Greetings! Our 2020 Reunion will give you something new and special—a day trip! That’s right, this year we have planned a day trip to New Orleans. The New Orleans day trip is going to be fun and for most of us, another walk down memory lane. There is so much to do in that city. One of the excursions you may opt to take is a visit to the world-famous Blaine Kern’s Mardi Gras World. This is where many floats are made, and the process continues all year long.

Not sure if any of you are interested in getting a Hurricane at Pat O’Brien’s, but I know they still make them. Café du Monde is still open, selling coffee and delicious beignets. They have added hot chocolate to their drink menu! You might also want to try something new and take a 2-hour steamboat cruise on the “Natchez” along the Mississippi River.

Jackson Square still hosts artists, musicians, mimes, Tarot and palm readers as well as other street performers. Best of all, it is included in your Registration, and you will leave the parking and driving to us!

Because we will be renting transportation, it is necessary to have an accurate headcount so that we are sure to have a “seat for everyone”. The absolute deadline for the return of the registration form with payment is April 1st. This is the date our treasurer, Marcia Klosterman, will tell me how many seats we need! Marcia’s address is: 1065 Mockingbird Lane, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

Judith Shafer Williams, ’64
Revised By Laws

The first Board of Directors of the Gulf Park College Alumnae Association, Inc. recognized the need for a set of by laws to provide a roadmap for conducting the business of the organization in an inclusive and transparent manner. In order to cover every possible contingency they proposed a somewhat complex set of bylaws which the members of the organization overwhelmingly approved the by laws. Over the years since our incorporation it has become apparent that we could streamline our by laws without loosing our road map. To that end several revisions have been made.

*The revised by laws need your approval.* Please vote by March 31, 2020, using the link to an electronic ballot at the end of the proposed by laws below. In addition, a link has been provided to the original by laws with the proposed changes indicated.

Penny Shafer Wright, ’62

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**By Laws of the Gulf Park College Alumnae Association, Inc.**

Incorporated in the State of Mississippi

**ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE**

**Section 1. Name.** The name of this Corporation shall be the Gulf Park College Alumnae Association, Inc., a nonprofit corporation existing under the laws of the state of Mississippi.

**Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of this Corporation shall be:

1. To assist in the creation and maintenance of Gulf Park College archives housed presently in the Gulf Park College Heritage Room in the library of the University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Park campus.

2. Through charitable or educational acts or other means (to include but not be limited to an undergraduate scholarship) to preserve and promote the history of Gulf Park College (hereafter to include students who attended or were graduated from the College or the High School Program).

3. To foster a spirit of pride in, loyalty to, and respect for Gulf Park College and its rich history.

4. To maintain and promote lasting friendships among the sisters of Gulf Park College.

5. To cultivate and maintain the high ideals of the former Gulf Park College for Women.

**ARTICLE II: PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

The Corporation shall maintain a principal office in Woodville, Mississippi.

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERS**

**Section 1. Membership.** Any former student or graduate of Gulf Park College or of its High School Program may become a member of this Corporation and receive all member benefits.

With the approval of the Board, and upon payment of the current annual dues, any other individual interested in the College may become an associate member, without voting or office-holding privileges.

The Board may offer voting rights and other membership benefits for a period not to exceed one year to any person eligible for voting.

**Section 2. Dues.** Membership dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors, and shall take effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

**Section 3. Voting Privileges.** The Board in its discretion shall determine whether payment of current dues or such part as is affordable is a requirement for voting. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

**ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

**Section 1. Officers.** The officers of this Corporation are the officers of the Board of Directors, and may include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The offices of Vice-President and Secretary may be combined.
Section 2. Nominations. Candidates for officers of the Board may be nominated by any sitting Board member, and, being officers of the Board, shall be elected by a simple majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Election and Term of Office. The officers shall take office at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting for a term of two years. Officers shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive two- (2) year terms. Because of the shortage of available officers, however, a retired officer may serve additionally for a second consecutive two- (2) year term.

