

★ NEWS ★

# PRCC receives grant for Courage to Teach

POPLARVILLE - Pearl River Community College has received a grant from the Lower Pearl River Valley Foundation for the Mississippi Courage to Teach Program for educators.

The \$15,000 award will help cover expenses for area teachers to participate in this unique workshop/retreat program of personal and professional renewal.

"We deeply appreciate this grant. Our institution has been able to do some great things with this program," said Dr. William Lewis, President of PRCC.

The program is directed by Dr. Susan Nodurft, a biology instructor at PRCC. After receiving facilitator training from the National Center for Courage and Renewal in Bainbridge Island, Washington in 2001, she developed this educational outreach program at PRCC.

Courage to Teach, a national program, was developed by Dr.

Parker Palmer and Fetzner Institute in the early 1990's in response to his highly acclaimed book, *Courage to Teach*.

Exploring the Landscape of a Teacher's Life. The program is based on the belief that good teaching comes from the life of the teacher, and not technique. Therefore, the focus is on supporting the life of the teacher, the source from which quality teaching comes.

At the weekend workshops and retreat series in large-group, small-group and solitary settings, the "heart of the educator" is explored using personal stories, reflections on classroom practice, and insights from poets, story-tellers, and diverse wisdom traditions. Through the support of a caring community of colleagues, they have an opportunity to reconnect with themselves, their students and their vocation. All programs

carry continuing education credit.

"It has been a privilege to be involved in bringing the Courage to Teach program to Mississippi," said Nodurft. "This program has made a dramatic difference in many teachers' lives. As one teacher put it, 'CTT has been one of the greatest experiences in my life. I never knew it would bring out the youth and energy I had when I first began teaching. It rekindled that spark to try new methods and awaken those I had when I really felt successful as a teacher.'"

"On behalf of the educators who have been benefited by this program, I would like to express appreciation to LPRV Foundation. Without their support provided since its beginning in 2001, it would not be the vibrant source of renewal that has revitalized educators and retained some of our best teachers in the classroom."

The Lower Pearl River Valley Foundation seeks opportunities to participate in creative, innovative, and educational endeavors with the potential to positively impact the community.

LPRV is a philanthropic entity serving this region to improve the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social health of the people in this area.



Visitors to Pearl River Community College's main campus in Poplarville (above) and Forrest County Center (below) in Hattiesburg on U.S. 49 South are now greeted by new message boards that recently became operational. The message boards will inform the public about upcoming events at the school.

### Teacher Profile

**NAME:** Dr. Martha Lou Byrd-Smith

**FAMILY:** This October, I married Sam Smith who has two sons, Mason, 12, and Trace, 7.

**RESIDENCE:** Wiggins

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:** Poplarville High School. AA from PRCC. BS & Master's in Elementary Ed from USM and PhD in Higher Educational Leadership from USM.

**PRESENTLY TEACHES:** I taught Developmental Reading at PRCC, but currently I work in Institutional Research, thus the fancy title of Institutional Research Specialist (not to be confused with that scary bunch known as the IRS).

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:** 13 1/2 years

**FAVORITE BOOK:** I don't have a *single* favorite book. Anytime that I can read children's literature is a good time reading.

**FAVORITE FOOD:** You have got to be kidding.

**POSITIVE ASPECTS OF TEACHING:** Teaching is an enriching field of work in which a person is able to take a passion and convert it into a career.

**ADVICE FOR STUDENTS:** Education is vitally important. It will prepare you for effective decision-making on whatever path life takes you. But, always remember, the hours you spend in a classroom are very few compared to the hours you spend living your life. Make sure to live all your hours to their fullest.



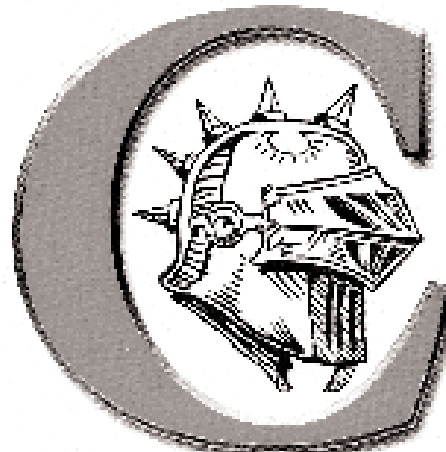
## Campus reminders

### Student activities

- Nov. 10 - Woman-Less Beauty Pageant & Dinner in Olivia bender Cafeteria
- Nov. 14 - Movie Night at 7 p.m.
- Nov. 28 - Movie Night at 7 p.m.
- Month of November - Great American Smoke Out Month
- Dec. 6 - "River Idol"

For more information, call 403-1327





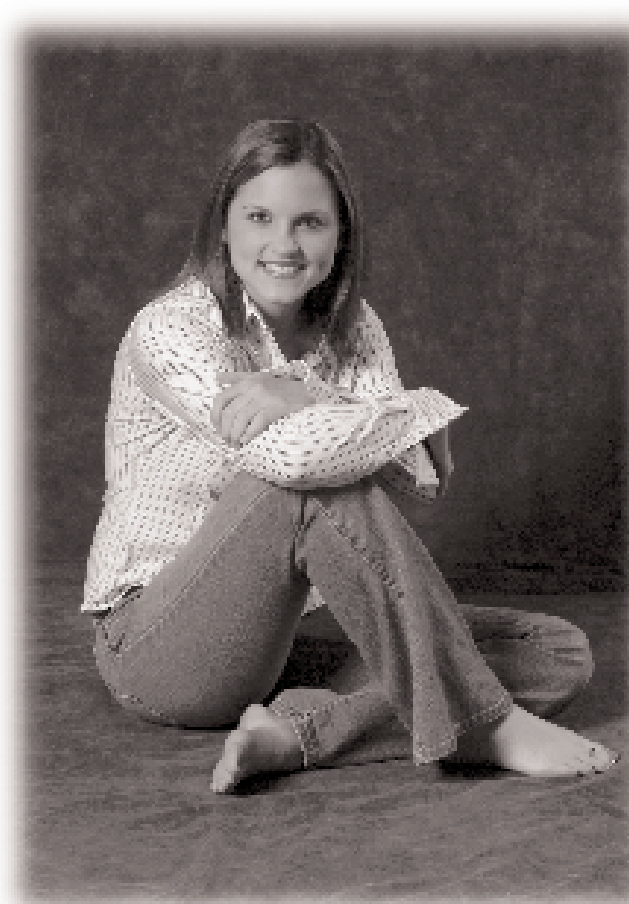
# William Carey College

## *Home of the Crusaders*

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

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- ◆ **Trimester system**—earn semester hours in 10-week terms
- ◆ **Faith-based environment**
- ◆ **NAIA championship level intercollegiate athletics**
  - basketball
  - baseball
  - soccer
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  - softball
- ◆ **Federal financial aid and generous scholarships**
  - Presidential Scholarship** — Cumulative GPA 3.5  
\$5,000 on campus / \$3,500 off campus
  - Academic Scholarship** — Cumulative GPA 3.0-3.49  
\$4,000 on campus / \$2,500 off campus
  - Opportunity Scholarship** — Cumulative GPA 2.5-2.99  
\$3,000 on campus / \$1,500 off campus
  - Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship** to members of PTK —  
an additional \$300 per year



"Attending William Carey College was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I chose Carey because of the Christian atmosphere and the small classroom environment. I had many wonderful experiences at Carey, and could never have chosen a better place to earn my degree."  
~ Amanda Ealy

**For more information, call 601-318-6051 or 800-962-5991**  
or visit us at [www.wmcarey.edu](http://www.wmcarey.edu)