

MEMBER CONNECTION

Company offers office solutions

To expand its operations in West Tennessee, Memphis-based office solutions company MCC opened a branch in Jackson, capitalizing on the city's draw for businesses in surrounding communities.

"We needed a local presence in Jackson to support our growing client base and the demand for our services," said Tim Barlow, general sales manager of the local office.

MCC offers complete solutions through its six divisions, Barlow said.

- The Documents Solutions Division includes desktop and full-color printing systems. MCC was recently named Southern Dealer of the year for Toshiba America. MCC also installs HP, Lexmark, RISO and other best-of-brand manufacturers.
- The Mailing Solutions Division includes postage machines, folder/inserters and shipping systems. MCC is one of the largest dealers for Neopost in North America.
- In the Security Solutions Division, MCC designs, installs and maintains security cameras, gate access and card-entry systems throughout the United States.
- In the Audio Visual Solutions Division, MCC designs and installs sound systems for houses of worship, schools, universities, stadiums and retail spaces. The company also designs and installs systems for executive meeting rooms, boardrooms, classrooms and distance learning spaces using state-of-the-art technology, including video conferencing, video projection and low voltage controls.
- The Telecom Solutions Division drives clients' sales through effectively designed and simplified telecom systems.
- The Structured Cabling Solutions Division designs and installs the infrastructure to support network, video, sound or any other low-voltage control need.

The company has multiple clients in Jackson and surrounding communities. "We're having tremendous growth," said Barlow, who joined MCC in 1994. "It's been an exciting journey."

MCC opened a Jackson office after it purchased a building on Emporium Drive three years ago to improve service for customers in the region and to expand sales.

"We invested heavily in Jackson," said Barlow, who grew up here and graduated from North Side High School. "We made a strong financial commitment to provide Jackson and the surrounding communities with new local jobs, local service and a local phone number to call, all supported by local employees."

Customer service has been the key to MCC's success, he added. MCC technicians schedule preventative maintenance appointments with clients if they haven't had contact with them in a predetermined interval.

"My goal at the end of the day when we leave the office is for our customers to feel like they've been spoiled," Barlow said. "We provide a level of white-glove customer service that other companies simply do not believe is required. We love to serve."

MCC also makes it easier for office managers, he said, because they don't have to work with multiple vendors to meet their needs. MCC employs factory-trained technicians who are subject-matter experts in their fields.

"Our company fills a niche that Jacksonians have really wanted and deserve."



The MCC Jackson staff welcomes Jennie Fisher from Great America Financial. Pictured, from left, are Jean Coetzee, Rick Grady, Randy Weir, Fisher, Andrew Thomas and Kenneth Kelly.

Memphis Communications Corporation was founded by Dean Berry Jr. in 1972 and has steadily grown while remaining a family operation. Today, MCC represents 140 manufacturers and is the largest total communications dealer in the country, Barlow said. It has 125 employees. Besides the Jackson office, it has opened locations in Nashville and Jackson, Miss.

Barlow is responsible for communities between the Tennessee River and Fayette County. He was thrilled, he said, when he learned the company planned to invest in an office in his hometown. "It's an incredible environment. It's a wonderful climate with wonderful people."

The Jackson location, along with the rest of MCC, remains focused on providing the best service possible for offices throughout the region, making lives easier for each of their customers, Barlow said.

"We don't want to be the biggest in the world; we just want to be the best by living out our motto: promises made, promises kept."

The Jackson location is at 1926 Emporium Drive. For more information, visit mccjackson.net.

NEW MEMBER CONNECTION

Asia Garden offers two menus: Chinese and Japanese

Kathy Yeh moved her family from Taiwan to the United States in the early 1980s, hoping to give her family a better life.

After working in the restaurant industry for a few years in New York and Florida, Yeh and her husband decided to tour Tennessee. They were in search of a business opportunity in the food industry when they found Asia Garden in Jackson.

"It was owned by other people at the time, but Kathy bought it in 1985," Joy Yeh, director of marketing and Kathy's daughter-in-law, said. "The people in Jackson were so welcoming that it made Kathy feel right at home. After touring Jackson, Kathy fell in love with the sense of community in the city. She knew she wanted to grow a family and serve the Jackson community."

When Kathy decided to step away from the ownership aspect of the business about nine years ago, her son, Eddie, who is Joy's husband, decided to buy Asia Garden. Eddie, born and raised in Jackson, was recruited to play football at Sewanee University. After he graduated college, he decided to move back to Jackson to help his mother run the restaurant. Eddie always loved the idea of carrying on the family business, Joy said.

The restaurant has experienced tremendous growth under Eddie's ownership, she said. In 2009, Asia Garden began delivering Chinese food. In 2013, it added Japanese food and sushi to the menu and started delivering those as well. In 2016, the restaurant won the The Jackson Sun Reader's Choice Awards for the best Chinese food and the



Pictured, from left, are Kathy Yeh, Eddie Yeh and Alfredo Castano.

best Japanese food in Jackson.

With its Chinese and Japanese cuisine, Asia Garden has two entirely separate menus. It also offers a long list of sushi rolls. The sushi best sellers are the chef roll, house roll and Mexico roll, while the Chinese best sellers are the classics such as fried rice and sweet and sour chicken.

