**The Student Affairs Post**

**LEARNING-FOCUSSED**

**Leadership and Student Involvement**

Average GPA for student organization presidents this year was 3.47 (higher since tracking began several years ago).

**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.

**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.

**Dean of Students**

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

**Student Employment at the Union**

- 2,277 counseling sessions provided
- 3,867 attendees SCS counselors and interns provided 152 educational/prevention mental wellness activities on campus.

**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 UNY courses on primary level of prevention
- Educational Online Module provides important information on AOD
- Launched a survey to assess AOD attitudes and behaviors among students and received 440 responses

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

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

- Lisa Wiper, Health Educator, Office of Health Promotions, Mofee Health Center

**Soar with the Mission**

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

**The Office of the Fraternity and Sorority Life**

The Southern Miss Panhellenic Council collaborated with Indiana University, through the Circle of Sisterhood philosophy, to break ground on the new BuildOn site in Katope, Malawi. Current Southern Miss student leader, Wilkinson, Assistant Director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, and Sorority Life, and four Southern Miss students joined EU participants (five students and two advisors) for the official groundbreaking in Katope Village on May 23, 2019. For more than two weeks, the Southern Miss group and dozens of Jawhera from the Malawi region contributed to the initial construction of this school. The school will house students in grades 1-8 and is expected to be complete in approximately six months.

**“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.”**

- Sophie Wilkinson, Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life

**Housing and Residence Life**

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

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 90% increase in the number of students registered for accommodations over the last five years 947 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.”**

**Campus Recreation**

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

Last year, 1,148 students participated 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!

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

**Result:** SCS did not have a waiting list during the spring 2019 semester; a first since 2016.

**“Suppose a student has had one session with a counselor, but it’s not going well. What happens next?”**

- Lisa Wiper, Health Educator, Office of Health Promotions, Mofee Health Center

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

**“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 and the country made me appreciate the luxuries in my life and the country made me appreciate the luxuries in my life.”**

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

**“It was eye-opening and very inspiring to see how far we’ve come as a country, but I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to visit Malawi and see first-hand how much education can change the course for a family.”**

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

**Leadership and Student Involvement**

Successfully began the operation of programming for the Joe Paul Student Theater, hosting over 55 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 students, 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, which will be placed at all main entrances 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 63 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 substantive chairs are in place for the upcoming 2019-20 academic school year.

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

**Gulf Park Student Affairs**

- Connected with the Alumni Association to host Eagle Connect and Grade and Graduation
- 20 Gulf Park Alumni Participated in Eagle Connect
- 21 Graduates Attended Grade and Graduation

**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

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

**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

**Conferences**

- 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 nonrequirement.

- “Christy Amaizzle, Director, Center for Community Engagement

**University Police Department**

Chief Bob Hopkins retired after 29+ years of service at Southern Miss.

- Making him the longest-serving dean of students at Southern Miss.
- Mr. Alforda Horton retired from the Dean of Students office after 29+ years of service at Southern Miss.

- Filling this vacancy is Dr. Eddie Holloway, who was recently promoted to Assistant Dean of Students for Student Outreach and Support.

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

**Campus Recreation**

Successfully began the operation of programming for the Joe Paul Student Recreation Center, hosting over 55 movies and many more events in the first year.

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**Union**

The number of total lounging spaces in the R.C. Cook Union Lobby increased from 46 to 72 seats, an increase of 66%.

- The connecting stairwell between the Union Complex and The Hub has been repaired, 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.

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