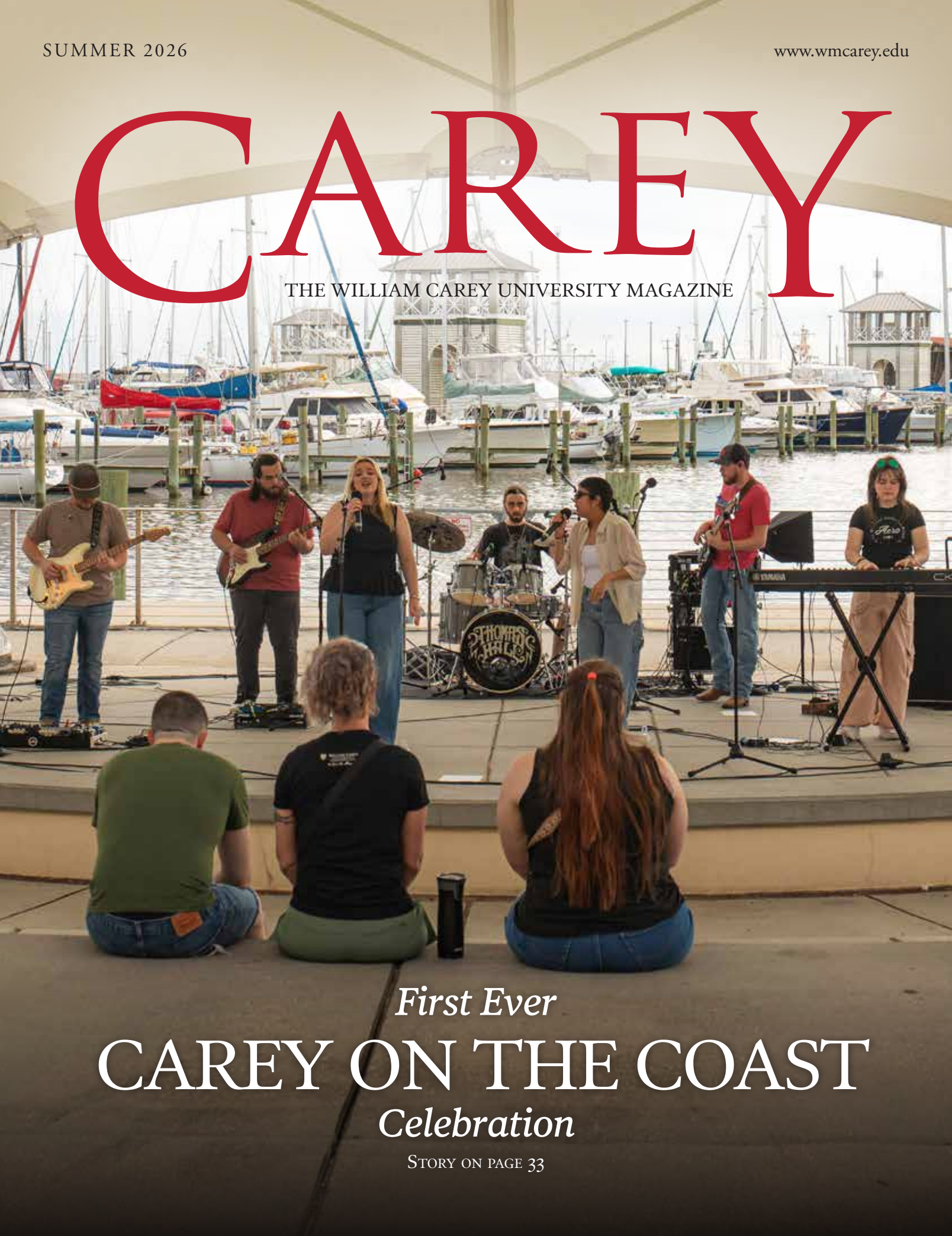


# CAREY

THE WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



*First Ever*  
**CAREY ON THE COAST**  
*Celebration*

STORY ON PAGE 33

# LETTERS FROM CAREY



Dear Carey Family,

*As I begin my fifth year as president of William Carey University, Denise and I are more grateful than ever for the opportunity to serve this remarkable institution. Each year deepens our appreciation for the people who make Carey such a special place — our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends. We are inspired by your commitment to our mission and encouraged by the relationships we have built.*

*We look forward to all that God has in store for William Carey University. This year, we celebrated record enrollment again, with more than 6,000 students enrolled at our three campuses. Since 2022, first-time freshman enrollment has grown by 80 percent.*

*Looking ahead, we are excited about three transformative projects: 1) brand-new building for our growing art program; 2) major upgrades to Thomas Fine Arts Auditorium; and 3) renovations to Bass and Polk residence halls so they provide the same level of quality and comfort as newer residence halls. We also hope to break ground soon on a new residential facility at Tradition, made possible through an appropriation from the Mississippi Legislature.*

*God's blessings are evident in every corner of campus. WCU College of Osteopathic Medicine was ranked #1 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report for educating physicians who enter primary care. It was also elevated to Tier I status for Primary Care Education, placing it among the nation's leading medical schools. The School of Pharmacy welcomed another outstanding class of future pharmacists.*

*The number of religion majors has doubled since 2022, reflecting a growing passion for ministry and Christian service. Our School of Music has reached an all-time high enrollment of 345 music majors, while our School of Education sets a statewide standard for excellence.*

*William Carey University continues to be recognized for quality, value, and student success. We remain the #1 Christian University in Mississippi, rank among the Top 20 Christian universities in the nation, and are recognized as the state's best value in higher education. Our athletic programs recorded the highest winning percentage among all college programs in Mississippi for the second consecutive year.*

*As we enter a new academic year, our university theme centers on the truth found in Ecclesiastes 4:9: "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor." This simple yet powerful verse reminds us that God designed us to accomplish more together than we ever could alone. At William Carey University, we see that truth every day through the partnership of students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, churches, and friends who faithfully support our mission.*

*Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, generosity, and unwavering commitment. Together, we are investing in future generations of Christian leaders and extending Christ's influence throughout our communities and beyond.*

*We are truly Better Together – and it's always a Great Day to Be a Crusader!*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Burnett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ben" and last name "Burnett" clearly legible.

Ben Burnett  
President, William Carey University



# CAREY

THE WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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Called to Serve

Matthew 23:11

*William Carey University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award bachelor, master, education specialist, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of William Carey University.*

*Busy, Busy, Busy...*

# OUR “WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER” ESSAY



**FOUR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WERE IN MOTION AT THE HATTIESBURG CAMPUS OVER THE SUMMER. EACH HAD THE SAME DEADLINE – COMPLETION BEFORE STUDENTS ARRIVE ON CAMPUS FOR START OF THE FALL SEMESTER.**

## THOMAS FINE ARTS CENTER

Thomas Fine Arts Center has been a part of campus life for more than 60 years. It’s where the Carey family and community friends gather for concerts, chapel services, operas, guest speakers, youth camps, and commencement ceremonies.

The building Carey calls “TFA” has seen ups and downs. Major repairs were needed in 2017 after an EF3 tornado struck campus. By 2019, a new elevator was completed. Tuscan Studios, a high-tech recording and audio lab, opened in 2022.

More changes are in motion this summer as workers undertake a renovation of TFA’s

auditorium. In the first phase, they gutted the space, right down to the floor. The re-built auditorium will feature:

- Wider, theatre-style seating
- Carpeted aisles with safety lights
- Acoustic ceiling and “sound clouds” – strategically placed panels designed to reduce echo and reverberation
- Dramatic design and color palette
- New audio-visual equipment

And in front of TFA, a new sidewalk allows easier pedestrian access to the building.

## ART DEPARTMENT

For many years, William Carey University’s art classes met in three borrowed spaces at the Hattiesburg campus. But a new, modern home for the WCU Art Department was completed this summer at the corner of Cherry Street and Tommy King Drive.

The 6,400-square-foot building with high, vaulted ceilings will include studio spaces for

drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture. There will be gallery space for exhibitions – and lots of sunlight streaming through the building’s many windows. The open interior is meant to enable free communication and critiques among students and instructors.

Jeff Revette, chair of the WCU Art Department, said the decision to approve a new building came after a three-fold growth in the number of art majors over the last two years.



## TWO DORM RENOVATIONS

Last summer, William Carey University renovated Bryant Hall, one of the older dormitories on campus. Two other older dormitories were on the “to-do list” this summer – Polk Hall, built in 1962, and Bass Hall, which opened in 1963.

Upgrades at both dorms included: new air-conditioning units in each room; modernization of all bathrooms, including new showers, sinks, toilets, mirrors and floor tiles; and renovation of the lobbies, including new finishes and furniture.

# William Carey University Honors its Past with *Restored Memorial*

**WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY HONORED ONE OF ITS FOREBEARERS WITH THE REDEDICATION OF MISSISSIPPI WOMAN'S COLLEGE HERITAGE PLAZA.**

Mississippi Woman's College operated at the same location as present-day William Carey University from 1911 until 1954. The college closed during World War II, and the campus provided housing to Camp Shelby personnel during those years.

In 2007, WCU honored its predecessor with the first Mississippi Woman's College Heritage Plaza, which was destroyed by an EF3 tornado in 2017.

The university marked the completion of a new, larger Mississippi Woman's College Heritage Plaza with a rededication ceremony on March 27.



"For generations, the legacy of Mississippi Woman's College has lived on through its graduates whose lives of faith, service, leadership, and scholarship helped shape not only our institution but communities across Mississippi and beyond," said Karen Golson, WCU director of advancement.

"Now, as William Carey University, we remain deeply grateful for the foundation built by Mississippi Woman's College and the women who carried its mission into the world."

Just as with the first plaza, construction was made possible by a generous gift by the Gillespie family in honor of Margaret Lou Hemeter Gillespie, a 1931 alumna of Mississippi Woman's College.

*Margaret Lou Hemeter (above right) graduated from Mississippi Woman's College in 1931.*

*William Carey University's Tradition campus dedicated its main administration building in honor of Dr. Joe Canizaro during an Oct. 24 ceremony.*

# WCU-Tradition Campus Dedicates CANIZARO HALL



## **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY'S TRADITION CAMPUS HONORED THE MEMORY OF THE LATE DR. JOE CANIZARO BY NAMING ITS MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING IN HIS HONOR.**

Dr. Ladd Taylor, vice president of WCU-Tradition, hosted a gathering to dedicate Canizaro Hall on Oct. 24. It was attended by Canizaro family members, WCU colleagues and community leaders.

