“LIFE AFTER JACKSON STATE: MY DEGREE HAS ENABLED ME”
Thursday, October 9, 2014
2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
About Jackson State University

Jackson State University, founded in 1877, is a historically black, high research activity university located in Jackson, the capital city of Mississippi. Jackson State’s nurturing academic environment challenges individuals to change lives through teaching, research and service. Officially designated as Mississippi’s Urban University, Jackson State continues to enhance the state, nation and world through comprehensive economic development, health-care, technological and educational initiatives. The only public university in the metropolitan area, Jackson State is located next to downtown, with six satellite locations throughout the metro area.
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October 9, 2014

Greetings:

As we assemble for another Homecoming Celebration, we are grateful to each of you for your willingness to dedicate a portion of your time to our current JSU students. This personal interaction between students and alumni holds so much meaning for everyone involved. As you share your experiences and impart wisdom, you are assisting students with their own career goals and possibilities. You are also demonstrating your loyalty as an alumnus of Jackson State and ultimately, you are playing a major role in the successful college matriculation of these young scholars. YOU are the epitome of Challenging Minds and Changing Lives.

JSUNAA prides itself on helping provide one of the greatest gifts we can offer, an education, a Jackson State University education. The JSU legacy is filled with magnificent tradition, intellectual challenges, empowering diversity, educational freedom, and a harmonious place to call home. On behalf of the National Alumni Association, I thank you for your contributions and invite you to enjoy all of the activities planned for the weekend.

Many thanks also to the Department of Alumni and Constituency Relations. I applaud its efforts to plan such an outstanding program. I look forward to working with each of you as we write the next chapter of this alumni story and I salute you for the active role that you are taking in our alumni association. Your actions reflect your dedication in ensuring the success of our students at our dear old college home.

Thank you again and enjoy homecoming!

With Tiger Pride,

Yolanda R. Owens

Yolanda R. Owens, President
Jackson State University
National Alumni Association, Inc.
2014 JSUNAA Alumnus of the Year

Earlexia Montoya Norwood

On September 26, 2014, Earlexia Norwood, M.D., Director of Practice Development and Director of Community Health Education at the West Bloomfield Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, received the Hall of Fame’s 2014 Legacy of Leaders Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award from the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. The Jackson State University alumna is also Director of Practice Development at West Bloomfield Hospital, which is part of the Henry Ford Health System (HFHS) in Detroit, Michigan.

A member of the Board of Governors of the HFHS, Dr. Norwood is the inaugural president of the Organization of Physicians, Academicians, and Executive Leaders (OPAL). Dr. Norwood is one of six HBCU alumni leaders and chapters who will be honored during ceremonies at the Third Annual Legacy of Leaders Alumni Awards Luncheon to be held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Awards Luncheon was one of numerous activities being held during the 29th Annual Alumni Hall of Fame Weekend. Other activities include the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, the Competition of Black College Queens, the HBCU Invitational Golf Tournament, as well as numerous workshops and forums, including the Andrew Young Emerging Leaders Legacy Lecture Series.
# Notable Alumni Panel Session

**“Life After Jackson State: My Degree has enabled me”**

*Thursday, October 9, 2014
2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.*

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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Pre-Alumni Council representatives will hand out Evaluation Forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:05 pm</td>
<td>Welcome (5 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderator</td>
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This Notable Alumni panel discussion allows personal interaction between current students and alumni. It is intended to assist students with career goals, explore the abundance of career possibilities available post-graduation and emphasize the importance of alumni loyalty. Each student involved will have an opportunity to gain critical insight from a few of Jackson State’s most notable alumni who have created successful and meaningful careers in their respective areas of study. The ultimate goal of this session is to motivate students in each college to continue their successful matriculation at Jackson State University and become productive alumni locally and abroad.

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<tr>
<td>2:15 pm</td>
<td>Introduction of Alumni Panelists (10 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:25 pm</td>
<td>Panel Discussion (30 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The moderator for each college will strategically ask the panelists questions rotating throughout. After the panelist answers the question, it is encouraged that other panelists add comments and then the moderator is advised to move to the next question.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:55 pm</td>
<td>Student Question &amp; Answer Session (20 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will have the opportunity to ask questions. More than one panelist can answer questions from students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 pm</td>
<td>Closing Remarks (10 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remind students to complete their evaluation form and return them to Pre-Alumni Council members as they leave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:25 pm</td>
<td>End, collect evaluation forms and exit.</td>
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Letter from the Dean

October 9, 2014

Dear Alumni:

It is my pleasure to welcome you home to the College of Business at Jackson State University and thank you for agreeing to serve on the Alumni Panel. This is an excellent opportunity for you to interact with current students and encourage them to strive for excellence as you have in your careers. 8

As Dean of the College, I am excited about the opportunity to meet our alumni and work with you, the family and the friends of the College, toward continuing the legacy of producing leaders. I applaud our graduates as you have gone on to distinguish yourselves in business, politics, education and many other fields and for taking leadership roles in your respective areas of expertise. Our continuing goal is to actively engage alumni in our activities and to generate continued interest and excitement about the College of Business at Jackson State University.

We are among the 6% of Business programs worldwide that are accredited by the Association for Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Approximately 30% of Business Schools in the United States and less than 20% of HBCUs are accredited by AACSB, and we are one of them. Additionally, the College of Business at JSU is one of two HBCUs that offer a comprehensive Business PhD program. We are truly one of the elite. The College is due next year for the Continuous Improvement Review visit by AACSB, and I will call upon you for your support of our accreditation. We need you more than ever.

I commend Alumni and Constituency Relations for launching this initiative. This parallels my plan to continue to strengthen the bond between our College of Business alumni and assist in developing a culture that teaches our graduates to give back to the University and the community.

Finally, please enjoy homecoming weekend at Jackson State, we hope that you will embrace the University’s theme of “One JSU” and continue to support the College of Business and this great University.

Sincerely,

Ramin C. Maysami, Ph.D., CFP
Dean
2014 College of Business Notable Alumni Panel

COB-College of Business-Pittman Lecture Hall, Room 134

A’Kendra Lewis, Moderator
Junior Entrepreneurship

Panelists

Joye Baugh, ’03
Lockheed Martin
JSU PhD Student

Michael Brown, ’02
Author and Motivational Speaker

V. Lynn Evans, ’75
V. Lynn Evans, CPA
Appointed by President Obama to the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Valley Authority

Howard Gibson, ’98
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor
Baton Rouge Community College

Andrell Harris, ’08
Businessman and Investor
Board of Directors for the JSU Development Foundation

Willard Hart, ’95
Senior Director of Global Security & Investigations
MoneyGram International

Mitchell de John, ’12
Gulf South Capital

Marlo Graham McGuire, ’00
FBI

Frazier Wilson, ’90
Vice President, Shell Oil Company Foundation
Manager, Social Investment, Shell Oil Company

Ambriel Woods, ’08
Deloitte, LLP
Joye Baugh is a 1st year PhD student majoring in Accounting at Jackson State University.

Prior to beginning the PhD program at Jackson State University, Joye worked for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in Fort Worth, Texas. In 2011, Joye was selected as a participant in the Early Career Leadership Program for Supply Chain Management (ECLPS). During her tenure in the program, she worked in Price Cost Analysis (PCA) and Major Subcontract Management. While in Major Subcontract Management, Joye supported the Integrated Fighter Group (IFG) and C-130 programs by helping to drive program affordability to support customer requirements by achieving sustainment and maintenance of the platforms. She also obtained a LM21 Green Belt for process improvement. Within the PCA organization, she worked with the Material Acquisition Strategies group as a Proposal Analyst Sr. where she was responsible for analyzing and negotiating multi-million dollar Truth in Negotiations Act (TINA) proposals. She also served as an IFG Program Representative where she was responsible for tracking PCA status and ensuring that program deadlines were met within the organization.

Joye began her career at Lockheed Martin in January 2006 and before being selected as a participant in the ECLPS program she held various positions in the company which included Non-Major Procurement Representative, Cost Analyst and Project Management and Planning Operations Representative. While working as a Cost Analyst in the Finance Organization, she was a member of the Cost Segregation team where she assisted with internal control testing, performed internal control audits and was recognized for her efforts to help make the SAP implementation at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics successful. As a Project Manager, she was instrumental in the successful implementation of the Transportation Management System at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics through testing the system, developing the training materials, and assisting in the program development. As a Procurement Representative, she managed all suppliers for which she was responsible and ensured end items were delivered in time to meet production needs. In addition, she ensured prices paid for products were at or below previous buy prices to increase program affordability.

During her tenure at Lockheed Martin she was also a member of the Women’s Initiative Network (WIN) and the African American Leadership Forum (AALF).

Joye holds a Master of Professional Accountancy and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Jackson State University.
Michael Brown, '02
Author and Motivational Speaker

Michael D. Brown is a sought-after speaker, global management expert, and author of the award winning Fresh Passion: Get A Brand or Die A Generic® (MyFreshBrand.com), Fresh Customer Service®: Treat the Employee as #1 and the Customer as #2 and You Will Get Customers for Life (FreshCustomerService.com) and Fresh Passion Leadership: Become a Distinct Brand Leader or Extinct Generic. He has over eighteen years of experience helping numerous companies and organizations including: US Army, US Marines, BP, Amoco, Capital One, Omni Hotel, The University of Findlay, Jason’s Deli, Clark Atlanta University, Prairie View A&M University, Wendy’s, Houston Rockets, Wells Fargo, Marriott, Ford Foundation, and Hampton University - achieve results and has held numerous leadership positions at Fortune Global 100 Companies.

Michael is a leading authority on fresh results and has motivated and helped thousands of individuals and entrepreneurs create and deliver a competitive personal brand that yields exponential personal, professional and economic success via his Fresh Passion: Get A Brand or Die A Generic methodology.

V. Lynn Evans, ’75

V. Lynn Evans, CPA

Appointed by President Obama to the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority

As owner of a professional services firm, Lynn Evans is responsible for all aspects of business operations, including administration, business development, personnel management, technical service delivery and quality control. Professional attestation and consulting services offered include advising board directors and executive management on strategic planning, board governance, financial reporting and policy-making matters, as well as assisting with the design and implementation of internal controls, accounting policies and procedures development, regulatory compliance, and organization-wide integration of processes affecting financial operations, and other matters to enhance organizational performance.

Ms. Evans’ consulting experience also includes crisis management, interim CFO services, and other project services. Her litigation support experience includes fraud detection, quantification, and coordination with regulatory authorities, as well as court-appointed Special Master. As a UNCF ICB FASTAP consultant, Ms. Evans has performed re-accreditation readiness reviews and participated in deep dive institutional assessments for a number of UNCF member institutions in the area of financial management. She is a previous UNCF conference presenter.

Among her business interests, Ms. Evans is an Organizer and Director of First Alliance Bank, a community bank with offices in Uptown Memphis, East Memphis, Cordova and Oakland. At First Alliance, she serves as Corporate Secretary, Audit Committee Chair, and is a member of the Loan Committee.

