decatur; Jonathan Crabtree, Vicksburg; Dexter McDonald, Jackson; Jon Hillman, Philadelphia; Ellis Pinkard, Carthage; Shunn Frazier, Ackerman; Brandon Gibbs, Lake; Lindsey Stuart, Union; Miriah Barney, Walnut Grove; DiMario Parkes, Macon; Paul Edwards, Sturgis; Brett Latimer, Philadelphia; and Hank Benson, Union; and (top row, from left) Javier Araujo, Morton; Cody Thrash, Walnut Grove; Dale Alberts, Bailey; Brandon Hughes, Union; Brittany Gibbs, Lake; John David Bates and Casey Stokes, both of Philadelphia; Emily Malone, Carthage; Julian Greer and Jacob Phillips, both of Philadelphia; Teddy Bloodsaw, Forest; Travis Smallwood and Anna Switzer, both of Meridian; Nathan Calvert and Doug Janz II, both of Louisville; Nathan Spears, Union; and Brewer McGee and Justin Weathers, both of Philadelphia. For more information about the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, contact Thomas W. Carson, director of bands, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 228.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**EC Drumline:** Drumline members for the 2008-09 edition of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band include (kneeling from left) Jacob Phillips and Justin Weathers, both products of Philadelphia High School; Nathan Spears and Julian Greer, both of Neshoba Central; Jonathan Crabtree, Warren Central; Travis Smallwood and Anna Switzer, both of West Lauderdale; Brewer McGee, John Davis Bates and Nathan Calvert, all of Neshoba Central; Doug Janz, Louisville; and Teddy Bloodsaw, Forest; and (standing from left) Brittany Gibbs, Lake; Emily Malone, Carthage; Cody Thrash, Walnut Grove; Javier Araujo, Morton; Dale Alberts, West Lauderdale; Kyle Barrett, Newton County; Casey Stokes, Neshoba Central; and Brandon Hughes, Newton County.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**EC Centralettes:** Providing halftime entertainment during Warrior football games are the Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band. Members include (front, from left) captains Tiffany Thomas of Winston Academy and Lacy McMurry of Edinburg; (second row, from left) Brooke Culpepper, Scott Central; Nicole Dunavent, Newton County; Anna Johnson and Lana Adkins, both of Union; Becky Culpepper, Scott Central; Candi Vance, Newton County; and Krystle Wolverton, Union; (third row, from left) Lauren Luke, Nanih Waiya; Erica Dowell, Edinburg; Jessica Galloway, Union; Amber Madison, Neshoba Central; Bailey Brown, East Rankin Academy; and Jacqlene Robinson, Noxapater; and (fourth row, from left) Denetra Darden, Nanih Waiya; Alison Lowery, Winston Academy; Savanna Smith, Newton County; Anna Fulton, Nanih Waiya; Hannah Watkins, Sebastopol; and Brooke Robinson, Quitman. Nichol Hillman serves as coordinator/choreographer.

## PBL OFFICERS



CHRISTY FERGUSON/SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central's Phi Beta Lambda Club recently elected officers for 2008-09. Officers include (front row, from left) Josh Dickerson, president; Jonathan Federick, vice president; and Aaron Morrison, reporter; (back row, from left) Kim Amerson, secretary; Rebecca Rogers, treasurer; Kimberly Goodin, historian; and Laura Pearson, parliamentarian. Phi Beta Lambda is a club organized for business students to foster a better relationship between one another and cultivate a better understanding of business principals.

## HOMECOMING DISPLAY WINNER



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**Top EC Homecoming Display:** This display sponsored by the Student Body Association and Warrior Corps took top honors and the \$150 grand prize in the annual competition held during homecoming activities Sept. 27. Surgical Technology Students Association placed second and received \$120; Student Publications, third, \$100; and Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, fourth, \$75. The theme for this year's homecoming was "Eighty Years of Memories."



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**Drum Major:** Serving as drum major of the East Central Community College Wall O' Sound Marching Band for 2008-09 is freshman Ysabel Avalos of Morton. Avalos, who also serves as band president, is a graduate of Morton High School where she was drum major for the Morton Panther Pride Band.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**EC Color Guard:** Color guard member for the 2008-09 edition of the East Central Community College Wall O' Sound Marching Band include (first row, from left) Crystal Walker, a product of Neshoba Central High School; Celeste Franklin, Philadelphia; Tashia Williamson, Choctaw Central; and Brandy Gomillion and Wendy Cater, both of Sebastopol; (second row, from left) Miata Evans, Newton; Candi Wade, Raleigh; Brittany Snow and Rachel Day, both of Neshoba Central; Erin Goldman and Deandra Graham, both of Philadelphia; and Rachel Oatman and Monica McMahan, both of West Lauderdale; (third row, from left) Ashley Broach, Newton County; Beverly Stokes, Neshoba Central; Candi Willis, Union; Meagan Vaughn, Choctaw Central; Brittany Fedrick, Sebastopol; Megan Sharp, Neshoba Central; Reagan Mayes, Sebastopol; and Allison Rogers, Ashton Lowrey and Lindsey Donald, all of Louisville; and (fourth row, from left) Shaterica Curry, Kimberly Amerson and Kim Amerson, both of Newton County; Brooke Caraway, Newton; Allison Walker, Louisville; Nicole Gray, Forest; and Lee Hunt, Louisville.



# Clublicity

## RECEIVING NATIONAL HONORS



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

East Central Community College students Crystal McGee (left) of Philadelphia and Brandi Carter of Louisville won second-place honors in the Occupational Health and Safety competition at the National Leadership and Skills Conference held earlier this summer in Kansas City, Missouri. Both are students of cosmetology instructor Wanda Brackeen. Also placing at the national SkillsUSA competition were Travis Jordan of Pelahatchie, who finished 12th in collision repair, and James Johnson of Madden, who placed 13th in residential wiring. Instructors are Conrad Germany and John Everett, respectively.

## CLUB BRIEFLY

### BOOK CLUB

#### New officers

The EC Book Club recently elected officers for the 2008-09 school year. Elected as president was Brittany Smith and vice president was Tyler Watkins of Forest.

#### Vickers speaks

The book club had a special guest speaker for its Oct. 14 meeting. The speaker was Ovid Sparks Vickers.

Vickers is a retired ECCC English Instructor and a former Chair of the Fine Arts Department. He is also a poet, author, and he has published many articles in several newspapers and magazines throughout the South. Vickers currently contributes articles to several local newspapers, including *The Union Appeal*, *Newton Record*, *Neshoba Democrat*, and others.

He has received numerous awards, including EC's Lifetime Achievement Award. More importantly, Vickers is a man of impeccable character with a great sense of humor; he is uniquely talented; he is a master teacher with a passion for learning. In all instances, Vickers is a legend.

During the meeting, Vickers discussed Fitzgerald and his history. Nine members were present for this special meeting. The club's Nov. 11 meeting will host Iraqi-War prisoner Thomas Hamil.

—Brittany Smith, Book Club President

### CONCERT CHOIR

#### First performance

The EC Concert Choir has their first performance at 7 p.m., Nov. 13 in the Vickers Auditorium.

#### Choral Festival

On Oct. 23, the choral department hosted the East Central District Choral Festival. A record number of 318 high school students participated in the event from EC's district schools. The Concert Choir sang two selections for the festival participants. There was a mass concert of the high schools and EC's choir led by clinician John Flanery, assistant choral director at the University of Southern Mississippi.

### AC'CENTS

#### Stew Stomp

The Ac'cents will perform for the Stew Stomp in Louisville at 1 p.m. on Nov. 8.

#### Fall Concert

Their fall concert will be held at 7 p.m. on Dec. 4 in Vickers Auditorium.

### SIGMA SIGMA MU TAU

SIGMA SIGMA MU TAU met at 10:45 a.m. on Oct. 14. Danielle Clayton was the guest speaker during the meeting. Clayton discussed her entrance into pharmacy school. She also provided information about the requirements for pharmacy school. There were many questions from the 12 club members that were present.

### ASNEC

The Association of Student Nurses at East Central (ASNEC) is collecting Campbell's Labels for Education for the Baptist Children's Village in Jackson. Eligible products include all Campbell's, Swanson Prego and Pepperidge Farm products. Anyone interested in participating can place their labels in the collection box in the ADN/Childcare building break room through Nov. 20.

### PBL CELL PHONE DRIVE

PBL members are taking up old cell phones once again for our community service project. These phones can be sold to raise money for children at the Sunbelt ranch, the recipients of our community service efforts this year. If you have an old cell phone that you no longer need, you may drop it off in Mrs. Gregory's collection box upstairs in Room 404, to a PBL member, or in the collection box at the library.

### ART CLUB FORMS

The newly formed, East Central Student Art Association would like to invite you to join the new club and help promote the arts in the community and on campus. The club officially started on October 13th and is sponsored by the art instructor Christopher Brady. The ECSSA executive council is composed of the following students: Brandi Tollett, president; Brad Reynolds, vice president; and Cody Walters, treasurer. For more information, please contact Brady at 601-635-6537.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

These East Central Community College students were inducted into Theta Xi Chapter Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society of the Two-Year College, during the annual fall ceremony. Inductees include: (first row, from left) Bailey Brown, Morton; David Mart, Forest; Jessi Critz, Philadelphia; Vickie Collins, Noxapater; Shaquita Brown, Meridian; Amelia Salley, Louisville; Adrienne Bird, Morton; and Lance Goodin, Louisville; and (back row, from left) Brandi Mathes, Philadelphia; Dominique McKee, Newton; Anna Munn, Collinsville; Tyler Hansford, Union; Ben Thames, Newton; Tammy Plaisance, Union; and Melissa Moody, Meridian.

## Phi Theta Kappa Inducts 30 New Members

### SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Thirty East Central Community College students were inducted into Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society of the Two-Year College, during the fall semester induction ceremony held recently.

Joining the prestigious organization – which requires at least a 3.5 grade point average

earned as a full-time student – are Adrienne Marie Bird and Bailey Allyn Brown, both of Morton; Shaquita Antrenett Brown, Melissa Louise Moody and Demetrice Ann Taylor, all of Meridian; Christopher Scott Clark, Lena; Vickie Marie Collins, Noxapater; Jessie Lea Critz, Brandi Mae Mathes, Dustin Brett Pope and Kyndall Caitlin Rushing, all of Phila-

delphia; Ashlyn Jordan Dunn, Brandon; Veronica Dyann Evans and Anna Catherine Munn, both of Collinsville; Jassen D'Marte Fairley, Collins; Lance Alan Goodin, Kelly Marie McMillin and Amelia Margaret Salley, both of Louisville; Gary David Mart, Forest; Dominique Latesch McKee, Benjamin Bounds Thames and Theresa Rochelle White, all of New-

ton; Kimberly Shea Norman and Lila Elizabeth Shaw, both of Sebastopol; Tammy Lynn Plaisance and Tyler Cameron Hansford, both of Union; Justin Thomas Traylor, Florence; and Keevin Lannis Windham, Walnut Grove.

ECCC faculty members Kate Covich, Deborah Hammons and Curt Skipper serve as advisers.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

**ECCC announces 2008-09 Warrior Corps:** East Central Community College recently announced the 2008-09 Warrior Corps. The organization consists of a select group of students who assist in recruiting and serve as hosts for various events. Member of the prestigious club are chosen through an interview process and are required to have at least a 2.0 grade point average. Corps members include front row from left, Brittany Jennings, Adrienne McDill, Savanna Smith, Bailey Brown, Anna Fulton, Lacey Gilmore, Brittany Snow and Bill Flowers; second row from left, Leanne White, Adrienne Bird, Candi Vance, Calli Cumberland, Joy Hayes, Lacy McMurry, Britni Harvey, Donna Strickland and Lindsey Stuart; third row from left, Kristi Bell, Kimberly Amerson, Meaghan Mayes, Whitney Smith, Becky Culpepper, Abby McMillan, Laura Alexander, Amanda Griffin, Amelia Burnside, Amber McCaughn and Kyle Killens; fourth row from left, Landon Burt, Trey Herrington, Edgar Alvarez, Miriah Barney, Kim Amerson, Reagan Mayes, Crystal Massey, Amber Madison, Leigh Rentz, Kimberly Blackwell, Morgan Deweese, Krystal Ward and Jacob Drury; back row from left, Kolby Sisson, Jordan Gunn, Cody Walters, Kristina Ealy, Sha Coleman, Kasey Crutcher, Anna Laurie Ezelle, Amber Smith, Anna Johnson, Kylie Rigdon, Michaela Lee, Jordan McMichael, Drew Smith and Cody Ming. For more information on the ECCC Warrior Corps, contact sponsors Lanette Hanna and Romonica Evans in Student Services at 601-635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 205.

## ECCC Announces New Warrior Corps Members

### SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College recently welcomed 40 new members of the Warrior Corps, a select group of students who assist in recruiting and special events on the Decatur campus.

Members of the prestigious organization are chosen through an interview process and are required to have at least a 2.0 grade point average.

New Warrior Corps members from Leake County are Amelia Burnside, Amanda Griffith, Lacy McMurry and Joyce "Leanne" White.

### AMELIA BURNSIDE

Burnside, a freshman physical therapy major, is a member of the EC Environmental Club and Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, an organization for students interested in medical careers.

She is a graduate of Edinburg High School, where she was valedictorian, homecoming queen and selected outstanding senior girl.

Her parents are George and Cindy Burnside of Carthage.

### AMANDA GRIFFITH

Griffith, a freshman pre-med major, is also a member of the EC Environmental Club and Sigma Sigma Mu Tau.

An honor graduate of Edinburg High School, she was selected senior homecoming maid and was chosen most intellectual and most versatile in Who's Who elections. She also received the journalism award.

She is the daughter of James and Beckie Griffith of Carthage.

### LACY MCMURRY

McMurry, a sophomore business major, is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges; Baptist Student Union; and serves as captain of the Centralettes, the dance line.

See Warrior Corps, PAGE 5

## We want Your News!

**E-mail information about your club/organization  
to [godom@eccc.edu](mailto:godom@eccc.edu).**



# Clublicity



## SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

### Gospel Choir Holds Reunion

**Concert:** Former members of the East Central Community College Gospel Choir performed a reunion concert Oct. 5, 2008, in recognition of sponsor Brenda K. Johnson's 20th anniversary in leading the group. The Gospel Choir alumni are shown prior to their performance in Huff Auditorium. Also participating in the special program were the Revs Timothy Croft and Marcus Mani, invocation; Delane Hudson, welcome; Elder James Young, master of ceremony; Kathy D. Sanders, occasion and gospel choir history; current gospel choir members; Children of Christ, Morton; Newton High School Gospel Choir; Terance Anderson and former gospel choir members, presentation of gifts; Mrs. Johnson, acknowledgement; and Rev. Mann, closing prayer. The Gospel Choir began in 1985 by the late Mrs. Lawrence Tingle and Ms. Sharron-Goodman Hill. Mrs. Johnson began serving as choir sponsor in 1988.

## WARRIOR CORPS From Page 4

for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band.

She is a graduate of Edinburg High School and was selected a homecoming maid during her senior and sophomore years. She also served as a class officer and was co-editor of the school newspaper, The EHS Express.

Her parents are Dwight and Teresa McMurry.

### LEANNE WHITE

White, a freshman nursing major, is a member of the EC Environmental Club and Sigma Sigma Mu Tau.

A graduate of Edinburg High School, she was selected a junior homecoming maid and received various honors, including best personality and most outgoing, in the annual Who's Who elections. She also received the yearbook and physical science awards.

Her parents are Willie White and Charles and Annette Joyner of Carthage.

## NESHOPA COUNTY STUDENTS

New Warrior Corps students from Neshoba County are Morgan Deweese, Jordan McMichael, Leigh Rentz, Amy Sharp, Brittany Michelle Snow and Krystal Ann Ward, all of Philadelphia.

### MORGAN DEWEESE

Deweese, a freshman pre-pharmacy major, is a member of Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, an organization for students interested in medical careers; Phi Beta Lambda, an organization for business students; and the Diamond Darlings, a support group for the Warrior baseball team.

She is a special-distinction graduate of Neshoba Central High School.

Her parents are Randy and Sharon Deweese of Philadelphia.

### JORDAN MCMICHAEL

McMichael, a freshman liberal arts major, is a member of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band and Baptist Student Union.

She was valedictorian at Neshoba Central High School, where she was also a member of the Beta Club, FBLA and Mu Alpha Theta and served as color guard captain for the Rocket Marching Band.

She is the daughter of Jack and Janis McMichael of Philadelphia.

### LEIGH RENTZ

Rentz, a freshman physical therapy major, is a member of Phi Beta Lambda and Diamond Darlings.

She is an honor graduate of Neshoba Central High School, where she was a member of the Beta Club and received the word processing award. She was also chosen an All-American cheerleader and MS Scholar and was named to Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Her parents are Tabby and Robert Winstead of Philadelphia.

### AMY SHARP

Sharp is a sophomore education major whose ECCC activities include being a member of the Lady Warrior softball team and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

She is a graduate of Neshoba Central High School, where she was named to the Hall of Fame and was selected Most Likely to be Remembered. She also received All-Star honors in softball and was an All-District performer in softball and soccer.

Her parents are Danny and Penny Sharp of Philadelphia.

### BRITTANY SNOW

Snow, a freshman elementary education major, is a color guard member of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band and Baptist Student Union.

She is a graduate of Neshoba Central High School, where the honor roll student was a member of the Beta Club and was named to Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Her parents are Darrel and Susan Snow of Philadelphia.

### KRYSTAL ANN WARD

Ward, a freshman business administration/accounting major, is a member of Phi Beta Lambda, Environmental Club and Baptist Student Union.

She was a special-distinction graduate of Neshoba Central High School, where she was also selected to the Hall of Fame.

Her parents are Alan and Carol Ward of Philadelphia.

## NEWTON COUNTY STUDENTS

Students from Newton County who are new Warrior Corps members include Laura Alexander of Little Rock, Kim Amerson and Kimberly Amerson, both of Decatur; Sha Coleman of Hickory, William (Bill) Flowers, Donna Strickland, Abby McMillan, Adrienne McDill and Landon Burt, all of Newton; Savanna Smith of Conehatta; Marcus (Trey) Herrington of Union; and Lacey Gilmore of Sebastopol.

### LAURA ALEXANDER

Alexander is a freshman nursing major.

A home-school student, she is the daughter of Cindy and George Alexander of Little Rock.

### KIM AMERSON

Kim Amerson, a business and office technology major, serves as secretary of Phi Beta Lambda and is a color guard member of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band.

She is a graduate of Newton County High School, where she received several academic awards and was named to the National Honor Society and Who's Who Among American Teenagers.

She is the daughter of Susie Amerson of Decatur.

### KIMBERLY AMERSON

Kimberly Amerson, a freshman associate degree nursing student, is a color guard member of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band.

She is a graduate of Newton County High School, where she was a class officer, class repre-

sentative and member of the Honor Society. She was also chosen for Who's Who.

She is the daughter of Susie Amerson of Decatur.

### SHA COLEMAN

Coleman, a sophomore dental hygiene major, is a member of the Gospel Choir and Lady Warrior basketball team.

She is a graduate of Newton County High School, where the honor roll student was a member of the homecoming court, Beta Club and was selected a class favorite. A standout basketball player, she was named to the Region 5-3A Division Tournament Team and was selected the Lady Cougars' most valuable offensive player.

Her parents are Delores and Willie Coleman of Hickory.

### WILLIAM FLOWERS

Flowers, a freshman secondary education major, serves as manager for ECCC basketball and softball teams.

He is the son of Rebecca Flowers of Newton.

### DONNA STRICKLAND

Strickland, a freshman elementary education major, is a member of the Diamond Darlings, a support group for the Warrior baseball team.

She is a graduate of Newton County Academy, where she was an honor society member.

Her parents are Mary Ann and Tony Strickland of Newton.

### ABBY MCMILLAN

McMillan, a freshman liberal arts major, is a member of the Warrior cheerleading squad, Lady Warrior tennis team, Phi Beta Lambda, an organization for business students; and Sigma Sigma Mu Tau.

She is a graduate of Newton County Academy, where she was valedictorian and selected a scholar athlete. She also served as FBLA and Honor Society president and was a class officer. In addition, she received numerous academic and athletic awards.

She is the daughter of Will and Jan McMillan of Newton.

### ADRIENNE MCDILL

McDill, a freshman liberal arts major, is a member of the Warrior cheerleading squad and Baptist Student Union.

She is a graduate of Newton County High School, where she was chosen Miss NCHS and served as FCA president, soccer team captain, annual staff editor and class officer.

Her parents are Wayne and Teresa McDill of Newton.

### SAVANNA SMITH

Smith, a freshman broadcast journalism major, is a member of the Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band.

She is a graduate of Newton County High School, where the honor student received the senior class speech award and was a Beta Club member.

Her parents are Wayne and Carla Westbrook of Conehatta.

### TREY HERRINGTON

Herrington, a freshman nursing major, is a graduate of

Union High School, where he was a Beta Club member and received the Bronze academic award.

His parents are Marcus and Michelle Herrington of Union.

### LACEY GILMORE

Gilmore, a freshman pre-pharmacy major, is a member of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, Collegians and Concert Choir.

She is a graduate of Newton County High School, where she was valedictorian and homecoming queen. She was also a member of four state championship squads.

Her parents are Bert and Carleen Gilmore of Sebastopol.

### LANDON BURT

Burt, a freshman pre-med major, is a member of the Baptist Student Union.

He is an honor graduate of Newton County Academy, where he was Mr. NCA, salutatorian and STAR Student. He also received the academic/athletic award.

He is the son of Bryan and Mary Burt of Newton.

## SCOTT COUNTY STUDENTS

Scott County students selected for the Warrior Corps include Edgar Alvarez, Kristi Bell, Becky Culpepper, Jordan Gunn, Brittany Jennings and Cody Walters, all of Forest; Miriah Barney, Meaghan Mayes, Reagan Nicole Mayes and Lindsey Stuart, all of Sebastopol; and Bailey Brown and Amber McCaughn, both of Morton.

### EDGAR ALVAREZ

Alvarez, a freshman liberal arts major, is a graduate of Forest High School, where he was selected Mr. FHS and Senior Student of the Year. He was also a Beta Club member and was named to the National Honor Society.

His parents are Agustin and Auvova Alvarez of Forest.

### KRISTI BELL

Bell, a freshman nursing major, is a member of Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, an organization for students interested in medical careers.

She is a graduate of Scott Central High School, where she was valedictorian and selected Most Intellectual in Who's Who elections.

Her parents are Greg and Tammy Bell of Forest.

### JORDAN GUNN

Gunn, a freshman pre-med major, is a member of the Concert Choir.

He is a graduate of Lake High School, where he was valedictorian and served as HOSA president. He was also a Beta Club member.

His parents are David and Elizabeth Gunn of Forest.

### BRITTANY JENNINGS

Jennings, a freshman physical therapy major, is a graduate of Scott Central High School, where she was salutatorian and homecoming queen.

She is the daughter of Barah Jennings of Forest.

### CODY WALTERS

Walters, a freshman art major, is a member of the Wo-He-

Lo yearbook staff.

He is a graduate of Forest High School, where he served on the Student Council and was selected a class favorite, most talented and wittiest. He was also a Beta Club member.

His parents are Roger and Lisa Walters of Forest.

### MIRIAH BARNEY

Barney, a freshman business administration major, is a member of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band and Phi Beta Lambda.

She is an honor graduate of Sebastopol Attendance Center.

Her parents are Charlie and Sara Barney of Sebastopol.

### MEAGHAN MAYES

Meaghan Mayes, a freshman business administration major, is a member of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band and Phi Beta Lambda.

She is a graduate of Sebastopol Attendance Center, where the honor student was salutatorian and received numerous academic and athletic awards.

She is the daughter of Kenny and Stephanie Mayes of Sebastopol.

### REAGHAN MAYES

Reagan Mayes, a freshman nursing major, is a color guard member of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band and Phi Beta Lambda.

She is the daughter of Kenny and Stephanie Mayes of Sebastopol.

### LINDSEY STUART

Stuart, a freshman early childhood development major, is a member of the Wo-He-Lo yearbook staff, Wall O' Sound Marching Band and Phi Beta Lambda.

She is a graduate of Sebastopol Attendance Center, where she received numerous academic and band awards and was named to Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Her parents are Mark and Freda Stuart of Union.

### BAILEY BROWN

Brown, a freshman nursing major, is a member of the Centralettes, the dance line for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band; Diamond Darlings, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau and Phi Theta Kappa.

She is a graduate of East Rankin Academy, where she was a cheerleader, member of the homecoming court, and participated in basketball and track and field. She was also a member of the Mississippi High School Rodeo Association.

Her parents are Joe-Joe and Martha Brown of Morton.

### AMBER MCCAUGHN

McCaughn, a sophomore pharmacy major, is a member of the Diamond Darlings.

She is a graduate of Pisgah High School, where the honor student was a Rankin County Honors Scholar and was a member of the MS Girls' Honor Choir. She also received awards in various subject areas.

She is the daughter of Richard and Cecilia McCaughn of Morton.

New Warrior Corps members from Winston County are Kim-

berly Blackwell, Anna Fulton and Drew Smith, all of Louisville; Jacob Drury of Noxapater; and Michaela Lee of Nanih Waiya.

### KIMBERLY BLACKWELL

Blackwell, a freshman nursing major, is a member of the Centralettes, the dance line for the Warrior Wall O' Sound Marching Band; Lady Warrior basketball team; and Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, an organization for students interested in medical careers.

She is a graduate of Nanih Waiya Attendance Center, where she was valedictorian and student body president. She was also a Mississippi Scholar Athlete and Wendy's Heisman Award winner.

Her parents are Steve and Pam Blackwell of Louisville.

### ANNA FULTON

Fulton, a freshman occupational therapy major, is a member of the Centralettes, Baptist Student Union and Sigma Sigma Mu Tau.

She is a graduate of Nanih Waiya Attendance Center, where she was salutatorian, STAR Student and served as Beta Club and class president. She received the DAR Good Citizen Award and was selected Most Likely to Succeed.

Her parents are Buddy and Robin Fulton of Louisville.

### DREW SMITH

Smith, a freshman physical education major, is a member of the Warrior baseball team and Baptist Student Union.

He is a graduate of Louisville High School, where he was salutatorian and served as class president and captain of the football and baseball teams. He was also selected a class favorite and was chosen Most Likely to Succeed.

He is the son of Charlie and Shannon Smith of Louisville.

### JACOB DRURY

Drury, a freshman secondary education major, participates in intramural sports.

He is a graduate of Grace Christian School, where he was recognized for academic achievement and served on the Student Council. He was also captain of the basketball and baseball teams.

His parents are Mark and Debra Drury of Noxapater.

### MICHAELA LEE

Lee, a sophomore occupational therapy major, is a manager for the Lady Warrior basketball team and member of the Baptist Student Union.

She is a graduate of Nanih Waiya Attendance Center, where she was selected Miss NWHS and a campus favorite. She was also a member of the homecoming court and was named to the All-District Tournament Team in basketball. She was also recognized as a scholar athlete.

She is the daughter of Lynn McDaniel of Nanih Waiya.

For more information on the Warrior Corps, contact sponsors Lanette Hanna and Romonica Evans in Student Services, 601.635-2111 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 205.



# Faculty Corner



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
**Lauderdale Instructors on Adjunct Faculty:** These instructors from Lauderdale County are serving as adjunct faculty members for 2008-09 at East Central Community College. Seated from left are Rosanne Nunnery (psychology) and Eileen Nieves (psychology), and (standing from left) Dr. Bob Schwanebeck (religion), Marilyn Brown (mathematics) and Lamar Neal (government), all of Meridian. They are shown following an information session held for all the College's part-time instructors prior to fall classes getting underway. The annual workshop is coordinated by the Office of Adult and Continuing Education.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
**Leake Instructors on Adjunct Faculty:** These instructors from Leake County are serving as adjunct faculty members for 2008-09 at East Central Community College. From left are Teresa Gordon (mathematics) of Madden, Lisa Burnside (mathematics), Charlotte Reeves (psychology) and Sherry Boone (English), all of Carthage; and Lawanda Triplett (sociology) of Lena.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
**Neshoba Instructors on Adjunct Faculty:** These instructors from Neshoba County are serving as adjunct faculty members for 2008-09 at East Central Community College. Seated from left are Brenda Nowell (history), Kim Edwards (sociology) and Jennifer Murrell (accounting), and (standing from left) Katie Mills (legal environment of business), Julia Cole (study skills/reading) and Janet Allen (nutrition), all of Philadelphia.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
**Scott Instructors on Adjunct Faculty:** These instructors from Scott County are serving as adjunct faculty members for 2008-09 at East Central Community College. From left are Tami Phillips (English) of Forest, former Scott County resident Tyler McCaughn (legal environment of business) of Newton and Bonnie Peagler (English) of Sandhill.

## EC'S ROLLING 8 REUNITE




**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
**ECCC Workforce Staff Members Reunite Following Accident:** For the first time since their Aug. 15 accident, members of East Central Community College's Workforce Development staff were reunited and honored with a reception at the Workforce Center on Sept. 29. Seated from left are Tina Harris of Decatur, basic skills specialist; Lucretia Williams of Lena, personal development specialist; and Kimberly Mott of Decatur, marketing specialist. Standing from left are Joseph Knight of Union, advanced skills coordinator; Chris Clark and Joe Barrett, workforce development coordinators, both of Decatur; Joey Kenna of Forest, community development coordinator; and Roger Whitlock of Union, dean. Several of the accident victims continue to receive treatment for their respective injuries, and Kenna underwent a third surgery on his left arm Oct. 3. Williams is scheduled for additional facial surgery.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
**Newton County Instructors on Adjunct Faculty:** These instructors from Newton County are serving as adjunct faculty members for 2008-09 at East Central Community College. Seated from left are Sue Kelly (computer technology) of Lawrence, Renee Boggan (mathematics) of Hickory, Lisa Addy (criminal justice and history) and Tonya Nowell (psychology), both of Decatur. Standing from left are Scott Vaughn (Bible) of Decatur, Larry Gressett (psychology) of Conehatta, George Alexander (biology) of Little Rock, Tyler McCaughn (legal environment of business) of Newton and Patsy Barnett (accounting) of Decatur.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
**Winston Instructors on ECCC Adjunct Faculty:** These instructors from Winston County are serving as adjunct faculty members for 2008-09 at East Central Community College. Seated from left are Carol Higginbotham (mathematics), Patsy Moore (English) and Annie Pearl Matthews (history), and (standing from left) Sharon Reed (Spanish), Dianne Carter (mathematics) and Larry McCullough (mathematics), all of Louisville.




If you or someone you know is

Talking about suicide  
Writing about suicide  
Thinking about suicide

*Don't keep it a secret  
shatter the silence!*

For help call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
at 1-800-273-TALK or the Mississippi Department  
of Mental Health at 1-877-210-8513 or visit  
[www.dmh.ms.gov](http://www.dmh.ms.gov) for more information.

