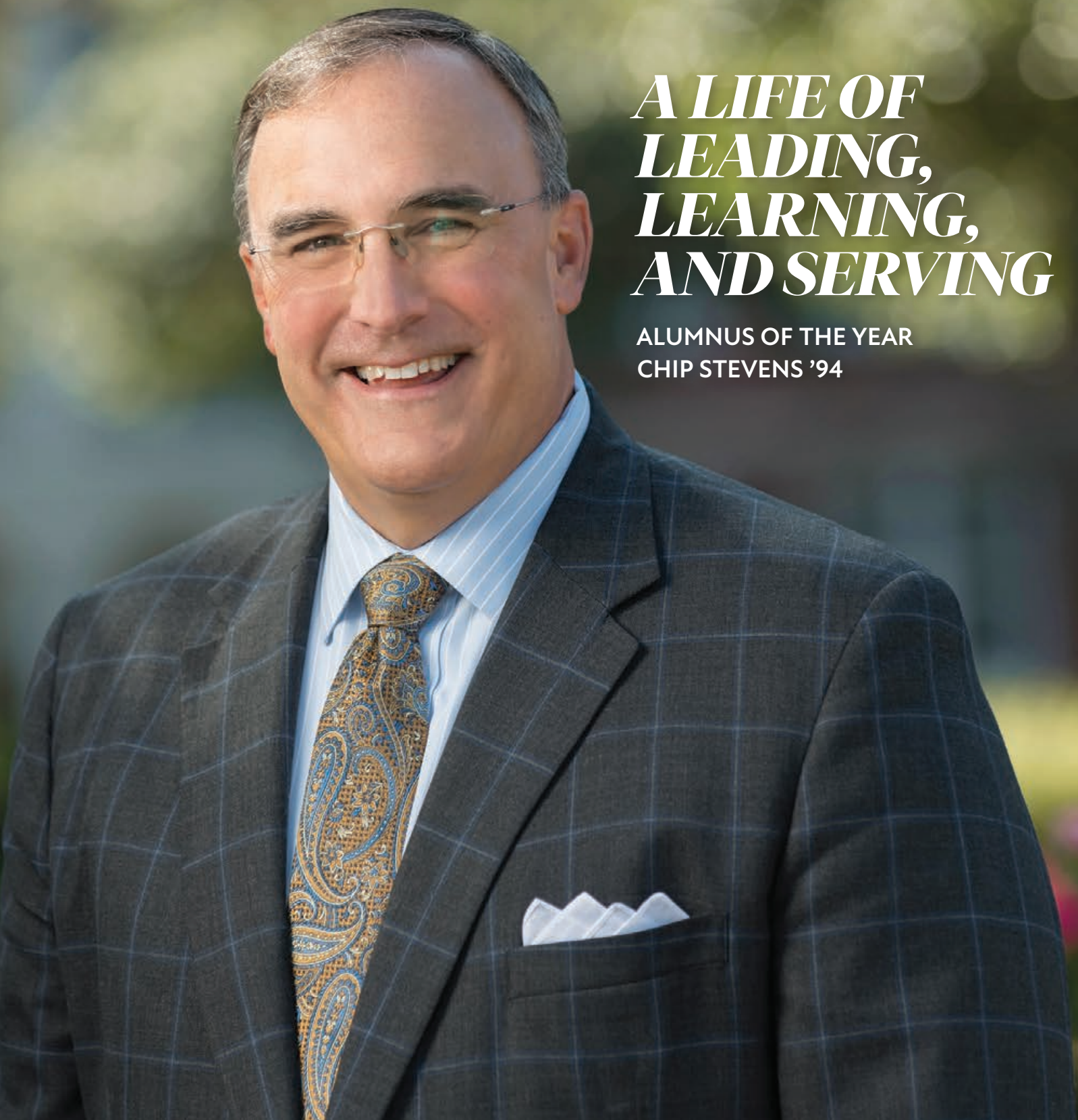


MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | WINTER 2025 BUSINESS

A LIFE OF LEADING, LEARNING, AND SERVING

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
CHIP STEVENS '94





MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

It is such a privilege for me each year to greet and welcome you to the latest issue of *MC Business*. The idea behind this publication is to keep in touch and inform you of all that we are doing to continue making the School of Business a place of exceptional academic quality and faithful commitment to the cause of Christ.

We have an event timeline for the year that will quickly illustrate the dynamic learning environment we have here in Self Hall. While these are just highlights, the day-to-day learning that takes place is simply remarkable. We have also included key metrics that help capture this environment.

Of course, our faculty is the foundation on which we build our programs, and as you would expect, there are comings and goings. We are saddened to see Dr. Mark Morgan retire, but we are grateful for his service and wish him well in his well-deserved retirement. We are also excited to welcome Dr. Josh Pitts as a new addition to our faculty.

We are proud to recognize our Alumnus of the Year recipient, Chip Stevens. Chip so wonderfully illustrates the role this business education can play in building a ministry for our Lord.

