Graphic Design Technology student Andrew Bartolotta of Southaven prepares to “cross the finish line” at the college’s 96th Commencement May 11 at Howard Coliseum. Bartolotta, who served as editor of the 2012 Rocketeer yearbook, was one of 224 graduates receiving the Associate of Applied Science degree.  
Photo by Julie Bauer
features

cross that line
College sees record number of graduates in three ceremonies during 96th Commencement

successful partnership
Ag Tech program hosts regional open house for students and John Deere personnel

cover story: y'all twins?
Sisters join other Northwest faculty in publishing non-fiction, textbooks, and short story collections

elite class
Athletes from various disciplines inducted into Northwest’s Sports Hall of Fame

high tech leader
Northwest alum enjoys successful IT career after college experience as athletic stand-out

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from the heart of northwest/sybil canon

alumni news/dolores wooten

If there were just an extra 10 hours in each day, there is something I would really like to do. I would like to follow our students for 10 years after they leave Northwest and then contact all of the people who have established scholarships so they would know that their investments have brought a return beyond anything we ever hoped and dreamed.

There are three students who have recently graduated from Northwest that certainly are off to a great start. Robert Barnes and Ben Lambert have each been accepted into the Mississippi Rural Physician Program, receiving $30,000 in scholarships each year and a monthly stipend of $1,000. For his two years at Northwest, Robert has received The Joey Boldreghini Endowed Scholarship. Joey was planning to attend Northwest when his life tragically ended in an automobile accident. His grandmother, Mrs. Nan Flinn, established the scholarship with Dr. Lucie Bridforth, who was managing the Foundation at that time. Just think about that. This scholarship was established in 1991, over 20 years ago, and it is still helping students. Joey’s legacy will live through Robert and all of the patients he will treat when he completes med school.

Ben Lambert has received The Gateway Tire Endowed Scholarship at Northwest. Bobby Dunlap, CEO of Dunlap and Kyle, the parent company of Gateway, established this scholarship in 2003. Mr. Dunlap has helped literally thousands of young people to go to school, and he can now add a future medical doctor to his list. And, again, this scholarship will keep on giving for years and years to come.

Logan Dodson was awarded The C.B. and Marjorie Norton Walker Endowed Scholarship for his two years at Northwest. Both Mr. and Mrs. Walker were educators, with Mr. Walker serving as Tate County superintendent of education for 28 years. Mrs. Walker taught for a brief time before devoting herself full-time to her family. Logan has been awarded a full-tuition scholarship to the University of Mississippi to continue his major of secondary education. He was one of 10 community college students chosen out of a field of 220. The Walker Endowment was established by their children in 2003, and the educational legacy of their parents will keep on living.

In the past 10 years, because of the generosity of so many people, we have awarded more than 2,500 scholarships. Certainly, not every student has taken advantage of this wonderful opportunity; however, the vast majority has. And if it could just get those extra 10 hours, would I have a story to tell? But since I can’t, please join me in imagining all of the good and wonderful things that are happening in communities throughout the South and beyond because kind and generous people showed our students the “Heart of Northwest.”
Edan Everett
Walls • Sophomore

Major: Pre-Nursing

Scholarship: BancorpSouth Share the Future Scholarship

What does getting a Foundation Scholarship mean to you?
It means so much to me. It means that I don’t have to carry the financial burden of a quality education. I can go to class without worrying how I’m going to pay for school. I am very thankful for this scholarship. It makes it easier on my parents, as well as myself. It is truly a blessing.

Which instructors have been particularly helpful in your experience at Northwest?
Mrs. Mary Bonds has been really helpful to me this semester. She offered to be my academic adviser when I came to the main campus this semester. She has been very helpful with setting up my classes and getting me prepared for nursing school. Ms. Liesl Davenport has probably had the greatest impact on my life this semester. I met her in the first Northwest Biggest Loser competition this semester. She inspired me to start living a healthier lifestyle. I didn’t meet my goal, but I did see a lot of improvements. I hope to continue during the summer and make that goal. She showed me that I could do anything with time and dedication. Next year I hope to do the same for other students, faculty and whoever wants to live a healthier life. The workouts were hard at times, but well worth it.

What inspired you to choose your major?
I have always been interested in the medical field. At first my major was pharmacy, but as I learned about the field of nursing, I fell in love with it. I’m a people person, so I would like to be close to my patients. I have always been a helpful person. One of my biggest aspirations is to motivate people to be healthy and take care of themselves.

Where do you see yourself in five years?
In five years I see myself at UT Health Science Center or The University of Mississippi Medical School working to be a nurse practitioner and getting my doctoral degree. I also see myself motivating and inspiring people to live a healthy lifestyle.
The 2011-12 academic year has come to a close, and what an exciting year it has been! In three graduation ceremonies, we awarded diplomas to 814 students. An additional 309 students who chose not to participate in the ceremonies earned diplomas, bringing the total number of graduates to 1,123 students, an increase of 310 students over last year. We believe this increase is a result of a concerted effort by our faculty, staff and administration to encourage students to “cross the finish line” at Northwest. This was the first year that Northwest has had three graduation ceremonies, and while it was a challenge, at the same time, it was inspiring to see that many students and their families and friends join together to celebrate this accomplishment.

We have also had success in sports and fine arts this year. Three of our teams advanced to state playoffs—Lady Ranger softball, Ranger basketball, and Ranger baseball. The Ranger football team came awfully close as well. The Fine Arts Division presented stellar concerts, plays and art exhibits.

Our students competed in academic and career-technical competitions, and they made impressive showings both in the state and regionally. Our Communications Department won state awards for its publications.

I share these accomplishments, not to boast, but to point out that we are accomplishing the mission of Northwest Mississippi Community College, which is shown below:

The mission of Northwest Mississippi Community College is to provide the students of its eleven-county district and beyond with opportunities for obtaining affordable quality education to meet their diverse needs. The comprehensive community and technical college offers students educational experiences through traditional campus-based and distance learning opportunities. Northwest is committed to achieving the following goals: to promote excellence in educational programs; to maintain quality educational support services; to continue responsive administrative processes; to ensure efficient use of financial and physical resources; and to assure institutional effectiveness.

It is my honor and privilege to serve as president of what I believe to be one of the finest community colleges in this nation, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to the taxpayers who support this college, to the students and their families who choose Northwest and to all who work with me to accomplish our mission.
Nine students inducted into college Hall of Fame

Northwest President Dr. Gary Lee Spears congratulated nine students for their induction to the 2012 Hall of Fame at the Feb. 9 Board of Trustees meeting on the Senatobia campus.

From the Senatobia campus, Giovanni Biffle of Marks, Ali Cheatwood of Potts Camp, Logan Dodson of Senatobia and Katie Hardeman of Southaven; from Lafayette-Yalobusha Technical Center, Samantha Allred of Oxford and Terese Adair of Water Valley; and from DeSoto Center, Donna Proctor of Hernando, Kayla Peeples of Horn Lake and Chase White of Southaven, were awarded the highest honor a Northwest student can attain, based upon their academic prowess and involvement in student life at the college.

Biffle is a criminal justice major with a 4.0 cumulative GPA. A member of GSA, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Phi Theta Kappa, Society for Pre-Law Majors, Honor Choir, Student Government Association and President’s List, Biffle is working toward degrees in business and law and hopes to eventually play a role in politics.

Cheatwood is an elementary education major from Potts Camp High School with a 3.87 cumulative GPA. A member of the Northwest Education Association, Phi Theta Kappa, Ranger Cheerleaders and President’s List, Cheatwood has been recognized as Outstanding Student for Elementary Education and Rotary Club Student of the Month. She hopes to finish her education and go back to her hometown to teach and ultimately become a principal.

Dodson is originally from Homewood, Ala., and attended Homewood High School. A member of Mu Alpha Theta Math Society, Phi Theta Kappa, Student Recruiters and President’s List, Dodson has been recognized twice as Outstanding Student and as Rotary Club Student of the Month. His career goal is to teach math and coach football.

Hardeman is a theatre major from Southern Baptist Educational Center (SBEC). A member of the Northwest Players, Phi Theta Kappa, President’s List, Northwest Singers and Chamber Choir, Hardeman has also been recognized for her outstanding performances in multiple theatre productions with a Northwest Mississippi Theatre Alliance Award, the Irene Ryan Acting Award and a Regional Theater Award. After graduation from Northwest, she plans to attend William Carey College in Hattiesburg and pursue a degree in theatre. Eventually she wants to get her master’s degree in performance or directing and work professionally or teach.

Allred is an elementary education major from Faith Christian Academy with a 3.95 cumulative GPA. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, Allred was also recognized as a member of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Her career goal is to become a nurse practitioner.

Adair is a health-care data technology major from Tupelo High School with a 3.92 cumulative GPA. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, Adair was also recognized as a member of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Her career goal is to obtain employment in her field of study.

Proctor, a graduate of Hillcrest High School in Memphis, is an accounting technology major with a 4.0 cumulative GPA. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and plans to complete her undergraduate degree in accountancy in the 2+2 program at The University of Mississippi-DeSoto Center and pursue a career in accountancy.

Peeples, a pre-nursing major with a 3.87 cumulative GPA, is a graduate of Gateway Christian School. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, Peeples was recognized as the Outstanding Student in her major last fall. Her career goal is to become a nurse practitioner.

White, an accountancy major from Bolton High School in Arlington, Tenn., with a 3.87 cumulative GPA, is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. His goal is to attend The University of Mississippi to obtain bachelor’s and master’s degrees in accountancy.

—Sarah Sapp
Northwest President, Dr. Gary Lee Spears, welcomed a record number of graduating students and thousands of their parents, family members and friends to Howard Coliseum for the three commencement programs held on the Senatobia campus Friday, May 11.

“Today is the first time in the history of Northwest that we are conducting three graduation exercises in the same day,” said Spears during his welcome address at the afternoon program. “This morning in two separate ceremonies, we awarded 224 Associate of Applied Science degrees and 213 career certificates. This afternoon we will award 377 Associate of Arts degrees.”

Spears noted that in addition to the 814 students who walked across the graduation stage, 309 more students earned a diploma this spring from Northwest for a total of 1,123 students—310 more than last year. He attributed the 38 percent increase largely to the new campus-wide initiative, “Crossing the Finish Line.” This campaign, through personal faculty-student advising and on-campus and social media marketing, reinforced the importance of completing an associate degree or certificate program before transferring or entering the workforce. Having all coursework transfer to any four-year Mississippi college, increased earning potential and increased employability were among the assets earning an associate degree or career certificate promises that the college officials and faculty touted through an academic year-long campaign they plan to continue using and developing in the years to come.