Supporting a Better Tomorrow...Today



Mississippi Department of Mental Health

Funding for this project was made available through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Hurricane-Katrina Related Youth Suicide Prevention Grants. The views and opinions contained in the publication do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and should not be construed as such.



# Warrior Viewpoints

## FROM THE EDITOR

## The Good and Bad of Campus Involvement

One of the biggest questions asked by high school seniors when they begin looking into colleges and universities is how involved will they be able to be. East Central prides itself on being able to offer students the chance to be involved in their favorite organizations while still being able to do well in the classroom. However, when the students start classes in the fall, they soon find that most organizations require much of their time and dedication that the students sometimes cannot promise to give. This time commitment then requires the student to choose between organizations that they want to be involved in. They begin to ask themselves, "Should I do EC Players or PBL?" or "How much more time will sports take up compared to band?" The biggest problem with trying to juggle organizations with classes is the desire to find oneself at college without overloading one's self.

While some students can handle the initial time required, they then find other members or advisors have issues with them when they have meetings

that overlap or class work that comes in the way of meetings that are set up at a time different from the regular meetings. The success of a busy schedule comes from a balance of priorities and an understanding between students and advisors.

This is written not to put down being involved or not, but to emphasize that being involved and going to class can be done. Getting involved is the best way to meet new people when in college. However, it puts an extra strain on students and those who know they must devote more time to class will struggle to get everything done.

While we encourage everyone to find at least one thing they are passionate about and get involved in something that relates to it, we also encourage people to put class ahead of any organization. Any advisor should and most likely will understand that sometimes one must sacrifice for the other. Then the next time, switch it up. Just like everything else in life, find some balance and your passion and college will be what you make it.

—Kylie Rigdon, Editor

## OTHER VIEWS

## Lack of campus involvement plagues student body

It seems that there is a major epidemic on the campus of East Central Community college. It is not a disease, a bacterium, or a virus, though it is eating away at our population just as though it were a deadly strain of smallpox or avian flu. What is this monstrous epidemic? The answer is non-involvement.

Oh, when sports or food are involved, one can be sure to expect record breaking turnouts for events each time they are held, but once the shimmer is gone and the education begins, attendance always drains to nothing. For instance, on Constitution Day, scores of students attended the preliminary feast before the presentation; however, once the educational session began, the attendance dropped to a staggering low: about 20 people actually stayed to learn something.

It is completely understandable that some people have prearranged conditions which must be met, and every meeting of every organization cannot be completely full every time, but when people would rather stand around on the street and throw a football than attend

functions, then it becomes a problem. Perhaps lack of attendance to important functions is due to a problem in the maturity of our student population. We still exhibit a reward-seeking behavior rather than delaying gratification and acting now. Perhaps, on the other hand, it is due to a lack of concern on the part of the administration.

When students have nothing else to do, they are going to gather together, drink, do drugs, and cause problems. Perhaps the administration should promote more functions like Constitution Day, or things of the same nature, to involve the students here. We should remember that academics come first, and athletics come second. What we can accomplish as an academic community of informed, intelligent minds is more amazing than anything we can ever dream of accomplishing on a field of sports. We need to involve ourselves in mentally stimulating engagements or else we will fail as a people, as a nation, and as a species.

—Daniel Alexander & J'Markus Dubose, Staff Writers

## WORDS OF A WARRIOR

BY ASHLEY DUMAS

## Have You Decided if You are Going to Vote? Why or Why Not?

**Lane Fulton**  
Decatur • Pre-Veterinary  
"No, I'm not voting. I just don't want to vote."



**Ann Durham**  
Forest • English Instructor • Liberal Arts  
Yes, I am going to vote because if a person does not vote, they don't have a right to complain."



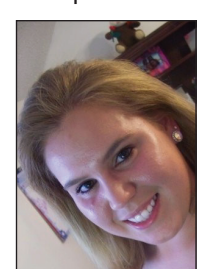
**Jordan Hammons**  
Decatur • Dual Enrollment  
"I am not old enough to vote, but if I was, I would because by voting we are able to influence the policies by helping

elect men and women who best reflect the actions we would like to see our government take."

**Shelby Shelly**  
Sebastopol • Machine Shop  
"Yeah, I am going to vote because my opinion counts."

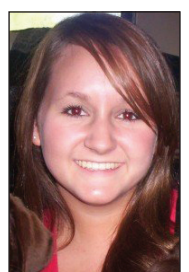


**Kimberly Goodin**  
Newton • Office Systems Technology  
"Yes, I am voting because both of my parents have served in the military and they say people in the past and still



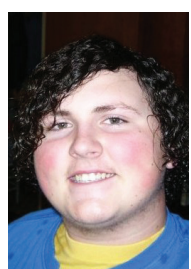
today died to give us that right."

**Kayla Meadors**  
Newton • Nursing  
"Yes, I think it is important for us to take part in it because it affects all of us."



## What do You Want to See More or Less of in the next edition of *The Tom-Tom*?

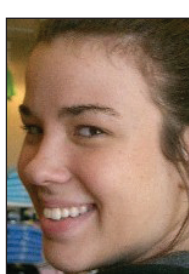
**Dusty Reed**  
Decatur • Liberal Arts  
"I want to see more of the underground music scene around Mississippi. No one talks about it or supports it as much as people



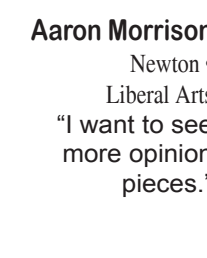
do in other states. We have to support it; if we don't, who will?"



**Corbin Jenkins**  
Carthage • Pre-pharmacy  
"More of the students' life activities outside of athletics and art."



**Ayla Smith**  
Little Rock • Pre-med  
"More stuff about the arts department and less about sports."



**Aaron Morrison**  
Newton • Liberal Arts  
"I want to see more opinion pieces."

## OTHER VIEWS

## McCool shares thoughts on political process

In honor of the upcoming election, I wanted to present a well-rounded view of the nation's political process by speaking with someone who is well versed in this sector of society. Marcus McCool, social sciences instructor, was gracious enough to answer a few questions I had about our government. I hope this clears up some things for readers deciding whether or not to get involved in politics.

**The media plays a large role in shaping public opinion. What impacts do you see that the media is greatly influencing public opinion?**

"The media plays a tremendous role in shaping public opinion. Many people are easily influenced by opinion leaders such as television personalities, movie stars, athletes etc... The question people should be asking themselves is what makes this person an expert on the product, issue or person they are endorsing. Just because a person can act or play sports does not make them an expert on everything. Many people have become very gullible and do not like to think for themselves. In many respects we have become too lazy to think for ourselves and do the research necessary to be an informed voter or consumer. Voting, in particular, is a tremendous responsibility that should be based on facts not media hype and propaganda."

**Technology has made communication between Americans almost constant 24/7. With cell phones that now do the majority of**

**functions that computers can do, why is it that many people still feel a great sense of disconnect with the government and how their votes matter?**

"Technology is good when it's used wisely and effectively. It's true we have access to much more information, much faster. With our access to this information comes personal responsibility to distinguish fact from fiction. We are bombarded with false information on the Internet etc... that many people accept as true. We as individuals must accept responsibility for our own actions and choose to be involved. The sense of disconnection that many people have from the government is they choose not to be involved. It's much easier to blame "the government" for all our problems than to take responsibility and get involved."

**To what extent do you think that young adults have chosen the products of affluence over their civil liberties?**

"We have become a society of instant gratification. When we want something we want it now. We have lost many of the important virtues of patience, hard work, sacrifice, etc... I think many people mistakenly believe civil liberties are intended to guarantee them affluence. Civil liberties are to guarantee them the opportunities to work to obtain affluence. Thankfully we have not yet reached the point of becoming a communist nation."

—Shaun Cooper  
Staff Writer



## OTHER VIEWS

## Reorganization of priorities is in order to fix parking problems

Anyone who has ever been late to class because of lack of parking will relate to this article. Anyone who has ever circled campus more than once to find a parking space only to park off campus and walk long distances to class will relate to this article. Anyone who drives a car to campus knows that parking on East Central's campus is atrocious. The number of total spaces does not even nearly match the number of students who attend East Central. Each day, students from various places converge on the campus in a fiery frenzy for the best parking spaces, and no matter when you arrive, there are never any decent parking spaces available. I get to campus at around 7:15 a.m. everyday, whether I have an 8 a.m. class or not, and there are almost no good spaces available even then.

It is incredibly understandable not everyone will be able to secure great parking spaces everyday, but the majority of students are required to park across campus from most of their classes. If we park in certain places off of campus then we get a parking ticket. This situation is simply unacceptable. It is the responsibility of the administration of this institution to provide certain necessities to the student population. After all it is the money of the students which provide the largest part of the salaries

of the administration. We pay to go to school here, and the people who we are paying are giving us a badly stacked deal.

Not only is parking sparse, the teachers do not help. Teachers are provided with reserved parking spaces. These spaces are usually close to the buildings which they usually teach or work in, and students and visitors are not allowed to park there. However, there are instances all over campus where teachers are parking in student parking spaces. This is nothing more than an evolved form of double parking. The teacher is effectively utilizing two parking spaces. No one can park in the reserved spot except for the teacher, but the teacher is using another spot. It is the same thing as if I were to double park everyday that I came to class. I would receive a parking ticket everyday for such action, but teachers are allowed to do what is effectively the same thing? Why? Does their station really make them deserve special parking rights which make them exempt from the rules which govern the rest of the East Central Community? Simply and justly, No, it does not. I think that maybe we should reorganize our priorities and begin to stand up for our rights as students and as taxpaying citizens.

—Daniel Alexander  
Staff Writer

## Minimum Wage: Taking Back Control

Woo Hoo, pay raise! What am I talking about you say, well on July 24, the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) once again increased minimum wage up to \$6.55. That means I can buy more things right, no wrong. The raising of minimum wage affects many things in our economy, but before I talk about them, how about we raise the minimum wage again on July 24, 2009 to \$7.25.

Minimum Wage is something we seem to take for granted in this country, but have you ever wondered how it affects our economy? Following is three ways it affects us personally along with the economy:

- ▶ Gas Prices
- ▶ Goods and Services
- ▶ Workers with Fixed Income Rates

Everyone knows how much we are hurting in gas prices and goods (doesn't affect very much, but it still plays a small role in it), but what I want to stress on is how it is hurting workers who have fixed income rates. What do I mean by fixed income rates; well I'm talking about the people who have a yearly salary instead of being paid hourly. People who work getting paid by the hour can receive an increase in pay, but the people who work for salaries usually don't receive a pay raise until the end of the year and that's only usually a couple hundred dollars along with a bonus. This isn't good for them because they now have to manage their budget more due to the price increase of everything.

The new budget that they draw out seems to have less and less money that they can spend on themselves.

I once heard in history class that our government is a representative government. I have come to find out that each year we seem to grow farther and farther away from the government that our founding fathers built us on. For those of you who don't know, a representative government is a government where the people choose who they want to run office and later on if they decide they don't like that person, they can kick them out of office. So according to this definition, our government should be a government where they work for us, but lately it seems that our government is going about its own terms and doing what they feel needs to be done.

Now, I believe that if we the people decide to finally take back our government, we can fix several things in our nation. We can fix our gas prices, our goods and services and mostly our minimum wage problem. I know it may not seem like a problem, but if we just open our eyes and quit being so greedy about our money we will see that minimum wage needs to go down so that it may help our economy. We need to start taking back control of the "people" who work for "us" and the first start is to start actually caring about what is going wrong in our economy.

—Aaron Morrison  
Staff Writer

The Tom-Tom is a student publication of East Central Community College in Decatur, Miss. It is published by the Office of Public Information. For more information, contact the staff at P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS, 39327 or by phone at 601-635-2111, ext. 364, or toll free at 1-877-462-3222.

### Accreditation

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

### Notice of Non-Discrimination

East Central Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs and activities. Compliance with Section 504 and Title IX is coordinated by Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, Vice President for Instruction, P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6202, Fax: 601-635-4011, e-mail: lsparkman@ecccc.edu.

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# Warrior Viewpoints

## PAGES FROM THE PAST

BY KYLIE RIGDON  
Editor

Each edition *The Tom-Tom* viewpoints page takes a look back in time at pages from past editions of *The Tom-Tom* during the month of publication. Below are excerpts from past October editions.

OCTOBER 1948

► Ramona Mitchell of Louisville becomes ECJC's first Homecoming Queen

► ECJC football team set to play the Goodman Bulldogs.

OCTOBER 1958

► Freshmen Initiation Day creates varied reactions.

► Linda Elridge crowned Homecoming Queen.

► Lucille Wood selected Head of Physical Education Department.

► Blueprints released for new EC campus layout including new dorms, new science buildings, new library, women's PE building and a President's Home.

OCTOBER 1968

► Warrior cheerleaders selected: Judy Parker, Cindy James, Marianne Matthews, Margaret Shelton, Susan Stutts and Sandy Smith.

► Majorettes for the Warrior Band are: Pam Webb, Deborah Pierce, Brenda Viverette and Nanell Evans.

► East Central celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

OCTOBER 1978

► Angela Hardy of Philadelphia reigns as Homecoming Queen .

► The Homecoming parade is scheduled for 2 o'clock with kickoff starting at 7:30 p.m. against Hinds.

► Mickey Vance heads S.B.A. as president. Debbie Livingston of Louisville elected secretary, Carla Massey of Noxapater elected vice president and Brenda Munn of Neshoba Central to hold treasurer position.

► Warrior volleyball season to start soon.

OCTOBER 1988

► EC Yearbook wins first

place for overall theme and copy. They also won second place for overall general excellence.

► EC talent show winners include: vocalist, Brian Waddell, Philadelphia, first place; vocalist-guitarist, Jerry Dukes, Forest, second place; comedian, Andy Childress, Louisville, third place; vocalist, Gaye Bethany, Newton, fourth place.

OCTOBER 1998:

► Natalie Vowell of Winston Academy crowned Homecoming Queen on Oct. 10.


► Tiffany Edwards of Scott Central and Michelle May of Newton County selected for EC band drum majors.

## ASK DR. PHIL

# EC President gives advice for students, address student safety questions

BY SHAUN COOPER  
Staff Writer

With rising tuition costs affecting many sectors of society, students from all backgrounds have begun to pay more attention to the cost of a high quality education. Has East Central seen a rise in tuition costs, and what factors come to the forefront when deciding to keep tuition costs the same or raise them?



DR. PHIL A. SUTPHIN

*"East Central has not raised tuition and fees in several years and we are currently the lowest cost institution in the state at \$700 per semester for full-time enrollment. It is the policy of the College's Board of Trustees to maintain the affordability of our educational services while maintaining a high level of quality. However, economic conditions do influence tuition costs and EC is not immune to state and national economic turbulence."*

**Many students come to East Central to get a solid start for their college career. What advice to you have for those planning to transfer to an institution of higher learning, and what would you say to those who feel that universities and specialty schools are out of their reach?**

*"First, by choosing EC for the first two years of a bachelor's degree one has saved a considerable amount of money that can be applied to the last two years at a four-year institution. Second, by applying one's self to the educational pursuits for which one came to EC in the first place a strong educational foundation is laid. The same kind of financial aid available at EC is also available at the next level. Persistence in pursuit of an education will prevail."*

**Living a healthy lifestyle has become a major issue with the young population of our country due to the increased rates of obesity and weight-related illnesses. What plans has East Central put into practice that help promote a healthy lifestyle that encompasses physical fitness, emotional wellness and smart eating habits?**

*"There are several health and physical education classes available for students at EC. By taking advantage of these opportunities one can become familiar with the components of a healthy lifestyle. Eating right, exercise and rest will go along way in a wellness program."*

**East Central has many active organizations on campus that often have large numbers of members. Many students are often involved in more than one organization and may find it difficult to fully keep up the pace in all of them, due to what seems to be a lack of time. What advice do you have for these highly-active students and for club advisers trying to reach out to their members?**

*"There is a story about filling a quart jar with rocks, stones, pebbles and sand. The moral to the story is that one must start with the larger pieces and work down to the sand to get everything into the jar. The same applies to time management on a college campus. Put the big items on the calendar first and the big items are the classes that you come to college to take. Then begin to fill-in with the activities and fun things until the calendar is full. But one must manage the big things first."*

**Many of East Central's policies are put into place to help keep students and staff safe on campus. With this being said, dorm students adhere to a 2 a.m. curfew on Mondays through Thursdays, but that time is turned back to 12 a.m. on the weekends. What were the concerns facing administrators when deciding to place a 12 a.m. curfew on the weekends, but allow an extended 2 a.m. curfew on the weekdays?**

*"The official policy of the college is the same on the weekend as during the week; quiet hours begin at 10 p.m., in the dorm by midnight or headed toward the dorm, with curfew at 2 a.m. Students out past 2 are required to surrender their ID."*

**With all of the buzz surrounding the upcoming election, many groups have been avidly trying to get young people to the polls to vote. What would you say to the students that have registered and are planning to vote and to the students who do not see the purpose in getting involved in the country's political process?**

*"For democracy to work effectively there must be an informed and motivated electorate. Our future is decided by those individuals who get the most votes in the previous election. As a voter, one must be informed about the issues and have an understanding of the impact the issues have on one's life. It seems that every election hangs on a different issue, this year the economy seems to be the issue on most voter's minds. As a young voter, you must decide how the proposals of each of the candidates will impact you personally and the local, state and/or nation as a whole. When you satisfy yourself with an answer then go to the polls and cast your ballot accordingly."*

## OTHER OPINIONS

# University Freshmen Requirements Rattle Nerves

As my junior year of college approaches, I am looking into many universities trying to decide which one best fits me and my major. In a recent college visit to Mississippi State University, I learned that they are now requiring all freshmen to live in residence halls. This requirement which they implemented a few years back disturbs me. I know that all of us here at East Central Community College do not have to worry about freshmen woes at Mississippi State University. However, I have found that sometimes worrying about other people is a good thing. While East Central has issues that I could spend my time writing about, I feel that if I do not broaden my views to more than just the town of Decatur, major issues will go unnoticed. MSU has done research that shows freshmen are more likely to get involved and have higher grades when placed in a dormitory setting for their first year of college. I, however, disagree. From my experience at EC, I have found students that want to get involved and want to study will and those who do not, will not.

A perfect case I know of is one student who commutes 15 minutes to class every day. She was also involved in many time-consuming organizations, attended campus events, had a job and was on the honor roll. However, a dormitory resident I know was not involved in a single organization, never attended campus events, and ended the year with a failing grade point average. While some students who are surrounded by students who are "going through the same things they are" find comfort in a dorm setting, some find being thrown into a small room with an unfamiliar person unnerving. I was fortunate enough to be able to room with friends while in college, but I realize not everyone is that lucky, nor that socially capable. Another reason MSU lists as a purpose for the freshmen dormitory requirement is that many friends are made in dorms. Honestly, in my time in the dorm, I have not made any friends that I strictly met in the dorms. The friends I have made while at EC have all come from my involvement in campus events and organizations.

I am a Bulldog fan myself, but MSU's decision to require this of freshmen may be causing them to lose many high school seniors thinking of going straight to the University. Do not misconstrue me however. State does have certain requirements which exempt freshmen from the dormitory requirement. These exemptions include being 21 years or older, married, having custody of a dependent child, be a veteran of two years of active service, those living with parents who reside within 30 miles of campus, and those who write a compelling letter of request. America has always prided itself on the freedom of choice. I question just why institutions want to take away a simple choice from students. Deciding to live on campus is a personal decision, one which should not be taken lightly and definitely not forced. Each person is different and each person flourishes in his or her own environment. Whether that environment is dorm, home or apartment, the choice should be left to the student, not his or her classification.

—Kylie Rigdon  
Editor

# Is the Sanctity of Marriage being protected today?

About two months ago, I was doing my usual Friday night routine with a group of friends that consists of watching a marathon of our favorite show, "Queer as Folk" and whatever other crazy antics that develop over the course of the night. In case you have never heard of this show, it's like a gay version of "Sex in the City" with a lot of the same elements found in the popular series – just rewritten to have a little more fabulousness! "Queer as Folk" was a controversial show that was prone to tackling some of the biggest obstacles facing America's gay society and bringing them to mainstream television. This particular night, something disturbing caught my attention. During a bike relay for AIDS research, one of the main couples on the show, Michael and Ben, took advantage of their trip through Canada to get married and open a new chapter in their lives. All seemed well until they attempted to cross back over into the United States as a married couple. They were promptly told that their marriage would not be validated in the United States, causing Michael's mother – Debbie – to become a bit irate. In her short rant, she made a comment about how even though Michael and Ben love each other, they are not recognized as married because of the popular notion that by preventing their marriage people felt they were protecting the sanctity of marriage. This got my mind spinning and asking, "Is allowing gay marriage really going to destroy this so-called sanctity of marriage that people seem to be protecting?" The effort to protect the "institution of marriage" is not new to our country, but gained new vigor in 2004 when President Bush proposed an amendment that would define marriage as being between a man and a woman, thus ending further discussion on the matter for future generations. Now, as we all know, the amendment did not pass, but there are some things that are to be learned from this time in American history. First, in my opinion, I do not see how allowing gay marriage is going to push marriage to the "point of extinction" as stated by Focus on the Family. Quite frankly, there are so many other aspects of American society that are going to push marriage to the "point of extinction" before gay marriage does. Am I saying that gay marriage should be legalized all over the United States? No. I am just saying that it's time to take a closer look at the other factors before we can even begin to think about making Constitutional amendments against this issue. For example, how many sitcoms, like Saturday Night Live, have played up the typical 'oh I got wasted in Vegas last night, got married and now have to get it annulled' scenario that are becoming all too common in the "Sin City." People view such cases as jokes in the media. Remember when Britney Spears had her Vegas marriage a few years ago? It was all over the media. Now, comedians use it as the butt of their jokes and people laugh about it. What about Carrie Underwood's popular single "Last Name"? The song is fantastic, don't get me wrong, but the song is clearly about a girl who got drunk, got married and now has to deal with getting into a marriage that she doesn't even remember attending - her own. The media uses this topic as mass entertainment. After all, it sells stories and sells records. Seriously though, how can a couple even be allowed to get married in a drive-through chapel, set up much like a drive through McDonald's, if they are drunk and incoherent? (I could only imagine how that would go: "Can I get a large three-day marriage to go with a side order of guilt and shame?") I guess they are assumed to be coherent enough to make a responsible decision about something that is said to be so sacred, right? Furthermore, the divorce rate for new marriages within a period of 15 years is somewhere around 40-50 percent according to the United States Census. Maybe the fact that laws have been passed like California's 1969 Family Law Act that allow "no fault" divorces in the majority of the United States. Before then, couples had to prove there was wrongdoing in the marriage before they were even considered for a divorce and even then they could be denied. This law got the ball rolling for people to now get divorced over the claim of "irreconcilable differences." This, and other laws like the one that states that a marriage is beyond repair after 180 days of separation, only make getting a divorce easier for many. It would seem to me that the same groups who are petitioning for laws against gay marriage would be also petitioning against these laws that make divorce easier, not more difficult. Who knows, maybe one can attribute the raise in the divorce rate to marriages that have been done by online ordained ministers. No joke. A group called the Universal Life Church Monastery ([www.themonastery.org](http://www.themonastery.org)) does free online ordinations. I mean, seriously, Kathy Griffin even got ordained online and performed a marriage for the sake of publicity. Trust me, if everyone was aware who Kathy Griffin was, they would be amazed! Well, her show did go on to win an Emmy, so I guess her stunt worked. Also, what about the extremely popular shows like "The Bachelor," "The Bachelorette," "Next," "The Flavor of Love," "Tila Tequila: One Shot at Love," "I love New York," etc. that all make a mockery of the relationship/marriage process. Dating sitcoms have become extremely popular in American culture and have taken over the ratings boards! People are obviously entertained by watching many drunks fighting, cursing, doing outrageous acts, publicly displaying whorish behavior all on national television to prove how much they say they love someone they have just met right before the series began. Now, I guess I should be a little compassionate here. They are not all drunks. Some are upstanding members of society, which makes this even more depressing and mind-boggling. Show writers know this fact and they have plastered the genre during peak hours on popular stations like MTV, ABC, VH1, BRAVO, etc. The whole nature of these shows kind of takes something away from that whole "institution of marriage" argument that was big back in '04. Now, once again, I am not saying whether gay marriage is right or wrong. I am just saying that before we can begin to make laws against that, we may want to take a look at other aspects of society that have taken over the attention of our population. There are so many other issues that have taken away from the sanctity of marriage that need immediate attention and solving. Let's start by analyzing them, making laws against them and regulating them. Only then may an argument like the one President Bush tried to pitch stick and increase those individuals chance of getting their sought after constitutional amendment.

—Shaun Cooper  
Staff Writer

If you have a question you would like to see included in the next edition of Ask Dr. Phil, please e-mail the question to [godom@ecccc.edu](mailto:godom@ecccc.edu).

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor, question for Dr. Phil or a guest column, please e-mail them to [godom@ecccc.edu](mailto:godom@ecccc.edu) or bring them to the lower level of Huff Auditorium Rm. 47.



# College 101

## THEATER TAKE

### Jackson Thriller, Blockbuster follow-up leave disappointment

#### LAKEVIEW TERRANCE

*Lakeview Terrance*, a thriller directed by Neil Labute and featuring Samuel L. Jackson, opened in theaters on Sept. 19, 2008.

Pulling in a mere \$15.6 million according to TheMovieInsider.com, many critics said the thriller was suspenseful and head on. I personally feel it was one of the least-enterprising or thrilling movies of the year. Yes, I agree Jackson played his role well. Although as for the movie itself, the movie line and sequence of events were predictable, slow and boring.

The main focus of the movie; crazy, psycho neighbor making live for the couple next door miserable was good, but I felt as if the writer and director played up the interracial marriage of the new residents, whose neighbor was terrorizing them, more than intolerable. In today's society, interracial marriages and relationships are common and tolerated a great deal more than what the movie portrays it.

If you just want to see another Jackson Movie, then I say go spend \$3.75/\$7 on this movie, but other than that I wouldn't recommend someone to spend their money on this movie.

—Ashley Devine  
Staff Writer

#### FIREPROOF

Coming straight from the realm of the religious, *Fireproof* was a hit among evangelical Christians all over America. The movie is the follow up blockbuster from the makers of *Facing the Giants*. The austere of *Fireproof* is not entirely deserved; however, despite the incendiary attitude

from evangelicals toward such a stance.

First, it is not a movie for children of any age. The themes and moral issues broached in the film would lead your child anywhere but to church and Christ. Other than that, the movie is good for teenagers and adults who want to go to a feely flick where everything turns out okay in the end and everyone is happy. For the rest of the world, I caution you not to waste your money on this film. If you enjoy less-than-B-rated movies with low budgets, bad acting, and worse directing and cinematics, then be my guest. However, if you are like the rest of us, you will only be disappointed.

The movie is not very interesting at all. I found myself nearly dozing through most of the movie, and struggled to pay attention. A movie about firefighters and broken marriages should be interesting. This movie is just dull. There is a lot of whining and fussing and consoling that is really sickening to watch, in my opinion. The movie is inexorably sappy and, surprise, everything is good in the end. Everyone winds up happy with better lives than they had before.

Aside from simple content, *Fireproof* is a cheaply made film. The cinematics are viciously horrible, and the special effects are akin to crayon colorings by a five-year-old child. There is no worse movie out there this year. A Christian message, and an ethical viewpoint cannot make this horrible picture any better than it is. It just is not worth the time.

—Daniel Alexander  
Staff Writer

## TUNING IN

### P!nk, Rihanna, Secondhand Serenade hit the charts

BY ASHLEY DUMAS  
Staff Writer

#### P!NK

P!nk, ex-wife of motocross legend Carey Hart, has never been shy about her feelings. P!nk's real name is Alecia Moore, but with her pink hair how could anybody not know her as P!nk? Many people have seen her not-so-shy side when they hear songs such as: Dear Mr. President, Stupid Girls and So What. She is a rock-and-roll alto with a bad attitude. Although she has been criticized by many reporters and musicians throughout the years, she has always stayed true to herself and refused to conform to the stereotype of "pop-star" that is brought to young teens today. P!nk says she looks at life as a carnival, "Carnivals are supposed to be fun, but really they are kinda creepy." (www.pinkspage.com) She lets her records be a sort of carnival effect, because they are serious and funny at the same time. More information can be found at www.pinkspage.com.

#### RIHANNA

Rihanna Fenty, born in Barbados, has earned the title of International Superstar, and she is only 19. She has multiple number one hits such as: Pon De Replay, Unfaithful and Disturbia. She has only been in the recording

business for three years, but her awards just seem to be stacking up constantly. Her producer was so overwhelmed by only one performance, that he just had to sign her. She is working with the legendary Def Jam Records, and has had the chance to work with many well-known artists such as Jay-Z. Rihanna has not only taken the Hip-Hop world by storm, but also the Rock-and-Roll genre. Rihanna is on the top of her game right now, and she is not looking to back down any time soon.

#### SECONDHAND SERENADE

Secondhand Serenade is a project name (code name) for singer songwriter, John Vesely. Vesely was reared in San Francisco in a musically-inclined family. He started by playing bass guitar, but eventually branched out into acoustic guitar and songwriting. His songs are all written to his wife, and he does not worry about what other people think of his music. Secondhand Serenade is a member of Glassnotes Records and his newest album reflects the "drama" of being a new artist. The following are some of his most popular songs: Fall For You, Stranger, Maybe and Suppose. Secondhand Serenade will be in concert at Masquerade in Atlanta on Nov. 13.

## GAMERS' GATHERING

### Little Big Planet: Play, Create, Share.

BY ANTHONY WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

A wonderful new game called Little Big Planet hit store shelves on Oct. 21. Little Big Planet is a brand new way of looking at old school games that most of us grew up playing, such as Mario, Mega Man or Metroid. The old side-scrolling adventures are back and better than ever. Little Big Planet (a PS3 exclusive) features the instantly lovable and infinitely cute "Sack boys" or "Sack girls" which a little cloth characters you'll be going on adventures with and can customize them to look almost anyway you want them to.

While the game has no clear story, each level will have its own miniature story that develops as you move along. The controls are insanely simple comprising only of jump, grab and run. You will be solving fun puzzles, racing, collecting and even a few inventive boss battles.

You can also play these adventures with up to four players, some levels will even need you to work together to solve some objectives. So what makes this game so special? Once you have unlocked the 'Create' mode, you can go back and create your own levels and areas using the same simple tools that the creators of the game used to make the campaign levels. You can also do this with you friends.

By making brand new



objects out of a variety of materials, and using some of the engineering tools, you can make almost anything you can imagine with the right amount of time and practice. After you've spent hours making a new level, you'd want to show everybody, right?

Little Big Planet also has

a 'Share' mode, where you can show off you're awesome levels with other Playstation Network Users and let everyone enjoy the fun. You can also play or download others' levels and enjoy them or take them apart to figure out how they made some crazy-looking contraption.