Please take time to read updates on faculty research, including Dr. Brandon Bolen's recent work. We also want to show you how our curriculum continues to be updated through the example of Dr. Steve Mulholland's latest course offering. Additionally, we emphasize the critical role internships play in student learning through the experiences of Jeff Liddell and Ryleigh Kenney.

Finally, I invite you to see how our Faith and Ethics event continues to grow and impact student learning and ultimately, the lives of our students. As we frequently note, the School of Business strives to equip students with the tools and skills necessary to reach their goals. Just as importantly, we seek to foster an environment in which those goals are pursued through the highest ethical standards and a strong commitment to serving others, just as our Father has called us to do.

With warmest wishes,



Marcelo Eduardo
Eduardo@mc.edu

MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | WINTER 2025

BUSINESS



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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in Purpose



On the cover: Chip Stevens '94 was honored by the School of Business as the 2024 Alumnus of the Year, celebrating the example he sets through his leadership and continued dedication to MC. Read the story on page 20.

BY THE NUMBERS

THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IS accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). This prestigious accreditation represents the highest achievement for a university that awards business degrees.

FEWER THAN

6%

OF BUSINESS SCHOOLS
IN THE WORLD HOLD
THIS ACCREDITATION

20:1

FACULTY TO
STUDENT RATIO

THE STUDENT
INVESTMENT FUND
IS VALUED AT

\$550k



THE SCHOOL
PROVIDES OVER

\$50k

IN PRIVATE
SCHOLARSHIPS
EACH SEMESTER

*in addition to the Speed
Scholarship or other scholarships
students may qualify for*

74%

OF THE CLASS OF 2025 HAVE
SECURED EMPLOYMENT
OR BEEN ACCEPTED INTO
PROGRAMS TO FURTHER
THEIR EDUCATION AT THE
TIME OF GRADUATION

THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
HAS HOSTED

14

ANNUAL FAITH, SERVICE,
AND BUSINESS ETHICS WEEKS

A YEAR IN MOTION

**A YEAR AT THE MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IS MEASURED
NOT JUST IN SEMESTERS, BUT IN EXPERIENCES.**

From academic challenges to professional networking, leadership development to community engagement, students are constantly stepping into new opportunities. This timeline showcases the events that energized our campus and shaped the leaders of tomorrow.



SEPTEMBER

- Meet the Firms

NOVEMBER

- Alumnus of the Year
- Women in Business Alumni Luncheon

JANUARY

- Women in Business Conference
Oxford, MS

MARCH

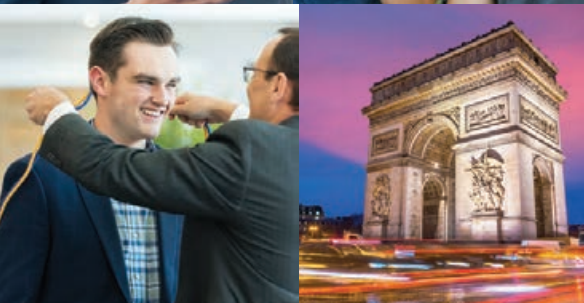
- Rise Against Hunger
- American Marketing Association International Collegiate Conference
New Orleans, LA
- Faith, Service, and Business Ethics Week

APRIL

- Investment Fund Conference
New York City, NY
- Entrepreneurship Bootcamp
- Crawfish Boil
- Honors Day
- Entrepreneurship Toy Fair

MAY

- Study Abroad
London and Paris





School of
Business



FROM WELCOME TO WELL EARNED

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

FROM NEW
BEGINNINGS TO
MEANINGFUL
FAREWELLS, THE
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
MARKS A SEASON
OF TRANSITION.

As we welcome new expertise
into our classrooms and
celebrate a legacy of service,
we honor the people who
shape our students, our
programs, and our future.

School of Business

FROM WELCOME TO WELL EARNED



THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IS THRILLED TO WELCOME DR. JOSHUA PITTS AS OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBER.

Joining us this past fall, Dr. Pitts brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the classroom, where he is teaching Economics and Statistics.

Dr. Pitts earned his Ph.D. in Applied Economics from Mississippi State University in 2010. His primary area of research is Sports Economics, a field in which he has developed a strong reputation for exploring the intersection of data, decision-making, and athletic performance. Before coming to MC, Dr. Pitts served as a faculty member at Kennesaw State University for over a decade, where he taught courses such as Advanced Sports Economics, Sports Analytics, and Statistical Methods in Sports and Exercise. He also previously taught at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

With more than 15 years of teaching experience, Dr. Pitts is known for his ability to make complex economic and statistical concepts engaging and approachable for students. His dedication to teaching and his passion for connecting theory with real-world applications make him an invaluable addition to our business faculty.

MC Business is proud to welcome Dr. Pitts to the MC family and looks forward to the knowledge, energy, and insight he brings to our students and programs.

**DR. PITTS IS KNOWN FOR HIS ABILITY
TO MAKE COMPLEX ECONOMIC AND
STATISTICAL CONCEPTS ENGAGING AND
APPROACHABLE FOR STUDENTS.**



THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS PROUDLY HONORS DR. MARK MORGAN, AS HE RETIRES AFTER 18 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE.

