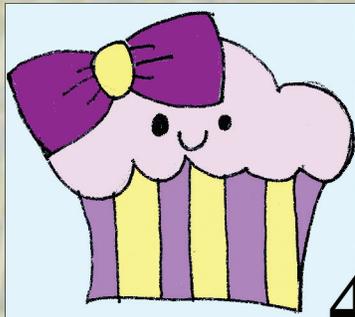


The
Pirate Speaks

May 2011

Class of
2011!

The Pirate Speaks



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Seniors
2011

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The Pirate Speaks

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The Pearl High School Newspaper Since 1948

Volume 62 Number 4

Letter From the Editor

Being involved has made my high school career. Throughout the past four years, I have learned to break out of my shell and learned to be more out-going. I as a person. All the things I have I will face later on in life.
High School

have gained confidence in myself and my capabilities done up to this point have helped prepare me for what I have grown and matured and I am confident Pearl has given me the tools I need to be successful in life. I have learned that anything worthwhile will never come easy so dedication and the will to do well are key in achieving anything you want in life.



Being a part of the newspaper staff was an experience that I am grateful for. It has taught me skills that will be useful later in life and it has given me the opportunity to challenge myself in elements other than just writing. I have made friends I know I will keep a lifetime and got to experience things I would have been clueless about otherwise.

With the opportunity to work with four different staffs and staff members from other schools, newspaper has broadened my view on things, and I have learned to be more accepting to change and different personalities.

I have gotten to fully experience high school and duty of being editor for 3 years. I am not going to and there was never a time I wanted to quit, but that is what are involved in something people care about.

school by having the privilege lie and say it was easy happens when you

I am glad I was able to be a part of something that was much bigger than all the individuals in this graduating class. I consider myself lucky that I was involved in so many milestones of Pearl High School: we got turf, celebrated 60 years as a school, earned the Level 5 school rating, and were a part of the series Y'all vs US and beat Brandon.

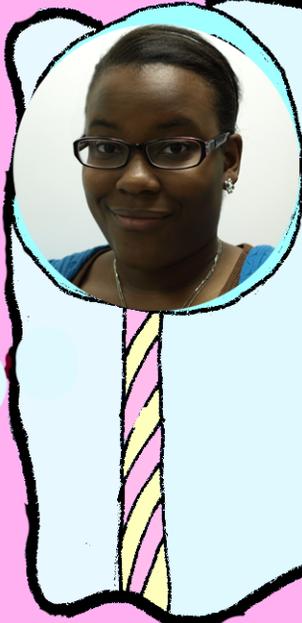


Pearl High School is my home, and the people here are my family. Nowhere else do the teachers act more like parents than educators. We take for granted how much they care for us and want to see us surpass even our own expectations; they encourage us to believe in ourselves as much as they do. I am proud that I will be able to call myself a Pearl High School alumnus and be added to the ever-growing list of people who are Pearl graduates.

Ashley Parker- Editor

A Blessing

Dear Ashley, Sean, Maria, and Maya,
Having you serve on the newspaper staff has been a blessing! You have unique talents, skills and personalities, yet you share a strong work ethic and a desire to create your best. My thoughts and prayers go with you as you begin the next chapter of your life. "The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."
Numbers 6: 24-26 NKJV
May God bless you, Sheri Carter, Adviser



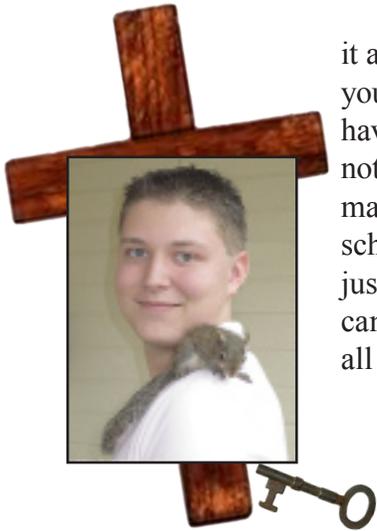
When I first moved to Pearl High School in 10th grade, I didn't know what to expect. The first day of school was surreal, with streamers and silly string everywhere. I didn't know what to think, perhaps because cowbells were making it hard to hear my own thoughts. I was alone, but within 5 minutes of standing by myself, I had made a new friend. That's what I learned about high school. There's always someone just like me, someone that makes me laugh, makes me want to come to school, makes the days better. The teachers and my friends helped me pull through to make these the best years of my life.



