

The Museum News

The official newsletter of the Pearl River Community College Museum Patrons' Organization

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Moody Hall auditorium demolished; Museum preserves artifacts

Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc on several Pearl River Community College buildings. The M. R. White Coliseum has been razed. All that remains is a flat top hill where the sports arena stood. Recently, Moody Hall's auditorium wing fell to the same fate. The museum undertook a project to preserve bits and pieces of the old auditorium.

Moody Hall was built in early 1926. It was the first building in Mississippi to be constructed specifically for junior college use. The auditorium was, at first, a combination gym/auditorium that served the college in that capacity until Shivers Gym was constructed in 1949. In 1969, Hurricane Camille did considerable damage, making repairs necessary. In 1972, the old wooden windows were replaced with aluminum ones on the front of the building and the windows that served the auditorium were sealed with stucco. The stage was also extended and the balconies redone during this renovation.

Some of the items already collected from the wing's demolition are: two bricks stamped "Laurel," a concrete block from the 1920s, a basketball, the "PRC" emblem from the top of the auditorium's curtains and wood from the original floor upon which Pearl River County Agricultural High School and Junior College teams played basketball.

All that remains of Moody Hall (below) is the front wing. The rear wing (auditorium) was demolished over the Christmas break. The museum has video and digital photos of the demolition. (Top Photo was taken in 1926.)



Museum Patrons' Organization elects Advisory Board members

Pearl River Community College Museum Patrons' Organization elected the new Advisory Board members in October. The newly elected and reelected members are: Ralph P. (Pat) Riley and Dr. Stephen Black, representatives at large; Alex Ladner and Earlara Holden, representing Pearl River County; and Peggy Ladner, representing Hancock County.

The election was conducted through the mail with a voting package sent to all eligible patrons.

The patrons also voted to approve the FY 2006-2007 Budget. The budget, with only minor changes from the FY 2005-2006 Budget, was for \$5,000.

The meeting was changed from its annual format held during Homecoming to voting packages sent to eligible members because of the many activities held during the Homecoming celebration.

The Museum Patrons' Organization was founded in 2003 as a governing agency for the Pearl River Community College Museum. The museum is also governed by the Pearl River Community College Board of Trustees. The museum is under the financial covering of Pearl River Community College Development Foundation, a (501)(c)(3) tax exempt organization.

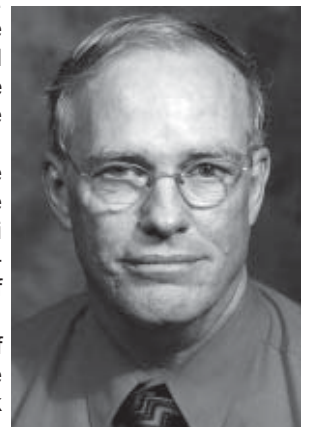
Black gives copy of doctoral dissertation to museum

Dr. Stephen Black recently gave a copy of his dissertation to Pearl River Community College Museum. The book entitled "The Man With A Plan: Theodore Bilbo's Adaptation of National Progressivism in Mississippi," carefully looks at Theodore Gilmore Bilbo and his educational influence on Mississippi. Black, an instructor on the Poplarville campus teaches World Civilization and serves as the instructor of record for the Public History program offered by the college.

The thesis "examines three public institutions in Mississippi: The Model County School, The Mississippi School and Colony for the Feeble-minded, and the Greater University of Mississippi."

Black also offered copies of documents he made during the course of his research, including a notebook copied from the University of Southern Mississippi library's Bilbo collection that included correspondence between Mississippi Board of Education officials and the Rockefeller Foundation's General Education Board concerning the Model County School located in Pearl River County.

The 180 page thesis will be housed in the museum reading room and will be available to the public for research.



In this issue: PRC - Little Known Facts, page 2; Preservation architect visits museum, page 5; Museum receives artifacts, page 4

Pearl River College: Little Known Facts and Information

(This article is a result of research and interviews done for *100 Years of Educational Excellence: The Pearl River College Story*)

Football is Pearl River's middle name

With the recent win of a fourth consecutive state championship, something that PRC has never accomplished before, and a trip to the NJCAA national championship, it is apparent that football is Pearl River's middle name.

The way football began at Pearl River is a rather interesting story in itself. When Pearl River County Agricultural High School (the college's founding institution) began, Professor T. M. Kelly was at the helm with Professor J. B. Anthony as the new school's agricultural science instructor.

