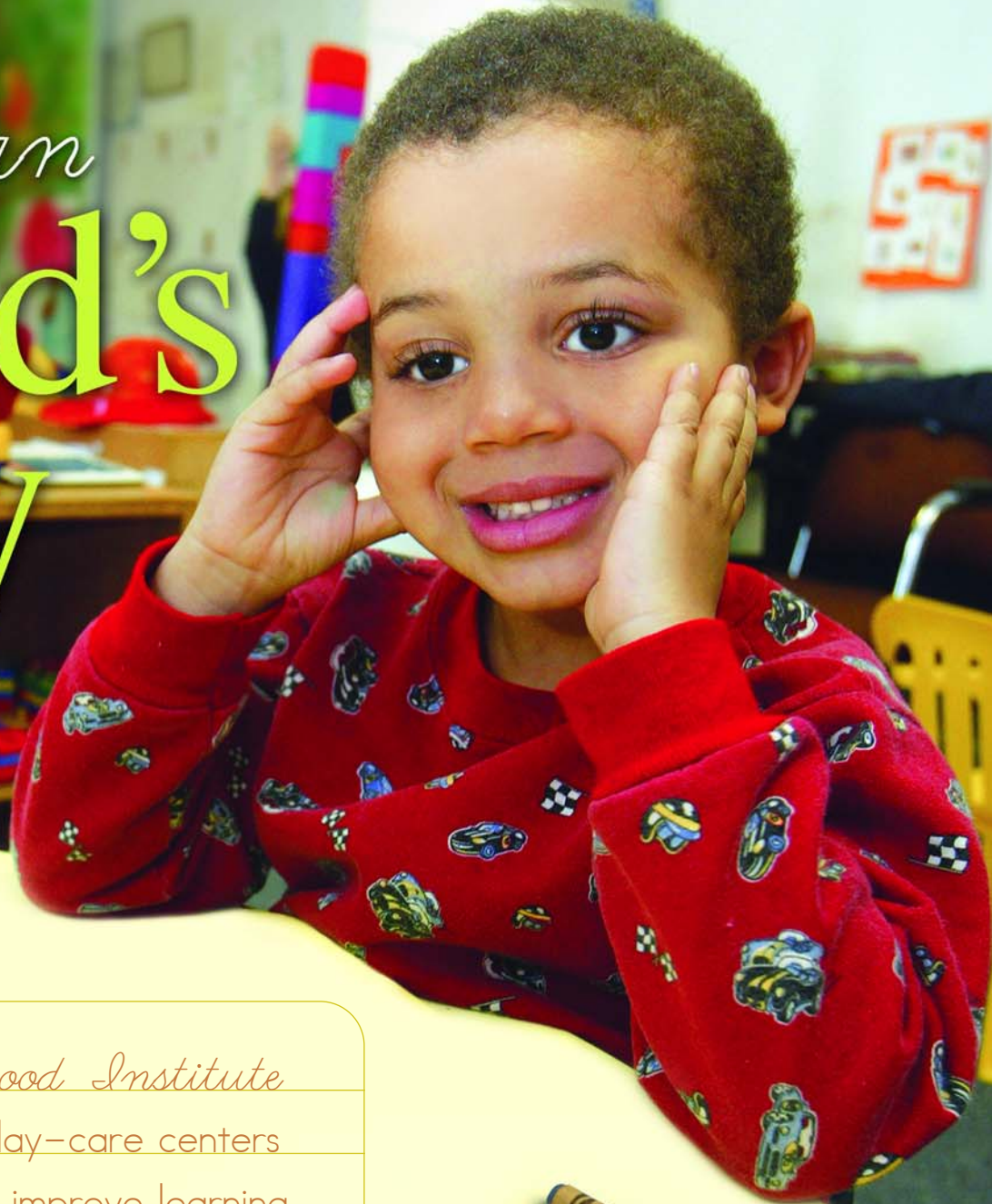


Mississippi State

ALUMNUS

SPRING 2004

more than
**child's
play**



*The Early Childhood Institute
at MSU works with day-care centers
around Mississippi to improve learning
opportunities for very young children.*

Mississippi State

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In 1986, MSU selected among the first class of Schillig Scholars an aspiring doctor, astronaut, accountant, and aerospace engineer. Seventeen years later, the four have become—respectively—an attorney; a corporate magician; a professional speaker and author; and an orthopedic surgeon. Regardless of the detours in their career paths, all have built on skills easily recognized by the 1986 selection committee.

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Cover photo by Clint Parish | This page South Farm at sunset, photo by Fred Faulk

More
than

By Maridith Walker Geuder
Photos by Clint Parish

CHILD'S PLAY



Child-care advocate seeks to create learning opportunities for the very young

On a dreary, nearly spring day just past noon, the Rockhill Angels Daycare Center is eerily quiet.

In three rooms of the modest brick home that has been converted to its present use, about 15 one- to four-year-olds are napping on small floor-level cots, covered carefully with blankets. A worker stationed in each room keeps an eye on the peaceful figures, and, when needed, will pull up and tuck in an errant cover that has been carelessly thrown off in slumber.



Center owner Vinnie Bond says that her work—which begins long before the facility’s 6:30 opening every morning—is a labor of love. Serving the children of mostly single-parent homes in rural Oktibbeha County, she has few of the resources that larger, more well-funded centers are able to access. What she does have, however, is a desire to learn and to help her children learn.

The Early Childhood Institute at Mississippi State is helping her reach both goals. “They’ve worked with us to set up our rooms and arrange a science center, a reading center and other learning areas,” she explained. “They’ve also been invaluable in providing curriculum modules we can adapt for our needs and in helping train our workers.”

Because of her collaboration with the College of Education-based institute, Bond feels that she’s better able to provide the children for whom she cares a safe, nurturing environment that stimulates their minds.

“We want them to be engaged,” she explains. “From the moment they enter the door, we try to teach them something, whether it’s saying our ABCs every day or learning colors or exploring science.”

Her experiences are reflected by more than 200 daycare centers around Mississippi with which the Early Childhood Institute works in its Partners for Quality Child-care—one of nearly 20 projects aimed at improving the learning opportunities for very young children.

The five-year-old center, a part of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, is headed by Cathy W. Grace, a lifelong early childhood educator. With recent \$2.18 million funding from the U.S. Department of Education, she now will expand her efforts to create the National Center on Rural Early Childhood Learning Initiatives, also based at Mississippi State.

Its focus will be the next generation of research designed to improve the quality of childhood programs serving rural children from birth to 6 years old. In the process, the national center will develop improved training and technical assistance programs, generate research-tested models of early childhood education that can be replicated, and provide research-based information for policy decisions at the state and national level.

It is a huge undertaking, but one that department head Esther M. Howard believes is suited to Grace’s skills and to Mississippi State.

“Because the Early Childhood Institute is based at MSU, a land-grant institution with a research focus, we have the capability to cross all barriers and invite all parties to participate in a cohesive, systematic effort to serve Mississippi’s youngest children,” she explained.

“As researchers, we are gathering the data to direct our choices and decisions concerning the future. As practitioners, we are in the field providing immediate assistance. As leaders, we provide data to guide policy and serve as catalysts to the state to ensure appropriate programs and services for children are being developed and implemented. We believe that through research, service, and leadership, our outreach will have the greatest impact,” Howard said.

Rural beginnings

“I knew from the time I was eight years old that I wanted to be a teacher,” said Grace, a Proctor, Ark., native. As a single mom, she attended the University of Arkansas, returned to her home to teach first grade, and, as a graduate student at nearby Arkansas State University, wrote her first \$5,000 grant.

“The year before we received grant funding, we did a summer program for children entering the first grade,” she recalled. Her dad owned a country store, and she would gather her class on the front porch of the wooden building. After the children’s lessons, her dad provided popsicles on the porch he cleaned with coal oil.

“We did reading, the alphabet and numbers. When we received funding the next summer, we moved to a community center and tripled the number of children involved,” Grace said.

Cathy Grace still has a photo of that store in her office, a reminder of her roots and her commitment to children who live in areas compromised by poverty, isolation and lack of early childhood education options.

After leaving Arkansas, Grace taught in public schools in Cleveland, Miss., at Mississippi Valley State University, and at the University of Southern Mississippi; worked to support the Education Reform Act of 1982; and eventually was asked to coordinate early childhood programs for the state Department of Education.

A call from Tupelo-based CREATE Foundation led her to a position with community schools and the area Head Start program. She started Lee County



Families First, one of the first family resource centers funded by the Mississippi Department of Human Services. “It’s a model the state uses now,” Grace noted.

