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Spotlight on MSH Psychology Doctoral Internship Program

By: Julie Cox

In May of 1997, Mr. James G. Chastain took the first step in making the Psychology Internship Program a reality. Over the course of the next two years, the program accepted applications and welcomed its first class of Interns on August 17, 1998, became accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) on July 29, 1999, held its first Intern Class Award Ceremony on August 11, 1999, and has been welcoming classes of Interns ever since. In fact, since 1998, MSH has hosted and graduated approximately 100 doctors from its Psychology Doctoral Internship Program. And as hoped, many of those have stayed in Mississippi or at MSH.

Currently, four of the 14 Training Committee members are licensed psychologists that completed their internship at MSH. Seven members of the Training Committee are former MSH interns, and none of those seven are from Mississippi originally. Half of all rotations offered are supervised by graduates of our program.

Dr. Mary Angelo, a Brandon native, serves as the Training Director for the Psychology Doctoral Internship Program. She joined MSH in 2013 and has worked on Female Receiving Service, Substance Use Service, and at the Jaquith Nursing Home as the Psychology



2022- 2023 MSH Psychology Doctoral Interns - Pictured left to right - Jackie Branche, Kenzie Bohnsack, Karen Van Winkle, and Adam Bucher

Director. In 2018, she became the Training Director and feels her experience working on the various buildings have given her a unique insight in how the buildings function, which helps her serve the patients and residents more effectively in her current role.

Dr. Angelo and Dr. Joe Griebler, Director of Behavioral Health Services (BHS), agree that, “The Training Department helps to serve as a psychologist in training “feeder” for the state and our hospital, and the knowledge and energy they bring to our department each year enhances our collective ability to provide services for individuals who are truly in need.” Dr. Angelo added, “We draw talent from the entire nation and Canada. We attract the best and the brightest to MSH and hope they are drawn to the community-oriented, tight-knit, passionate program we’ve built and stay either at MSH or in Mississippi.”

The program receives approximately 30-40 applications each year. About 24 of those applicants receive interviews with faculty members. Using a combination of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) matching system and half-day interviews with members of the internship faculty and current interns in the program, only four of those are accepted into

the year-long internship.

The MSH Psychology Doctoral Internship Program is a mutually beneficial relationship between the Interns and MSH. Interns are paid a competitive salary during their time at MSH and receive hands-on experiential learning. For MSH, having professionals that are only one step away from completing their education is valuable because we receive the benefit of their knowledge. Throughout their training, interns are considered colleagues in training, and are therefore held to standards commensurate with such an advanced role. However, all work performed by interns is supervised and everything they do is signed off on by a licensed psychologist on staff at MSH.

The MSH Doctoral Internship is best suited for students seeking clinical and professional training in an intensive inpatient setting. The focus of the program is the development of strong, generalist practitioner skills, however, specialty rotations are available. The Training Department is dedicated to helping interns feel well-equipped prior to treating patients. The first three weeks of internship are devoted to general MSH orientation, BHS orientation, and a discussion of all available rotations. Rotations are offered in Adult Receiving, Child

and Adolescent Service, Substance Use Service, Administrative Psychology, Assessment, Continued Treatment Service, Forensic Treatment Service, and Geropsychology.

By the end of their internship, interns should consistently demonstrate professionalism, develop meaningful and effective interpersonal relationships with individuals and groups, demonstrate a capacity to independently engage in clinical activities of professional psychologists, become skilled educators of the information and skills of professional psychology, and participate

as an active member of interdisciplinary systems, developing and maintaining effective collaborative relationships with members of multiple professional disciplines. These goals are achieved by a weekly schedule of patient care activities including individual and group therapy, psychological evaluations, suicide risk assessments, admissions, participation in the interdisciplinary treatments teams, clinical supervision of practicum students, and presentations to training faculty and the BHS department staff. Interns receive approximately five hours a week of supervision by licensed

psychologists and are formally evaluated six times a year by supervisors.

MSH provides a rich learning environment where psychology interns have the unique opportunity to care for patients with common psychological disorders, as well as patients with rare and unique disorders that most interns will only read about. As one of only a few state hospitals that still provide full life-span care, the treatment experiences at MSH are virtually limitless.

Suicide Risk Processes at MSH

Commission revised the National Patient Safety Goals. As a result of that, everyone admitted or transferred to MSH is screened for suicide using a standardized and evidence-based system to address suicide risk, including identification of risk and protective factors.”

