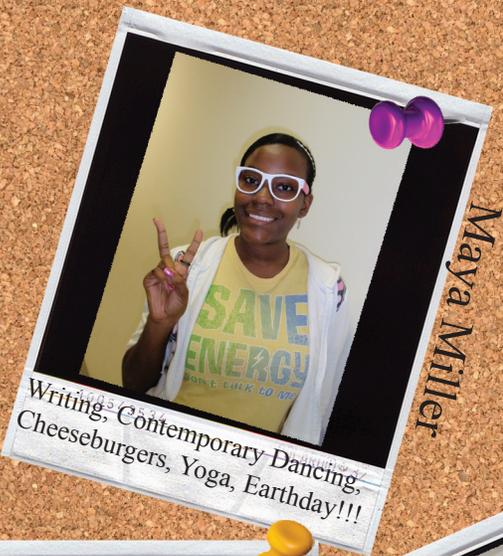


The  
*Pirate Speaks*

YEAR IN REVIEW  
May 2010



The Pearl High School Newspaper Since 1948



Maya Miller

Writing, Contemporary Dancing, Cheeseburgers, Yoga, Earthday!!!



Sean Meacham

Coins, Antiques, Perfection, God



Josh Griffin

Sports, Writing, Cutting Hair, Being Active!!!



Kerri Bradley

Writing, Mississippi Braves Baseball, Batboy :- ) Pictures, Hair



Christian Smith

Tennis, Being Spontaneous, Mayors Youth Council



Tennis, Being Spontaneous, Art

Leniece Bullock



Maria Cannon

Church Youth Group, Band, Newspaper, Church Choir



Ashley Parker, Editor

Pirate Speaks Editor (3yrs), Band, Trumpet, Super Scholars, Mu Alpha Theta



Mrs. Carter, Ad. Vise.

God, Family, Traveling

# The Pirate

# Speaks

The Pirate Speaks  
The Pearl High School Newspaper Since 1948  
500 Pirate Cove  
Pearl, MS 39208  
www.pearl.k12.ms.us

# The Pirate Speaks

YEAR IN REVIEW  
May 2010

For the past two years the Pirate Speaks has used the full size newspaper format. I would like to take the time to introduce another change to the Pirate Speaks. For the 2010-2011 school year the Pirate Speaks will be presented as a news magazine. It is both mine and the staff's hopes that the new format will appeal more to the student body and be more convenient. With that being said, we are all looking forward to the new school year and another year of documenting the events of Pearl High School.

Sincerely,

Ashley Parker, Editor



In this issue, an image of a Pirate Coin is hidden somewhere in the magazine. It may not be the same size. See if you can find it!



Congratulation  
Mr. Morgigno.

4

Welcome  
Dr. Dillon



Faculty  
Awards and  
Farewell  
Faculty  
Awards and  
Farewell

5-7



Spirit Week  
and Prom  
Spirit Week  
and Prom  
Spirit Week  
and Prom

8-9



Fine Arts Fine  
Arts Fine Arts  
Fine Arts Fine  
Arts Fine Arts  
Fine Arts Fine  
Arts Fine Arts

10-11



Sports Sports  
Sports Sports  
Sports Sports  
Sports Sports  
Sports Sports

12-13

# Congratulations, Mr. Morgigno!



Photo and article by Ashley Parker

*Current Principal Ray Morgigno looks forward to serving as Superintendent.*

At the end of the 2009-2010 school year, Pearl High School's principal Raymond Morgigno will be leaving PHS to accept his new position as superintendent of the Pearl Public School District. He will be replacing current superintendent Greg Ladner who is retiring.

Morgigno has been principal at PHS since 2006 and considers himself lucky to be back home.

Prior to returning to Pearl (where Morgigno attended school for 12 years), he administrated at New Hope High School and Brandon High School and taught at Tupelo High School.

He said it has been his life goal to be an educator. From the first grade, he found interest in teaching; and by the time he was in high school, a profession in administration appealed to him the most.

After Morgigno graduated PHS, he earned an undergraduate

degree from Delta State, a Masters from Ole Miss, and is currently working on a PhD from MSU.