By Maya Miller

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:13

Graduation is a big deal for many people; but, for me, I see it as getting closer to paying bills and not having things given to you when you need it. The people I have met over these four years have left an impact on my life. Whether it is good or bad does not really matter to me, because what happened is the past; it has made me who I am today. One thing I have learned in my high school experience is that the teachers really don't hate us; they just want us to be the best we can. I don't let people tell me that I cannot do something, because I know in my heart that with God all things are possible.



By Sean Meacham

The last four years have been a life-changing experience. I have learned so much as a person and from the teachers and classes I have taken. I met many people here, and even though I say I'm ready to leave, I'll always reminisce on the memories I have made at PHS. The bonding experiences are the one thing I will miss when I leave high school. Everyone told me that these last four years were going to fly by and they were right. It seems as if it were just yesterday that I was sprayed in the face with the silly string by the seniors. In the next few months our lives will be changing drastically. I don't think I will ever be ready when that day comes.

By Maria Cannon



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Letters to the Seniors



Dr. Matt Dillon and student body president, Bridget Page, set the date for prom. This is the first year that Dr. Dillon has been principal of Pearl High School and has worked with Page throughout the year. Photo by Samantha King.

Dear Class of 2011,

Congratulations, you're almost there! Your graduation date is quickly approaching, and your high school career is coming to a close. I know you have worked extremely hard to reach this special milestone in your life, and this will be a special time for both you and your supporters. I want you to know that I appreciate having been a small part of your special year. Although it seems we've just met, so many of you have already impacted me in huge ways. You welcomed me with flamingoes, broke me in with senior celebration on the first day of school, and now I have the distinct privilege of calling you, my first class of "Pirate Seniors," by name on graduation day. The bonds I have formed with this class over a short period of time will last forever, and I'm so proud to have gotten to know each of you this school year.

Don't take lightly what you've accomplished here. A high school diploma is an exceptional achievement. You're now equipped with the foundation to achieve greatness. In each of you is the ability and knowledge to have a positive effect on a global society. Move forward and achieve greatness, but know that you are always welcome here. Don't forget to visit and, certainly don't forget where you're from. Once a Pirate, always a Pirate!

As always...It's a Great Day to be a Pirate!

Matthew L. Dillon, Ph.D.
Principal, Pearl High School

To the Class of 2011,

It is an honor for me to write this letter to you; what a great class you have been, and what a legacy you leave. Having a daughter in the class makes you special to me, personally. Family, friends, and the Pearl community are proud of you.

Congratulations to all members of the senior class. You have made a lasting impact on student life at PHS in extracurricular activities and in academics. More importantly, your character, integrity, work ethic, and desire to become outstanding citizens and community leaders give us hope that there are bright days ahead.

It has been my great pleasure to live this part of your life with you, enjoying the happy times and sharing in the sad times. Remember the great words of Winston Churchill: "Now, this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

We'll never forget the Class of 2011. Good luck and God bless and never let HIM out of your life.

John Craven, Assistant Principal



A Special Moment

Mr. Craven hugs his daughter, Emily, after a pep rally. Emily is his youngest child and will graduate May 20. Mr. Craven's son, Jack, graduated in 2005. Photo by Dale Shepherd.

Doing What You Love

By Amanda Rogers

“Pirate Pride! Every teacher, coach, and cafeteria lady is proud to be a pirate and always rejoice in the school’s strong and successful history,” said Star Student Jayce O’Shields, about what he will remember most about Pearl High School after graduation. He plans to attend Wafford College for Biology, then attend Vanderbilt for medical school, and later join the Peace Corps. Next, he hopes he will return for law school at Harvard, to work as a medical malpractice lawyer, then to become a college professor.