MSH uses the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale – Screen Version (CSSRS-SV) to screen patients for suicide risk on the day of admission or transfer. For the screener, the patient is interviewed by BHS Masters level staff. BHS has expanded the CSSRS-SV to address additional risk factors for suicide behavior. Documentation and medical records are reviewed alongside the interview process to determine screener results and what further, if any, processes need to be conducted for the individual. Annual screenings are also done should the individual’s stay at MSH be long-term.

Depending on the results of that screener, a Suicide Risk Assessment (SRA) might then be performed. A SRA is a detailed clinical interview performed by BHS (Doctor level, Master’s staff with Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), or supervised Doctoral Interns) to determine levels of trauma, engagement, symptoms currently experiencing, behaviors, medical issues, history of psychiatric treatment, substance abuse, history of suicide ideation/behavior, supports, etc.

A Safety Plan is put together by BHS staff if there is any level of ideation or ideation with method in the past month or a lifetime attempt with moderate to severe physical damage. A SRA is done if there is suicide intent/plan in past month or suicide behavior in the past three months. In the summer of 2016, the suicide risk assessment process was revised, using a risk formulation model to address treatment issues and prevention of suicide. The risk formulation model addresses dynamic changing risk factors

such as living situation, substance use, level of suicidal thinking and behavior, and determine if the individual’s risk state is currently elevated, indicating the need for suicide specific interventions.”

MSH uses two suicide-specific interventions: the Stanley & Brown Safety Plan Intervention (SPI) and the Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS). These interventions are specific to addressing suicide. Once the SRA is completed, the BHS staff makes recommendations to the treatment team to address suicidality. If there is an elevated risk, suicide specific issues are noted in the treatment plan. Additionally, recommendations to prevent suicide are made that address treatment and social service needs both in the hospital and following discharge. The treatment team and BHS coordinates

with Social Workers to ensure the individual has the appropriate coping skills, resources, and supports needed for life outside of MSH.

BHS has completed approximately 1,000 SRAs since implemented in October 2016, that’s over 15 per month. Per Fiscal Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2022 reports, 12-14% of admissions required an SRA.

Dr. Giambone shared, “In the 2018 Joint Commission survey, the surveyors were very complimentary of the MSH SRA process and the individualization of our assessments.” MSH has a comprehensive process to identify and address suicide risk. This process plays a role in the Risk Mitigation Plan, which is in place due to environmental risks. As a part of that plan, BHS Quality Assurance staff review all admission/transfer packets and documentation, along with each CSSRS-SV, to ensure a thorough screening has been done for every individual.

Behavioral Health Services Assessment Team at Mississippi State Hospital



Dr. Shenita Lyons,
Behavioral Health
Services (BHS) Assessment
Team Director

When a MSH patient is not responding to treatment, Dr. Shenita Lyons, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Assessment Team Director, and her BHS Assessment Team attempt to identify what major factors could be impeding the treatment process through psychological testing. Such testing provides direction to improve the quality of life for a patient by painting a comprehensive picture of the individual being tested. Testing results can yield dynamic insights into the inner workings of an individual, yielding invaluable information for diagnosis, potential intervention, and prognosis (Wright, 2021).

Dr. Lyons is originally from Chicago but moved to Mississippi at the age of 21 to attend Jackson State University, enjoy a slower pace of life, and be near family in the area. She completed her internship and fellowship at the University of Oklahoma Health Consortium and is a Licensed Psychologist. In 2012, Lyons joined MSH as a Behavioral Health Clinician at Jaquith Nursing Home (JNH). After eight months, she was promoted to JNH Director of Psychological Services. In 2015, she headed back to the University of Oklahoma to serve as the Training Director of the Psychology Internship Program. After a year there, she returned to the Jackson area and opened a private practice. In 2020, MSH welcomed her back as the Assessment Team Director and Assessment Primary Rotation Supervisor. In this role she primarily conducts and supervises Suicide Risk Assessments, and Comprehensive Psychological Evaluations, the focus for this article.

At MSH, comprehensive and abbreviated psychological evaluations are initiated from referrals by Service Chiefs, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Nurses, and respective treatment teams to identify why a patient is not responding to their current treatment plan. Specifically, these consultations are

typically requested for diagnostic clarification, cognitive/intelligence testing, personality testing, neurocognitive testing, placement purposes, and psychological evaluation updates.

