WE ARE JONES

President’s Report 2017
MISSION
Jones County Junior College (JCJC) is an open-door, two-year institution, granting Associate in Arts degrees, Associate in Applied Science degrees, Career and Technical certificates, Adult Education credentials, and Workforce credentials. JCJC inspires greatness by providing higher education programs and support services consistent with the ideals of a democratic society in order to meet the higher education needs of the communities of interest through postsecondary programming, workforce and economic development, and community development. To pursue these ideals, JCJC provides (1) human, financial, and physical resources for quality programming; (2) higher education programs to meet the needs and interests of students; (3) workforce education solutions for business and industry to enhance economic development; (4) educational support services for teaching, learning, and higher education programming; and (5) quality development through continuous planning and assessment.

PURPOSE
Jones County Junior College provides programs and support services consistent with the ideals of a democratic society to meet the educational needs of students and communities in the Jones County Junior College District and surrounding areas.

VISION
JCJC will be the first and best choice for students, businesses, and the community for developing relationships, maximizing potential, and improving the quality of life of all associated with the college.

VALUES
The values of JCJC are:
Community Service | Engaged Learning | Integrity | Stewardship | Leadership | Health and Wellness | Work Ethics

GOALS
Improve Graduation Rates | Improve Retention Rates | Improve Transfer Rates | Excellence-in-Teaching | Increase Enrollment

GOALS PROGRESS REVIEW

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Having started as a modest Agricultural High School teaching the basics of life, Jones has served the area for over 100 years educating well over 100,000 students. We deliver instruction to nearly 10,000 students each year in more than 100 associate degree and certificate programs. We strive to provide superior academic and technical programs, and our records of achievement in retention, persistence, and success are proof of hard work and determination by the entire college community.

As the president of this wonderful college, it is my honor and pleasure to work alongside the best and brightest students pursuing higher education and to interact with them on a daily basis. This remarkable, technology focused generation seeks personal connection and meaning in their educational path, and we at Jones have accepted the challenge to transform our methods and communications to engage these students through a blend of time-tested and innovative approaches to education.

Embedded in our name, the word “one” captures our desire to provide the opportunity for each student to rise above mediocrity, excelling toward greatness, to truly be number ONE. Laurence Hutton wrote in his short story called “A Boy I Knew,” a personal account of his encounter with the famed British novelist, William Makepeace Thackeray. The encounter highlighted a famous phrase that sill applies today, “Whatever you are, Be a good one.” That is our vision for each student at Jones.

I believe that education has the power to fundamentally change a person’s life. Each day the faculty and staff at Jones strive to meet students where they are and challenge them to leave our institution better than when they entered it. Enjoy our publication; it really was a very good year!

Sincerely,

Jesse R. Smith, President
Jones County Junior College
Five MACJC championships top the 2016-17 Jones County Junior College year in sports.

JCJC captured state and Region 23 titles in women’s soccer, men and women’s basketball and softball and a state crown in baseball. The men and women’s tennis teams competed in their respective NJCAA tournaments, meaning that six of JCJC’s nine athletic programs participated in national postseason play and eight of the nine qualified for postseason play.

Jones compiled an incredible overall record of 206-36 in all nine sports – an .851 winning percentage. In 2015-16, the Bobcats were 187-56-1 for a .768 winning percentage. In 2015-16, the Bobcats were 187-56-1 for a .768 winning percentage. In 2015-16, the Bobcats were 187-56-1 for a .768 winning percentage. In 2015-16, the Bobcats were 187-56-1 for a .768 winning percentage. In 2015-16, the Bobcats were 187-56-1 for a .768 winning percentage. In 2015-16, the Bobcats were 187-56-1 for a .768 winning percentage. In 2015-16, the Bobcats were 187-56-1 for a .768 winning percentage.

The Bobcats had one coaching change after the season.

Rahim Lockhart, men’s basketball head coach, left after three seasons to become an assistant coach at the University of Mississippi. He was replaced by Randy Bolden, who came to Jones after serving the previous season as an assistant coach at Hinds Community College.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Second-year head coach Missy Bilderback led the Lady Bobcats to a history making season.

JCJC went 30-2 – a school-record for victories – won the MACJC title and the Region 23 championship. She is 49-9 in her two seasons as head coach.

By winning its first ever region crown, JCJC advanced to the NJCAA Division I Tournament for the first time in school history. The Lady Bobcats went 2-1 in the national tournament in Lubbock, Texas, and finished in the top eight in the tournament. They were rated No. 14 in the final regular season poll.

JCJC crushed Southwest 85-39 at A.B. Howard Gymnasium to claim the MACJC Tournament and defeated Hinds 85-67 in the Region 23 championship game the following week.

In Lubbock, JCJC received the Sportsmanship Award and guard Alexis Tolefree (Conway, Arkansas) was named to the All-Tournament Team.

Tolefree was named an NJCAA Division I first-team All-American and Nique Cherry (Heidelberg) was named an NJCAA Division I honorable mention All-American.

Cherry, Tolefree and Tatyana Lofton (Madison-Ridgeland Academy) were named All-Region 23 and Bilderback was named the District O Coach of the Year.

Cherry, Tolefree and Lofton were named All-MACJC first-team, Myyah West (Prentiss) was named All-MACJC second-team and K.K. Tassin (Terry) was selected All-MACJC honorable mention.

West, Zan Ratcliffe (West Jones) and Kyle Felton (Lithonia, Georgia) participated in the MACJC All-Star Game.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Rahim Lockhart guided the Bobcats to a 29-2 record – also a school-record for wins – and the school’s second trip to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas.

JCJC went 1-1 in the nationals, finished in the top 16 of the tournament and was rated No. 8 in the final regular season poll.

The Bobcats won the MACJC title with a 77-52 victory over Northeast at A.B. Howard Gymnasium and then edged the Tigers 91-88 the following week in Clinton to win the Region 23 crown.

Bruce Stevens (Bay Springs) was named an NJCAA Division I first-team All-American and a National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-American. Stevens, David Davis (Purvis) and Rickey Holden (Laurel) were named All-Region 23. Stevens was named All-MACJC first-team and Davis, Holden and Tristan Wailey (Hattiesburg) were named All-MACJC second-team.

David, Xavier Howard (Pearl) and Leito Holloway (Charlotte, North Carolina) participated in the MACJC All-Star Game.

SOFTBALL

Head coach Chris Robinson guided the Lady Bobcats to a 55-4 record – another school-record for wins – a fifth MACJC championship in six years, a Region 23 title, a runner-up finish in the NJCAA Division II National Tournament and a No. 1 ranking in the final NJCAA Division II regular season poll.

Jones defeated Mississippi Gulf Coast 4-2 to win the MACJC Tournament at Community Bank Park and then went 2-0 in the Region 23 Tournament the following week. The Lady Bobcats went 5-2 in the national tournament, falling 8-7 to LSU-Eunice in the title game.

JCJC is 105-12 in the past two years in softball. Karli Perque (Westwego, Louisiana) was named the NJCAA Division II Pitcher of the Year and Kelly Byrd (Copiah Academy) was named the NJCAA Division II Player of the Year. It is the first time ever for two players from the same school to receive both honors in the same year. It was also the third time in four years for JCJC to have the Player of the Year with Tori Dew receiving the honor in 2014 and Lauren Holifield in 2015.