At the 2 p.m. Associate of Arts graduation ceremony, Spears paid special recognition to Clay Davis of Hernando, an 89-year-old World War II veteran who first

Record number of graduates ‘cross the finish line’

Northwest recently announced its 2012 HEADWAE honorees. Sophomore pre-med major Benjamin Lambert of Como was selected as the student honoree, while criminal justice instructor Robert Cox of Senatobia was selected as this year’s faculty honoree.

HEADWAE stands for “Higher Education Appreciation Day—Working for Academic Excellence.” It was established by the Mississippi Legislative Resolution No. 88 in 1987 to annually honor the academically talented students and faculty members of Mississippi’s higher education institutions who have made outstanding contributions in promoting academic excellence. Cox and Lambert were honored at the 25th annual HEADWAE program in Jackson on Feb. 28.

Lambert, who received his Associate of Arts from Northwest this past May, was on the President’s List for his academic excellence and a Mississippi Eminent Scholar. He was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the 2012 Northwest Hall of Fame and was also a Mississippi Council on Economic Education InvestWrite essay winner. He graduated from Magnolia Heights School as valedictorian of his senior class.

“After completing my associate degree at Northwest, I plan to further my education at Delta State University and receive a biology degree with a minor in chemistry,” said Lambert. “After DSU, I hope to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center to become a family physician.”

Cox retired from the college in May after serving 39 years. He served on the Legal Studies Advisory Board and was selected to attend the Lamplighter’s Conference in 1992. He received the Sandy Grisham Excellence in Teaching award in 2007. Cox earned his bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree of criminal justice from The University of Mississippi.

“I consider it a special honor to be chosen from a group of the finest educators in the state,” said Cox. “I appreciate being chosen to represent Northwest.”

—Sarah Sapp

HEADWAE honorees represent main campus

Clay Davis of Hernando (center), an 89-year-old WWII veteran, joined a record-setting 814 Northwest students as they participated in the May 11 commencement ceremony on the Senatobia campus.

Photo by Julie Bauer

www.northwestms.edu
Barnes, Lambert accepted into state MRPSP

Two of only 18 students statewide to earn direct admission, scholarships to UM Medical Center

Northwest students Benjamin Lambert of Como and Robert Barnes of Coldwater were two of only 18 students statewide who were recently accepted into the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program (MRPSP), a program that identifies academically driven, rural college students who aspire to return to their roots to practice medicine and provides them the academic enrichment, faculty and physician mentoring and financial support necessary to complete the rigors and costs associated with medical school.

According to MRPSP recruiter, Janie Guice, this two-year undergraduate program is designed for rising college juniors who apply to the program during their sophomore year in college from either four-year or community colleges, although admittedly more are accepted from four-year colleges. Both Barnes and Lambert have already interviewed with The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), where the admissions committee felt they both had potential to succeed in their program and granted them direct admission status.

Guice said Lambert and Barnes must complete a pre-medical curriculum at the four-year college of their choice and score reasonably well on the MCAT in order for the medical school to honor their direct admission. The two students will each be awarded a $30,000 scholarship each year, enough to cover tuition, scrubs, insurance and a monthly stipend of approximately $1,000.

“The program was actually a perfect fit for me, because I have wanted to become a family physician and work in a small town in Mississippi since I was in high school,” said Lambert. “My father is a family nurse practitioner in Cleveland. I have grown up around medicine and people in rural areas, so naturally it is what I have become accustomed to being around. Since being blessed with this scholarship, I don’t have to go through any more interviews for medical school. The scholarship not only saves me the stress of being interviewed by the medical admissions council but also will prevent me from having tons of debt when I finish medical school.”

Beyond the clear financial advantages to this scholarship, the students will have an experiential advantage through hands-on learning and lectures offered at UMMC through two-day medical encounters in January and June during their junior and senior undergraduate years where they will cover five primary care areas—family medicine, internal medicine, medicine-pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology and pediatrics—with a significant focus on applying these skills in rural communities. The students will also complete 40 hours of shadowing in a rural healthcare setting each year, have access to free MCAT preparation and have an opportunity to take gross anatomy and biochemistry the summer prior to their first year in medical school to get a jumpstart on the challenging curriculum.

This summer they are required to complete a community needs assessment in their hometown—assessing community health concerns, such as the number of hospital beds available, emergency services, nearest trauma unit, ob/gyn providers, water fluoridation and number of physicians. They will compile their data and work with UMMC Family Medicine Residency Director, Dr. Shannon Pittman to present these community snapshots to the Mississippi Rural Health Association.

“This scholarship truly is a blessing,” said Barnes. “This program will allow me to go to medical school without the added stress caused by mounting debt. It will also prepare me for medical school by giving me opportunities to get hands-on experience. I’m really excited because I feel like this program will give me an edge that will help me be a successful student in med school and jump start my journey into the medical field. The reason I want to practice in a rural area is because I have grown up in Tate County, which is a rural area itself. I love the small town atmosphere and the people who live here, and I believe that my love for rural communities will complement my skill as a doctor, ultimately making an impact on the community and the people I care for.”

During their time at Northwest, Lambert was awarded The Gateway Tire Endowed Scholarship and Barnes was awarded The Joey Boldrighini Endowed Scholarship from the Northwest Foundation.

—Sarah Sapp
Northwest art major Maria Young of Southaven was recently awarded a $57,000 scholarship to Memphis College of Art (MCA). According to Lawayne House, Northwest art chair, this is the largest scholarship a Northwest art student has received from MCA to date.

Young, who graduated in May, says that although she initially began as an illustrator, she has now developed a love for painting because of her classes at Northwest. She credits her instructors at Northwest for helping her develop as an artist. “I have learned a lot at Northwest. I liked all of my teachers. They were great and have so much to give their students. I learned many new art techniques. It was an enjoyable experience,” Young said. After she completes her bachelor’s degree from MCA, Young plans to see what opportunities are available for her.

Recently, Young was awarded a $50 prize for third place in painting at the recent Mississippi Junior College Annual Art Competition and Exhibition at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

“Maria Young is one of those students we hate to see graduate only because we selfishly would like to nurture her ability beyond what our two-year program allows. Her tenacity and willingness to work hard has paid off with Maria being awarded the largest scholarship from Memphis College of Art ever awarded to a Northwest art major. We look forward to following Maria as she continues her studies and are equally proud that the Northwest art faculty had her with us first,” House said. —LaJuan Tallo

Kate Bunce of Senatobia and Angelika Teasley of Hernando brought home honors at the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association (MCCCWA) 2012 Literary Contest on April 19 at Holmes Community College in Grenada.

Bunce, a sophomore majoring in elementary education, won first place in Poetry for her work entitled “Bitter.” She wrote the poem in January and showed it to her mother, Beth Leishman, a Northwest English instructor, who encouraged her to enter the contest. Bunce emailed it to Dr. Phillip J. Underwood, who teaches creative writing at Northwest. “I was struck by how mature Kate’s voice is,” Underwood said. “She is very accomplished for her age as far as her writing skills go. She is writing at the level of many of the published graduate students I studied with.” Her father is Dr. Robert Bunce, an English instructor at Northwest.

Teasley, a native of Germany, is a sophomore General College major at the DeSoto Center. Teasley won second place in the Literary Essay division for her essay “Redemption and Ruin in The Sound and the Fury.”

“I am very grateful to receive this award. I have always enjoyed reading and interpreting literature and am thrilled to see my work recognized in this way,” Teasley said.

Her English instructor, Mark Alan Vinson, was not surprised by her honor. Teasley won a third place award in last year’s contest for her essay “Having Children Does Not Make a Parent.”

“It is no surprise to me that Angelika has received this award for the second time. Her writing and analytical abilities are exceptional, and she is truly one of the best students that I have had in both lower and upper division courses,” Vinson said.

All winners are published to the MCCCWA website and/or The Community College Writer. First place winners received $100 and second place received $60. —LaJuan Tallo

Kate Bunce of Senatobia, right, is congratulated by Dr. Mike Smith, assistant professor of English at Delta State University. He was the Poetry judge for the contest.

Photo submitted
Northwest’s John Deere/Agricultural Technology Open House held Feb. 10 drew more than 150 students and John Deere territory customer support managers (TCSM) and dealers to the Senatobia campus. High school students from all over north Mississippi and west Tennessee were bussed in by local TCSMs and dealers, so they could get a first-hand look at the careers and technology made possible by this unique educational partnership between Northwest and John Deere.

“We’re needing technicians today who can diagnose electrical problems with the latest state of the art technology,” said Don Scribner, John Deere college partnership manager. “Before you could fix it with a wrench, now you have to fix it with a computer.”

After an opening session where students learned about admissions, financial aid and housing at Northwest, current students enrolled in the John Deere/Agricultural Technology program stationed throughout the high-tech facility demonstrated different skills they have learned through the program. Electrical wiring, engine building and hydraulics were just a few of the stations students could learn more about.

Matthew Andrews, a sophomore from Grenada, demonstrated an electrical wiring scenario. “We have our boards where we can hook up various electrical components in a series to get power through to see how they would work and demonstrate different applications for each one,” said Andrews. “We have meters where we can test the power flow, how much it is putting out and how it works. These can demonstrate electrical power in something as simple as a light bulb to something as complex as an engine.”

“When you look outside at all of the machinery you can tell the technology is never going to stop,” said Jeremy Massey, John Deere/Agricultural Technology instructor.

Jerry Burau, John Deere division customer support manager from the greater Atlanta area, emphasized the importance of the company’s support of career technology programs like the one on the Senatobia campus. “We try to support the schools through sponsoring dealers with work-study programs. There is such a need for technicians, and we can offer them a career that they can grow throughout their lifetime.”

John Deere Corporate South Central Training Manager, Greg Kooken, recently visited with Northwest Vice President for Student Affairs, Dan Smith. In their meeting Kooken praised Northwest’s Pro-Tech program, the continuing education division of John Deere/Agricultural Technology located on the Senatobia campus.