Little Big Planet is a new wave in gaming that will create a new community of gamers just as Halo did eight years ago. The game is developed by British based Media Molecule, is exclusive to the Playstation 3 and is E by the ESRB.

## FROM THE SHELF

### Stories of the Life of a Geisha, History, Angels in review

BY TYLER WATKINS  
Staff Writer

Looking for some good books to read? Here are three good books that you should give a chance.

- ▶ Memoirs of a Geisha
- ▶ The Knights Templar
- ▶ Dictionary of Angels

Memoirs of a Geisha is a very stimulating book (and movie!). It helps people to think outside there box of societies normalities, for example, most people look at a Geisha and simply think of her as a prostitute, but the truth behind it is that, in those times a Geisha was simply a walking sculpture, a glorious work of art without an artist. Memoirs of a Geisha tells about the life of a young girl from Yoirido, Japan who is sold into the life of a Geisha, although things don't turn out like they should (an older Geisha who doesn't like her, "Hatsumomo", tricks her into tarnishing an elder Geisha's (Mameha) kimono, from there she is told she will be forced to be a slave for the rest of her life to pay back the money for the kimono. One day while out she was sitting at a bridge staring into the stream below, when The Chairman saw her sitting, alone and sad he decided he would try to cheer her up, he starts talking with her and he buys her a cone of "sweet ice" (like our modern day snow cones). From that day our, she vows to herself to be-

come a Geisha, so that one day, she would hopefully see him once again. One day when she was of the age of sixteen, her life changed, she was given the chance to become a Geisha (by none other than Mameha herself). Although, she would not be like normal Geishas, What they learned in years, she had to learn in months. She studied, and she trained for weeks and weeks, yearning to finish and be a full Geisha.

Looking to take a bite out of history? How about taking a gander at The Knights Templar, which is home in EC's very own library!

The Knights Templar takes place in the age of the Crusades, a time devoted to God, war and the defense of all things sovereign. The Knights of Templar joined together in 1118, shortly after the first crusades had swept through the Holy Land and won Jerusalem from Islam. In the strict hierarchy of the feudal world, where everyman owed loyalty and allegiance to his overlord, the Templars obeyed no one except the pope. Acquiring there land and castles by gift, conquest and purchase in ever part of Europe and the eastern Mediterranean, they became a church within the Church, a state within the State. They were bankers, merchants, diplomats and tax gatherers, and though they themselves were poor, the wealth of their Order was legendary. For

nearly two hundred years the Templar Knights were the champions of Christendom, leading the five great crusades against the Moslem states of the east, yet when, in the spring of 1314, their brotherhood was destroyed, its enemies were not Moslems, but fellow Christians. Individually and as a groups, The Knights Templar, the flower of Christian chivalry, were accused of heresy, treachery, sodomy, usury, blasphemy, and idolatry.

Interested in Angels? Want to learn more about God's messengers? Then you should take a look at A Dictionary of Angels. A Dictionary of Angels gives an A-Z guide to each and every Angel in existence. Gustav Davidson gives an in depth study of angels, both the remaining and the fallen angels Want to know how their names are derived? Looking for the types of languages the angels speak? Wondering how many winged angels there are in the world? A Dictionary of Angels will help guide and provide unobtainable information for the celestial beings of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and other spiritual paths that have angels and demonic forces in them. The Dictionary of Angels holds information on the governing angels, the archangels, the angels that help at the Throne of God A Dictionary of Angels is located in our own library, in the Reference section. This is also a good read for mythology.

## TECH TIME

### Google Chrome, iPhone face off in heated competition

BY SHAUN COOPER  
Staff Writer

Since Apple released its revolutionary communicating device, aka the iPhone, in June 2007, the world has been captivated by the new capabilities of these mini-computers that do so much more than just making calls. Now, cell phones connect people in every way possible from traditional call making to getting the latest Facebook updates any time of the day. Technology is growing fast and the cell phone industry is no exception. In light of the success of the iPhone, cell phone manufacturers have been scrambling to create competitors that encompass many of the same, and some more advanced, functions of the iPhone.

First up is the new Blackberry Storm. Some of the prevailing features of the Storm is its remarkable ability

to allow users to open and edit Microsoft files. This means that anyone can now do work on the go, make changes to a presentation, and put the final touches on a paper on the fly. Not only that, but the Storm allows for simultaneous multitasking. Owners of the new Storm can enjoy the ability to talk on the phone while doing a host of other activities such as editing Word documents or surfing the Internet when the phone is in speakerphone mode. In addition to all of this, the storm also boasts the ability to send multimedia messages and record videos – two features the iPhone still hasn't been expanded to do. When the Blackberry Storm hits the US markets, it is sure to be a worthy contender of the already popular iPhone.

Next, there is the Nokia 5800 XpressMusic. The new phone from Nokia boasts the

ability to be used by a stylus, finger, or even has built in handwriting recognition software. Users can choose between two forms of the QWERTY keyboard or to simply write out their words like paper. The XpressMusic uses a 3.2 in crystal clear display and has the ability to have its memory increased using the MicroSD slot built in. Also, the XpressMusic has the ability to surf the Internet and play games to keep any user occupied. Nokia phones have already been known for their well reception, so the addition of some new features is sure to make the 5800 XpressMusic a well-received phone on the market. Lastly, I am going to discuss Cellular South's HTC Touch 6900. I am usually not a fan of the Cellular South phones, but this one is a remarkable feat for the wireless carrier.

Borrowing the popular touch technology, the 6900 brings CellSouth's wireless technology to new heights with a new web browser and 3G capabilities. Running a Windows Mobile operating system, the 6900 has a media player, a camera, push e-mail capabilities, and even is hearing aid compatible. The phone uses a bright 2.8 in. touch screen that brings the wireless world to one's fingertips – literally.

With the introduction of the iPhone, a new wave has proceeded to revamp the cellular market. New phones have some of the most cutting edge technology and will only improve as the years go on. Who knows what will be out next by the end of next spring? What can they possibly come up with now? I don't know the answer, but at the rate it is going, I am sure we will all know soon enough.

Submit your news and feature ideas or photos from scenes around campus to *The Tom-Tom* by e-mailing godom@eccc.edu.



# Warrior Athletics

## Warriors end season with OT thriller

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
The East Central Community College Warriors recently completed their first season under the helm of first-year head coach Steve Cheatham with a successful ending, capping the season off with a 4-5 overall record and 3-3 in division play.

### WARRIORS DROP HOMECOMING CONTEST

Homecoming activities ended on a disappointing note at East Central Community College as the Warriors fell 20-9 to Southwest Mississippi Community College Sept. 27 at Bailey Stadium.

East Central, which dropped to 0-5 overall and 0-3 in MACJC South Division action, held a 9-6 halftime advantage over the Bears who rallied to claim their first season victory following three defeats.

Southwest grabbed an early 3-0 lead on a 37-yard field goal with 9:30 left in first-period action.

Neshoba Central product Derek Crenshaw tied the contest with his 22-yard field goal early in the second quarter, capping a 16-play, 90-yard drive. One of the key plays during the march was a 24-yard pass completion from quarterback Emmanuel Taylor to Northeast Lauderdale product Maurice Langston, which gave EC possession on the Southwest 39. Taylor, a product of Early County High School in Blakely, Ga., also had several rushing gains during the drive, including an 11-yard scamper to the Bears' 28.

Southwest regained the lead with another field goal with 5:55 left until halftime. The Bears took possession on the EC 41 but the drive stalled on the 19 thanks to key defensive plays by safety Jarvis Wilson of Central Lafourche High School in Raceland, La., who deflected a pass on first down, and Warrior linebacker Brad Ellis of Forest and defensive end Josh Lewis, a product of Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) High School, who dropped Bear's running back for a three-yard loss on second down.

East Central took its only lead of the day when Langston crossed the goal line on a four-yard run with 1:34 left before halftime. Crenshaw's PAT was not successful. The scoring drive covered 59 yards in nine plays and was highlighted by Taylor's 23-yard pass completion to wide receiver Kendrick May of Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) High School, which gave EC possession on the Southwest 32. Taylor also connected on a 10-yard strike to wide receiver Antonio Hughes of Morton at the Bears' 19-yard-line.

Southwest took the lead for good in the third period, on McCall's 15-yard touchdown pass to Brinson Johnson with 8:22 remaining. The 70-yard drive took just six plays and was set up after the Bears blocked Crenshaw's 42-yard field goal attempt. EC reached the Southwest two-yard-line but a holding penalty followed by a quarterback sack forced EC to attempt the long field goal.

The Bears were set up for another score late in the third period but the Warrior defense stopped the drive on fourth and one at the EC 10-yard-line.

Southwest would not be denied the end zone late in the contest when Bears' running back tallied on a 22-yard scamper with 1:47 left followed by an added PAT.

For EC, Taylor was the top offensive performer. He completed 11 of 24 passes for 124 yards and one score. May was the top receiver with four catches for 41 yards. Taylor rushed 23 times for 79 yards. EC had 264 total yards and 16 first downs.

McCall completed 24 of 38 passes for 256 yards and one score. Southwest had 83 yards rushing and collected 18 first downs.

### ECCC WARRIORS CRUISE PAST NORTHEAST FOR FIRST SEASON WIN; ALSO BENEFIT FROM HINDS FORFEIT

The first play from scrimmage set the tone for EC's 38-7 whipping of Northeast Mississippi Community College Oct. 2 in Booneville, as quarterback Taylor hooked up with Langston for an 85-yard touchdown strike—the first of four TD passes thrown by the freshman signal caller from Georgia and the first of three scores by Langston.

Taylor fired a 25-yard touchdown pass to Langston in the second period, and connected with wide receiver Dustin Alley on 34- and 35-yard scoring pass plays early in third period action, which provided the Warriors with a 38-0 cushion and sent many of the Tiger faithful home early from the homecoming contest at Keenum Stadium. Taylor ended the night by completing

19 of 27 passes for 382 yards, his best performance as a Warrior. Langston's other score came on a 10-yard run midway in the second period.

East Central's easy victory was especially sweet for Cheatham, who earned his first on-the-field win as the Warrior head mentor. East Central was notified earlier in the day that Hinds Community College had forfeited its 35-21 decision over the Warriors due to an ineligible player, thus putting EC's record at 2-4 overall and 1-2 in the MAJJC South Division.

Cheatham, obviously elated at capturing two victories on the same day, offered praise for his offensive and defensive units for the "team victory" over Northeast.

"I was really proud of our players... they were so excited and deserved the win," Cheatham said. "We played pretty close to a complete game on both sides of the ball and in the kicking game. It was really a team effort. We had a good week of practice and I thought we would play well."

Cheatham said the Warriors received an unexpected boost when learning about the Hinds forfeit earlier in the day.

"Not many teams win two games in one day," Cheatham said with a smile, "so we were obviously very excited to hear the good news. We now have a chance to make the playoffs and as you know, in this league, anything is possible. We just need to continue to play hard and make things happen. We've been expecting good things to happen to us all year and now they are."

Following East Central's first score, the Warrior defense stopped a Tiger scoring threat when defensive end Cedric Hall of Carthage sacked Northeast quarterback for a four-yard loss on fourth and eight from the EC 32-yard line.

The EC offense responded by marching 64 yards in 10 plays, capped off by Langston's 10-yard touchdown run. Key plays during the drive included Taylor's 16-yard pass completion to Langston to the Northeast 49 and Taylor's 13-yard scramble to the Tiger 10. Crenshaw — who broke a toe on his kicking foot prior to last week's homecoming contest-added the PAT and was successful on all five attempts.

Northeast took the ensuing kickoff and marched from its own 14 to the East Central 45, only to be denied further penetration thanks again to a sack of the Tiger quarterback, this time by defensive end Lewis. Lewis burst through the Tiger defense and tackled Frances for a nine-yard loss on third and two, forcing Northeast to punt.

The Warriors mounted an impressive drive on their next possession, marching from the 25-yard-line to the Northeast 13, only to have the scoring threat nixed when a Tiger defender intercepted Taylor's pass in the end zone and returned the pigskin to the Northeast 10-yard-line.

The EC defense once again held the Tiger offense in-check and forced a punt almost resulting in another Warrior score but Langston's 35-yard dash to the end zone was nullified due to a blocking-in-the-back call during the return.

The Warriors did manage to score points on the possession, as Crenshaw drilled a 22-yard field goal with 9:35 remaining before halftime.

East Central missed on another scoring opportunity on its next possession when Northeast tried a fake punt on fourth and 10 from its own 25-yard line. Free safety Bruce Williams of Ridgeland stopped the Tiger punter for a short gain and the Warriors were in excellent field position at the Northeast 27 yard-line. However, the drive stalled and Crenshaw was unsuccessful on his 24-yard field goal attempt.

The Warriors did score on their next possession as Taylor and Langston connected on their 25-yard scoring pass play with 35 seconds left before halftime. Key plays during the eight-play, 50-yard drive included a nine-yard pass from Taylor to wide receiver Lamar Truman of Northeast Lauderdale to the Northeast 40, followed by a 21-yard pass play by the same duo to the Tiger 19.

East Central carried a commanding 24-0 lead into the dressing room at halftime and wasted little time in padding its advantage early in the third period, thanks to Tiger miscues.

Northeast had taken possession on its 43 following the second-half kickoff, but fumbled on first down and Warrior linebacker Randy Carter recovered the loose pigskin at the Tiger 34.

On EC's first play of the second half — as was the case on the game's opening play—the Warriors found the end



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
Warrior football players are congratulated by fans following the squad's 44-38 double-overtime thriller over nationally-ranked and then division co-leader Pearl River Community College Thursday night in Poplarville.

zone as Taylor and Alley connected on their 34-yard scoring pass play. Alley is a product of Union Grove High School in McDonough, Ga.

The Warriors took advantage of another Tiger mistake moments later and found pay dirt on their second play of the second half when Taylor and Alley hooked up on their 35-yard scoring pass play. The scoring opportunity was set up when Warrior defensive lineman Jeremy Dillon, a product of Forrest County AHS, intercepted Frances' pass at the 35.

Back-up quarterback Tyler McNeil of Neshoba Central directed the Warrior offense for a series during third-quarter action and picked up positive yardage before giving up possession.

The Tigers were in position to score their first points following the exchange of possession but Warrior cornerback Zerrick Houston of Philadelphia nipped those plans in the bud when he intercepted the Tiger's pass in the end zone with 5:15 left in the third period.

Northeast did reach the end zone early in the fourth stanza.

East Central had an opportunity for another score on the ensuing possession but the Tigers intercepted Taylor's pass on the one-yard-line with just over nine minutes remaining to nix the threat.

### WARRIORS CLIP CO-LIN 35-28 IN OVERTIME THRILLER

After leading throughout most of their MACJC South Division match-up with visiting Copiah-Lincoln Community College on Oct. 16 EC's Warriors found themselves searching for a miracle with a minute left in regulation and the football gods responded via Taylor whose five-yard run with three seconds left capped a 52-yard drive and tied the contest at 28-28.

East Central began the overtime period on offense and found the end zone on its eighth play from the 25-yard line on Langston's one-yard plunge. Crenshaw's fifth PAT of the night put EC out front 35-28.

The Warrior defense — which had earlier stopped the potent Co-Lin offense on several four-and-short situations — again rose to the occasion as free safety Bruce Williams knocked down Co-Lin's toss into the end zone on fourth down from the six-yard line, and EC claimed its home finale.

"I'm proud of this team," said Cheatham following the victory, which put the Warrior record at 3-5 overall and 2-3 in league action, the same record as Co-Lin. "They fought hard and never stopped believing."

Cheatham said going for the two-point conversion when EC tied the contest in the game's final seconds was not an option.

"There was never any thought about going for two," Cheatham stated. "We had the momentum and we felt our kicker (Crenshaw) was better than theirs, so we were playing for overtime."

East Central took an early 7-0 lead when Taylor scored the first of his three touchdowns on a 68-yard scamper with 6:11 left in the initial period.

The Warriors stretched their lead to 14-0 late in the stanza when Langston found pay dirt on a one-yard run, cap-



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
Warrior speedster Maurice Langston (1) escapes the grasps of a Gulf Coast tackler as he nears the goal line during his 99-yard kickoff return, one of three scores credited to the Northeast Lauderdale High School product. Langston also scored on a 52-yard pass from quarterback Emmanuel Taylor and threw a 63-yard touchdown strike to Antonio Hicks. EC fell to 38-35 to the nationally ranked Bulldogs who held on for the homecoming victory.

ping an eight-play, 45-yard march. A key play during the drive was running back Derrick Cade's 24-yard burst to the Co-Lin 31. Cade is a former standout at Tuscaloosa Central (Ala.) High School. The short-scoring march was set up when the Warrior defense held Co-Lin on fourth and one.

Co-Lin got on the scoreboard in the second quarter on a 20-yard pass play, capping an eight-play, 91-yard march.

East Central responded to the Wolf score via Taylor again, who sprinted 75 yards for the score and a 21-7 Warrior advantage.

The Wolves narrowed the gap again with a 13-yard TD pass with just 10 seconds remaining until halftime.

After a scoreless third period, Co-Lin tied the contest at 21-21 with 10:34 remaining.

The Wolves grabbed a 28-21 lead on their next possession on a 65-yard scoring pass play with 4:07 remaining. Sessums, a former Brookhaven Academy standout and grandson of ECCC Athletic Hall of Fame member, the late Howard Sessums, returned the opening kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown but the play was nullified to penalties on the return team.

Co-Lin seemed destined to win the hard-fought battle when the Wolves intercepted Taylor's pass near midfield with 2:44 left.

But the Warrior defense held and forced the Wolves to give up possession on fourth and 20.

Langston's 33-yard punt return set the stage for the Warriors' game-tying drive from the EC 48-yard line. A key play during the drive was Taylor's 26-yard strike to wide receiver May, which set up Taylor's five-yard burst to tie the game.

Taylor was EC's top rusher with 220 yards on 18 carries and three scores. Cade had 83 yards on 10 attempts.

Taylor completed eight of 12 passes for 90 yards and one interception. Receptions were made by Northeast

Lauderdale product Lamar Truman, three catches for 36 yards; May, two for 36 yards; and Langston, three for 18 yards.

Crenshaw, the state's top punter, averaged 42 yards on six kicks. He entered the contest with a 51.1-yard average on 25 punts.

Warrior safety Clint Coleman of Louisville had one interception.

### WARRIORS RALLY FALLS SHORT AT GULF COAST, 38-35

Taylor threw three touchdown passes and all-purpose performer Langston was also credited for three scores and almost another but their efforts fell short as the Warriors ran out of time in their comeback bid for a victory against Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Oct. 11 in Perkinston, falling 38-35.

East Central, which trailed 24-7 at halftime, outscored the nationally-ranked Bulldogs 28-14 in the final two periods of their homecoming contest, highlighted by Taylor's 52-yard touchdown strike to Langston and Langston's 99-yard kickoff return for a score, both during third-period action.

The Warriors, who trailed 38-21 going into the final stanza, drew closer to the 15th-ranked 'Dogs when Langston successfully executed the halfback pass by lofting a 63-yard touchdown strike to wide receiver Antonio Ricks of Carthage with 10:23 left in the MACJC South Division contest.

East Central's final points came as the Bulldogs were simply trying to run out the clock. A fumbled snap with 1:06 remaining was recovered by linebacker Randy Carter of Quitman at the Gulf Coast 35 and following a Bulldog penalty, EC took possession at the 30. Four plays later Taylor connected with wide receiver Dustin Alley on a seven-yard touchdown pass with 27 seconds left. Crenshaw made his fifth PAT for the day to end all scoring.

See Warriors, PAGE 12



# Warrior Athletics

## Basketball Season Tips Off Nov. 1

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
East Central Community College's Lady Warriors are hoping for another championship campaign and the Warriors are also preparing for success as both squads near completion of pre-season workouts in preparation for the 2008-09 basketball season.

Both teams begin competition Saturday, Nov. 1 at Delgado Community College in New Orleans. The women's game is set for 2 p.m. followed by the men's contest at 4 p.m. The Lady Warriors and Warriors host Holmes Community College Monday, Nov. 3, and entertain rival East Mississippi Community College Thursday, Nov. 6. Game times are 6 and 8 p.m. in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.

Lady Warrior head coach Bill Smith, whose 2007-08 squad captured the Region 23 title and finished 22-8, said he is looking forward to starting the season but knows repeating as champions will be a challenge.

"We will be the target of most everyone we play because we are the defending region champs," said Smith, who begins his fourth season at the Lady Warrior helm. "But I hope we will not feel any added pressure in trying to defend the title. Our sophomores are really focused on a repeat."

The top returnees are Rashima Jenkins and Mystee Dale, the only returning starters. Jenkins, a 5-9 forward from Airline High School in Bossier City, La., averaged 16.5 points and 7.1 rebounds, and Dale, a 5-8 guard from Choctaw Central, had 14.6 points and 5.8 rebounds per contest. Allison Phillips, a 5-8 forward from Leake Academy and Alisha McAfee, a 5-5 guard from Northwest Rankin also saw a lot of playing time last year. Other sophomores are Katherine Taylor, a 5-10 forward from Carthage and Sha Coleman, a 5-6 guard from Newton County.

When asked what he liked best about his sophomores, Smith replied, "They have a (championship) ring!" He said the sophomores also understand "what it feels like to win a region title... and hopefully they can help the freshmen understand what it will take to repeat."

Seven freshmen are included on this year's team, including guards Deshouiri Spates (5-4) of St. Thomas Moore High School in Lafayette, La., Yolanda Jones (5-3) of Lake, Lanie Triplett (5-4) of Scott Central, Sierra Croft (5-4) of Newton County and Alisha Griffin (5-6) of Kemper County, and forwards Danielle Cole (5-8) of Philadelphia and Hannah Lee (5-11) of Leake Academy.

"We will need the freshmen to really step up and help us this season," Smith said. "But I know it will take a little time for them to get adjusted to the college level of competition."

Smith said the freshmen and sophomores are playing well as a unit.

"They seem to get along well as a group and the team chemistry is very good," Smith said. "We will need for that chemistry to continue all year for us to be successful."

Smith said fans can expect to see "13 young ladies hustle and play hard every minute of every game" this season.

Serving her first year as Smith's assistant is former Lady Warrior standout Kristin Chaney of Decatur. Chaney received All-American, All-Region 23, All-Region 23 Tournament, All-State and All-Star honors at East Central, where she helped lead the 2003-04 Lady Warriors to region and state titles and a second-place finish in the Consolation Bracket of the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship in Salina, Kan. The ECCC women, coached by Brad Hodge, completed season action with a 31-4 record and were ranked eighth in the final NJCAA poll. She continued her success on the basketball court at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she also received numerous honors.

### WARRIORS READY FOR COURT ACTION

On the men's side, third-year head coach Maurice Bowie expects his Warriors to improve on last year's 11-13 record. He has good reason to be optimistic.

"It's not often that you sign every kid you recruit, but we are truly fortunate to have done so this year," said Bowie, a former ECCC basketball standout. "When I put the team together, I gave us depth at every position and with depth brings about competition, and that's what makes you a great team — getting after one another in practice every day."

Overall, Bowie said this year's team "is a good group of kids to be around. They have really worked hard both on and off the court. We have challenged them this year to be take pride in everything they do, not just in basketball."

Bowie said he is especially pleased with his guards and how much control they bring to the game in their role as "field generals."

"I am really high on Rod Lofton (6-1 guard) of Forest. He takes it personal every time he's on the court to guard the best offensive player on the other team," Bowie said.

Bowie said Rico Jones, a 6-3 guard also from Forest, has been "Mr. Consistent" on and off the court and "is really going to help us down the road when we need that sophomore leadership to show up."

Bowie also had praise for his top returning scorers from last year, Josh Luckett, a 6-5 guard/forward from Carthage, and Devarus "Scooter" Walker, a 6-1 guard from Newton County High School.

"Luckett led the guys in scoring with 13 points per game and made 59 percent of his shots," Bowie said. "Walker was second in scoring with 12 points per game. He also shot 39 percent from the three-point line."

Forwards James Starks (6-6) of Meridian, Joseph Thompson (6-7) of Morton and Jacob Jordan (6-6) of Opelousas, La., complete the sophomore class and are also expected to make a difference this season.

Freshmen include guards As-



**Lady Warrior Women's Basketball Team:** Ready for another championship season are the above members of the 2008-09 East Central Community College women's basketball team. First row, from left, are student assistants Kanisha Warnsley, a product of Newton County High School; Courtney James, Magee; Precious Triplett, Louisville; and Michaela Lee, Nanih Waiya. Second row, from left, are Deshouiri Spates (4), St. Thomas Moore HS, Lafayette, La.; Yolanda Jones (10), Lake; Sha Coleman (11), Newton County; Rashima Jenkins (12), Airline HS, Bossier City, La.; Allison Phillips (15), Leake Academy; Lanie Triplett (20), Scott Central; and Mystee Dale (21), Choctaw Central. Standing from left are Kristin Chaney, assistant coach; Sierra Croft (22), Newton County; Alisha McAfee (23), Northwest Rankin; Danielle Cole (24), Philadelphia; Hannah Lee (25), Leake Academy; Alisha Griffin (32), Kemper County; Katherine Taylor (55), Carthage; and Bill Smith, head coach. Not pictured are student assistant William Flowers of Newton and statistician Candy Wade of Raleigh. The Lady Warriors are the defending Region 23 champions.



**Warrior Basketball Team:** Above are members of the East Central Community College men's basketball team for the 2008-09 season. Seated from left are Devarus "Scooter" Walker (3), a product of Newton County High School; Asmar Capers (10), Bridgewater-Raritan, N.J.; Rico Jones (11), Forest; Antonio Grace (15), Newton; James Starks (20), Meridian; Jacob Jordan (21), Opelousas, La.; Rod Lofton (22), Forest; and Josh Luckett (23), Carthage. Standing from left are Cornelius Gilleylen, assistant coach; Darius Walker, student assistant, Newton County; Andre Pitchford (25) and Kenny Thomas (31), both of Jackson Provine; Joseph Thompson (32), Morton; Steve Edwards (34), Newton; Chucky Curry (44), Newton; and Maurice Bowie, head coach. Not pictured are Jacob Martin (54) of Lafayette, La., and student assistant William Flowers of Newton.

mar Capers (6-3) of Bridgewater-Raritan, N.J., Antonio Grace (5-9) of Newton, Andre Pitchford (6-2) and Kenny Thomas (6-4), both of Jackson Provine, Steve Edwards (6-1) of Newton and Jacob Martin (6-5) of Lafayette, La., and forward Chucky Curry

(6-7) of Newton.

Bowie said his goals for the season "are to graduate my kids, develop young men into men, and win at least 90 percent of our games. We also want our guys to act like, practice like and play like champions."

Cornelius Gilleylen is serving his first year as Bowie's assistant. An Amory native, Gilleylen is a former assistant men's basketball coach at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, where he had a stellar career. He twice received "Defensive

Player of the Year" honors and was ranked 14th in the nation in steals in 2006-07. He was also twice named "Defensive Player of the Year" at Itawamba Community College, where he played for former ECCC head coach Marty Cooper.



### SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**ECCC Hosts Tennis Clinic:** Coaching tips and other tennis-related information were provided participants of a Recreational Coach Workshop sponsored by the United States Tennis Association and held recently at East Central Community College in Decatur. Bill Phillips (second from right) USTA trainer, conducted the six-hour session and is shown discussing aspects of the game to some of the approximately 30 area tennis coaches, parents and students who attended the one-day clinic. Dianne O'Neill, ECCC tennis coach, said East Central hosted the workshop "as a way of developing tennis in this area." She said she was "very pleased" with the turnout and hopes the information provided will be most helpful to coaches as they prepare for their respective seasons.



# ECCC graduates spend summer doing missionary work in Uganda

BY KELSIE BOND

**The Times of Stone County**

Chelsea Brown, a local of Wiggins, spent six weeks of her summer in Uganda with Compassion International, a Christian-based sponsorship program. She and her roommate, Maggie McDill of Decatur, are both students at the University of Mississippi. They spent most of their time in Uganda ministering to children there through the local churches. They also did some construction work as well as other things while there.

Compassion International is a sponsorship program that is connected to the local churches in the area. They pay for each child's school and medical fees. Brown said that during the week the children were at school. Most of the children go to boarding schools because they live too far away from a school to walk. "There are some children who walk six miles with no shoes to go to school," said Brown. If they live further than that, they are usually boarded because it is too far, and it might be hard for them to get away from their duties at home to actually attend school.

On Saturdays when the children are not in school they had what Brown called "Center Days." This is when they

would just spend time with the children. They would teach them songs and Bible stories as well as provide them with a meal. That is a big deal to make sure they get food on the weekends. "It is such a poverty stricken area...the kids don't always get fed on weekends." Brown said that Compassion's kids are fed at least one meal a day during the week at school, but on weekends they are not guaranteed any food at all. "And we would just hold them and hug them."

Brown said that they brought the kids "little things we take for granted at home." These are toys like Frisbees or something as simple as plastic beads. She said it was amazing how happy just those little things made them. She also said the children really enjoyed getting their pictures made and then looking at the image. There are not really any mirrors around so many of the children don't even know what they look like. She kept taking pictures of each child just so they would have an opportunity to see themselves.

Another part of her job was to assess each child's situation and report back to the people at Compassion's headquarters. This gave Brown an opportunity to see their living environment, which she said was

awful. She saw things such as eleven people living in a one-room mud hut with one bed. "It really is a poverty-stricken place," said Brown.

Even though English is the official language in Uganda, Brown said only the educated people could speak it. Brown said anyone who had made it all through high school would be fluent in English and even more so if they had made it through any type of college. The people in the villages who were not educated spoke many different dialects but the main language was Luganda. During her stay there she learned enough of that language to function. Even though she never became fluent, she said there never really was a language barrier because they always had a translator. "There was always a culture barrier," said Brown. She said that they live in such a different culture with different practices and rules and customs that it would not matter how long one stayed there, one would never be able to cross that barrier. "They treated us like royalty," said Brown. "And we just desperately wanted to serve."

Brown said that her experience while over there was like no other. "We were completely submerged in the Ugandan culture." She and McDill stayed

with a local woman who was a Compassion child and went all the way through college with the sponsorship program. "We didn't have an American support group." Brown and McDill were the only Americans around for four weeks. One week another group of about 30 Americans came and they spent four of five days with them. During that time they stayed in an actual hotel with real beds which was quite a change from their previous living conditions. But Brown said what she valued most in that time with the other Americans was an actual time schedule. Brown said that the Ugandans do not get in a hurry to do anything and really do not have a concept of time or schedules. "Their attitude is 'just when we get to it.' Drove me crazy," said Brown.

As soon as they left the group of other Americans they felt the effects of no longer being with people like them. Brown said she just felt like, oh well, here we go again; back to just doing things when we get around to them. They finished out the remainder of their trip as they began it, with no other Americans around.

