

InTouch

A quarterly publication of Keesler Federal Credit Union | Fall 2021

Meet This Year's Scholarship Winners





**James
Hollingsworth**
Chairman,
Board of Directors

Whether you say “autumn” or “fall,” I hope you’re ready to enjoy seasonal traditions such as football, pumpkin spice, trick-or-treating and turkey! Fall is also the time of year Keesler Federal takes part in some community-focused traditions of our own, such as celebrating the pursuit of education. In this issue of InTouch, you can find out how we made a difference in students’ lives through Backpacks for Bright Futures and the Lisa J. Stubbs Memorial Scholarship contest.

Another perennial Keesler Federal favorite is the Eagles Under the Oaks golf tournament, supporting Combat Wounded Veterans of South Mississippi. This year’s event on September 9 at The Oaks Golf Club in Pass Christian sold out with 144 golfers registering. Thanks to our generous participants and donors, I am delighted to announce we set a record by raising over \$52,000 for this very worthy cause!

Although Hurricane Ida happened in late August, we understand many members in our region who were adversely affected by the storm are still in the process of rebuilding their lives. Our hearts go out to them during this stressful time. Please know that if you are experiencing financial hardship in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, Keesler Federal is here for you. To learn more about ways we can help, visit kfcu.org/storm-resources or call 1-888-KEESLER (533-7537).

Keesler Federal members are extraordinary, and their loyalty is one of the many things that sets us apart from other financial institutions. That’s why we are excited to introduce our latest campaign featuring actual members, just like you, sharing personal stories of resilience, optimism and achievement that are sure to resonate with many. Please check out this issue’s featured article, “Celebrating Extraordinary Members,” and learn how you may be able to share your story, too!

Thank you for continuing to choose Keesler Federal as your credit union partner. We look forward to serving your financial needs and offer our best wishes to you and your loved ones.

Yours in service,

James Hollingsworth



Take Control of Your Card Security—Anytime, Anywhere

With the handy Card Management tool in Keesler Federal’s online and mobile banking, you have more control—and greater peace of mind—over your debit and credit cards. Most people have felt the panic of misplacing a credit or debit card. Before you start frantically calling stores and restaurants, you can quickly block the lost card from your computer or mobile device. Instant sigh of relief. Once the card is found, you can just as easily unblock it. Or you can report the card lost or stolen immediately and order a replacement card with just a click.

Card Management enables you to monitor card activity in other ways too. Setting “over the limit” notifications to go straight to your phone notifies you instantly to help manage your spending

or alert you to possible fraudulent charges. Foreign transactions and balance transfers between cards can all be managed as well. When the travel bug bites, plug in the dates and destination of your journey and your card will be sure to work wherever you go.

Keesler Federal Everywhere empowers you to do more, wherever, whenever and however you want, so you can get on with what’s truly important—enjoying life. If you’re not signed up for online banking yet, do it now to access all the convenient features available to Keesler Federal members.

For how-to videos on this and other online banking features, check out this link:
<https://www.kfcu.org/services/everywhere/>



We Can Help You Get in the Driver's Seat of Anything

However you like, or need, to get around, we can help get you in the driver's seat in no time with our online vehicle loan application, pre-approval options and flexible terms.

That's right, if you want to drive it, we want to finance it. Does water skiing, fishing and picnicking on the island float your boat? We finance jet-skis, boats and the trailers you tow them on. Do you prefer exploring rough and undulating dirt trails? Our ATV loans cover new, used and older models at competitive rates. Or, maybe the serenity of rolling fairways and neighborhood streets are your bailiwick. If so,

your golf cart loan is teed up and waiting at Keesler Federal. Oh, and we haven't forgotten you farmers either; you won't have to wait until the cows come home for our loan officers to process your tractor loan. So, whether you are experiencing wanderlust that only an RV, camper or travel trailer will satisfy or having a "motorcycle moment," make Keesler Federal the first stop on your journey.

