Picture of the blues

Photojournalist, musician Steve Gardner among School of Mass Communication and Journalism Hall of Fame inductees

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The main office of the School of Mass Communication and Journalism—Southern Hall 216—now features a wall of 19 plaques that identify the inductees into the school’s Hall of Fame. The school’s faculty created the MCJ Hall of Fame in 2006 to honor USM alumni and Mississippians who have made significant contributions to mass communication and journalism.

The wall is an impressive sight. It represents the accomplishments of media professionals, most of them graduates of Southern Miss, who have had (or are in the midst of) distinguished careers. It also represents the school’s potential to produce students who will have productive and influential media careers.

At our first induction ceremony in April 2006, we inducted Dr. Gene Wiggins, a distinguished faculty member here for 33 years, and CNN’s Kathleen Koch, a Southern Miss grad who had recently completed the first of two documentaries about the recovery from Hurricane Katrina in Bay St. Louis, her hometown.

This fall we added 17 more members to the hall, including 13 journalism alumni, two retired faculty members and three distinguished journalists. Next year, we intend to honor alumni and Mississippians who have left their mark in film and broadcasting. In 2009, we’ll target graduates and professionals in advertising and public relations.

This year’s induction ceremonies included a luncheon during the Southern Mississippi Photographic Summit on Oct. 12, 2007. Six USM photjournalists were recognized, along with Professors Jim Bishop and Ed Wheeler. As part of the first Southern Mississippi Mass Communication and Journalism Symposium, “Social Justice and the News,” we inducted three of the lions of Mississippi Journalism—Charlie Dunagin, Hill Minor and Dub Shoemaker—at a luncheon on Nov. 12. At a dinner ceremony that evening, we honored six more USM journalism graduates.

This edition of the Communication Journal includes stories about these events, which are evidence of the school’s capacity to address important issues in mass communication and journalism and to recognize the accomplishments of distinguished professionals. Those who attended the photoljournalism summit and the social justice symposium were treated to moving presentations by Southern Miss grads and Mississippi professionals who discussed their work. Their passion and energy for their work was infectious.

The events were not important just because they recognized the accomplishments of a number of important journalists. For the students who are currently pursuing degrees in the School of Mass Communication and Journalism, the events offered an opportunity to hear from people who walked the same campus (including the basement of Southern Hall) and who left USM on a mission to leave their mark on the world. We couldn’t ask for better role models for our students.

The wall of plaques in the school’s main office is a tangible, enduring representation of the potential of students in our program to succeed. As the Hall of Fame grows, so will its capacity to encourage students to find the same spark that energized those who came before them.

The plaque for Dr. Gene Wiggins, the first inductee, sits atop the MCJ Hall of Fame pyramid in Southern Hall. Dr. Wiggins recently announced his plan to retire from the faculty this spring after 35 years of service. Dr. Wiggins has had an extraordinary impact on Southern Miss and thousands of mass communication and journalism students.

We established the Robert Gene Wiggins Endowment for the School of Mass Communication and Journalism in 2006; the endowment is designed to support scholarships and fellowships for deserving students. The fund is now at about $20,000, and we have identified it as the school’s primary fundraising initiative.

I hope you’ll continue to contribute to the endowment, which will support the education of truly deserving students who may one day join Dr. Wiggins in the MCJ Hall of Fame.
Ceremonies recognize excellence

School of Mass Communication and Journalism also hosts first-ever Photojournalism Summit, Social Justice Symposium

The School of Mass Communication and Journalism recognized numerous distinguished graduates and hosted two related symposiums during the fall 2007 semester.

OCTOBER

In October, the School of Mass Communication and Journalism inducted two former faculty members and six alumni into its Hall of Fame as part of a Photojournalism Summit.

Retired professors Jayme Bishop and Ed Wheeler were recognized at a luncheon, along with six Southern Miss graduates who have had distinguished careers as photojournalists.

Professor Wheeler served on the SMC faculty from 1977 to 1995. During that time, he developed the outstanding photography program that launched the careers of dozens of successful photojournalists who went on to win virtually every honor in journalism, including several Pulitzer Prizes.

Professor Bishop served on the faculty from 1964 to 1990, teaching courses in advertising, journalism, photography and public relations. In addition to teaching, Bishop was director of the university’s Newspaper Production Office and advisor to the advertising staff of The Student Print.

The photojournalism alumni inducted include:
- Steve Gardner, a freelance photographer who lives in Tokyo
- Tim Isbell, a photographer for the (Biloxi) Sun Herald
- Ted Jackson, a photographer for The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune
- Jeff McDady, picture editor at The (Memphis) Commercial Appeal
- Michael McCarver, who was recently selected to be the new director of photography at The Cincinnati Enquirer
- Marianne Todd, a freelance photographer who lives in Meridian

The photojournalism summit, held in the Thad Cochran Center on the Hattiesburg campus, featured talks by each of the graduates about their work and careers. Each graduate also donated prints and other items that were sold during a silent auction, raising more than $5,000.

All proceeds were directed to the Ed Wheeler Photojournalism Fund and the Damin Morgan Memorial Scholarship Endowment, which help deserving photojournalism students. Sponsors of the event included the Sun Herald, Wesley Medical Center, and the Southern Miss College of Arts and Letters.

NOVEMBER

In November, the first Mass Communication and Journalism Symposium, titled "Social Justice and the News," was conducted at the Cochran Center. It included a morning panel featuring three longtime Mississippi journalism legends—Charles Dunagin, Bill Minor and W.C. "Dub" Shoemaker—who discussed their experiences covering civil rights stories during the 1960s.

After a luncheon ceremony inducting those three luminaries into the School's Hall of Fame, the symposium continued with a panel of several Southern Miss journalism alumni, including Natalie Allen (Weather Channel anchor and reporter), Cathy Straight (USA Today national editor) and Goodloe Sutton (editor and publisher of The Democrat-Reporter in Linden, Ala.), who discussed current media issues related to social justice.

The event concluded with a Hall of Fame inductions dinner honoring Allen, Straight, Sutton and four other journalism graduates, including: Lisa Hitt, copy editor at USA Today; Charles Kershner, president and executive editor of The Clinton (NY) Courier; Carol Bagley McPhail, who was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize while an editorial writer for the Mobile Register; and Jean Sutton, the late wife of Goodloe Sutton, who was a reporter at The Democrat-Reporter when the newspaper gained national attention for its coverage exposing widespread corruption in the Marion County (Ala.) Sheriff’s Office.