She said the reverse culture shock of coming back to the United States was so much worse than the culture shock of



**SUBMITTED PHOTO**

2007 ECCC graduates, Chelsea Brown and Maggie McDill, spent six weeks of the summer in Uganda ministering to children there through the local churches with Compassion International, a Christian-based sponsorship program.

going over there. "A bathroom with toilet paper and a seat was like wow." Brown said that things like toilet paper, and condiments for food that is all free in America costs in Uganda. She said it was hard to come back into that reality. "When we got to the airport) we just walked around in a daze," said Brown. She said that a full-length mirror captivated her and McDill for at least thirty minutes. "It was like, we have knees! Shut up!"

Brown said that she really enjoyed and learned a lot

from her experience. She said that people can see pictures and read things in books and magazines and even see things about that culture on television, but until you go and see yourself you can never really understand. She said that it is hard to understand because they are a hurting people who have nothing, but they're happy with their lives. She said that she would love to go back, although she is not sure that she will be up to another six weeks any time soon. "It was intense."

## WARRIORS

FROM PAGE 10

A low-scoring affair seemed to be in store for the MACJC South Division battle on a warm day at A. L. May Stadium, as neither team tallied during the opening stanza, although EC missed on a scoring opportunity in early action. Langston returned a Gulf Coast punt 42 yards to pay dirt but the play was nullified when Langston fumbled into the end zone and the Bulldogs took possession on their 20 yard line. A penalty on EC was also called during the return.

Gulf Coast, which improved to 5-2 overall and 3-1 in league play, began the eventually high-scoring contest by jumping out to a 14-0 second-quarter advantage. Both Bulldog PATs were successful on all five attempts.

The Warriors found pay dirt on Taylor's first TD pass – a 76-yard pass to wide receiver May with 7:00 remaining in the second period.

Gulf Coast stretched its lead to 24-7 at the break, following a TD run with 1:56 left before halftime and a field goal, which came with just five seconds left. The three-pointer was set up when he Bulldogs linebacker intercepted Taylor's pass at the EC 36 and returned the pigskin to the nine-yard line.

The Bulldogs appeared to put the game out of reach early in the third period with a touchdown pass, capping a 10-play, 80-yard drive, resulting in a 31-7 advantage.

The Warriors began their comeback attempt on the ensuing possession with Taylor and Langston combining talents on the 52-yard pass play.

Gulf Coast put its final points on the scoreboard late in the third period with a 49-yard touchdown strike for the TD.

Unofficially, Taylor completed 17 of 35 passes for 253 yards and three scores. He had one interception. May was the top receiver with three catches for 106 yards and one score.

### WARRIORS STUN NATIONALLY-RANKED PEARL RIVER 44-38 IN DOUBLE-OVERTIME

Langston's 10-yard burst through Pearl River Community College's top-rated defense provided Warriors with a stunning 44-38 double-overtime victory over the playoff-bound Wildcats Oct. 23 at Dobie Holden Stadium in Poplarville.

Langston, whose 48-yard reception from quarterback Taylor to the Wildcat four-yard line with 10 seconds remaining in regulation helped send the MACJC South Division battle to the first overtime period, said after the hard-fought victory that he felt confident he would make the game-winning touchdown.

"Coach (Cheatham) wanted us to set up for the field goal but I was thinking something could go wrong especially after C. J. (Estelle) had just blocked Pearl River's field goal attempt. So I told him that if I saw a seam in the defense I would score," said Langston, who also tallied in the first overtime period and scored twice in regulation.

Langston's fourth score of the evening – which occurred as late-night show hosts Jay Leno and David Letterman were about to begin their respective monologues- sent the ECCC sideline into a wild celebration and provided first-year head coach Steve Cheatham and the Warriors with their third vic-

tory in the last four games, improving to 4-5 overall and 3-3 in division play.

Cheatham, who completes his 31st year in the coaching profession with the victory, praised his team for battling back for the win.

"I told our guys before the game that a team with character will beat a team with talent every time," he said of the Warriors, who rallied three times to tie the contest in regulation and took their first lead in the first overtime. "And this team has tremendous character. They hung in there and found a way to win. I'm very proud of them and our coaching staff....this was a great win for our football program."

After a scoreless first period, the seventh-ranked Wildcats found pay dirt with 8:32 remaining until halftime followed by a successful PAT.

East Central responded to the tally with Langston's first score, a two-yard run with 2:46 left before the break. Crenshaw connected on the first of his five PATs to tie the score at 7-7. The 49-yard scoring drive took just six plays and was highlighted by Taylor's 17-yard strike to Langston, which gave the Warriors possession on the Wildcat 29, and running back Duke Hudnall's 24-yard scamper to the 12-yard-line. Hudnall is a product of Newton County High School.

The Wildcats regained the lead just before halftime on a three-yard pass with 14 seconds left, capping an eight-play, 71-yard drive.

East Central again tied the contest early in third period action on a 76-yard strike from Taylor to wide receiver Donovan Tate of Hattiesburg.

Pearl River regained the lead at 17-14 with 3:21 left in the third on a field goal, set up when the Wildcats intercepted a Taylor pass resulting in possession for the home team at the EC 33-yard-line.

The Wildcats took advantage of another Warrior miscue – a fumble by Hudnall at the EC 27 – and scored four plays later for a 24-14 with 44 seconds remaining in the third period.

East Central again rallied and closed the scoring gap to 24-21 early in the fourth period on a one-yard plunge by running back Cade. The 71-yard scoring drive took just seven plays and was highlighted by Taylor's 16-yard run to the EC 45, Cade's nine-yard scamper to the 25 and Taylor's 14-yard pass to Langston to the one-yard-line.

It took just one play for the Wildcats to regain a 10-point advantage with 12:17 left in regulation.

The Warriors responded with a quick score of their own when Langston tallied on a 14-yard run with 10:45 left, capping a 68-yard, four-play drive. The key play was a spectacular one-handed catch by wide receiver May who hauled in Taylor's pass at the 14-yard-line.

After an exchange of possession, a Warrior fumble on the Pearl River 46 with 3:09 remaining appeared to seal the victory for the Wildcats, but the EC defense once again stiffened and gave the offense a final opportunity to score.

The Warriors, who began possession on their 20-yard-line with just 47 seconds remaining, advanced to their own 43 following a 23-yard strike from Taylor to May. Then on third and four from the EC 48 with 22 seconds left, Taylor and Langston hooked up on their 48-yard pass play to the four. The Warriors went for the win on first down with 10 seconds remaining, but Taylor's pass to wide receiver Dustin



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

East Central defenders Randy Carter (39) of Quitman and Clint Coleman (13) of Louisville celebrate Carter's recovery of a Gulf Coast fumble at the Bulldog 35-yard line, which came with just over a minute remaining in the division contest. Gulf Coast was attempting to run out the clock when the miscue occurred. East Central scored four plays later but Gulf Coast held on for the 38-35 homecoming win.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

East Central running back Derrick Cade (30) fights for yardage during the Warriors' 20-9 homecoming loss to Southwest Sept. 27 at Bailey Stadium. Cade is a product of Tuscaloosa Central (Ala.) High School.

Alley, a product of Union Grove High School in McDonough, Ga., fell incomplete in the end zone. Crenshaw split the uprights on his 21-yard field goal with one second left and sent the game into overtime tied 31-31.

East Central took first possession on the 25-yard-line in the extra period and scored three plays later on Taylor's 13-yard pass to Langston.

Pearl River responded by scoring on its fourth play in the extra period sending the contest into double OT tied at 38.

The Wildcats had first possession in the second overtime, but the Warrior defense forced a 32-yard field goal, but C.J. Estelle — who hails from Childersburg High School in Sylacauga, Ala. — blocked the kick and EC was set up for the win.

After runs by Cade and Taylor moved possession to the 10-yard line, Langston ended the three-and-a-half hour contest with his 10-yard burst to pay dirt.

EC had 22 first downs compared to 20 for Pearl River.

The Warriors were penalized six times for 60 yards, while the Wildcats were assessed 17 times for 163 yards.

Taylor completed 15 of 20 passes for 276 yards and two scores. He had one interception.

Langston was the top receiver with 10 catches for 135 yards and one score. He also had six rushes for 47 yards and three touchdowns.

Tate had four catches for 96 yards and a score; and May caught four passes for 67 yards.

Cade rushed 14 times for 65 yards.



# Warrior Athletics



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

**'98 State Champion Diamond Warriors Honored:** The 1998 State Champion Diamond Warriors were among special groups honored during EC's homecoming activities held Sept. 27. Team members include (first row, from left) Neal Holliman, assistant coach; Ron Perkins, Louisville; Chris Tulos, Union; Brodie Meadows, Livingston, Ala.; and Clark Tyson, Jonesboro, Ark; (second row, from left) Brian Hardy, Madison; Chad Champion, Cottondale, Ala.; Paul Clearman, Brandon; and Jay McLendon, Louisville; and (back row, from left) Eric Weaver, Newton; Rusty Cumberland, Philadelphia; Scotty Stephens, Meridian; and Dan Gressett, Ruston, La. The 1998 Diamond Warriors captured the program's first state title and were recognized at the annual Alumni Association Awards Luncheon held in Mabry Cafeteria. The late Jamie Clark served as head coach and was posthumously inducted into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame at the same ceremony. Dr. Lee Eady of Forest was an assistant coach on the championship squad along with Holliman. Holliman is in his third year as Diamond Warrior head coach and led the team to the 2007 state championship.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

**ECCC Homecoming 5K Run Winners:** East Central Community College in Decatur hosted a 5K Run/Walk as part of its homecoming festivities Saturday, Sept. 27. The race boasted 71 participants. The overall female winner was Kim Crenshaw of Meridian with a time of 25:23 minutes. Mike Thraikill of Hickory was the overall male winner with a time of 18:33 minutes. First-place division winners in their respective age groups are, front row from left, Dixie Rivers of Oxford, Ala., Jeff Grimshel of Vicksburg, Huel Sills of Vicksburg, Emily Baysinger of Philadelphia, Crenshaw and Roxanna McCarty of Philadelphia; back row from left, Lee Wilson of Meridian, Thraikill, Buddy Pierce of Meridian, James Shaidnagle of Newton, Andrew Hanna of Union, Janice Crawford Collins of Meridian and Shannon McMullan of Decatur. First place division winners not pictured are Emily Franklin of Union, Lori McMullan of Decatur, Judy Crowson of Meridian, Neal Holliman and Joe Killens, both of Decatur.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Gibbs shows strong performance on the court

BY MARTY STAMPER  
**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Newton County's Elise Gibbs turned in a strong performance in the Mississippi Association of Coaches All-Staf Tennis Matches held in July at the Parham Bridges Tennis Center in Jackson.

Gibbs won her singles and doubles matches as the South girls won 4-3.

In singles play, Gibbs defeat-

ed Sunner Carmack of Tishomingo County, 6-3, 6-3.

In doubles action, Gibbs teamed with Lynn Marshall of Brandon to beat Elizabeth Sanford of Starkville and Chelsea Tidwell of Oxford 8-2.

### 2008 Warrior Golf Team members announced

FROM STAFF REPORTS

East Central announces 2008 Warrior Golf team members and their prospective hometowns: Kyle Killens, Decatur; Daniel Johnson, Union; Chase Ward, Talladaga, Ala.; J.C. Moore, Forest; Eric Burgess, Forest; Tyler Moffitt, Louisville; Conner Herrington, Carthage; and Griffin Burk, Philadelphia.



**GIBBS**

## 2008 FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPS



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

"Park's Stars" captured the intramural flag football championship held recently at East Central Community College in Decatur. Team members include (kneeling from left) Marcus Holmes, Justin Gill and Medford Hardin, all of Louisville; Willis Hearn, Quitman; Delande Johnson and Dyron Haynes, both of Louisville; and Keyshawn Harrison, Decatur; and (standing from left) Lance Hendrix and Jarrad Ball, both of Louisville; Joseph Morgan, Pisgah; David Bender, Heidelberg; Vonta Burrage and Jamaal Coburn, both of Louisville; Anthony Walker, Florence; and D' Carlos Hunt, Louisville. Scott Hill serves as director of intramurals.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

**Flag Football Runners-Up:** "A Horrible Team" actually did fairly well in the intramural flag football championship at East Central Community College, as the scrappy squad finished second in the annual competition. Team members include (kneeling from left) Nathan Chaney, Philadelphia; T. J. Robbins, Louisville; Cody Vowell, Noxapater; Clancy Scarborough, Louisville; Spencer Dickerson and Chad Stokes, both of Philadelphia; and Matthew Graham, Louisville; and (standing from left) Sam Lewis, Decatur; Tanner Long and Wade Pierce, both of Philadelphia; Matthew Malone and Matt Wilbanks, both of Carthage; and Tyler Pierce, Philadelphia.

## Chaney selected Athletic Advisor/Assistant Coach

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Former East Central athletic standout Kristin D. Chaney of Little Rock was recently selected as athletic advisor/assistant coach.

Chaney serves as academic advisor to student-athletes and will be an assistant coach on the Lady Warrior basketball and fast-pitch softball teams led by Bill Smith and Scott Hill, respectively.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Chaney attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where she received master and bachelor's degrees in sports administration in 2008 and 2007, respectively. She was also a standout member of the Lady Eagle basketball team, receiving most valuable player honors following the 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons. In addition, she received the Female Student of the Year and Lady Eagle Award in 2006-07. She was also a member

of the 2007-08 Lady Eagle softball team.

Chaney is a 2005 honor graduate of ECCC and Hall of Fame member. She is recognized as the College's only two-sport All-American and was selected a National Junior College Athletic Association Academic All-American. She finished second in the NJCAA Female Athlete of the Year competition.

Chaney helped lead the 2003-04 Lady Warrior basketball team to the Region 23, Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) State and South Division titles and a second-place finish in the Consolation Bracket of the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship in Salina,



**CHANNEY**

Kansas. The Lady Warriors, led by former head coach Brad Hodge, completed season action with a 31-4 record and were ranked eighth in the final NJCAA poll. Chaney was named to the All-Region 23 Tournament Team and received first-team All-State recognition. She also received ECCC's "Newcomer of the Year" award.

The 2004-05 squad claimed runner-up honors in the Region 23 Tournament and finished 20-10 under Coach Hodge. Chaney's honors included second team All-American, All-Region 23, All-Region 23 Tournament Team, first team All-State and All-Star. In addition, she was chosen the Lady Warriors' most valuable player and was selected team co-captain.

Chaney helped lead the 2004-05 fast-pitch softball team to the MACJC Central Division title and a third-place finish in the MACJC/Region 23 Tournament en route to a record 34

wins and only five losses. She received All-Region 23 and first team All-State and All-Central Division honors following the record-setting campaign. In addition, she received the Lady Diamond Warriors' most valuable offensive and defensive player awards.

She also had success leading the softball squad during her freshman season in 2003-04. East Central finished 26-14 after claiming the MACJC Central Division title and advancing to post-season play. She was one of only three freshmen and the only Mississippian selected second team All-American following the successful season. She also received All-Region 23, All-State and All-Central Division honors in addition to her selection as the Lady Warriors' most valuable player.

A graduate of Newton County High School, she is the daughter of Ricky and Brenda Chaney of Little Rock.

## Gilleylen joins Warrior Men's Basketball Staff

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Cornelius Gilleylen was recently selected assistant men's basketball coach.

Prior to joining Maurice Bowie's staff, Gilleylen served in 2007-08 as an assistant men's basketball coach at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. He also has experience working basketball camps at St. Edward's and at ECCC.

Gilleylen, an Amory native, is a former standout at St. Edwards under head coach Ryan Marks,

where he helped lead the Hilltoppers to consecutive Heartland Conference Championships and back-to-back appearances in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history.

The shooting guard served as team captain in 2006-07 and re-



**GILLEYLEN**

ceived "Defensive Player of the Year" honors for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons. He finished 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation in steals in 2006-07 and led the Hilltoppers in free throws at 94 percent. Gilleylen completed his career by finishing second in school history in steals.

He also had a stellar career at Itawamba Community College in Fulton, under former ECCC head coach Marty Cooper. Gilleylen, who played point guard, served as team captain and received the Indian Award

in 2004-05. He received the "Defensive Player of the Year" award for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 seasons.

Prior to beginning his college careers, Gilleylen was an All-Conference and All-Division performer at Amory High School, where he also served as team captain and received the best defensive player award.

Gilleylen received a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from St. Edward's University in 2007 and earned an associate's degree from ICC in 2005.

## We want Your News!

**E-mail information about your club/organization to [godom@eccc.edu](mailto:godom@eccc.edu).**

**Send photos with identification and any happenings.**



# Warrior Athletics

## EXTRAORDINARY ATHLETE



**TOP:** EC Cheerleader Captain Kolby Sisson interacts with children at an Aramaic Church during summer missions.  
**BOTTOM:** Sisson plays Tic Tac Toe with a camper at a church camp in Boston called "Super Summer."

## Sisson exhibits service at home and abroad

Sophomore Kolby Sisson of Philadelphia has a lot to offer to his school, community and nation.

When it comes to extracurricular activities, he is involved in many things around East Central's campus. His activities include Baptist Student Union President, Cheerleader (Captain), Executive Council Member of the BSU, and a member of Warrior Corps. Warrior Corps. is an organization that involves promoting EC's views and recruits seniors from our five-county district.

There are some things most students don't know about Sisson. For instance, he is a local volunteer firefighter for his community Mars Hill. This goes to show that he gives up his time to put other people before himself so that he may help other people who are in greater need than him.

He was also on the 2007 power lifting team for the state. In this competition, he won State Champion of the 275 class for the 1A schools.

One thing that really stands out with Sisson is his desire to spread the word and love of God. Last summer, he worked as a BSU Summer Missionary, which is a long and drawn out process that starts around September through April of the upcoming year, Sisson traveled to Boston, where he ministered.

According to Sisson, he went into the missions experience not really knowing what to expect. While in Boston, he was involved in a homeless outreach called "Streetlight Ministries." With the ministry they prepared meals and went out into the neighborhood to set up key locations. They set these locations up where a majority of homeless people gathered. Throughout the summer he spent the months getting to know homeless people and building relationships with them. He learned how each person has a story and that just like anyone else, they needed someone to listen to.

While in Boston, he also participated in servant evangelism, where he served the people. One of the things he did in this type of evangelism was distributing free gum.

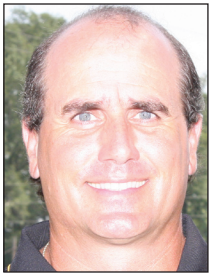
The servant evangelism opened many doors for Sisson, he said. "I was able to talk to the people about God," Sisson added in regards to his ministry. His summer involved a lot of manual labor as well during his two months of servitude. The labor included anything from painting to pulling weeds, helping out with the children's ministry, where he encountered many different cultures.

In conclusion, Sisson is a structured and intelligent college student. Other students can learn many things from him that they can apply to their lives. He ended with the statement that anyone can be a Summer Missionary; you just have to want to do what God is leading you to do.

—Aaron Morrison  
Staff Writer

## Soccer Season Ends On Positive Note for Warriors

**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
A 3-1 victory over Pearl River Community College on October 15 completed season action for East Central Community College's men's soccer team, which finished 4-11-2 overall and 2-7-1 in division play under 10-year head coach Kenneth Thompson. One of the victories includes a forfeit from Copiah-Lincoln Community College.



**THOMPSON**

Thompson said he had high hopes for a more successful season, but said the Warriors "played too inconsistent at times to do better than the results they garnered."

"The men had an up-and-down season with many competitive games and some exciting finishes," Thompson said. "They played hard in every match and showed how capable of outstanding play they could produce in the final match. Even with the mixed bag of results, the men's season was exciting from beginning to end."

Thompson said he was especially pleased with his team's defensive performance.

"Part of the key to the more successful play this season was the overall improvement of the team's defensive play, with particular improved play from sophomore keeper Mat Turner of Mendenhall," Thompson said. "Mat had some outstanding games with many great saves that kept us in the game."

Thompson said work has already begun to make the team more successful in all aspects of the game in 2009.

"We have a good core of nine to 11 players returning next season," he said, "and with the addition of 10 to 12 solid freshmen, the men should be ready to show marked improvement in 2009. We will have to go outside the district to add many of the new players for next season as the number of available seniors in the district this season will be insufficient to supply the needed talent for a successful campaign. Due to this fact, we will be looking across the state and out-of-state as well to find the needed players."

Thompson said the women's team, which finished 2-12-1 and 2-8-0 "struggled through a difficult season, finding wins hard



**ABOVE:** Warrior Bass Price (8) of Neshoba Central attempts a backwards kick during a recent match against Jones County Junior College on the Decatur field. Also pictured is Christian Craft (9) of Richland.  
**BELOW:** Lady Warrior Megan Munn (3), a product of Newton County High School, tries to maintain possession during the matchup with Jones County Junior College on the Decatur campus.

to come, as the two victories were the results of forfeits from Co-Lin. However, they worked hard until the last minute of each game and continued to show improvement throughout the entire season."

Thompson, who has guided the Lady Soccer Warriors for four years, said the highlight of the women's season was drawing a tie with East Mississippi Community College, who had at the time the state's leading scorer. The two squads battled to a 1-1 deadlock and Thompson said, "was an exciting match for the girls, to say the least."

He said efforts are under way to make vast improvements for next season.

"We are already working with the returning players to improve skills, physical conditioning and game knowledge," he said. "There will be a good core group of around eight to nine returning players who will be able to help the incoming freshman group to be successful in 2009."

Thompson said he is looking at six to seven in-district players who will likely join the program next year and will be able to contribute "immediately."

"We will also be looking at



out-of-state to add two players that can play key roles on the 2009 squad," he stated. "We also plan to recruit across the state for six to seven top players that can come in and help this program excel."

Thompson said the College's soccer program is working to make several physical improvements, one of which includes lighting the game pitch.

"We are raising funds to get lights as soon as possible and hopefully in time for the 2009 season," he said.

To make a contribution to the Warrior Soccer Program, call 601.635.6370 or e-mail kthompson@eccc.edu.

## 'SERIOUS SOCCER'



**Provide 'Serious Soccer' Assistance:** These East Central Community College soccer players provided assistance during "Serious Soccer" competition, a program facilitated by Clarke-Venable Baptist Church in Decatur. Eighteen teams comprised of approximately 120 players ages four through 12 practiced and competed for seven weeks in an effort to improve their soccer skills. ECCC soccer players served as skill coaches for each team. Head coaches were recruited to be "encouragers and devotion leaders" for their respective teams. Church members "shared their stories" during short devotions held during halftime. ECCC soccer squad members include (first row, from left) Megan Munn, Decatur; Jessica Kilpatrick, Lisa Tubby and Danielle Stafford, all of Philadelphia; Catalina Tarazona, Florence; Elizabeth Withers, Philadelphia; Sidney Gutierrez, Chunky; Marcia Guerreiro, Richland; Calli Cumberland, Decatur; and Sarah Costello, Meridian; (second row, from left) Justin Traylor, Florence; Paul Sewell, Leesburg, Ala.; Jared Mullins, Tupelo; Cameon Lesley, Philadelphia; Cooper Jordan, Philadelphia; Kristen Pillsbury, Decatur; Jesse Kemp, Corinth; Juley Taylor, Lake; and Alanna Fairchild, Philadelphia; (third row, from left) Jarrid Hickman, Braxton; Mat Turner, Mendenhall; Dwayne Furline, Quitman; Patrick Creel, Florence; Shandahl Hickman, Philadelphia; Zach Pillsbury, Decatur; Mat Turner, Mendenhall; Steven Stanley, Richland; Alex Galistel, Marion; Kacy Covert, Collinsville; Taylor Booker, Wiggins; Shan Seales, Philadelphia; and head coach Kenneth Thompson; and (fourth row, from left) Webb Compton, Meridian; Hunter Wyrick, Laurel; Nathan Rowell, Philadelphia; McClain Mullins, Tupelo; Sam Wilson, Meridian; Bass Price, Philadelphia; Dimitri Uhl, Meridian; Jeffrey Grimshel, Vicksburg; and Christian Craft, Richland. Not pictured is Sara Williams of Philadelphia.



EXTRAORDINARY TEACHER

# Brady holds world record for art

BY DANIEL ALEXANDER  
Staff Writer

Of the many new faces and personalities on East Central Community College's campus this year, some are new instructors. Of these, the most notable may be none other than Instructor Christopher Brady of the art department.

Chris Brady, 35, was born in Jackson and now calls Ridgeland home, apparently opting to settle down near his place of birth. He graduated from Forest Hill High School in 1991 and eventually received two separate masters' degrees from the University of Mississippi in 2004 and in 2007. One degree was in education, while the other was in studio art.

When asked where his love of art began, he responded, "I've drawn since I was a kid, but the real turning point was probably around the age of 10."

Obviously, Brady has always been passionate about art and furthering his skill in art. "Every kid goes through a veterinarian stage," he said, "but [art] is pretty much always what I knew I wanted to do."

With all of this pent-up passion for art stewing since he was a child, Brady was bound to do something terrific, and aside from various notable pieces of art produced by Brady, this is especially true for one piece. Type A is the title of the piece of art that Brady did for his masters' thesis, and it just so happened to be qualified to be the world's longest woodblock print by Guinness World Records.

Brady is quite modest when questioned about his piece, however. When asked what it was like to be a

world record holder, he said, "It felt very special and rewarding in a way, but the record was only a secondary thing for me. The work itself was more important."

The complex piece of art is a print made from masonite blocks and stretched almost the length of a football field. It centers on one continuous line as it curves and curls and convolutes itself across the piece.

"Type A is about obsession," said Brady. "It is meant to make you wonder why anyone would take something so ridiculously simple and obsess over it for such a long amount of time and space."

A spotlight on the absurdity of our own lives perhaps?

Despite his already great achievements, Brady decided to teach. When asked why he chose this career rather than one solely in studio art, he responded, "I did not originally intend to teach, but when I got to college, I realized how much I loved to be in the classroom. I just love to watch people as they absorb information." Brady said he also feels that he is doing his true duty to the art he loves so much by being a teacher.

"Most people are alienated from art," he says. "I have taken the form of an ambassador trying to bridge the gap that has been created between the art world and everyone else."

Brady also expressed fear that art is simply dying away from its purest forms. "Art is intention...but we tend to see it as decorum," he said. "We have become detached from the deeper meanings of art because we have forgotten to ask the question: why. Art should challenge norms, even if



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**World Record Holder:** ECCC Art Instructor Christopher Brady was given the title of the world's longest woodblock print by the Guinness World Records. Type A is the title of the piece of art in which Brady did for his master's thesis and is a print made from masonite blocks and stretched almost the length of a football field. It centers on one continuous line as it curves and curls and convolutes itself across the piece.

challenging them only strengthens the norm."

Conclusively, Brady is deemed one

of the most profoundly interesting and amazing instructors that East Central has to offer. His career here is new,

but it is obvious that a lot of eyes will be on Brady for the time to come just to see what he will accomplish next.

## PAGEANT FROM PAGE 1

Mississippi College.

Mississippi District 31 Senator Terry C. Burton orchestrated the night's events as Master of Ceremony. Sen. Burton is chairman of the Elections Committee and is vice chairman of the Public Health & Welfare Committee. He also serves on the Appropriations, Education, Insurance, Judiciary B, Legislative Budget, Public Utilities and Rules committees. He represents portions of Lauderdale, Newton and Scott counties, and has served in the Legislature since 1992.

EC's Most Beautiful 2008 and four EC Beauties were chosen based on interview and evening gown competition.

The Top 11 participants included: Kayla Hampton of Louisville, Krystle Wolverton

of Union, Dekota Anthony and Madison, both of Philadelphia; Bird and Brown; Darden, Joy Hayes of Decatur, Candi Vance and Johnson, both of Union and Anna Fulton of Louisville.

Other pageant participants include Laura Alexander of Little Rock; Anna Powell, Hillary Meagan Vaughn and Anna White, all of Philadelphia; Vennyatha Norris of Morton; Katie Hedrick and Hannah Watkins, both of Sebastopol; Anteigra Coleman of Brandon; Kacy Covert of Collinsville; Aleshia Crimm, Rachel Ramirez and Lindsay Sanders, all of Forest; Calli Cumberland of Decatur; Amanda Hampton, Bonnie Kathryn (Kadie) Hailey and Anna White, all of Louisville; Courtney James of Mendenhall; Michaela Lee of Preston; Valerie McMurry of Edinburg; and Brooke Robinson of Quitman.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**ECCC Top 11 Beauties:** These young ladies were recently named Top 11 Beauties at East Central Community College in Decatur. Pictured are (from left) Kayla Hampton of Louisville, Krystle Wolverton of Union, Dekota Anthony and Amber Madison, both of Philadelphia; Adrienne Bird and Bailey Brown, both of Morton; Dentra Darden of Louisville, Anna Johnson of Union, Joy Hayes of Decatur, Candi Vance of Union and Anna Fulton of Louisville.



CHRISTY FERGUSON/SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College's Business Office Technology students attended the Career Care 2008 at Rush Hospital in Meridian on Oct. 22. Students visited many exhibits and learn about the various jobs available at Rush. Featured areas included: Nursing, Radiology, Laboratory, Rehabilitation, Respiratory Therapy, Information Systems, Health Records and Business Services. Pictured are (front row, from left) Rebecca Rogers, Krista Frith, Leslie Mangrum and Reva Coate; (back row, from left) Keneisha Hardin, Cleedeen Dotson, Kristen Alsup, Shauntavien Currie, Kim Foy, Joni Bozeman and Beth Stephens.

## ECCC Offers 'Healthy Cooking for the Holidays' Class at CHI

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Preparing healthy meals for the holidays is the menu for a cooking class being offered through the Office of Adult and Continuing Education at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Registration is under way for the two-night course, scheduled Monday, Nov. 17 and Tuesday, Nov. 18, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Choc-

taw Hospitality Institute in Choctaw.

Providing instruction is Alexei Huguley, ECCC's culinary arts instructor.

Cost is \$75 per person and includes all materials.

For more information or to register for the "Healthy Cooking for the Holidays" class, call Alexei Huguley, 601.663.3595, or e-mail her at [ahugulev@email.eccc.edu](mailto:ahugulev@email.eccc.edu).

# The Tom-Tom hosts a HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

## SCARE UP SOME FUN!

Contest participants should come dressed in costume to the Haunted House of Hoops on Wed., Oct. 29, at 8 p.m. in the gym.

**Contest Prizes include:**  
First Place: \$25 book store gift certificate for student  
First Place: \$25 book store gift certificate for faculty/staff  
Second & Third Place prizes will also be awarded.

