

# HOOFBEATING

## Class of 1963



### Table of Contents

Bio updates	3
Address changes	4
Deaths	4

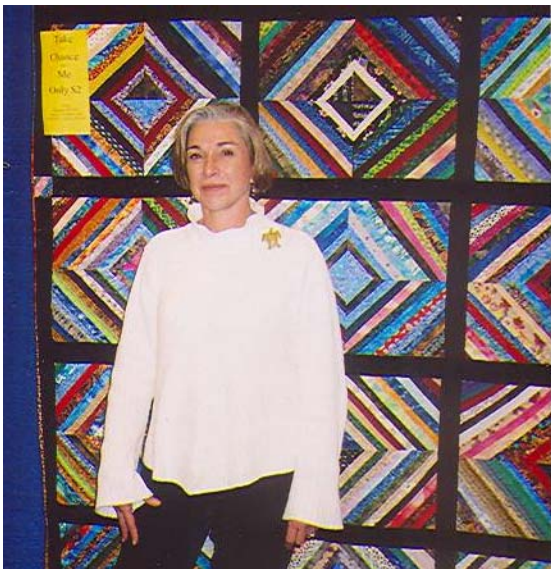
Fall/Winter, 2005

## Talented Classmates showcase their art as members of Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild

Five of our Murrah Class of 1963 alumni showcase their talents as members, employees, or volunteers of the 32-year-old, 400+ member, non-profit organization known as The Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi: **Kit Davis Barksdale**, **Julia Walter Allen**, **Annita Hines Johnson**, **Carla Sorrells Wall**, and **Hal Dale**.

In August 2002 Kit became the Executive Director of the Guild for a second time. She had originally served in this position in 1996-97 and had led the drive for a 4-million dollar state legislative grant to be used to construct a new facility for the Craftsmen's Guild. Once that money was secured, she returned to her studio to pursue her craft, working with hot

glass. She makes beads with a process called flamework. Kit purchases glass in rods, which are ordered according to color and finish. She melts the rods over a torch, heating the glass to 1700 degrees. The heated glass is wound around a mandrel (a tapered or cylindrical spindle) to form a bead. Design elements using materials such as silver and other metals as well as baking soda can be added in trace amounts to vary the bead as it is wound. Then the bead must be annealed to stabilize its molecular structure – a process by which the glass is heated to 950 degrees and held for 45 minutes before it is allowed to slowly cool. Kit then creates jewelry by combining her larger handcrafted beads with Austrian crystal, pearls, turquoise, Czechoslovakian faceted beads, etc.



Kit Davis Barksdale

Kit returned to head the Craftsmen's Guild when it became evident that her strong leadership was needed to add impetus to the fund drive for the new building. Once the funding was assured, she decided that the time had come to return to her craft and to her studio, which looks out over the waters of Pelahatchie Bay, a portion of the huge Ross Barnett Reservoir. This transformation occurred shortly after the annual highlight of the year for Guild members, the Chimneyville Crafts Festival which this year celebrated its twenty-ninth birthday. And the building that drew Kit away from her studio for so long is scheduled to



**Examples of Kit's glass bead jewelry**

open in the fall of 2006 with construction well underway just across the Reservoir from where she currently works.

Julia, a registered nurse for 30 years, had enjoyed making ornaments for her garden by using "found" odds and ends of metal. Her epiphany came when she realized that she make almost anything for her garden if she could weld. She enrolled in an evening hobby

welding class taught at Hinds Community College. It took her three lessons to get past her fear of using gas, fire, and electricity, but then there was no stopping her. Julia says that her first trip to a scrap yard to collect raw materials for her work was simply wonderful, like being in heaven. Julia had never thought of herself as being an artist and was surprised when people wanted to buy her work, but buy they do. Working for over seven years now under the name "Poor Julia", she has a warehouse studio in Jackson, where she creates art for the house as well as the yard. This year was Julia's second year to exhibit at the Chimneyville Crafts Festival.



**Julia Walter Allen**



**Julia's Angels and Madonna**

Annita is relatively new to the professional art world, having pursued a career in teaching. Her beginnings were rather mundane in that she wanted a rather large abstract oil painting for her home. She knew she could paint what she wanted and began her study for the work by moving around shapes of color that she had cut out to create a pleasing composition. It was this placement of the paper that led her to her

work in paper collage. She incorporates paper, which she makes, with commercial paper, gold leaf, photos, illustrations, and fabric to create collages, which can be framed, affixed to book covers, or formed into small icon-type hangings. Her tiny, delicate (almost fragile-looking) collages, which she then frames, are so breathtaking that viewing them is an emotional experience. In addition to being an artist, Annita is an officer on the Guild's Board of Directors, serving as secretary.