Up to the passing of the state's agricultural high school law in 1908, high schools were few and far between. They were located in the pioneer cities and towns that were springing up across the state. Some of these early high schools built dormitories and offered education to boarders, usually nearby rural students. They only went as far as the tenth grade, so if a student wished to obtain higher education, he or she would have to attend the preparatory school at the college or university. The education he or she received was known as a "classical" education with emphasis on Latin, Greek, and classical literature.

The majority of the state's students were unable to attend the city high schools, because they lived in the rural areas. Many were miles from the nearest town, and with roads almost non-existent or similar to what today's students like to use for "mud-bogging," they either had to contend with an eighth grade education or ante up enough money to attend the boarding high schools in the nearby towns (if the town had one).

For the counties that took advantage of the new agricultural high school law, this changed. The new law provided educational opportunity, free of any tuition charges, to the rural children. The school provided jobs to pay for room and board expenses for those students who needed it. Room and board was provided at actual cost, sometimes as low as \$10-\$12 a month. For many Pearl River children, the school was a "God-send" and allowed them to make a better life for themselves and their families.

When the framers of the agricultural high school law met, they decided that a more practical rather than classical approach to education would better serve the rural children. They felt it was more important to teach these children how to grow better corn and tomatoes, raise better livestock, and tend to the duties around the farm, as well as learn English, mathematics, history and science. They felt the girls would benefit more from home science courses, teaching them to preserve the corn and tomatoes their husbands grew, cook nutritious meals and learn about hygiene and health in addition to their academic courses.



1909 or 1910 football team. Coach J. B. Anthony stands on the team's left. None of the players are known.



1911 Football team (left to right), Clarence Stewart, Clyde Fulton, Robert Stewart, Hubert Strahan, Basil Breland, Seancy Davis, John Lumpkin, Ned Cooper, George Peterson, L. A. Hurst (coach and quarterback), John Pearson. Notice the bell in the top left-hand corner of the picture that now hangs in the Malone Chapel bell tower.

That's the reason that J. B. Anthony was the new Pearl River County Agricultural High School's agricultural science instructor.

On Saturday, September 24, 1909, Professor Anthony went to New Orleans to pick up some farming implements. He was twelve hours late returning, but he had more than farming implements when he got home. He brought back a football. The boys were elated. On October 4, 1909, the first football team was organized. The only equipment the team possessed was that single football purchased in New Orleans, but that was no deterrent. That was all the team needed—that, and a coach. Anthony served as the team's first coach.

The 1909 football team played its first football game on October 29. Their opponent was the Poplarville High School team (the town still had a high school that taught a classical education and went to the tenth grade.) The PRC-AHS boys lost. The following year, the team again played Poplarville High School and again, they lost.

The first real football program emerged in the fall of 1911 and would mark the beginning of the winningest team in Mississippi junior college history. L. A. Hurst was named the new agricultural instructor (and thus, coach of the football team) under the new Superintendent, Will Jacobs. Hurst immediately put his athleticism to work, not only coaching the team but also serving as the quarterback, an accepted practice of the day. This team would be known as the first official PRC-AHS team, and they challenged foes such as Laurel High School. The first PRC-AHS team was made up of: T. Pearson, left end; Breland, left tackle; Lumpkin, left guard; Davis, center; Fulton, right guard; R. Stewart and Cooper, right tackle; Rouse, right end; L. A. Hurst (coach), quarterback; G. Pearson (captain) and Strahan, right half; C. Stewart, left half; Strahan and Smith, full back.

In a *Poplarville Free Press* article dated November 16, 1911, it was stated, "A majority of them (the PRC-AHS football team) never saw a football game until this year and the time and coaching that they have had has been very scarce." After soundly thumping Laurel for the second time (6-3 the first time and 14-0 the second time) the school claimed the south state championship with a challenge to "all comers." The second pounding Laurel received at the hands of the PRC-AHS team reported 9 out of 12 of the PRC-AHS forward pass attempts were successful.