**Haunted House of Hoops will also feature:**  
Free-tuition 3-point contest  
Women's 3-point contest  
Men's Slam-dunk contest  
Coach Thrill Hill vs. Coach Kristin Chaney  
3-point Extravaganza

**FREE ADMISSION!**  
Don't miss out on EC's Haunted House of Hoops - Oct. 29 - 8 p.m.



# Sutphin honored as Decatur Citizen of the Year

BY LOIS COOPER  
**Special to The Tom-Tom**

A large crowd of citizens enjoyed the 2008 Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce Banquet held on Saturday, October 18, in the East Central Community College Mabry Cafeteria. Jan Addy, president, welcomed the guests. Special recognition was given to Chief Justice Jim Smith and his wife, Kathy, and Senator Terry C. Burton. County and local officers were also recognized.

The Rev. Johnny Crosby, pastor of Decatur United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Following a delicious meal, Lois Cooper introduced the guest entertainment. Elvis Presley (Tim Johnson of Madison, MS) presented an electrifying performance and the guests were convinced that the “King was still alive!” Mickey Vance, chamber board member, presented the Citizen of the Year Award to Dr. Phil Sutphin, president of East Central Community College. Dr. Sutphin is serving this ninth year as president of ECCC. Dr. Sutphin is serving as vice chairman of the Rural Community College Alliance, a national organization of community colleges involved in economic development in their respective areas. He serves on the WAEM Alliance Board of Directors, a bi-state association that promotes economic and workforce issues in west Alabama and east Mississippi. Sutphin is a member of the board of directors of the Local Workforce Investment Board for the Twin Districts Planning and Development District in the southeast central region of the State. He is also on the Board of the East Mississippi Health

Net and the AHEC Board, a multi county association to promote health care issues in east Mississippi.

He currently serves on the Board of Laird Hospital in Union, the Planning Board for the Town of Decatur, and the Board of the Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce. He has served as President and Treasurer of the Newton County Habitat for Humanity and also has served as Treasurer of the Decatur United Methodist Church. He and his wife, Peggy, a second grade teacher with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in Conehatta, have two sons, Brad and Brent.

Brenda Harper, incoming Chamber Board President, presented Johnnie Mae Keith with an award for being named Grand Marshall of the 2008 Decatur Christmas Parade. Mrs. Keith is a graduate of East Central Community College and Mississippi State University. She taught sixth grade for one year and served as bookkeeper in the Newton County Superintendent of Education’s office for twenty-one years. She worked with Mississippi State Human Resources for ten years.

Keith is a past president of Decatur Woman’s Progressive Club. She was recently recognized for fifty-five years of membership. She is a Past Matron of Decatur Order of the Eastern Star and has been a member for sixty-two years. She is Past Grand Electra Grand Chapter of the Mississippi Eastern Star and Past Grand Representative of Connecticut of Grand Chapter of Mississippi Eastern Star. She participates in many community activities and enjoys many hobbies.

At the Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce Banquet, Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, second from left, was named the 2008 Citizen of the Year. Pictured with the honoree are from left: Brenda Harper, incoming president; Sutphin; Jan Addy, outgoing president; Mary Cullum, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president; and Randy Rushing, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president. Dr. Sutphin is president of East Central Community College and was recognized for his many outstanding contributions to the Decatur community. Not pictured is Dr. Esther Smith, secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Keith is the widow of Thomas C. Keith. The Keiths were married in the first church wedding after World War II at Clarke-Venable Baptist Church. She has two children, Kathie Keith Bounds and Thomas C. Keith, Jr. She has six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Serving as Chamber officers for 2008 were: Jan Addy, president; Brenda Harper, vice-president; Dr. Esther B. Smith, secretary-treasurer; and Lois Cooper, past president. Officers for 2009 are: Brenda Harper, president; Mary Cullum, 1st vice-president; Randy Rushing, 2nd vice-president; Dr. Esther B. Smith, secretary-treasurer; and Jan Addy, past president. Board members who will be serving during 2009 with the officers are: Nan Anderson, Mark Buntyn, Ann Burkes, Lois Cooper, Darrell Dean, Marijo Denson, Bess Hollingsworth, Louise Johnson, Dr. Phil Sutphin, Jeanette Thrash, and Mickey Vance. Those receiving special recognition for providing banquet decorations were Louise Bailey, Mary Cullum, and Pam Keith.

## EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT

# Ability Triumphs Over Disability for Foley

BY SALLIE EVANS  
**Staff Writer**

Out of approximately 1,000 children born each year, three of those are born with a neurological disorder known as Cerebral Palsy, East Central Community College sophomore Shardae Foley just happens to be one of those people. But the disorder does not keep her from being the determined young woman that she is on campus. When Foley was seven years old, she had surgery on her limbs to reconstruct them, and was in a wheelchair for several months. She went through numerous physical therapy sessions. Foley is a sophomore business administration major from the nearby community of Hickory and plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi next year.


Since she has started her career at East Central, Shardae has proved that she is one of the most involved and dedicated students on campus. Foley is on *The Tom-Tom* staff, plays the clarinet in the Wall O’ Sound Band, supports our baseball team by being a Diamond Darling, and is in the Environmental Club as well. You can find her at the library doing all sorts of tasks for her work study job. This girl barely has time in her day to eat lunch! That is what you call a “hard worker.” Shardae learned early in life while doing normal, everyday activities that there was “no one else like her.”

“I knew I could do those things,” she explained, “It just took a different task at a different pace to complete challenges.”

She does not let her condition get her down like most people would by any means, and maintains a positive outlook on how she lives life every day. “You have to get used to things even if you don’t like them,” Foley said, “I like doing things on my own because when there’s no one there, I can do it myself.”

When Foley has the extra time, she said she likes to shop and listen to her favorite rapper, Piles. Recently, she has been taking driving lessons from Mississippi State University and she plans to be driving around campus as soon as she takes her test.

“I think I want a Nissan,” she smiled, like a sixteen year old ready to burn rubber.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
East Central Community College Sophomore Shardae Foley performs during the Meet the Warriors Pep Rally. Foley was born with Cerebral Palsy is yet has maintained an active lifestyle as a member of *The Tom-Tom* staff, Diamond Darlings and Wall O’ Sound Marching Band.

# Students focus entire studies on online courses

BY TIFFANY LOWERY  
**Staff writer**

While there are more than 2,000 students enrolled at East Central Community College, some never step foot on campus. They do not attend the games or the other functions East Central has to offer. Students like Allison Lang and Crystal Putnam technically attend the college but do all of their school and class work through East Central’s Distance Learning Program; Blackboard is the source of all their class work.

Students, Lang and Putnam, never come on campus; therefore, they never meet their teachers and they do not have to worry about getting to class on time. Blackboard is the source of communications between them and their teachers. They also use Blackboard to do all of their class work.

Putnam said, “Keeping up with all the work is stressful and at times difficult.”

While both students seem to find distance learning difficult,” Lang said,

“Procrastination is not a characteristic to have when doing online classes.”  
—Allison Lang  
ECCC Online student

“She enjoys her school work.”  
The reasons for their doing all of their classes online vary but the main reason

is religious convictions. Both students graduated from Pine Grove Christian Academy, which is an American Christian (ACE) School. When asked how this helped when using blackboard Lang said, “Because I graduated from an ACE school I am accustomed to working by myself without the influence of a teacher.”

So while some students on campus complain about Blackboard there are other students that must use it every day in order to get their education no

matter the problems they have with it.

Lang and Putnam only spend three or four hours on their school work a day.

Lang said, “Procrastination is not a characteristic to have when doing online classes.”

Both students say that there are many obstacles and challenges, such as never having enough time. Lang and Putnam said, “Both of us are contemplating doing our classes on campus next semester.”

# Eaves, Devine awarded poetry honors

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The first poetry, photography contest for the fall semester was a success. Zachary Eaves received first place for his poem, “Fields of War.” Ashley Devine received honorable mention for her poem, “Some.” Students from throughout the student body submitted works of art including poems and photographs.

The contest is open to any EC student and contest entries could include poems, short stories and photographs.

The *Tom-Tom* will host the contest before each edition.

Entries should be submitted to Gennie Phillips-Odom, advisor for *The Tom-Tom* by e-mail to gphilldom@eccc.edu or by bringing the entries to her office in the lower level of Huff Auditorium Room 47.

All students are encouraged to participate. The winning entry will be published in the next edition of *The Tom-Tom*.

**FIELDS OF WAR**  
Cannons thunder, muskets flash  
As men cry out in pain.  
Bombs rumble the ground,  
And lead pours down.

The sky is black.  
The ground is red.  
Lovers died, fathers lost,  
Sons on the way to heaven.

Through the ash and fire  
The bugler plays taps  
Over the blood-stained fields  
Of the dead.

These men died but not in vain.  
The died for their country,  
Their families,  
And their freedom.

Never more  
Shall they be forgotten.  
For they are forever  
In my heart.

—Zachary Eaves

**SOME**  
Some days I sit in a vague  
absence  
Some days I wade through  
your thoughts  
But day in and day out I’m losing control  
Buried in a stream of emotions  
and things I don’t know  
Some times I’m strong, secure,  
and stable  
Some times I’m weak, helpless,  
and confused

But every time I dream  
I’m dreaming of you  
Some days I’m ok with who I am  
Some days I wonder whether  
I’m lost or found  
But my days are different  
And never the same  
Some times I wonder where I’d be  
Some times I search my soul  
over  
But every time I think I’ve  
found you  
I end up tripping over myself  
and falling short of you...

—Ashley Devine

**ELVIS FROM PAGE 1**

plenty of hilarious opportunities to show your own Elvis fervor!”

Play cast members include Drew Harrison (as Morty), Laura Alexander (Angie) and Emilee Lanier (Gert), all of Little Rock; Colton Amis (Shorty) and Tiffany Spence (Betty), both of Decatur; Candie Willis (Sari), Brandon Hughes (Norman), Chris Smith (Horace), Kristina Harrison (Ruth), Hannah Watkins (Peep), Kylie Rigdon (Robin), Anna Laurie Ezelle (Mary Smart), J’Markus Duboose (Doc) and Logan Copeland (Myron), all of Union; Aaron Morrison (Nick), Erin Tramill (Madame Laski) and Casey Rowzee (Bernice), all of Newton; Courtney Gammill (Alice) and Christina Gibbs (Louella), both of Lake; Rachel Ramirez (Dani), Zach Gibbs (Neil), Cody Walters (Seymore Crunch) and Holly Webb (Tracy), all of Forest; Aaron Mann (Smithers) and Michael Sanford (Drack), both of Carthage; Brit-

tany Smith (Meadow), Walnut Grove; Amanda Hampton (Zoe) and Brandi Hopkins (Kay), both of Louisville; Josh Underwood (Granny), Sebastopol; Logan McDonald (Max), Conehatta; and McClain Mullins (Ralph), Tupelo.

Playing the roles of waiters and waitresses are India Dickerson, Carthage; Briana Edison, Taylorsville; Miranda Edwards, Byram; Nicole Franklin and Joey Griffin, both of Philadelphia; Lance Goodin, Delia Haynes and Jalisa Smith, all of Louisville; Leslie Graham, Forest; and Van Randolph Williams, Lawrence.

Crew staff and understudies include Edgar Alvarez, Teddy Bloodsaw and Josh Ledford, all of Forest; Austin L. Crouther and Megan Jordan, both of Union; Keia Eichelberger, Louisville; D. J. Howell, Carthage; Brad Reynolds, Noxapater; and Chris Swafford, Edinburg.

For ticket information contact the ECCC Switchboard, 601.635.2111.





**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
**ECCC Board of Trustees:** East Central Community College is led by the above individuals who serve on the College's Board of Trustees. First row, from left, are William E. Kitchings, Carthage; Van Lucas, Newton; Vernon Crotwell, Morton; Prentice Copeland (Board chairman), Philadelphia; Beverly Hart, Union; Rebecca Farris, Morton; and Annie Stowers, Forest. Second row, from left, are Royce Shaw (secretary), Forest; Dr. Jimmy Hollingsworth, Lake; Pat Ross of Hickory, Newton County Supt. of Education; Frank McCurdy of Morton, Scott County Supt. of Education; Randal Livingston, Delane Hudson and Patsy Clark, all of Louisville; and Lois Cooper, Decatur. Third row, from left, are Harry Kemp of Louisville, Supt., Louisville Municipal School District; Ricky Goldman and David Byars, both of Philadelphia; Leo Parker, Noxapater; Pat Cleveland, Conehatta; Edsel Cliburn, Union; Jerry W. Smith and George Shaw, both of Philadelphia; and Jack Winstead (vice chairman), Lawrence. Not pictured are Janie Wilbanks, Alan D. Rhea, Dr. Kimsey Cooper and Leake Supt. of Education Monte Ladner, all of Carthage; and W. B. Jones, Walnut Grove.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
**Board of Trustees Officers:** Serving as officers for the East Central Community College Board of Trustees are (from left) Prentice Copeland (chairman) of Philadelphia, Jack Winstead (vice chairman) of Lawrence and Royce Shaw (secretary) of Forest.



**CURT SKIPPER/ SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
East Central Community College recently held a Leadership Camp sponsored by EC's Phi Theta Kappa organization. Students participating in the camp include: (front row, from left) Shaun Cooper, Phi Theta Kappa President; Kylie Rigdon, Phi Theta Kappa Vice President and Emilee Lanier; (back row, from left) Billy Wragg, Caiti Slay, Tyler Watkins, Nicole Dunavent and Matt Naylor.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
Retired ECCC Instructor Ovid Vickers spoke to the Book Club on Oct. 14. During the presentation, Vickers discussed the work of Fitzgerald with the club members present. The club will host Iraqi-war prisoner Thomas Hamil during their meeting in November.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
As part of East Central's Baptist Student Union's campus outreach program, club members distributed water to students, faculty and staff. Distributing water to student Antonio Hughes of Morton is BSU director Scott Vaughn along with freshman Landon Burt of Newton.

ECCC HAPPENINGS

**OCT. 29**  
▶ Haunted House of Hoops will be held at 8 p.m. in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium.

**NOV. 1**  
▶ ECCC Warrior Basketball v. Delgado will be held at 2 and 4 p.m. in New Orleans.

**NOV. 3**  
▶ ECCC Warrior Basketball v. Holmes Community College at 6 and 8 p.m. at home.

**NOV. 6**  
▶ ECCC Warrior Basketball v. East Mississippi Community College at 6 and 8 p.m. at home.

**NOV. 7**  
Today is the last day to drop online courses. Deadline is 10:30 a.m.

**NOV. 8**  
▶ The 2008 Fall Baseball Camp will be held at 8:30 a.m.

**NOV. 9-11**  
▶ ECCC Warrior Golf Fall Classic will be held at Dancing Rabbit in Choctaw.

**NOV. 10**  
▶ ECCC Warrior Basketball v. Bevill State will be held at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. in Fayette, Ala.

▶ Newton County Central Mental Health Issues Seminar will be held at 8 a.m.

**NOV. 11**  
▶ Electronic Portfolios will be the subject of the Blackboard training seminar to be held at 10:45 a.m.

▶ Iraqi-war prisoner Thomas

Hamil will speak to the book club.

**NOV. 12**  
▶ Non-Traditional Gender Conference will be held at 7:30 a.m.

**NOV. 13**  
▶ ECCC Warrior Basketball v. Holmes Community College will be held at 6 and 8 p.m. in Goodman.

▶ Jehovah Witnesses will be visiting the campus.

▶ The Concert Choir will hold a performance at 7 p.m. in Vicker's Auditorium.

▶ EC District Choral Festival will be held at 7 p.m.

**NOV. 14**  
▶ Healthcare Education Advisory Meeting will be held at 11 a.m.

**NOV. 15**  
▶ The 2008 Fall Baseball Camp will be held at 8:30 a.m.

**NOV. 17**  
▶ ECCC Warrior Basketball v. East Mississippi Community College will be held at 6 and 8 p.m. in Scooba.

▶ Advance registration begins for the spring 2009 semester.

▶ Collegians will hold a concert at 8 p.m. in Huff Auditorium.

**NOV. 11**  
▶ United Blood Services will hold a blood drive from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the blood mobile located in the vocational parking area.

**NOV. 20**

▶ ECCC Warriors v. Northeast Community College will be held at 6 and 8 p.m. in Booneville.

▶ ASNEC Meeting will hold a meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**NOV. 21**  
▶ Today is the last day to drop an evening class.

▶ SLAM Convention

**NOV. 22**  
▶ ECCC Warrior Basketball v. Enterprise Community College will be held at 3 and 5 p.m. in Enterprise, Ala.

**NOV. 24**  
▶ ECCC Warrior Basketball v. Itawamba Community College will be held at 5 and 7 p.m. in Fulton.

**DEC. 4**

▶ ECCC Warrior Basketball v. Northeast Community College at 6 and 8 p.m. at home.

▶ Jehovah Witnesses visit campus.

▶ Newton County Cattleman's Association will meet at 6 p.m.

▶ Accents Performance Concert will be held at 7 p.m.

**DEC. 5**  
▶ Today is the last day to drop a class.

**DEC. 8**  
▶ ECCC Warrior Basketball v. Co-Lin Community College will be held at 6 and 8 p.m. in Wesson.

**DEC. 11**  
▶ Jehovah Witnesses will be visiting the campus.



# Warrior Scene



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

**Thrash Crowned ECCC Queen:** Emily Thrash of Sebastopol (second from left) was recently crowned 2008 Homecoming Queen at East Central Community College by College president Dr. Phil A. Sutphin (left). Serving as the queen's escort was Daniel Byram (third from left) of Sebastopol. Presenting flowers was 2007 Homecoming Queen Dru Anderson of Decatur. The queen and her court were presented Saturday, Sept. 27 during halftime of the ECCC vs. Southwest Mississippi Community College football game.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

**ECEC takes part in Public Lands Day:** Participating in National Public Lands Day, East Central's Environmental Club erected Bluebird houses at the Okatibbee Creek in Lauderdale County on Sept. 13. ECEC members taking part in the day's activities include: (front row, from left) Sharon LeJeune, advisor; Annie Strohm, Joe Johnson, advisor; Brandi Tollett, Candi Wade, Cody Strait, Caiti Slay and Gary Hardin, Okatibbee employee; (middle row, from left) Samantha Kinard, Zane Mouchett, Brad Reynolds and Candie Willis; (back row, from left) Susan Atkinson and Daniel Alexander.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

**ECCC Homecoming Court:** Members of the 2008 ECCC Homecoming Court include (front row, from left) sophomore maids Joy Hayes and Candi Vance, both of Decatur; and Becky Culpepper of Forest; maid-of-honor Briana Edison of Collins; queen Emily Thrash of Sebastopol; and freshman maids Kayla Hampton of Louisville, Hannah Watkins of Sebastopol, Bailey Brown of Morton and Savanna Smith of Ocean Springs; and (back row, from left) escorts Sam Lewis and Zach Pillsbury, both of Decatur; Patrick Patterson of Philadelphia, David Bender of Heidelberg, Daniel Byram of Sebastopol, Victor Taylor of Macon, Josh Dickerson of Union, Zach Boswell of Louisville and Drew Wilson of Little Rock.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

ECCC Alumnus Bart Gregory, who is the assistant athletic director for annual giving at Mississippi State University recently spoke to Lucille Wood's class.



**TYLER WATKINS/TOM-TOM PHOTOGRAPHER**

The East Central Community College Centralettes dressed for the occasion of initiation at the beginning of the fall semester. Newcomer Centralettes include: (front row, from left) Lauren Luke, Kimberly Blackwell, Jaqlene Robinson and Amber Madison; (back row, from left) Denetra Darden, Brooke Robinson, Bailey Brown, Savanna Smith, Anna Fulton, Alison Lowery and Erica Dowell.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Retired ECCC instructor Alice Pouncey recently spoke to Lucille Wood's class about proper eating etiquette. She taught the students about table placement and proper eating skills.



**SHAUN COOPER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**

Raising money can be a fun-loving soap and water extravaganza! For their first major fundraiser of the year, Phi Beta Lambda adviser Christy Ferguson and members (from left) Brooke Barrett, Ruth Gregory and Tammy Plaisance work extra hard at cleaning out biology instructor Curt Skipper's classic model truck. For the successful fundraiser, PBL held its annual carwash behind Tucker Career-Technical Center where members washed, dried, waxed and vacuumed until every car was spotless.



**CURT SKIPPER/SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**

Phi Theta Kappa is going the extra mile this year! With community enhancement on their minds, Phi Theta Kappa officers took chances and made changes at a recent Decatur Town Hall meeting. The group led a mini-presentation in front of board members about the benefits of a Keep America Beautiful chapter in Decatur and successfully started the ball rolling to establishing this landmark organization in Newton County. Pictured are: (front row, from left) Shaun Cooper, Emilee Lanier and Aaron Mann; (back row, from left) Nicole Dunavent and Matt Naylor.





## Student nets free tuition

Veronica Smith makes tray at the Haunted House of Hoops. **PAGE 12**

# The Tom-Tom

A Student Publication of East Central Community College

Volume 61, Number 9

December 2008



# Students, staff mourn death of students

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The ambiance is solemn on the campus of East Central Community College in reaction to the tragic deaths of two ECCC students, Shareef Dixon and Bradley “B.J.” McElroy Jr. Both young men were freshmen career-technology students training for their future careers.

“It is always tragic when lives are lost to accidents and to have two students lost in separate accidents on back-to-back weekends is doubly tragic,” Dr. Phil

A. Sutphin, president of ECCC said. “We offer our condolences to the families and pray that they find the strength to deal with the sadness and loss of a loved one.”

The first of the two tragic deaths of ECCC students occurred on Oct. 31. Dixon, 18, an electrical technology student of Lena, was traveling in a 1995 Crown Victoria west on U.S. Highway 80 passing through the Kalem community between Morton and Forest at approximately 11 p.m. when his vehicle collided head-on with a vehicle

traveling east on U.S. 80 when his life came to a tragic end. Dixon was on his way to pick up his cousin and younger brother at the Morton High School field house after the team returned from their game at Decatur with Newton County. ECCC electrical technology instructor John Everett de-



DIXON

scribed Dixon as “a very likable young man.”

“Shareef was a good student and was always willing to help,” Everett said. “He did good work and was good to volunteer and work with others.”

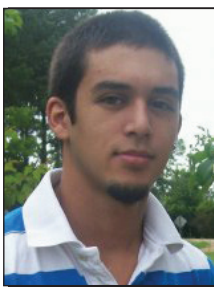
Everett said his class is continuing to cope with the loss of their classmate. He said the care for Dixon was evident the first day of class following Dixon’s death.

“I always have a sign-in sheet and one of his classmates wrote, ‘R.I.P. we will always love you,’ on the sheet and signed Sha-

reef’s name,” Everett said.

Everett said Dixon’s younger brother, a ninth-grader at Morton High School, has expressed plans of attending ECCC following high school graduation.

“Shareef’s younger brother is planning to come through my program and carry on his brother’s legacy,” Everett said he was



MCELROY

told by Dixon’s mother.

The accident also claimed the lives of David Randall, 22, of Morton and two of his children, Chriscedez, 2, and Mercades, 4, and his friend, David Allen, 21, also of Morton. Dixon’s funeral was held at 1 p.m. on Nov. 6 at Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Lena.

Dixon was a 2008 graduate of Morton High School. He is the son of Mavis Dixon and Dennis Dixon of Lena.

An early Sunday morning, Nov. 9, accident claimed the life

See DEATHS, PAGE 8

## And the ‘best Elvis’ is....



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Elvis Presley impersonators (from left) J’ Markus Dubose of Union, Cody Walters of Forest, Drew Harrison of Little Rock, and Colton Amis and Chris Smith, both of Decatur, are shown prior to performing in the East Central Community College dinner theater production of *Who Killed Elvis?* presented. Four sell-out performances were held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. A matinee performance was also played before a sell-out crowd of area school students. The murder mystery/comedy is written by Craig Sodaro and produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc. ECCC staff member Joan Grimes served as director.

# College Plans Security Upgrades

BY SHAUN COOPER  
Staff Writer

National news outlets report daily instances of murders, rapes and alcohol-related violence across the nation at some of the country’s most prestigious universities. If one were to just consider the horrific crime scenarios broadcast during the nightly news, then it would seem as if college crime is on the rise universally across the nation. That image can be quite misleading and East Central Community College is a prime example. While EC does have its fair share of offenses, the college average does not meet the national statistic for crime; however, administrators at East Central do recognize that improvements need to be made to the current protective forces that are charged with the duty of keeping the campus population safe at all times. While the rest of the country still strives to find ways to improve the security of its college campuses, EC has already taken the first step to making the campus more secure for students.

During the fall semester, plans were released by college officials that announced the upcoming transition from having campus security to highly-trained campus police. When asked about the transition, college President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin said, “The motivation behind the change is the level of training required to be a certified police officer. Each certified officer must complete the official training at the police academy to be an employee of the College’s police force. This increased level of training is important for the safety and well-being of our students when emergency situations arise. In addition, the ECCC Police will be employees of the College and not contracted through an outside agency.”

While it has taken some time, the news has spread through campus and one can infer that generally students and faculty welcome to the change. For example, Sophomore Brooke Culppepper said, “The change will make a huge difference. The police can do more than the security staff we have

**“THE CHANGE WILL MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE. THE POLICE CAN DO MORE THAN THE SECURITY STAFF WE HAVE NOW; THEREFORE, I FEEL PROBLEMS ON CAMPUS WILL BE HANDLED BETTER AND QUICKER.”**  
—BROOKE CULPEPPER  
SOPHOMORE

now; therefore, I feel problems on campus will be handled better and quicker. Hopefully our on-campus rules will be enforced a lot more.” In response to such concerns, the administration has consistently reaffirmed that the current policies in place will not change, but only be further enforced by the new staff.

As Dr. Sutphin stated, the success of the new police force lies in the increased training of the guards, thus increasing their presence on campus. From what can be concluded, the college is using a measure to defer crime on campus. As noted by Sophomore Anna White, “Police on campus will be more intimidating to potential criminals; therefore, I believe students will feel more secure and the crime rate will go down on campus.” With a security force that is more pronounced and visible, offenders are expected to think twice before breaking campus policies. Also, the new presence seems to bring a stronger sense of security among staff and students. Biology instructor Curt Skipper said, “To have someone who is well-trained would be an improvement for campus.”

While individuals feel the new change is good, some like Sophomore Megan Huseman also realizes that this is only the beginning of a substantial road of improvements.

“I think that the increase in security is great, but there are still improvements to be made. Currently, anyone can drive onto campus and there is no way to know if they have any type of weapons with them,”

Huseman said.

However, even with the praise the move has gotten from the general campus population, there are some who are concerned with the decision in some fashion. While acknowledging that the potential shift is good for the campus, Campus Security Officer Jose McBeheh said he realizes that the change does have some adverse effects. For example, he noted that this would surely put some of the current security out of work and that not everyone is able to make it through the police academy. He said he also believes it would be a good move by the administration to keep some of the current security on campus because they are already familiar with the college policies, the campus layout, and have well working reputations with faculty and students.

Furthermore, McBeheh is not the only staff member expressing marginal concerns about the change. An anonymous faculty member said the change could be good for campus as long as the new police team does not let the new power go to their heads, so-to-speak. The concerns of this faculty member stem from the struggle of power that may ensue between the campus police and the city police over jurisdiction. This person pointed out that often in cases like these, power struggles can often arise among members of the two groups, consequently taking away from the effectiveness of the campus police to carry out their jobs in all cases. They also commented that although many students are currently fully welcoming of the change, if they would still be as welcoming when the new staff attempts to assert their authority on campus.

Overall, whether or not one agrees with the new change taking place on East Central’s campus, one thing is for certain: EC is taking the steps to improve security conditions on campus. The administration made the decision with the safety of the campus in mind. In the words of Dr. Sutphin, “The main reason for the change is the security of the campus and the safety provided to students.”



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Thomas Hamill, who was captured by Iraqi militants during the ambush of a civilian convoy in Iraq in 2004, visited East Central Community College as a guest of the ECCC Book Club on Veterans Day. The 48-year-old Macon resident talked with students about his book, “Escape in Iraq.” Hamill originally went to Iraq to earn more money and serve his country as best he could after being denied entry into the military for medical reasons. But his story began six months after arriving to work as a civilian truck driver. His kidnapping was taped by a news crew. After 23 days in captivity, despite dealing with a gunshot wound, he was able to escape. His book relays the events surrounding his capture and escape.

## Hamill shares story with ECCC

BY ZACHARY EAVES  
Staff Writer

Iraqi-war prisoner Thomas Hamill visited East Central Community College on Nov. 11, 2008, hosted by The EC Book Club.

Hamill is the author of *Escape In Iraq*. He spoke about his life and the reason he went to Iraq. Hamill was not a soldier. He was a civilian driving a truck for a private company that was working for the U.S. Military. Hamill said he went to Iraq to financially support his family and his farming business.

He shared parts of his story about his time captured. Hamill said he was driving a truck on a routine route to a south Baghdad base. While en route, his convoy was attacked. During the turmoil and destruction, the only vehicle left of his convoy was one of their armed escorts in a hummer. As he and his driver were running to the hummer, his driver got in and then they left not knowing that Hamill was left behind. During the confusion, Hamill was wounded in his right arm. Hurt and scared, he ran for cover hoping not to be discovered but he was found and taken prisoner by the Iraqi militants.

Hamill said his captors took him from place to place during his time captured; but, he said they weren’t all bad people.

“They gave me food and water,” Hamill said. He said they

took him to a doctor for his arm and helped him change his bandage. He said at a point they were going to sell him.

“They came in one night and said to me, ‘Be quiet mister. Bad Muslim coming.’”

After that encounter, Hamill said he was then moved to a new place where he was held in a building that was bricked-up with the exception of a small hole in the wall. He said one day he saw a shadow on the wall that he described as a herd of sheep and the last image that came across was a shepherd. Hamill said he knew this was a sign from God letting him know it wouldn’t be long before he would be rescued. Hamill said the very next day he heard a convoy driving by and he slid the door open and ran yelling to the U.S. troops that he was an American prisoner of war.

Hamill said he was taken back to base then home after his debriefing.

Through it all, Hamill said he kept his faith in God that he would be delivered from his capture.

“God blessed me that day,” he said of the day of his escape.

Hamill said through his speech he hoped the message that the people in Iraq are not all bad. He said they are being put in a bad position, and that in all things good or bad, God will deliver you. And that God is always with you, you just need to keep your faith strong.



# Page Two

## FEATURE TEACHER

### Crenshaw educates with theatrical approach

BY SANTIGOUS CULPEPPER  
Staff Writer

A well-known face around East Central Community College is Dr. Jerry Philip Crenshaw. He prides himself on teaching students the aspect of critical thinking to help them become a better undergraduate when they go to a four-year college. He has a career in teaching different varieties of history classes, such as American History 1 and 2 and World Civilization 1 and 2. He has taught at EC full-time for six years. Also, he has taught at Meridian High School for 19 years. While at EC, he has also served on numerous committees and is active with many events around campus, including chairing the 2008 Homecoming 5K Run.

