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Free Workshop to Help Students Complete Federal Financial Aid Forms

FASTTrack program partners with financial aid office for session

JANUARY 28, 2016 BY SARA BAKER



The FAFSA workshop will take place at 6 p.m. Wednesday (Feb. 3) in Conner Hall, Room 12.

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi **FASTTrack Program** is partnering with the **Office of Financial Aid** for a workshop to help students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, known as FAFSA.

The FAFSA workshop will take place at 6 p.m. Wednesday (Feb. 3) in Conner Hall, Room 12. The FAFSA must be renewed each year, so the workshop is free and open to all Ole Miss students.

Students will be able to ask questions and get immediate answers from FAFSA experts from the Office of Financial Aid, as well as FASTTrack staff.

“We want to empower our students by ensuring they understand the full picture of the cost of college,” said Gray Flora, FASTTrack academic mentor and coordinator for the workshop. “One way to do that is to develop the habit of filling out the FAFSA early.”

The FASTTrack Program prepares and supports freshman students, providing academic mentors and smaller class sizes.

While the event is free for UM students, all participants must RSVP online and receive a confirmation email. This will allow all participating students the time they will need to gather the necessary information to fill out the form, which is critical, said Nataša Novičević, senior financial aid adviser at the Office of Financial Aid.

“Completing the initial FAFSA application as accurately as possible reduces the need for future corrections and the possibility of being selected for the verification process by the U.S. Department of Education,” Novičević said.

Students will need either last year’s tax returns or an estimate of this year’s tax and income information. They will also need personal information for both the student and parents, including birthdates and social security numbers.

“One of the most difficult things for some students to understand is how to complete the parent section of the FAFSA,” Novičević said. “For example, if one’s parents are divorced, whichever parent the student lives with the majority of the calendar year is the primary parent. And if that parent is remarried, both parent and stepparent information is required.”

Another important change all students should keep in mind is that all FAFSA applicants, and their parents, need a Federal Student Aid ID, which is a new form of username and password required to sign the FAFSA. The process to apply for the FSA ID takes about 15 minutes, so all students and parents are encouraged to establish an FSA ID before the workshop.

For more information on the FAFSA, visit <https://fafsa.gov>. For more information about the FAFSA workshop, contact Gray Flora at egflora@olemiss.edu or Sara Baker at sebakker@olemiss.edu.

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Donations Sought for 25th Annual Books and Bears Program

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi is asking the community to help spread a little joy this holiday season by donating to the 25th annual Books and Bears program. Donations such as toys, books, dolls, bicycles and other children’s play items are being accepted through Dec. 14. All donations will be collected and sorted

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Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship Aims to Build Leaders

OXFORD, Miss. – Twenty-five inaugural recipients of the Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship – a program hosted by the University of Mississippi School of Education in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the Mississippi High School Activities Association – are expected to increase their impact on student-athletes and their communities. The coaching fellowship

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Clarion-Ledger: New Essay Collection Tells the Story of Meredith’s Enrollment

Essays celebrate 60th anniversary of James Meredith’s enrollment at University of Mississippi By Lauren Rhoades Oct. 1 marks the 60th anniversary of James Meredith’s 1962 enrollment at the University of Mississippi as the school’s first African-American student.

“James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier,” a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

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