

# Lights, camera, action

## Local grad pursues career in production

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He's never been camera shy. Shots of Todd Dickey can be found throughout the yearbooks published during his years at Burke County High School.

But these days, he's opting for the other side of the camera and putting his creative side to work in video production.

The 2003 Burke County alum has spent the past year and a half developing a video production office for Mississippi State University's Bagley College of Engineering. He works with others in the communications office to promote the college through video, publications and other outreach efforts.

This summer, Dickey had a chance to display his work on the National Mall in Washington, DC during the Smithsonian Institute's annual Folklife Festival.

He produced videos detailing the concept and process behind the college's EcoCAR team, which won a national competition for vehicles with minimal emissions and maximum fuel efficiency. His videos were shown in a kiosk when the team showcased their car at the festival.

Dickey's path to promoting the Mississippi State Bulldogs started after he earned his master's degree as a Georgia Bulldog.

He received his bachelor's degree in broadcasting production at Georgia Southern

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University, but later decided to attend the University of Georgia for graduate work in public relations. While at UGA, he also served as a student judge with for the prestigious Peabody Awards, the oldest awards program in the world for electronic media.

He maintained his interest in video and was able to seriously put it to use when he joined the team at Mississippi State. And in his new job, he gets to call the shots when it comes to his productions.

"In a lot of other jobs, I was just on the technical side," he says. "Now, I get to make the plans and see them all the way through from start to finish. As opposed to being just part of the process, I get to influence the whole process."

Dickey credits his former teachers back in Burke County with encouraging his creative side and a thirst to keep learning, especially AP history legend Karen Reeves and art teacher Sherri Barajas.

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Dickey said, adding that Mrs. Barajas always encouraged them to explore new ways of working. "Since then, I have built a green screen studio setup, tackled motion-graphic animation software and built different devices to assist with production. I'd like to think Mrs. Barajas and her encouragement to think outside the box contributed to that mindset."

And he might be a Bulldog now, but the die-hard football fan still cheers for the Bears. He was in the Dome when Burke County won its state football championship last year. During the playoff run, he was in New York City for training but listened in over the Internet when the Bears defeated Allatoona in the quarter-finals.



Contributed

Above, Dickey shows a video to students visiting the MSU EcoCAR exhibit in Washington, DC. Dickey has produced more than 20 videos for Mississippi State. Check them out at the following link or scan the quick response (QR) code with your phone.

<http://vimeo.com/channels/368748/page:1>



Dickey was voted Most Unforgettable by his high school classmates. While at BCHS, pictured at right as a senior, he competed in tennis, cross country and track and was involved in a number of student organizations such as Interact, Art Club and the Technology Student Association. Dickey, a triplet, graduated from BCHS with his brother and sister, Josh and Laurie.