**CRENSHAW'S QUICK FACTS:**  
**Born in and reared:** Meridian

**Favorite subject to teach:** Western Civilization

**Favorite movie:** American Gangsters, Chrimson Tide, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Alexander

**Favorite music:** Heavy metal artists, such as Judas Priest, Iron Maiden, Motley Crue and Lita Ford

**Interesting fact:** He has completed three marathons. Also, he earned his doctorate degree from Mississippi State University in May 2007.

**Interesting hobbies:** He runs and/or bikes six-to-seven days a week. Also, he likes to collect heavy-metal memorabilia off E-bay. Finally, he enjoys reading about religions of all kinds.

**Free time activities:** He enjoys working in his yard. Also, he likes working out while listening to his iPod.



CRENSHAW

**What inspired him to become a teacher:** Initially, he began teaching for the coaching aspect but soon realized that teaching was more of his interests than athletics.

**What he likes most about his job:** He likes the creativity of putting together a lesson plan. Crenshaw said, "If you do it right, it takes a lot of time." Also, he enjoys enacting the lesson plan with his students, letting the students buy into it and seeing the result of the work. He enjoys performing in front of his students. He said teaching is his stage. Most importantly, he enjoys teaching students to think critically. He said, "Seeing students critically think will help them in every aspect of life in colleges."

**College Alma mater:** He attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where he earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education. Also, he attended the University of West Alabama where he earned his master's of arts and science degree. Recently, he graduated from Mississippi State University with a doctorate degree in philosophy.

## STRIKE A POSE



SONYA NUNN

FRESHMAN • PRESTON

- 1.What is your favorite store? All shoe and clothing stores
- 2.Have a favorite football team? Dallas Cowboys
- 3.About what time do you usually go to bed? 2 in the morning
- 4.What color are the socks you are wearing? white, pink, yellow
- 5.Do you like EC so far ? Yes
- 6.Who are you close to in your family? My brother
- 7.What is going to be your New Year's resolution? Continue for success
- 8.What is your favorite drink? Hawaiian Punch
- 9.What kind of cellphone do you have? A Blackberry
- 10.Where do you work? Tyson

## STRIKE A POSE



JAKE SHOENS

FRESHMAN • NOXAPATER

- 1.What is your favorite sport? Baseball
- 2.Have a favorite food? Mexican
- 3.What is your favorite color? Blue
- 4.Who is the teacher you enjoy the most at EC? Mr. Brady
- 5.What do you do on the weekends? I usually go home and hang out with my boys
- 6.Do you have a job? No
- 7.What is your future career choice? Athletic Trainer
- 8.What is your favorite Jolly Rancher? Green Apple
- 9.What kind of cellular phone do you have? Nokia
- 10.When did you get your first vehicle? In 10th grade

# ECCC Announces Spring Semester Evening, Online Classes

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

A wide variety of evening classes are being offered for the 2009 spring semester on the East Central Community College campus and at various locations in the College's five-county district.

Classes begin Monday, Jan. 12 at all locations. The registration deadline is Friday, Jan. 23.

### DECATUR

Courses offered on the Decatur campus include Principles of Accounting II; Computer Concepts, Computer Applications I, Principles of Economics II (Micro), Intermediate English, English Composition I, Human Growth and Development, American History II, College Algebra, Music Appreciation, General Psychology, Marriage and Family, Public Speaking I, Drama Production I, II, III and IV; Soils and Lab; General Biology and Lab; General Biology II and Lab, Botany I and Lab, Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab, Human Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab, Microbiology and Lab, Language and Literature for Young Children, Social Studies/Math/Science for Young Children, Principles of CAD, Emergency Medical Technology-Paramedic, Physical Science Survey II and Lab, American National Government,

The Legal Environment of Business, Introduction to Corrections, Law Enforcement and The Juvenile, English Composition II, American Literature II, World Civilization I, American (U.S.) History I, Baseball Theory, Intermediate Algebra, Trigonometry, The Real Number System, Geometry, Measurement and Probability and The Life of Christ.

### CHOCTAW HOSPITALITY INSTITUTE

Course offerings at the Choctaw Hospitality Institute in Choctaw include Hospitality and Tourism Industry, Food and Beverage Control, The Legal Environment of Business, Nutrition for Young Children, Introduction to Criminal Justice, English Composition II, World Civilization II, American (U.S.) History I, American History II, Beginning Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Music Appreciation, American National Government, General Psychology and Introduction to Sociology I.

### FOREST/SCOTT COUNTY CAREER/ TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Spring semester evening classes offered at the Forest/Scott County Career and Technology Center include Principles of Accounting II, English Composition II, American Literature II, Human Growth and Development, American (U.S.) History I, General

Psychology, Introduction to Sociology I and Public Speaking I.

### LEAKE COUNTY VOCATIONAL CENTER

Courses offered at the Leake County Vocational Center in Carthage include English Composition I, English Composition II, American Literature I, Human Growth and Development, World Civilization I, American History I, College Algebra, Problem Solving with Real Numbers, Introduction to Sociology I and Public Speaking I.

### PHILADELPHIA/NESHOBA COUNTY CAREER-TECHNICAL CENTER

Spring semester evening classes offered at the Philadelphia/Neshoba County Career-Technical Center include Principles of Accounting II, Nutrition, Principles of Economics I (Macro), English Composition I, English Composition II, American Literature II, Human Growth and Development, American History II, Personal and Community Health, College Study Skills, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Trigonometry, Spanish II, General Psychology, Reading Comprehension I, Introduction to Sociology I and Public Speaking I.

### WINSTON/LOUISVILLE VOCATIONAL COMPLEX

Course offerings at the Winston/Louisville Vocational Complex in-

clude English Composition I, English Composition II, American Literature II, Human Growth and Development, American (U.S.) History I, Intermediate Algebra, Trigonometry, The Real Number System, American National Government and Public Speaking I.

For information on evening classes contact the Office of Admissions, Records and Research, East Central Community College, Decatur, MS 39327, 601-635-2111 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 206. The e-mail address is [dluke@eccc.edu](mailto:dluke@eccc.edu).

### MSVCC ONLINE COURSES

Registration is under way for numerous online courses offered through the Mississippi Virtual Community College.

Classes begin Monday, Jan. 19. The registration deadline is Friday, Jan. 16.

Courses offered include Principles of Accounting I, Introduction to Business, The Legal Environment of Business, General Biology I and Lab, General Biology II and Lab, Nutrition, Human Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab, Human Physiology II and Lab, Document Formatting and Production, Applied Business Mathematics, Business Accounting, Machine Transcription, Medical Office Terminology I, Medical Terminology II, Mechanics of Communication, Computerized Account-

ing, Child Development II, Nutrition for Young Children, Fundamentals of Data Communications, Visual Basic Programming Language, Survey of Microcomputer Applications, Operating Platforms, Web Development Concepts, Career Development, Computer Concepts, Computer Applications I, Menu Planning and Facilities Design, Principles of Economics I (Macro), Principles of Economics II (Micro), Beginning English, Intermediate English, English Composition I, American Literature I, World Literature I, Child Psychology (Human Growth and Development I), American (U.S.) History I, American History II, Personal and Community Health, First Aid and CPR, Sanitation and Safety, College Study Skills, Intermediate Algebra, The Real Number System, Geometry, Measurement and Probability, Problem Solving with Real Numbers, Music Appreciation, Fundamentals of Music, The Life of Christ, Physical Science Survey and Lab, American National Government, General Psychology, Reading Comprehension I, Introduction to Sociology I, Marriage and Family and Public Speaking I.

For more information on online classes contact Dr. Chris Jenkins, dean of distance learning, 601-635-2111 or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 322. The e-mail address is [cjenkins@eccc.edu](mailto:cjenkins@eccc.edu).

## New 'Bank' Scholarship Established at ECCC

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The Land Banks of Mississippi/Farm Credit Bank of Texas Scholarship was recently established at East Central Community College.

The first annual award provides a \$500 scholarship for a student majoring in the areas of agriculture, forestry, business or business administration.

Recipients must also be a full-time student in good standing or an incoming freshman, who meet the additional scholarship guidelines.

The award recipient will be selected by the College's Scholarship Committee.

For more information contact ECCC Student Services, 601.635.2111 or call toll free, 877.462.3222, ext. 205.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**Edwards Receives ECCC's Pace Scholarship:** East Central Community College freshman Cory Edwards (left) of Decatur was recently presented the Polk and Jennie Pace Scholarship, presented annually to a resident of Newton or Scott county, who meets the scholarship guidelines. The scholarship was endowed in March 1997 by Mr. Pace's widow, Scott County native Jennie Thrash Pace of Newton, and her children. Recipients must have at least a "B" average during his or her senior year and plan to major in science, math or music. Edwards is a graduate of Newton County High School and is the son of Stephanie Davenport and Matthew Edwards. Joe Killens, vice president for student services, is shown with the scholarship recipient.



# Clublicity

## ATTEND PBL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

These East Central Community College students who are officers and members of Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, an organization for business students, attended the organization’s statewide leadership conference held Oct. 18 at Meridian Community College. Chapter president Josh Dickerson of Union and Rebecca Rogers of Chunky, who also served as state officers, conducted sessions on “Collaboration and Achievement” and “How to Get Along, Get Noticed and Get Ahead,” respectively, during the one-day conference, which included PBL members representing the state’s universities, four-year colleges and community/junior colleges. The sessions enabled participants “to interact with one another, develop leadership skills, practice communication techniques and learn about community service opportunities.” Former EC PBL member Brookes Mayes of Newton also presented a session, “Where Do You Fit In?,” which focused on assessing individual strengths and leadership skills. First row, from left, are Dickerson; Jacqueline Ward and Leslie Mangrum, both of Union; Lachelle Moss, Decatur; and Kimberly Goodin of Newton, chapter historian. Second row, from left, are Jonathan Federick of Hickory, chapter vice president; Aaron Morrison of Newton, reporter; and Tia Johnson of Newton and Henry Shumake and Kristina Bell, both of Conehatta. Morrison won a free registration to the state conference in Tupelo in February, and Ward won a free registration by being the fastest and most accurate contestant in the “Fastest Fingers” keyboarding competition.

## VISITING DA VINCI

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Members of the East Central Art Club and art students recently attended an exhibit of Da Vinci’s artwork in Birmingham. Attending students included: first row, Brittany Bobo, Chris Brady, art instructor; Keia Eichelberger; second row, Billy Joe Cunningham, Brandi Tollett, Rebecca Roland; third row, Anthony Williams, Corbin Hurst, Brad Reynolds, Chris Trammill; fourth row, Jamie Graham, Anna Claire Peeples, Josh Underwood, Whitney Lott; fifth row, Ryan Smith, Jessica Brown, Delia Haynes, Holly Webb, Cody Walters; and back row, Jeremy Clayton, Travis Welch and Leslie Graham.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**PBL Students Conduct Food Drive:** Phi Beta Lambda students at East Central Community College in Decatur are shown with some of the many cans of food club members and others collected to benefit the Sunbelt Christian Children’s Ranch near Lake. Kelly Cluff, one of the College’s computer network support technology instructors and Piggly Wiggly in Newton matched the students’ efforts, which resulted in 484 cans collected during the food drive, held as part of Theta Chi Chapter’s annual community service project. Warrior Corps students also participated in the project. From left are PBL Community Service Committee members Kristina Bell of Conehatta, Fallon Judge of Lake, Kimberly Amerson and Kimberly Goodin, both of Decatur; Ava Green of Magee, Antogonie Leverette of Decatur, Joyce Horne of Newton, Lachelle Moss of Decatur, Wanoka Thomas of Philadelphia and Amanda Jones of Newton.



## CLUB BRIEFLY

### DIAMOND DARLINGS

The Diamond Darlings will host a cookout with the EC Baseball team on Thursday, Dec. 11.

### PHI THETA KAPPA

Phi Theta Kappa will be selling ornaments to raise money for St. Jude’s throughout the Christmas season. Make a donation and Phi Theta Kappa will receive your hand-decorated ornament to

be picked up in January for you to keep.

### LIBRARY COMMITTEE

A fall library in-house survey will be conducted during the month of December. Please participate in the survey.

### EC SURGICAL TECH

East Central Surgical Tech will hold its graduation at 6 p.m. on

## STUDENT BODY ASSOC. OFFICERS



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Student Body Association Officers for 2008-09 have been announced for East Central Community College. Officers include: Emily Thrash, president of Sebastopol; Anna Laurie Ezelle of Union, vice president; and Kylie Rigdon of Union, treasurer. Kasey Crutcher of Carthage, secretary for the association, was not pictured. For more information about the EC Student Body Association, contact Vice President for Student Services Joe Killens at 601-635-6375 or call toll free, 1-877-462-3222, ext. 375.

## PHI THETA KAPPA CAMP



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Phi Theta Kappa Leadership Camp 2008 attendees participate in an exercise to encourage teamwork during the camp activities held on Sept. 19 and 20 on the East Central Community College campus. Camp participants, Emilee Lanier, Matt Naylor, Shaun Cooper, Kylie Rigdon, Billy Wragg and Tyler Watkins are shown above.

## Phi Theta Kappa hosts Leadership Camp 2008

BY KYLIE RIGDON  
EDITOR

Phi Theta Kappa held a Leadership Camp on Sept. 19 and 20 for East Central students who were interested in becoming better leaders. Those in attendance participated in many activities and exercises which tested their communication skills, leadership qualities, creativeness and ability to think on their feet.

Activities that were most popular among participants were the leadership list where partakers had to list the qualities of a good leader then pick out ones that they needed to work on as well as ones in which they excelled. Also, participants were able to elect “a new president” for the college in a mock examination of two candidates to take over Dr. Phil A. Sutphin’s position upon his retirement. Participants

also had to be lead blindfolded on a course and had to arrange themselves in order by birth month without talking or seeing. The camp also held a fashion show for best show of leadership skills.

Participants for the camp included: Billy Wragg, Aaron Mann, Matt Naylor, Caiti Slay, Tyler Watkins, Emilee Lanier, Nicole Dunavant, Shaun Cooper, assistant director of program; Kylie Rigdon, director of program; and Curt Skipper, advisor.

Phi Theta Kappa is planning to hold another leadership camp in the late fall semester or early spring semester. If you would like to be involved in this opportunity, please see Mrs. Kate Keenan-Covich in Newton Hall or Mr. Curt Skipper in Cross Hall and leave your information so they may contact you when further details become available.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College was represented by the above individuals at the 2008 Fall National Phi Beta Lambda Leadership Conference on Nov. 21-22 in New Orleans. From left are Theta Chi members Rebecca Rogers of Chunky, state secretary; Josh Dickerson of Union, state parliamentarian; and adviser Christy Ferguson, executive board member. Ferguson, who serves as a Theta Chi adviser and teaches business technology courses, said attending the national meeting “will provide the officers with an opportunity to



# Warrior Viewpoints

## FROM THE EDITOR

### Caution needed while traveling through campus

Anyone who has ever parked at Leake Apartments or Todd Hall knows that traffic can be dangerous. Every time a person pulls out of a parking spot, he or she tries to ease out to avoid getting hit. However, as he or she eases out, a car speeds down the street almost causing a collision. For those who have large vehicles such as SUVs or trucks, this problem may not be present. However, for the students who drive smaller cars, they risk getting in a wreck from just trying to get into a parking spot.

While EC does have speed limits posted, just as it is on the highway, students pay no attention to these signs and drive too fast. East Central is making necessary changes to its campus security, but one must ask if it will be enough to take care of crime and speeding.

Another problem comes from just trying to walk across campus. Crossing the road can be more risky than diving off the roof of Huff Hall! Luckily, security guards are there to direct traffic during the times in between classes. However, when trying to go to and from Barber Hall or go to or coming from late afternoon classes or when an Ethridge or Rives class ends early, many students must cross the street relying only on the good-natured drivers who will stop.

Another problem between walking students and drivers is the drivers who speed down the road between Newton Hall and the Tucker Building. Many students walk from Newton Hall to the library, Tucker or the Vickers Fine Arts Building. These students also have to deal with speeding drivers. Despite the speed bumps in place along the campus streets, students still must be aware of the surrounding cars.

The biggest problem exists for students traveling to the Smith Student Union. They must walk extra close to the parked cars so as not to get in the way of the cars driving down the street. However, then they find themselves in the way of the cars trying to back out.

Currently, no sidewalk exists on the hill leading to the Tucker Building so even if students did want to walk on the top of that hill, they must walk in the grass which can sometimes be wet from the rain or morning dew.

Let's not dwell entirely on the drivers in the wrong, however. Students, please stay out of the middle of the road. It is understandable of the minute area you all have to walk on, but as a driver it is frustrating having to drive behind students who are in the middle of the street.

As a closing note, walkers and drivers be conscious of each other. Drivers, slow down when traveling down the streets throughout campus. This includes the road that goes by the tennis courts, the road that travels between the softball and baseball fields, and the main street through campus. Also, please do not park in the middle of the road to talk to your friends. If you want to have a conversation, find a parking spot or ask them to ride with you. Stopping in the middle of the street can be annoying for drivers trying to get where they need to be on time. In addition, be mindful of the one-way streets around campus. Going the wrong way causes problems for those who are traveling the right way. Most of the one-way streets are too narrow for two lanes of traffic; thus, they are one-way.

Walking students, please look both ways before crossing any street and do not expect the drivers to stop for you. While pedestrians have the right-of-way, not everyone knows or follows that rule. Also, do not stop traffic to talk to a friend who is driving down the road for the same reason that drivers should not stop to talk to you. Also, for the dormitory students who live close to the streets, playing sports in the road may be a good way to release some tension after class, but it is annoying for students, faculty, and staff who are trying to drive down those streets. Finally, to everyone, have a safe and happy holiday.

—Kylie Rigdon, Editor

## WORDS OF A WARRIOR

BY J'MARCUS DUBOSE

### As a country, what can we do to help the President-elect have a successful term?

Natalie Emmons  
Lake • Music Instructor  
“I believe that his term is in his own hands, but we can help him through daily pray for not only our President-elect but for all our nation’s leaders.”



Kristen Parker  
Lake • Freshman  
“We can help our President-elect by standing behind him on the decision that we made during the elections. As a country, we need to be united so that other countries don’t view that as a weakness.”



Miranda Harrison  
Little Rock • Sophomore  
“We were named the United States and somewhere along the years we lost that. We need to become united again and stand beside our President-elect.”



Kevin Ryals  
Louisville • Speech Instructor  
“I believe we can help our President-elect by praying for him daily as he makes crucial decisions that affect our lives.”



Anna Laurie Ezelle  
Union • Sophomore  
“We can definitely pray for him and show our respect for him even if we don’t agree with everything he does.”



Erin Tramill  
Newton • Sophomore  
“Even if you didn’t vote for him we still need to rally together as a country and stand behind him.”



### What are your plans for the holidays?

Carmen Hardy  
Meridian • Freshman  
“I plan to spend time with my family and get to know family I haven’t met before.”



Vicki Blaylock  
Newton • Music Instructor  
“I plan to cook and rest.”



Colton Amis  
Decatur • Freshman  
“I plan to go to Mississippi State University’s basketball games visit my family and go shopping.”



Zachary Harrison  
Little Rock • Sophomore  
“I plan to get together with family and not think about school.”



Zachary Eaves  
Louisville • Freshman  
“I plan to hunt, for the most part, get ready for fire house season and gain some pounds from grandma’s cooking.”



Markesha Henderson  
Forest • Freshman  
“I plan to spend time with my family and my little boy.”



## OTHER VIEWS

### Barack Obama; Change for the Bad

Our new President-elect Barack Obama says that this country needs change and that is something that he says he will do. I for one am anti-Obama. This is not because I am a white American and he is an African American, it is because the change he says our nation needs is something that I feel that this country will not benefit from. Change is defined as a transformation or modification, in other words it means to act or become different. That is exactly what our nation seems to be heading towards, a nation that is transforming slowly but surely into a communist country. Obama may seem like a man who promises many things, but in the end, I’m sure he has some secrets that we all may not like so much. Recently, I read an article of an act that Barack Obama and Joe Biden are trying to pass. It consisted of looking at the past and not the future. In this act, I believe it’s called the Till Act, Obama talks about wanting to handle people who killed blacks during the Civil Rights Movement. What’s wrong with this picture, well the fact of the matter is it’s dealing with our past and not our future. You cannot be a successful president if you keep looking in the rear-view mirror, you need to look ahead and forget about

the past.

Two things Obama promises are universal healthcare and lower taxes. These two items contradict themselves, in that you can’t have Universal Healthcare without raising taxes. With that said, Obama has already lied about what he promises. I’m against universal healthcare for two reasons, one because it seems communist and two because an economy can’t survive with everyone benefiting from universal healthcare. America will just have to face it; a nation can’t survive with everyone having the same benefits. This causes no fluctuation and change in the government and economy, therefore, this would create a nation where everybody is benefiting from the government and not benefiting from what they are able to make of themselves. I find Obama to be a “feel good-person.” What I mean by this, is he is a person who says things that make you seem like they are great and awesome, but in the end they are only going to be lies. It has finally been proven that the U.S. economy has been in a recession since December 2007. As I write

“In conclusion, history is being made as we speak. Whether it be for the good or the bad, our nation won’t know until Obama’s four years are up as president.”

—Aaron Morrison, Staff Writer

this, the stock market dropped almost 700 points to about 8,150, the fourth lowest drop in history. I am waiting to see what Obama has in play for this because lowering of taxes isn’t going to help our economy in any way.

One last thing about Obama is he will not prove his U.S Citizenship nor will he show his admissions papers from his college to the government. Now I have no doubt that Obama is a legitimate citizen, but the reason that he is hiding those papers shows me that he is hiding something he doesn’t want the country to know. Due to this, California is currently taking Obama to court so that he may show his papers. If he refuses to do this, California’s 55 electoral votes are up for grabs. Although this will still allow him to become president, it goes to show that the things he is doing is already affecting the way we think about him and what we want done with him.

In conclusion, history is being made as we speak. Whether it be for the good or the bad, our nation won’t know until Obama’s four

years are up as president. When Obama becomes our next president, I do not believe that he will not be elected again in 2012. America is in for a rough four years. We are a nation that seems to once again rely on segregation between blacks and whites. We need to become a nation that doesn’t look at color, but become a nation that votes for people because the views that the person portrays are the views that we support.

A local school in Newton County took a poll with its students prior to the election. Each student had a sheet of paper with Candidate A and Candidate B, underneath each of those candidates were the views each candidate expressed. Most students chose the candidate that had the views of McCain. Have we made a mistake in our election, the next four years will let us know.

Jan. 20, 2009 will be the day that our president-elect will be sworn into office, this is a day I believe will be filled with much violence and many riots. We, as a nation need to pray for this country and what it is becoming, we need to pray that we become a nation that was once founded with Christianity and freedom in mind.

—Aaron Morrison, Staff Writer

## ASK DR. PHIL

### Budget questions; exam, holiday preparations

BY SHAUN COOPER  
Staff Writer

There have been talks across campus about a revised budget that will be used for the next year. What changes, if any, were made to the existing budget, and how would these changes affect the campus population?

“Governor (Haley) Barbour has reduced current revenue distributions to Community and Junior Colleges by 2 percent based on the shortfall in revenue coming into the general fund of the State. This reduction comes to \$193,820 for the remainder of this college year and will impact expenses for the spring semester. Specific revenues for next college year will be determined during the 2009 legislative session.

As we look at budget revisions for the remainder of the year we will give priority to classroom instruction so students should not see any impact in their day-to-day activities at the College. Division chairs and other budget managers are looking for ways to reduce spending in their areas and will make suggestions for consideration in the mid-year budget revisions that will go to the Board of Trustees in February.”

As exams approach, many students are gathering their notes from the semester and preparing for finals. What advice do you have for students to help them maximize their success on the upcoming finals?

“Don’t rely on ‘pulling an all-nighter’ to cram for an exam. Begin now by taking small steps to study the material in preparation for the exam. By reviewing over an extended period of time, the material will stay on your mind longer and allow more time to reflect on the information presented in the class.”

For many students, the spring 2009 semester will be their last semester at East Central. What advice do you have for these students as they prepare their academic schedules in preparation for the transition from EC to four-year universities?

“As you register for your last semester, be sure that the courses required for graduation and transfer are on your transcript or schedule. Consult your College Catalogue for EC and your chosen 4-year institution then talk with your advisor. A little planning now will save a lot of headache later.”

The holidays have quickly come upon us this year and many are already preparing for vacations! What plans do you have to spend the holiday season?

“Peggy and I will spend the holidays in Decatur with our family coming to visit at various times over the holidays.”

We all have holiday traditions with our families during this festive season. Are there any traditions that come to mind as you look forward to the fast approaching holiday?

“When our boys were much younger we would sit together around the Christmas tree and read, “Twas the Night Before Christmas.” Perhaps we can revive that tradition when we have grandchildren.”

Growing up, the Christmas season has always brought lasting memories of family gatherings, opening presents, and being with those we love. Is there any one memory in particular that stands out as you look back at the holidays past?

“About 20 years ago, just after we had moved to Decatur, we were living in campus housing and had gone to north Mississippi for the holidays to visit family. While we were gone there was an unusual cold spell that sent the temperatures plunging. Of course, the water pipes froze and burst while we were gone and we returned to an icy pond under our house.”

Lastly, the holiday season is notoriously known for good food! What is your favorite holiday dish?

“Thanksgiving and Christmas are very much alike around our house. Turkey and all of the accoutrements are a tradition, usually with a coconut cake made from scratch. We also generally have a ham at another big meal. Between the two big meals there are generally enough left-overs to cover the remainder of the holidays.”



DR. PHIL A. SUTPHIN

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Accreditation

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

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# Warrior Viewpoints

## OTHER OPINIONS

### A Pivotal Day in History: The Election that Rocked the Country

Nov. 4, 2008 is a day that will be permanently engrained in the minds of millions of Americans. In fact, I dare say that the presidential race was a monumental change from what we have all been accustomed to in the past. The historic election brought about a visible shift in American perception because for the first time, in the lives of many across the nation, we saw two women who had very good chances of securing the White House. In addition, we also saw an African-American man who was able to ignite a passion in millions of people and win the election by a long shot. I believe that this election has changed the way future races will be conducted because America proved that it is capable of moving away from the unspoken tradition that we have all come to expect every four years.

As I watched the election unfold, I can honestly say that, for the first time, I had to really consider which candidate was going to get my vote. I flipped back and forth the entire race and, believe it or not, made up my mind the night before the election. When I went to cast my ballot, I was elated at the opportunity that I had in front of me. I was actually going to be a part of history in the making! As I went on with my day, I was filled with all sorts of doubt if the person I voted for even stood a chance of winning the election. I planned to stay up all night until the final votes were counted. When I got home from work that day, I flipped on my television and saw the lead that Barack Obama led over John McCain. Even at this stage in the race, I was still concerned at what the outcome could be. I could not focus on school, on music, on my friends, or anything for that matter! My adrenaline was pumping, and I stayed glued to the news. Just when I began to ponder how I was going be able to stand the anxiety all night, the results were announced by the anchor well before 9 p.m. Barack Obama had taken the presidency!! I jumped, I screamed, I yelled and I called everyone I knew. I could not believe what I was seeing. In my lifetime, I saw a black man who I admired for his courage, strength and knowledge become honored with the trust to lead our country.

Needless to say, I got on Facebook to see what the rest of my peers had to think. I was disheartened at some of the statements that flashed across my screen page after page. I could not believe that people were declaring how they were going to pack up and leave the country because of the results. I saw people claiming how the American people have lost their minds because who they choose to lead. I even saw some people claim how apparently God had let our country down by allowing Obama to win. I laughed at every statement that was made because these individuals spoke without the least bit of sense. For example, let's take how people said they were going to pack up and leave the country. I dare say that those same people have not and have no true intentions of going anywhere.

Another issue I found interesting was how people began to dissect his race, religion, and citizenship. As far as race is concerned, I sternly believe that the African-American race has had a victory the likes we have been praying for countless years. It's not about just having a black man - or half-black as some would like to have pointed out - in office. It's about having the pride in knowing that we do have the ability to make a change – our voice can be heard. It adds vigor to my life to see a strong man represent the African-American race in such a positive light. There are so many negative images of the black society on television daily (with a large percentage being broadcast by black-owned stations) that cause me to shake my head sometimes at the misconstrued stereotypes that have been set in place. But now, I feel like there is hope to turn the image around. I have heard people complain about how many African-Americans voted for President-elect Obama sim-

ply because of his race. I do not deny that such a case is valid at times. I personally know many people that cast their ballots solely because of that fact; however, I place them in the same category as people who vote strictly on party lines no matter what the issue. In either case, the person did not take the time and effort to truly examine the candidate and what they felt was the better decision to make.

Then religion became an issue. This is a ludicrous argument to me because I do not see why people put up such a fuss over his once-believed Muslim faith. To clear up the matter, President-elect Obama does belong to a Christian denomination. Yet, even if he was a devout Muslim, I still cannot see why so many people put up such a fight about it. We are a nation that boasts religious freedom for all people as evidenced by the First Amendment – no exceptions. Furthermore, the Constitution places only three stipulations on the presidential candidate that include age, citizenship, and number of years having lived in the United States. I firmly believe religion was not listed because that would have been a complete contradiction of the First Amendment. Quite frankly, I believe that the root of the problem stems from people's fear of the Muslim faith. People are often scared of what they don't know, and I guess that many do not know that the Muslim faith and the Islamic radicals who were to blame for the Sept. 11 attacks, are not the same groups and not all individuals of a middle-eastern decent want to blow up the country. That's just not how it is. But, the media has not always played fair in making that distinction. President Bush even made the distinction between the groups when, during a speech in 2001, he specifically pointed out "Islamic extremism" as being the adversary the country is facing. It seems as if many people have not been able to, or choose not to, make that separation and not classify all in one category.

Lastly, and quite possibly the most heated discussion, is the issue of Obama's citizenship. Individuals in California, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania have all filed lawsuits challenging the legitimacy of Obama's win in the election. Out of these suits, those filed in Ohio and Pennsylvania has been dismissed and those filed in California and Kentucky have dwindled significantly in political momentum. A reason for this could be that state officials of Hawaii have authenticated that they do indeed have Barack Obama's original birth certificate on file. In an attempt to address these issues, the Obama campaign even released a digital scan of the certificate for public viewing, but rumors of fraud have come to arise. For all the skeptics still, I would suggest to heading over to the widely popular FactCheck.org where researchers there have actually inspected the copy of Obama's certificate that is held in Chicago by the Obama campaign. They even took pictures of the document that show the birth certificate number, raised Hawaii seal, and stamp of authentication from the registrar of Hawaii from when the copy was requested in 2007 prior to the election.

