



Greene County native and JCJC Vice President of Advancement Charlie Garretson shakes the hand of his nephew Hunter Garretson during the presentation of awards and scholarships at Thursday's Class Night ceremonies. The younger Garretson, who is a GCHS Honors Graduate as a member of the Class of 2017's Top 10, received multiple awards and scholarships during the event. Another one of the big winners from the evening was Destiny Street, shown (Inset) receiving the Citizenship Award from Ladies Variety Club representative Tamika Miller.

record of 95 percent or better during high school, be involved in their communities as volunteers and have letters of recommendation from a school administrator. Members of the Class of 2017 earning this distinction were Brittany Blankenchip, Juli Burnett, Cassidy Dearman, Cloud Dueitt, LeeAnna Dunnam, Charlsie Hicks, Dakota Martin and Mary Grace Turner. Vocational Director Dr. Tom Wallace also recognized the

nine students who earned the honor of being named Mississippi Tech-Masters, which is the vocational equivalent of the Mississippi Scholars program. The 2017 GCHS Tech-Masters are Dakota Martin, Randy Strickland and Justin Vickers. Dr. Wallace also announced several other awards and scholarships. He presented Gracie

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# Senior awards, scholarships presented during Class Night

*Colleges, civic organizations recognize and reward students*

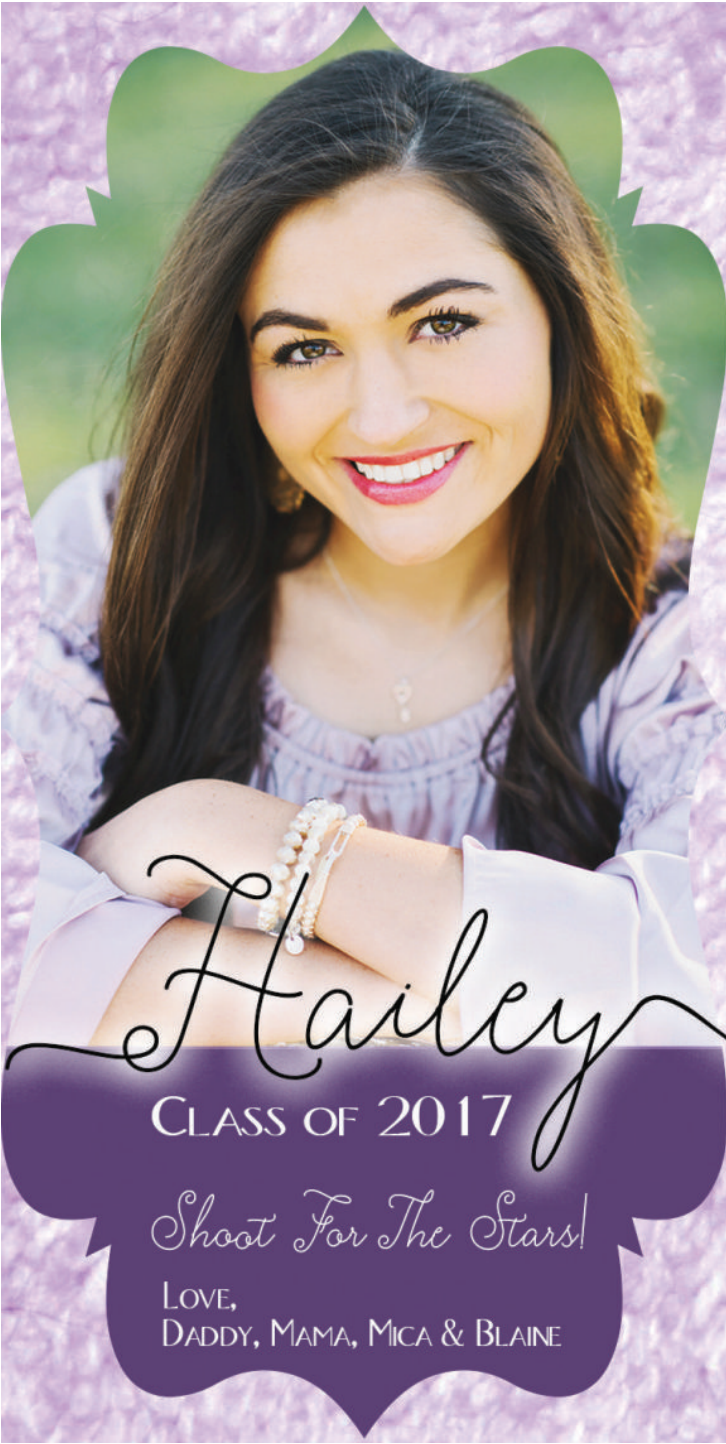
**From Staff Reports**

Greene County High School honored members of the Class of 2017 Thursday evening prior to graduation with Senior Awards Night. Graduates were joined by friends and family in the school gym for the event, which saw numerous awards and scholarships (worth several hundred thousand dollars) were presented during the May 18 Class Night program. After graduates made the traditional processional to their seats Ronzie Thomas and Isaiah Taylor had the privilege of presenting the state and federal flags. Brittany Blankenchip gave a brief history of the Pledge of Allegiance and then joined Gracie Green in leading the crowd in reciting it. The Pledge was followed by a stunning performance of the "The National Anthem" by Katy Wrinkle. Class Secretary Cassidy Dearman welcomed guests, then turned the podium over to Mary Grace Turner, Hunter Garretson and Matthew Hillman. Turner read scripture from Joshua 1:7-9. Garretson followed with a short devotional and Hillman then offered the invocation. Destiny Street issued special recognitions to school faculty, family members and friends who have supported the class

through the years. She then turned the floor over to GCHS Principal Scott Bray and assistant principal Richard Dickson to begin the presentation of awards. Valedictorian Charlsie Hicks, Salutatorian Shelby Cszasz and Historian Jared Woullard were recognized to begin the presentation of awards. That was followed by recognition of the remaining members of the Class of 2017's Top Ten. The Honors Graduates (in order of their class rank) are Allison Tingle, Tricia Brazell, Cassidy Dearman, Mary Grace Turner, Juli Burnett, Emily Seals and Hunter Garretson. Cszasz was also honored as the school's STAR Student, which is an award given to the classmate with the highest combination of GPA and ACT score by Dec. 