



MOUNT OLIVE
COLLEGE

PARENT INSIDER

FALL 2009 ISSUE

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- Financial Aid Update
- Athletic Update
- A Closer Look at the President
- Faculty Focus
- Students Explore Life After Graduation

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Dear Fellow Parents,

I am writing directly to you as your student has expressed an interest in Mount Olive College. Mary and I have two grown children who both went through the college selection process. We know that it is a process filled with hopes, dreams, and some fears. Of course, we want the best for our children, and the cost of college is such that it may be the largest expenditure in our lives other than our homes. Given the importance of this decision, I wanted to write to you from the point of view of one parent to another.

This country is blessed with such a wide variety of outstanding academic institutions. Students today have a wonderful range of choices and opportunities. Although I am now at Mount Olive College, I did spend fifteen years of my career in the public higher education sector. I have great regard with what the public sector can do; and I know that it has quality academic programs and competent faculty.

But I also know first-hand where the private higher education sector excels. In a study conducted in the late 1990's, a series of comparisons were made across the United States between graduates of public, flagship universities and those from institutions like Mount Olive College. In that study, it was determined that graduates from smaller, church-related colleges and universities were more likely to have:

- stronger critical-thinking skills;
- more interaction with faculty;
- increased confidence in their abilities;
- a clearer sense of values; and,
- greater involvement in their communities and churches following graduation.

Each of us wants the very best for our children. Here at Mount Olive College, we commit ourselves to providing the very best opportunity for students in a caring environment that will develop their potential to the fullest. This is precisely the kind of college that will help propel them to the future.

Mount Olive College is a special place, and I invite you and your family to become part of this caring community.

Sincerely,

Philip P. Kerstetter, Ph.D.
President, Mount Olive College



Dr. Philip P. Kerstetter, President

Friendly Reminders

Financial Aid Updates

By: Katrina Lee, Director of Financial Aid

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the 2010-2011 academic year will be available online (www.fafsa.ed.gov) on January 1, 2010. Complete your taxes and the FAFSA as early as possible to ensure that your student receives all of the federal and state aid for which they qualify.

Every year Mount Olive College participates in the statewide FAFSA Day. This year FAFSA Day will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2010. Financial Aid counselors will be available from 9:00am to 1:00pm in Raper Hall to assist all interested parties with the completion of the FAFSA.

Questions may be directed to Stephanie Harrell at (919) 658-7889/sharrell@moc.edu or Tiffany Grandy at (919) 658-7816/tgrandy@moc.edu.

Athletic Updates

By: Jeff Eisen, Director of Athletics

Game Attendance:

Parents of student-athletes are encouraged to support their children and the College by attending home and away athletic contests. Admission to all Trojan home athletic events, except basketball and baseball, is free; there is a \$5 charge for regular season baseball and basketball games. Schedules for all teams are available by visiting the athletics website at www.moc.edu/athletics. If you are unable to attend athletic contests, you can still follow the action through audio or video webcasts of many contests – that schedule is also available on the athletics website.



Sportsmanship:

Good sportsmanship is an important attribute of the athletics program at Mount Olive College. We ask our fans, whether they be parents, students, or members of the community, to support our goal of promoting positive sportsmanship and cultivating an enjoyable sporting environment. If you are attending one of athletic contests, please do not make disparaging remarks or single out any individual player, coach or official. Inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated and is grounds for removal from the competition site. The student-athletes compete with honor and integrity and play for the love of the game, so we ask that you cheer for your team, have fun, and support the spirit of intercollegiate athletics.

Trojan Club:

The Trojan Club is an organization which provides assistance and support to student-athletes within the College's 16-sport athletics program. Membership is open to friends, family, alumni and others who wish to support intercollegiate athletics at Mount Olive College. The Trojan Club provides funding for enhancements to the athletics program, while also serving as a vehicle for connection to the athletics program through weekly email updates, newsletters, and special events. Visit the athletics website at www.moc.edu/athletics, or contact Bill Clingan at wclingan@moc.edu/(919) 658-7803, for more information.

Getting a Closer Look

Dr. Phillip Kerstetter, President of Mount Olive College

By: Rhonda Jessup, Director of Public Affairs



Dr. Philip P. Kerstetter became the fourth president of Mount Olive College on July 1, 2009. In an effort to introduce him to the Mount Olive College community, Rhonda Jessup, director of Public Affairs, sat down with Dr. Kerstetter for an interview. Read below to learn more about Dr. Kerstetter as a person, his leadership style and his outlook for Mount Olive College.