However, there is one case, Donofrio vs. Wells, that has caught the attention of the Supreme Court. This case differs in the critical fact that the plaintiffs are not arguing the legitimacy of Obama's citizenship, but are claiming that because Barack Obama was born with dual citizenship to the United States and the United Kingdom and Colonies, he is not a natural born citizen by the merits of the Constitution. (I would also like to note here that Obama does not currently hold dual citizenship because political changes in Kenya have done away with Kenya's accepting of dual citizenship for adults. He did not renounce his American citizenship, as would have been necessary, so he lost his Kenyan citizenship at age 21.) This claim is somewhat a mess to weed through, but the fact is that the Constitution never clarifies how a natural-born citizen is

classified. In fact, had it not been for an act barely passed by Congress in 1937 with a vote of 146 to 144, then John McCain would not even possess citizenship because he was born in the Canal Zone. Since then, the court system has never ruled on what exactly the Constitution is referring to as a natural-born citizen, so this could be a large reason why Donfrio vs. Wells is getting mainstream attention.

On Dec. 5, the Supreme Court granted the case conference and was expected to announce whether or not they would allow the case to proceed. As I write this article, no word has been announced yet and the nation is still wondering. (I think it is fitting to note here that of the many cases given conference to the Supreme Court in the last eight years, some 782 have been denied with only 60 actually heard.) The odds of the Supreme Court even deciding to hear the case are highly unlikely. Not only that, but after the fiasco that ensued after the 2004 Presidential Election, I doubt that the Court would subject its reputation to rule in national politics again. The Court suffered a serious backlash from the public when it ruled to allow Florida's 27 electoral votes to go to George Bush, ultimately deciding the election giving Bush 286 votes to Kerry's 252. However, the circumstances are different now with the margin of win being much larger and support coming heavily from the public and international community on Obama's win. I do not believe that the Court would go against an even more pronounced popular opinion to renounce Obama's win.

Let's just say that the Supreme Court did decide to hear the case and did vote to renounce Obama's win. What would happen then? Well, first off, there is no set precedent for a case like this in American history for the Court to decide upon, so they would be on their own. Furthermore, I do not believe that John McCain would be given the election either because he did not even come close to garnering the 270 votes necessary to winning – that would be like completely ignoring the hard fact that the people did not want the Republican party in control. I also do not foresee the Electoral College giving people's votes to candidates for which they were not cast. What I do know, however, is that the Constitution provides means for Congress to decide upon the next president in the case of a tie. In a case where neither candidate wins, I would consider that be a tie. This would mean that the Democratic-controlled Congress would be given the responsibility of deciding the next president. Another route that could be taken is to host a new campaign with new candidates. Honestly though, what are the chances if this incident coming to that?

Either way, whether or not a person voted Democratic, Republican, Independent or any other political party, the fact remains that Barack Obama did win the presidential election with a 365 - 173 electoral lead over his opponents. Not only that, but he was able to walk away with a 53 percent lead of the popular vote, which is a feat that the Democratic party has struggled to obtain the past, even when they did win the White House. The people have spoken loud and clear, so it is not time for playing the blame game or arguing about who deserved the position. It is time for the country to come together and work to make the nation a better place for everyone. If a person is not happy with the results of this race, the government is set up so that they can always get involved in the next election and make a difference because it is truly an equal playing field now. For the first time in American history, I feel all people can proclaim that they possess the power to make changed with enough effort and support.

**Update: As of Dec. 8, the Supreme Court has denied the appeal to hear Donofrio v. Wells.**

— Shaun Cooper, Staff Writer

## OTHER VIEWS

### 10 Ways to Lose Weight Without Dieting

In the midst of the holiday season, one of the important things on people's mind is how much weight they will gain during all the family feasts. Well, thanks to WebMD.com, here is a list of 10 ways to lose weight and still manage to eat some of the yummy desserts at the dessert table, without feeling the pain of guilt that comes with each cookie or piece of pie.

One pound of fat equals 3,500 calories. If a person shaves off 500 calories a day through small lifestyle changes, that person can lose one pound a week. To maintain a person's current weight, he/she only needs to shave off 100 calories a day. This will keep he/she from gaining the one to two pounds the average adult typically gains in a single year.

Eat breakfast every day. While some people think they are too busy to grab something to eat in the morning, skipping breakfast will only make a person hungrier as the day progress thus causing them to eat more at lunch or dinner. Try a bowl of whole-grain cereal, fruit and low-fat dairy to get you and your metabolism going in the morning.

Midnight snacks are a no, no. Establishing a time in which the kitchen is off limits will prevent a person from eating close to bed time where the most fat is absorbed by the body. Instead of eating mindlessly while you watch TV, try having a cup of tea (not sweet), a small bowl of frozen yogurt, or sucking on hard candy. Then brush your teeth so the urge to eat again has a higher chance of staying away.

Watch liquid calories. Sweetened drinks such as sweet tea and soft drinks have many calories. However, they do not quench hunger like foods. Quench your thirst with water, flavored water, low-fat or skim milk or small portions of 100 percent fruit juice. Also, all you party-goers, while the holidays are a wonderful excuse to party and drink, mind the calories in alcohol if you want to loss weight. Alcoholic beverages pile on the calories as well. By keeping the drinking for the weekends, you can save a lot of calories.

Do not be afraid of the produce section. Fruits and vegetables for the most part are low-calorie, high-volume foods that crowd out the high-calorie foods. So when making your plate at that family get-together, move the meat off the center and fill your plate with fruits and vegetables. Also, if you make it a habit to eat a fruit or vegetable serving at each meal, you can bring vitamins, minerals, fiber and other healthy things into your diet. Besides, if you fill up on the healthy stuff, you will not be tempted to dip your hand into the cookie jar later.

Go for the Grain. Substitute whole grain for refined grains. Refined grains are white bread, cakes, cookies, pretzels, etc. By doing so, you add desperately needed fiber to your diet and you will fill up much faster. Choose whole wheat breads, brown rice, pasta, whole-rye crackers, popcorn

and bran flakes.

Control your surroundings. One of the most simple of strategies is to not only stock your kitchen with healthy options but also to choose the right restaurants when eating out. Avoid the temptation of all-you-can-eat buffets. Also, never arrive to a party starving. By eating a small portion before arriving, you cut down on the amount you will eat at the party, thus preventing you from overeating. If you do find yourself at a buffet, fill your plate wisely. Also, before heading back for seconds, wait at least 15 minutes and drink a large glass of water.

Downsize your portions. You are capable of losing weight just by reducing the portions you normally eat by 10-20 percent. Most of the servings you make at home and receive at restaurants is more than the average person needs. If you can invest in smaller cups, plates, and bowls, smaller portions will not seem so small in the dainty dish ware.

Count your steps. This is possibly one of the easiest steps, especially for on-the-go college students. Get a pedometer (measures the steps you take) and gradually add more steps until you reach 10,000 a day. During the day, be more active through any means possible. Simple ways are to pace yourself while walking to class, if you have a pet, take him/her for an extra walk, or march in place during television commercials.

Protein is a must. Adding a source of low-fat/lean protein to each meal will keep you feeling fuller longer. Thus, you are less likely to overeat. Good sources of protein are low-fat yogurt, peanut butter, small portions of nuts, eggs, lean meats, or beans. Also, to avoid overindulging, try eating small, frequent meals (every3-4 hours) to keep your blood sugar levels steady.

Make a switch. Whenever possible, choose the low-fat versions of salad dressings, mayonnaise, dairy products, etc. Using low-fat or lighter versions of foods you already like is a great way to effortlessly curve your calorie intake. More smart solutions: spread mustard on sandwiches rather than mayonnaise; use salsa or hummus as a dip; instead of the loaded white potato, try the plain roasted sweet potato; use skim milk instead of cream in your morning coffee, do not put cheese on your sandwich; finally, use vinaigrette on your salad rather than a pile of creamy dressing.

While cutting out all the yummy, delicious foods out of your diet may seem like, well a diet, it is an easy way to lose the pounds before, or after, the holidays. Fad diets may sound like a miracle, but in reality, the only true way to lose the weight is through diet, or diet changes and exercise. So enjoy the holidays, just remember like credit card bills, fat from holiday eating is something we will all most likely be trying to get rid of until next Christmas.

— Kylie Rigdon, Editor

## OTHER VIEWS

### Texting is the New Form of Note Passing

Do you remember in elementary school when students would pass notes in class? It was a way of communicating with friends, but even more than that it was an art.

Students could not just pass the note from friend to friend, they had to be smooth about, slip it in a book, drop it on the floor and kick it

with your foot, anything to get it from person to person until it reached its final destination. Of course they did not want to get caught because if they did the teacher was going to read it in front of the entire class and that meant total embarrassment.

While students passed notes among themselves and hope the teacher did not hear

the rattle of the paper being folded, passed and unfolded, they now text, and no longer the worries of paper rattling. Now students wonder whether or not the teacher can hear the click clack of the keys as they type the message and send it on its way to the destination.

No longer do students face ultimate humiliation at the

hand of their teachers but instead they face the chance of them taking their phones.

Will the art of note passing ever be revived, of course not but that is not the question, the question is like note passing will texting fade into the background, one day.

—Tiffany Lowery,

Staff Writer

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor, question for Dr. Phil or a guest column, please e-mail them to godom@eccc.edu or bring them to the lower level of Huff Auditorium Rm. 47.



# College 101

## THEATER TAKE

### Get Smart, Twilight, Transporters 3 receive mixed reviews

#### GET SMART

For everyone who loved the original TV show, Get Smart, the feature film may come with a little disappointment.

While Steven Carell did a wonderful job as the clumsy agent, Maxwell Smart, Anne Hathaway was a letdown as the famous Agent 99. As an actress she delivered a stellar performance fans have come to expect. I believe the writers let the character of Agent 99 down.

As they strived to update the script including having Agent 99 go through plastic surgery and a double agent suspicion, the writers made the film look less like an update of the 1960's show and more like a 21<sup>st</sup> century spin-off.

Some of the jokes lacked the famous slap-stick quality of the original and were more stupid than funny. However, the portrayal of the President of the United States was uncanny to the personality of the real President.

All in all, for an updated remake and a little giggle, the film was okay, but for overall rating it only gets three stars.

—Kylie Rigdon, Editor

#### TRANSPORTERS 3

Transporters 3 starring British actor Jason Statham, is an action-packed adventure. It takes the audience through several scenes in the movie that keeps them begging for more.

The movie is about Frank Martin who is a known driver in the underworld for getting his job done. In this movie, Frank finds himself on a mission to deliver a "package." The catch is he has to wear a metal bracelet around his arm and if he strays to far away from the car it will explode killing him.

This movie really catches your eye throughout the entire movie and leaves the viewer wanting more at the end of the film. I found it to also have a little comedy every now and then. It was a really great movie and I give it four stars.

—Aaron Morrison, Staff Writer

#### TWILIGHT

Based on the popular novel by Stephenie Meyer, *Twilight* is a modern-day love story taking place in the vampire world. The main character, Bella, is a girl from Phoenix, Arizona who exiles herself to live with her father in Forks, a small town on the Olympic Peninsula.

Once there she slowly realizes that she is in love with Edward Cullen. Edward and his family are a coven of "vegetarian" vampires. Meaning

they survive by only drinking the blood of animals. They are super-strong, super-fast, immortal, and each of the children possess a special vampiric power: Edward can read minds, Alice can see the future, Jasper can control the emotions of others, Emmett is the strongest vampire in the clan, and Rosalie is literally the most beautiful girl on Earth. They live with Carlisle and Esme on the outskirts of the town.

Excluding Edward the others are all coupled off within the group. When Edward and Bella begin dating she goes to watch the vampires play a little game of baseball. While there another, not so human friendly, coven of nomadic vampires' shows up. When Edward and the rest of the Cullen's move in to protect Bella; James, a tracker from the other group, decides to make Bella his next target.

Edward then sends Bella to Phoenix with Alice and Jasper for her protection. They keep her safe there until Alice sees that James has made his way to Arizona. They then pack and decide to rendezvous with the rest of the Cullen's. This works until Bella receives a phone call she believes is from her mother. James is actually the one on the other line claiming to be holding Renee, Bella's mother, hostage.

Bella then leaves to meet him at the local ballet studio, where she finds that Renee is still safe and sound with her husband Phil in Jacksonville, Florida. While Bella struggles to get free from James he bites her wrist. Before any permanent damage is done, i.e. she is changed into a vampire, Edward and the rest of the Cullen's swoop in to save her. It is here that Edward has his strongest fight with temptation, as he has to suck the venom from Bella's wound. After they destroy the tracker, Bella wakes to find herself in the hospital with a broken leg and blood loss with Edward and Renee by her side. The final scene of the movie is one of Edward and Bella (all bandaged up, of course) dancing at prom, but until after Jacob Black is sent to warn Bella the danger she puts herself in by dating a Cullen "boy".

I believe that this movie will be enjoyed by everyone from the original Twilighiter to the new coming Fanpire. It is a tragic tale filled with romance, temptation, and for all you guys out there it also has its fair share of blood and gore towards the end.

—Jody Lawson, Staff Writer

BY JODY LAWSON  
Staff Writer

#### THE HOST

*The Host* is a sci-fi thriller by Stephenie Meyer. The setting takes place in the future after a group of aliens, known as the Souls, takes over the planet.

The Souls inhabit the bodies of other creatures, for they cannot survive long without a host. In the book, Wanderer and Melanie are the main characters, or should I say character, as Wanderer is a Soul inhabiting Melanie's body. Unlike the others, Wanderer is unable to suppress Melanie and she begins to develop feelings for the people in Melanie's past, mainly Jared, Melanie's boyfriend, and her little brother.

They decide to search for them in the desert, where Melanie's family used to own a farm. When they cannot find them before they start running out of food and water they decide instead of going back, they choose to lie in the desert and die. While they are dehydrating, Melanie's uncle finds them. He brings them back to the hideout where he is in charge of a small community. She is kept underground in a cave for weeks, guarded only by Jared who is very cold to her. When he has to go on a raid to get supplies for the colony, Melanie's uncle takes over guard duty where he moves her into a nice bedroom and lets her eat. She then begins to teach everyone about her past and where she is from, finding acceptance among outsiders. She begins to convince them that Melanie is still alive.

After another Soul is caught, Wanda (Wanderer's nickname in the colony) decides to tell Doc how to remove a Soul

from its host. She makes him promise to freeze them and send them to other planets to occupy other species. They have this operation going for a while until the time came for Wanda to be removed from Melanie. Wanda had asked to just let her die, but her love Ethan finds her another host body, which does not wake up after the operation, to occupy.

This, like all Meyer's other books, contains a tragic love story. All will enjoy this book.

#### TWILIGHT

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## TECH TIME

### Consumers must protect their investments

BY SHAUN COOPER  
Staff Writer

Ever since Apple became a competing figure in the computing industry years ago, the computer giant has boasted its superiority over the Windows OS. One of the loudest and most prominent achievements the company promoted was its near immunity to viruses when compared to the Windows OS. It seemed that virtually no viruses or malicious software was able to penetrate the Mac OS, thus making anti-virus software pointless and a waste of money. For many buyers – myself included – the thought of never having to re-update virus software was the selling factor of purchasing a Mac over a PC. Well, I was looking up some new news a few days ago and came across an article that shook up the

foundation I thought Apple had lain so sturdy.

On Dec. 1, Apple posted a notice on its technical-support Website that encouraged Mac users to utilize various anti-virus software to protect their systems. This came as a shock and some view it as a confession by Apple that their systems are not as secure as once believed. I, however, don't feel that is what was happening. I feel like Apple was putting their consumers first in encouraging them to protect themselves from the host of new Web-based Trojans and viruses that are becoming prominent in the cyber world.

According to Cnet.com, some six percent of computer vulnerabilities are targeted for the operating system, while 90 percent are targeting applications (like Firefox or Internet Explorer). That

was enough to blow my mind. Now, instead of worrying about programs that are downloaded to the computer, copy themselves on the hard drive, and cause your computer to malfunction, people must be very weary of the websites that they visit. I could now see why Apple would take the time to alert its base on the upcoming threats that are supplementing traditional viruses.

As soon as I was reconciling the thought that I would have to purchase virus software, a new development changed everything. Less than a day after posting the warning, Apple promptly removed the page from their Website, thus puzzling users across the country.

According to Apple, "We have removed the KnowledgeBase article because it was old and inaccurate. The

Mac is designed with built-in technologies that provide protection against malicious software and security threats right out of the box."

Even though I feel like I can breathe somewhat easier, I still plan on purchasing anti-virus software for my Mac – just in case. Regardless of the platform, users should be protected against the worst-case scenario of losing valuable information. Some security measures I recommend for users include daily backups of their system onto an external hard drive, constant monitoring the computer for signs of weaker performance and protecting the system against all of the threats present on the Web. As a society, we are shifting to a computerized world, so we should take the extra measures to protect our information and ourselves.

## TUNING IN

### Swift, Lewis, Evanescence top charts

#### TAYLOR SWIFT

Born Dec. 13, 1989, Taylor Swift is one of the youngest country stars with the quickest rise to fame. She was born in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania and the town knew she was headed for stardom. She began performing at the age of ten in karaoke tournaments and fairs, and she also started writing her now chart topping songs. She attempted to make a record at age eleven but the companies turned her down, but she didn't stop. In 2006 Swift's first single, "Tim McGraw", sky-rocketed to number one. Since then she has wrote many more songs such as "Should've

Said No", "Picture To Burn", and her newest hit, "Love Story." Its hard to believe that in two years she has made such a huge impact on country music. I expect more to come out of Taylor Swift and I don't see her stopping for many years to come.

#### LEONA LEWIS

Leona Lewis, a native Britan, has just arrived on the scene with amazing songs such as: "Bleeding Love", "Angel", and "Better In Time." She has tied for the most nominations at the Brit Awards and we are all expecting a big win out of her. She started her fame as a winner of the show "X-Factor",

a Britan twist on the show "American Idol." If it were not for Simon Cowell, Lewis would have stayed in Britan, but he pushed like usual and now she is here. Lewis also had the fastest selling UK album sold in the United States. For more information on Leona Lewis check out her Web site: www.leonalewismusic.co.uk

#### EVANESCENCE

Having sold nearly 15 million records worldwide, more than 6 million in the U.S. alone, and earning two Grammys® with their major-label debut Fallen, Evanescence continue their meteoric rise with their latest effort, The Open Door

(Wind-up Records). Vocalist, Amy Lee, is one of the top Alto vocalist of our generation. Evanescence has several number one hits including "Broken" with Seether, another chart topping band, "Heart Shaped Box" written and previously recorded by Nirvana, "Bring Me to Life", "Call Me When Your Sober", and "Good Enough" is on its way to the top. Evanescence's music is full of drama and calmness and it appeals to teen girls when they are going through break ups and family drama. For more information, see www.evanescence.com.

—Ashley Dumas  
Staff writer

## We want Your News!

**E-mail information about your club/organization to godom@eccc.edu.**

**Send photos with identification and any happenings.**



# Faculty Corner

## Creative ways to teach

### Teachers using Different Techniques to get Students to enjoy Class

BY LAREECA RUCKER  
The Clarion-Ledger

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was first published in The Clarion-Ledger's Nov. 17 edition.*

The dastardly gang hijacked the lunchroom. Wearing red bandannas around their heads, black eye patches with skulls and crossbones and curved cutlass swords, they seized the attention of parents during Pirate Night at Clinton's Lovett Elementary School.

"Walking the plank was a Hollywood myth," said Javaricia Scott, 11. "They usually just threw them overboard."

Intrigued by the infamous Blackbeard's appearance, Javaricia chose the ruthless, 6'4 pirate as his research subject and wore a black beard, eye patch, bandanna, vest and sash while standing in the cafeteria rattling off pirate facts.

"Blackbeard had one of the biggest boats in history, the Queen Anne's Revenge. He drank tea instead of rum. He was beheaded. They cut it off and hung it over the ship."

Felicia Hudson, who helps lead the school's gifted program ACCENT - an acronym for Academically Challenging Creative Education Needed Today, is one of many Mississippi teachers who believes creative approaches to education are imperative.

Her students became engaged by developing individual pirate projects about movies, lingo, weapons, torture methods, flags, treasure and ships.

"You want to keep them actively involved in what they are learning," she said.

Teacher Vicky Thompson, who works with Hudson, said the pirate unit is new.

"This is a hot topic with young people because of Pirates of the Caribbean, so we thought it would be a good time to talk to them about how things in the movies aren't always true," she

said. "The core knowledge comes first. Then they can branch out and do things that are creative. That allows us to meet the needs of multiple intelligences in the classroom."

Many will recall the scene from the 1986 film Ferris Bueller's Day Off in which the monotone teacher repeats, "Anyone? Anyone?" hoping to solicit a response from students who appear paralyzed by boredom.

You won't find comatose students in Phillip Crenshaw's East Central Community College history classes. They often wake up when he arrives dressed like a goddess in a wig, skirt and lipstick moving to the tune of Rock and Roll All Nite by KISS. To introduce the concept of imperialism, Crenshaw sometimes dresses like an Assyrian warrior, and when he talks about pharaohs, he becomes an Egyptian priest. Right now, he's Alexander the Great.

"I see the classroom as a stage, and my philosophy is that the students have to live the history," he said. "If you cannot relate what you are teaching to the students, then it is to no avail.

"For some reason, there's this notion that instructors must use big words, show students how intelligent they are and bore the hell out of them. You can be scholarly and academic, but you can also be fun."

Crenshaw said students generally don't know what to expect and are sometimes shocked, but he's passionate about history, a subject he feels is full of great values and life lessons. It's a "crystal ball" that sheds light on the contemporary, and his teaching methods are not fact regurgitation.

"I'm labeled as one of the toughest instructors at East Central," he said. "My students have to do a lot of critical reading and writing. I am not easy. But the costuming demonstrations are a way to get students excited about the subject matter. Who wants to spend 50 minutes

reading out of the book or taking lecture notes?

"It's not dumbing down academia to bring fun into the classroom. To me, it shows a high level of creativity on the part of the teacher who can maintain high academic standards but plan enough to engage students and make it fun for them."

Judi Holifield, director of the Mississippi Arts Commission's Whole Schools Initiative, said the program has been training teachers to engage students through the arts the past 15 years.

"We know that lecture is the least effective form of teaching," she said. "They actually learn when they are kinetically involved, and it makes school a better place to be."

At Jackson's Casey Elementary, a Whole Schools Initiative site, second grade students learning about the ocean were assigned a sea creature to research. Teacher Ann Jones said they worked in groups to learn about a seahorse, crab, jellyfish, whale and octopus and used their creativity to report their findings.

"It's incredible to see what these children come up with when you give them the opportunity," she said.

Donald Jackson, director of instruction for the West Tallahatchie School District, was once a science teacher who created a rap song about the periodic table.

"I then allowed the students to create their own or use my version to perform in class," he said. "Students remind me to this day of that very special lesson that they remember so vividly."

Clinton resident Karen Lee said her son, Parker, did not want to miss a day of school under any circumstances because his third-grade Northside Elementary teacher, Carlos Day, made learning so much fun.

"Mr. Day had a mini-basketball court in his classroom, and the students had the opportu-

nity to earn a chance each week at shooting the basketball for prizes," Lee said. "The chance to participate hinged on their behavior and showing responsibility at school."

To motivate students to learn multiplication, Day scheduled math challenges against other third-grade classes.

Jeremy Nicholas, a Jackson Preparatory School teacher, shows his students National Treasure movies, then breaks them into groups, gives them clues and sends them on a treasure hunt.

"The treasure they are looking for is a pocket-sized copy of the U.S. Constitution - our 'national treasure' - that I seal in a Ziploc bag and bury in the ground somewhere in the metro Jackson area," he said. "The winning team receives bonus points."

Nicholas said parents also have gotten involved, accompanying their children around the city to dig for treasure. He said creative teaching approaches are important today because kids are easily bored.

"(They) have grown up in the world of advanced gaming systems, movies with graphics and special effects that are mind boggling, dozens of television stations all day and night, and the Internet," he said. "It's often hard to keep their attention and get them to focus on something for an extended period of time. Thus, you have to do something out-of-the-norm every so often."

Chris Gilmer, associate professor of English at Jackson State University, views teaching as a sacred responsibility and begins each semester challenging his class to give him 15 minutes to make the subject matter relevant to their lives.

For a service-learning requirement, Gilmer created "Letters to Grandma." Writing students pen a weekly letter to their grandmothers or elderly relatives. Gilmer also dresses in costumes to teach Shakespeare classes and acts out some scenes.



TYLER WATKINS/TOM-TOM STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. Philip Crenshaw can often be found around East Central's campus in various attire used as props to teach students in a more creative manner. Above he is seen teaching his lesson on Alexander the Great.

"We utilize gender and the traditional battle of the sexes to frame a lot of our writing assignments," he said, "and, invariably, this leads to great discussions in class with an ultimate goal of helping the students to come to the understanding that we are all fundamentally human, and that we have many elements in

common, regardless of differences in gender, race, age, socioeconomic status.

"All I ask is that each student works hard to achieve his or her own potential and approaches learning with an open mind. From there, it is our job, our privilege, as educators to do the rest."

## Whatley-Kirby Presented MASH Award of Merit

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Brenda-Whatley Kirby of Forest, was presented the 2008 Pat Clemen Award of Merit by the Mississippi Alliance for School Health (MASH) during the recent conference held in Philadelphia.

Kirby, a retired nursing instructor at East Central Community College in Decatur, was cited as one of the founders of MASH in the early '90s and served several years on the board in various positions and most recently as vice president.

In addition to her teaching career at East Central, Kirby previously served as public health and school nurse in Lauderdale County and was a medical surgical nurse at Newton Regional Hospital in Newton.

Kirby, a Scott County native, is a 1962 ECCC graduate. She

received an associate's degree in nursing from Meridian Community College and completed bachelor and master's degree in nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi. She was among the first instructors of East Central's Associate Degree Nursing program in 1994, serving as skills and technology instructor. She was chosen ECCC's Alumna of the Year in 1996. Kirby retired in 2004 but has continued to serve as a part-time instructor. She is married to Bobby Kirby and has three grown children.

MASH is a non-profit organization dedicated to promot-



KIRBY

ing and encouraging the use of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's components of a coordinated school health program. Since its inception, MASH has been instrumental in establishing various components of health and safety in Mississippi Public Schools. MASH played a key role in the establishment within the Mississippi Department of Education, the Office of Health Schools, funded in part by the Bower Foundation, a MASH participant.

MASH is a unique network of individuals from all disciplines involved in the school health/education fields. Anyone, individual or organization, interested in supporting coordinated school health programs is encouraged to consider membership that has no fee. More information can be found at mashweb.org.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**Staffers Complete CPR Training:** These East Central Community College staff members recently completed CPR training following instruction provided. From left (in front) are Kathy George, instructor, who also serves as early childhood education instructor; Stacey Hollingsworth, executive director for foundation and alumni relations; R. T. Purvis, information technology specialist; Lisa O'Neil, hotel/restaurant management technology instructor; Teri Killens, administrative assistant to the vice president for instruction; and College nurse Gloria Rigdon, who provided assistance. Standing from left are Kim Harvard, security staff member; Joe Killens, vice president for student services; Michael McWhirter, student services; and Jonathan Peebles, director of student life, who served as assistant instructor.

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Members of the East Central Community College Science Department are shown in all camouflage on Halloween. Pictured are: Billy Miles, Kim Hardy, Joe Johnson, Patti Davis, Curt Skipper, Peggy Clayton and Sharon LeJeune.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College ADN instructors wore costumes in celebration of Halloween. Pictured are Christy Savell, Martie Vaughn, Lori Luke, Denita Thomas and Linda Gorgas.



EXTRAORDINARY STUDENT



MOORE

Moore shows determination with education

BY SHARDAE FOLEY  
Staff Writer

Maquita Moore is an encouraging student to many people. She exhibits full determination to succeed in life. She has a disability and that makes her different from most but

that doesn't stop her. Moore lives in Newton. She graduated from Newton High School. She has four brothers and one God-sister. Out of approximately 1,000 children born each year, three of these are born with neurological disorders known as Crouvon Syndrome. Moore a

freshmen at EC just happens to be one of those people. Moore is a member of the Wall O' Sound Band. She enjoys going to the football games. She doesn't put any limitations on her abilities and she tries her best to complete any task given to her. Moore had her first surgery

when she was three months old. The condition she has results from poor bone development. She has under gone surgery four times and still is determined to succeed at EC, so she can further her education at Jackson State University. "I really like going to col-

lege," she said "I like going to all of my classes. My mother and father are my real heroes they encouraged me to further my education and believing in me to do my best." Moore's hobbies include going shopping, going to the movies and hanging out with friends.

Warrior Alert: Saving Time, Ensuring Safety on Campus

BY SHAUN COOPER  
Staff Writer

How many students have pictured a day when they can get a call in advance telling them that their 8 a.m. class has been cancelled the next day so they can get in that extra hour of sleep? How many students have wanted warning at a moment's notice of any weather disturbances that will affect school before they make the decision to trek through the elements only to find that they didn't get that memo about school cancellation? Well, now all this has become a reality. With the implementation of East Central's new Warrior Alert system, students can now be notified in case of weather emergencies and school cancellations before they make it to that classroom door only to see a sign that

states what has become already painfully obvious. The system is fairly new on campus and a drive for user registration was incorporated into the school registration sessions of the summer. Students are encouraged to find out how to sign up if they haven't already because this is an invaluable source that can save time, money and danger if it presents itself. When asked about the new system, David Case, director of technology management, had this to say: "Warrior Alert employs a rapid, simultaneous communication system which includes cell phone and regular land-line phone calls, e-mail, text messaging, and text-to-voice to quickly distribute important messages to customizable groups. In the event of an emergency, of course, the group would gener-

ally consist of all staff and students. ECCC contracts with a firm, Schoolcast, which hosts the redundant servers necessary to handle the messages, and our IT (information technology) department maintains the database of contacts. The authority to originate an emergency through the system message lies with the President." In the new system, users have a couple of options that are available for them to be notified of breaking news. The first is by phone call. Phone numbers can be listed for several people and are only used in the case of an emergency notice. Likewise, if the individuals are not able to receive the call, the system leaves a voicemail detailing the situation and a prompt to repeat the message. The second option is text messages with the notices. With the increase in the popularity of

text messaging, this is often the choice for many individuals. Lastly, is the option to be notified by e-mail. For students who regularly check their e-mails, this feature is convenient and efficient. In response to the growing capabilities of Warrior Alert, Dr. Phil A. Sutphin said, "The potential of the Warrior Alert system can be extremely important. I hope that we never have to use it for the reasons that it was implemented but the system is in place to notify students in the event of a dangerous situation. We have used it once for a potential weather situation that did not materialize. The key to the system's effectiveness is the number of students who have signed up to receive the notifications. The College encourages all students to register to receive the alerts.

A side benefit to the system is the ability to notify students at the individual class level when instructors will not be available for class. Because most of our students commute to campus or to off-campus sites, notification can save the time, gas and effort it would take to come to class only to find out the class has been cancelled." For any student interested in signing up for Warrior Alert, there is a link on the East Central homepage for the system where contact information can be updated and kept current. East Central is looking out for the safety of its students and faculty by investing in this critical communication system so that the college can better respond to special circumstances that arise. For this to be successful, however, participation from students is crucial to keep everyone safe.

