

# 2018 DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS

**IN 2018, THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES** developed the Distinguished Fellows award program to recognize outstanding alumni in its nine departments. Distinguished Fellows are alumni who have exhibited significant professional accomplishments and also shown a personal commitment to Mississippi State. Each year, the departments choose Distinguished Fellows from amongst their alumni who have demonstrated qualities and traits the college works to instill in its current students. These alumni visit with students and interact with administrators and advisory boards to provide direction for the future of the college and its departments.

The Distinguished Fellows program is an opportunity to recognize outstanding alumni in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and expose students to the rich tradition of service and dedication found within the alumni base.



## Margaret Applewhite

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD  
SCIENCE, NUTRITION &  
HEALTH PROMOTION

The San Antonio, Texas resident currently serves as a senior program manager for Choctaw Staffing Solutions, a Native American company that specializes in managing healthcare contracts for the Department of Defense.

Colonel Applewhite received a Bachelor of Science in Foods and Nutrition from MSU in 1976. Upon graduation, she was selected for the U.S. Army Dietetic Internship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Medical Specialist Corps.

She enjoyed a 25-year military career in nutrition and dietetics that took her on many U.S. military installations, including a three year assignment in Germany. She also served as a U.S. Army War College Senior Service College Fellow for one year splitting the time between the Institute of Medicine; National Academy of Sciences; and at the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Department of Health and Human Services.

While at MSU, she was a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. Being from out of state, her sorority sisters quickly became her extended family since her parents were assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia. Colonel Applewhite's father is a Mississippi State graduate while her mother graduated from Mississippi College for Women.

In 2010, she and her husband, Larry, established the Colonel Margaret P. Applewhite endowed scholarship in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with priority given to those studying in the food and nutrition field.



## Boyd Dingus

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL  
AND DAIRY SCIENCES

West Point, Mississippi native, Boyd Dingus, resides in Weatherford, Texas with his wife, Linda. He is general manager of Estrotect, Inc. Dingus received a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from MSU in 1972.

After graduation, Dr. Charles Lindley set up an apprenticeship for Dingus at Dahomey Plantation. From there, he joined Bass Pecan Company as herdsman and later became district then regional manager for the Curtiss Breeding Service's Southeastern operation. He also served as director of animal health for MFC Services and later as feed ingredient manager for Universal Cooperatives, the company's new name upon merger. He retired from Universal and was asked to take over management of Estrotect, Inc. to globally market the company's heat detectors, now used in more than 50 countries. He has traveled to 22 countries working with livestock producers on reproduction.

While at MSU, he was a member of the Block and Bridle, served as American Quarter Horse Association show manager, and was initiated in Alpha Zeta and Gamma Sigma Delta.

Dingus credits several mentors for his success including Dr. Gordon Hazard of West Point; Dr. Bernard Jones, former VP at Curtiss Breeding Services; and Leverette Hayes and Steve Parker at MFC Services.

He and his wife have six grandchildren in Texas and Colorado.



## Patsy Fowlkes

DEPARTMENT OF  
BIOCHEMISTRY,  
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY,  
ENTOMOLOGY, AND PLANT  
PATHOLOGY

Chattanooga, Tennessee resident, Patsy Fowlkes, spent most of her career in pharmaceutical sales. Fowlkes received a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from MSU in 1974. She conducted postgraduate research at the College of Medical Sciences, University of Tennessee at Memphis, where she was student body president, and at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

A large portion of her career was spent at Schering Plough until its acquisition by Merck, she spent time at Quintiles' as national sales director for the Johnson and Johnson team launching Zyrtec OTC. She recently retired from The Medicines Company as an engagement partner, managing the sales of hospital-based antibiotics. In 2008, Fowlkes was recognized as a "Rising Star" by the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association.