According to Smith, Kooken considered the facility at Northwest to be one of the strongest training programs in the country, and that John Deere workers from all over the world want to come to Senatobia to be trained, including workers from Brazil, India, South Africa and China. “They have closed many of their training programs at community colleges around the country, but aren’t even thinking of doing that on the Senatobia campus,” said Smith. Kooken explained it is not a matter of facility quality, it’s a program quality issue. Places that had partnerships built nice facilities, but they lost the programs because of training quality issues.

Devin Suggs (center), hosted by Tennessee Tractor, joins his fellow classmates to marvel at one of the John Deere machines on display. With over 150 total participants, the program had a focus on analytic thinking and today’s technician.

Photo by Sarah Sapp

Ag Tech showcases successful John Deere partnership

Devin Suggs (center), hosted by Tennessee Tractor, joins his fellow classmates to marvel at one of the John Deere machines on display. With over 150 total participants, the program had a focus on analytic thinking and today’s technician.

Photo by Sarah Sapp

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PTK All-Academic Team honored by state legislature

Northwest students Joyce Jeltz of Horn Lake, Megan Jones of Oxford, Giovanni Biffle of Marks and Rachel Voss of Olive Branch were honored on March 7 by the Mississippi Legislature for being named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team. After being honored by the Senate, the nominees adjourned to the All-Mississippi Academic Team Recognition Luncheon held at the Jackson Convention Center where they were individually recognized for their academic accomplishments.

Jeltz, a business and marketing technology student from the DeSoto Center was recognized as an All-Mississippi first team honoree, while Jones, a biology and pre-medicine major from Lafayette-Yalobusha Technical Center, Biffle, a criminal justice major from the Senatobia campus and Rachel Voss, a general college major from the Senatobia campus, were recognized as All-Mississippi second team honorees.

Mississippi Sen. Terry Burton; Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board, Dr. Eric Clark; and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Executive Director, Dr. Rod Risley served as distinguished speakers and guests in attendance at the recognition luncheon.

Northwest President, Dr. Gary Lee Spears, played a special role in this year’s ceremony by serving as chairman of the event’s steering committee.

Each two-year college in Mississippi may nominate two students per campus to the All-Mississippi Academic Team. Nominations are based on outstanding academic performance and service to the college and community. —Sarah Sapp

Nursing students make history with early entry

These six Northwest nursing students are the first in the college’s history to be accepted into the RN-MSN Early Entry program at The University of Mississippi Medical Center. This competitive program is for first-year nursing students who qualify for this bridge program that will put them on track for a master’s degree in nursing. Pictured left to right are Adyn Dancy of Marks, Jenny Cole of Senatobia, Alex Shaw of Batesville, Adam Clay of Oxford, Hilary Barringer of Marks and Darla Moneymaker of Walls. Northwest is one of only two Mississippi community colleges who have students in the program.

Photo by LaJuan Tallo
About half of the original 115 students and 21 faculty remained in Northwest’s own version of NBC’s hit show “The Biggest Loser” at the finale held at the newly renovated McLendon Student Fitness Center on April 24.

“This is the culmination of about 10 weeks of training. The participants received journals and nutrition guidance when they started, and everyone that is going to weigh in today has been to at least one workout per week, and some to all of them,” said Liesl Davenport, program sponsor and Student Activities coordinator.

Northwest’s Biggest Loser competition is part of the Healthy Northwest campaign to help the community establish a healthier lifestyle by promoting better nutrition and fitness. Its goal is to help students, faculty and staff find healthy resources and to help make better choices to reach their plans for smarter living.

Tyler Norcross, a sophomore psychology major of Coldwater, was the overall winner in the competition, with a 3.2 percent body fat loss and 30-pound weight loss. He won a one-year gym membership to ATC Fitness, $100 Nike.com gift certificate and a “Winners” hoodie. He attributes his success to hard cardio training and cutting out sodas and snacking. “I joined because I wanted to lose weight, to be honest,” said Norcross. “I’d been trying to lose for a while, and I couldn’t stick with it. I don’t think exercising alone was very fun. I actually joined this thinking if other people were doing it, I could do it too, and the only thing I had to lose was body fat and weight. I was very surprised that I won. I didn’t know how much I was going to lose.”

Davenport plans to continue with the Biggest Loser next year and hopes for even greater success in overall participation and results.

—Sarah Sapp
authors abound
Instructors pen variety of literary works

The faculty at Northwest are known for their dedication to their students, their exceptional instruction and their love for learning, but did you know some of our best teachers are also accomplished writers?

The true, hilarious and endearing tales of sibling camaraderie and rivalry set in 1950s Oxford—“Y’all Twins?”—starring the “King Twins” and their family of seven, is the first book authored by the identical twins, Kat and Margaret King. Kat, now a mathematics instructor at Northwest’s Lafayette-Yalobusha Technical Center in Oxford, and Margaret, a retired government employee and part-time employee at Oxford University Bank, didn’t realize how quickly their first stab at writing would become an overwhelming success. With numerous book signings behind them, the twins had more than 250 people attend their first signing at Off Square Books in Oxford.

It is nearly impossible to tell Kat from Margaret by sight. Even when it came time to decide which twin was which for the cover of the book, Kat and Margaret had to look to their younger sister, Kirk, to tell them which twin was on the left and which one was on the right. It becomes very clear, throughout the book, that the only identical things about these sisters are their physical appearance and love for each other.

In this autobiographical tale, Kat, who emerges as the fearless tomboy, finds it difficult to follow what she considers to be needless rules. She scares away bullies, excels in sports, wins against anyone who dares play her in marbles and finds it nearly impossible to deal with the necessary evils of becoming a lady in the ’50s—rejecting any notion of shaving or wearing nylons, garter belts and high heels. Margaret, the less impulsive of the twins, surfaces as the femi-
nine, studious, more obedient twin who delights in playing dress up and dolls. Throughout the book, the twins learn to use their differences to their advantage, switching places when necessary to always put the best twin forward in any given situation.

“It’s everything twins can get away with because they can, and we did. We did our whole lives,” said Kat, summarizing the book. “How did they put it? I’m the mastermind and Margaret is the co-conspirator.”

The book follows the twins’ high jinks from age 6-12. From hitching rides on the back of William Faulkner’s truck to poking out the glass eye of an elderly woman’s fox stole in the middle of church service out of pure curiosity, the twins’ antics keep the reader laughing through the entire book. “We switched classes the first day of first grade, and we never looked back,” said Margaret. “We’re kind of Lucy and Ethel. She’s Lucy, and I’m Ethel. Whatever she gets into, we have to figure out how to get out of it.”

“I think anybody who grew up in the ‘50s is going to love this book. I think young people who want to know what growing up in the ‘50s was like are going to love this. Faulkner lovers and Southerners in general will enjoy this book,” said Kat.


Fellow LYTC instructor and accomplished newspaper columnist, Jimmy Reed, better known as “Sarge” to the students lucky enough to have him for composition, creative writing or literature class, released “Boss, Jaybird and Me: Anthology of Short Stories” last May. Its 720 pages contain 230 short stories, written by a master storyteller in the old, time-honored, Southern tradition. A unique aspect of the book is that every story contains exactly 500 words, because each was carefully crafted and edited to fit layout for a newspaper. Reed regularly writes for the Oxford Eagle and Canada Free Press. Because most of the stories are seasonal, the book’s contents are listed by the 12 months in a year.

“I’ve written two books so far. I’ve been a newspaper columnist for many, many years, and every so often I have enough stories to be put together in a book, so that’s what I do,” said Reed.

Most of the stories are about family, growing up farmin the Mississippi Delta and Reed’s military experience, but quite a few have to do with his experience in the classroom. “Students are a great source for stories,” said Reed. Reed stresses the importance of being able to tell the best story possible with the fewest number of words. His evocative language is succinct, but it communicates a vivid picture in each short story.

“Mr. Jimmy Reed is a phenomenal teacher. He is more than a teacher to me; he is more of a mentor. He shares with us life lessons while at the same time teaching us to better ourselves in writing, grammar and syntax. He is straightforward about everything and tells you how it is. One of the best quotes I have ever heard came from Mr. Reed—‘Do what you fear to do and that will be the death of fear.’ I have fun learning in his class while learning the discipline it takes to make something of myself through hard work and determination,” said Skyler Ray of Randolph, one of Reed’s students.

“Boss, Jaybird and Me: Anthology of Short Stories” is available at www.squarebooks.com and directly from the author.

In addition to the great autobiographical storytelling penned by
The Legacy Continues

It is, indeed, both a pleasure and an honor to announce new scholarship endowments, the beginning of a new legacy for those being honored by these scholarships and for the students who will be assisted for generations to come. The beauty of an endowment is that it will continue to help students for as long as this college exists. It is also wonderful to think of how these students will use their education to make better lives for themselves, for their families and for the communities in which they will live. Thus, it is appropriate to name these pages, “The Legacy Continues,” because the effects of these extraordinary acts of generosity will last forever.

We are deeply appreciative for those who have provided matching funds so that the first $5,000 of an endowment is matched. The primary benefactor for these matching funds is the acclaimed actor of national and international fame, Mr. Morgan Freeman. Since 1997, Mr. Freeman has donated $485,000 to the Northwest Foundation, and the lasting impact of these funds is truly immeasurable.

In addition, we received a generous gift from the Estate of Clarence Thomas Hill, Jr., in the amount of $180,000 which was used for matching funds, thus creating 36 endowments valued at $360,000. Other matching gifts sponsors include Horseshoe Casino and Hotel, The Youth Progress Association, Sycamore Bank, Gateway Tire Founder Bobby Dunlap, Sam’s Town, Williams-Sonoma, Alcoa and ThyssenKrupp.

Through the generosity of so many, the Northwest Scholarship Endowment has a current value of more than $6 million. We hope that it will continue to grow, for as it grows, so does the realization of the hopes and dreams of our students and so does the legacy of the special people who are honored by these endowments.

—Sybil Canon

The Sarah Garner Ainsworth Endowment

The Sarah Garner Ainsworth Endowed Scholarship was established by Sarah and her husband, Jim, in recognition of Sarah’s professional career as a teacher in the science field, her dedication to her family and her appreciation to Northwest for providing a wonderful beginning to her educational journey.

A native of Hernando, Ainsworth was a student at Northwest from 1961-63 where she was editor of the yearbook, president of the Wesley Foundation, a member of the Student Council, and a member of the Northwest Singers. Following Northwest, Ainsworth earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and a master’s degree in education from The University of Mississippi.

