

Mississippi State

ALUMNUS

SPRING 2003



J. Charles Lee named
Mississippi State's
17th president

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J. Charles Lee

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Lee named Mississippi State's 17th president

J. Charles Lee, who led Mississippi State in an interim role throughout 2002, was named the university's 17th president in January. Prior to becoming interim president in 2002, Lee had been Mississippi State's vice president for agriculture, forestry, and veterinary medicine since 1999. He also served as dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences beginning July 2000, and from 1978-83, he was dean of the School of Forest Resources and associate director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station at MSU.



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Passing the test of commitment

Countless faculty and staff members at Mississippi State believe that students grow and learn through academic experiences that also teach them service. Their commitment to community projects encourages many students at the university to touch lives while they earn a grade.



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Boot camp for chaise lounges

The next time you drop anchor into your recliner to watch a Bears game—and don't hear the sound of wood cracking or find yourself flat on the floor amid a pile of kindling—you probably can thank some folks at Mississippi State University. It's there at the Furniture Research Unit, part of the school's Forest and Wildlife Research Center, that items such as recliners and sofas are pushed—and punched, pulled, and jiggled—to the limit and beyond to make sure they'll be able to withstand the stress consumers put on them.

On the cover:

Longtime Mississippi State administrator J. Charles Lee was named the university's 17th president in January. Story on page 6. (Photo by Fred Faulk)

17 Campus News

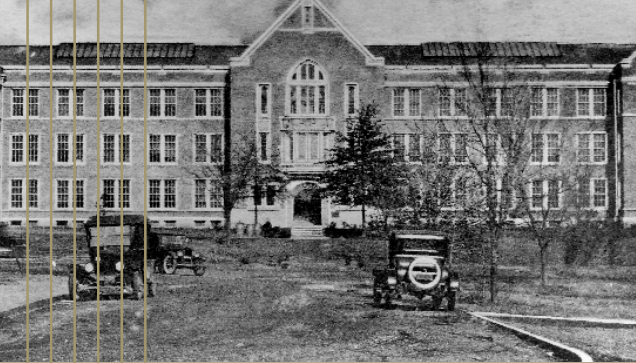
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Harned Hall was completed in 1921.



An early version of the "Diamond Dawgs."



Home demonstration agents take a refresher course.



Bully's '39 funeral made the pages of Life magazine.

PRESIDENTIAL TENURE TIMELINE

STEPHEN D. LEE 1880-1899

Campus post office established in 1881 ~ First graduating class in 1883 ~ Experiment Station system established in 1888 ~ First female graduate in 1888 ~ Reflector started in 1887; Reveille in 1898

JOHN M. STONE 1899-1900

Industrial Technology Building—oldest surviving original building—constructed in 1900

JOHN C. HARDY 1900-1912

Maroon Band began in 1902 ~ Montgomery Hall, built in 1903, housed the library ~ Intercollegiate sports in basketball, track, and tennis began in 1906

JOHN R. HIGHTOWER 1912-1916

Coeducation discontinued in wake of student strike in 1912 ~ Extension Service began in 1914

WILLIAM H. SMITH 1916-1920

Flu epidemic of 1918 left 37 students dead

DAVID C. HULL 1920-1925

Alumnus magazine began publication in 1921 ~ Cafeteria completed in 1922 ~ College suffers through financial crisis

BUZ M. WALKER 1925-1930

Fraternities authorized in 1926 after fraternities and secret societies, including George Rifles and Lee Guards, were disbanded in 1921 ~ College funding hurt by beginning of Great Depression in 1929

125 years and going strong

BY KAY FIKE JONES



On Feb. 28, 1878, the law creating a new land-grant institution was approved and the Agricultural and Mechanical College of the State of Mississippi was born—on paper. It would be two years before the first class of 354 men traveled to Oktibbeha County to attend college.

When that first group of students arrived in October 1880, the classroom building was the only one completely finished and the "college farm" totaled a little over 800 acres. In 2003, the university's acreage is listed at more than 4,000 and its annual expenditures total more than \$440 million.

From its humble beginnings as a place where students worked their way through school by toiling in the fields, Mississippi State now ranks 57th nationally among public universities in total research and development expenditures. It also is fifth in agricultural expenditures and 34th in engineering expenditures. Mississippi State's fall 2002 enrollment totaled 16,610 men and women. No longer restricted to just a single campus in Starkville, the numbers reflect a student population that includes the university's campus at Meridian and its programs in Vicksburg and at the Gulf Coast's Stennis Space Center.

And, while that first class drew heavily from Oktibbeha, Lowndes, Noxubee, and Monroe counties, today's enrollment paints a little broader picture. Students now hail from each of the state's 82 counties, all 50 states, and 63 foreign countries. There are 8,518 male students and 7,334 females, and 18 percent of the student body is composed of African-Americans.

The accompanying timeline features highlights from each president's administration in the 125-year history of "The People's University."

In 1965, Richard E. Holmes enrolled as Mississippi State's first African-American student. In 2002, Dr. Richard E. Holmes returned to his alma mater after 25 years as an emergency room physician in Birmingham, Ala., and joined the staff of the Longest Student Health Center. The university's cultural diversity center bears his name, as does a scholarship endowment by Holmes and his wife Judy that benefits minority students. In addition, he was the spring 2003 commencement speaker.

Coeducation, first established in 1882, has changed a bit, as well. The first female students were daughters of university employees and their numbers remained low for decades. In fact, coeducation was discontinued for many years after a student strike in 1912. At that time, President George Robert Hightower issued an order forbidding males to visit female students "for the business of social conversation or

study.” Before the dust settled from the ensuing controversy, a petition was circulated, students were expelled, coeducation was abolished, and the entire senior class of the then-military school was demoted to the rank of private. As a form of protest, the Reveille changed its name to Private '13 in honor of the 1913 graduating class of punished students. Women were not allowed to enroll again until 1930, and it was not until 1978 that the first female was elected president of the student body. Today, female enrollment is nearly 50 percent of the student total.

The largest-ever single gift to Mississippi State was made in 2002 when MSU alumnus James W. Bagley and his wife Jean presented \$25 million to the College of Engineering. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of its founding last year, the college was named the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering. It joins the ranks of fewer than two dozen named engineering schools in the nation. Bagley is chairman of the board and chief operating officer of Lam Research Corp. in Fremont, Calif.

Construction also continued: the \$5 million Bryan Athletic Administration Building was built in 1995; ground was broken in 1997 for the \$18.6 million Dave C. Swalm Chemical Engineering Building, which mirrors Lee Hall across the Drill Field; the \$19 million Joe Frank Sanderson Center opened its doors in 1998 for recreation; and MSU Alumni Association and Foundation staff members moved into the \$12 million Hunter Henry Center in late 2002.

Now under construction is the \$4 million Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management. It will house the Institute of Furniture Manufacturing and Management, a new interdisciplinary program for the colleges of Business and Industry, Engineering, and Forest Resources, as well as the College of Architecture and MSU's Extension Service.

Athletics also has seen its share of changes through the years. Intercollegiate football began here in 1895, but it was 1901 before the Maroons, as they were originally known, won their first game. Fittingly, their initial “W” came at the expense of archrival Mississippi, 17-0.

Athletic facilities have improved, as well. The current football stadium—the nation's second-oldest campus football stadium—originally was named for Don Magruder Scott, an Olympic sprinter and one of the university's first football stars. Scott Field was expanded in 1985 and 1986, and recently completed the largest expansion project in its history. The latest renovation, which raised stadium capacity to 52,884, began in the summer of 2000 with the construction of 50 skyboxes and 1,700 club-level seats. Work continued into the 2001 season with the addition of 7,000 upper-deck seats. The entire project, which cost approximately \$30 million, was made possible in large part by a financial commitment from the late Floyd Davis Wade Sr. of Meridian. The stadium was renamed Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field in honor of both men.

Baseball, MSU's pioneer sport, began in 1885 without a home field. Today, the Diamond Dawgs call Dudy Noble Field, Polk-DeMent Stadium home. The field itself was named for Clarke Randolph “Dudy” Noble, who compiled a 267-201-9 record and three Southeastern Conference championships as the Bulldogs' coach for 26 years.



Military personnel trained on campus during World War II.



“The Shack” sold sundries in the YMCA basement.



Old Main shortly after the 1959 fire.



The first campus computers weren't exactly laptops.

**HUGH CRITZ
1930-1934**

Named changed to Mississippi State College in 1932 ~ Daily wearing of military uniforms discontinued in 1930

**GEORGE D. HUMPHREY
1934-1945**

Graduate School formally organized in 1936 ~ Campus becomes World War II training center in 1942 ~ Engineering Experiment Station established in 1941

**FRED T. MITCHELL
1945-1953**

Campus Laundry building opens in 1948 ~ Social Science Research Center established in 1950 ~ First doctoral degree awarded in 1953

**BENJAMIN F. HILBUN
1953-1960**

Name changed to Mississippi State University in 1958 ~ Old Main dormitory burns in 1959

**DEAN W. COLVARD
1960-1966**

MSU Development Foundation established in 1962 ~ Colvard Union opens in 1964 ~ First African-American student enrolls in 1965 ~ Chapel of Memories completed in 1965 with bricks from Old Main

**WILLIAM L. GILES
1966-1976**

Compulsory ROTC abolished in 1969 ~ Meridian Campus established in 1972

**JAMES D. MCCOMAS
1976-1985**

John C. Stennis Chair in Political Science established in 1977 ~ Turner Catledge Chair in Journalism created in 1983

**DONALD W. ZACHARIAS
1985-1997**

Professional Golf Management major added in 1987 ~ First woman dean is named in 1987 ~ National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center for Computational Field



through the
years



Humphrey Coliseum was completed in 1974.



The four living MSU presidents are (l-r) Dean Colvard, Donald Zacharias, Malcolm Portera, and Charles Lee.



The ERC at the Mississippi Research and Technology Park.

ZACHARIAS CONTINUED

Simulation established in 1990 ~ Diagnostic Instrumentation and Analysis Lab began providing services in 1993 ~ University's first major gifts campaign, 1992-97

MALCOLM PORTERA 1998-2001

Research expenditures topped \$100 million for the first time in 1998 ~ Library is designated a United Nations repository in 2001 ~ MSU named a national center for remote sensing research in 1998

CHARLES LEE 2002-PRESENT

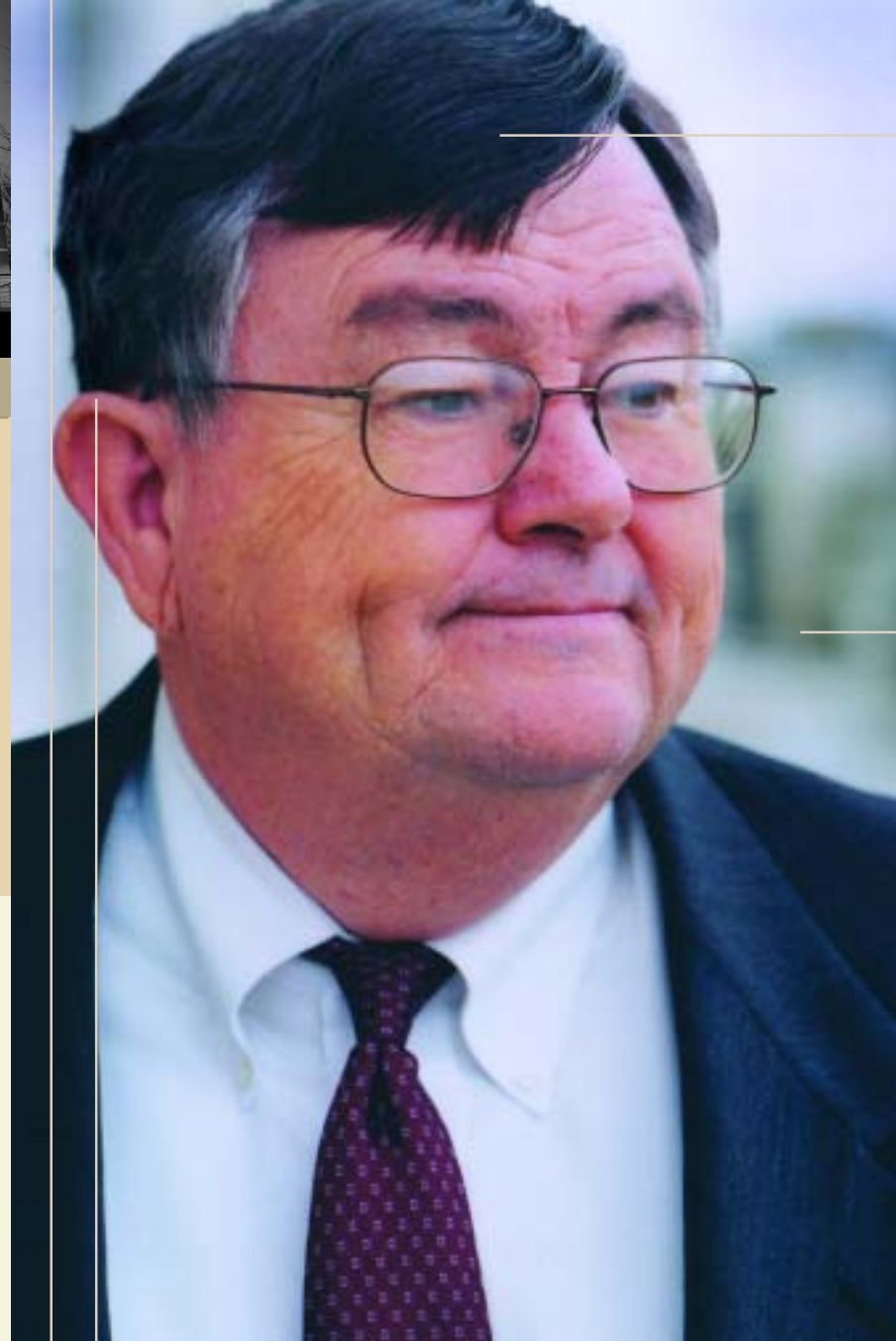
Hunter Henry Center completed in 2002 ~ MSU ranks 57th among public schools in research

The baseball facility was renamed in 1998 to honor then-retired Bulldog head coach Ron Polk and the late Gordon DeMent, a successful businessman and longtime fan from Indianola. Polk returned to Mississippi State in 2001 after a four-year absence.

Basketball, both men's and women's, has recorded unparalleled success in recent years. The men's game began at MSU in 1906 when the Bulldogs played the Columbus Athletic Club in a one-game "season." Things were looking up by 1931, however, when the "Tin Gym" opened. The gym—the university's first permanent gymnasium—is still in use today for intramural and recreational activities.

The Bulldogs found a new home in 1950 when they moved to the "New Gym," which seated 5,000 spectators and cost a little more than a half million dollars to build. The New Gym now is known as McCarthy Gym in honor of MSU's great basketball coach James Harrison "Babe" McCarthy.

In 1975, the New Gym was abandoned for the newly constructed Humphrey Coliseum. Renovated in 1998, "The Hump" now seats some 10,500 and is the largest on-campus basketball arena in Mississippi.



J. CHARLES LEE, who led MSU in an interim role during 2002, was named the institution's 17th president in January by the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning.

Board president Bryce Griffis of Starkville, who made the announcement at a campus press conference, said the appointment showed the board's continued confidence in Lee's ability to lead the institution.

"During these months while the MSU presidential search has been conducted, Mississippi has enjoyed having an experienced higher education administrator with excellent judgment in Dr. Charles Lee," Griffis said.

"The board has observed during this period Dr. Lee's great courage in leadership, which has brought excellence in results," Griffis added. As one example, he cited "a bold and creative early retirement program that permitted access to millions of dollars for high priority needs at the university. The board has determined that we already had the very best person to be the next president of MSU."

Lee named THE 17TH PRESIDENT of Mississippi State

Photos by Fred Faulk



Lee expressed gratitude to the College Board, policymakers, alumni, faculty, staff, and others throughout Mississippi who worked with him during his interim presidency.

“And, I certainly want to thank the men and women who make up Mississippi State University—those located on the Starkville campus, in Meridian, and at locations around the state—for their support and for making real progress under difficult financial circumstances,” he said.

Among four priorities he outlined in accepting the new role of president were access and excellence in the academic program, expansion of outreach and community development, leadership in research and economic development, and improving the stature of the university.

“The details will take shape in the coming weeks in consultation with the faculty, policymakers, our board, and those we seek to serve,” he said.

He pledged that Mississippi State would continue to be “the People’s University.”

“As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of this great institution, we also will recommit to our mis-

sion of providing access and opportunity to students from all sectors of our population,” he said.

“This is our most sacred mission and the most critical contribution that we can make to the future of our state. We will spare no effort to secure the resources that are necessary to make sure that there is a place at the university for every student who has shown the determination and ability to take advantage of what this university offers.”

Noting that he accepted the position because of the full support of his family, he said that he and wife Pat share a commitment to the future of Mississippi State.

“I pledge to do all in my power to justify your confidence and to serve the university and the state to the best of my ability, and Pat is equally committed as my full partner in this undertaking,” he said.

A North Carolina native, Lee holds a bachelor’s degree in forest management and a doctorate in forest genetics, both from North Carolina State University. Prior to becoming interim president in 2002, Lee had been Mississippi State’s vice president for agriculture, forestry, and veterinary medicine since 1999. He also served as dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences beginning July 2000. From 1978-83, he was dean of the School of Forest Resources and associate director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station at MSU.