Perque, Byrd and Autumn Frost (East Webster) were named NJCAA first-team All-Americans and Cori McCrary (Carroll Academy) was named NJCAA second-team All-American. Byrd, Perque and Frost were named National Fast-Pitch Coaches Association (NFCA) first-team All-Americans and Brittany Baty (Northeast Lauderdale) was named an NFCA second-team All-American.

Perque, Byrd, Frost, McCrary and Baty were all named to the NFCA South All-Region team. Perque, Byrd, Frost, Baty, McCrary, Kelsha Loftin (Mendenhall) and Taylor Murray (Parklane Academy) were named All-Region 23.

Emily Robinson (Lafayette), Haylee Morse (Madison Central), Madison Burge (Harrison Central) and Amanda Holliday (Watson, Louisiana) were named All-MACJC. Natalie Hogue (Harrison Central) and Callie Venable (Clinton, Louisiana) were named All-MACJC Honorable Mention.

Perque was selected as the MACJC Pitcher of the Year.

Frost, Byrd, Loftin, Hogue and Perque were named to the NJCAA Division II National All-Tournament Team and Baty was named the Defensive Player of the Tournament.

WOMEN’S SOCCER
Lady Bobcats were ranked No. 11 in the final NJCAA Division I poll and finished the season at 15-2. Kelly Stubbington (London, England) and Mary Kate Smith (South Jones) were recognized as NJCAA Division I All-Americans. Stubbington was a second-team All-American, after being named third-team All-American last year. Smith was an Honorable Mention All-American.

Stubbington, Smith, Ashleigh Lewis (London, England) and Mallori Rodrigue (Sacred Heart) were named All-Region 23. Shannon Durkin (Barnsley, England), Parker Welch (Brandon), Abbey Graham (West Jones) and Rachel McConnell (Portadown, Ireland) were named All-MACJC.

Head coach Brooks Buffington’s team posted a 9-5 regular season mark and finished third in the MACJC/Region 23 Tournament. Mattie Mills (South Pontotoc) won the No. 5 singles title in the state region tourney, while Anastasia Bukhanova (Russia) finished second in No. 2 singles. JCJC finished 20th in the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Tucson, Arizona. Bukhanova and Beth Owen (Stone) advanced to the No. 1 doubles consolation semifinals.

WOMEN’S TENNIS

The Bobcats went 8-6 during the regular season and finished third in the MACJC/Region 23 Tournament. Diego Leal (Colombia) won the No. 2 singles title at the NJCAA Region 23 quarterfinals. The Bobcats finished 17th in the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Plano, Texas. Pennington advanced to the No. 3 singles consolation round semifinals. Leal and Tagel Lewis (St. Lucia) reached the semifinals of the No. 1 doubles consolation round.

MEN’S SOCCER

Head coach Brendan Connolly’s team finished the season with an 8-8 record. JCJC beat Northwest 5-2 in the MACJC/Region 23 quarterfinals before falling to Hinds in the semifinals. Todd (Belfast, Northern Ireland) was named All-Region 23. Noah Billingsley (Sacred Heart), Kieran Robins (Norwich, England) and Darren Ross (Belfast, Northern Ireland) were named All-MACJC. Billingsley and Donaldo Martinez (West Jones) participated in the MACJC All-Star Game.

FOOTBALL

First-year head coach Steve Buckley led JCJC to a 6-3 mark in 2016. Defensive tackle Javon Kinlaw (Charleston, South Carolina) was named an NJCAA second-team All-American and running back Scott Phillips (South Jones) was named an NJCAA Honorable Mention All-American. Kinlaw, Phillips, Markel Winters (Tallahassee, Florida), and Keby Wickline (Stillwater, Oklahoma) were recognized for being All-Region 23 and All-MACJC. Gibbs (Northwest Rankin) was honored for being All-MACJC.

2016-17 sports year

Second-year head coach Chris Kirtland guided JCJC to a stellar 46-4 record, a No. 1 national ranking for the regular season, the MACJC regular season title with a 26-2 record and a Region 23 runner-up finish. JCJC went 5-4-9 during its 2016 national title run, giving the Bobcats a 100-13 record in Kirtland’s first two years as head coach.

ALL-AMERICANS

Erick Hoard (Brandon), Tanner Huddleston (George County), Ben Stiglets (Gulfport) and Logan Robbins (George County) were named All-
The Lady Bobcats pose after winning the MACJC/Region 23 Tournament over Holmes at Mississippi Gulf Coast on Oct. 30.

Lady Bobcat basketball team posts record-setting season

The Jones County Junior College women’s basketball team enjoyed a record-setting, 2016-17 season. JCJC went 30-2, which is a school-record for wins. They also won the MACJC championship and their first-ever Region 23 title.

As a result, Jones made its first-ever appearance in the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Lubbock, Texas. JCJC went 2-1 in the nationals and finished in the top eight in the tournament.

Fan attendance was high as the Lady Bobcats won the MACJC South Division title and then rolled through the state tournament on its home court at A.B. Howard Gymnasium.


The following week Jones won the region tournament with an 85-67 decision over Hinds on March 9 at the A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton.

Nique Cherry and Tatyana Lofton were chosen for the All-Tournament Team. Individual contributions by Cherry, Lofton, Tolefree, Mayyah West and Zan Ratcliffe contributed to the team’s outstanding accomplishments.

JCJC traveled to the state of Texas and at the national tournament won its first two games.

The Lady Bobcats, seeded No. 13, whipped Western Nebraska 64-42 on March 20 and followed that up with a 91-82 victory over No. 4 seed Hutchinson (Kansas).

JCJC’s season ended with a 91-82 loss to Salt Lake Community College (Utah) in the quarterfinals.

Missy Bilderback, in her second year as head coach attributed the overall success of JCJC’s athletic program as inspiration to the Lady Bobcats.
Jones County Junior College captured its third MACJC/Region 23 soccer championship with a 6-1 victory over Holmes on Oct. 30 at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community Soccer Complex in Perkinston. It was JCJC’s ninth straight win.

It was third state championship for JCJC head coach Dolores Deasley. Jones also won championships in 2010 and 2013. Deasley was named Region 23 Coach of the Year after the win.

JCJC was dominant in the state tournament, outscoring the opposition, 12-2. They beat Pearl River in the semifinals, also by a 6-1 score.

With scoring and assists by Rachel McConnell, Shannon Durkin, Ashleigh Lewis, Mary Kate Smith, Marci Napier and Kelly Stubbington, the Bobcats controlled the championship game. Brittany Snyder and Mia Holmes showed great defensive skills in goal, each playing half of the championship game.

The Lady Bobcats advanced to the NJCAA District H playoffs the following week in Melbourne, Florida, vs. No. 8 Eastern Florida State College. JCJC lost to EFSC 5-3 to end their season at 15-2.

For the season, Jones outscored its opponents, 94-15. They were ranked No. 8 in the final NJCAA Division I regular season poll.

Smith, Stubbington, Mallorie Rodrigue and Brittney Snyder participated in the MACJC All-Star Game where Smith was named the South MVP.
The Jones County Junior College Bobcat men's basketball team won its fifth state championship with a 77-52 whipping of Northeast on March 2 before a loud crowd at A.B. Howard Gymnasium. JCJC never trailed in winning its 13th straight game and first state title since 2009.

