

# Holmes wins Grand Award, multiple honors at CPRAM



Front row, l-r: Jordan Heflin, Maggie Robinson, Stephanie Wood, Mary Margaret Busby, Amanda Lindsey, Haley DeNoon. Back row: Nikki Boutwell, Steve Difley, and Dr. Lindy McCain. Not pictured: Katherine Ellard.

Holmes Community College representatives attended the 2026 College Public Relations Association of Mississippi (CPRAM) Annual Conference May 18-20 at Northwest Mississippi Community College

in Senatobia, earning multiple awards in the community college division for excellence in marketing, communications and public relations.

The annual CPRAM Conference brings together

public relations and marketing professionals from two- and four-year colleges and universities across Mississippi for professional development, networking and recognition of outstanding work in communications,

advertising, graphic design, social media and media relations.

Holmes attendees included District Director of Communications and Associate Athletic Director for External Relations Steve Diffey, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Lindy McCain, Alumni Coordinator and Goodman Campus Public Relations Specialist Katherine Ellard, Goodman Recruiter Nikki Boutwell, Grenada Recruiter and Public Relations Specialist Haley DeNoon, Ridgeland Recruiter Amanda Lindsey, Multimedia Specialist Stephanie Wood, Ridgeland Public Relations Specialist and Journalism Instructor Mary Margaret Busby, Graphic Designer Maggie Robinson, and Ridgeland Student Activities Director and Student Support Services Coordinator Jordan Heflin.

Leading the honors for the college, Wood received the Grand Award for for "Media Guide Cover." The Grand Award is one of the conference's top overall honors, recognizing the absolute highest level of excellence in design and communications. Wood also won first place in the single piece of artwork sports category for the same entry.

Additionally, Wood partnered with Ellard to earn first place in the newsletter category for "Paw-Prints Newsletter." Wood also secured first place in the viewbook/admissions and recruitment piece category for "Holmes At-A-Glance" and took home

second-place honors in the advertisement category for "100-Year Ad," environmental designs/exhibitions for "Coliseum Renovation" and digital art/photo illustration for "You're A Bulldog – Northpark Mall Video Ad."

Former Holmes employee Jill Sowell received first place in the single piece of artwork category for "Freshman Friday Marketing."

Robinson earned first place in the social media sports post category for "Thursday Night Lights are Back" and second place in

the social media non-sports account category for the Holmes CC Instagram account.

Busby won first place in the news story category for "Holmes Launches Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology."

CPRAM recognizes outstanding achievement in public relations, marketing and communications among Mississippi's community colleges, junior colleges and universities through annual competitions, workshops and professional development opportunities.

## Wilson Elected into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA (04/20/2026)-- Ashley Wilson of Lexington, Mississippi, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Delta State University.

Wilson is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate stu-

dents in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and its territories. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning."



Over the past few weeks, I have enjoyed some fishing trips with other people. I love to see others catch fish or have a successful hunt. I have had my share of those moments, so I don't need to have everything about me. But there are times when I do make it about me. My next plans are to be dropped off at the river and to float down the river, and fish by myself from my kayak. Those hours alone produce so much more than what fish I may or may not catch. I also think about my Pinnacle bike rides. This article is a product of one of those trips, where it was just me, God, and few deer and turkeys. I never fail to get what I need from God when I make these trips. I believe God wants that as well. Let me say it this way. Sometimes it's all about me. Not God. Not you. But me. Let me say it another way. Sometimes God makes things all about you. Sometimes it's for something that He wants to give. And sometimes it's for something He wants to check. Let me illustrate.

Some time ago I was contacted by someone who needed financial help from my church. The problem

was, I was no longer pastoring a church. It would have been easy to move them on, but in my spirit (while I was riding my bike), God said to me, this needs to come from your ministry – that I am the pastor of Outdoor Truths Ministry. So, before I agreed, I gave God my bank account number to make sure He had the right person. Well, I didn't, but the idea crossed my mind. But the thing that I remember most about this encounter with God, was that He also let me know that this thing I was supposed to do, was not about the person in need, but about me. He was saying to me that the person's worthiness was none of my business. No vetting. No references. No follow ups. I was just to do what God asked me to do. So, thankfully I did. What I understood as God was leading me this way, was that He was doing a heart check. He was checking if my faith was still in God or had it moved to my ministry. Was I depending on the blessings or the One giving the blessings. On that day, I passed the test. But another one will come.

My friend, at times in your life, God is going to make it

about you. You are going to want to analyze, compromise, and debate. You are going to crunch the numbers, and the numbers will be in your favor. The devil will then assure you that God would never ask you to do something so irresponsible. But there will be a still small voice that will remind you that this thing that God is asking you to do, is only about you. Your obedience. Your faith. Your heart. But the truth is, just like my test, your test will not come so that God can find out where your heart is. He already knows. It will come so that you and I can find out where our heart really is. It will be right where our treasure is. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." ~Jesus

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Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 23 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. Stay updated on Outdoor Truths each week by subscribing at [Outdoortruths.org](http://Outdoortruths.org)



## WE ARE ALL



## WONDERFULLY MADE

### HCCSD Dept. of Exceptional Services

Are you concerned about your child's speech, learning, behavior, or development?

## WHAT IS CHILD FIND?

Child Find is a process required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to identify, locate, and evaluate all children from birth through 21 years of age who may have disabilities and may need early intervention or special education services. It is an ongoing process of public awareness activities and evaluations to ensure children with special needs can receive the help they need to succeed as early as possible.

**How are children identified and located?**

Anyone concerned about a child's speech, learning, behavior, or development can make a Child Find request. A multidisciplinary evaluation team will meet with the family within 14 days to decide if an evaluation is needed. If so, written permission from the child's parent is required before an evaluation is conducted.

**What is a multidisciplinary evaluation?**

A multidisciplinary evaluation will involve a series of observations and tests with the child and interviews with caregivers conducted by two or more specialists such as a speech language pathologist, a school psychologist, or a special educator. A written summary of this evaluation will be provided to the family and a meeting will be held to determine if the child needs special services.

**Who should I contact about making a Child Find request?**

For a childbirth through two years, contact your local Health Dept. For a child three to twenty-one years, contact your local school district.

**What should I bring to the meeting to determine if a multidisciplinary evaluation is necessary?**

Although you do not have to bring anything with you, any records or information you have that can assist you in describing your concerns about your child would be helpful.

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