"Southern Miss has produced a significant number of journalists who have made important contributions to the world and to social justice, so this was an ideal opportunity to recognize their remarkable achievements," said Mark Gulliford, dean of the School of Mass Communication and Journalism.

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Hall of Fame Inductees

Pictures and Pulitzers

Photojournalists, their professors recognized

By JACOB SEAL

Steve Gardner started his path of photography in the 1970s, documenting the trials and triumphs of Mississippi bluesman like Sam Chatmon, Howlin’ Wolf and Jack Owens. Though he wasn’t readily welcomed at first, he eventually found himself part of the clique.

"I remember when I first started shooting photos at Chatmon’s house, they would take the plastic off the couch before letting me sit," Gardner recalled. "Well, the only thing I could do was keep showing up at their door, until one day they stopped taking the plastic off the couch and just accepted me into the family. It was through that perseverance that I realized my greatest passion."

Photojournalism’s hallmark characteristics of perseverance and passion were recurring themes of the University of Southern Mississippi School of Mass Communication and Journalism’s Hall of Fame induction ceremony, held Oct. 12, 2007, on the Hattiesburg campus. For many who exposed sensitive stories of poverty, racism and natural disasters in the South, perseverance was challenged often, but their passion for the craft never diminished.

Joining Gardner among inductees were photojournalists Ted Isbell, Ted Jackson, Jeff McAdory, Michael McCarter and Marianne Todd, as well as former faculty members James Bishop and Ed Wheeler.

The eight inductees, all from varied backgrounds, have made significant contributions to the field of journalism locally, nationally and worldwide.

Gardner was a staff photographer at the (Jackson) Daily News before moving to Tokyo where he worked as a freelance photographer for Japanese magazines as well as Time and Newsweek.

He compiled three books, including "Rambling Mind," a black-and-white picture book on Mississippi and the blues and is currently a full-time blues musician and part-time instructor in Southern blues culture, photography and conversation at Meiji University in Tokyo.

Isbell is a photographer for the (Hilox) Sun Herald and was a vital contributor to the newspaper’s 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Community Service during its coverage of Hurricane Katrina.

He has documented a diverse range of topics, from the Vietnamese culture on the Gulf Coast to career highlights of NFL legend and Southern Miss alumnus Brett Favre. He is currently working on an extensive photo project which documents Civil War battlegrounds.

Jackson, a photographer for The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune, has been recognized twice as part of that newspaper’s Pulitzer-winning projects, including its extensive reporting on the destruction of the world’s fisheries and its coverage of Hurricane Katrina.

McAdory, picture editor at The (Memphis) Commercial Appeal, is a former Guggenheim Fellow and was named Scripps Howard Newspapers’ Photographer of the Year in 1987.

McCarter, who is now director of photography for The Cincinnati Enquirer, was a longtime photo editor and Web services developer at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, where he covered an array of events, including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and a special commemoration of the life and death of Coretta Scott King.

Todd, a freelance who is the official photographer for Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, has contributed photos to The New York Times, The Washington Post, Time magazine and other publications all over the world.

But it was evident the whole group might not have gathered that Friday night last fall if not for studying under Wheeler and Bishop.

Wheeler taught at Southern Miss from 1977 to 1995, during which time he established the department’s highly regarded photojournalism program.

Wheeler taught at the university from 1967 until 1990. He also directed the newspaper production office and advised the advertising staff of The Student Printz.

"There’s no way I would be attending this induction today if it wasn’t for the persistent passion that my professors brought to the classroom every day," Isbell said. "I challenge all the students in this program to stay committed and strive to meet the expectations of their professors, no matter how high they may seem, because that is the only true way to excel."
ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME MEETING

Looking back in order to look ahead

Civil rights-era figure, student newspaper editor get together under very different circumstances

By DAVID TISDALE

Four decades after University of Southern Mississippi officials tried to keep student newspaper editor Charles Kerisher from telling the story of John Frazier, an African-American who in 1964 was denied admission into the then all-white university, the two met for the first time last fall.

Audience members clapped as Kerisher and Frazier hugged before kicking off the School of Mass Communication and Journalism’s Symposium, “Social Justice and the News,” with a session focusing on the university’s censorship of the school newspaper’s coverage of Frazier’s failed attempt to break the color barrier at Southern Miss. No explanation was ever given for the rejection of his application.

Kerisher, who is executive editor of the Clinton (NY) Courier, told of how school officials stopped distribution of the issue of The Student Printz after they learned it included a front-page story about the denial of Frazier’s admission application.

“It had a chilling effect on student journalists in their attempt to be good practitioners of honest reporting and free speech,” he said. Copies of the paper were confiscated from students as they attended class and while walking on campus and from the Printz’s offices, and then burned in a furnace at what is now the Power House restaurant on campus.

A Printz staffer attempting to stock newspaper racks with the papers had them confiscated by the university police chief, who warned a Printz photographer standing nearby not to take pictures of the action.

If the experience was chilling for student journalists at the university, it was no less daunting for Frazier, who described the “terror, the cold feeling in my stomach” when he arrived on campus to try to enroll.

As the state and nation were embroiled in a turbulent wave of civil rights demonstrations and violence against those participating in the movement for freedom, Frazier’s fears were not without foundation.

Returning to campus last fall, Frazier had a different feeling, “a sense of excitement, awe and hope” about the progress that had transpired in the state and at the university in terms of race relations. He praised Kerisher for playing an important role in helping bring about that progress.

“I applaud and salute this man who, as a student, had the guts to print the truth,” he said.

Kerisher said the paper was reprinted with what he described as two “innocuous stories” on the front page to replace the one about Frazier.

But some copies of the original were hidden away by members of the newspaper’s staff and other students, to be later displayed at a reunion of Printz editors at Southern Miss in 2005. Copies of the issue can also be viewed at the university’s McCain Library and Archives, named for then-school president Dr. William D. McCain.

In 1965, Kerisher received a letter from Frazier thanking him and the Printz staff for their efforts to draw attention to the situation. “The officials of your school may confiscate your paper, but they cannot confiscate your mind or your ability to think for yourselves,” Frazier wrote.