**Up to 100% financing for new and used vehicles, plus tax, title and extended warranty.*
Start the loan process now at [kfcu.org](https://www.kfcu.org) or on the mobile app.**

**Based on credit history.*

Fighting Inflation



Have you noticed you're paying more at the grocery and the gas pump than you did last month for the same items? Welcome to inflation. When prices go up, the buying power of your money goes down. Although avoiding inflation completely is impossible, there are ways to help counter its effects on your finances.

Build an Emergency Fund

This is a good thing to do regardless of the inflation rate. With an emergency fund, you're better prepared for unexpected expenses regardless of their origin. For high-interest savings options, check out Keesler Federal's HIMMA and the Kasasa checking program paying high dividends and cash back on purchases when criteria are met. Get details on both at: [kfcu.org](https://www.kfcu.org).

Budget Proactively

Reduce everyday expenses whether by clipping coupons, buying in bulk on sale, carpooling to save gas or changing your

thermostat to a more energy-saving temperature.

Reconsider Large Expenses

Lumber prices spiked as a result of supply chain and other issues brought on by the pandemic, but prices are already beginning to drop. Recognizing that these cost increases may be temporary, you could put off replacing your wood floors, for example, until prices cool off. If you hear rumblings of inventory shortages in areas you plan to spend, either take action immediately or start setting aside extra cash to cover possible price hikes.

Diversify Your Investments

Also known as "don't put all your eggs in one basket." Make sure your investments in those accounts are diversified among stocks, bonds, index funds and other investment vehicles with varying levels of risk.

*Sources: [experion.com](https://www.experion.com),
Stefan Lembo Stolba*

**Keesler Federal is pleased to announce the 2021 winners of the
Lisa J. Stubbs Memorial Scholarship Essay Contest**



Congratulations Scholarship Winners

In 1987, Keesler Federal developed an annual scholarship contest to help members achieve their dreams of higher education. The scholarship was named in honor of Lisa J. Stubbs, an eight-year Keesler Federal employee who attended night classes while working full time for the credit union. Lisa died at age 25 after a lifelong struggle with cystic fibrosis.

This year, the program was expanded to award two additional \$1,000 scholarships (one for dependents and one for adults). This change plus multiple ties resulted in 14 winning responses to the topic ***"Describe a topic, idea or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose track of time. Why does it captivate you?"***

A special thank you to our panel of judges who reviewed each essay for originality, clarity and meaningful content:

Bernadette Vitale

4th Grade ELA Teacher, Ocean Springs Upper Elementary

Alexis Stoner

Marketing Instructor, The University of Southern Mississippi

Amy LaGrone Crews

Dyslexia Therapist in Training, Micah's Mission School, Inc.

Amanda Lovelace Pidgeon

English Teacher, Hancock High School and Pearl River Community College

TSgt Heather Jordan

Executive Assistant to the Command Chief
379th Air Expeditionary Wing United States Air Force

UNDERGRADUATE DEPENDENT WINNERS



Sarah Crowsey
William Carey University



Danielle Dey
University of Mississippi



Carli Duncan
University of Southern Mississippi



Kaylee Goodwin
University of Mississippi



Caroline Leonard
University of Mississippi



Brooklyn Merrill
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College



Zoe McMahan
University of South Alabama



Jeffrey Rogers
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College



Caroline Whalley
University of Alabama

INDEPENDENT ADULT WINNERS



Lance Decker
Texas A&M University



William Denius
William Carey University



Jestyna Nguyen
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College



Christian Pitalo
St. George's University School of Medicine



Elizabeth Zorich
University of Mississippi Medical Center



Celebrating Extraordinary Members



Raquel - member 20 years

Darrin - member 10 years

Jeremy - member 20 years

Courtney - lifelong member

Ask anyone who works at Keesler Federal and you'll discover that the most rewarding part of their job is helping members achieve their goals. Getting to know you personally, building lasting relationships and hearing your success stories inspires us to do more, think bigger and

exceed expectations—whether finding a creative way to say yes or developing new products that make your life easier. We believe this commitment to one-on-one connections sets us apart from other financial institutions.