A longtime member of the Accounting Department, Dr. Mark Morgan, Ph.D., CPA, CFE, had a lasting impact on students through his commitment to excellence, ethical practice, and professional integrity.

Dr. Morgan brought a unique blend of academic and real-world experience to MC. Prior to joining MC, he served as an instructor at Jackson State University and worked as a Criminal Investigator for the Mississippi State Tax Commission. He also shared his expertise internationally as a Visiting Professor at the University of Guam.

A Certified Public Accountant and Certified Fraud Examiner, Dr. Morgan earned his Ph.D. in Accounting from Jackson State University, along with an MBA and Certificate of Accountancy from Mississippi College.

Throughout his career, he instructed professionals in accounting, auditing, and fraud examination and contributed to the field through scholarly research published in respected academic and professional journals.

As Dr. Morgan enters retirement, the MC community celebrates his meaningful contributions to the School of Business and the many students he mentored along the way. His influence and dedication will continue to shape the accounting profession for years to come.

**DR. MORGAN INSTRUCTED PROFESSIONALS
IN ACCOUNTING, AUDITING, AND FRAUD
EXAMINATION AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE
FIELD THROUGH SCHOLARLY RESEARCH.**

GranthamPoole, one of Mississippi's leading regional advisory & accounting firms, provides tailored financial solutions designed to meet the unique challenges of businesses and high-net-worth individuals.



INTERNSHIP INSIGHTS

FOR ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE STUDENTS, internships provide a behind-the-scenes look at the financial world while offering hands-on experience and practical insight into real business environments.



The National Bank of Canada is the sixth largest commercial bank in Canada. It is headquartered in Montreal, and has branches in most Canadian provinces and 2.4 million personal clients.

INTERNSHIP INSIGHTS



RYLEIGH KENNEY '25 DISCOVERED THE INNER WORKINGS OF AN ACCOUNTING FIRM DURING AN IMMERSIVE, REAL-WORLD INTERNSHIP AT GRANTHAMPOOLE PLLC.

Ryleigh Kenney interned in the audit department, where she developed the skill of analyzing financial statements and she gained a good understanding of the importance of auditing services.

She took part in a buddy system that allowed her to observe materiality being calculated, confirmations being sent out, cash transactions being reviewed, and many other essential learning demonstrations. Not only was she able to observe, but she also began to contribute. After demonstrating how a process was done, her mentor would allow her to work on projects, starting with small tasks like summarizing board minutes and progressing to reviewing the entire cash section. This experience provided her with valuable insight into the teamwork involved and the actual process of performing an audit.

The semester after her internship, Ryleigh was enrolled in Introduction to Auditing. The internship, combined with the detailed class, made everything click for her. The combination of class and experiences provided great preparation for a career in accounting.

Ryleigh's internship experience helped her secure a job after graduation as a staff accountant at Harper, Rains, Knight, and Company.

"I AM SO GRATEFUL TO MC BUSINESS FOR HELPING ME FIND MY INTERNSHIP AND FOR TEACHING ME THE THINGS I NEEDED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO EXCEL THERE."



JEFF LIDDELL '25, GAINED HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN SALES AND TRADING WITHIN CAPITAL MARKETS DURING AN INTERNSHIP AT THE NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA.

During his internship, Jeff explored structured credit and derivatives strategies. His role involved supporting teams that analyze, structure, and execute complex financial products while balancing risk management, regulatory requirements, and market demand.

He worked on transitioning National's portfolios into tranche-based mortgage products following the acquisition of Canadian Western Bank, gaining insight into how loan portfolios are structured and valued for investors. He also contributed to due diligence efforts supporting the expansion of National Bank of Canada into European derivatives markets, evaluating exchange membership opportunities, counterparty risk, and trading workflows. The experience provided him with a comprehensive view of how financial institutions manage both the technical complexities of structured products and the strategic challenges of international market expansion.

Jeff credits his courses in Financial Markets, Investments, and Corporate Finance for providing the analytical tools necessary to understand structured products. Strategic Management and Global Dimensions of Business also shaped his ability to approach complex initiatives from a broader perspective.

"THE TECHNICAL AND STRATEGIC COURSE-WORK AT MC ENABLED ME TO MAKE MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRODUCT-LEVEL ANALYSIS AND LARGER STRATEGIC INITIATIVES."



Dr. J. Brandon Bolen

RESEARCH LEADS TO RETHINKING REGULATIONS

DR. J. BRANDON BOLEN'S INSIGHTFUL RESEARCH REVEALS THAT WELL INTENTIONED PUBLIC POLICY SOMETIMES BRINGS UNEXPECTED CONSEQUENCES

When financial policies create ripple effects that reach everyday consumers, Dr. J. Brandon Bolen, Associate Professor of Economics at MC, is working to uncover the truth behind those outcomes. His recent research, conducted with Gregory Elliehausen and Thomas Miller, examined the Illinois Predatory Loan Prevention Act (PLPA)—a 2021 law that capped most consumer loans under \$40,000 at a 36 percent annual percentage rate (APR).

