



LETTER from the EDITOR

Dr. Anderson
Vice President for Student Affairs

The 2018-19 academic year was a year of transition for the Division of Student Affairs, as the division welcomed me as their new Vice President. I am humbled and honored to have been selected and have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as the divisional leader. In just one year's time, we redefined our mission, restructured the division, welcomed new staff

members, and bid farewell to several long-term colleagues and friends. Today, our division is focused on developing healthy, connected and learning-focused students and communities.

I am incredibly proud of the work that the professional staff and student staff have contributed to The University of Southern Mississippi. Every day, our commitment to student success continues to grow and become stronger. As you read through *The Student Affairs Post*, I hope you will share my pride in all that we have accomplished and share my excitement for the future. It is an amazing time to be a Golden Eagle as we strive to the top!



“This is one village whose story is not unique. This is the beginning of very slow progress. Although I am honored to have contributed to this village’s educational advancement, I have realized my commitment to education cannot end there. We must continue to support education worldwide to advance and elevate our entire world.”

-Megan Wilkinson, Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life

Crider, coordinated all preparation and travel between the various entities involved with this project, including, Indiana University, Circle of Sisterhood, BuildOn, Embassy of the Republic of Malawi, and the airlines. Megan Wilkinson, Assistant Director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, and four Southern Miss students joined IU participants (five students and two advisors) for the official groundbreaking in Kasiya Village on May 23, 2019. For more than two weeks, the Southern Miss group and dozens of laborers from the Malawi region contributed to the initial construction of this project. The school will house students in grades 1-8 and is expected to be complete in approximately six months.

Soar with the Mission

Developing HEALTHY, CONNECTED and LEARNING-FOCUSED students and communities worldwide.

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

The Southern Miss Panhellenic Council collaborated with Indiana University, through the Circle of Sisterhood philanthropy, to break ground on the new BuildOn school in Katope, Malawi. Current Southern Miss student leader, CPC Vice President of Community Engagement, Callie



“The thing that impacted me the most in Malawi was the overwhelming sense of love and community that was present every second we were there. For a community that is so isolated and impoverished, it was filled with love and laughter and true happiness that I have missed each day since being back in America. The people there are filled with such curiosity and have big dreams for their lives despite having so many obstacles in their way. The country made me appreciate the luxuries in my life in every way possible.”

-Callie Crider, Junior Speech Pathology Major from Hattiesburg, Miss.

LEARNING-FOCUSED

Leadership and Student Involvement

Average GPA for student organization presidents this year was 3.471 (highest since tracking began several years ago).

SMAC leadership, Involvement Ambassadors and LSI desk assistants worked to improve their problem-solving skills. Over 70% of these students contributed to an average increase of 27% from the beginning to end of the academic year.

Sixty-five students attended this year’s annual Leadership Summit, and **all** participants agreed they learned new concepts they can apply immediately to their leadership roles and positions.

Center for Community Engagement

Students participating in the Alternative Service Break programs advanced their understanding of civic identity, societal issues and diverse perspectives, as well as their commitment to public action.

Student Employment at the Union

Supervisors at the Union engage student employees with cultivations—intentional conversations about concepts learned in the classroom. The average GPA for these students increased by 23% since the program began in 2015.

Student Counseling Services

Three graduate students received weekly individual and group-supervision experiences to enhance counseling skills and understand processes by SCS licensed counselors.



Result: Graduate students provided counseling services to 416 students during the 2018-19 academic year.

Gulf Park Student Affairs

Through fundraising efforts, the You Rock Professor of the Year Award raised \$1,200+ to create a scholarship for Gulf Park students.

Dean of Students

Dr. Eddie Holloway delivered the Commencement speech to the spring 2019 graduating class.



Housing and Residence Life

Fifty-one trained tutors and mentors provided 362 one-on-one student success sessions for over 200 residents.

Through a collaborative effort with New Student and Retention Programs, Housing and Residence Life assists with programming and facilitating four living-learning communities serving about 200 students on topics, including health sciences/nursing, biological sciences, exploratory studies and Gen Z.