Section 4. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy among the officers due to death, disability, dismissal, or resignation, the President shall appoint an individual to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event the President vacates her office or is removed, Vice President or next ranking member shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 5. Removals from Office. An officer or Director of the Corporation may be removed from office for failure to satisfactorily perform any or all of the duties that she has assumed, or for malfeasance or criminal conviction, or for gross misconduct unbecoming a member of the Gulf Park College Alumnae Association. Such individual shall be removed from office for cause by vote of a simple majority of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V: DIRECTORS

Section 1. Composition and Duties. The Board of Directors is the executive governing body of the Corporation, and as such shall be elected by the general membership. The Board may consist of the officers of the Corporation (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and up to three (3) members-at-large. The immediate Past President of the Corporation shall be deemed an honorary Director with voice but no vote.

The property, affairs, and business of the Corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors shall exercise all of the powers of the Corporation except such as are by law, or by Certificate of Incorporation, or by the by-laws, conferred upon, or reserved to, the members.

If there are to be changes in the dues, the Board of Directors shall set, and provide adequate notice to the members of the dues for the following year.

Section 2. Nomination, Election and Term of Office. In order to incorporate the Association, draft its by-laws, and attend to the Association’s initial business, a founding Board of Directors shall have been convened and shall serve one two- (2) year term, unless re-elected. This term shall have commenced on August 1, 2013, and shall conclude at the end of the 2015 Annual Meeting.

Candidates for subsequent Boards of Directors shall be nominated by any member, provided nominations are received in time for publication prior to the next Annual Meeting. Members’ terms shall begin at the conclusion of that Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Quorum. A simple majority of the Directors shall constitute a quorum, and the presence of a quorum, whether in person or through other means of communication, shall suffice to conduct the business of the Board. In the absence of a quorum, the Directors present may adjourn the meeting to another time and place until a quorum is present.

Section 4. Immunity and Liability. Directors shall be immune from civil liability and shall neither be subject to suit nor personally liable to the Corporation or its members for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a Director, in accord with Article XI, Sections 1 and 2.

ARTICLE VI: CORPORATION FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this Corporation shall commence on January 1.

ARTICLE VII: ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of this Corporation shall be held at a date and place designated by the President, and adequate notice thereof shall be given to the membership in advance. Special meetings of this Corporation may be called by the President.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Appointments and Duties. Committees shall be appointed by the President unless hereinafter provided in these by-laws. Committees shall perform such functions as directed by the By-laws, President, and/or Board of Directors, except that no committee shall perform any act reserved in these By-laws or the laws of the State of Mississippi to the Directors or the members of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IX: FINANCIALS

Section 1. Nonprofit Status. The Corporation shall operate as a nonprofit Corporation.

Section 2. Income. Income received by the Corporation may include, but is not limited to, annual dues, designated and undesignated contributions, event or sales income in excess of expense, and designated and undesignated bequests.
ARTICLE X: MINUTES/RECORD KEEPING

The Secretary of the Corporation shall keep minutes of all meetings, and shall file these minutes in a timely and retrievable manner for the Board’s future reference.

The Secretary of the Corporation shall also keep or cause to be kept a current roster of the members of the Corporation, to include all reasonably available means of individual contact (e.g., physical address, email address). A membership directory, or a roster of the members, which includes all available means of individual contact, shall be provided electronically or by other means to any member who is current on her dues, for a reasonable fee determined by the Board.

ARTICLE XI: IMMUNITY AND LIABILITY

Section 1. Immunity. An officer, Board member, or committee member shall be immune from civil liability and shall not be subject to suit directly or by way of contribution for any act or omission resulting in damages or injury if such officer was acting in good faith and within the scope of his or her official capacity, unless such damage or injury was caused by willful and wanton or grossly negligent conduct of such officer, committee member, or Board member.

