



THE INAUGURATION OF DR. BLAKE THOMPSON

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Public invited to MC academic symposium during inauguration week

Special to The Clinton Courier

Mississippi College professors will be among the participants discussing Christian higher education amid changing times at a symposium on the Clinton campus.

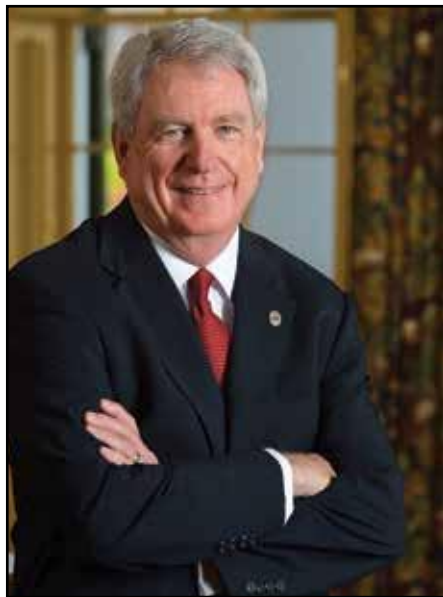
Set for March 28, the forum remains a key part of inauguration week activities for President Blake Thompson. The event at Swor Auditorium begins at 3 p.m. that Thursday, and the public is invited.

MC graduate Dr. Dan Jones, an administrator at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, will deliver the program's keynote address. The topic of his talk is "Christian Higher Education: Faith, Certainty, Questions."

Dr. Jones serves as director of Clinical and Population Science at the Mississippi Center for Obesity Research at UMMC. He holds the inaugural Sanderson Chair in Obesity, Metabolic Diseases and Nutrition on the Jackson campus. A former Ole Miss chancellor, Jones serves as a professor of medicine and physiology at the medical center located off North State Street.

His speech is designed to stimulate discussions by a panel of Mississippi College professors.

"I will encourage faculty to focus on strong MC traditions, including creative thinking, fulfillment in



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Dr. Dan Jones of the University of Mississippi Medical Center will be the featured speaker at MC's academic symposium on March 28. The event is part of the inauguration activities for new MC President Blake Thompson.

purpose and the opportunity to transform lives," Dr. Jones said.

A seasoned higher education leader, the Mississippi native became the University of Mississippi's 16th chancellor in 2009 after several years leading UMMC as vice chancellor. He's a former medical missionary in South Korea. Growing up in Vicksburg, Jones is a 1971 Mississippi College chemistry

graduate and alumnus of UMMC's medical school. He's a former member of the Mississippi College Board of Trustees.

Mississippi College faculty members believe the focus on Christian higher education will be a topic of interest to the audience. The event highlights an extensive lineup of activities celebrating Dr. Thompson's inauguration as MC's twentieth president. Founded in 1826, MC is America's second oldest Baptist college.

"We are excited about the forum and think it will have a broad appeal to the MC community," said biological sciences professor Stephanie Carmicle. She served as immediate past president of the Mississippi College Faculty Council.

Reports show a robust economic impact of Christian higher education across the U.S.

In 2018, a study from the Philadelphia-based consultants Econsult Solutions, Inc. showed that 142 Christian colleges and universities nationwide educated 445,000 students. The schools employ 72,000 faculty and staff, as well as serve 3.5 million alumni worldwide. These institutions generate more than \$60 billion in economic impact each year, says the study commissioned

for the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

Their economic impact is clearly powerful for Christian higher education institutions. But discussions at Mississippi College will put a greater focus on how these institutions are addressing faith, teaching and learning in light of society's rapid changes.

Panel members at the symposium will include education professor Stephanie Henderson, Christian Studies professor John Meadors, and business professor Amber Kaminski. Others joining the discussions include professor Angela Kupenda of the MC School of Law in Jackson and business professor Tammy Arthur. Chemistry professor David Magers will serve as the moderator.

The free event is open to students and others in the university community.

For more information on the symposium and other activities during the March 24-29 inauguration week, contact Tracey Harrison, chair of MC's inauguration committee. The MC public relations director, Harrison can be reached at 601-925-3239. A detailed schedule of all inauguration activities can be found on the Christian university's website at mc.edu/inauguration.

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Dr. Thompson**

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Dr. Thompson
& Family!**
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