O’Shields has been a successful musician, playing three instruments in the band and being a drum-major as well as a member of the All-State Concert Band, in addition to being a member of Chamber Singers and many other honor choirs. He has maintained academic excellence throughout school, being named an All-American Scholar, A Commended Scholar, and is eager to be named the Valedictorian for the class of 2011.

To underclassmen O’Shield advised; “Do what you love and do it to the best of your ability. If math isn’t your thing, just try your best then sing your heart out in choir. If English is boring, but football is your purpose, dominate the gridiron. Find your niche, put your heart into it, and have pride knowing you are doing what you are called to do.”

“All teachers at PHS have encouraged me to strive to achieve my goals either directly or indirectly whether it’s Mrs. Ochoa giving me a sticker or Mr. Crane personally congratulating me on my AP US History score,” said O’Shields.



O’Shields feels very honored to have achieved one of his high school goals of being star student, and to have triumphed in a class of very competitive individuals. Photo by Mrs. West.

Collection of Champions

By Amanda Rogers



Through blood, sweat, and tears, each hall of fame inductee has achieved the various goals and accomplishments it takes to be eligible for his/her title. All have maintained academic excellence throughout their high school experience and have been involved in multiple memberships to clubs and committees. Photo by Mrs. West.

Pearl High School hall of fame inductees include: Megan Carr, Lillian Bryant, Trenton Goff, Maegan Gullette, Macey Lee, Candice Lockett, Jayce O’Shields, Bridget Page, Rebecca Robinson, Rav Singh, and Aaron Stewart. Students are proud to claim these seniors as a collection to their Hall of Fame, along with many graduates before them.

Rav Singh, Jayce O’Shields, and Aaron Stewart are members of the Quiz Bowl team and competed alongside their teammates in the Mississippi College Academic Challenge, defeating Van Cleave. Band members Trenton Goff and Megan Carr are members of the Lion’s Band. Goff is also a section leader alongside Lillian Bryant. Candice Lockett is involved in ROTC.

Dance Team captain, Bridget Page, was one of the best dancer finalists in the MHSAA State Dance Championship and a 1st Place soloist in the Dixie Championship. Senior Cheerleaders are Rebecca Robinson and Maegan Gullette. Robinson is also involved with the girls’ soccer team along with Macey Lee from the softball team.

Student Council

By Ayanna Bloom

Senior student council president Nicole Gatlin has been on student council since her freshman year and says it made her realize that being involved in school is actually fun.

She thinks the class of 2011 will be remembered for being the most competitive class because the seniors alone brought in 55,000 cans this spirit week.

Her reason for joining student council was she felt like she should take on more responsibilities. Gatlin said the best thing about working with the other officers was coming up with fun ideas, and since everyone was so close it made it easier to work together. "With a class like ours it wasn't too hard to be president," said Nicole.



Photo By Ayanna Bloom

Senior Super Scholars



Students are invited to participate in Super Scholars based on grade point averages in honors courses.

Super Scholars must maintain a cumulative yearly average of at least 90 and take three Advanced Placement courses.

They must take at least one PSAT and one ACT prep course and participate in community service projects.

Senior Super Scholars are (from left to right, row one) Jayce O'Shields , Megan Carr, Sponsor Heather Westerfield, (row two) Jamesia Morris, Ashley Parker (row three) Ellen Husbands, Macey Lee, Lillian Bryant, Kyle Bynum (row four) Colby Faulkner, Bailey Peagler, Roman Ehrhardt, (row five) Dalton Blakeney, Aaron Stewart, Spencer Robinson, and Rav Singh. Photo by Maya Miller.

We've Got the Music in Us

By Hanna Lewis

Josh Waite, Roman Erndhart, Megan Carr, and Elizabeth Beers are a few of the choir seniors who have been awarded multiple honors in Choral Music. This past year Chamber Singers won several superior ratings; these seniors have also been in several honor choirs: such as ACDC, Delta, and High School Honor Choir. Waite, Ehrhardt, Carr, and Beers are all in Chamber Singers and some have been in PHS's ensembles and quartets as well.