In addition to his MSU positions, Lee has held administrative positions at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, where he served as head of the forestry department; and at Texas A&M University, where he held positions including head of the department of forest science, dean and executive associate dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, and deputy chancellor of the Texas A&M University System. Lee also served for 18 months as interim executive vice president and provost of Texas A&M.

COMMENTS BY DR. CHARLES LEE ON BEING APPOINTED PRESIDENT

I would like to begin by thanking the Board of Trustees for their expression of confidence in me. I am truly honored. I am also very grateful to the many policymakers, alumni, faculty, staff, and others throughout the state who have provided encouragement and support during the past several months. And certainly I want to thank the men and women who make up Mississippi State University—those located on this campus, in Meridian, and across the state—for their support and for making real progress under difficult financial circumstances.

My wife Pat and I will always cherish the new friend-

ships that we have developed over the past year.

To all of you, I pledge to do all in my power to justify your confidence and to serve the university and the state to the best of my ability, and Pat is equally committed as my full partner in this undertaking.

We are here today because of our shared interest in the future of MSU.

All of you and the people of Mississippi deserve to know what my priorities are and the general directions in which I propose to lead the university. The details will take shape in coming weeks in consultation with the faculty, policymakers, our Board, and those we seek to serve.

First, this will remain The People’s University. As we prepare to celebrate next month the 125th anniversary of the founding of this land-grant institution, we also will recommit to our mission of providing access and opportunity to students from all sectors of our population.

This is our most sacred mission and the most critical contribution that we can make to the future of our state. We

“We will *remember* that, while research and service are important elements of the university’s *mission*, learning – life-long *learning* – is its heart and soul.”

will spare no effort to secure the resources that are necessary to make sure that there is a place at the university for every student who has shown the determination and ability to take advantage of what this university offers. We will expand our mentoring programs and other services designed to give our students every opportunity to succeed. And we will remember that, while research and service are important elements of the university’s mission, learning is its heart and soul.

We will do our part to help Mississippi rise at least to the national average in the percentage of our population that holds a college degree.

While providing access and support, we will continue to recruit the state’s best and brightest students, encourage them to stay in Mississippi, and work to improve the academic profile of our student body. We see no conflict between inclusiveness and quality.

Second, in the land-grant tradition, and building on our statewide presence, we intend to broaden our commitment to extend the resources and expertise of the university for

the benefit of the entire state. We will strengthen our numerous partnerships with K-12 schools and community colleges.

We will continue to play a major role in preparing the state’s schoolteachers and other education professionals.

We will reach out to the youth of the state through 4-H and other programs targeted toward youth development, and we will broaden our efforts to serve non-traditional students through non-traditional means. We also want to strengthen our partnerships with business and industry and the agricultural sector, with communities and organizations, and with others. We are already exploring the addition of an industry extension component to the outreach mission of the university and looking at ways to better coordinate and streamline existing outreach and service programs.

Third, we will embrace and enhance our role as a major contributor to the economic development of the state. As Mississippi’s principal research university, we will build on existing strengths in engineering and agricultural sciences and we will pursue emerging opportunities in other fields that

match our areas of expertise and the needs of the state.

There is no reason to believe, I am told, that we cannot become a major center for automotive research and development for the entire country. The new Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems represents a major step in that direction.

Our programs in computational sciences, biotechnology, early childhood learning, biological engineering, remote sensing, and alternative energy sources, among others, have unlimited potential to stimulate our economy and improve the quality of life.

Finally, will we will work to raise our national stature as a university, which can bring benefits to our students and to the state as a whole. National recognition for a university is important for three reasons:

1. it helps to attract the best faculty and students, along with more competitive grants and private support;
2. it increases the value of the degree awarded to our students and provides them with more options in the job market; and

“*In the land-grant tradition, and building on our statewide presence, we intend to broaden our commitment to extend the resources and expertise of the university for the benefit of the entire state.*”

3. it creates across the country a more favorable image of the state in which it is located.

We are well positioned to earn a place among the nation's top universities as we move up in the ranks of research institutions, aspire to membership in the Association of Research Libraries, and continue to produce graduates of distinction.

These four key priorities—access and excellence in the academic program; expansion of outreach and community development; leadership in research and economic development; and a focus on improving the stature of the university—will guide Mississippi State's direction and development during the foreseeable future.

As we pursue these priorities, we face a number of pressing short term challenges and opportunities.

First, we will step up efforts to fill key leadership and faculty positions as quickly as possible.

Second, we will work with the legislative leadership and others to stabilize and protect state support for higher education.

We have urgent needs for more full-time faculty members; increased technological support for teaching, research, and administrative systems; and overdue major maintenance of buildings, streets and utilities, among other needs. And we must better compensate our excellent faculty and staff in order to retain and attract the talent we need.

We also will move ahead with plans for a major capital campaign, recognizing that private sector support is critical to our success.

We will build on a significant record of achievement and a tradition of providing opportunities for young men and women to excel in the realm of athletics.

We will further improve the already commendable graduation rate of our student-athletes while ensuring that our intercollegiate athletics program is committed to financial and competitive integrity, in keeping with the true Bulldog spirit.

While we work toward these long-range and short-term goals, we will be constantly aware of the need to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our students and a working environment that lets men and women pursue their highest individual potential at every level in our institution.

We will strive to balance authority with responsibility at all levels, to encourage risk taking, and to reward individual and unit achievement.

Although we are not a business in the usual sense, the magnitude of resources entrusted to us necessitates a businesslike approach to planning, budgeting and assessment of outcomes. Those who provide our support expect nothing less.

Mississippi State has been opening the doors of opportunity and improving the quality of life of the people of this state for 125 years. I have no doubt that the university's future will be even brighter than its past, and that its contributions to the people of the state and nation will continue to grow.

I am deeply honored to have the privilege to serve as president of this great institution, and Pat and I look forward to working with all of you with our utmost energy to help Mississippi State fulfill its potential and its purpose. Our state and nation can afford nothing less.

“*We will work to raise our national stature as a university, which can bring benefits to our students and to the state as a whole.*”



commitment

PARSING *the text of*

Students and faculty make a difference with public service projects. BY ABBY BARBER

Ask junior Claire Walton of Jackson what one of her most meaningful learning experiences has been, and she might mention a bingo game.

It's not that she values a frivolous “B-15” over studies that keep her nose buried in the books. It's that her professor—and countless others who teach at Mississippi State—believe that students grow and learn through academic experiences that also teach them service. Walton is one of many students at the university who are touching lives while they earn a grade.

BUILDING *communication* SKILLS

with a little B-I-N-G-O

Thanks to a class assignment, Walton has played bingo most Friday mornings with the residents of Starkville Manor Nursing Home. The visit is part of a project for her class in small group communication.

Taught by communication department instructor Amy Fountain, the class teaches students how to effectively interact in a task-oriented group.

But the instructor asks students to go far beyond the walls of the classroom. They must successfully plan, implement and conduct a service project that fills a need in the community. For Claire and the other students in her group, the project not only meant hands-on preparation for a future job in public relations, but the reward of helping others.

“An assignment such as this gives students an opportunity to experience the group dynamics that we discuss and to develop a variety of group communication skills such as leadership, conflict resolution, decision-making, and problem-solving.”



Left, junior Clair Walton is making a positive difference in the community. Below, thanks to students and faculty of the Center for Sustainable Design, Biloxi Beach is going natural.



Above, planting sea oats on Biloxi Beach. Right, installing bird habitat at Strawberry Plains.



Fountain said. “The nice thing about it is that it also provides students with an opportunity to do something purposeful and rewarding.”

Each group consisted of five to six students, who had to work together to collaboratively identify a need they could fill. A number of projects emerged: implementing a Neighborhood Watch program on campus; developing a toy drive for the Palmer Children’s Home in Columbus; organizing a fundraiser for the Humane Society’s new animal shelter; and assisting with recreation for residents of Starkville Manor every other week.

“I encouraged my group to work with the residents of Starkville Manor, because I have been going there since my freshman year,” Walton said. “I saw how the residents really enjoyed spending time with young people, and I wanted to try to get more college students involved.”

Each group had to form a goal and a timeline for their project, as well as identify other organizations that they would contact for assistance. Walton’s group set as a major goal encouraging other student groups to support the Starkville nursing home and visit its residents.

“We came during normal activity time and led the residents in bingo or physical fitness exercises,” Walton said. “We also planned a ‘Starkville Manor Prom’ so that residents could dress up and dance to music from the 1930s and 1940s. They enjoyed the extra attention, and my group had a great time, too.”

For Fountain, the out-of-class service provides a lesson that no textbook can offer. “There are a number of projects that I could have the students do, but this one truly exposes them to

the material that the course dictates, such as problem solving within a group,” she said. “They finish the assignment not only with a grade, but also with a sense that they have accomplished something meaningful.”

Building A BEACH that can withstand a HURRICANE

When Hurricane Isidore hit Mississippi’s Gulf Coast in September 2002, sand was uniformly lost all along the 26-mile beachfront. By contrast, a natural beach landscape built by MSU students and faculty gained about eight inches of sand, proving that their model for beach planting and development worked.

Students and faculty from the Center for Sustainable Design, a collaboration between the landscape architecture and biological engineering departments, have joined forces since 1991 to develop a tourism design plan for the Gulf Coast. The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, the Tidelands Fund, and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources all provided funds for the project headed by Pete Melby of landscape architecture and Tom Cathcart of biological engineering.

The plan’s original goal was to replace unsightly storm drains that transport water from the mainland across the beach into the Mississippi Sound. Many residents thought the large, dark, concrete pipes contained sewage, and the sight did not reflect well on tourism. The Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce

asked the MSU team to create a natural landscape that allowed the pipes to empty inconspicuously into a salt marsh area, the two professors said.

“Our first step in the Biloxi Bay project was to see what would happen if a section of the manmade beach was permitted to become more natural,” said Melby, center co-director. “The plan that the students developed modeled sand movement control, dune development, and sea oat planting on Deer and Horn islands.”

The beach that has evolved is very productive, stable and attractive, Melby said. The scenic two-acre salt marsh on the site has brought various wildlife, beachgoers and fishermen. More than 2,000 sea oats have been planted on the beach, and 56 native plants have been harvested, planted or established themselves naturally. The oats have eliminated the problem of wind transporting sand off the site onto Highway 90.

“This design will enhance public safety along Highway 90, reduce the need for sand removal from the highway, and eliminate the annual stripping of sand from the medians with heavy equipment,” Melby said. “Another significant result is that beach renourishment, which occurs every eight to 10 years at a cost of around \$8 million, can probably be either done away with or postponed.”

Center co-director Tom Cathcart said the project was “extremely valuable” for the students involved.

“Real-world application of what students have learned is important in that it shows them that what they have learned is good for something,” he said. “We have taught our students in class about reducing wind and water erosion and about which

plants work best on which site. Students who participate in the Biloxi Beach project will know about these things firsthand.”

Both professors say the Center for Sustainable Design will continue its successful Biloxi Beach venture, with plans to begin another student project this spring. “Through this project, our students participate in improving the Mississippi Gulf Coast for bird and aquatic life, and provide more diverse and attractive experiences for beachgoers and fishermen,” Cathcart said.

BUILDING HOMES for our feathered friends

When not in academic classes that prepare them to design the homes, businesses and public buildings of the future, students in one Mississippi State architecture class recently learned about clients of a decidedly different feather.

A dozen of the university’s upper-level architecture majors turned their creative energies to comforts for some creatures of the wild: wood ducks, screech owls, flycatchers, Carolina chickadees, kestrels, and prothonotary warblers, to be precise.

Directed by associate professor Michael Berk, the senior design project is among a number at the College of Architecture that involve students in hands-on building with social and environmental concerns.

With funding from the Mississippi Audubon Environmental Education Center at Holly Springs, Berk’s class developed various proposals for a master plan and environmental education center for the public sanctuary known as Strawberry Plains. In addi-

tional to the theoretical work, they also designed and built bird habitats for the 2,500-acre site.

“The students knew absolutely nothing about these particular birds when we started the project,” Berk said. “They quickly had to research the species and become experts about migration, feeding habits, predators, habitat requirements, and a variety of other issues.”

In the process, the future professionals addressed a range of architectural issues such as client needs, budget, project deadlines, limitation of materials, and location. Unlike working architects, though, they had to build and install their designs within a matter of weeks.

In constructing the units—some nearly 20 feet high—students were prohibited from using concrete, paint or pressure-treated wood. “The structures had to be completely compatible with the environment,” Berk said.

As in the real world, the project’s budget provided another constraint. Each two-person team was allocated \$40 for materials, with Strawberry Plains contributing salvaged wood from outbuildings and fallen trees from the sanctuary.

“Students also created drawings, computer models and large-scale wooden models as a way of investigating sustainable design principles for a proposed nature center,” he said. “We also hope their ideas will help the Strawberry Plains Sanctuary establish criteria and develop questions as they prepare for their future growth and development.”

Brandon Gowen, a fourth-year student from Corinth, said the project literally challenged students to “think outside the box.” He and teammate Patrick Smith of Collierville, Tenn., completed a 15-foot-high dwelling with materials recovered from a dismantled barn. “This project gave me great confidence that I can design something that can actually be built and installed,” he added.

Madge Lindsay, Strawberry Plains executive director, said MSU’s efforts benefited the state Audubon center on several levels.

“First, it was a great opportunity to learn from students studying architecture some uses for the site and to develop site plans for conservation programs,” she said. “It also was rewarding to see them learn about conservation and about what birds need for habitat and nesting structures.”

BUILDING for those in need

They’re not yet as well known as the famous brown-and-white sandwich cookie with which they share a common trait.

Two Mississippi State research analysts insist, however, that structural insulating panels—engineered wood with a layer of foam between them—may one day become as popular with home builders and owners as Oreos are with kids of all

ages. Reduced construction time, high energy efficiency and low-skill labor demands make the panels—usually referred to as SIPs—ideal for affordable housing, the university team members say.

“We see the panels as a real solution for providing low-income housing in Mississippi,” said Joseph W. Hagerman of the Small Town Center, a unit of the College of Architecture.

The center and MSU’s Stennis Institute of Government recently collaborated on a project with the city of Meridian to design and help build an all-SIPs Habitat for Humanity home. The Lauderdale County Habitat chapter and its director, Fonda Rush, were major partners in the effort, Hagerman added.

The panels were provided by PERMA “R,” a Grenada-based manufacturer headed by MSU alumnus Tim LeClair, and General Panel in Union.

A team of MSU architecture majors, including Elizabeth Lacey of Columbus and David Brawner of Corinth, provided the home design and served as liaisons with local community agencies. Over a two-month period, the students mapped the neighborhood, met with the homeowner and neighbors, and introduced the SIPs concept to local agencies as they worked on a home design.

Both students said the intensive hands-on training left a lasting impression. “To go into a community as a stranger and to leave feeling that we made a difference is an invaluable experience,” Lacey observed. Brawner said the public service project also provided rare professional opportunities, adding, “As students, we gained knowledge of new building technologies that we can incorporate in the future.”

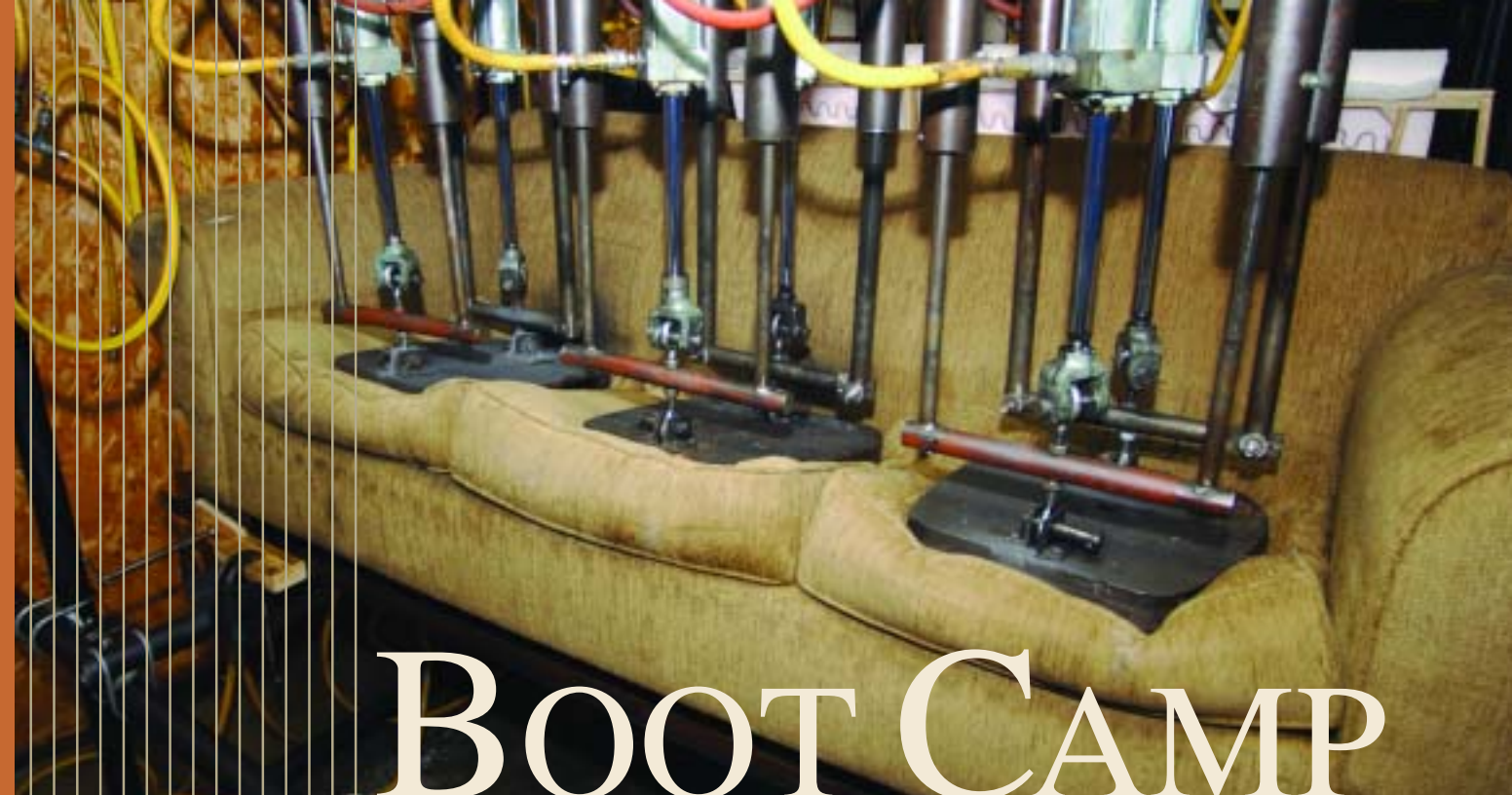
One of several statewide “women’s builds” coordinated by Habitat, the Meridian project used an innovative design that honored Habitat guidelines for simple, decent housing.

