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MSH NAMES 2014 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

BY TIM DURR



Friends of MSH Board President Bridget Lowery, MSH Director James Chastain and Miss Mississippi Jasmine Murray, pose with the 2014 Employees of the Month. From that group, three persons were chosen as Employees of the Year.

Suspense filled the air at Mississippi State Hospital Friday, Jan. 16 as MSH and JNH administrators and staff gathered at building 56 to learn who would be named Employees of the Year for 2014. However, before the envelopes were opened and the names were read, a standing room only crowd received a special treat when Miss Mississippi Jasmine Murray gave encouraging words to the employees. In addition, Murray, a top 13 finalist on the national hit television program American Idol, dazzled the audience with a rendition of His Eye Is On The Sparrow.

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2014 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



Patrick Webb, Direct Care Services

Friends of MSH Board President Bridget Lowery, Miss Mississippi Jasmine Murray, and MSH Director James Chastain congratulate Patrick Webb, 2014 Employee of the Year for Direct Care Services.

Rebecca Mosley, Licensed Clinical Services

Friends of MSH Board President Bridget Lowery, Miss Mississippi Jasmine Murray, and MSH Director James Chastain congratulate Rebecca Mosley, 2014 Employee of the Year for Licensed Clinical Services.



Ruby Lindsey, Support Services

Friends of MSH Board President Bridget Lowery, Miss Mississippi Jasmine Murray, and MSH Director James Chastain congratulate Ruby Lindsey, 2014 Employee of the Year for Support Services.



HUMAN RESOURCES AIMS TO IMPROVE APPLICATION PROCESS

BY TIM DURR

For many employers across the nation, recruiting quality employees can be a major challenge. The same holds true for Mississippi State Hospital and Jaquith Nursing Home, particularly as it relates to direct care workers (DCWs) and certified nursing assistants (CNAs). However, the MSH Human Resources Department has a plan in place to meet the recruiting challenge head-on.

Human Resources Director Kristi Finehout said she and her staff began looking into the recruitment process, and soon discovered that one of the major problems was the number of days between the date an application is completed and the date of hire.

“The average length of time is 63 days between the day a person completes and application and their date of hire,” Finehout said. “Also, our study revealed that there is a 30-day gap between the time a person is interviewed and their date of hire.”

Finehout said these statistics, which were gathered last quarter (October through December), are a strong indication as to why the hiring challenges exist.

“Sixty-three days is a long time,” she said. “One of our goals is to decrease that number by 50 percent.”

Denorris Skinner, Director of Employment Services at MSH, said because it takes more time to process applications that are submitted online through the State Personnel Board, paper applications are now being accepted for DCWs and CNAs in the MSH Personnel Office.

“This has helped in reducing the number of days between the date an application is submitted and the date a person is hired,” he said. “Individuals can still apply online, but we are giving them another option that helps to expedite the hiring process.”

Applications are accepted in Personnel Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Applications can still be submitted online at www.mspb.ms.gov.

“By taking applications in-house, we believe that we will be successful in reaching our goal of reducing the number of days between the submission of an application and the date of hire by 50 percent,” Finehout said. “We are tracking our progress and will compile a report at the end of March.”



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VISION
Mental wellness in every life, in every home,
and in every community.

MISSION
To help the individuals we serve achieve mental wellness by encouraging hope, promoting safety and supporting recovery while utilizing resources efficiently.

OUR GOALS

1. Accelerate the implementation of person-centered and recovery-oriented treatment and care.
2. Improve clinical, physical, and environmental safety and quality for patients and residents.
3. Minimize waste of resources and cost.

CORE VALUES
Respect – Relationships - Accountability -
Teamwork - Diversity

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MISS MISSISSIPPI ENGAGES IN GIRL TALK

BY TIM DURR



Miss Mississippi Jasmine Murray was excited to see the variety of "Welcome" signs in her honor created by Oak Circle Center girls.

“No dream is too big. Nothing is impossible for you to accomplish. Just have faith in yourself that you can do whatever it is that you want to do.”

That’s the advice Miss Mississippi Jasmine Murray gave females on Oak Circle Center (OCC) Friday, Jan. 16. Before speaking at MSH’s Employee of the Year Program, Murray took time out to visit OCC and encourage the young ladies to make wise decisions and plan for a successful future.

“My personal platform is called ‘13 Going on 30,’” Murray said. “That’s what I really focus on, mentoring young girls, and encouraging them to make good decisions, remain age appropriate, enjoy their childhood, and just wait to grow up.”

Murray said her platform is based on the movie *13 Going on 30* about a girl who, on her 13th birthday, wishes to be older.

“When she wakes up the next morning, she’s 30-years-old,” Murray said. “This girl realized that she was not ready to be a 30-year-old woman. She wasn’t ready for the responsibility of adulthood yet.”