The assessment process involves conducting a clinical interview and behavioral observations, consulting with interprofessional staff, interviewing collateral informants, extensive chart review, selecting a battery of tests, test administration, scoring and interpreting test data, writing a psychological report, and providing a feedback session. This process can take up to 7-10 days. Though extended time is required for more complicated cases and/or unforeseen circumstances.

When asked what might hinder the assessment process, Dr. Lyons stated patient’s poor adherence to medications or other treatments, testing referral has to be discontinued or placed on hold due to patient’s acute psychosis or depression that can potentially interfere with testing performance or testing results, obtaining conservator consent, integrating a large quantity of highly complex data, which can be incredibly time consuming, or unexpected discharge before testing is completed. Dr. Lyons mentioned that she and her team cannot answer every question and there remains unanswerable questions because of insufficient data. She also stated, the assessment team must know the limitations of testing measures and the limits of their own knowledge base before determining whether they can tackle a referral sent to them.

As the Assessment Team Director, Dr. Lyons has a vision to evolve assessment proper towards “Measurement-Based Care” for all admissions to MSH. With this goal, her hope is to build upon a collaborative relationship with Psychiatrists, Physicians, Nurses, and other interprofessional staff to inform treatment and to answer questions that an interview and other routine interventions cannot adequately determine. Measures being considered will establish baseline data, have brief administration time, can monitor/track progress, measure outcome, can provide information that is critical to

supplement the diagnostic process, and insights gained through this screening may suggest the need for a more in-depth clinical interview and/or comprehensive psychological evaluation. She is excited that one of the current psychology interns she supervises shares a similar vision. This approach will aid in formulating an evidence-based clinical approach and can provide useful recommendations.

When talking with Dr. Lyons, you can clearly tell she has a heart for the patients at MSH. She explained that “often the behavior you are initially observing doesn’t represent the whole person. One of our jobs as an assessor is to identify what is the core issue driving such behaviors.” She encourages her staff and doctoral interns, “when you approach your patient for your first encounter, I want you to observe without evaluating. Eventually, we will get to diagnostic impressions, but when you make that initial contact, just be there... be present with your patient.”

Dr. Lyons has fond memories of her time at JNH, “Jaquith taught me how to serve others with humility, dignity, patience, and grace... it will forever have a place in my heart. The residents at JNH aren’t looking to finish treatment and go home, they are at home and the staff becomes their family. We celebrated holidays and birthdays together, just like a family.”

Her grandmother played a significant role and had an amazing impact on Dr. Lyons’ life through her actions and example, which has influenced her approach to patient care. She taught her family over everything, follow purpose over chasing material things, offer love and acceptance over judgment to inspire and shine light onto others. Dr. Lyons shared, “I feel blessed and fortunate to have discovered my path in life with support, because not everyone has that. Sometimes all a person might need is for someone to listen to them and to hear their heart’s cry.... that’s the best gift my grandmother could have ever given me.”



1999- 2000 MSH Psychology Doctoral Interns- Pictured left to right - Joel Martin, Cyndi Nail, Jennifer Giambone, and Eric Monthei

The experience of suicide ideation and/or behavior is associated with many mental health disorders. Due to this, every individual admitted to or transferred between services at MSH must be evaluated for suicide risk. Behavior Health Services (BHS) has a fine-tuned process for addressing suicide risk.

We sat down with Dr. Jennifer Giambone to discuss those suicide processes and how they contribute to the safety of every patient at MSH. Dr. Giambone has 23 years of experience at MSH. She is originally from Maryland, but came to MSH as a Psychology Doctoral Intern in 1999 and never left! Once she completed her internship, she joined the Community Services Division at MSH and served there until 2014 when that unit closed. Afterwards, she moved to the inpatient side of things and in 2018 she became the Assistant Director of BHS. She also serves as the Practicum Program Coordinator for Masters and Doctoral students who come to MSH each year to receive their clinical or counseling psychology training and serves as adjunct faculty to the MSH Psychology Doctoral Internship Program, which is under the direction of Dr. Mary Ashley Angelo.

Dr. Giambone stressed that, “Suicide is always a concern for people with mental or psychiatric conditions.” She added, “In 2016, the Joint

MSH August Employees of Month



DIRECT CARE
SAMBREANNA BRUMFIELD
BUILDING 90, C-SHIFT

Sambreanna Brumfield has been named Mississippi State Hospital's August Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

Ms. Brumfield is a Pearl native. She attended Pearl High School and Jackson State University. She is currently working on a degree in Health Sciences at Holmes Community College. She works as a Support Care Professional III in the IPS Division and has been employed at MSH since 2020.