Fowlkes and her husband, Steve Brandon, support Mississippi State University in both athletics and academics. They are recognized by the MSU Foundation at the J. Charles Lee Society Level and by the Bulldog Club at their Champions Level. Their donation to the renovation of Colvard Student Union led to the naming of Fowlkes Auditorium honoring her father and uncles who were MSU graduates. For their support of women's athletics, they were honored with the naming of The Brandon Press Box at Nusz Park. They also endowed a scholarship in the general scholarship fund.

Fowlkes currently serves on the advisory boards for MSU Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology, and Plant Pathology and the MSU Department of Chemistry.



### Morgan Gulledge, Jr.

DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURAL  
ECONOMICS

Greenwood, Mississippi native, Morgan Gulledge, Jr., has owned and operated Gulledge Capital, LLC and Portadown Land Company, LLC for more than 30 years. Prior to that, he worked for First Guaranty Bank and Federal Land Bank, both in Greenwood, Mississippi.

Gulledge received a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics in 1977. He went on to attend Louisiana State University School of Banking and the University of Georgia School of Executive Development.

He is very active in the Greenwood community currently serving as treasurer of Montgomery Island Timber Company, a member of Aircraft Owner and Pilots' Association, and a board member and audit committee member of Mississippi Land Bank. He's also a life member of the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association and a member of the Mississippi Forestry Association and the MSU Bulldog Club. Previously, he's served as commissioner of the Greenwood Leflore Hospital, president and campaign chairman of Leflore County United Way, and on the Deposit Guaranty National Bank advisory board, among other organizations.

In 2004, Gulledge and his wife, Pat, established the Lucile B. Gulledge Endowed Scholarship in the School of Human Sciences at Mississippi State University in honor and memory of his mother.



### Martha Hill

DEPARTMENT  
OF LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTURE

Clinton, Mississippi native, Martha G. Hill, has been an educator for more than 30 years, as faculty and department chair of landscape management technology at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. Prior to that, she was a landscape architect in Mississippi, Illinois, and Pennsylvania.

Hill received a Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from MSU in 1983. In 2000, she earned a Master of Science in Systems Management at MSU. Hill was designated as 2017 Mississippi Nursery and Landscape Association Nursery Person of Year and received the 2017 Hinds Community College 3E award. The 3E, which stands for Emphasis on Excellence and Enrichment, is the highest honor awarded by the institution. She also received the 2014 Lawn and Landscape Leadership Award and the 2013 Mississippi State Landscape Architecture Department Alumna of the Year, among other accolades. She has procured 12 scholarships for landscape management majors including three named and endowed scholarships.

Active in numerous professional organizations, she is a member of the National Association of Landscape Professionals serving on several boards and committees including the organization's Foundation Board. She is also a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the National Association of Agriculture Educators. She is also a member of the Mississippi Nursery and Landscape Association, the Mississippi Turfgrass Association, and more.

In 2016, the Martha Hill Endowed Scholarship was established in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Mississippi State University in appreciation for all that Hill has done for the industry and various programs over the years. Martha and her husband, Donnie, have generously contributed to this scholarship.



### Sue Ann Hubbard

DEPARTMENT OF POULTRY  
SCIENCE

Mount Olive, Mississippi resident, Dr. Sue Ann Hubbard, currently serves as a senior account manager and technical service veterinarian for Merck Animal Health's poultry unit. She is also a member of Merck's global team.

Hubbard received a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Poultry Science in 1990 and 1993, respectively. She earned a Master of Science in Avian Medicine and a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine concurrently in the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1997.

Hubbard worked for MSU College of Veterinary Medicine for 18 years. Her career has consisted of working closely with various commercial poultry companies in the areas of hatcheries, broiler and breeder production and processing. She began working with Merck Animal Health as a private consultant in 2007. In 2014, she left MSU as a full clinical professor to work full-time for Merck Animal Health. Hubbard has published in many scientific journals and lectured and presented at many universities and at statewide, national, and international meetings. She is an active member in several organizations including the Farm Bureau Federation where she serves on her county board of directors and on the American Farm Bureau Issue Advisory Animal Welfare Committee. She is also the president of the MSU Simpson County Alumni Association.