An active public speaker, Grace made a connection with Clarence Day of the Memphis, Tenn.-based Day Foundation, who attended one of her presentations.

“With his support, we put together a partnership that allowed me to come to Mississippi State,” Grace said. “We have a capacity at this university to help children through the expertise of the institution as a whole,” she believes. From the MSU Extension Service to social science departments to the School of Human Sciences, the Early Childhood Institute is working to bring the experts together to address uniquely rural issues.

Knowing *where to start*

Since its inception, the Early Childhood Institute has built collaborations with those both on and off campus. With more than \$5 million in funding, staff members have worked with the U.S. Department of Education, Civitan International Research Center, Georgetown University, and the Oxford, Miss.-based Barksdale Reading Institute, among a host of others, to focus on childhood education issues particularly relevant to the rural South.

“It’s not sufficient to allow licensed child-care centers to serve only as custodians of children,” said Claiborne Barksdale, chief executive officer of the Barksdale Institute, established in 2000 with a \$100 million endowment from former Netscape CEO Jim Barksdale and his wife, Sally.

The Barksdale Institute has worked with Grace on a pilot project with child-care facilities and Head Start in two communities, West Point and Greenville. Called “Leaders in Literacy,” the effort, Barksdale believes, can be replicated at other Mississippi locations. It soon will be rolled out in Jackson, with plans to begin McComb and Meridian centers.

The two-year-old project is offering strategies for improving language skills in a state where many very young children do not have the advantage of early exposure to books and reading, Barksdale said.

Grace calls it “challenging real-world field work. We’re trying to address the struggles staff members face, from facilities to funding. We’re seeking ways to assist based on the realities of their situations.”

Barksdale believes the program is making a difference.

“While it’s still too soon to evaluate the change in language skills, we’re seeing a definite improvement in environment,” he noted. “Children are being talked to and read to. Books are at eye level so children can see them, and we’re pleased with an increased emphasis on personal hygiene such as hand-washing.”

The program currently is undergoing an external evaluation to determine “where we are and where we’d like to go,” he added. “More than 90,000 Mississippi children are in child care centers. I see it as very criti-

cal to begin this process early. It’s a long-term undertaking, and we hope this is what the state will support.”

But Barksdale is convinced of one definite outcome. “Through Cathy’s work, I think there’s a changing consciousness about how we approach child-care. She’s nationally known and respected. This is an untiring mission for her.”

Success stories

The essence of what Cathy Grace has accomplished is reflected in the artwork on her office walls. Children’s writings, photographs, paintings, and paper creations fill her working area. It’s all about the children to her.

When pressed, she will cite some successful projects, with an eye always toward how her efforts help the youngest and the most vulnerable. “This work is so important to the future of our state,” she said.

Among the most visible projects, Partners for Quality Child-care, headed by doctoral student Laurie Todd, is bringing national standards of child-care to Mississippi for the first time. Working with child-care centers in every section of the state, Todd’s teams provide evaluations, recommendations, technical training, and follow-up.

“They have given me an insight into best practices,” said Georgia Boss-Robinson, director of New Beginnings Child-care in Clarksdale. “They come directly to us to provide hands-on training and tailor programs to our specific needs.”

Because of the Mississippi State assistance, Boss-Robinson said, her center is focusing more than ever on age-appropriate toys, as well as those that teach specific skills. She’s conscious of creating a clutter-free environment, placing items on shelves that are accessible to children, and relating the environment to the curriculum.

“All of this results in more learning taking place,” she said. “It’s been wonderful. I want to partner with Mississippi State as long as possible, because I see improvement here.”

At the Webster Care Children’s Center in Eupora, director Lynn McCafferty—a 17-year veteran at heading the center—says “we’re eating up all of the knowledge Mississippi State is feeding us.”



The center, funded by North Mississippi Medical Center-Eupora, serves approximately 55 children, six weeks to 5 years old. “The MSU team visited us and evaluated us. They let us know where we could improve and have sent people to help us implement their suggestions,” McCafferty said.

She said both she and her teachers have expanded their philosophies of child-care, increased in levels of professionalism, and placed more emphasis on teaching.

On a recent day at the center, five rooms of children were engaged in high-energy, high-volume activities ranging from pumping, dumping and filling objects at the water center to exploring the world of dinosaurs. “While these children play, they are learning,” McCafferty said. “Having Mississippi State professionals come into our classrooms has been an incredible

experience. They work with the teachers and with the children. They teach by example.”

In the projects under way at the Early Childhood Institute, that is exactly what Cathy Grace is working to do. In collaboration with the Mississippi Broadcasting Networks and the Mississippi Department of Human Services, the institute developed outreach material for a statewide educational program titled “Right from Birth.” The video parenting series and caregiver guide provide information on early brain development in children and suggestions for creating a stimulating environment.

An Early Learning Mentoring Program in cooperation with Delta State University serves more than 85 families with infants, providing in-home parent education to improve language skills and prepare children for school. “This is being implemented by Delta State with a curriculum developed by the Early Childhood Institute,” Grace explained. “It has real promise for at-risk children.”

In collaboration with the national Public Broadcasting System, U.S. Department of Education, and Mississippi Broadcasting Networks, the institute conducted research to investigate the effectiveness of the award-winning PBS children’s program, “Between the Lions,” a television series designed to promote literacy skills. Testing took place at three Mississippi school districts, including multiple Sunflower County locations and Head Start Centers at the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

And, on the Mississippi State campus, the Early Childhood Institute worked with ICS/Head Start and the Day Foundation to improve Aiken Village Preschool on the campus. The result was accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Life at the Early Childhood Institute is busy, and with Grace at the helm, it’s about to get even busier. “Working with partners such as the Department of Human Services, the Barksdale Reading Institute, and others in the state, we want to build a system of comprehensive quality early childhood education that can be replicated nationwide,” Grace said.

A tall order, for sure, but all in a day’s work for the woman Claiborne Barksdale, only half-jokingly, refers to as “Amazing Grace.”

For more information about the Early Childhood Institute, see <http://www.educ.msstate.edu/cni/eci>.



By Maridith Walker Geuder
Photo by Russ Houston

MSU OPENS MAJOR

furniture research, *development center*

In January dedication ceremonies at Mississippi State, Gov. Haley Barbour cited the new campus research center as an example of universities helping businesses become better.

Barbour joined MSU President Charles Lee and other state and university officials to open the Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management. Rep. Billy McCoy of Rienzi, new speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives, and Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Jack Gordon of Okolona also participated.

The facility is named for Houston furniture executive Hassell Franklin, who made a \$1 million signature contribution to begin construction. Another \$3 million was provided by the state, with additional corporate and private donations making the center a reality.

Saying Mississippi must embrace change in bold ways, Barbour told the audience that “it is fitting that this be a new example of universities helping business be better. What is important is what will be done in this building.”

Lee said the 35,000-square-foot facility will house a comprehensive furniture research, testing and technical assistance program that “will bring a new level of research and development capability for our state.”

The center also will house the new Institute of Furniture Manufacturing and Management, which consolidates and coordinates efforts of a number of MSU units. In addition to the College of Forest Resources and Forest and Wildlife Research Center, they include the colleges of Architecture and Business and Industry, as well as the Bagley College of Engineering, and MSU Extension Service.

Lee said the institute will address needs expressed by many of the state’s 200 firms that account directly for more than 27,000 Mississippi jobs. Mississippi produces about 70 percent of the nation’s upholstered furniture, he added.

“We’ve seen increasing industry requests for research and technical assistance,” Lee said. “Because the industry is made up of many relatively small firms, it is often difficult to address these concerns on their own. We’re now in a better

position than ever to provide that assistance.”

Franklin, founder, president and chief executive officer of the Houston (Miss.)-based Franklin Corp. and a 1959 MSU industrial management graduate, said more than 50 percent of the wood furniture sold in the U.S. last year was manufactured offshore.

“We must respond in a positive and proactive way, and this center can be a huge part of that process,” Franklin said. “This land-grant institution will raise the bar on lifting forward the furniture industry in Mississippi.”