Keesler Federal's recently launched Member Stories campaign takes a novel approach by showcasing the true "stars" of the credit union—members just like you—and documenting their unique experiences of resilience, optimism and loyalty. These are real people from all walks of life, with diverse backgrounds and fascinating personal stories to share, including why they choose Keesler Federal. Frankly, there's no better representative of what Keesler Federal is about than you, the extraordinary members we have the privilege of serving each day.

For us, hearing these stories has not only been powerfully intimate, it's also insightful and affirming. We hope you can relate to some of their experiences and perhaps be inspired to share your story, too!

View all member stories and submit your own at kfcu.org/stories.



A Commitment to Member Service

Extraordinary Employees. Extraordinary Credit Union.

Keesler Federal team members believe in the credit union philosophy, and it shows in their tenure. Our team members are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of members, and, in turn, Keesler Federal has made a difference in their lives. This may explain why so many people begin and end their careers with Keesler Federal.

Keesler Federal team members are recognized for service in 5-year increments (3-year in the UK). We are proud to recognize the following team members who have service anniversaries during the third quarter of 2021:

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Vonda Martin, Executive Administrative Assistant
Sonya Pylate, Consumer Loan Operations

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Cheryl Mount, Assistant Branch Manager,
D'Iberville

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Rachel Riley, Branch Manager, Wiggins
Phyllis Miller, Teller Service Rep, Long Beach
Thomas Curtis, Director, Indirect Lending
Shante Taylor, Indirect Lending Manager
Natasha Phelps, Titles & Insurance Rep

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

George Mitchell, Executive Vice President/
Chief Operating Officer
James Payton, Systems Engineering Manager
Kevin Wetzel, Security Services Manager

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Savannah DeCuir, Outbound Call Specialist
Kayla Eckert, Card Services Rep
Kenneth Fowler, Dealer Service Rep
Sarah Ledlow, Teller Service Rep, Ocean Springs
Chelsea Licht, Accounting Specialist
Samantha Nichols, IT Support Analyst Team Lead
Natasha Bellamy, Teller Supervisor,
Mobile Westwood Plaza
Sharone Hopkins, Floating Financial Service
Rep, Lakeview
Susan Whisenant, Financial Service Rep, Larcher



Ten Years of Golfing for a Cause

On September 9, rows of eager golfers on carts lined up along the manicured paths of The Oaks Golf Club in Pass Christian for Keesler Federal Credit Union's annual Eagles Under the Oaks tournament. This year's event, the 10th anniversary of the fundraiser, sold out with 144 golfers registered and generous donations by Keesler Federal members and community sponsors. The record \$52,000 raised by the event benefits the Combat Wounded Veterans of South Mississippi, a non-profit organization that assists local disabled veterans. The Combat Wounded Veterans of South Mississippi was formed in 2011

by Donna Anderson, a nurse working at the Keesler Air Force Base Medical Center as a wounded warrior case manager.

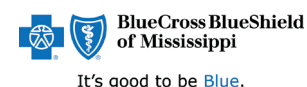
"Eagles Under the Oaks is very important to the credit union and our members," said Andy Swoger, Keesler Federal CEO and President. "The Mississippi Gulf Coast has a proud military history, and CWVSM performs an essential service that helps our brave servicemen and women return to a civilian way of life, despite serious physical and psychological challenges. For many of us gathered here today, it's particularly poignant that we are honoring these veterans so close to the 20th anniversary of 9/11."

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Platinum Eagle Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Closest to Hole



Logo Ball



Beverage Cart





Backpacks for Bright Futures Rolls Again

For the third year in a row, Keesler Federal employees enthusiastically volunteered their time to help with Backpacks for Bright Futures, the credit union's signature back-to-school community event which debuted in 2019. The program provides free backpacks and school supply kits to incoming public-school kindergarteners in the six coastal Mississippi counties. This year, 6,700 backpacks and kits were loaded into school buses, vans and trucks sent by each participating school district to the temporary distribution headquarters set up inside the Mississippi Coast Convention Center. Forty employee volunteers, led by Anthony Abella, Keesler Federal's financial education specialist, efficiently sorted and loaded supplies for 65 schools in 16 school districts over the course of six hours.