"Dr. Canizaro was a man of great vision. We are grateful that William Carey University was a part of his plan for the Tradition community. We are honored to dedicate the first building completed at the Tradition campus in recognition of his lasting legacy," Taylor said.

Canizaro donated part of the land to establish a new WCU campus after Hurricane Katrina destroyed "Carey on the Coast." WCU-Tradition accepted its first students in 2009.

"My grandfather had a vision and his faith guided him. He always had faith in his projects and in Tradition. He would be very proud. My family and I are overwhelmed with gratitude," said Ryan Lopiccolo, Canizaro's grandson.

WCU-Tradition is the anchor institution in Canizaro's dream of a "Learning Medical Center" in Tradition. The university offers a spectrum of education choices – including nursing programs and a doctoral-level pharmacy program.

Over the years, the complex has expanded to include a National Diabetes & Obesity Research Institute location and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's Bryant Center, which houses its health-related programs.

WCU President Ben Burnett said that, while Canizaro might have been best known for his

acumen as a real estate developer, he also invested in people.

"Beyond the physical buildings, Dr. Canizaro's legacy is one of faith, community, and hope for the future," Burnett said.

"He believed in creating spaces where people could learn, grow and serve others. May this building always stand as a reminder of what can be accomplished when faith and generosity come together for a greater purpose."

*To tour William Carey University's Tradition campus, call (228) 702-1775.*



*Ryan Lopiccolo, Dr. Joe Canizaro's grandson, his mother, Joellen Canizaro, and his aunt, Jill Canizaro Randle, examine a replica of the plaque installed in the main lobby of newly-christened Canizaro Hall.*

# School of Business

## Hosts Three Key Events

**THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ITS DEAN, DR. ROBERT THOMPSON, HOSTED THREE KEY EVENTS THIS SPRING.**



*The Lamar County team won the dessert category at the Culinary Arts Competition.*

### CULINARY ARTS COMPETITION

This exciting and unique competition brought together talented high school Culinary Arts students from area Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs. Teams showcased their skills in three categories—Appetizer, Entrée, and Dessert—using identical ingredients to create unique dishes. Each team prepared ten small plates for judging

by experienced chefs and industry professionals, who evaluated taste, food pairing, presentation, creativity, technical execution, and safety standards.

This competition provides students with hands-on experience, networking opportunities, and the chance to earn awards and funding for their school's Culinary Arts program.

### COLLABORATORY BIZ BRIDGE

The Collaboratory Biz Bridge is a professional networking event designed to connect our students with industry partners and career opportunities. Business partners hosted tables and engaged with students in a structured round-robin networking format, followed by a trade-show-style experience. This format allows for meaningful one-on-one conversations while giving students a chance to explore multiple industries and career paths.

### CTE CASE STUDY COMPETITION

The CTE Case Study Competition is an academic competition in which high school Career and Technical Education students analyze a business case and present strategic solutions to a panel of industry professionals. The event provided students with hands-on experience in problem-solving, critical thinking, and professional presentation within key business disciplines.



## PROFESSIONAL Clothing Closet

The School of Business maintains a selection of professional clothing available to students who may need to step up their wardrobe for a job interview.

Katelyn Sanders, School of Business lead ambassador, explains that the world of business is competitive, and Dr. Thompson, dean of the School of Business, is preparing his students for this world. The School of Business expects nothing but excellence from its students in behavior, attitude and dress.

The professional clothing closet was born out of Dr. Thompson's breadth of knowledge of the business world.

He put together the closets (one with ladies' clothing and one for the men) with blazers, pants, shirts, shoes, ties, and other items that students can mix and match to create professional outfits. Students may keep the items or return them for others to use.

Dr. Thompson also offered a seminar to help students better understand how to dress professionally.

"Meredith Rosser visited the professional clothing closet recently, and I helped her choose a blazer and blouse that she felt comfortable in; and, if I may add, she looked fabulous," said Sanders.

"The clothing closet provides a safe space for students to choose clothing that makes them look good, feel confident, and present themselves well. Students do not have to panic or feel embarrassed when an occasion calls for professional dress. They can simply go to the closet and choose confidence-building outfits."



*Several business students benefited from the closets for the October trip to New Orleans. Port of New Orleans leadership gave the students an overview on economic impact during the visit.*



*Dr. Joseph Nosser, center, and WCU pharmacy students got a first-hand look at advocacy in the legislative process during Capitol Day in January.*

# WCU School of Pharmacy Announces MISSISSIPPI PHARMACISTS ADVOCACY COUNCIL



**THE WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHARMACY LAUNCHED A NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATION THIS SPRING – THE MISSISSIPPI PHARMACISTS ADVOCACY COUNCIL (MPAC). ITS PURPOSE IS TO STAY UP-TO-DATE ON POLICIES AFFECTING PHARMACY PRACTICE AND DEVELOP ADVOCATES FOR THEIR PROFESSION BY ENGAGING ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHER POLICY-MAKERS.**

“When our students take on leadership roles in an organization like MPAC, they are training themselves to be active, informed members of their communities. They are teaching themselves how to advocate for the people they will serve,” said Dr. Joseph Nosser, assistant professor of pharmacy practice.

“They can also help raise the general public’s awareness of their local pharmacist’s role. Pharmacists fill prescriptions, but they also help people think about their choices and live healthier lives.”

Located in Biloxi, the WCU School of Pharmacy is one of a handful of accelerated Doctor of Pharmacy programs in the country. Students complete the program in two years and 10 months – instead of the usual four years. The curriculum includes classroom instruction and clinical rotations at pharmacies and healthcare organizations.

“We have a great program and curriculum to teach our students how to be a pharmacist in many different settings,” said Dr. David Weldon, dean of the WCU School of Pharmacy.

“The addition of MPAC will give them a chance to grow their exposure and skills in pharmacy leadership, increase advocacy opportunities for the profession, and engage in meaningful interaction with government leaders at the state and federal level.”

*For more information, visit [www.wmcarey.edu/pharmacy](http://www.wmcarey.edu/pharmacy).*

## UPDATE

# College of Health Sciences



## NO. 1 RANKING

WCU's Nurse Educator program was ranked No. 1 in Mississippi by RegisteredNursing.org. A nurse educator is a registered nurse who specializes in training nursing students or providing continuing education to current nurses – developing curricula, teaching courses, and mentoring students or staff.

## HYBRID SUCCESS

William Carey University's second class of LPN to BSN Advanced Placement Hybrid graduates matched the inaugural cohort's 100 percent, first-time pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination. The program helps licensed practical nurses earn bachelor's degrees and become registered nurses.

## ACCREDITATION

WCU master's program in Health Informatics and Information Management has achieved full

accreditation. It is one of only 13 institutions in the U.S. with an active and accredited master's program in health information management recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education.

## BATON ROUGE HEART

As end the of the spring semester neared, WCU's Baton Rouge campus posted this message of encouragement on Facebook to their soon-to-be nursing graduates: "Exams are coming soon. As you prepare to take the NCLEX and your other exams, remember how far you've come and all the hard work, dedication, and long hours that brought you here. Keep pushing, stay focused, and trust in the knowledge and skills you've built along the way. You've got this! We are so proud of you and can't wait to see the incredible nurses you're about to become."



WCU College of Osteopathic Medicine  
**LEADS THE NATION  
 IN PRIMARY CARE**



*The April 7 press conference at William Carey University also included a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the College of Osteopathic Medicine's Charles W. Pickering Institute of Primary Care. Pictured from left are: WCU trustee Brenda Ross; Dr. Daniel Edney, Mississippi State Health Officer and WCU trustee; Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann; WCU President Ben Burnett; Dr. Italo Subbarao, dean of the WCU College of Osteopathic Medicine; and WCU trustee Charles Pickering, for whom the institute is named.*



FOR THE FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT GAVE WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (WCUCOM) HIGH MARKS IN ITS 2026 RANKINGS – INCLUDING LEADING THE NATION IN PRIMARY CARE.

**IN THE BEST GRADUATE SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE CATEGORY, WCUCOM EARNED THESE NATIONWIDE DISTINCTIONS:**

No. 1 for highest percentage of graduates practicing in primary care

Tier 1 for Best Medical Schools for Primary Care

No. 3 for highest percentage of graduates serving in rural areas

No. 3 for highest percentage of graduates practicing in areas with shortages of health professionals

The rankings, released in April, include medical schools awarding both MD (Doctor of Medicine) and DO (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) degrees.

During a press conference April 7 to announce the U.S. News and World Report rankings, WCUCOM also hosted a ribbon-cutting for the Charles W. Pickering Institute of Primary Care (IPC). Phase I of the complex began operations in July 2025.

The 70,000-square-foot facility features a large osteopathic manipulative medicine lab and an ultrasound skills lab. It includes a patient encounter center, a multi-purpose training room, a large conference center for medical gatherings, and two classrooms capable of seating 260 students each. In addition to teaching student doctors, the IPC can also help practicing physicians advance their training and certifications – and partner with them on community-based solutions.

The construction of the IPC was supported by a \$20 million infrastructure grant through AccelerateMS using funds allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

“William Carey University is South Mississippi’s oldest institution of higher education. We are placing doctors, teachers,

nurses and pharmacists exactly where they are needed most – serving communities across our state and beyond,” said WCU President Ben Burnett.

“As a lifelong Mississippian, I could not be more proud of what our team at Carey is doing to advance Mississippi through healthcare and education — all through a Christian worldview.”

Dr. Italo Subbarao, dean of the WCU College of Osteopathic Medicine, attributes these latest awards to the faculty and staff’s dedication to education and training servant physicians.

“I am overjoyed at this news, and I believe that transformation for better healthcare is being kindled for Mississippi. This was the promise we made when this school was first started – that we would endeavor to be part of the solution for Mississippi’s physician shortage,” Subbarao said.

In the most recent Match Cycle, WCUCOM successfully placed 100 percent of its graduates into residencies. Seventy-three percent of those new doctors chose primary care – with a record number of students matching into pediatrics, obstetrics, and psychiatry.

“And is it not fitting that we announce this good news from U.S. News & World Report while standing outside the new Charles W.

