FEAT U R E S

NEW MAROON CAMP

Check out MSU’s latest campus tradition

HCDC EXPANDED!
See the transformation that took Holmes Cultural Diversity Center from 1,875 to 3,475 square feet.

A L S O  I N C L U D E D: MSU on the Move
ACCESS Program
Student Perspectives

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CONTENTS

New Maroon Camp | PAGE 3
NMC welcomes over 900 students to Mississippi State as they learn about MSU history and traditions while developing deeper relationships with their peers before classes start for Fall 2017.

Student Well-Being | PAGE 5
MSU on the Move | Funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi, MSU on the Move is a program that focuses on giving campus life an opportunity to get active and healthy.

Anxiety Toolbox | Student Counseling Services develops a workshop series to help MSU students cope with their anxiety symptoms through cognitive behavior therapy.

Living-Learning Communities | PAGE 9
Allows for students who share common interests to live and grow together during their adjustment into college.

ACCESS | PAGE 11
Mississippi State University ACCESS, the only program of its kind in the state, delivers a transition experience for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Student Leader Highlights | PAGE 15
Q & A with the newly appointed emergency manager - Brent Crocker.

Emergency Management | PAGE 19
HCDC Expansion | PAGE 21
The new renovation of the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center has increased not only the space, but the services that the center can provide to all students across campus.

Student Affairs Graduate Program | PAGE 23
Provides students with the opportunity to advance their careers in higher education by focusing on a comprehensive model of leadership in higher education and student development.

Departmental Accomplishments | PAGE 26

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Mississippi State University’s New Maroon Camp is a five-day, four-night student-led retreat that prepares first-year students for the transition to higher education. At New Maroon Camp, students learn what it really means to be a Mississippi State Bulldog. This includes giving students the opportunity to experience and learn about MSU history and traditions; meet other incoming students; and gain insight on campus life. Campers also move into their residence hall 5 days early. Mississippi State prides itself on being a family, which is something New Maroon Camp instills in incoming freshmen by placing each student in one of five family groups. In these family groups, students will participate in team competitions and group discussions, allowing them to develop deeper relationships with their counselors and peers before classes even begin.

In 2014, New Maroon Camp began with a staff of 20 students. Today, over 300 students apply to be NMC staff. To become a staff member, students go through an application process, a group interview, and an individual interview to ensure the best people for the job are chosen. Of those 300, 102 are chosen and broken down into the following: 70 counselors, 23 programming staff members, and 9 executive staff members. This group of students meets once a week for the entirety of the Spring semester before New Maroon Camp and is responsible for aspects of camp including Directing, Marketing, Programming, Training, Counselor and Student Selection, Assessment, and Budget and Administration.

The number of students enrolled in New Maroon Camp has increased tremendously since the beginning in 2014. The 2017 New Maroon Camp has over 900 students enrolled. Attending New Maroon Camp has lasting benefits for first-year students. Students who attended so far have higher GPAs, less class absences than those who did not attend, and the retention rate for students who attend is 85.3%. NMC has a goal to continue to grow its program and make the transition from high school to MSU a smooth one for all who participate.

BY WHITNEY REYNOLDS

GIVING OPPORTUNITY: Every year NMC gives out program scholarships so that all students who want to can participate.

To find out more information or to donate: please visit, saffairs.msstate.edu
MSU ON THE MOVE

MSU on the Move is Mississippi State University’s healthy living initiative funded by a grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation. This program is led by the Department of Health Promotion and Wellness in collaboration with University Recreation, Dining Services, and the Maroon Volunteer Center. MSU on the Move provides more opportunities for campus life to engage in healthy activities related to physical fitness, nutrition, and overall wellness.

This year, MSU on the Move added to the one mile running path around Chadwick Lake with an installation of new outdoor fitness equipment which includes pull-up bars, hydraulic resistance exercise equipment, and sit-up benches. The equipment is open to the whole community of Starkville and builds on the goal of getting people outdoors and active. In addition to the new equipment, MSU on the Move added more group programs such as Healthy Dawgs, Women on Weights, WalkFit, and Nutrition Express. The health initiative has provided the university more opportunities and access for free fitness. Leah Pylate, Director of Health Promotion and Wellness, says, “The grant has allowed us be intentional on how we change our culture. Everything we do through MSU on the Move is strategically planned to bring about a healthier community in Starkville.” The program has just finished its third year at Mississippi State and the university has been awarded year four of the grant with plans of growing the program and the possibilities for a healthier campus life.