Morgigno claims the faculty's work ethic and the encouraging students have been very inspiring to him during his time at Pearl. He also stated how special the community is in a sense of being so supportive of the school district. However, he gave the utmost recognition to his mother. "Of course, my mother was the biggest reason to achieve things. You never wanna disappoint mamma," he said.

Although he expressed how much he will miss interacting with the students and faculty and the spirit the school has, he is excited about his promotion.

"I'm glad I have the chance to impact grades k-12 not just 9-12. I hope to have a positive impact on the entire district, and I am looking forward to bigger challenges," stated Morgigno.

## New Year, New Principal

By Lenice Bullock

Among new shoes, new clothes, and a new car, there will be a new principal. Next year, Dr. Matthew Dillon will be taking the place of Mr. Morgigno, who was named Pearl Public School District's Superintendant. Dr. Dillon will be coming from South Panola High School where he is the current principal.

Dr. Dillon earned his bachelors degree at the University of Southern Mississippi. He then went on to earn his masters and doctorate degree from the University of Mississippi.

His wife, MaryAnn, also received her bachelors from the University of Mississippi. They have two children: Nathan, 2, and Peyton, eight months. Together, they are looking forward to being a part of this community and growing relationships.

At South Panola Dillon has come up with a way to maybe lessen and even prevent students from dropping out of school. Methods of communicating with parents and teachers while tracking students closely throughout their high school career, making home visits as needed for students who have an absentee problem, offering credit recovery courses and specialized tutoring have been used in the past.

"These methods... have yielded positive results while not lowering standards or rigor," said Dr. Dillon.

While at Pearl, he is looking forward to building relationships with the students and faculty. Not only that, he is also excited to be part of the rich tradition at an elite high school in Mississippi. His ultimate goal is to become a superintendant. Upon entering next school year, welcome Dr. Dillon to PHS.



Photo by Sheri Carter

*Incoming Principal Matthew Dillon is excited to become a part of the rich tradition of Pearl High School.*

# Faculty Awards

## **Donna McCommon, 2010 Mississippi College Music Department Distinguished Alumna of the Year**



Photo by Maria Cannon

By Maria Cannon

Donna McCommon was recently selected by the faculty and staff of the Mississippi College Music Department as Distinguished Alumna of the Year. McCommon holds a Bachelor of Music Education and a Master of Music from MC.

McCommon has received many other awards including The PHS and PPSD Teacher of the Year, Mississippi ACDA Ernestine Ferrell Award for Excellence in Choral Music, Outstanding Music Educator Award for Mississippi from Mississippi High School Activities Association, National Board Certified Teacher, and 2008 Choral Director of Note (one of 13 to receive this honor nationwide).



Photo by Maria Cannon

## **Darrell Rutland Central Mississippi DECA Advisor of the Year**



Photo by Maria Cannon

## **John Craven Pearl Public School District Administrator of the Year**

John Craven, assistant principal at PHS since 1994, also serves as the district director of safety.



Photo by Maria Cannon

## **Felicia Lee Mississippi Art Educator of the Year**



## **Tommie Hill Mississippi Cheerleader Coach of the Year**

# DONNA MCCOMMON

## PROUD PIRATE FOR 29 YEARS!



has been a teacher for a total of 35 years.

McCommon's favorite memory from Pearl High School is in 1989 when she took her students to Europe to sing in a competition in Vienna, Austria. The choir was one of three to perform with part of the Vienna Orchestra. Another fond memory was when the Chamber Singers were a featured choir at New York's Carnegie Hall in 2004.

The students and faculty members have impacted her the most at Pearl High School. McCommon said, "They made me feel at home." She still remembers the first choir she taught at Pearl and how amazing they did. After that, she could not think of anywhere else to be.

McCommon said being at Pearl High School has given her an extended family and she is blessed

to be here this long. "It was my life," she said. Upon graduation, she plans to enjoy her family, take up photography as a hobby, and travel to different places around the world.

McCommon said, "As I begin a new chapter of my life, I reflect on years of being a music educator. Over half my life has been spent in the halls and classrooms of Pearl High School. Pearl Singers and their parents have been my "children" and family for a long time and will always hold a special place in my heart. So many have touched my life in very special ways and it is a lasting memory no one will ever take from me. I have no doubt when I walk through the door for the last time, the tradition of Pearl Singers will continue. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my world of music with you."