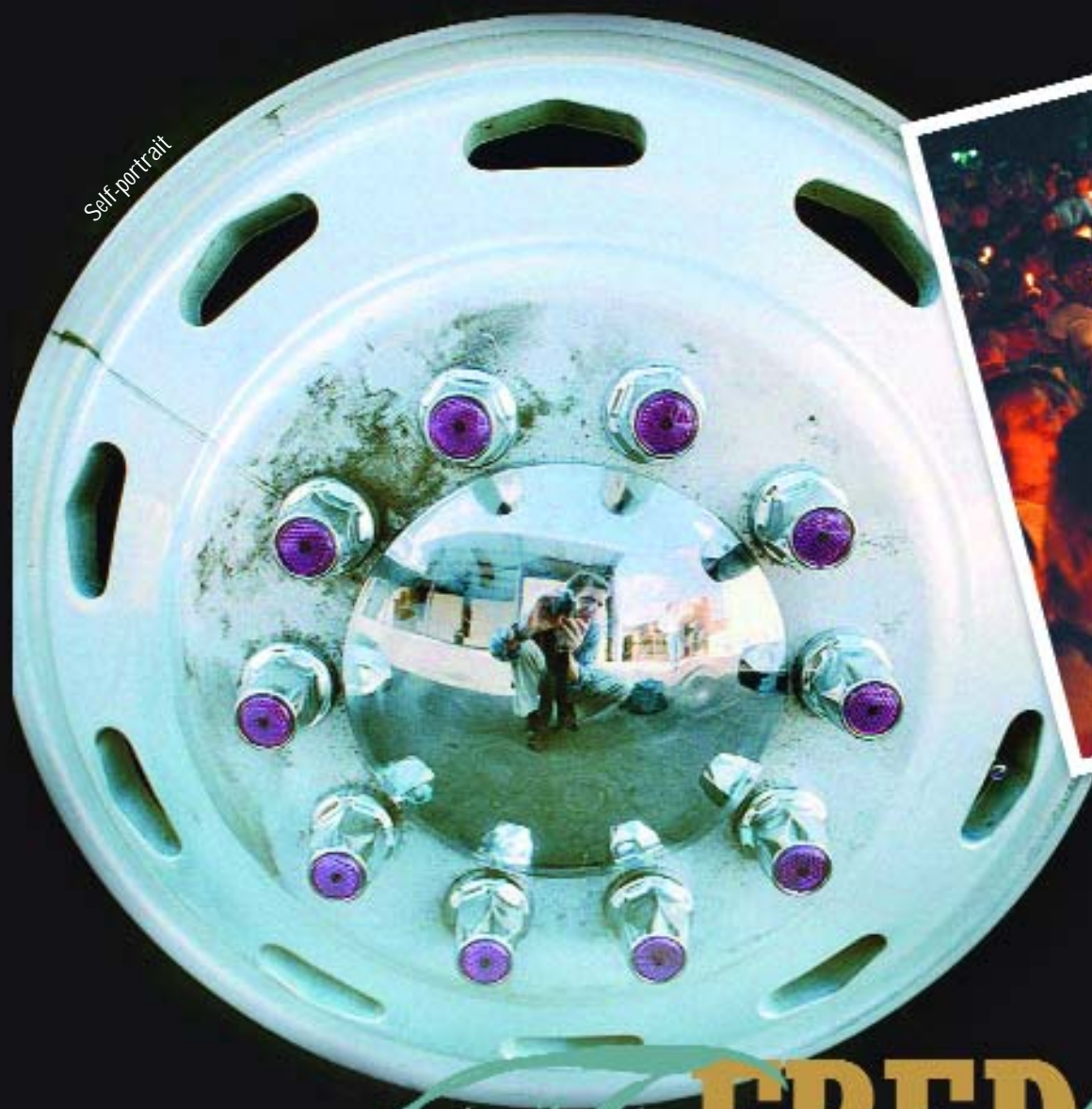
Lee said the institute will support the furniture industry “through research that aids in the design, production, marketing, and distribution of high quality products that meet the changing needs of families and businesses here and abroad. We will also offer technical support to deliver new technologies, methods and findings to industry, help to ensure a high quality workforce, and educate future managers and leaders for the industry.”

In addition to laboratories for quality testing, engineering and automation and product design, the Franklin Center also features an auditorium, distance learning classroom, computer classroom, furniture showroom, and administrative offices.



Commemorating the formal opening of the Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management were, from left, Gov. Haley Barbour; MSU President Charles Lee, furniture executive Hassell Franklin, and Vance Watson, vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine. Franklin, president and chief executive officer of Houston-based Franklin Corp., made a \$1 million signature contribution for construction of the center that bears his name.

Self-portrait



FRED *Faulk*

30 YEARS through the LENS



Post-9/11 Vigil



John Grisham



Rare snowfall

For more than three decades, the photographs of Fred Faulk virtually defined the visual public image of Mississippi State University. Anyone who has ever thumbed through an *Alumnus* magazine, studied a recruiting viewbook, or admired the university calendar is—knowingly or not—familiar with his work. His photos also appeared regularly in the *Reveille*.

WHEN FAULK passed away in November 2003 at the age of 54, he left a remarkable legacy on film. As coordinator of photographic services for the University Relations office, he chronicled the life and breath and growth of the university through the administrations of five presidents. A Vicksburg native, he began his career at Mississippi State in 1972 following graduation from Belhaven College.

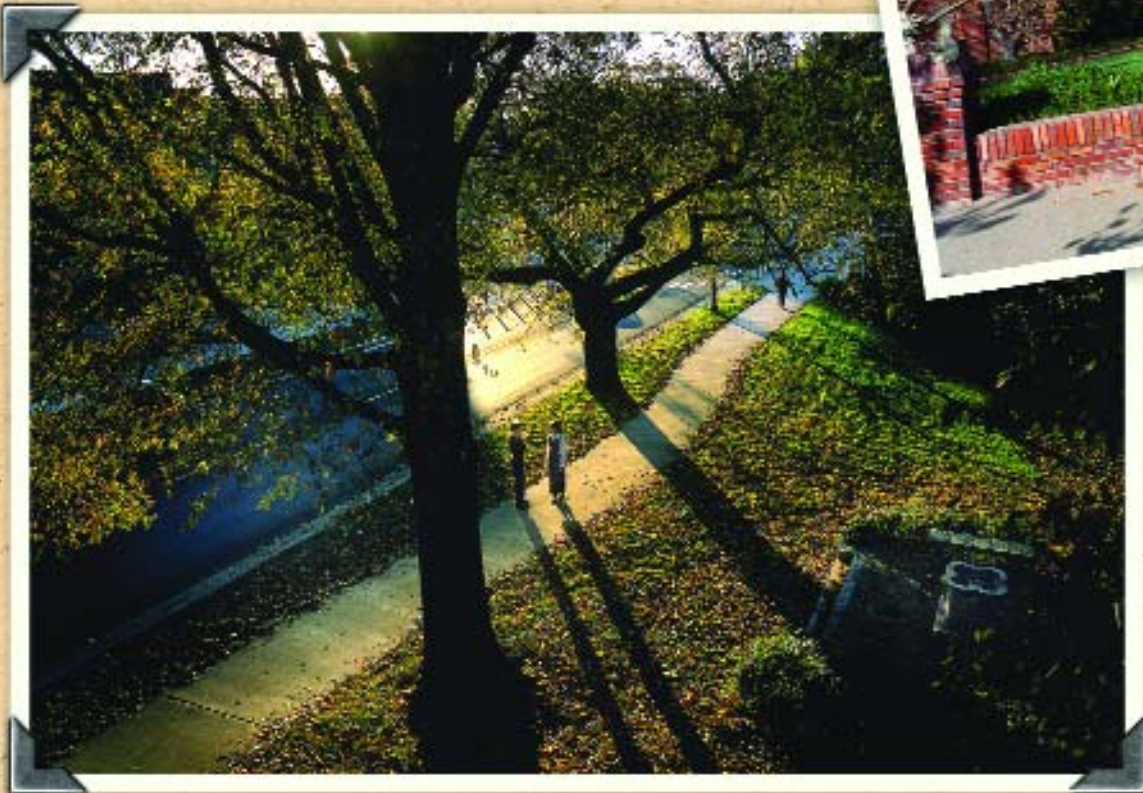
Many of his scenes have been featured in two books about the university, a pictorial survey, published in 1993, and *Inside Dudy Noble—A Celebration of MSU Baseball*, published in 1992. His last major project was a book of photos to commemorate the university's 125th anniversary, *125 Years at Mississippi State University: A Pictorial History of the People's University*, released in October just prior to his death.