Kerisher typed a copy of the letter to show to school officials. He kept the original letter in a locked desk drawer, but it was later stolen.

Kerisher attempted to contact Frazier in the years that followed, but was unsuccessful. November’s chance meeting came as both men had been invited to Southern Miss to participate in two different lecture series – Frazier for the Trent Lott Center’s Minority Entrepreneurs Lecture Series and Kerisher for the journalism symposium.

After learning Kerisher would be on campus, Frazier agreed to stay a few extra days to participate with him on the panel.

Kerisher came to Southern Miss as a student after hearing positive reviews of the university’s journalism program, and caught a bus for Mississippi to check it out.

What he found was a devoted faculty of two, cramped quarters, the smell of linotype and the sounds of a newsroom full of student journalists in the basement of Southern Hall, which he said had a welcoming, club-like atmosphere.

He was sold. Not counting his marriage and family, Kerisher said he recalls his undergraduate days at Southern Miss as “the best three years of my life,” despite the censorship incident.

He said he believes Dr. McCain and other school officials realized integration was inevitable, but were waiting for what they believed

See REUNION, Page 11
Southern Miss film program goes on location ... to Gulf Coast

The University of Southern Mississippi’s film program moved to the Gulf Coast Student Service Center in Gulfport in August 2007, the first step in the university’s overall plan to build a full-scale academic program in entertainment industry studies on the coast.

The relocation of the film program and the creation of an Entertainment Industry Center are designed to capitalize on the state’s efforts to attract the entertainment industry to the Coast, according to Denise von Herrmann, interim dean of the College of Arts and Letters.

“The film program’s move is the first step toward the creation of an academic center that will prepare students for work in the entertainment industry,” von Herrmann said. “We hope to attract some major support from the industry as part of the coast’s rebirth.”

Initial plans to relocate the film program in August 2006 were postponed after Hurricane Katrina.

“We feel like this move will lead to great opportunities for film students,” said Dixon McDowell, a film professor and director of the film program. “It will also create opportunities for the program and the university to partner with the entertainment and casino industries.”

McDowell said that most of the film students in the program are excited to be a part of the program during its transition to the Coast. “The vast majority of our students are happy to be going to an area that’s rebuilding and will be a hub of a thriving entertainment industry,” he said.

Film students generally complete their major in a two-year sequence of courses that includes cinematography, editing, scriptwriting, film theory and film history.

“Film students who still want to spend their first two years on the Hattiesburg campus will be able to do that, then move to the Coast and complete their degree over the final two years,” McDowell said.

The program is located in a refurbished building at the Gulf Coast Student Service Center in Gulfport, where Southern Miss moved its Gulf Coast operations after Hurricane Katrina damaged its Gulf Park campus in Long Beach.

“As the coast rebuilds, Southern Miss is going to be located in an important media market,” McDowell said. “That will present wide-ranging opportunities for a lot of students interested in careers in mass communication, journalism, film and entertainment.”

A new academic undergraduate major in entertainment industries, introduced on the Hattiesburg campus in fall 2006, will join the film program on the coast once a new facility is built, von Herrmann said.

“The plan is to build a state-of-the-art facility on the Gulf Park campus,” she said. “That will require some significant resources, and we’ll be pursuing industry partnerships to help with that.”

Pat Joachim, associate provost of Southern Miss Gulf Coast, said the Entertainment Industry Center is a welcome addition to the many academic programs currently offered on the coast, which include tourism management along with traditional programs in the humanities and social sciences. “We think the film and entertainment industry majors will ultimately be among the most popular we offer,” she said.

... images of the Hub City

Chencho wraps his arms around the pregnant belly of Lucía, who is one month from giving birth to their daughter.

Photo by Katie Carter

A 65-year-old Hattiesburg native, who asked not to be identified, discusses her life while hanging laundry.

Photo by Eric Shelton

Joseph Alvarez asks his mother, Brittany Alvarez, for a quarter to play an arcade game while he waits for her to finish the laundry.

Photo by Chris Payne

Morrison Bonding downtown.

Photo by Katie Carter
Publish or perish? No problem

Faculty members pen significant texts

Shin co-authors public relations book that refines field’s emerging definition

A new book co-authored by Dr. Jae-Hwa Shin refines the emerging definition of public relations and provides a new theoretical framework that reinforces the need for professional practitioners to be grounded in public relations scholarship.

"Public Relations Today: Managing Competition and Conflict," released in fall 2007, defines public relations as the management of competition and conflict on behalf of one’s organization and, when possible, also in the interests of the groups that affect the organization.

Since its emergence as a publicity function for business and nonprofit sectors, the field of public relations has evolved over the past century to encompass a broader range of activities. A lack of concerns among scholars and professionals about the central role and essential definitions of public relations, however, has perpetuated the idea that anyone can practice public relations.

"There seems to be a common misconception that public relations is a glamour function, relegated to creating favorable publicity and coordinating special events. The reality is that public relations is much more robust than that." -- Dr. Jae-Hwa Shin

In addition to serving as an introductory and advanced text, the book also explores numerous real-world cases of public relations practices from organizations such as Wal-Mart, Nike, Microsoft and Google.

Unlike previous introductory texts, the book examines these cases from a theory-based perspective, exposing students to what the Institute for Public Relations calls "the science beneath the art of public relations."

Shin’s co-authors on the book are Dr. Glen Cameron, Dr. Dennis Wilcox and Dr. Bryan Reber.

Over the past decade, Shin has researched a wide range of topics in public relations, including strategic conflict management, agenda building in the media process, political campaign strategies and health communication evaluation.

Her research has been published in Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, Public Relations Review and other scholarly journals, and she has presented her work at national and international conferences.

She has been nominated for national and international awards and won the Best Dissertation Award of 2002-04 for "Strategic Conflict Management of the Source-Reporter Relationship between Public Relations Practitioners and Journalists" from the Public Relations Division of the International Communication Association, the largest professional association in the field.

Haque’s book examines China’s Cultural Revolution through ’60s, ’70s filmmakers

A book written by Dr. Mazharul Haque and one of his former graduate students examines the portrayal of China’s Cultural Revolution by three of that country’s top filmmakers.