By Maria Cannon

Donna McCommon, Director of Pearl Singers, Chamber Singers, and the District Fine Arts Coordinator, has been with the Pearl choral department for 29 years. She

## PROUD PIRATE FOR 33 YEARS!

# TOMMIE HILL

By Kerri Bradley

Pearl High School will be saying good bye to Mrs. Tommie Hill this year. Hill has been a teacher and a coach at Pearl High School for thirty-three years. Over the thirty-three years, Hill has coached softball, tennis, and cheerleading, and has taught numerous classes.

Hill graduated from Pearl in 1970 and returned to teach in 1977. She earned her degree from Mississippi State University. "I actually got this job the first day of school in 1977 when the principal called and said, 'A teacher just quit, would you like to take his place?'. That is when I first started my job here", says Hill.

Hill has won many different awards: Softball coach of the year in 1988, Outstanding Young Woman of the year in 1987 and 2005, Cheer coach of the year for Mississippi in 2010, Teacher of the month, and the All Star Tennis coach award.

Hill plans to take oodles of memories with her as she moves on after her retirement. She plans to spend



more needed time with her family, travel, and focus on her job as Alderman of Pearl.

"Pearl High School has really been my family. I enjoy coming to work every day", says Hill.

# BECKY ROWAN

PROUD PIRATE FOR 26 YEARS!



By Christian A. Smith  
Mrs. Becky Rowan has been a Pearl Pirate for 26 years. She started as an English teacher and taught for seven years. In 1997 Rowan became one of Pearl High School's counselors.

Rowan enjoys the community and especially the relationships she has built with people over the past years. One of Rowan's best memories is, "When we moved

into this building in 1989 from the old high school." She remembers there being such an excitement in the community over the new PHS. One of the impacts PHS has had on Rowan is the people. Students, parents, and especially her colleagues have made such a great impact on her life. Rowan has seen PHS go through the worst of times, but she has also seen this school in the best of

times, and regardless the circumstances, there is always a spirit of the PHS family.

"I feel especially blessed to have been part of this school, from my first grade days all the way through my retirement days. The love and support that PHS has shown me through the years will never be forgotten, and I will always be a 'Fighting Pirate!' It has been a joy!"

PROUD PIRATE FOR 3 YEARS!

# GREG SPRINGER

By Maya Miller

Greg Springer has been teaching band at Pearl High School for 3 years. After he leaves, he plans to go to the University of Kentucky to pursue his PhD in Music. Springer was drawn in by PHS's long tradition of excellence

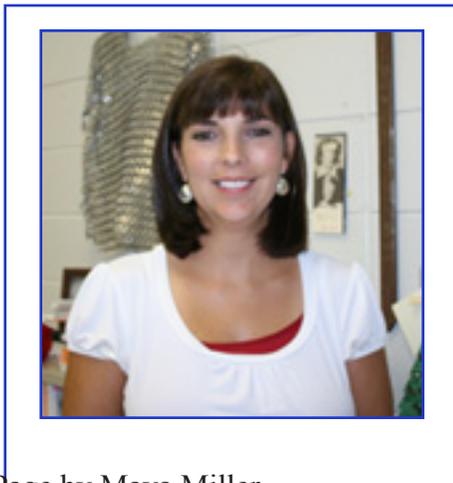
in the arts, academics, and athletics, which was one of the reasons he chose to work here. He also knew Jeff Cannon, another band director, in high school. Springer's favorite memories of PHS are from 2007 and 2009 when the Pearl Pirate Marching Bands were crowned state champions.

Springer says, "It feels like a family. Everyone here is so close and the teachers and students all get along like a family." He also says he will miss the school, the students, the amazing staff and faculty, and he would consider coming back after college.



# KIM LAFONTAINE

PROUD PIRATE FOR 13 YEARS!



By Josh Griffin

Mrs. Kim LaFontaine, a well-known teacher since 1997, is leaving Pearl High School to become a District Administrator at the Central Office.

LaFontaine's primary responsibilities will include: Personnel, public relation, grant writing and secondary

curriculum.