View from the library



Chapel of Memories



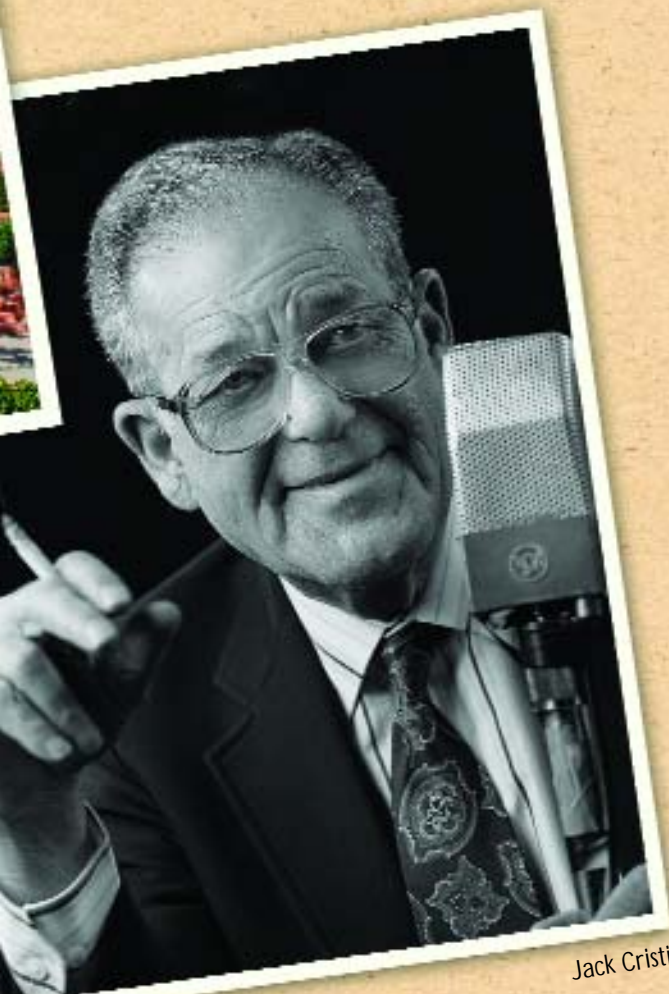
Long shadows



South Farm silhouette

Armed with a dry wit

and a tendency toward practical jokes, Faulk approached life with steady and deliberate energy, whether on the job, the tennis court, traveling with his beloved family, or listening to the songs of Elvis Presley, his music idol. For many years, a life-sized Elvis poster adorned his office wall, and often the strains of “Blue Suede Shoes” drifted down the second-floor corridor of George Hall.



Jack Cristil

FAULK RECEIVED numerous awards for photographic excellence from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. He was among the first recipients of a university-wide Distinguished Staff Award, recognizing exceptional contributions to Mississippi State.

A typical day on the job for Faulk might have included snapshots at an early morning breakfast meeting, a portrait photo of a faculty member for a news story, a group shot of the women’s soccer team, a “grip-and-grin” check presentation, a quick airplane flight for an aerial photo of campus, an hour or so in the darkroom, photos of a visiting dignitary chatting with the president, assorted shots of campus scenes, and basketball photos at Humphrey Coliseum. And, somehow, during the lunch hour he usually found time for a quick game of tennis—the hobby he pursued with passion.

Faulk was an institution on campus, known literally by almost everyone in the university family for the span of 31 years. Thousands of students and faculty and staff members passed through his studio, and none was a stranger. He was a familiar sight, as well, hurrying across the Drill Field, a bulging camera bag slung over his shoulder. He had a quick smile and quick word for everyone he met along the way.

Pages more could be written about the man whose passing in some way signals the end of an era at MSU, but it seems more fitting to let him speak for himself through this representative collection of his photographs.



Illustration is going swimmingly for Delta alumnus

CHUCK GALE

GROWING UP in the Delta

Growing up in the Mississippi Delta, Chuck Galey always wanted to be an artist—so, naturally, he opted to study physics at Mississippi State!

"IN GREENWOOD," he remembers, "I took private art lessons, but I didn't know anyone who was making a living doing art."

Deciding he needed to study courses leading to a "real" job, Galey initially attended Mississippi College to study oceanography. ("I liked scuba diving.") After a tough bout of seasickness, he was forced to reconsider both his major and his college.

In the mid-'70s, he transferred to Mississippi State. After a year in physics, Galey discovered that he could study art and have a career in the field. Changing his major to graphic design, he went on to graduate in 1978 with honors.

After a series of early jobs in advertising and public relations, he left the corporate world in 1985 to open his own illustration studio in Jackson. He continues to live in Mississippi's state capital with his wife Forrest and 17-year-old son Sean, a student at Murrah High School.

"I got a little burned out with advertising," Galey says. "I found I wanted something more enduring." That "something" turned out to be the illustration of children's books.

"When my son was born, he was given some books with beautiful illustrations," he says. "As I looked through them, I thought, 'I could do this!'"

To date, he has produced illustrations for three books: *My Brother Dan's Delicious*, written by Steven L. Layne, *SantaSaurus* by Delano Holmquist and *Jazz Cats* by David Davis. *Jazz Cats* won a 2002 Children's Choice Award, presented by the Children's Book Council, a nationwide association of publishers. In 2003, the book also won a Special Award for Illustration in Children's Literature by the Mississippi Library Association.

All three picture books are produced by Pelican Publishing Co. in Gretna, La.

"It's a nice thing to be part of kids' experiences," says Galey, the parent. "I feel like what I do helps kids learn to read."

He adds, "Someone buys the book and reads it to children which, hopefully, will make the kids become lifelong readers. Lifelong reading then leads to better students with more compassion, which leads to them being better citizens.

"I think reading opens up doors and shows

people different views."

Galey, the artist, also is confident that a book's illustrations help sell it to both parent and child. Perhaps the best example of this, he observes, is the wildly popular *Goodnight Moon*. Although written by Margaret Wise Brown in the 1940s, *Moon*, with its 200 or so words, remains a favorite of the "it's-time-for-bed" crowd.

"When I lead a conference on illustrating, I always show what the entire text of *Moon* looks like with no art; it's one page long," he says. "I then show the book and let audiences see what illustrations can do."

Explaining art has led Galey to share his talent with his alma mater. He recently began teaching a once-a-week class for the Mississippi State art department each fall.

"I teach concepts and how to use your talents, as well as how to market yourself and how to make it in the business world," Galey says.

He also stresses to students that success in the business world, especially as a free-lancer, takes constant effort and vigilance. "When a free-lancer, you basically 'eat what you kill,'" he explains. "If you don't work, you don't bill it out."

Galey works primarily in watercolor on the children's picture books, but admits they are his "premium" jobs. He also maintains a "day job" that helps keep the wolf from the door.

"I do illustrations for Highlights for Children magazine, including the hidden picture spot, as well as work for Storey Books, which publishes illustrated how-to books," he says.

He also counts Rainbow Books in San Diego as a regular client, producing pen-and-ink line drawings for the Christian publisher during the last five or so years.

Continuing business relationships are important, even critical, for most free-lance artists. "In essence, we produce a widget and I hope they keep buying widgets," Galey says with a laugh.

Not content just to be an artist, the avid runner now is trying his hand at writing a children's book. Because most children's books contain only a few hundred words, he still is learning to work with a limited vocabulary. "It's hard to tell a story in so few words," he admits.

And, while Galey doesn't miss getting seasick on research boats out in the Gulf of Mexico, he has discovered that the would-be oceanography career still may swim in his subconscious. "Interestingly enough, I continue to lean toward water in my thoughts and in my stories."

If that's the case, perhaps his first complete children's book can be about an enthusiastic young artist from the Delta who once wanted to swim like, and with, the fishes.

However it turns out, sweet dreams, Chuck Galey.



BY KAY FIKE JONES PHOTO BY RUSS HOUSTON
ILLUSTRATION FROM *JAZZ CATS*



Ammonites

Jurassic Age, Germany



Dragonfly

Cretaceous Age, China



Trilobite

Ordovician Age, Russia

TRICERATOPS CROCODILES AND SEA TURTLES

Oh, my!

Triceratops, the three-horned dinosaur, is playing at a museum near you—that is, if you happen to live near the MSU campus.

BY PHIL HEARN | PHOTOS BY RUSS HOUSTON

A skull replica of the three-horned, parrot-beaked herbivore that roamed the earth during the Cretaceous period, some 65 to 72 million years ago, is among featured exhibits at the Dunn-Seiler Museum, located on the ground floor of MSU's Hilbun Hall.

Often hunted by *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, one of the largest terrestrial carnivores of all time, the massive but short-legged Triceratops roamed the western United States and Canada in its ancient heyday. About 50 Triceratops skulls and partial skeletons have been unearthed since an initial skull find by John Bell Hatcher in 1888.

The plant-eating dinosaur measured up to 25 feet in length and 20 feet in height, weighed roughly five-seven tons, and had a large skull that could reach up to 10 feet long. The skull on display at the museum is a plaster-cast model of an original specimen, according to curator Christopher Dewey.