“This was a wonderful partnering effort that benefited an individual family, as well as offering proof-of-concept for future low-income homes in Mississippi,” Stennis’ Judith Phillips said.

Hagerman said a SIPs-built home will cost about \$570 annually to heat and cool, compared to \$1,800 for a traditional, stick-built house. Also, because of the high energy efficiency, the structure can use smaller heating and cooling units.

Collaborations between the two MSU centers and Meridian are continuing. Currently, university and municipal officials are making plans to expand SIPs-equipped homes into several neighborhoods. Discussions also are under way with the Mississippi Realtors Commission, which has identified affordable housing as a focus issue in the state.

“From our collaborations with one community, we see ever-expanding opportunities for Mississippi,” Phillips said. “We also enjoy seeing the tangible results of community service.”



BOOT CAMP

for CHAISE LOUNGES

BY WILLIAM HAGEMAN
Chicago Tribune staff reporter
Photos by Russ Houston

THE NEXT TIME you drop anchor into your recliner to watch a Bears game—and don’t hear the sound of wood cracking or find yourself flat on the floor amid a pile of kindling—you probably can thank some folks at Mississippi State University.

It’s there at the Furniture Research Unit, part of the school’s Forest and Wildlife Research Center, that items such as recliners and sofas are pushed—and punched, pulled, and jiggled—to the limit and beyond to make sure they’ll be able to withstand the stress consumers put on them.

As with companies everywhere, furniture manufacturers want to get the most out of their designs. Is a frame strong enough? Is it stronger than is necessary? What happens to cushions over an extended period of use? It’s questions such as these that are answered in the three testing buildings on the MSU campus where manufacturers from around the country send furniture.

“I can’t think of anybody we haven’t tested,” says Dan Seale, a professor in the College of Forest Resources and coordinator of furniture research in the Department of Forest Products.

Material—natural and manmade—is checked for strength, joints and frames are examined to make sure they’ll hold up, cushions are examined for cushiness, springs are tested for springiness. If you’re





a furniture manufacturer, this is where you have your questions answered.

The first question might be, why Mississippi State?

“The furniture industry in Mississippi is second only to North Carolina; 70 percent of all upholstered furniture comes out of Mississippi,” explains research associate Bob Tackett. “We’re here basically to help the industry.”

Through their testing, Seale, Tackett, and their associates at the 15-year-old unit provide research data and technical assistance that will make furniture manufacturers more competitive. Every year, some 40 pieces of furniture are shipped to the facility.

When a piece of furniture arrives, there’s usually a specific test the manufacturer wants done.

In one of the facility’s buildings, Tackett shows a visitor a white sofa—well, it was white when it arrived; it has since been splotted with grease from the machine enveloping it, a massive collection of pipes, fittings, pistons, and hoses. The goal is to see how this model will stand up to repeated use.

“It’s the butt test,” Tackett says.

Sure enough, three large pads pounded away on the two-cushion sofa, each pad’s contact points shaped, well, like a person’s behind.

The machine will go through almost 25,000 cycles, or individual impacts, applying pressure on the front and on the back of the seat. The weight of the pressure starts with 50 pounds on the front of the seat and 100 pounds on the back. Then Tackett will increase the hydraulic pressure and put the sofa through another testing cycle with a higher load, cycling all the way up to 137.5 pounds on the front of the seat and 275 pounds on the back. Data is collected and later analyzed.

Nearby on another machine, chains pulled at the legs of a second sofa.

The idea is to see how much stress the furniture can take. A broken arm testified to how much was applied on that part of the sofa.

Tests are done according to standards set by the Government Services Administration or the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer’s Association.

There are six GSA areas of testing, averaging \$500 per test, and 16 to 18 BIFMA tests, costing an average of \$160 each. (It’s not necessary for all tests to be performed on every item.)

“We’re trying to provide one-stop shopping for the manufacturers,” says Jilel Zhang, an assistant professor at the Forest Products Laboratory.

And don’t think the industry doesn’t appreciate it.

“There’s some talented guys down there who do all this work, and it’s certainly a benefit to us. It’s a big plus,” says Mickey Holliman, CEO of St. Louis-based Furniture Brands International, the largest residential furniture company in the world with annual revenues of \$2.5 billion and an 11 percent market share.

Once tests are completed—testing itself can go on for more than a week—the computer data that has been attained is analyzed.

The furniture is photographed and a detailed report is prepared for the manufacturer. The entire process usually takes about a month.

“For the lab report, we just, in general, report what we found,” Zhang says. “They make the decision if they need to change or improve.”

Sometimes those changes hit close to home.

“I bought a sofa from a local manufacturer,” Zhang says. “Later, we did a test on the same piece, and we found a problem. Then later my sofa was showing the same problem.”

The manufacturer corrected the problem, he says, and fixed his sofa as well.

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Dr Roy H. Ruby, Mississippi State University's longtime vice president for student affairs and current dean of the College of Education, received bachelor's and master's degrees from MSU in 1961 and 1966, respectively. He began his career at the university in 1964 as program director for the Colvard Union.

Fall 2002 commencement address: Dr. Roy H. Ruby, dean of the College of Education

A few days ago, Dr. Lee asked me if I would speak at today's commencement. I responded that I certainly would, that I would be highly honored. But, I said, "Charles, what led you to ask me?"

He immediately replied, "Desperation!"

I said, "You've asked others before me?" And he said, "Everybody I could think of." He then added, "I only hope the faculty governance document doesn't cover graduation speakers."

I must have looked depressed, because he then said, "Mississippi State is 125 years old this year. Up until now, we have always used heavyweights as graduation speakers. You should feel honored, you're the *first* lightweight we've ever asked."

I felt much better!

I am indeed honored to be asked to speak here today. It certainly represents a high point of an otherwise dull and undistinguished career. I am grateful to Dr. Lee for this opportunity and also am grateful to Dr. Lee for the superb leadership that he has given Mississippi State University during his service as interim president. No one—no one—could have done better!

This is a proud day, a happy day, a family day—a day that you will remember the rest of your life. I remember my graduation as though it was yesterday. I remember which family members came with me. I remember the great pride that

I felt. I know you feel the same thing. It is for that reason that graduation day is one of the most significant days in the life of the university. It is certainly one of the happiest. The joy of this day is diminished only by the absolute, unretractable requirement for a graduation speech.

Even though I run the risk of setting a new world's record in the domain of the trite, I would suggest to you that the world is ever changing. It always has changed, it always will. Change is an inevitable part of existence. The world that I entered as a brand new college graduate in '61 (that's 1961) is quite different from the world that you enter as a brand new college graduate in 2002.

In 1961, the United States was engaged in a dangerous Cold War with the communist world and at that time, it appeared that the other side might be winning. The sky was full of sputniks and cosmonauts that were ahead of ours and made some say that communism might be a more efficient and effective form of government than democracy. But, since then, the communist empire and the communist myth have collapsed, and not many in the world today would suggest that communism is a very viable form of government.

During the Cold War, we fought a very divisive hot war in Vietnam. The Cold War is

over, and the definition of war has changed.

We are now engaged in a war on terrorism, which is different from any war we have ever fought in the nation's history. In all previous wars, our army lined up against somebody else's army. The war on terrorism is fought against an enemy you can't see, an enemy that is often unknown and is incapable of being geographically located. Today, the United States is the only world super power and yet even as that, we face severe challenges. The world is ever changing.

In 1961, the disposable personal income for Americans was \$2,081. Today, disposable personal income is well over \$26,000. In 1961, the gross national product of the United States was \$545 billion, while today it is over \$10 trillion. The economic condition of the U.S. which you enter as a brand new college graduate is much stronger than the economic state of the United States when I entered the world of work. This is true, the current economic recession, Enron, World Com, Arthur Andersen, and Martha Stewart notwithstanding.

The revolution that has taken place in the world of science and technology since I was a brand new college graduate is almost beyond comprehension. Since then, we have put a man on the moon, a technological accomplishment that still boggles the

mind. Research with DNA has brought unbelievable progress to the understanding of biology and the building blocks of life. Mathematical singularities now have been shown as a probable source for the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe. The first extra-solar planet has been discovered, the spacecraft Voyager I has photographed Jupiter's rings, and the Hubble space telescope's journey around the solar system all have deepened our understanding of outer space. Dolly the sheep has been cloned, and the implications for mankind have no bounds. Human embryonic stem cells have been isolated, while molecular sequences now are used to identify evolutionary relationships. Progress in medical science has resulted in life expectancy for Americans today of 78 years. By the time you are old enough to worry about it, it will be well into the 80s and maybe even 90.

I haven't even mentioned computers. The impact of computers on our country would be the fodder for six graduation speeches. Suffice it to say that since I have graduated, computers have changed America from an industrial society to an information society and the change has just begun. The world is constantly changing.

Like everything else, language is constantly changing. The way Americans

expressed themselves in 1961 is different from the way we express ourselves today. Among the words and phrases that we use today that linguists say did not exist in 1961 are: counterculture, genetic code, jet lag, ATM, detox, gas guzzler, video game, X-rated, compact disc, glass ceiling, doofus, virtual reality, buffalo wings, designated driver, and bad hair day.

Things that at one time were “cool” or “groovy” or “nifty” are now “tight.” Often today instead of saying, “I said,” people will say, “I’m like.” Example: “I’m like, Dr. Lee, can I give the graduation address, and he’s like, only if I can’t find somebody else and I’m like . . .” You get the point. Sometimes today we say that things are “bad”—meaning they are “good.” Things that used to be pretty good are now “awesome.” If a member of the class of ’61 had been asked what a “server” was, the response would have probably been “a pledge in a fraternity house.” Asked what a gigabyte was, we might have guessed a new way of getting frogs through the mouth. The language you see is constantly changing.

Even humor changes. What one generation thinks is funny, the next generation might not find to be funny at all. Let me give you an example. I remember the commencement speaker the day I graduated. He was Dr. Andrew Holt, president of the University of Tennessee. Unlike your graduation speaker, he was a brilliant orator. He told a joke that day that we thought was hilarious! We rolled in the aisles! Let’s see if you think that same joke is funny.

“This old country farmer lived several miles out of town. One hot August day, he’s walking into town to get some fertilizer to fertilize his garden. As he’s walking down this hot

dusty road, a big, long, brand new air-conditioned Cadillac stopped to pick him up. ‘You need a ride old fellow?’ the driver said. ‘Shore would be nice,’ the farmer said and got in. As they went on down the road, the driver cut the air-conditioner up to maximum. In a little while, the driver said to the farmer, ‘Where you going?’ The farmer said, ‘Well, I was going to town to get me some fertilizer, but it has turned off so cold, I think I will go home and kill hogs!’

My point is made: not one student laughed. The culture, the society, continues to change.

Everything changes and will continue to change except one thing—and that is how you relate to and treat other people. It is along these lines of how you treat people that I have four brief suggestions.

1. *Handle controversy with civility.* In the world of work, which you are about to enter, differences of opinion, controversy, and disagreement will inevitably take place no matter what field of endeavor you choose. Always remember that good people of good will can disagree. As smart as you are and as well educated as you are, other people’s opinions and understandings are worthy of consideration and may be better than yours. Deal with controversy with respect for the other individual, with calmness and with civility. The hot head who cannot, will have a very difficult time being successful. I believe that in the last 25 or so years our society has lost some of its civility. I hope you will do your part to reverse that trend.

2. *Recognize and show appreciation for the contributions of others to your success.* As you sit here today, you are swelled with pride, as it should be. You have accomplished much to be a college graduate, but you did not do that by

yourself. Your parents who sacrificed, who borrowed money, who went without the new car, who believed in you, made it possible for you to have obtained this level of success. The education that you earned here at Mississippi State University was not totally self-generated. The faculty, the support staff, the fellow students that helped you along the way were all part of your success. As I look back on my career, I realize that any modicum of success I have ever enjoyed, other people had more to do with it than I did. I hope I recognized that and thanked them at the time. Do not ever forget that whatever success you enjoy in life will be partially attributable to other people and you should always recognize that.

3. *Assume the best about other people.* For the rest of your life, you will be involved with new people. Your first assumption about other people should be that they are of good will, that they know as much as you do, that their intentions are honorable and that they, like you, want to do right. If you do this, you will be surprised how often you are right. If you assume the opposite about strangers—that their intentions are not good, that they are not people of good will, that they can’t be trusted—you are asking for self-fulfilling prophecies. Until they prove that you can’t, assume the best about everybody.

4. *Accept and embrace the obligation of the educated to be of help to those who are less fortunate.* Only 1 percent of the people in the world have a college education. You are today in the top 99th percentile of the world’s educated. You have an obligation to your professional success and to your family, but as an educated person you also should assume a strong obligation to be of help to mankind—to those who

are less fortunate than you. I can assure you that there is a lot of work that needs to be done. Eighty percent of the people in the world live in substandard housing. Fifty percent of the people in the world suffer from some degree of malnutrition. Seventy percent of the people of the world can neither read nor write. It makes no difference whether you come from the Judeo-Christian tradition or from the tradition of one of the other great religions of the world, or if you are from no religious tradition at all—as an educated person, there is a human obligation to be of help to others because life’s circumstances have equipped you to do it. You must give back.

As John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church, said:

Do all the good that you can, by all the means that you can, in all the ways that you can, at all the times that you can, to all the people that you can, for as long as you can.

I hope that you will accept the obligation of the educated to be of help to those less fortunate.

I wish for you every happiness and success that life can bring. I know that it is going to come to you.

I wish for you one other thing. I hope that you will have the opportunity to work for a company or an organization or an institution that you can love as much as I have loved Mississippi State.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

Civil engineering professor honored

Mississippi State civil engineering professor Dennis Truax was honored by the American Society of Civil Engineers for his work with the university's student chapter.

An MSU faculty member since 1980, he is one of 48 student chapter advisers worldwide being recognized last year by the ASCE Faculty Adviser Reward Program. Truax has served as the Mississippi State student chapter adviser since 1981.

ASCE represents more than 123,000 civil engineers throughout the United States.

Now in its third year, the recognition program honors advisers on the basis of student chapter achievement ratings and the documented success of their campus programs.

MSU's chapter, which has almost 90 members, has received numerous awards, including recognition as the nation's top student organization in 1995 and 1996.

A Hearin-Hess Professor in the College of Engineering, Truax holds master's and doctoral degrees from MSU and received a bachelor's at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Humanist Award presented to Williams

Clyde V. Williams of English received the university's 2002 Outstanding Humanist Award.

As part of the recognition, the associate professor and veteran faculty member presented a public lecture

entitled "The Viper in the Ointment."

The humanist award program is co-sponsored annually by the MSU College of Arts and Sciences and its Institute for the Humanities, in cooperation with the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Williams teaches courses in literature, writing and film.

He holds a bachelor's degree from Millsaps College, a master's from Mississippi State and a doctorate from Louisiana State University. He has completed post-doctoral work at the University of Virginia, City University of New York and the Directors Guild of America.

NIH funding to help establish biomedical research center

Mississippi State will use nearly \$9 million recently received from the National Institutes of Health to establish a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence.

To be awarded over five years, the NIH grant will help expand research on pesticides and their potential human health interactions already under way at the Center for Environmental Health Sciences in the university's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Of four future research projects, two will examine the biochemical effects pesticides may have on human nervous systems. A third study will focus on the human endocrine system and a fourth will investigate the relationship between pesticide exposure levels and human health status.