While the law was designed to protect consumers from high-cost lending, Dr. Bolen's study revealed a different reality. By comparing Illinois to neighboring Missouri, the researchers found that access to small-dollar credit sharply declined—particularly for subprime borrowers, whose loan volume dropped by as much as 38 percent. Surveys of affected borrowers also showed that many experienced greater financial hardship, and the impact was especially severe for minority consumers, including Black and Hispanic borrowers.

The study also revealed how lenders adapted to the policy. To remain viable under the new rate cap, some began offering larger loans, while others exited the market entirely, leaving many Illinois residents with fewer credit options.

Dr. Bolen's findings sparked national discussion and were featured prominently in *Forbes*, which praised the research as a clear example of how well-intentioned financial regulations can produce unintended consequences. His work underscores the importance of understanding how policy decisions affect real-world financial access and opportunity.

Through this impactful research, Dr. Bolen continues to advance MC's mission of producing scholarship that not only contributes to academic thought but also informs meaningful public policy and supports the economic well-being of communities across the nation.



ENTREPRENEURIAL *EXPERTISE*

SELF HALL WAS HOME TO AN ENTREPRENEUR-IN-
RESIDENCE DURING THE SPRING 2025 SEMESTER.



SELF HALL

SCHOOL of *Business*

Accounting
Business Administration
Entrepreneurship
Finance
Management
Marketing

Sports Management
Real Estate
Insurance
MIS





“THE COURSE NOT ONLY
STRENGTHENED MY
ACADEMIC FOUNDATION,
it also demonstrated
the powerful impact
experiential learning can
have on my professional
growth and career readiness.”

DYLAN STANLEY '26

ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERTISE



Sunny
Desai

MC School of Business students had the opportunity to gain an in depth look at how companies grow through strategic buying, selling, and investment decisions in the Special Topics Mergers and Acquisitions course.

THE CLASS WAS TAUGHT BY LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR SUNNY DESAI, A SEASONED EXECUTIVE, INVESTOR, AND FOUNDER OF DESAI COMPANIES.

With a track record of building and scaling successful businesses, including developing more than \$120 million in hotel real estate and leading a portfolio generating over \$60 million in annual revenue, Mr. Desai brings real world leadership in strategic planning, capital structuring, and operational excellence into the classroom.

What set the course apart was its strong emphasis on application beyond textbooks. Drawing from his extensive experience in private equity, real estate development, corporate governance, and business growth, Mr. Desai connected classroom concepts to actual business scenarios, allowing students to see how theory translates into strategic decision making. The course encouraged active discussion, critical thinking, and hands on analysis, helping students better understand the strategic role of valuation, risk, and financing in entrepreneurship and investment. This approach made complex financial concepts more accessible and meaningful.

For accounting senior Dylan Stanley, the class led directly to a three month internship as a Strategic Development Intern with Desai Companies. Selected as the only MC student for the opportunity, Dylan worked closely with company leadership to evaluate potential acquisitions, develop business plans, prepare financial statements, and create investor pitch decks. Reflecting on the experience, Dylan shared, “Sunny encouraged us to form and defend our own opinions. He valued our growing minds and wanted to help us develop our strategic thinking muscle.” The course not only strengthened Dylan’s academic foundation, it also demonstrated the powerful impact experiential learning can have on professional growth and career readiness.



Dylan
Stanley

A photograph of Dr. Steven Mulhollen, a man with dark hair, wearing a light blue and white checkered button-down shirt. He is shown in profile, looking towards the right, and holding a white pen in his right hand. The background is a blurred blue wall with some faint text. The text "Dr. Steven Mulhollen" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Dr. Steven Mulhollen

LEADING CHANGE WITH PURPOSE

NEW COURSE CHALLENGES
STUDENTS TO BECOME MORE
EFFECTIVE BUSINESS LEADERS



Powerful organizational change stands to benefit from a foundation of faith rooted in the greatest change leader of all.

This academic year, the School of Business introduced Change Leadership, a new course taught by Dr. Steven Mulhollen that equips undergraduate and graduate students to recognize, prepare for, and lead organizational change.

Dr. Mulhollen's path to developing the course is rooted in his academic training and long-standing interest in organizational behavior. Influenced by Dr. Randall Robbins, a retired MC School of Business professor, he became fascinated with how leaders guide people toward shared goals.

His doctoral work in Human Capital Development further reinforced the importance of performance improvement at the individual, workforce, and organizational levels. While studying change leadership frameworks, however, he began asking a deeper question: "Should there be a difference in the way a Christian navigates change within an organization?" That question shaped the course's distinctive approach, which integrates secular change models with biblical principles of leadership.

At its core, *Change Leadership* reflects the mission of the School of Business to provide high-quality business education with-in a Christian environment. As Dr. Mulhollen explains, change leadership is about "assisting companies and indi-

viduals in navigating change by providing information, resources, and strategies to ease the transition to the desired outcome. As Christians, we are called to be salt and light in the world. Therefore, the way a Christian leads through change should have a distinctiveness only found in our true identity in Christ Jesus."