CHRISTOPHER DEWEY

An associate professor of geology and MSU faculty member since 1984, Dewey said the museum also owns the skull of a Cretaceous crocodile and the shell of a Cretaceous sea turtle. Both are original specimens that were found in Mississippi, but neither currently is on display. The crocodile skull, which measures about four feet in length, is on loan to the Pink Palace museum in Memphis.

“A specimen like that, as rare as it is, would be valued in the tens of thousands of dollars,” Dewey said of the prehistoric crocodile, one of the dinosaur-devouring behemoths that grew to the length of a school bus and weighed as much as eight metric tons.

The Dunn-Seiler Museum, operated by the department of geosciences, was re-opened to the public during homecoming weekend last fall. Geography instructor Joan Mylroie spearheaded the organization of a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the occasion and notified more than 500 department alumni.

The museum was closed in 1999 for a complete renovation of Hilburn Hall and relocation of the facility from the second floor to the ground floor.

“This ground-floor location will allow for easy access to the museum by our visitors,” said Mark Binkley, professor and geosciences department head.

The four-year hiatus also allowed an updating and

modernization of museum collections, re-cataloging of thousands of specimens, installation of more attractive display cabinets and the computerization of records, some dating to the 19th century.

“It has been an identification nightmare, a numbering nightmare and a very challenging piece of work,” said Dewey, who owns the Starkville Martial Arts Academy, where he also serves as chief instructor. A black belt in Judo, Jujitsu and hapkido, the wiry, bearded Englishman said he began learning the arts of self-defense to deter schoolyard bullies as a youth in his native London.

“I’d say we’re about 90 percent complete with the display materials,” he said of the museum cataloging project, noting he has been assisted by senior geology student Victoria Egerton of Ocean Springs and graduate student Karen Persons of Noxapater. “We’re basically having to database the whole thing from scratch.”

In addition to Triceratops and the Cretaceous crocodile, the museum also houses a surprisingly varied mineral and rock collection—as well as meteor fossils from every period of the Phanerozoic Eon, a period of half a billion years that constituted the age of multicellular animal life on Earth. Some of the collections were obtained in the 1800s and displayed at McCain Hall by the university’s old department of geology and geography.

“Other specimens were donated or purchased over the years and come from all over the world,” said Dewey. “They date from the age of the earth—from billions of years old to very young specimens that are just hundreds of years old.”

The museum, formally founded in 1947, is named in honor of Paul Heaney Dunn (1895-1962), who was geology department head from 1934 to 1962; and Franklin Carl Seiler (1916-1945), an MSU student and later an instructor who was killed in Europe during World War II. Dewey became museum curator following the 1984 retirement of Professor Ernie Russell, who played a key role in building the museum’s collections.

More than 1,000 people, ranging in age from 7 to 70, traditionally have visited the museum each semester through the years, including organized tours of school children and drop-in visits by adults on football weekends. There are no admission fees.

“The Dunn-Seiler Museum is a unique learning opportunity, not only for college students but for people of all ages,” said Binkley. “I think visitors will be impressed with the collection.”

By Maridith Walker Geuder
Photo by Russ Houston

MSU auto research center

POISED TO ADVANCE *productivity, safety*

The state of Mississippi and Mississippi State have unveiled a state-of-the-art research center designed to reduce product development time, improve efficiency and increase safety in automobiles.

Officially opened in early December, the \$9 million, 45,000-square-foot Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems draws on the university's longstanding high-performance computing expertise to develop manufacturing methods that yield high-quality vehicles with advanced features. Researchers also will be working to reduce time-to-market and production costs.

A companion facility, a 23,000-square-foot CAVS extension center near Canton was officially dedicated Dec. 15.

The Mississippi State-based automotive research program was established in 2001 as part of the state's successful bid to attract Nissan Motor Co. The automobile manufacturer in May 2003 rolled its first Quest minivan out at its new 3.5-million square-foot facility at Canton, where the company will employ more than 5,000 and produce more than 400,000 vehicles annually.

Then-Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, who called the center "an investment in our future," said CAVS is "a welcome addition to our growing automotive industry."

MSU President Charles Lee said CAVS also will have an impact beyond the state.

"This facility, and the engineering extension center in Canton, will significantly expand the state's potential to become the hub of a new automotive development and manufacturing corridor in the Southeast," Lee said.

While there has been an initial partnership with Nissan, both state and university officials emphasized that the CAVS centers have a broad mission of extending technology to a variety of industries.

"One of the overarching goals of CAVS is to make Mississippi a competitive player in a global marketplace," said Donald Trotter, MSU's associate vice president for strategic initiatives and the center's interim director.

Research efforts at the new facility are focused in three areas: computational manufacturing and design; alternative power systems; and human and systems engineering. Through the center's outreach and extension effort, research will be translated to direct engineering support, on-site educational programs and workforce development.

Included in the new high-tech center are 5,000-square-foot high-bay laboratories, and a 9,000-square-foot lab for materials, human factors and alternative power research. As a major unit within the university's already established Engineering Research Center, CAVS will draw on a variety of high-performance computing resources.

Over the past decade, the ERC's computer capabilities have placed MSU in the top 20 supercomputing powers among national academic institutions.



Mechanical engineering freshman Brandon Witbeck, left, of Starkville demonstrated a motion capture suit during opening ceremonies for the university's Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems. Looking on were J. Donald Trotter, center, CAVS interim director, and John P. Calandro, Nissan/North America director of human relations and administration.



First class of *Schillig Scholars*
proves that *life isn't always*
PREDICTABLE

BY AGA HAUPT | ILLUSTRATIONS BY BEN POWERS

ONE

ONE OF MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY'S most prestigious honors started out more than 15 years ago as a suspected practical joke, recalled Donald Zacharias, president emeritus.



IN JANUARY 1986—a few months after being named president—Zacharias received a letter from James T. Baird, the trustee of the Otilie Schillig Trust of Port Gibson. “I am somewhat early in writing you, but it occurs to me you have had nothing but discouragements since arriving in Mississippi, and I hope, in a small way, to alter that,” began the letter explaining that the Schillig estate planned to donate \$1.5 million to establish a leadership scholarship program at the university.

“I thought it was a cruel joke,” Zacharias said. But Baird was not kidding, and the trust subsequently donated \$2 million to support entering freshmen who demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities. The Otilie Schillig Leadership Scholarships, now funded through earnings on the endowment invested in various stocks and bonds, covers recipients’ tuition, housing and books.

IN 1986

In 1986, MSU selected among the first Schillig class an aspiring doctor, astronaut, accountant, and aerospace engineer. Seventeen years later, the four have become—respectively—an attorney, a corporate magician, a professional speaker and author, and an orthopedic surgeon. Regardless of the detours in their career paths, all have built on skills easily recognized by the 1986 selection committee, Zacharias said.

“THEY ALL IMPRESSED ME with their sense of confidence and their determination to pursue their careers in a highly professional way,” he noted.

For the first recipients of what has become a premier MSU honor, selection was a dramatic opportunity. “When former Dean of Students Bill Foster called me to tell me that I had been selected, I actually screamed into the phone,” said



Judy Thomas Martin

Judy Thomas Martin, originally of Jackson. “I was completely shocked.”

So was M. Wade Shrader, originally of Pontotoc. “When I was a junior in high school, I met the Bairds at a football game in the president’s box and Dr. Zacharias introduced me as a kind of student who might qualify for the scholarship,” he said. “I was excited when it became available but I didn’t expect to receive it,” he said.

During their four years at MSU, the Schillig Scholars were involved in various campus activities and organizations and met on a regular basis with Zacharias and guest speakers, Zacharias said.

“Spending time with Dr. Zacharias on a regular basis was far and away the outstanding benefit of being a Schillig Scholar,” said Joe M. Turner, originally of Brandon. “He was patient, encouraging, insightful, funny, and interested in helping us develop as leaders and as people.”

“The first year, we were an intimate group of four, and it was a wonderful experience to sit one-on-one with the president of the university and discuss his ideas about higher education,” said Shrader. “I learned the value of hard work and the experience opened a lot of doors.”



Mandi Marett Stanley

IN SOME CASES, the scholars didn’t realize until years later just how many opportunities had come their way.

“My favorite memory is also my most embarrassing moment,” said Mandi Marett Stanley, originally of Amory, recalling a lunch interview the four students had with a then-unknown author, John Grisham.

“I was totally enthralled as he discussed a new manuscript he was working on, and I accidentally flung a piece of pork chop from my fork into his lap. I was mortified,” she said.