“I encourage young ladies just like you to embrace your age, embrace the time you have as a teenager, and just wait to grow up,” Murray continued. “Wait to make adult decisions because you have so much time for all of that.”

Murray encouraged the girls to choose positive role models.

“It’s important to find good role

models,” she said. “Your role model is the person that you want to emulate, and that is why it is important to choose someone that is setting good examples and making positive decisions. I think it’s important to make good decisions in every area of your life because your decisions will follow you all throughout your life.”

Murray also encouraged the girls to maintain good work ethics and to not give up on their dreams.

“You have to work extremely hard for whatever you want,” she said. “When I was 16, I auditioned for *American Idol*, and I really understood the importance of working hard. In whatever it is that you want to do, you have to be a hard worker. It’s not just going to come easy or just be handed to you. It’s not just

going to fall into your lap one day.

“I tried three times for Miss Mississippi and it finally happened,” Murray continued. “So don’t give up, even when it seems like it’s not going to happen. Don’t give up if you fail the first time. Don’t give up when people tell you that you’re not going to be able to do it. There are going to be a lot of people who are going to tell you that you can’t do it, but you

have to listen to that voice inside of yourself that says ‘I can do anything because I believe I can.’”

Murray also told the girls that now is the time to start planning for their future.

“You have to start taking action right now,” she said. “Set goals for yourself. Short-term goals can be something you want to achieve this

week, while long-term goals can be like wanting to go to college when you grow up.

“Keep setting your goals and don’t get impatient if it doesn’t happen right away,” Murray continued. “I believe that everything has a reason and a season, and when it is supposed to happen for you, it will.”

CLASSES HELP PATIENTS BECOME BETTER PARENTS

BY TIM DURR

Patients on MSH’s Female Receiving Unit are learning to be better parents thanks to parenting classes facilitated by Kara Norris, trainer/counselor with the Mississippi Community Education Center.

“We talk about parenting, healthy relationships, co-parenting, and other topics such as how to help children in school, how to find community resources for your family,” Norris said. “I enjoy coming over here. The patients who come to my class really want to be there.”

Christina Torti, Assistant Director of Clinical Training, and Female Receiving Unit Psychology Supervisor, explained how the parenting classes began.

“In late May of 2014, as part of our effort to create a course catalogue for our building, we discussed things that we could have in that catalogue for patients to pick from which would augment their weekly programming,” Torti said. “Some ideas were cooking, knitting, parenting, gardening and trauma group.”

Torti said she contacted Steve Pickering, Programmatic Director at Mississippi Community Education Center, who helped MSH staff im-

plement the program on Female Receiving.

“Classes started the first week of July, 2014 and have been ongoing every Monday and Thursday afternoon,” she said. “In the past six months, 27 women have attended, 11 of the 27 have graduated, and four are still working on their completion.”

Those that have not completed the classes were discharged from the hospital before they could attend all eight required sessions.

“Kara has given referral information to these patients so that they can continue their program when they return home,” Torti said. “The classes they took here at MSH are in the system so they count towards their overall number of classes needed for a certificate. In essence they don’t have to start over again when they go home.”

So far, all referrals have come from



Kara Norris and Christina Torti

Female Receiving’s treatment teams and some patients have transferred to Female CDU and continued with their classes while in treatment there. In the near future, Female CDU will be referring patients as well so the class will be a mix of clientele.

“In addition, Families First has a program for fathers and we are hoping to also offer that on Male CDU,” Torti said. “In the future we hope to get some staff on campus trained through the train the trainer program so that we can be self-sustaining in our parenting education efforts while also meeting the patients’ needs of an approved program.”

ANITA DAVIS NAMED ADMINISTRATOR FOR JAQUITH INN

BY TIM DURR

Anita C. Davis of Brandon has joined Jaquith Nursing Home as the new Administrator for Jaquith Inn, Buildings 69 and 78. Davis earned an Associate Degree from Jones Junior College in Ellisville and a Bachelor's Degree from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus. She became a licensed nursing home administrator in the State of Mississippi in 2007.

Davis has more than 20 years of legal experience combined with 12 years of management experience, and more than seven years of health care experience in her role as a nursing home administrator.

"It is not only a blessing, but a privilege to be able to work and serve as a nursing home administrator," said Davis, a Waynesboro native. "It is my goal to continue to help lead Jaquith Nursing Home in providing the best quality of care for our residents. We, as a nursing home family, need to continuously promote a high level of care and support for our residents and staff."

Davis said her work with nursing home residents reminds her of the Bible verse Psalm 71:8, which reads – "And now, in my old age, don't set me aside. Don't abandon me when my strength is failing."

Davis is married to John Michael Davis, an Accountant/Auditor, and together they have six children: Christy Davis Price, John Davis, Kara Davis Harmond, Brock Harrison, Logan Harrison, and Bryce Harrison. They also have three grandchildren, Jonah, 9, Jaxon, 5, and Jon Tyler, 3.