Section 2. Liability. No officer, committee member, or Board member shall be personally liable to the Corporation or its members for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as an officer; provided, however, that this Article shall not eliminate or limit the liability of an officer, Board member, or committee member for: (i) any breach of the individual’s duty of loyalty to the Corporation or its members; (ii) acts or omissions which are not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of laws; (iii) any transaction from which the individual derived an improper personal benefit; or (iv) any violation of the laws of the State of Mississippi. For purposes of this Article, the term “officer” includes a person who serves on the Board of Directors or in a committee capacity, or a person who serves as counsel of the Corporation in an advisory capacity. The Corporation may purchase “errors and omissions” liability insurance to cover its officers with premiums to be paid from assets of the Corporation.

ARTICLE XII: DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION

Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all the assets of the Corporation to the University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Park Campus, and designated for the augmentation and preservation of any of its projects that are specifically intended to preserve artifacts of or otherwise commemorate the University of Southern Mississippi, such as the University of Southern Mississippi Heritage Room, in accordance with the provisions of the Corporation’s ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

ARTICLE XIII: BY LAWSADOPTION, AMENDMENT, RESTRICTIONS, AND REPEAL

Section 1. Adoption and Amendments. These By-laws may be amended, repealed, or added to, and new By-laws not inconsistent with the purposes described in the Certificate of Incorporation or law may be adopted by a ballot of the membership given adequate advance publication. Change shall be approved by a simple majority of those voting.

Section 2. Restrictions to Amendment. These by-laws shall not be altered or amended in such manner as to permit any member, officer, or employee of the Corporation to receive profit from the operations of this Corporation, except for reasonable compensation for services actually rendered to the Corporation in effecting one or more of its purposes, or to receive any part of the property or assets of the Corporation upon its dissolution or termination, or to permit any substantial part of the activi-
ties of the Corporation to consist of attempting to influence legislation, or of engaging in any political campaign for or against a
candidate for public office.

ARTICLE XIV: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

President
The President shall chair the Annual Meeting and, in her capacity as Board Chair, all meetings of the Board of Directors. She
may sign and execute all contracts and agreements and all other instruments requiring execution on behalf of the Corporation,
and shall act as the operating and directing head of the Association, subject to policies established by the Board of Directors.
The President or her designee, shall be responsible for contracting, planning, and executing the annual reunion, including
restaurant, entertainment, and hotel housing, Annual Meeting, and meeting room, and such other space and events as may be
deemed appropriate.

Vice-President
The Vice President(s), if available, shall perform duties assigned to her/them by the President. The Vice President shall serve
in the absence of the President, and shall assume the office of the President in the event the President resigns, dies in office, or
is removed from office.

Secretary
1. The Secretary shall arrange for the secure custody of all the documents of record of the Corporation, including but not
limited to its by-laws, Articles of Incorporation, IRS Letter of Determination granting nonprofit status, its name registration
certificate, and all the minutes of all proceedings of the annual and special meetings, and of the Board of Directors.
2. The Secretary of the Corporation shall keep or cause to be kept a current roster of the members of the Corporation, includ-
ing all reasonable means of individual contact (e.g., physical mailing address and email address).

Treasurer
The Treasurer shall have general custody of all the funds and securities of the Corporation.
1. The Treasurer shall collect the dues of Corporation members.
2. The Treasurer shall endorse for the Corporation for collection, checks, notes, and other obligations, and shall deposit the
same to the credit of the Corporation in such bank or banks as the Board of Directors shall designate.
3. The Treasurer may sign receipts and vouchers for payments made to the Corporation and checks made by the Corporation,
and may pay out and dispose of the same if so authorized by the Board of Directors.
4. The Treasurer may not execute payments, notes, or other obligations exceeding five hundred dollars ($500.00) without the
prior written consent of the President of the Corporation, documented by dated and signed memorandum to the Board of
Directors.
5. The Treasurer may request an audit of the Corporate books at the conclusion of her term in office.
6. The Treasurer shall keep regular books of account, and shall render financial statements to the President and the Board of
Directors not less often than annually.
7. The Treasurer shall have charge of preparing and filing such reports, financial statements, and tax returns as may be re-
quired by law.

