

# Clinton students receive highest academic award at Ole Miss

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University of Mississippi seniors Parker Elizabeth Maloney and Carlee Barnett Perry, both of Clinton, were among more than seventy University of Mississippi students to receive a 2019 Marcus Elvis Taylor Memorial Medal, the university's highest academic award. The students were recognized during UM's Honors Day Convocation.

Maloney is a marketing and corporate relations major in the School of Business who, at press time, was on track to graduate in May 2019. After graduation, Maloney plans to pursue a career in the marketing field, ideally in the nonprofit sector. Maloney is the daughter of Sean Maloney from Oxford and Andrea Davenport from Clinton.

Perry is a communication sciences and disorders major in the School of Applied Sciences who, at press time, was on track to graduate in May 2019. After graduation, Perry plans to continue her studies toward earning her Doctor of Audiology Degree. Perry is the daughter of Susan Perry from



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Ole Miss Interim Chancellor Larry Sparks and Carlee Perry



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Ole Miss Interim Chancellor Larry Sparks and Parker Maloney

Clinton and Charles Perry from Moss Point.

The Taylor Medals were established

at UM in 1904 by Dr. William A. Taylor of Booneville in memory of his son, an honored 1871 alumnus of the

university. The award recognizes no more than one percent of the student body each year.

## Zhang named male Athlete of the Month for May



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Kevin Zhang, tennis player, was named Clinton High School's State Farm Athlete of the Month for May. Pictured are CHS Principal Brett Robinson (left) and Zhang (right).

## Clinton among top districts on third grade reading scores

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Clinton's third graders scored among the top ten statewide on the reading state test.

"In third grade, students begin to make the transition from learning to read to reading to learn," said Dr. Tim Martin, superintendent of schools. "Research shows that, if they are unsuccessful, they will have difficulty understanding grade-level material and will be at risk of falling further behind each year."

The Literacy-Based Promotion Act requires third graders to pass a reading assessment to qualify for promotion to fourth grade. This year, the minimum benchmark to pass the test was raised, resulting in a dip in scores statewide. Statewide, 74.5 percent of third graders met the higher bar. Northside is

one of ninety-four schools in Mississippi with at least eighty-five percent of students passing the test on the first attempt.

In Clinton, eighty-eight percent of third graders passed the state mandated literacy test on their first attempt. Of the children who did not pass the test, seventeen had good cause exemptions based on learning disabilities or other special needs, putting the district percentage at ninety-two percent.

Northside administered a retest for students who did not pass the first time, and results are not yet available. Students who do not pass this retest will have one additional opportunity to take the test in July.

"Our teachers are working with these students to prepare them for success, and we fully believe that, after two retests, ninety-five-plus percent of our students will pass," Martin said.