Office of Disability Accommodations

The office reports a 50% increase in the number of students registered for accommodations over the last five years (647 students in spring '19).

The testing center administered more than 2,400 exams over the last academic year.



“Graduation from Southern Miss is a strong sign of competence, achievement and resilience. I encourage you to know the difference between dreaming and doing. Dreaming is great, but doing is greater.”



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Student Health Services

Student Health Services collaborated with the School of Psychology to develop a Comprehensive Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) program that addresses all levels of risk.

Primary Level of Prevention

- Developed Educational Online Module for all incoming students taking UNV courses on primary level of prevention
- Educational Online Module provides important information on AOD
- Launched a survey to assess AOD attitudes and behaviors among these students and received 400 responses

The Moffitt Health Center’s Wellness Ambassadors provided over 340 hours of service, helping to develop healthy students and communities, talking on topics such as sexual health, alcohol and stress management.

2,277
COUNSELING
SESSIONS

SCS licensed counselors and interns provided 2,277 counseling sessions for Southern Miss students.



“BASICS is an evidence-based program that reduces hazardous drinking in those at risk.”

- Lisa Wright, Health Educator, Office of Health Promotions, Moffitt Health Center



Student Counseling Services

SCS added additional access options to counseling for students seeking help. The VP for Student Affairs provided funding to hire an additional FTE staff person in Student Counseling Services, and a new “stepped care approach” initiative was launched to provide better services.



Result: Intentionally pairing students to the appropriate level of care increased the availability of SCS sessions for more Southern Miss students.

3,867
ATTENDEES

SCS counselors and interns provided 132 educational/prevention mental wellness activities on campus.

SCS introduced a new program expanding access to mental health services called Eaglecares, an international, online mental health resource offering peer support, psychoeducational resources and telecounseling.



Result: SCS did not have a waiting list during the spring 2019 semester, a first since 2014.

Campus Recreation

Nearly 500 students participated in last year’s Glow and Color runs. Watch out for these healthy events next spring!

Last year, 1,148 students participated in at least one of 39 different intramural sporting options. Forty-six percent of these students loved it so much, they played more than one sport!



OPERATIONS

Leadership and Student Involvement

Successfully began the operation of programming for the Joe Paul Student Theater, hosting over 35 movies and many more events in the first year

Campus Recreation

Recipient of the 2018 Pine Belt Public Image Award from Pine Belt PRAM (Public Relations Association of Mississippi)

- Award recognized the positive impact the Southern Miss Coca-Cola Classic Rodeo has made on the Hattiesburg community and surrounding areas.

The rodeo improves the quality-of-life for residents, provides family entertainment, and boosts tourism dollars, awareness and connection with the university through scholarship funds raised.

Union

Ten large rugs were purchased bearing the Golden Eagle logo, which were placed at all main entryways to the Union Complex. Golden Eagle logos were added to six new tables in the Union Complex.



Center for Military Veterans, Service Members and Families

Collaborated with the USM Foundation and university committees to actively prepare for construction of the new state-of-the-art Hattiesburg campus Veterans Center

- Next Phase: Development of project timeline to ultimately establish Southern Miss as one of the top “military-caring” institutions across the nation

Applying strategic recruitment efforts by focusing on national guard and other Deep South military installations

- Increased recruitment numbers to 116 in fall 2018 and 61 in spring 2019

Center for Community Engagement

Volunteer USM, under new advisement, changed structure to focus more on continuous service and facilitation of other student services.

- Four executive officers and seven subcommittee chairs are in place for the upcoming 2019-20 academic school year.

“
Volunteer USM is an organization that supports connections because any student, not just members, can join and participate in the activities, which are often held on campus, making transportation a non-requirement.
 ”
 —Christy Arrazattee, Director, Center for Community Engagement

Thank you for leaving Southern Miss better than you found it!

Dean of Students

Dr. Eddie Holloway retired after 40 years of service at Southern Miss. Doc served as dean of students for 20 of those years, making him the longest-serving dean of students at Southern Miss to date.

