

?Mississippi State names student housing complex for Zacharias, formerly of Salem

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Mississippi State recently dedicated its newest residence hall community in honor of president emeritus Donald W. Zacharias.

In ceremonies Sept. 5, the university formally dedicated Zacharias Village, a complex of four student residences opened over the past few years.

Zacharias, who continues to reside in Starkville, led the university 1985-97, the second-longest tenure in the land-grant institution's 130-year history. Enrollment soared, growing from 12,000 to more than 15,600, and research and technology contracts more than doubled during his 12 years of leadership. In addition, the Zacharias years on campus included:

Creation of the state's first World Wide Web site; First university in the state requiring students to own and use personal computers for class work; A five-year Campaign for Mississippi State that raised \$143 million in private gifts and commitments; Significant growth in the national visibility and reputation of MSU; Major capital improvements, among them a much-needed expansion of Mitchell Memorial Library and construction of the Joe Frank Sanderson Center, a 150,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art recreational facility.

Before coming to MSU, Zacharias was president of Western Kentucky University from 1979-85.

Dr. Zacharias is a native of Salem, and attended public schools there. He also attended Cambridge City's Lincoln High School in 1951 and 1952. He is the son of the late William and Estelle Zacharias, and brother of Mary Collier and Betty Matthes.