Among Ms. Evans’ civic and volunteer activities, she currently serves on the boards of the Thomas W. Briggs Foundation and Memphis Land Bank, Inc. In September 2012, she was nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate (January 2013) to serve on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Board of Directors – the nation’s largest public power provider, generating electricity for nearly 9 million people in the seven-state Tennessee Valley region. On the TVA board, Ms. Evans chairs the Audit, Risk and Regulation Committee and is a member of the People and Performance Committee. She is a former member of the Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division Board of Commissioners (former Board Chair), and the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis Board of Directors (former Board Chair).

Ms. Evans is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Jackson State University.
Howard Gibson, ’98
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor
Baton Rouge Community College

Dr. Howard O. Gibson, a Jackson, Mississippi native, currently serves as Baton Rouge Community College’s (BRCC) Executive Assistant to the Chancellor. Prior to BRCC, Dr. Gibson served as the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management and Diversity at Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi.

Gibson received a bachelor of business administration in accounting from Jackson State University in May 1998. Continuing his education at Jackson State, he received an MBA in May 2000 and the doctor of philosophy in urban higher education in August 2008. While attending undergraduate school at Jackson State, he was elected to several SGA and class offices.

Dr. Gibson has attended and presented at numerous conferences, seminars/symposiums and workshops. His research is in the field of entrepreneurship and higher education. He has been a member of the American College Personnel Association, Association for Study of Higher Education, HBCU Schools of Business Deans Roundtable and the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
Andrell Harris, ‘08
Businessman and Investor
Board of Directors for the JSU Development Foundation

Andrell Harris is an accomplished businessman, investor, philanthropist and lover of Jackson State University. A proud Mississippi native, Harris was born and raised in and around the state’s capital in Jackson and Terry, Mississippi. Harris proved to be a very enterprising young man. At age 16, Harris and his friend, Jason Owens, discovered old gumball machines in the Owens family’s garage. Within two years, Harris had vending machines in 20 stores. By age 20, Harris’ Vending Services had machines in seven Mississippi cities and more than 50 store locations. That business venture piqued Harris’ interest in the stock market and investing. That interest blossomed and by the age of 26, Harris had become an accredited investor.

Harris was very active as an undergraduate student at Jackson State University. As president of the Student Government Association during the 2007-08 academic years, Harris successfully worked with the university’s administration to benefit students. He made those accomplishments while also enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard as a private first class (E-3). After earning a degree in finance in 2008, Harris was commissioned as a military intelligence officer in the United States Army Reserve. In 2014, Harris graduated from the United States Army Counter Intelligence Officer’s Course (CIOC) in Arizona. CIOC qualified Harris as a Special Agent in the Army Reserves. After college, Harris interned with the prestigious Morgan Stanley in New York City and went on to spend two years as a financial analyst at Northrop Grumman.

The military called and in January 2010, Harris was deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After serving there for nine months, Harris returned to Baghdad as an intelligence analyst for a private contractor. By January 2011, Harris was in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. After three years of working abroad, Harris returned to the United States in July 2013. At 24, Harris invested in luxury beach front property in Florida. Harris currently owns more than 3,000 square feet of beach front property, five bedrooms and five bathrooms.

Harris’ love for Jackson State University has led him to be a loyal contributor, giving each year since he graduated in 2008. Harris’ business acumen has made those contributions possible. A Blue and White Life Member of the JSU National Alumni Association, Harris was the platinum sponsor for the 2013 National Alumni Association Annual Conference in Tunica, Mississippi. In October, the university announced Harris’ contribution of $55,555 dollars. The number is significant because 2013 marks Harris’ fifth year since graduation. The scholarship is endowed and will be a permanent part of Jackson State University, therefore benefitting its students for years to come. Harris serves on the Board of Directors for the Jackson State University Development Foundation.

Giving back to Jackson State University is something that Harris says he will always do. In fact, it is the tool by which he measures his own success.

“I judge my progress in life by how well I am able to bless others with what God has blessed me with,” says Harris.
Willard Hart, ‘95
Senior Director of Global Security & Investigations
MoneyGram International

Willard Hart is the Senior Director of Global Security & Investigations for MoneyGram International. Willard is responsible for maintaining strong positive, interactions with law enforcement and ensuring MoneyGram’s employees travel safely when traveling outside of their home country. He manages strategic relationships with the US Attorney’s office and leads a team that answers subpoenas from law enforcement in the Americas, Australia and Europe. MoneyGram offers worldwide money transfer services in more than 200 countries and territories through a global network of 345,000 agent locations, including retailers, international post offices and banks. MoneyGram also offers bill payment services, issues money orders and processes official checks in select markets. Willard joined MoneyGram International in April of 2007.

Willard began his career in 1993 as an Analyst with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. After one year, Willard joined GE Capital’s credit card division (now called Synchrony Financial) and worked in a number of roles of increasing responsibility. Willard worked in several GE Capital offices, during his 13 year tenure, including Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, and Kansas City. Willard’s work at GE Capital stretched across a variety of functions. He successfully completed GE’s Management Development Program. Later, Willard became a Six Sigma Black Belt. He led several process improvement teams that improved productivity, increased employee morale, and saved GE more than $500,000. After earning his Six Sigma Black Belt Certification, he moved into leadership roles in fraud prevention.

In 2007, Willard joined MoneyGram International as their first Director of Fraud Prevention in Denver. In this role, he was responsible for reducing different types of fraud across the money transfer and money order products. His efforts resulted in one of the largest annual reductions in consumer fraud within the industry and history of MoneyGram. By 2011, MoneyGram realized a 72 percent reduction1 in consumer fraud complaints in one year. Willard played 2 seasons of semi-professional football in Kansas City, Missouri and Atlanta, Georgia. His community involvement has included education and financial literacy efforts with GE’s African-American Forum, the National Association of Black Accountants, and 100 Black Men of Cincinnati. During his tenure at GE, Willard also served as the site President of the African-American Forum—GE’s professional networking group for African American managers. Willard was a 2008 graduate of the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce’s Chamber Connect Leadership Development program. He served as the co-chair of Chamber Connect during the fall of 2008. Recently, Willard sat on the board of directors for the Bennie E. Goodwin After School Academic Program and Young African Americans for Social and Political Activism (YAASPA), both in Denver, Colorado. Willard is also an ordained Preaching Elder at The Potter’s House Church of Denver.

A native of Miami, Florida Willard holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Jackson State University (Cum Laude, 1995). Willard and his family currently reside north of Dallas, Texas.
Mitchell de John, ’12
Gulf South Capital

Mitchell de John came from Aruba to the United States to play college tennis. After a couple years in Kansas he came to Jackson State University (JSU) to graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance. He continued his studies at JSU and graduated with a Master of Business Administration in 2012. At JSU Mitchell was the captain of the tennis team and worked as graduate assistant and tutor in Finance, Calculus/Algebra, Chemistry, and Physics.

When it comes to work experience outside of JSU Mitchell started with internships during his senior and Master level years. He worked at Carex Paper Products in Aruba in the accounting department, Caribbean Mercantile Bank in Aruba as Corporate Commercial Loan Officer Intern, and in the Fall of 2012 he started working at GulfSouth Capital as an intern and has continued to work there full time since then. Currently, Mitchell deals with Private Equity investing, Oil and Gas investments and Marketable Securities. In addition to this Mitchell works with the University of Mississippi MIND center to implement a TeleMind program to serve Alzheimer and Dementia patients in rural areas of Mississippi.
Marlo Graham McGuire, ’00

FBI

As a young child Marlo had dreams of becoming the next Jackie Joyner-Kersee, instead she opted for the next Ethel McGuire! Born in Memphis, Tennessee to Kenneth and Ethel McGuire, Marlo was blessed with a younger sister, (recent law school graduate) named Lindsey. Throughout high school Marlo excelled in basketball, volleyball, and track. During the summer of 1995 Marlo completed her first stint with the FBI as a GS 3 summer intern. It was during that summer Marlo fully committed to becoming an FBI Agent as soon as she was eligible.

Marlo went on to obtain a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting from Jackson State University and an M.B.A. from Maryville University, St. Louis. After spending three years working for the IRS Criminal Investigation Division, Marlo finally became eligible, and secretly applied to become a Special Agent with the FBI. Upon graduating from the FBI academy in June 2004 Marlo became the generation X half of the first Mother-Daughter Special Agent tandem in FBI history. Marlo had no idea her personal accomplishment would make history, let alone have an impact, until she met a new FBI Agent who only applied to the FBI after reading about Marlo and her mom in Essence magazine.

Marlo is currently working Violent Crimes Against Children, but has spent most of her career working Public Corruption, Government Fraud, Anti-trust, and Civil Rights matters in the San Francisco Division, where she is also a Firearms Instructor, Director’s Advisory Committee Representative, and an avid recruiter. Becoming an FBI agent was Marlo’s single greatest accomplishment until she married and had children of her own, two boys, the distant future of Jackson State University.
Frazier Wilson, ’90
Vice President, Shell Oil Company Foundation
Manager, Social Investment, Shell Oil Company

Dr. Frazier Wilson, vice president, Shell Oil Company Foundation, and Manager, Social Investment, oversees Shell’s corporate and foundation contributions and employee giving, education and environment outreach programs. Wilson has worked at Shell for more than 19 years in accounting and community relations roles. Prior to joining Shell, he worked in education as a teacher, volunteer and mentor. He holds a bachelor of science in accounting from Jackson State University and an MBA and doctorate in Educational Leadership from Texas Southern University.

Wilson opened and served as director for the Houston Shell Youth Training Academy, a partnership with Houston Independent School District to develop employability skills for high school youth through training and internships. Later, he served as National and Community Outreach Program manager responsible for developing and managing programs with national diversity organizations. Prior to his current position, he developed Shell’s Workforce Development Initiative to increase the available pool of technical talent to meet the company’s future workforce needs.

Active in the community, Wilson is a graduate of Leadership Houston, American Leadership Forum, the United Way’s Project Blueprint and a mentor with Big Brothers and Big Sisters. He currently serves on boards for Houston Red Cross, Children At Risk, Fort Bend Education Foundation, Smithsonian Science Education Center and Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. He is chairman emeritus of 100 Black Men of Metropolitan Houston, a national mentoring organization.
Ambriel Woods, ’08
Ernst & Young

Ambriel L. Woods is a native of Jackson, Mississippi where she grew up with her mother and four siblings. She Provine High School.

Ambriel is a 2008 and 2009 graduate of Jackson State University (“JSU”). Ambriel graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Business Administration - Accounting and earned her Master of Business Administration in 2009. While at JSU was inducted into several honor societies such as:

➢ Alpha Chi
➢ Beta Gamma Sigma
➢ Phi Kappa Phi
➢ Sigma Tau Delta

She was also a member of the National Dean’s List and an active participant in the INROADS program. While a senior at JSU, she served as President of the College of Business’ Accounting Society. As result of the educational and professional development received through JSU, INROADS and the National Association of Black Accountants (“NABA”), Ambriel obtained three internships:

➢ Bancorp South, Jackson, Mississippi
➢ Deloitte & Touche LLP, Dallas, Texas
➢ Ernst & Young LLP (“EY”), Houston, Texas

Ambriel currently lives in Houston, Texas where she works at EY. She is a manager in the International Tax Services group within EY’s Tax practice. Ambriel primarily serves a client base in the Oil and Gas industry. She has worked on a variety of projects in the Tax Practice including international compliance and consulting, corporate compliance, personal financial services, tax research and external audits. Ambriel completed the Certified Public Accountant examination in July 2011. She is also a member of NABA’s Houston Professional Chapter where she participates in student professional development and charity initiatives.