Past President
The immediate Past President shall serve on the Board of Directors in an advisory capacity with voice but not voting privileges
for one year.

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VOTE

To vote to approve or disapprove these by laws changes, please go to https://gulfparkcollege.org/vote/.

If you would like to see the original by laws with proposed changes marked, please go to

A Journey Begins on the Southern Belle

Join Elfrieda Skaggs Abbe as she recalls her train trips to Gulf Park College as a high school girl of 1960. No doubt this highly evocative piece will take you back along on the ride of a lifetime, literally.

Editor

In the morning hours of September 1958, my mother, brother and I were having a hearty Midwestern breakfast in the Kansas City Union Station café and watching hurried passengers as they passed through the shafts of light coming into the Great Hall with its wooden benches. Soon I would be boarding the “Southern Belle,” heading to New Orleans on my way to Gulf Park College in Gulfport, MS. While my brother drilled me Marine fashion on the proprieties of train travel, my Mother, as a way, I think now, to mask the emotions of sending her 16-year-old daughter away to school, checked again to see if we had packed everything in my trunk—from cotton shifts and bed sheets to long white gloves and formal dresses. When the train was announced, after tears and last-minute wise and encouraging words, I headed to the platform, turning back for another look at my mother and brother as I waved goodbye.

In the travel attire of the day—a slim line dress, hat and gloves, matching shoes and purse—I was both nervous and elated, filled with the excitement and expectation that I associated with train travel, based on a romantic notion gleaned no doubt from the movies.

In a Pullman car reserved for Gulf Park girls, the meticulously dressed Dr. Rupert Cooke [Gulf Park President], who put me in mind of Clifton Webb, greeted the few students boarding in Kansas City. Along the way, he assiduously checked in every girl who embarked on the train, checking off the names of girls boarding at each stop sans rules of behavior.

I’m not sure what the other passengers did on that trip, but for my childhood friend Pat Knutson and I, the train ride offered an opportunity to read the riveting, racy and illuminating *Lady Chatterley’s Lover*, which we later shared with curious and somewhat aghast friends back at school.

The return to Kansas City for the Christmas holidays had a special allure for Pat and me. After taking the train from Gulfport to New Orleans, we were on our own for several hours before train time. We headed straight to the French Quarter in high spirits after walking through the lavish lobby of Hotel Monteleone bedecked with gold and silver Christmas decorations, stopping for beignets at Café Du Monde, peering into off-limit bars and clubs on back streets and lunch at the Court of Two Sisters, where we ordered cocktails without so much as a raised eyebrow from the accommodating server. All in time to catch our train.

To this day, when I take a train (even a commuter) or pick someone up at the station, the noise, the hustle, the motion evoke a sense of adventure that stirs memories: rocking to the rhythm of the rails, pleasantly sleepless, watching the lights of small towns and cities whiz by, wondering who lives there; the cacophony of spirited girls, the scraping and banging of luggage and trunks unloaded to the platform at the Gulfport station; embarking into the steamy, wilting air that makes your clothes limp and your hair frizzy; and the exhilarating lift of a new landscape, internal and external. The end of the ride and the beginning of something ahead, something promising.

Elfrieda Skaggs Abbe is a retired newspaper and magazine writer and editor. Parts of her story appeared in Mileposts, a Classic Trains blog by Kevin Keefe.
Sally Sockwell, Author and Illustrator

I think back upon it, my writing days began at Gulf Park. As a class assignment I had to write a monologue. Miss Picking was directing the program for the end of school and asked me to perform the piece which, being the ham I am, I happily did. I owe a lot to those two who constantly encouraged me to pursue all my artistic passions.