For more information about MSU on the Move: please visit, msuonthemove.msstate.edu
This past spring a new workshop from Student Counseling Services launched, titled Anxiety Toolbox, an educational and skills workshop for students on how to cope with their anxiety symptoms.

The Anxiety Toolbox, is a fast-paced, 3 session workshop series to help students increase their understanding and knowledge of anxiety. The goal is to provide students with the skills and tools they need to recognize and manage their symptoms of anxiety in their daily lives. This is a broad workshop series that is based on cognitive behavior therapy by helping students remove the thoughts and emotions that trigger their anxiety. Students receive workshop instruction from trained staff members at the counseling center and a workbook that includes practice exercises that students can do on their own time at home, as well as useful tips on coping with anxiety. The workshops are predominantly skills-based training for teaching students the skills they need to process anxiety in real-life situations while in a comfortable environment.

Forty-five students completed the workshop series this past spring. Staff counselor Kären Brandon said, “The feedback from students who have completed the workshops has been overwhelmingly positive.” In a post-workshop survey of students who completed all three workshops, 93.2% had learned to effectively address their concerns and 93.3% of students would recommend Anxiety Toolbox to a friend. Kären adds, “Anxiety Toolbox helps the well-being of the student population by teaching students how to remove the barrier of anxiety so they can be the best students they can be.”

93.2% of students had learned to effectively address their concerns

For more information about Anxiety Toolbox: please visit, health.msstate.edu/scs
Mississippi State University offers 8 special Living-Learning Communities for students living on campus. These communities bring together groups of students who share a common interest, and help them bond as they pursue their goals throughout their first year. Students who participate attend one or more academic classes together while living in the same residence halls. This helps the students develop a greater interest for their school work while creating friendships and connections inside and outside the classroom that will last a lifetime. Mississippi State brought this program to campus as a way to help students acclimate to a large university setting.

Laura Dunn from the Student Success Center explains, “When a student comes to a big university it is easy for them to feel lost, and a Living-Learning Community provides students a network of friends who have similar academic interests and work ethic. In addition, teachers who are a part of the program want to see students be as successful as possible. Students who go through the program have a deeper sense of passion for their school work, and they have a group of friends who they know they can rely on for support.”

The programs that offer Living-Learning Communities include:

- Bagley College of Engineering
- College of Architecture, Art and Design
- College of Business and Adkerson School of Accountancy
- Day One Leadership
- Shackouls Honors College
- College of Forest Resources
- PGA Golf Management
MSU ACCESS PROGRAM

BY WHITNEY REYNOLDS

Since 2010, the ACCESS program has grown from 1 student to 16 students in Fall 2017. This program has even grown within the last year by 7 students. Katherine Phillips was the first student to be in the ACCESS program in 2010. Katherine’s parents wanted her to have a college experience without being too far away from home. At the same time Julie Capella, Director of Student Support Services, was approached by MSU President Dr. Mark Keenum about starting a new program. “Dr. Keenum asked me to go to George Mason University to see their program, Mason Life, and see if we thought that a program like Mason Life would fit at MSU,” Capella says. “Thus we began.” Since then, ACCESS has joined around 200 other programs of this nature around the country. MSU ACCESS was named a Comprehensive Transition Program in Spring 2017, with only 50 of these programs existing in the country.

MSU ACCESS is the only program in Mississippi that provides a transition experience for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities (ID). The students enrolled in the program are required to take a minimum of 12 hours of coursework each semester. Students meet with an academic advisor to plan their schedule with courses that reflect their interests and career goals, as well as courses in life skills.

“We plan to grow the program to meet the needs of those students who apply and are good fits for the program. This last spring we turned away as many students as we accepted for the freshman class,” Capella says. “It is a highly competitive process.”
One random weekend during the fall semester, after being home, I took Spencer back to college and it still amazed me that I was dropping him off at college…by himself! Then I ran into a few other parents that I know and they were doing the same thing; dropping their kids off, taking them grocery shopping, etc. and it hit me like a ton of bricks. We’ve never really done things like ‘normal’ parents where Spencer has been involved, and now we are. I’m not ashamed to admit that I cried all the way back to Tupelo. It was an incredibly powerful moment.

