



Where the Power of Knowledge meets the Power of Faith

For Immediate Release

Contact: Heather Denison
Director of Communications
601-968-5930; hdenison@belhaven.edu
After 6 p.m.: 601-278-2547

Belhaven College Continues to Grow and Flourish

Jackson, Miss. (May 18, 2005) – As you drive by the Belhaven College campus this summer you may notice paint buckets, shovels and piles of dirt. As the college prepares for the arrival of students this August, the summer months will mark the completion of several renovations, improvements and construction projects on the Belhaven College Jackson campus.

“This summer will be the most active summer we have ever seen on the 46-acre campus,” says Roger Parrott, president of Belhaven College. “Our growth is a result of many initiatives and activities that are designed to greatly enhance our teaching as well as student quality of life.”

The newest addition to the campus will be the Bitsy L. Irby Visual Arts and Dance building. The 45,000 square foot building will be completed in August and will house the visual art department in four large studios for drawing, painting and sculpture. It will also have an art history lecture hall, graphic design studio, photography darkrooms, art faculty offices, and private individual studios for art majors. The building will feature a rotunda lobby, and a significant gallery for College and public events. The building will also include four additional dance studios, dance faculty offices and training rooms for dance.

Once football season kicks off this fall, the Belhaven football team will enjoy the new Sprint Turf on H.T. Newell Field. Belhaven College and Jackson Public Schools (JPS) have formed a 30-year partnership that began in April with the installation of Sprint Turf. Over the next 18 months, JPS will renovate the stadium as well as adding new bleachers to the visitor’s side, refurbishing the press box, restroom and lighting renovation, and new sound system installation.

While male residents move back into their rooms this August, they will have a new gathering and common area between Wells and Robertson Halls. The two buildings will be connected with a common lobby that will feature three different levels on the main floor. In addition to the lobby, there will be a new resident director apartment for the entire complex, as well as an office and reception desk. The current lobbies and resident director apartments in Wells and Robertson Halls will be renovated into resident rooms, creating 26 additional resident beds.

In an effort to develop a pedestrian campus, a new 70-space parking lot is currently under construction on the southeast portion of campus. In the future, students will no longer drive through campus as the road between White Hall, the Student Center and the basketball/tennis courts will be converted to green space. The old Fine Arts building will be torn down to make way for additional parking through a circular drive that will begin north of Caldwell Hall, loop

through campus to Gillespie Hall and exit in front of the Warren A. Hood Library. Nearly 200 parking spaces will be added in total.

Lastly, students can look forward to a number of improvements to Heidelberg Gymnasium. In addition to installing air conditioning, the former dance studio will be converted into a multipurpose space for varsity athletics, dance and intramurals.

Belhaven College is a Christian liberal arts college founded in 1894 and is the only evangelical college that offers majors in each of the creative arts; art, music, dance theatre and creative writing. 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. Belhaven College has campuses in Jackson, Miss., Memphis, Tenn., and Orlando, Fla.