Pickering Institute of Primary Care? The best medical school in the nation for primary care also has the best facilities in the nation. We now have the largest Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine lab in the nation. We have a new innovative Simulation and Conference Center. And we are learning in state-of-the-art classrooms,” Subbarao said.

WCUCOM’s mission is to prepare men and women to become community-based osteopathic physicians through an emphasis on primary care, lifelong learning, research, scholarly activities, osteopathic clinical service, and graduate medical education.

Since opening in 2010, WCUCOM has graduated more than 1,300 physicians, with more than 70 percent going on to practice in primary care specialties.

*For more about the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine, visit [www.wmcarey.edu](http://www.wmcarey.edu).*

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**BELOW:** *Medical students from WCU College of Osteopathic Medicine gather April 7 for a press conference at the Institute of Primary Care.*



# School of Education

## Launches Teacher Assistant Initiative

**THE “INVESTING IN TEACHER ASSISTANTS INITIATIVE” LAUNCHED THIS SUMMER WITH HELP FROM A \$300,000 GRANT FROM MISSISSIPPI’S ROBERT M. HEARIN FOUNDATION.**

The initiative will help teacher assistants earn their bachelor’s degrees and become fully accredited classroom teachers through a combination of tuition assistance, flexible course delivery, and mentoring to support their efforts.

“With more than 3,000 teacher vacancies in Mississippi, we need effective classroom teachers now more than ever. WCU has been educating teachers for more than a century – and it’s a leader in fighting the teacher shortage,” said WCU President Ben Burnett.

Established in 1965, the Hearin Foundation supports higher education and health-related causes.

“This initiative can transform para-professionals into certified teachers who remain in their home communities, fill high-demand jobs, improve educational quality, and strengthen the economic foundation of rural communities,” said Dr. Teresa Poole, dean of the WCU School of Education.

Graduates of the WCU School of Education routinely exceed the state scoring average on the PRAXIS licensure exams. Niche.com ranks the WCU School of Education the No. 1 Best College for Education in Mississippi – and in the top 10 nationwide.



*Dr. Teresa Poole is congratulated by PREPS board members, from left, Dr. Alee Dixon, Dr. Carla Evers, and Dr. Sam Allison.*

## Dr. Teresa Poole Receives PREPS Partner Award

**DR. TERESA POOLE RECEIVED A SPECIAL AWARD FEB. 27 DURING THIS YEAR’S PREPS CONFERENCE AT WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY – THE PREPS PARTNER AWARD. POOLE IS DEAN OF THE WCU SCHOOL OF EDUCATION.**

PREPS stands for Program for Research and Evaluation for Public Schools. It is a statewide organization that supports Mississippi school districts with resources to enhance student success.

“The PREPS Partner Award is a special recognition honoring people or organizations whose collaboration significantly supports Mississippi’s K-12 schools. Dr. Poole’s leadership and commitment are an inspiration to educators all over the state,” said Dr. Patti Permenter, associate director of PREPS.



The Tradition campus hosted a **Marvelous Monday** series, welcoming students from educator preparation programs to explore the teaching profession, receive scholarship information, and learn more about William Carey University.

## School of Education

# Launches PhD in Neurodiverse Studies



### WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY NOW OFFERS A PHD IN NEURODIVERSE STUDIES – THE FIRST AND ONLY PROGRAM OF ITS KIND IN THE UNITED STATES.

“The term ‘neurodivergence’ is expanding a conversation that has typically been confined to autism spectrum disorders. This field has become very complex because each neurodivergent person is different and needs a different set of solutions and supports,” said Dr. Mark Yeager, chair of WCU’s Department of Exceptional Education.

Often called the “Father of the Mississippi Autism Movement,” Yeager has spent more than four decades serving neurodivergent people, working in developmental and mental health fields, and training others how to work effectively with this community.

“This new program can help professionals who interact with neurodivergent people develop individualized strategies based on their needs. And it’s not just for teachers, but a range of support professionals – social workers, psychologists, doctors, school counselors, dyslexia therapists, law enforcement officers and more,” Yeager said.

Neurodivergence is not new. Many high-achieving artists and scientists are thought to have been neurodivergent, including Albert Einstein, Nikola Tesla and John Forbes Nash – whose life inspired the movie “A Beautiful Mind.”

Current research indicates that 15-20% of the U.S. population is considered neurodivergent, reflecting increased awareness and better diagnostic tools to identify autism, attention deficit-hyperactivity, dyslexia, obsessive-compulsive disorders and other neurological differences. It is these differences that create challenges in how neurodivergent people engage with the world.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges noted in its letter authorizing the new program

that WCU is uniquely positioned to offer this degree due to the strength and variety of its existing programs: “Access to expertise from its medical, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy, psychology and education programs creates the ideal environment to unify these fields of study around the increasingly important area of neurodiversity.”

Faculty from WCU Exceptional Education and School of Education will teach the program’s core courses – with instructors from other departments providing support.

“WCU constantly looks for new ways to serve our state and nation and we are thrilled to be at the forefront with this new PhD program. Neurodiversity has become a focus at both K-12 and higher education levels, and Dr. Yeager is an expert in this field. He will do a fantastic job implementing the program,” WCU President Ben Burnett said.

The PhD in Neurodiverse Studies program will be taught online but will include group discussions and one-on-one meetings.

*For information, email Dr. Mark Yeager at [myeager@wmcarey.edu](mailto:myeager@wmcarey.edu).*

## AUTISM CONFERENCE

TEAM Autism (Together Enhancing Autism Awareness in Mississippi) partnered with The Carey Institute for Excellence to sponsor the fifth annual Autism & Neurodiversity Conference in February. Experts gathered with educators and community leaders to explore strategies to support neurodivergence in school and social settings. The conference included presentations as well as panel and round table discussions.



WILLIAM CAREY  
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL of EDUCATION

## Offers a New Master of Education Degree

**THE NEW MASTER OF EDUCATION IN LEADING AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION WILL SERVE AS THE INITIAL GRADUATE PATHWAY FOR STUDENTS WHO PLAN TO PURSUE THE EXISTING SPECIALIST AND DOCTORAL DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION.**

The degree will serve professionals from community colleges, four-year institutions, K-12 education, as well as community and religious leaders seeking leadership roles.

WCU and BMCU

# Create Pathways for Future Doctors and Pharmacists

**WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY  
AND BLUE MOUNTAIN  
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY SIGNED  
A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
ESTABLISHING NEW ACADEMIC  
PATHWAYS FOR BLUE MOUNTAIN  
STUDENTS WHO WANT TO ENTER  
WCU'S COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC  
MEDICINE OR SCHOOL OF  
PHARMACY.**

"We already have students from BMCU enrolled in our medical school who are performing exceptionally well," said Dr. Italo Subbarao, dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"Students who meet the requirements of this new program will be admitted to our medical program. We believe many will return to serve northern Mississippi – and serving Mississippi is at the heart of what we do."

The pharmacy pathway also includes a structured sequence of undergraduate coursework before admission to William Carey, as well as advising and recruitment support.



*Key faculty and staff joined BMCU President Dr. Barbara McMillan and WCU President Dr. Ben Burnett. Dr. Tammie McCoy accompanied Dr. McMillan, and WCU was represented by Dr. Ladd Taylor, Josh Bellew, Dr. Italo Subbarao, Dr. Noal Cochran, and Dr. Dave Weldon.*

## WCU PARTNERS WITH STATE'S LAW SCHOOLS

Carey students who want to pursue careers as attorneys can save time and expense through new partnerships with two law schools, Mississippi College School of Law and University of Mississippi School of Law. These new, accelerated programs enable WCU students to earn both a bachelor's degree and a Juris Doctorate in six years.

### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- William Carey students complete three-quarters of the coursework required for a bachelor's degree.
- During their junior year, they apply to law school. If accepted, they enter law school at the start of what would have been their senior year at WCU. At the end of their first year in law school, WCU awards their bachelor degrees.
- After two more years of law school, they earn their law degrees.

It's called a "3+3 Program" because the last year of a student's undergraduate studies and first year of law school overlap.



*WCU President Ben Burnett and Frederick G. Slabach, dean of the UM School of Law*

How it happened:

# *Haircut Day at Carey*



**DR. BEN BURNETT AND DR. JANA CAUSEY, VICE PRESIDENT OF PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S HATTIESBURG CAMPUS, INVENTED A NEW EVENT THIS SPRING – HAIRCUT DAY!**

They had been talking about ways the two campuses could enhance their partnership opportunities. With graduation ceremonies just over the horizon, the pieces came together. PRCC-Forrest County has about 25 barbering and cosmetology students – and WCU students wanted to look their best for graduation, right?

And that's how it happened that early one

morning, a small army of PRCC students made their way to William Carey to give students, faculty and staff free haircuts. There was a big turnout and the PRCC barbers and cosmetologists worked all day, consulting with their new clients and sending one Carey person after another back out into the world looking good.

Thanks, Pearl River Community College!

## WCU PASSES ACCREDITATION REVIEW

*with Flying Colors*

**WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY'S FIFTH-YEAR INTERIM REPORT TO THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS COMMISSION ON COLLEGES (SACSCOC) WAS ACCEPTED IN DECEMBER WITH "NO ADDITIONAL REPORT REQUIRED."**

"Full accreditation by SACSCOC is re-affirmed every 10 years, with an interim review

at the five-year mark. William Carey's fifth-year report was accepted without any request for clarification or additional information. That's a significant marker of Carey's commitment to academic, operational, and fiscal excellence," said WCU Provost Noal Cochran.

SACSCOC's Fifth-Year Interim Report reviews accreditation standards related to administration and organization, faculty credentials, student achievement, educational programs and policies, resources, transparency, and institutional representation.



WCU'S COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE HOSTED THE PINE BELT HEART WALK ON NOV. 8. THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT AND MORE THAN 300 WALKERS TURNED OUT FROM ALL OVER THE AREA. TOGETHER, THEY EXCEEDED THEIR GOAL, RAISING \$120,290 TO FIGHT HEART DISEASE.

The focus of this year's Heart Walk fund-raisers was CPR education. The American Heart Association reports that nine people out of 10 who suffer cardiac arrests outside of a hospital die, yet immediate CPR can double or even triple the chances of survival. The AHA's goal is to give people the training they need to act during a cardiac emergency.

