



FOUNDATION

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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FROM THE DESK OF DR. MARY S. GRAHAM



Dear MGCCC Alumni,

First and foremost, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of our new alumni who graduated from MGCCC on May 11. Your hard work and dedication have led you to this significant milestone, and we are immensely proud of your achievements.

Classes for the new academic year commenced on August 17. The energy and excitement of our students, faculty, and staff as they come together to embark on a new learning journey is truly invigorating.

I'm pleased to share that this year's enrollment has risen by an impressive 6%, a testament to the enduring value of an MGCCC education and the dedication of our community.

This growth further solidifies our commitment to providing high-quality education that meets the needs of our student body.

As alumni, you play an integral role in the continued success of Gulf Coast. Your experiences, achievements, and contributions serve as a source of inspiration for our current students. You are living proof of the transformative power of an MGCCC education, and we value your ongoing connection with our institution.

As we navigate through the academic year, I extend an invitation for you to stay engaged with us. Whether it's attending campus events, sharing your insights with current students, or supporting our programs, your involvement has a significant impact. You are an essential part of the MGCCC family, and your continued support contributes to the bright future we envision for our institution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary S. Graham'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Mary S. Graham, Ph.D.
President

MGCCC FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS



CHIEF DANIEL GARNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SHINES BRIGHT

At Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, the spirit of Chief Daniel Garner continues to shine brightly through the Chief Daniel Garner Memorial Scholarship, a heartfelt tribute to his dedicated services to MGCCC and the Gulf Coast community.

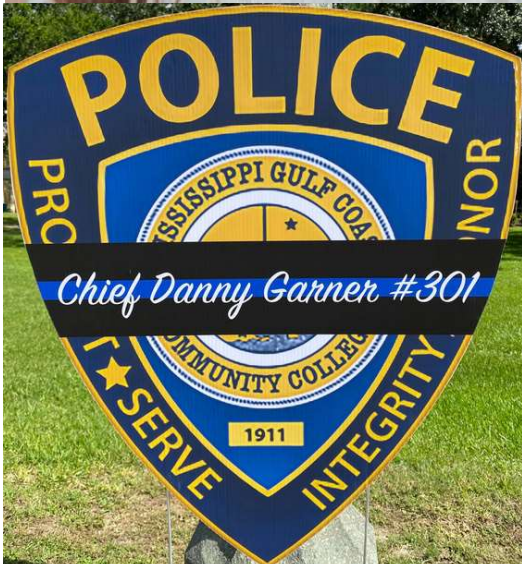
Though Chief Garner is dearly missed, his profound impact lives on, leaving an indelible mark on the institution he held close to his heart.

In the spirit of upholding Chief Garner's legacy, the Chief Daniel Garner Memorial Scholarship for the 2023-2024 academic year has been awarded to an outstanding recipient, Miryah Lee.

Her determination and hard work, along with her shared qualities with Chief Garner, make her a deserving recipient. Additionally, Miryah possesses the same dedication and ambition as Chief Garner, aiming to become the first person in her family to complete a degree.

The MGCCC Foundation takes immense pride in continuing Chief Garner's legacy through this prestigious scholarship.

Thanks to the unwavering support of his devoted wife, Xandra Garner, as well as the contributions from numerous employees and donors, this scholarship continues to flourish, empowering promising students like Miryah to pursue their dreams.



Give to the Chief Daniel Garner
Memorial Scholarship:

[MEMORIAL DONATIONS](#)

Mail To: P.O. Box 99,
Perkinston, MS 39573

Celebrating Excellence: Zoie Boyd Awarded the 2023-2024 Sam P. Jones Memorial Scholarship

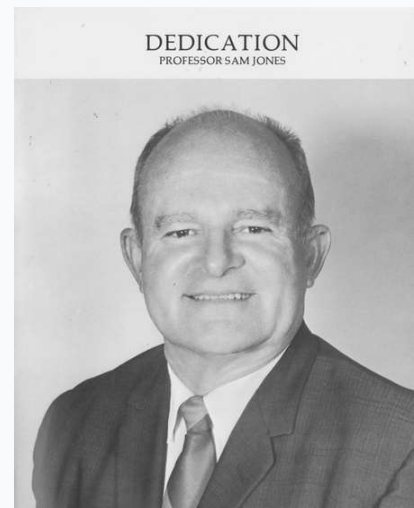


Another outstanding student, Zoie Boyd, received the prestigious Sam P. Jones Memorial Scholarship this year! Hailing from George County, Zoie's passion for music and outstanding contributions as a French horn player in the Band of Gold at the MGCCC Perkinston Campus have truly set her apart.