Hubbard remembers her time at MSU as a former resident assistant and athletic tutor fondly. She especially treasured the one-on-one interactions she had with many of her professors which she tried to recreate working with students during her time on faculty.

Hubbard is married to a long-time farmer, Lyle Hubbard. They have two children.



### Sykes Sturdivant

DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURAL AND  
BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

Glendora, Mississippi resident, Sykes Sturdivant, is a corn, soybean, and cotton producer and currently serves as president of Sturdivant Brothers Flying Service, Inc., an agricultural flying corporation. He is also a partner and marketer for Due West Grain, Co., a 1.7 million bushel corn elevator.

Sturdivant received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Business from MSU in 1977. Upon graduation, he went on to receive a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin in 1979.

Sturdivant is an engaged leader of the community. He is the elected past president of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee District, serving with that organization for several years. Within his role there, he was part of a team that mobilized first responders in the aid and clean-up of Waveland, Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina. He was also appointed as one of the original commissioners and former chairman of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Water District and spent 15 years on the executive committee of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association. He has also been a member of the National Cotton Council DuPont Sponsored Cotton Leadership Program, Sumner Rotary Club, Tallahatchie County Farm Bureau, and the West Tallahatchie Habitat for Humanity.



### ZonaDale Lyons Taylor

SCHOOL OF HUMAN  
SCIENCES

New Albany, Mississippi native, ZonaDale Lyons Taylor resides in Collierville, Tennessee.

Ms. Taylor received a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics from MSU in 1961. After earning a Master of Education in Counseling from McNeese State University, she joined the home economics department at MSU as an assistant professor. She then worked as an assistant professor and later as head of the Department of Home Economics at McNeese State University. After moving to Pittsburgh, she became manager of consumer and public affairs with GlaxoSmith-Kline.

She also worked at Mississippi Power Company and then joined The Progressive Farmer magazine as an editor. While there, she became one of the founding editors of Southern Living magazine. She is a past president of American Association of University Women and has been alumna of the year at Northeast Mississippi Community College. In 2014, she received one of MSU's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Achievement awards. She is a life member of the Mississippi 4-H Advisory Council and has served on the MSU Foundation Board of Directors.

Taylor and her husband Charles (Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering '66 and MBA '71) provide numerous scholarships to Mississippi State University, Northeast Mississippi Community College, the University of Memphis and the 4-H Club Foundation of Mississippi. They were major contributors to the Mississippi 4-H Learning Center and Museum having a wing of the facility bearing their name.



### Phillip Watson

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT  
AND SOIL SCIENCES

Lexington, Mississippi native, Phillip Watson, is an author and horticulturist educating national audiences about garden design. Watson received a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture in 1976.

While attending MSU, he worked in the campus greenhouses and was a member of Phi Kappa Alpha fraternity and R.O.T.C.

After one term of graduate school at UGA, where he managed the greenhouses of Flowers, Inc., he moved to New York City, signed with a modeling agency, and started his own business, Phillip Watson Designs, Inc., where he began designing rooftop gardens.

After that, he owned a rare plant nursery in Fredericksburg, Virginia, living there for over twenty years while designing gardens and lecturing throughout the country. During this time, he was hired as a spokesman for Alabama-based Cottage Farms to promote their plants on QVC. He began his twentieth year on air in 2017 and was nominated for the QVC Excellence Award.

He has published two books, *Pleasure Gardens* (2010) and *Garden Magic* (2015), which chronicle garden design projects and tell stories about Mississippi. For the past six years, he has resided in West Chester, Pennsylvania, where QVC is located. During these years, he has judged The Philadelphia Flower Show and The International Rose Trials at Biltmore. He is also on the Garden Advisory Panel for Stratford Hall, Robert E. Lee's childhood home. He continues to design gardens, primarily in Greenwich, Connecticut, and still enjoys speaking engagements and book signings.

Some of his notable garden designs include designs for Tommy Hilfiger, Jim Barksdale, singer Brenda Lee, the Freer Gallery of Art in D.C., and Essex House Hotel in NYC.