**MSU DIVISION OF AG, FORESTRY & VET MEDICINE**

The Mississippi State University Dairy work-study program offers pre-veterinary students an additional opportunity to learn about animals and also helps pay tuition and other bills.

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**Foundation awards help JSU students**

After paying the bills for tuition and housing, textbook costs can drive some students away from the classroom. But book stipends offered through the Jackson State University Development Foundation help some stay in school with all the materials they need.

Need-based textbook awards offered through the foundation vary from $250 to $1,000. “A lot of these young people come to us with a thirst for knowledge but they can’t afford the books to prepare for class,” said Linda J. Daniels, director of development. “Depending on the major, textbooks can be extremely expensive. On top of everything else, it just gets to be too much.”

Students spent an average of about $900 a year on textbooks and supplies, according to a report issued by the College Board in 2005-06. Sometimes these awards are need-based, Daniels said, and other times, award recipients must meet certain grade point average requirements. The programs are mostly geared toward undergraduate students. Recipients are generally notified several weeks before the next semester in order to help them better plan.

“This is a very popular program,” Daniels said. “The number of applicants always outweighs the number of awards we are able to give.”

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**USM fund bridges tuition gap**

A new scholarship at the University of Southern Mississippi is helping some first-year students stay enrolled beyond the first semester.

The Jubilee Scholarship, established by President Dr. Martha Saunders through a $5 million anonymous gift, is offered to students who may not be able to continue their education without special financial assistance. The amount awarded varies based on the needs of the student after all other scholarships, grants and other forms of assistance have been applied.

“In keeping with our commitment to help our students realize their potential, this program was established to provide assistance to academically successful students,” said Dr. Kristi Motter, associate vice president for enrollment at Southern Miss.

Preference will be given to women and minorities, but all eligible students must have earned at least 12 hours credit and maintained a 2.5 grade point average. Residents must have completed the FAFSA and state aid forms. Non-residents must have completed the FAFSA.

Students also must complete a 250-word essay that addresses short- and long-term goals, plans to ensure success in college, and plans to manage college expenses if the Jubilee scholarship is not received. The scholarship, established in fall 2009, is renewable in future semesters provided the student makes satisfactory academic progress.

“The Jubilee Scholarship is also aimed at keeping our retention rates up,” said Dr. Joe Paul, vice president for student affairs at USM. “If a student decides to enrol at Southern Miss, we want them to leave in an appropriate amount of time with a degree,” he added.

Dr. Motter agreed. “Some students really struggle to pay the bills,” she said. “We want to ease that burden so they can concentrate on what is really important — getting a quality education.”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information on the Jubilee Scholarship at the University of Southern Mississippi, or to apply for the scholarship online, visit www.usm.edu/jubilee.

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**Online: ‘Loss of income’ issues eliminated**

From page 2

Intrusive position, he added. By offering the program online, students avoid “loss of income” issues that may otherwise hinder them from applying, Dr. Mitchell said. Clinical and capstone work can often be completed on the job.

In the future, the school is considering adding online programs geared toward baccalaureate degree completion in dental hygiene and radiologic sciences.

“The tuition costs, and other incurred ex- periments, are paid for there, but the burden of taking all that on with no revenue coming in is no longer an issue,” Dr. Mitchell said. “For many students, especially nontraditional students, that is a really big deal.”

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**Tuition guarantee offered to transfers at MUW**

Strengthening the relationship between two-year and four-year institutions was the focus of a new Tuition Guarantee Program implemented by the Mississippi University for Women.

But in the process, the university also made it more affordable for Lowndes County residents transferring from East Mississippi Community College with an associate degree to continue their education.

The new initiative allows qualified students to attend MUW tuition-free for up to four semesters.

“Right now, this is a small, affordable program that offers more access to higher educa- tion,” said Dr. Bucky Wesley, MUW’s vice president for student services. “We believe it could open the door for more partner- ships in the future,” he said.

Strengthening relationship- ships with community and municipal colleges has been a priority of the IHL Board of Trustees.

In order to qualify for the program with EMCC, a student must be a Lowndes County resident and have met the following criteria:

- Earned an associate degree;
- Maintained a 2.5 GPA on transfer work;
- Applied all other federal, state and other scholarships to tuition first; and
- Met MUW academic requirements.

The guarantee only covers tuition costs.

For more information, contact the MUW Of- fice of Admissions at (877) 462-8439 or visit www.muw.edu.

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**Event helps hundreds fill out aid apps**

GEAR UP Mississippi (MS) is preparing for a record turnout this year for “College Goal Sunday,” an annual statewide event that helps college-bound students and their families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

College Goal Sunday 2010 in Mississippi will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, February 27 at 42 locations across the state. The event includes a two-hour information session on the FAFSA and there will be a drawing for a $500 college scholarship at each site.

“If someone wants to go to college but they aren’t sure how they will pay for it, College Goal Sunday is an excellent resource for free advice,” said Lashanda Colbert, state coordinator of the event.

Sponsored by GEAR UP MS, College Goal Sunday provides on-site help from finan- cial aid experts with a focus on FAFSA. Students must fill out the FAFSA to qualify for federal financial aid, as such grants and loans.

Many scholarship donors also require students file a FAFSA, and many universi- ties use the form to make a determination about institutional grant and scholarship awards.

More than 300 volunteers helped coordi- nate College Goal Sunday 2009, which served about 600 families.

Aside from GEAR UP MS, sponsors for this year’s event include the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, USA Funds, Lumina Foundation for Education, Educu- tional Service Foundation and the YMCA.

For more information, contact College Goal Sunday at www.mscollegegoalsun- day.org.

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**WHAT TO BRING**

Students and parents should try to bring the following information with them to College Goal Sunday:

- FAFSA PIN
- Completed IRS 1040 tax returns
- W-2 statements
- Current bank statements
- Unearned income records
- Driver’s license
- Registration card (if not a U.S. citizen)

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**February 2010**

Students and their families will meet at 42 locations across the state on College Goal Sunday — February 27 — to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
Miss. State ‘promises’ to assist students in need

Resident students in need of a scholarship to make up the difference between sticker price tuition and financial aid received may be able to find a boost at Mississippi State University.

The Mississippi State Promise program is designed to help deserving entering freshmen or community college transfers to cover the cost of base tuition after all other grants, scholarships, personal expenses through the federal work-study program, loans or personal resources. Other authorized by the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions

Students faced with unexpected emergencies can also receive assistance through a special fund at Delta State University.

The Perry Emergency Fund was established in 2006 through a $100,000 gift from Cleveland residents Billy and Mary Perry. The fund is designed to help ease a student’s burden when an unexpected and unforeseen hardship arises.

“Sometimes things just come up, like car repairs, losing a home to fire, or having medical repairs, losing a home to fire, or having medical

Students also must be interested in earning a bachelor’s degree in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences or other related disciplines, which includes (but is not limited to) natural resources management, veterinary, environmental sciences, nutrition and other areas.

For more information about the Perry Emergency Fund program visit http://www deltasstate.edu."