-Revan Kirkpatrick

Q: What is your student’s name and how long have they been involved with ACCESS?
Spencer Kirkpatrick, a sophomore

Q: What made you and your student choose Mississippi State University?
First, Spencer really wanted to move out and go to college like his older brother had done and also like his high school friends were doing. We are fortunate that MSU has the ACCESS Program because he grew up a huge MSU fan. Secondly, we were looking for an opportunity for him to gain a level of independence that he wasn’t going to get by living at home. We wanted more options for his future than what was available after high school graduation.

Q: What are some of the positive aspects about ACCESS that you have seen?
Beside us (his parents), the instructors, coaches & mentors with the ACCESS Program are the first ones to ever advocate on Spencer’s behalf. By that I mean seeking opportunities to expand his horizons, experiences and to help in his independent living skills. They’re always on the lookout for new opportunities, and then they work and fight to make them happen. Instead of being told of his limitations, we’re now being told of his possibilities. Any idea of how refreshing that is to parents of a special needs child?

Q: How has this program influenced your student, your family, and you?
The growth Spencer has shown is really amazing in the short amount of time he has been at MSU. The level of independence, responsibility and critical decision making he started to exhibit during his first semester was something we thought might happen in his sophomore year. The ACCESS Program has given us hope for Spencer’s future that we never had prior. We (his parents) have also gotten a level of independence that we’ve never really had before the program.
STUDENT LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Chris Ramirez, a senior Broadcast Meteorology major from Houston, Texas, is an active member of the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center and sits on the Executive Committee for the Latino Student Association, founded in 2015. Chris decided to get involved with HCDC because he wanted to connect with other students of similar cultural backgrounds as well as learn about the other cultures and the diversity that exists at MSU. Chris’s favorite part about HCDC is the welcoming atmosphere of the office. During his free time Chris loves to hangout in the center and get to know the other students. When asked about the opportunities that HCDC has given, Chris says, “Being a leader for HCDC, I have gained valuable skills on leading an organization, working effectively with other students, and collaborating with other organizations and departments, as well as gaining experience in planning events. I have learned so much about other cultures and the various upbringings of the many students in HCDC.” Chris is involved in planning Salsa in the Streets and LSA’s Noche Latina event. These big events give students the chance to learn more about Latin American culture and try some delicious food from other countries. HCDC has given Chris a sense of family while he has been away from home. He encourages any other students looking to get involved to become a leader within HCDC, and not to hesitate because they will be welcomed with open arms!

Tyler McMurray, Student Association President, is looking to a healthier, greener Mississippi State University. This past year, with the help of former Student Association President, Roxanne Raven, a $100,000 fund was received from the Office of the President. With this fund, $20,000 was allocated toward making MSU a little more environmentally friendly. The funds were used to create the Campus Garden and compost pile. Along with these additions, many recycling bins were updated over campus. The remaining $80,000 of the fund went to improving the health of MSU through fitness. These funds were used to replace older machinery and renovate areas within the Sanderson Center. Tyler has big plans for the future, focusing on campus issues. She says, “For this upcoming year, we also hope to tackle a few of the most pressing issues on campus, such as a more efficient bus system, mental health awareness, cheaper laundry in the residence halls and healthier dining options for students.”

The Student Association is also working on an online syllabus bank for students to access to improve the academic environment. Tyler hopes to also improve the social environment on campus with the passing of a new bill that allows students from different organizations to run for Senate. The Student Association passed this bill, “with hopes that this will make the SA more inclusive to the diverse student population,” according to Tyler. Positive changes are in the favor of Mississippi State University through Tyler’s hard work.
Jowontae Anthony

“Try everything,” he says. “I guarantee a great experience and they [students] will make friends that will last a lifetime.”

Personal Trainer, Jowontae Anthony is a Graduate student studying School Counseling with a passion for fitness. “Fitness is a huge part of my life and the Sanderson Recreation Center has been a place for students to become personal trainers and work in a great environment,” he says. “It also is a place where I met many of my friends and where I see students working and playing together.” Jowontae spends most of his time working in the fitness center teaching high interval training classes such as Amped. His time at the Sanderson has provided Jowontae with a chance to connect with many people young to old and even members of the MSU teaching staff.