By 1914, football was rapidly becoming the sport of dominance at PRC-AHS. Only two reports appeared in the *Free Press* about the exploits of the 1914 team, but they were both interesting accounts. The first dealt with a draw between the "Aggies," the name they had picked up since the previous year, and Mississippi Normal College (today's USM). The boys went to Hattiesburg in

**Visit the Pearl River Community College Museum
Monday - Friday
9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
in Hancock Hall - South Wing**



1919 Football team at Kamper Park in Hattiesburg

the company of about 100 fans. The A.H.S. team, having already played the season, was reported to "have gone the season without being scored on, and is ready to play any high school in the State for championship." ("A.H.S. Battle Normal College to 0 to 0 Score." *Free Press*. November 19, 1914.)

Another game of note in 1914 was played on Thanksgiving Day at PRC AHS. It was the very first battle with Harrison County Agricultural High School in Perkinston. The PRC AHS Aggies easily beat the rival team 51-0. The newspaper report stated that the PRC AHS Aggies were "... the only team in the State that has not had a score recorded against them this season. They claim the championship for South Mississippi preparatory schools." Touchdowns were scored by: Rouse, 3; Smith, 2; Clark, 2; and Carver, 1. Three goals were scored by Rouse for a total of 3 points.

This game finished off the season for the Pearl River Aggies, and left their unscored-against record intact. This perfect record was astounding, but over the next two decades they would repeat the record again and make Mississippi football history. ("Pearl River Wins Easily. Scores 51 to 0 Against Harrison County Aggies." *Free Press*. December 3, 1914.)

When James Andrew Huff became Superintendent of PRC AHS in 1917, he wore many hats. He was successful in many endeavors, but the year he coached the football team was one for the record books. It was a season that rivaled the 1914 season. This incredible year began in mid-October 1921 with a game between Pearl River and Jones County, a 31-0 victory for the Aggies. Jones only made four first downs the entire game. The game was played in Ellisville. ("Pearl River Aggies 31, Jones County 0." *Free Press*. October 20, 1921.)

A week later, the Aggies met the Bogalusa team with home field advantage, but no advantage was necessary. The 68 to 0 victory saw Bogalusa only make two first downs during the entire game, both made on short forward passes. Huff sent in his second string some during the first quarter. The game was called shortly after the beginning of the second half since Bogalusa had no men to replace some of their slightly injured men. ("Aggies Defeat Bogalusa." *Free Press*. October 27, 1921.)

With two victories under their belt and no one crossing their goal line, the team found themselves in Gulfport the following week to play Gulf Coast Military Academy with a large crowd looking on. Pearl River had more trouble from the officials than they did from the opposing team. When the Aggies would get within 2 yards of the military school's goal line, the officials would throw the flags. Pearl River's side felt the game was rigged, and the Poplarville newspaper indicated it had no doubt but that the game was rigged, but the boys rolled with the officials' punches and managed to score when Carver made a ten yard run around left end. Carver kicked the point after and defense kept the opponents from scoring. The final score was 7 to 0. ("Pearl River Aggies Defeats G.C.M.A. 7 To 0." *Free Press*. November 3, 1921.)

Pearl River had 3 wins with no points scored against them when they went into a second Jones County game the following week. This game was the most one-sided game the team would

play. The game against the Jones County boys ended with Jones losing 91-0. At the end of the first half, the Pearl River boys had piled up 48 points against Jones, so Huff put in the second string men for the second half. The second string amassed only five points less than had the first string. ("Aggies Continue To Win; Ellisville Is Latest Victim." *Free Press*. November 10, 1921.)

By the time the Aggies took the field for the fifth time, they had already amassed 197 points against their scoreless opponents, an average of almost 50 points per game. The next opponent, however, had been a formidable opponent in past years, and might prove to be hard to beat. Their next opponents were college age students, older than the young high school players on the Aggies football team.

On November 11th, more than 200 fans boarded the New Orleans & North Eastern Railroad's special "football game" train to Hattiesburg to view what they thought would be the best game of the year. No PRC AHS Aggie fan had been disappointed with the games up to this point, but they knew Normal would give them a real fight, and they were willing to travel the distance to see their Aggies matched with a worthy opponent. The game was covered by the *Hattiesburg American* and reprinted in the *Free Press*. According to the report, the Pearl River Aggies "easily defeated" the Normal College by a score of 40 to 0 at Kamper Park, following a game between Hattiesburg High School and Gulfport. *The Hattiesburg American* said, "Coach Hooker Huff's 'hardboiled' method of coaching turns out a team that is full of fight and pep, playing sturdy, clean football, and ready to battle from the first whistle to the last." The paper further stated, "There were those who have seen Mississippi College play, and it was a frequent comment that Poplarville would be a worthy opponent." Huff pulled his first string out after the first half. ("Pearl River Aggies Find No Equals." *Free Press*. November 17, 1921.)

