2014 EMCC SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

RICK GARNER

East Mississippi Community College’s 2011 Distinguished Service Award recipient, Rick Garner began his association with the Scooba campus following his standout football career at Starkville High School. Voted the team’s Most Valuable Player and earning all-conference honors as a senior quarterback, Garner led the SHS Yellowjackets to a 10-1 record and Kiwanis Bowl victory over Ackerman as the game’s MVP. Garner then had the distinction of playing for legendary head football coach Bob “Bull” Sullivan at East Mississippi Junior College during the Hall of Fame coach’s final two seasons (1967-68) on the Scooba sidelines. Alternating with fellow Hall of Famer Randall Bradberry at the quarterback position, Garner helped lead the Lions to a two-year composite record of 15-5. EMJC’s freshman class president, who was also voted freshman class favorite, capped his junior college playing career by participating in the annual Mississippi junior college all-star football game. Garner then served his country during a two-year stint in the United States Army, which included a 14-month tour of Vietnam. Following his tour of duty, Garner resumed his college education by earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in physical education from Mississippi State University. He immediately put his degrees to work during a five-year stay as a football coach and teacher at Caldwell High School in Columbus. In 1976, Garner began a career-long association with Hollis Roofing, Inc., and currently serves as the Columbus-based company’s co-vice president and project manager. He also owns Riverhill Property Management and Real Estate, LLC in Columbus. As an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Columbus, Garner is currently on the local board of Renasant Bank in Columbus and is a former Heritage Academy school board member. He is a charter member of the Good Samaritan Medical Clinic Board of Directors. Garner is married to the former Sharon Studdard of Columbus, and they have three sons - Jarrad, Justin and Adam - along with six grandchildren.