Zoie's pursuit of an area of interest in instrumental music, coupled with her unwavering dedication, tenacity, and exceptional talent, make her the perfect embodiment of the values upheld by the Sam P. Jones Memorial Scholarship. This prestigious recognition reflects Zoie's commitment to her craft and serves as an inspiration to her peers and the entire college community.

The scholarship commemorates the incredible legacy of Sam P. Jones, who served as the esteemed director of the Band of Gold and Perkettes for an impressive 28 years from 1952-1978. His visionary leadership extended beyond the band, as he established the Perkettes as the official dance team and nurtured countless aspiring students to pursue careers as band directors. In honor of his remarkable contributions, the Sam P. Jones Band Hall was

erected in 1998, forever immortalizing his impact on the institution and its musical heritage. The Band of Gold continues to thrive, poised to deliver captivating performances throughout each upcoming football season.



**Give to the Sam P. Jones
Memorial Scholarship:**

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Mail To: P.O. Box 99,
Perkinston, MS 39573

Honoring a Gulf Coast Legacy

It is with deep reverence and heartfelt gratitude that we honor the life and legacy of Mr. William (Bill) Vierling, a pillar of the Gulf Coast community, who passed away on July 8, 2023, at the remarkable age of 100.

In reflecting on his enduring impact on education and his dedicated service to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, we pay tribute to a man whose contributions have left an enduring mark on our institution and countless lives during his lifetime.

A pivotal moment in Mr. Vierling's journey with MGCCC occurred in 1965 when he assumed the role of Director of Admissions and Guidance at the Jefferson Davis Campus, now known as the Harrison County Campus. During this time, enrollment at the college reached record highs, and the Harrison County Campus was still under construction. Undeterred by the challenges, Mr. Vierling, alongside three others, found himself on the front lines during registration, working tirelessly to ensure a smooth start for the upcoming academic year.

Amidst the organized chaos, the Harrison County Campus opened classes on September 7, 1965, hosting not only its own classes, but also 21 classes from The University of Southern Mississippi (USM). With this historic moment, the foundation of Mississippi's first multi-campus junior college was laid, setting the stage for a bright educational future.

We extend our deepest condolences to Mr. Vierling's family, friends, and all who were touched by his wisdom and kindness.



*W. L. Vierling
Dean of Student Services*

**Memorial Donations will be accepted
in lieu of flowers:**

Donate: [Memorial Donation](#)

Mail To: P.O. Box 99
Perkinston, MS 39573

MGCCC Alumni Highlights

MGCCC's Trailblazing Athlete Inducted into the 2023 NJCAA Foundation Hall of Fame!



Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College takes immense pride in honoring the extraordinary achievements of our very own, Brittney Reese, a shining star in the world of athletics!

With dedication and determination, earning a well-deserved spot in the prestigious 2023 NJCAA Foundation Hall of Fame, Reese was inducted on June 8, 2023.

Reese moved to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College from California, and she began her career at MGCCC as a member of the women's basketball team.

Reese went on to win seven World Championship medals, and she earned a gold medal at the 2012 London Olympic games.

Reese is now coaching the Gulfport High School track program, which she was a part of nearly 20 years ago.





What's Happening at Gulf Coast?



MGCCC Annual Scholarship Gala

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College proudly held its annual Scholarship Gala on April 29, a grand event hosted at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi. We are thrilled to announce that this year's Gala successfully raised more than \$1,000,000 in scholarship funds, all thanks to the continued support of our generous donors. Plans for next year's gala are already under way and scheduled to take place at the Beau Rivage on March 9, 2024.

The Scholarship Gala is a much-anticipated event that includes a delightful dinner, a silent auction, and sponsor recognition, bringing together the Gulf Coast community in celebration of philanthropy and educational empowerment.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all our donors, as their contributions have made a significant difference in the lives of our students. The funds raised during the Gala provide scholarships for students who require some financial assistance to pursue their educational dreams.

Year after year, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Foundation is committed to raising funds that support our students and ensure their success. The MGCCC Foundation's endeavors extend beyond scholarships, providing essential resources that empower students to thrive and excel in their academic journey.

We invite everyone to join us in supporting the MGCCC Foundation. Your contribution plays a vital role in fostering educational excellence and shaping the future of our students. Together, let us continue to make a positive impact and build a community that embraces the transformative power of education.

Your support is invaluable, and we are proud to have you as our partners in advancing education and empowering the dreams of our students. Thank you for your commitment to the MGCCC community.

Support: [MGCCC Foundation](#)



MGCCC Annual Scholarship Gala



Thank You to Our 2023 Sponsors!

DIAMOND AWARD



PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE SPONSORS



DR. BOBBY AND KATHY WATTS

PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



ALFRED DANTZLER, III

PATRICIA L. HOLLOWAY



JIM AND GWENDA PATTON

C.T. SWITZER, JR.