The next game on the Aggies' slate was for the south Mississippi high school championship and was played in Brookhaven against Pike County Agricultural High School on November 24, 1921. ("A.H.S. Boys Playing for State Championship." *Free Press*. November 24, 1921.) The game against the Summit boys resulted in a 42-0 win for the Aggies. The Poplarville newspaper summarized the season, "In eight games played, the local eleven has piled up a total score of 278 points, while they have kept their goal line clear the entire season." ("A.H.S. Wins Championship." *Free Press*. December 1, 1921.) The A.H.S. boys had completed a stellar season and were crowned the South Mississippi Champions. These 27 country boys had made their mark on South Mississippi Athletics, but their mission was not ended. Okolona was the North Mississippi Champions. Pearl River was to play one more game. This time it was for the Mississippi State Championship and it was played on Okolona's home field. (*Ibid.*)

On December 2, 1921, when the Pearl River boys made their way into the north central hills, they went expecting to take the crown for the State Championship. Sports writers did not share their confidence, but picked the Okolona team as "easy winners." The game began a tie in the first quarter. Pearl River lost the ball to



1924 football team. None of the players are identified, but first PRC President James Andrew Huff stands on the far left and Coach E. W. "Goat" Hale stands on the far right.

(Continued from page 3)

the Okolona boys. The fumble occurred when Stringer caught a punt. When he was tackled, the opponent grabbed his arm, dislodging the ball, which was scooped up by the opponents and run in 10 yards for a touchdown. The score stood 7-0 and for the first time that season, the Aggies goal line had been crossed. A kickoff later, Carver threw a forward pass to Stringer, Stringer made a 40 yard run and crossed Okolona's goal line. Carver kicked the field goal and the score stood 7-all. The score would remain tied until the game ended and the state championship went undecided, so both teams were able to claim co-championships. (Poplarville Scored On For First Time This Season." *Free Press*. December 8, 1921.)

In 1924, Pearl River began playing as a college team with equally remarkable results. In 1925, under new coach Joseph Forrest (Rat) Stuart, a former member of the Aggies football team of 1917 and later the college's president, the team won its first state championship.

In 1926, the Mississippi Junior College Athletic Association (now MACJC) was formed and Pearl River College took the state title. In 1927, there is some controversy about the state championship. Pearl River beat Perk in regular season play, but the trophy was awarded to Perk. The following year the Wildcats won the state championship after defeating the Co-Lin Wolves.

In 1929, PRC and Co-Lin were matched in the state play-off. The game, which began at 3 p.m., was called because of darkness (stadiums were not lit then). According to Mississippi Junior College Athletic Association rules, a complete game was necessary to determine a state championship. Pearl River and Co-Lin were told to reschedule or forfeit. Pearl River made efforts to reschedule, but Co-Lin would not meet, thereby forfeiting the game. Co-Lin made a trip to the state capitol and had the state championship declared a no-championship for 1929. Early on, politics played a large part in junior college sports.

During the '50s and '60s, Pearl River, on at least one occasion, was denied the right to participate in a national championship game because the state's segregation laws would not allow a Mississippi junior college football team to play against an integrated team. In 1958, when Dobie Holden introduced the "proset" play to college football, the team, because of its record, was invited to the Junior College Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. They were matched against a California junior college team, but since California had already integrated its schools, two African-American players were on the roster. Pearl River was denied the right to play in the national championship, forfeiting its chances for a national title.

Over the past eighty years, PRC, a member of the state's fourteen team league, can lay claim to almost 25% of the state championships that have been awarded. With 19 state championships and 2 national championships in the trophy case, Pearl River College's middle name is, of a certainty, football.



PRCC History Students visit Museum

PRCC History Instructors Black, Kimball and Walsh are promoting the museum again this year by offering their students extra credit to discover the PRCC Museum. Jesse Beck of Bay St. Louis (above) discovers the first classroom computer belonged to Dr. John Grant, Jr. while museum work-study and Public History student David Bullard of Oak Grove helps John Lopez of Carriere (below) understand Pearl River College's history. More than 200 students have visited the museum this semester.



