



## ALUMNI OFFICERS

### **Alumni**

### **Officers:**

**Nathan Thomas,  
President**

**Tom Thomas  
Vice President**

**Wendy Barulli  
Secretary**

**Jim McQuarry  
Treasurer**

My name is Tom Thomas and I am the new Vice President of the Alumni Association. Let me tell you why I accepted this position. I have accepted this position because I haven't been more excited about the prospects of the college in years. I believe the best thing that the college did was to hire Larry Griffith as President. I believe in Larry. I believe in Larry because his love for the Lord is genuine. He has a heart for evangelism, evangelism for all people. Because all people need the Lord no matter what their race or sex or nationality is. He has a heart for educating people in Christian principles for the opportunity to evangelize the lost. I also believe the Lord will bless efforts that Larry has demonstrated throughout his life. I also believe in supporting successful programs and plans that deal with the evangelizing of the lost. It is the Lord we serve and Larry serves the Lord.

I also accepted this position because the college had the foresight to hire David Veillon. David also has a tremendous love for the Lord and he believes in the college in which he serves. He has a fire about him that is contagious. He has what it takes to get out and advertise the school and a boldness to preach the Word of God.

But I also accepted this position because the college chose Nathan Thomas to be president of the Alumni Association. I don't believe they could have chosen a better person for the job especially now in such a critical time for the college as it endeavors to get accreditation. The alumni play such an important part for this to happen and

Nathan is the person to build enthusiasm in the alumni to show a support to the college. He has such a zeal for the Lord and His work and tremendous ideas for the alumni to help in this process of support for accreditation. I know Nathan and he is genuine and sincere in always seeking guidance from the Lord as does Larry and David. When you have men in love with the Lord in such vital positions, it would be crazy not to jump in with our support and ride the wave that the Lord is sending to the college. We have a tremendous opportunity to be a part of the Lord doing something really great. Greater than we have ever had an opportunity to see in the Mid-South area and I believe the college is in the middle of those plans.

Now, I would be remiss if I didn't mention three other people who are vital in my decision for accepting this position of Vice-President of the Alumni Association and it is the wives of the men I have just mentioned. Wives who love the Lord. Wives who love their husbands. Wives who support what their husbands do. These ladies are truly the unsung heroes to the cause of these three men. You see, if

these men didn't have healthy marriages with women who are supporting and believing in what they are about, then I would not be a part of this. Through the years I have seen many men be successful in many endeavors of business and ministry, but have difficult and/or broken marriages. If a person overlooks the most important relationship in their lives to succeed in life, then in my mind there is no success. These three couples are setting us all examples of what it means to love and serve. And the Lord is blessing them because of it. I want to be a part of that. I want to have people like this to mentor me. To encourage me. To set me an example that I can live with successfully. To even possibly teach my children if they choose to go to Mid-South. So I challenge you...come on. Jump on board. Support this college. Pray for this college. If all the alumni would decide to join together in this cause of educating our youth to evangelize the lost, imagine what the effect would be in the Mid-South area as well as the rest of the world.

Reunions are a time of remembering. Many good memories and some not so good.

This past reunion allowed me to remember both good and bad. I had time to reflect on some issues that from the past are not too pleasant. For example: One particular person I reflect back on was one that I did not treat all that well. I really was a jerk towards and sometimes hypocritical. I have wondered often over the years what kind of influence I had on their future spiritual life by the example I set for them back in college. About 10 years ago I had the opportunity to apologize to that person. They said it was alright...but I still can't help but wonder what could their life have been like if I would have given them a positive example to follow of Christ than what I did. I do hope that they were able to forgive me.

Then there were the memories where someone else hurt me...either by what they said and what they did. Coming back together brought some of those feelings back. Hurt. Rejected. Talked about. I realized that I needed to forgive them as I sought forgiveness from the person I hurt. Let it go. Much water has flowed under the bridge. We were also young.

Then the Lord led me to Psalm 25: "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me....Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord."

The Lord has blessed us in ways we do not deserve. He has given us grace that He didn't have to. Then I remember our youth. What kind of example did we give? What memories did we leave behind? We have all made mistakes. We have all failed. So we seek forgiveness and then we move on. Life is short. We need to be reminded of the good times and be encouraged by them...we also need to be seeking ways to create greater memories for the future. Greater examples of Christian faith. But we also need to be reminded of those times we failed or when someone may have hurt us...this allows us to remember that none of us are perfect. We all need the grace of God and without that grace...we are doomed.

I believe the reunion was a success. It allowed time for much talk and laughter. Maybe next year we will have just one big service and allow more time for "catching up!"

Thanks for all who attended. Thanks for supporting the college and each other.

Remember to nominate our next Alumni of the year. Send your nominations to Nathan Thomas at: [hispainyourgain@aol.com](mailto:hispainyourgain@aol.com)

So until next time or until the Lord comes back. Be safe. Be in Christ. And we will see each other again.