Ambriel enjoys spending spare time volunteering at the Houston Food Bank and at Star of Hope Mission which is a Christ centered organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the homeless. Ambriel is a member of Good Hope MB Church where she serves in the Children Ministry and is currently enrolled in the last of four courses to become a trained biblical counselor. When not in Houston, Ambriel enjoys traveling, spending time with family and watching her younger brother play collegiate basketball.
Dear College of Liberal Arts Alumni:

Thank you for your continued investment in Jackson State University and the College of Liberal Arts through your participation in Notable Alumni Panels. Your presence today, where our students can see and hear firsthand your journey to success, is a vivid example of the relevance of the JSU educational experience. The university, the college, and the dean’s office are most appreciative.

There are a number of wonderful programs and initiatives on the College of Liberal Arts’ agenda. The Sonic Boom of the South, our award-winning band that recently performed for the New Orleans Saints, will appear in a commercial promoting tourism. The Margaret Walker Alexander Center is celebrating its namesake’s centennial with a year-long slate of programs and activities. The Department of Mass Communications will be transformed into a School of Journalism and Communications to ensure that what we equip our students with pertinent skills for a communications industry that is being changed rapidly by technology. We are excited about all of this.

We invite you to nurture our growth by urging you to increase your personal investment in the university and the College of Liberal Arts. There are many ways you can assist us in reaching our potential. As a JSU graduate you are a great ambassador to potential students, parents, and educators. We would welcome your help with recruitment. You also can play a key role in helping our students to enter the workforce, whether as a mentor or as an entre to your employer or others.

Finally, you can help tremendously by investing in us financially. Why not endow a scholarship or contribute to a valuable program or project in your former department? As state appropriations continue to dwindle, we will need to depend upon you and other alumni to help ensure that JSU and the College of Liberal Arts can continue to serve its students in the ways it has served you.

Again, thank you for your loyalty and support. Thank you for all that you do for Jackson State University and the College of Liberal Arts.

Sincerely,

Deborah H. Barnes, Dean
2014 College of Liberal Arts Notable Alumni Panel

Dollye M. E. Robinson Building–Lecture Room 146

Mr. Percy Davis ‘80, Moderator
Program Director, WOAD-AM

Panelists

Judge Linda Anderson, ’75
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of Mississippi

Dr. Elayne Hayes Anthony, ’73
Communications Department Chair/Professor
Belhaven University

Ms. Venesia Brown ’93
Personnel Coordinator
Clarksdale Municipal School District

Mr. Percy Davis, ‘80
Program Director
WOAD-AM

Ms. LaShasa Griffin, ’97
Assistant Director of Enrollment and Student Services
Coahoma Community College

Attorney Malcolm Harrison, ’91
Attorney

Judge Terri Love, ’83
Judicial Council
Louisiana Court of Appeal

Attorney Bob Owens, ’73
Attorney
Owens Moss, PLLC

Attorney Marlena Pickering, ’02
Associate
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell, and Berkowitz, PC

Judge Carlton Reeves, ’86
United States District Judge
Southern District of Mississippi

Ms. Kathleen Funches Varnell, ’90
Curatorial Associate
Mississippi Museum of Art
Judge Linda Anderson, ’80
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of Mississippi

Judge Linda Randle Anderson is a native of Holmes County, Mississippi, where she attended the Holmes County Public Schools. She received her Associate of Arts Degree from Holmes Jr. College in Goodman, Mississippi, and her Bachelor and Masters degrees from Jackson State University.

After teaching for several years in the Jackson Public Schools system, Judge Anderson earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Mississippi College School of Law and began her legal career as a legal assistant with the Mississippi Supreme Court. She also served as an Assistant District Attorney for Hinds and Yazoo Counties, and an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi / Department of Justice, Criminal and Civil Divisions.

On July 12, 2006, Anderson was appointed to serve as United States Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, becoming the first female to serve on the federal bench in the Southern District. She also currently serves as Secretary for the Federal Magistrate Judges Association and as a member of the Judicial Resources Committee.

Judge Anderson is active in numerous legal and civic organizations and activities, and is an active and devoted member of Pearl Street African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Judge Anderson is married to Dr. Leon Anderson, D.M.D., also a Jackson State University graduate. They have one son, Randel Anderson, who is a Jackson State University graduate, and one grandson, Orion, and it is hoped that he will become a Jackson State University graduate.
Dr. Elayne Hayes-Anthony, '73  
Communications Professor and Department Chair  
Belhaven University

Elayne Hayes-Anthony was born the youngest child of Johnny and Texanne Hayes. In rearing their children the Hayes instilled in them the importance of education, hard work, and commitment. They also understood the importance of a spiritual foundation and raised their children in Faith Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi. Dr. Anthony is a product of public education having graduated from Jim Hill High School in Jackson. Upon graduating from high school, Dr. Anthony chose to attend Jackson State University on a music scholarship where she pursued a degree in Speech Communication with an emphasis in Broadcasting; she maintained music as a minor. In addition to pursuing a communication degree, at the urging of her mother, she enrolled in a variety of education courses. It was here that she discovered an additional passion for education. She served Murrah High by completing her practice teaching at the school. While at JSU she was a member of the Symphony Orchestra, the Dunbar Dramatics Guild, and became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in addition to being a Dean’s List Scholar.

Dr. Anthony's dedication led to her holding many positions where she was the first to represent the African-American community as a whole and African-American woman in particular. Dr. Anthony holds the distinction of being the first African-American intern at WJTV-12. Impressed by her knowledge and skills, the CBS affiliate offered her a position as an anchor, producer, and reporter. After spending several years behind the scenes and on the air at Channel 12—all while completing her Master of Science degree in Educational Technology at JSU. Dr. Anthony aspired to pursue her Ph.D. Dr. Anthony felt the need for more African-Americans to enter into the media field and she wanted to contribute by teaching and preparing others to enter into the field. Being the pioneer that she is, she enrolled in Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and became the first African-American female to earn a doctorate in Communication at the university. After receiving her Ph.D., Dr. Anthony returned home to serve as Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Mass Communication at JSU. Her attention to detail and concern for the program led to her appointment as Head of the Department. Under her leadership the department received national accreditation from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The university was only the second HBCU in the nation to receive this designation. She served the department and the university for ten years before fulfilling the desire to practice what she had taught for so many years. She was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Public Information for the Jackson Public School District and spokesperson for the Board of Trustees. She served the district for seven years.

With the desire to return to the classroom and again realizing the need for educating future media practitioners, Dr. Anthony presented then Belhaven College with a proposal to establish a Communications Department. Belhaven College welcomed the idea and she began building the department and has served as Department Chair since 1998. Under her leadership the program has grown and students have obtained internships and employment positions with media industries all over the Jackson metro area and in other locales. At the end of 2006, Belhaven University bestowed upon Dr. Anthony the rank of Full Professor. Her leadership in education led former Mayor Frank Melton to invite her to serve as chairman of the Education Task Force for the city of Jackson. Governor Haley Barbour also recognized contributions that Dr. Anthony had made to education and asked her to serve on the Education Task Force for the state of Mississippi. In 2007, Elayne was honored to be appointed to the State Board of Health by Governor Barbour. In 2013, she was reappointed for a six year term by Governor Phil Bryant. While still serving as chair of the Communication Department at Belhaven University and continuing other duties related to education, Dr. Anthony still found time to pursue other ventures. Her pursuits, however, were not all about her but rather they were about putting things in place to help the people of the state of Mississippi. She is the CEO of Cybernostic Healthcare Services, Inc. which is a telemedicine company designed to bring patients and physicians together through the use of technology. Through her former television program F.Y.I. with Elayne Anthony, she brought much needed information to the residents of the city of Jackson and surrounding areas. Elayne is the wife of Eddie Anthony, Healthcare Financial Consultant and JSU Adjunct Professor (School of Business). They have one adult son.
Ms. Venesia Brown ‘93

Personnel Coordinator
Clarksdale Municipal School District

Venesia Griffin Brown was born and reared in the Mississippi Delta by Vera Seals Griffin and Joseph Griffin—who are Jacksonians. She graduated from Clarksdale High School, Coahoma Community College, Jackson State University and Delta State University. Brown has completed additional courses at the University of Memphis and the University of Mississippi. She received all of her degrees in English. She has been in the field of education for more than 16 years.

Presently, she works as the Personnel Coordinator for the Clarksdale Municipal School District. She has a certification in human resources (PHR) and endorsements in Administration, English and Business. She is also an adjunct for Coahoma Community College and former Director of Writing Across the Curriculum. She was the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year in 2005. Even though her career takes her in many directions, she belongs to several groups and organizations: Links, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., Clarksdale/Coahoma County JSU Alumni Organization, The Clarksdale Mississippi D Leadership Team, AASPA, SHRM, Tri-County, Silent Grove MB Church and former member of the COI Policy and Procedures Committee.

Most importantly, she has three children (Venai, Dwan II, and Jujuan Brown) and one grand-daughter (Vayia Wade). She enjoys traveling, shopping, eating, and going to the movies with her family.
Mr. Percy Davis, ’80
Program Director
WOAD-AM

Percy Davis was President of Jackson State’s Class of 1980, a Mass Communication major with a concentration in radio and television broadcasting. Percy started working in his chosen field in November of 1980 while still a student at Jackson State University. He has performed various jobs in the communication industry ranging from Music Director and Production Director, to Assistant Program Director for WKXI-FM and is currently the Program Director for WOAD-AM Gospel 1300. Under Percy’s leadership the station received its first Stellar Award. With Percy at the helm, the class of 1980 sponsored annual events to fund sickle cell research and support the alumni student loan fund.

Since leaving JSU Percy has worked with Toys for Tots, assisted with soliciting funds through the Masonic order for scholarships, was a member of the JSU Tsunami benefit concert committee, and also assisted with the Malaco Records Katrina relief concert. He is a member of St. Luther M.B. Church and a board member with the Jackson Music Awards, former YMCA board member. He is a current board member for the Central Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation and a member of Sollie B. Norwood Lodge #699 and the Healing of the City coalition.

Through his company Nighthawk Productions, LLC he produces the annual Gospel Artist Showcase. Davis is the recipient of six Jackson Music Awards including the prestigious Frank Williams Memorial Award and is an honorary member of the Mississippi Mass Choir. He has also received a Drum Major for Justice Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the MLK celebration committee. Recently, he served as a Preliminary Judge for BET’S Sunday Best.