Jowontae’s favorite part about working at the Sanderson is the atmosphere, he explains, “I love going there and being greeted by the staff. Everyone is always friendly and willing to help with anything.” His advice to students and community members is simply to come and explore the center. “Check out the customer service desk for a tour and don’t be afraid to ask a staff member for help,” he says.

Hannah Holetz

Hannah Holetz not only works for the Maroon Volunteer Center, but is an active volunteer as well. Hannah, a Junior Psychology major, takes pride in all of the resources MSU has offered her, especially the MVC. She says her favorite thing about her job is working with her co-workers and interacting with diverse groups of people during the events hosted by Maroon Volunteer Center.

“My favorite event that we host every year is The Big Event.” Hannah says. “Hundreds of students come together and work at several different service sites across the region.” Each year the Maroon Volunteer Center coordinates The Big Event, and Hannah is able to play a staff role in its development.

“It is always incredible to see so many people come together within our community to participate in our big day of service.”

Hannah says. Hannah also loves the service projects that the Maroon Volunteer Center coordinates on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. “On MLK Day 2017, I had the opportunity to work at one of the local volunteer sites,” says Hannah. “I worked at the Christian Women’s Job Corps in downtown Starkville where I helped paint a room where classes would be held for local women in our community.” The MVC helps students, like Hannah, find ways to better their community and work together to achieve a common goal.

Charles Pearman

Charles Pearman is a junior Electrical Engineering major at Mississippi State. However, his career started by serving his country in the Navy from 2008-2014. During his time in the service, Charles trained and served as a linguist in Mandarin. He worked on a joint service operation as a radio telephone operator, was promoted to advance operator, and then to team supervisor. His non-operational duties included training petty officer, physical training leader and muster petty officer. He finished out his final year of service as a lead training officer, and was honorably discharged in April 2014 at the rank of Petty Officer Second Class (E-5).

He currently works for the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Center for America’s Veterans in their new building, Nusz Hall, and serves as the President of the Student Veterans Association. At the veterans center, Charles loves being able to help student-veterans and dependents as they earn their degrees at Mississippi State University. Charles has learned about the variety of resources in higher education available to veterans, just like him, and passes this information to his peers to help them in the best way possible. Charles’ favorite thing about MSU is the great support and respect the university shows veterans and military affiliated students.

“I believe Mississippi State University is one of the greatest schools for veterans, active duty, reserve/guardsmen, dependents and survivors,” said Charles.
The Division of Student Affairs has created the new position to help facilitate the university’s preparation for various emergency situations, from severe weather threats to how to respond to a campus-wide crisis. Other duties include updating university policies, developing and implementing emergency exercise schedules on campus, assisting departments with drills, and conducting threat and risk assessments. This position works in cooperation with a variety of different external agencies including Oktibbeha County Emergency Management, Mississippi Department of Emergency Management, and Mississippi Department of Homeland Security as well as the university’s colleges and divisions. It is also the emergency manager’s responsibility to update the university’s Emergency Operations Plan and educate the campus and Starkville communities on changes.

Brent answered some questions about his new position and what he would like to accomplish in his new role.

WHAT IS THE POSITION?
The position focuses on helping the university be prepared for a variety of emergencies by coordinating with other agencies in Starkville in order to plan effectively for those situations. I also focus on training faculty and staff for emergency situations, as well as how to recover from these situations.

WHAT DO YOU WANT OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS POSITION?
I want others to know that I am interested in working with other departments to address any concerns or provide training they feel they need. I am always available for contact with any questions that anyone would like addressed.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED IN THIS ROLE?
Currently we are working on reviewing and updating policies and procedures on campus. We want to see the university well trained and informed as best as possible. We want people to have a stake in how they respond to an emergency situation.

WHY DOES MSU HAVE THIS POSITION?
We have learned that large scale emergency situations require more resources and involvement than what the university itself can provide on hand. My duty is to get outside help from different agencies such as the Oktibbeha County Sheriff’s Office or Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. If there is an emergency situation I am the main point of contact between the agencies which can focus on addressing any concerns that they may have.