My career has consisted primarily of theatre work but a few years ago I started writing again. This little silly book came out of those efforts. Spoiler alert—it has a show biz theme. ‘Aunt Betty’ was well received and won the 2016 New England Children’s Book Award for best Chapter book of the year. A humbling and extremely encouraging experience. I am working on a second one. It’s slow going.

Here in New York, I have studied at The Art Students League, the School of Visual Arts and the Gotham Writer’s Workshop.

I cannot tell you the fun I had putting this book together. And the things I learned. We are all story tellers and I can only imagine the tales the GPC girls must have swimming around in their heads and hearts. Start writing and get them out there. I can guarantee you, it’s a very a rewarding experience.

Sally Sockwell, ’68
Barbara Jindra

I was very much into horses during my high school years and I wanted to go to a college which had a horseback riding and instruction program. I wanted to work in the horse industry either training horses and/or teaching riding. So, I researched and applied to a number of colleges which had equestrian programs.

Gulf Park was not my first choice but my mother was thrilled with the idea that if I attended Gulf Park, perhaps they could make a young lady out of me. Please understand that my idea of a good time was hanging around in the barn, grooming my horses, cleaning stalls, etc. Mom decided right off the bat that if I was going to attend college, it had to be at Gulf Park. That said, I was not convinced but since my parents were paying all of the expenses, they did have the final “say” in the matter... especially when there were 4 younger brothers still at home.

I had never really been away from home, and as much as I wanted out from beneath my parents’ rules, I was horribly homesick the first year. I wrote many letters begging to come home but this ploy didn’t work! I was also not very social. I kept to myself connecting only with those who had the same interest in horses that I had.

The riding instructor was Dorothy Schauer in 1965. I remember her saying that she had trained in Mexico. I had long talks with her. She had primarily ridden jumpers...trained and showed them. She took all of the saddle-bred and other horses in the Gulf Park stables and started to teach them to jump. Most of the horses adapted very well. The 2 horses I rode the most were Sam and Sailor Boy. Sam was so confused with this jumping thing.

The second year, 1966, brought in a new riding instructor; Janet Nelson. Ms. Nelson was a Saddlebred riding instructor. I liked her and she was a good instructor. Her job was not easy as many of the horses were saddle horses and the prior year had learned a new trick, jumping. Sam was terribly confused.

He didn’t know if he should trot or canter and he was not patient with many of the students. Sam became my project. I wanted to mellow him out to the way his life should be.

I have to say that I missed Dorothy, as she was adventurous. Janet was good, but pretty much “by the book.”

The Gulf Park “negative” for me was that I was more or less thrown into a situation where I had to buckle down and study. As it was so difficult for me to make friends, I was either at the stables or studying and after all is said and done, that is what I needed.

My favorite classes besides horses, was art with Earle DeVries. I had always been pretty good at drawing but now I learned about watercolors, oils and pastels. Loved the pastels and oils as I could cover my “mistakes”!

I took Sociology with Jane White. I had no idea of what Sociology was but enjoyed her class especially when she spoke of “things that go bump in the night” such as ghosts, etc. I am sure there was more to her class, but I remember her lectures about the paranormal.

I hated English, but I did learn. Anna Mae Helton was a no-nonsense instructor. Except for History class that I enjoyed with Laurie Drago, I do not remember any of the other instructors...that could be a factor of age and failing memory!

Overall, Gulf Park was good for me. I became more independent, much to my mother’s dismay. She thought and was wrong about it. I wanted to make it work but there were too many restrictions and no horses or dogs! I do have 2 lovely daughters from that marriage. I remarried in 1988 and was widowed in 1995.

I was married in September of 1973 and tried to make it work but there were too many restrictions and no horses or dogs! I do have 2 lovely daughters from that marriage. I remarried in 1988 and was widowed in 1995.