It was at the Ole Miss Wesley Foundation that she met Jim, a pharmacy student who would later become the chief executive officer of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, and would end his career as vice president of Operations over Baptist hospitals in Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee. His 41-year career at Baptist led him from being a pharmacist to being at the helm of what was then the largest private hospital in the world.

While waiting for Jim to complete pharmacy school at Ole Miss, Sarah taught biology at Oxford High School and then worked in The University of Mississippi’s Research Division.

Jim and Sarah moved to Hernando, and Sarah became a stay-at-home mother for their two daughters, Becky and Deb. When her daughters started school, Sarah began teaching biology at Hernando High School. She taught there for more than 17 years and then taught for 7 1/2 years at the Baptist College of Sciences, teaching a variety of science courses to include microbiology and anatomy and physiology.

Jim and Sarah are very active in their church and community. Sarah serves on the Baptist College of Health Sciences Ambassador Board, and Jim serves on the Baddour Center Board, the Mid-South Education and Research Institute Board, the Ole Miss Pharmacy Advisory Board and the Mississippi Hospital Association Board. Their greatest delight is their four grandchildren.

The scholarship will be awarded to students who have graduated in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating class, are majoring in a field of science and have the greatest financial need.

The Dr. Bonnie Patridge Buntin 2+2 Endowment

The Dr. Bonnie Patridge Buntin 2+2 Endowed Scholarship was established with proceeds from the BancorpSouth 2+2 Scholarship Golf Tournament, chaired by Michael and Debra Herrington of Olive Branch, and by gifts from friends and colleagues in appreciation for her leadership in raising $1 million for the 2+2 Scholarship Endowment that benefits both Northwest and University of Mississippi students attending the DeSoto Center and for her tireless efforts to establish the 2+2 partnership between Northwest and Ole Miss in DeSoto County.

Buntin received her Bachelor of Arts degree in communicative disorders and her Ph.D. in educational leadership from The University of Mississippi. She earned her Master of Arts degree in speech pathology from The University of Memphis.

From 1985 to 1996, she coordinated speech pathology and pre-school services for DeSoto County Schools. She also

Sarah Garner Ainsworth

www.northwestms.edu
served as a speech pathologist in various schools and clinical sites, and she served on the Clinical Certification Board of the American Speech Language Hearing Association from 1995-99.

In 1996, she became director of The University of Mississippi-DeSoto Center, with the responsibility of beginning a 2+2 partnership with Northwest on the DeSoto Center campus; in 2003, she was named dean of the university’s DeSoto campus. This partnership enabled area students to complete a four-year college degree, two years at Northwest and two years at Ole Miss, without leaving DeSoto County. More than 1,000 students have graduated with a 2+2 degree.

Buntin was the first recipient of the Outstanding Staff Award for Executive Administrative/Managerial in 2003-04 from the University. She was also named Outstanding Alumna from The University of Memphis-Audiology and Speech Pathology in 1984.

In 2007, she joined with Dr. Gloria Kellum, then vice chancellor of University Relations at Ole Miss, and Sybil Canon, associate vice president of Development at Northwest, to raise a $1 million scholarship endowment for both Northwest and Ole Miss students attending the DeSoto Center campus. With the successful conclusion of the campaign, permanent scholarship endowment funds of $250,000 were placed with the NWCC Foundation and $750,000 were placed with the UM Foundation, meaning that scholarship assistance will be available for DeSoto County students in perpetuity.

After retirement, Buntin has continued her community and church service projects in her hometown of Hernando. She is particularly enjoying her time with her husband, Taylor; her daughter and son-in-law, Mary Elizabeth and Stephen Kirkpatrick; and her granddaughter, Leah.

The proceeds from the endowment will be awarded annually to DeSoto County stu-

The Jessica Gresham Memorial Endowment

The Jessica Gresham Memorial Endowed Scholarship was established by her aunt, Linda Laine of Oakland, Tenn., as a tribute to the memory of her niece whose life ended on Nov. 15, 2009, just three weeks after her 18th birthday, as a result of a car accident.

Born in Memphis on Oct. 24, 1991, Gresham attended St. Paul’s Catholic School and Highland Oaks Elementary School until her family’s move to DeSoto County where she attended DeSoto Central Middle and High School.

An avid sports enthusiast, she began playing sports at a very young age, participating in basketball, softball, track and soccer. In addition, she loved theatre and appeared in her high school production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” and in DeSoto Family Theatre’s production of “A Christmas Carol”. In 2009, she was awarded the Northwest Mississippi Theatre Alliance’s Director’s Choice Award.

In high school, Gresham took both academic courses and vocational nursing classes. She was recognized for outstanding academic achievement by the National Society of High School Scholars. It was her desire to enroll in nursing at Northwest with her long-range goal being to become a nurse practitioner.

She was a communicant of Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Olive Branch, where she was very active in the youth group. Jessica taught Sunday School classes to pre-school children, taught confirmation classes, was an altar server and was also a scripture reader in church. A kind, loving and caring person who went out of her way to be nice to others, she went to nursing homes to visit the elderly and to St. Jude Children’s Hospital to visit the children, all as a part of her service projects for her own confirmation.

In addition to her aunt, she left behind her mother, Carol Prestridge; one brother, Wesley Prestridge; her stepfather, Rob Prestridge; her grandmother, Pat Laine; her grandfather, John Laine; aunts and uncles Rose and Steve Wallace, David and Tina Laine, Mark and Brook Laine; and cousins, Bradley Wallace, Logan Laine, Charley Warf, and Eryn Laine.

The first scholarship will be awarded for the 2012-13 academic year with preference given to a graduate of DeSoto Central High School who has a financial need and is pursuing a nursing degree.

The Sammy Higdon Endowment

The Sammy Higdon Endowed Scholarship was established by Mississippi State Rep. Tommy Reynolds and his wife, Liz, in appreciation for his contribution to education in Yalobusha County and for his life of integrity and service.

A native of Trumann, Ark., Higdon attended Arkansas State University and then received his Bachelor of Arts and Specialist degrees in Education from The University of Mississippi.

Higdon served in the U.S. Army in the 2nd and 9th Infantry Divisions in the DMZ in Korea. After his service in the Army, he taught for five years at Oxford Elementary School and then served as assistant principal. From there, he went to Water Valley Elementary, where he served as principal for 14 years. He was then appointed as superintendent of education for the Water Valley School District until his retirement in 2010. Currently, Higdon provides educational consulting for local school districts.

Higdon has served on the Board of Trustees at Northwest since 2007. During his time on the board, he has served on the Administrative, Personnel and Finance Committees.

Higdon has devoted his life to improving education for the students of Yalobusha County. Of his career, he said, “I believe that education is the answer to many of the challenges we face in Mississippi today. From personal experience, I know where education can take a young person.
It has been my honor to be a teacher, principal and superintendent.”

Dedicated to his wife, Sherri and their children, Sammy and Denise, Higdon also enjoys spending time with his three grandchildren.

The scholarship will be awarded to students from Yalobusha County.

The Allen & Macelle Holliday Endowment

The Allen and Macelle Holliday Endowed Scholarship was established by the Hollidays in appreciation for the great beginning to their educational journey at Northwest and for the wonderful memories they share of their days as students in the early 1950s.

Allen and Macelle became sweethearts at Northwest, but just barely. It was in the second semester of their sophomore year that the two were brought together by Macelle’s roommate. That courtship culminated in a marriage that has lasted 58 years.

When Allen’s parents moved to Senatobia from Askew in 1948, with Allen and his brother, Parley, and sister, Josephine, they opened a store on Main Street. Allen and Parley enjoyed showing livestock in the 4-H Club. Allen graduated from Senatobia High School in 1950. After high school, he was on his way to Camp Shelby for training in the National Guard when he was called to serve in the Korean War with the U.S. Army. After two years of service, he returned to Northwest with his education funded by the G.I. Bill. Allen played catcher and outfielder on the Ranger baseball team.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah and his master’s degree in agriculture from Mississippi State University. He taught agriculture for 25 years at Northwest from 1967 to 1992. He served under presidents R.D. McLendon, Henry B. Koon, and David M. Haraway. The Hollidays lived for 18 years on the Northwest farm and managed livestock, in addition to his agriculture classes.

One of Allen’s passions has been Boy Scouts. He served as registered scout leader for Troop 235 for 56 years.

Macelle Thornton Holliday is a native of Lambert. She had one brother, Leroy. Her mother, Mattie, attended summer school at Northwest in 1929; she taught school in a one-room school house. Macelle, a student at Northwest from 1951-53, was active in many areas of campus life. President of her freshman class and secretary of her sophomore class, she graduated second in her class. She was elected Miss Northwest, Most Versatile, and Friendliest. She was selected for the Homecoming Court and the Hall of Fame. She also played basketball.

Macelle attended Delta State University her junior year, married Allen, and moved to Utah to complete her education at Brigham Young University, graduating with highest honors. While at BYU, she worked for Dr. Harvey Fletcher, Sr., a renowned scientist and researcher. She remembers taking dictation for a very important document, “Dr. Fletcher was asked to write a memorial tribute for Dr. Albert Einstein. He dictated the letter to me, and I transcribed and typed it. I couldn’t believe that something I would type would be read as a tribute to Albert Einstein. I wish I had a copy of it.”

Macelle joined Allen at Northwest as a business administration teacher but then left after two years to be a full-time mom to their adopted children, Timothy Allen, Charles Lee, Victor Edward, and Kimberly Ann. In addition to being a wife and mom, Macelle began working as a volunteer to organize a Northwest Alumni Association. Macelle recounts, “We had as many as 300 alums to return for Homecoming—such wonderful memories.” In addition, Macelle began a quarterly newsletter, called the Northwest Now, which has evolved into a bi-annual magazine.

Allen and Macelle are the same sweethearts today that they were when they met at Northwest so many years ago. The land where they live in Sarah was purchased by Allen’s grandparents and handed down through two generations. Still strong advocates for Northwest, they also enjoy working in their church and visiting with their children and 10 grandchildren.

The Allen and Macelle Holliday Scholarship will be awarded to students demonstrating financial need and academic potential to complete their college education.

The Brenda Gentry Holmes Endowment

The Brenda Gentry Holmes Endowed Scholarship was established by her husband, Scott; by Dr. Jack Butts, dean of Northwest’s Lafayette-Yalobusha Technical Center; by Dr. Michael Butts, Northwest instructor; and by her family, colleagues and friends in appreciation of her stellar professional career in education and for her life of integrity and service.

