

Mississippi College leaders dedicate Lassetter Drive sign

Special to The Clinton Courier

John Lassetter remained passionate about sports, his lifelong career as an educator and his alma mater, Mississippi College.

Late last month, MC leaders recognized his contributions by dedicating Lassetter Drive in his honor on the Clinton campus.

The new street sign guides motorists entering MC's East campus, including the modern University Place residence halls. A Scott County native and 1910 MC graduate, Lassetter served as the able leader of the Clinton public schools from 1923 through 1945.

The Mississippian guided many young people along the right path as principal or superintendent of Clinton High, then part of Hinds County schools.

"Daddy was a firm disciplinarian," recalls his son, Stuart Lassetter, of Clinton.

An extraordinary student-athlete who lettered in five sports at MC, Lassetter enjoyed success as a coach. Teaching in the Phillipines early in his career, he also became the tennis champion of Manila. He was always pretty speedy when running half-mile and five-mile races.

The 5'6" tall Lassetter also showed enormous strength as a Mississippi College educator. He taught summer

classes to Navy men attending MC to step up their training and leadership skills during World War II. He's been nicknamed "Prof" because he taught at MC.

"Dad was a consummate people person," Stuart Lassetter said at the ceremonies that stayed on track despite the summer rain. "He loved his family and the classroom."



John Lassetter

While retired, Prof Lassetter taught in the Jackson public schools in the 1960s and early 1970s. He worked into his late 80s as a parking lot attendant at the Baptist Bookstore in downtown Jackson.

Lassetter Drive replaces the former Lassetter Street sign that once stood in the Clinton neighborhood through the 1930s. It eventually disappeared from Clinton's city maps.

"This is like a resurrection," Stuart Lassetter said.

The sign is located nearby the

"Principal's House," where Lassetter lived for years with his wife and children. The property today houses modern residence halls, art studios for graduate students and the Christian university's band hall.

Sam Gore, the nationally recognized sculptor, joined family members attending the ceremonies.

Gore, 89, the former MC Art Department chairman, maintains close ties to the Lassetter family.

"Dr. Gore was a student here when my father taught school," Stuart Las-

For more information about John Lassetter and his history, accomplishments and family, visit The Clinton Courier's web page at www.theclintoncourier.net.



Members of the Lassetter family (above) attended ceremonies to dedicate Lassetter Drive at Mississippi College near the University Place residence halls. Pictured (l to r) are Mary McLean Beck of Starkville; Gene Everitt of Clinton; Nina Lassetter Compton of Lehigh Acres, Florida; Nancy and Stuart Lassetter of Clinton; and John Lassetter, Jr. of Clinton.



All photos special to The Clinton Courier

setter said. One of Gore's former students, Carrie Reeves, is a Mississippi College art professor and member of the Lassetter family.

MC President Lee Royce said the new Lassetter Drive sign reflects a vibrant Hinds County community with a rich history. The sign dedication comes as Mississippi celebrates its 200th anniversary.

John M. Lassetter has received other notable honors during his lifetime. He's been selected to the Mississippi College Sports Hall of Fame and was named Clinton's Citizen of the Year.

MC's 2017 football season tickets now on sale

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Mississippi College football season and single-game tickets are officially on sale. Tickets are available online or by contacting Missa Turman at 601-925-3341. The ticket office is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Season tickets will be \$60 for reserved chairback seating for all four home games at Robinson-Hale Stadium. Single game tickets for chairback

seating are also on sale for \$15, with general admission spots available for \$10. As always, MC students, faculty and staff are admitted for free.

"There is a lot made out of having a home-field advantage, and for good reason," said head coach John Bland. "Our guys really get going when they see a loud and excited crowd in the stands at Robinson-Hale. We really rely on our fans to give us that extra bit of energy needed to compete in the

Gulf South Conference."

Fans are also encouraged to join the 1st & 10 Gridiron Club to help support the Mississippi College football program. For more information on getting on board, contact football administrative assistant Jourdan Branning at 601-925-3356.

Fans can visit GoChoctaws.com or follow the team on Twitter (@ChoctawSports or @GoChoctawsFB) for more information. The athletic

department sponsors seventeen intercollegiate athletic programs: baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, football, golf, men's and women's soccer, softball, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's indoor track & field, men's and women's outdoor track & field and volleyball.

For more information on Mississippi College athletics, contact David Nichols at 601-925-3234.

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