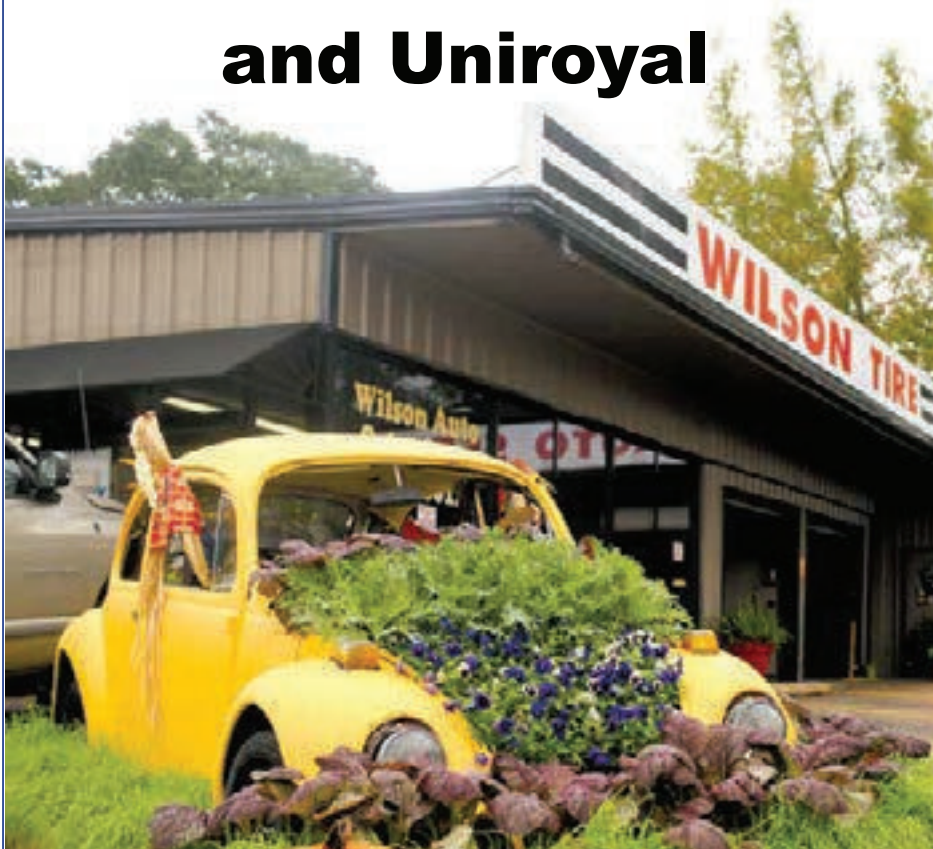


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MC Trustee plans run for Attorney General

Special to The Clinton Courier

Mississippi College alumnus and trustee Andy Taggart has announced his candidacy for Attorney General of the State of Mississippi.

Over the past three decades, Taggart has served as a practicing attorney and counsel to many of the state's top leaders. For the past seven years, spurred by a tragic, personal loss, Taggart has served as a passionate crusader among young people and families battling illicit drugs. He believes the fight against drugs, and the predators who profit from others' destruction, should be top priority for law enforcement, led by the state's next Attorney General.

"This fight has led me to run for this office. This is something I have believed needed to happen for a long time, and now my family and I are healthy enough to take it on," said Taggart on his decision to run. "The time is right to step into the future, now as champions – no longer as victims – in the war against the scourge on our communities that is the poison of drugs."

Taggart has been a part of life at Mississippi College since he enrolled as a freshman from Moss Point in the fall of 1975. It was at MC that he met his wife of thirty-six years, the former Karen Bronson, from Jacksonville, Florida. Serving his senior year as SGA President on the campus, Andy graduated from MC with a B.A. in 1979, and Karen with a B.S. in 1982. Their son Rob Taggart is a graduate of MC, as well.

Andy Taggart taught as an adjunct professor at the Clinton campus for several semesters, and more recently, Taggart is in his third term of service on the MC Board of Trustees, and in his second stint as Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee of the board. For many years he has served as emcee at the highly successful Don Phillips Dinner for Athletics at MC, and on the last Friday in March of this year, Taggart offered the formal introduction of MC President Dr. Blake Thompson at the new president's official inauguration ceremony.

Andy Taggart has also been at the forefront of the Mississippi Republican Party throughout his adult life, having served as the state's College and University Campus Director for Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign in 1980, as Political Director of the state GOP, and then in the leadership of President Reagan's re-election effort as Executive Director of the Mississippi Republican Party in 1984.

In 1991, Taggart helped elect Kirk Fordice as the first Republican Governor of Mississippi in the modern era. He then served as Gov. Fordice's Chief of Staff and Counsel, where he



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Andy Taggart, MC Trustee, has announced a run for Mississippi Attorney General.

was instrumental in the ramp-up of Mississippi's first Republican administration in the twentieth century.

Taggart served as Litigation Counsel to Governor Haley Barbour and Audit Counsel to then-State Auditor Phil Bryant. He was named by Governor Phil Bryant as Co-Chairman of the Mississippi Department of Corrections Task Force to help restore public confidence and trust in the operations of state government after a huge bribery scandal shook that department. Taggart is also one of Governor Bryant's appointees to the Mississippi Judicial Appointments Advisory Committee.

In addition to being counsel to the state's leaders, Taggart has held the coveted "AV" rating for lawyers from Martindale-Hubbell® for twenty years. Considered one of the state's top political minds, Taggart is co-author of two popular books, *Mississippi Politics: The Struggle for Power*, 1976-2008, which earned two literary awards in its first year of publication, and a lighter book of political anecdotes, *Mississippi Fried Politics: Tall Tales from the Back Rooms*. He has also authored or co-authored works published by *The Mississippi Law Journal*, *The Mississippi Lawyer*, *The Journal of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences*, *The Journal of Mississippi History*, and frequently contributes to other publications.

Previously, Taggart served as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Center for Public Policy, and as Chairman of the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership. He was elected to a term of service on the Madison County Board of Supervisors. He was elected President of that Board in January 2007, where he served until the end of his term in early 2008.

Andy Taggart received his Juris Doctor cum laude from Tulane University School of Law in 1984. He has been married to Karen Taggart for thirty-six years; they are parents to three sons and proud grandparents of a baby girl.