31, 2016. Cszasz announced former GCHS science teacher Stephanie Moody as her STAR Teacher and the educator that had the most influence on her during her high school career. "I was fortunate enough to be a student in Mrs. Moody's classroom for three consecutive semesters," Cszasz said. "Because of Mrs. Moody, I was able to finalize my college decision and pinpoint a major." "Thank you Mrs. Moody for all the time you invested in our class and for truly making a difference." Next, Deputy Supt. of Education Duston Turner recognized members of the class inducted into the school's Hall of Fame. The Class of 2017 inductees and their Hall of Fame teachers are Juli Burnett (Josh Everett), Shelby Cszasz (Anna Lauren Prentiss), Zach

Dale (April Scarbrough), Cassidy Dearman (Milton Dearman), Charlsie Hicks (April Scarbrough), Jared Woullard (Coach Fred McCann) and Mary Grace Turner (Principal Scott Bray). This year's Hall of Fame Scholarship awards, which are funded by the elite group's membership, were awarded to Woullard and Turner. Next, Bray named students selected by the GCHS and Greene County Vo-Tech faculty for the citizenship, leadership and best all-around student awards. A male and female student was selected in each category. The Citizenship Award is presented to students recognized as the students who are consistently amiable, polite, well-mannered, selfless and compassionate. The 2017 Citizenship Award winners are Dawson Walley and Holly Updegraff. When selecting the male and female leadership award winners, staff members chose students they see as disciplined, charismatic, humble, persistent and committed to excellence. The 2017 selections are Kole Kittrell and Mary Grace Turner. The Best All-Around Student Awards are given to students who possess the qualities of being a good citizen and leader, while also excelling in the classroom and extra-curricular activities. The students selected as shining in all these aspects are Jared Woullard and Charlsie Hicks. Next Cassidy Dearman was honored as the recipient of the Service Award for her commitment to working on the yearbook staff under Miss Kandi Ham.

Mr. Bray then recognized Sierra West and Shelby Cszasz as the school's inductees in the National Society of High School Scholars. Bray said NSHSS members are "high-achieving scholars with a drive to succeed and a desire to change their world for the better." Students earning the distinction of Mississippi Scholars were recognized by Mr. Dickson. The Mississippi Scholars Program is managed by the Public Education Forum of Mississippi. To become a Mississippi Scholar, students must excel in academics, have an attendance



# Congratulations

to the Class of 2017

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Dear Graduates,

Let us congratulate you on your impressive achievement. We know that it is with great excitement and joy that you will enter the next phase of your future. This important step in your life will not only serve as a time of significant accomplishments but also a major first step in ensuring your success.

Remember to always believe in your dreams, follow your heart and know that God will be with you every step of the way. Again, we congratulate you and may all of your hopes and dreams come true.

Sincerely,

*Ryan Dobbins*

Ryan Dobbins  
Universal Services