More than 200 students visit museum during fall semester

The museum was a busy place during the months of November and December as more than 200 students from the college's history classes visited the museum for extra credit. This year, three instructors, Stephen Black, James Walsh and Scott Kimball, offered their students extra credit for visiting the museum and taking a quiz. The quiz was centered around the school's rich history and offered the students an insight into early educational practices and early PRCC and PRCC district's history.

The comment the students most often made was, "I didn't know the museum was here," causing Ronn Hague, museum director, to contemplate a larger sign to show the museum's location.

"We've undertaken several projects such as landscaping the front, adding columns, adding benches, adding a fountain and placing posters on campus, in order to bring attention to the building," Hague said. "I guess we will have to rethink our strategy."

The students were impressed with the museum, commenting on its size and collection. Many students stayed around and viewed all the exhibits after they had completed the hunt for answers on the quiz.

"I think the thing that most impressed them about our collection was the first classroom computer used on campus. They were all

(See **200 students visit** on next page)



First Junior College State Championship team

1925 marked the first year that Pearl River Junior College would win the state championship. None of the players are identified, but standing on the far left is Coach Joseph Forrest "Rat" Stewart, who would later become Pearl River College's third president. First PRC president James Andrew Huff is standing on the far right. This title was earned before the state's junior college athletic association was formed.

200 students visit (cont.)

appalled that something so small and with so little power could actually be called a computer," referring to the Commodore VIC-20 computer, which is the size of a standard computer keyboard. The computer was purchased and used by Dr. John A. Grant, Jr. in 1981.



The grand piano that, for years, sat on the stage in Moody Hall Auditorium anticipates its last gasp as the track-hoe's menacing claws dangle above it. The auditorium came crashing down in one day as monster machines chewed up eighty year's worth of history and spit it out into waiting dump trucks. Although the historic building suffered damage during Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, the front wing of the building was saved and now awaits the insurance company's settlement for restoration

Museum visited by preservation architect

As part of the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) the museum is undergoing, preservation architect Robert J. Cangelosi visited the PRCC Museum in November. Cangelosi, from New Orleans, visited to determine what is necessary to bring the building that houses the museum up to museum standards.

The south wing of Hancock Hall, formerly the band hall, was built in 1944. The wood frame building was annexed, bricked and re-roofed in 1953. Although the band hall floor plan has remained virtually the same over the past 62 years, the building's use has changed remarkably since it was originally used to house the college's music program.

After the band moved into a larger facility in 1973, the building housed the vocational-technical program offices. The two front rooms housed the Dean of Vocational-Technical Affairs and his secretary until 1991, when the offices were moved to the Technical Center. For a time, the building reverted to Title IV programs until they were moved in 1999. When the museum was under consideration, the entire south wing was vacant except for two weeks a year when textbook buyback was held in the main hall section.

The museum first occupied the front south office and used the north office for storage. The following year, the second office was occupied and storage was moved to one of the rear practice room/offices. The third year, the timeline wall was constructed and the museum occupied the two offices and the east fifteen feet of the main hall. Two years later, the entire hall was claimed when the new textbook store was completed and the bookstore no longer needed the hall.

Cangelosi surveyed the entire museum building, including the annex now occupied by the Office of Public Relations. His findings were revealed in an extensive report that recommend changes to bring the building up to museum standards.

The museum will use this report to seek funding to remedy these problems.

Part of the CAP includes a visit from museum conservationist, Shelly Riesman Payne of Nashville, Tenn. Payne will survey the museum's collection, making recommendations on the collection preservation methods the museum currently employs.

The museum received funding for this program by a grant of more than \$6,000 from the IMLS through the Heritage Preservation Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Nation's first state-funded junior college system product of Pearl River

When Mississippi first passed the agricultural high school bill in 1908, the idea was borrowed from a national "Congressional District Agricultural High School" program that was developed in the late 1800s. This program was embraced by only five states, including Mississippi's sister state, Alabama. The main problem with the national program was that it only provided a school for each congressional district. Mississippi sought to improve on the national, federally-funded system by offering rural high school education to each county that was willing to cost-share the expense. Thus was born the Mississippi agricultural high school system, the nation's first state-funded agricultural high school system.