HOW WOULD YOU APPROACH AN EMERGENCY SITUATION?
I would let the people who are highly trained and specialized in handling the situation take the lead. I’ll ask them what resources they need; if we are having any communication problems essentially my job is to make sure everyone has what they need to properly handle an emergency situation.

“We want people to have a stake in how they respond to an emergency situation.”
-Brent Crocker

BY SERENA COLVIN

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
The Holmes Cultural Diversity Center has always been an important part of showcasing the rich diversity of cultures that contribute to campus life at Mississippi State University. In Spring 2017, through the leadership and support of MSU President Dr. Mark E. Keenum, the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center celebrated the opening of their newly expanded student center. Ra’shedea Boddie-Forbes, Assistant Vice President for Multicultural Affairs, explains the reason for the expansion. “At Mississippi State the student population is becoming increasingly more diverse every year. With those increasing numbers there needed to be a space to accommodate our students. There needed to be a place for students to build relationships with other students, faculty, and staff while being in a comfortable environment.”

Construction was completed in February, increasing the old center space by 85 percent from 1,875 to 3,475 square feet. The addition, which includes a conference room, lounge area, quiet rooms for students to study or do homework, as well as a cubicle for every HCDC organization, provides the 11 student organizations that call the center home to now have an office space to conduct their business.

HCDC is looking forward to expanding its services for all students across campus to use the new space for fostering relationships and learning from one another.

Holmes Cultural Diversity Center partnered with the President’s Commission on the Status of Minorities to host the 2017 Diversity Conference: Our Voices. With over 100 participants, conference attendees learned how to use their voice to be a source of power and strength for creating an environment of inclusiveness in higher education.

Continuing efforts to assist students with meeting their financial needs, HCDC and the Career Center partnered to host the Work Study and Jobs Campus Fair. Over 1,000 students attended the event resulting in a 38% increase from the previous year.

Partnering with the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, the Center hosted the first ever Racial Reconciliation Forum for Faith-Based Leaders to engage in truthful intergroup dialogue moving toward reconciliation, healing, and social wellness. Participants walked away with goals and strategies for creating an inclusive environment in their community.

For more information about the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center: please visit, union.msstate.edu/hcdc.
The Student Affairs & Higher Education Graduate Program at Mississippi State University has a rich history shaped through the many faculty and staff who have been involved since its origins in 1971.

In 1971-1972, Student Affairs & Higher Education began as Guidance Education, which later became Counselor Education. When MA and PhD programs in Student Affairs/Higher Education began, they were both housed in Counselor Education with small class sizes. There were two options: counseling and vocational rehabilitation counseling. From fall 1972-spring 1992, 304 students registered in COE 8243, the first introductory student affairs course, for an average of 10 students per class.

The Student Affairs concentration in Counselor Education began in 2000 and started with roughly 6 students per year. Over time, however, the program grew to about 13-16 students per year. The transition from Counselor Education to Educational Leadership took place in 2015 to provide a wider spectrum of learning outside of counseling. In 2016, Dr. Leonard Taylor was hired on as a full-time faculty member in Educational Leadership joining the existing Program Coordinator and full-time faculty member, Dr. Danielle Molina. This year, the Student Affairs concentration officially moves to the Educational Leadership Master's Program and will enroll 18 students in the first-year cohort.

For more information about the Student Affairs Graduate Program: please visit, cep.msstate.edu/programs/grad/sa.php

Dr. Leonard Taylor, Assistant Professor in Student Affairs & Higher Education, comes to Mississippi State University from the University of Minnesota where he was the Director of Higher Education and Redesign, as well as a research associate in the leadership minor. Moving to Starkville was only his second time to be in Mississippi, the first being the interview for the position. He immediately found Mississippi State University authentic and charming with an ethic of care. He is becoming acquainted with southern hospitality and loving it. He is finding the atmosphere of Starkville and MSU very refreshing.

Leonard attended the University of Wisconsin as an engineering major. He found that he enjoyed leadership and having the opportunity to help people learn and grow. He came to the realization that engineering did not fit as well as he had hoped, so he changed his major. An advisor and mentor suggested he look into student affairs, and it was the perfect fit!