Project director Janice E. Chambers said the new center

will allow established researchers to mentor junior faculty members in some specific research areas. Emphasis will be given to organizing teams from across various academic disciplines to expand research, and the grant also will contribute to improved research facilities within the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"During the first year, MSU will receive approximately \$500,000 to renovate and equip laboratories," said Chambers, a Giles Distinguished Professor who heads the veterinary college's interdisciplinary Center for Environmental Health Sciences.

Jerald Ainsworth, associate dean for veterinary research and head of the college's basic sciences department, will serve as co-director of the new biomedical research center.

First Eastman award is presented

A junior from Guin, Ala., received the first Eastman Award for Excellence in Chemical Engineering at Mississippi State.

Natalie T. May was selected for the \$2,000 scholarship made possible by the Kingsport, Tenn.-based manufacturer of chemicals, fibers and plastics.

May is a 1999 graduate of Marion County High School, where she finished first in her class.

At MSU, she is a President's Scholar with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average and a member of Omega Chi Epsilon chemical engineering honor society and the campus chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Established in 2001, the

Eastman honor recognizes students ranked in the top 25 percent of their class with demonstrated skills in communication, team-working abilities and other leadership traits.

College of Education is reaccruited

The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education is continuing its approval of professional programs in Mississippi State's College of Education.

In a recent letter, NCATE president Arthur Wise notified university officials that the college again meets the organization's rigorous standards for preparing future K-12 instructors.

Some 540 institutions today hold the highest ranking of the U.S. Department of Education-recognized certification process. Collectively, they produce two-thirds of the nation's new teachers each year.

MSU's teacher training unit currently enrolls nearly 2,900 undergraduate and graduate majors. Only the university's foundation programs in agriculture and engineering have been longer on campus.

"We are most gratified and happy to continue an accreditation that first was awarded back in 1973," said Dean Roy H. Ruby. "This latest achievement is a result of the long-term and focused efforts of our college administrators, faculty, staff, and students, along with the assistance of President Charles Lee and so many others throughout the campus."

Cook new head of diversity office

A 25-year veteran of human resources, equal opportunity and compliance programs in academic and corporate settings is leading the former Affirmative Action Office.



May

Carson C. Cook Jr. assumed his new position last fall.

Previously, he was employee relations manager for Jacksonville, Fla.-based MPS Group, a Fortune 1000 company and one of the largest international providers of specialty staffing and business solutions.

The office was renamed the Office of Diversity and Equity Programs in January.

“Carson Cook brings valuable skills and a record of success to this critical management role at Mississippi State University,” said President J. Charles Lee. “We look forward to his leadership in building on the university’s commitment to diversity and providing a supportive working environment for all faculty and staff.”

He holds a bachelor’s degree from Roosevelt University in Chicago and has done graduate work at the University of Chicago.



Cook

Centers combine to create institute

Four technical centers at Mississippi State are pooling their resources and personnel to better meet common educational and research goals.

The university’s newly designated Geospatial and Natural Resources Institute combines missions and expertise areas of the Remote Sensing Technologies Center, Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute, Computational Geospatial Technologies Center, and Visualization,

Analysis, and Imaging Laboratory.

“By administratively reorganizing into the Geospatial and Natural Resources Institute, we will have more resources to address some pressing issues, including water quantity and quality, agricultural competitiveness in a world market, and invasive species monitoring and management,” said director David Shaw.

Established three years ago, the Remote Sensing Technologies Center has gained widespread recognition for its partnership efforts with a variety of private industries and public sector agencies. The alliances have involved a number of high-profile remote sensing and geospatial projects related to agriculture, forestry, environment issues, state and local government, and transportation.

The federally mandated Water Resources Research Institute is part of a national network administered through the United States Geological Survey. Each state institute is charged with recruiting and training water scientists, exploring new approaches to water problems and providing water-related research results to water managers and the public.

The Computational Geospatial Technologies Center, a part of the university’s ERC, works with government, commercial, and public interests to research, develop, and validate computational geospatial information products.

Also at the ERC, the Visualization, Analysis, and Imaging Laboratory’s work includes the use of high-performance computing to

apply state-of-the-art scientific visualization to real-world problems, such as 3-D forest canopy structure and ocean flow changes.

Abraham named interim student affairs head

A Mississippi State administrator who has worked with students for the past 25 years now is interim vice president for the university’s Division of Student Affairs.

Jimmy W. Abraham, assistant vice president for the past two years and director of Mississippi State’s student recruitment effort for 15 years before that, has assumed the top student affairs post.

He succeeds Roy H. Ruby, who last spring chose to give up the vice president’s position he had held since 1985 to become dean of the university’s College of Education. Ruby performed double duty as both vice president and dean until November.

Abraham now heads the division responsible for enrollment services, housing, financial aid, health services, student organizations, counseling, police, recreational sports, and other student service functions.

“Dr. Abraham brings a wealth of knowledge about MSU to this role and is revered by thousands of alumni for his enthusiastic response to their individual needs when they were students,” said President J. Charles Lee.

As director of enrollment services from 1985-2000, Abraham headed MSU recruitment efforts during a period of rapid growth.

He previously served as

assistant director of enrollment services and as a residence hall director, where he began his career with the university after receiving a master’s degree in student personnel and counselor education at MSU in 1977. He also earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing at MSU in 1975 and a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Mississippi in 1985.

Project receives Gulf Guardian Award

A Mississippi State-developed low-maintenance landscape design for a Biloxi beachfront is earning a regional environmental award.

The Harrison County project by the university’s Center for Sustainable Design received a third place Gulf Guardian Award during the Gulf of Mexico Program’s recent Clean Gulf 2002 Conference in Galveston, Texas.

The MSU center was established in 1997 by biological engineer Tom Cathcart and landscape architect Pete Melby to enable students in both academic disciplines to gain valuable experience on real-world projects.

A unit of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency since 1988, the Gulf of Mexico Program works to protect, restore and maintain the health and productivity in economically sustainable ways of regional oceanic ecosystems. Its Gulf Guardian Awards were established three years ago to honor businesses, community groups, individuals, and agencies that are taking positive steps to keep the Gulf healthy, beautiful and productive.

The MSU-led beach project was launched several years ago as part of Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce efforts to beautify a section of the U.S. Highway 90 median at Miramar Park.



Abraham

Campus News

Since then, the collaborative effort has evolved to include an adjacent three-acre site on which plants are allowed to grow without any maintenance by mechanical equipment.

"The site has remained untouched by beach equipment for seven years and now has a colony of smooth cord grass along the water's edge and 2,600 feet of sea oat plantings that are creating dunes modeled after those on Horn Island," Melby said. "The plantings also have eliminated sand movement off the site onto Highway 90, which is saving the expense of sand removal."

Two honored at fall commencement

Two of Mississippi State's best-known figures were honored in December as part of the university's 2002 fall graduation program.

The more than 1,400 degree candidates shared the celebration in Humphrey Coliseum with storied football and basketball broadcaster Jack Cristil of Tupelo and veteran MSU administrator Roy H. Ruby.

Cristil, recently recognized for his 50 years of service as "The Voice of the Bulldogs," received an honorary doctoral degree. Ruby, vice president for student affairs since 1985 who now is concluding his MSU career as dean of education, was the commencement speaker.

Cristil, 77, became the eighth person to receive an

honorary doctorate since MSU began bestowing the high tribute in 1999.



Cathcart, left, and Melby

Ruby is a university alumnus who returned to work at his alma mater in 1964 and went on to hold a variety of leadership positions in the Division of Student Affairs.

Beginning as program director for the Colvard Union, he progressed to coordinator of student activities, assistant dean of men, associate dean for student development, assistant to the vice president for student affairs, and dean of student administrative services, among others.

Like Cristil, he has been honored by the National Football Foundation; in his case, the Contribution to Amateur Football Award. He also has been recognized as an alumnus of the year by MSU's Army ROTC program.

Schulz honored with national award

For the first time since being instituted in 1972, a national award recognizing achievements in university engineering instruction is being presented to a Mississippi faculty member.

Noel N. Schulz, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at Mississippi State, is the 2002 C. Holmes MacDonald Outstanding Young Electrical Engineering Teacher.

The award is presented annually by Eta Kappa Nu, the international honor society for electrical engineers. EKN includes more than 200 chapters spread throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

"To be singled out for this award among a high caliber of nominees denotes a remarkable record of scholarship and the highest standards of classroom teaching and service," said A. Wayne Bennett, dean of MSU's James Worth Bagley College of Engineering.

Since joining the MSU faculty last year, Schulz also has been honored with the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development Award and the Walter Fee Outstanding Young Power Engineer Award of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Prior to coming to Mississippi, she was selected for the American Society of Engineering Education's Dow Outstanding New Faculty Member Award.

Schulz holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Tech University in her hometown of Blacksburg, Va. Her doctorate was completed at the University of Minnesota.

Study shows impact of teacher certification

A state-supported effort to increase the number of national board-certified teachers in Mississippi is improving instruction, increasing parental involvement and enhancing



Noel N. Schulz, an associate professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering, is the 2002 C. Holmes MacDonald Outstanding Young Electrical Engineering Teacher. Presenting the award are Paul Jacobs, left, former department head, and Wayne Bennett, engineering dean.

awareness of teaching as a profession.

Those are among the conclusions found in a recent Mississippi State study conducted by Peggy A. Swoger and Jack Blendinger that examined the impact of 1997-2000 state legislative policies on schools, teachers and students. Swoger directs the university's World Class Teaching Program, while Blendinger is a professor of educational leadership.

Mississippi ranks among the top 10 states nationally in the number—more than 1,400—of National Board of Professional Teaching-certified teachers. State legislative incentives for certification include a \$6,000 annual supplement, reimbursement of fees for candidates who complete the effort and a statewide mentoring program available at MSU and five other universities.

The year-long voluntary process for K-12 teachers is rigorous, requiring the development of an extensive instructional portfolio and the completion of a written test. During the time period covered by the MSU study, more than 1,000 Mississippi teachers earned certification.



Cristil



Ruby

Titled “An Investigation of National Board Certification in Mississippi, 1997-2000,” the report also drew on data from the state Department of Education and the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

Swoger said, among other things, their survey finds that:

—More than 30 percent of board-certified teachers are in districts deemed “excellent” by the state. Conversely, those districts on probation or “warned” status have only 1 percent of board-certified teachers.

—More than 80 percent of school districts have participated in the effort and currently employ at least one national board candidate. Overall, 66 percent of candidates succeeded in gaining certification, with some 90 percent of this group having received university mentoring.

—Approximately 96 percent of those certified continue to teach, with more than 90 percent of this group reporting improved personal teaching methods and practices.

Donation expands state census information collection in library

A new donation to Mississippi State by a retired Starkville couple is significantly expanding the University Libraries’ collection of state census information.

E.O. and Betty Templeton are providing both the microfilm and index—also called a Soundex—of 1930 census records for Mississippi, which were released for the first time in April.

To ensure privacy of participating individuals, copies of the actual forms used by census takers are made public only after 72 years.

Heavily involved in genealogical research, the Templetons earlier provided Mitchell Memorial Library with state census and Soundex information for 1910 and 1920.

Holmes returns to his alma mater

Dr. Richard E. Holmes, a Mississippi State alumnus who holds a special place in the university’s 125-year history, is now on staff at the John C. Longest Student Health Center.

A former Birmingham, Ala., physician, Holmes is working at the school that he entered as its first African-American student in July of 1965. The Chicago native, a specialist in emergency room medicine, was raised in Starkville.

Holmes replaces Dr. Mike McIntyre, who left earlier this year.

Holmes is well known to most of the university community by virtue of the cultural diversity center on President’s Circle that has carried his name since 1991. Three years later, he and his wife Judy endowed a minority scholarship fund that also was named in his honor.

“We are especially happy to have Dr. Holmes join the Division of Student Affairs and the Longest Health Center, not only because of who he is and what he means to MSU, but also because his services are especially needed at this time,” said Jimmy Abraham, the division’s interim vice president.

Dr. Robert Collins, center director, said Holmes begins

work at a time when the university is completing a major expansion of its campus health-care facility.

“It’s a happy coincidence that we now have a home that is more than twice the size of the original health center that opened the year Dr. Holmes enrolled,” Collins said.

Holmes received a general liberal arts degree from MSU in 1969. He went on to earn a graduate degree in community college education with emphasis in microbiology and nutrition. He also completed 17 hours beyond the master’s level as he waited to be accepted to medical school at Michigan State University, from which he graduated in 1977.

MSU still among nation’s bargains

Mississippi State is among the nation’s 100 “Baccalaureate Bargains” for 2002, according to Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine.

The magazine’s periodic ranking of public colleges and universities includes “top quality schools at relative bargain prices.”

For the 2002 rankings, the magazine started with the 200 institutions judged most selective among the nation’s 600-plus public four-year institutions based on ACT and SAT scores, then whittled the list based on quality measures such as student-faculty ratios and how much an institution spends per student.

Mississippi State came in 99th in the ranking based on a combination of quality and cost, the average percentage of financial need met by aid, and average student debt, among other things. The magazine calculated MSU’s total annual cost for an in-state student at \$12,876, including room and board and other expenses.

MSU was mistakenly left off the list when Kiplinger’s initially published its 2002 rankings in October, but appears in a corrected version in the January 2003 edition.

MSU laundry to close doors this spring

Mississippi State’s laundry and dry cleaners will close in early May at the end of the spring semester after extended efforts have failed to halt financial losses incurred by the auxiliary university unit.

For decades a self-supporting operation, the campus service has lost money in successive years, including a deficit of approximately \$100,000 last year.

“Financial realities make it impossible for us to continue the laundry operation,” said Gaddis Hunt, MSU’s chief administrative officer.

The business employed as many as 22 full-time workers as recently as 2000, but the staffing level has been reduced through attrition to the current employment of 13. The university is working with the affected employees to help them locate other jobs either on or off campus.

Ex-industry executive to lead forest products

An industry executive who served as global manager for a major manufacturer of specialty chemicals is the new head of Mississippi State’s forest products department.

Liam E. Leightley, who assumes his new duties after a decade with Pennsylvania-based Rohm and Haas, now will lead the largest state-funded laboratory of its kind in the United States. Established in 1964, the forest products department is part of MSU’s Forest and Wildlife Research Center and serves an industry

that contributes more than \$14 billion annually to Mississippi.

“Dr. Leightley has a wealth of academic, governmental and industrial experience,” said

Sam Foster, dean of the College of Forest Resources and research center director. “His diverse research and international knowledge will be an asset to the university and to Mississippi’s forest products industry.”

Leightley also has held positions as visiting professor at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis., and as research manager at Queensland Department of Forestry in Australia.

Leightley holds a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and microbiology from the University of Bradford and a doctorate from the University of Portsmouth, both in the United Kingdom.

Education graduates recognized for efforts

Graduates of the College of Education at Mississippi State have made invaluable contributions to secondary education in the state recently, garnering accolades from their peers and professional groups.

Rankin County school superintendent Lynn Weathersby, a 2002 doctoral graduate in school administration, has been named Mississippi Superintendent of the Year for 2003 by the Mississippi Association of School

Administrators. He now is eligible for consideration for National Superintendent of the Year honors. The 2002 award winner was Larry Box, superintendent of the Starkville Public Schools. Box, who holds bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from MSU, recently retired after 34 years’ service in the Starkville School District.

Janet Henderson, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for the Starkville Public Schools, received the 2001-02 Distinguished Educator award from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. She received bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from MSU in 1971, ’74, and ’90, respectively.

Bob Fuller, principal of Armstrong Middle School in Starkville and a 1987 M.Ed. graduate of the College of Education, is the recipient of the 2003 Principal of the Year award from the Mississippi Association for Middle Level Education.

Paul Cuicchi, who holds bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in education from the university, has been named Mississippi’s 2002 Teacher of the Year. A physics teacher at Starkville High School, he also is a member of the Dean’s Advisory Council for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at MSU.

College of Education graduates Tunja Shelton-Smith, a teacher at John Logan APAC Power Elementary School in Jackson, and Lisa Anderson, a teacher at Sudduth Elementary in Starkville, are recent recipients of the prestigious Milken Family Foundation



Leightley

Educator Award. The honor recognizes educators who have a proven record of excellence in education and is accompanied by a \$25,000 check.

Three of the eight recipients of the New Teacher Assistance Grants funded by Mississippi Power Co.’s Power Education Foundation are MSU education graduates. Donna Cole, Donna Tucker, and Tami Reynolds each received a \$750 grant to purchase supplies and equipment for their Southeast Mississippi classrooms.

Financial planning courses available online

A new program offered through the College of Business and Industry at Mississippi State will fulfill the educational components for a Certificate in Financial Planning.

Begun in January, the online program includes courses in financial planning, risk management and insurance, investment and portfolio management, income tax planning, estate planning, and employee benefits and retirement planning.

The CFP is the most widely recognized financial planning certification in the country and the MSU program is the only one of its kind in Mississippi that is registered with the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards.

Many graduates of the program go on to acquire Certified Financial Planner certification and pursue careers as CFP professionals.

For more information, visit the college’s Web site at www.cbi.msstate.edu/cfp or contact Dr. Edwin Duett, P.O. Box 9580, Mississippi State, Ms 39762; telephone 662-325-2341; e-mail edduett@cobilan.msstate.edu.

New equation improves timber estimation

A Mississippi State forestry professor is providing a better way to predict the “delivered” weight of standing Southern pines.