Through readings from both business scholars and Christian authors, students are challenged to view change leadership not only as a skill that can be learned, but a character trait that needs to be continually developed. True change leadership requires an individual to lead with integrity, humility, and purpose. Ultimately, the course points students to a faith-centered understanding of leadership, affirming Jesus Christ as "the ultimate change leader."





**“AS CHRISTIANS,
WE ARE CALLED TO
BE SALT AND LIGHT
IN THE WORLD.**

**Therefore, the way a
Christian leads through
change should have a
distinctiveness only
found in our true identity
in Christ Jesus.”**

DR. STEVEN MULHOLLEN



A LIFE of LEADING, LEARNING, and SERVING

MC SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IS PROUD TO RECOGNIZE
CHIP STEVENS '94, SENIOR PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH JACKSON, AS ITS 2024 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR.





Chip Stevens became the 23rd Senior Pastor of First Baptist Jackson in 2019. He and his wife, Sandra, have three children: Reid, Emory, and Graham. He is a graduate of MC and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and has served at several churches in Mississippi during his career in ministry.



A GRADUATE WHOSE CAREER REFLECTS BOTH STEADY LEADERSHIP AND MEANINGFUL SERVICE, CHIP STEVENS REPRESENTS THE LASTING IMPACT AN EDUCATION AT MC CAN HAVE ACROSS MANY AREAS OF LIFE.

Stevens earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from MC before continuing his education at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. His commitment to learning and leadership has remained evident throughout his career and was formally acknowledged in 2020 when MC awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

His ministry career began at First Baptist Church Biloxi, where he served as minister to students before later being named senior pastor. It was during his time in Biloxi that Dr. Frank Gunn, Pastor Emeritus of First Baptist Church Biloxi, observed firsthand the qualities that would define Stevens' leadership. "Chip Stevens is a man of integrity. His quiet time with the Lord is very important to him. I have watched him and heard him in his prep time and in his daily seeking God's leadership. He seeks God first. He is a man of vision and a natural leader who can motivate people. God has His hand on him."

Stevens went on to serve as senior pastor at First Baptist Church Starkville and now leads First Baptist Church Jackson. In addition to his church leadership, Stevens has served the Southern Baptist Convention through his work on the Teller Committee and the Committee on Nominations.

Stevens has maintained a strong connection to MC over the years. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees and was honored early in his career with the Young Alumnus of the Year Award in 1996. The School of Business is honored to recognize Chip Stevens as the 2024 Alumnus of the Year and to celebrate the example he sets through his leadership, service, and continued dedication to MC.



'THINK, MR. STEVENS. THINK!'

Chip Stevens says his time at MC has proven invaluable in his career. "I am so grateful for my degree in Business Administration at MC. It has been incredibly beneficial in my role as a pastor. For one, the Business School taught me to think. Management classes taught by Dr. Lloyd Roberts challenged me to go deeper than surface level. His classes weren't about memorizing material to do well on tests, but they were about identifying problems and recommending solutions. Sometimes, as I'm studying a passage of Scripture to preach, I can almost hear Dr. Roberts saying, 'Think, Mr. Stevens. Think!' That desire to dig deep and to really learn has been so valuable to me. Secondly, I learned about personnel management, budgeting, marketing, and how determining mission is critical to the success of an organization. Those are things I deal with in my job every day, but things that were not taught in seminary. For this reason, I recommend every student considering a calling to ministry to, at least, minor in Business."



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Stephen Phelan

Stephen's purpose is to experience and multiply the love of Jesus in such a way that ignites a movement of God's love in the marketplace. Stephen grew up in Montgomery, Alabama. He earned a B.A. from the University of Virginia, where he was an Academic All-American on the football team, co-leading the team in interceptions his junior year and adding three more to his wife, Bradford Phelan. The highlight of his life was (and is) marrying his best friend Bradford, and he finds so much joy in being the Dad of Ford, Lilly, Virginia Grace, and Mac. After marrying Bradford, Stephen earned a law degree from the University of Virginia and a Master of Divinity from the Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. Following seminary, he helped lead a multi-site, multi-congregational church for the 17 years in San Diego, where he planted a church in the inner-city. He helped architect the faith-driven model for business in the Movement ecosystem that now includes Blue Trust, Sovereigns Capital, and Sovereigns Officer for Faith Driven Entrepreneur, where he

WHERE FAITH & BUSINESS MEET

THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS' ANNUAL FAITH AND ETHICS WEEK PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH A MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON HOW CHRISTIAN FAITH INFORMS ETHICAL LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Through panel discussions, classroom engagement, and the culminating Faith & Ethics Luncheon, students were encouraged to consider how integrity, perseverance, and service shape long-term success in the business world. Guest speaker Stephen Phelan, alongside a panel of young professionals, offered honest perspectives on navigating careers with conviction and purpose.

A recurring message throughout the week was that faith is most impactful when lived out consistently in daily work. Speakers challenged students to think beyond traditional measures of success and instead focus on character, stewardship, and relationships. The panel discussion further reinforced these ideas by sharing personal experiences with uncertainty, rejection, and growth, reminding students that faith provides stability in every season of a career.