Relying on God's love,

Tom

Alumni Vice President

**EVERY YEAR** the same story gets told. At every family gathering I can expect the subject to come up, and I can usually predict which cousin will begin the conversation. It happened many years ago



**Larry Griffin,**  
**MSCC President**

at Christmas dinner. My grandmother had purchased Christmas napkins with a picture of Santa Claus on the front, and unfortunately the red ink easily ran. I was the first victim. My brother thought I had a shaving rash, and my cousin wondered if I got icing all over my face. All I know is that when my red mouth was discovered it became the talk of the family – and still is! Not a Thanksgiving or Christmas get together happens without the story of the red napkin coming up. When Ruth first met my extended family I had to warn her about what would be told. It is now part of the Griffin-Cooper folklore, and I suppose it always will be.

The Mid-South Christian Col-

lege family got together a couple of weeks ago, and as you can imagine, the stories came up again. What would a family reunion be like without the ever-present story of Ray Trantham popping corn in motor oil, or the Senatobia campus fire and the explosion of the shed. How could we all get together and not talk about the time the boys tied the doorknobs in the girls' dorm, or the time all the guys hid from Tim Viner as the dorm dad? This reunion was no different; the fellowship was great, the food was good, and the stories were glorious.

But, as funny as those memories are, the greater story is even more satisfying – stories of the expansion of the gospel into South America, Eurasia, Africa, India, New Zealand, Cuba and countless other places. There were stories of churches being planted, strengthened and grown in Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Colorado, Arizona and dozens of

other states. We saw pictures of children now grown and serving the Lord. We heard of soldiers defending our country, teachers educating our children, and businessmen and women advancing the Kingdom through their gifts and generosity. There is practically no corner of the globe in which Mid-South Christian College's influence has not been felt!

I hope you tell the stories of MSCC often. I hope your friends, family and co-workers know that Mid-South Christian College was a fun place to study. I hope they know that MSCC is reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. And, above all, I hope they know the greatest story ever told, and are aware that God loves them deeply. Let's keep telling the story! And just a small piece of advice – turn your printed napkins inside out just in case.

## A LOOK AT AN MSCC STUDENT

**Where are you from?** I was born in Venezuela, but am an Italian citizen.

**Hobbies:** Bowling

**Last book I read:** No Wonder They Call Him The Savior, Max Lucado

**Favorite all time TV program?** I like to watch Ice Skating

**Favorite all time Movie?** Life Is Beautiful

**Best advice I ever got:** All my father's advice.

**Favorite Meal:** Pasta

**Why did you choose MSCC?** I feel a call of God to prepare myself for service, and this is the ideal place for that.

**What I like best about MSCC?** The flexibility as far as seeking help from anyone at anytime.

**Favorite Scripture:** John 3:16  
(The unlimited love of God)



**Elena Milano**

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Let me start by congratulating the Alumni board on a wonderful reunion. I was only able to attend the Saturday Session, but was very glad I was able to make it.

My name is Lisa Bowbly-Sheckell and I attended the Senatobia Campus from 1983-1985.



**Lisa Bowbly-Sheckell,  
MSCC Alumnus 1983-1985**

During my time at MSCC I was a member of Unity, the Drama Club, the Cheer-leading squad and fancied many other extra curricular activities.

Since my years at MSCC, I have remained in my hometown of Caruthersville, Missouri. I live with my husband Denis, a brick layer, and my 20 year old daughter Stephanie, who will begin her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of college in the fall, working toward a Veterinarians Degree. I have had numerous jobs, such as managing a convenience store and preparing Income Taxes, but now I enjoy being a receptionist at a car dealership. I also sing in my own country band on the side.



I wanted to share with you some-

thing that happened to me 3 years ago. I was diagnosed in May of 2003 with advanced stage colon cancer. My father died of this disease when he was only 39 years of age, 2 years before I came to Mid-South. And since that time, other members of my family have had the same cancer. I was not given much hope by the doctors once it was realized that I had probably had cancer for more than 10 years. There I was 38 years old and faced with this obstacle. Of course, growing up in a Christian family, I knew to just give it to my Savior. That is exactly what I did, I gave it to him. As soon as I prayed about it, the peace of the Holy Spirit took over, and I knew, deep within my spirit that I would be fine. Even when things looked bleak to others, and that happened many times, I knew my father would take care of every thing, no matter what, and I had absolutely no worries, no matter the outcome. After many surgeries, and 2 years of treatments, I am now Cancer Free. You, as Christians will understand, that I am now happy to have had Cancer, and I find it a privilege to be able to witness to others what my father has done for me. I also feel an incredible burden for those who have cancer, and do not know that they have a father that they can lean on who will give them unbelievable Peace in their time of need. That is why I speak to cancer patients, survivors, and their families all over the country now.

What an honor it is for the Lord to use me in this way.

The Lord is also using my band, as a way to reach others and I find that a big privilege as well. I have a great time every time he allows me to sing. As some of you know, I have always enjoyed my music, and now, after all that has happened, Music is an even sweeter gift, and I am truly thankful for it.