In the Region 23 Tournament at the A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton, it was a rematch of the state championship game. The Bobcats survived a missed 3-pointer at the buzzer and defeated Northeast 91-88 on March 10. Ricky Holden and David Davis were named to the All-Tournament team and Rahim Lockhart was named Region 23 Coach of the Year.

With the win in the region tournament, Jones advanced to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament for only the second time in school history. JCJC won the national championship in 2014 in its only previous appearance in the national tournament.

In Hutchinson, Kansas, the Bobcats went 1-1, defeating Caldwell Tech (North Carolina) 106-78 in the first game before falling to Northwest Florida 91-79 in the round of 16.

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**Bolden emerges as men’s head basketball coach**

Randy Bolden was introduced as the Bobcats’ head coach May 5 during a press conference at the school’s graduation luncheon in the C.L. Neil Student Center. Bolden was an assistant coach at Hinds Community College this past season. Prior to that, he was head coach at Meridian High School for nine years, guiding the Wildcats to a 227-55 record and a MHSAA 6A state championship in 2011. Meridian also won two South State crowns.

He served as head coach at Pearl High School from 2004-07 and was an assistant coach at Jackson Provine High School from 2002-04.

The Forest Hill High School graduate played collegiately at Texas Southern from 1994-98. He was the Southwestern Athletic Conference Player of the Year for both his junior and senior seasons. He was named All-SWAC both of those years and was the SWAC Freshman of the Year in 1994-95.

Bolden finished in the top 10 in scoring nationally twice and helped Texas Southern to the NCAA Tournament in 1995 where the Tigers came close to upsetting defending national Arkansas, dropping a 79-78 decision.

After graduating from Texas Southern, Bolden played professional basketball from 1998-2002 in Iceland, Brazil and Canada before getting into the coaching profession. He earned a Master of Science in Health, Physical Education and Recreation from Jackson State in 2006.
The Jones County Junior College Bobcats won its sixth state championship in 2017; and it was not even close.

Under a new format where the regular season schedule decided the MACJC champion, the Bobcats cruised to the title. JCJC ended conference play with a 26-2 record, nine games ahead of four teams tied at 17-11 in second place. The Bobcats actually clinched the crown with six games left in the regular season on May 6 when they beat Coahoma, 16-2.

By winning the state championship, the Bobcats did not have to compete in an MACJC best-of-three opening round series and automatically hosted the Region 23 Tournament at Community Bank Park, which started on May 17.

The Bobcats lost in the opening round of the regional to Pearl River before bouncing back to beat East Central and LSU-Eunice. They then lost to Hinds in the championship round.

JCJC, who won the NJCAA Division II World Series in 2016, ended the season at 46-4. The Bobcats were ranked No. 1 in the final regular season poll.

It’s getting to be a habit for the Jones County Junior College women’s softball team. Karli Perque (Westwego, Louisiana) caught a line drive and doubled off a Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College runner at first base to complete a double play and end the game to give No. 1 JCJC a 4-2 victory in the championship game of the MACJC Tournament on a beautiful May 7 afternoon at Community Bank Park.

It was JCJC’s second straight title and their fifth MACJC crown in six years.

JCJC trailed 2-0 entering the fourth inning when two Bobcat pinch-hitters came through big-time. Callie Venable (Clinton, Louisiana) had a pinch-hit, two-run double that tied the game and Bailey Gilbert (Sylva-Bay Academy) followed with a pinch-hit single that gave JCJC a 3-2 lead.

JCJC would then host the Region 23 Tournament the following week.

The Lady Bobcats beat Itawamba 6-1 and Mississippi Gulf Coast 13-3 in the region tourney to qualify for the NJCAA Division II National Tournament.

In the national tourney, JCJC beat Pitt (North Carolina), 10-2, in the first round before dropping a 10-7 decision to Johnson County (Kansas). Jones then won over Oakland (Michigan), 5-1; Kankakee (Illinois), 12-3; Cowley (Kansas), 7-2; and Illinois Central, 3-1, to reach the national finals.

But LSU-Eunice rallied for two runs in the bottom of the seventh to edge JCJC 8-7.

The Lady Bobcats ended the year at 55-4 and were the national runner-ups. JCJC was ranked No. 1 in the final NJCAA Division II regular season poll.

Third baseman Kelly Byrd and pitcher Karli Perque were named the NJCAA Division II Dudley Player and Pitcher of the Year, respectively, for the 2017 season. It is the first time for two players from the same school to receive the awards in the same year.

Perque is the first Lady Bobcat to be named NJCAA DII Pitcher of the Year.

Byrd joins former Lady Bobcats Tori Dew and Lauren Holifield, who were named NJCAA Division II Players of the Year in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

JCJC was also well represented in the 23rd annual Canada Cup International Softball Championship.

Byrd and McCrary along with head coach Chris Robinson took part as members of the 2017 NJCAA All-Star Team competing against some of the world’s best players. The Canada Cup was held July 7-17 in Surrey, British Columbia.
Not only did Jones County Junior College do well on the field of play in 2016-17, Bobcat student-athletes also excelled in the classroom.

Nineteen JCJC student-athletes have been named NJCAA Academic All-Americans with nine of them having perfect 4.0 grade point averages. Another 40 Bobcats received MACJC Academic All-State recognition.

Soccer player Abbey Graham (West Jones) was named the JCJC Female Presidential Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Shelton Wallace (Northwest Rankin) was named the JCJC Male Presidential Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

In addition, all four of JCJC’s women’s athletics teams – soccer, basketball, tennis and softball – were named Academic Team All-Americans for having a 3.0 GPA or higher. Tennis had a 3.37 GPA, with softball at 3.29, basketball at 3.10 and soccer at 3.06.
Four enter Sports Hall of Fame

Jones County Junior College enshrined four outstanding individuals into the JCJC Sports Hall of Fame during festivities surrounding the East Mississippi game on September 1, 2016. This group joins forty-one other members in the JCJC Sports Hall of Fame.

Rebecca Ratcliff Patrick

Rebecca Patrick began her employment at JCJC in 1983 as college president Dr. Terrell Tisdale’s secretary. Patrick became the college’s first Sports Information Director in 1984, eventually taking on the role as Public Relations Director, a position she held from 1987-97. She established media guides for football, basketball and baseball and Media Days for the same sports. Four of those football guides were named No. 1 in the nation by the NJCAA, as well as two of the basketball press guides.

Patrick, who came to JCJC from R.H. Watkins High School in Laurel, also served as a basketball, baseball and football scorekeeper and/or statistician from 1984-94.

In 1995, Patrick coordinated publicity and many activities for the 40th reunion of the 1955 Junior Rose Bowl. Before her retirement in 2016, Patrick served on the faculty at Jones as the Yearbook Advisor and also as a Humanities instructor.

Patrick attended JCJC from 1976-78 and worked with all of the sports teams as their statistician. She served as Sports Editor and Executive Editor of the school’s student newspaper, The Radionian. She was a member of the Maroon Typhoon Marching Band, marching at halftime and keeping statistics during the game.

After JCJC, Patrick attended the University of Southern Mississippi where she was Sports Editor of the USM Student Printz newspaper during her first semester and was hired during her second semester by the Hattiesburg American, one of only two female sportswriters at a major daily newspaper in Mississippi at the time.