Associate professor Robert C. Parker and other scientists at the Forest and Wildlife Research Center have developed a mathematical formula that gives forest resource managers the ability to accurately predict the weight of standing trees very early in the production process.

Parker said the MSU-developed equation, which was tested through extensive field research, should be especially helpful in estimating weight of the green wood preferred by most mills in the hot, humid South for its ability to be stored for long periods with little deterioration.

“There currently are weight functions and tables available to estimate standing trees,” Parker said. “Most predict green-weight immediately after trees are felled, rather than weight once delivered to the wood yard or mill.”

Because of moisture loss, weight differs significantly after delivery to even the first processor, he explained.

The MSU-produced equation predicts the weight of trees at delivery, as well as providing compatible field measures to predict conventional units such as cubic feet, cords, and board feet.

The new equation also can be used to predict the weight of any merchantable top-diameter, thus providing an additional tool for forest inventory and administrative planning, he said.

For additional information about the study, contact Parker at 662-325-2775 or rparker@cfr.msstate.edu.

New coaches named to Bulldog football staff

Five new coaches joined the Bulldog staff on both sides of the ball following the completion of the 2002 football season.

They include John Blake, Steve Campbell, Ron Cooper, Guy Holliday, and Morris Watts.

Blake, 41, will coach the defensive line. He has spent the past four seasons directing "A Chance To Advance Football Camp," a developmental camp specializing in defensive linemen. Among his clients are Miami Dolphin defensive end Jason Taylor, Atlanta Falcon linebacker Keith Brooking and St. Louis Ram strong safety Adam Archuletta. Blake was the head coach at the University of Oklahoma 1995-98, assuming the top football position at his alma mater at age 33. He posted a three-year, 12-22 mark as the Sooner head coach, but recruited to Norman 18 of the 22 starters that won the national championship in 2000.

Campbell, who will coach the offensive line, can boast national championship credits as both a player and a coach at the collegiate level. He comes back to the

Magnolia State and to Mississippi State University from Middle Tennessee State where he served as the Blue Raiders' offensive coordinator and offensive line coach this past year. Under his guidance, Middle Tennessee scored three or more touchdowns eight times during the '02 season, defeated Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn., and dropped a narrow season-opening 39-34 game at Alabama. The Blue Raiders averaged 25 points, more than 200 yards rushing, and 154 yards passing per game. Campbell is a former 2000 Division II National Coach of the Year after leading Delta State University to the Division II national title.

Cooper, 40, is the Bulldogs' defensive coordinator. He comes to MSU following one season as the defensive backfield coach at the University of Wisconsin of the Big 10 Conference. Under his direction, Wisconsin had the Big 10's two individual leaders in pass interceptions. One of those, walk-on strong safety Jim Leonhard, led the nation with 10 steals. Cooper joined the Wisconsin staff following nine years as a collegiate

head coach. He served as the head of the football fortunes at Alabama A&M (1998-2001), Louisville (1995-97) and Eastern Michigan (1993-94).

Wide receivers coach Holliday comes to MSU from Western Michigan University where he served the past three seasons as tight ends and then receivers coach. This past fall, his first with the entire receiver group, his pass catchers accounted for 256 yards receiving per game, more than 70 percent of the Bronco attack. Holliday, 40, previously served as offensive coordinator at Alabama State University. He helped the Hornets become the No. 1 passing team in the Southwestern Athletic Conference during his tenure.

Watts, 64, will serve as the Bulldogs' offensive coordinator. He comes to MSU from Michigan State University where he served as offensive coordinator for the past four seasons. He was the Spartans' interim head coach for the final three games of the 2002 season. In 2001, Watts was nominated for the Broyles Award, given annually to the nation's top assistant coach.



New 45-foot foul poles were installed in late January at Dudy Noble Field, Polk-DeMent Stadium prior to the Bulldog's first practice. Dudy Noble Field was cited as one of the nation's top venues for college baseball by North Carolina-based Baseball America. College baseball coaches voted Dudy Noble sixth, while the baseball information directors tabbed the MSU ballpark as the nation's second-best. Auburn's 3,806-seat Hitchcock Field at Plainsman Park led both rankings.

Hall, Perry and Overstreet representing MSU in the pros

Three former Lady Bulldogs have been invited to participate in the professional leagues of women's basketball.

Meadow Overstreet (1998-01) and Cynthia Hall (1998-01) are both playing overseas this season, while Nitra Perry (1997-00) is playing for an unofficial developmental league in Birmingham, Ala.

Hall graduated last May in fitness and management and was invited to play in Holland for the Perik Jumpers, her first time to play internationally. Hall owns records of the most games played in MSU women's basketball history (120) and most three-point field goals made (147).

"I think this is a good first-time experience for me and I hope that I can get an even better opportunity from playing with this team," said Hall.

Overstreet returned to Iceland to play for a second year. She previously played for I.S. in 2000-01. Perry is playing for the Birmingham Power, a member of the National Women's Basketball League. NWBL is an unofficial developmental league for the Women's National Basketball Association.

"It is one step closer to my ultimate goal of playing at the next level," said Perry.

"This is a tremendous opportunity when any student-athlete who has such a passion for the game is able to play beyond college," said head coach Sharon Fanning. "I'm proud of their work ethic and enthusiasm. They had to stay after it and I am proud of their persistence. While at MSU, they worked as hard as any players I have ever coached. This is a great opportunity. They represent the university well."

MSU a leader in student-athlete grad rate

Mississippi State graduated 62 percent of the student-athletes who entered the university as freshmen in 1995 within six years, for the highest rate among public universities in the Southeastern Conference.

The NCAA recently released graduation rates for student-athletes at member schools across the nation. The average graduation rate for Division I institutions reached 60 percent for the first time since the NCAA began tracking 18 years ago.

"We have for a long time stressed graduation over eligibility," said David Boles, associate athletic director and University Academic Advising Center director. "We just don't talk eligibility, we talk graduation with our freshmen coming in."

The average graduation rate for the last four classes of student-athletes at MSU was 60 percent. The six-year graduation rate for all students entering MSU as freshmen in 1995 was 53 percent, and the average for the last four classes was 50 percent.

Softball Bulldogs rank first in All-Conference academic selections

Fourteen of 17 Mississippi State softball players recorded 3.0 grade-point averages or higher in a record-setting academic semester, according to head coach Jay Miller.

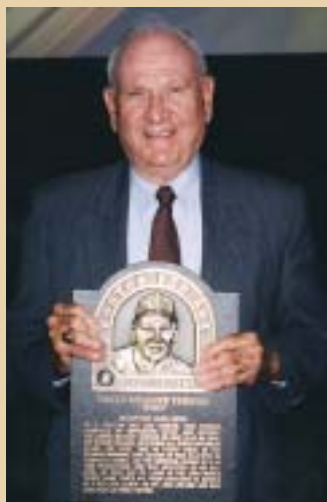
The Bulldogs, who have historically paced the Southeastern Conference in academic honor roll selections, turned in a 3.41 overall GPA during the fall semester, including five athletes who garnered a spot on the President's Scholar list. Softball's 3.41 GPA led all MSU women's sports during the semester.

Among those athletes, Blaire Brown, Kate Jaspers, and Krystal Tillman recorded flawless 4.0 GPAs, while Jennifer Jessup

earned a 3.82 and Lindsay Nelson a 3.81. Courtney Frank (3.68), Jennifer Nelson (3.53), and Callie Williams (3.53) also topped the 3.5 plateau. Frank, Nelson, and Williams were awarded Dean's Scholars honors.

On several occasions, the Mississippi State softball team has earned both conference and national awards for their work in the classroom. As recently as last summer, the team sent five athletes to NFCA academic all-American honors.

Mississippi State currently paces SEC softball with 49 academic all-conference selections, including a record 14 during the 2001 campaign.



Former MSU Diamond Dawg Dave "Boo" Ferriss was inducted into the Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame in 2002. Ferriss, who was an All-SEC pitcher at Mississippi State 1939-42, made the All Star team his rookie season with the BoSox and pitched a shutout in game four of the World Series against St. Louis. He joins only two other pitchers in major league history to have two winning streaks of 10 or more games in the same season. Ferriss later served as a Red Sox pitching coach before becoming head baseball coach at Delta State University. At DSU, he enjoyed a 26-year career and carried three teams to NCAA Division II College World Series appearances. He was inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 1964 and the Mississippi State Sports Hall of Fame in 1970.

2003 Mississippi State Football Spring Signees

Brian Anderson, OL, 6-5, 285, Butler, Ala. (Patrician Academy)—Named first-team, all-state on the offensive line by the Alabama Sports Writers Association in the AISA/Independent division.

Royce Blackledge, OL, 6-4, 270, Laurel (Northeast Jones)—Named first-team, all-state by the Jackson Clarion-Ledger on the offensive line following his senior season at Northeast Jones High School in Laurel.

Eric Butler, TE, 6-3, 225, Moss Point (Moss Point)—Ranked with the top 25 recruits in the state of Mississippi by the Jackson Clarion-Ledger.

Corey Clark, DL, 6-3, 285, Collins (Collins)—Rated with the top 50 defensive linemen in the Southeast in Rivals/PrepStar preseason magazine.

Omarr Conner, QB, 6-0, 205, Macon (Noxubee County)—Named Mr. Football in the state of Mississippi by the Jackson Clarion-Ledger.

Quinton Culbertson, DB, 6-0, 210, Jackson (Provine)—Named to the Parade All-America team, one of just four defensive backs listed.

Donovan Davis, OL, 6-7, 330, Jackson (Callaway)—Named to the Parade All-America team, one of just 17 linemen nationwide selected.

Lance Fremin, OL, 6-1, 270, Starkville (Starkville)—Ranked No. 20 on Rivals.com's list of the top center prospects in the country.

Eric Fuller, DB, 6-2, 195, Clinton, S.C. (Clinton/Independence [Kan.] CC)—Named first-team all-Jayhawk Conference following his sophomore season on the junior college level.

Adrian Griffin, DB, 5-11, 170, LaGrange, Ga. (LaGrange)—Named to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Super Southern 100, a list of the top 100 players in the South.

Devrick Hampton, DL, 6-3, 275, Greenville (Greenville-Weston)—Named to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Super Southern 100, a list of the top 100 players in the South.

Avery Hannibal, DL, 6-2, 255, LaGrange, Ga. (Troup County)—Ranked No. 55 among all strongside defensive ends in the country by Rivals.com.

Michael Heard, LB, 6-3, 225, Lovejoy, Ga. (Lovejoy)—Rated No. 45 among the nation's outside linebacker prospects by Rivals.com online service.

Phernando "Rex" Hill, DL, 6-3, 295, Marathon, Fla. (Marathon)—Ranked No. 96 on the list of the top 100 prospects in the state of Florida, regardless of position, by the Orlando Sentinel newspaper.

Brad Horton, LB, 6-1, 230, Columbus, Ga. (Spencer)—Tallied 136 tackles and forced two fumbles during a standout senior season for head coach Collins Jones at Spencer High School in Columbus, Ga.

Jason Husband, WR, 6-3, 200, Jackson (Jim Hill)—Ranked with the top 45 wide receivers in the Southeast by PrepStar magazine.

Jeramie Johnson, DB, 6-0, 185, Atlanta, Ga. (Booker T. Washington)—Ranked No. 21 on the Rivals.com list of the nation's top cornerbacks.

Jason Jude, RB, 6-0, 235, Athens, Ala. (Athens)—Ranked as the No. 11 prospect in the country at the fullback position by Rivals.com.

Akeem Lofton, WR, 5-10, 180, Waynesboro (Wayne County)—Cited as the Mississippi Association of Coaches Class 5A Offensive Player of the Year following the 2002 season.

Andrew Powell, DL, 6-2, 290, Clewiston, Fla. (Clewiston)—Ranked with the top 75 offensive and defensive linemen in the Southeast in the G&W preseason recruiting magazine.

David Price, OL, 6-4, 315, Jacksonville, Fla. (Mandarin)—Rated the No. 15 offensive tackle in the country, the No. 80 player regardless of position in the Southeast, and the No. 34 player in the state of Florida, also regardless of position, by Rivals.com.

Sandy Quinn, DL, 6-4, 240, Jackson (Provine)—Rated as the No. 38 defensive end in the country following his prep career at Provine High School.

Carlton Rice, LB, 6-1, 210, Huntsville, Ala. (Johnson)—Considered one of the top three linebacker prospects in the state of Alabama prior to his senior season by The G&W Recruiting Report.

Deljuan Robinson, DL, 6-5, 290, Hernando (Hernando)—Originally signed with Mississippi State in February 2002, he did not attend school due to football-unrelated surgery. He was named first-team, all-America by The G&W Recruiting Report at linebacker in its postseason publication a year ago.

Joey Sanders, WR, 6-2, 200, Macon (Noxubee County)—Named first-team, all-state by the Jackson Clarion-Ledger at wide receiver following a standout senior season for head coach M.C. Miller at Noxubee County High School.

Dezmond Sherrod, TE, 6-4, 225, Caledonia (Caledonia)—Listed as the No. 47 tight end prospect in the country coming out of high school by Rivals.com.

Tyler Threadgill, QB, 5-11, 175, Philadelphia (Philadelphia)—Rated the No. 12 player overall in the state of Mississippi by SuperPrep in its season-ending, all-America issue, the top-rated wide receiver.

Rickey Wright, DB, 6-0, 185, Batesville (South Panola)—Rated with the top 50 defensive backs in the southeast by PrepStar magazine in its preseason issue.

For more information on the signees, access www.mstateathletics.com.

Carpenter receives top MSU alumni honor

A Moorhead native and 1952 agronomy graduate is Mississippi State University's 2003 national Alumnus of the Year.

Will D. Carpenter recently was honored at the MSU Alumni Association's annual leadership banquet. Now residing in Chesterfield, Mo., he is chairman of the board for AgriDyne Technologies Inc., a Utah-based company developing environmentally compatible bioinsecticides that use compounds derived from the neem tree found in India and other tropical countries.

Carpenter also holds master's and doctoral degrees in plant physiology from Purdue University.

Continually involved with his alma mater, Carpenter has served in recent years as executive-in-residence for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He also was the college's 1991 Alumni Fellow and 1997 Alumnus of the Year.

A 1947-51 member of the United States Naval Reserve, he went on to see duty with the Army in the United States and Korea from 1952-54. He was discharged from the Army Reserve at the rank of captain in 1959, a year after beginning work at St. Louis, Mo.-based Monsanto Co. as a research biochemist.

Carpenter spent 34 years at Monsanto, retiring in 1992 as vice president and general manager of the agricultural group's new products division. While at Monsanto, he was honored with the MSU Agricultural Alumni Achievement Award.



Alumnus of the Year Will Carpenter, center, is congratulated by MSU President Charles Lee, left, and E. Allen Maxwell of New Albany, national MSU Alumni Association president.

2002 young alumna award winner announced

Barbara Ball Ward of Cordova, Tenn., received the Outstanding Young Alumna award for 2002 at the annual MSU Alumni Association Awards Banquet in January.

Ward, an accountant for a Memphis accounting firm, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting in 1992 and 1993, respectively.

She served as director of the Memphis alumni chapter from 1998 to 2000, as its secretary/treasurer in 2001, and its treasurer in 2002. In addition, she has spent time on various committees, including the Executive Committee from 2001 to 2002, Major Events, 2001 to 2002, and Membership, 2002.

While earning a bachelor's at MSU, Ward was an officer in the Accounting Society and was named a Little Sister for Delta Chi fraternity. She is a Starkville native.



Ward

Alumni Activities

Outstanding alumni chapters honored

The Alumni Association named outstanding chapters for 2002 at the annual Alumni Awards Banquet in January. The recipients were selected from among chapters throughout the state and nation.

In-state chapters honored for excellence in giving, chapter membership, chapter activities, and leadership were:

Category I, selected for membership potential of under 325—1. Covington County; and 2. George-Greene County.

Category II, selected from chapters with membership potential of 325 to 749—1. Lincoln County; 2. Pearl River County; and 3. Prentiss County.

Category III, selected from chapters with membership potential of 750 or more—1. Central Mississippi Chapter; 2. Lee County Chapter; and 3. DeSoto County.

Outstanding out-of-state chapters for 2002 were—1. Houston, Texas; 2. Memphis, Tenn.; and 3. Mobile, Ala.

Chapters meeting their membership quota and accumulating a minimum of 400 points according to the Chapter Recognition Point System were the Lowndes, Oktibbeha, Southeast Mississippi, Washington, and Yazoo chapters within the state, and the Atlanta, Ga., Baton Rouge, La., Huntsville, Ala., Nashville, Tenn., New Orleans, La., and West Tennessee chapters out-of-state.



College and School alumni named

College and School Alumni of the Year were recognized at the January alumni banquet. They include, seated from left, Louis A. Hurst Jr., a retired regional executive with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., College of Business and Industry; Ann Robertson Somers, partner in the Cooke Douglass Farr Lemons firm, School of Architecture; Dr. Gloria C. Correro, retired associate dean of the MSU College of Education, College of Education; and William T. "Bill" Hawks, undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Standing from left are Adrian M. Blocker, director of strategic planning for International Paper Co., College of Forest Resources; Rufus W. Shivers, retired senior engineer with the U.S. Energy Department, Bagley College of Engineering; Dr. Vernon "Cory" Langston, leader of the community practice service of the Animal Health Center at MSU, College of Veterinary Medicine; and George Kappler Jr., founder of Kappler Development Co., College of Arts and Sciences.



