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## CARTER, NOBLES, SCOTT NAMED EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

BY MIKE CHRISTENSEN



Pictured are (from left) MSH Director James Chastain, DMH Executive Director Diana Mikula, Stanley Nobles, Stacey Carter and Friends President Joel Ross.



Roger Scott

One was described as “a positive example ... calm and respectful ... a pleasure to work with.” Another was hailed for having a work ethic that needed to be “copied and taught.” The third was said to have “a servant’s heart” and to be “a great asset” to his unit at Mississippi State Hospital.

Each of the 2018 Employees of the Year embodied the hospital’s core values of respect, relationships, accountability, teamwork and diversity in their own way. Stacey Carter, Stanley Nobles and Roger Scott were chosen from among the 36 Employee of the Month recipients, nominated by coworkers and approved by supervisors for their outstanding contributions on the job.

“It’s very, very rewarding,” Carter said. “It’s a great thing that they’re doing here. It encourages staff to work hard and to recognize their coworkers for working hard. It’s a privilege and an honor to be recognized like that.”

Carter was the Direct Care winner, Nobles the Support Services winner and Scott the Clinical Service winner. The three were recognized at the Employee of the Year Gala on Feb. 21 at the Pearl Community Center. Each winner received a personalized plaque and a check from Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc., the volunteer organization that sponsors the hospital’s employee recognition program.

Most of the 2018 Employees of the Month attended the event and received pins commemorating the honor. Past Employee of the Year winners also were invited.

MSH Director James Chastain makes it a point at every meeting where the monthly winners are announced to thank them for choosing to work at Mississippi State Hospital, noting that there are many other service agencies in the state that would love to have them.

Carter, an Edwards native who lives in Terry, is a Mental Health Technician/Active Treatment Technician working in Inpatient Services. The Hinds Community College alumnus has worked at MSH for over 22 years.



“This was my third time to be Employee of the Month, so I was hoping maybe I’d get it this time,” Carter said. “But I was pretty much surprised when I did.”

Carter was praised on the nomination form in particular for his efforts during a recent emergency situation on his building: “Mr. Carter daily displays a positive example to all. He is always at work on time, organizing the schedule so the building can have a good day. He is focused on each patient’s needs and is flexible in his work based on that. Mr. Carter is calm and respectful toward patients and staff ... and is a pleasure to work with.”

Nobles, from Mendenhall, is a Facility Maintenance Manager in the Maintenance/HVAC Department. The Mendenhall High School graduate has worked at MSH for over 25 years.

On his nomination form, Nobles was cited for recently noticing a smoky appearance in a section of the cafeteria during his lunch break, then locating the source of the problem and fixing it: “Stanley always works to make sure that our buildings have heat and air conditioning on a daily basis. He is one of those individuals who works at his job and doesn’t get any recognition. He always has a smile on his face ... His positive attitude and work ethic need to be copied and taught to others.”

Scott, from Camden, is a Licensed Practical Nurse working in Male Receiving. The Holmes Community College graduate has worked at MSH for more than 17 years.



From his nomination form: “He is a dedicated and loyal employee to Mississippi State Hospital. He is a team player, always accomplishes the tasks that are requested of him and never hesitates to step in and assist where needed. He wears many hats as nurse educator, floor nurse, ‘MHT’ and he is ‘the man’ for obtaining and ordering supplies for both Male Receiving buildings. ... He works well with his coworkers, has a servant’s heart and is a great asset to Male Receiving.”

## COLLINS HONORED BY FORENSIC SERVICES

Christine Collins, Psy.D., has been named the Evaluator of the Month for December 2018 and January 2019.

She is recognized as the outstanding Forensic Evaluation Service team member for her unsurpassed work ethic and attention to detail. In these two months, while the Forensic Evaluation Service accomplished double-digit increases in outpatient evaluation productivity and triple-digit increases in admissions to Forensic Services, Dr. Collins led the group of evaluators in number of patients seen and productivity credits earned.

Dr. Collins joined MSH Forensic Services as a Forensic Psychology Fellow after completing her psychology internship at Alaska Psychiatric Institute in September 2017. Upon the completion of her fellowship at MSH, she was retained as a forensic evaluator in September 2018.

Dr. Collins hopes to remain in Mississippi to continue to work with clinical mental health systems and the state Circuit Courts to help facilitate the provision of care for mentally ill defendants.