Tom-Tom announces contest winners

The Tom-Tom announces winners of the poetry/photography contest for the December edition. Taking the honors are Candi Willis for first place photography and Aaron Morrison for first place poetry, followed by Jody Lawson for second place in the poetry division. The contest is open to all EC students. Please submit entries to godom@eccc.edu or bring entries to the Public Information Office in the lower level of Huff Auditorium. Entries for the next edition of The Tom-Tom are due by Jan. 12.

<b>GOD THE SAVIOR</b>	I was given an eternal breath	Ignored by those I hold dear
I have placed my life in his hands So that more would know his name For I know that was his plan To show that deep down we are all the same	I have given him my heart And for that he will never part All because of the day he was bound I once was lost but now I am found —Aaron Morrison Nov. 4, 2008	Walked on as if I don't matter Treated like a hypocrite Forgotten like I don't exist All because I am invisible
The storms that we face Fear the power of his ways For when I know I have fear He will be there to comfort my tears	<b>INVISIBLE</b>	I walk around with tears in my eyes No one notices my cry Without a soul I wish to die
When he died upon that cross Deep down I felt a loss But when he defeated death	Would anyone notice if I just disappeared No for I am invisible Unnoticed by all	I must ask myself who am I I am invisible from now on —Jody Lawson



PHOTO BY CANDIE WILLIS  
This picture was taken about a year ago. The photographer, Candie Willis saved this little lizard from her cats. She said, "They were "playing" a little too rough for him."

ECCC HAPPENINGS

<b>DEC. 15-18</b> Fall exams will be held Dec. 15-18. Full exam schedules can be found in student offices around campus and on the Web site, <a href="http://www.eccc.edu">www.eccc.edu</a> .	Arts Building.  The dormitories will close at 2 p.m. on Dec. 18 and will reopen Jan. 11.	ECCC v. Itawamba at home at 3 and 5 p.m.	ECCC v. Southwest at home at 6 and 8 p.m.	at 6 and 8 p.m.	<b>JAN. 26</b> ECCC v. Jones at home at 6 and 8 p.m.
<b>DEC. 18</b> The surgical technology pinning ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. on Dec. 18 in Vickers Fine	<b>JAN. 3</b> ECCC v. Enterprise at home at 3 and 5 p.m.	<b>JAN. 8</b> ECCC v. Delgado at home at 6 and 8 p.m.	<b>JAN. 14</b> Alcohol abuse and addiction seminar will be held in Jackson Hall.	<b>JAN. 22</b> Care Lodge of Meridian will host a seminar on domestic violence from 10:40 until 11:15 a.m. at Vickers Fine Arts Building.	<b>JAN. 28</b> United Blood Services will hold a blood drive behind Newton Hall from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.
<b>JAN. 5</b>		<b>JAN. 12</b> Classes for Spring 2009 begin.	<b>JAN. 19</b> ECCC v. Gulf Coast at home	ECCC v. Pearl River in Poplarville at 5 and 7 p.m.	



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**Paramedic Technology Graduates:** Recently completing East Central Community College's Paramedic Technology program include (seated from left) Jessica Ashley of Raleigh, Sherry Kelly of Carthage and Candace Woodson of Philadelphia, and (standing from left) Kyle McCormick of Lawrence, Wesley Stevens of Meridian and Brad Sumrall of Carthage. Also pictured is instructor Katrina Bryant. Members of the 2008 Class received special recognition at the program's annual pinning ceremony held Aug. 11 in the Vickers Fine Arts Center on the Decatur campus. Graduates of the two-year program are eligible to take the National Registry Exam for Paramedics to receive certification.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The Mississippi State University Brass Quintet performed Oct. 15 at East Central Community College. Students, faculty and staff attended the performance held at 1 p.m. in the Vickers Fine Arts Center auditorium.

DEATHS  
FROM PAGE 1

of the second ECCC student, McElroy, 19, a welding and cutting program student from Noxapater, who died instantly, when a Brandon police cruiser, en route to a call, crashed into his vehicle in Brandon. ECCC welding instructor, Gerald

Jordan, said McElroy's classmates are dealing with the grief of their friend as best they can. "It's always a bad situation when something like this happens," Jordan said. "Many of the students in the program were high school classmates or vocational classmates with B.J. and that closeness has definitely showed up and had a pretty hard impact on them." Jordan said McElroy was a talented welding student and his prior two

years of training at Winston-Louisville Career and Technology Center was apparent in his work. "He was exceptionally well-behaved and just a good student," Jordan said. "He did his class work and anything we asked of him." Shane McDaniel, McElroy's high school metal trades instructor said McElroy was a great young man who had a lot of things going for him. "It is such a tragedy that his life was taken from him at such a young

age," McDaniel said. "B.J. left his legacy on life; he lived it to the fullest. He was a respectful young man and I am proud to have called him one of my students." Authorities said the crash occurred on U.S. 80 at the westbound I-20 exit ramp in Brandon. The crash hospitalized another ECCC student, Ciera Hines, 18, of Morton, who was a passenger in McElroy's vehicle, and a Brandon police officer. Funeral services for McElroy were

held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, at Jordan Funeral Home in Kosciusko with burial in the Friendship Cemetery. He was a 2008 graduate of Noxapater High School in 2008. He is the son of Bradley Alton McElroy Sr. of Louisville and Deneace Hobbs Reel of Noxapater. The Scott County Times and The Clarion-Ledger contributed to this report.



# Bobo performs for prestigious events

A man with glasses, wearing a black polo shirt with white trim on the sleeves and dark trousers, is seated on a black piano stool, playing a black grand piano. The piano is open, and the man is looking down at his hands on the keyboard. The setting appears to be a stage or rehearsal space with a dark background and a wooden floor.

# College Christmas Treats Made Easy for the Holidays



# We want Your News!


**Send photos with identification  
and any happenings.**

If you or someone you know is

Talking about suicide  
Writing about suicide  
Thinking about suicide

*Don't keep it a secret  
shatter the silence!*

For help call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK or the Mississippi Department of Mental Health at 1-877-210-8513 or visit [www.dmh.ms.gov](http://www.dmh.ms.gov) for more information.



**Shatter  
the  
Silence**

**SUICIDE**

**The Secret You  
Shouldn't Keep**

Funding for this project was made available through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Hurricane-Katrina-Related Youth Suicide Prevention Grants. The views and opinions contained in the publication do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and should not be construed as such.

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# Warrior Athletics

## Warriors, Lady Warriors offer Game Thrillers

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

### LUCKETT LEADS WARRIORS PAST EMCC

Sophomore guard Josh Luckett of Carthage pumped in 29 points and led the undefeated East Central Community College Warriors to a 73-63 decision over longtime rival East Mississippi Community College Nov. 6 in the Brackeen-Wood gym.

East Central, now 3-0 on the young season, received well-deserved praise following the non-division battle from third-year head coach Maurice Bowie.

“I thought our guys did a good job of protecting our home court and record,” Bowie said of his Warriors, who further explained how the Warriors’ undefeated record will be target for the opposition: “It’s easy being the underdog because you pick who to gun for. But when you are one of two unbeaten teams in the state, then you have to be on guard every night you step onto the court.”

In addition to Luckett, other Warrior point makers were Kenny Thomas of Jackson Provine, 10; Rod Lofton of Forest, nine; Antonio Grace of Newton, eight; Devarus “Scooter” Walker of Newton County, James Starks of Meridian and Andre’ Pitchford of Jackson Provine, four each; Jacob Jordan of Opelousas, La., three; and Rico Jones of Forest, two.

East Central held a 30-25 advantage at halftime.

In the women’s contest, Mystee Dale’s jumper at the buzzer to tie the contest fell off the mark and the defending Region 23 champion Lady Warriors were handed their first loss on the young season, a 62-60 setback to the Lady Lions.

Dale, who led EC with 22 points, drilled a three-pointer which trimmed the East Mississippi lead to 61-60 with six seconds left, but the Lady Warriors could get no closer in the hard-fought battle.

Head coach Bill Smith, whose Lady Warriors fell to 2-1 on the young campaign, said the Lady Lions’ success in rebounding was the deciding factor in the non-division matchup.

“They killed us on the offensive boards. That was the difference in the ball game,” Smith said following the tough loss. “We knew coming in that they were going to be pretty athletic on the boards. We just didn’t do a good job of keeping them off. We gave them way too many second-chance baskets.”

In addition to Dale, a former Choctaw Central High School standout, other

EC scorers were Rashima Jenkins, a product of Airline High School in Bossier City, La., 10; Hannah Lee of Leake Academy, nine; DeShouri Spates of St. Thomas More High School in Lafayette, La., and Alisha McAfee of Northwest Rankin, eight each; and Danielle Cole of Philadelphia, three.

EC held a slim 30-29 lead at the break.

### DALE, JENKINS LEAD LADY WARRIORS PAST NORTHEAST 97-85; WARRIORS NIPPED 74-71

Sophomores Dale and Jenkins combined for 66 points in leading the East Central Community College Lady Warriors to their third-straight victory, a 97-85 thumping of Northeast Mississippi Community College Nov. 20 in Booneville.

The Warriors were not as fortunate, dropping their fourth-straight contest in a 74-71 squeaker to the host Tigers. Freshman guard Andre’ Pitchford of Jackson Provine barely missed a three-point shot at the buzzer that would have sent the non-division matchup into overtime.

Dale pumped in a career-high 39 points and added 12 assists and 11 rebounds as East Central improved to 5-2 under Smith.

Jenkins poured in 27 points and grabbed 15 rebounds.

Also scoring for the Lady Warriors were Leake Hannah Lee, 16; Cole, five; McAfee and Allison Phillips of Leake Academy; four each; and Katherine Taylor of Carthage, two.

East Central held a 46-41 advantage at halftime.

In the men’s game, Luckett had 16 points to lead the Warriors, who dropped to 3-4 under Bowie.

Other EC scorers were Steve Edwards of Newton, 10; Pitchford, nine; Grace, eight; Starks, six; Jones, five; Jordan, and Chucky Curry of Newton, four each; and Walker, Asmar Capers of Port Murray, N.J. and Joseph Thompson of Morton, three each.

East Central trailed 39-33 at the break.

### ‘SCOOTER’ SCORES 31 TO LEAD ECCC PAST NORTHEAST; LADY WARRIORS ALSO VICTORIOUS

Walker put on a career performance for the East Central Community College Warriors Dec. 4 as he poured in 31 points – including seven three-pointers-

in leading East Central to a 75-64 win over Northeast Mississippi Community College at the Brackeen-Wood gym.

With the victory, East Central improves to 5-5 and avenged an earlier 74-71 setback to the Tigers earlier in Booneville.

In addition to Walker, other Warrior point makers were Luckett, 16; Lofton, 11, and Jones, six, both of Forest; Starks and Pitchford of Jackson Provine, four each; and Grace, three.

EC held a 34-24 advantage at halftime.

In the women’s contest, the Lady Warriors held on for 76-75 nail-biter over Northeast, completing a season sweep of their non-division rival. EC rolled to a 97-85 thumping over the Lady Tigers earlier on the Booneville campus.

Dale was again the top scorer for East Central, as she poured in 25 points.

The defending Region 23 champions, who improved to 7-3, also benefitted from a 15-point performance by McAfee. Also scoring in double-figures were Jenkins, 14; and Lee, who contributed 13 points. Rounding out the scoring were Philips, four; Cole and Spates, two each; and Taylor, one.

EC led 41-33 at the break.

### LADY WARRIORS, WARRIORS NIPPED BY CO-LIN SQUADS

MACJC South Division action began on a disappointing note for East Central Community College as both squads fell to Copiah-Lincoln Community College Monday night in Wesson.

The Lady Warriors were clipped 76-71 by the 13th-ranked Lady Wolves and the Warriors fell 62-59 to the Co-Lin men.

Jenkins had 24 points to lead EC, which fell to 7-4.

Also scoring for the defending Region 23 champions were Dale, 20; Phillips, 10; Lee, seven; McAfee and Taylor, four each; and Spates, two.

Co-Lin held a 40-37 lead at halftime.

In the men’s contest, Grace had 14 points to lead the Warriors whose record dipped to 5-6.

Other point makers were Luckett, 12; Pitchford, 10; Starks, eight; Jones, six; Walker, five; and Lofton and Jordan, two each.

The Wolves led 24-21 at the break.

East Central squads return to action following the Christmas holidays by hosting Enterprise-Ozark Community College on Saturday, Jan. 3. The women’s contest begins at 3 p.m. followed by the men’s contest at 5 p.m. in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Leake Academy product Hannah Lee (25) had another successful night for the East Central women, pouring in 13 points in the Lady Warriors’ 76-75 squeaker over Northeast Dec. 4. EC improved to 7-3 following the non-division matchup.



DALE

## ECCC’s Dale Receives National Honor

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College sophomore Mystee Dale was selected NJCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Player of the Week for the week of Nov. 25.

Dale, a 5-8 guard and former Choctaw Central standout, scored 39 points and had 12

rebounds and 10 assists in the Lady Warriors’ 97-85 thumping of then No. 15 Northeast Mississippi Community College on Nov. 20, which followed her 27-point performance in East Central’s 56-45 upset of then No. 20 East Mississippi Community College on Nov. 17.

In the win over Northeast,

Dale was also credited with four steals and made seven of eight three-point shots. She had six rebounds, five assists and two steals against the Lady Lions. Dale also shot 100 percent from the free throw line during the week as well as posting a 74 percent success rate on field goals.

ECCC head coach Bill Smith

said Dale is obviously deserving of the national recognition.

“This is a great honor for Mystee and East Central to be named the national player of the week,” said the fourth-year head coach. “Mystee had a tremendous week for us in leading EC to two big wins over two top 25-ranked teams.”

The Lady Warriors – the defending Region 23 champions- will take a 6-3 mark into Thursday’s rematch with Northeast. Women’s action begins at 6 p.m. followed by the men’s contest at 8 p.m. in the Brackeen-Wood Physical Education Building. The Warriors (4-5) fell 74-71 in their earlier matchup with the Tigers.

## Several ECCC Warriors Among State’s Top Players

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Several East Central Community College football players were among the top producers in various categories following the 2008 campaign.

At the top of the list is all-purpose performer Maurice Langston of Meridian, who led the league in scoring with 102 points, a 12-point average per game. The Northeast Lauderdale High School product was also the top punt returner, with 14 returns for 434 yards – a 31-yard average- and two touchdowns.

In addition, Langston was among the top kickoff return specialists, averaging 22 yards per return for 243 total yards and one score. He placed second in receiving yardage with 44 receptions

for 658 yards – a 73-yard average per contest - and seven touchdowns. In addition, he had 54 rushes for 267 yards – a 4.9-yard average per carry – and scored 10 touchdowns. He completed his only pass attempt for 64 yards, which also resulted in a touchdown.

Freshman quarterback Emmanuel Taylor also had a productive season and finished among the league’s top passers. Taylor, a product of Early County High School in Blakely, Ga., completed 118 of 209 passes for 1,649 yards and 10



LANGSTON

touchdowns. He had nine interceptions. He also rushed 117 times for 642 yards and scored six touchdowns. He averaged 5.5 yards per carry.

Overall, East Central’s offense finished second with 3,424 yards, a 381-yard average per contest. The Warriors also finished second in touchdowns with 33. East Mississippi Community College led the state in both categories, accumulating 4,399 yards and 41 scores.

Sophomore punter/kicker Derek Crenshaw of Philadelphia led the state



TAYLOR

in punting with a 49.9-yard average on 29 attempts. His longest effort went for 55 yards. Crenshaw, a Neshoba Central High School product, tied for second in the scoring competition among kickers with 47 points. He made five of 10 field goals and connected on 32 of 34 extra points.

On the defensive side, linebacker Randy Carter of Quitman was among the top tacklers with 60 solo stops and 28 assists. Defensive end Josh Lewis, a product of Tuscaloosa (Ala.) County



CRENSHAW

High School, had 56 tackles and 28 assists. He also tied for second in quarterback sacks with 10. Other top defenders included defensive end Cedric Hall of Carthage, 43 solo stops and 21 assists; and linebacker Quadarius Wallace of Union, 42 tackles and 18 assists.

East Central completed the season tied for third in the MACJC South Division with a 3-3 mark and finished 4-5 overall under first-year head coach Steve Cheatham.



CARTER

## Co-Lin Captures ECCC Invitational Golf Tourney

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Golfers from Copiah-Lincoln Community College took top honors in the East Central Community College Invitational held Nov. 10-11, 2008, at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club in Choctaw.

The Wolfpack team carded a 599 (293-306) total on the par 72 Azaleas

course, site of the two-day tournament. East Mississippi Community College finished second at 615 (308-397), followed by Meridian Community College, 619 (302-317); Hinds Community College, 625 (315-310); Northeast Mississippi Community College, 630 (313-317) and host East Central, 671 (345-326).

Individual scorers for each team are as follows: Co-Lin: Derin Petite, 146 (75-71); Chad Vivien, 147 (69-78); Ryan Ratcliff, 153 (74-79); Jake Smith, 153 (75-78) and Donnie McFarland, 158 (78-79); East Mississippi: James Winter, 147 (76-71); Michael Lauseng, 151 (74-77); Will Black, 159 (76-83); Garrett Alford, 164 (82-82) and Trey Ad-

ams, 164 (87-77); MCC: Clay Bounds, 153 (76-77); Garrett Westbrook, 154 (70-84); John Cleveland, 155 (78-77); Cory Williamson, 163 (78-85); and Tanner Sparks, 165 (86-79); Hinds: Payne Dearman, 150 (75-75); Elliott Bingham, 154 (79-75); Drew Hartzog, 159 (82-77); Hunter Runnels, 162 (79-83); and Matthew Reves, 171 (84-87);

Northeast: Blake Hatfield, 155 (77-78); Alex Downs, 156 (78-78); Brandon Robins, 157 (79-78); Tyler Parsons, 162 (79-83); and Hunter Stanford, 172 (88-84); and East Central: Daniel Johnson, 160 (81-79); Griffin Burke, 166 (88-78); Conner Herrington, 170 (84-86); J. C. Moore, 177 (94-83); and Eric Burgess, 182 (92-90).



# Warrior Athletics

## EXTRAORDINARY ATHLETE



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
Sophomore Devarus “Scooter” Walker (3) launches one of his seven three-point shots in leading East Central to a 75-64 win over Northeast Dec. 4. Walker, a former standout at Newton County High School, finished with a career-high 31 points as the Warriors improved to 5-5 following the non-division battle.

## Walker Shows Talent on Both Courts

BY SAMANTHA KINARD  
Staff Writer

Devarus Walker has demonstrated immense talent in both tennis and basketball while attending East Central. Walker is a team player and certainly an extraordinary athlete. Walker’s success in sports is demonstrated through his multiple championship wins and devotion to the two sports.

East Central Community College’s extraordinary athlete Devarus “Scooter” Walker is a sophomore sports management major. Walker is a Newton County High School graduate from Hickory. He is 6’0 tall and plays basketball and tennis for East Central. While at ECCC, Walker enjoys playing sports, watching television, sleeping, and attending Marcus McCool’s American History class. Walker said the reason he chose ECCC is because it is

close to his home and near his mother.

Walker learned to play basketball from his brother, on a dirt basketball court. Walker started playing when he was five years old and was immediately inspired by the energy and hype of the intense sport. He continued to play basketball throughout high school. Walker said his greatest accomplishment in basketball is defeating seemingly undefeatable teams. He said that basketball is his favorite of the two sports, but he loves playing both the sports. Walker doesn’t have any before-the-game rituals, but he will not shoot in halftime during a game.

Walker learned to play tennis from his high school coach. Walker said that he started playing tennis for a spring sport, but soon discovered how much he really enjoyed playing the sport. Walker has been playing tennis since he was in

the eighth grade at Newton County High. He said his greatest accomplishment in tennis was winning consecutive championships. Walker said before a tennis match he doesn’t spend much time warming up.

Walker’s fondest memories of basketball and tennis include, being around his teammates and winning games. Walker is pursuing a possible career in basketball or tennis. He said that playing two sports is stressful and you have to learn to balance practice between the two. Walker tries to stick with practicing whichever sport is currently in season. For Walker to be such a talented young man, oddly enough neither of his parents played sports, but are great supporters. Walker’s advice for future sports players is to work hard. Walker’s goals for the upcoming year include, winning both state and national championships and winning them as a team.

## WARRIOR ALL-STARS



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
Above are East Central Community College football players who were selected to the South squad in the 35th annual Mississippi Association of Community Colleges (MACJC) All-Star Classic held Saturday, Dec. 6 at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville. Seated from left are punter/kicker Derek Crenshaw, a product of Neshoba Central High School; linebacker Randy Carter of Quitman; and defensive end Josh Lewis of Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) High School. Standing from left are wide receiver Kendrick May, also a product of Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) High School; defensive back Clint Coleman of Louisville; and offensive lineman Justin Moore of Leake Academy. Not pictured are wide receiver Dustin Alley, of Union Grove High School in McDonough, Ga.; linebackers Anthony McDonald, a product of 71st High School in Fayetteville, N.C., and Harvey Brown of Neshoba Central; defensive end Cedric Hall of Carthage; and tight end Josh Hall of Lanier High School in Jackson. Warrior head mentor Steve Cheatham and his staff served as South team coaches.

## Numerous ECCC Warriors Receive Post-Season Honors

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

All-purpose performer Maurice Langston of Meridian heads a list of East Central Community College football players who received various honors following the 2008 season.

Langston, a 5-10, 180-pound product of Northeast Lauderdale High School, was named to the All-Region 23 and MACJC first teams as a wide receiver and return specialist. He was also chosen most valuable back in the MACJC South Division.

He led the league in scoring with 102 points and was the top punt returner with 14 attempts for 434 yards – a 31-yard average – and two touchdowns. He was also among the top kickoff return specialists, averaging 22 yards per return for 243 yards and one score. In addition, he placed second in receiving yardage with 44 receptions for 658 yards – a 73-yard average per contest- and seven touchdowns. He also had 54 rushes for 267 yards - a 4.9-yard average per carry – and scored 10 touchdowns. Langston also had success as a passer, as he completed his only attempt for a 64-yard touchdown strike.

Other Warriors named on the MACJC First Team are Justin Moore, a 6-2, 270-pound offensive lineman from Leake Academy; Emmanuel Taylor, a 6’, 190-pound quarterback from Early County High School in

Blakely, Ga.; and Derek Crenshaw, a 6’, 190-pound punter from Neshoba Central. Moore and Crenshaw were also selected South All-Stars.

Taylor, the only freshman chosen on the offensive first team, finished among the state’s top passers by completing 118 of 209 attempts for 1,649 yards and 10 touchdowns. He had 10 interceptions. He also compiled 642 rushing yards on 117 carries – a 5.5-yard average per carry - and scored six touchdowns.

Crenshaw led the state in punting with a 49.9-yard average on 29 attempts. His longest effort went for 55 yards. He also handled kicking duties and tied for second in the scoring competition among kickers with 47 points. He made five of 10 field goals and connected on 32 of 34 extra points.

Warriors receiving second team MACJC recognition included wide receiver Kendrick May, a 5-10, 175-pound receiver from Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) High School; Josh Lewis, a 6-4, 245-pound defensive end from Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) High School, and Clint Coleman, a 6’, 195-pound defensive back from Louisville, all of whom made the All-Star squad.

May had 28 receptions for 404 yards and one touchdown. He also returned seven kick-offs for 198 yards – a 33.6-yard average- and one touchdown. Lewis was among the state’s

top tacklers with 56 solo stops and 28 assists. He also tied for second in quarterback sacks with 10. Coleman had 28 tackles and 10 assists and had two interceptions.

Other Warriors selected as All-Stars include Anthony McDonald, a 5-11, 230-pound linebacker from 71<sup>st</sup> High School in Fayetteville, N.C.; Harvey Brown, a 5-10, 225-pound linebacker from Neshoba Central High School; Dustin Alley, a 6’, 195-pound wide receiver from Union Grove High School in McDonough, Ga.; Cedric Hall, a 6-5, 260-pound defensive end from Carthage; and Josh Williams, a 6-3, 230-pound tight end from Jackson Lanier.

Warrior head coach Steve Cheatham and his assistants have been selected to coach the South squad, due to the Warriors’ third-place finish in the MACJC South Division. Staff members include James Miller, assistant head coach/defensive coordinator; Brian Anderson, offensive coordinator; Kyle Watson, offensive line coach and special teams coordinator; Fredrick Lyons, defensive line coach; and Derek Pouncey, wide receivers coach. Derrick Jones of Rush Sports Medicine serves as athletic trainer.

East Central finished 4-5 overall, which included a season-ending 44-38 double- overtime shocker over Pearl River Community College, which finished state runner-ups.

## Alley Named Offensive MVP In South All-Stars’ 16-14 Win

SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College wide receiver Dustin Alley was named most valuable offensive player after helping lead the South All-Stars to a 16-14 victory over the North in the 35th annual MACJC All-Star Classic held Saturday, Dec. 6 at Northeast Mississippi Community College’s Keenum Stadium on the Booneville campus.

Alley, a former standout at Union Grove High School in McDonough, Ga., had four receptions for 82 yards as the South snapped a two-game losing skid to the North in the annual matchup of the state’s top JUCO football players. The North now holds a slim 17-16-2 edge in the series, which began in 1973.

Also having a standout performance was wide receiver Lamar Truman, who hauled in two catches for 50 yards. Truman, a late addition to the South squad, is a product of Northeast Lauderdale High School in Meridian. Truman replaced wide receiver Kendrick May on the roster after May was injured during workouts Friday morning. May, who received second team All-State recognition, is a product of Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) High School.

Standout kicker/punter Derek Crenshaw contributed to the South victory by connecting on a 21-yard field goal and adding a PAT. Crenshaw’s field goal came in the second quarter and provided the South with 9-7 advantage at halftime.

Crenshaw, a former standout at Neshoba Central High School, received

first team All-State honors as a punter following the 2008 campaign.

On the defensive side, several Warriors made an impact in the South’s victory including linebacker Randy Carter of Quitman, four tackles, two assists and one fumble recovery; linebacker Anthony McDonald, a product of 71st High School in Fayetteville, N.C., three tackles and two assists; defensive end Cedric Hall of Carthage, four tackles and one quarterback sack; and defensive lineman Josh Lewis, a product of Tuscaloosa County (Ala.) High School, two tackles and one quarterback sack. Lewis was also named second team All-State.

Also representing ECCC on the South squad were defensive back

Clint Coleman of Louisville, offensive lineman Justin Moore of Leake Academy and tight end Josh Williams of Lanier High School in Jackson. Moore was also named first team All-State, and May and Coleman received second team All-State honors.

Warrior head coach Steve Cheatham, who served as South team head coach, said he was “very proud” of his team’s performance, “especially the ECCC players.”

Cheatham was assisted by his Warrior staff who include James Miller, assistant head coach/defensive coordinator; Brian Anderson, offensive coordinator; Fred Lyons, defensive line coach; Kyle Watson, offensive line coach/special teams coordinator; and Derek Pouncey, wide receivers coach.



**SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM**  
Northeast Mississippi Community College Athletic Director Ricky Ford presents the South Offensive Most Valuable Player trophy to Dustin Alley following the 35th annual Mississippi Association of Community/Junior College’s All-Star Football Classic.



# Warrior Scene



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Member of the Collegians took the stage on Nov. 17 in Huff Auditorium. The group performed numbers from various music genres before a packed house. The group is directed by Tom Carson. Above, Drew Harrison takes the mic, accompanied by Lacey Gilmore, Casey Stokes and Nathan Spears.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

The East Central Community College Ac'cents showcased their talents with their performance on Dec. 4 in Vickers Fine Arts Building. Showing off their moves and musical talents are: front row, Aaron Mann, Emilee Lanier and Brandon Hughes; middle row, Casey Rowsee, Drew Harrison and Erica Ervin; back row, Kyle Barrett and Holly Webb.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College's Phi Theta Kappa members are hosting Info Trash program encouraging students to be mindful of picking up trash and litter prevention on state roads. Distributing trash bags around campus are Phi Theta Kappa members Caiti Slay and Matt Naylor, along with adviser Kate Covich.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

Winners for The Tom-Tom's Halloween Costume Contest held during the annual Haunted House of Hoops on Oct. 29 were McClain Mullins as Peter Pan, Justin Joyner as the Purple Pimp and Aaron Morrison as Harry Potter.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**Student Makes 'Trey' for Free Tuition:** East Central Community College freshman Veronica Smith of Forest is congratulated by Joe Killens, vice president for student services, after the freshman liberal arts major drilled a three-point shot for free tuition during the annual Haunted House of Hoops held Oct. 29. Killens dressed for the Halloween occasion as "Uncle Fester" from "The Munsters" and Smith donned a referee's uniform. Smith will receive free tuition – valued at \$700- for the spring 2009 semester for making the trey.



**Cushman Makes '\$700 Kick':** With East Central Community College offensive coordinator Brian Anderson and several Warriors looking on, Scott Central High School senior Dustin Cushman successfully connects on a 20-yard field goal for free tuition during "Be Our Guest" night held recently. Cushman, a member of the Scott Central football team and a former kicker, made the "\$700 kick" during halftime activities of East Central's 35-28 overtime win over Copiah-Lincoln Community College Oct. 16 at Bailey Stadium. His name was drawn for the field goal attempt from the approximately 160 area high school seniors who attended the annual event. In the other photo, Cushman is shown following his clutch performance with Joe Killens (left), vice president for student services, and Warrior Chief mascot Daniel Cheatham of Philadelphia. Cushman will receive free tuition- valued at \$700 – for the 2009 fall semester, should he attend the College.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**Cell Phones Collected for ECCC Project:** Members of East Central Community College's Phi Beta Lambda chapter are shown with some of the cell phones collected to benefit the Sunbelt Christian Children's Ranch near Lake. Seated from left are Lachelle Moss of Decatur, Amanda Jones of Newton and Kristina Bell of Conehatta. Standing from left are Kimberly Amerson of Decatur, Kristy Frazier of Kosciusko, Wanda Henderson of Forest, Kimberly Goodin of Decatur and Brenda Hubsher of Forest. The effort is part of the organization's annual community service project.



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

**ECCC Gospel Choir Reunion Musicians:** Former East Central Community College Gospel Choir members who served as musicians for the recently held reunion concert are shown with longtime sponsor Mrs. Brenda K. Johnson (fourth from left) prior to their performance in Huff Auditorium. From left are Rashan Jackson of Newton, Carolyn Goodman and Eric Goodman, both of Decatur; Mrs. Johnson, of Lawrence; Alex Gill of Walnut Grove, Jonathan Griffin of Philadelphia, Patrick Gaddis of Carthage and Ellis Harrison of Meridian. Approximately 75 former choir members returned to campus for the reunion



SPECIAL TO THE TOM-TOM

East Central Community College Centralettes provided halftime Christmas entertainment during the ECCC v. Northeast Mississippi Community College game held on Dec. 4. Pictured are Brooke Culpepper of Forest and Lana Adkins of Union.