

InTouch

A quarterly publication of Keesler Federal Credit Union | Fall 2020

From
Backpacks to
Scholarships





James Hollingsworth
Chairman,
Board of Directors

Fall has arrived and although some seasonal activities look a bit different this year due to COVID-19, I hope you're finding creative and safe ways to enjoy the pleasant weather and all the upcoming holidays. Last spring, few of us would have believed our lives would be so dramatically altered for such an extended period of time, but here's something you can believe in: Keesler Federal will always do what it takes to be here for you, our valued members. Putting your needs first during both good times and bad is central to our mission, and we are grateful for the trust you place in us.

We recently held two major events that were postponed from our spring schedule. The 9th Annual Eagles Under the Oaks golf tournament took place on September 11, raising over \$31,000 for the Combat Wounded Veterans of South Mississippi. Then on October 15, Keesler Federal's 2020 Annual Membership Meeting was presented as a live streamed, virtual event through Microsoft Teams. Many members were able to join us online via their computers and mobile devices, as well as take part in the voting ahead of time. Yes, it was a departure from Keesler Federal's usual in-person gathering, but we, like other credit unions around the country, successfully leveraged technology to keep members connected and informed without risking their health and wellbeing. If you wish to view the video of the meeting, please go to kfcu.org/annual-meeting.

Just in time for the reopening of schools, Keesler Federal's Backpacks for Bright Futures program donated 6,700 backpacks and school supply kits to incoming kindergarten students across the six coastal Mississippi counties. In this issue, you can also read about the winners of this year's Lisa J. Stubbs Memorial Scholarship essay contest. We salute the students, families and educators in our communities for adapting to the many new and challenging circumstances they've encountered during the 2020 academic year.

Again, thank you for your membership. On behalf of your Keesler Federal family, please stay safe and fondest wishes for a comforting autumn.

Yours in service,

James Hollingsworth

Setting Up ACH Transactions

ACH transactions have been around for a long time. They are a safe, convenient and popular method of electronically transferring funds to and from your account at a financial institution. Most commonly, ACH transactions are direct deposits to your account (such as from your employer or a government entity like Social Security or the IRS) and payments that you have authorized to be automatically drafted from your account for recurring bills (such as your utilities, mobile phone or car note).

type of account (Checking, Primary Share Savings, Simply Debit, HIMMA, etc.) your 14-digit Keesler Federal account number will differ slightly.

ULTIMATE CHECKING		Current Balance	Available Balance
**** 2233-0090		\$1,310.72	\$1,142.20
☰ Transactions	ⓘ Account Details		
NICKNAME	ULTIMATE CHECKING		
AVAILABLE BALANCE	\$1,142.20		
CURRENT BALANCE	\$1,310.72		
MICR ACCOUNT NUMBER	00900011122233		
SHARE OPEN DATE	07/24/2006		
INTEREST PAID LAST YEAR	\$1.60		
INTEREST PAID YEAR TO DATE	\$1.80		

When providing your Keesler Federal account number to a creditor or payor, it's important to make sure you specify exactly which account you want those funds to be deducted from or deposited to. To do so, use your entire 14-digit MICR number for that account, not just the familiar 8-digit number you think of as your "account number." Depending upon the

The easiest way to locate your full MICR account number is by logging into online or mobile banking. From the main Dashboard screen, select any account listed and click the Account Details tab to display the 14-digit MICR number for that account. For your convenience, you may have an updated account ID card printed with your full MICR number at any branch.

Keesler Federal is pleased to announce the 2020 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. The responses to this year's topic, **"If you were President of the United States, what would you accomplish in your first 100 days?"** resulted in two ties and the awarding of an extra \$1,000 in both the dependent and adult categories.

UNDERGRADUATE DEPENDENT WINNERS



Taylor Coe
University of Mississippi



Courtney Gasser
Texas A&M



Desiree Rodriguez
University of Southern MS



Emmie Perkins
Mississippi State University

INDEPENDENT ADULT WINNERS



Lance Decker
Texas A&M



Clarence Barlow
Mississippi State University



Morgan Ulrich
MGCCC



Terrence Turner
Xavier University

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

Heather Jordan: 3 years ago, Heather was transferred to MacDill Air Force Base after serving at Keesler AFB. She and her husband, Jordache, have two beautiful children, Nahshon and Nalani, and a dog named Nahla. She currently works at the MacDill Dental Clinic.