Patrick was the announcer/scorekeeper/scoreboard operator for Laurel-Jones County Dixie Majors baseball from 1977-83 and served as secretary/treasurer for Ellisville Dizzy Dean Baseball for three years.

She is a lifetime member of the JCJC Alumni Association and, along with her brothers Wilroy and Bruce, has endowed a scholarship at Jones in honor of her parents. She is married to Howard Patrick and they have a son, Rease, and a daughter-in-law, Danyelle.

Ray Ishee

Ray Ishee, a Taylorsville native, played football and ran track at JCJC in 1966-67. He was named All-State in 1966 and was Honorable Mention All-American in 1967. He also played in the state All-Star Game after his sophomore season. After leaving JCJC, Ishee went to Delta State University where he was team co-captain, won the Best Defense Award, was named Honorable Mention All-American and selected by the Jackson Touchdown Club as Best Senior Athlete in 1969.

Ishee compiled a successful coaching career at Cleveland High School from 1971-75, Greenwood High School from 1975-78, Delta State in 1978-79, and Copiah-Lincoln starting in 1979, where he was named head football coach and athletic director in 1985. In five seasons as head coach of the Wolfpack, Ishee led the team to a 37-17-1 record. Co-Lin made the playoffs four times in five years under Ishee’s leadership, winning South Division titles in 1986 and 1989 and both the MACJC championship and East Bowl in 1985. He also served as...
Central led 20-19 with 30 seconds left and JCJC had the ball at its own 20-yard line. With one second left, the Bobcats had the ball at their own 48-yard line. On the game's final play, Hopper dropped back to pass, could not find an open receiver and began to run. He made it all the way to the end zone for a touchdown and JCJC won the game, 25-20.

He also played centerfield for the baseball team at Jones and was named All-MACJC, All-Region 23 and played in the All-Star Game. Hopper went to Mississippi College after leaving JCJC and played football and baseball. He was the quarterback and punter and helped the Choctaws to a 13-4-2 record. He was a leftfielder for the MC baseball team.

Hopper later received his master's degree in administration from William Carey University and has been a teacher and coach for the past 30 years in the area. He was the 1992 WDAM Coach of the Year at Perry Central and the Laurel Leader-Call 2004 District 4-4A Coach of the Year at South Jones. He also coached at West Jones and Petal. Over the years, he has served as a head coach in football, track, golf and soccer. From 2002-11, he was a volunteer Dixie Youth Baseball coach.

Hopper is a member of the JCJC Alumni Association. He and his wife, Sonja, have two children: daughter, Nichole Bell and husband, Preston; and son, Samuel.

Cecil R. “Boots” Jordan

Cecil R. “Boots” Jordan was a longtime supporter of JCJC. He, along with former head coach and Hall of Famer Parker Dykes, wrote four books on JCJC football, including A History of Bobcat Football at Jones County Junior College, A Supplement to the History of Bobcat Football at JCJC, The Final Chapter and Twentieth Century Football at JCJC.

Jordan also published other sports history books about Jones, including Twentieth Century Lady Bobcat Basketball at Jones County Junior College, Twentieth Century Bobcat Basketball at Jones County Junior College and The History of Jones County Junior College Baseball.

In addition to the books on athletics, Jordan also wrote a family history book and a book entitled “Ellisville in the Roaring '20s and the Terrible '30s.”

Jordan served four years in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. For his service in the “Battle of the Bulge” he received the Battle Star. After the war, Jordan returned home and received his associate's degree from JCJC and a bachelor's degree from The University of Southern Mississippi.

His teaching career began at Kosciusko High School and included a time as principal at Long Beach High School and at Rolling Fork High School where he was a teacher, coach baseball and track, as well as an assistant football coach. Jordan eventually returned to Ellisville High School where he taught science, was head track coach and assistant football coach. In 1963, Jordan became head football coach at Ellisville High School.

In 1965, schools were consolidated in Jones County and Jordan was assigned to South Jones High School as a science teacher, assistant football coach and track coach. He became principal at South Jones in 1968 and retired there in 1981.

Jordan was a faithful member of Ellisville United Methodist Church. He was an ardent Southern Miss fan. Cecil R. “Boots” Jordan died Oct. 26, 2005, at the age of 87 and was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Jordan.
Two former educators shared the spotlight at Jones County Junior College’s Homecoming weekend festivities as 2016 Honor Alumni: JCJC 1971 graduate, Aaron Heidelberg Jr. of Ellisville and JCJC 1963 graduate, Martha Rogers Tisdale, a native of Collins who currently lives in Hattiesburg. The two were recognized at a banquet prior to Homecoming festivities on Saturday, October 15 and during half-time of the JCJC football game against Pearl River.

Heidelberg arrived on the JCJC campus as a 13-year old working on campus. While working on campus, basketball coach A.B. Howard invited him to be on the JCJC basketball team. “That’s why I decided to stay at JCJC and do my best in sports. I am truly grateful for the start that I had at JCJC and what was instilled in me, the opportunities given to me as an individual to carry me on through society today. The people I had contact with, like J.B. Young, the president of JCJC at the time, made a profound difference in my life,” said Heidelberg, who also joined the JCJC track team.

He continued his education at USM and William Carey College, earning his bachelors and master’s degrees in biology, chemistry and secondary administration. In 1973, Heidelberg began his teaching career in the Jones County School District and spent 29 years serving and teaching Jones County students, retiring in 2002. Heidelberg said another influential coach and neighbor, Walter Clark, mentored him as a young child and helped him become successful in life.

“I have to give accolades to anyone who took time to work with young people while I was coming up in the streets of Ellisville, like Coach Walter Clark. He took us under his wing; served as a Boy Scout leader, taught us things....I kind of modeled myself after him. I’m certainly indebted to Coach Clark,” said Heidelberg.

While educating students at West Jones and in South Jones school districts, Heidelberg took on the challenge of public service. He made history by being the first African American elected official in Ellisville in 1973. He is currently serving his fourth term as Alderman of Ward 3. Additionally, Heidelberg has served as deacon at Springhill Baptist Church of Ellisville and is now serving as Pastor of the First Enterprise Baptist Church in Enterprise.

Heidelberg and his wife Linda of 46 years, have three children, Anthony (Terri), Marlon (Carmen), and Keona (James), and five grandchildren.

After graduating from JCJC in 1963, Honor Alumna Martha Tisdale continued her education in music at the Mississippi University for Women and the University of Southern
Mississippi, earning her bachelors and master’s degrees and continuing to give private piano lessons. Her teaching career touched thousands of students at the Hattiesburg Public School District, JCJC, and the University of Southern Mississippi until she retired from teaching in 2004. Her musical talents enhanced church services for more than 50 years as the organist at First Baptist Church in Ellisville, Main Street Baptist Church in Hattiesburg and the First Baptist Church of Louisville.

As the wife of JCJC President, Dr. Terrell Tisdale, some new traditions were created at the college. The annual Christmas Tea for faculty, staff and friends of the college was initiated by Tisdale in 1970. She served as hostess of the event in the President’s campus home and the tradition continues today.

