

★ H O M E C O M I N G 2 0 0 5 ★

Parish, Robbins Alumni of Year

POPLARVILLE - Maude Parish and Donald K. Robbins have always loved Pearl River Community College.

"Pearl River meant a whole lot to me," said Parish, who attended PRCC in 1951-52. "I found my husband (Garland) there. And, thanks to the business courses I took there, Pearl River got me started in my working career. It was a fun time for me."

Said Robbins, 68, a 1957 graduate of Pearl River, "Going to Pearl River was the thing to do during that era. I never considered any other college."

The Parishes were elected to the PRCC Development Foundation Board of Directors in 1997. Maude Parish served as vice-chairman of the Board of Directors in 1999-2000.

Robbins is a member of the executive committee of the PRCC Alumni Assn. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the PRCC Development Foundation.

Because of their dedication, Maude Parish and Robbins were this year's co-recipients of the school's Alumnus of the Year award.

"I think there are many more people more deserving than I am," said Robbins.

According to Donna Wilson Lee, executive director of the PRCC Development Foundation, Robbins has done more than his share.

"Don is tenacious in his efforts to promote Pearl River," said Lee. "He has been an active Foundation board member and is devout in his attendance at PRCC events. Don

was an outstanding member of the chapel committee and worked relentlessly to see the project to fruition."

The same goes for Maude Parish, who has been an active member of the Extravaganza Committee and the Sports Hall of Fame selection committee.

"Maude has been an outstanding Foundation board member for many years and has served in various other capacities as an alumnus of PRCC," said Lee. "She has been a vital force in the success of the annual River Extravaganza having served as its chairman for two different years."

Parish came to PRCC from Columbia on a basketball scholarship when her high school coach, Jamie Turnage, got the PRCC job. "She wanted me to come down here and play, so that's what I did," said Parish. "I got a half-scholarship. I paid \$18 and a few cents to go to school."

Robbins played baseball at PRCC under coach Lewis Murray. His wife, Floyd, is a teacher and PRCC graduate.

Robbins graduated from Bassfield High School and studied business at PRCC.

"When I went to PRCC, Dr. Garvin Johnston was the president and he pushed academics," said Robbins. "We had chapel once a week and he expected you to be at the chapel events. His favorite thing to say was, 'I want to urge you students to apply yourself and make something of yourself.' Pearl River has always been a big part of my life."



Parish



Robbins



POPLARVILLE - Pearl River Community College's 2005 Homecoming court, featuring queen Chastity Nicole McLemore, a sophomore from Picaune, was presented Oct. 15, before the PRCC-Southwest football game. Other members of the Homecoming court included from left: First row - McLemore; second row - Jessica Stuart of Purvis (football maid) and Sarah McLaney of Carriere (student body maid); back row - Fredra Hinton of Hattiesburg (sophomore maid), Erin Fortenberry of Prentiss (sophomore maid), Ashley Ladner of Waveland (freshman maid), Emily Bryant of Hattiesburg (freshman maid), Kimberly Stewart of Picaune (freshman maid), and Deidra Green of Raleigh (Forrest County maid).

Chastity McLemore reigns over PRCC Homecoming festivities

POPLARVILLE - Chastity Nicole McLemore of Picaune, the daughter of Scott and Marilyn McLemore of Picaune, was crowned queen of Pearl River Community College's Homecoming court Saturday afternoon (Oct. 15) in Dobie Holden Stadium.

A sophomore sports medicine major, McLemore graduated from Picaune High School.

She has been a cheerleader for two years, and captain of the squad this year, she is a member of the String of Pearls and a baseball diamond girl. Her escort was her father.

McLemore's court included Sarah Patricia McLaney of Carriere as Student Body maid. The Forrest County Center maid is Deidra LeAnn Green of Raleigh. The Football maid is Jessica Layne Stuart of Purvis.

