

MC's Music Department chair Willoughby to retire



MC Music Department Chair Angela Willoughby

Special to The Clinton Courier

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The chair of the university's Music Department and an accomplished pianist, Dr. Angela Willoughby, is retiring at the end of the academic year.

Willoughby began studying piano at age seven, growing up in Rayville, Louisiana. Her accomplishments ever since are off the charts, whether teaching, collaborating with other artists, or going solo.

Dr. Willoughby says she feels blessed to have become an MC professor one year after earning her doctorate in musical arts in piano performance at Louisiana State University.

"I am grateful that I've had the opportunity to mentor so many gifted and committed pianists who have gone on to highly successful careers," the Clinton resident said.

It's a venerable Baptist-affiliated institution where faith is shared daily with musical guidance.

"The Christian atmosphere and culture of caring for students have been the perfect environment for my students and me, as well. I will miss getting to know new students."

Away from the Clinton campus, Dr. Willoughby shared her musical gifts in church for decades. She's served as a pianist, organist, organist-choirmaster, or choral director. Her first performance came as a fourteen-year-old Louisiana girl.

"From the first, playing in churches was to meet the needs of churches. But, over the years, I realized that it was most importantly my own personal way to worship."

Willoughby polished her craft on the piano as an MC music student, beginning as a freshman in 1977. She graduated from Mississippi College in 1981 with a bachelor of music in piano performance. Her master's of music in piano performance came in 1983.

The incoming Music Department chair will be professor Ben Williams. Now

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