

► Awards

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When selecting the male and female leadership award winners, staff members choose students they see as disciplined, charismatic, humble, persistent and committed to excellence. The 2018 selections are Tagg Creech and Hallie Meadows.

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 were Shayden Smith and Kinley Thornton.

Next Chole Rylee and Peyton Rounsaville were honored for their efforts as members of the school's yearbook staff.

Mr. Bray then recognized five students for their selection to 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."

Inducted as part of the NSHSS Class of 2018 were Ranisha Gunn, Jenna Hillman, Savannah Howard, Scarlett Pope and Shayden Smith.

Mr. Bray then recognized seniors who had earned the distinction of being named as Mississippi Scholars. 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 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 2018 earning this distinction were Dylan Jones, Mystica Maxie, Peyton Rounsaville, Shayden Smith, Kaitlyn Snyder, Joshua Thompson and Kinley Thornton.

Vocational Director Leshia Lott also recognized the students who earned the honor of being named Mississippi Tech-Masters, which is the vocational equivalent of the Mississippi Scholars program. The 2018 GCHS Tech-Masters Alanna Darr, Aaron Welsh and Meagan Whiddon.

Lott also announced several other awards and scholarships. She presented Whiddon and Jasper Penton with \$300 scholarship awards for their participation in non-traditional programs.

On behalf of the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation, Lott presented Whiddon with a host of awards, including a \$1,000 scholarship from the National Association of Women in Construction; a \$500 scholarship from the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation (MCEF) and a \$500 prize for being selected as the MCEF Southeast District Student of the Year.

Lott also presented Wesley



GCHS graduates Wesley Byrd and Bryce Johnson are shown receiving a standing ovation from the crowd as they are congratulated by a representative of the National Guard on their decision to enlist in the military organization. Chase Stringer, who has enlisted in the Air Force, was also recognized and received an ovation during the event.

Photos by Russell Turner / Herald Photographer

Byrd with a \$1,000 scholarship from the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association and a \$250 award from the Greene County Cattlemen's Association. Byrd also claimed the Josh Davis Memorial Fund Scholarship from the Mississippi Jr. Beefmaster Breeders Association.

Lott then welcomed Mrs. Bobby Hicks to the podium to recognize the winners of the Garrett Hicks Memorial Foundation Welding Awards. Each of the recipients received on-site job boxes and tools in memory of Hicks' legacy. The recipients were Meagan Whiddon, Landree Smith, Ethan Wilson, Reese Green, Dawson Turner, Shelton Silcox, Jordan Wheeler, Timothy Moody, Braxton Byrd and Erin James.

Joyce Johnson represented her family in presenting scholarships in memory of Rev. T.T. Johnson and Rev. Mike Lewis to Karleah Malone, who received \$2,400 for the two awards and will also receive proceeds from registration fees collected at this past year's Black History Parade in Knobtown.

GCHS alumnus and current State Representative Roun McNeal was next at the podium and presented the Jennifer McNeal Theater Scholarship in honor of the former GCHS drama teacher. The award was given to GCHS Drama Club member Chloe Rylee.

McNeal also presented the Becky Hodges Memorial Scholarship, honoring the memory of the former GCHS instructor, to Joshua Thompson as the school's outstanding English student.

Finally, McNeal, who is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and the UM School of Law, presented Shayden Smith with the Ole Miss Opportunity Scholarship and Chancellor's Leadership Scholarship.

Kinley Thornton and her sister-in-law Kelly Fick Thornton were next at the podium to present a scholarship in honor of their late brother and husband. The Chase Thornton Memorial Scholarship was presented to Mr. Tagg Creech, a student-athlete who demonstrated a love for the game of football similar to that of Thornton.

Kelly Thornton, the niece of former GCHS Principal David Dearman, remained at the podium to present Shayden Smith with the annual David Dearman Memorial Scholarship.

Representing the Farm Bureau Foundation, former Greene County educator Lou Hillman presented the federation's agriculture scholarship to Katie Pope.

Tara Tillman, of the Ladies Variety Club, presented Shayden Smith with that organization's scholarship, while Jennifer McNeal presented Keelin McCoy with the Three Arts Club scholarship. McNeal noted that McCoy's gift for the written and spoken word has club members expecting to one day be reviewing the graduate's literary works.

Greene County Historical Society officer Juanita Hollinghead was on hand to present the Greene County Museum Scholarship to Kinley Thornton.

Representatives of American Legion Post 80 were in attendance to recognize Peyton Rounsaville as the recipient of the post's Citizenship Award, while Kaitlyn Snyder was presented with a scholarship from Leakesville Lodge 420.

Sgt. Haley of the U.S. Marine Corps took the podium to present awards to Wesley Harvison (Semper Fidelis Musical Excellence Award); Shayden Smith (Scholastic Excellence Award); Caleb Strickland

(Distinguished Athlete Award); and Jenna Hillman (Citizenship Award).

Next, a representative of the National Guard recognized Wesley Byrd and Bryce Johnson as enlistees for the National Guard. Then, Mr. Bray recognized Air Force recruit Chase Stringer for his commitment to serve in the armed forces. All three young men were given standing ovations from their classmates and others in attendance.

Next, Neosha Street and Betty Fairley approached the podium to present Dr. Linwood Bolton, Sr. Scholarships to Shayden Smith and Karleah Malone.

The Carli Brewer Memorial Scholarship, which is presented annually by Brewer's fami-

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Not Pictured: Dawson Hobby - LJHS 8th Grade Class

and Garrett Hillman - GCHS Class of 2018

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CONGRATULATIONS

Jay



Good Luck!

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WE LOVE YOU! Dad, Mom, Nana, Pappy, SaVanna & McKinley


The Lord is my light and my salvation—

WHOM SHALL I FEAR?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—

OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?

Psalm 27:1



Wishing our

Class of

2018

graduates

much success

and happiness

on the road

ahead.

Thanks for setting the

example with your hard work


and dedication.

We're very proud of you.

Congratulations!

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