Sandy Commer-East: Sandy earned her BA degree with a double major in business management and marketing communications from the University of Mississippi. She is the Career Pathways Specialist and Public Relations Director for the Gulfport School District. Sandy is married to her high school sweetheart, Stephen East and they have five children.

Amy LaGrone Crews: Amy holds a bachelor's degree in English from The University of Southern Mississippi and is pursuing a M.Ed. in Dyslexia Therapy at Mississippi College. She currently teaches at Micah's Mission Hybrid Homeschool & Resource Center in Vicksburg, MS. Amy resides in Vicksburg with her husband, Craig, and their aussiedor dogs, Chief and Cooper.



A Commitment to Member Service

Great Employees. Great 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 first quarter of 2020:

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Connie Ziz, *Training Branch Mgr*

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lisa Waits, *Teller Supervisor, Ocean Springs*
Shaun Brokmeier, *Branch Mgr, Diamondhead*
Kerrie Sims, *IT Support Analyst I*
Nacol Olson Palmer, *Systems Analyst I*

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Joshua Brown, *VP of Retail Operations*
Leslie Harvey, *Branch Mgr, Downtown Gulfport*

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Rebecca Moore, *Purchasing Information Spec*
Katrina Ducksworth, *FSR, Long Beach*
Misty Marshall, *Business Origination Spec II*
Fallon Thadison, *Mortgage Loan Processor*
Becky Green, *Financial Service Rep, Orange Grove*
Mark Mayer, *Programmer Analyst II*
Chris Warren, *Systems Engineer Team Lead*
April Merkle, *Internet Mortgage Loan Officer*
Lisa Hyde, *Staff Development Spec I*
Destinee Mathers, *FSR, Triangle*
Alexia Warmath, *Retail Support Spec*
Carol Lucas, *Community Development Mgr*
Brandice McKenzie, *Accounting Team Lead*
Keundra McNair, *Floating FSR, Long Beach*
Mary Cowand, *Digital Marketing Mgr*
Kathryn Broy, *Retail Support Spec*
Jacqueline Givens, Jr., *Underwriter*



Charity Golf Tournament Recap

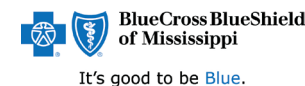
On Friday, September 11, 34 teams of eager golfers, distinguished guests and volunteer Keesler Federal team members returned to The Oaks Golf Club in Pass Christian, Mississippi, for the 9th Annual Eagles Under the Oaks golf tournament benefitting the Combat Wounded Veterans of South Mississippi. Traditionally held each May, but postponed due to the pandemic, the timing of this year's event was also an opportunity to observe the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. "We're honored to support the vital mission of the CWVSM. It provides an essential bridge for wounded warriors right here in our community as they transition from the military to civilian life," said Andy Swoger, Keesler Federal President and CEO. "This event is one of the best things we do all year long." Thanks to the generosity of our participating golfers, sponsors and members, this year's tournament raised over \$31,000.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Platinum Eagle Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Longest Drive



Beverage Cart





Giving Back Backpacks For Bright Futures

For the second year in a row, incoming kindergarteners across six South Mississippi counties got a head start on their academic journeys, courtesy of Keesler Federal Credit Union's Backpacks for Bright Futures. The initiative, which began in 2019, distributed 6,700 backpacks and school supply kits brimming with essentials such as scissors, markers, crayons, glue, hand sanitizer and more. Volunteer Keesler Federal team members worked in shifts to load the supplies into buses and vans sent by 64 participating schools in the

16 districts closest to the credit union's main office.

"Giving back to our members and the communities we serve is deeply ingrained in Keesler Federal's DNA. With this program, we're not only helping families and teachers mitigate some of the high costs associated with back-to-school season, but giving children the tools they need to learn and flourish," said James Hollingsworth, Chairman of Keesler Federal's Board of Directors. "This has been an economically challenging year for many families and we're happy we can provide this support."



Champions COMMITTED TO OUTSTANDING MEMBER SERVICE

Each quarter, Keesler Federal team members nominate their coworkers for outstanding contributions to Keesler Federal's values and commitment to member service. Congratulations to the 2nd Quarter 2020 winners.



LEADERSHIP AWARD 2nd Qtr 2020



Thomas Curtis, Indirect Lending

Thomas is described as the epitome of a great director. Selfless, understanding, and always willing to help, he makes communication a top priority as well as training and team building. Thomas promotes quick responses to system and member issues and is willing to go above and beyond to ensure member satisfaction.