Three receive Distinguished Service Awards

Three Mississippi State alumni have been recognized for invaluable and dedicated service to the university during the past year. Madrina H. Bokencamp of Katy, Texas, Joe B. Whiteside of Tupelo, center, and Dr. Hubert H. Parker IV of Mobile, Ala., recently were presented with Distinguished Service Awards by the MSU Alumni Association. Bokencamp is a past selection for outstanding young alumna awards at both local and national levels. Whiteside is a member of

the MSU Foundation board of directors and a major supporter of the College of Business and Industry. Parker, a dentist, led in developing an alumni chapter-sponsored golf tournament to raise funds for an endowed scholarship.

Alumni Activities

Show your pride in MSU



Alumni and friends of Mississippi State can support the university and show their Bulldog pride at the same time by ordering an MSU license plate through their county license office. Proceeds from the sale of the MSU collegiate tags fund priority programs at the university.

Promoted by the
Mississippi State University Alumni Association
P.O. Box AA
Mississippi State, MS 39762-5526
662-325-7000
www.msubulldogs.msstate.edu

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 12 Memphis, Tenn., Chapter Bulldog family celebration and golf tournament
- 13 Nashville, Tenn., Chapter Bulldog family celebration and golf tournament
- 15 George-Greene Chapter Bulldog family celebration
- 20 Lowndes County Chapter Bulldog family celebration
- 22 DeSoto County Chapter Bulldog family celebration and golf tournament
- 29 Coahoma County Bulldog family celebration

JUNE

- 2 Birmingham, Ala., Chapter golf tournament/dinner
- 16 Houston, Texas, Chapter Bulldog family celebration and golf tournament
- 18 Sharkey-Issaquena Chapter golf tournament/barbecue dinner

JULY

- 17 Central Mississippi Extravaganza

Finding old friends has never been easier!

Keeping alumni connected is important to the MSU Alumni Association. That is why the Alumni Association has launched a new, secure Online Community exclusively for Mississippi State alumni. Two features included in the community are an online Alumni Directory and ClassNotes.

Similar to the printed directory, the online Alumni Directory is a powerful tool that allows registered community members a simple way to search for old friends either by name, geography, class year, and

occupation. Or, depending on the users networking needs, a more advanced search feature is available. There also is a MyContacts feature that allows members to bookmark frequent contacts for easy access.

Registered members also can update their personal information, and post information regarding births, engagements, marriages, moves, and career changes via the ClassNotes feature.

Access to the Alumni Online Community is limited to Mississippi State alumni

who log on using a user I.D. and personal password. There are no fees or obligations associated with the community. To register, go to the alumni Web site at www.msubulldogs.msstate.edu, click on online directory, and follow the instructions to set up your password.

The Alumni Online Community is an exclusive service that alumni can enjoy and find to be a valuable resource for every day use.

Hunter Henry Center proves beneficial to

The Hunter Henry Center complex at Mississippi State is alive with activity as demand for the building continues to grow.

“We are excited that the Henry Center is open for business as a conference facility. The facility is leaving a lasting impression on alumni and visitors,” said Dennis Prescott, vice president for external affairs.

“Area businesses and campus groups are calling to reserve spaces within the facility for just about every event imaginable. We are seeing a wide range of clientele which translates into greater exposure for Mississippi State,” he added.

The Henry Center opened its doors to the MSU campus and surrounding community in late 2002 as the staffs of the Alumni Association, the MSU Foundation, and vice president for external affairs set up operations.

The facility offers a premium location for conferences, corporate meetings, charity events, and receptions. Prescott’s office handles reservations, tours, and policies regarding usage of the Henry Center. Current bookings include several MSU student organizations, class reunions,

board meetings, and even wedding receptions, according to Donna Nickels, administrative assistant for the vice president.

The first special event to be held in the new facility was a gala honoring major donors to the Henry Center, which was built solely on the strength of private gifts. In addition, Hunter W. Henry Jr., the lead donor for the facility, held a dinner honoring the MSU students he supports through scholarships in the areas of engineering, arts and sciences, and business and industry.

Not only is demand for the building increasing within the MSU community, the Henry Center is providing a welcome element for community tourism as well.

“The new home for the MSU Foundation and Alumni Association is a tremendous addition not only for the university and its many events, but also for the Greater Starkville area,” according to Kristi V. Brown, chamber executive director and vice president of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership.

“Having a facility with meeting space that can accommodate a variety of groups of many sizes is extremely important,” Brown said. “From the perspective of local businesses and organizations, the addition of meeting space opens up opportunities to showcase the partnership between the university and the community to the many visitors that come through our surrounding communities,” she added.

The Greater Starkville Development Partnership and the Tennessee Valley Authority were among the first external groups to hold events in the Henry Center.

Fourteen meeting spaces throughout the Henry Center allow for multiple events. The facility boasts one of the area’s largest meeting and dining sites, the spacious Parker Ballroom. The large kitchen, located just off the ballroom, can provide complete on-site service for all events. A unique mezzanine area known as Legacy Hall, located just above the lobby, offers a more intimate setting for smaller receptions.

The center’s grounds feature an amphitheater and several attractive water

REMAINING NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

\$1 Million Level	\$500,000 Level	\$250,000 Level	\$100,000 Level	\$50,000 Level
Alumni Hall (Wing)	Alumni Executive Committee Room	Large Reflecting Pool	Alumni Alley	Pillars
Foundation Hall (Wing)	Foundation Executive Committee Room	Large Water Garden (Weilands Pool)	Seating Ring	
Legacy Hall (Donor Recognition Area)		Planned Giving Suite	Small Reflecting Pool	
Spire			Terra Basin	

***All major commitments to the Henry Center are payable over a five-year period.**

for campus, surrounding area

features. The entire complex lends itself beautifully to indoor and outdoor events.

Opportunities still exist for donors who would like to name features within the Henry Center or on its grounds. Among the remaining opportunities within the facility are conference rooms for the executive committees of the Alumni Association and the MSU Foundation, the planned giving suite, and Legacy Hall, the building's centralized donor recognition area. Thirty-two of the building's 50 pillars, which flank the halls of each wing, remain unnamed as well.

Exterior features available for naming include Alumni Alley, two water gardens, and a large reflecting pool that occupy prominent places on the grounds. Also

remaining is the Henry Center's signature feature, its distinctive 80-foot spire.

Recent commitments for the Henry Center include a deferred gift to name a meeting room in the Alumni wing for Fred McNeel, a 1939 electrical engineering graduate.

For additional information on the Henry Center, please contact MSU's Office of External Affairs at 662-325-7000.



The unique lobby area of the Henry Center is becoming a popular location for receptions.

Flagpole effort reaches goal; dedication scheduled

The fund-raising effort to name the flagpole monument at the Henry Center in memory of Lt. Col. Jerry Dickerson Jr. is complete and a formal dedication of the monument is scheduled for May.

"We are very pleased at the response we have had for this special memorial to the late Jerry Dickerson from so many alumni and friends of the university and its ROTC program," said Richard Armstrong, executive director of the MSU Foundation. A formal dedication will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, May 16 that will include members of the Dickerson family and numerous dignitaries," he added.

The flagpole memorial was the goal of alumni and friends of the university's Army Reserve Officers Training Corps to honor Dickerson, an MSU ROTC alumnus and 1983 economics graduate,

who died during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon. The monument was a \$50,000 naming opportunity on the grounds of the new alumni and foundation facility.

"The monument also will be a lasting tribute to all MSU graduates who have been commissioned through the Army ROTC program and served in the United States Army, its reserve component or the National Guard, since the ROTC program's inception in 1916," Armstrong said.

Dickerson's Pentagon assignment was the culmination of a distinguished career that began when he first served in the Mississippi Army National Guard as a student. Before losing his life in the Pentagon attack, the Durant native had served with distinction for 18 years in a variety of domestic and overseas military

assignments. At the time of his death, Dickerson was an assistant executive officer for the Army's vice chief of staff, a four-star general.

In addition to the flagpole monument, Mississippi State is remembering Dickerson in another way. A scholarship endowment in the College of Arts and Sciences will be used to award the first Dickerson scholarship for the upcoming 2003-2004 academic year. To be eligible for the award, a student must be a community college transfer majoring in a College of Arts and Sciences discipline and possess traits of good citizenship.

The Jerry Dickerson Scholarship Endowment may be increased through additional contributions.

Bryant's love of golf lives on at Mississippi State

During her lifetime, Miriam Elizabeth Bryant supported her husband, golf club professional Norman Leslie Bryant, and the sport he held so dear. After his death, she went to great lengths to ensure that the sport of golf would remain a vital part of the state of Mississippi and its largest university.

Mrs. Bryant died in September 2002, and now Mississippi State University will benefit from her deferred gift. Proceeds from the charitable remainder trust she established will support an endowment in MSU's professional golf management program for student scholarships.

The Miriam and Norman Bryant Memorial Scholarship Endowment marks the largest gift in the history of MSU's PGM program. One of only 14 sanctioned by the Professional Golfers' Association of America, the university's PGM academic program prepares students for careers as club professionals or directors of golf. The nearly 200 enrolled students come from throughout the United States and from as far away as Australia and Ireland.

"Mississippi State University and its PGM program are very fortunate to have been a beneficiary of Mrs. Bryant's trust," said Vance Bristow, director of planned giving for the MSU Foundation. "This trust helped her attain two very important goals—greater financial security through an

increased income stream in her later years and the creation of a lasting tribute to her husband and the sport to which he devoted his life."

Norman Bryant died in 1990 at the age of 76. It was then his widow decided to establish the memorial and make Mississippi State the beneficiary of the trust.

Mr. Bryant, known as "the Little Man" in golfing circles, was a giant in Mississippi golf. He was one of the state's pioneering club professionals, a charter member of the Mississippi Golfers Association, and conducted the first junior golf clinic in Jackson. An invitational golf tournament held annually at the Colonial Country Club bears his name. Recently, he was honored posthumously with an induction into the Gulf States PGA Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Bryant worked as a cashier with the Life Insurance Co. of Georgia. She served on many committees and held office for the Colonial Ladies Golf Association.

The Bryants were lifelong residents of Jackson and actively promoted the sport of golf during their 46-year marriage.



Norman and Miriam Bryant

"Norman and Miriam Bryant touched the lives of many golfers in the state," said great nephew Bryant Himes. An MSU alumnus, Himes currently is head golf professional at Colonial Country Club in Jackson, a position his uncle held for 26 years. "They were ambassadors of golf to everyone who

came in contact with them," said Himes. The legacy left behind by the Bryants will benefit the university and its professional golf management students for generations to come, said Scott Maynard, former director of MSU's PGM program.

"Mrs. Bryant's gracious generosity and love of the game of golf is very much appreciated," Maynard said. "Her desire to develop a need-based scholarship to assist those students who truly can utilize the resources best is to be commended," he added.

The Miriam and Norman Bryant Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund at Mississippi State may be increased through additional contributions and may receive the proceeds from bequests, trusts, life insurance, or gifts of real estate and personal property.

Executing a trust, such as the one established by Miriam Bryant, is an excellent tool to provide an income and make a charitable gift.

A charitable remainder trust basically works like this:

- Donor transfers assets to a trust managed by a trustee.
- Trust document is developed specifying the term of years, beneficiary, payment type (fixed or variable) and charitable recipient for the trust.
- Donor receives benefits including an immediate income tax deduction and if applicable, bypass of capital gains tax on the sale of the assets placed in the trust.
- Donor receives payments for the specified term of years.
- After the term of years, remaining assets in the trust go to the designated charity.

As an alumnus, alumna, or friend of Mississippi State, you can learn more about gifts that give back, such as charitable remainder trusts, by contacting the Office of Planned Giving in the MSU Foundation.

By providing the Foundation with a copy of the trust, you will qualify as a member of the prestigious Old Main Society, a special recognition program for planned gift donors.

Foundation welcomes Evans, Kitchens



Evans

The MSU Foundation recently filled two key roles within the organization.

Bennett Evans is the new director of development for the College of Architecture and Laura Beck Kitchens is the Fund for Excellence director.

Evans has eight years of fund-raising experience with the Boy Scouts organization, most recently serving as its district director for the metropolitan Atlanta area. The Columbus native holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's in public policy from Mississippi State.

Kitchens, who became director for the university's Fund for Excellence program in

November, holds an undergraduate degree in communication and a master's in business administration, both from MSU. She joins the MSU Foundation from the Scenic Land School in Chattanooga, Tenn., where she served as director of marketing and development. Previously, she had worked as an enrollment counselor for Mississippi State. She is a native of Florence, Ala.



Kitchens

Five join Foundation board

The Mississippi State University Foundation has selected five new members to its board of directors.

New leaders whose terms began Jan. 1 include: Dr. John Elliott of Tupelo, Larry E. Homan of Fulton, Ronald W. Parker of The Colony, Texas, Floyd D. Wade Jr. of Newton, and Dr. Billy Ward of Katy, Texas.

Four of the five new board members are MSU alumni, while the fifth is a former senior administrator at the Starkville school. Elliott, a retired urologist, is a 1966 pre-medicine graduate; Homan, owner of Tri-States Lumber Co., a 1967 industrial arts graduate; Parker, president and chief executive officer of Pizza Inn Inc., a 1972 accounting graduate.

Wade, owner of Wade Properties, attended Mississippi State, while Ward is a former dean of veterinary medicine and retired vice president for advancement. Ward directs the Texas-based Swalm Foundation.

Returning board members include Johnny Crane of Fulton, Hunter W. Henry Jr. of San Marcos, Texas, Louis A. Hurst Jr. of Houston, Texas, Don E. Mason of Gulfport, and C.R. "Bob" Montgomery of Canton.

Crane is CEO of F.L. Crane and Sons Construction Co., while Henry, retired president of Dow Chemical USA, is a 1950 MSU engineering graduate who is among a select few holding an honorary doctor of science degree from his alma mater.

Hurst, a retired Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. executive and 1949 business graduate, was recently named the College of Business and Industry's Alumnus of the Year.

Mason, vice president of Mississippi Power Co., received a bachelor's degree in engineering in 1964 and master's in business administration the following year.

Montgomery, a 1961 marketing graduate, is partner with the Canton law firm of Montgomery McGraw Collins Jones.

Fund for Excellence offers 125th anniversary pin

Through the years, annual gifts have become a vital means of support for Mississippi State. In celebration of the university's 125th anniversary, the Fund for Excellence, a major component of MSU's private support initiative, is offering a special commemorative lapel pin for gifts made at the Patrons level.

Donors will qualify as Patrons of Excellence members and receive a commemorative pin by making a gift during the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004). The Patrons giving level ranges from \$1,000 up to \$9,999, and corporate matching funds are included in a donor's gift total.

"Mississippi State University will celebrate its 125th birthday once, and we wanted to capture this moment for our donors who faithfully renew their support each year to scholarships, enhancements in our individual colleges and schools, or to an unrestricted area," said Laura Kitchens, director of the Fund for Excellence.

"You also may want to consider renewing your support to Student Affairs, the Senior Walk Campaign, Mitchell Memorial Library, MSU-Meridian, or the Bulldog Club," she added.

Launched in 1963, the Patrons of Excellence was the first major donor club established by the MSU Foundation. Membership in the current program is based on fiscal-year giving and must be renewed annually.

Gifts designated to the Fund for Excellence program should be made payable to the MSU Foundation and mailed to P.O. Box 6149, Mississippi State, MS 39762, or provided via the secure online form at www.msufoundation.com.



Barnes book chronicles 50 years of cotton history

A career farmer, journalist, and Mississippi State graduate has published a photographic history of 20th century cotton production in the United States.

Cotton: A 50 Year Pictorial History by **Harris Barnes** of Clarksdale was published in October 2002.

The book is a collection of 350 photos that traces the history and evolution of cotton production throughout the Cotton Belt in the post-World War II era.

Barnes earned a degree in agricultural administration at Mississippi State in 1941. Following service in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, he went to work as a farm manager in 1946 and concurrently began to record agricultural scenes through the camera lens. In 1970, he gave up farm management to become a full-time agricultural journalist and photographer, writing for *Progressive Farmer* and *Farm Quarterly* magazines, among others.

Barnes was named *Progressive Farmer's* Man of the Year in Service to Southern Agriculture in 1967. He has served as president of the American Soybean Association and the Mississippi State University Alumni Association.

Copies of *Cotton* can be ordered directly from the author by calling 662-624-8986.

Barnes already is planning a second book, *The Beauty of Southern Agriculture*, to include images of all of the region's major crops.



Alabama annual

Linda Martin, front left, a 1968 MSU education graduate, toured the John Grisham Room at Mitchell Memorial Library in October with several of nearly 60 students she brought to campus from two Alabama high schools. Chair of the English department at Oak Mountain High School near Birmingham, Martin has arranged an annual MSU tour for her students since the 1970s. Learning more were, front row from left, Jennifer Underwood and Andrea Smith and, back row from left, Katie Cooley, Scott Farris, and James Gilbreath. Martin

estimates that she has helped recruit more than 50 students to the university. "Mississippi State needs and deserves the very best students," Martin says. "Many of these students can be recruited if someone just tells them about State."