Sophomore maids are Erin Kathryn Fortenberry of Prentiss and Fredra Antoinette Hinton of Hattiesburg. Freshman maids are Emily Lauren Bryant of Hattiesburg, Kimberly Anne Stewart of Picaune and Ashley Christine Ladner of Waveland.

Football Maid, Stuart, is the daughter of Jimmy and Stephanie Stuart of Purvis. She is a sophomore nursing major and vice president of the Student Government Association. She is also a member of the RiverRoad Showchoir, Pearl River Singers, Baptist Student Union and Partnership on Campus. Her escort was her father.

Forrest County Maid, Green, is the daughter of Terry and Ava Green of Magee. She is a freshman in the Dental Hygiene program and a member of the American

Dental Hygienists Association. Her escort was her father.

Student Body Maid, McLaney, is the daughter of Suelin and Pat McLaney of Carriere. She is a sophomore majoring in journalism and public relations. She is a member of Partnership on Campus and has been a member of the String of Pearls for two years, serving as captain in 2004. Her escort was her uncle, Lenny Messina.

Fortenberry is the daughter of David and Suzy Fortenberry of Prentiss. She is a sophomore majoring in dental hygiene. She is a member of the PRCC Showchoir, the Concert Choir, the Baptist Student Union and the Partnership on Campus. Her escort was her father.

Hinton is the daughter of Fredrick Hinton and Rosalind and Lee Nixon of Hattiesburg. She is a

member of the Spirit of the River marching band, the concert band, the PRCC Recruitment team and Partnership on Campus. Her escort was her brother, Fredrick Hinton Jr.

Bryant is the daughter of Micky and Debbie Bryant of Hattiesburg. She is a freshman in the nursing program. She is also a drum major for the Spirit of the River marching band. Her escort was her father.

Stewart is the daughter of Tom and Dona Stewart of Picaune. She is a freshman majoring in journalism. She is a member of the PRCC cheerleader squad and the Partnership on Campus. Her escort was her father.

Ladner is the daughter of Elaine Ladner and the late Vernon Ladner of Waveland. She is a freshman majoring in public relations. Her escort was her brother, Skip Ladner.

PROFILE

NAME: Maude Parish
HOMETOWN: Sandy Hook
FAMILY: Husband, Garland (51 years); one son, William Parish of McComb, one daughter, Susan Albritton of Sandy Hook; four grandchildren; two great granddaughters.
EDUCATION: Graduated Columbia High School, 1950; attended Pearl River Junior College, 1951-52.
OCCUPATION: Retired, J.C. Penney, 25 years.

PROFILE

NAME: Donald K. Robbins
HOMETOWN: Carson
FAMILY: Wife, Floyd (40 years); one son, Dr. Brett Robbins of Hattiesburg; one grandson, Sterling.
EDUCATION: Graduated Bassfield High School, 1955; graduated Pearl River Junior College, 1957; University of Southern Mississippi, 1959.
OCCUPATION: Retired, U.S. Postal Service; owns-operates 500-acre tree farm.

Distinguished Service award goes to Verlene Cole

POPLARVILLE - Verlene Norton Cole, a 1951 graduate of Pearl River Community College, would be the first to tell you that her life has been forever rewarded for having attended PRCC.

She doesn't have a memory of PRCC that isn't good.

"Today, Pearl River is a big part of my life," said Cole. "When I went to school there, we were a good bunch. We did not get into any trouble. Everybody was friendly. It is a very special place for me."

The 73-year-old Cole received the PRCC Distinguished Service Award as part of the college's 2005 Homecoming celebration.

"I feel like I don't deserve this honor," Cole said. "I haven't been involved that long. I am just thrilled to death that they think this much of me."

Cole, a native of Lamar County, played a major role in helping form the Forrest-Lamar chapter of the PRCC Alumni Association in 2003.

Among the events that she has played a major role in helping plan are the annual Forrest-Lamar golf tournament, the chapter's annual fish fry and the school's Extravaganza.

