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# William Carey University

In 1906 a private college opened in Hattiesburg with the name South Mississippi College. Dr. W. I. Thames was president from 1906-1910. An immense fire destroyed South Mississippi College in 1910 and the property was acquired and given to Mississippi Baptists by Hattiesburg businessman W. S. F. Tatum. In 1911 Mississippi Woman's College became the successor to South Mississippi College. The presidents of Mississippi Woman's College were Dr. W. W. Rivers, 1911-1912; Dr. John L. Johnson, Jr., 1912-1932; and Dr. William E. Holcomb, 1932-1940. Financial challenges and a declining enrollment forced the college to close in 1940. It reopened in 1946 under the leadership of President Irving E. Rouse, 1946-1956. Co-educational status and the name change to William Carey College to honor the "Father of Modern Missions" occurred in 1954. Dr. J. Ralph Noonkester served as president 1956-1989. Dr. James W. Edwards was president from 1989-1996 and chancellor in 1996-1997, during which time Dr. Rory Lee served as president. Dr. Larry W. Kennedy, the current president, assumed the presidency in 1998. On August 14, 2006 the name of the institution was changed to William Carey University to acknowledge its growth and to enhance its potential in an increasingly global environment. The name is the fourth in the 100-year history of the institution. The Carey family continues to "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."

## The Alma Mater

TEXT: RUTH JOAN GEIGER

MUSIC: ROBERT L. GAULDIN

William Carey, we will love thee,  
Loyal we will be  
And we will ever sing thy praises;  
Hail, all hail to thee.  
Lifting high the light of knowledge,  
Answering the clarion call,  
Thou hast made thy sons and daughters  
Staunch crusaders all.

Thou hast taught us love and honor,  
Taught us truth and right,  
While fitting ev'ry new crusader  
With thine armor bright.  
May the God, who made thee worthy,  
Keep thee ever truly free;  
May His spirit, Alma Mater,  
Ever dwell with thee.