"Representatives of the Cultural Revolution by the Fifth Generation Filmmakers," written by Haque and Dr. Ming-May Jessica Chen and published by McIlvane Press, is an account of movies focusing on the disruption of China’s society by communist leader Mao Tse Tung, including those by filmmakers Zhang Yimou, Chen Kaige and Tian Zhuangzhuang.

China’s Cultural Revolution brought about widespread social, political and economic change during the 1960s and 1970s, and was considered a result of a power struggle within the country’s Communist Party.

"Some of these filmmakers had direct experience with the Cultural Revolution and witnessed the impact it had on all aspects of Chinese life, so their work, culturally, is extremely important," Haque said. "In a way, they work on the role of historians, although they did not see themselves as such."

-- Dr. Mazharul Haque

"These two are considered among the best storytellers through filmmaking," Haque said. Dr. Phillip Gentile, Haque’s colleague in the School of Mass Communication and Journalism at USM, writes in the book’s forward: "The authors ably demonstrate how the intersection of history and cinema in the work of Chinese Fifth Generation Filmmakers can be discussed in terms of the generic and narrative categories of tragedy, comedy and irony."

"The world really is a ‘global village’ and our program recognizes that and is making significant contributions to scholarship about international media," Gentile said. "Dr. Haque is well-respected as a major international scholar, and this book is an important contribution to that scholarship."

Dr. Chen, who received her doctoral degree in mass communication from Southern Miss, is currently a member of the faculty of Providence University in Taiwan.
Advertising, public relations pros honored

Xue selected for prestigious advertising education fellowship

Dr. Fei Xue was one of just 18 professors from across the country selected for a highly competitive and prestigious fellowship last summer by the Advertising Educational Foundation.

The professor of advertising spent two weeks (July 16-27, 2007) in New York as part of the AEF's Visiting Professor Program, a fellowship for professors of advertising, marketing, communications and the liberal arts.

The purpose of the program is to expose professors to the day-to-day operations of an advertising agency, marketing or media company, depending on the faculty member’s area of expertise, as well as providing an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and development of relationships between academia and industry.

Preference is given to professors with little or no industry experience and to those who have not already participated in the program.

The professors were assigned to several international advertising agencies. Xue was placed with DDB Worldwide in New York, which is currently the fifth largest ad agency in the world.

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Dr. Fei Xue

Fei Xue

Xue made the most of it. Spending part of his summer in New York at one of the world’s top ad agencies is going to benefit his students for a long time to come,” Xue said at DDB’s library to collect ad campaign ideas and data to share with his students. As one of the podcasting pilot faculty members at Southern Miss, he now uses those materials for his podcasts.

“Fei Xue made the most of it. Spending part of his summer in New York at one of the world’s top ad agencies is going to benefit his students for a long time to come,” Xue said at DDB’s library to collect ad campaign ideas and data to share with his students. As one of the podcasting pilot faculty members at Southern Miss, he now uses those materials for his podcasts.

“I started my teaching career in the early stage of my life, so I didn’t have much time working in the field. I try to keep up with industry trends and news by keeping in touch with friends in ad agencies, attending conferences and reading advertising publications, but I always wish to have more personal stories to tell in class,” he said. “I love advertising and I love teaching. I want to offer my students the best education and there is no doubt this program was a wonderful opportunity for me and my students, and will benefit my research.”

Xue said he also embraces AEF’s goal of strengthening ties between academia and industry. “This program gave me and others a chance to go inside the agency and talk to people in the field about challenges and opportunities the advertising industry is facing, and how advertising researchers like me can help.”

Brautigam earns accreditation after extensive process

Kurt Brautigam, distinguished lecturer in public relations and associate director of the University of Southern Mississippi School of Mass Communication and Journalism, has earned the Accreditation in Public Relations through the Public Relations Society of America.

The APR process, administered nationally by the Universal Accreditation Board, recognizes public relations professionals who demonstrate their commitment to the profession and to its ethical practice. The designation is earned by demonstrating broad knowledge of the field, strategic perspective, sound professional judgment and extensive experience.

Nationwide, approximately 6,000 public relations professionals have achieved accreditation since the program began in 1964. In Mississippi, there are approximately 30 APRs.

Brautigam, who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communication at Southern Miss, also is principal of KB3 Communications, a public relations consulting business.

He previously served as manager of external communication for Mississippi Power and has overseen public, media and community relations activities for several other companies and civic organizations.

As active member in Public Relations Association of Mississippi for many years, he received “senior practitioner” recognition from the Southern Public Relations Federation and has earned numerous other awards, including the Rex Kelly Professional Achievement Award from PRAM in 2007.

Publisher, alumnus to speak at awards banquet, join MCJ Hall of Fame

Bill Phalen, CEO of Cities West Publishing and a USM journalism graduate, will address students at the School of Mass Communication and Journalism’s Awards Banquet April 25. He will also be inducted into the MCJ Hall of Fame.

Cities West, which he founded in 1997, publishes two highly regarded regional magazines, Phoenix and Phoenix Home and Garden. Before founding Cities West, Phalen, a 34-year resident of Arizona, founded and co-founded three broadcasting companies that acquired 24 radio stations throughout the U.S. from 1970 through 1996. He was inducted into the USM Alumni Hall of Fame in October 2007.

Phalen is past president of the Tucson Broadcasters Association and was a member of the advisory board of the ABC Radio Network and the Walter Cronkite Endowment Board of Trustees at Arizona State University. He also served on the National Advisory Board of the Sedona Cultural Park. All told, Phalen has served on five corporate boards and has been active in charitable board work such as Junior Achievement, where he played a major role in fund drives.

“We’re thrilled to have Mr. Phalen come to campus to visit with students,” said Chris Campbell, director of the School of Mass Communication and Journalism.
Davies News

Davies joins Central High media panel

Dr. David R. Davies was part of a prestigious panel of journalists and scholars who met in September 2007 to discuss the media's coverage of the historic integration of Little Rock's Central High School.

Davies, dean of the Southern Miss Honors College and an associate professor of journalism, took part in the panel discussion "Covering Little Rock" at the Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock.

The program coincided with the 50th anniversary of the landmark Civil Rights event, and was a celebration of the publication of "Breaking News: How the Associated Press Covered the Civil Rights Movement." Davies said, "It was among the first national stories covered on civil rights, and it gave us both incredible journalism and shining examples of leadership. It was absolutely thrilling to be back in Little Rock to reflect on this." Davies covered the Little Rock school desegregation case as it unfolded into the 1980s when he was a reporter for the Arkansas Gazette.