"Verlene is like the energizer rabbit - she just keeps going and going," said Donna Wilson Lee, executive director of the PRCC Development Foundation. "She is

the best volunteer fund raiser that I have ever had the privilege to work with."

During her time at Pearl River, Cole played on the basketball team under Coach Graham McDonald when the Wildcats played in Shivers Gym.

After graduating from PRCC, Cole planned to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and be an elementary school teacher. But a friend helped her land a summer job at First National Bank (now BancorpSouth) in Hattiesburg. She began work at the bank on July 16, 1951 and retired as a first vice-president on Dec. 31, 1989.

PROFILE

NAME: Verlene Norton Cole
HOMETOWN: Hattiesburg
BORN: March 2, 1932
FAMILY: Husband, Harry D. Cole, deceased; one daughter, Linda Cole of Perryland, Texas.
EDUCATION: Graduated Oak Grove High School, 1949; graduated Pearl River Junior College, 1951.
PROFESSION: Retired from the banking business after 38 1/2 years.



Cole

PRCC inducts 4 into Sports Hall of Fame

POPLARVILLE - Pearl River Community College inducted four new members into its Sports Hall of Fame Oct. 15 as part of the college's 2005 homecoming celebration.

Former PRCC basketball star Earl "Mutt" Watts of Hattiesburg, who averaged 28 points a game for Coach Woodrow Daley from 1951-52 headlined the group that also included baseball star Adam Breerwood (1994-95) of Poplarville, and former football stars Paul Oliver Highstreet (1955-58) of Hattiesburg and the late B.A. "Bama" Falls (1951-53) of Chattanooga, Tenn., both former players under legendary coach Dobie Holden.

Earl "Mutt" Watts
Watts, a native of Columbia, played his high school ball at Improve High School, where he made the all-state team for two years while his dad, John Watts, was the coach. He signed with Ole Miss, but quit the team.

Former University of Southern Mississippi Coach Lee Floyd wanted him to play at USM, but he had to sit out, so Floyd sent the 6-foot-5 Watts to Pearl River, where he starred as the center. "We were as good as anybody in our league," said Watts. "We had Bull Parish, Glynn Kerley, Sam Clinton.

We worked hard. We had good team work. Going to school there was one of the best things I did. I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Watts went on to play three years for Floyd at USM. He is retired today after some 38 years in education, starting with two years in Purvis. He spent the rest of the time in Florida, including 10 years as a coach in Chipley and 22 years as a principal in Lake City, before retiring with his wife, Barbara, of 51 years, to Hattiesburg.

He spends the bulk of his time caring for his daylilies. He has

some 1,800 to 2,000 varieties and more than 10,000 seedlings.

Adam Breerwood
Breerwood, currently Dean of Student Services at PRCC, was an all-state and All-Region 23 player for two seasons for the Wildcats from 1993-95. His .416 batting average his sophomore season is tied for the highest average in school history. He was also named the most valuable player in the 1994 Region 23 Tournament.

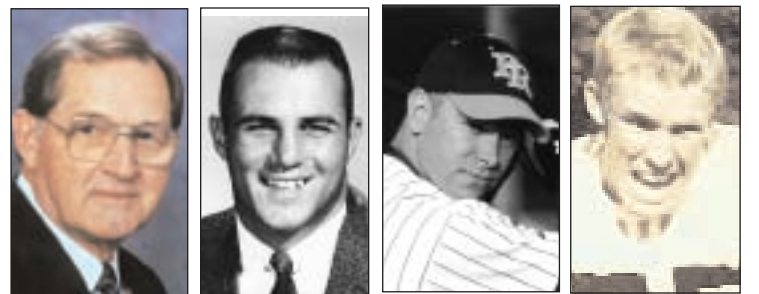
He was a first baseman and outfielder for coach Jim Nightengale. Besides his high batting average as a sophomore, he also hit 12 home runs, 18 doubles and had 51 runs batted-in. He played his high school ball at St. Stanislaus High in Bay St. Louis, where he was the Gulf Coast batting champion his senior year.