Ms. Alfreda Horton retired from the Dean of Students office after 29+ years of service at Southern Miss.

- Filling this vacancy is Delores McNair who was recently promoted to Assistant Dean of Students for Student Outreach and Support.

University Police Department

Chief Bob Hopkins retired after 20 years of service to Southern Miss as the chief of police for UPD, making him the longest-serving chief of police at Southern Miss to date.

- Newly Promoted Chief of Police: Rusty Keys



To learn more about staff, visit usm.edu/student-affairs.

CONNECTIONS

Gulf Park Student Affairs

Connected with the Alumni Association to host Eagle Connect and Grads and Crawdads

- 20 Gulf Park Alumni Participated in Eagle Connect
- 27 Graduates Attended Grads and Crawdads

Extended Alternative Service Break (ASB) and SMAC opportunities to Gulf Park students

Fall 2018

Three Gulf Park students and one staff member participated in the ASB trip to New Orleans.

Spring 2019

Eight Gulf Park students and one staff member participated in the ASB trip to Washington, D.C.

- SMAC hosted a movie night at the Gulf Park campus.

Reinstated inactive student organizations and chartered new groups on the Gulf Park campus

“
 Our goals were to increase involvement opportunities that support campus culture and align with academics, to build partnerships with the Alumni Association, and leverage Hattiesburg Student Affairs leadership to strengthen and enhance the student experience for both campuses.
 ”
 —Jolanda Taylor, Gulf Park Student Affairs Coordinator



BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

- The Office of Multicultural Programs and Services is moving to The Hub. Be on the lookout for the new location to provide more lounging and opportunities to connect, study and plan for future success!
- The Union Plaza between the R.C. Cook Union and the stadium is slated for renovation in the spring. Be on the lookout for new and improved venue and hangout spaces!

Campus Recreation

Successfully hosted inaugural Eagles After Hours event at the Payne Center throughout the summer during Freshman Orientation

Increased usage of the Payne Center and facilities

Housing and Residence Life

Resident assistants completed 419 active programs in the residence halls.

Average Number of Attendance: 15 students per program

- **Topics Discussed:** Academic Success, Wellness and Life Skills, Social Justice, Campus Safety, Social Events for Community-Building
- Of the 419 active programs, 35 focused on alcohol and other drug awareness, with an additional 92 passive programs focusing on the same topic.

CHECK IT OUT! School Spirit Is Coming Alive in the Student Union.

Union

The number of total lounging spaces in the R.C. Cook Union Lobby increased from 48 to 72 seats, an increase of 50%.

- The connecting stairwell between the Union Complex and The Hub has been repainted, and new furniture has been placed under the stairwell, which will allow students the ability to lounge, study or dine while they charge their devices.
- The R.C. Cook Union proudly displays 71 flags of nations represented by students of Southern Miss, both online and on campus.
- Using creative text and imagery, multiple wall graphics were installed in late June throughout the Union Complex bearing the Fight Song, Creed, Alma Mater and the ACUI “Purpose of the Union” statement.

Result: The new tables and chairs are heavily used by students, faculty and staff throughout the day and have increased the usability of the Union Complex.

Student Academic Mentors provided nearly 200 sessions for 198 students and tutors provided 164 sessions for 108 students.

- Programs: Academic Success Programs, Stress Relievers, Social Events

Partnered with Career Services to host a new program that focused on selecting the correct major for the student

- 300 students signed into the event.
- Campus Recreation provided lawn games.

Leadership and Student Involvement

- One-third of the Hattiesburg student body was involved in at least one student organization.
- Involvement Ambassadors helped to connect over 400 students to their ideal campus organization.
- The Student Government Association produced another Eaglepalooza in downtown Hattiesburg with thousands attending the event.

“
 The upgrades and additions to the Union Complex infuse school spirit and inclusivity that will increase the students’ connection to the Union, the institution and each other, while firmly establishing a sense of place for students and guests who visit the facility.
 ”
 —Jeff Taylor, Union Director