He is author of "The Press and Race: Mississippi Journalists Confront the Movement," and has also signed a contract with Northwestern University Press to do a book on the racial press and the Civil Rights Movement.

Davies was joined on the panel by moderator and former Arkansas Gazette reporter Roy Reed, author of "Faubus: The Life and Times of an American Prodigal," Gene Roberts, co-author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Race Beat" (2007) and professor of journalism at the University of Maryland; Hoyt Purvis, a University of Arkansas journalism professor and former press secretary to Sen. Bill Frist; and Kathryn Johnson, former AP civil rights reporter who covered the movement throughout the South from her base at the Atlanta bureau.

Nine African-American students, known as the "Little Rock Nine," enrolled in the racially segregated school in September 1957. Their attempt to attend the school was vehemently opposed by many white parents of students at the school and groups committed to racial segregation, and they were initially prevented from entering by Gov. Orval Faubus.

They were able to attend classes only after intervention by President Eisenhower, who sent federal troops to quell potential violence and help ensure the students' safety.

The panel discussion was followed by a reception, book signing and viewing of "With All Deliberate Speed: The AP in Little Rock," an exhibit on display courtesy of the AP Corporate Archives.

Washington TV reporter joins faculty

Andy Barth, a veteran broadcast reporter in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., markets, joined the SMCJ faculty as a distinguished visiting lecturer in broadcast journalism for the 2007-08 academic year.

As a reporter at Baltimore's WMAR-TV for 35 years, Barth filled stories from Washington, Mexico, Israel, and Russia, but his focus was on local news.

He has reported on presidential campaigns, inaugurations, impeachments and funerals. He covered the sniper siege of 2003 and subsequent trials of 2004, he has been to the World Series, national political conventions, World's Fairs and Bicentennial Celebrations.

While in Baltimore, he pioneered two popular franchise features, known as "Andy at Large," and "How Do They Do That?"

Barth currently works as a weekend reporter for WTTG, the Fox affiliate in Washington, and commutes to Hattiesburg for his teaching duties.

"Andy brings a wealth of very impressive experience to the classroom," said Chris Campbell, director of the School of Mass Communication and Journalism. "Like our other distinguished lecturers, he adds real-world perspective to the lessons he teaches. Our hope is that our broadcast journalism students are able to learn firsthand about the realities and expectations of being reporters in our media-savvy world."

Under Barth's direction, broadcast journalism and production students have successfully revived a weekly cable TV newsmagazine, which airs weekday evenings.

"The show gives students the opportunity to work in a very real-world setting," Campbell said. "For the broadcasting students, it serves as the kind of practical experience that print journalism students get when they work on The Student Printz."

"It also serves as another journalistic voice for students on campus."

Barth is the school's third distinguished lecturer. Clarence Williams, who won the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography at the Los Angeles Times, is a distinguished lecturer in photjournalism. Kurt Brautigam, former Mississippi Power manager of external communications, teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in public relations.

Students air newsmagazine on local cable

Broadcasting students in the School of Mass Communication and Journalism began producing a weekly television program, "Southern Miss Magazine," during the fall.

The program airs locally on Comcast Cable Channel 11, Hattiesburg's cable access television station, with new editions premiering each Thursday.

Broadcast journalism students working with Andy Barth, the 2007-08 distinguished lecturer in broadcast journalism, produce news features and serve as anchors, producers and reporters for the 30-minute program.

Broadcast production students working with Dennis Webster and staff members from Broadcasting and Media Production Services served as the production crew.
MCJ students and faculty attend Career Day

Students and faculty had a chance to hear about numerous real-world topics from former students during the school's annual Career Day in November 2007. Sessions were conducted in advertising and public relations, journalism, film and television production. Additional workshops were offered in photojournalism, advertising and PR, print and broadcast journalism, and film.

Professionals who made presentations included: Lynda Leedey, vice president and creative director for the Circle Agency; Lisa Slay, former director of marketing, Wesley Medical Center; Kathleen Koch, CNN special reporter; Charles Kernsner, publisher of the Clinton (NY) Courier; Joey Pontifex, 3-D animator; NCI Information Systems, NASA Langley Research Center; Chuck Cook, photographer; The Times-Picayune; Donna Ritchie, executive vice president, The Godwin Group; Earnest Hart, assistant managing editor for multi-media; The Clarion Ledger, and Nina Parikh, assistant director, Mississippi Film Commission. In addition, more than 20 businesses and media outlets participated in an internship fair to help students learn about future opportunities.

AWARDS ... from Page 3

that," said Chris Campbell, director of the School of Mass Communication and Journalism. "We're very proud of these graduates and what they've accomplished.

"In honoring Charlie Duranig, Bill Minor and Daul Shumaker, our goal was to recognize three of the many Mississippi journalists who did remarkable work during the civil rights era," he said. "We have several faculty members and doctoral graduates who have done significant research on social justice issues in journalism, so the symposium fits right in with the academic process of identifying and studying these trends, which are as important now as they were in the past."

Romnie Agnew, executive editor of The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger, delivered the keynote address at the luncheon. The induction dinner was held at Southern Oaks House and Gardens and Southern Miss President Dr. Martha Duranig Saunders was the featured speaker.

Sponsors for the event were the Hattiesburg American, the Mississippi Press Association and the Southern Miss College of Arts and Letters. All proceeds from the event went to the Robert Gene Wiggins Scholarship Endowment, which supports scholarships for students in the School of Mass Communication and Journalism.

"Both of these events were outstanding," Campbell said. "They were as much fun as I've had since I've been here, but they were also important opportunities to feature the quality of our graduates and the important work they've done in their careers.

"It also gave us a chance to demonstrate the impact of our academic programs and what they mean to the field of journalism locally, nationally and worldwide."

"We received a good deal of news coverage for both events, which will help significantly with our fundraising and student recruiting efforts."

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USM graduate publishes book

PR key element in Civil Rights Movement

Marches, sit-ins, Freedom Summer schools, nonviolent resistance—all of these were tools used in the Civil Rights Movement to bring about racial justice. But Southern Miss graduate Vanessa Murphree shows how public relations tactics were also crucial to the success of the movement in her recent book, “The Selling of Civil Rights: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Use of Public Relations.”

