

NEWSMAKERS

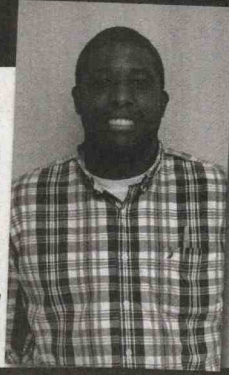
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Profiles of growing young professionals in Mississippi
Keeping our eye on... THEO DAVIS

Age: 27

Recruiter,

Capitol Staffing Inc.



Jackson native Theo Davis says the need for good housing is axiomatic. "Shelter is a basic necessity of life," he says. "You can never go wrong with servicing physiological needs."

As a service coordinator for Jackson Housing Authority, Davis works on everything from supervising tenants to assisting with quality of life measures. He was recently nominated Service Coordinator of the Year by the Mississippi Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials.

In addition to earning a psychology degree from Mississippi State University, Davis has an MA in biblical studies from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with an emphasis on Bible languages.

Davis is also owner of Agapao Properties and hopes

to expand his entrepreneurship vision and portfolio by one day owning multi-housing properties throughout the Greater Jackson area.

"Have a viable vision and stick to it," he tells fellow young professionals. "Find your niche and endeavor towards it with unmitigated toil. Your niche will be your fuel and if properly maintained, it will eventually propel you into many other unbelievable and desirable arenas."

In addition to volunteering for numerous Jackson nonprofits, Davis enjoys basketball, reading theology, fishing, running and visiting Hobby Lobby with his wife, Jessica.

—By Stephen McDill

Read the full biography at www.msbusiness.com

Mentors: Ryan Sullivan, Jeff Barber, John Ward and John MacArthur
Favorite thing about Mississippi: "We rank among the top in the nation in charitable giving. This demonstrates that although the stigmas may brand our culture, our people believe in one of the most important things in life: to invest in one another."

Favorite hangout spots: Grace Bible Church in Ridgeland and Grace Community Church in Jackson

Best Mississippi event: "My wedding day on Jan. 26, 2013 at First Baptist Church of Longview"

First job ever: "Pizza Hut. I was the fastest pizza slinger and cutter in town."

Favorite TV Show: *Property Brothers*

Favorite Movie: *Courageous*

Favorite Music: Stephen Curtis Chapman

Favorite Mississippi food or restaurant: Salsa's in Clinton

Twitter handle: @theojDavis

Baptist makes appointments

Michael Koury, MD, FACS, a surgeon with Baptist Medical Clinic-Thoracic Surgery, received a three-year appointment from Baptist Health Systems in Jackson as cancer liaison physician for the cancer program at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

Also, **Brenda Howie, MSN, RN, NE-BC**, has been named vice president of nursing at Baptist Medical Center. Howie has been with Baptist since 1981 and served in a clinical director role since 1994. She has previously been a staff nurse, educator, assistant manager and nurse manager. She has her master's of science in nursing and is a board-certified nurse executive.



Howie



Koury

Hood, Hobbs, honored

Larry Hood of Jackson was named Alfa Insurance's Top Commercial Producer in Georgia/Mississippi for 2012 during the company's annual awards ceremony in Montgomery, Ala. Hood has served as an Alfa agent since 1996.

Also, **Kodi Hobbs** of Jackson was named Alfa Insurance's Georgia/Mississippi Rookie of the Year for 2012. Hobbs joined Alfa as an agent in September of 2011.

TEC taps Powell

TEC has appointed **Robby Powell** as operations analyst in the Revenue Assurance Department in the corporate office in Jackson. In this role, Powell will be responsible for compiling and analyzing financial data as well as supporting the Revenue Assurance Department.

Powell, currently residing in Madison, graduated from Mississippi College with a bachelor of business. He is married to **Tana Powell** and they have one son, **Braden**.