Dr. Italo Subbarao, dean of the WCU College of Osteopathic Medicine, was chairman of the 2025 Heart Walk, sponsored by more than a dozen companies from across the Pine Belt.



# Jenna Garriga Wins WCU Student Leadership Award

JENNA GARRIGA OF KILN RECEIVED THE 2026 STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD DURING HONORS DAY AT WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY.

Each year, WCU's Student Life Committee selects one graduating senior for this award, among the highest bestowed by the university. Dr. Valerie Bridgeforth, WCU vice president for student affairs, made the presentation.

"Jenna is an outstanding student leader whose personality combines humility, resilience, humor, compassion and warmth. She excels in group settings – always emphasizing group success over individual recognition," Bridgeforth said.

During Honors Day, Garriga also won the 2026 Kappa Mu Epsilon Mathematics Award.

What's next: This summer, Garriga will serve on a two-month mission trip in Southeast Asia. She will return to William Carey University in the fall to pursue a master's degree in business administration.



*Student Leadership Award winner Jenna Garriga, right, visits after Honors Day with Dr. Valerie Bridgeforth, WCU vice president for student affairs.*



*Jenkins-Chastain Award winners Ben Arnett and Karis Griffin visit with WCU President Ben Burnett in Chain Garden after Honors Day 2026.*

## WCU Announces Jenkins-Chastain Award Winners

**WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY HELD ITS 2026 HONORS DAY ON APRIL 29 – JUST BEFORE FINAL EXAMS AND COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES. THE YEAR-END EVENT RECOGNIZES STUDENTS FOR OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC AND SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT.**

WCU President Ben Burnett presented the day's top honor, the Jenkins-Chastain Award, to Benjamin Arnett of Picayune and Karis Griffin of Purvis. Established in 1957, the Jenkins-Chastain Award goes to two students who exemplify citizenship, scholarship, leadership, and Christian service.

"This award is the highest honor given by William Carey University. Ben and Karis excel in all of the qualities possessed by students who win this prestigious award. They lead academically, spiritually and in the way they serve others. We expect great things from both of them," Burnett said.

### **BENJAMIN ARNETT**

A President's List scholar, Benjamin Arnett majored in Christian studies with minors in strategic communication and biblical languages. He was inducted into Alpha Chi National College Honor Society and received its Benedict Fellowship, a \$3,000 scholarship for graduate studies. During Honors Day, Arnett also received the J.E. Byrd Memorial Award from the WCU Department of Intercultural Studies.

What's next: Arnett will attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in pursuit of a master of divinity degree.

### **KARIS GRIFFIN**

Karis Griffin majored in psychology. Her minor was mass communications, with an emphasis in public relations. A President's List scholar, she was inducted into the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society and the Kristos Logos Paideia. During Honors Day, Griffin was also named the 2026 Outstanding Psychology Student by the Department of Psychology and Counseling.

What's next: Griffin plans to pursue a master's degree in counseling. She aspires to become a Christian therapist, integrating the theories of counseling with the principles of Christianity.

# They're CAREY BOUND!



**W**illiam Carey University welcomed about 300 incoming students and their families to campus on March 28 for Carey Bound!

It's an early registration event for first-time students and transfer students starting classes in the fall. Carey Bound is a chance for students to register for classes, meet with academic advisors, have lunch, and learn about student organizations. This year's event also got students and their parents together for activities like creating custom hats, arranging flowers, packing goodie boxes, and painting Easter pictures. It wrapped up with a "Faith and Family" meeting at Bass Chapel. In the afternoon, visitors had a chance to walk over to the Kennedy Sports Complex and watch the Lady Crusaders take on Faulkner University in a softball double-header. They won both games, 3-1 and 7-0.

**Questions? Visit [www.wmcarey.edu](http://www.wmcarey.edu).**



# Joyful First

## Family Weekend Brings People Together

OUR INAUGURAL FAMILY WEEKEND WAS A SUCCESS, BRINGING MORE THAN 20 FAMILIES TOGETHER FOR A TIME OF CONNECTION AND CELEBRATION. THE WEEKEND BEGAN WITH A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, DR. BEN BURNETT, SETTING THE TONE FOR A DAY FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT.

Families enjoyed a crawfish boil, a BBQ cookout and a choice of activities – like a floral bar, a hat bar, and a paint party.

A highlight of the weekend was families packing “care packages” for their students. Filled with snacks, study supplies, and heartfelt notes from home, the packages were delivered just before finals week as a reminder of encouragement and love. More than 40 families who wanted to send care packages were unable to attend – so Caitlin Warner, WCU’s parent engagement coordinator, packed and delivered packages to their students.

This exciting milestone event, held alongside our annual Carey Bound celebration, marked a beginning for what we hope will become a cherished tradition.



### MESSAGE FROM A CAREY PARENT

*“The Parent Engagement team at William Carey University has made my daughter’s transition to college so much easier for our family!”*

*“During Family Day, we weren’t able to attend all the festivities because my daughter is a student-athlete on the softball team. Caitlin made sure to represent us at the events we missed – and even delivered the goodies to me at the softball game.”*

*“Caitlin consistently comes up with thoughtful ideas to help our daughter feel loved and supported from home – like the exam care packages. She even added a Happy Birthday balloon to my daughter’s package because it was delivered on her birthday.”*

*“People like this make the distance feel smaller and remind us that she is still so well cared for. Thank you, Caitlin, and the entire Parent Engagement team, for all that you do!”*

— KATIE RODRIGUEZ

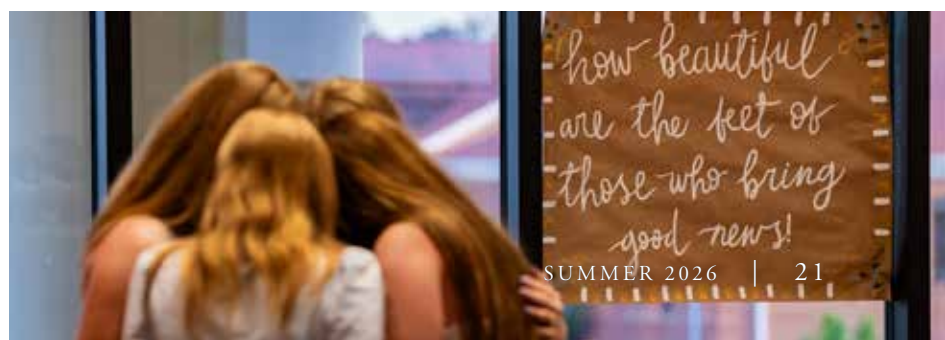




# Office of Student Engagement

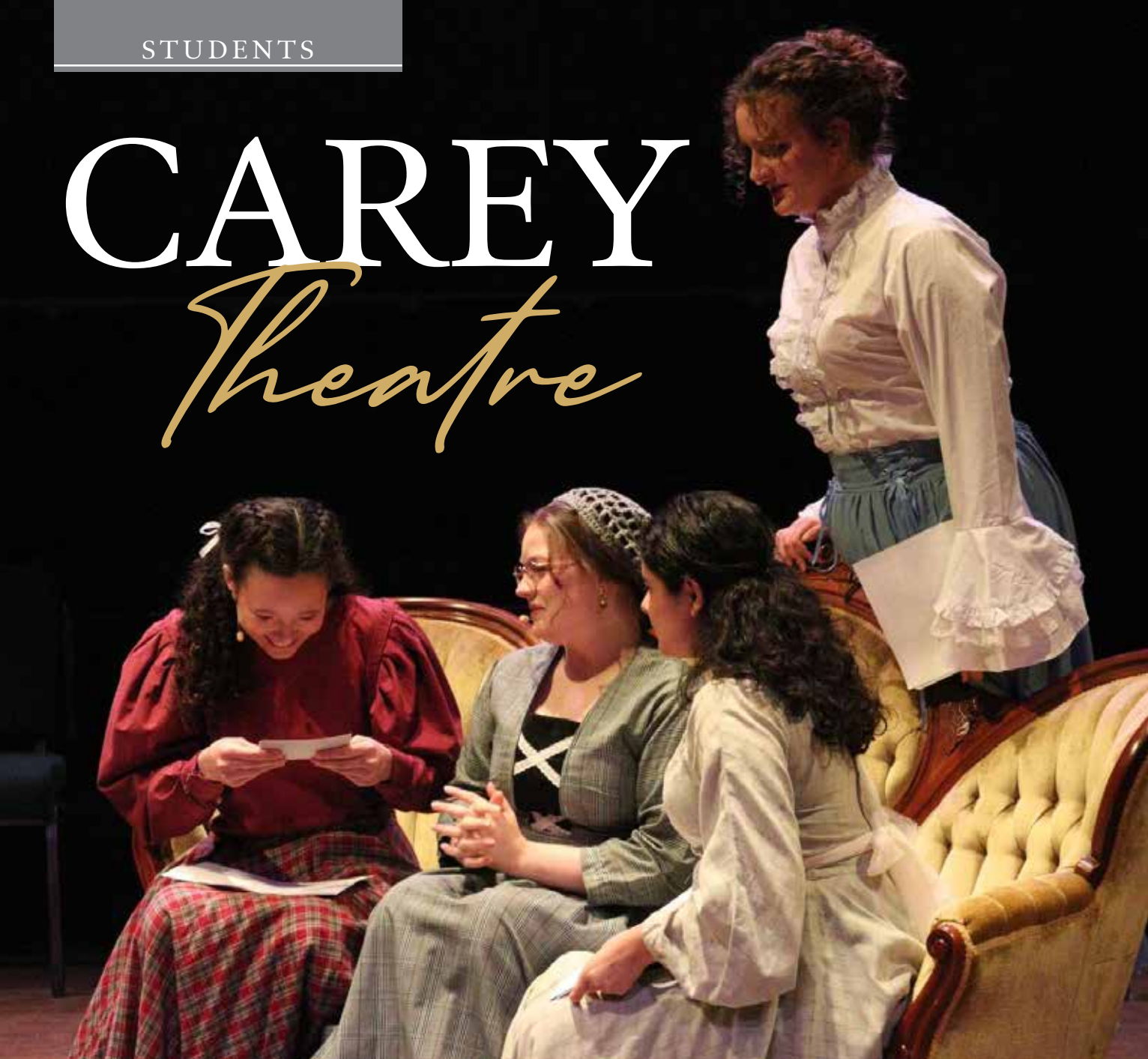
THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IS CELEBRATING ITS FIRST YEAR MENTORING, ENCOURAGING, AND MINISTERING TO OUR STUDENTS. WE HAD WORSHIP NIGHTS, RENEWAL SERVICES, BIBLE STUDIES, GAME NIGHTS, MUSIC NIGHTS, ATHLETIC EMPHASIS, AND MORE! WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THIS FALL AS WE FULFILL THE VISION STATEMENT OF OUR OFFICE: OUR PASSION IS JESUS; OUR PURPOSE IS PEOPLE; AND OUR MISSION IS IMPACT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE BENEFIT OF OUR STUDENTS.





