

THE JOURNEY

THE

SEPTEMBER 2010

Mississippi College Parents Club

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YOUR BABY HAS LEFT THE NEST!

By now you may be worrying about your little baby in this big bad world or jumping for joy that you finally have one less child running around your house. Either way, sending a student to college is a big undertaking and let me be one to congratulate you on reaching this major milestone. Whether this is your last or first student to send away to college, you probably still have many questions about how things run at MC. Well, for this issue of The Journey, we want to help you better understand the Department of Student Life and how we serve your student.

Student Life is a term we use to describe Residence Life, Student Development, and Student Activities. Residence Life handles anything related to the residence halls. They are responsible for the housing staff in each residence hall and communicating the needs of that hall to the appropriate departments.

The Student Development office handles the student judicial process and addiction-intervention education in addition to intramural activities and academic and special interest student organizations. This office is also responsible for the planning of Family Weekend.

Organizations like Student Government Association, Campus Activities Board, Welcome Week Leaders, Intertribal Council, InterService Executive Council, and social tribes and club report to the Student Activities Department. In addition to overseeing Campus

Activities Board planned activities, the Student Activities Department also plans Homecoming in conjunction with Alumni Affairs. The Miss MC Pageant is hosted by this department as well.

Hopefully this will help you better understand the responsibilities of each department. In talking to these departments and their staff, they have one main point they want you to know; They are here to serve the students and make their time here at MC safe and enjoyable. One staff member mentioned that they are an advocate for the students. This is a sentiment echoed through our staff.

If nothing else, I hope this issue of the Journey, shows you that we are truly here to serve you and your student. Every member of our staff mentions the reason they have this job is because of the students. We love interacting with and learning from your students. You may not believe it right now, but students undergo a period of growth during this phase of their life. Watching and experiencing this growth along side them, is one of the most rewarding aspects of our job.

by Kristy Cline

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Mississippi College
Parents Club

NEEDS PARENT
VOLUNTEERS!

Would you like to write an article for the November Newsletter? We are always looking for volunteers to write us a little something to share with other parents. If you would like to share your MC experiences or have questions about what this might require, email mcpc@mc.edu

What Happens if My Student Gets into Trouble?

While it is true that 95% of Mississippi College students never find themselves involved in misconduct, for the 5% who do, the process can be quite unsettling. I have found that parents are often more unsettled, worried that an offense could result in loss of scholarship or expulsion. So I would like to take the opportunity to explain our process.

First, when a student is involved in an incident, he or she is issued a Summons Form, which instructs them to make an appointment to see me. The meeting is quite informal, and students are given the opportunity to hear the details of the Incident Report and make a statement. During this time, students may also receive charges. In many instances, students plead "responsible" to charges they believe they are "responsible" for and receive minimum sanctions.

The word "sanction" is a funny one; for us, it simply means a requirement. Those issued include fines; educational courses; and community service. In extreme situations, students do find themselves suspended from residence halls or expelled from the University.

Second, students always have the opportunity to appeal decisions from hearings in which they pled "not responsible" to charges. Appeals are quite rare, as most students do not contest charges.

Third, many of you may be wondering if you can speak to us about your student's misbehavior. Only when students give us permission in writing are we willing to discuss their case with you or anyone else. **(We do notify parents if their student is under 21 and found "responsible" for violating the University's alcohol policy.)** I encourage you to allow your student to work through the process, as this is a part of growing up. I received two parking tickets while in South Carolina this summer. They were my first tickets ever, and I was appalled. But I can honestly say that even at twenty-seven, it was a learning experience.

Finally, I am committed to treating students fairly and with the utmost dignity. No matter what a student has done, he or she can count on Christian principles being applied throughout the process. This does not mean that we will excuse misbehavior, and it does not mean that students will be satisfied with the outcome. But it does ensure that Christian kindness will be a component.

All the best,

Joseph Learned Odenwald,
Coordinator of Student Development

Do you have any questions about the Judicial process or questions for Joseph?

Maybe you just have an opinion you would like to share, Send them in to MCPC@mc.edu You just might find your question or response printed in the next JOURNEY!

Upcoming Dates You Don't Want to Miss!

Fall Break 10/4-10/5

no classes, but residence halls will remain open

Homecoming 10/15-10/16

don't miss out on Follies!

www.alumni.mc.edu/homecoming

Arsenic and Old Lace

10/21- 10/24

contact 601-925-3440 for tickets

Football Game 10/30

you should come tailgate with us before it is too late!

www.mc.edu/tailgating

Tribe & Club Informals & Formals

11/5 - 12/4

please be praying for our students as they travel to their various destinations

Fall Preview Day: 11/13

LAST HOME FOOTBALL GAME

Thanksgiving Break

11/24-11/26

all MC offices closed, residence halls close at 9am on 11/24 and reopen 11/28 at 2pm

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

12/1- 12/7

contacts 601-925-3229 for tickets

Dead Days 12/6-12/8

12/8- last day classes & night exams begin

Study Day 12/9

no classes, reserved for studying

Final Exams 12/10 - 12/14

they'll be here before your student realizes it and yes they do have exams on Saturday!

Residence Halls Reopen 1/6

halls open at 2pm

Spring Classes Begin 1/10

Note: for complete athletic schedule go to: www.gochoctaws.com

Residence Life - Frequently Asked Questions:

Residence Life encourages you to encourage your student to talk to their Resident Assistant (RA) or Resident Director about any problems they may be having. Often the problems are minor and can be resolved quickly if your student will take the time to mention it to a member of Residence Life.