"Overall, our restaurant is all about the quality of ingredients and freshness," Joy said. "We make almost everything from scratch, even down to the sauces, and we fry our own chicken. We get in fish that are fresh off the boat, and our sushi chefs are trained to know exactly

how to cut it down for our sushi. Everything our customers eat is made fresh to order. Our mission is to get the very best products in front of our customers as we can."

Joy, like Eddie, was also born and raised in Jackson. She said she has always loved the idea of growing a small business that she considers her own. Running the family-owned business is the best part of her job, she said, adding that the employees at Asia Garden are truly like a family.

Kathy, who still works at the restaurant, is known as the hardest working person at Asia Garden, Joy said. Alfredo Castano, head sushi chef, is also one of the primary staff members.

"We recently joined the Jackson Chamber because of what it offers to the community," Joy said. "We consider it an investment in our community because there are so many programs there that benefit Jackson."

Our family is all about helping Jackson grow. We love the community so much, and this is where we want to raise our family. Working with the chamber is a great partnership because the chamber can facilitate so much for a small business."

Asia Garden, at 581 Old Hickory Blvd. in Hamilton Hills Shopping Center, is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday to Thursday and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday to Saturday. Dine in, carry out and delivery options are available. Orders can be placed online at asiagardenjackson.com. The phone number is 731-668-9024.

Lecture series named for Dr. David, Lanese Dockery

Union University will launch a new lecture series this spring that honors its former president and first lady and celebrates the school's Baptist history and heritage.

The Dockery Lectures on Baptist Thought and Heritage, named for former Union President David S. Dockery and his wife, Lanese, will be an annual event designed to examine the importance of the Baptist heritage, the distinctives of Baptist thought and the influence of the Christian intellectual tradition.

"All of us are deeply grateful to David and Lanese Dockery for their inestimable contributions to Union University," President Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver said.

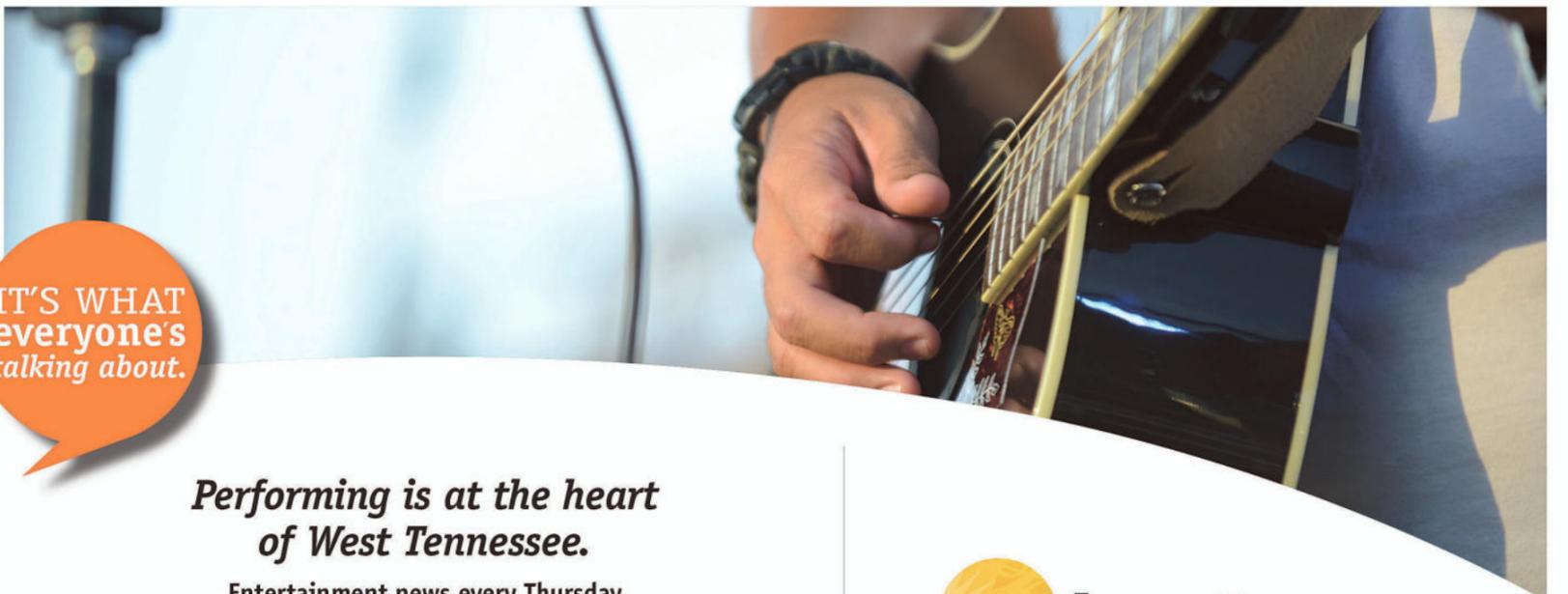
Dockery expressed gratitude to Oliver, Union Provost C. Ben Mitchell, and Nathan Finn, dean of the School of Theology and Missions, for their support for the series and to colleagues who have pledged financial support.

"It is our hope that the lecture series will feature the very best Baptist thinkers in this country and around the globe, even as it captures the best of the Baptist tradition

that has shaped Union University through the years," Dockery said. Dockery was Union president for 18 years. He was elected president of Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill., in 2014.

Jim Patterson, Union's associate dean for the School of Theology and Missions and university professor of Christian thought and tradition, will give the inaugural lecture in the series March 14.

Donations to support the lecture series can be made at uu.edu/giving/dockery.



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