SILVER SPONSORS



DR. WILLIS LOTT

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BRONZE SPONSORS



Gulf Park Campus



NELL MURRAY



MILLIE PAGE

GEORGE AND DIANE SEKUL FAMILY

RUSSELL S. GILL, P.L.L.C. ATTORNEY AT LAW



Tradition Campus

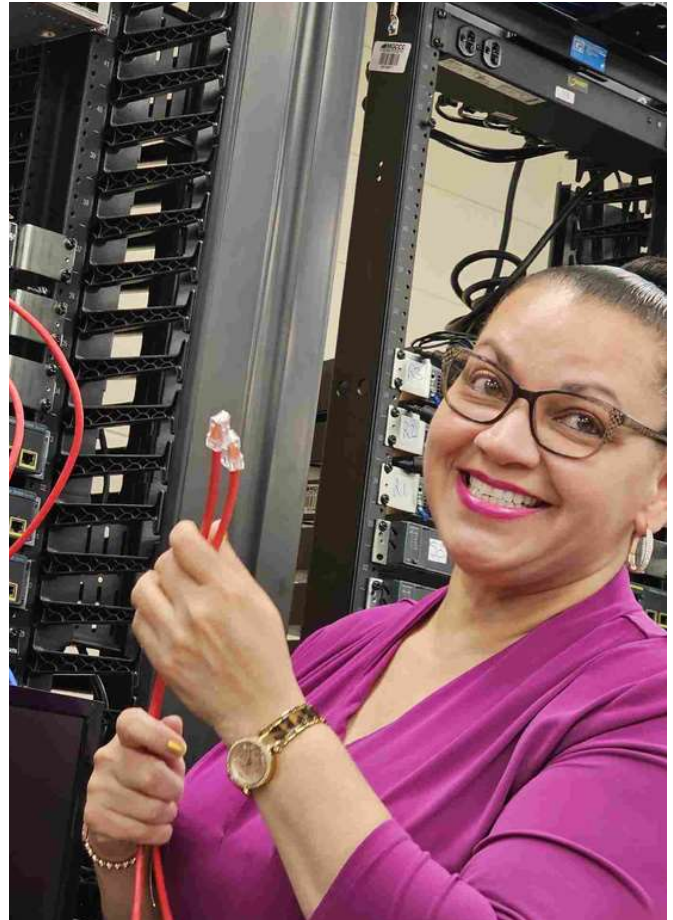
Cisco Dream Team

Diane Lopez-Martell, a standout student from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, was selected to be a part of the prestigious Cisco Dream Team for the U.S. Open. Her exceptional skills and dedication led to this remarkable opportunity, where she showcased her expertise in Cisco technologies and tackled complex networking challenges with finesse and precision.

Diane's inclusion in the Dream Team is a testament to her remarkable talent, hard work, and passion for excellence. Her contributions in ensuring seamless connectivity during the tournament were invaluable.

Golf Digest highlighted Diane on their website through a series of stories for her work with Cisco. Diane received an all-expense paid trip to work the U.S. Open Championship, which allowed her to have networking opportunities with other IT professionals and gain valuable experience.

Lopez-Martell is pursuing a career in computer networking technology at MGCCC, and she plans to finish degrees in Data Analytics and Computer Programming. Diane's achievements highlight the caliber of students we have at MGCCC and serve as an inspiration to others pursuing their dreams in the field of technology. We are incredibly proud of Diane and her well-deserved place on the Cisco Dream Team.



Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship



RIDGE MATHEWS
Jack Kent Cooke Scholar



ANNA VALENZUELA
Jack Kent Cooke Scholar

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College celebrates the outstanding achievements of Ridge Mathews and Anna Valenzuela, who were selected as Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholars, and Monica Pascual, who was selected as a Jack Kent Cooke Semi-finalist, which is a highly competitive national scholarship. Their commitment to academic excellence and community engagement exemplifies the values and mission of MGCCC, inspiring their peers and the Gulf Coast community.

The Jack Kent Cooke transfer scholarship offers up to \$55,000 per year, empowering students like Ridge, Anna, and Monica to pursue their bachelor's degrees. The scholarship includes access to a network of peers and educational advising from the Foundation's Deans of Scholar Support.

In 2023, more than 1,700 students from 448 community colleges applied for the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Applicants were evaluated based on academic ability, achievement, financial need, persistence, and leadership. Out of the sixty scholarships awarded nationwide, Ridge and Anna have claimed the honor of being the only two recipients from Mississippi.

Congratulations, Ridge, Anna, and Monica! Your accomplishments are a source of immense pride for MGCCC, and your achievements inspire us all to reach for the stars.



Dr. Cedric Bradley Appointed Board Member for WHEF and MHEAC

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Foundation proudly congratulates Dr. Cedric Bradley, vice president of MGCCC's Harrison County Campus, on his appointment as a board member for the Woodward Hines Education Foundation (WHEF) and the Mississippi Higher Education Assistance Corporation (MHEAC).