He is married to the former Janet Austin, of Tunica, Mississippi. They have two children, Parkisha and Austin who is currently a sophomore at JSU.
Ms. LaShasa Griffin, ’97
Assistant Director of Enrollment and Student Services
Coahoma Community College

LaShasa Griffin is the only daughter of Bobbie Griffin and Darrell Bridges. She is a resident of Jonestown, Mississippi. She is a graduate of Coahoma Agricultural High School-’93, Coahoma Community College-’95, Jackson State University-’97 and American InterContinental University-’06. She is the mother of one son, T’Eric Bailey. Ms. Griffin serves as the Assistant Director of Enrollment and Student Services. She is the past Dean of Student Affairs and Support Services at Coahoma Community College. LaShasa has also served as Adult Basic Education Instructor/Trainer, and Director of Support Services at Coahoma Community College in her fifteen years tenure there.

Professionally, LaShasa is a member of Mississippi Association of College Student Affairs Professionals (MACSAP), National Association of Student Affairs Professionals (NASAP).

LaShasa holds civic membership in the Clarksdale-Marks Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where she is 2nd Vice President; the Mississippi Delta Chapter of the Links Incorporated, where she is corresponding secretary; and the Jonestown Community Education Committee as a member. Currently, LaShasa is the secretary of the Clarksdale-Coahoma County Chapter of the National Jackson State University Alumni Association. Ms. Griffin is a member of the St. Luke Baptist Church of Jonestown where she is the Auxiliary Liaison, a choir member, and the program coordinator.
Attorney Malcolm Harrison, ’91
Attorney

Malcolm O. Harrison is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and graduated with honors from Provine High School in 1987 and Jackson State University in 1991. Attorney Harrison attended Cumberland School of Law, Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama graduating in 1994 with his Juris Doctor degree and was admitted to the Mississippi Bar April of 1995. Attorney Harrison is a BV rated attorney (An Attorney with Very High Legal Ability and Ethical Standards) by LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating Standard.

Attorney Harrison was elected as County Prosecuting Attorney for Hinds County, Mississippi in November 1999 and served until being appointed Circuit Court Judge in October 2009. Attorney Harrison served as Circuit Court Judge for Hinds County, Mississippi from October 2009 to December 2010. As Circuit Court Judge, Attorney Harrison presided over all civil and felony criminal matters including trials motions and hearings. Attorney Harrison had now returned to the general practice of Law.

Attorney Harrison is a member of several legal associations including past President of the Magnolia Bar Association 2008-2009; American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Mississippi Bar Association, Mississippi Prosecutor’s Association and the Capitol Area Bar Association. Previously Attorney Harrison served on Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann’s Committee to study Business Courts and reform LLC’s in Mississippi.

In service to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Attorney Harrison previously served as Legal Counselor for the Seventh District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc; Scholarship Chair for the Seventh District, State Counselor for the State of Mississippi; Keeper of Finance and Keeper of Peace for Beta Alpha Chapter. Attorney Harrison was also the 2006 Omega Man of the Year for Beta Alpha Chapter and the State of Mississippi.

Attorney Harrison’s community and civic involvement includes Deacon and Trustee Board member, Farish Street Missionary Baptist Church; Greater Leadership Jackson Alumni and T.C. Almore Lodge #242 F&AM. Attorney Harrison is a Life member of Jackson State University’s National Alumni Association. Attorney Harrison lives in Raymond, Mississippi with his wife, Tammiko Harrison and they have two sons, Khari and Kiland.
Judge Terri Love, ’83
Judicial Council
Louisiana Court of Appeal

Personal
Native of Birmingham, Alabama
Married for 25 years to Ellria Love with two children, Jasmine and Ellria

Education
B. A., Jackson State University, 1983
Juris Doctor, Tulane University Law School, 1986
Appellate Judicial Institute, New York University School of Law, 2001
Master of Laws in the Judicial Process, University of Virginia School of Law, 2004
International Judicial Academy, The Hague, Netherlands, 2007

Legal Career
Admitted Louisiana State Bar, 1987
Associate, Bryan & Gray LLC.
Chief Deputy City Attorney, City of New Orleans (Lead author of the City of New Orleans first domestic violence ordinance)
Law Office of Terri F. Love, Family Law Practice

Judicial Career
Judge Ad Hoc, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, 1993
Judge, Orleans Parish Civil District Court, 1995
Judge, Louisiana Court of Appeal Fourth Circuit, 2000 to present
Coordinated and implemented the Fourth Circuit’s Disaster Preparation, Continuity of Operations Plan
Uniform Rules Committee Member
Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Leadership Institute, 2011
Louisiana Judicial Council, 2014-present
Judicial College New Judges’ Training Committee

Honors / Awards
Ernest N. Morial Judicial Pacesetter Award, 2001
National Urban League Women of Power Award, 2012
Distinguished Public Service Award, New Orleans Chapter of the National Urban League, 2013
Legal and Community Service Activities
President of New Orleans Bar Association
Bar and Legal Membership
National Bar Association
Louis A. Martinet Legal Society
American Judges Association
National Association of Women Judges
Board Service
American Bar Association Appellate Judges’ Conference
Xavier University Preparatory School’s Board of Directors
Jackson State University’s Development Board
Jackson State University Woman’s Philanthropy Board
Amistad Research Board
Service Membership
Omicron Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
New Orleans Chapter of the Links, Inc.
Greater Saint Stephens Full Gospel Baptist Church
Mentor and Advisor with the Urban League College Track Program
Judge Love is a continuing student of the law who is committed to judicial excellence and serving as a mentor and advisor to the youth of New Orleans.
Attorney Bob Owens, '73

Attorney
Owens Moss, PLLC

Bob Owens is a prominent Jackson attorney whose law firm has won national acclaim. He has received numerous prestigious professional and community-based awards. He serves on and is president-elect of the Institutions of Higher Learning Board (board that governs all Mississippi state universities). He is a graduate of Jackson State University and Florida State University College of Law.

Mr. Owens is a partner in the law firm of Owens Moss, in Jackson, Mississippi. The firm is listed in Martindale-Hubbell’s Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers and is AV rated (the highest level). He is the past president of the Magnolia Bar Association and the Charles Clark Chapter of the American Inn of Court.

Mr. Owens’ accolades include: 1981 recipient of the Jack H. Young, Sr. Award for the lawyer contributing the most to the profession; 1999 recipient of the R. Jess Brown Award; 1993 recipient of the NAACP of Mississippi’s Lawyer of the Year Award; and induction into Jackson State University Alumni Hall of Fame in 2010.

He is married to Chancellor Denise Sweet Owens and father of Selika, Bobby, Brittany, and Jason.
Marlena Powell Pickering, a native of Mendenhall, Mississippi, is an associate at Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell and Berkowitz, P.C. in Jackson. Marlena earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Jackson State University, Magna Cum Laude, in 2002.

After college, Marlena became a teacher in the Jackson Public School District. After teaching sixth grade social studies for a year, Marlena accepted an internship at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. under the Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao. Marlena is a 2007 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Mississippi College School of Law. While at MC, she was an active member of the Mississippi College Law Review, Mississippi College Moot Court Board and Black Law Student Association. At Baker Donelson, Marlena litigated cases in state and federal court for five years before she transitioned her practice to focus on business transactions, regulations and public policy.

Marlena was selected as a Mid South Rising Star by Super Lawyers Magazine for three years in a row. Marlena has been an active member of Jackson Young Lawyers, the Magnolia Bar Association, and the Metro Magnolia Book Club - a book club for African American women professionals. Marlena has served as the coach for the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition since 2007. She regularly volunteers her time with the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project and accepts pro bono cases from the Mississippi Center for Violence Prevention. She also serves as a board member for the MIB Foundation, which provides assistance and funds to the Mississippi Industries for the Blind. Marlena is an avid runner and competes in races with other members of Black Girls Run--Jackson. Marlena and her husband Philip live in the Fondren with their Jack Russell puppy, Jinkies.
United States District Judge Carlton W. Reeves, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, assumed office on December 30, 2010. Prior to his nomination by President Barack Obama, Judge Reeves, a 1986 magna cum laude graduate of Jackson State University with a major in Political Science, was engaged in the private practice of law with Pigott Reeves Johnson, P.A., a law firm he co-founded in 2001. The focus of his practice was state and federal litigation. He obtained his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1989. Upon his graduation, he clerked for Justice Reuben V. Anderson of the Mississippi Supreme Court and then was an associate with the Phelps Dunbar law firm. He then served as Assistant United States Attorney, Chief of the Civil Division for the Southern District of Mississippi where he both supervised the daily trial and appellate litigation efforts of the attorneys and tried numerous cases. He served nationally on the Department of Justice Civil Chiefs Working Group and was awarded a Certificate of Commendation for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Reeves served as Special Master for the Hinds County Chancery Court where he presided over of cases concerning paternity, child support, child custody and visitation. He is a former President of the Magnolia Bar Association and Magnolia Bar Foundation as well as a Commissioner of the Mississippi Bar Association. He has served as adjunct faculty member at Jackson State and Mississippi College School of Law. He has served on numerous boards and commissions including the ACLU of Mississippi, Mississippi Workers Center for Human Rights, Mississippi Center for Justice, Mississippi Access to Justice Commission, Mississippi Center for Legal Services and the Mississippi Capital Defense Resource Center. He is the recipient of many honors and awards, including the Magnolia Bar’s highest honor, the R. Jess Brown Award, the Mississippi Bar’s Curtis E. Coker Access to Justice Award and the Hinds County Bar’s Pro Bono Award. Judge Reeves is married and has one daughter.
Ms. Kathleen Funches Varnell, ’90
Curatorial Associate
Mississippi Museum of Art

Kathleen Funches Varnell was born in Jackson, Mississippi, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Art with a concentration in Ceramics and Graphics from Jackson State University in 1990. She earned her Master of Fine Arts in Ceramics from Howard University, Washington, D.C, in 2001. Formerly, Varnell was employed as an Exhibits Specialist (Graphics) with the Office of Exhibits Central, Smithsonian Institution. At present, she is the Curatorial Associate at the Mississippi Museum of Art.

The artist has shown her work in solo and group shows across the United States. Recently, Varnell was invited to exhibit with a group of artist in “20 years: A Retrospective at Arts/Harmony Hall Regional Center” in Fort Washington, Maryland. Varnell was honored in her hometown as a featured artist at the Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, Mississippi in “Kathleen Varnell: Recent Transitions in Clay”. Varnell was one of one hundred and twenty-two artists exhibiting at her Alma Mater in “A Proud Continuum: Eight Decades of Art at Howard University”. During the month of May 2005, Varnell had her first solo exhibition in the Washington, D.C metropolitan area. The exhibition was held at Parish Gallery-Georgetown. In March 2003, Varnell exhibited with ten artists in “Mixed Bag”, also held at Parish Gallery. In April of 2002, she exhibited solo as the Honorary Artist of the “Tougaloo College Humanities Festival” in Jackson, Mississippi. While there she delivered gallery talks and conducted workshops. In May 2001, Varnell was one of eight artists exhibiting in the “Mississippi Invitational” at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson. Varnell exhibited with “Our New Day Begun: African American Artists Entering the Millennium” at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum in Austin, Texas, in February of 2000.
October 9, 2014

Dear Alumni,

On behalf of the College of Public Service, I am honored to have this opportunity to welcome you to our bi-annual Notable Alumni Panel discussion for Fall 2014. We thank you for returning back to your “Dear Ole College Home” and for taking the time to share your past experiences at JSU along with your successful achievements with our current students.

