

The Journey

SEPTEMBER 2011

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Special thanks to the following people for their help with this issue:

Joseph Odenwald
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Family Weekend 2011

October 7th and 8th will be exciting days on the Mississippi College campus, as we celebrate Family Weekend. The “funtivities” scheduled for Friday evening include a Student Talent Show followed by an ice cream fellowship on the BCR Plaza, a new area between Nelson Hall and the Caf.

Saturday’s schedule is chock full of events. Mothers of girls in tribes are invited to attend breakfasts with their daughters. Parents with students not in tribes are invited to attend a brunch and devotional with Dr. Wayne Van Horn, Dean of the School of Christian Studies and the Arts. The afternoon features the tailgate; the book bazaar; a meal on the Quad; *Guys and Dolls*; and a host of athletic events.

We hope you plan to join us for Family Weekend, and we want you to take advantage of as many events as you wish, but it is not our intention to sell you tickets to activities you do not want to attend. With this in mind tickets for events are sold individually. You should have received a brochure in recent weeks with a full schedule and an order form. If not, you can reg-

ister and purchase tickets at the link below. Also, if you are interested in tailgating, the second link will enable you to register your spot on the Quad.

See you at Family Weekend,

Joseph Learned Odenwald,
Assistant Director of Student Life for Student Development

<https://www.mc.edu/familyweekend>

<http://www.mc.edu/parents/tailgating/>

A Little Bit About Your Sponsor...

I’m beginning my fifth year at MC, four as an undergraduate and my first year as a graduate student and professional staff for Student Life. I’m a 2010 Christian Studies grad and will begin work in the Spring toward a Masters of Divinity degree with NOBTS and an ELL certification with MC. I am currently the Resident Director in Chrestman working with freshman men. In addition to MCPC, I also assist Joseph Odenwald with Parent and Alumni Tailgating. My heart is to invest in college students to further the Kingdom. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help you or your student while here at MC.

Seth Brill
Chrestman Resident Director/
Student Life Assistant

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.

Upcoming Dates You Don't Want to Miss!

Fall Break 10/3-10/4

- No classes, but residence halls will remain open

Guys & Dolls 10/6-10/9

- Contact 601.925.3440

Family Weekend 10/7-10/8

- Brochures coming in the mail!

Homecoming 10/21-10/22

- Don't miss out on Follies: www.alumni.mc.edu/homecoming

Fall Preview Day 11/5

- Last home football game

Tribe & Club Informals & Formals 10/28-12/3

Thanksgiving Break 11/23-11/27

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever 12/11-12/4

- Contact 601.925.3935 for tickets

Dead Days 12/5-12/7

- 12/7 last day of classes & night exams begin

Study Day 12/8

- No classes, reserved for studying

Final Exams 12/9-12/13

Graduation 12/16

Christmas Break 12/14-1/4

Residence Halls Reopen 1/5

- Halls open at 2PM

Spring Classes Begin 1/9

Note: For complete athletic schedule go to: www.gochactaws.com

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 p r o c e s s .

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 s a n c t i o n s .

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. 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.

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All the best,

Joseph Learned Odenwald,

Assistant Director of Student Life for Student Development

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

Residence Life - Frequently Asked Questions:

So, we know your student is in college, but sometimes they may ask you these questions before they even ask our staff. We encourage you to remind them to talk to their Resident Assistant (RA) about any problems they are having first. Often these are really minor and can be resolved quickly if they will only mention it to our staff.

Maintenance Requests:

Buildings around MC aren't new, and that's part of their charm, except when something you need 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 remind them of our procedure.

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 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 RA!

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 suggest that your student 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 us.

Roommate Problems or Room Change Requests:

Maybe your student has shared a

room their whole life with a sibling or maybe they haven't shared so much as a inch of space in their life. Either way, your student is bound to encounter roommate conflict. We've seen it all, from best friends since kindergarten to potluck roommates that just can't communicate with each other and need assistance, maybe even mediation, to be able to continue here at MC.

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 the source of their conflict. At this point our goal is to work with your student on 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 doesn't seem likely, the RD can then consider a room change pending available space in the residence hall.

Visitation:

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

Visitation Hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 8pm to 11pm. That is every day except Sundays and Wednesdays. 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.

Now lets talk about the rules. First, opposite gender guests must enter and exit through the lobby entrance. General lobby rules are in place to ensure that students will have a good environment to visit, study, work on class project, watch TV, etc. We do have Desk Assistants that monitor the lobby areas and ensure that PDA and noise is kept to a minimum and all lobby activities are PG rated.

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, and PDA to a minimum. Also, 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...

We realize that you care for your student and want to help them; however, it is best to try to let them handle housing issues on their own. It is very tempting for parents to pick up the phone, call our office, and try to resolve issues for their student. We suggest that your resist this temptation and allow them the chance to grow a little, take that path to becoming an adult and deal with real world issues. 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, its 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; please allow your student the chance to fall and pick themselves back up all on their own.

If you still have questions about any of these topics or any other residence life related topic, please email your questions to mcpc@mc.edu.