

# Alumni Spotlight: Q&A with Jenna Harvey '15



*“[Kids] don't remember what you try to teach them. They remember what you are.”*

*-Jim Henson*

*Jenna Harvey is a 2015 Alum and 2016-2017 Bleckley County High School Teacher of the Year.*

**1. What attracted you to Middle Georgia State College/University?**

Since Middle Georgia College was located in my hometown, I was able to still live at home and receive a quality, affordable education. I was also a student worker at the Wellness Center; this allowed me to work and go to school. Like all my friends, I intended to attend Middle Georgia for two years then transfer to another school. Thankfully for me, Middle Georgia College became Middle Georgia State University and began offering bachelor programs; therefore, I was able to pursue my full education at MGA. This was an amazing opportunity for me because I graduated debt-free and received a degree in a field I love!

**2. Why did you choose to study education?**

As a freshman at MGA, my friends and I visited the on-campus career counselor once a week. I knew I wanted to pursue a career in the science field, yet I was not sure what exactly I wanted to do with a Biology degree. In one of the counseling sessions, the career counselor asked me what career I would choose if money was not an option, I immediately responded with teaching and started doing my research about my options in education. At the time, I was also working in an after-school tutoring program at a middle school. I realized I loved working with older children and wanted to share my passion of science with the next generation of learners.

**3. What teacher impacted you the most?**

In this after-school tutoring program where I was working, the teacher in that classroom was my eighth grade English teacher, Mrs. Tyus. She was my favorite teacher throughout school and I was honored to be able to work beside her. She taught me so much about how to be an effective teacher and she continues to help me today. Another teacher that has greatly impacted me is my cooperating teacher during my student teaching experience, Mrs. Brooks. She has also taught me how to be a great teacher; I would not have the opportunity of being the Teacher of The Year without all of her support.

**4. Since you graduated what career path have you chosen? Why?**

I graduated from Middle Georgia State with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a teaching certificate in grades 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. I received a job in the same classroom where I completed my student teaching experience, Bleckley County High School. I currently teach tenth grade physical science and eleventh grade environmental science. I also teach grades 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> in the same after-school program that inspired me to become a teacher. With these career opportunities, I have been blessed beyond what I deserve because I truly love going to work every day to hopefully make an impact on my students.

**5. How has an education at MGA benefited you professionally?**

The education program at MGA prepared me for my career. Without the strict guidance of my professors, I would not have learned all the important teaching strategies I use in my classroom today. MGA gave me all the necessary tools I need to be a successful teacher.

**6. What advice would you give someone who would like to pursue a career in your field?**

As an education major, I would always hear horror stories about how teachers do not make any money, how terrible all the state testing is, and how education has changed so much in the past few years. I would advise other people not to listen to this negativity. The field of education is a place where you can help some amazing students and discuss the subject area you love. If anyone is thinking about going into education, they should first observe some classrooms and talk with passionate teachers.

**7. Has there been some obstacles you've had to overcome in pursuit of your educational and career goals?**

I have been extremely blessed with an education from MGA where I could work to pay for my tuition and have numerous scholarship opportunities. I also was hired in the same high school I graduated from and completed my student teaching. Thankfully, I have some incredible people helping me along the way to ensure I did not have to overcome any major obstacles to pursue a career doing what I love.

**8. Finish this sentence: Greatness means (to you) .....**

It is finding something you love and doing it every day. I believe we all have a passion and a purpose that can be shared with others. We also all have a different definition of success. For me, I have found my greatness as a teacher because I do what I love every day!

**9. What is your lasting impression of MGA?**

I will always remember MGA as a place of learning and growing. I learned countless lessons and made friendships that I will never forget. I'm thankful for the many opportunities MGA led me to and also all the people that have made it possible. Middle Georgia State University was a great place for me to earn my college degree and a great place that prepared me for life after college.

**Share Your Story!**



We want to hear about the great things you're doing, personal career promotions, accolades and even marriages and new babies. You can be the next Alumni Spotlight.

Email us at [education@mga.edu](mailto:education@mga.edu)