

Ministerial Student Profiles



Chris Ferguson, a senior Biblical Studies major, from Clarksdale, Mississippi served as the 2008-09 president of the campus Ministerial Association.

During his four years at Blue Mountain College,

Chris has been an active member of the Baptist Student Union serving as Mission Chair and participating in mission projects and service activities as a part of the BSU's *Open Vessels* fine arts team.

Chris is a member of the Ekklesian Society, one of the two men's social groups on campus. He was selected as one of the Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities for the 2008-09 academic year. Chris has been a Travis Scholarship recipient and in 2008, he received the Hardy R. Denham, Jr. Scholarship that

was established by the Board of Ministerial Education in honor of Rev. Denham who served for many years as a board member and President.



Andrew Harbor, a freshman Biblical Studies major from Corinth,

Mississippi, has had a busy first year at Blue Mountain. Andrew is a member of Oakland Baptist Church in Corinth (Miss.) where his father, Dyer, serves as Associate Pastor and Dr. Randy Bostick (BMC Class of 1975) is pastor.

Andrew was elected by the freshman class to serve as their President. He is also a member of the men's intercollegiate Toppers basketball team and serves on the Freshman Baptist Student Union Council. He is a member of the Ekklesian Society.



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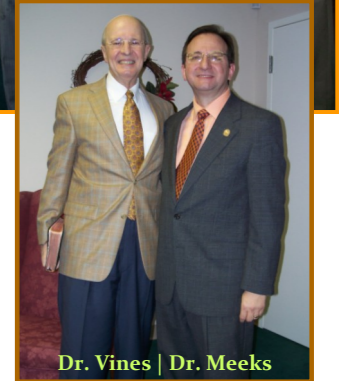


BMC Students Meet Legendary Pastor

Dr. Ron Meeks (BMC Class of 1983), Director of Church Relations and Associate Professor of Biblical and Associated Studies at Blue Mountain College, believes in exposing BMC ministerial students to good preaching and good pastors. In January 2009, Meeks had the opportunity to take students to Wheeler Grove Baptist Church in Corinth (Miss.) where they heard and met **Dr. Jerry Vines**, retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida and two-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Vines, author of *Corinthian Confusion* and *Power in the Pulpit*, met with BMC students (l to r): **Josh Baker** (Myrtle, Miss.); **Thomas Magers** (Nettleton, Miss.); **John Howell** (Myrtle,



Miss.); **Dr. Vines**; **Nick Hughes** (Panama City Beach, FL); **Micah Wages** (Tupelo, Miss.) and **Blake McCain** (Tupelo, Miss.). Other featured speakers that evening were Junior Hill, Bob Pittman, and Bailey Smith. ■



Dr. Vines | Dr. Meeks

Table of Contents

BMC Students Meet Legendary Pastor	1
Giving Makes the Heart Merry	1
President's Message	2
In Memorial	2
Calendar of Events	3
Ministerial Alumni Annual Meeting	4
Ministers in Motion	5
Change of Address	6
Ministerial Student Profiles	8



Giving Makes the Heart Merry!

Tommy Vinson (BMC 1972), Associate Pastor
First Baptist Church
Collierville, Tennessee

Gratitude! That's the dominant emotion in my heart today. I am so pleased to be back close to the college that I love. Serving as a Trustee brings great joy to my heart. The Apostle Paul's words "*I am debtor*" captures my feelings. I owe so much to BMC. *What about you?* Do you also live with a sense of gratitude and indebtedness to our alma mater? If so, let it motivate you to pray regularly, recruit new students

diligently, and serve consistently as an ambassador for the school.

The vision and leadership of Dr. Coward encourages and motivates me greatly. Her support of the ministerial students is both gracious and genuine. She is doing a great job and she needs OUR help. We have never really made a strong appeal to our ministerial alumni for financial sup-

port. Other than our annual alumni dues, most (well over 90%) of our alumni have never given anything to the school. Let's change that!

Will you pray about giving *something annually to show your support?* Just the fact that you give *anything* will be a great source of encouragement to our President and a vote of confidence in the future of BMC. ■

President's Message



The longer I serve as President of Blue Mountain College, the more aware I become of the significant role the ministerial alumni have played in shaping this institution for a viable future. The one trait I have found in common in ministerial alumni is an *attitude of gratitude* for the preparation for ministry which they received at BMC. We have been highly intentional about building upon the programs and services which the College offers to ministerial students. We are also focused on providing as many services as possible to you, our ministerial alumni.