# CAREY

## Theatre



**C**arey Theatre's production of "Little Women: The Musical" played to sold-out houses April 23-25 at Joe & Virginia Tatum Theatre. The show is an adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's novel about the four March sisters and their mother, Marmee, during the Civil War while their father serves as a Union Army chaplain. The musical combines the sisters' real-life experiences with dramatizations of the stories Jo writes in her attic studio, creating a blend of story and song. In the photo, from left, are Sarah Thompson, Gracy Dean, Briseida Salas-Tena and Natalie Dew.

### SETC TRIP

William Carey theatre students attended the Southeastern Theatre Conference March 4-7 in Chattanooga, Tenn. The SETC is the largest theatre network in the United States. Its annual conference brings thousands of artists and administrators together for networking, workshops, performances, and auditions.



# CAREY STUDENTS SERVE

*at Home and Abroad*



## ECUADOR

Dr. Samantha Odem and Dr. Dave Weldon led 11 pharmacy students on a week-long medical mission to rural Ecuador. They worked with local physicians in all clinic areas, including intake, triage, diagnosis, and medication distribution.

## BEACH REACH

In March, Carey BSU students served alongside other Mississippi BSU students during the annual "Beach Reach" mission trip in Panama City Beach, Florida.

The goal of the trip was to give spring breakers free shuttle rides to keep them safe and to share the gospel with them.





# Commencement

MORE THAN 400 GRADUATED IN FIRST EVER DECEMBER COMMENCEMENT, AND MORE THAN 500 EARNED DEGREES IN MAY.





# WCU LEGEND

## *Steve Knight Retires*



**AFTER 44 SEASONS, MISSISSIPPI'S ALL-TIME WINNINGEST COLLEGE BASKETBALL COACH, STEVE KNIGHT, ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT ON MARCH 19, BRINGING AN END TO A REMARKABLE CAREER THAT RANKS AMONGST THE BEST IN COLLEGE BASKETBALL HISTORY.**

"God has blessed me with 44 great years at William Carey, and I am forever indebted to Him and those who gave an opportunity to a young, inexperienced 25 year old aspiring coach back in 1982," said Knight.

"I have had the opportunity to work with awesome, supportive people, including presidents, administrators, staff, and fellow coaches, and could not have envisioned a better job experience than what I have had for so long in my hometown."

Knight was named head basketball coach in 1982, kicking off a career that most only dream of. In his second season, the Crusaders were Gulf Coast Athletic Conference champions. Knight's Crusaders won five more GCAC Championships and went to the NAIA National Tournament seven times.

In 1987, along with his duties as the head basketball coach, Knight was named athletic director. He served in that role for thirty years until 2016. During his tenure as AD, William Carey more than tripled the number of sport offerings from five to 17. He was selected as conference Athletic Director of the Year four times and the NAIA Southeast AD of the Year in 2006. He also served as president of the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference for two terms.

"The basketball program and the university owe a lot to Coach Knight," said Athletic Director Tracy English. "For 44 years he produced championships and sent young men back to their communities to be productive

citizens. He coached hundreds of players that went on to become coaches, bankers, doctors, businessmen, preachers, you name it. He is a great friend, and I wish him the best in his retirement."

In 2019, Knight's team earned a trip to the NAIA Fab Four for the first time in school history. The latest team achievement came just this season, when the Crusaders tied the school record for wins (28) en route to another SSAC Championship and trip to the NAIA National Tournament.

"I've known Coach Steve Knight for most of my life and still remember the privilege of calling him 'coach' as a 12 year-old playing Dixie Youth baseball here in Hattiesburg," said WCU President Ben Burnett.

"For 44 years, he has faithfully served William Carey University, building not only a championship program but shaping generations of young men. While he is retiring from coaching, the culture he built—

one grounded in discipline, integrity, faith, and excellence in both academics and athletics—will continue to shape William Carey University for years to come.”

Knight finishes his career with 819 wins, placing him first on the list of active coaches and eighth in NAIA history. His teams amassed twenty-two 20-win seasons in his career, including 11 regular season conference championships, eight tournament championships, and 15 trips to the NAIA postseason.

Knight has been selected as a District/Conference Coach of the Year 15 times, including this season. In 2015, he became the first ever representative from William Carey to be inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

In addition to the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, he is also a member of the University of Southern Mississippi (M Club) Hall of Fame, the William Carey University Athletic Hall of Fame (2015), the Hattiesburg Public School District Hall of Fame (2019), and the Southern Miss Alumni Hall of Fame (2022).

“Being able to see my children graduate from WCU and for my wife to be able to work here, as well, warms my heart,” said Knight.

“Leaving a program better than I found it has always been the goal, and I feel we have been able to do that plus much more. A special thanks to all of my players who were receptive to coaching and wore the Carey uniform with pride. What a ride it has been!”

## Meet the New Coach

Longtime assistant Phillip “PJ” McCray will replace Steve Knight as the head men’s basketball coach.

“I know we have the right guy for the job,” says Athletic Director Tracy English. I’m excited for him and look forward to the future of our program.”

McCray earned his Bachelor of Science in 2013 and Master of Education in 2014, both from William Carey.

McCray said, “My goal as a head coach is not to try and beat any of his records. I only seek to continue his legacy and lead this basketball program to the best of my ability. I look forward to continuing to help young men develop and mature and will hold our student-athletes to a high standard of excellence on and off the court.



# Bobby Halford

## Inducted into Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame

### CRUSADER HEAD BASEBALL COACH BOBBY HALFORD WAS INDUCTED INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2026.

Halford first stepped foot on the campus of William Carey in 1972 to play baseball and basketball for the Crusaders. More than fifty years later, he’s still on campus serving and making those around him better.

After completing his playing career, Halford joined the coaching staff at Carey as an assistant baseball coach and the first head women’s basketball coach. He led the Lady Crusader program to 152 wins and a conference championship over 10 seasons.

While shuffling back and forth from the hardwood to the diamond, the Crusader baseball team won three conference championships and a berth in the NAIA World Series during his eight seasons as an assistant.

Halford served as William Carey’s Athletic Director from 1984-87.

In 1986, Halford returned to William

Carey Baseball and a dynasty was born. During his forty years at the helm, the legendary coach has amassed 21 conference championships, 29 trips to the NAIA postseason, more than 1,400 victories, and four trips to the NAIA World Series including two semi-finalist finishes.

He is the winningest active coach in the NAIA and has more wins in Mississippi collegiate baseball than any other coach, having passed Mississippi State’s Ron Polk last season.

Halford’s success as a coach hasn’t been a secret hidden away on the campus of William Carey. He’s been named a conference and regional coach of the year by his peers 14 times. He was named the NAIA National Coach of the Year in 2017 and the Small College National Coach of the Year in 2021. Halford was inducted into the William Carey Sports Hall of Fame in 2015, the NAIA Hall of Fame in 2024, and the William Carey Alumni Hall of Fame in 2025. He is the second inductee from William Carey into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.



## ***Crusaders Win 10th Straight Commissioner's Cup***

**FOR THE 10TH YEAR IN A ROW, THE WILLIAM CAREY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT WON THE SOUTHERN STATES ATHLETIC CONFERENCE COMMISSIONER'S CUP. IN ADDITION TO WINNING THE OVERALL AWARD, CAREY ALSO WON THE MEN'S DIVISION AND THE WOMEN'S DIVISION, COMPLETING THE SWEEP. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR TRACY ENGLISH WAS NAMED THE SSAC ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR TO CAP OFF THE EVENING.**

The Crusaders brought home 13 conference championships for the 25-26 athletic year. Carey won home championships in women's cross country, women's soccer (regular season and tournament), women's basketball, men's basketball, women's indoor track and field, men's tennis (regular season and tournament), women's tennis (regular season and tournament), softball (regular season and tournament), and women's outdoor track and field.

"I'm really proud of all of our teams and the effort each of them put into our department," said Athletic Director Tracy English. "It's not easy to keep winning this award but they keep

grinding year in and year out. I'm thankful to have such a great team of people to work alongside each day, as well as a supportive administration."

The SSAC Commissioner's Cup is given annually to the member institution with the most successful all-around sports program for the year. Points are awarded based on how a team finishes in the regular season or the conference championship.

# WILLIAM CAREY CRUSADERS

## Baseball

**AFTER A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR, THE CRUSADERS' SEASON CAME TO AN END IN A HIGH-SCORING, BACK-AND-FORTH BATTLE AT THE 2026 AVISTA NAIA WORLD SERIES, AS WILLIAM CAREY FELL TO TENNESSEE WESLEYAN 16-14 AT HARRIS FIELD IN LEWISTON, IDAHO. THE GAME WRAPPED UP A PHENOMENAL SEASON WITH 41 WINS.**

"When a team scores in every inning, it's tough to overcome," said Head Coach Bobby Halford. "But I'm incredibly proud of the resilience our guys showed, battling back with that 10-run inning and never giving up down the stretch. Finishing third in the World Series is a great accomplishment, and we'll use this as motivation heading into next year."

The game lasted more than four hours and is the longest nine-inning game in NAIA World Series history. The two teams combined had 30 runs and 34 hits, while tying a tournament record by sending 16 batters to the plate in a single inning.