A native of Crowder, Holmes was one of six children born to Nolan and Clara Gentry. An honor graduate of Crowder High School, she entered Northwest in 1970 and graduated in 1972. She was a member of the Northwest Misses dance team, and her grades earned her membership in Phi Theta Kappa. She earned her bachelor’s, master’s, and specialist degrees in education from Delta State University and then earned her master’s in guidance and counseling from The University of Mississippi.

Holmes began teaching fourth grade at Crowder Elementary School in 1974. In 1983, she transferred to Lucy Webb Elementary in Greenville, again teach-
ing fourth grade. She began working on the Oxford campus of Northwest in 1985 under the Job Training Partnership Act. In this program, she taught Youth Employment/GED classes for four years. She then became student services coordinator, a position she still holds.

She is held in high esteem by Dr. Jack Butts. “Brenda is one of those rare individuals who possesses extraordinary professionalism and compassion. She really cares about our students and will do whatever she has to do to help them succeed.”

Dr. Michael Butts, an instructor and colleague, recalls that many students would stop by Brenda’s office to express thanks. While Holmes never explained their expressions of gratitude, Michael learned that Holmes had, on many occasions, used her own resources to help students pay their electric bills, buy lunch or purchase books.

Her dedication to students has endeared Holmes to both students and colleagues. Whenever there are students on the Oxford campus who need that extra bit of encouragement to succeed, it is Holmes who is called on to provide the assistance the students need.

Brenda has been married to Scott Holmes since 1974. Scott’s career began as a youth court counselor for Quitman, Tunica and Tallahatchie counties. Until his retirement four years ago, he was the deputy chief U.S. probation officer in the Northern District of Mississippi. They have lived in Oxford since 1985.

The scholarship will be awarded to students who are attending the Oxford campus of Northwest and who have a financial need.

The Dr. Gloria Dodwell Kellum 2+2 Endowment

The Dr. Gloria Dodwell Kellum 2+2 Endowed Scholarship was established with proceeds from the BancorpSouth 2+2 Scholarship Golf Tournament, chaired by Michael and Debra Herrington of Olive Branch, and by gifts from friends and colleagues in appreciation for her leadership in raising $1 million for the 2+2 Scholarship Endowment that benefits both Northwest and University of Mississippi students attending the DeSoto Center campus.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in speech language pathology and audiology and a master’s degree in speech pathology from Louisiana State University, Kellum joined The University of Mississippi faculty in 1966. She returned to LSU to earn a doctorate in 1981. Kellum helped to launch the speech and hearing program at Ole Miss that grew into the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, a nationally accredited educational and clinical program whose graduates serve as speech-language pathologists and audiologists, improving the lives of countless children and adults throughout the nation.

At age 32, she was the first woman and the youngest person to receive the university’s Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teaching Award. Her professional accomplishments include 20 referred articles; 15 indexes, reviews and state publications; 44 national presentations and workshops; four book chapters; and 28 research and teaching grants totaling more than $900,000, with significant funding from the National Institutes of Health. As a faculty member, she served five terms on the Faculty Senate, chaired many university-wide committees and initiatives and mentored more than 2,000 students.

In 1996, Kellum was asked by then Chancellor Robert Khayat to join the leadership team and direct the university’s sesquicentennial celebration and its capital gifts campaign. She was named vice chancellor for University Relations in 1998 and remained in that position until her retirement in 2009. As vice chancellor, she directed the Commitment to Excellence Campaign that raised $525.9 million in private gifts and the MomentUM Campaign that raised over $200 million.

In 2011, Kellum received the highest award given by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) when she was presented the prestigious Honors of the Association award. This award recognizes members for their distinguished contributions to the discipline of communication sciences and disorders.

In 2007, she joined with Dr. Bonnie Buntin, dean of The University of Mississippi-DeSoto, and Sybil Canon, associate vice president of Development at Northwest, to raise a $1 million scholarship endowment for both Northwest and Ole Miss students attending the DeSoto Center. While it is rare for a community college and a four-year university to join together in a fundraising effort, Kellum viewed it as a wonderful challenge. “When institutions are willing to forget about ‘turf issues’ and just think about what is best for the students, everyone wins,” she said.

Retirement has given Kellum the opportunity to pursue activities that have been on her “bucket” list, primarily spending time with her husband, Jerry; daughters and sons-in-law, Kate and Jason; and Kelly and Billy and grandchildren, Cecilia and Bennett. In addition, she has helped develop two foundations—The Dodwell House, a

Brenda Holmes with LYTC Dean Dr. Jack Butts (left) and Northwest President Dr. Gary Lee Spears
community mission outreach center of St. Anna’s Episcopal Church in New Orleans, La., and The Cotworth Culture and Heritage Foundation, dedicated to purchasing and preserving Cotworth, the ancestral home of the late James Zachariah George that will be a cultural heritage site and an educational outreach center.

The proceeds from the scholarship endowment will be awarded annually to DeSoto County students who are enrolled in the 2+2 program on the DeSoto Center campus.

**The Gerald J. (Jerry) Nichols Endowment**

The Gerald J. (Jerry) Nichols Endowed Scholarship was established by colleagues and friends to honor the enormous contribution he has made and continues to make in Career-Technical Education, both at Northwest and throughout the state.

After attending Northwest, Nichols received his Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural education from Mississippi State University and his Master of Science degree in educational administration from The University of Mississippi. He has also completed advanced studies at Ole Miss.

Nichols began his career at Northwest in 1984 as the Vocational-Technical director on the Olive Branch campus. In 1986, he transferred to the Senatobia campus as the Vocational-Technical director. He was later named dean of Career-Technical Education and currently serves as associate vice president of the Career-Technical Education Division and Workforce Development. In this position, he administers more than 40 career-technical programs on the Senatobia, DeSoto, Oxford, Olive Branch and Ashland campuses.

Nichols has been instrumental in developing corporate partnerships for Career-Technical programs, including Chrysler with the automotive technology program and John Deere with the agricultural technology program. Students involved in this program are trained on farm equipment provided by John Deere. After graduation from the program, many of these students intern at John Deere dealerships throughout the southeastern United States. Being one of only three in the U.S., this program has garnered both national and international recognition.

The construction of the Ag Tech facility, completed in 2005, was a joint effort spearheaded by Nichols and the North Delta Planning Commission, who secured funds from John Deere Foundation and a U.S. government grant through the office of former Sen. Trent Lott.

Recognized as a leader in the state’s Career-Technical Education efforts, Nichols has served as president of the Mississippi Dean’s Association in 1992-93 and of the Mississippi chapter of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) in 2004-05. He was also named Outstanding ACTE Professional of the Year.

Nichols serves on the Board of Directors for the Northcentral Electric Power Association and for Citizens Bank. Active in his community of Byhalia and in his church, he is devoted to his wife, Betsy, and to his son and daughter-in-law, Jonathan and Megan. His family spent many years caring for his son, Jeffrey, who died of leukemia in 2011.

The scholarship will be awarded to students who are enrolled in a Career-Technical Education major.

**The Papasan Family Trust Endowment**

The Papasan Family Trust Endowed Scholarship was established by Dr. Bobby Papasan of Tunica in loving memory of his parents, Robert and Ruth Papasan, both longtime residents of Union County and in honor of the entire Papasan family.

Robert, a farmer, and Ruth, an educator, were the proud parents of Dr. Bobby Papasan, Larry Papasan of Memphis, and Ruth Papasan of New Albany, whom this endowment also honors.

Larry Papasan has retired as the head of Memphis Light, Gas and Water and as the head of the orthopedics division at Smith and Nephew, while Ruth, following in her mother’s footsteps, is a retired educator.

Dr. Bobby Papasan, former superintendent of Tunica County Schools, served on the Northwest Board of Trustees from 1971-1988 and again from 2005-2012. During his time on the board, he served on several committees, including the Finance Committee and the Educational Program Review Committee. A former instructor of Higher Education at The University of Mississippi, Papasan helped lead the Northwest Mississippi Education Consortium.

Dr. Bobby Papasan came to the Delta after teaching in his hometown of New Albany before his job opportunity arose in the Tunica County Schools. Papasan remembers fondly working for influential educators during his tenure, including Rosa Fort, for whom the local high school is named. Throughout his time as an educator and administrator, Papasan always worked by the mantra, “We can all do better.”

The Papasan Family Trust Endowed Scholarship is intended for the benefit of a lifelong resident of Tunica County.
Rowan joins state’s elite in MCJC Sports Hall of Fame

Former Northwest football and baseball student-athlete and long-time head softball coach Mike Rowan was one of 15 athletic standouts inducted into the Mississippi Community and Junior College Sports Hall of Fame on Tuesday, April 24 in Pearl.

A 1997 inductee into the Northwest Sports Hall of Fame, Rowan was a two-sport athlete at Northwest from 1975 through 1977. The Senatobia native lettered two years in both football and baseball, earning all-state honors in his sophomore campaign.

Rowan was the starting quarterback for head coach A.J. Kilpatrick, leading the Rangers to a combined 14-7-1 record and a pair of state playoff appearances. After a 9-2 sophomore season, Rowan was selected to the Mississippi Junior College All-Star game. On the baseball diamond, Rowan lettered as a pitcher/outfielder, helping legendary head coach Jim Miles’ team claim back-to-back north division titles and state championships in 1976 and 1977.

Rowan’s coaching career began in 1982, earning state and region Coach of the Year honors after leading the Northwest track team to a north division, state and region championship. He stepped away from coaching for the next 10 years to serve as the director of athletics at The Baddour Center where he worked with the Special Olympics. Rowan returned to coaching in 1991 at Senatobia High School where he was the junior high basketball and football coach and girls’ cross country coach until 2002.

The winningest coach in Northwest fast pitch history, he joined the softball staff in 2003 as an assistant coach, taking over as head coach a year later. He has amassed an overall record of 253-118-1 and a 126-48 north division record in nine years, earning his 250th career victory April 18. The Rangers won division titles in 2007 and 2009.

Rowan is married to the former Kathy Thompson of Hickory Flat, and they have two older children, Brandon, an assistant baseball coach at Arkansas-Little Rock, and Britney, who is an occupational therapist at OT 4 Kidz, LLC in Starkville.

