

The Clinton Courier

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Future NFL Hall of Famer Drew Brees keynotes Mississippi College Scholarship Dinner

Special to The Clinton Courier

The NFL's all-time leader in passing yards, New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees will serve as the keynote speaker at Mississippi College's Spring scholarship dinner on April 30.

One of the private university's signature events, the dinners raised more than \$3.6 million for MC student scholarships since 2008.

The dinner at Anderson Hall begins at 6 p.m. that Tuesday. Earlier, Brees is expected to speak to students, and take questions from the media at a news conference.

From President Blake Thompson to students, the blue and gold family is thrilled to welcome the 2009 Super Bowl MVP-winner to the Clinton campus.

Drew Brees becomes the latest in a lineup of distinguished Americans addressing the MC scholarship banquet. Notables include former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and surgeon Dr. Ben Carson, now the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary. Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole spoke at the inaugural Mississippi College event. Last year's program

raised a record \$470,400.

"New Orleans Saints fans and the Mississippi College family are thankful that future NFL Hall of Famer Drew Brees will deliver the keynote address at MC's 2019 Spring scholarship dinner," Dr. Thompson said.

"We are pleased the Saints star quarterback will be part of an MC signature event that has raised more than \$3.6 million for student scholarships since 2008," Thompson added.

"More important than his brilliant playing career, he has lived out a life of faith and hope in New Orleans. We look forward to his inspirational message to our Mississippi College community."

Athletic Director Mike Jones is elated number nine will visit MC Choctaws Country. "What an honor it will be to have such a high-caliber athlete and human being as Drew Brees to come to our campus."

The Scholarship Dinner, Jones added, "will continue to pay great dividends for our university, especially with a sure-fire NFL Hall of Famer in Drew Brees serving as keynote speaker."



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There are strong Mississippi College links to the Saints. Former Choctaws football standout Fred McAfee is a New Orleans Saints Hall of Fame member. The Philadelphia, Mississippi native remains on the Saints staff in the personnel office.

It's been a memorable 2018-19 season for Drew Brees and the Saints.

On October 8, 2018, Brees broke Peyton Manning's all-time passing record of 71,940 yards. In a 43-19 triumph over the Washington Redskins, Drew led his team with three touchdown passes for 363 yards. His heroics before a "Monday Night Football" TV audience saw Brees boost his career mark to 499 touchdowns. He finished the game with 72,103 career yards that spans nearly forty-one miles.

"It's hard for me to reflect too much right now just because my career's not done," Brees told reporters. "There are still goals to be accomplished. There are still challenges to be met and I'm still focused on that."

First drafted in 2001 by the San Diego Chargers, Drew Brees summed up his NFL career. "It's just been an

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City welcomes full-time economic development director

Special to The Clinton Courier

Beginning yesterday (April 1), the Clinton has a new economic development director.

Gabriel Prado has been hired as the City of Clinton's first full-time director of economic development. During the March 19 meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Prado was unanimously approved by a 6-0 vote.

The City received eighteen resumes for the position. After narrowing the list to four candidates, the Alderman and two groups of citizens interviewed and unanimously agreed that Prado was the best choice.

"The hiring of Gabriel Prado gives the City someone to focus on the re-



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Gabriel Prado is the City's new director of economic development.

tail needs of our community, so that we may grow and prosper," said Mayor Phil Fisher. "After you meet him,

I believe you will agree we have an aggressive, forward thinking person representing Clinton as he works with developers and retailers, both local and national, to move us forward."

Prado comes to the City of Clinton from the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), where he has served as Protocol and Special Projects Officer since January 2016. Prior to that, Prado served as Latin America Trade Manager at MDA from December 2013 through December 2015.

Responsibilities at the Mississippi Development Authority included serving as the liaison between local, state, foreign governments, global


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