



**WINTER EDITION**

**VOLUME 11**



# FROM THE DESK OF DR. MARY S. GRAHAM



Dear Gulf Coast Alumni and Valued Donors,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication from our incredible community of alumni, donors, students, employees, and friends of Gulf Coast. Your collective impact has been transformative, enabling us to provide unparalleled opportunities and experiences for our students.

The generosity demonstrated by each of you has been instrumental in making this year truly stellar. Your contributions, whether through scholarships, mentorship, or advocacy, have truly enriched the lives of our students. It is heartening to witness the Gulf Coast family coming together to create a nurturing environment where dreams can thrive and aspirations can become reality.

As we look forward to the new year, I am excited about the potential that lies ahead, and I am confident that the coming year will be marked by shared achievements, meaningful connections, and the ongoing empowerment of our students. Thank you for being an integral part of the Gulf Coast legacy, and I look forward to the continued collaboration that will shape an even brighter future.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary S. Graham'.

Mary S. Graham, Ph.D.  
President

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE  
MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Saturday • March 9, 2024

Beau Rivage Resort & Casino  
Magnolia Ballroom

SILENT AUCTION  
6:00 P.M.

DINNER  
7:15 P.M.

*Black Tie Attire*

To contribute and be part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration, visit **Giving to Gulf Coast**. Your generosity is the key to unlocking a future filled with boundless possibilities.

Thank you for being a beacon of hope  
and a champion for education.

Here's to 50 years of education and community! We look forward to continuing our journey together and building an even brighter future for MGCCC and its students.

# **Join the Celebration: Empowering Futures 50 Years and Beyond!**

As we reflect on the history of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) Foundation, Inc., we are thrilled to announce the grand celebration of our 50th anniversary this year. Since our inception on July 24, 1974, the MGCCC Foundation has been dedicated to advancing the college's mission by providing invaluable support through scholarships, long-range plans, and community engagement.

The success of any college is intricately linked to the support it receives from the community it serves, and the MGCCC Foundation stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment of our community members. Our journey began with a vision from our founders to create opportunities that would contribute to the establishment of scholarship programs.

At the heart of the MGCCC Foundation is a group of dedicated individuals – the twenty-two members of our Board of Directors. These passionate volunteers invest their time, expertise, and energy to make decisions that shape the future of the foundation. The board includes representatives from various facets of the MGCCC community.

However, the MGCCC Foundation extends beyond the board and its four dedicated employees. We are a community comprising donors, alumni, family members, anonymous benefactors, and individuals who believe in the transformative power of education. It is the collective efforts of these stakeholders that have allowed us to thrive and make a lasting impact on the lives of students at MGCCC.

Whether you choose to create a scholarship, contribute to existing programs, or explore innovative ways to support our mission, every dollar brings us closer to realizing our 50th-year potential. Your commitment can make a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals.

Please join us in this celebration of giving, where each donation is a testament to the belief that education has the power to transform lives and communities. Together, we can ensure that the next 50 years are even brighter and more promising than the last.

# HOMECOMING 2023

## MGCCC ALUMNI HALL OF FAME HONOREES

From lively festivities that brought smiles to every face, to re-engagement of Class Reunion & Special Recognition groups, and the heartfelt recognition of our esteemed Alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame honorees, Homecoming was a true embodiment of the spirit and pride that defines Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.



# **HOMEcoming 2023**

The Charles Sullivan Memorial was one of our most cherished Homecoming memories this year. We will always remember the Gulf Coast legend and legacy that was, Mr. Charles Sullivan.

To schedule a visit to the Charles Sullivan Memorial at the Perkinston Campus, please email [Melissa.Ladner1@mgccc.edu](mailto:Melissa.Ladner1@mgccc.edu) or call 601-928-6204.



You are cordially invited to the

# **ANNUAL ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Thursday, March 28, 2024**

Networking 8:00 a.m. • Business Meeting 8:30 a.m.

Immersive Media Performing Arts Center, Harrison County Campus

409 Debuys Road, Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

*Light breakfast will be served.*



Join us on Facebook!  
 [facebook.com/mgccc alumni](https://facebook.com/mgccc alumni)



# Honoring a Gulf Coast Legacy

## Mr. George Schloegel

1940-2023

Mr. George Schloegel's impact on Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College extends far beyond his impressive career. As a devoted supporter for many years, he and his wife, Peggy, shared a genuine love for the students at the college. Every conversation with Mr. Schloegel reflected his caring nature—he always started by asking about one's family and then inquired about the well-being of the college.