—Kevin Maloney

Former greats inducted into Sports Hall of Fame

About 150 people came to the Haraway Center on May 24 to hear legendary Mississippi State Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill speak at the 2012 Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

The inductees for this year’s banquet were Danny Cranford, 1957, football; Merrie Carol Martin Butler, 1991, rodeo; Cassius Ware, 1991, football; Bobby Ferguson, 1980, football; Lacie McCulley Cook, 2006, softball and Will Hall, 2000, football.

Cranford, who played at Northwest during the 1956 and 1957 seasons, was chosen by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) as an All-American, and was co-captain of the East Team. After graduation from Northwest, Cranford lettered at the University of Houston in 1958 and 1959.

Before joining the Northwest rodeo team, Butler distinguished herself as a champion while in high school and continued her impressive career after college. While at Northwest, she finished fourth in the nation in breakaway roping in 1991 and was honored at Northwest with the Women’s High Point award in rodeo that same year.

Ware was a part of the Ranger teams that reigned as MACJC North Champions (1990) and state and region champions and national runners-up (1991). The talented linebacker holds Northwest’s record for most tackles in a single game at 24 against Southwest. After Northwest, Ware was a standout player for Ole Miss.

A double threat, Ferguson excelled as an all-state punter and all-state kicker in football, recording his longest field goal of 51 yards during his sophomore year in 1980. He also earned the all-state first baseman and Tim Robbins MVP award in baseball while at Northwest.

Softball standout Cook continued her impressive childhood and high school career when she came to Northwest. Cook was honored as a MACJC all-state player both years she was at Northwest and earned NJCAA all-region honors in 2006. Cook was also named the team’s MVP and honored as Eyewitness News Amateur Athlete of the Week twice.

Hall broke multiple school records during his tenure as the Rangers’ quarterback, including most touchdowns passed (57), and a 64.7 percent completion rate. He continued his record-breaking career at the University of North Alabama, and since graduation has coached at several colleges. He is currently in his second year as head coach at the University of West Alabama.

—LaJuan Tallo
Northwest closed out the 2012 season with a 25-23 overall record and loss in the opening round of the state playoffs, falling to eventual state champions and nationally-ranked Hinds, 14-5 and 11-7 in a best-of-three series. The Rangers won six straight games down the stretch to finish second in the north division at 16-8, but ran into the hottest team in the state who ran roughshod through the playoffs.

The 25 wins marked a sixth consecutive season the Rangers have won 25 or more games under current head coach Mark Carson and a 17th winning season in the last 18 years overall.

With 17 sophomores returning, expectations were high in Senatobia entering the year, but an up-and-down season never got going how the Rangers had hoped.

The season did, however, have plenty of high notes and numerous individual and team milestones.

Six Rangers earned MACJC All-State honors at season’s end, including first team selections Bradley Noland (2B), Dex Herrington (OF), Jeremy Carlisle (OF) and Cody Reed (LHP) and second team nods Jeremy Massie (LHP) and Colt Burns (LHP). For the first time in school history, Kyle Blount, Noland and Massie were all named Capital One Academic All-District.

Record-breaking performances during the year included shortstop Josh Johnson breaking Chad Wardlaw’s school record in stolen bases, swiping 52 in 57 career chances, Reed tossing the school’s first no-hitter in a decade, Burns being named the NJCAA Division II National Pitcher of the Week and both Noland and Herrington eclipsing 100 career hits.

As a team, Northwest closed the year with a .956 fielding percentage, which ranked 18th in the nation, and stole 108 bases on the year—the first time in school history with back-to-back 100 stolen base seasons. The Rangers also boasted a 3.71 team ERA, the lowest since the 2004 season.

—Kevin Maloney

Bull rider qualifies for national finals rodeo

Northwest sophomore Lucas Boatwright of Olive Branch is heading to the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) in Casper, Wyo., after becoming the second Ranger in as many years to qualify in the bull riding event.

With Northwest occupying five of the top eight spots in the Ozark Region for the majority of the season, Boatwright finished in third with 290 season points and won the first event of the year at Missouri Valley College. He just edged out Brian Dowdy, last year’s national qualifier, who had 240 points.

The CNFR is the “Rose Bowl” of college rodeo, with the 63rd Annual weeklong event running from June 10-16 at the Casper Events Center in Wyoming.

The National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) will crown individual event champions in saddle bronc riding, bare back riding, bull riding, tie-down roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, breakaway roping and goat tying. National team championships are also awarded to both men’s and women’s teams, with over 400 cowboys and cowgirls from over 100 universities and colleges competing from one of the NIRA’s 11 regions.

Each contestant has three preliminary rounds of competition prior to the final round on Saturday night, June 16. Scores and times from those three rounds will be added up and the 12 contestants with the fastest total times or highest total scores will advance to the finals.

—Kevin Maloney
Winners in 20 of their final 24 games to close the regular season, the Northwest softball team capped an impressive 2012 season with a 30-12-1 overall record and 18-6 mark in north division play.

Under MACJC Hall of Fame coach Mike Rowan, the Rangers boasted a third, 30-win season in the last six years and were receiving votes in the NJCAA Division II Poll late in the season.

Northwest snapped a two-year streak without a win in the postseason by beating East Central, 4-3 at the state tournament, as sophomore Stormy Robison smashed an RBI-double to right in the bottom of the seventh to punch the Rangers’ ticket to the Region 23 Tournament.

Northwest lost two close games to reigning national champion and top-ranked LSU Eunice and Northeast as its season came to a close at regionals. Eunice defeated the Rangers 3-0, with all three runs coming with two outs in the sixth, while Northeast captured a 3-2 win with all three of its runs also coming in the sixth inning.

The Rangers closed the year with the nation’s best fielding percentage in Division II softball at .967 and hit over the .300 mark for a fourth consecutive year at .311.

All-State honors went to freshman pitcher Casey Baddley and sophomore shortstop Hillari Plummer while All-North Division honors went to Plummer, sophomore second baseman Linsey Hebert, sophomore outfielder Robison and freshman designated player/outfielder Lauren Riley.

Baddley, a native of Nesbit, had a stellar debut for the Rangers in the circle, finishing 17-4 with a 1.47 ERA. She threw 17 complete games in 22 season starts, also throwing nine shutouts and striking out 99 against 35 walks in 128.1 innings of work.

Plummer capped her career with All-State honors for a second-straight year and got the team award for Highest Batting Average (.380). The Pope native leaves Northwest as the all-time leader in hits (108) and runs scored (82) and also ranks second in stolen bases (23) and third in walks (32).

Hebert capped her two-year Ranger career by being named a team captain, Most Valuable Player and earned the Gold Glove Award. In 291 career chances, the Batesville product committed just six errors and fielded .979. She leaves as the school’s career leader in stolen bases (24) and ranks second in home runs (four) and third in runs scored (69).

A regular in the circle and in the outfield, Robison got the Heart of the Champion award to cap her two-year career. A native of Water Valley, Robison was a .302 lifetime hitter in 81 career games and also went 7-4 in the circle with a 2.34 ERA.

This year’s Slugger Award went to Riley of Hernando after hitting a solid .364 with 10 doubles, a triple, four home runs and a single-season school record 41 RBIs.

—Kevin Maloney

Golfers close strong at nationals

Freshman Chad Cupples and sophomore Cameron Thomas wrapped up a four-day week at the NJCAA Division II Men’s Golf Nationals May 22-25 at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, Ind., with Cupples finishing in a tie for 22nd and Thomas tying for 71st.

Cupples’ top 25 finish marked the first for a Ranger since T. Robert Oakley placed 25th in 2008 and is the best finish overall since All-American Jeremy Aldridge placed 12th in 2005.

Cupples closed strong with a round of 70, the third-lowest round of the entire tournament, and was 15-over-par for his four-day total of 303 (78-77-78-70). He jumped from 59th up to 22nd on the final day.

A PING Second Team All-American, Thomas fired a four-day total of 312 (78-81-75-78) to finish tied for 71st, carding a low round of 75 on day three. He closes the year with a 75.29 scoring average, the best for a Ranger since 2008.

Thomas was the individual medalist with a tournament-low 146 (74-72) at the region tournament, earning All-Region 23 honors and also MACJC First Team All-State honors. His scoring average of 74.5 leads the team and is the lowest for a Ranger in the last six years.

A second team All-State selection with a 76.1 scoring average, Cupples carded a two-day 158 (75-83) to finish in a tie for eighth at the region tournament.

Northwest closed the year with five consecutive top 3 finishes, including two runner-up finishes, but was held without a team win this spring. The Rangers’ 307.3 scoring average in 13 rounds marks the lowest single-season team score in the last five years.

—Kevin Maloney

www.northwestms.edu
High Tech Success

Scholar-athlete finds teamwork key to conquering IT challenges

By Sarah Sapp

Former Northwest basketball superstar Calvin Madlock, a scholar-athlete during his 1979-81 tenure at Northwest, is now applying the leadership skills and teamwork he learned on the court to his job as director of Information Technology Services at Antelope Valley College District in Lancaster, Calif.—providing administrative and instructional technology services for approximately 20,000 students and 1,200 employees annually—following a six-year stint as Los Angeles Community College District information technology project manager, where he served over 130,000 students per year and 12,000 employees within a nine-campus district. So how did this Northwest Ranger go from shooting hoops in Howard Coliseum to creating fully integrated campus-wide information systems for the largest community college district in the nation?

Madlock excelled on the basketball court and sailed through his physical education curriculum with straight A’s at Northwest. He was voted Mr. NWJC and was named Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. With both academic and athletic scholarships in front of him, Madlock accepted a full athletic scholarship to Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La. Despite his athletic aptitude to make it in professional sports regardless of his academic performance in college, Madlock decided to make the best out of his situation and, at the age of 26, put all of his energy into pursuing his career in information technology. He began his ascent in IT with an entry-level position as a computer operator at Hughes Aircraft, but quickly moved up to computer programmer. Feeling confident in his programming skills after working as a computer programmer for Hughes Aircraft, Rockwell International and United Airlines, Madlock set out on his own to start a computer consulting company, Madlock Services, and earned the Academic All-American Award in recognition of his athletic ability and his academic accomplishments.