Stanley is a certified speaking professional and the author of an executive tips book. She and her husband Bob live in Olive Branch with their son Rett.

Martin also fondly recalled meeting Grisham. “Several years later, I saw his picture on a dust jacket,” she said, explaining that she then realized who she had met. “I think

it's my favorite memory because I had completely forgotten about it until I saw that picture," Martin said.

"The experience of being a Schillig Scholar has immeasurably impacted my life," said Martin, who came to MSU with a desire to become a physician and work in the mission field.

"Truthfully, I absolutely despised chemistry and physics," she said. "It's difficult to pursue a medical career with that kind of disinclination." Instead, Martin attended the Vanderbilt University School of Law and now works as a special assistant attorney general assigned to prosecute appeals in cases where the death penalty has been imposed.

"In that role, I work with the loved ones of victims of the most terrible crimes," she said. "I'm pretty proud of the fact that I get to stand up for people who have lost so much." Martin and her husband Gerald live in Raleigh.



Joe M. Turner

ALL FOUR of the first Schillig Scholars say the MSU experience provided much more than an academic preparation for their lives.

"My years at Mississippi State were all about broadening my vision," said Turner, who graduated with a degree in physics and chemistry education as well as numerous hours toward a degree in communication with an emphasis in theater.

"I am now a professional corporate magician," Turner said, explaining that he uses sleight-of-hand as a theatrical device to promote products, services or ideas in an engaging and memorable way. Turner, his wife Rosemary, their daughter Hayley, and son Preston live in Tucker, Ga.



M. Wade Shrader

SHRADER WAS the only one of the four who graduated with the degree he planned to earn, working for a couple of years after graduation as a flight engineer for NASA. "I became aware that the opportunities at NASA were limited and I couldn't see myself in front of a computer screen," he said. Instead, he turned in a new direction. A graduate of the University of Chicago Medical

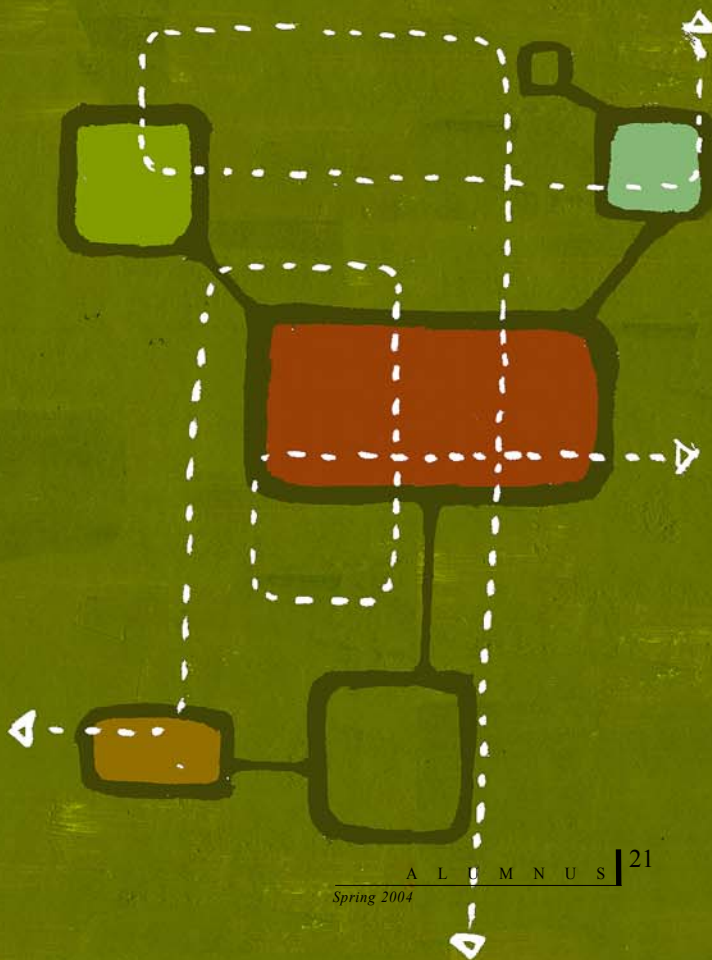
School, he is now the chief resident in orthopedic surgery at the Mayo Clinic. He lives in Rochester, Minn., with his wife Carol and their triplets Benjamin, Mason and Claire.

IT'S *so unfair* that people are asked to decide what they want to do with the *rest of their lives* at age 17," Martin said.

"Career planning is not what it once was. The best thing to do is to be mentally prepared to adapt," Turner added.

Since 1987, more than 80 students have been selected as *MSU*

Schillig Scholars.



MSU looks for long-term enrollment growth, emphasizing access and excellence

Final enrollment figures for fall 2003 released in December by the State Institutions of Higher Learning showed Mississippi State with an unduplicated headcount of 16,173 students, including 15,416 on the main campus at Starkville.

The final headcount represented a decline of about 400 students from fall 2002, but MSU remained the state's largest university by a margin of more than 1,000. Preliminary reports last fall, which turned out to be faulty, had identified MSU as the second-largest university.

Enrollment last fall in Mississippi's eight four-year institutions and the medical center in Jackson grew by 1.5 percent to 67,380.

Unduplicated headcounts were: MSU, 16,173; University of Southern Mississippi, 15,050; University of Mississippi, 13,804; Jackson State University, 7,815; Delta State University, 3,902; Mississippi Valley State University, 3,506; Alcorn State University, 3,309; Mississippi University for Women, 2,048; and University of Mississippi Medical Center, 1,773.

More than 75 percent of MSU's fall enrollment was made up of Mississippi residents, and more than 79 percent of the students were undergraduates. African-Americans represented 18 percent of the total.

Fall enrollment figures included 1,688 first-time freshmen and 1,617 new transfer students, 1,038 of whom came to MSU from Mississippi community colleges. For a third consecutive year, MSU freshmen reported the highest average ACT score (23.5) among entering freshmen in the state's universities. The freshman class included 22 National Merit Scholars.

Current MSU enrollment is lower than it was during the previous three record-breaking years, but remains higher than at any point in university history prior to fall 2000. The decline of about 4 percent from the peak figure of fall 2001 is the product of two extremely large graduating classes combined with smaller classes of incoming freshmen.

MSU awarded about 3,700 degrees at the bachelor's through doctoral levels in both 2002-03 and in 2001-02. That level is more than 500 higher than the average of the previous four years, when the number of degrees ranged from 2,991 to 3,340.

With the number of students classified as seniors at MSU at a record high this year, another large graduating class is anticipated this spring. It will take a stellar recruiting year to bring in enough new freshmen and transfer students to offset the likely drop in returning students next fall, but enrollments are expected to rebound more rapidly after that, said Jimmy Abraham, interim vice president for student affairs.

Continuing improvement in retention rates will contribute to enrollment growth. The freshman-to-sophomore retention rate is now above 81 percent, an increase of 5 percentage points in five years and the highest in the state. MSU's graduation rate of 57 percent also leads among state universities.

Mississippi State also is working on several fronts to strengthen freshman and transfer student recruiting.

The application deadline for students entering as freshmen in fall 2004 has been set at Aug. 1, the same as for transfer students, rather than the May 1 deadline in effect for the past two years. It's not too late for alumni and friends to recommend a high school senior or other prospective student to the Office of Enrollment Services, Abraham said.

To recommend a prospective student, send e-mail to lead@msstate.edu, visit the Web site at www.enroll.msstate.edu and select the information request form, telephone 662-325-3076, or write to P.O. Box 6334, Mississippi State, MS 39762.



MSU also is offering enhanced scholarship aid for many students who will be entering the university this fall.

Information about these and other MSU scholarships, as well as financial aid, is available on the Web at www.sfa.msstate.edu.

Looking beyond next fall, a university priority is to expand scholarship availability, particularly for students who do not qualify for the current Entering Freshman Academic Awards. Raising funds for such scholarships will be a priority of *State of the Future*, the capital campaign now in its pre-announcement phase.

MSU also is working with the Noel-Levitz higher education consulting firm on a year-long review and fine-tuning of recruiting processes and procedures.

"We're committed to recruiting all qualified students," Abraham said. "Our research shows that students who have good high school grades tend to do well at MSU, regardless of ACT scores, and we're placing great emphasis on mentoring, academic advising and support programs to help students succeed.

"We need the help of our alumni and friends in communicating our desire to provide the best possible education, inside and outside of the classroom, to all students."

Ag Library project brings research to desktops

A collaboration between Mississippi State and the Maryland-based National Agricultural Library is allowing Mississippi researchers easier and faster access to the most recent science-based agricultural information available.