"Sambreanna is a joy to work with," said Lynda McFarland, who nominated Brumfield. "She works well with staff and interacts with the patients in a positive way. Sambreanna goes that extra mile and is always helpful to anyone in need. She is respectful to staff and patients and seems to enjoy her job here at MSH. She is definitely an asset."



CLINICAL SERVICE
KATIE BURNS
BUILDING 22, A-SHIFT

Katie Burns has been named Mississippi State Hospital's August Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

A Florence native, Ms. Burns attended McLaurin High School, Hinds Community College, Jones Community College, and Mississippi University for Women. She serves as Nurse Case Manager II in the Utilization Management Department and has been employed at MSH since 2016.

Ms. Burns was nominated as Employee of the Month by Ms. Donna Boykin and Ms. Julie Johnson. They both agree that Katie is always willing to learn new things in order to fill in and take on other roles when needed. Ms. Boykin describes Katie as, "an employee who does her job without close supervision." Ms. Johnson, Katie's supervisor adds, "Katie is an invaluable employee. Her heart is always for the patients. She gives each day her all. She treats the patients and staff with dignity and respect. She is an asset as a co-worker and an example of teamwork."



SUPPORT SERVICES
CHASE MIDDLETON
BUILDING 55, A-SHIFT

Chase Middleton has been named Mississippi State Hospital's August Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Mr. Middleton was born in Laurel but grew up in Pearl. He attended Pearl High School and Meridian Community College. He serves as a Facilities Maintenance Manager in the Maintenance Department and has been employed at MSH since 2016.

"Chase's work attire always includes a smile. There's never a job beneath him or too big for him. Whether it's TJC prep or Board meeting prep, last minute notice or notice in advance, he shows up with tools and goes to work," said Amanda Matson, who nominated Middleton. Matson added, "Chase is a good example for those around him and an invaluable contributor to our maintenance department."

MSH September Employees of Month



DIRECT CARE
SHERRI PROCTOR
BUILDING 87, A-SHIFT

Sherri Proctor has been named Mississippi State Hospital's September Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

She works as a Support Care Professional Team Lead and has been employed at MSH since 1998.

"Sherri is a very hard worker and is dependable," said Dr. John Norton, who nominated Proctor. "She is kind to patients and staff. She is a role model to others. Other staff members describe her as a pleasure to work with, she is such an asset to MSH."



CLINICAL SERVICE
DELORIS KIRKLAND
BUILDING 60, B-SHIFT

Deloris Kirkland has been named Mississippi State Hospital's September Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

Born in Mobile, AL, Ms. Kirkland attended George County High School, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Jones County Junior College, University of South Alabama, and William Carey College. She serves as a Licensed Practical Nurse at WMSH and has been employed at MSH since 2020.

"Deloris Kirkland is the most caring, compassionate nurse I know. She is a team player and does whatever it takes to make the unit run smoothly. She comes in on her day off and works extra shifts when there is not enough staff," said Jessie Slaughter, who nominated Kirkland.

SUPPORT SERVICES
MINNIE THOMAS
BUILDING 51, A-SHIFT

Minnie Thomas has been named Mississippi State Hospital's September Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Born in Raymond, MS, Ms. Thomas attended Raymond High School and Hinds Community College. She serves as an Administrative Assistant II in Behavioral Health Services and has been employed at MSH since 2014.

"Ms. Minnie has worked in BHS for six years and continues to be a tremendous asset to everyone she encounters," said Dr. Antwynette Shields, who nominated Thomas. "She takes pride in her administrative duties and goes above and beyond to support our department. She is the ideal 'work mom' and is always eager to find solutions to problems that arise. Ms. Minnie is reliable, trustworthy, and consistently goes beyond the call of duty to do whatever is asked of her. She certainly embodies the core values of MSH, and we are blessed to have her as a part of BHS."

2022 Aug/Sept 20+ Years of Service Recognition

August



TERESA LORRAINE WILSON

ADMIN SUPPORT ASSISTANT III

BUILDING 60, A-SHIFT

Teresa Lorraine Wilson of Crystal Springs was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. A Crystal Springs native, Ms. Wilson attended

Crystal Springs Senior High School and Utica Junior College. She enjoys working with the people here at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys crafting, sewing, and music. She is an Admin Support Assistant III at Whitfield Medical Surgical Hospital and has been employed at MSH since 2002.