After earning his Bachelor of Science in computer information systems, Madlock moved to the west coast to pursue professional basketball, but multiple injuries interfered time and time again, beginning with professional basketball camp tryouts and following him through French Olympic Team and Magic Johnson’s All-Stars tryouts. Madlock decided to make the best out of his situation and, at the age of 26, put all of his energy into pursuing his career in information technology. He began his ascent in IT with an entry-level position as a computer operator at Hughes Aircraft, but quickly moved up to computer programmer. Feeling confident in his programming skills after working as a computer programmer for Hughes Aircraft, Rockwell International and United Airlines, Madlock set out on his own to start a computer consulting company, Madlock Services,
With 11 seconds left on the clock, Madlock connected on a game-winning basket to lift Northwest to a 55-54 win over rival Northeast Mississippi Community College during the 1980-81 season. (right)


“I enjoyed it more working for myself only because I felt like I had so much confidence in computers and working with people,” said Madlock. “I created a niche for myself by telling clients, ‘You bring in your project on a Monday, and I can have an application written for you by the end of the week.’ I would write the program so fast—I could write a program shell in about 20 minutes—and then I would work on that shell of the program. By the end of the week I’d have the application finished and show them the printout of the report that I did from that application.”

When Madlock transitioned to working in higher education in 2005 as Los Angeles Community College District information technology project manager, he noticed a big difference from his work in the private sector—decisions and transitions were made in slow motion. “I never let that change my attitude. I’ve always lived by the principle that your attitude determines your altitude, and I think they found that refreshing. Just like with basketball, it was all about team work. Everything was collaboration. Let’s empower the people, or the end-user in IT speak,” said Madlock.

He conquered challenge after challenge, including instituting a new fully-integrated, system-wide student identification system for more than 130,000 students without a single glitch in a 48-hour implementation—an accomplishment that, coupled with completion of a Master of Science in information technology at Capella University in 2010, launched him into his current position as director of Information Technology at Antelope Valley College District, serving nine campuses.

“The first thing I told my boss when I got there was, ‘I have to meet the people at each one of the nine colleges in our district.’ The first thing he told me was, ‘We don’t do that.’ So my first challenge was to convince my boss that we could be successful if I go out to meet the people.” After convincing his boss to allow him face time with steering committees and departments at each one of the colleges, Madlock created invaluable communication channels he would continue to rely on for years to come.

Madlock continues to work tirelessly to provide cutting edge information technology that enables the college to offer more services with fewer fiscal resources and to bridge the gap between faculty and ever-evolving technology. He meets regularly with administrators and faculty at each school to assess their unique campus needs. He then prioritizes those needs for the strategic planning and budget committee to consider, gets approval on his plans and implements changes in a proven continuum he coined the “campus computing life cycle methodology.” His most important project currently is improving mobile technology and providing wireless solutions district-wide.

“They learn differently now. You can have a student who is on his iPhone maybe studying for an exam, maybe podcasting—they are multi-tasking, or the student who may be keeping their child taking a class at home who is online looking at their lecture that’s in the classroom—so being able to stream a lecture. We’re just trying to make sure that we’re taking advantage of and leveraging technology,” said Madlock.

Madlock had a string of incredible mentors throughout his life—his father and mother, the late Coot and Jewel Madlock of Sardis; his brother-in-law, Willie Sipp of Coldwater, who encouraged him to pursue computer information systems in college; Northwest basketball coach Kenneth “Cat” Robbins and Northwestern coach, Wayne Gates. His mentors taught him the value of teamwork and reaching out to people in need—values he hopes to instill in every young man that sets foot in his mentorship program. Madlock is highly recognized in the Los Angeles area for his community service efforts and involvement incorporating the South Central Los Angeles Boys-To-Men Club, where he served for five years as president, encouraging and promoting social, economic, educational, vocational and spiritual values for young men ages 9 through 18.

“I saw kids that didn’t have fathers in their homes and they were on the street. They had so much hopelessness. It’s kind of like when Coach Robbins reached out to me when I was just kind of home doing nothing. I’m reaching out to these kids, who are doing nothing, and I start gathering these kids up and I start giving them some hope and direction, and that’s kind of how it all got started.”

Madlock’s confidence today is clear, and he admits that a lot of his positive attitude stems from his experience at Northwest. When Coach Robbins showed up at his front door and told him he wanted him to play basketball, he felt needed. “He said he would love to have me at Northwest, and that’s what made me come to Northwest,” said Madlock. “When I came here, they kind of embraced me in everything—when I won Mr. NWJC, when I was invited to Phi Theta Kappa, when I won Who’s Who—the faculty and staff embraced those achievements and nurtured that side of me, not only the basketball player, but the academic side of me. I just had a great experience here. I can’t tell you how proud I am to be from Northwest.”
Retirees honored at service awards ceremony

Northwest honored retiring employees during its annual Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony and Reception April 26 in the Haraway Center. Retirees for 2012 include (l to r) electrician Larry Broadway, office systems technology instructor Pam Darnell, nursing instructor Kathy Mayhew, Lafayette-Yalobusha Technical Center practical nursing instructor Patti Williams, groundsworker Melvin Bradley, Lafayette-Yalobusha Technical Center career-technical counselor Joe Elliott, housekeeping staff member Evornia Jackson, food service staff member Classie Mack and criminal justice instructor Robert Cox. Not pictured are retiring DeSoto Center chemistry instructor Dr. Harold Simmons and DeSoto Center bookstore manager Dorothy Sykes.

Photos by Justin Ford

35 YEARS—Computer information systems technology instructor Sheila Dandridge and collision repair instructor Jackie Brown. (right)

30 YEARS—Electrician Larry Broadway. (far right)

25 YEARS—Director of Management Information Systems Amy Latham (left) and DeSoto Center Math Department Chairman Wayne Ferguson. (below left)

20 YEARS—Accounting instructor Leah Arrington, biology instructor Robin Robison, English instructor Dr. Sandra Banham, and Assistant Director of Communications Julie Bauer. Not pictured is DeSoto Center respiratory therapy instructor Regina Clark. (far right)
15 YEARS— (first row, l to r) Associate Vice President of Development and Special Projects Sybil Canon, Paramedic Program Coordinator Brenda Hood, housekeeping staff member Virginia Green, Lafayette-Yalobusha Technical Center math instructor Elizabeth Harvey, practical nursing instructor Pam White, post office clerk Tina Carrington; (second row) Chief of Police Al Dodson, WIA Manager Jennifer Casey, Purchasing Agent Barbara Young, English instructor LeeLee Haraway, construction worker Roy Hunt, library technical assistant Sandra McCravy, DeSoto Center accounting instructor Dawn Stevens and WIN Job Center counselor Cathy Moore. Not pictured are DeSoto Center housekeeping staff member Reneace Gardner, mechanic Randy Moore and Head Softball Coach Mike Rowan.

10 YEARS— (first row, l to r) Mathematics instructor Susan Leake, Workforce Development Center data entry clerk Sharon Medlin, Supervisor of Housekeeping James Neal, Instructional Materials Specialist Donna Harvey, DeSoto Center hotel and restaurant management technology instructor Kay Mistilis, plumber Mitchell Higganbothan, English instructor Cindy Pierce; (second row) football coach Danny Ray Cole, drafting and design engineering technology instructor Tim Chavez, paramedic instructor Lisa Briscoe, media librarian Keith Coleman, English instructor Anne Smith and Lafayette-Yalobusha Technical Center cosmetology instructor Heidi Riley. Not pictured are music instructor Dr. Saundra Bishop, residence hall supervisor Marshall Lea Creecy, agricultural technology instructor Jeremy Massey, food service staff member DeElla Meeks, WIN Job Center case manager Leigh Nelson and residence hall supervisor Jackie Thulin.

5 YEARS— (first row, l to r) Psychology instructor Mary Lynn McLaughlin, library media assistant Glenn McDowell, WIA case manager/receptionist Diane Latham, food service staff member Renee Smith, psychology instructor Jarrod Calloway, eLearning administrative assistant Kim Steinman, mathematics instructor Jennifer Jones, Director of Campus Life and Housing Arnie Anderson, Spanish instructor June Turner; (second row) DeSoto Center Evening School Director Jeremy Isome, civil engineering technology instructor Tommy Watson, DeSoto Center aviation maintenance technology instructor Calvin Cooper, English instructor Beth Leishman, painter Michael Brewer, Social Science Division Director Dr. James Reed, biology instructor Melissa Greene, Director of Accounting Stan Sullivant, Lafayette-Yalobusha Technical Center history instructor Matthew Johnson, economics instructor Marty Bolen, DeSoto Center mathematics instructor Randall Warren and DeSoto Center business instructor Keith Reed. Not pictured are Assistant Soccer Coach Charlie Baldwin, nursing instructor Toni Barden, DeSoto Center English instructor Claude Haraway, food service staff member Reba Means, ABE instructor Bobby Neyman, DeSoto Center practical nursing instructor Tamara Pittman, art instructor Eunika Rogers, food service staff member Jeanne Scott and DeSoto Center cardiovascular technology instructor Cynthia Stanford-Means.

Dr. Gary Lee Spears thanks John Gilliam of Benefit Concepts (left photo) and Bill Prescott of CopyPlus (right photo) on behalf of the Foundation for their sponsorship of Northwest’s Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony. State law prohibits the college from purchasing gifts for employees; thus, the Foundation, through funds from private donors, provides watches for retirees and gifts for employees celebrating service anniversaries from five up to 40 years. Photos by Sybil Canon/LaJuan Tallo
Piano duo exhibits artistry on college’s new Shigeru

Generous Northwest Foundation donors, area piano teachers and their students, pianists, Northwest music majors, a host of guests from surrounding communities, along with Northwest President Dr. Gary Lee Spears and his wife, Marilyn, filled the Fine Arts Auditorium May 6 for a piano concert by the celebrated Wang-Rodgers piano duo, comprised of husband and wife team, Dr. Diane Wang and Stacy Rodgers, of Oxford.

Wang is the coordinator of the keyboard musicianship curriculum and instructor in piano and flute at The University of Mississippi. Rodgers is head of keyboard studies and accompanying, as well as director of The University of Mississippi Community Music School. In addition, the Northwest Singers, directed by Susanne VanDyke and accompanied by Dr. Saundra Bishop and Mary Sipley, sang four pieces.


Scott Lane of Lane Music provided the audience with information about the Shigeru Kawai, recently purchased by the college. He explained that the piano that now graces the Fine Arts stage was originally destined for the Lincoln Center in New York. “Each piece of the Shigeru is made by hand, and the craftsman who made this piano traveled to Senatobia to ‘voice’ the piano to Northwest’s auditorium this past February,” said Lane. “This same craftsman had just completed voicing a piano in Moscow.” Chuck Taylor, also of Lane Music, explained that the Yamaha was a fine instrument that would serve Northwest’s Fine Arts students well. The Yamaha was purchased through the generosity of Morgan Freeman and many other donors, according to Canon.