"This is a tremendous honor for me to be recognized as a member of the Hall of Fame," said Breerwood. "I am well aware of the tradition of this institution and all of the outstanding athletes that have wore a PRCC uniform. I know the sense of pride in wearing those letters across my chest. I thoroughly enjoyed my two years here playing for Jim Nightengale and I still carry many of those life lessons with me everyday."

Breerwood continued his career at William Carey College, where he earned All-Gulf South Conference and All-Southwest Region honors as a junior and senior.

He coached the first men's and women's soccer teams at PRCC, winning the men's state title in 2003 and four South Division championships.

Paul Oliver Highstreet
Highstreet, 70, came to Pearl River in the fall of 1955 from Redemptorist High in New Orleans as a senior and played three years as an offensive and defensive tackle, weighing 220



Watts Highstreet Breerwood Falls

coach Holden.

"I really loved it at Pearl River," said Highstreet. "Coach Holden was one of the finest people I ever met. He treated me like a son. I left New Orleans in 1955 on a Greyhound Bus. The bus let me off at the Movie Star plant and I walked across the street to the junior college."

He explains why he came to Pearl River for his senior year. "In New Orleans, when you reached 19 in high school, you couldn't play. I played in the high school all-star game as a junior. Coach Holden went to the game and he chose me to come to Pearl River."

He made the all-state team for two years and participated in the All-American game in Jackson his sophomore year.

While at Pearl River, Highstreet also made a name for himself as a Golden Glove boxer. "A bunch of us were sitting around the gym, bored to death," he said. "We decided to put a boxing team together, six of us. We went to Hattiesburg to compete and three of us won, including myself. We went to the state championships."

Highstreet fought in the heavy-weight class and won. However, Holden did not let him go to Memphis for the regionals because Pearl River was beginning spring training.

Highstreet signed with the University of Miami and married Janice Lott, a PRCC student from

Bassfield. "She got pregnant and homesick, so we moved back." USM came calling and Highstreet wound up playing two seasons there. He then spent 36 years in the oil business before retiring in Hattiesburg. "This honor brings tears to my eyes," said Highstreet. "I really am proud. You know, both of my sons played ball at PRCC. This is one of the greatest honors I have ever received."

B.A. "Bama" Falls
B.A. "Bama" Falls earned the nickname Bama because he was the only player on Pearl River's team from 1951-53 from the state of Alabama. Stephenson, Ala., was his hometown.

Falls, an all-state defensive guard for the Wildcats, passed away May 1 of this year. Nine days later, his wife, JoAnne, also died.

"Pearl River was the high point of his life after his childhood," said Bruce Falls, one of Bama's three sons. "He was an aggressive person on and off the field."

According to Bruce Falls, Bama lost his right eye when he was 10 years-old in a school-yard accident involving a bow and arrow. "Daddy fought off a lot of personal problems growing up due to losing that eye," said Bruce. "Coach Holden was a major turning point in his life. If anybody ever had influence on his life, it was him. He always talked about him. He kept every football program from his playing days at Pearl River."

Sones named Volunteer of Year

POPLARVILLE - Celecia Sones, a 1967 graduate of Pearl River Community College, was honored as 2005 Volunteer of the Year during Homecoming activities.

Sones retired in 2000 from PRCC after 25 years as the school nurse. Her husband, James, retired from PRCC as the Dean of Vocational-Technical Education.

"Celecia has been an avid supporter of and a volunteer for Pearl River Community College for many years," said Donna Wilson Lee, Executive Director of

the PRCC Development Foundation. "Her untiring efforts in assisting to decorate for various events such as Homecoming and the River Extravaganza are unmatched."

"She has spent countless hours volunteering to work events taking tickets, distributing auction items, collating and binding our cookbooks, stamping and sorting bulk mailings and various other jobs. Her dedication as a volunteer has never wavered even since her retirement from PRCC in 2000."



Sones