September



FELICIA ANN THOMPSON

LAUNDRY WORKER TEAM LEAD

BUILDING 54, A-SHIFT

Felicia Ann Thompson of Jackson was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Thompson attended Lanier High School. She enjoys working at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, eating, and shopping.

She is a Laundry Worker Team Lead in Environmental Services and has been employed at MSH since 2002.



SHELLI MCALPHIN (PITTS) WEST

LICENSED NURSE PRACTICAL

BUILDING 87, A-SHIFT

Shelli Mcalpin West of Pearl was recognized for providing 25 years of service to the hospital. Ms. West attended Brandon High School and Nursing Allied Health Center. She enjoys making the patients feel cared for at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys road trips, vacations, and salt water fishing. She is a Licensed Practical Nurse in Nursing Services and has been employed at MSH since 1997.



TESS ANN JONES

ADMIN SUPPORT ASSISTANT III

BUILDING 202, A-SHIFT

Tess Ann Jones of Brandon was recognized for providing 25 years of service to the hospital. Born in Florence and now living in Brandon, Ms. Jones attended Florence High School and

Tougaloo College. She enjoys working and greeting people at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys family time and cooking. She is an Admin Support Assistant III in Admissions and has been employed at MSH since 1997.



JENNY REBECCA PITTMAN

RISK MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

BUILDING 21, A-SHIFT

Jenny Pittman of Brandon was recognized for providing 20 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Pittman attended Clinton High School and Mississippi College. She enjoys helping people, problem solving, and investigating as part of her duties

here at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hunting, shooting, and cooking with friends. She is the Risk Management Director and has been employed at MSH since 2002.

MISSISSIPPI STATE HOSPITAL SERVICE AWARDS

AUGUST

NAME	YRS
JHANIA GABRIELL ROBINSON	1
DONKEISHIA MARIE GRANT	1
NATHANIEL AUSTIN	1
DVON PRENTIS GRAISE	1
BREAUNA DELORIS NICOLE RAWLS	1
ALDASMINE KEAIRAY VETT SIMS	1
DONNA MARIE SANFORD	1
ALLISON IRENE HOLLY	1
BRITTANY LEIGH SPENCE SAPP	1
LAILA NICOLE MOUSSI	1
KATHERINE BRITTA MCLACHLAN	1
WHITNEY CATHERINE COWELL	1
ANTIONETTE LASHAE WOMACK	1
JON C JACKSON	5
BELINDA SIMPSON	5
SHANDA REE RATLIFF	10
MARCELE LAKEITH CLAY	10
SUSAN M JENNINGS	10
STEPHEN KEN STRONG	15
TERESA LORRAINE WILSON	20
TESS ANN JONES	25

SEPTEMBER

NAME	YRS
ROSHANA MONIQUE TAYLOR	1
FELICIA C BARNES-O'NEAL	1
DEMARCUS CORTEZ HOOKER	1
WENDY SUSANNE MAYO	1
TYLER DEAN JOHNSON	1
WANDA ANN WALKER	1
ANTHONY ANTONIO SCOTT	1
THOMAS S MEEHAN	1
CAITLYN ROSE RADICA	1
MARQUETTIA S MCGEE	1
CEDRIC ROESHUN GRANT	1
TIMOTHY RAY JOHNSON	1
TANYA RENEE FORREST	1
DIAMOND MERCEDES MCCALLUM	1
WILLIAM H BOYKIN	1
CAMRON KRISTOPHOR BENNETT	1
SELENA ELOISE MAGEE	1
KIMBERLY S STEADHAM	5
JOVITA CELIKA ESSIE NOBLE	5
MICHAEL FREDERICK BOLES	5
KEN AGBAHIWE	5
ALEXUS SIERRA SIMMONS	5
NELLIE MARIE JOHNSON	10
TONI J. JOHNSON	15
CARRIE CHATHAM BUTTNER	15
JENNIFER DARLENE SMITH	15
FELICIA ANN THOMPSON	20
JENNY REBECCA PITTMAN	20
SHELITA HUNTER BROWN	25
SHELLI MCALPIN PITTS	25
LATICHA N. MOSLEY	25
JULIA AKINS JOHNSON	25



LATICHA N. MOSLEY

SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM COORDINATOR I

BUILDING 81, A-SHIFT

Laticha Mosley of Pearl was recognized for providing 25 years of service to the hospital. Ms. Mosley attended Pearl

High School. She loves the patients and staff here at MSH. She was selected as Employee of the Year in 2020. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and grandbabies, and doing hair. She is a Social Services Program Coordinator I in Social Services and has been employed at MSH since 1997.