This is an exciting time for Jackson State University and the College of Public Service. The University has increased its enrollment by 4.1 percent from last year, with a record enrollment of 9,508 students. The College of Public Service is pleased to announce that, among colleges within the university, we had the highest enrollment growth. Other achievements for the College include our continued success in faculty teaching, research and service, state of the art infrastructure with our smart classrooms and innovative learning, healthcare administration online program, and the reaccreditation of our Public Policy and Administration Program and maximum accreditation for our Public Health Program.

In addition, the College has gone through a reorganization structure in which we have the Schools of Health Sciences and Social Work and programs in Public Policy and Administration and Urban and Regional Planning. We have added the Jackson Heart Study’s Community Outreach Center (CORC) and Graduate Training Education Center (GTEC), and the Mississippi Urban and Research Center (MURC).

Great things are happening in the College of Public Service, and we are inviting you to join our success. Also, we are grateful to you for your support and commitment to the College. If we can assist you in any way, please call on us.

Sincerely,

Ricardo A. Brown, PhD
Dean
2014 College of Public Service Notable Alumni Panel

**JSU Student Center Theater**

Bennie Hopkins, ’01, *Moderator*

*Panelists*

**LTC Dexter M. Brookins, ’96**
United States Army

**Dr. Mary Sims-Johnson, ’03**
Executive Director
Madison County Citizens Services Agency

**Jamie Jones, ’07**
Land Acquisition & Community Planning Manager
Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area

**Catherine Lee, ’11**
Director of Housing and Community Development
Midtown Partners, Inc.

**Dr. Nycole Campbell-Lewis, ’02**
State Coordinator, Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Policy Advisor

**Ursula Debi May, ’01**
Speech Language Pathologist

**Dr. Cynthia A. Melvin, ’88**
Vice President of Finance and Administration
Tougaloo College

**Dr. Shemeka Hamlin-Palmer, ’02**
Assistant Professor in the College of Public Service
Jackson State University

**Christopher Watts, ’05**
Data Manager/Analyst
LTC Dexter M. Brookins, ’96
Force Protection Plans Officer
United States Army

LTC Dexter M. Brookins entered the service on the 11th of August 1987 as a Private in the Infantry. LTC Brookins received his commission from the United States Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1997 from Jackson State University as a Distinguished Military Graduate.

Previous assignments include Launcher and Fire Control Platoon Leader for F/1-43 ADA in Kunson, S. Korea from July 1997 to June 1998 and Battery Executive Officer for B/1-43 ADA in Suwon, S. Korea from June 1998 to November 1998, and D/2-1 ADA from November 1998 to July 1999. LTC Brookins also served as the Aide-de-Camp for the Commanding General (1 - Star General) at Joint Task Force-6 from July 1999 to January 2001. In August 2001, he was assigned to the 31st ADA BDE from which he later deployed to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from February 2002 to September 2002. He later assumed command of A/3-2 ADA in December 2002. He later deployed Alpha Battery to Kuwait/Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from March to May 2003.

In April 2004, LTC Brookins was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Army Staff (JCS/OSD/ARSTAFF) Intern Program (a three year program). As a JCS/OSD/ARSTAFF Intern, LTC Brookins attended graduate school at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. to earn an Executive Masters in Policy Management. He then served a year as an action officer in the Psychological Operations Division in the Operations Division (J-3) on the Joint Staff in the Pentagon. Later he was selected to serve as the Operations Officer (Special Assistant) to The Inspector General of the Army (3 - Star General) in the Pentagon.

LTC Brookins was a White House Military Social Aide to President George W. Bush from September 2005 to June 2007.

In July 2008, LTC Brookins became the Operations Officer for 6-52 ADA, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He then forward stationed the battalion to South Korea where he served as the Operations and Executive Officer for 6-52 ADA from April 2009 to January 2011. Later, he was assigned to the UNC/CFC/USFK Commander's Initiatives Group as the CIG Traveler, accompanying the UNC/CFC/USFK Commander (4 - Star General) on all of his TDYs off peninsula from January 2011 to June 2012. Currently, LTC Brookins is assigned to the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command, Norfolk, Virginia as a Force Protection Plans Officer.

LTC Brookins holds a Bachelor of Social Work Degree from Jackson State University and an Executive Masters of Policy Management Degree from Georgetown University. His military education includes Airborne School, Air Assault School, the Primary Leadership Development Course, the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic, the Air Defense Artillery Captains Career Course and the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Joint Combined War Fighting School.

His awards include: the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the three Meritorious Service Medals, two Joint Service Commendation Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, the Army Good Conduct Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Non Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Medal, two Overseas Medals, two Joint Meritorious Unit Awards, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, Basic Airborne Wings, Air Assault Wings, the Army Staff Identification Badge, and the Joint Staff Identification Badge.

LTC Brookins is an active member of the Rocks, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Society of White House Military Aides. LTC Brookins has a 15 year old son, Javier M. Brookins.
Shirley Danzy, ‘90
Production Supervisor
Nissan, Inc.

Shirley Danzy has been a Production Supervisor for more than 20 years and a Master level Social Worker for over 10 years. She decided to become a Social Worker so that she could inspire children and adults to deal with the many problems that plague our society. Through searching for her dream, she discovered a love and passion for understanding and helping others. She strives to reach people through actively listening and empowering them to achieve outcomes they value. Danzy’s next passion actually found her, which is production. While attending Jackson State University in the bachelor of Social Work program, she worked for Tyson Foods in Jackson, Mississippi, which is a chicken processing facility. Upon graduation she was offered an opportunity as a Production Supervisor. Danzy thought, “This is not what I went to school for.” She was a little apprehensive at first because at that time there was only one female in that position and she had only been working in that capacity for about two months. She thought again, “Can I rise to the challenge of this career which has until recently only been held by males?” The offer was more attractive compared to potential Social Work opportunities and she decided to take on the challenge of this non-traditional career. Wow, was it a challenge, but she found it to be very unique, rewarding and she was also able to utilize the people skills which she obtained in her Social Work studies.

Shirley Danzy worked in a non-traditional career at Tyson Foods for 18 years as both a Quality Assurance Supervisor and a Production Supervisor. Shirley held master level Social Work positions at the Methodist Rehabilitation Center in Jackson, Mississippi and the Marion Hill Chemical Dependency Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi where she performed individual and group counseling. Shirley was later employed by Social Work P.R.N. in 2008 as a Crisis Hot line Social Worker for child and elderly abuse victims. In 2004, she was employed in another non-traditional career as an Automotive Production Supervisor at Nissan North America, in Canton, Mississippi. Shirley has found her career at Nissan to be challenging and extremely rewarding. In 2010, she traveled to Brazil on a work assignment where her role was to educate and train individuals to understand the Nissan Production Way. She received recognition for her efforts and dedication. In 2012, she traveled to Japan where she received education and training to become a Global Shop Floor and Global Launch Expert. Shirley continues to enjoy both of her passions, the field of Social Work and her non-traditional career as a Manufacturing Production Supervisor. Shirley Danzy holds a bachelor and master’s degree in Social Work from Jackson State University in Mississippi.
Bennie Hopkins, ’01
Planning and Development Consultant
City of Jackson

Bennie J. Hopkins Jr. is a native of Meridian, Mississippi. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology and his Master of Arts degree in Urban and Regional Planning both from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. He is the second born of three to Reverend and Mrs. Bennie J. Hopkins Sr. of Meridian. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated and various other civic organizations.

In 1996, he began working with the City of Jackson as a Building Inspector. Shortly thereafter, he was promoted to a Plans Examiner. Continuing with his matriculation in the City’s planning department, he accepted the position of Associate Planner. In 2003, he ventured out by serving as Acting Real Estate Manager earning his experience with the City’s property management.

Mr. Hopkins moved with his family to Germantown, Tennessee in late 2004. He then joined the planning staff at the Town of Collierville, Tennessee as a Project Planner. He has worked primarily in high profile planning areas, with the majority of his career being focused on balancing the relationships between the planning profession, elected officials, developers, and citizens.

Mr. Hopkins returned to Jackson in 2009 and most recently served the City of Jackson as the Director of Planning. He is currently working with various entities and stakeholders as a development consultant. His wife, Cheryl Hopkins, is a Certified Public Accountant and they have three children, John, Kennedy, and Samuel Hopkins, ages 14, 11, and 2.
Dr. Mary Sims-Johnson, ‘03
Executive Director
Madison County Citizens Services Agency

Dr. Mary Sims-Johnson, MSW, LCSW is currently the Executive Director of Madison County Citizens Services Agency in Canton, Mississippi and she is an adjunct Professor at JSU. She was in the premiere Ph.D. class and completed her Ph.D. in 2003 at JSU in Social Work Administration, Policy and Planning. She earned her MSW from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and Mental Health from Tougaloo College. She has nearly 40 years of Social Work experience in areas of Administration, Financial Management, Supervision, Field Instruction, Clinical, Grant Writing, Training and Program Development. She has received Regional and National Awards, appointments and special recognitions. She describes herself as a humble “impact” servant leader.

As a servant leader, administrator, role model, mentor, educator and field instructor, Dr. Johnson serves on several boards. She is Vice-Chairman of the Excel by 5 Steering Committee in North Madison County, Board of Directors of COGIC Aftercare Services, the Social Work Licensure Committee Chairman with the Mississippi Association of Community Action Agencies, and she serves on the Central Mississippi Local Workforce Investment Board.

She has served as a National Grant Reviewer with the U.S. Department of Human Services, appointed to the Governor’s Juvenile Detention Facilities Task Force/Chairman of Program and Service Committee, City of Jackson Mayors Task Force Against Violence, appointed to the National Runaway Homeless Youth Technical Assistance Board, appointed to the National Runaway Switchboard Program, Education and Research Board, and the Southeastern Network of Youth and Family Services Board of Directors.

Some of her awards include the Top Management Award for Southeastern Region with SEN, selected the first Social Worker of the Year at Catholic Charities, Inc., the Special Employee Recognition Award at Catholic Charities, Inc. and the first and only Field Instructor inducted into the National Phi Alpha Honor Society at Jackson State University School of Social Work.
Jamie Jones, ’07

Land Acquisition & Community Planning Manager
Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area

Jamie L. Jones is currently employed as a Land Acquisition & Community Planning Manager at Habitat for Humanity Mississippi Capital Area. She received a BA in Political Science in 2007 and a MA in Urban & Regional Planning in 2009 from Jackson State University.