This year, Leonard has a goal to simply be a good teacher and to help move the program forward. He also aspires to become more involved in the community as well as with students, faculty, and staff on campus. He is definitely looking forward to this year’s football season and attending games. More importantly, he is ready to try some MSU cheese, milk, and ice cream; he is in for a treat! Leonard is a jack of all trades with hobbies in painting, roller blading, and knitting. We may have a star in our midst, as this fall, Leonard will be hosting a show on the History Channel called Found. New to Starkville, Leonard is always looking for recommendations of restaurants and fun places to visit.

By Whitney Reynolds

Dr. Leonard Taylor
Assistant Professor in Student Affairs & Higher Education
Welcome to our inaugural edition of Maroon Traditions!

We are excited to share some highlights from the past year, featuring our outstanding students and dedicated staff. These stories emphasize our commitment to student learning and engagement, student safety & well-being, and celebrates the many traditions that make Mississippi State a place our students feel like they belong. I want to take a moment to especially thank Katie Corban and her group of outstanding students who put this magazine together. Every story, many of the photos, and the layout were all done by her group. We are so fortunate to have Katie and these awesome students as part of our team.

The Division of Student Affairs at Mississippi State continues to grow and change as the needs of our student body also grow and change. We appreciate the support of the parents of our current and former students, alumni, former student leaders, and many others who provide financial support to the Division through the MSU Foundation. We hope this publication gives you a glimpse at the incredible students we have the privilege to work with every day and the impact Student Affairs programs and services have on our student body.

Hail State! Regina

Dr. Regina Young Hyatt, Vice President for Student Affairs

DEPARTMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2016-2017

CENTER FOR AMERICA’S VETERANS

Thanks to the generous support from many donors, including Tommy and Terri Nusz, Nusz Hall was officially opened for business in August 2016. This new 7500 sq. ft. facility offers a "one-stop" shop for veterans and other military connected students and includes a computer lab, individual study rooms, multi-purpose room, office space for the Student Veterans Association (SVA), and a lounge with kitchenette.

The Center for America’s Veterans, from its scholarship fund, awarded numerous scholarships in excess of $65,000. In collaboration with several other MSU organizations, the center developed increased programming to include a pilot Veteran Horsemanship program, Transition Assistance Course, Mentorship program, and Career Transition Assistance.

The Center for America’s Veterans received a perfect score on our recent Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits audit. This was a first-ever audit for CAV with a 100% compliance rate and no deficiencies found.

Expanded the Green Zone training to offer it to staff and faculty once per semester, including a session for Resident Advisors, and continued to support other universities as requested.

CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE

Dance Marathon continues to impress with the students raising $60,102 during their second year, nearly doubling the record-setting efforts of their first year.

The spring 2017 Greek overall semester grade point average was a 3.24. This was the highest overall Greek GPA on record at MSU (since 1987).
MSU BOOKSTORE

Saved students $699,319 on textbooks during the last year by providing increased used and rental options - this is an increase of over 18% from the prior year.

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

Mississippi State’s Residence Hall Association hosted its fifth annual Haunted Horse Park at the Mississippi Horse Park. Nearly 3000 guests participated in this event and approximately $15,000 was raised for local charities.

Two new residence halls were opened in Fall 2016, Dogwood and Deavenport Halls, now home to 715 MSU students.

MSU DINING

Partnered with the Department of Student Affairs and Student Association in the Block-for-Block meal campaign: MSU Dining matched the 1557 meals donated by students for a total of 3114 meals provided for students in need.

Expanded the campus dining locations to include a POD Express located at Old Main Academic Center.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Launched a redesigned Student Affairs website and created a reference system for other website redesigns in the division. With this redesign came the reconfiguration of several of our processes, including Spirit of State Awards and Staff Awards, as well as designing a completely new system for graduate assistantship applications.

Installed the start of our Digital Signage System, and created processes for the graphics to be displayed in Colvard Student Union, Fresh Food Company, and all residence halls.

PARENT SERVICES

The Office of Parent Services hosted the 5th annual Bulldog Family Weekend, welcoming almost 800 guests (275 families of current MSU students) from more than 24 different states.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

60% of all participants served by the SSS project will persist from one academic year to the beginning of the next academic year or to graduation.

Actual Obtainment: 94%

70% of all enrolled SSS participants served will meet the performance level required to stay in academic good standing.

Actual Obtainment: 96%

52% of new participants served each year will graduate within six years.