While attending classes at JCJC, Tisdale said she caught a glimpse of her husband Terrell, who was the Dean of Students at the time. She explained she didn’t think he knew she existed because he was an administrator and she was a “lowly” student. Eight years later the two married and Dr. Tisdale became the third JCJC President. The Tisdale’s have been married 47 years.

“It was such an honor and a privilege to spend our entire career here at Jones. We owe a great deal of gratitude to the late J.B. Young (JCJC President) and his wife Patty who gave Terrell the opportunity to begin his career at Jones and to the late Mr. Ogletree for his encouragement when Terrell was selected president.”

Tisdale explained that being selected as a JCJC Honor Alumna is a great honor she is proud to share with so many.

“I am grateful, humbled and blessed to have been chosen for this recognition by a college that I love dearly. This is indeed an honor I will cherish for the rest of my life. The educational journey for Terrell and Martha Tisdale began and ended at JCJC and we have been blessed beyond measure.”

The Tisdale’s have one son, J.T., daughter-in-law, Heather, and three grandchildren, Reese, Grayson and Maggie. Besides her church service, Tisdale was an active member in several professional music associations, and she served her community as an Eagle Scout Sponsor for the Pine Burr Area Boy Scouts of America as well as being a former member of the Woman’s Club of Hattiesburg.
Foundation establishes annual scholarship dinner with Honors Institute

The JCJC Foundation, Inc. kicked off their inaugural scholarship dinner May 4, as their fundraiser for the Charles Pickering Honors Institute.

The fundraiser will provide for different school departments each year. Approximately 200 guests attended the dinner, which was held at Sanderson Farm's Multipurpose Room. Sid Salter was the guest speaker, and Judge Pickering addressed the audience.

Part of the monies raised was used to replenish the endowed fund while the remainder went to a support fund for the Honors College.

Culinary instructor Micah Moore and her catering company South Fork provided dinner for the event. Guests had the opportunity to donate at the event, take a donor card home to send money after the event, or purchase table sponsorships. Table sponsorships included $1000 for bronze, $5000 for silver, $10,000 for gold and $15,000 for platinum. Individual tickets to the dinner were $125.

Two honors students, Arianna Kitchens and Henry Taylor, spoke at the dinner, sharing with guests what the Honors College meant to them and the opportunities it provided.

Sanderson Farms donates again to Commercial Truck Driving program

Laurel-based Poultry Corporation, Sanderson Farms, bestowed another gift to Jones County Junior College, a 2008 International Pro Star tractor trailer with Bright-Coop cages.

Last spring, Sanderson Farms donated a 2002 International 9200 sleeper truck, a 1995 Clark Live Haul trailer, a 2003 International 9200 Feed tractor and a 2004 Ledwell Feed trailer to JCJC's Commercial Truck Driving program.

This year's donation is valued at $26,800 but Sanderson Farms' Corporate Fleet Manager Kevin Butler anticipates the donation will really be a profitable investment benefitting the college and the corporation.

“We would like to continue to hire quality drivers and we look forward to the future partnership as we grow and the JCJC Commercial Truck Driving program grows too,” said Butler.

Having the cages to practice loading and unloading will provide another component of training, not all programs can offer, added Butler.

Butler also emphasized the importance of the transportation industry in relation to the success of Sanderson Farms, adding that without trained quality truck drivers, business is interrupted.

“We are very grateful to Sanderson Farms for being aware of the needs of the community. This partnership will provide quality training and great opportunities for our students to have a career at Sanderson Farms and the many other trucking companies in need of drivers,” said JCJC President, Dr. Jesse Smith.
Waldrup “Roast” & Scholarship Fundraiser nets $7,000

The recent retirement of Ellisville Mayor, Tim Waldrup provided a unique opportunity for fun, fellowship and fundraising for friends, family and former employees of the Louin native, courtesy of Jones County Junior College’s Alumni and Foundation Office. “Roasting” Waldrup was a fun way to honor the former mayor and raise funds for the Tim Waldrup Leadership scholarship established seven years ago in Waldrup’s honor by his wife, Patricia.

Waldrup retired as Ellisville Mayor on June 30, 2017, after serving sixteen years. He worked at JCJC for 32 years, retiring as VP of Student Affairs in 2001.

“We thought a ‘roast’ would be a great way to celebrate Waldrup’s accomplishments in Ellisville and at JCJC because of his gregarious nature,” said VP of Advancement and Executive Director of the JCJC Alumni and Foundation Office, Charlie Garretson. “He has always loved joking, laughing, and playing little jokes on people. It just seemed like a good ‘fit’ for him.”

More than $7,000 was profited from the fun and fellowship at the retired Ellisville mayor’s expense by former college presidents, coworkers, and friends. Those roasting Mayor Waldrup included former JCJC Presidents, Dr. Terrell Tisdale and Dr. Ronald Whitehead, former Colorado State University recruiter, Jim Heird, and Mississippi Senator (District 34) and former Heidelberg mayor, Juan Barnett.

At the conclusion of the event, Waldrup had the opportunity to have the “last word” on some of the stories shared about him. Ultimately, he shared his philosophy about having a job. “The only thing about a job is if you can’t have fun at it, you have just found a job. It doesn’t matter what you do, it can be fun or it can be terrible. So, have fun and your days will go a lot faster.”
Nursing program ranked as top among community/junior colleges

Being ranked the best nursing program among the 15 Community/Junior Colleges in Mississippi is not an easy task. When Jones County Junior College’s Associate Degree Nursing Division Chair, Erin Knight, MSN, RN received the news the two-year nursing program was ranked #4 among all nursing programs in the state by RegisteredNursing.org, it confirmed her belief in the strength of the Jones ADN program for providing students a quality teaching and learning environment.

When nursing students finish any nursing program in the state, whether it’s from a university or community college, they take the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN) to become a registered nurse. It is a complex test with 75 to 265 questions which can require 2-3 hours to complete.

According to the RegisteredNursing.org, “Jones ranked in the top 10 nursing schools in Mississippi by analyzing current and historical pass rates of the NCLEX-RN (state licensure test), meaning the percentage of graduates who pass the exam out of the 23 RN programs in the state. Programs reviewed include schools offering an Associate in Nursing, BSN, or Direct-Entry MSN Degree.”

The pass rates from 2010 to 2014 determined the Top 10 ranking, which placed the University of Mississippi Medical Center in the overall top spot. The Mississippi University for Women, and Delta State University ranked second and third respectively, with JCJC in fourth place. Jones students had a 100 percent pass rate in 2012 and 2014, with high, 91 to 97 percent averages over the four years examined. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College came in fifth, with William Carey University, Coahoma Community College, Mississippi Delta Community College, the University of Southern Mississippi and Northeast Community College rounding out the top ten programs.
JCJC’s Emergency Medical Technology program was one of 11 programs selected nationwide to receive the prestigious “Excellence in Action” award in Health Science. This award recognizes the best Career Technical Education programs across the nation by Advance CTE.

The JCJC Emergency Medical Technology program trains EMTs and paramedics to become knowledgeable health care providers through a strong relationship with secondary education schools and industry, ensuring a seamless pathway across systems. The program is critical to providing qualified healthcare professionals, and it has emerged as one of the top programs in the south, boasting a 90 percent first-time pass rate on the National Registry of EMTs, compared to a national average of 60 percent.