**Annita Hines Johnson**



**Hal Dale**

But it is not simply the artists who “make the Guild work”. There is also talent needed in the administrative sense, and this is where Carla and Hal enter the picture. Carla is a member of The Craftsmen’s Guild of Mississippi, Inc.’s 2005 Board of Directors and has for years been a huge proponent for and supporter



**Kit Davis Barksdale and Carla Sorrells Wall**

of Mississippi artists and craftsmen. Hal has been working as the Guild’s accountant, as well as helping them with their computer needs.

## Bio Updates

**Roger Bunger’s** daughter Christina Anne married Alexander Michael Milevsky of Kennesaw, Georgia, on November 12, 2005. The wedding and reception were held at the Dupree House in Raymond, Mississippi.

**Sandy Chustz Schreiter’s** daughter Michelle McCaleb has blessed her with a second granddaughter, Corinne, who was born on August 29, 2005, weighing in at 7 lbs., 3 oz. and measuring 20 inches long. Sister Caroline is thrilled with “her” new baby.

**Sandra Scott Salvo’s** son Frederick Natale Salvo III married Jennifer Clare Evans in an evening nuptial mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle on August 13, 2005. The couple resides in Jackson.

**Peggy Williams Wolter’s** “baby brother”, Earl Williams, 47, passed away in late 2004 after suffering multiple long-term health problems.



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## Address and Email Changes

**Bobbie Carol Caldwell Sparks:**  
[d\\_sparks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d_sparks@sbcglobal.net)

**Martha Camp Edmonds:**  
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**Susan Webber Rodgers:**  
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**Peggy Williams Wolter**  
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## Classmates' or Teachers' Family Deaths

Al Brady's nephew H. Coyt Bailey III and his wife Leah recently suffered the death of their infant daughter Frances Maxwell Bailey (September 22, 2005). Coyt is the son of H. C. (Buster) and Joan (Brady) Bailey, Jr. Jackson metro area residents will be particularly familiar with Coyt's name and work especially during the last few weeks, as he is WLBT Channel 3's Skycopter pilot. His flyovers after Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, have captivated and distressed us all: 3 tours of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, one of New Orleans, and one of St. Bernard Parish.

Jan Gault Jayroe, 67, wife of Dr. Linuel Jayroe, died of cancer November 19, 2005. Dr. Jayroe taught American History at Murrah before becoming a high school counselor there. He has been a professor in Education at Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi, for many years now. To send condolences you may reach Dr. Jayroe at 100 West Lake Drive, Clinton MS 39056, 601-924-6282, or [thejayroes@jayroe.com](mailto:thejayroes@jayroe.com).

Tom Lowe's father, Thomas Jasper Lowe, 94, died Thursday, December 8, 2005, at the Presbyterian Home of South Carolina in Lexington. Funeral services were held at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi, followed by burial at Cedarlawn Cemetery. Mr. Lowe, who attended Enochs, Central, and Millsaps, was a pioneer in the sale of group medical insurance in Mississippi and was honored by Aetna Insurance as one of their top salesmen in the nation.

Larry Lewis' brother John Thomas "Tommy" Lewis, 63, died Sunday, November 20, 2005, at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. Ponchatoula, Louisiana, was the site of graveside services three days later.

Tom Murphree's brother Carl McKay Murphree, 58, died Tuesday, October 11, 2005, at his home in Ridgeland. A graduate of both St. Stanislaus High School in Bay St. Louis and Mississippi Southern, Carl was a celebrated golfer. He spent his leisure time cruising on his houseboat and adored being the grandfather of Katelyn Conner.

## Ron Stowers gives update on Confederate Flag Restoration

In September The Northside Sun printed a fascinating article about a recent project undertaken by the Mississippi Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). The local historical group has contributed over \$17,000 to the Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History for the restoration of a rare Civil War battle flag. This flag, which was used by the 33rd Mississippi Infantry, is known as the “Stainless Banner” because of its white field. The flag was to be sent to New Orleans to be conserved by a professional textile restorer. The work would take under a year, after which the flag would be displayed at the Old Capitol where, according to Ron Stowers, Mississippi Division SCV chief of staff, there “is a wonderful collection of historic flags.... We are proud to have played a part in saving some of these beautiful and significant artifacts.”