## Women's Soccer

**JACK HARTLEY WAS NAMED HEAD COACH FOR WOMEN'S SOCCER. HE REPLACED DANNY OWENS WHO COACHED SOCCER AT CAREY FOR 21 YEARS.**





*Carey Athletics  
Inducts Five into*

**Sports  
Hall of  
Fame**

**CAREY ATHLETICS INDUCTED FIVE NEW MEMBERS INTO THE WILLIAM CAREY SPORTS HALL OF FAME ON OCT. 18: ERIC ADKINS, DARON BELL, CRAIG FLETCHER, DJ PULLEY, AND LUIS TRUDE.**



**ERIC ADKINS**

Eric Adkins, a native of Purvis, Miss., played baseball for the Crusaders from 2003-2004. A transfer from Pearl River Community College, Adkins was a first team All-GCAC member and GCAC Player of the Year for both seasons. In 2003, he batted .352, hit 15 home runs and drove in 51 runs, helping Carey win the GCAC Championship. He followed up his successful junior season with an even bigger senior year. In 2004, Adkins set a William Carey record with 21 home runs, a record that still stands today. He also drove in 64 runs, leading the Crusaders to another GCAC Championship.



### DARON BELL

Daron Bell, a native of Waveland, Miss., played basketball for the Crusaders from 2012-2014. He averaged 17.1 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. He was named Southern States Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year in 2014 for his 150 career steals. He was also named the SSAC Player of the Year in 2014. He was an SSAC first team All-Conference member in both of his seasons as a Crusader. Bell was named to the NAIA Honorable Mention team and the NAIA first team All-American.



### CRAIG FLETCHER

Craig Fletcher, a native of Hattiesburg, Miss., joins the Hall of Fame for baseball and softball. Fletcher played baseball for the Crusaders from 1984-1987. He hit .306 and drove in more than 100 runs. He also set a William Carey record for most walks, a record that lasted until 2024. He was a member of two GCAC Championship teams. Fletcher also served as an assistant baseball coach in the 90s. He returned to Carey in 2006 as an assistant softball coach and helped lead the Crusaders into national prominence. In 2014, Fletcher took over as the head softball coach, a role he served in until 2026. During his time as the head coach, the Crusaders won 416 games, three SSAC Regular Season Championships, and three SSAC Tournament Championships. His teams reached the NAIA Opening Round nine times.



### DJ PULLEY

DJ Pulley, a native of Sumrall, Miss., joins the Hall of Fame as golfer, coach and administrator. Pulley played golf at William Carey in 2001 and 2002. He was All-GCAC both seasons and was named as the GCAC Player of the Year in 2002. Pulley took over as the head golf coach in 2004 and served as sports information director. Pulley was also an assistant coach for the women's basketball team. In 2011, Pulley was named the SSAC Coach of the Year for Golf after winning the SSAC Championship. After a brief hiatus from William Carey, Pulley returned to the athletic department from 2016-2022 as the athletic director. He was named the SSAC Athletic Director of the Year in 2018 and 2021. Under his leadership, the Athletic Department won the SSAC Commissioners Cup each year.



### LUIS TRUDE

Luis Trude, a native of Sau Paulo, Brazil, played soccer for Carey from 2011-2013. He was the SSAC Freshman of the Year and named to the SSAC second team in 2011. In 2012, Trude was an SSAC first team member, as well as being named to the NAIA second team All-American list. Trude was named the SSAC Player of the Year in 2013 and an NAIA first team All-American.

# FACULTY & STAFF *News*



## GRACE BEST

Administrative Assistant Grace Best of the WCU Office of Financial Aid received Mississippi State Financial Aid Association's 2026 Rookie of the Year Award. The association works to support

financial aid professionals working at colleges and universities to expand access to education.



## TRAVIS COAKLEY

Dr. Travis Coakley received the "2025 Outstanding Contributor of the Year Award" from the Mississippi Bandmasters Association. The award

was presented by MBA's Phi Beta Mu fraternity, which honors excellence, preserves legacy, promotes fellowship and supports music education.



## BRANDON KNIGHT

Dr. Brandon Knight received the 2026 Humanities Teacher of the Year award from the Mississippi Humanities Council. Knight is an associate professor of

Strategic Communication and Leadership and director of WCU's speech and debate program. He also collaborates with the Cooper School of Missions and Ministry Studies. WCU hosted a reception in Knight's honor in March, when he presented his research paper entitled, "Freedom to Save the Body (of Christ)."



## TIM MATHENY

Tim Matheny's history at William Carey goes back to 1995, when he graduated with a BFA in theatre performance. He's returned to his alma mater several times over the years, most recently

in 2020, when he accepted a position as Carey's associate dean of arts and letters and chair of the Theatre and Communications Department. In this capacity, he launched successful BFA programs in Theatre for Young Audiences, Script Writing and Musical Theatre – and co-wrote "Waffle House: The Musical." He was named dean of the School of Arts & Letters earlier this year.



## AMY PARKER

Dr. Amy Parker was named director of WCU's physical therapy program. Parker has been a member of physical therapy faculty from the program's launch and served as

curriculum chair from 2016 to 2024. She is a board-certified clinical specialist in orthopedic physical therapy.



## ALICIA PURVIS

Dr. Alicia Purvis was named dean of the WCU College of Health Sciences. A nurse for more than 20 years, Purvis has worked in emergency rooms and critical care units, as well

as healthcare administration. She earned master's and doctoral degrees in nursing at William Carey University and accepted an administrative position at the WCU School of Nursing in 2016. She served as dean of nursing before being named dean.



## PETER RUPERT

Peter Rupert was inducted by PineBelt News and Signature Magazine into its annual "Top 40 Under 40" class. As director of operations for the College of Osteopathic

Medicine, Rupert serves as a liaison between the medical school and the WCU Human Resource Department, Business Office, IT Department and Facilities Department.



## RICHARD STREBECK

Dr. Richard Strebeck was named president-elect of the American Association of State Counseling Boards, a national organization representing state

counseling licensure boards across the United States. In this role, he will help guide national policy discussions and initiatives shaping the future of professional counseling regulation and licensure. Strebeck is chair of WCU's Department of Counselor Education.



## LADD TAYLOR

Dr. Ladd Taylor, WCU-Tradition vice president, was selected for the Gulf Coast Business Council's Masters Leadership Program. He was also named to the Gulf Coast Business

Council's board of directors.



## DAVID WELDON

Dr. David Weldon, dean of the WCU School of Pharmacy, was chosen for the inaugural Executive Leadership Academy class. The program is sponsored by the Gulf

Coast Business Council and the University of Southern Mississippi. The nine-month program prepares leaders to integrate artificial intelligence into organizational strategy and decision-making.

*Say Hello to a New Tradition...*

# CAREY on the COAST!



**WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY HOSTED THE FIRST-EVER “CAREY ON THE COAST” APRIL 25 AT JONES PARK IN GULFPORT. IT WAS AN AFTERNOON SPENT WELCOMING ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BARKSDALE PAVILION FOR FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT – PLUS A LOOK AT THE UNIVERSITY’S GROWING PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY.**

Carey alumni caught up on the latest news. Prospective students and families learned about Carey’s academic programs and campus life – and everyone enjoyed carnival rides, games, live music from the Thomas Hall Band, food trucks and hourly give-aways.

“We were thrilled to see such a great turnout, more than 1,000 alumni and community guests. It was a wonderful way to bring people together and celebrate what William Carey means to so many people across the Gulf Coast,” said Dr. Ladd Taylor, vice president of WCU-Tradition Campus.

Carey representatives from admissions, academic programs, student services, and athletics were available throughout the afternoon to share information and answer questions.

Michelle Sekul is director of community outreach for WCU’s Tradition campus.

“This event reflects our commitment to building strong relationships in the communities we serve. It’s a welcoming environment where people can connect and get to know William Carey,” Sekul said.

After a successful debut, Carey on the Coast is set to become a lasting tradition – a signature gathering that strengthens connections between Carey and its Gulf Coast neighbors.





# Homecoming

## OCTOBER 2025

**IN 2025, WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC YEAR SHIFTED FROM A TRIMESTER-BASED TO A SEMESTER-BASED CALENDAR. THE UNIVERSITY ADJUSTED AND HELD ITS FIRST-EVER WINTER COMMENCEMENT.**

With a schedule now aligned with other four-year universities in Mississippi, WCU leadership made the decision to shift Homecoming to the fall. But a question arose. If Carey's last Homecoming was in April 2025, did that mean the next would not occur until fall of 2026 – a year and a half later?

The obvious solution was to host two Homecomings in 2025, one in April and one in October. So that's what we did.

The theme of Homecoming in October was "Through the Decades." It opened with a homecoming parade through campus, led

by a new Hattiesburg firetruck with a custom red-and-black paint job featuring the William Carey crusaders – and Dr. Burnett and first lady Denice up top throwing candy.

The line-up also included Color Guard Youth Challenge Academy, WCU cheerleaders, WCU Color Guard, WCU Band, Pine Belt Antique Auto Club, Miss Mississippi and Mrs. Mississippi, Platoon Youth Challenge Academy, WCU Homecoming Court, JROTC, Hellfighters Motorcycle Club, WCU athletic teams, breast cancer survivors and local high school drum lines.

Throughout the week, students enjoyed a tie-dye T-shirt booth, pickleball tournament, throwback-themed dance, costume contests, and a video game trailer experience.

Homecoming weekend officially commenced on Friday, Oct. 24, with a Decades Luncheon, honoring graduates from the 1970–79. That evening, the annual Carey Carnival brought the community together for fair rides,

food trucks, live music, a makers' market, and family-friendly activities. More than 1,000 people from Hattiesburg and surrounding area attended.

Friday evening also featured the Alumni Hall of Fame Dinner – honoring inductees Dr. Joseph Byrd, Dr. Martha Williams, Dr. Howard Savage Jr., and Keith Saucier. During the ceremony and formal dinner, inductees shared their "Road to Carey" stories and expressed gratitude for their experiences.

Saturday morning kicked off with departmental breakfasts as alumni reconnected with professors, classmates, and friends. The campus remained lively throughout the day as alumni and their families enjoyed fair rides, food trucks, inflatables, and the makers' market.

Plans are already underway for next year's celebration. Be sure to save the date – Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026. We look forward to welcoming you back to campus.





