

Alumni Reflections

Here is what a sample of former MSU students and University Christian Student Center alumni have to say about their time here with the Starkville church. Many are Bible teachers, deacons, elders, and ministers, and all are faithful members of the Lord's church who acknowledge the positive influence of the student center program on their Christian life. We thank them, and you all, for support of the UCSC and the church meeting in Starkville, Mississippi.

"From 1989-1994, the UCSC was the core of the relationships we had while at MSU. The friendships we grew not only filled our college years with unforgettable memories, but they challenged us to grow in our relationship with God. Aside from these lifelong friendships, we also met each other and got the start that led to our wonderful marriage. The UCSC continues to be a great place for many students to call "home" and this space continues to provide a place for students to come together for a break in their routine studies to enjoy each other's company and give one another spiritual encouragement. For the last 15 years, we have been blessed to know many of the students passing through Starkville, many of which have a special place in our family's heart."

Derrick and Susan Savage,
1994 and 1995, currently serving the church in Starkville, MS

"The UCSC was essential to our growth during one of the most crucial stages of spiritual development in our lives. Our experience laid the foundation for lives of service in our Lord's kingdom, and we can not imagine how our lives would have been different then, or even now, without it."

Ryan and Rucha Bond,
1998, currently serving the church in Albuquerque, NM

"The UCSC has always been a very special place where beautiful people come together to love God and to love others. Through this constant sharing of God's love over time, thousands upon thousands today are sharing their faith in Jesus Christ all over the world. Let's continue our support to this great fellowship of Christian believers, as they continue in their daily ministry of loving God and loving others at MSU."

Lee and Jan Allen,
1982, currently serving the church in Maryville, TN

"The UCSC and the Starkville church of Christ provided exactly what I needed at a critical stage in my life—strong Christian friends and role models, solid Biblical teaching and worship, opportunities to have fun, and a place where I was accepted despite my many shortcomings. I'm so thankful for the many blessings God continues to give me as a result of my experiences with the UCSC."

Bently Wigley,
BS 1975, MS 1977, PhD 1981, currently serving the church in Seneca, SC

"We came to the Starkville church looking for a place to 'fit in' and a place to work. We found both in the Christian Student Center. We learned about how to study the Bible, found encouragement for our faith, and decided to enter ministry full-time due to Perry and the Student Center. We made friends for life, and firmed the base of Bible understanding that we draw on daily in our faith and work. This work is making an eternal difference"

Joe and Latina Brumfield,
1994, currently serving the church in Germantown, TN

"I would not have made it through my program without all the help and support of this ministry. Prior to MSU, I had never been away from home. I will always be grateful for those who loved me and supported me during this crucial adjustment period of my life. Second, and most important, the campus ministry was a vital and integral part of my spiritual development. My rate of spiritual growth increased exponentially during my tenure at MSU. Finally, through the channel of this ministry, I was able to meet, fall in love with, and marry the most special girl in the entire world! Without question, the UCSC truly helped me to follow Jesus as a young man -- to "grow in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52). Now that I am older and have children of my own, I continue to appreciate the firm foundation that was laid during my time with the UCSC. My heart's desire is to pass that legacy on to my children as I train them in the ways of the Lord."

Todd Palmer,
1994, currently serving the church in Starkville, MS

“The UCSC was not merely a place or an organization, but a union of hearts and souls brought together with a common purpose. It provided a direction for young lives beginning life’s journey on their own for truly the first time. It helped them to find their way and became a lighthouse that helped to set them on a path of service to God and His will for the rest of their lives. From Monday night suppers through chapel devotionals on Tuesday and Thursday to dorm Bible studies, retreats, and just hanging out, it connected a group of young people searching for their place in this world that would reach into eternity. We all went our own ways and impacted communities, families, and churches around this globe. We will never forget the spiritual impact that the UCSC has had on our lives, and we will forever be blessed by the memories and lifelong bonds of Christian friendships and Spiritual foundation. UCSC – where we met lifelong friends, and even mates, and found a light for the path of service to God.”

Lee and Pat Phillips,
1981, currently serving the church in Nashville, TN

“The UCSC was, and still is, a big part of who I am today. Being on my own for the first time, I saw many worldly temptations at hand. With the support and influence from my UCSC family I became more involved with, and learned to rely on, the church which strengthened the Christian values that continue to keep me on the right path. I met my wife at the UCSC, and we now have two beautiful children. I hope that one day my children will become involved in the UCSC. It would give me great peace of mind knowing that they are surrounded by such strong Christian influences.”

Corey Cofer,
2002, serving the church in Jackson, MS

“The Starkville congregation’s commitment to campus ministry directly impacted my life. During my days at MSU and the UCSC, I began to understand who Jesus Christ really is, was baptized (1977), met my future wife (Regina Corbin), and decided to pursue full-time ministry. Now after working for nearly 30 years in other congregations which minister to college students (including international students), I still believe that there is no better way to impact our nation and our world than through campus ministry. A dedicated facility, combined with good old fashioned hospitality and love, will prove to be a blessing to MSU students throughout the future. May God continue to bless the UCSC and the Starkville congregation!”

Mike Buckley,
BS 1975, MS 1980, currently serving the church in Knoxville, TN

“The UCSC campus ministry brought me to Christ, and Skip and me to each other. I was impressed with the sincerity and devotion of the Christians at student center. The beautiful singing, the love for one another that I saw demonstrated, and the fellowship and the zeal for being true to the Bible won me over. Thus, the campus minister, students, and individuals in the church family were very instrumental in our salvation, Christian growth, and bringing us together in marriage. Today, we worship and serve through the body of Christians at the Glacier church of Christ. We have visited the Starkville church extensively during the summers, and our daughter Andrea, now 22, had the privilege of being able to join the UCSC Torch team on a Honduras trip last summer.”

Mollye and Skip Faulkner,
1982, currently serving the church in Columbia Falls, MT

“The UCSC was extremely important in my spiritual formation. Not only was it important in my study of the Bible, it was also a spiritual oasis of friends and great memories.”

Bently Goodwin,
1985, currently serving the church in Memphis, TN

“When I transferred from a Christian school to State, I was just hoping to find a good congregation. But when I became involved in the UCSC, I found blessings pressed down, shaken together and overflowing. The Student Center has made an eternal impact on my life.”

Justin Gresham,
2005, currently serving the church in Montgomery, AL

“I was skeptical coming to a state school after getting my undergraduate degree from a Christian university. The countless hours I spent at the UCSC provided me with love, support, accountability, Christian camaraderie, and exceptional spiritual growth like I had never experienced before. The continued growth and support of the UCSC is vital to future students, some of which I hope are my children!”

Hilary Gresham,
2005, currently serving the church in Montgomery, AL