

A Message From Your President

As Gomer Pyle would say, "Thank you, thank you, thank you" to all who helped with the Legislative Reception on January 24. To the students who took care of the food, you did a great job with preparation as well as presentation. The culinary arts teachers who taught these students have obviously done a great job. Thank you to the state officers who attended the breakfast as well as the reception. Thank you to J. Michael Thomas who did an excellent training session for the state officers. Finally, thanks to all MS ACTE members who worked and attended the reception.

The reception, to say the least, was a roaring success. I believe the legislators' attendance was one of the largest numbers in the last 10 to 15 years.

Now is the time to start making our plans to attend the MS ACTE Summer Conference to be held July 22 through July 25, 2008. We will have outstanding speakers such as John Alston and Steve Gilliland as well as local presenters. We should have a very worthwhile conference for all who attend. Sessions are being planned for all affiliate groups.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the Spring Meeting on March 17 beginning 8:30 a.m. at the Pearl/Rankin Branch of Hinds Community College and in July for the Summer Conference. Again, I would like to thank you all for the successful reception for our legislature.

Greetings From Your Executive Director, Linda Bath

Mississippi ACTE has been very active in the past few months. Districts I, II, III, and IV had their fall dinner meetings in October and November; Mississippi had 48 members attend the national conference in Las Vegas in December; Mississippi was presented the Quality Association Award at the national conference; and Mississippi ACTE hosted the annual Legislative Day activities January 24.

Please make plans to attend our annual spring meeting on March 17. A continental breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting following

at 9:00 a.m. The location will be the lecture hall of the George Wynn Building on the Rankin Campus of Hinds Community College. Also mark your calendars to attend the ACTE Region IV Conference in New Orleans April 10-12. You can go to www.lacte.org, click on "Meetings/Events", and then click on "Region IV 2008" to download the registration form, conference agenda, and hotel information.

We are very excited about the partnering of Mississippi ACTE, the Department of Education, and the RCU to host a mega-conference in

July. Plans are underway to make this a conference that will be beneficial to all career/technical teachers, administrators, and counselors. We have nationally known keynote speakers scheduled for our two general sessions and many excellent presenters for the affiliate meetings. Remember, CEU and SEMI credits will be provided at no cost to you. Mark your calendars and plan to join us July 22-25 at the Raymond Campus of Hinds Community College.

Barbara Nielsen Memorial

by Tim Gilmore



One of our most loyal members passed away on October 16, 2007, from injuries sustained from an automobile accident. Barbara Nielsen, Delta Epsilon Chi Advisor and Hotel/Restaurant Management Instructor at Coahoma Community College, was the type of person who was always volunteering behind the scenes to assist our association. She always felt that the best way she could help was to share her skills with others.

Barbara was always bringing smiles to faces whether it was from the food she had prepared or just her upbeat personality. Barbara was always wishing everyone a "Merry Christmas" no matter what the time of year. Barbara had a strong relationship with the Lord and is in a better place now.

Barbara served as a Post-Secondary Mississippi Association of Marketing Educators Officer and was active as a member of the MS ACTE Board of Directors. She ran for MS ACTE 2nd Vice President one year when there

was a shortage of a candidates, but actually she preferred helping where she could as a volunteer behind the scenes. She often involved her children in her efforts to serve the association.

The family requested that a fund be set up to handle donations collected for Barbara's favorite charities such as her church, the Mississippi Diabetes Foundation and Delta Epsilon Chi DECA. If you wish to make a donation in her honor, please send it to Tim Gilmore, 111 Oak Drive, Booneville, MS 38829. If you wish to designate your gift to a particular charity, please do so. Checks should be made payable to NE HRM Club.

Memorial To Don Connerley

September 3, 1946 – December 30, 2007

by Jamie Stidham

On Sunday morning, December 30, 2007, Don's address changed. He went home to be with the Lord. Don was an outstanding teacher and administrator for over 30 years. He held many offices of responsibility in MS ACTE, from President of the Director's Affiliate to Chairman of the Awards Committee. He was also on the Region IV as well as the National ACTE Awards Committee.



rode horses together, and visited in each other's homes. We fought battles such as the separation of secondary and community college C & T programs.