LaFontaine first joined PHS out of necessity and she really needed a job. PHS had an opening, so she took it. "The question is why did I stay?" Despite tragic times, Mrs. LaFontaine knew she was meant to be a Pirate.

She said nowhere is there a group of people who

care for their students and each other as much as the teachers at PHS.

"The teachers I've worked with from back when I started until now have a deep desire to work here. The teachers and students influenced me to stay here. I thank God for putting me in a place like Pearl High School."



# Spirit Week



# PROM 2010





Four Mississippi Scholastic  
Art Silver Key Awards for  
Katelon Adcock.

Mrs. Felicia Lee received  
the Mississippi Award  
from the National Art  
Education Association in  
Baltimore, MD.

# Art Awards

National Scholastic  
Art Gold Medal for  
Yessica Reyes

Nicolette Albert was  
accepted to attend the  
Mississippi School of the Arts  
in Brookhaven the next two  
years.

National Scholastic  
Art Silver Medal for  
Summer Smith

Four Mississippi Scholastic  
Art Certificate Awards  
for Casey Frank, Brooke  
Weghorst, Seth McCan,  
and Kathren Turner.

Five Mississippi Scholastic Art  
Gold Key Awards for Yessica  
Reyes, Summer Smith,  
Malen Bagwell, Stephanie  
Hopper, Dilan Sanchez, and  
Nicolette Albert.

# Fine Arts Accomplishments

## Drama

**Cesar Munoz and Emily Miller received all superior and an invitation to compete at the International Conference**

**Lora Beth Cook and Amber Couey were selected to the State Board for 2010-2011**

**Cesar Munoz was selected to the Mississippi Thespian Hall of Fame**

## Choir

**All Superior--Ole Miss Choral Festival and Riverland Choral Festival**

**Fourteen students participated in Mississippi Choral Directors Association Honor Choir**

**Chamber Singers performed at "Governor's Excellence in the Arts Award" ceremony**

## Band

**All Superiors at State Marching Festival, State Matching Championships, and State Concert  
Performed at Disney World**

## Winterguard

**First Place--Pearl "Winter Blast" and Petal High School Competition**

**Dance Team—5A State Champions**

**Cheerleaders—Third in State**

**Tennis—Division Champions**

**Soccer Boys—Division Champions**

**Soccer Girls—Division Champions**

**Powerlifting Boys—State Champions**

**Powerlifting Girls—Third in State**



Football—Region 2-4A Runner Up

Cross Country Boys—5A State Champions

Cross Country Girls—State Runner Up

Track—Little 6 Conference Champions

Boys—State Champions; Girls—Tied for 2nd in State

Fast Pitch Softball—Division Runner Up

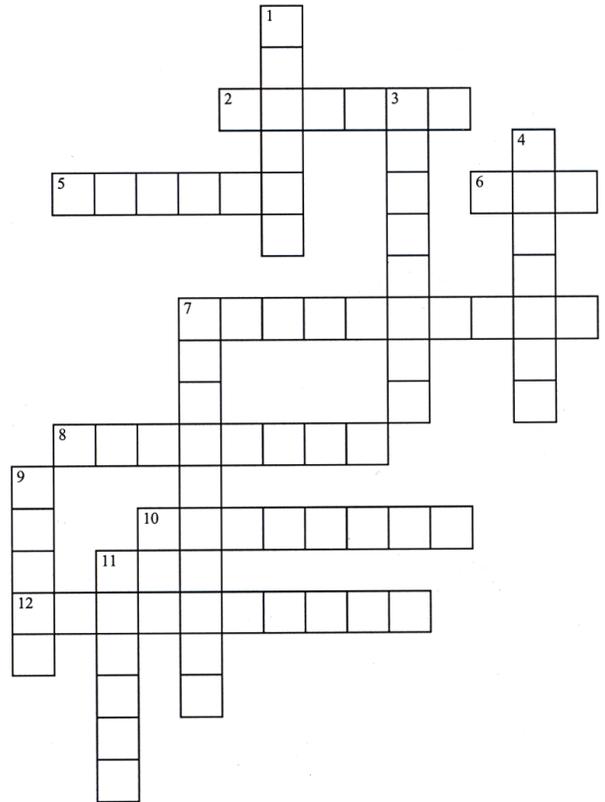
Baseball—Division Champions



The Heart of the Fighting Pirate!