With this donation the group has contributed more than \$52,000 for the restoration of a total of six Civil War flags: the one to be conserved, three on display at the Old Capitol, and two on loan to Beauvoir, the Jefferson Davis Home and Presidential Library, which is located in Biloxi.

In reading this article, after Katrina of course, I immediately emailed Ronnie Stowers to find out the fate of the flags, as all six certainly would have been in harm’s way. For those classmates not living in Jackson, you may not have heard that there was extensive wind and water damage to the Old Capitol.

Ronnie replied,

Estelle, my friend,

Thanks for thinking about our State’s flags. Praise be, they are all safe. We had 2 state owned and conserved flags on display at Beauvoir, but they were among the very few artifacts that were carried to the 2nd floor of the Presidential Library, which was above the wave surge. We now have them safely returned to the Dept. of Archives and History in Jackson.



**Ron Stowers (right) at presentation, note flag in background**

All the other flags at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson were stored in an area that wasn't damaged when the South roof came off.

And, thanks to good old bureaucratic malaise, the latest flag, which we had raised \$17,100 to conserve, had not yet been transported to the textile conservator in New Orleans. It is still safe in Jackson.

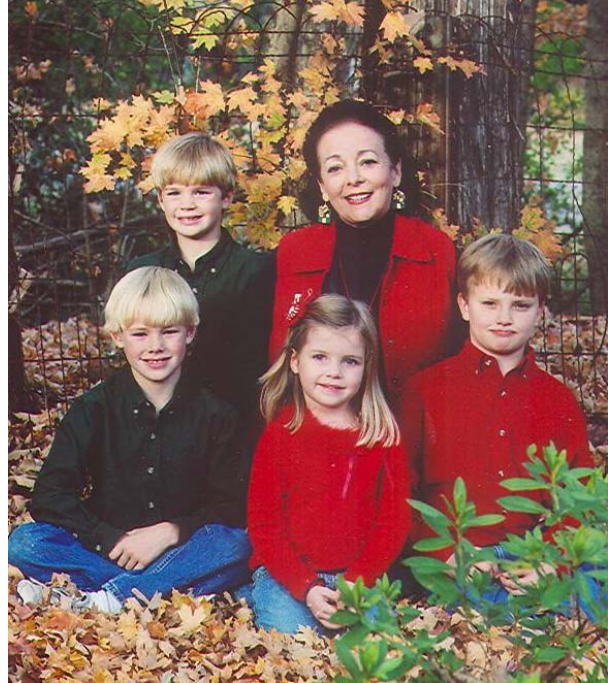
Hope all is well, and that you and Mike survived the storm ok yourselves.

Ronnie

## Class of 1963 Photo Gallery



**Carla Sorrells Wall at the wedding of son Marshall and daughter-in-law Tiffany, (back) Randy and son Carlton**



**Judy Rayner Bruce and grandchildren: Andrew, Will, Samantha, and Taylor**



**Carole Chase Harvey (second row, second from left) says, “we are anticipating an addition to this ‘clan’ in March, 2006.” Husband Jim Harvey is back row, second from left.**



## Class of 1963 Photo Gallery



**Four of Jean Magee Cox's five grandchildren along with her daughter-in-law**



**Cela and Lyle and grandson Preston at a monthly First Thursday 'Lunch Bunch' gathering at Walkers. (In the center background are John Johnson, Hal Dale and Ed North.)**

## Class of 1963 Photo Gallery



**Babs Major Horton (left) in May 12, 2005, *Northside Sun*. She was a co-host at an engagement party in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gordon.**



**Sandy Chustz Schreiter's granddaughters, Caroline and Corrine**



**Cathy Stephens Estes with husband Donald and family**



## Class of 1963 Photo Gallery



This is a photo of Tommy Watkins' daughter, Courtney, at work. In addition to the above picture which is part of Old Navy's Perfect Fit Program, shots of Courtney are also featured on Old Navy's Gift Cards and on life-size cutouts and posters in the Old Navy Stores. In March she was shooting print ads for the 2006 Hummer.

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[www.ongulf.com/mhs](http://www.ongulf.com/mhs)



**Tommy Watkins' son Stele participated at a model shoot conducted at his home in Texas in February.**