ETHICS &
SERVICE

School of
Business

"I LEARNED THAT TRUSTING GOD'S
TIMING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN
CHASING IMMEDIATE RESULTS.
His plan is always greater than my
own. Patience is an act of faith."

JONATHAN DICKEY '26

"HEARING THE CENTER'S MISSION SHOWED
ME HOW SPECIAL IT IS TO ATTEND A
SCHOOL THAT PUTS GOD FIRST. It made
me grateful to be somewhere that values
faith, integrity, and leadership."

LEANNA FLETCHER '26





“WHEN MARY HELEN SAID, ‘WE HAVE A DIFFERENT BOSS THAN THE REST OF THE WORLD.’ IT CHANGED MY PERSPECTIVE. It reminded me that I ultimately work for God.” — LUKE IVY ’26



“STEPHEN CHALLENGED US WITH THE QUESTION, ‘HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?’ It pushed me to think about whether Christ is really at the center of my work and life.” — LAURA CANGELOSI ’26

Panelists:
Mary Helen Klingen
Ryan Pellum
Kimarri Whitfield
Dr. Mike Highfield

Keynote speaker:
Stephen Phelan



School of Business



chool of
Business

“HEARING HOW THE
PANELISTS WERE NOTICED
FOR THEIR FAITH IN THE
WORKPLACE CHALLENGED
ME TO THINK ABOUT HOW
VISIBLY I LIVE OUT MY BELIEFS.
Their experiences showed me
that faith is not meant to be
compartmentalized, but can
naturally open doors for
meaningful conversations,
even when it comes at
a personal cost.”

KATHLEEN PERKINS '26





WITH *HONOR*

EACH SPRING, THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS HONORS STUDENTS who have distinguished themselves through exceptional academic achievement, demonstrated leadership, and sustained commitment to their studies. Honors Day celebrates those whose contributions strengthen and elevate our academic community.



SPECIAL AWARDS

Kayden M. Lightkep was selected as the recipient of the Amy Brand Memorial Award. This award is given in memory of Amy Brand, an Assistant Professor in the School of Business, to outstanding juniors majoring in business administration, marketing, finance, or entrepreneurship.

Molly Kate Carley and Kaden Nicholas Collado were the recipients of the Outstanding Junior in Business Administration Award, which is given to junior business administration majors who have shown outstanding academic and leadership qualities.

Ni Van and Elijah Jesse Todd were selected as the recipients of the Outstanding Junior in Finance Award, which is given to junior finance majors who have

shown outstanding academic and leadership qualities.

Ellie K. Henderson and Reed Montgomery Travelstead were selected as recipients of the Jacqueline Jones Outstanding Junior Accounting Student Award which is made possible by Harper Rains Knight and Company. This award honors outstanding juniors who are majoring in accounting.

Rebecca Elaine Stafford was the recipient of the Outstanding Governmental Accounting Award, which is given to the student who excels in the area of governmental accounting.

Loren Grace Pate and Haley Elizabeth Kretz were the recipients of the June Brabham Outstanding Woman in Business Award. Selected by the

female business faculty, this award is given to a young woman who has demonstrated excellence, determination, and a promising future in the world of business.

Mary Jane Sigur was the recipient of the Cathy Jeffcoats Servant Leadership Business Award, which is given to the School of Business student who has demonstrated outstanding service to the school, university, and community.

Marion Mignette Scott was the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Student in Accounting Award, which is given to the graduate student with the most promise in the field of accounting.

Willette Kingdom was the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Student in the MBA Award, which is given to the graduate student



SPECIAL AWARDS

with the most promising future in the world of business.

Shan Xu

was awarded the Outstanding International Business Student Award in recognition of outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and contributions to the School of Business.

Meleah Lynn Brunson

was the recipient of the Outstanding Entrepreneurship Major Award, which is given to senior entrepreneurship majors who have shown outstanding academic and leadership qualities.

Anna Marie Rutledge

was the recipient of the G.M. Rogers Memorial Award. This award is given to the graduating business administration majors who have the best record in the department and show the greatest promise in the field.

Emily Rebekah Scott and Abigail Joyce Moak

were the recipients of the Outstanding Marketing Major Award, which is given to graduating marketing majors based on scholarship, leadership, and school participation.

Brooke Lynn Neal and Shaun Micheal Williams

were selected as the recipients of the Mississippi Society of CPAs Award, which is given to senior accounting majors with the best general promise in the field of accounting.

David Michael Horn

was selected as the recipient of the CFA Society of Mississippi Award. This award is presented to a student who exhibits outstanding academic performance and a commitment to excellence in finance.

Jeffrey James Liddell and Jonathan James Crump

were selected as the recipients of the Outstanding Finance Major Award, which is given to the top finance majors based on scholarship, leadership, and school participation.

Kayleigh Elizabeth Canoy, Anna Kathryn Charbonnet, Joseph Russell Henry, and Rebecca Elaine Stafford

were selected as the recipients of the Beta Gamma Sigma Award, which is given to graduating senior business majors with the highest quality grade point average.