JULIA AKINS JOHNSON

NURSE CASE MANAGER SUPERVISOR

BUILDING 22, A-SHIFT

Julie Johnson of Hazlehurst was recognized for providing 25 years of service to the

hospital. Ms. Johnson attended Copiah Academy and Mississippi College but she cheers for the LSU Tigers. She enjoys serving the patients and meeting their needs here at MSH. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, participating in missions, and traveling. She is a Nurse Case Manager Supervisor in Utilization Management and has been employed at MSH since 1997.

SHELITA HUNTER BROWN

PSYCHOLOGIST I

BUILDING 33, A-SHIFT

Shelita Hunter Brown of Pearl was recognized for providing 25 years of service to the hospital. She is a Psychologist at Jaquith Nursing Home and has been employed at MSH since 1997.

Friends Of Mississippi State Hospital 2022 Annual Meeting Honors Jerald D. Ball, Together We Make A Difference Recipients

By: Julie Cox

On Tuesday, September 13, 2022, Friends of Mississippi State Hospital held its Annual Meeting and recognized three businesses in our community who have given exemplary service to MSH. Each of these very special groups were presented the Jerald D. Ball, Together We Make a Difference Award for their advocacy and support for Mississippi State Hospital and the Friends organization.



Mangia Bene Restaurant Group – (pictured left to right) Bill Bobbs, President, Friends of MSH, Inc., Brandie Stodard, Marketing Manager for Mangia Bene Restaurant Group, and James G. “Bo” Chastain, Director, Mississippi State Hospital

The first award was presented to Mangia Bene Restaurant Group. In 2020, a year that was difficult to properly honor and recognize our employees in person, Mangia Bene Restaurant Group, which includes Sal & Mookies New York Pizza & Ice Cream, Bravo! Italian Restaurant, and Broad Street Baking Co., stepped up and provided gift cards for our staff as leadership recognized them during an outdoor honor walk. During a time where everything was on lockdown and their restaurants were closed, significantly impacting their livelihood, this was a huge gift for Mangia Bene Restaurant

Group to provide. The gift cards were such a big hit that Friends has continued to give them out to honorees each year since. Mr. Jeff Good, owner, had a prior commitment and could not attend the annual meeting. Mr. Chastain shared, “I have come to respect Jeff for being a businessman, a successful restaurateur, but more than anything he is very kind, and extremely generous, especially to his customers and to his community.” Ms. Brandi Stodard, Marketing Manager, attended and accepted the award, she stated, “We want to say thank you, one of the things Jeff and Dan are really big about is community support programs. Jeff lives by ‘do the right thing’ motto. You cannot meet better people than Jeff and Dan. Their care for the community is genuine.”



Little Caesars Pizza – (pictured left to right) Bill Bobbs, President, Friends of MSH, Inc., Ms. Carolyn Lindsay, Little Caesars Pizza, Ms. Jackie Hartzog, District Manager for Little Caesars Pizza, and James G. “Bo” Chastain, Director, Mississippi State Hospital

The next superstar company to be recognized was Little Caesars Pizza. In early 2020, as COVID rampantly spread and lockdowns ensued, healthcare workers were overwhelmed with ever-changing protections, preventions and protocols, Little Caesars stepped up and provided pizzas to support frontline healthcare workers at MSH. Ms. Jackie Hartzog, District Manager for Little Caesars Pizza, and Ms. Carolyn Lindsay accepted the award on behalf

of Little Caesars Pizza. Ms. Hartzog was so gracious and remarked, “This is the first time we’ve been involved with MSH through our Lend a Hand Program, where we do things in the community.” Ms. Hartzog explained, “There is a committee in each state where there are Little Caesars locations, they make decisions about what organizations to help and how they will help them. Then the local staff will go out and execute the assistance program.” Hartzog added that as Mr. Chastain was explaining the background of the award and the principles it represents, “When he was reading, it was everything our company stands for. It is such an honor and it makes you feel good, they go above and beyond to help people in the community.”

