## Life pales in comparison to living the dream

Good evening parents, either gone or administrators, and fellow classmates. It is an honor to be here as valedictorian for the Greene County High School Class of 2018.

I'd like to start by telling a short story, a modified tale from Bo Burnham's comedy show "What."

"The squares lived happily - in their square houses, in the square yard, in their square town. But then one day a family of circles moved in from the west.

'Get outta here, Roundies!' shouted one of the squares. "whimpering' - Why?" said one of the circles.

Because this is a metaphor for individuality in education."

We are the circles, being told we can accomplish anything but not being given the direction. I still believe we can pursue our dreams. After all, it is our purpose to pave our own roads that will take us where we need to be. It is our own success that we are responsible for.

Over the past four years, I've learned a lot and made memories with a lot of people. Freshman year, as I recall, was not one of the most interesting years I had in Greene County. I made connections with classmen older than me. Being new to high school, I focused on what I had to do before aiming to what I planned to do. Sophomore year came about and most of the friends I had made were

becoming seniors and getting ready to leave.

Junior year put

me in the position

where I became

like the people I'd

underclassmen,

many of which

were freshman and

sophomores.

made

Senior year, this year. I'm

preparing to leave my young

acquaintances behind and

hopefully, the cycle will

continue. Memories from

faculty and friends will

remain with me for a life-

Junior year, I had also

learned a good deal from a

plethora of educators. Some

• Dearman for preparing us

for the test and for a blizzard

in a constant 68-degree

• Bill Ricks for a truly

original approach to algebra

and emphasizing that 76

trombones led the big

• Jenny Layton for lighting

the scientific fire in chem-

istry, not only with matches,

• Lesha Lott for health sci-

District

ence and pushing me to

at

During the entirety of my

high school career, students

in the same grade kept me going. If trying times came,

we stuck together. The fol-

but also with knowledge.

Competition for HOSA.

of these things include:

classroom.

compete

with

met.

friends

By Joshua Thompson

**Address** 

Greene County High School Class of 2018 Valedictorian



lowing classmates come to mind when I think about lasting friendships:

• J.W. – we had practically every class together. We pushed every day to make it to the next, no matter how difficult.

• Kinley – Thanks for the random fist-bumps in the hallway. If one of us were having a bad day, that small interaction acted as a pickme-up.

• The entirety of the accelerated class - I've spent 4 years with mostly you. At first we all didn't get along, but we built relationships, overcame differences, and now we're like a family, not just a group of young adults finishing high school.

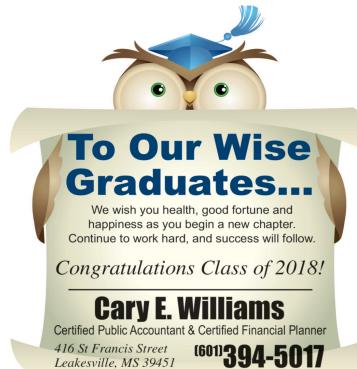
As far as what I've learned this year (other than the headache of having a job and paying bills) is that if you can pursue what you've dreamed of doing, do it, no matter how miniscule the chances of success may seem. I have faith that even in the most dire circumstance, taking charge of our life paths will ultimately lead to victory. As

we cross the field and receive our diplomas tonight, I want to encourage the future generations with this:

"Life pales in comparison to living the dream"

Once again, I'm quoting comedian Bo Burnham.

So that's what we'll do. We WILL live our dreams. When you think class of 2018, think about the most passionate group of students looking for their place in the world, and when we reunite in 10, 20 years, hopefully we can all boast on accomplishing what we planned in high school.





## **Motes graduates** from Mississippi **School for Math** and Science

Special to the Herald

The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) would like to congratulate members of the Class of 2018 on their graduation.

Specifically, MSMS officials would like to honor Julia Leigh Motes of Greene County. She is the daughter of Helen Breeden and Joseph Motes. Julia will be attending the University of Alabama at Birmingham and plans to study Biomedical Sciences.

MSMS is our state's nationally-recognized residential high school for eleventh and twelfth graders. Graduating classes have averaged \$21-million in scholarship offers for the last



Julia Leigh Motes

academically-advanced five years. MSMS graduates attend universities all over Mississippi and the nation. For more information, please visit themsms.org.



Mr. & Mrs. GCHS

Senior year was very good to Hallie Meadows and Tagg Creech. Along with Hallie being elected as Class President and both being inducted into the GCHS Hall of Fame, the two friends were also chosen as Mr. and Mrs. GCHS by their school mates.

## sngratulations GRADUATES

**May the** education & experience you've gained serve you well in the years ahead as you pursue new goals and dreams for the future!



We are proud to recognize three members of the Greene County High School Class of 2018 who are part of the Piggly Wiggly family of employees. Congratulations Christopher McLain, Chase Stringer



Hwy 63 at Lackey St. in Leakesville