The book details how community-oriented and grass roots communication efforts, similar to classic public relations tactics, can be used for social reform.

“Some may raise an eyebrow when you say ‘public relations campaign’ when talking about the Civil Rights Movement, but I believe public relations were central to everything they did,” said Murphree, now an assistant professor at the University of South Alabama, where she teaches public relations. She graduated from Southern Miss in 2002.

“I believe we think more about public relations as being central to business and corporations, but it’s much broader than that,” she said.

“That’s the point I wanted to make in the book—that it can be an important element of social change, as it was in the work of SNCC. In most social movements, you would find that these organizations use a great number of public relations tactics.”

Murphree said it didn’t take long into her research to see how integral classic public relations tactics were to work of the SNCC.

“They had what was called a communications section, a communications director, communications assistants—those essentially are public relations jobs,” she said.

SNCC also maintained a list of media contacts, arranged special events, conducted fundraising, produced brochures and used photography—all typical activities of a public relations effort.

Dr. Chris Campbell, director of the School of Mass Communication and Journalism, said Murphree’s work is an extension of what he says is an impressive body of research related to civil rights and the media that has come out of Southern Miss.

“Vanessa’s examination of the use of public relations techniques in the Civil Rights Movement is useful in showing how these communication strategies were used to advance social justice,” he said. “It’s an important work that I hope practitioners will take the time to read, and see how their work can improve the lives of people in their communities.”

Along with her recent book, Murphree has written about crisis communication and historical perspectives of public relations. She is a member of the American Journalism Historical Association, which awarded her an honorable mention for “Best Dissertation” and an award for “Best Article” in the organization’s journal.

Murphree is also a member of the Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, the Public Relations Council of Alabama and the Public Relations Society of America.

**REUNION ... from Page 5**

was the right time for it to take place at Southern Miss.

“He (Dr. McCain) didn’t want a repeat of the chaos at Ole Miss,” said Kershner, referring to the 1962 integration of the University of Mississippi by James Meredith that touched off violent riots, leaving two people dead and many more injured.

To understand the actions of those involved in the story of John Frazier and the censorship of the Printz requires understanding the history of times. “It was a terribly, conflicted period, not a particularly healthy environment to live in or to work,” he said.

In September 1965, Southern Miss admitted African-American student Oneal Armstrong and Raylawni Branch into the university, without incident.

“It was a process that did not come quietly or easily, but it came quietly and peacefully, despite the bumps in the road,” Frazier said of the university’s integration.

John Frazier, who earned degrees from Tougaloo College in Jackson and Tufts University in Boston, currently owns several businesses in Raleigh, including a bank.

An accomplished businessman, real estate innovator and past adviser to two North Carolina governors, Frazier recovered from his ordeal at Southern Miss, earning his bachelor’s degree from Tougaloo College in Jackson, a degree in religion from Tufts University in Boston and then going on to study at Harvard and Oxford Universities in England. He has also been a professor at universities in Cleveland and Raleigh, NC. Currently he owns several businesses in Raleigh, including Frazier Bank and Trust.

He said his experience at Southern Miss and his later career success are proof that setbacks of all kinds can be overcome with willpower and determination. “You don’t have to stop at the point of rejection, or at barriers, to fulfill your intentions,” he said.

Frazier’s little-known attempt to integrate Southern Miss followed the more publicized attempts by Clyde Kennard, who was denied enrollment three times before being jailed on what have been described as trumped up charges of stealing chicken feed.

The university’s Student Services building was later named in Kennard’s honor, along with the first African-American student to receive a doctorate at Southern Miss, the late Alcorn State University President Dr. Walter Washington.

The gerson of slain civil rights worker Medgar Evers, Frazier passed to add levity to the session, reading a letter from the Sovereignty Commission that warned university officials against admitting Charles Kershner is currently president and executive editor of the Clinton Courier in Clinton, NY, where he runs the newspaper, writes stories and takes photos.

Frazier because he was a known “homosexual.” The letter, which he finds humorous for its absurdity, was yet another element in the affair Frazier described as “insanity.”

But the heartwarming reunion between the two men, both of whom are battling cancer, showed that their shared humanity overcame the insanity that was the divisive politics of race that they both confronted in Mississippi and the nation in the 1960s, Frazier said.

“You do not allow insanity to determine what you are, who you are or what your potential is,” he said.
Dinner, Awards and Great Conversation

The School of Mass Communication and Journalism inducted six alumni journalists into its Hall of Fame during a dinner at the Southern Oaks House and Gardens in Hartsville Nov. 9, 2007 (see group photos on Page 3). At left, USM President Dr. Martha Saunders addresses the banquet. At right, Dr. Gene Wiggins (left), the first inductee in the MCJ Hall of Fame, congratulates 2007 inductees Charles Karoliner, a longtime Reuters editor who now publishes the Clinton Courier in upstate New York.

At left (left to right) are Angela Davies, wife of Dr. Dave Davies; Sue Martinez, MCJ administrative assistant; Dr. Kim LeDuff, assistant professor of broadcast journalism; and Mandy Tilley Naco, assistant to the director. Below left, Dr. Keith Johnson, assistant professor of advertising, visits with Goodloe Sutton, publisher of The Democrat-Reporter in Linden, Ala., and his son during a reception before the dinner ceremony. Sutton and his late wife, Jean, a reporter for The Democrat-Reporter, were jointly inducted into the MCJ Hall of Fame. Below, Dr. Jae-Hwa Shin, assistant professor of public relations, grins alongside Dr. Martha Saunders, USM president.

Photos by Dr. Fei Xue
HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

Good Music, Atmosphere and Renewing Friendships

MCJ Director Chris Campbell (right) chats with Danny Rawls, university photographer and USM graduate.

Honoree Jeff McAdory (left), of the (Memphis) Commercial Appeal, visits with Joe Morgan, university CEO and brother of the late Damian Morgan. Proceeds from the event supported the Damian Morgan Endowed Scholarship, which goes to deserving photojournalism students each year.