"When the call for volunteers goes out to our team members, all the available spots fill up right away because everyone enjoys working together to make this project happen for the kids," said Abella. "Especially with the pandemic, many families are strapped for resources. Starting kindergarten is an exciting milestone and we want to make sure children in our communities have the support necessary to begin their academic journeys on the right foot."



AACE Champions

What is the AACE Recognition Quarterly Awards Program?

Keesler Federal encourages team members to help create an extraordinary culture by exhibiting approachability, authenticity, commitment and empathy in their day-to-day interactions with one another and our loyal members. Each quarter, select team members, nominated by their peers, are recognized for exemplifying these values.



Authenticity Approachability Commitment Empathy



Adriana Avila
Financial Service
Representative Mendenhall



Dawn Cox
Teller
Larcher



Justin Redmond
Assistant Branch Manager
Pass Road



Teri Touchstone
Human Resources
Representative

The Pros and Cons of Early Retirement Plan Rollovers

Should you withdraw and reinvest your retirement plan money while you are still on the job?

A Message from the Keesler Financial Group

Did you know you may be able to take your 401(k), 403(b), or 457 plan and roll it into another type of retirement account while you are still working? Let's look at how these rollovers can happen and the pros and cons of making them.

To start, some basics. Distributions from 401(k) plans and most other employer-sponsored retirement plans are taxed as ordinary income, and if you take one before age 59½, a 10% federal income tax penalty commonly applies. In addition, 20% of the withdrawn amount is withheld for tax purposes. Generally, once you reach age 72, you must begin taking required minimum distributions.¹

Now, the fine print. You may be able to take a distribution from your qualified, employer-sponsored retirement plan while still working, via an in-service non-hardship withdrawal. This is done by arranging a direct rollover of these assets to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) in order to potentially avoid both the 10% penalty and the 20% tax withholding in the process. It's important to note that this option is only available if allowed by your employer.²

It may be smart to speak to your financial professional before making any changes.

Generally, distributions from traditional IRAs must begin once you reach age 72. The money distributed to you is taxed as ordinary income. When such distributions are taken before age 59½, they may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty.

The criteria for making in-service non-hardship withdrawals can vary. Some workplace retirement plans simply prohibit them. Others permit them when

Dennis Liverett,
Ron Weatherly,
Nathan Roberts and
Cynthia Garcia are
Financial Advisors with
Keesler Financial Group
located at Keesler Federal CU.

you have been on the job for at least five years or when assets in your plan have accumulated for at least two years or you are 100% vested in your account.²

Weigh the pros and cons. Who knows if your reinvested assets will perform better in an IRA than they did in your company's retirement plan? Only time will tell. Right now, you can put up to \$7,000 into an IRA, annually, if you are 50 or older. The limit on annual additions, however, is much more impressive at \$58,000 for 2021. Lastly, if your employer matches your retirement plan contributions, getting out of the plan may mean losing future matches.³

This material was prepared by MarketingPro, Inc., and does not necessarily represent the views of the presenting party, nor their affiliates. This information should not be construed as investment, tax or legal advice. All information is believed to be from reliable sources; however, we make no representation as to its completeness or accuracy.

Representatives are registered, securities sold, advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor, which is not an affiliate of the credit union. CBSI is under contract with the financial institution to make securities available to members. Not NCUA/NCUSIF/FDIC insured, May Lose Value, No Financial Institution Guarantee. Not a deposit of any financial institution.