Some of Jamie’s accomplishments and awards include: Who’s Who Among American Colleges & Universities; Dean’s Award in Recognition of Outstanding Service as a Graduate Assistant; Dean’s Award in Recognition of Commitment to Advancing Student Organizations; Dean’s Award in Recognition of Accomplished Student Scholar; Certificate of Academic Excellence for Maintaining a 4.0 GPA; Summa Cum Laude 3.86 GPA; Fannie Lou Hamer Pre-law Society; Leslie Burl McLemore Scholastic Achievement Award; Political Science Dept. Senior Honor Award and President's and Dean's List Scholar Department.

Jamie holds memberships in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; American Planning Association; Mississippi Planning Association; Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science National Honor Society; New Horizon Church International and Habitat Young Professionals.

She is the daughter of Curtis and Ophelia Jones.
Catherine Lee is the Director of Housing and Community Development for Midtown Partners, Inc., a neighborhood based non-profit organization in Jackson. She has a master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Jackson State University, and a bachelor’s degree in Communication from the University of Tampa. Lee serves on the board of directors for Bike Walk Mississippi, the statewide bicycle and pedestrian advocacy group. She is also the Logistics Lead for FIGMENT Jackson 2014, an international interactive arts festival that takes place in Jackson annually.
Dr. Nycole Campbell-Lewis, ‘02
State Coordinator, Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Policy Advisor

Dr. Nycole Campbell Lewis joined the faculty of the Executive Ph.D. Program in Spring, 2010. She received her Ph.D. in Public Policy & Administration with a concentration in Executive Program Management and Urban Management. Dr. Lewis has teaching, administrative, and research experience in Public Policy, Program Development and Evaluation. Prior to joining the faculty, Dr. Lewis received a Presidential Management Fellowship by the President’s Executive Order in 2001. She completed a fellowship at the United States Congress, United States Department of Health and Human Services, and Immediate Office of the Secretary for Aging- Budget and Management Division. She is currently employed with Governor Phil Bryant’s office, were she serves as a Policy Advisor and State Coordinator for Teenage Pregnancy Prevention for the State of Mississippi.

Dr. Nycole Campbell-Lewis served as the former Chief of Staff for the Governor’s Office Division of Medicaid in 2004-2007 providing health insurance for 600,000 Mississippians and 100,000 providers. In 2006, she served as the Deputy Administrator over the Mississippi Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which provided health care benefits for 66,000 children.

Dr. Campbell-Lewis’ scope of responsibility included the day-to-day management of a $3.9 billion dollar budget, strategic planning, providing human resources and executive management of the health insurance program, overseer of the Medicaid information management system which supported 1,066 employees, health care providers, 16 bureaus, and 30 regional offices throughout the State of Mississippi.

In addition, she served as an advisor to the Medicaid Executive Director, and advised him on federal and state legislation and regulatory issues. She served as the direct liaison to the Governor’s Office. During her tenure as the Chief of Staff, she served as the liaison to agencies on the federal, state, local, regional and national levels.

In 2003, she was appointed as the first Executive Director of Delta Health Alliance, nonprofit organization to lead Honorable Senator Thad Cochran’s Health Initiative in the Mississippi Delta. The initial initiative grant funding to launch the initiative was $2.8 million dollars grant project and it is over $30 million. The partners for the project included: University Medical Center, Mississippi State University, Delta State University, Mississippi Valley State University and Delta Council. She also served as a consultant for local nonprofit organizations and political campaigns.

She received a Bachelors of Liberal Arts from the University of Mississippi in 1994 and a Masters of Social Work in 1996. She completed her Ph.D. in Public Policy & Administration at Jackson State University in 2002.


Ursula Debi May, ’01
Speech Language Pathologist

Ursula Debi May, a native of Natchez, Mississippi is a JSU graduate. Mrs. May was a Communicative Disorders major in what was then the Department of Speech and Dramatic Art. Mrs. May is a Speech Language Pathologist in private practice and the owner of Small Talk, LLC, an Allied Health Company providing Speech Language Pathology services throughout the state of Mississippi. Ursula Debi May is married to her college sweetheart Kevin. They are the proud parents of two daughters Kelsi and Kelli and a son Kevin II. Their oldest daughter is a 2014 graduate of St. Joseph High School and now a Freshman at Jackson State University. She is following her mother’s footsteps by pursuing a degree in Communicative Disorders/Speech Language Pathology.

Mrs. May has done extensive research in the area of Autism; some of which has been published in national Speech and Language journals. In addition, on several occasions she has served as a national field examiner providing data to represent preschoolers in the state of Mississippi. Mrs. May enjoys working with children and serves the preschool to school age population exclusively. She also enjoys guiding and mentoring fellow Speech Language Pathologists while starting their private practice as she did 11 years ago. Mrs. May is a member of Greater Pearlie Grove Baptist Church, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the American Speech Language and Hearing Association, a Past Board Member of St. Joseph Catholic School and the Jackson State University National Alumni Association.
Cynthia A. Melvin, ‘88
Vice President of Finance and Administration
Tougaloo College

Cynthia A. Melvin was selected for the position of Vice President of Finance and Administration at Tougaloo College effective July 2005. The appointment to this position was a manifestation of “thought” years ago that she wanted to work for Tougaloo College. The journey to realize this “thought” was not from adhering to a designed plan of a professional life. Instead, this journey was a blend of interactions with the right people, performance of many jobs such that it reflected knowledge, dedication and a strong ethical core, successes and failures, unexpected opportunities, family support, encouragement from colleagues and friends, and a balanced life. During August 2004, Cynthia A. Melvin received the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Jackson State University. She is also the recipient of a B. S. degree in Accounting from Mississippi University for Women in 1979 and a Masters in Public Accounting from Jackson State University in 1988. Her professional career began in 1979 at Jackson State University as the NDSL Accountant. Cynthia A. Melvin is the mother to Michael, who graduated from Jackson State University and Markus, who graduated from Tougaloo College. She also considers Molly as an important family member.
Dr. Shemeka Hamlin-Palmer, ’02
Assistant Professor in the College of Public Service
Jackson State University

Shemeka Hamlin-Palmer, Ph.D., MPH, currently serves as visiting Assistant Professor in the College of Public Service, Department of Healthcare Administration. For over 14 years, she has worked tirelessly in the healthcare field educating the community on issues such as HIV/AIDS, STDs, teenage pregnancy, partner violence, hypertension and diabetes just to name a few. She has served as a Distinguished Lecturer at National Conferences such as the American Public Health Association Conference, United States Conference on AIDS, National HIV Prevention Conference and the National Association of African American Studies (NAASA) Conference.

Dr. Palmer holds a Doctorate Degree in Clinical Health Sciences from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, a Master’s Degree in Public Health with a concentration of Health Education, Promotion and Behavioral Change and a Bachelor Degree in Healthcare Administration both from Jackson State University. She is credentialed as a HIV/AIDS behavioral counselor and a violence prevention professional in Mississippi. Dr. Palmer has over 14 years of experience in the development and implementation of substance abuse, mental health, HIV/AIDS, STDs/STIs and public health programs in community based settings.

As a consultant, she has worked with city, state and federal agencies including the Mississippi State Department of Health STD/HIV Division, the Mississippi State Department Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, the Federal Centers for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse Treatment and, Mississippi’s HIV Prevention Planning Group. She has extensive experience in training consumers, organizations and patients in understanding and using evidence based healthcare.
Christopher Watts, '05
Data Manager/Analyst

Christopher Kelvin Watts, a research statistician in RTI’s Statistics and Epidemiology Division, has nearly 7 years of public health experience, including a Master’s of Public Health in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Jackson State University. Mr. Watts currently works at the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a Data Manager/Analyst providing technical and supervisory support to the Metropolitan Atlanta Congenital Defects Program (MACDP) and birth defect research.

He has extensive experience working in health research as it relates to behavioral, mental, military and minority health, in addition to surveillance research. His research/data management experience includes Institutional Review Board (IRB) submissions, fiscal management, protocol development, protocol compliance, standardized data procedures development, data analysis/interpretation and policy development; his skills set includes program/process evaluation, data linkage, program analysis with SAS [Base/Macro/ODS/SQL] and report development. His dedication to surveillance and research has led to numerous publications and the opportunity to standardize surveillance methodologies as an epidemiologist/suicide surveillance team lead, for the United States Army Public Health Command (USAPHC) and provide technical and subject matter expertise assistance to several U.S. Army and Department of Defense (DoD) research efforts to examine suicidal behavior. Most importantly, his experience has given him the opportunity to gain and develop excellent communication, presentation, interpersonal, and leadership skills with strong analytic abilities.
October 9, 2014

Dear Alumni:

Welcome to the College of Education and Human Development. We are the oldest and largest college in Jackson State University’s “One Nation.” We are home to 2,510 undergraduate and graduate students.

We want to thank you for returning to your alma mater to invest your time and knowledge, and to encourage all of our students. We also thank you for representing this great university in such a professional and unique way in the state, country and globally.

The College of Education is presently creating a Teachers’ Campaign to produce more teachers for K-12. We are home to the Call Me MISTER Program. This exciting program will place black males in low performing elementary schools.

We also have a wonderful collaboration with the Blackburn Middle School which is located adjacent to our beautiful campus. It has been renamed the Blackburn Laboratory Middle School. We are combining our resources to transform Blackburn into a high performing middle school, and use our data to replicate this endeavor in all middle schools.

Certainly, we want you to be a part of these endeavors and many others. We need your time, expertise, and resources to help us educate Mississippi, the nation, and the world.

Please feel free to contact the College of Education at 601-979-2433 to play a role in our exciting future. GO ONE JSU!

Regards,

Daniel Watkins, Ph.D., Dean
Education and Human Development
2014 College of Education and Human Development Notable Alumni Panel

CEHD-Engineering Building-Auditorium, Room 100

Dr. Ingrad Smith, Moderator
Assistant Dean for the College of Education and Human Development

Panelists

Dr. Kymyona Burk, ‘98
State K-3 Literacy Coordinator
Mississippi Department of Education

Dr. Dianne Everett, ‘06
Director/Ombudsman/Title III Liaison
Division of Academic and Student Affairs
Jackson State University

Dr. Lucille Green, ‘10
Seniors College Coordinator/Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies
School of Lifelong Learning
Jackson State University

Ms. Michelle Houston, ‘93
Instructor
Health, Physical Education and Recreation
Jackson State University

Ms. Angela Jones, ‘02
School Improvement Officer
Coahoma County Agricultural High School

Dr. Rosie Pridgen, ‘92
Superintendent (Retired)/Adjunct Faculty
Mississippi School for the Blind/Jackson State University

Dr. Will Smith, ‘07
Principal
Natchez High School
Dr. Kymyona Burk, ’98
State K-3 Literacy Coordinator
Mississippi Department of Education

Dr. Kymyona Burk is the State K-3 Literacy Coordinator for the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). She works collaboratively with the MDE to coordinate the Literacy-Based Promotion Act by providing daily technical support to literacy coaches and regional literacy coaches in their capacity to support instruction of the 5 components of reading, as well as monitor the use of scientific reading research and its application to effective classroom instruction, structure, practices, and intervention.