Guests were able to unwind at the Bottling Company in downtown Hattiesburg. Above, fellow Hall of Fame inductee Ted Jackson (left), a Pulitzer-winning photographer from The Times-Picayune, sits in on harmonica as Steve Gardner (right) plays the blues. Right, honorees Tim Isbell (left), a Pulitzer-winning photographer from the Sun-Herald, and Professor Emeritus Ed Wheeler celebrate an enjoyable reunion. Left, photographer Jay Forchoud (left) and MCJ Adjunct Steve Coleman wield large cameras. The informal gathering followed the Southern Miss Photojournalism Summit Oct. 12, 2007, where a silent auction raised more than $5,000 for the MCJ Photojournalism Program.

Pulitzer-winning photographer and MCJ faculty member Clarence Williams chats with Chris Adams, MCJ graduate and graphic designer for Southern Miss.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Gardner Sr. joined the festivities at the Bottling Company.

Photos by Artie Rawls and Jay Forchoud

Spring 2008
1960s

Dan Cook (63) has been "semi-retired" from the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Times Free Press as of Jan. 1, 2005, having received a total of 69 "Excellence in Craft" awards during 38 years of newspaper work. He has since freelanced with numerous outdoor writer organizations. In 2007, Cook received a variety of awards from the Outdoor Writers Association of America, the Georgia Outdoor Writers Association, the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association and the Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association, an organization for which he has served as president.

Burlian O'Neal Walker (74), retired public relations, alumni affairs, foundation director at Cephal-Lincoln Community College, was named Advocate of the Year for Mississippi for 2005-06, by the American Cancer Society and the Hattiesburg City Council for his work heading the committee for a Smoke-Free Hattiesburg.

1970s

Danny Mitchell (B.A. "70, M.S. "71), senior partner and board chairman of Godwin Group, was selected in 2007 for the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame, sponsored by Junior Achievement. He is the first advertising executive chosen for this honor.

Fred Baker (79), who retired after a long career as the Covington County agent for the Mississippi State University Extension Service in 2001, now lives on a 10-acre farm in the Lux community along the banks of Okatacna Creek with his wife, Mary Ellen, who served as the RTF department secretary from 1982-95. She retired from Southern Miss in 2005.

Mary Ann Walsh DeSantis (75) is currently the associate editor for Lake & Sunburst Style, a lifestyle magazine in Central Florida. She is also an adjunct instructor at Lake-Sumter Community College.

Carolyn Haines (71) is an author living in Summum, Ala. Her latest book, "Revenant," a thriller set on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, is a finalist in the Romantic Times Best Contemporary Mystery Awards. "Ham Bones," the seventh in the Sarah Booth Delaney mystery series set in the Mississippi Delta, hit several bestseller lists, including the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association and Ingram's "Whatcha's," the eighth in the series (book cover above), will be released in July by St. Martin's Minotaur.

Wanda Carpenter Henderson (77) opened "Celebrations, etc.," a new wedding and event rental business in Hattiesburg in January 2008.

Richard S. Towner (78) is the owner and president of Great Lakes Restoration, Inc., in Woodridge, Ill.

1980s

Susan Marquez (80) spent 25 years working in the corporate world for television stations, an advertising agency and a regional shopping mall. She is now operating a home-based business, working as a freelance writer for many local and regional publications and also handling marketing and public relations for new shopping and lifestyle developments. Marquez is a Silver Medal recipient of the Jackson Advertising Federation and serves on the board of the Southern Miss Central Mississippi Alumni Association.

James R. (Jim) Allain (B.S. '81, M.S. '92) recently was promoted to manager, Creative Production Services at Mississippi Power in Gulfport. He also received his Accredited Media Manager credentials from the Communications Management Association in November 2007.

Tyrus Herst (B.S. '82, M.S. '92) is associate director, Athletics Communications at Virginia Tech. He has been at VT for eight years.

Natalie Allen (73), formerly with NBC News and CNN, has moved to the Weather Channel as anchor and correspondent for "Forecast Earth," a new program on climate change and sustainability and green initiatives that airs Saturday and Sunday 4 p.m. central time. (Seen related story about Natalie's induction into the SMCC Hall of Fame on Page 3 of this issue.)

Robert D. Davis (73) has worked at the TV studio of the Dallas Area Cable TV service (now Time Warner Cable) since 1980. He is a producer and director for Time Warner Cable's new Metro Sports Channel, covering high school, college and minor league professional sports events in the greater Dallas Metro Area. While in Hattiesburg in the early to mid-1980s, he was Dave Roberts at WSUS AM & FM and still does some radio work, including reports for Blizzard Media/Chesapeake Mobile, available on radio stations, Internet links and satellite radio Web sites.

Pam Bass Finnegan (80), a freelance makeup artist for the television and film industry, has worked on projects for numerous national magazine owners and network television programs. This past year one of her famous faces, who received an award from President George Bush, was included in an exhibit in the New York Museum of Art, titled, "Wounded Soldiers." Two years ago she married Frank Finnegan, also a USM graduate.

Air Force Lt. Col. Steven Murray (65) has retired and been named communications director for the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs in Tallahassee, providing management and direction of the department's comprehensive program of public information and public relations for Florida's 1.7 million veterans and their family members. Col. Murray directed the public affairs activities of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, the Defense Information School and the Air Force Recruiting Service during his nearly 21-year career. In 2004, he was named the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Public Affairs Officer of the Year and also received the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association's "Award of the Best" Award for Outstanding Air Force Public Affairs Professional.

Gaye Magee (79) was recently promoted to lead marketing manager for the South Central Region of Starbucks Coffee Company. Based in Dallas, Texas, her job is to develop a marketing strategy for 520 company-owned Starbucks locations in Texas and Oklahoma.

Mark Saucier (66) worked for a variety of independent newspapers and magazines in Mississippi until moving to New Orleans in 1998. He then went into freelance writing before making a career change in 2002—he received a Master's in Community Counseling from Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans in 2006, and now works as a clinical coordinator and counselor at a residential facility for the disabled in Gretna, La.

Bennie Barham (77) is the director of business development with the Hills County Economic Development District in Jackson, Miss. He lives with his wife, Pam, and children, Benjamin, Brennan, and Barrett in Clinton. Pam (1989) is the physician liaison and community relations coordinator at Central Mississippi Medical Center (CMCC) in Jackson.