Called DigiTop—or Digital Desktop—the service now being demonstrated at Mitchell Memorial Library on campus provides full-text electronic access to resources in the agricultural sciences, as well as reference and article delivery services. The project also is testing the feasibility, costs and effectiveness of the system, with the goal of potentially expanding to other universities.

Watson named new division vice president

A longtime administrator and researcher at Mississippi State has been named head of the university's Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.

Vance Watson, a 37-year MSU employee, has been named vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine as well as director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station and dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

He had served since January 2002 as interim vice president and interim dean. His appointment to the permanent posts was approved by the state College Board at its November



Watson

meeting on the recommendation of MSU President Charles Lee.

Watson was director of the experiment station from 1996 until becoming interim vice president. The Missouri native has spent his entire career serving the people of Mississippi. He graduated from Southeast Missouri State University in 1964 with a degree in general agriculture and earned a master of science degree in agronomy at the University of Missouri in 1966. He completed a doctorate in agronomy with a minor in botany at MSU in 1969.

Kibler is new student affairs vice president

A veteran student affairs administrator will become vice president for student affairs at Mississippi State. William L. Kibler will join the university by early June.

Kibler has served for the past nine years as associate vice president and currently is interim vice president for student affairs at Texas A&M. In addition to administrative duties there, he is an associate professor of educational administration and human resource development.

At Mississippi State, he will head the division responsible for enrollment services, housing, financial aid, health services, student organizations, counseling, police, recreational sports, and other student service functions.

"Dr. Kibler has a long record of solid performance and experience in every aspect of student affairs," said MSU President Charles Lee. "He brings a combination of administrative talent and rapport with students that will help us build on our excellent programs and services that enhance student life and development."

CAMPUS News

Kibler received bachelor's, master's and educational specialist degrees from the University of Florida, where he began his student affairs career. He completed a doctorate from Texas A&M, which he joined in 1980.

Active in national professional organizations, he has published and presented extensively on a variety of student affairs issues. He also has been heavily involved in civic and community affairs.

He succeeds Roy Ruby, who gave up the vice president's post in late 2002 to become dean of the MSU College of Education. Associate vice president Jimmy Abraham has served as interim head of the student affairs division.

Jack White receiving 2003 Humanities Scholar Award

The veteran director of Mississippi State's honors program is the 2003 selection for the Scholar Award of the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Jack H. White, who for two decades has led the university's program for academically talented students, is also a member of the English faculty.

The honor recognizes a humanities scholar who has participated in MHC programs and been an effective interpreter of the humanities to public audiences.



White

Former budget officer returning as vice president

Former Mississippi State budget and planning officer C. Ray Hayes is returning to MSU as vice president for finance and administration after more than 12 years in a similar position at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Hayes, 50, is a Mississippi State graduate who spent the first 16 years of his career at his alma mater before moving to the Corpus Christi campus. He assumed his new duties as MSU's chief financial and business officer in March.



Hayes

Hinds senior named prestigious Mitchell Scholar

Joining 11 other students in the nation, senior Frank E. "Smith" Lilley Jr. of Clinton will spend the next year as a George J. Mitchell Scholar in international studies.

Named for the former U.S. senator from Maine who played a leadership role in the Northern Ireland peace process, the highly competitive scholarships allow academically talented students to conduct post-graduate studies in Ireland. Following graduation in May, Lilley will enroll in the



Lilley

international studies program at the University of Limerick.

Seiler named engineering college outreach coordinator

Emma E. Seiler is the new coordinator of educational outreach and student programs for the Bagley College of Engineering.



Seiler

Co-developer of a novel shoe design activity for high school students called "The Cinderella Project," Seiler will be responsible for planning and directing college interaction activities with the pre K-12 educational system and coordinating undergraduate programs in leadership.

Three engineering grads receive special certificates

Three December 2003 engineering graduates are the latest recipients of Jack Hatcher Entrepreneurship Certificates, a program that promotes careers combining technical and business skills.

Completing the program prior to fall semester graduation and being awarded the certificates by the Bagley College of Engineering were Justin T. Rucker, an electrical engineering major from Columbus; and Andrew J. Stahr of Covington, La., and Nils E. Wahlander of Plymouth, Minn., both of whom majored in mechanical engineering.

Engineering faculty member named to international post

Noel N. Schulz is the new secretary of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Power Engineering Society.

The associate professor of electrical and computer engineering will serve a two-year term on both the PES governing board and executive committee in her role as secretary. She has taught in the Bagley College of Engineering for the past three years.

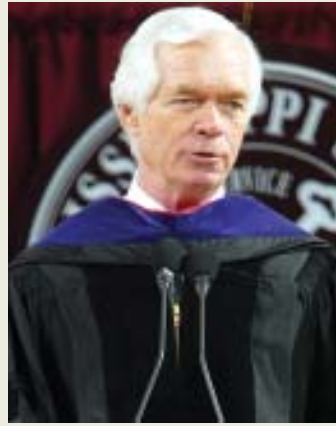
Welfare recipients face race, transitional challenges

A new study by Mississippi State sociologists provides compelling evidence that Mississippians seeking to move beyond federal welfare assistance may be significantly limited by a combination of place and race.

In a report published by the journal *Rural Sociology*, a team from the university's nationally recognized Social Science Research Center examined the potential long-term impact of federal legislation that overhauled the welfare system.

Through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the Welfare Reform Act passed by Congress in 1996 gave more autonomy to local communities and imposed time limits and work requirements for persons seeking to qualify for cash assistance. But, eight years later, are the changes working?

For some in the Magnolia State, the answer is "probably," MSU researchers said. For others—especially African-Americans in economically disadvantaged rural



Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), Mississippi's senior U.S. senator, was featured speaker for the university's December commencement program. Nearly 1,300 students were candidates for degrees at the conclusion of the university's 2003 fall semester and the institution's 125th anniversary year.

communities—the answer is "probably not."

"We discovered that, under the new welfare system, the rural poor are the most likely to need TANF because work alone cannot protect them from economic hardship," said principal investigator Domenico Parisi. "Both place and race matter."

Emeriti researchers expand civil rights encyclopedia

When the unique book first was published in 1992, the national *Library Journal* called it "one of the best reference sources of the year."

Now, two emeriti history professors at Mississippi State have produced a significantly expanded version of their initial survey of African-American civil rights. They trace events from President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation through the 1995 "Million Man March" and developments as recent as 2002.

The new two-volume "Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Civil Rights" is the product of MSU co-editors Charles D. Lowery and John F. Marszalek, along with Thomas A. Upchurch, an MSU doctoral graduate now teaching at East Georgia College in Statesboro.

The work was released in December by Greenwood Publishers of Westport, Conn., among the world's largest printers of reference, academic and general interest books.

Clinton siblings honor their father with scholarship

A new endowment provides educational assistance for students while honoring a Union native and 1936 agricultural education graduate of the university.

Anna Majure Royston and Dr. Troy V. Majure Jr., both Clinton residents, recently established the Troy V. Majure Sr. Endowed Scholarship as a memorial to their father, who died in 1983. The award is designated for deserving student-leaders enrolled in any College of Agriculture and Life Sciences major.

Administrator honored for 'uncertainty analysis' work

The head of the mechanical engineering department is receiving a prestigious national award for his contributions in experimental uncertainty analysis, which measures the "goodness" of a test result.

W. Glenn Steele, also one of the university's William L. Giles Distinguished Professors, will receive a 2004 American Institute of



Steele

Aeronautics and Astronautics Ground Testing Award during a June 29 conference in Portland, Ore.

Hugh Coleman, a mechanical engineering professor at the University of Alabama-Huntsville and former MSU faculty colleague of Steele, also will receive the award that consists of an engraved medal, a certificate of citation and a rosette pin.

Biological engineering professor promoted

The former head of agricultural and biological engineering is now associate provost for academic affairs at the university.

Agricultural and biological engineering department head since 1996, Jerome A. Gilbert succeeds George Rent, who is returning to the department of sociology, anthropology and social work. Rent served as associate provost for seven years.

A Jackson native, Gilbert completed his bachelor's degree in biological



Gilbert

engineering from MSU in 1977. Five years later, he received a doctorate in the major at Duke University. After a year as visiting assistant professor of mechanical engineering at North Carolina State University, he joined the University of North Carolina as assistant professor of

orthopedic surgery and biomedical engineering. He returned to MSU in 1988.

He became department head at his Mississippi alma mater after a year as its interim head. For the past two years, he also has been coordinator of the department's biomedical engineering graduate program.