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE AWARD 2nd Qtr 2020



Briana Bellot, Collections

Briana takes the initiative to improve processes within her specific area and offers feedback to help her co-workers' performance. She is dedicated and has a genuine concern for the department's overall health and performance. Her strong work ethic includes tact, diligence and commitment to the proper course of action.

20% Discount for Keesler Federal Members

Enjoy the Gulf Coast's splashiest new attraction! For discounted tickets, log in to your account in online banking and click on MS Aquarium 20% Ticket Discount listed under the Quick Links option, or go to the Mississippi Aquarium box office and show proof of credit union membership.





Holiday Shopping?

Use Credit Cards Wisely.

Set a budget. This helps keep your expenses in check. Make a list of holiday expenses and decide how much you can spend without going overboard.

Use reward cards. Use the credits you've already earned, then continue to earn more while shopping for the season.

Watch for fraud. Even with fraud monitoring tools in place, check your statements for unauthorized charges and report any you suspect, especially during the holidays.

Don't use your credit limit as a spending guideline. Your credit limit doesn't represent how much you can afford to pay off and a maxed-out card can hurt your credit score.

Don't chase discounts with store credit cards. Initial discounts are tempting but can

lead to excessive purchases. Also, store card interest is usually higher than traditional cards and you'll have an inquiry on your credit.

Don't ignore your card statements after the holiday season. Credit can be a financial tool, but debt is a financial problem. Have a plan to pay down your debts after the holidays.

With **Keesler Federal's Visa Signature credit card**, you earn 2% cash back or 3 points for every dollar spent; plus a \$100 credit with \$1,500 in purchases within the first 90 days of having the card and a 0% 12-month intro rate. After the initial 12 months, rates start as low as the actual prime rate (depending on your credit). With our **Visa Platinum card**, you earn points toward merchandise and travel. Plus, get 10,000 points for \$1,000 in purchases made within the first 90 days of having the card.

Is Your Debit Card Ready for a Makeover?

If your debit card has seen better days, you can replace it in mere minutes at any Keesler Federal branch. Choose from a variety of eye-catching looks, including a Mississippi Aquarium design available soon. A new card will not only update your pocketbook décor, more importantly, it can save you time and inconvenience in the long run. Even a slightly damaged card may signal tampering to our secure, modern ATMs in which case the card will be retained by the machine. Ensure your card stays where it belongs, safely with you and ready to use, by dropping by a branch and dropping off your old card for a replacement right away!

Coming soon!





Free Winter Activities

Fight boredom and stay on budget this winter with free activities you won't regret.

Look around. Regardless of weather, there's more happening in your town than you may think. Check out your city's website for a list of upcoming events that are usually free of charge.

Organize a self-guided walking tour. Research your town's historic and cultural sites and go on a walking tour of them. Pack a picnic to add to the experience.

Snap some photos. Take your phone or digital camera out with you and snap anything you find interesting. Great images can lay the groundwork for homemade greeting cards, gifts and social media posts.

Make a how-to video for YouTube. Too cold to venture out? All you need is a camera or phone that captures video. Demonstrate how to accomplish something interesting and useful. Find instructions on how to do it on YouTube.com or techsmith.com

Do a neighborhood cleanup. Walk through the shared spaces in your neighborhood (parks, medians, etc.) with a trash bag and gloves and pick up the litter. It'll get your blood going and beautify your neighborhood.

Play with a pet—it doesn't have to be your own. An hour spent playing fetch or Frisbee with a dog or rubbing its belly is an hour you'll both enjoy. The same goes for cats but the Frisbee thing may be a stretch. Volunteer at an animal shelter if you don't have a pet.



KEEP Scholarships

Encouraging educational achievement is a priority at Keesler Federal, not only with member and community-focused initiatives such as the Lisa J. Stubbs Memorial Scholarship Contest and Backpacks for Bright Futures, but also with our employees. The Keesler Employee Education Program (KEEP) creates a pathway for team members who aspire to grow and develop their careers at Keesler Federal. Under the KEEP umbrella, employees may apply for tuition assistance, a professional apprenticeship program or a 100% paid scholarship to complete an online undergraduate business degree through the University of Southern Mississippi's College of Business and Economic Development. For the 2020 fall semester, two USM scholarships were awarded.