Seniors practice scales for Madrigal music. Waite said, "with hard work and dedication, anything is possible." Photo by Sheri Carter

The inspired students have contributed to the success of their choral music. That inspiration could be a person in their lives or it could just be something they witnessed one day. Waite said, "When I was in elementary I saw Chamber Singers for the first time. I went home and designed my outfit that night. It has always been my inspiration in choral music."

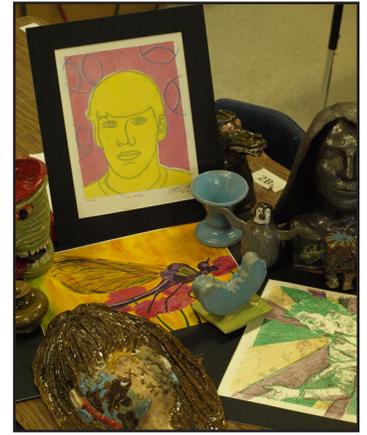
Different Yet the Same

By Hanna Lewis

Art seniors have been busy with many different projects at PHS this year. Malen Bagwell won a Gold Key award in 2010 for her drawing of Ray Rogers. She said that this is one of her most memorable moments in art because she was, "able to meet Ray Rogers and had him to draw."

Katelon Adcock won two state Silver Key awards and the Doodle for Google contest, but Adcock's favorite accomplish is her new love of photography. She sums up her career in the sentence "We are the champions!"

Zac Blackwell won the 2010 Homecoming T-shirt design contest and co-won backdrop contest. He also put his photography skills to work with February's production of Annie. Blackwell said art has "given me an opportunity to create and make worlds and to travel to new worlds on the paper."



Works of art created by seniors include drawings, paintings, chalk sketches, and ceramics Blackwell said, "I think you should always keep yourself open to any emotions and experiences so you can use it in your art." Photo by Hanna Lewis

"Excellence Through Perseverance"

By Juliet Ferrell

Senior band students have a lot to be excited about. From the "Senior Game" where the seniors walk off the field, leaving behind their shoes, to the upcoming graduation, band students have made a lot of memories as well as learned life lessons. Senior, Crystal Alfaro, has learned and gained a lot from being in the band.

Alfaro joined the band in the junior high and said that the friends she made in band and the feeling she got while marching made band, "all worth my time." Alfaro said her experience in band has made her become, "a more determined, confident, friendly individual. Band has changed the way I hear, see, and think of things."

During her time in high school, the band has won two state championships. Alfaro has won two gold medals, a silver medal, and pins for superiors achievements.

Alfaro said, "Band has taught me to be dedicated and focused and to give my best in everything that I do." She has learned to live "Excellence Through Perseverance."

Peace, Love, and Thespians

By Juliet Ferrell

Thesopian Society is made up of people who, "have the honorable right to be yourself," said Matt Brewer, who along with Lora Beth Cook are two of the graduating seniors in this club.