Now that I am growing older, I find that the lessons I learned at MSCC are serving me well in every Endeavour I encounter, weather it be speaking to a large crowd or singing to an arena full of music lovers or teaching children in a Sunday school class.

Through all of this, I can thank my family, my church family, and friends who have helped me so much, when I couldn't help myself. My husband Denis and my daughter Stephanie and I would like to also thank those of you who knew about my illness and so fervently prayed for me. It is wonderful to know that my MSCC family is still there after all of these years to help each other and love each other the way God intended.

I hope to see more of you at the next reunion, and thanks again to the alumnus board for a job well done.

In His Service,  
Lisa

### Alumni Yearly Dues:

\$20 per person or \$30 per family

#### Why should I pay dues to be an alumnus of MSCC?

\*My official membership clearly lets the accrediting association know that my education at MSCC was valuable.

\*My official membership clearly lets the administration know that I am behind the college, and the changes that are being made.

\*My official membership assures that I will be "in the

loop" on the future direction my college will be taking.

The annual alumni fee will cover the cost of the newsletters and directories, an Alumni Scholarship, and expenses of the Reunion. For those who sign up and pay their dues, an Alumni Directory will be sent to you.

Please mail your dues to the school at: P.O. Box 181056, Memphis, TN 38181.



**"Ok, Ok,  
we'll pay  
the dues!"**

### News from the Alumni's Families

Nat Thomas, son of Nathan and Linda Thomas was ordained into the ministry. He is the minister at Grace Christian Church in Lexington, TN.

Ben Thomas, son of Tom and Lisa Thomas, was ordained into the ministry. He is the Youth Minister at First Christian Church in Baldwin, MS.

## Next year's

Alumni Reunion will be May 25-26. **Gerald Gibson** will be the Speaker. Mark your calendars now!



## MSCC RECOLLECTIONS

In 1978 my wife Ann and I were busily engaged in the Ministry of Music and Youth at Reidsville Christian Church and in raising 3 small children, when I received a call from my friend, Jack Bliffen, President of Mid-South Christian College. He challenged us to step out of our comfort zones and multiply our ministry! He invited me to come and establish the Music Department at the college and head up the Christian Education Department that would train young men and women for ministry in the Lord's Church.

The sacrifices we made to leave our families and move to the Mid-South "mission field" were both faith-challenging and rewarding. What we discovered there was a remarkable group of dedicated staff and eager students who were committed to serving the Lord and His Church. It gives me a deep sense of fulfillment to know that over 25 years later not only are many of my students still serving churches there, but our own children have committed themselves to ministry, also.

Ann and I and our children have very fond memories of our 8-year ministry at MSCC. Over the years, the details have become fuzzy, but we remember well the emotions we felt and how God's hand was upon us. I will always remember the 17-hour drive to Senoia from NC with our little ones. Mr. Bliffen came out to meet us upon our arrival on campus, and my wife looked him in the eye and said, *"All I want to know is, if the Lord returns while we're out here, will He ever be able to find us?"*

Perhaps like many of my students, I don't remember much of what I said in class, but I recall their thirst for learning and their desire to serve. It was a joy for me to see them grow in their commitment and faith from semester to semester. Hundreds of stories are stored away in my heart. The following are just a few of the more memorable ones:

MSCC Choir Tour through MS, LA, and AR. Those 12 voices were undoubtedly one of the best choirs I've ever had the privilege to direct. The only regret I have is that we didn't keep a diary of all the misad-

ventures on that trip!

My wife Ann directed the MSCC Puppet Team and all 10 of us rode in the gray cargo van (with no windows!) 900 miles to Mexico to lead the children's program for the Bi-Lingual Convention at Colegio Biblico!

The privilege of directing several singing groups, who traveled thousands of miles, presenting numerous concerts and representing the college and their Lord.

I especially remember one curly-headed young man who arrived on campus with a determination to overcome his obstacles and serve his Lord. He learned to sing alto in a trio, but within a few short months, his voice changed, and he started to sing tenor, and then bass in Radiance. No one was more surprised to hear that young man sing than the folks at his home church! And John Cash still serves the Lord today as preacher of Antioch Christian Church in Newton, MS.

I'll never forget the sight of Jim McQuarry's luggage bouncing down I-40 on the way home from NC on a marathon trip with the Philadelphia Quartet!

We're grateful for Tim Viner's diligence and patience in helping our family record a tape of our songs in the college's brand new recording studio—that was covered in egg crates!

We were also blessed with a committed faculty and supportive families who exemplified a selfless Christ-like spirit and an "Acts 4:32" faith.

I am deeply indebted to President Jerry Gibson, whose encouragement, leadership, and preaching challenged us all with a sense of hope and vision of God's leading. I cherish this man of God as a true friend and brother in the ministry.

Finally, I still remember the bewildered looks on the faces of my students when I often began class with those terrifying words, *"Take out a sheet of paper and number 1 to 20!"*



I am truly grateful for MSCC giving me the privilege of multiplying my ministry to Christ. It is deeply rewarding to see so many still in the service of the Lord. *"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."* (3 John 4)

**Mark Fessler**