



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Michael Dukes
Asst. Athletic Director for External Relations
601-965-8765; mdukes@belhaven.edu

Belhaven College Announces Athletics Restructuring

JACKSON, Miss. (March 24, 2004) — Belhaven College announces that it will create a new position, full-time director of athletics, in order to better serve its 300+ student athletes.

In past years, the person serving as athletic director was also a head coach or chairman of an academic department. Vice President for Institutional Advancement Kevin Russell noted that the significant increase in student athletes at Belhaven over the last few years has made this move a necessity.

“It is most difficult to expect a head coach to provide the administrative support necessary to serve as director of athletics and perform their recruiting and instructional duties in their coaching field,” said Russell. “This type of restructuring is a national trend for small colleges.”

In addition to day-to-day operations and administration, the director of athletics will be charged to develop prospective student, alumni and donor programs.

Once a new athletic director is appointed, current AD and men’s basketball coach Dale Hatcher will return to full-time and dedicated duties as head men’s basketball coach.

“This move will allow Coach Hatcher to focus on his passion for coaching and allow a full-time administrator to handle the many additional duties that are required of the athletics director,” commented Russell.

Belhaven will immediately begin a national search to interview qualified candidates for this new position.

Belhaven College is a Christian liberal arts college with campuses in Jackson, Memphis, Tenn., and Orlando, Fla. The vision of Belhaven College is to prepare men and women academically and spiritually to serve Christ Jesus in their careers, in human relationships and in the world of ideas.