He took each of these responsibilities very seriously and did a great job. Don was a very loyal member of MS ACTE and will surely be missed.

Don, J. Michael Thomas, and I were very good friends – the "Three Amigos" as we called ourselves. We made trips together,

We won some, we lost some, and a few got rained out. Don was always the one to gather the data and carry the "box."

Don leaves behind his lovely wife Karen; sons Jonathan, Josh, and Michael; daughter Christy and son-in-law Chad, along with his grandchildren and a host of family and friends. Don mainly leaves behind memories of a fine Christian man. Don was a gentleman, scholar, and a prince of a man. Don loved his wife, his family, and his friends; but mostly, he loved his Lord. There is no doubt in my mind as to where Don Connerley will spend eternity. I consider it an honor and privilege to have been called a friend of Don Connerley.

Co-Lin hosts annual Work Ethics Forum

Do average Mississippi career and technical students ever wonder what company policy is regarding a workplace romance? What might their future employers think if they text-message or instant-message friends while at work? A panel of experts recently gave approximately 200 career and technical students from Copiah-Lincoln Community College a firsthand look at these issues and many others from an employer's perspective.

Co-Lin's annual Work-Based Learning Work Ethics Forum was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, on the Wesson Campus and followed a structured format. Each panelist responded to pre-determined questions submitted and asked by students in various career-technical programs, and all agreed that dishonest interview responses occur far too frequently.

"After fifteen years of hiring people, I am still amazed at how much difference there is in what someone says during an interview and what we find out during the background check," said panelist Tom Myers, Director of Safety at DynaSteel Corporation in Natchez. "Criminal background checks are necessary to catch interview deception and help maintain the integrity of the interviewing agency," Myers said.

The panel noted that, while some criminal infractions may not completely destroy one's employability, felony convictions will definitely limit the applicant's options. "Most of the arrests we encounter took place because of unpaid tickets and related violations," said Cindy McIntyre, Director of Nursing at Magee General Hospital. However, McIntyre noted, "Federal law prohibits me from hiring anyone with a felony conviction on their criminal record."

Panelists agreed that employers would be more likely to overlook past mistakes if applicants are honest. "What I'm looking for is, 'Yeah, I did it. I was wrong. I did

my time and my life is different now,'" Myers said.

In addition to providing honest interview responses, panelists suggested additional interview tips and emphasized creative and descriptive responses. "It is important to mention examples of real-life situations that took place and how you handled them," said Gwen Gayden, Director of Human Resources at Delphi-Packard in Brookhaven. "Such responses will illustrate one's ethical convictions and give interviewers a clear picture of the applicant's value system," Gayden said.

Panelists agreed that tardiness and absenteeism could come back to haunt them. James Minter, owner of Brookhaven's B & O Machine & Welding, said that promptness is a telling indicator of an applicant's employability. "When I get an application from a former Co-Lin student, the first thing I'm going to do is call the instructor," Minter said. "If there are attendance issues, I'm going to find out." In some cases, the applicant with the highest GPA may not get the job if he or she was frequently absent from class.

The role of confidentiality is especially crucial in health care fields. McIntyre noted that HIPPA (Health Information Portability Act) has directly impacted the medical field. Violations of hospital privacy policies would be grounds for termination.

Although panelists acknowledged the usefulness of computers, the panel frowned upon workplace internet use. "Because of the liability involved with violation of HIPPA regulations, we have a no tolerance internet policy," McIntyre said. "Employees are not allowed to use computers for personal use." "We do have computers available to employees during their breaks. This enables them to check e-mail and possibly do some online banking," Gayden said. She noted, however, that workplace computer networks are closely monitored. Gayden's



Three of the four panelists for the annual Work Ethics Forum include from left, Tom Myers, Director of Safety for Dyna Steel Corp. in Natchez; Cindy McIntyre, Director of Nursing at Magee General Hospital; and James Minter, Owner of B & O Machine & Welding in Brookhaven.

fellow panelists agreed and cautioned career and technical students against viewing inappropriate internet content. "Unfortunately, computer usage policies are necessary because there is so much abuse of technology today," Myers said. If employees are going to websites they should not be going to, we'll find out because everything is monitored."