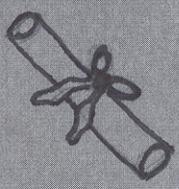
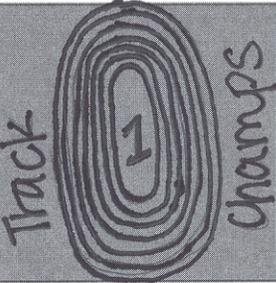
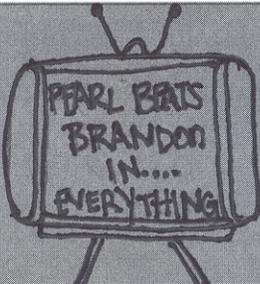
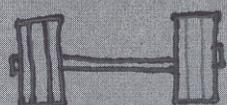
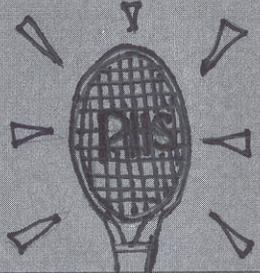
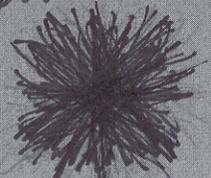
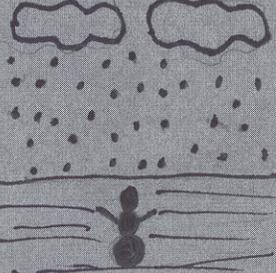
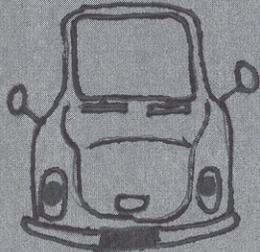
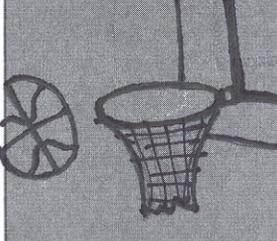
Cook has been a popular face at Pearl since age two, and Brewer has found a home on the stage ever since he was little. Both Cook and Brewer have participated in productions at Pearl and Actor's Playhouse, and Brewer has been in a few productions at New Stage Theater.

Cook and Brewer have won many awards for their acting, like "Best Couple" in 2009. Cook serves as the president of the Troupe 4537 and is a member of the MS Thesopian State Board. Brewer won "Best Dramatic Male Monologue" at the State Fair in 2010. For both Cook and Brewer, being a thespian has molded them into the people they are today and has given them the experiences that they will take with them no matter where they go.

Correction: The March 2011 article "Breakfast With Mamaw" should have read:

Coach Purnell has been a teacher and coach at Pearl High School for 20 years, has coached softball for 26 years, and has coached Mississippi's All-State team for two years. Under Coach Purnell's leadership, the Pearl Softball team won State Championships in 1998 and 1999. She was the 1999 and 2010 Pearl High School District's teacher of the year.

SENIOR HIGHLIGHTS

<p>Freshman Year!!</p>	<p>First day of freshman year. The start of something new</p>		<p>Boys track team winning Allstate Sugarbowl Classic</p>	
<p>Beating Brandon in everything while still maintaining class</p>		<p>Cross country back to back state champs and track state champs</p>		<p>Powerlifting Championship</p>
	<p>Getting senior leave</p>		<p>Winning district championships in tennis</p>	
<p>Winning dance state championships 3 times</p>	<p>DANCE  CHAMPS</p>	<p>Snow days</p>		<p>Senior pep rally</p>
	<p>Beating Murrah's basketball team</p>		<p>Running onto the field the night Pearl beat Brandon in 2010</p>	<p>50</p>
<p>Getting your first car</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Senior runthrough/ First day of school</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Senior skip day</p>





Senior Track & Cross Country

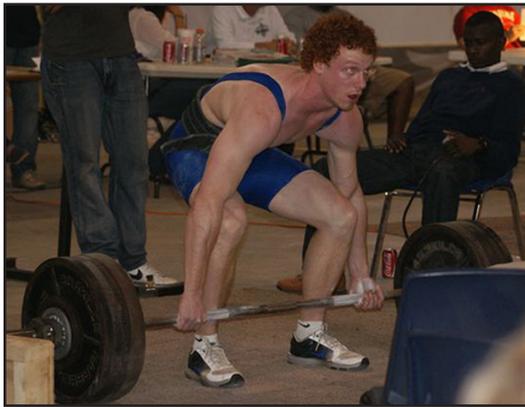
By Erica Berg and Faith Harris

“The cross country and track team are the people I am closest to, because we are always together. They’re like my family,” said Kaleigh Hunt. During her seventh and eighth grade years Hunt placed fifth, but the cross country team won state championships both years. During her sophomore year, Hunt came in second place individually, and the cross country team placed second.