# 5 MSH PHYSICIANS HONORED BY AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION



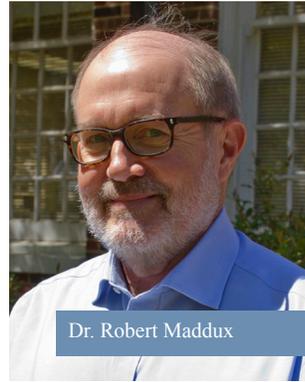
Dr. Corey Jackson



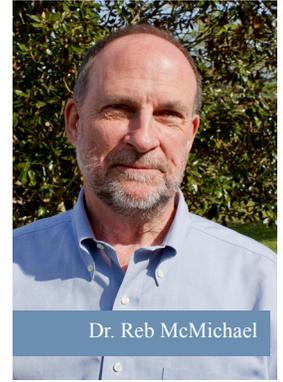
Dr. Kirtida Desai



Dr. Chasity Torrence



Dr. Robert Maddux



Dr. Reb McMichael

Five members of Mississippi State Hospital's Medical Staff have been recognized by the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Kirtida Desai and Dr. Corey Jackson were named Distinguished Fellows of the APA; Dr. Reb McMichael was honored as a Lifetime Fellow; and Dr. Robert Maddux and Dr. Chasity Torrence were named Fellows.

Fellow status is an honor that reflects dedication to the work of the APA and signifies the member's allegiance to the psychiatric profession. Newly appointed Fellows are publicly recognized at the Convocation of Distinguished Fellows, held during APA's Annual Meeting.

Distinguished Fellowship is awarded to psychiatrists who have made significant contributions to the psychiatric profession in at least five of the following areas: administration, teaching, scientific and scholarly publications,

volunteering in mental health and medical activities of social significance, community involvement, as well as for clinical excellence. Distinguished Fellow is the APA's highest membership honor.

Desai, M.D., is a Board Certified Psychiatrist who attended Government Medical College Gujarat in India and completed her psychiatry residency at University of Mississippi Medical Center. She is Service Chief of Continued Treatment Services and has worked at MSH for over 19 years.

Jackson, M.D., is a Board Certified Psychiatrist who attended medical school and completed his psychiatry residency at UMMC. He is Service Chief of Female Receiving and joined the MSH Medical Staff in 2017. Jackson is currently the youngest Distinguished Fellow in the APA.

McMichael, M.D., is a Board Certified Forensic Psychiatrist who attended medical school and completed his psychiatry residency at UMMC. He is the Service Chief of Forensic Services and has worked at MSH for over 33 years.

Maddux, M.D., Clinical Director at MSH since 2012, is a Board Certified Psychiatrist who attended medical school and completed his psychiatry residency at UMMC. He also serves as a staff psychiatrist for MSH's Male Receiving Unit, Medical Director for the Department of Mental Health and a consulting psychiatrist for Region 8. He has worked at MSH for 14 years.

Torrence, M.D., is a Board Certified Psychiatrist who attended medical school and completed her psychiatry residency at UMMC. Torrence is Service Chief of Male Receiving. She joined the MSH Medical Staff in 2016.

## MSH'S JACKSON, TORRENCE WIN POSTER COMPETITION, PUBLISH ARTICLE

Mississippi State Hospital psychiatrists Dr. Corey Jackson and Dr. Chasity Torrence, along with Dr. Afifa Adiba, a PGY-III psychiatry resident at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, recently presented a poster that was awarded first place in a regional competition.

They made their presentation on Feb. 16, 2019, at the Mississippi and Louisiana Medical Psychiatric Association Joint Annual Meeting held in New Orleans at the ACE Hotel. The poster, titled "Association of Thyrotoxicosis with Mania: A Care Report and Literature Review," was among 25 presented at the association's annual meeting and took first place in the Case Study Category of the annual poster competition.

It was the first time any of the three had entered the poster competition, and they were inspired by a particular case, Torrence said.

"We had an interesting patient, something we don't see very often," Torrence said. "Anytime that happens, you want to let other doctors or providers know about it."

Jackson, Torrence and Adiba also published an article in the prestigious journal of Current Psychiatry. The article is featured on the journal's February 2019 cover as "Older age bipolar disorder: A case series."

The journal and article can be found at the following web address: <https://www.mdedge.com/psychiatry/issue/193413/current-psychiatry-182>

Current Psychiatry is a peer-reviewed, popular journal in the field of psychiatry, referenced by physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants for the most recent research, literature and treatment strategies for those suffer-



ing from mental illness.