Maintenance Requests:

Buildings around MC aren't new, and that is part of their charm, except when something your student needs is broken. Odds are your student has had a problem with their air or heat and maybe even plumbing already. You can't submit maintenance request for your student, but you can encourage them to follow our process.

Maintenance requests can be submitted online via www.mc.edu/repairs. Your student needs to be as specific as possible. For example, the outlet near the cable connection is blown as opposed to the outlet doesn't work. When your student is very specific with their request, maintenance can address the repairs more quickly. If the maintenance issue hasn't been addressed in three business days, they should submit the request again. If they are having difficulties with the online submission form or want to make sure that their request is addressed, your student can always contact their Resident Assistant (RA).

As mentioned earlier, heat and air problems are quite common in residence halls. However, it is impossible to accommodate everyone's preferences when it comes to a common temperature. All buildings are set on a standard temperature, based on the season, and regulated by our physical plant. Some buildings do have controls in each room, which allows the student to control the fan output, but not the actual temperature of the room. The most

common complaint year-round is that the buildings are too warm. We encourage residents to invest in a personal fan to help with the temperature regulation in their room. Having said that, if your student does experience problems with the temperature in their room, please advise them to notify Residence Life through a maintenance request or if it's a continual problem to contact a Residence Life staff member.

Roommate Problems or Room Change Requests:

Maybe your student has shared a room their whole life with a sibling or maybe they have never shared a room before. Either way, your student is bound to encounter roommate conflict. We have seen it all, from best friends since kindergarten to potluck roommates that just cannot communicate with each other and need assistance, maybe even mediation, to be able to continue to live together.

The first step in our policy for roommate problems is for your student to notify their RA. Even if your student doesn't think they can work it out with their roommate or wants to change rooms, they must start with their RA. The RA's initial step is to talk with both parties and see if they can encourage them to communicate to each other and determine the source of their conflict. At this point, our goal is to work with your student on developing their communication skills as well as working with people who may be very different from themselves.

After the RA and both residents have made an effort to address the conflict, the Resident Director (RD) may become involved. If a solution or compromise does not seem likely, the RD can then consider a room change pending available space in the residence hall. In extreme cases, this process can be sped up, but that usually requires action from the Housing Assignment Coordinator.

Visitation

Just in case you didn't notice, we don't have co-ed residence halls. We do have designated Visitation Hours, where visitors of the opposite gender are allowed in the residence halls, and there are guidelines they must follow.

Visitation Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 8pm to 11pm. That is everyday except Sunday and Wednesday. We do have a lobby area in most residence halls for your student to entertain guests between the hours of 6pm and 12am every day except Wednesday.

SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS:

Are you going to be on campus for Homecoming? Then consider buying a pancake breakfast ticket from our Women's Basketball Team. For more information simply email mcpc@mc.edu

Now that we have the hours out of the way, let's talk about the rules. First off, opposite gender guests must enter and exit through the lobby entrance. For general lobby rules, students are allowed to visit, study, work on class project, watch TV, etc. We do have Desk Assistants that monitor the lobby areas.

During Visitation Hours, students are allowed to take their guest to their room, given their roommate doesn't have any provisions. Guests still enter and exit through the lobby as well as sign in and out with the Desk Assistant. Guests must have a photo ID to sign in and must leave that ID with the Desk Assistant until they exit the building. When checking in, residents must notify Desk Assistant of room number or other location (i.e. kitchen) where they and their guest can be found. In the instance the resident and guest change locations (i.e. move to a friend's room to watch a movie) they must notify the Desk Assistant of that change. Residents and their guest must keep the door to their room open. In addition, residents should be with their guests at all times. Under no circumstances should a guest be walking, unescorted down the hallway or back to the lobby.

Student Curfew

Many parents and students ask about a curfew. MC doesn't have a student curfew policy. Students are allowed to come and go as they please; they do have to obey quiet hours when they return to or are on campus between the hours of 10pm and 8am.

One Last Note...

Our policies are in place with your student's best interest in mind and wherever possible we try to make allowances for students who aren't quite ready for adult responsibilities. Having said that, it's okay for your student to make a few mistakes; that is what college is for. College years are a time of growth and self discovery; you can truly be proud when your student takes that first step of independence knowing that you facilitated that transformation. If you still have questions about any of these topics or any other residence life related topic, please email your question to mcpc@mc.edu.

A Little Bit About Your Sponsor...

Hi, I'm beginning my sixth year at MC, all of which I have worked with Residence Life and Student Affairs. I'm an '09 MC Chemistry grad and will complete work on a Masters of Education degree at MC in May '11. This year I currently serve as a Resident Director in East Tower working with the freshmen girls. In addition to MCPC, I'm also the Coordinator for Parent and Alumni Tailgating. I love working with college students, and can't wait to get to know you as well!

Kristy Cline

FAMILY WEEKEND SUCCESS

Check out these photos from the Family Weekend Tailgate. If you joined us for Family Weekend, let us know how we did! If there is something you wish went differently, let us know! Share your experiences and criticisms with us at mcpc@mc.edu.

Would you like to tailgate with us next time? check out www.mc.edu/tailgating

Interested to see what the Quad looks like right now?

check out the live feed of the MC Quad at www.mc.edu/quadcam