Citations

1. IRS.gov, March 3, 2021
2. IRS.gov, March 3, 2021
3. IRS.gov, March 3, 2021

AdTrax FR-3745058.1-0921-1023

Highlighted Share & Loan Rates

Shares

Share Savings (with Compounding)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balance less than \$5,000	.15%	.15%
Balance \$5,000 or more	.20%	.20%
Christmas Savings	.30%	.30%

^{\$5} minimum to open share savings

High Interest Money Market Account (HIMMA)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balance \$2,500–\$9,999.99	.30%	.30%
Balance \$10,000–\$49,999.99	.30%	.30%
Balance \$50,000–\$99,999.99	.35%	.35%
Balance \$100,000 and over	.40%	.40%

^{\$2,500} minimum to open account
and to earn dividends

Checking Accounts

Kasasa Cash Checking (qualifying accounts)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balances up to \$25,000	2.96%	3.00% to .92%
Balances over \$25,000	.40%	.40%
Non-Qualified	.05%	.05%

^{\$25} minimum to open account

Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Traditional	.75%	.75%
Roth	.75%	.75%

IRAs are federally insured
separately up to \$250,000

View current rates at
www.kfcu.org/rates

Share rates listed above are effective as of Oct. 1, 2021 and subject to change without notice. See your Sept. statement for the dividend rate paid for the period ending Sept. 30, 2021. Fees assessed could reduce earnings on accounts.

Federally Insured by NCUA

Loans

New Auto Loans

Annual Percentage Rate (APR)

Up to 24 months	as low as 2.14% APR
25–36 months	as low as 2.24% APR
37–48 months	as low as 2.44% APR
49–60 months	as low as 2.59% APR
61–72 months (\$15,000 & over)	as low as 3.04% APR

Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$28.78 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 2.24% for 36 months.

New RV/Travel Trailers

Annual Percentage Rate (APR)

37–48 months (\$10,000 & over)	as low as 5.00% APR
49–60 months (\$15,000 & over)	as low as 5.25% APR
61–72 months (\$20,000 & over)	as low as 5.50% APR
73–84 months (\$25,000 & over)	as low as 6.24% APR
85–144 months (\$35,000 & over)	as low as 7.25% APR

Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$23.09 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 5.00% for 48 months.

Credit Cards

Annual Percentage Rate (APR)

Visa Signature	as low as 3.25% APR
Visa Platinum	as low as 3.25% APR
Visa Classic	as low as 3.25% APR

Transaction fees per transaction: cash advance 5%;
ISA fee on international transactions 1%
Rates are variable based on prime.

Signature Loans

Annual Percentage Rate (APR)

Up to 36 months	as low as 8.24% APR
37–48 months	as low as 8.74% APR
49–60 months (\$10,000 & over)	as low as 9.24% APR

Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$31.55 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 8.24% for 36 months.

Share Secured Loans

2.00% above prior quarter share dividend rate
(Up to amount of available balance – up to 120 months)

Apply for your loan by phone,
1-888-KEESLER (533-7537), online at kfcu.org,
or visit any branch location.

Rates marked "as low as" vary based on
credit history. Certain restrictions may apply.
Rates are effective as of Oct. 1, 2021
and subject to change without notice.



Keesler Financial Group

Call (228) 385-4558 for your no-cost,
no-obligation appointment today!



Get out there

If you're looking for an RV loan that's the perfect fit, visit Keesler Federal. Our great rates, easy online loan applications, flexible terms and pre approval options will get you and your family on the open road in no time.

kfcu.org 1-888-KEESLER



Special rate as low as

6.24% APR* for up to 15 years

Available on all RVs year 2016 to the present.



Membership and credit eligibility required.

*APR is annual percentage rate. Example: Monthly payments are approximately \$8.60 per month per \$1,000 borrowed at 6.24% APR for a 180 month term. Minimum loan amount \$50,000, maximum \$250,000 to qualify for promotional rate and term. Rates are subject to change without notice.



**Empowering people
to lead financially
healthy lives.**

GreenPath
financial wellness

Learn more at kfcu.org/resources/free-financial-counseling/

Keesler Federal
CREDIT UNION

P.O. Box 7001, Biloxi, MS 39534-7001

Important to you. Important to us.
kfcu.org