Actual Obtainment: 67%

ACCESS

The U. S. Department of Education approved the Comprehensive Transition Postsecondary Program (CTP) application, allowing ACCESS students to apply federal student aid grants to the cost of attendance.

Increased funding - secured over $250,000 in additional funds through donations, scholarships, and state agency support.

SSS Exceeds Grant Objectives

Sixty percent of all participants served by the SSS project will persist from one academic year to the beginning of the next academic year or to graduation.

Actual Obtainment: 94%

Seventy percent of all enrolled SSS participants served will meet the performance level required to stay in academic good standing.

Actual Obtainment: 96%

Fifty-two percent of new participants served each year will graduate within six years.

Actual Obtainment: 67%
This academic year, 7,057 students practiced active citizenship while volunteering through the Maroon Volunteer Center and completing 28,486 community engagement hours. The SLCE accepted leadership responsibility of the Center for Advancement of Service-Learning Excellence (CASLE). After listening to faculty, student, staff, and community partner feedback, the philosophies and processes of CASLE were revised to complement stakeholders’ needs and the university’s mission. CASLE was renamed the Center for Community-Engaged Learning (CCEL).

Maroon Volunteer Center staff completed MSU’s annual President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll application, and MSU was one of four universities nationwide recognized as a finalist in the Economic Opportunity category. MSU was named to the Honor Roll in all of the four possible categories (General Community Service, Interfaith Service, Education and Economic Opportunity).

While participating in the Day One Leadership Community, more than 300 students and faculty/staff mentors learned social responsibility, self-awareness, and leadership theory. Day One participants developed greater autonomy (practical leadership and project management skills) while completing 11,161 service-learning hours with 40 community partners in the Golden Triangle Region.

A more functional and professional looking uniform was designed and is now worn by all University Police officers. Reaccreditation was obtained from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

This spring, in only its second year, the MSU Archery Club took 4 members to compete in nationals in Las Vegas. Arianna Pullen placed 4th.

In January, the Co-Ed cheerleader squad finished 6th at the 2017 UCA College National Championship in Orlando, FL.

The Youth Dawgs summer camp, in its fourth year, has grown from an initial 30 campers to 110 campers.

Several facility improvements have been made: The pool’s shell was re-plastered, the Main Gym’s floors completely refinished, and outdoor fitness equipment was added to the Chadwick Lake walking track.

UNIVERSITY POLICE

CENTER FOR AMERICA’S VETERANS

Malanie Owens, Yolanda Tate, Julie Kirk, presented Best Practices for VA Educational Benefits Processing, at the Veteran Affairs Administrators of Mississippi (VAMS) Conference, May 2016

Yolanda Tate presented Green Zone Training at Marshall University, January 2016

Julie Kirk was elected Vice President for Veteran Affairs Administrators of Mississippi (VAMS)

CENTER FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Dante Jones was selected as the South region Leadership Fellow for the National Association for Campus Activities, June 2017

COLLEGIATE RECOVERY COMMUNITY

Blake Schneider (with Greg Snodgrass) presented Collegiate Recovery Community at the Mississippi School of Addictions Conference, March 2017; The Drive at the Southeast Regional Conference of Young People in AA, June 2017; and he also serves as the Southeast board member representative for the Association of Recovery in Higher Education, July 2017

DEPARTMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STUDENT LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AWARDS & PRESENTATIONS

2016-2017

COMPUTER-BASED TESTING SERVICES

Mary Vaughn, NCTA Service Recognition Award, August 2016, and ending 2 terms as National Governing Council Board Member. Presented Stay Connected: Getting the Most from the Conference App; August 2016

Yvett Roby received the President’s Commission on the Status of Women Outstanding Staff Award

Christy Monaghan became a member of the Founders of the Veterinary Mental Health Professionals Organization

Student Counseling Services

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DEPARTMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY RECREATION

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It's in our title and we stand by it, here in the Division of Student Affairs at Mississippi State University, our number one priority is our students. This magazine was conceptualized, written, and designed by students on our communications staff. This piece is a great accomplishment not only for them, but for me as well, in that I am able to provide them with concrete, hands-on skills they will utilize after graduation. On behalf of our team, I hope that you enjoy learning about all of the exciting things happening in our Division and for our students!

Go Dawgs!

Katie Corban
Marketing and Communications
Division of Student Affairs