Dr. Bradley's strategic selection aims to drive positive change and uphold the mission of both organizations as they embark on their new five-year strategic plan. His visionary leadership and commitment to excellence have created an environment that fosters academic achievement and personal growth.

Through innovative educational opportunities, community partnerships, and enhanced student support services, Dr. Bradley has significantly contributed to the success and reputation of the Harrison County Campus. His inspiring leadership continues to transform the lives of students and uplift the MGCCC community.

We extend our warmest wishes to Dr. Cedric Bradley as he takes on this important role, representing MGCCC's commitment to excellence and dedication to advancing education in Mississippi. His guidance and expertise will undoubtedly make a lasting impact on WHEF, MHEAC, and the students they serve. Congratulations, Dr. Bradley!



Join the Alumni Association



The history of the Alumni Association is rich in tradition. For more than 100 years, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College has produced great leaders and athletes who have received local, state, and national acclaim. The MGCCC Alumni Association serves as a link between the college and its alumni, faculty, and friends.

The MGCCC Alumni Association stands proudly to serve both our current and former students. **JOIN US AND RECONNECT WITH YOUR MGCCC FAMILY!**

Alumni Association Member Benefits:

- **Alumni Association Membership Card**
- **Window Decal**
- **Library Privileges**
- **Alumni eNewsletter**
- **Information about special occasions, such as:**
 - Homecoming and Reunion Celebrations**
 - Annual Alumni Membership Meeting**
 - Alumni Hall of Fame**
 - Athletic Hall of Fame**

Alumni Association Membership Rates:

- **Annual Alumni Membership: \$25**
- **Annual Couple Alumni Membership: \$40**
- **Lifetime Alumni Membership: \$200**
- **Lifetime Couple Alumni Membership: \$250**

Join here: [Alumni Association](#)

Like us on Facebook: [MGCCC Alumni/Foundation](#)

Contact: Tharessa Williams, tharessa.williams@mgccc.edu or (601)928-6344



DR. MARY S. GRAHAM & THE MGCCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES CORDIALLY INVITE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO THE

ANNUAL BULLDOG TAILGATE

SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 • 5:00 - 6:15 P.M.
PERKINSTON CAMPUS BASEBALL-SOFTBALL COMPLEX

AFTER THE TAILGATE, CHEER ON THE BULLDOGS IN THEIR FIRST HOME GAME OF THE 2023 SEASON!

MGCCC VS. NORTHWEST • A.L. MAY MEMORIAL STADIUM • 7:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTIONS & PROGRAM BEGIN AT 5:20 P.M. • RSVP TOTAL GUESTS BY SEPTEMBER 1 AT [MGCCC.EDU/TAILGATE](https://mgccc.edu/tailgate). • DRESS IS BLUE ATTIRE.



Join here: [Alumni Association](#)

Like us on Facebook: [MGCCC Alumni/Foundation](#)

Contact: Tharessa Williams, tharessa.williams@mgccc.edu or (601)928-6344

Jr. Bulldog Club

JOIN THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JR. BULLDOG CLUB!



FOR AGES 3-12! ONLY \$25 ANNUAL DUES!

Free admission to 2023-2024 regular-season home athletic events

Jr. Bulldog Club T-shirt

Personalized membership card

A chance to run onto the field with the Bulldog football team

Special events just for Jr. Bulldog Club members

Join online at mgccc.edu/jrbulldogclub,
or contact **Tharessa Williams**:
tharessa.williams@mgccc.edu / 601-928-6344



ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF BEING A JR. BULLDOG!

- Free admission to regular-season home athletic events
- Jr. Bulldog Club T-shirt
- Personalized membership card
- A chance to run onto the field with the Bulldog football team
- Special events just for Jr. Bulldog Club members

The Jr. Bulldog Club is proudly sponsored by the Alumni Association.

For more information: [Alumni Association](#)

2023 MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sept. 7	Northwest Mississippi	Perkinston	7 pm
Sept. 14	Itawamba	Perkinston	7 pm
Sept. 21	Southwest Mississippi	Summit	7 pm
Sept. 28	East Mississippi	Scooba	7 pm
Oct. 5	Pearl River	Perkinston	7 pm
Oct. 12	Copiah-Lincoln	Perkinston	7 pm
Oct. 19	East Central	Decatur	6:30 pm
Oct. 28	Hinds (Homecoming)	Perkinston	3:30 pm
Nov. 2	Jones	Ellisville	7 pm





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THARESSA WILLIAMS

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MEET THE MGCCC FOUNDATION TEAM!

OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND FOUNDATION • P.O. BOX 99 • PERKINSTON, MISSISSIPPI 39573