Q. What attracted you to Mount Olive College?

A. Although we were happy in Kansas and things were going well at Wesleyan, there comes a time when you start examining whether you are using your gifts, talents, and interests where they are most needed. In administration you look for opportunities, and any opportunity that allows you to be creative and do something different is always very attractive. What attracted me to Mount Olive College was a variety of things: it is a campus that is innovative, entrepreneurial, dynamic, and willing to take some risks. Mount Olive College also is quite unique in its commitment to providing a quality educational experience within the framework of Christian values. The College has demonstrated that it is willing and able to respond to emerging issues and educational opportunities.

Q. What do you see as some of your biggest opportunities for the College?

A. We've got great facilities and a spacious, attractive campus, so one of the opportunities here is to use these assets to expand the traditional undergraduate program. A second opportunity is to continue to explore what it means to be a values-centered, church-affiliated institution. There is a wonderful relationship that demonstrates the commitment of the Convention to the College and the College to the Convention. We are in a mutual ministry, so we need to continually consider ways that we can be of assistance to each other. A third opportunity is to grow the other locations of Mount Olive College to include not only degree programs for nontraditional students, but also to use them as outreach education centers to serve other educational needs.

Q. What about challenges?

In many ways, Mount Olive College is very unique, and that uniqueness is something that can, and should, be celebrated. With that being said, its uniqueness sometimes can be used as a rationale against change. So one real challenge is to determine how we celebrate our uniqueness without that uniqueness preventing us from being able to respond to changing needs.

Another challenge is to make certain that we are more holistic in how we serve our students. That's why you'll see me place a lot of emphasis on working to expand the student life arenas on campus, because that is a critical aspect of providing this holistic experience for our students.



We are also challenged to define ourselves beyond being only an institution that grants degrees, and instead define ourselves as an institute of higher education that responds to a variety of educational needs of people employing a variety of delivery formats. There are people out there who could really benefit from additional education but don't necessarily require a whole degree program. Can we deliver workshops, seminars, mini-courses, or certificate programs to respond to those individuals? We should recognize that educational needs are far more diverse than they used to be. I am very optimistic that the innovative spirit at the College will allow us to be responsive to such kinds of broad-based educational programming needs.

Q. How would you describe yourself and your leadership styles?

A. I believe in people, and I believe that people really want to do the right thing. Because of this, I have a very participatory style of leadership. I strive to engage people, enable people and encourage people to achieve great things. I want people to dream and map out ways in which they can achieve those dreams. After all, if you don't dream, you are always going to do what you've always done simply because it is easier to do so.

I am also much more laid back than people might think, and I have a great sense of humor. Humor is a valuable asset that enables me to diffuse uncomfortable situations and to encourage people.

People should know that Mary and I are very much partners in this educational enterprise; when we start talking about a holistic approach to our work, we mean it. It is our intention for both of us to be very much engaged with the life of the campus and the life of the community. We are committed to using our home as a doorway to the campus and as a doorway to the community.

Q. What are you most looking forward to as president?

Mary and I are looking forward to being part of a thriving, dynamic college that is in service to its students, to the community, and to the Church. What we do best is help to create a sense of community where people realize they are part of something very special and something very important. College campuses are infamous for being silos: the people there are sometimes unable to see the larger picture and are concerned only about their own area.



Here at Mount Olive, we cannot afford to be segmented and isolated like that. We are an academic community, and a community is successful when it overcomes artificial barriers. I look forward to working with the campus community to ensure that together we are able to address the needs of our students and respond to any of their issues of concern. I honestly don't want someone to come here and merely say, "This is my job." What I want them to say is, "This is what I do at Mount Olive, and this is how it matters for the overall success of the College."

I want to capture that spirit of Mount Olive College that says that it is willing to be different and it is willing to do things differently to serve the needs of our students. I want to make certain that we define ourselves as a values-centered educational provider, recognizing that education comes in a variety of formats and delivery styles to serve a variety of students. The key is to be student-centered so that what we do is done in the best interests of the students. By focusing on this, we will continue to be highly successful. Mary and I are excited about being part of the incredible story that is Mount Olive College.