“I’d have to say it was one of the happiest moments of my high school career. It was a bittersweet moment because we lost, but I was so proud of myself because I beat my previous record.” Due to a season-ending injury in soccer her junior year, Hunt had to sit out of track. She recovered from her torn ACL and was able to play soccer her senior year. Her senior year, she did not compete in cross country, but she is running track.



Kaleigh Hunt smiles as she reflects on her track and cross country experiences. Photo by Erica Berg.



Cole Cauthen deadlifts at a Pearl Invitational meet. Cauthen is the north state champion in the 198-weight class. The team won back-to-back state championships. Photo by Dale Shepherd.

By Faith Harris and Erica Berg

As a graduating senior at Pearl High School, Cole Cauthen has had a very successful career as a Pirate power lifter. When asked what his most memorable moment was, he said, “I don’t think there is one certain moment that stands out the most to me. I think it was the overall journey with my team and teammates.”

Cauthen benches 250 pounds, squats 500 pounds, and dead lifts 570 pounds. He says the quote that inspired him the most is, “At 212 degrees, water boils. At 211 degrees, water is only hot. The extra degree of effort can make the difference between good and great.”

Powerlifting

By Erica Berg and Faith Harris

“Today give all that you have, for what you keep inside you lose forever.” As a graduating senior of the Pearl Pirate soccer team, Josh Saulsbury reflected on his high school soccer career.

When asked how it felt to win multiple state championships Saulsbury said, “It’s a really awesome feeling. The team was once told that we were the ‘South Panola of soccer.’ To be compared to that is pretty awesome.” Being on the team, Saulsbury said that he isn’t always going to have good days. Some days are going to be bad, but hard work will pay off in the long run.



Starters kneel together on the field for a pregame huddle. The boys soccer team has won three state championships in the past four years. Photo by Melissa Gilmore.

Senior Soccer

2007-2008
 4A Jazz State Champions
 Semi-Finalist at the National Dance Team
 Championship

2008-2009
 Runner Up 4A Jazz State Championship
 Runner Up 4A High Kick State Championship

2009-2010
 5A Jazz State Champions
 Runner Up 5A High Kick State Championship

2010-2011
 5A Jazz State Champions
 5A Pom State Champions



Senior dancers Nicole Gatlin, Bridget Page, and Kelsey Chandler lead The Pirates Crew to their third state Jazz championship in four years.

Senior Dancers

**SENIORS
 VS.
 BRANDON**

#2 AK

Travis

#9 Demardra

Naylor

#16 Cole

Cauthen

#21 Devante

Nichols

#33 Darius

Knight

#44 Jonathon

Shinnie

#45 Kenneth

Johnson

#52 Stukevius

Williams

#62 Tyler

Kuhn

#68 Rav

Singh

#77 Tyler

Woodard

#99 Cedric

Mallett

“It still puts chill bumps on my body every time I hear the Brandon game; it was a life-changing memory. It had me going crazy from the start to the end. That’s my best game of anyone out of my football seasons. We all played great no matter what the outcome could have been,” said senior running back A.K. Travis.

The next day was a proud one for the Pearl High football team. Right guard Tyler Kuhn said, “The next morning I dressed from head to toe in Pearl apparel and went out into town with my head held high.”

The Brandon vs. Pearl game was a memorable game for all the seniors on the team. “Every game was memorable. I loved the game and enjoyed the competition from the other teams. I wish I could play forever,” said senior offensive linemen Rav Singh.

“Everyone was excited because we finally beat them... and being on tv made it better,” said Stukevius Williams. At the end of the fourth quarter, Pearl and Brandon were tied 21-21, OVERTIME.

In overtime, Travis said, “I felt relieved because the game was not over yet. We had more time to get in the Bulldogs.

“I was hyped and I knew we was gonna win,” said senior quarterback Devante Nichols who threw the winning touchdown beating the Brandon Bulldogs 27-24.