Minter approached technology from a "safety first" perspective. "In our shop we use lathes that run at 600 revolutions per minute. These machines don't distinguish between a piece of metal and someone's finger," Minter said. "Text messaging and cell phone usage can be distracting, and we don't want to see any body hurt."

Panelists agreed that effective employee training is needed to decrease sexual harassment and to promote a safe work environment. Employees should learn what is and what is not acceptable workplace behavior. Myers said that employers, however, must lead the way with training protocols that address proper boundaries in workplace relationships.

The annual work ethics forum assists career and technical students at Copiah-Lincoln Community College with navigating the maze of potential workplace pitfalls. Otherwise, their integrity, employability, and resume' may be at stake.

Co-Lin radiography program receives 8-year accreditation

"This is an excellent accomplishment", said Dr. Gail Baldwin, Dean of Career-Tech Education.

Co-Lin received this accreditation based on the review and examination from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. Co-Lin had to maintain their standards were met before they were able to receive their accreditation due to the U.S. having strict regulations and guidelines regarding this practice since this profession uses ionizing radiation, which is potentially harmful to living cells.

The eight-year accreditation, which is the maximum accreditation an educational institution can receive, allows for the college to preserve its stability in the state as a top-notch school in Radiographic Imaging education.

Billie Faye Sartin, Co-Lin's Radiologic Technology Coordinator, said, "We are very excited. We weren't expecting to receive an eight-year accreditation. We work very hard to maintain everything in the program stays up to date and also our students receive the best education regarding radiography. This is a wonderful achievement for the program."

The two-year Medical Radiologic program, which began in 1980, prepares students as radiographers in the field of Radiologic Technology or entrance into advanced imaging in the healthcare industry. The principal duty of a radiographer, also called a radiologic technologist, is to create medical images of the body for the purpose of diagnosing illnesses. Without the aid of these images, diagnosis of injuries or disease processes would be very complicated.

"Our goal is to give the students the tools they need to enter the radiography field and be able to advance into other areas such as CT scans, MRI and Ultra-Sound modalities if they choose." Sartin said. "For the last seven years, our students have maintained a 100% passage rate for the National Registry Exam upon graduating."

This program is highly sought after at Co-Lin and because of its established reputation, acceptance in the program falls under strict requirements. Sartin said, "We received

between 130-150 applications last year and we only accepted 24, currently there are 22 first-year students and 18 secondyear students."

Due to the program being so highly affective, Sartin said, "Students are most often faced with the difficulties of having to learn new terminology and the technical application is pretty intense. Generally their first semester is the most difficult."

Radiography instructors include Sartin, Julie Gaudin and Ramona Thomas.

Jones County VO-Tech Student Council Attends SASC Conference

The Jones County Vocational Student Council attended the 73rd annual Southern Association of Student Councils Conference held on the campus of Bay High School in Panama City, Florida. The conference theme was "Under the Big Top of Leadership."

Students gained different perspectives of true leadership from nationally renowned keynote speakers and had the opportunity to exchange ideas, make new friends, and learn ideas to improve their school and community. The Southern Association of Student Councils is an organization of member schools from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. Illisia Breazeale serves on the Mississippi State Association of Student Councils advisory board and represented Mississippi during the conference.



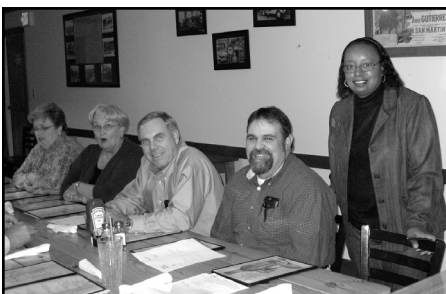
Left to Right - Student Council members attending the SASC Conference were: Debra Bush, advisor, Seth Howell, Illisia Breazeale, Kaitlyn Garvin, Shelby Holifield, Kristin Nowell.