39

Maurice Guyton Turner of Leakesville, a retired teacher and businessman, has been chosen George-Greene County MSU Alumnus of the Year by the George-Greene County chapter of the MSU Alumni Association.

48

Harper Davis (M.Ed. '62) of Jackson has been selected a 2002 recipient of the Southeastern Conference Football Legend award, for accomplishments on and off the football field that have brought distinction and pride to his institution. During Davis' 1945-48 gridiron career at MSU, he was team top scorer for three years, Best

Athlete 1946-48, and Associated Press All-SEC and United Press International All-South in 1945. He went on to play for the Los Angeles Dons 1949-50 and the Chicago Bears in 1950. He later coached in high schools and colleges in Mississippi.

51

James H. Lacey Jr. of Canton has published a collection of essays entitled *History Bits About Canton and Madison County, Mississippi*.

54

Art Massey of Germantown, Tenn., a retired Realtor and partner of Belz Enterprises, has received the Commercial Broker of the Year award from the Memphis Area Association of Realtors.

56

Donald S. Bell of Bruce has been elected to the national council of the Society of American Foresters. He will represent Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

61

Bess Hull Boswell recently published a book entitled *Pyramid of Fire*.

William H. Gillon III of Natchez, founder and managing director of Gillon & Co., is serving as president of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants.



Gillon

James L. Sledge Jr. of Crystal Springs has been elected president of the National Association of State Foresters. He has headed the Mississippi Forestry Commission for 11 years.

62

William Carlton Brock of Carthage, Leake County supervisor, District 1, was selected Man of the Year for 2001 by the Leake County Chamber of Commerce.

Class News

66

Walter D. Becker Jr. of Canton has been named 2002 Realtor of the Year by the Mississippi Commercial Association of



Becker

Realtors. Becker owns Commercial Real Estate Services Inc. in Jackson. He was 1994 national president of the MSU Alumni Association, chairman of IHL's Inter-Alumni Council, chair/co-founder of IHL's College Fair, chairman of MSU's Robert W. Warren Chair of Real

Estate, and was 1995 Alumnus of the Year for MSU's Central Mississippi Alumni Chapter.

John M. Dean Jr. of Leland, a Realtor and president of LANDMART/Dean Land & Realty Co., is the 2003 president of the Realtors Land Institute, an affiliation of land professionals in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

67

Stan Pratt of Ridgeland has retired after 29 years in banking with Deposit Guaranty and AmSouth Bank.

68

Ralph Null (M.A.T. '72) of Columbus, a florist and MSU professor emeritus, has received the Tommy Bright Award from the Society of American Florists' Professional Floral Communicators-International for commitment to floral presentation. Null is a past president of the American Institute of Floral Designers and the author of two books on floral arrangements from Southern gardens.

69

Jim Fetterman (M.A. '70) of Sarasota, Fla., has been awarded the Silver Beaver Award by the Boy Scouts of America. It is the highest recognition for adult leaders at

the community level and is awarded for distinguished service to youth.

70

C. Phillip Gunter (M.S. '75) of Brandon, a registered principal and branch manager for Raymond James Financial Services Inc., has been named one of the "100 Great Financial Planners in America" by *Mutual Funds* magazine. He was the only financial planner chosen from Mississippi.



Gunter

Wayne Taylor of Lebanon, Tenn., coordinator of the recreation degree program at Cumberland University, has been elected to the board of directors of the International Conference on Outdoor Recreation.

73

Marsha Wedgeworth Blackburn of Brentwood, Tenn., has been elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives, 7th District. She previously served one term in the state senate and has served as film and music commissioner for the state.

Priscilla Ann Young Maxwell of Fairfax, Va., a kindergarten teacher with Fairfax County Schools, has been nominated for Teacher of the Year.

74

Dave McDonald of Marietta, Ga., in his 24th year as head baseball coach at Wheeler High School, has been inducted into the Georgia Dugout's Hall of Fame. McDonald has served as president of the National High School Baseball Coaches Association and was Cobb County



McDonald

Teacher of the Year-Health/Physical Education in 2000. Last May, the Wheeler Baseball Booster Club named the school's baseball field for him.

75

Gary K. Myrick of Kosciusko, a retired teacher and basketball coach, officiates public and private school basketball and is honorary state vice president of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

Michael R. Smith of Lucedale has received the Lee Howell Humanitarian Award of the George County Economic Development Foundation-Chamber of Commerce.

76

Ted Ammon of Jackson, associate professor of philosophy and chair of the Millsaps College philosophy department, has received the E.B. Stewart Family Professorship in Language and Literature, designed to support the scholarly work of a Millsaps faculty member.



Ammon

77

Sharion Harp Aycock of Fulton, an attorney, has been elected circuit judge in the 1st Circuit district.

Richard T. Carson of San Diego, Calif., has been appointed chair of the Department of Economics at the University of California, San Diego.

79

John W. Hatmaker (M.B.A. '85) of Edmond, Okla., has been named director of business process management Kerr-McGee Chemical. He previously was director of information management and technology for chemical for the Kerr-McGee Corp.

80

Cliff Huggins of Bloomington, Ind., an architect and senior project manager with the Odle McGuire & Shook Corp., has been elected treasurer of the Indiana chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

So what's new? ^{New} degree ^{New} job ^{New} baby

Have you or a Mississippi State alumnus you know received professional recognition?

Share the word with former classmates through the class news section in *Alumnus* and help the Alumni Association keep track of you at the same time. Complete the form and return it to:

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Name _____

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MSU major, degree(s) and years received _____

Occupation _____

Company _____

Address _____

Street/Box _____

City _____

State ZIP _____

Phone _____

Spouse's name _____

Spouse's MSU graduation (if applicable) _____

News for Class News:

82

Gene Berry of Madison, an attorney, has joined the law firm of Baker, Donelson, Bearman & Caldwell.

Tommy S. Joseph of Memphis has been promoted to vice president of the industrial papers business for International Paper Co. Joseph joined IP in 1983 as a process engineer.

Charles Fariior of Huntsville, Ala., has written a book, *Simple Business for People Simply Out of Time*. A significant portion of the proceeds will support MSU's Hunter Henry Center and the Boomer Esiason Foundation for cystic fibrosis. The book may be previewed at www.1stbooks.com or amazon.com. Fariior, a certified professional contracts manager, served on the National Board of Directors for the Alumni Association for six years.

84

David C. Newman of Mandeville, La., a Realtor with Coldwell Banker, has joined the Louisiana Board of Realtors and the Northshore Area Board of Realtors.

87

Jerry M. Goolsby of Brandon, senior audit manager for the accounting firm of Smith, Turner & Reeves, has been chosen by the Mississippi Economic Council to participate in its 2002-03 Leadership Mississippi program for promising young community leaders.

Paula Bevels Thomas of Murfreesboro, Tenn., an accounting professor, has been named advisory board Distinguished Professor of Accounting and interim chair of the Department of Accounting at Middle Tennessee State University.

Kenneth Carl Williams of Norcross, Ga., is employed at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. in Marietta.

Lisa S. Williamson of Clinton, a regional sales director for Avaya Inc., has been chosen by the Mississippi Economic Council to participate in its 2002-03 Leadership Mississippi program for promising young community leaders.

Kevin Womack of Memphis, Tenn., has joined FirstBank as senior vice



Womack

Class News

president of commercial lending at its new Memphis loan production office.

89

Danny W. Sample Jr. of Alabaster, Ala., is Eastern regional director of human resources for Regulus GP in Birmingham.

90

Trevor Flint has been promoted to major in the U.S. Air Force and was assigned to the Nuclear Command and Control Division at the U.S. Strategic Command Headquarters at Offutt AFB near Omaha, Neb.

91

Lisa Cain Anderson, a teacher at Sudduth Elementary School in Starkville, has been named a Milken Family Foundation Educator Award winner for Mississippi. The prestigious national award is for teaching excellence and includes a check for \$25,000.

92

Sean Farren of Oakmont, Pa., head professional at Totteridge Golf Club, qualified for the 2002 PGA Championship held in Chaska, Minn.

Tanya K. Finch of Booneville, executive director of the Booneville Area Chamber of Commerce, has been named one of Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Women by the Mississippi Business Journal.

Isaac Johnson of Houston, Texas, has joined the business transactions department of the law firm of Thompson & Knight. Johnson received his juris doctorate cum laude from Thurgood



Johnson

Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in 2002.

93

Robbie Hayes (M.S. '96) of Jackson has received the juris doctorate degree from Mississippi College School of Law and has joined Rozier Law Firm in Jackson. He was admitted to the Mississippi Bar in September.

Jay Murphy of Starkville has joined Prudential Starkville Properties as a realtor/broker.

Doug Pinkerton of Cleveland has been named women's cross-country coach at Delta State University and will retain his duties as the university's director of recreation and wellness activities.

Fred M. Tyner of Flowood is a junior transportation engineer for Engineering Associates/Pickering in Jackson.

94

Timothy Derby of Columbus, a karate instructor and owner of BodyFit Karate & Fitness Center, received a personal invitation from President Bush to take part in the first-ever White House Conference on Child Safety in Washington, D.C., in October 2002. Derby's book, *S.A.F.E. (Safety and Fear Education for Children)*, a detailed program designed to educate parents, educators, and children in all areas of child safety, will be available this spring. He lectures on child safety issues at schools, churches, and parent organizations.

Jeffrey Levy of Brooklyn, N.Y., a veterinarian, recently performed with his blues-rock band, "Pet-Rox," at an American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals benefit at Central Park. Pet-Rox is a not-for-profit musical group involved in fundraising and charity events in support of animal welfare causes. The band's activities have been covered by the New



Derby

York Times, the New York Post, and Animal Planet television network.

Shannon Rodman has received a master's degree in business administration from Belhaven College and is a marketing manager for TruGreen ChemLawn.

Tunja L. Shelton-Smith, a teacher at the Power Academic and Performing Arts Complex in Jackson, has been named a Milken Family Foundation Educator Award winner for Mississippi. The prestigious national award is for teaching excellence and includes a check for \$25,000.

95

Will Ballou has joined the Jackson architectural firm of Dale and Associates as a residential designer.

Matt Yarborough of Charleston, W.V., Mr. MSU in 1994, is an oncology product specialist for Ortho Biotech, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson.



Ballou

96

Stephen Allen, a project architect with Dale and Associates in Jackson, has passed architectural licensing requirements for the state of Mississippi.

Myles Kirby Hudson of Hattiesburg, vice president of purchasing for Hudson's Inc., has been chosen by the Mississippi Economic Council to participate in its 2002-03 Leadership Mississippi program for promising young community leaders.

Carman Henley Mullins of New Orleans, La., has been promoted to facilities engineering supervisor at ExxonMobil Production Co.

Rubin Shmulsky (Ph.D. '98) has coauthored the fourth edition of the textbook *Forest Products and Wood Science*. Worldwide, it is the most widely used book of its kind.



Allen

Class News

97

Joel Clements Jr. of Starkville has received a master's degree in information systems at MSU and works for the university as a computer programmer.

Melanie Troclair Dykes of Houston, Texas, recently was a contestant on the TV game show "The Price is Right" while vacationing in Los Angeles. She won the Showcase Countdown.

Alexandra Olive Garrett of Memphis, Tenn., a dentist, has received a doctorate in dental surgery, with honors, from the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry.

98

Margaret N. Nsofor of Carbondale, Ill., a zoology lecturer at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, has been named the outstanding faculty member for 2002-03 by the University Core Curriculum.

99

Angela Clinkscales Verdell of Jackson, senior procurement specialist for Entergy Operations Inc., has been chosen by the Mississippi Economic Council to participate in its 2002-03 Leadership Mississippi program for promising young community leaders.

Jeffrey Troy Wood of Vicksburg is a teacher at Warren Central High School.

00

Adrienne A. Johnson of Meridian has been promoted to property accounts manager at Bonita Lakes Mall in Meridian.

Joel Waters of Northport, Ala., has been promoted to head golf professional for Gulf States Paper Corp.'s NorthRiver Yacht Club.

01

Kelley Gatlin, an interior designer with Dale and Associates architectural firm in Jackson, was 2002 vice chairman of the local chapter of the American Society of Interior Design.



Waters



Gatlin

Anne Marie Moore of Tupelo is a schoolteacher at Milam Intermediate School.

Noelle A. Norman of Birmingham, Ala., has joined TurnerBatson Architects as an intern architect.



Norman

02

Elizabeth Maray Myers of Batesville is a fourth-grade teacher at Batesville Middle School.

Lynn Weathersby, who received a doctorate in school administration at MSU last May, has been named state Superintendent of the Year by the Mississippi Association of School Administrators. He has been superintendent of Rankin County Schools since 1997.



Wegman

Jennifer Wegmann has joined the Jackson architectural firm of Dale and Associates as an intern.



Birth Announcements

Andrew Daniel Beatty, Aug. 2, 2002, to **Dan Beatty ('98)** and **Robin Troupe Beatty ('98)** of Hattiesburg.

Matthew David Bell, Sept. 11, 2002, to **Mary Evelyn Johnson ('97)** and husband David Bell of Leesburg, Va.

Keitan Denise Bradford, Sept. 19, 2002, to **William Keith Bradford ('86)** and **Sheri Jones Bradford ('86)** of Madison.

Carson Sterling Burian, Dec. 12, 2002, to **Cindy Hodgins Burian ('84)** and husband Steven of Fayetteville, Ark.

James Steven Chustz III, Dec. 28, 2002, to **Katie Cummings Chustz ('97)** and **Jamie Chustz ('96)** of Madison.

Kaylin Alexandra Clark, Sept. 24, 2002, to **Tony Clark ('80)** and wife Crista of Sugar Land, Texas.

Cooper William Clarke, Oct. 1, 2002, to **Shannon Broussard Clarke ('92)** and husband Tim of Brandon.

Lauren Elizabeth Cooper, May 22, 2002, to **Michael Cooper ('92)** and **Michelle Cade Cooper ('92)** of Hattiesburg.

Nicholas John DeWeese and Harrison Matthew DeWeese, Sept. 23, 2002, to

Tony DeWeese ('95) and Michele Horton DeWeese ('93) of Madison.

Jed Dalton Fitts, Aug. 15, 2002, to **Brook Biffle Fitts ('01)** and husband Joseph of Pontotoc.

Jillian Hester Fox, Feb. 1, 2002, to **Anthony Gibson Fox ('94)** and **Julia Gaither Fox ('93)** of Northport, Ala.

Samantha Carol Garrett, Aug. 16, 2002, to **Alexandra Olive Garrett ('97)** and **Steven Douglas Garrett ('96)** of Memphis, Tenn.

Austin James Gothard, Feb. 28, 2002, to **Jaclynn Bigelow Gothard ('95)** and husband Todd of LaGrange, Ill.

Dawson Lancaster Green, Sept. 3, 2002, to **Terry W. Green Jr. ('96)** and **Kimberly L. Green ('99)** of Greenwood.

Tyler Rose Hamby, Sept. 15, 2002, to **Thomas Hamby III ('94)** and **Tina McMullen Hamby ('94, '96)** of Courtland.

Courtney Marie Horn, Oct. 8, 2002, to **Steven Edward Horn ('90)** and wife Lisa of Madison, Ala.

Abby Joy Kuykendall and Avery Graves Kuykendall, Oct. 2, 2002, to **Alex Kuykendall ('96)** and wife Andrea of Corinth.

Chloe Lang and Sophia Lang, Sept. 5, 2002, to **Huey Lang ('88)** and **Beth Henson Lang ('96, '98)** of Ocean Springs.

Mary Elizabeth Mahne, April 6, 2002, to **Jenny Manuel Mahne ('94)** and **Jamie Mahne ('96)** of Gulfport.

James Wilson McBrayer, June 18, 2002, to **Christopher McBrayer ('96)** and wife Emy of Memphis, Tenn.

Peyton Rayne McBride, June 28, 2002, to **Kenneth McBride ('95)** and **Jamie Ainsworth McBride ('96)** of Stringer.

Alexandre Claude-Vincent Merriman, Nov. 5, 2002, to **Angela Byrd Merriman ('94)** and husband Montay of Traverse City, Mich.

Avery McCharen Milligan, Dec. 29, 2002, to **Benjamin Lee Milligan ('97)** and **Sterling Wright Milligan (attended)** of Gluckstadt.

William Harrison Mohead, Nov. 14, 2002, to **Paul F. Mohead (86)** and wife Suzanne of Madison.

Carson Goodwin Pouncey, Oct. 2, 2001, to **Nick Pouncey ('95)** and wife Denise of Saucier.

Hayes Jackson Richey, March 20, 2002, to **Drew J. Richey ('99)** and **Kristen Hall Richey ('99)** of New Albany.

Robert Hardy Smith, Dec. 6, 2002, to **Kyle Smith ('92)** and **Barry Wise Smith ('92)** of Birmingham, Ala.

Nicholas Palmer Stegura, Aug. 3, 2002, to **Stacey Ratliff Stegura ('90)** and husband Chris of Lutz, Fla.

Bonnie Caroline Vance, Sept. 3, 2002, to **David Vance ('89)** and wife Cami of Tampa, Fla.

Madison Hope Withers, Sept. 23, 2002, to **Carey Rivers Withers ('97)** and **James Withers ('97)** of Louisville, Ky.