“Take full advantage of your high school sports because YOU WILL MISS IT.”
 Darius Knight

Senior Football

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The Walk

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10:30 am Worship

6:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday

6:30 pm The Walk

Youth Worship/Praise Band/Fun

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Free Pizza/Drinks/Games/Fun

Jeff Buchanan, Pastor

Chris Beam, Youth Pastor



Balfour



Jimmy Nix

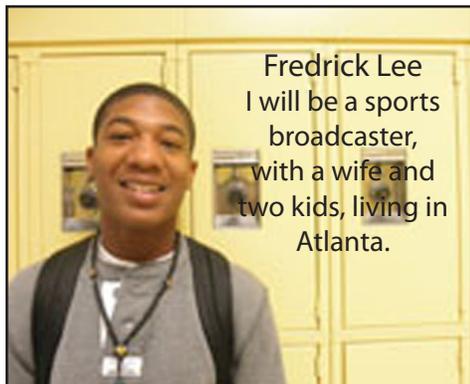
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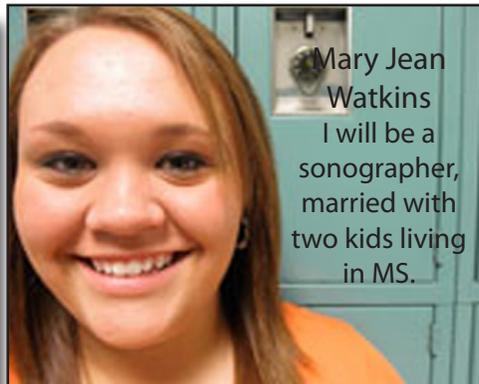
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When I am...



Fredrick Lee
I will be a sports broadcaster, with a wife and two kids, living in Atlanta.



Mary Jean Watkins
I will be a sonographer, married with two kids living in MS.



Christina Simmons
I hope to be married and have children, and would work in computer engineering.



Jade Lee
I will be a neonatal nurse with a lot of money living in Florida.



Roman Ehrhardt
I will be an architect married with one kid in Colorado or Flowood.



Kimberly Harmon
I will be a graphic designer with my husband and baby cats living on my farm in Rankin.



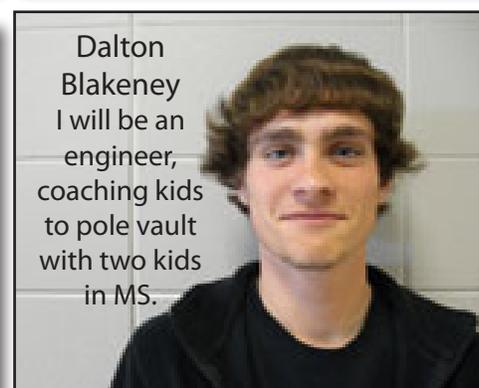
Marcy Slowik
I will own my own dress boutique, married with one kid, living in Tennessee.



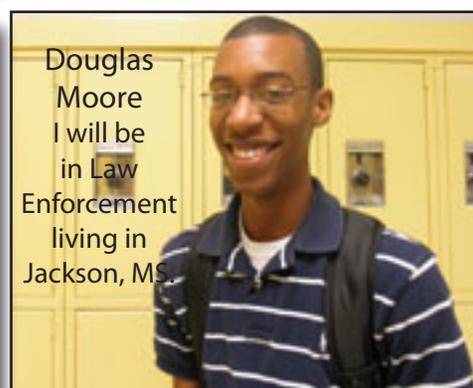
JT Wilkinson
I will be a pharmacist, with one child in Madison, MS.



Colton Penton
I will be a computer technologist, married with two or three kids, wherever I end up.



Dalton Blakeney
I will be an engineer, coaching kids to pole vault with two kids in MS.



Douglas Moore
I will be in Law Enforcement living in Jackson, MS.

What will you be when you are thirty?



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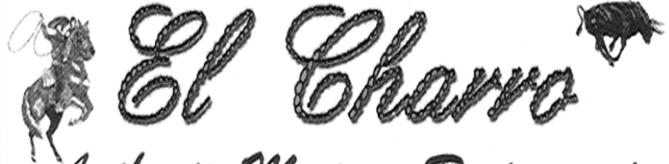


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