This newsletter is a manifestation of our desire to communicate with the ministerial alumni of Blue Mountain College. We want to connect with you in meaningful and enduring ways. We encourage you to send news and updates to the Office of Alumnae/ Alumni Affairs at Blue Mountain College so we can let your colleagues know about changes in your lives. This newsletter, to be published at least once a year, will make it possible to highlight and applaud the accomplishments of our graduates who are investing their lives in service.

God has richly blessed Blue Mountain College. Momentum is building to take a bold step of faith to address the areas of greatest need at the College. You will be hearing about these needs in the months ahead but I would ask that you commit to praying for your College.

I assure you that your support will be critical to helping this institution reach its full potential. I look forward to working with you on behalf of Christian higher education at Blue Mountain College. ■

Bettye Rogers Coward
President

In Memorial

Troy L. Defer, Jr., 58, died Friday, Jan. 23, 2009, at his residence. He was born November 23, 1950, in New Albany to the late Troy Leon Defer, Sr. and Mary Virginia "Lou" Hisaw. Troy attended BMC in 1976 and 1977. He was the Pastor of Red Banks Baptist Church in Marshall County (Miss.) and an executive member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Survivors include his wife, Linda Mason Defer of Red Banks; daughters, Terri Lynn Conlee (Allen) and Tracy Leigh Watkins (Mark), both of New Albany; brother, Lloyd Defer of Water Valley; sister, Pauline Churchill of Potts Camp; and six grandchildren, Josh Conlee, John Conlee, Katie Conlee, Carter Watkins, Matt Watkins and Amanda Watkins.



Kevin Michael Rinehart, 31, of Fort Worth, Texas, died Tuesday November 4, 2008. He was a native of Rienzi, Mississippi. Kevin was a 1999 graduate of Blue Mountain College. Survivors include his wife, Kelly Rinehart (BMC Class of 1998), his mother and father, two grandmothers, one sister and one brother.

Send Us Your News
for the Next Issue . . .

In the coming days, we will be gathering news and stories for the next issue of MOUNTAIN PASSAGES and we would like to include yours! Drop your information in an e-mail to prnews@bmc.edu.

KETCHUM, Kevin (2002)
KIRK, Reid (2004)
KIRKLAND, Seth (2005)
LaPACK, Chris M. (1994)
LEWIS, Paul (2005)
MARSHALL, Jason (1998)
MATLOCK, J.D. (1989)
McGREGOR, Kermit (1960)
McINTIRE, Joseph (1974)
MILES, Jonathan (1994)
NAPIER, Jack (2008)
ORGERON, Robert (1997)
PARKS, Johnny (1967-69)
PERKINS, Bobby (1964)
PHILLIPS, Terry (1992)
PITNEY, Nathan (1999)
PORTER, Jimmy (1974)
PRATER, Danny (1969)
PRICE, Calvin (2004)
RAKESTRAW, Doug (2004)
RAY, James T. (1984)
ROBBINS, Martin (1982)
RODGERS, Charles A. (1977)
RODGERS, Terry A. (2004)
ROME, David (1974)
ROUDKOVSKI, Jak (1994)
RUTLEDGE, James (1974)
STACY, Roger (1978)
SULLIVAN, Ronnie (1989)
SYKES, Christopher (1999)
TEETER, David (1995-96)
TUBB, Larry (2001)
TWILLEY, Christopher (1994)
VANDIVER, Wayne (1979)
VINSON, Tommy (1972)
WALKER, Stephen (1999)
WEAVER, George (1979)
WILKERSON, Anthony (1979)
WILLIAMS, Tony (1981-82)
WORSHAM, Mark (1981)
YANCEY, Rex (1970)

