

Numerous graduates with county ties earn collegiate degrees

— From Staff Reports —

While Jones College had the honor of claiming the most graduates from Greene County or with local connections, numerous other schools now have locals among their alumni.

Amanda Joyce Johnson is one of those. Johnson returned to school last year to pursue a Master's of Science Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and earned that advanced degree through William Carey University's Tradition Campus in Biloxi this past spring.

Up in Hattiesburg, at least two more Greene County students earned Bachelor's degrees, Mary Grace Turner earned her Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, while Kalyn Melissa Dial earned hers in Elementary Education. Both are pursuing advanced degrees in their fields.

Across town, Alyssa Jade Byrd graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor

degree in business. She was recently accepted into William Carey University degree program. She will obtain her master in bio-medical science. From there she plans to pursue her doctoral degree to become a Doctor of dental surgery and eventually open her own dental practice.

Several other local students were recognized when USM awarded undergraduate, graduate and specialist degrees to more than 1,900 students graduating in the spring 2021 semester.

Martie Neely McLeod earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, while Racheal Marie Williams, of McLain, and State Line's Caitlyn Ashley Tate earned the Bachelor degrees as well.

Richton students Debecca Lee Brewer (B.S.), Maggie Elizabeth Smith (B.A.), Chloe Anesha Rylee (B.S.), Manuel Gerardo Vega Jr. (B.S.), Bethany Karoline Draughn (B.S.), Hailey Scott Hopkins (B.S.), Lindsey

Alyssa Crane (M.A.) and Shelby Milia Dolbear (M.S.) were also among the students listed by the university as spring graduates.

Jackson Russell Turner, a graduate of GCHS and Pearl River Community College, recently graduated from the Cardiac and Vascular Institute of Ultrasound in Mobile, Ala.

Turner's Class of 2017 classmate at GCHS Brice Fortinberry recently graduated from Mississippi State University with a B.S. in Agriculture Education Leadership and Communication with an emphasis in leadership and is set to begin graduate studies at the University of Arkansas in August.

Also graduating from MSU this spring was Jordan

Roberts, who earned her B.S. in Forestry from the school.

Over in Tuscaloosa, the University of Alabama awarded a Master of Social Work to Dominic Gandy of Richton.

Hinds Community College held three graduation ceremonies earlier this month. Among those who graduating with Associate Degrees were Christopher Wilson, Jr., of Leakesville, and Erica Walters, of Lucedale.

Pearl River Community College in Poplarville has also been a popular spot for GCHS graduates to continue their educations. A complete list of graduates was not made available, but Tylee McCann, of Leakesville, was one local student known to be among graduates from PRCC this spring.



Contributed Photo

GCHS alumnus Kalyn Melissa Dial recently earned her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from William Carey University. Kalyn, who plans to now pursue a graduate degree, is shown here with her father, David Dial,



Contributed Photo

Alyssa Jade Byrd was among several local grads from the University of Southern Mississippi this spring. Byrd will now move on to William Carey University to continue her work toward becoming a dental surgeon.



Contributed Photo

Amanda Joyce Johnson, of Knobtown, demonstrated her commitment to lifelong learning by returning to college and earning a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from William Carey University this spring.



Wherever the road takes you after graduation, we wish you much happiness and success. May your education and experience lay the foundation for a bright future as you continue on your way.

Congratulations Class of 2021
especially these special friends and family members of our employees



Mason Brewer



MaLeah Brewer



Kahayla Eubanks



Jacob McLeod



Trevor McLeod



Marci Walley

Congratulations

to our graduate
Isaiah Byrd

and the Class of 2021

Hip-hip-hooray! It's your special day. We wish you all the best!

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