# Are you smarter than the average Pirate?

1. A basket contains 5 apples. Do you know how to divide them among 5 kids so that each one has an apple and one apple stays in the basket?
2. The captain of a ship was telling this interesting story: "We traveled the sea far and wide. At one time, two of my sailors were standing on opposite sides of the ship. One was looking west and the other one east. And at the same time, they could see each other clearly." How can that be possible?
3. I am looking at somebody's photo. Who is it I am looking at, if I don't have any brothers or sisters and the father of the man in the photo is the son of my father?
4. Why can't a man living in the USA be buried in Canada?
5. Is it legal for a man in California to marry his widow's sister? Why?



## ACROSS

- 2 Spanish musical theme of the Pearl Pirate Band
- 5 It's a great day to be a
- 6 Art teacher of the year
- 7 Star student of the year
- 8 Work that all students dread
- 10 Principal named superintendent
- 12 The week before the first football game

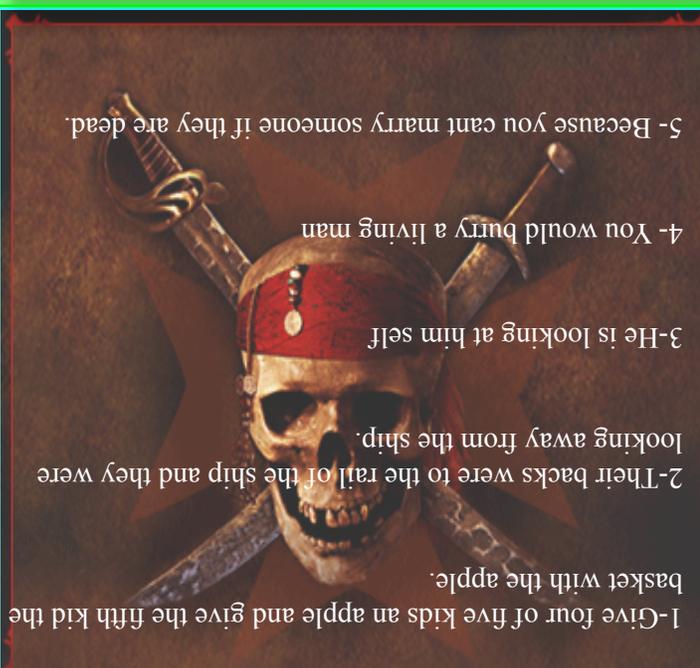
## DOWN

- 1 Administrator of the year
- 3 The toughest week of the year
- 4 Class winning the spirit week competition
- 7 The first dance of the year
- 9 Spirit Week theme
- 11 New principal for the 2010-2011 school year

## Pun Of The Issue

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

Page by Joshua Griffin



## Where's the Pirate Coin?

The square root of  $64 \times 2 \frac{1}{4} \times 2$ . The answer will lead you to the correct page. Good Luck.



# Pearl High School

# 2010-2011

## Academic Year Calendar

## Notes

July 10						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 10						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 10						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 10						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 10						
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28	29	30				

December 10						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 11						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 11						
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27	28					

March 11						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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27	28	29	30	31		

April 11						
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May 11						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 11						
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26	27	28	29	30		

July 11						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 11						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

7/28	Freshman orientation 8:00 a.m. to noon
8/2 - 8/5	Professional dev.
8/6	First day of school
9/6	School holiday
10/4 - 10/8	9 weeks tests
10/11	Student holiday
10/14	Report cards
11/11	Parent conferences
11/22-11/26	Student holiday School holidays
12/13-12/16	Semester exams
12/17	Dismiss at 1:00
12/18 - 1/2	School holidays
1/3	Semester 2 begins
1/6	Report cards
1/17	School holiday
2/21	School holiday
3/1-3/5	9 weeks tests
3/10	Report cards
3/14-3/18	Spring break
4/22 - 4/25	School holidays
5/17-5/20	Semester exams
5/20	Graduation
5/23	Dismiss at 1:00 p.m.