Canon also thanked Eleanor Cahill who donated her childhood piano, a Knabe grand with ivory keys, in memory of her mother, Estelle McCormick Cahill, and Beverly and Melvin Kemp who donated their family piano in memory of their sons, Kevin and Barry. In addition to these donations, Becky and Glenn Triplett donated the funds to purchase two new electric keyboards for the Music Laboratory.

Following the concert, a reception catered by John Woods of First Choice Catering was provided, and guests had the opportunity to view a photography exhibit by Mi’chel Jarjoura, a Northwest alum who is now an adjunct professor at North Arkansas College.

—Sybil Canon

‘Shoot’ benefits nurses

The 12th annual “Shoot for the Heart” event was held Saturday, April 21 at the Willows Sporting Clays Center in Tunica. The event, which was sponsored by the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, directly benefitted the Northwest Division of Nursing. Donnie Caldwell (second from left), representing event sponsor Ozark Trucking, and Shoot for the Heart founder, Keith Wilson (far right), congratulate the Shoot for the Heart scholarship winners, Brady Simpson of Olive Branch (left), Loren Coke (third from l-r) and Courtney Hale, both of Senatobia, Amanda Perry of Hernando, Mike Burgess of Southaven and Roxanne Bischofberger of Coldwater. Not pictured, Renee Howell of Nesbit.

Photo submitted
Fallen heroes remembered at annual ceremony May 4

Eight DeSoto County law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty were honored for their sacrifice May 4 at the annual Fallen Heroes Memorial Service on the courthouse lawn in Hernando. Gov. Phil Bryant (left) gave the memorial address, and a bell rang and a dove was released for each of the eight officers as their name was called (far left).

Associate Vice President of Development Sybil Canon (above left) presents Fallen Heroes Memorial co-founder Hugh Basinger with a framed print in honor of his dedicated efforts in establishing the Fallen Heroes scholarships and in organizing the memorial service.

Northwest President, Dr. Gary Lee Spears (right), greets Gov. Bryant as he arrives at the ceremony. Dr. Spears gave remarks and introduced the college’s Fallen Heroes scholarship recipients.

Students receiving the Fallen Heroes of DeSoto County Endowed Scholarship were recognized at the service, including (l to r) Cayce Morgan of Olive Branch, Matthew Kittrell of Hernando, Ryan Minks of Nesbit (seated), Seth Busby and Kristin Keltner of Hernando. Not pictured are recipients Harrison Smith and Dylan Castoria, both of Olive Branch, and Cody Dean of Horn Lake.

Mayfield named Citizen of the Year

Northwest Foundation board member, Roberta Mayfield of Senatobia, left, was named Citizen of the Year at the Tate County Economic Development Foundation (TCEDF) Annual Meeting on Feb. 28 at the Haraway Center. Mayfield was honored for her lifetime commitment of service to Senatobia. A former president of the Foundation Board, she has been a member for over 15 years. Congratulating Mayfield is Janie Mortimer, executive director of TCEDF.

Photo by Theron Fly/The Democrat
The Legacy of Memorial and Honorarium Gifts

A great many of the gifts that are received by the Northwest Foundation are given to pay tribute to the men and women who have profoundly impacted the lives of others—parents, siblings, teachers, sons and daughters. Some gifts are designated for permanently endowed scholarship funds, which means the gift “keeps on giving” forever. The memorial and honorarium gifts listed were given between Nov. 1, 2011, and April 30, 2012, in appreciation both to those who gave the gifts and to those who have lived extraordinary and inspirational lives. If you wish to make a memorial or honorarium gift, please contact the Foundation Office at (662) 560-1103.

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Dr. Larry Sylvester

Brenda Holmes  
by Mr. & Mrs. Jerry L. Addy  
Mr. Mark Aldridge  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Allison

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attended Northwest in 1940-41 and 1945. Spears explained to the crowd that a month before completing his last semester at Northwest, Davis was drafted into the U.S. Army. He had to take special examinations to complete his coursework before his deployment, but he still lacked one class necessary to graduate, or so he thought.

“Sixty-four years later, at the encouragement of his youngest daughter, Mr. Davis called the Registrar’s Office at Northwest to find out what he needed to do to complete his Associate of Arts,” said Spears. “After carefully reviewing his old files, the Registrar found that Davis had, indeed, completed the requirements necessary to earn a diploma. They offered to mail it to him or allow him to pick it up, but Mr. Davis wanted to walk across this graduation stage with the rest of you fine graduates, despite having just recovered from congestive heart failure. He has worked tirelessly with his physical therapist to be able to walk confidently alongside you all today.”

Davis joined three generations of his family—his brothers, Thermon and Carlton; his daughters, Judy Marshall and Debra Williams; and his granddaughter, Leann Elrod—as proud graduates of Northwest.

“There are others out there, like Mr. Davis, who only lack a few hours to graduate or who already have enough hours, but no diploma,” said Division of Business Director, Amy Payne. Payne explained that she is approached by former Northwest students on a regular basis who are in a similar situation, and she always encourages them to come back to Northwest, either online or in the traditional classroom, to complete their degree. According to Payne, it is never too late to “cross the finish line” at Northwest, and she encourages students of all ages to contact Northwest to find out what they need to complete their associate degree or certificate program.”

—Sarah Sapp

and service issues. Northwest, according to Kooken, is the model for how to train workers in these agricultural jobs. There are now three major training centers in the southern U.S., and the Northwest training facility has passed Dallas in trainee volume, because the program’s quality is well known. John Deere Pro-Tech hopes to start distance-learning training with the Northwest facility in the coming year. Kooken added that Northwest John Deere/Agricultural Technology graduates are in high demand, earning as much as $85,90,000 a year.

—Sarah Sapp
features

cross that line
College sees record number of graduates in three ceremonies during 96th Commencement

successful partnership
Ag Tech program hosts regional open house for students and John Deere personnel

cover story: y'all twins?
Sisters join other Northwest faculty in publishing non-fiction, textbooks, and short story collections

elite class
Athletes from various disciplines inducted into Northwest’s Sports Hall of Fame

high tech leader
Northwest alum enjoys successful IT career after college experience as athletic stand-out

departments

student snapshot/edan everett

president’s reflections/dr. gary lee spears

alumni president’s notes/mike boren

around campus

the legacy continues

the sporting life

from the heart of northwest/sybil canon

alumni news/dolores wooten

On the cover: Northwest mathematics instructor Kat King (right) and her twin sister, Margaret, have joined the ranks of college faculty in writing their first book, “Y’all Twins?”, available at Square Books in Oxford.  Photo by Justin Ford

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from the heart of Northwest
Sybil R. Canon

If there were just an extra 10 hours in each day, there is something I would really like to do. I would like to follow our students for 10 years after they leave Northwest and then contact all of the people who have established scholarships so they would know that their investments have brought a return beyond anything we ever hoped and dreamed.

There are three students who have recently graduated from Northwest that certainly are off to a great start. Robert Barnes and Ben Lambert have each been accepted into the Mississippi Rural Physician Program, receiving $30,000 in scholarships each year and a monthly stipend of $1,000. For his two years at Northwest, Robert has received The Joey Boldreghini Endowed Scholarship. Joey was planning to attend Northwest when his life tragically ended in an automobile accident. His grandmother, Mrs. Nan Flinn, established the scholarship with Dr. Lucie Bridgforth, who was managing the Foundation at that time. Just think about that. This scholarship was established in 1991, over 20 years ago, and it is still helping students. Joey’s legacy will live through Robert and all of the patients he will treat when he completes med school. Ben Lambert has received The Gateway Tire Endowed Scholarship at Northwest. Bobby Dunlap, CEO of Dunlap and Kyle, the parent company of Gateway, established this scholarship in 2003. Mr. Dunlap has helped literally thousands of young people to go to school, and he can now add a future medical doctor to his list. And, again, this scholarship will keep on giving for years and years to come.

Logan Dodson was awarded The C.B. and Marjorie Norton Walker Endowed Scholarship for his two years at Northwest. Both Mr. and Mrs. Walker were educators, with Mr. Walker serving as Tate County superintendent of education for 28 years. Mrs. Walker taught for a brief time before devoting herself full-time to her family. Logan has been awarded a full-tuition scholarship to the University of Mississippi to continue his major of secondary education. He was one of 10 community college students chosen out of a field of 220. The Walker Endowment was established by their children in 2003, and the educational legacy of their parents will keep on living.

In the past 10 years, because of the generosity of so many people, we have awarded more than 2,500 scholarships. Certainly, not every student has taken advantage of this wonderful opportunity; however, the vast majority has. And if it could just get those extra 10 hours, would I have a story to tell? But since I can’t, please join me in imagining all of the good and wonderful things that are happening in communities throughout the South and beyond because kind and generous people showed our students the “Heart of Northwest.”

Once again the rodeo was a success because of the dedicated men and women who give tirelessly of themselves. The teamwork of the Northwest alumni and boosters is a prime example of how a dedicated group can be the backbone of any special event. They work so very hard, giving their time and resources for the good of our students and expect nothing in return. These volunteers spent weeks and months selling sponsorships, buying supplies, locating volunteers and attending regular planning sessions. Their dedication to the rodeo program enables us to provide the much-needed support for those students interested in the sport.

The rodeo has been successful in terms of the fundraising but also in providing a forum to exchange and brainstorm new ideas and suggestions to plan a fun-filled weekend for families and competitors for the year ahead.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your time, your talents, your resources and especially your dedication to help our students be all they can be. The rodeo just gets bigger and better.

Save the Date!
Homecoming—October 27 We will be honoring the classes of 1952, 1962 and 1972. A nurses’ reception is being planned as well. Watch your mailbox for details!

Nursing alumni, join the Facebook group “NWCC Nursing Alumni” to get all the latest news.
Graphic Design Technology student Andrew Bartolotta of Southaven prepares to “cross the finish line” at the college’s 96th Commencement May 11 at Howard Coliseum. Bartolotta, who served as editor of the 2012 Rocketeer yearbook, was one of 224 graduates receiving the Associate of Applied Science degree.

Photo by Julie Bauer