Preston Armstrong Speed was the recipient of the *Wall Street Journal* Award. This award is given to the best all-around senior in the School of Business based on scholarship, leadership, and school participation.







BETA GAMMA SIGMA INDUCTEES — Beta Gamma Sigma is a national honors society for business students. Membership signifies that these students are in the top 10% of their class.

William Bassett
Mason Bruce
Molly Kate Carley

Samuel Haber
Ashlyn Hill
Marcus McDavid

Sofia Mendez
William Meyer
Carlos Acosta Viquez
Y Montiel

Isabella Myers
Hannah Oswalt
Marion Scott

Susan Vickery
Andrew Wallace
Katharina Weber

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Preston Speed
Haddon Anthony

Jonathan Crump
Laura Cangelosi
Anna Kathryn
Charbonnet
Sarah Guest
Haley Kretz

Jonathan Dickey
Kathleen Perkins
Kayleigh Canoy
Rashad Bolden
Braydon Parker
Dallas Winks

Ellie Henderson
Chloe Mathias
Emily Scott
Molly Kate
Carley
Reed Travelstead

David Horn
Owen Jackson
Will Bassett

BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Emmanuel
Agyepong
Landon Ahrens
Parker Albright
Colwin Allan
Haddon Anthony
Jesus Antonio
William Bassett
Amery Boykin
Carson Brinkmann
Allie Brock
Mason Bruce
Shayna Bruce
Meleah Brunson
Helen Bunger
Avery Burleson
Sydney Burrell
Laura Cangelosi
Molly Kate Carley
Collier Carlisle
Andrew Chandler

Camryn Church
Conner Clark
Jackson Clerie
Dane Coker
Charlotte Coleman
Donovan Coleman
Annabelle
Crapuchettes
Jonathan Crump
Rachel Davis
Ashlynn Decker
Jace Denson
Jonathan Dickey
William Didriksen
Mary Frances
Duncan
Brandon Ebarb
Mitchell Eifert
Walker Ellis
Robert Eriator
Bethany Fewell
Caden Galloway
Seth Gammill
Thad Gardner
Henry Gibbes

Gracie Guest
Jacob Hankins
Kaiden Harrell
Lilly Hatfield
Isabella Hedgepeth
Ellie Henderson
Joseph Henry
Silas Herndon
Price Hester
Ashlyn Hill
Anna Hill
Brad Hill
Reece Hindt
Collett Hudson
Luke Ivy
Lauren Jordan
Noah Kackley
Emily Kautz
Bradley Keenan
Ryleigh Kenney
Katelyn Kirtley
Grace Knight
Malia Kossina
Luke Kreloff
Haley Kretz

Brooklyn Laird
Jacob Lane
Joshua Ledlow
Collin LeFlore
Austin Leslie
Cooper Lewis
Kayden Lightkep
Troy Lizenby
Cameron Louis
Mitchell Mark
Tanner McMillan
Kiersten Mengel
William Meyer
Samuel Miller
Blaze Morgan
Reese Moseley
Parker Mulhollen
Isabella Myers
Brooke Neal
Brayden Nelson
Loren Pate
Josiah Patrick
Kathleen Perkins
Rebecca Perry
Mary Grace Powers

Cooper Proctor
Jonathan Pyburn
Tyler Reardon
Johnathan Rule
David Schmid
Emily Scott
Spencer Sears
Abriella Senger
William Shea
Sonora Skagerberg
Preston Speed
Reginald Spencer
Rebecca Stafford
Dylan Stanley
Michael Sutton
Nathan Taylor
Lily Todd
Lydia Trillet
Ni Van
Garrett Viator
Susan Vickery
Andrew Wallace
Wesley Williams
Jackson Williford
Carter Wilson



SANDRA PARKS OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD — This award honors the legacy of Sandra Parks, a cherished assistant professor of accounting known for her deep dedication to the success and well-being of MC Business students. Her encouragement, compassion, and commitment to academic excellence shaped countless lives. In recognition of her lasting influence, this award proudly celebrates students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievements.

Parker Albright
Kayleigh Canoy
Anna Kathryn
Charbonnet
Kaden Collado
Jonathan Crump

Gracie Guest
Kaitlyn Hamilton
David Horn
Ryleigh Kenney
Haley Kretz
Jeffrey Lee

Jeffrey Liddell
Erica Luckie
Sabrina Mahbub
Abigail Moak
Brooke Neal
Loren Pate

Joshua Peters
Reese Rayburn
Marlee Rogers
Anna Rutledge
Emily Scott
Janie Sigur

Kaitlyn Skelton
Preston Speed
Rebecca Stafford
Joshua Wilkes



PARTNERS IN *PURPOSE*

THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS IS SUPPORTED BY CORPORATE PARTNERS WHO SHARE AND CHAMPION OUR MISSION. Through their generosity and engagement, they help cultivate future business professionals equipped with knowledge, character, and purpose. Their support not only advances our programs — it affirms our mission to provide an exceptional business education grounded in Christian values. Each issue of *MC Business Magazine* highlights two valued partners, and in this edition we are proud to feature our partnerships with Community Bank and Harper, Rains, Knight & Company.