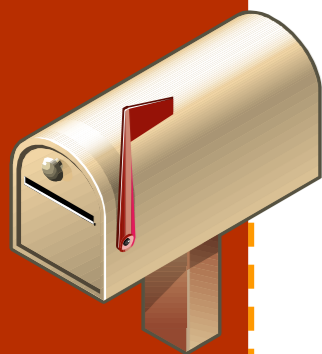
4519 Providence Pl., Apt 3A - New Orleans, LA 70126
725 Northwood West Cove - Nesbit, MS 38651
389 Hwy 365, South - Burnsville, MS 38833
4858 Alamanda - Melbourne, FL 32940
108 Cemetery Road, Apt. 23 - Ripley, MS 38663
1308 Webster St. - Corinth, MS 38834
959 East Poplar Avenue - Selmer, TN 38375
P.O. Box 157 - Algoma, MS 38820
39 Thornfield Drive - Bells, TN 38006
170 Hester Lane - Pontotoc, MS 38863
7385 Odom Way, Apt. 202 - Cordova, TN 38016
4323 Dry Fork Road - Whites Creek, TN 37189-9038
2079 Attalla Road 3241 - Kosciusko, MS 39090
494 Natchez Trace Road - Mathiston, MS 39752
106 White Oak Loop - Cullman, AL 35057
650 CR 337 - Falkner, MS 38629
MBCB - P.O. Box 530 - Jackson, MS 39211
901 Old Hwy 49 South - Inverness, MS 38753
2404 New Sight Drive, NE - Brookhaven, MS 39601
1214 CR 205 - Blue Springs, MS 38828
30014 Quail Cove - Aberdeen, MS 39730
1110 CR 170 - Baldwyn, MS 38824
1722 CR 81 - Blue Mountain, MS 38610
1011 CR 137 - New Albany, MS 38652
680 Bear Trap Way - Monument, CO 80132
445 Bellpointe - Madisonville, LA 70447
1506 Maple Street Ext. - Amory, MS 38821
845 Leanee Dr. - Humboldt, TN 38343
121 Hereford Drive - Tupelo, MS 38804
7690 Broken Hickory Road - Walls, MS 38680
128 Salinger Drive - Georgetown, KY 40324
580 S. Pear Orchard, # 615 - Ridgeland, MS 39157
110 Nikki Drive, A - Senatobia, MS 38668
508 West Church Street - Booneville, MS 38829
1334 E. Rain Lake Lane - Collierville, TN 38017
P.O. Box 1354 - Canton, MS 39046
117 Camilla Avenue - Middleton, TN 38052
2370 Pine Ridge Road - Appling, GA 30802
6221 Hwy 172 - Hodges, AL 35571
1513 Deering Street - Cleveland, MS 38732
142 Nicky Lane - Ripley, MS 38663



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rmeeks@bmc.edu
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662-685-4776



Change of Address

Planning a move in the near future? Be sure and let the Office of Alumnae/Alumni Affairs know your new mailing address, e-mail information, and telephone numbers so they can stay in touch. You can contact Lea Bennett at 662-685-4771 (Ext. 119) or e-mail her at lbennett@bmc.edu.

To help you stay in touch with your fellow alums, the Office has registered the following mailing address updates in the past 12-months:

ADAMS, Anthony (2004)	135 N. 2nd Street - Blue Mountain, MS 38610
BAKER, Jonathan (1999)	10185 State Route 54 - Whitesville, KY 42378
BALL, Chad (1999)	678 Northwoods Dr. - Grenada, MS 38901
BELL, Michael (1977)	3904 S. Hwy 65 - Lake Village, AR 71653
BIRD, Rusty (1993)	P.O. Box 384 - Monette, AR 72447
BLYTHE, Rickey (1989)	1008 Sweetgum Dr. - New Albany, MS 38652
BOLAND, Allen (1989)	5580 U.S. Hwy 641, S #4 - Hazel, KY 42049
BRASHIER, Danny (2004)	4985 Byron Road - Memphis, TN 38122
BROWN, Matthew (1999)	2538 Spring Creek Lane - Zachary, LA 70791
BRYANT, Danny (1964)	406 Moss Hill Drive - New Albany, MS 38652
CAPLES, Philip R. (2001)	20 Newt Mitchell Rd - Picayune, MS 39466
CAPLES, Philip D. (1973)	35 CR 754 - Corinth, MS 38834
CARTER, Micah (1998)	P.O. Box 115 - Mackville, KY 40040
COBB, Bobby (1984)	1448 Hwy 25 - Tishomingo, MS 38873
CONN, John (1974)	284 Martin St. / P.O. Box 44 - Repton, AL 36475
COOPER, Clarence (1972)	118 Winchester - Brandon, MS 39042
COOPER, Philip D. (1989)	10 Westwood Dr. - Piedmont, AL 36272
COX, Samuel (1989)	311 N. State Street - Athens, WV 24712
DUNAHOO, Billy (1974-77)	9401 Asbury Rd. - Warrior, AL 35180-1237
EATON, J.R. (2006)	200 Hwy 341, South - Vardaman, MS 38878
FERGUSON, Wayne (1990)	2582 CR 12 - Whitehall, NY 12887-2412
FINGER, Larry (1967-69)	P.O. Box 306 - Whiteville, TN 38075-0306
FUNDERBURG, Dale (1984)	620 Eshman Avenue - West Point, MS 39773
GINN, Jeffery B. (1983)	11830 Dunnottar Terrace - Colonial Heights, VA 23838
GRISHAM, David (1984)	200 Castle Drive - Jasper, TN 37347
HAMPTON, Charles (1979)	P.O. Box 217 - Saltillo, MS 38866
HARRISON, Jeff (2006)	984 Burdeck St., Apt. F - Schenectady, NY 12306
HARTLEY, Parish (1994)	2100 Lockey Avenue - Helena, MT 59601
HILL, Wayne (1993)	8352 Farmington - Southaven, MS 38672
HUDDLESTON, Stanley (1997)	551 Kirk Street - Baldwin, MS 38824
INGRAM, Bruce (1984)	101 CR 717 - Corinth, MS 38834



