**SUMMER 2023 CONNECTIONS**

**From Building Family toa Student Community**

The Mississippi State Student Development Office is available to help you through any situation. We also provide a variety of resources through our Parent and Family Center.

**FALL SEMESTER**

The Fall semester is just around the corner and your student is probably getting excited (and maybe a little nervous) about starting a new chapter at Mississippi State University. We are ready to welcome each student and ensure a positive transition to campus life.

**RESOURCES**

- **Freshman Connection**
  - **Thermal Reusable Bag**: Students will receive their Ultimate Eco Kit after the first two weeks of the fall semester. The kit comes with a reusable tumbler that students can use for free drink refills (includes fountain water, coffee, and tea). The thermal quality of the tumbler is great for keeping drinks hot or cold.
  - **Meal Plan Options**: All first-year freshmen are automatically enrolled in the Ultimate Meal Plan when they enroll in housing. Mississippi State University Dining strives to accommodate all students’ dietary needs on campus. The university provides a variety of options, including vegetarian and vegan options. For a breakdown of the Meal Plan, view the Freshman Dining Guide at msstatedining.com.
  - **Allergy Medicine**: A list of typical allergy medicine is provided for students who may need it. The list includes cold/flu medicine, antihistamines, and other common allergy medications.

**FINANCIAL PLANNING**

- **BUDGET**: Many majors do not require you to have a personal computer. Visit the Technology Services website at msu.t.s.tate.edu to explore options.

**COST-SAVING TIPS**

- **TEXTBOOKS**: Do not buy new textbooks. Encourage your student to access Bulldog Bundle or research other ways to save on textbooks. Visit the Mississippi State bookstore website at bookshelf.state.ms.us.

**PARKING & TRANSIT SERVICES**

- **PARKING SERVICES**: Transit Services provide a broad range of transportation services for campus, Starkville, and the surrounding area. Various parking lots are available for use with the ParkMobile app, found in the App Store or Google Play. Permits must be purchased online through your student’s myState account.

**FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE**

- **GGREKS**: Mississippi State’s Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life offers a variety of Greek organizations for students to join. Membership in a Greek organization is a lifetime commitment and in return, members can expect a social and academic community that supports their personal and professional development.

**VOLUNTEERING**

- **Volunteer Opportunities**: Service Dawgs Day is a special day for students to engage in community service. Volunteers can get free food, a free t-shirt, and the chance to explore community service opportunities. For a complete schedule of activities, view the Bulldog Connect website at bulldogconnect.msstate.edu.

**HAPPY PACKS**

- **FIRST DAWGS**: Many events are available for students to meet friends and learn more about life on campus. Events will include movie nights, trivia, game nights, live entertainers, and service opportunities. Visit the Bulldog Connect website for more information.

**DEADLINES**

- **FALL CONVOCATION**: All freshmen and new transfer students are invited to attend Fall Convocation on Saturday, August 19, at the intramural Fresh Fields at 9:00 a.m. The event is designed for students to meet new friends and learn about campus resources.

**INVOICES & PAYMENTS**

- **Invoices**: Invoices are generated monthly and due on the 15th of every month and the balance will be due within 10 days of receipt. Invoices are available online for review prior to payment.

**FRESHFARMERS MARKET**

- **FreshFarmers Market**: FreshFarmers Market offers fresh produce, prepared foods, and other locally-sourced products. It is located near the Student Union and is open to students, faculty, and staff.

**BULLDOGS BUNDLES**

- **BullDog Bundle**: Mississippi State’s University Bookstore provides each student with a convenient package of textbooks, lab manuals, access codes, and electronic book versions in a convenient bundle.

**HISTORY**

- **Mississippi State University**: Founded in 1878, Mississippi State University is a land-grant, sea-grant, space-grant institution. It is one of the state’s leading research universities and home to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Engineering, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

**HOMECOMING PAGEANTS**

- **Homecoming Pageants**: Homecoming Pageants are held every year to celebrate the spirit of Mississippi State University. The pageants feature student pageants, sorority pageants, and fraternity pageants. For more information, visit the Homecoming website at homecoming.msstate.edu.

**SERVICE DAWGS DAY**

- **Volunteer Opportunities**: Service Dawgs Day is an event held at the beginning of the fall semester where volunteers can get free food, a free t-shirt, and the chance to explore community service opportunities. For a complete schedule of activities, visit the Bulldog Connect website at bulldogconnect.msstate.edu.

**TRAVEL**

- **Budget Air**: Budget Air is a low-cost airline company that offers affordable flights to students and families. Visit their website at budgetair.com for more information.

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