In addition to his passion for MGCCC, Mr. Schloegel had a deep appreciation for music. His instrumental role in fundraising efforts resulted in the acquisition of a Steinway piano for iMPAC in support of the partnership between MGCCC and the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra.

Beginning his journey at Perkinston Junior College as a freshman, Mr. Schloegel worked tirelessly to earn a college education, demonstrating his commitment to self-improvement. His career at Hancock Bank and subsequent role as President and CEO spanned 52 years, during which he made lasting contributions to MGCCC.

In 1982, he became an Executive Vice President of Hancock Bank and served as President of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College Foundation Board. Over the years, he received prestigious accolades, including the Sam Owen trophy for distinguished service to the college and induction into the MGCJC Alumni Hall of Fame in 1984.

Retiring in 2008, Mr. Schloegel realized a childhood dream in 2009 by becoming the Mayor of Gulfport at the age of 68, endearing himself to the community during his one four-year term.

Even after his retirement, Mr. Schloegel continued to build his legacy at MGCCC. His dedication to education is evident in the scholarships that empower students to pursue their aspirations for a college degree. While he will be deeply missed, Mr. Schloegel's legacy lives on, embedded in the heart of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.





# **What's Happening at Gulf Coast?**

# Festival of Lights



The 2023 Festival of Lights, hosted at our Perkinston Campus, was a great success again this year. With an estimated 5,000 visitors to see the displays, watch the parade, meet Santa Claus, and enjoy the fireworks, everyone left with a sense of joy for the season. Thank you to everyone who participated to make this year's Festival of Lights a memorable one!



# Upcoming Spring Events:

- **Alumni Hall of Fame Nominations: Open Now!**  
Vote Here: [mgccc.edu/alumni/alumni-hall-of-fame/hall-of-fame-nominations/](https://mgccc.edu/alumni/alumni-hall-of-fame/hall-of-fame-nominations/)
- **iMPAC Event: The Red Radio Show “Black Box Series”:**  
January 20, 2024  
[MGCCC.showare.com](https://MGCCC.showare.com)
- **MGCCC Foundation Annual Scholarship Gala Celebrating 50 Years:**  
March 9, 2024, Beau Rivage Resort & Casino  
[mgccc.edu/gala](https://mgccc.edu/gala)
- **Annual Alumni Membership Meeting:**  
March 28, 2024, 8:30 A.M., iMPAC (HC Campus)  
RSVP: Email: [tharessa.williams@mgccc.edu](mailto:tharessa.williams@mgccc.edu)  
Call: 601-928-6344
- **MGCCC Graduation: May 9, 2024**  
Mississippi Coast Coliseum  
[mgccc.edu/graduation](https://mgccc.edu/graduation)



Like and Follow us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/mgccc alumni](https://facebook.com/mgccc alumni)



**Join us for In the Blue: An Evening in Support of MGCCC Athletics!**

The distinguished inductees of this year's MGCCC Athletic Hall of Fame will be celebrated at the upcoming event in February. Hosted at the elegant **Hospitality Resort Management Center** on the Harrison County Campus, this annual fundraiser promises an evening of recognition and inspiration. The guest of honor, **Isaac Brown**, a Gulf Coast Athletic Hall of Famer and former head men's basketball coach at Wichita State University, will be this year's featured speaker.

**Tickets for the event cost \$50 with four sponsorship levels available. To buy tickets or sponsor the event, go to [mgccc.edu/in-the-blue](https://mgccc.edu/in-the-blue)**

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## Tell Me Something Good!

**Are you an MGCCC Alum? Have you started a new job, recently married, or do you have other exciting news?**

“Tell Me Something Good” for a chance to be featured on the Alumni/Foundation Facebook page.

Submit your good news to: [alumni@mgccc.edu](mailto:alumni@mgccc.edu)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/mgccc alumni](https://facebook.com/mgccc alumni)



## **Foundation Scholarships**



### **Our Mission:**

It is the mission of The MGCCC Foundation to support the college's mission through strategically developing donated resources, building community relationships, and ensuring fiscal responsibility.

At the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Foundation, we firmly believe that all students deserve a chance to pursue their dreams of earning a college degree.

Our Foundation Scholarships cover a diverse population of majors from nursing to career/technical to academic transfer.