Dr. Burk’s experience includes teaching, training, and coaching in the areas of reading, writing, and literacy. She is the former Program Coordinator for Jackson State University’s Call Me MISTER® Initiative and Literacy Coordinator for the Mississippi Learning Institute. She has served as a school-based literacy coach; district Consortium on Reading Excellence (C.O.R.E.) Literacy Trainer; and, instructor of reading and English on elementary, secondary, and undergraduate levels. Dr. Burk has presented research and conducted professional development on local, state, and national forums, including the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference. She has received professional training through the National Institute for School Leaders (NISL), C.O.R.E., Harvard Institute for School Leadership (Harvard University), and the Exeter Humanities Institute.

Kymyona Burk received a Doctorate of Education/Early Childhood Education, Specialist in Secondary Education/English, Master of Arts in Teaching English, and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Jackson State University.
Dr. Dianne Everett, ’06
Director/Ombudsman/Title III Liaison
Division of Academic and Student Affairs
Jackson State University

As a Director in the Division of Academic and Student Affairs, Everett’s primary responsibilities are management of programs under the auspices of the Provost that are funded by the U. S. Department of Education, Title III Office. This includes ensuring compliance in meeting academic goals/objectives as they relate to academic programs and the university strategic plan. The ultimate goal is to strengthen the academic environment, thereby improving student achievement. Additionally, Dr. Everett is a member of several academic, civil and historical organizations. She enjoys research, has presented at various conferences and has submitted and reviewed successful grant proposals. Dr. Everett is a supporter of her alma maters, Tougaloo College, Jackson State University and the Piney Woods Country Life School, as well as local educational organizations.
Dr. Lucille Green, ’10

Seniors College Coordinator/Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies
School of Lifelong Learning
Jackson State University

Dr. Lucille Green is a native of Jackson, Mississippi. She received her high school diploma from Sumner Hill High School. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree and Masters’ Degrees in Business Administration from Jackson State University. Dr. Green received her Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Higher Education from Jackson State University in December, 2010. Dr. Green considers herself a Lifelong Learner. Upon completion of her doctorate; she accepted an offer to travel to Monrovia, Liberia in September, 2011. Dr. Green spent ten months in West Africa where she served as an Assistant Professor at Cuttington University and as an Educational Specialist at one of the Rural School Districts in Monrovia, Liberia. Dr. Green is a published author and continues to seek ways to improve her skills and abilities.

Dr. Green is presently employed at Jackson State University where she serves as Seniors College Coordinator. This has been the most rewarding experience throughout her entire working career. Since accepting this position, she has enrolled over one hundred-fifty seniors 55 years-of-age and older into the Seniors College Program.

Dr. Green retired from BellSouth Telephone Company after completing 27 years of service with them. She has worked in the Jackson Public School District serving as a limited service teacher. Dr. Green has also worked as an Adjunct Instructor for Hinds Community College for more than six years.

Dr. Green is the mother of four adult children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She is a member of Cade Chapel M.B. Church where she serves as a Sunday school teacher, a member of the deaconess ministry, the mission ministry, the finance ministry and the bereavement ministry. My greatest joy is sharing God’s love with others.
Ms. Michelle Houston, ’93
Instructor
Health, Physical Education and Recreation
Jackson State University

Ms. Jonathan Michelle Houston is a native of Oxford, Mississippi, but has made Jackson, Mississippi her home for 28 years. She is a 1993 graduate of Jackson State University where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Social Science Education and a Masters degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation in 1997 and a Specialist degree in Education Administration in 2004.

Houston’s tenure at Jackson State University has provided a diverse array of professional experiences including serving as the Assistant Coach for Women’s Basketball (1995-2001) and Head Women’s Softball coach (2000). Ms. Houston currently is an instructor in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER)—a position which she’s held since 2003.

Ms. Houston is a member of Black’s Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., the Mississippi Alliance of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (Board and Council), and Phi Epsilon Kappa Honorary Fraternity. She extends her service to the University as the advisor to both the JSU Dance Ensemble and the Lambda Beta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. She is the mother of two adult children, Tyrone and Tyesha Kidd.
Ms. Angela Jones, ’02
School Improvement Officer
Coahoma County Agricultural High School

Angela Jones is currently employed as the School Improvement Officer for Coahoma AHS District in Clarksdale, Mississippi. For the last sixteen years, she has taught classes in Business and Computer Technology, served as an Assistant Principal, Principal, Federal Programs Director, Curriculum Director, Transformation Specialist, and Deputy Superintendent.

She holds a B.S. degree in Marketing Management and Business Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Masters degree in Educational Administration from Jackson State University. She has completed additional graduate work at the doctoral level at Jackson State University in Educational Leadership. She is a member of numerous educational and civic organizations throughout the community.
Rosie L. T. Pridgen, Ph.D. is a Mississippi native. She recently retired as Superintendent of the Mississippi School for the Blind after serving 15 years in that capacity. When Dr. Pridgen assumed the position of Superintendent of the Mississippi School for the Blind, she became the first female and the second African American to serve as superintendent of the 10th oldest school for the blind in the country. She has enjoyed working in the field of education since assuming her first teaching position in 1970. Dr. Pridgen earned degrees from Jackson State University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in the areas of Health and Physical Education, Special Education with an emphasis on Mental Retardation and Visual Impairment, Blind Rehabilitation, and Educational Administration and Supervision. She has served as a teacher, substitute teacher, orientation and mobility specialist, assistant principal, principal, interim superintendent, and superintendent. Dr. Pridgen has also served as an Interim Superintendent of the Mississippi School for the Deaf for two and one-half years while concurrently serving as Superintendent of the Mississippi School for the Blind.

Dr. Pridgen is a 2010 graduate of Leadership Greater Jackson. She is an active member of Mt. Carmel Ministries of Pearl, Mississippi where she serves as Chair of the Board of Directors and a member of the music ministry. She is blessed to have a blended family of four children and eleven grandchildren. She is a Golden Life Member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She also holds membership in other professional, social, civic, and service organizations. Dr. Pridgen was recently appointed to serve on the Board of Commissioners for the Jackson Municipal Airport Authority.
Dr. Will Smith, ’07
Principal
Natchez High School

Dr. Will Smith is the son of Barbara Smith, and the grandson of Herbert and Eunice Smith, and is a native of Coahoma, Mississippi. Smith’s educational journey began at Coahoma County High School in Clarksdale, Mississippi where he was voted Mr. Coahoma County High School and student body president. He became the first in his family to graduate from high school and college. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Social Science in 2007 and Master of Science degree in Educational Leadership in 2010 from Jackson State University, and he earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Southern Mississippi at the age of 26. He began his teaching career at Callaway High School at age 20, where he served in many capacities as a teacher, mentor, department chair, Freshman Academy Coordinator and SGA Advisor.

Since January 2011, he has served as a school administrator and an Adjunct Professor at Jackson State University. Currently, he is lead principal of Natchez High School. Dr. Smith has been featured on several media outlets, highlighting his efforts on school improvement. He has also received numerous awards, and accolades including, but not limited to: Metro Teacher of the Year, Tom Joyner Hardest Working Teacher, SGA Advisor of the Year, and two $10,000 grants from America’s Promise and United Way to address the drop-out crisis. Dr. Smith is continuing to strive for educational excellence.
Dear CSET Alumni,

Please permit me to start by sincerely thanking you for coming to share your time and experience with our students in what must be a busy time for you. I am really pleased to inform you that your degree from Jackson State University continues to grow in esteem and professional merit. Allow me to present you some examples of excellence in teaching and research that are impacting today’s students and reflecting on you, our alums:

➢ As you know, JSU is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a comprehensive “high research activity” institution—ranked among the top tier of the United States’ public institutions for research and development. Most recently, JSU has made enormous investments in research and graduate education, expanding its research infrastructure and recruiting world-class faculty in STEM disciplines.

➢ CSET offers 16 bachelors, 10 masters and four doctoral programs (with many concentrations). Our staff and students conduct high quality research to further scientific knowledge, while being at the forefront of fundamental and applied research that constitutes the scientific foundation to solve complex societal problems.

➢ CSET students compete nationally and internationally. Many have won prestigious fellowships from federal authorities such as the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Departments of Defense, Energy and Homeland Security. They have also won competitive post-doctoral positions and job placements in academia, government agencies, national laboratories and industry—affirming the talent and quality of our students.

➢ We are really proud of our new Engineering Building—the first LEED [Green] Certified building in the city of Jackson, Mississippi which houses the office of the Dean and the Departments of Electrical & Computer Engineering and Civil & Environmental Engineering. Presently under consideration is a proposed Phase II addition which will be a two-story, 23,352 square foot wing housing the offices, labs, classrooms and student areas of the Department of Computer Science and the proposed Industrial Systems and Technology Department (currently the Technology Department).
Some of our achievements over the past year are as follows:

➢ CSET faculty authored 312 (173 collaborative) peer reviewed articles, 133 peer reviewed articles with students, 3 books and 16 book chapters.
➢ The College presented 412 papers at professional conferences, including 312 presentations by students.
➢ CSET was awarded about $15 million in federally funded grants.
➢ CSET enrollment totaled 2,130 students (6.6% increase over 2012-13).
➢ CSET graduated 223 STEM majors in May 2014.
➢ We received ABET re-accreditation for BS degree in Computer Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Computer Science.
➢ We received ATMAE re-accreditation for BS in Industrial Technology with 4 areas of emphasis, and a new concentration in Emergency Management.
➢ The College established and/or strengthened international collaborations with four universities in China to include a 2+2 program, 3.5+1.5 program, 3+2 program, faculty and student exchange and research collaborations.
➢ We strengthened international collaborations with universities in Brazil, Colombia and Panama; a new BS degree in Electrical Engineering; and implemented strategic activities for our Scholars Academy Program.
➢ JSU received IHL authorization to develop and implement four new degree programs including:
  • PhD in Engineering
  • PhD in Computational and Data-Enabled Science and Engineering
  • BS in Biomedical Engineering
  • BS in Statistics
➢ We also developed proposals for 2 new degree programs
  • MSB in Science/Engineering and Business/Entrepreneurship
  • BS in Biotechnology

As we advance into the 21st century, we are redefining JSU-CSET STEM programs. Our excellent undergraduate and graduate programs, emphasis on practical training and applied research, and commitment to recruiting highly motivated students in emerging and innovative STEM programs, stabilize us in realizing our future as we continue to produce globally competitive scientists and leaders.

These activities are not possible, however, without the generous contributions of our alumni and friends. Your gifts, time, mentoring, sponsored internships and extended employment opportunities to our students are among the many ways you have and continue to demonstrate your support of the advancement of the University and your value for your alma mater. **There is no more important time to give than now and there is no more important investment in your profession than to give back to the school and program of which you can be proud.** By supporting students, faculty, and CSET programs, we dynamically “challenge minds and change lives”.

Richard A. Aló, Ph.D.
Dean
2014 College of Science, Engineering and Technology Notable Alumni Panel

CSET-Engineering Building-Auditorium, Room 100

Mr. Dominick Sanders ’14, Moderator
Regional Chair, JSU NSBE, Jr. Program

Panelists

Mr. Steven Clark, ’86
Assistant Manager
Supply Chain Management, Toyota, Inc.