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2009 Calendar Events *

* For more calendar information, visit www.bmc.edu and view the "BMC CALENDAR" online.

MARCH

- 3-7 Spring Production: *The Curious Savage*
- 13-17 Spring Break
- 27 **Ministerial Alumni Day** (See page 4 for details)
- 31 Chorale Spring Concert - Garrett Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

APRIL

- 10 Good Friday - No classes | Administrative Offices Closed
- 18 Freshman Pre-Registration
- 20 **Preaching and Worship Conference** - Lowrey Memorial Baptist Church - Blue Mountain
Scheduled Speakers: **Daniel Caldwell**, Dean, Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies, William Carey University; **Ronald Meeks**, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies and Director of Church Relations, Blue Mountain College; **Wayne VanHorn**, Chair, Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy, Mississippi College; **Alan Woodward**, Director, Pastor/Leadership Development Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention

MAY

- 9 Graduation: Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium - 10:00 a.m.
- 29 Registration | Summer School | 1st Term

JUNE

- 2 Graduate Registration | Orientation
- 5-6 Homecoming on the Hill
- 29 Registration | Classes begin | Summer School | 2nd Term

JULY

- 3 Observance of July 4th Holiday

AUGUST

- 15-16 Residence Halls Open
- 3 Registration: Seniors | Juniors | Transfer Students
- 4 Registration: Sophomores | Freshmen
- 24 Day | Evening Classes Begin

SEPTEMBER

- 14 **Healthy Church Conference | Northeast Mississippi Pastor's Conference** - Blue Mountain College
Scheduled Speakers: **Jim Futral**, Executive Director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson; **Steve Gaines**, Pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tennessee; **Mike Harland**, Director of LifeWay Worship, Nashville; **Calvin Miller**, Author and former Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Ministries, Samford University, Birmingham, AL

OCTOBER

- 27 **BMC Ministerial Alumni Banquet** - Galloway Methodist Church - Jackson, Mississippi - 5:30 p.m.
Guest Speaker: **David Hamilton**, Pastor, West Heights Baptist Church, Pontotoc, Mississippi



Guest Speaker
Dr. Wayne Marshall

Marshall has pastored Longview Heights Baptist Church in Olive Branch, Mississippi for 14 years. The church has grown from 175 in Sunday School to over 1200 and from a membership of 350 to 2600.

He has served as adjunct professor in Bible and Religious Education for Blue Mountain College and Mid-America Theological Seminary.

Marshall has served various offices in Baptist work including the Mississippi Baptist Convention and Board of Ministerial Education. He served from 2000 to 2008 as a trustee from Mississippi on the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dear Fellow Alumni,

The Bible tells us that we should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Well, the opportunity to assemble is right around the corner. I hope that you will be able to join us this year at our annual Alumni Day. It will be March 27 and as usual we will have a time of registration and fellowship at 8:30 followed by chapel. A short business meeting and lunch will follow. Our afternoon speaker will be Wayne Marshall and I know that he will bless our lives.