**“OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH MC IS ONE WE DEEPLY VALUE,
AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SUPPORTING THE GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT OF ITS STUDENTS FOR YEARS TO COME.”**

TAMMY PHILLIPS '91, CHIEF ADMINISTRATION OFFICER, COMMUNITY BANK



BANKING on SUCCESS

COMMUNITY BANK

An integral part of our business landscape, Community Bank thrives as a relationship-focused financial institution rooted in service, integrity, and community impact.

Founded in Forest, Mississippi in 1905, the bank has grown from a single local office into a multistate organization with more than \$5 billion in assets, over 50 locations, and more than 850 staff serving customers across Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Tennessee.

Throughout its more than 120-year history, Community Bank has remained committed to doing business with purpose and care. Community Bank's culture is defined by a consistent priority of putting people first. From scripture displayed on its marquees to ensuring every phone call is answered by a live person, the bank emphasizes personal relationships and trust at every level—an approach that has shaped Community Bank's long-term success and reputation across the Southeast.

MC is proud to count Community Bank as one of our cor-

COMMUNITY BANK EMPHASIZES PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND TRUST AT EVERY LEVEL—AN APPROACH THAT HAS SHAPED COMMUNITY BANK'S LONG-TERM SUCCESS AND REPUTATION ACROSS THE SOUTHEAST.

porate partners. This directly translates in the many leaders throughout their organization who are alumni of MC. As Tammy Phillips, chief administration officer for Community Bank's central region, MC Class of 1991 notes "the values and educational foundation they gained at MC continue to shape our leadership,

strengthen our culture, and contribute to the success of our bank and the communities we serve" She added, "Our partnership with MC is one we deeply value, and we look forward to supporting the growth and development of its students for years to come."

Central to Community Bank's mission will always be supporting local businesses, families, churches, and organizations working to intentionally strengthen the communities it serves. This commitment, paired with a full range of personal and business banking solutions, ensures Community Bank will continue to grow and prosper as a key part of our business community.



MC alumni are instrumental in the success of Community Bank.

**“I BELIEVE THAT THE FOUNDATION I RECEIVED
DURING MY TIME AT MC HAS INFLUENCED THE SUCCESS
OF OUR FIRM FOR OVER 30 YEARS.”**

CECIL HARPER '76, CPA, MANAGING PARTNER, HARPER, RAINS, KNIGHT & COMPANY

H-R-K

Harper, Rains, Knight & Company

A PARTNER *to* COUNT ON

HARPER, RAINS, KNIGHT & COMPANY

One of the largest and most respected public accounting firms in our state, HRK was established in 1994 through the merger of two local CPA firms that had been in existence for over 30 years. This was only the beginning and under the leadership of Cecil Harper, CPA as its managing partner, the firm grew significantly including and additional office in Washington, D.C.

The School of Business is proud to count HRK as one of our corporate partners and proud of its long-standing connection with our graduates. Cecil, the Chief Consulting Officer of Harper, Rains, Knight & Company notes, “As a 1976 graduate of MC, I will be forever influenced by the school’s exemplary ethics & Christian culture. I believe that the foundation I received during my time at MC has influenced the success of our firm for over 30 years. Our firm’s new President, Bill Felder, CPA, is an example of that same culture we have embraced.”

In this vein, Harper, Rains, Knight and Company, P.A.,

THE CONTINUED GROWTH AND SUCCESS OF THE FIRM IS DEPENDENT ON THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE A WIDE ARRAY OF PERSONALIZED SERVICES AND GUIDANCE TO BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS.

is certainly a service-oriented certified public accounting firm dedicated to providing its clients with quality accounting, auditing, tax, and consulting services, while meeting the accounting profession’s highest technical and quality control standards. When discussing the firm and its philosophy, Bill Felder, CPA,

and the Managing Director and President of Harper, Rains, Knight & Company said, “At HRK, our vision is to be a trusted, long-term partner to our clients. However, we believe our responsibility extends beyond our clients to the communities we serve, and we are committed to applying our expertise to strengthen both local organizations and the broader public.”

As the firm navigates an ever-changing business landscape, Harper, Rains, Knight and Company, P.A., believes the continued growth and success of the firm is dependent on the ability to provide a wide array of personalized services and guidance to business and individual clients in a rapidly evolving and ever-changing accounting industry.



MC alumni make up an integral part of the team at Harper, Rains, Knight & Company.

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MC BUSINESS



THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS.

“OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS ARE INTEGRAL TO THE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS. Their support is far reaching in that they are supporting the larger cause of allowing us to mold and shape a valuable work force for our economy. But just as important, their support is also a strong vote of confidence and encouragement to pursue our mission to provide an outstanding business education in a Christian environment.” — DR. MARCELO EDUARDO





School of
Business

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OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE A QUALITY BUSINESS EDUCATION IN A CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT. We prepare undergraduate and graduate students with essential business skills, ethical foundations, and a commitment to responsible leadership through quality teaching and relevant programs. *Learn more at business.mc.edu*