Powell

Mallette, Toler recognized

Dr. Robert Mallette and **Dr. Kenneth Toler** of Jackson Eye Associates were recently named Top Surgeons by Sightpath Medical. This recognition was given to only 65 surgeons nationwide. The Sightpath Top Surgeons award is based on the demonstration of surgical expertise and a continued pursuit of exceptional patient care through the use of the most advanced technology and surgical techniques.

Mallette and Toler are board-certified ophthalmologists who practice in JEA's Jackson location. Toler is a founding partner of JEA and Mallette joined the practice in 2005.



Mallette



Toler

Regions promotes Leard

Regions Bank has named **Robert E. Leard IV** senior vice president, commercial banking executive in Jackson. A banking industry veteran with more than 24 years of experience, Leard joined Regions in 1995 as a consumer credit policy officer. He has held numerous executive leadership roles for the bank during the past 18 years, including business banking sales executive and regional credit executive. Prior to joining Regions, he worked for Trustmark Bank, where he began his banking career in 1989.

Leard earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Leard

Rotary recognizes Harral

The Gulfport Rotary Club recently presented **John Harral**, an attorney with Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens and Canada, with the Club's prestigious Founder's Day Award. The award, named after the founder of the City of Gulfport, William Harris Hardy, recognizes a person whose contribution to the quality of life in the community is worthy of recognition.

Harral was selected for the inaugural class of the Sun Herald's Top South Mississippi Community Leaders in 2002. He's been named to Best Lawyers in America, named Lawyer of the Year for the Coast in Banking and in Finance Litigation, a Mid-South Super Lawyer (Banking) and is listed in Who's Who in American Law and Who's Who in America.

Burton appointed director

Otha Burton Jr., the chair of Jackson State University's Department of Urban and Regional Planning and former chief administrative officer for the City of Jackson, has been appointed executive director of JSU's new Institute of Government. Since 2006, Burton has served as associate professor and associate dean in JSU's School of Policy and Planning and chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. In those roles, Burton managed the graduate and undergraduate degree programs, supervised one of the schools in the College of Public Service and directed the successful accreditation effort of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning Degree Program.

Burton's public service career with the City of Jackson began in 1974. During his tenure with the city, he was appointed to numerous positions, including director of the Department of Human and Cultural Services from 1986-1990; director and chief financial officer in the Department of Administration from 1998-2000; and chief administrative officer from 1998-2005.

Burton received his bachelor's and master's degrees from JSU. He received a Ph.D. in public administration from Mississippi State University.

Burton's appointment is pending approval from the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.



Burton

Board elects officers

Members of the Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board (MSPB) elected new officers for the 2013 fiscal year at their recent board meeting in Starkville. As chairman, Hollandale farmer **Jan de Regt** will lead the organization, which invests soy checkoff funds on behalf of Mississippi farmers. **Tim Clements** of Greenville now serves as vice chairman and **Paul Dees** of Leland as the organization's secretary and treasurer.

In addition to de Regt, Clements and Dees, other MSPB Board members include: **Morgan Beckham**, Leland; **Wayne Dulaney**, Clarksdale; **Mike Guedon**, Natchez; **Keith Morton**, Falkner; **C.D. Simmons**, Hollandale; **Jerry Slocum**, Coldwater; **Jimmy Sneed**, Hernando; **Bill Ryan Tabb**, Cleveland; and **David Wansley**, Valley Park.

Board chooses Young

The board of directors for the Mississippi Wildlife Federation has selected **Brad Young** to lead the organization, effective April 22. Young has served as Black Bear Program leader with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for the past 10 years.

Young, who grew up in Cleveland and currently lives in Madison, will provide invaluable insight into conservation programs and challenges within the state and the Southeastern region as a whole. He graduated from Mississippi State University (MSU) with a B.S. in wildlife sciences and a M.S. in forestry. His work with Mississippi's endangered black bear population has provided him with the opportunity to work with a wide variety of public and private natural resource organizations from all over the state. Young's previous position also allowed him to work with a multitude of private landowners, concerned citizens, and public officials who have a vested interest in natural resource management within this state. The Federation feels this ability to work with the public as well as other natural resource entities, both public and private, is one of his strongest assets.



Young