The national Excellence in Action award was based on JCJC’s track record of providing clear pathways into college and careers, the rigorous academic and technical coursework, strong partnerships with industry leaders, the program’s impactful work-based learning experiences which offers opportunities for career exploration and subject-matter mastery, and the program’s commitment to providing real-world learning experiences through mentorships with industry experts, clinical internships and field placements.

“I am so proud of these exemplary programs and all they offer learners across the country,” said Kimberly Green, executive director of Advance CTE. “Boasting impressive graduation and completion rates, credential attainment, and hands-on learning experiences, these programs demonstrate what high-quality CTE has to offer, and its ability to set students up for success across the spectrum of careers.”

Fifteen of the twenty-seven Jones County Junior College students competed in the state SkillsUSA competition in Jackson earning gold, silver or bronze medals. Five students earned first place in the state and competed in Louisville, Kentucky against more than 6,000 students at the National Leadership and Skills Conference in mid-June. Four JCJC students placed nationally.

SkillsUSA is the national organization for students in trade, industrial, technical and health occupations education. It sponsors the SkillsUSA championships annually to recognize the achievements of career and technical education students and to encourage them to strive for excellence and pride in their chosen occupations.

“I’m extremely proud of this year’s competitors. It shows they have the technical, academic, and employability skills to succeed in a career. The preparations, experience, and knowledge gained have proven to elevate a student’s value for future employers. The awards ceremony exemplified the many efforts put forth by each individual student and advisor.” said JCJC SkillsUSA advisor and JCJC civil engineering technology instructor, Ryan Hearn, P.E.
Mississippi Legislature honors HEADWAE recipients

A prestigious statewide honor was recently bestowed upon Jones County Junior College science faculty member, Dr. Joan McCoy, and JCJC sophomore chemical engineering major, Shameria (Shay) Jones. They are two of the 72 outstanding students and faculty members from 34 Mississippi public and private universities and community colleges who received special recognition from the Mississippi Legislature. They were selected as JCJC’s Higher Education Appreciation Day, Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) recipients. The 30th annual HEADWAE coordinators honored a faculty and student representative from each of Mississippi’s higher education institutions as a reward for their excellence in education.

Dr. Joan McCoy, Shubuta native and current Sumrall resident, is an alumna of JCJC and has taught biology for 22 years at JCJC. She taught at USM as an undergraduate and grad student for six years. She authored more than 50 published chapters, abstracts and short articles covering science education and professional development. She was selected in 1996 for the Exxon Education Foundation Innovation Teaching Award. In 1997, the state legislature recognized her significant contributions in teaching along with her role as the National Director of the National Junior Academy of Science (NJAS) for 10 years. McCoy is currently the president of the NJAS’s parent association. She has represented the United States at various international conferences.

Student HEADWAE honoree, Shameria Jones, manages to juggle her rigorous academic load with being a Senator, representing the Math Division, a member of Student Government Association, Engineering Society, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the National Society of Professional Engineers. Additionally, she was selected for the Letter “J” Award, Leadership Class, Hall of Fame and Who's Who at JCJC.

Jones, a graduate of Oak Grove High School, interned at USM’s Polymer Research Center which solidified her education and career goals to earn a doctorate degree in computational sciences and study combustion reactions for refining space travel. She hopes to find an efficient and economically affordable fuel for the space program.

Sophomores earn Gold Key Awards for successful achievements

Five graduating students were awarded Leadership, Athletic and Merit Gold Key Awards during graduation practice. An additional 23 sophomores were expected to receive the Academic Gold Key honor due to their 4.0 GPA prior to final exams.

Merit Gold Key recipients were Samantha Dean of Laurel and Elijah Cummins of Oak Grove. Leadership Gold Key recipients were Laura Armour of Laurel and Elijah Cummins. Baseball player Mason Strickland of Ellisville and soccer player Abbey Graham of Laurel were selected for the Athletic Gold Key Award. These students received these honors by popular vote from the sophomore class.

Mississippi Humanities Council chooses Meeks as Teacher of the Year

JCJC English instructor Missie Meeks was honored as Mississippi Humanities Council's Teacher of the Year, representing JCJC. The council honors Humanities instructors from the state's community colleges and universities in an effort to showcase the knowledge of Mississippi's teachers. The chosen instructors were honored in Jackson at a banquet where they received a cash award and a plaque.

In a presentation held on the JCJC campus and hosted by the Mississippi Humanities Council, Meeks shared teaching strategies, outcomes and technology she used in the classroom to build students' composition skills.

“I am very humbled to be chosen for this honor and feel privileged to share my technology tips to inspire other educators to find innovative ways to use technology in their classroom to engage students and prepare students for the workforce,” said Meeks.

The Ellisville native is a graduate of South Jones, JCJC and USM, and she earned her Masters of Education degree from William Carey University. She is the sponsor for the Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society chapter at JCJC and a member of the Two-Year College English Association. She was honored in 2010 as a Mississippi Lamplighter for Outstanding Teachers. In 2011, Meeks was also honored with the Barbara and Gary Sauls Humanities Award and in 2012 she received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Work and College Service at JCJC.

Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholars

Jones County Junior College sophomores, Samantha Dean, an English major from Laurel and Katelyn Stone, a biology major from Hattiesburg were both named 2017 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholars. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver and 50 Bronze Scholars, and providing nearly $200,000 in scholarships annually. Each Gold Scholar receives a $1,500 scholarship and a special medallion.

Dean and Stone were among 1,800 applicants for the prestigious scholarship. The Gold Scholars honor is based on the student's scores earned in the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition. During the All-USA Community College competition, Stone also earned first team honors and Dean earned second team honors, which means both received additional scholarships.

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of community college students. The Society is made up of more than 3.2 million members in nearly 1,300 chapters in nine nations.

Nine Jones County Junior College students attended the Phi Beta Lambda National Conference in Anaheim, California and returned with national honors. Gabrielle Jones of Laurel placed 4th in the nation in Entrepreneurship Concepts, receiving a $200 cash award and trophy.

Additionally, Dakota Shoemaker of Waynesboro placed 6th in the nation in Website Design. The network design team of Cayden Hill of Ellisville, Rachel McKean of Picayune, and Erica Murphy of Hattiesburg placed 9th in the nation. Kristina Pertuit of Poplarville placed 9th in the nation in Job Interview.

Other students competing on the national level include Joseph Hollomon of Hattiesburg who competed in Sales Presentation; Marcus Ferguson of Prentiss competed in Public Speaking; Dakota Shoemaker competed in Computer Programming; Kristina Pertuit competed in Impromptu Speaking; Erica Murphy and Rachel McKean competed in Business Presentation, and Cayden Hill and Krystina Saul of Sandersville competed in Network Concepts. Each of these nine JCJC students placed first or second in the state PBL conference and competition in March to qualify for the national competition in June.
AUGUST

The Maroon Typhoon Band boasted one hundred seventy members from 24 counties in Mississippi.

NOVEMBER

JANUARY

Mississippi Gulf Coast multimedia artist Julia Reyes displayed her paintings and hanging clay pieces at the Eula Bass Lewis Art Gallery on campus.

MARCH

MARCH

APRIL

FINE ARTS

TIME LINE

2017

The Spring Recital Series featured the Impromptu Piano Trio and JC Fine Arts instructor, Dr. Theresa Sanchez on piano.
The JCJC Concert Choir and Orchestra performed a powerful and inspirational Christmas concert to a standing room only audience in Laurel.