**MURAL DEDICATION:** *On Saturday, the university celebrated the completion of the largest mural in Hattiesburg.*

## Carey Inducts Four into

# Alumni HALL of FAME



*Carey inducted four distinguished alumni into the Alumni Hall of Fame: Keith Saucier, Joseph Byrd, Martha Williams, and Howard Savage (not pictured).*

### DR. HOWARD SAVAGE JR.

*M.Ed. in Educational Leadership '14  
Ed.S. in Instructional Leadership '16  
Ed.D. in Educational Leadership '17*

With nearly 20 years of experience in education, Dr. Howard Savage Jr. has made a lasting impact on schools across Mississippi. Known for improving school culture, building strong community partnerships, and increasing student achievement, Dr. Savage brings proven leadership to every role he undertakes. He holds degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi, Northeast Mississippi Community College, and William Carey University, where he earned both his specialist and doctorate in educational leadership.

Before becoming superintendent of the Winona-Montgomery School District, Dr. Savage served in various leadership roles across

the state, including assistant superintendent of secondary education for the Pascagoula-Gautier School District and executive principal for the Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District. Under his leadership, Winona-Montgomery Schools completed a \$7 million capital improvement project and earned its first-ever High Performing rating for the 2024–2025 school year.

Dr. Savage has received numerous awards for his dedication to education, including the 2018 Mississippi Administrator of the Year and the 2022 Governor's Award from the Mississippi Association of Partners in Education.

He is married to Dr. Angela Savage, assistant professor of social work at Jackson State University. They have three children: Amara, Amarion, and Amaya.

### JOSEPH K. BYRD

*B.S. in Social Science '75  
M.Ed. in Educational Administration '80*

Joseph K. Byrd joined Xavier University after serving in administrative roles at William Carey College and the University of New Orleans. At Xavier, he progressed from general counselor to vice president for student services, a role he has held since 1995, overseeing 12 areas of student life.

He earned a B.S. in social science and psychology and an M.Ed. in educational administration from William Carey University. He also holds a diploma in educational management from Harvard University, where he was the first African American elected class president, the first to win with more than 80 percent of the vote, and the first class president from an HBCU. Dr. Byrd is active in national organizations including NASPA, NASAP, NADE, and ACPA. He is a member of several honor societies, such as Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Delta, Theta Kappa Sigma, Alpha Kappa Mu, and Phi Alpha Delta. He is listed in Who's Who Among Black Americans. A committed member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Lambda Chapter, Dr. Byrd has held numerous leadership roles and currently serves on the National Education Foundation.

In the community, he serves with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Bishop Perry Middle School, and Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, where he is vice chairman of the Board of Deacons and a past brotherhood president. He is a sought-after speaker nationwide.

### KEITH SAUCIER

*B.S. in Business Administration '91*

Keith and Melissa are the owners of Keithco Petroleum, BRJ Oil Co., Keith's Superstores, Saucier Enterprises, Shop Local Mississippi, and Mississippi Made & More. Together, they are proud parents of six children, ranging in age from 12 to 26. Keith began working nearly full-

# Alumni & Faculty Passings

time at age 13 for his uncle and father at Big K Oil Company, gaining hands-on experience in every area of the business—from pumping gas and hauling fuel to scouting new store locations and managing construction.

A 1991 William Carey University graduate, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the WCU School of Business. In 1996, Keith and Melissa opened the first Keith's Superstore, which has since grown to 43 locations and continues to expand. Both remain deeply involved in daily operations while prioritizing faith and family.

Known for their generosity, Keith and Melissa focus their charitable giving on children, education, and community. Their contributions include membership in the USM Circle of Champions, funding five suites in the Children's of Mississippi Hospital NICU Tower, supporting the WCU School of Nursing, and providing numerous scholarships to schools across Mississippi.

## DR. MARTHA WILLIAMS

*B.S. in Chemistry and Biology '77*

Martha Williams was born in Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands, and graduated from William Carey in 1977 with a B.S. in chemistry and biology at just 19 years old. She later earned her Ph.D. in polymer chemistry from the Florida Institute of Technology while working for NASA at the Kennedy Space Center. A founding team member of GenH2, Dr. Williams serves as senior technology advisor and intellectual property strategist, leading innovations in liquid hydrogen infrastructure, refrigeration systems, simulation platforms, and solid-state hydrogen storage technologies.

During her distinguished NASA career, she served as lead polymer scientist and inventor, earning numerous honors including the R&D 100 Top Technology Award, NASA Commercial Invention of the Year, and induction into the NASA Inventors Hall of Fame with 20 patents and several licensed technologies. She also received the Silver Snoopy Award, Silver Achievement Medal, and was named Outstanding Chemical Professional for 2022 by the American Chemical Society's Orlando Chapter.

Deeply grounded in her Christian faith, Dr. Williams credits her education and calling to her relationship with Christ. Encouraged by Baptist missionaries to attend William Carey, she continues serving through mission support and volunteer work with Wycliffe Bible Translators, CRU (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ), and Pioneers.

## LEWIS EDWIN ALLRED '57

*January 17, 1933 – December 6, 2025*

## JAMES RONALD BOLEN '75

*January 23, 1952 – January 7, 2026*

## CLEAMON RUBIN DOWNS '69

*March 6, 1947 – February 7, 2026*

## MARY VIRGINIA HARVEY '64

*August 22, 1942 – November 6, 2025*

## ROSCOE HERSHEL LADNER '57

*January 12, 1934 – November 26, 2025*

## TALMADGE L. MAULDIN '55

*July 31, 1933 – November 13, 2025*

## NORMA JUNE MILES '80

*June 6, 1936 – February 16, 2026*

## BRENDA PITTMAN '98

*May 7, 1958 – December 23, 2025*

## WALTER R. REEDER '67

*September 28, 1940 – October 11, 2025*

## PHYLLIS SELLERS SHARITT '64

*August 6, 1942 – December 12, 2025*

## HOYT KENDELL SMITH '58

*August 16, 1933 – February 10, 2026*

## DWIGHT L. SMITH '66

*May 12, 1940 – April 23, 2026*

## MAEGHAN ELIZABETH SMITH '20

*April 23, 1994 – January 7, 2026*

## THOMAS KEITH STANLEY '78

*September 8, 1955 – October 30, 2025*

## MONA D. STEWART '56

*May 26, 1934 – November 30, 2025*

## JAMES T. TAYLOR '58

*January 19, 1934 – December 16, 2025*

## HELEN D. THORNTON '49

*September 25, 1929 – February 13, 2026*

## RANDALL GLYNN WATTS '56

*February 22, 1937 – December 6, 2025*

## NANCY S. WYRICK '64

*June 3, 1936 – February 11, 2026*



## 50s

**BILLY CROSBY '56**

Mr. Billy Crosby is a 1956 physical education graduate who was inducted into the WCU Sports Hall of Fame in 2012, but was unable to receive his Sports Hall of Fame jacket. This year, Billy received his red Sports Hall of Fame jacket and recorded a video about his time at WCU for the “Discovering Carey” series.

## 90s

**PATSY WELCH '95**

Patsy is a 1995 nursing graduate and director of the labor and delivery unit at Our Lady of The Angels Hospital in Louisiana. She is also director of the Rise Up program, which was recently recognized as a catalyst site for the Mom Project. The unit was called to the senate floor and given a proclamation for its work to help mothers and babies affected by substance abuse disorder.

**KIMBERLY J. TREWERN '97**

Kimberly earned a master's degree in education in 1997 and was selected as the first female vice president of academics at Nelson University in Waxahachie, Texas. She previously served as vice president of institutional effectiveness and dean of the College of Music and Communication Arts. She is married to Jay, and they have two sons, Ben and Alex.

## 00s

**TERI N. OSABUTEY '01**

Teri recently retired from the General Services Administration as chief of staff for the Federal Acquisition Service. She started her federal career as a NASA intern in 1999. Teri is a 2001 MBA alumna from Carey and resides in the Atlanta area.

# Class NOTES

**ROBERT (LYNN) WALLACE, JR. '05**

Robert (Lynn) Wallace, Jr. was selected by Star Student Kaylyn Johnson to be Star Teacher at Mendenhall High School in Mendenhall, Miss. Lynn is a 2005 biology graduate of Carey and the father of current Carey student Abby Wallace.

**JOHN BYXBE '06**

John is a 2006 MBA graduate from and was named chief business services officer for the Department of General Services for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**KATRINA GRIFFIN '06**

Katrina Griffin is a 2006 psychology and business administration graduate whose book “Behind the Gavel: Lessons from Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson” received a number of honors: #1 Bestseller – Teen & Young Adult Political Biographies (eBook); #1 New Release – Civil Rights & Liberties; #1 New Release – Teen & Young Adult Political Biographies; #1 New Release – Teen & Young Adult Women Biographies; and #3 Bestseller – Teen & Young Adult Women Biographies.

## 10s

**LORA '12, '16 AND NEIL '10 GREEN**

Lora is working for U.S. Postal Service and Grace United Methodist Church – and she teaches music lessons. Neil works for Regions Bank. They were married April 30, 2025, and serve together on the worship team at Grace UMC in Iuka, where they make their home with their three children, J.D. Toney, Layla Green, and Maddux Toney.

**FATINA BRAVE '11**

Fatina was named vice president of infrastructure and sustainability at Ingalls Shipbuilding. She started at the company in 2011 and has steadily climbed the ranks. Fatina is an U.S. Air Force veteran and earned her degree in industrial psychology from WCU in 2011.

**CHARLES "CHARLIE" BROWN '16**

Charles "Charlie" Brown (USM '90, WCU '16) has answered the call to ministry and was ordained on May 17, 2026, at Lincoln Road Baptist Church in Hattiesburg. Charlie teaches high school math at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hattiesburg.

He is married to Shelia Walters Brown ('89). Their daughter, Alyson Speights Hawthorn ('17), and son-in-law, Josh Hawthorn ('99, '11), are also graduates of William Carey University.

Charlie and Shelia are the proud grandparents of Hudson Daryl Speights, Anne Marie Hawthorn, Harper Sue Speights, and Hannah Faye Speights.

**KATIE SIMS HODGES '17**

Katie Sims Hodges earned a CPA certification from the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. She is a senior property accountant at C.B. Ragland. Katie completed her bachelor's degree in finance in 2017. She received the "Outstanding Finance Student Award" at Carey and represented Carey at the Miss Mississippi pageant in 2014. Katie is married to Nate and they live in Nashville.

**DERRICK DEWAYNE CAPLES '19**

Derrick is principal of Magnolia Middle School in the Moss Point School District. He earned a master's degree in education at WCU in 2019.

## 20s

**TAYTUM REID '20**

Taytum is a 2020 biology graduate who married Jacob Stuart on May 2.