Pearl River County, under the influence of State Senator Theo Bilbo, took advantage of this bill, opening its doors to students in a three-story structure that served as a dormitories and classroom building on September 8, 1909. Unfortunately for the 20 new agricultural high schools that sprang up, the first law was declared unconstitutional in 1909 because it did not provide equal opportunity for the state's African American children. All but three schools were forced to close due to lack of state funds. Pearl River, because of the interest of several Poplarville businessmen, was one of the three to remain open.

In 1914, Pearl River County, because of its zeal to provide a better education for its students by opening and maintaining an agricultural high school, and because it had consolidated its 83 one-room schools into 23 consolidated grammar schools, was awarded funding to study rural education, the Model County School program. This program was designed by Mississippi's State Superintendent of Education and funded by the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Model County School program brought Pearl River County and the agricultural high school national attention for its progressive thinking in rural education.

The Model County School program culminated in 1920, but it caused Pearl River County Agricultural High School administrators to begin thinking unconventionally about educational needs. Progressive educator James Andrew Huff, the school's chief administrator, felt that county education would be better served if college level courses were offered to ease the financial and travel burdens that accompanied a four-year degree. He felt that offering two years of college-level work near home would encourage more students to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

In October 1920, the school's board of trustees voted to add freshman college courses to the curriculum. These classes were added in the 1921-22 school year and six students took advantage of the program.

In January 1922, after the first semester of college work had been completed, the PRCAS Board of Trustees, now certain the program would work, commissioned Theodore G. Bilbo (who was between gubernatorial terms); C. E. Bass, County Superintendent of Education; and J. A. Huff, superintendent of PRCAS to meet with the State Board of Education "pursuant to a junior college bill." That same year, the state legislature adopted the state's first junior college law (General Laws of Mississippi, 1922, Senate Bill 251, p. 270). This meeting with the state's board, evidently caused Mississippi to enter the junior college program.

A second law was passed in 1924 (General Laws of Mississippi, 1924, House Bill 98, Chapter 283) which not only provided an addendum to the 1922 law, but was a more comprehensive bill than passed in California, home of the nation's first junior college system. This law set standards concerning faculty qualifications, student admissions, and library and laboratory equipment. (See: <http://junior-college-history.org/StateLeg/MSJCLaw1.html>). The new law, in Section 310, also approved diplomas to be awarded

(Associate of Arts for women or Associate of Arts or of Agriculture for men), making Mississippi the first state in the nation to formally recognize a student for completion of junior college work.

In 1928, a third law was passed to amend the 1924 law. This law provided \$85,000 in state funds to support the new and struggling junior colleges. With the passing of this new law, it made Mississippi the nation's first system of state-funded junior colleges. (California's junior colleges were locally funded, but no appropriations were made for funding on the state level.)

To recap, Pearl River County Agricultural High School was an early member of the nation's first state-funded agricultural high school system, and went on to become the causative component that kindled the nation's first state-funded junior college system. We have a lot for which we can be proud.

The origins of the junior college

The history of the nation's junior college was loosely patterned after successful private trade and business schools that offered training in the nation's larger cities in the second half of the nineteenth century. An alternative to a college education, these schools offered students advanced training in industrial and business skills. Their graduates fed the nation's factories and offices with skilled workers. The success of the trade and business schools gave food for thought to innovative educators who adapted this concept to other programs.

At the turn of the century this innovation led to a new experiment, the junior college. Joliet Junior College (Illinois) was established as an experimental postgraduate high school and began offering college courses to six students in 1901. As the Joliet model succeeded, other communities looked at the idea of offering junior college work in a localized setting and at a reduced cost. Pearl River County Agricultural High School adapted this idea to meet the needs of its students, a practice Pearl River Community College embraces today.



John Lee, a Holiday Construction Co. employee, holds the center section of the curtain that hung above the stage in Moody Hall auditorium. Lee rode up to the top of the stage in a track-hoe bucket to salvage the remnant of the old hall's history. The curtain will be conserved and placed in the museum.

The Historic Buildings of Pearl River College

Do you have your copy yet?

Pearl River Community College began as Pearl River County Agricultural High School on September, 8, 1909, marking the beginning of one of the most incredible educational institutions in the nation.

The Historic Buildings of Pearl River College

maps the journey the college has taken for nearly 100 years as told by its historic buildings. It gives the background of each building more than 50 years old on the Poplarville campus with multiple photos of each building. With 18 pages of floor plans of many buildings no longer standing, this book represents a historic odyssey of the state's oldest two-year public institution of higher learning.

