

MC's enrollment for 2018-2019 rises

Special to The Clinton Courier

Mississippi College's Christian environment, solid academic programs and its location near home are all factors boosting MC enrollment this fall.

That's what university leaders and others are saying after school officials reported 5,138 MC students in classes as of August 30. That's up from 5,061 MC students enrolled a year ago.

"Class size is smaller," says freshman Wes Miller, 18, of Brandon. "It has the atmosphere of a big campus feel without big campus problems," says the pre-med major. "Being close to home is nice."

Early in MC's 193rd academic year, sophomore Alea Paxton, 19, of Sunflower County discovered the right place to pursue her college degree. "I like the atmosphere," said the Inverness resident during a break between classes. "It's not huge."

The uptick of students from last fall is detailed in new reports from MC's Office of the Registrar. Undergradu-

ate enrollment grew to 3,248 students, or an increase of twenty-six. Graduate student enrollment rose to 1,243 students, or up by eighty-two. Overall, with the MC Law School, master of law, physician assistant, doctoral and education specialists programs included, total enrollment is up by seventy-seven students.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Ron Howard joins colleagues applauding the enrollment gains. "We did a good job retaining students," Howard said. "We picked up in online enrollment for education, and in business graduate programs."

MC's newest online program, the master's in accountancy, is proving popular. About sixty students are signed up for classes, Howard noted.

"We are off to a good start, and expect our numbers to increase with the registration for the second fall accelerated term in October."



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Mississippi College Lady Choctaws volleyball players are part of the enrollment rise on the Clinton campus. The student-athletes are pictured at the 2018 Choctaw Fanfare last month.

Mississippi College continues to attract strong ratings in national surveys. MC is rated No. 3 in the U.S. as a top Christian college by onlinechristiancolleges.com in a listing released in late August. The survey examined costs, academic quality, graduation rates and other key measuring sticks.

Students say becoming part of the

Blue & Gold family was a terrific choice for them. Sophomore Sydney Rester, 19, of Brandon, said she felt right at home at Mississippi College after graduating from Hartfield Academy in Flowood. "Being at a Christian college definitely helps," the social work major said.

Her friend, Allee Paxton, says the university's excellent biology/pre-med program made Mississippi College an attractive choice for the Deltan. Each year, more than one hundred MC graduates enroll in medical or dental schools.

Other noteworthy areas of study include Mississippi College's physician assistant program. The thirty-month program became the first in the state in 2011. It enrolls eighty-eight students in modern facilities at the Baptist Healthplex on the Clinton campus. There were eighty-seven graduate PA students enrolled a year ago.

Sumner Hill Jr. High dads taking charge with All Pro Dad's Day

*By Clinton Public School District
Intern Lexey Monceaux.*

At Sumner Hill Junior High School, dads are coming together for All Pro Dad's Day, a monthly meeting that encourages and teaches dads or the main guardian in a student's life to embolden, connect with, and feel confident that they are loving their child well.

Organizers say that the hope of the sessions is to bring dads together with their student, to strengthen the bond that they have and to encourage open communication between the two.

Sessions are the last Thursday of each month at 4:15 p.m. at the Sumner Hill library. Meetings are forty-five minutes long and include a video, a presentation and group discussion. A different topic is discussed at each

meeting, ranging from initiative and why it's important for students to have it, to positivity and how having a positive attitude can determine success.

The All Pro Dads chapter at Sumner Hill is chaired by Dr. Corky Wicks, father of three. Wicks has a heart for bridging the gap between fathers and their children and says he hopes that through these sessions dads will have, "a chance to create some dialogue between themselves and their child and foster a chance for us as fathers to come together and connect, as well."

During the sessions, Wicks says he wants to create an equal opportunity environment where kids and adults can share their experiences and voice their truth. Fathers and family mem-



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Pictured (l to r) at a recent All Pro Dads meeting at Sumner Hill are Andy Oakes, Dr. Corky Wicks, Julius Waddell, Julian Waddell, Camron Lanyuy and Dr. Collins Lanyuy.

bers who attend the sessions say the information is priceless.

Julius Waddell, who has a son with whom he will attend, says his reason for attending is simple. "He's my guy," he said about his son. "Anything I can do to be better for him, I'm go-

ing to do it."

Wicks says the All Pro Dads resources are useful, practical tools for fathers to engage with their student, including conversation topics, activities, and advice on being a father and becoming a better husband, as well.

As students grow older, Wicks says the way they interact with their parents changes, but, "No matter what, you are a father forever."

Wicks encourages everyone to check out the website and is looking forward to engaging with more dads and their freshman at the next All Pro Dads session on September 27. More information can be found on the Sumner Hill All Pro Dads Chapter webpage at allprodadsday.com/chapters/10731.

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