The final, but probably the most familiar group to be recognized was Mid South Rehab Services. They have partnered with MSH for over 10 years, providing physical, occupational, and speech therapy services to patients and residents. Extending their support beyond direct patient care, Mid South Rehab Services became an Eagle Sponsor for the 2022 Farmer Jim Neal Golf Classic. The event is the largest fundraiser for Friends of MSH each year. With the tournament cancelled in 2020 and scaled back in 2021, it was critical that the 2022 event was a success in order to sustain the financial viability of the Friends organization. Heather Pierce, COTA/L, serves as Mid South’s Director of Rehab on-campus at MSH and accepted the award on behalf of Mid South Rehab Services. She shared, “We work alongside nursing staff to provide therapy services for patients and residents here. We love working with MSH, it’s a joy working out here.” Mark Buckley, DPT, VP of Clinical Operations, added, “It’s been a tremendous partnership. We feel like we are part of a family here. We are so thankful for the leadership and all the staff. We are a member of the team, working together to take care of the residents and patients.” In expressing his reaction to the award, Buckley added, “This award means everything. If you listen to the history of the



Mid South Rehab Services – (pictured left to right) Bill Bobbs, President, Friends of MSH, Inc., Mid South Rehab Services Staff members including, Maggie Mayer, Hailey Stacy, Kim Ouzts, Peggy Lara, Mark Buckley, Kenneth Collins, Debbie Chew, Consuela Johnson, Heather Pierce, Charlean Williams, Sharon Burt, and James G. “Bo” Chastain, Director, Mississippi State Hospital

award and how it originated from service to the residents, meeting their needs emotionally and physically, for us as a company, we want to serve the residents mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and of course there is a therapy provided physically.”

To put this year’s awards into perspective and reiterate why they are so important, the support provided by these three businesses came during one of the most challenging times in history, the COVID pandemic. Recognizing and retaining healthcare staff was one of the

most challenging aspects and was directly related to keeping our patients and residents safe. We thank each and every person for their commitment and dedication to MSH and Friends of MSH.

2022 Friends Of MSH Annual Meeting



Friends of MSH Board – (pictured left to right) Bo Blanks, Bill Bobbs, Marilyn Garth, Ray Wallace, Kim Edwards, Bobby Stephens, Ruth Walker, Dee Payne, Tony Gomillion, Tim Durr, Sheila Shows, Joel Ross, and James G. “Bo” Chastain, Director, Mississippi State Hospital

On Tuesday, September 13, 2022, Friends of Mississippi State Hospital held its Annual Meeting to select Officers and the Board of Directors for the upcoming year. Friends of MSH Officers for 2022-2023 are Bill Bobbs, President, Ray Wallace, Vice-President, Sheila Shows, Secretary, and Dee Payne, Treasurer.

The Board of Directors for 2022-2025 are

Joel Ross, Past President, Tim Durr, Tony Gomillion, Steve Lesley, Gale Martin, Amy Walker, and Ruth Walker. Bo Blanks will serve as Administrative Appointee, with Kathy Denton serving as Liaison Officer.

Board of Directors Emeriti for 2022-2023 are Jessie Buckley, Diane Corxton, Kim Edwards, Daniel Elliot, Marilyn Garth,

Shane Hariel, Betty Harpe, Bridget Lowery, Jenny Pittman, and Bobby Stephens.

Friends of Mississippi State Hospital is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to educating the public about mental illness and improving the lives of those individuals living with mental illnesses. For more information, contact MSH Public Relations at 601-351-8018.

Rankin County Chamber Youth Leadership Visits Mississippi State Hospital Campus



PHOTO: MSH Behavioral Health Staff – Dr. Mary Angelo (far left), Dr. Teresa Hulsey and Adam Bucher, MS, MS (far right)

RANKIN COUNTY CHAMBER YOUTH LEADERSHIP: Pearl High School – Jacob LaFontaine, Michael Robinson, Lailah Spann, Brandon High School – Abigail Andrews, Graceyn Bricker, Meri Morgan Marshall, Taylor Shane Parker, Owen Siegfried, Puckett High School – Maci Rae Hammock, Isaiah Harrison, Richland High School – Isaiah Harris, Pisgah High School – Reagan Hollingsworth, Maggie McLeod, McLaurin High School – Anderson Walker, Florence High School – Gracie Jordan, Pelahatchie High School – Payton Sanders, Northwest Rankin High School – Callie Mobley, Gavin Ryan, Park Place Academy – Parker Bray, Discovery Christian School – Peyton Jackson, Isabella Yates, East Rankin Academy – Lana Jones, Mary Kellen Sartin, Brayden Warner, Jackson Prep – Ava Moak, Hartfield Academy – Mary Carolyn Sensing

By: Julie Cox

Members of the Rankin County Chamber Youth Leadership visited Mississippi State Hospital on October 4. The group toured the museum and gathered in Public Relations for lunch and a discussion with Dr. Mary Angelo, Dr. Teresa Hulsey, and Adam Bucher, MS, MA about the services provided at MSH.