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Winner of the
American Association for
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the pearl river college story: a historical documentary

Mississippi has the nation's first state-funded system of two-year public colleges, and Pearl River College led the way. The 71-minute production on DVD, tells the story of how it all came about and documents the many "firsts" in Pearl River College's rich history.

Order your copy using the order form below.
\$25 per copy.
(Please include \$3 for shipping)

The Pearl River Community College Museum depends solely on contributions for new exhibits, improvements, and preservation supplies. We have no other funding source except you. Make your contribution to the museum today! Cut out this form and send it with a check payable to the PRCC Development Foundation (write "museum" in the for space on your check).

I would like to contribute \$ _____ to (check one)

- Historical Marker for the College
- General Fund
- Holden Exhibit Fund
- I would like to purchase ____ DVD(s) "The Pearl River College Story" (\$25 each), winner of the AASLH Certificate of Commendation
- I would like to purchase ____ copies of "The Historic Buildings of Pearl River College" (\$15 each)
- I would like to become a member or renew my membership. (\$25 per year single membership, \$35 per year for 2 members of the same household.)
- I would like to make a memorial donation to the PRCC Museum in the memory of:

Please fill in the following information:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ph. _____ - _____ - _____

Alumni? Yes No Years attended _____ to _____

Please allow 2 weeks delivery for items ordered. Please include \$3 for postage. Mail this order/donation to:

Pearl River Community College Museum
101 Highway 11 North
Poplarville, MS 39470
visit us at www.prcc.edu/museum/

Have an article of clothing, a catalog, photos, or other memorabilia you would like to share? The PRCC Museum is always looking for items of interest from the past. Call 601-403-1316.

Museum Director listed in Marquis Who's Who

Ronn Hague, Pearl River Community College Museum Director, was recently named to appear in the Marquis Who's Who listing for 2007. According to the *New York Times*, the listing is, "that venerable guide to American achievement," that, "recognizes 109,000 people and, by their inclusion, recommends them to posterity and to America's collective memory."

Hague was notified of his nomination in the summer of 2006, but was not sure of his inclusion until recently. "I was not sure if it was an honor or not until I read what the *Times* had to say about it. I'm proud to be included," Hague said.

Hague is also the college's Digital Media Coordinator and works with the Office of Public Relations.



Track-hoes work to demolish historic Moody Hall auditorium. Demolition took place during the Christmas break.

Did you miss an issue of *The Museum News*?

You can find back issues on the PRCC web site at:
<http://www.prcc.edu/museum/news.html>

Museum misses out on NEH grant

Pearl River Community College recently found that it had been denied a grant to preserve several thousand feet of 16-millimeter film discovered after Hurricane Katrina. The letter rejecting the museum's request did not stipulate the reason it was denied.

Museum Director Ronn Hague thinks the amount was too small. The amount, \$1,729, is a smaller request than the multi-million dollar federally-funded National Foundation for the Humanities usually receives.

"I suppose we will have to take a deep breath and pull it from our budget," Hague said.

The film was discovered in two separate places. The first film was found by Museum Advisory Board member and member of the college's coaching staff, Buddy Stephens. It was located in the basement of White Coliseum. The contents of the four film cans were two separate game films of PRC vs. Co-Lin. "One was dated 1958, so I figure the other one, which was undated, was the year before or the year after," Hague said.

The other film was discovered by PRCC Department of Fine Arts and Communication chair, Archie Rawls. Rawls found the film in the back of the storage closet on the bottom floor of Moody Hall. It includes film from the band show taken at the Hospitality Bowl in 1958 and film taken at band contest in about 1956.

What makes the band film so significant is that the String of Pearls was founded in 1958. Also, the 1958 football footage marks the year that then-head coach Dobie Holden introduced the "pro-set" passing game.

The film has become mildewed and is exhibiting chemical breakdown. It will need to be professionally cleaned and digitized to preserve it.

If anyone would like to help preserve a bit of Pearl River College's past, you can make a donation specific to preserving this bit of history by indicating the use on your check.

The Museum News is a publication of the **Pearl River Community College Museum Patrons' Organization**. If you wish to receive a subscription to this publication, you must be a member of the Museum Patrons' Organization. Membership dues are \$25 annually. For more information, call Ronn Hague at (601) 403-1316.

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