It is always good for us to see one another and catch up on all that is going on in our lives. This gives us a wonderful opportunity to do just that. Besides, you will get to visit the campus and be reminded of the wonderful hours that you spent there. Please come and join in this great time of fellowship.

Philip D. Caples
Alumni President



Ministerial Alumni Annual Meeting Reaching New Heights: Fulfilling Your Ministry Friday, March 27, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.	Registration & Fellowship Paschal Student Union Building, Ground Level
10:00 a.m.	Chapel Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium
Chapel Speaker: Philip D. Caples ('73) Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, Corinth, Mississippi	
11:50 a.m.	Business Session, Reports & Share Time Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium
12:00 noon	Lunch Buffett Ray Dining Hall

Guest Speaker: **Wayne Marshall** ('75)
Pastor, Longview Heights Baptist Church, Olive Branch, Mississippi



For more information or to register, contact:
RON MEEKS, Director of Church Relations
662-685-4771 (Ext. 179) email at rmeeks@bmc.edu.

Lunch Tickets: \$ 10 | Alumni Dues: \$25

Bring a prospective student to campus for a visit!
The Office of Admissions will provide campus tours and lunch for the prospective students you bring to campus.



Dr. Travis always enjoyed attending the annual Ministerial Alumni Day activities. Here he is pictured with his wife Lucille and daughter, Luanne Ford.

Temple encouragement and insights for your ministry.

I am writing this introductory feature of iNotes at the fourth anniversary of the home-going of **Dr. James L. Travis**. Dr. Travis spent virtually his entire academic teaching ministry at Blue Mountain College (1960-1996). "Doc" was a master at connecting the study of the Bible with practical ministry. He was a first rate scholar and Bible teacher. Yet, at the same time, he was absolutely passionate about ministry for Christ in the local church and on the mission field.

For the Department of Biblical Studies, experiencing God through His Word and ministry engagement are major emphases. Present and future ministry leaders continue to be challenged with the timeless words from Isaiah: "Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." (Isa. 6:8). May God richly bless you as you minister in Jesus' name! ■

Ministers in Motion

2008-2009 TBC Officers

Dr. Larry Robertson (BMC Class of 1988) was elected Vice President / President-Elect of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. **Dr. Michael Priest** (BMC Class of 1985) was also elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

SBC of Virginia

Dr. Jeffrey Ginn (BMC Class of 1983) was selected as the executive director of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. Jeff earned the PhD degree from Mid-America Seminary and served for a time as a missionary with the International Mission Board. Jeff's wife, Nell, is also a BMC graduate (Class of 1985).

International Missions Appointee

Chad (last name omitted because of security), a 1999 BMC graduate, has been appointed to serve in the Northern Africa and Middle East regions. You can keep up with Chad and his family at www.chadandchristy.net. If you are interested in receiving their newsletter, contact Lea Bennett in

iNotes

Ronald Meeks
Director of Church Relations, Blue Mountain College

I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce you to iNotes. The "i" in iNotes refers to Isaiah who had a vision of God in the Temple that changed his life and inspired his message.

Isaiah was used by the Lord as a man of influence, character, and power. In future issues of the "Mountain Message" this iNotes section will feature articles from BMC alumni who will be sharing their "Temple" experiences - what God is teaching them in their own lives and ministries. It is our hope that iNotes will provide you with fresh-from-the-

the Office of Alumnae/Alumni Affairs at lbennett@bmc.edu.

Mississippi Baptist Leadership

David Hamilton (BMC Class of 1978), pastor of West Heights Church, Pontotoc, was reelected without opposition October 28, 2008 to a second one-year term as first vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Hamilton is currently serving as a BMC trustee.

Rickey Blythe (BMC Class of 1989), pastor of First Church, New Albany, was elected October 29, 2008 to serve as second vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Randy Bostick (BMC Class of 1977), pastor of Oakland Church, Corinth, was chosen to preach the 2009 convention sermon. The 2009 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will be held at First Church, Jackson, on October 27-28. Special Note: Blue Mountain College will be highlighted at the 2009 convention.

LifeWay Pastoral Award

Donald (Donny) Schuman, BMC Class of 1983, received the LifeWay Pastoral Leadership Award. He is pastor of Hamilton Baptist Church in Benton County.