Mr. William Johnson, ’06
Researcher
Jackson State University

Dr. Nykiconia Preacely, ’01
Epidemiologist
Centers of Disease Control

Dr. Vernon Ross, ’82
Director, STEM Higher Education
Lockheed Martin, Inc.

Mr. Larry Shaw, ’80
Performance Management & Integration Systems
NASA

Dr. Justin Turner, ’03
Internist
Turnercare, Inc.

Dr. Gregory Williams, ’79
Division Champion for Performance Excellence in Science and Technology
Corning, Incorporated
Mr. Steven Clark, ’86

Assistant Manager, Supplier Commodity Engineering
Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America

Steven Clark Sr. is a manufacturing/production engineering professional with over 25 years of engineering experience in the office furniture and automotive manufacturing industries. Steven currently holds the position of Assistant Manager in the Supplier Engineering Development Division—Powertrain & Chassis at Toyota Motor Engineering & Manufacturing North America in Erlanger, Kentucky. He has been with Toyota for over 18 years. In his current position, he is responsible for supporting a staff of engineers that support high risk suppliers in the preparation of manufacturing processes for key vehicle components. Steven is a founding member and has served as the Chairman of the Toyota African American Collaborative.

Although, Steven travels a lot to provide support for the suppliers that his team is assigned, he also finds time to support the community. Steven has served as member of the Toyota Corporate Contributions Committee and the Toyota Team Member Volunteer Committee. Steven was recognized as a “Toyota Community Star” in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2013. He was recognized as the Toyota Volunteer of the Year for 2009. Steven was also recognized as the WIZF “Unsung Hero” for April 2009 for his service to the community. He serves as the President/Chairman of the Delta Gamma Lambda Youth & Education Foundation, serves as a Board Member of the Moe Hills Inc. Youth Organization, where he is also a speed/sprint coach for the Moe Hills AAU/USATF Track & Field team. He also serves as the Alpha Esquire Youth Group Coordinator; a group he helped to start in 2001. He also provides support to the University of Cincinnati Emerging Ethnic Engineers program amongst a host of other activities. Steven is a Life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and serves as Southwest Ohio Area Director of the Midwestern Region.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, he earned a B.S. in Industrial Engineering Technology from Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi. Steven has been married to his wife Colette for 23 years and is the father of four children, Steven Jr. (23yrs), Armon (18yrs), Aaron (16yrs) and Serena (13yrs).
Mr. William Johnson, ’06

Researcher
Jackson State University

Mr. William K. Johnson is an Environmental Science Doctoral Research Assistant at Jackson State University, and is set to obtain his Ph.D. in December 2014.

Mr. Johnson received his Master’s degree in Biology from JSU in 2009. He has been studying the effects of a novel plant extract on prostate cancer for the past eight years at JSU, and is currently fielding job offers from the clinical and public health research fields, while preparing several manuscripts for scientific publication.

Mr. Johnson was also a scholar athlete for five years on the JSU Tiger baseball team. During his athletic tenure here he was invited to play in the NECBL, one of the top collegiate leagues in the nation. After returning to Mississippi, he worked in the hospital emergency health field for two years and continued his research in natural cancer therapeutic medicine.

Mr. Johnson currently volunteers his time coaching young men in the game of baseball, and mentoring young men and women who are eager to enter the science field. An avid family man, Mr. Johnson is married with one daughter. His ambition is to open an all-inclusive health clinic, with a comprehensive focus on holistic treatment, integrating traditional and alternative medicines with a focus on nutrition, physical activity, and mental health.
Dr. Nykiconia Preacely, ‘01
Epidemiologist
Centers of Disease Control

Dr. Preacely is a 2001 cum laude graduate of Jackson State University, where she received a B.S. in Biology. While enrolled at JSU she was a member of the W.E.B. Dubois Honors College, the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, a JSU student mentor, and a member of the Mississippi Alliance for Minority Participation. She held numerous campus leadership roles in several campus organizations including serving as President of Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society, Vice-President of Beta Kappa Chi Honor Society, Student Government Association-Senator, Miss Senior 2000-2001, and President of the Gamma Rho Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Upon graduation from JSU she enrolled in the University of Southern Mississippi’s Master of Public Health program concentrating in epidemiology and biostatistics where she was inducted into the Eta Sigma Gamma Health Honor Society and served as a graduate assistant with the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi and the Deep South Network for Cancer Control. Following graduation from USM she completed a public health residency in the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California.

She graduated with a 4.0 in the doctor of public health program at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. While a student at UNTHSC she was elected Doctoral student representative of the Public Health Student Association, a student reagent for the University of North Texas University system, and was inducted into the highly selective Delta Omega Public Health Honor Society. Dr. Preacely was selected as the top doctoral student in epidemiology and as the top graduating student in the School of Public Health. During the 2008 commencement she was selected as the banner barer for the School of Public Health because of these honors.

Dr. Preacely began her federal career working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), headquartered in Atlanta, GA in 2008 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer where she was assigned to the Coordinating Office for Global Health working primarily in Africa providing public health capacity building assistance to 10 countries. She also served as an epidemiologist with the Public Health Systems Strengthening Branch in the Center for Global Health at CDC and led the global lab systems unit on workforce development projects in Africa and Eastern Europe. Currently Dr. Preacely is working as a CDC epidemiologist assigned to the Mississippi State Department of Health to strengthen public health surveillance, preparedness and response efforts in the state. She is also an adjunct professor in the JSU honors college. Dr. Preacely was recently Certified in Public Health by the National Board of Public Health Examiners and earned a graduate certificate in Public Health Geographic Information Systems from the University of Illinois Chicago. Dr. Preacely serves as the current president of the Mississippi Mosquito and Vector Control Association and her research interests include public health disease surveillance, geographic information systems, HIV/AIDS prevention, field epidemiology and capacity building. She is a life member of the JSU National Alumni Association and actively supports both the Jackson-Hinds and Metro Atlanta chapters of the JSU Alumni Association.
Dr. Vernon Ross, ’82
Director, STEM Higher Education
Lockheed Martin, Inc.

Vernon Ross currently serves as the Director of STEM and Generations Engagement for Lockheed Martin Corporation. In his role, Ross develops and leads STEM higher education and generational initiatives across the corporation. Specific responsibilities include partnership with Talent Acquisition to implement a comprehensive higher education program and developing programs across Lockheed Martin that will address generational issues. He has extensive experience in areas of STEM, formal training programs aligned with business goals and overall mission, and higher education. He designed and launched the Lockheed Martin Cyber Security Talent Management Initiative including the Lockheed Martin Cyber University. He received an undergraduate degree in Computer Science and Mathematics from Jackson State University (’82), a Master’s degree in Computer Education from Philadelphia University, and a Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Innovation from Wilmington University.
Mr. Larry Shaw, ’80
Performance Management & Integration Systems
NASA

Mr. Larry C. Shaw is a native of Camden, Mississippi. He earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics from Jackson State University in 1980, and an MBA from the University of Phoenix in 2011. His career began prior to joining NASA, where he spent several years with TRW and Hughes Aircraft as a Reliability and Quality Engineer in the manufacture of Satellites and Traveling Wave Tubes Amplifiers.

After becoming a NASA engineer in 1985 at the Johnson Space Center, he has held numerous positions. He was the Lead Quality Engineer for the Manufacture and Test of Government Furnished Equipment (GFE). In 1990, he became manager of the Orbiter and GFE Problem Reporting and Corrective Action System. In 1995, he served as Chief of the JSC Orbiter Project Resident Office in Downey, California. During this time Mr. Shaw received NASA’s “Exceptional Achievement Medal.” In 1999, Mr. Shaw spent 6 months at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. under the leadership of former astronaut (Col. Fred D. Gregory). He also served as NASA/JSC Continuous Risk Manager. His dedication to these activities earned him NASA’s “Exceptional Service Medal” in 2001. Mr. Shaw later became a key member of the Space Shuttle Transition and Retirement Team tasked to retire NASA’s Space Shuttle Program, which was completed in 2013.

In his current capacity with NASA, Mr. Shaw serves as a member of the Performance Management & Integration Office where his focus is on Performance Assessments of Cost and Technical activities.

Mr. Shaw’s JSU alumni credentials include:
President of JSU-Houston Area Alumni Chapter 2012 - Present
Past 1st VP of JSU-HAAC in 2004, and Past 2nd VP of the chapter in 2002
A JSUNAA Life Member for over 7 years, and JSU-HAAC Alumnus of the Year in 2003

Mr. Shaw’s personal credentials include the following:
Married for over 30 years with 2 wonderful children
A member of the Bible Way Fellowship Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, for over 28 years
A member of the National Society of Black Engineers, and a member of the Houston Black MBA Association
Dr. Justin Turner, ’03

Internist
Turnercare, Inc.

Dr. Justin Turner’s approach to medicine involves treating the whole person. He feels health can only be optimized if we understand physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health are interrelated and not separate entities. This philosophy combined with compassion, excellent bedside manners and dedication to service provides an effective comprehensive model.

A native of Jefferson, Claiborne, and Warren Counties, Dr. Turner graduated from Jackson State University and later completed medical school at Meharry Medical College. Given his commitment to servitude, he chose the University of Mississippi Medical Center to complete his residency.

Dr. Turner has received multiple recognitions from his peers and his community.

Among those include:

➢ The 2013 Young Merit Award by MMSA,
➢ One of the 2013 Young Influentials of Jackson by BOOM Magazine,
➢ The 2012 Newcomer Physician of the Year

Dr. Turner has also participated in a plethora of community service activities, including serving as medical expert on WLBT and 105.9 Talking Sports Live with Deuce McAllister and Rob Jay.
**Dr. Gregory Williams, ’79**

Division Champion for Performance Excellence in Science and Technology
Corning Incorporated

Dr. Gregory E. Williams is the Division Champion for Performance Excellence in Science and Technology for Corning Incorporated. Gregory’s responsibilities include Compliance Leader for the Research and Development Organization.

Dr. Williams began his career as a member of the technical staff of Lincoln Laboratory, MIT. He later joined the Science and Technology Division at Corning Incorporated in 1986 as a Senior Scientist in the Optical Physics Research group where he was involved in the development of fiber optic components for telecommunications. He supervised the fiber development group that led to the support of the fiber and the photonics components business. He was project manager responsible for strategic planning and was named research manager of the CS&S Physical Properties Research and Analysis Department. He later took on the role of Manager of New Business Development and Global Lab Support. He was responsible for technology transfer between Corning’s research labs and Corning’s global labs with an emphasis on the measurement of glass display technology in Asia. He also served as the Quality Manager for the Characterization and Material Processing Division. He later was appointed World Wide Lab Manager for the Corning Environmental Technologies Division.

He holds several patents and has presented or published papers in several internal and external venues. He serves on the technology advisory committees of several academic institutions. He supports and is active in the mentoring and coaching of underrepresented minorities in STEM programs.

Dr. Williams received a B.S. degree in physics from Jackson State University. He received a Master’s Degree in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and earned his doctorate in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University.
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