District I Meeting

by Barbara Herod-Hence

We had a wonderful meeting last night at the Creek in Oxford. We had a room filled with members from District I with tons of information to share. Mr. Tommy Reynolds was a fantastic speaker bringing information from the capitol. Mr. Stidham, MS ACTE State President, was present to bring information from the MDE and ACTE partnership meetings. Mrs. Bath, Executive Director, brought information from the regional and national level.

Continue to read information on the Redesign. The changes are productive for career and technical education. Touch base with your director to see how this will affect you.



District II Meeting

by Wanda Thomas

On Monday, November 5, District II held its fall dinner meeting in the Private Dining Room of the cafeteria on the campus of Mississippi Delta Community College. Twenty-eight members were present.

Mary Ann Sandidge, MDCC Assistant Dean of Career and Technical Education, welcomed the group. Wanda Thomas, District II President, then addressed the group and reviewed handouts which included information concerning the MS ACTE Website listing state officers, legislative goals, and other resources available to members.

Linda Bath, MS ACTE Executive Director, spoke to the group with additional information concerning upcoming important dates and other information from around the state.

Jamie Stidham, MS ACTE President, updated the group on plans for the MS ACTE Summer Conference, which is actively promoting participation from both secondary and post-secondary CTE members.

Dr. Debra West was the special guest speaker for the meeting. Dr. West is the Career and Technical Director at the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges. Dr. West gave a presentation on statewide articulation that is in place now and plans for further statewide articulated programs in the near future.



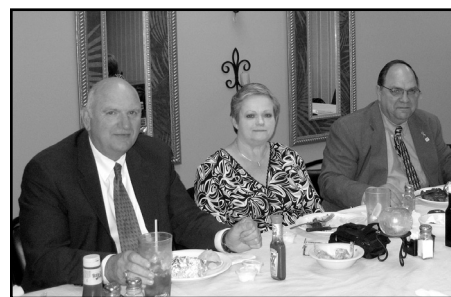
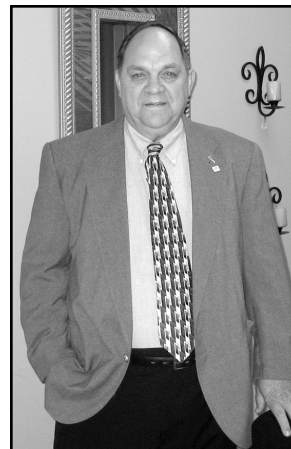
District III Meeting

by Bill Norcross

The annual fall District III meeting was held at Ronnie's Steak and Grill in Philadelphia on Thursday, November 8. Bill Norcross, District III president, presided.

Linda Bath, Executive Director for MS ACTE, gave opening remarks concerning activities that are on-going around the state.

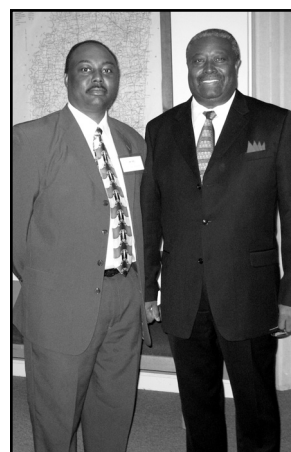
Jamie Stidham, MS ACTE president, was the keynote speaker. He stressed the importance of membership in the organization and encouraged members to attend the summer conference scheduled in July of 2008.



District IV Meeting

by Melvin Johnson

District IV annual meeting was held October 25, 2007, at the FFA Center. The Career Development Center faculty and staff were excited about hosting the district meeting and are looking forward to participating in upcoming ACTE events. The Career Development Center is undergoing a transformation and will be looking at some creative, innovative, and cutting edge ideas that will be implemented in the near future.



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Legislative Day 2008





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