Anita Davis

MSH WELCOMES NEW LIBRARIAN

BY TIM DURR

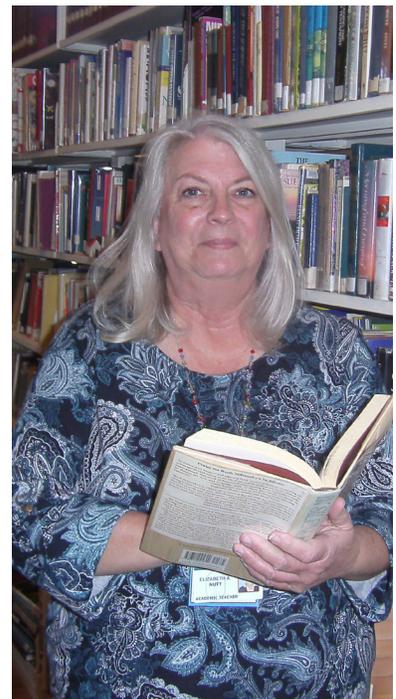
The MSH library on Building 38 is open once again with the hiring of retired educator Zann Nutt. The library was closed from July to November last year following the retirement of Jane Hull.

Nutt, who has 38 years of experience as a teacher and school librarian, earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Central Arkansas, and a Master's degree in reading from the University of Mississippi. She also completed coursework to become a certified librarian.

The library, open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., contains both fiction and non-fiction books, as well as a variety of magazines and local daily and weekly newspapers.

Nutt encourages more people to take advantage of the library.

"I think the MSH library is one of the best kept secrets on campus," she said. "I encourage staff to come and bring their patients and residents. We have a lot to offer in terms of reading material."



Zann Nutt

AUDREY WASHINGTON NAMED NURSE ADMINISTRATOR

BY TIM DURR

Audrey Washington was recently named Nurse Administrator for Inpatient Services at MSH. Washington earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN) from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She received her degree with the assistance of MSH's Educational Leave Program.

"It's an excellent program, and to be honest, I probably would not have gone into psychiatric nursing had I not participated in the program," Washington said. "Like a lot of nurses, I was afraid, but once I got into it, I love it."

Washington has worked at MSH for 19 years, and has held a number of positions, including Staff Nurse, Charge Nurse and Director of Nursing before being named Nurse Administrator. She is a lifelong resident of Rankin County, mother of three, and serves as Usher Board Secretary at Mt. Elam M.B. Church in Pearl.



Audrey Washington

MSH WELCOMES NEW CHAPLAINS

BY TIM DURR

Christina Frazier

Christina Frazier is one of the newest chaplains to join the MSH Pastoral Care Department. Frazier earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Central Christian College of the Bible in Moberly, Mo., a Master's degree in Psychology from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and a Doctor of Divinity from Universal Life Church Monastery in California. Before joining the MSH family, Frazier served as Chaplain at East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian.



Christina Frazier



Jim Everett

Jim Everett

Jim Everett recently joined the MSH Pastoral Care Department as a Contract Chaplain. Everett, who works part-time, earned a Bachelor's degree in Religion from Mississippi College in Clinton, a Master's degree in Religious Education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis in Pastoral Counseling and Discipleship from International Seminary in Plymouth, Fla. Everett has been a pastor for 46 years, and served as pastor of the Ephesus Baptist Church in Scott County for 14 years prior to joining the MSH family.

CONGRATULATIONS DECEMBER EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



James Lee Smith, Sr. of Jackson was named MSH's December Employee of the Month for Support Services. Smith has been a Custodian at JNH's Jaquith Inn for two years.



Tequella Shoulders of Jackson was named MSH's December Employee of the Month for Licensed Clinical Services. Shoulders is a Registered Nurse on Building 36, and has worked at MSH for 13 years.



Shirley Parker of Jackson was named MSH's December Employee of the Month for Direct Care Service. Parker is a Certified Nursing Assistant for JNH's Jaquith Inn. Parker has been employed at Jaquith for nearly 10 years.

CONGRATULATIONS JANUARY EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Doris Thomas of Jackson was named MSH's January Employee of the Month for Direct Care Services. Thomas is a Direct Care Supervisor at JNH's Jaquith Inn. She has been employed at Jaquith for 21 years.



Anna Christopher of Byram was named MSH's January Employee of the Month for Licensed Clinical Services. Christopher is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) at JNH's Jaquith Inn. She has been employed at Jaquith for more than two years.



Bertha Hobson of Jackson has been named MSH's January Employee of the Month for Support Services. Hobson works in the Pantry at JNH's Jaquith Inn. She has been employed at Jaquith for nearly two years.