The Youth Leadership Program helps young leaders develop responsible community leadership roles and impact the future of Rankin County. The students familiarize themselves with community opportunities,

needs, problems, and resources. They have effective dialogue, establishing friendships among participants and community leaders. The students also learn advanced leadership and management skills. Throughout the program, the students perform community service and create connections with the people of Rankin County.

The visit to MSH was part of the group's "Health and Human Needs Day" tour. They also went to Merit Health Rankin and Methodist Rehab.

Jaquith Nursing Home Represent Your Inn Day

FOOTBALL FRENZY, TAILGATE & LUAU

By: Julie Cox

On Wednesday, September 28, residents and staff at Jaquith Nursing Home (Madison Inn and Jefferson Inn) celebrated fall outdoors with fun activities and food.

The morning kicked off with Football Frenzy at Buildings 28 and 34. Cintarrio Green and staff led residents in playing Bingo, dancing, and karaoke. Chaplain Melvin Collins fired up the grill for some football food of hamburgers and hotdogs.

With a colorful banner on display, a Tailgate Party was on tap for residents of Building 31. They sat outside and enjoyed the beautiful weather and listened to some music. Tailgate food was hotdogs, chips, ice cream, and cookies.

In the afternoon, residents of Building 33 enjoyed a Luau themed party. While Ms. Sherelda Jones was busy making fresh, delicious funnel cakes, Shonnett Wilson and Thaeus Holston led quiz games where residents competed for prizes. Residents also enjoyed luau-themed food of chicken/tuna salad and punch.



B33 – Luau - Games & Prizes – Shonnett Wilson, Thaeus Holston



B33 – Luau Deco



Staff – (front row, left to right) Sharon Wash, Cintarrio Green (Recreation Supervisor), Kiarra Green (Recreation Staff, B28), Valeria Grim, Melony Anderson (back row, left to right) Evelyn Madiebo, Lavon Dunson, Jessica McDonald, Jamecia Smith



Grill – Melvin Collins, Chaplain



B31 – Tailgate Staff – (left to right) Teresa Wilson, Roderick Woods, Deborah Bland



B33 – Luau Staff – (left to right) Shonnett Wilson (Recreation Staff, B33), Sherelda Jones (Administrator), Thaeus Holston (Recreation Staff), Denise Rogers (Social Worker)

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Mississippi State Hospital Service Awards Recipients for August and September



Back Row (L to R) - Teresa Wilson, Nathaniel Austin, and Susan Jennings; Front Row (L to R) - Belinda Simpson and Tess Ann Jones.



First row (left to right) - Latisha Mosley, Julie Johnson, Felicia C. Barnes-O'Neal; Second row (left to right) - Tyler Johnson, Jenny Pittman, Antionette LaShay Womack, William Boykin, Roshana Monique Taylor



Dr. John Elgin Wilkaitis

MSH Welcomes Dr. John Elgin Wilkaitis, MD, MBA, CPE, DFAPA, DFAACAP, FASAM

Dr. John Elgin Wilkaitis completed medical school at The University of Mississippi Medical Center and residency in general psychiatry in 2003. He completed a fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in 2005. Following this, he served as chief medical officer of Brentwood Behavioral Healthcare, a private 105 bed hospital system for 10 years. During this time, he founded a successful group private practice, Children's Psychiatric Solutions, which operated for 11 years prior to sale to another group. He is board-certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in child and adolescent psychiatry, general psychiatry, and consult-liaison psychiatry. He is a distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and The American

Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He is also board certified in addiction medicine by the American Board of Preventative Medicine and a fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. He has been active in multiple societies related to physician leadership, including past presidency of the American Association of Psychiatric Administration and Leadership, The Mississippi Psychiatric Association, and The Mississippi Council of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists. He is a Vanguard Member of the American Association of Physician Leadership. He has received multiple awards in the past, including America's Top Physicians, by the Consumer Research Council, in 2018