"Each of us had an interesting case, and the three were related," Torrence said. "We decided to put together an article, and we worked on that submission for a long time. It is difficult to get an article published in a journal. There is a lengthy editing process."

## CONGRATULATIONS FEBRUARY EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



**Clinical Service**  
**Angie Ware**  
**Building 203- A Shift**

Angie Ware has been named Mississippi State Hospital's February Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

Ware, a Pickens native who now lives in Canton, is a Mental Health Recreation Therapist on a Receiving Unit. The Alcorn State University graduate has worked at MSH for 30 years.

"When it comes to MSH core values, Mrs. Ware displays a lot of the 'old school' ways," said Anthony Brown, who made the recommendation. "Mrs. Ware is a team player that goes above and beyond helping all her coworkers and patients. Her work habits inspire and support the performance of others (and) she has a positive attitude toward work responsibilities and coworkers."



**Support Services**  
**Ortega Jones**  
**Building 67 - A Shift**

Ortega Jones has been named Mississippi State Hospital's February Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Jones, a Hazlehurst native and Hazlehurst High School grad, is a Coverage Coordinator for Inpatient Services. She started work at MSH in 2003 as a Mental Health Technician.

"Not only does Ortega show respect to others by treating them the way who wants to be treated, she has also earned the respect of many of her coworkers and supervisors," said Audrey Washington, who nominated Jones. "Those people whom she deals with on a daily basis trust her to make the best coverage decisions possible. Ortega manages the hospital's resources efficiently and effectively."



**Direct Care**  
**Antoine Gross**  
**Building 87 - C Shift**

Antoine Gross has been named Mississippi State Hospital's February Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

A Canton native, Gross is a Direct Care Supervisor in the Male Substance Use Services Unit. Gross is an alumnus of Tougaloo College and Jackson State University and has worked at MSH for over eight years.

"Mr. Antoine Gross is an employee who epitomizes MSG core values," said Marcia Hodge, who made the nomination. "He is a team player and hard worker. He treats all patients equally and with respect. Mr. Gross interacts well with patients and takes the time to get to know them. This attribute helps him to be very active in the treatment planning of the patients."

## CONGRATULATIONS MARCH EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



**Clinical Service**  
**Jessie Slaughter**  
**Building 60 - A Shift**

Jessie Slaughter has been named Mississippi State Hospital's March Employee of the Month for Clinical Service.

Slaughter, a Vicksburg native and resident, is a Registered Nurse III working at Whitfield Medical Surgical Hospital. The Alcorn State University graduate has been employed at MSH for a year and a half.

"Mrs. Slaughter has a lot of strengths, but flexibility and being a dedicated team player are the top two," said Aisha Walker, who made the nomination. "She has exemplified excellent teamwork every time she comes to work. There is no such thing as 'that's not my patient.' She helps everyone when she sees a coworker or a patient in need."



**Support Services**  
**Rita Meador**  
**Building 21 - A Shift**

Rita Meador has been named Mississippi State Hospital's March Employee of the Month for Support Services.

Meador, who lives in Brandon, is a Health Records Clerk in the Administration Building and has worked at MSH for over 10 years.

"Rita Meador embodies all the core values of MSH," said Donna Boykin, who nominated Meador. "Her main job is located in the Health Records Department in Building 21, but due to staff shortages she regularly goes out to the patient buildings to work. She accepts these assignments with a smile on her face. Change does not affect her work ethic. Her positive attitude is contagious and her smile can lift anyone's spirits."



**Direct Care**  
**Samantha Jackson**  
**Building 203/4 - A Shift**

Samantha Jackson has been named Mississippi State Hospital's March Employee of the Month for Direct Care.

Jackson, who was born in Roxie and now lives in Jackson, is a Direct Care Worker Advanced on a Receiving Unit. A graduate of Tougaloo College, she has worked at MSH since 2013.

"Ms. Jackson ... consistently exhibits a positive attitude while on the job," said Sonya Barber, who made the nomination. "She always treats patients and coworkers with respect. (She) takes on extra job duties with a positive attitude and works overtime when needed. She is a team player. Ms. Jackson works diligently to ensure patients and coworkers are safe."

**The MSH employee recognition program is sponsored by Friends of Mississippi State Hospital, Inc.**