"This opportunity will enable these outstanding employees to pursue their educational goals while continuing to be employed full-time," said Ruth Montana, Director of Human Resources. *"Making an investment in our team members' success strengthens employee engagement, which in turn helps to create a positive member experience throughout Keesler Federal."*

 KEEP SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

	Irene Field Financial Service Rep II, Keesler AFB Larcher Employed at Keesler Federal for 6 years, 4 months
	America Gerard Financial Service Rep I, Mobile Westwood Plaza Employed at Keesler Federal for 2 years, 6 months

Measuring the Value of a Financial Advisor

One study asserts that these relationships can make a difference for investors.

A Message from the Keesler Financial Group

William E. Morrison,
Dennis Liverett,
Ron Weatherly and
Nathan Roberts are
Financial Advisors
with Keesler Financial
Group located at
Keesler Federal CU.

What is a relationship with a financial advisor worth to an investor? A 2019 study by Vanguard, one of the world's largest money managers, attempts to answer that question.

Vanguard's whitepaper concludes that when an investor works with an advisor and receives professional investment advice, they may see a net portfolio return about 3% higher over time.¹

How did this study arrive at that conclusion? By comparing self-directed investor accounts to an advisor model, Vanguard found that the potential return relative to the average investor experience was higher for individuals who had financial advisors.¹

Vanguard analyzed three key services that an advisor may provide: portfolio construction, wealth management, and behavioral coaching. It estimated that portfolio construction advice (e.g., asset allocation, asset location) could add up to 1.2% in additional return, while wealth management (e.g., rebalancing, drawdown strategies) may contribute over 1% in additional return.¹

The biggest opportunity to add value was in behavioral coaching, which was estimated to be worth about 1.5% in additional return. Financial advisors can use their insight to guide clients away from poor decisions, such as panic selling or accepting excessive risk in a portfolio. Indeed, the greatest value of a financial advisor may be in helping individuals adhere to an agreed-upon financial and investment strategy.¹

Of course, financial advisors can account for additional value not studied by Vanguard, such as helping clients implement wealth protection strategies, which protect against the financial consequences of loss of income, and coordinating with other financial professionals on tax management and estate planning.

You could argue that a financial advisor's independence adds qualitative value. It should be noted that not all financial advisors are independent. Some are basically

employees of brokerages, and they may be encouraged to promote and recommend certain investments of those brokerages to their clients.²

Both types of financial advisors may receive their compensation in two ways: through transaction fees and through ongoing fees. Financial advisory firms are required to disclose how their professionals are compensated with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).²

After years of working with a financial advisor, the value of a relationship may be measured in both tangible and intangible ways. Many such investors are grateful they are not "going it alone."³

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AdTrax FR-3211063.1-0820-0922

Citations.

- 1 - advisors.vanguard.com/iwe/pdf/ISGQVAA.pdf [2/19]
- 2 - cnbc.com/2019/10/23/guide-to-choosing-the-right-financial-professional-for-you.html [10/23/19]

Keesler Financial Group

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

Highlighted Share & Loan Rates

Shares

Share Savings (with Compounding)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balance less than \$5,000	.25%	.25%
Balance \$5,000 or more	.30%	.30%
Christmas Savings	.30%	.30%

High Interest Money Market Account (HIMMA)

Ask about our new HIMMA Plus!

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balance \$2,500-\$9,999.99	.40%	.40%
Balance \$10,000-\$49,999.99	.40%	.40%
Balance \$50,000-\$99,999.99	.45%	.45%
Balance \$100,000 and over	.50%	.50%

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

Checking Accounts

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
eAdvantage Checking (qualifying accounts)		
Balances up to \$25,000	1.39%	1.40%

Non qualifying eAdvantage accounts and amount of balance over \$25,000 earn rates listed below

Ultimate & Essential Checking depending on balance

Balances less than \$2,500	.15%	.15%
Balances \$2,500 or more	.20%	.20%

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

Please check with any office or visit www.kfcu.org for the current rates or specials on share certificates.

Share rates listed above are effective as of Oct. 1, 2020 and subject to change without notice. See your Sept. statement for the dividend rate paid for the period ending Sept.30, 2020.

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%.

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 October 1, 2020 and subject to change without notice.



Reward-ier

That's the feeling you get with the
**ALL-NEW Keesler Federal
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Signature and Platinum Visa Credit Cards!

With rates as low as

3.25%*

you don't have to compromise between earning great rewards on every dollar you spend or paying less interest.

Membership and credit eligibility required

*Rate current as of 10/10/20 and can change quarterly based on prime



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