JCJC's premiere vocal group and the jazz band combined efforts to entertain and provide gifts for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program at the annual, "A Jingle Jazz Christmas" concert.

Art instructor Mark Brown won a Merit Award at the 43rd Annual Bi-State Art Competition at the Meridian Museum of Art.

JC Voices presented their annual spring concert, The Human Heart, at First Trinity Presbyterian Church in Laurel.

The JCJC Concert Choir and Orchestra performed a powerful and inspirational Christmas concert to a standing room only audience in Laurel.

JC Alumnus Jason Wilson returned to Jones to share his experiences as a ceramicist with students.

The 1996 award winning musical, Smokey Joe's Cafe was the Theater Department’s annual presentation, and highlighted rock-n-roll of the 50’s and 60’s.

Sophomore music students showcased their musical talents in a farewell performance.

JC students were chosen as among the best collegiate musicians in the state with their selection to the 2017 Intercollegiate Honor Band.

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Central Gulf Industrial Alliance awarded Jones County Junior College’s welding program at the Greene County Center a Silver Endorsement. Earning the Silver Endorsement spanned several months, culminating with site visits to audit the facility and review student success. The on-site review scores, combined with outstanding employer feedback, earned the JCJC Welding program a Silver Level Endorsement.

CGIA requires its affiliates to obtain and maintain high standards. Being endorsed by CGIA is the equivalent to receiving a 5-star approval from experts in the industry or earning academic accreditation. The high level of achievement brings prestige to the program and attracts large corporations to offer their resources for training and job placement.

In three years, the JCJC welding program will be audited again for evaluation to determine if the CIGA endorsement will remain the same, or possibly climb to earn the Gold Level Endorsement.
Jones County Junior College and Greene County officials once again made history at the Greene County Center, this time with a $1.3 million expansion.

Only five years ago, the Center opened its doors for classes, becoming the first permanent site outside of the college’s Ellisville campus home.

Since 2012, industry demands in the area have shown significant growth, indicating the need for expansion of services. Funding for the project is provided through a $909,686 U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration grant. The Greene County Board of Supervisors were instrumental in obtaining the EDA grant. With matching funds and the grant, the total $1,299,551 expansion involves the board of supervisors, JCJC and the South Mississippi Planning and Development District.

County officials, college administrators and elected representatives were on hand for the June 9 groundbreaking ceremony, reaffirming the need to expand training to the region’s shipbuilding and marine industries.

Construction of the 15,000-square-foot building is expected to be complete within three to four years. The new facility is projected to help train individuals for more than 250 jobs over 10 years in places such as Ingalls Shipyard and similar industries.

The new facility will increase the number of academic classes, Adult Basic Education courses, dual credit classes, and career and technical programs, which include welding and shipfitting. Electrical and industrial maintenance programs will be available when the new facility opens.

The Greene County BOS envisioned 12 years ago a way to provide economic opportunities through education to residents and talked to JCJC administration about constructing a facility for education and training. Those talks came to fruition with a groundbreaking in 2009 and opening in 2012. The original $1.1 million, 17,440-square-foot facility was the first permanent site constructed outside of the college’s main campus in Ellisville. It was funded by a zero-interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Business Service and secured by Community Bank and Singing River Electric Power Association.

The new facility is the first expansion of the four off-campus centers (Jasper, Clarke and Wayne) and is located on the north side of the current Greene County facility.

Jasper County Center receives donation from Georgia-Pacific

A $3,000 donation from Georgia-Pacific’s Lumber Mill in Bay Springs to Jones County Junior College’s Jasper County Center marked the beginning of a new partnership with the college. Funds donated will be used to purchase tools for the Center’s Millwright lab.

Those who complete JCJC’s Millwright training earn the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credentials including CORE and Level 1. As more millwrights retire, the demand to fill those empty spots is increasing. JCJC builds on relationships with area businesses and industry like Georgia-Pacific to provide knowledge of the training needs of the area. The college currently attempts to expose high school students to a variety of skills, like millwright, which can provide salaries of $50,000 to $75,000. Training is offered on a continual basis at the Jasper County Center.

Corporations and small businesses in the area have indicated the need for a quality workforce possessing increased levels of training. Improved skill sets not only enhance performance on the job, but also boost workers’ salaries.

Brach Bessant, Keri Read, Robert Oehrli, Paul Johnson, and Jennifer Griffith.
Precision Manufacturing and Machining Technology program receives Gene Haas Foundation grant

Students enrolled in the Precision Manufacturing and Machining Technology program at Jones County Junior College will reap the benefits of a new partnership with the Gene Haas Foundation in the Fall of 2017. Chase Elmore, the precision manufacturing and machining technology program director was awarded a $15,000 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation at the first Mississippi Regional Haas Technical Education Center conference for educators and industry leaders, hosted by JCJC. Fifty educators, administrators, and national and local industry leaders discussed the future of machining and manufacturing in Mississippi at the Haas TEC conference in May.

The Gene Haas Foundation grant will allow the JCJC program and students to thrive and take a lead in the state’s machining training while helping meet the industry’s demands.

The HTEC Conference was a demonstration of the Foundation’s commitment to the region, providing the opportunity for those in the industry to network and share best practices. Funds received from the Haas Foundation are used for student scholarships, to provide NIMS credentials and to promote the competitive spirit in advanced manufacturing programs.

In the near future, the Haas partnership promises to provide new training opportunities for JCJC students with the announcement of another phase in the relationship with JCJC.

MIBEST program graduates first Health Care Assistants class

For the first time since the Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training program was implemented at Jones County Junior College two years ago, six students graduated from the new Health Care Assistants program. Each of these students has overcome barriers to successfully complete the program.

This pilot program equips qualified applicants with a high school equivalency degree, job training and a certificate in one of the MIBEST approved programs that includes welding, health care assistant, commercial truck driving, commercial and residential maintenance, business office systems and health care data technology.

The MI-BEST program is an expanded model for Dropout Recovery funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation through a $6 million, three-year grant that was awarded to the Mississippi Community College Board in 2015. Program participants are able to get workforce and community college credentials and a career pathway to a middle-skill occupation where there is a labor demand, at no cost to the student. Interested students can have their skills assessed and discover a skill path with the help of an advisor, at any time of the year. There is not a beginning or ending date to earn the H.S. Equivalency or skills training through the MI-BEST program at JCJC.
MSU-Meridian’s partnership creates new pathways toward degree completion

A partnership between officials at Jones County Junior College and Mississippi State University-Meridian has created new pathways for students to complete their baccalaureate program. JCJC is the fourth community/junior college in MSU-Meridian’s service area to partner with the university, but it is the first two-year institution that has all 15 of the academic programs offered on the Meridian campus.

A key component of the agreement includes having an advisor on the JCJC campus ensuring students are on the right path to transferring to MSU-Meridian. Another feature of the pathways partnership will allow students to be enrolled at JCJC and MSU-Meridian simultaneously.

The agreement with MSU-Meridian will help those who only need a few classes to complete their baccalaureate degree, because students will be able to enroll at both JCJC and MSU-Meridian. Hopefully, the end result could mean getting a better job in a shorter amount of time, particularly for non-traditional students.