Faculty Focus

Sheppard Receives Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching

By: Rhonda Jessup, Director of Public Affairs

Dr. Jerry Sheppard of Goldsboro is the 2009 recipient of the distinguished Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching.

One student nominating this year's recipient stated, "Dr. Sheppard is an excellent professor and a tremendous benefit to MOC. He takes time to get to know the students." Another student said, "If it had not been for Dr. Sheppard, I probably would not have continued in the program."

Dr. Sheppard joined the Mount Olive College faculty in 1999. In 2002 he earned the status of associate professor. Dr. Sheppard has taught in a variety of formats, including traditional, nontraditional and online. He has served on numerous committees including the faculty manual review committee, the faculty awards committee, the education committee, the freshman experience committee and the academic curriculum committee. Dr. Sheppard also advises students enrolled in the social studies teacher education program in conjunction with East Carolina University. He is well loved as a freshman advisor and has served as coordinator of freshman seminars for several years.

"Dr. Sheppard is an example of a great teacher," stated Dr. Ellen Jordan, vice president for Academic Affairs. "His pride for student accomplishments outweighs his ego. In a nutshell, he cares deeply for students, colleagues and Mount Olive College."

When asked about his teaching style, Dr. Sheppard said, "I try to find material that is not in the text to use in the classroom. The history books present history 'writ large.' I try to find the small stories that make history interesting. Additionally, I try to show how events that happened in the past are still relevant to what is happening today. Hopefully, I make the class interesting even though history may not be their thing."

Prior to joining Mount Olive College, Dr. Sheppard taught in Michigan as well as New Mexico. He obtained a bachelor of arts in social sciences and English, a master of science in human development and counseling, a master of education in social science and, finally, a Ph.D. in American history from Texas Tech University.

Recipients of the Morris Award receive a \$4000 cash award and an invitation to be the Fall Convocation speaker. During Convocation Dr. Sheppard recalled his first day of class as he was beginning his Ph.D. studies. "I was eager, scared and anxious," he said. "I broke out in a cold sweat when I found out the class required reading 500 pages a week and submitting a 5-page paper at the end of each week." He went on to note that he made an A in the class because he was not afraid to ask questions and to seek guidance from his professors.

"I urge you to learn from the lesson I learned," Dr. Sheppard said. "The faculty members at Mount Olive College are very approachable. Take the time to talk with them and ask questions."

Benefactor of the Morris Award is Dr. Thomas R. Morris, a longtime friend and generous supporter of Mount Olive College. Dr. Morris is a native of the Nahunta area of Wayne County where he and his family were active members of Union Grove OFWB Church. With the vision of an education, he worked his way through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Upon graduation from medical school, he was an optometrist and civic leader in Goldsboro until his retirement. He now resides in Wilmington.



Students Explore Life After Graduation

By: Rhonda Jessup, Director of Public Affairs

Students curious about the different majors offered at Mount Olive College had the opportunity to learn more at the College's annual Majors Fair held Thursday, October 15. The Majors Fair is designed for all students who want to find out more about majors, minors, and other academic opportunities. They have the opportunity to speak with faculty and staff from each of the College's academic departments in a centralized location. Additionally, the program benefits departments by providing an opportunity to showcase particular majors, minors and programs to a wide array of Mount Olive College students.



Career Center Director Ann Peacock said, "Contrary to what some may think the Majors Fair is not just for freshmen. All students are invited to explore the different majors the College holds. Although I don't expect students to walk away from the event knowing the direction for their educational paths, I do expect them to walk away having learned more about their options."



Garrett Hickman, a freshman from Winston Salem, said, "I have not yet declared my major, but I am interested in environmental science and possibly agribusiness. This event gave me the opportunity to see what the College has to offer."

Amber Hunt of Fairmont is interested in elementary education. She said, "The event gave me the opportunity to meet other education majors and to learn more about my chosen field."

After the event students were encouraged to visit the Mount Olive College Career Center to learn more about the majors, minors, and secondary majors, and to find out about how part-time jobs, internships, and experiential learning opportunities can help solidify their long term career goals.

Important Dates

November 20-22: Homecoming
November 24: Founder's Day
November 26-27: Thanksgiving Holiday
December 3-8: Exams

December 12: Fall Graduation
January 5: Spring Semester Begins
January 18: Martin Luther King Holiday