**WESLEY PEDEN '20**

Wesley was ordained May 17 and serves at Crosspoint Church in Gulfport. A 2020 Christian ministry graduate from WCU, he is the associate pastor overseeing missions, young adults, and the Crosspoint Institute. Wesley loves to lead others to delight in God and serve their neighbors. He and his wife, Savannah, have two toddlers, Parker and Addie Lu. Currently, Wesley is a PhD student at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He enjoys coffee too much and quality time with his family .

**JENNIFER PACHECO '22**

Jennifer Pacheco is a 2022 chemistry graduate who serves as the USO director and center operations specialist at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg.

**IF YOU HAVE AN UPDATE  
FOR CLASS NOTES,  
send the information along with a photo to  
alumni@wmcarey.edu.**

# Scholarships

## MARGIE RUTH BRUMFIELD SCHOLARSHIP

The Margie Ruth Brumfield Scholarship was established in April 2026 by Mr. Aubrey Lamar Brumfield and Mrs. Frances Margaret Russell Brumfield as a part of their estate. This scholarship is in honor of Mr. Brumfield's sister, Margie, and will be used solely for a master's degree program in the field of Special Education.



## DAVE AND SUSAN BUSH SCHOLARSHIP

Dave is a 1978 graduate of William Carey University School of Business and a former baseball player. Susan is a 1976 graduate of the William Carey University Winters School of Music. Together, Dave and Susan are deeply committed to the mission of William Carey University. They consistently support the university both financially and with their time. One of their passions is to support international students who are members of the WCU Orchestra. The proceeds from this endowment will help defray costs of the English Language Center tuition, housing, meals, and travel expenses for mission trips. Many international students would not be able to attend WCU without financial help from people like Dave and Susan.



## MELVA EMERSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Melva Webb Emerson Memorial Scholarship was established in March 2026 by her husband Charles to honor her memory. Melva was a faithful servant of the Lord and dearly loved her husband and four children. Melva had a heart for all people; she was a ladies' bible study

leader for 17 years and a pianist in several churches. She worked as an office manager in Pascagoula. This endowed scholarship was established to aid needy students desiring a Christian education.



## SMITH-GREEN SCHOLARSHIP

The Smith-Green Endowed Scholarship is sponsored by Dr. Wanda Maulding Green, whose career in education spans more than four decades. She began her professional journey in K-12 education, serving as a science teacher, coach, and principal, before transitioning to higher education, where she held roles as a leadership faculty member, department chair, dean, and assistant vice president. Dr. Maulding-Green currently contributes her expertise to an executive search firm specializing in the placement of higher education leaders. In addition to her

professional accomplishments, she is a successful author who now writes children's books and novels in support of Christian causes, publishing under the pen name Dr. Wanda Sue. This scholarship is being funded through book sales authored by Dr. Wanda Sue.

*To learn more or buy a book, visit [www.drwandasue.com](http://www.drwandasue.com).*

## PIERCE AND JESSE STEVENS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The endowment was established by Linda Haywood in honor and memory of her parents, Pierce A. Stevens Sr. and Jesse Lee Stevens. Married in 1948, they shared 64 years together and built a life rooted in faith, family, and service. After settling in Petal and later Hattiesburg, they were active members of Petal First Baptist Church. Mr. Stevens was a University of Mississippi attendee, a retired insurance broker, and a World War II Navy veteran. Mrs. Stevens graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi and worked in business education and administrative support. Together, they enjoyed the arts at William Carey University and often brought their family to campus. This scholarship reflects their lasting values and faith, providing future ministry students the opportunity to grow academically and spiritually.

# Thomas *Fine Arts* Auditorium

**THIS YEAR, THE WINTERS SCHOOL OF MUSIC IS LARGER THAN EVER BEFORE, SERVING OVER 300 STUDENTS ACROSS OUR PROGRAMS. OUR STUDENTS ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN MORE THAN 20 ENSEMBLES, PERFORMING REGULARLY ON CAMPUS, IN THE COMMUNITY, AND BEYOND.**

The Thomas Fine Arts Auditorium will undergo renovation and will be renamed the Thomas and Miriam Roberson Auditorium. This renovated space will feature improved acoustics, updated seating, enhanced lighting, and modernized facilities that better serve our students and audiences. The auditorium will be a gift to our campus and community for many years to come.

Following the renovation, the School of Music will host a dedication dinner to celebrate the Thomas and Miriam Roberson Auditorium and to thank those who helped make this project possible. Please mark your calendar to join us October 23 in the Tatum Court Ballroom; registration will be available this fall.

As part of this project, we invite you to participate in a Seat Naming Opportunity. For a gift of \$500, you may name a seat in the Thomas and Miriam Roberson Auditorium in honor or memory of someone special, or to recognize your own connection to the Winters School of Music, a simple but lasting way to support our students and leave a meaningful mark on the future of the school.



**WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY'S GIVING DAY BROUGHT TOGETHER ALUMNI, FRIENDS, FACULTY, AND STUDENTS FOR ANOTHER STRONG SHOW OF SUPPORT. THIS YEAR, THE CAREY COMMUNITY RAISED MORE THAN \$75,000 TO HELP FUND SCHOLARSHIPS, PROGRAMS, AND OTHER CAMPUS NEEDS.**

Donors who gave \$25 or more received a special Tatum Court print created by student



artist Audrey Waller. The piece highlighted one of campus's most recognizable spots and gave supporters something meaningful to take home.

Every gift, no matter the size, helped make a difference. Giving Day continues to be a simple but important way for the Carey family to invest in current and future students.



# PLANNED *Giving*

**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE IS NOT ALWAYS EASY, BUT IT CAN BE ONE OF THE MOST MEANINGFUL WAYS TO CARE FOR BOTH LOVED ONES AND THE CAUSES THAT MATTER MOST. AT WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY, A GROWING NUMBER OF ALUMNI AND FRIENDS ARE CHOOSING TO INCLUDE CAREY IN THEIR LONG-TERM PLANS THROUGH SIMPLE ESTATE GIFTS.**

To make this step more accessible, the university is offering to cover attorney fees for a basic will or living trust for those who choose to name William Carey University as a beneficiary. The goal is to remove some of the barriers that can keep people from putting a plan in place, while also creating an opportunity to support future generations of students.

For many, planned giving offers a way to make a lasting impact without affecting present financial needs. A bequest of any size can help provide scholarships, strengthen academic

programs, and support campus life for years to come. It is a quiet but powerful way to invest in Carey's mission.

Those who have already taken part in this opportunity often say the process is simpler than they expected. Working with an attorney to create or update a will or trust can bring a sense of clarity and peace of mind. At the same time, it allows donors to leave something behind that reflects their values and their connection to the university.

Carey's advancement team is available to walk people through the process and answer questions along the way. There is no pressure or minimum giving requirement beyond naming the university as a beneficiary, and every planned gift helps strengthen the future of William Carey University.

For alumni and friends looking for a practical way to make a difference, planned giving may be worth considering. It is one more way the Carey family continues to look ahead while staying rooted in a shared commitment to students and the life-changing work of the university.

## “Join the Circle”

### CHALLENGE COIN

**WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY CONTINUES TO SEE STEADY SUPPORT THROUGH RECURRING GIFTS, GIVING ALUMNI AND FRIENDS A SIMPLE WAY TO MAKE AN ONGOING IMPACT. WHETHER GIVEN MONTHLY, QUARTERLY, OR AT ANOTHER INTERVAL, THESE GIFTS HELP PROVIDE CONSISTENT SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, PROGRAMS, AND CAMPUS NEEDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.**

Those who join this group of recurring donors, known as the Carey Circle, receive a limited edition challenge coin as a thank you. The coin serves as a small but meaningful symbol of their continued commitment to the university and its students.

Carey Circle coins are mailed each August to recognize those who have chosen this form of giving. These donations keep us connected and make a lasting difference over time.



## SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Make plans now to join us on September 22 for one of William Carey University's most meaningful nights of the year. The Scholarship Celebration is always a joyful occasion that brings together alumni, friends, and supporters to celebrate the life changing impact of student scholarships.

This year's event will be especially memorable. Guests will enjoy a live concert by Rebecca St. James in the newly renovated auditorium in the Thomas Fine Arts Building. It will be a wonderful evening filled with music, gratitude, and a shared commitment to the future of Carey students.

*Tickets will go on sale in August.*



## Single & Recurring Gifts

Gifts of any amount are crucial to the growth and development of scholarships. Donors may make single gifts by mail or through our online giving page at any time. To schedule recurring gifts, contact the Office for Advancement.

## Planned Gifts

Planned giving to William Carey University allows a donor to become part of the university's Covenant Society. Many planned giving options are available, including wills, estate planning, life insurance, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and real estate.

## Ways to Give

### MAIL



WCU Box 141  
710 William Carey Parkway  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

### CALL



601.318.6192

### EMAIL



advancement@wmcarey.edu

### ONLINE



www.wmcarey.edu/give

### SCAN



To donate, scan code below.



# Stay CONNECTED

### UPDATED CONTACT INFO?

Phone numbers, email or mailing addresses

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You, your friends/family or a new baby

### ALUMNI NEWS?

Birth and marriage announcements, awards, honors, jobs

*Send information to [alumni@wmcarey.edu](mailto:alumni@wmcarey.edu)*



## Summer 2026 Volume 35, No. 3

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## CAREY

The William Carey University magazine is available online to all alumni and friends at [www.wmcarey.edu/alumni](http://www.wmcarey.edu/alumni) and is published periodically and mailed to alumni association members and donors.

Also available online at [www.wmcarey.edu/alumni](http://www.wmcarey.edu/alumni)

WCU works in friendly cooperation with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and is supported by churches that contribute to the Cooperative Program.



## Show your CAREY PRIDE and SUPPORT WCU



Display your Carey pride by purchasing a William Carey University special license plate for your vehicle, and at the same time, you will be supporting the university. Over half of the additional fee for each WCU special tag comes directly back to the school from the State of Mississippi Department of Revenue. For more information about purchasing a WCU license plate, visit [www.dor.ms.gov/mvl/availabletags](http://www.dor.ms.gov/mvl/availabletags).

# CAREY

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY  
710 William Carey Parkway  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401



*Save-  
the-Date*

**FOR HOMECOMING**

**2026**

**OCTOBER 24**