Dual provision of financial aid is another added benefit of the pathways partnership. An agreement with the Federal Financial Aid Consortium enables both institutions to allow students to remain eligible for financial aid at the same time.

JCJC and MSU-Meridian administrators agreed that engaging students in the advisement process from the beginning should ensure that students stay on track to complete their degree program, while better enabling them to efficiently use their time and resources.

Millsaps College’s agreement entices transfer students

An agreement recently signed between Millsaps College and each of the state’s 15 community and junior colleges enhances the opportunities for students to transfer directly from a community or junior college campus to the Millsaps campus in Jackson. The agreement outlines coursework that aligns with the Compass Curriculum followed by all students at Millsaps.

“The execution of this agreement streamlines the path for students to transfer from community and junior college campuses across Mississippi, where they have been building an incredibly strong academic foundation, into the classrooms at Millsaps,” said Dr. Robert W. Pearigen, president of Millsaps College. “We are proud to partner with these institutions from around the state and support their students as they continue their education and find their path in the world.”

Millsaps has, for several years, worked to attract transfer students from community and junior colleges. The College offers up to $17,000.00 in scholarship funds to eligible transfer students.
Jones County Junior College held its 90th annual commencement ceremony May 5, with its largest class ever with a total of 677 students participating in one of two ceremonies throughout the day.

This year’s class included 10 SkillsUSA winners, seven regional winners, the number one baseball team in the nation, the number one softball team in the nation, and the number one Associate Degree Nursing program in the state.

Another first this year was the introduction of military honor cords. Any veteran or service member attending Jones can now obtain a cord for graduation ceremonies. The 200 red, white and blue cords, selected to honor all branches of service, were purchased by funds provided to the institution from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This year’s graduation keynote speaker was Sidney L. “Sid” Salter, the chief communications officer and director of the office of public affairs at Mississippi State University, who told the students about time, perseverance and focus, and how those attributes contribute to a lifetime of success and fulfillment.

“What mark will you make on the world?” asked Salter. “Whose lives will you change or save or influence? You have youth and time on your side. You have intelligence and ability….May you spend the coin of your life wisely.”
Four of Jones County Junior College’s retiring faculty and staff participated in the annual “Retirement Tea” for employees retiring in May. Their combined services totaled nearly 100 years of service by these employees to JCJC and other educational institutions.

The 2017 retirees include the following individuals who are listed with their positions held at Jones and years of service at JCJC:

- Jim Blackburn of Newton County worked for four years in the Industrial Services Center teaching electronics. He previously taught at East Central Community College for 20 years.
- Deborah Cheeks has served as an administrative assistant for the Career and Technical Deans Office and the Health and Human Services assistant for a combined 36 years at JCJC.
- Joan McCoy of Sumrall has taught science courses for 23 years at Jones.
- Larry Meyer completed 19 years as a heating and air instructor.

Fifty-five forestry professionals representing seven states attended the 19th annual CE’s By the Sea, in Orange Beach Alabama, hosted by the Jones County Junior College Forestry Technology Department.

The workshop provides Continuing Forestry Education and Continuing Logger Education credits.

The mission of the conference is to network industries across the United States while providing high quality education surrounding the latest technology in the forestry industry. It is also a valuable tool used to promote the Forestry Program at Jones and increase employment opportunities for its students.

The conference was started in 1998 on the campus of Jones as a way to share the latest in forestry technology and showcase new products. A close friendship between Jim Walley, JCJC’s Vice President of External Affairs and Ingvar Haglof, CEO of Haglof Sweden was the catalyst for the conference. At the initial conference in 1998, Haglof travelled from Sweden to share innovative technologies developed by his 3rd generation family company, and manufacturers of the world’s leading timber instruments.

Presenters volunteer their time for the two days of sessions. July 20th, 2018 will mark the 20th anniversary of CE’s by the Sea.
Oak Grove dominated the JCJC Bobcat Math League’s Super Bowl. Twenty area teams participated in the regular season.

Victoria Ruffin, daughter of Finee Ruffin (JC Marketing) and Reid Robinson, son of Chris Robinson (JC Softball) served as flower girl and crown bearer for the 2016 Homecoming Court.

Students were elected to represent the student body on the Homecoming Court.

Over 200 soccer enthusiasts attended JCJC Soccer Camp.
Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association (PRVEPA) Round up for Education awarded 36 scholarships to JCJC students. Over the program’s four years, more than 780 students in total have received PRVEPA scholarships.

Excitement at home football games was enhanced with a new scoreboard made possible by donations made through the JC Foundation.

Katelyn Stone earned the Most Beautiful title in the 2016 pageant held on campus.

The Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA) selected Jones County Junior College accounting instructor and business division chair, Rick Bedwell, as its Outstanding Educator of the Year.

JCJC’s student costume winners at the Student Government Association, the City of Ellisville and Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Treats in the Street event.
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR, SHAWN WANSLY AND JCJC MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR, TERESA MCCREERY WANTED SEVERAL AWARDS AT THE COLLEGE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.

GEORGIA PACIFIC'S LUMBER MILL IN BAY SPRINGS MADE A GENUEROS DONATION TO THE JASPER COUNTY CENTER EARMARKED FOR THE PURCHASE OF TOOLS FOR THE CENTER'S MILLWRIGHT LAB. GP'S EMPLOYEES BENEFIT FROM THE MILLWRIGHT TRAINING, WHICH HELPS IMPROVE THEIR SKILL-SET RESULTING IN POSSIBLE INCREASES IN SALARIES.

U.S. SENATOR ROGER WICKER TOURED THE WAYNE COUNTY CENTER, VISITING WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, MEDIA AND STUDENTS. WAYNE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DUAL-ENROLLED AT JONES AND CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANT'S PROGRAM STUDENTS MET WITH THE SENATOR.

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Jones County Junior College and WDAM-TV hosted the annual Top of Class recognition program. The group of nearly 100 high school students was honored with a day of entertainment, speakers, breakfast and a little fun doing the traditional “Hat Toss” on the lawn of the President’s House.

Mr. Charles Ray Ashley, Jones Board of Trustees member was honored for his 25 years of service by the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges.

CTE student Erica Murphy was honored as the Mississippi Community College Board’s, DISTINCT CTE student of the month.

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February’s celebration of Black History month featured MS Nurses Foundation Executive Director, Rosalyn Howard.

Katelyn Stone, JCJC Sophomore, is Mississippi College’s first equestrian JUCO team transfer. The scholarship awarded to Stone enables her to join The Mississippi College Riding Team to participate in competitions.

The JC Cheerleading squad competed at the UCA College Championship in Orlando, Florida.

JCJC automotive instructors, Barry Bradshaw and Brad Ellzey nominated Ben Hewitt as the top student in the class, earning Hewitt a $250 gift certificate for Snap-on Tools from the local Firestone managers.

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Budget

FY 2017 Expenditure by Function

- Instruction: 42.87%
- Instructional Support: 17.85%
- Student Affairs: 14.43%
- Administration: 10.35%
- Physical Plant: 12.21%
- Scholarships: 2.29%

FY 2017 Revenue by Source

- Student Fees: 45.04%
- County Support: 7.25%
- State Appropriations: 36.54%
- Other State Support: 4.65%
- Sales and Service: 4.65%
- Auxiliary Transfer: 1.88%