Hugh Busby (82) is a member of the graphic design staff at the University of Memphis. He was recently elected Staff Senator and became a member of the Memphis chapter of AIGA. He completed his Master of Fine Arts in Graphic Design at UT in M 2004 and is teaching a variety of graphic arts classes there.

1990s

Pat Henderson (91) is principal of Keshadee (Miss.) Junior High School and recently established the Second Chance Credit Union.

Patrick Price (93) has been senior sales representative for Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals (Memphis, Tenn.) for the past nine years.

Tommy White (76) was recently promoted to general manager at Bonita Lakes Mall in Meridian. He began his career with CBI & Associates, the owner of Bonita Lakes Mall, in 1999 as a management/marketing assistant at Turko Creek Mall in Hattiesburg. He previously worked as marketing director at Bonita Lakes Mall and general manager of Old Hickory Mall in Jackson, Tenn., before being transferred back to Meridian.

Scott Walker (97) is now a morning news anchor at WESH-2 (NBC) in Orlando, Fla., the nation's 19th-largest market. He anchors WESH-2's News Sunrise.
2000s

Jason Conley ('90) was recently promoted to senior management analyst in the office of Management and Budget for the city of Arlington, Texas. He is also a political affairs Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas at Dallas. Scheduled to graduate in fall 2006, Jason and his wife Jennifer Troger Walker ('91), have a 2-year-old son.

Susan Lapoma Perkins (B.A., '96, M.S., '98), staff officer with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources in Biloxi, recently earned an Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) designation. Among the membership of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi (PRAM), there are now seven accredited public relations professionals in south Mississippi and approximately 20 statewide. Perkins is a member of PRAM's Mississippi Beach chapter and serves on the chapter's 2006 Board of Directors as Accreditation Chair.

Arthur W. Hunt III ('83) is assistant professor of communications at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Over the past decade he has taught courses in public speaking, public relations, business communication, argumentation and debate, and media ecology. He is an active member of the Media Ecology Association (founded by Neil Postman and others) and is the author of "The Vanishing Word: The Veneration of Visual Imagery in the Postmodern World," published in 2003.

Brian Woods ('90) was sworn in as a Peace Corps volunteer on Dec. 15, 2007. He is teaching English as a foreign language at School Number One in Baku, Azerbaijan, Ukraine. His tentative secondary projects include a business English class for the community so they can better work with English-speaking tourists, and hosting an American-style summer camp and a workshop that will help teach Ukrainian youths to create short videos that can be distributed via the Internet promoting their country and culture.

Don King ('90) is now the director of G & R Rock Programming for WNSSL (SL 100) and WJZS (1620) The Fox in Hattiesburg. He's also on the air on both stations: midnights from 10-3 p.m. on The Fox and afternoon drive from 3-7 p.m. on SL 100.

Let others know how you're doing

It is easy to post news in "Alumni News." Write a few sentences highlighting your achievements, include your name, address, phone number and e-mail address, and mail it to: Alumni News, School of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001. Or e-mail news to: Amanda.Tilly@usm.edu.

Southern Mississippi as an admissions counselor and recruiter. She recruits students from Northeast Mississippi and northern Alabama. She is also currently enrolled in the USM Master's program.

Britton Fryogle Green ('96) has been working as a marketing representative at Tennessee General Medical Center in Hattiesburg, I.s., since December 2008.

Markus Jones ('96) lives in Gulfport and has been working for United Way of South Mississippi doing program development since October 2006.

Jackie Lee ('96) is working at The ReView of Jones County as an editor of the Diversion section, which features entertainment, society, food and travel. She has also joined Laurel Express, a Mississippi Main Street organization, to promote downtown Laurel, as the communications director on the Executive Board. She founded and published The Burger, which was converted to a fully online publication in January 2008.

David Matthews ('96) won the Ruma Award of the 2007 Crossroads Film Festival in Jackson, Miss., for his student-produced film. He recently accepted a director of photography position with Eyevox in Ridgeland, Miss., where he shoots, edits and directs films for production.

Shaun Walker ('98) retired from Trumpet Group in New Orleans from January 2000 to March 2007, then hired as the junior content developer. He has worked on projects for the Supremes' new Web site and the New Orleans Arena, Louisiana Economic Development and the New Orleans Hornets.

Jessica Brown ('87) is currently the producer at WLOX-TV (Biloxi) for the station's morning show, "Good Morning Mississippi."

Eddie Mitzel ('70), Second Lieutenant, United States Army, recently completed his Officer Basic Courses. He was assigned as the supply liaison officer for the 35th Signal Brigade, the largest brigade in the Army, with units in Texas, Arizona and Washington, as well as worldwide checkpoints in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

Charlton Brock Williamson ('70) has been the public relations director for SportsOne, a sports agency in Tampa, Fl., since December 2006. His main focus at the agency is motorsports.
More than 100 of Dr. Gene Wiggins’ closest friends showed up for the Gene Wiggins Roast in November 2006, launching the creation of the Robert Gene Wiggins Endowment for the School of Mass Communication and Journalism.

Among those who paid tribute to Dr. Wiggins were Chris Campbell, director of the School of Mass Communication and Journalism; Dean Elliott Pool, Professor Dave Davies and Art Kaul, USM EOE. Director Becky Woodrick, Wiggins’ junior college teacher and mentor Ovid Vickers, Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Michael Randolph, Clarion-Ledger sportswriters Bobby and Rick Cleveland and Wiggins’ son, Matthew. His wife Linda also attended the event at Hattiesburg Country Club.

As of the end of 2007, friends and alumni of the School of Mass Communication and Journalism had contributed nearly $20,000 to the endowment.

ABOUT DR. WIGGINS
After completing his Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University, Dr. Wiggins became a member of the USM faculty in 1973, teaching courses in journalism, media law and public relations.

He served as director of the USM School of Communication from 1981 to 2001. Prior to completing his doctorate, Dr. Wiggins worked for the Jackson Daily News and for the Hattiesburg American. He also served as a public information officer in the U.S. Air Force.

He has authored numerous publications, including books, book chapters and journal articles in the area of mass communication law.

Wiggins, who currently coordinates the school’s Graduate Studies, will retire in May, with plans to continue to serve and teach in the school on a part-time basis.

A reception to celebrate Dr. Wiggins’ retirement will be May 7, 3-5 p.m., in the Thad Cochran Center on the USM campus in Hattiesburg.