The Fall 2024 Foundation Scholarship Application Deadline is April 1, 2024!

**Apply Now!**

### **Ways to Give:**

Leave a legacy through a memorial scholarship or **donation**

Start a program-related scholarship or **donation**

**Leave your Legacy at Gulf Coast:  
Scholarship and Programs Specialist  
Paige Cannon, [paige.cannon@mgccc.edu](mailto:paige.cannon@mgccc.edu), 601-528-8446**

# **MGCCC Foundation**

## **New Officers & Board Members**



**Angie Juzang**  
**MGCCC Foundation Vice President**

Angie Juzang is the Vice President of Marketing and Communications at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport. Juzang joined Memorial with an extensive background in marketing, public relations, and community outreach. As vice president, Juzang is responsible for managing internal, external and media-specific communications, implementation of various advertising platforms, coordination of corporate and community relations, as well as administrative oversight of the Memorial Hospital gift shop. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Georgia State University. After serving one term as the Foundation's secretary/treasurer, Juzang assumed the role of Foundation Vice President.



**David Allen**  
**MGCCC Foundation Secretary/Treasurer**

David Allen is a recently retired attorney with more than 40 years of diverse legal experience. He has worked with two of the world's largest energy firms and has been a partner in two of Mississippi's regional law firms. Allen's practice was concentrated in commercial real estate transactions, banking and mortgage law, estate planning, and probate administration. An alum of MGCCC's Jackson County Campus, Allen holds degrees from The University of Mississippi School of Law and Tulane University. Additionally, he earned an LL.M. in taxation from the University of Alabama. Allen was elected secretary/treasurer at the December board meeting and will serve a two-year term.

**MGCCC Foundation Board**

# **MGCCC Foundation**

## **New Officers & Board Members**



**Delorise Nettles**  
**New Board Member**

Delorise Nettles is the owner of Delo's Heavenly House of Coffee in Gautier. She is a graduate of MGCCC and attended the Jackson County Campus. Nettles pursued fashion design at Mississippi State University and later returned to the Gulf Coast, making Gautier her home. In July 2005, she opened Delo's Heavenly House of Coffee in Gautier. Upon the success of her business, she opened a second location in Pascagoula. Active in the Jackson County community, Nettles is a member of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and the Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce. She is also a graduate and alum of the Goldman Sachs 10k Small Business program. Nettles has received many community awards such as the 2016 Jolly P. McCarty Award of Excellence and the 2020 Larry Moran Award of Excellence.



**Jennifer Papania King**  
**New Board Member**

Jennifer King is the Associate Vice President/Treasury Sales Specialist at Hancock Whitney. King received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from The University of Southern Mississippi. She is a Gulfport resident and an MGCCC alumna. She has been with Hancock Whitney for 25 years and is a longtime supporter of Gulf Coast, both personally and professionally. King is a 2022-2023 Graduate of Leadership Gulf Coast and a former board member for Hope Haven Children's Advocacy Center of Hancock County.

**MGCCC Foundation Board**

# **MGCCC Foundation**

## **New Officers & Board Members**



**Karla Smith**  
**New Board Member**

Karla Smith, a 1981 graduate of the MGCCC Harrison County Campus, received her bachelor's and master's degrees in secondary education from The University of Southern Mississippi. While attending MGCCC, Smith was the editor of the yearbook, selected for Campus Hall of Fame and chosen as Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. Smith taught in the Biloxi Public School District for 14 years, and she taught at MGCCC for 21 years. Smith was the 2007 Instructor of the Year at MGCCC and received the ACCT Faculty Member Award from the Association of Community College Trustees in 2007 (Southern Region). A 2012 graduate of the Midsouth Community College Fellowship Program and a 2012 graduate of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy, Smith is now a retired from the MGCCC Harrison County Campus.



**Nicki Steele-Clark**  
**New Board Member**

Nicki Steele-Clark is the Learning & Development Manager for the Chevron Pascagoula Refinery. A native of George County, Clark attended the MGCCC George County Center and Jackson County Campus before graduation. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in organizational management from The University of Mobile. With almost 29 years at the Chevron Pascagoula Refinery, Clark spent the majority of her career in human resources before making the move into the learning and development field. As the learning and development manager, she is excited for the opportunity to be more involved with the partnership between MGCCC and Chevron.



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## YOUR ALUMNI & FOUNDATION TEAM

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