Carson Noelle Wofford, Dec. 23, 2002, to **Patrick D. Wofford ('93)** and **Karen Davis Wofford ('94)** of Pelahatchie.

Kirkpatrick Hughes Yarborough, Dec. 31, 2002, to **Matt Yarborough ('95)** and wife Michelle of Charleston, W.V.

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In Memoriam

William Hunter Corhern

businessman and athlete

William Hunter Corhern ('41) of Starkville, longtime owner and operator of Corhern's Big Star grocery and Mississippi State football standout, died Feb. 25, 2003. He was 83.

A Starkville native, Corhern graduated from Starkville High School where he played football, baseball, and basketball. On his way to earning a bachelor's degree in agriculture at Mississippi State, he garnered All-SEC and All-American honors as a guard on the Bulldog football team and was captain of the 1940 team that went 9-0-1 in regular season and subsequently defeated Georgetown in the 1941 Orange Bowl. Following graduation, he was drafted by the Chicago Bears, but declined.

After serving in the Marine Corps during World War II and rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel, he returned to Starkville and operated Corhern's Big Star for 39 years. He was deeply involved in the Starkville community, serving for 10 years as a city alderman and 15 years as a member of the Starkville School Board. He was a longtime chairman of the board for First Federal Savings and Loan and a member of the board of directors for First Federal Savings and Loan.

Corhern was inducted into the Mississippi State Sports Hall of Fame in 1972 and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 1989. In 1996, he represented MSU as a "Living Legend" at the SEC football championship game in Atlanta, Ga.

Joe S. Green ('26)—99, Indianola; retired partner in Sunflower Lumber Co., former principal, teacher, and coach, member of the Mississippi Coaches Hall of Fame and National High School Coaches Hall of Fame, and World War II veteran, Sept. 10, 2002.

Jett Joseph Turner ('28)—96, Jackson; businessman, former superintendent of Hazlehurst schools, and former headmaster of Woodland Hills Baptist Academy, Dec. 25, 2002.

Jefferson Patrick Steinwinder Jr. ('33)—93, Jackson; retired state Highway Department employee and World War II veteran, Feb. 16, 2003.

Gordon L. Thorn ('33)—89, Palatine, Ill.; retired civil engineer.

Thomas Major Waller ('33)—94, Starkville; retired agronomist and extension service cotton specialist, Nov. 29, 2002.

Carl Hunter Sikes ('34)—91, Jackson; retired rate analyst for Mississippi Power & Light Co., former professional baseball player, and World War II veteran, Jan. 5, 2003.

James S. Therrell ('36, M.S. '38)—87, Starkville; retired Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service employee and World War II veteran, Jan. 31, 2003.

Charles M. Coker Sr. ('37)—88, Yazoo City; retired Mississippi Chemical Co. employee, Sept. 25, 2002.

Edgar Lyle Sessums ('37)—87, Grenada; retired assistant vice president for North Mississippi for the Federal Land Bank of New Orleans and World War II veteran, Aug. 31, 2002.

Frank B. Wylie Jr. ('37)—87, Louisville, Ky.; retired senior vice president and principal design engineer for Hazelet & Erdal Consulting Engineers, World War II veteran, and valedictorian of the Class of 1937 at Mississippi State, Oct. 14, 2002.

Amos E.B. Britt Sr. ('38)—87, Indianola; retired farmer and World War II veteran, Dec. 6, 2002.

James W. Cartwright Jr. ('38)—Bay St. Louis; retired bookkeeper for Sunflower County Department of Education, Feb. 10, 2002.

Walton T. Woods ('38)—86, Jackson; retired vice president for Mississippi Power and Light Co. and World War II veteran, Aug. 30, 2002.

L. Sledge Allen ('39)—85, Indianola; furniture store owner and World War II veteran, May 11, 2002.

Fredrick Kirk McNeel ('39)—85, Laurel; retired, Sept. 9, 2002.

Fred A. Moore ('39)—85, Morton; retired owner of Fred Moore Co., past president of the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association, and World War II veteran, Jan. 30, 2003.

Joseph T. Pugh ('39)—84, Huntsville, Ala.; retired electrical engineering superintendent for Huntsville Utilities, former engineer for the Army Missile Command, and World War II and Korean War veteran, Dec. 9, 2002.

James Cyrus Sneed II ('39)—90, Pontotoc; retired superintendent of Pontotoc Electrical Power Association and World War II veteran, Nov. 8, 2002.

Emory Floyd Thomas ('39)—86, Chattanooga, Tenn.; retired manager of power operations for Tennessee Valley Authority and consultant for Management Analysis Co., Dec. 17, 2002.

William Henson Ward ('39)—80, Starkville; retired attorney and World War II veteran, Oct. 21, 2002.

Harry R. Andress Jr. ('40)—84, Birmingham, Ala.; founder of Andress Engineering Associates, co-founder of Big Valley Towing Inc., and World War II and Korean War veteran, Feb. 3, 2003.

William D. Maxey ('40)—84, Brandon; retired engineer and manager for Bell South and World War II veteran, Feb. 1, 2003.

Robert Sullivan Barker ('41)—82, Brandon; retired Rankin County extension agent and World War II and Korean War veteran, May 18, 2002.

J. Ben Griffin ('41)—Ocoee, Fla.; attorney and retired U.S. Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, Jan. 25, 2003.

Walter Douglas Kearney Sr. ('41)—83, Memphis, Tenn.; retired banking consultant and assistant comptroller for HumKo Products and World War II veteran, Oct. 13, 2002.

William E. Manning ('41)—82, Drew; farm manager, U.S. Postal Service employee, and World War II and Korean War veteran, Oct. 24, 2002.

John T. Monroe ('41)—91, Lucedale; retired supervisor for Farmers Home Administration, Sept. 24, 2002.

Walter Curtis Couch Jr. ('42)—82, Meridian; owner of Couch Engineering and World War II veteran, Nov. 25, 2002.

In Memoriam

Helen Rose Porter (42)—81, Doniphan, Mo.; retired teacher with Doniphan Elementary School, Nov. 25, 2002.

William Andrew Raney ('42, M.S. '47)—82, Cary; retired USDA soil physicist and former professor of agronomy at MSU and World War II veteran, Jan. 30, 2003.

Homer F. Spragins Jr. ('42)—82, Minter City; retired personnel director, Dec. 10, 2002.

Philip Joseph Ellis ('43)—81, Greenwood; retired owner of Phil's Squire Shoppe and World War II veteran, Nov. 27, 2002.

Chester L. Jones Jr. ('44)—78, Columbus; insurance claims adjuster and World War II veteran, Dec. 23, 2002.

Fred L. Morganti ('44)—78, Clarksdale; postal clerk for U.S. Postal Service in Clarksdale, Feb. 5, 2003.

Dixie Anne Boyet Washburn ('44)—80, Ridgeland; former director of admissions at University Medical Center in Jackson, and former executive secretary at MSU and Millsaps College, Jan. 10, 2003.

O.H. Simmons ('45)—82, Madison; retired executive director of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission, football and basketball official, and World War II veteran, Dec. 21, 2002.

James Edward Land ('46)—84, Union; retired agriculture teacher at Union High School and World War II veteran, Jan. 8, 2003.

Paul Anthony Antoon ('47)—80, Birmingham, Ala.; retired engineer and musician and World War II veteran, Nov. 12, 2002.

John R. Bounds ('47)—83, Macon; vocational teacher, retired Farmers Home Administration employee, and World War II veteran, Dec. 10, 2002.

Grady L. McCool ('47, M.Ed. '49)—80, Jackson; retired principal, educator, and coach and World War II veteran, Dec. 22, 2002.

Ernest C. Lindsey ('48)—78, Cleveland; retired manager of the Cleveland office of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission and World War II veteran, Sept. 19, 2002.

Charles L. McCormick II ('48)—82, Greenville; retired high school principal and administrator of Bessie J. Taylor Retirement Home, Feb. 10, 2003.

David W. Mitchell ('48)—77, Columbus; retired insurance agent for Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., Jan. 15, 2003.

Guy A. Story ('48)—79, Jackson; certified public accountant and World War II veteran, Nov. 1, 2002.

Betsy S. Didlake ('49, M.S. '61)—80, Starkville; retired teacher for the Cumberland and Starkville schools, Dec. 16, 2002.

James Andrew Fillingame Jr. ('49)—82, Bay St. Louis; retired manager of Copper Valley Electric Association in Glennallen, Alaska, and World War II veteran, Dec. 27, 2002.

Willard E. Harding Jr. ('49)—75, Vicksburg; retired electrical engineer for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, Oct. 23, 2002.

Jack H. Oakman ('49)—79, Clarksdale; past president of Mississippi Agriculture Consultants Association and World War II veteran, Oct. 13, 2002.

Patterson Walker Sudduth ('49)—76, Jackson; retired administrator for the state Department of Health and World War II veteran, Jan. 18, 2003.

Harry Clay Terrell III ('49)—80, Columbus; retired owner of Terrell Construction Co., Dec. 21, 2002.

Percy Jackson Baker ('50)—79, Starkville; retired associate athletic director at Mississippi State and World War II veteran, Nov. 7, 2002.

William Frank Byars ('50)—79, Fairhope, Ala.; retired engineer for Honeywell, Feb. 2, 2003.

Charlie Gower Crockett ('50)—76, Brownsville, Tenn.; retired manufacturing engineer for Vicker's Inc. in Jackson, Miss., and World War II veteran, May 18, 2002.

Harry Gene Hively ('50)—74, Thousand Oaks, Calif.; retired U.S. Air Force officer, Nov. 17, 2002.

Ray Tillman Mason ('50)—79, Memphis, Tenn.; retired civil engineer for the City of Memphis and World War II veteran, May 18, 2002.

Leigh Watkins III ('50)—76, Jackson; electrical engineer and founder of the consulting firm Leigh Watkins III-Holden O'Gwynn Electrical Engineers, Nov. 13, 2002.

George L. Berry ('51, M.S. '67)—73, Leland; retired district agent for Cooperative Extension Service and former president of Leland Chamber of Commerce, Dec. 20, 2002.

Harry Stanley Coumbe ('51)—72, Houston, Texas; retired mechanical engineer, Feb. 15, 2002.

James H. Brashier ('52)—81, Brandon; retired industrial arts teacher for Clinton High School and Jackson Public Schools and World War II veteran, Jan. 24, 2003.

Gordie Webb Coward ('52)—80, Hamilton; retired owner of G.W. Coward Insurance Agency and World War II veteran, Jan. 21, 2003.

Robert Pat Washington ('52)—72, Pheba; retired employee of state Department of Human Services, Nov. 4, 2002.

Peggy J. Templeton Woolridge ('52)—72, Kennesaw, Ga.; retired schoolteacher, Jan. 18, 2003.

Ila Mae McCarty Stephenson ('53)—92, Douglasville; retired schoolteacher at Ackerman Attendance Center, Jan. 17, 2003.

Jack Williams Brand Sr. ('54)—70, Newton; attorney with the law firm of Gerald, Brand, Hemlebew, and Courlay, Oct. 5, 2002.

Charles Ernest McMullan ('54)—70, Lucedale; retired, Nov. 26, 2002.

William Brown Jones ('56)—63, Columbus; CECO employee, Nov. 20, 2002.

Louie E. Nelson ('56)—68, New Hebron; volunteer for Whispering Pine Hospice, Nov. 20, 2002.

Esther F. Skeens Craddock ('58)—91, Starkville; retired schoolteacher at Overstreet Elementary School, Dec. 24, 2002.

Edward H. Harris Sr. ('58)—72, Clarksville, Ark.; retired district ranger for U.S. Forest Service and Korean War veteran, Dec. 17, 2002.

James Edward Harris ('58)—66, Jackson; self-employed merchandising representative, Sept. 30, 2002.

States Rights Jones Jr. ('59)—82, Amory; Nov. 26, 2002.

Madison Travis Collins ('61)—62, Lilburn, Ga.; large-animal veterinarian and

In Memoriam

commissioned officer in the U.S. Army, Sept. 5, 2002.

Jerry W. Allen ('62)—62, Fort Worth, Texas; chief executive officer of Carter-Burgess Inc., an engineering firm, Dec. 28, 2002.

Gene Allen Clements ('62)—62, Greenville; farmer, owner of GT&T Farms, and Vietnam War veteran, Nov. 24, 2002.

Carey Patrick Vanderford ('62)—62, Kosciusko; executive vice president for Merchants and Farmers Bank and former national president of the MSU Alumni Association, Aug. 29, 2002.

Lewis Bennett Beard Jr. ('63)—63, Longview, Texas; retired insurance salesman, Nov. 17, 2002.

Bobby Selby Garvin ('63, M.Ed. '68)—62, Jacksonville, Fla.; retired president of Mississippi Delta Community College, Oct. 7, 2002.

James Ellis Tate ('65, M.S. '66)—91, Jackson; retired master sergeant in the U.S. Army and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development employee, Dec. 22, 2002.

Alvin D. Harrington ('67)—60, Greenville; retired director of Greenville Vocational Complex and manager of Greenville Educational Credit Union, Feb. 22, 2003.

Elizabeth Goodloe Landers ('67, M.A. '70)—73, Madison; retired professor of music education at MSU, Oct. 2, 2002.

James Wilson Reed ('67)—58, Brandon; owner of HobbyTown USA and retired information services manager for Vickers Inc., Jan. 15, 2003.

E.S. Kinard ('68)—84, Columbus; retired lieutenant colonel in U.S. Army and school teacher at Lee High School, Dec. 17, 2002.

George C. Brock ('69)—56, Raymond; financial planner and founder of George Brock Financial Services, Nov. 4, 2002.

J. Hal Ross ('69)—55, Brandon; partner with the law firm of Harrell, Rester and Ross and former city judge for the city of Brandon, Feb. 3, 2003.

George M. Hailey ('73)—52, Louisville; retired schoolteacher, coach, and athletic director, Nov. 11, 2002.

Elver N. Elliott ('70, Ed.D. '75)—77, Grenada; agricultural educator and retired faculty member at Alcorn State University, Nov. 15, 2002.

Jimmy Jerry Johnson ('72, M.Ed. '94)—52, Ackerman; retired teacher and employee of Tractebel Power Inc.

John J. Harmon ('74)—55, Danville, Ill.; sales representative for Hyster Co. and Lowes Home Improvement Co. and chief probation officer for Edgar and Vermilion counties in Illinois.

Phillip Edward Criswell ('75)—58, Columbus; director of human resources for CECO, Sept. 17, 2002.

Lela C. Rosenbaum ('78)—72, Meridian; retired schoolteacher, librarian, and principal of Lamar Elementary School, Jan. 2, 2003.

John Joseph "J." Hickel ('83)—46, Florence; owner of Hickel Properties Inc., Oct. 23, 2002.

William W. Kolb ('87)—San Diego, Calif.; owner and director of Kolb's Vocational Services and Korean War veteran, Oct. 8, 2002.

Cheryl Perry Russell ('88)—36, Trussville, Ala.; chemistry teacher, Feb. 21, 2003.

Kimberly Andrews Oldham ('91)—33, Brandon; certified public accountant, Sept. 14, 2002.

Joseph Henderson Culotta ('97)—27, Waynesboro; schoolteacher and head baseball coach at Wayne County High School, Dec. 14, 2002.

Tracy L. Daniel ('98)—27, Meridian; teacher for Meridian Public School District, Aug. 27, 2002.

Nikki Quarles ('98)—26, Madison; schoolteacher at St. Richard Elementary School, Jan. 25, 2003.

Emily Diane Rector ('99)—61, Columbus; therapy counselor, Dec. 29, 2002.

Jamye Haskins Barnes (attended)—Clarksdale; Aug. 11, 2002.

Walter Chandler Jr. (attended)—43, Okolona; warehouse manager for Chandler's Furniture Center, Aug. 3, 2002.

Ann Lacoste Minor (attended)—48, Brandon; French teacher, Nov. 2, 2002.

Edna Ruth Davis (former employee)—90, Jackson; program director and professor emerita of social work at MSU, Oct. 26, 2002.

Rachael Henson Josey (former employee)—64, Starkville; retired executive assistant for MSU Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Jan. 11, 2003.

Herbert G. Sanford (employee)—55, Starkville; captain and coordinator of investigation for MSU Police Department, Nov. 27, 2002.

Ruth F. Eckhardt (friend)—89, Starkville; retired teacher, Feb. 19, 2003.

Smith Henley (friend)—91, Columbus; retired owner of Macon Bottling Co., Jan. 12, 2003.

Stuart C. Irby Jr. (friend)—79, Jackson; principal of Irby Construction Co. and Stuart C. Irby Co., civic leader, and philanthropist, Feb. 21, 2003.

James R. Keenan (friend)—66, Jackson; a vice president for Merrill Lynch, Jan. 9, 2003.

Edith Kuwaye Poole (friend)—Stone Mountain, Ga.; retired civil service employee, Jan. 11, 2002.

B.F. Smith (friend)—85, Leland; former chief executive of the Delta Council and World War II veteran, Jan. 12, 2003.

Floyd Davis Wade Sr. (friend)—85, Meridian; retired timber man and MSU Athletics benefactor, for whom Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field is named, Sept. 7, 2002.

Virginia Ross Warner (friend)—82, Jackson; Oct. 1, 2002.
