Did you know that Goodwill of Mississippi has not one, but two authors among our employees? Janet Taylor Perry, client instructor, wrote her third book, Broken, and Janice Singleton, assistant accountant, wrote a personal memoir, Caught. Both books are hot off the press, as each was published in February.

Janet is “5 years old, because life begins at 50.” She is a native of Laurel, MS, attended Laurel High School and received her undergraduate degree at University of Southern Miss and her Masters at Belhaven College. She is the mother of five children.

Her book is a continuation of two previous romantic suspense works, Lucky Thirteen and Heartless. She is quick to point out, “This is NOT Christian literature. But there is always a strong Christian character I use to convey my faith.” Lucky Thirteen was published in 2013 and sold for $13.13. Janet finds writing cathartic because it helps her work through her own emotional issues. “I put my problems into the characters, which helped me work through my struggles,” Janet confides. Her second novel, Heartless,
Employee Authors, continued from page 1

came out on St. Valentine’s Day in 2014. *Broken* published on Friday the 13th. She is proud of the fact that each of the covers was designed by a former student she taught during her classroom teaching career.

She is indebted to Goodwill for “giving me the freedom to pursue my writing on the side, without the pressures I would have encountered had I been teaching in the classroom.”

Janice is 49, and a Jackson native. She attended Wingfield High School and received her degree at Jackson State. She has a son, Rogdric, and resides in Clinton, MS.

Her book is a personal journey from the heights of success to her downfall and recovery. “I wrote this book for two reasons. I had a high profile case when I was caught (Janice was a corrections officer who wound up doing time for her offense), and much of what came out in public wasn’t true. I ran a reputable tax business. And if I can save one person from making the same mistake, I feel it was a job well done. I want to share with people that all forms of addictions are a disease,” she explains.

She is promoting her book aggressively, with t-shirts, coffee mugs, promotional copies, interviews, testimonials and planned book signings. When the initial copy of the book arrived (called a publisher’s I copy), she was so excited. “I was real excited! It was a milestone I had accomplished. I actually slept with it the first night,” Janice shares. She is thankful to Goodwill for giving me a second chance and to be part of the Goodwill family. Janice believes Goodwill was a chance for her to get back into society and grow here.

The eyes seemed to stare directly at her, and she could not break their gaze; neither did she want to. She found solace in those eyes.

— From *Lucky Thirteen*

*“Everything was so exciting, every moment so electric, and I was clueless that the ground beneath me was caving in.”*

— from *Caught*

27th Annual Goodwill Art Show Celebration

at Madison Square Center For The Arts

The 27th Annual Goodwill Art Show Awards Ceremony, will be held at the Madison Square Center for the Arts, at 2:00 pm on Sunday, March 22nd. The Goodwill Art Show celebrates the creative flair, diversity and expression of people with disabilities. Gail Collins, VA Patterson and GIVS members do a fantastic job coordinating and showcasing the event. Both professional and non-professional artists enter and it is evident by previous events that the Art Show attracts a very talented group of artists. Plan to join us for this celebration of the arts!
Welcome to Goodwill of Mississippi’s newest “store” – our E-commerce store that opened in November. The new store is similar to e-bay. Donated items are listed on shopgoodwill.com – a site dedicated to participating Goodwill agencies from across the country. Shoppers on shopgoodwill can browse, view, select and bid on a wide range of items such as clothing, jewelry, accessories, books, video games, and a host of other merchandise items.

Opening the E-commerce store has created three new jobs within our Goodwill enterprise, advanced our mission, and is meeting the growing consumer trend of shopping online. It has helped our established “brick and mortar stores” as well.

“E-Commerce has changed the way our workers look at things, as well as giving our customers nationwide the opportunity to shop from home. Having nice, affordable items delivered to your doorstep is always an awesome treat,” says Sharon Johnson, Store Manager at Goodwill’s 51 Place store.

You can visit and shop for merchandise 24/7/365 at shopgoodwill.com.

These trendy sunglasses from Kate Spade were placed on shopgoodwill.com for $7.99. Five days and 17 bids later, a happy customer from Kansas paid $49.16 for the stylish look and had them shipped to her door.

Goodwill Promotions

November
Jennifer Ogden was promoted to E-Commerce assistant

January
Frank Bryant was promoted to Vice President/Operations and Safety
David Hollingsworth was promoted to Vice President/Marketing and Community Involvement
Terry Lakey was promoted to Vice President/Accounting
JD Martin was promoted to Vice President/Human Resources and E-Commerce
Latonya Smalls was promoted to E-commerce assistant

Goodwill Industries was named the 11th Most Inspirational Company in America according to a consumer poll carried in Forbes Magazine. The annual poll showed that Goodwill Industries jumped to 11th place, from 19th place last year. The poll is conducted by Performance Inspired, an Atlanta-based business-consulting firm.

This is the 5th consecutive year the survey has been conducted. The top 5 companies on the list: Tesla, Trader Joe’s, Target, TOMS Shoes and Costco. Goodwill is the only non-profit organization to be recognized on the list.
Goodwill of Mississippi and University of Southern Mississippi are partnering to collect clothing, electronics, furniture and other items students ordinarily would discard in landfills. The Spring Move Out effort helps to reduce waste, assists in helping those with disabilities or disadvantage find employment and inspires students to create change.

National figures show that 3 million students live in on-campus housing in 2,100 colleges and universities. Fifty percent of recoverable items are often lost on these campuses. Goodwill of Mississippi is excited to partner with USM and take this significant step to help Mother Earth.

“We are excited to partner with Goodwill and Residence Life to provide students with the option of donating their unwanted items during spring move out, effectively diverting these materials away from the landfill. This program exemplifies the tenets of sustainability and will help the university continue to decrease its carbon footprint and increase its positive impact on our campus and local communities,” states Haley McMinn, Assistant Director of Sustainability for the University Southern Mississippi. Students representing the student organization Enactus will provide additional support over the two-week collection period, beginning in late April.

**USM’s Spring Semester To End On a Green Note**