I finally found my life after husband #2 as I am now able to do what I want, when I want. I’ve had horses almost my entire life and then moved to mules in the late ’90’s. I’ve done things that most only dream about including being part of the Equestrian Patrol in Joshua Tree National Park. I did patrols with a partner from 2002-2008. Our “work” was answering questions, steering folks back to the proper trails, educating visitors who were violating park regulations, etc. We had radios and could call a ranger if needed.

I was also part of Back Country Horsemen of California, from 1994-2002. This organization had contacts with local national forests. We performed “trail work,” which might include moving boulders off a trail which had relocated during winter rains, and putting the tread on a trail. I have packed with my horses and mules into the back country for up to a week at a time and currently live on acreage in a desert in southern California. My work, to support this fabulous lifestyle, was in the financial industry, but now I am fully retired. Today I only have 5 dogs and life is good.

Gulf Park helped me achieve this lifestyle by accepting me as a student, despite my homesickness in the first year...but there were horses and that helped greatly.

Barbara Jindra, C’66
2019-20 Scholarship Recipient

Eivan Burrell
Hometown: Gulfport, Mississippi
Major: Marketing

I grew up in a single parent home, so I was raised to be very independent and work for everything I have. Throughout my time at USM, I have always worked full time while being a full-time student so it was not always easy to balance. I enjoy volunteering in projects on campus and outside of campus as well as working with children.

Throughout my time at USM and trying to find the right major I studied everything from environmental biology to art history and now marketing. I have worked in management for a few years, and I know my education and experience in the college of business will push me further in the corporate business/management world.

As a first-generation student, it is an honor to know that someone believes in me and wants me to reach my goals.

In Memoriam

Mary Elizabeth Winans, ’37
Died 8 October 2007

Edith Louise Winans, ’38
Died 20 August 1997

Sarah “Tudy” Gilbert, ’62
Died 27 August 2018

Virginia Chipperfield Larsen, ’60
Died 27 July 2016

Cora Lou “TD” Clower ’60
Died 21 January 2005

Barbara “Babs” Kubicek, ’60
Died 2 April 2015

Cara Lou “Ludie” McGinley, ’60
Date unknown

Lynn Lannes, ’60C
Died 21 August 2019

Betty VanPelt, ’57
Died 26 June 2005

Katherine Averett, ‘37HS
Died 1 January 2020

Jessica Pyle, ’63C
Died 17 July 2014

* * *

(Left to right) Judy Shafer, Linda Zachman, Anne Nichols, Penny Lindenber, (f) Sidney Oliver, Ship Island 1964.
This and That

**Paid your dues?** If you haven’t paid your 2018 or 2019 dues, do it now! Make your $25 check payable to Gulf Park Alumnae Association, Inc., and mail it to Treasurer Marcia Burnham Klosterman at 1065 Mockingbird Lane, Van Wert, Ohio 45891. Any amount over $25 will go to the Scholarship Fund and can be deducted on your income tax return.

**In memoriam?** Know of an alum or faculty member who has passed away? Please notify Judy Shafer Williams at jjudithwilliams@aol.com or 251 Beachview Drive, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547.

**Change of mailing address, phone or email address?** Don’t let us lose you! Notify Judith Shafer Williams @ 251 Beachview Dr, Fort Walton Beach, FL. 32547, judithswilliams@aol.com, Cell phone 850-621-5646.

**ALERT! Email change?** Please send to JAKE the Email Blaster of Oak Leaf at msmacjyd@gmail.com.

**Got something to say, or a personal update?** or a personal update? Please send your comments and stories to Jane Sidney Oliver, Oak Leaf Editor, at 54dobes489daze@gmail.com or 2844 East Weldon East Weldon Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

**Should we send a note?** Please contact Lonnie McConnell, “Sunshine Lady,” at 26514 Fielder Brook Lane, Katy, TX 7794 or lonrog02@consolidated.net if congratulations or condolences are in order.