Chemical engineering professor, majors in spotlight

Atly Jefcoat, holder of the Hunter Henry Chair of Chemical Engineering, is receiving national recognition for his work advising a student organization in his professional field.

Jefcoat recently was named the 2002-03 Outstanding



Jefcoat

Student Chapter Adviser by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, a professional organization of more than

50,000. He has held the university's Henry Chair, or endowed professorship, since 1998.

Veteran history professor heads scholarship programs

A Mississippi State history professor emeritus is returning to campus to lead the university's two most distinguished scholarship programs.

John F. Marszalek, a Giles Distinguished Professor who retired in 2002, is the new Schillig Scholar Mentor and head of the Presidential Scholars Program. He also will serve as chair of the Competitive Scholarship Selection Committee.



During a day-long visit to Mississippi State in February, Martin Luther King III, second from right, was welcomed by, from left, Jimmy Abraham, interim vice president for student affairs, President Charles Lee, and Aretha Jones-Cook, director of the campus Holmes Cultural Diversity Center.

The Schillig and Presidential scholarships are the highest academic honors MSU bestows on incoming freshmen. Competitively awarded on the basis of academic and leadership accomplishments, they cover the cost of books, tuition and room and board for four years.

Marszalek earlier served as Schillig mentor for the four years leading up to his retirement. He succeeds MSU President Emeritus Donald W. Zacharias, who is stepping down after several years in the position.

Insurance teachers invited to inaugural summer institute

Officials in the College of Business and Industry are announcing the university's first Insurance Education Summer Institute, to be held on campus in mid-summer.

Organized by the Peter K. Lutken Chair of Insurance and the College of Education, the July 18-23 program is designed especially for high

school teachers, counselors and administrators, community college instructors, and university graduate students. The cost of tuition, room and board and educational material expenses will be covered by a grant from the sponsoring Insurance Education Foundation.

"The course is designed for educators who teach insurance either as a specific course or as part of another subject," said Dr. Edwin H. Duett Jr. "The goal is to help them become more effective instructors by providing the tools needed for an understanding of all forms of insurance, particularly as it relates to high school students and their families."

More information about the institute may be found at www.distance.msstate.edu/iei/. For answers to specific questions, contact Duett at eduett@cobilan.msstate.edu or Riddle at triddle@cobilan.msstate.edu. The telephone number for both is 662-325-2341.



Dr. Richard Holmes, center, officially presented his papers to the Mississippi State University Libraries in February ceremonies. Joining him were, from left, Donald W. Zacharias, president emeritus; Frances N. Coleman, dean of libraries; Michael B. Ballard, university archivist; and Marty Wiseman, director of the Stennis Institute of Government. Holmes, who entered MSU in 1965, was the university's first African-American student. He currently is a staff physician at Longest Student Health Center.

New structure aims to streamline outreach efforts

Mississippi State has co-aligned the statewide MSU Extension Service with the university's Division of Continuing Education to help expand and better coordinate outreach efforts.

Both the MSU Extension Service and Continuing Education now report to the executive director of University



McGilberry

and Outreach. Extension director Joe McGilberry was appointed to the expanded position, effective Oct. 1.

An industrial outreach program will also be part of the new administrative structure, serving Mississippi's manufacturing and processing sector.

The extension and outreach director reports jointly to the university's vice president for agriculture, forestry, and veterinary medicine and to the provost and vice president for academic affairs.

McGilberry has been director of the MSU Extension Service since July 2001. He has worked with Extension economic development efforts since 1978, including 10 years as head of the Enterprise and Community Resource Development program.

Administrator Fuller to direct federal relations effort

A longtime administrator is being named to the new position of director of federal relations.

Marty Fuller will coordinate the university's efforts to secure federal funding for research and other initiatives. Formerly associate director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, he assumed the new role in October 2003.

In addition to serving as the university's primary liaison with Congress and federal agencies, he now will assist the university in developing initiatives that link federal priorities and institutional goals.

Fuller has served as associate director of MAFES for the past three years and as assistant director for two years before that.



Fuller

House building problems unique to South studied

Terry Amburgey wants to build his dream house and he's looking for a perfectly awful site—preferably one on sloping ground with plenty of natural potential for drainage and foundation problems.

Throw in plenty of Southern heat and humidity, add a decay-prone wooden frame, and the Mississippi State scientist will be well on his way to creating a residential buffet sure to entice even the pickiest eaters among the state's voracious termite population.

Amburgey, a researcher in the university's Forest and Wildlife Research Center, is an expert in preventing the deterioration of wood structures.

In a cooperative project now under way at MSU, he and others are seeking to solve climate-related housing

construction problems endemic to the Deep South: high heat, humidity, decay fungi, mold, high-wind events, and a variety of insects that include beetles and termites. The idea is to make sure newly constructed homes in this part of the country have a chance of surviving to a ripe old age.

Funded by an initial \$126,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory, the project Amburgey directs is a part of the federal agency's Coalition for Advanced Housing and Forest Products Research Laboratory. It includes MSU faculty members in forest products, civil and mechanical engineering, landscape architecture, and architecture.

Henry Center construction garners state awards

Building contractors for Mississippi State's Hunter Henry Center have chalked up an impressive list of awards in competition sponsored by the Mississippi Associated Builders and Contractors.

Completed in fall 2002, the 41,000-square-foot, \$12 million facility houses offices of the MSU Foundation and the MSU Alumni Association as well as facilities for campus and corporate meetings, charity events, reunions, and receptions.

JESCO Inc. of Tupelo, the center's general contractor, received an MABC 2003 Merit Award for general construction projects in the \$5-15 million category, Triplett Electric Co. of Louisville won a Merit Award in the electrical category, and American Glass of Walnut and F.L. Crane of Fulton received honorable mentions for their work on the center.

Foil Wyatt Architects and Planners of Jackson designed and oversaw construction of the facility.



Amburgey

Croom named football coach

Sylvester Croom, a veteran of 28 years coaching on the professional and collegiate levels, was named the new Mississippi State head football coach in December.

"Sylvester Croom met all of the criteria we laid forth for the selection of a new head football coach at Mississippi State," Director of Athletics Larry Templeton said. "We went after the best football coach and we're confident we found that individual in Sylvester Croom. We're excited to welcome him to the Mississippi State family."

Croom, 49, came MSU from the National Football League, where he spent 17 years of his coaching career, including the last three as running backs coach with the Green Bay Packers. He also worked with Detroit, San Diego, Tampa Bay, and Indianapolis on the professional level. He helped the Chargers to a berth in Super Bowl XXIX in 1995.

The new MSU head coach also has 11 years of experience on the college level at the University of Alabama, helping the Crimson Tide to back-to-back national championships in '78 and '79.

A 1975 graduate of the University of Alabama, Croom was a three-year letterman for coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, earning all-Southeastern Conference and all-America recognition following his senior season. He was the starting center on Alabama's 1973 national title team.

He recently completed his coaching staff. New members join retained coaches Rocky Felker, coordinator of football operations, and assistant coach Guy Holliday. New coaching staff members include:

Shane Beamer, 26, was the graduate assistant football coach for the defense at the University of Tennessee for the past three seasons. Prior to joining Tennessee, he spent one year with the Georgia Institute of Technology. The son of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University football coach Frank Beamer, Shane earned a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech in 1999.

Stan Drayton, 32, former offensive quality control and assistant special teams coach for the Green Bay Packers. Formerly worked eight years in the college coaching ranks, including Bowling Green State University, Villanova University, the universities of Pennsylvania and Eastern Michigan, and Allegheny College. The Cleveland, Ohio, native holds a bachelor's degree in English from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa.

J.B. Grimes, 48, is the former assistant head coach and offensive line coach for East Carolina University. Prior to his stint at East Carolina, the Memphis native coached at Texas A&M University, the University of Arkansas and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He holds a bachelor's degree from Henderson (Ark.) State University and a master's from Northeast Louisiana University.

Brick Haley, 37, comes to MSU from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Prior to his work in Georgia, he spent three seasons at Baylor University, one year at Clemson University, and stints at the University of Arkansas, Austin Peay and Troy state universities. The Gadsden, Ala., native starred as a linebacker at Alabama A&M University in the mid-to-late-'80s.

Ellis Johnson, 51, is MSU's defensive coordinator. He spent the last three seasons as head coach of The Citadel, his alma mater. The Winnsboro, S.C., native also has coached at the universities of Alabama, Southern Mississippi and North Carolina, as well as Clemson University.

Amos Jones, 43, comes to Mississippi State from James Madison University where he was tight ends and special teams coach. He also has coaching experience from the University of Cincinnati, Tulane University and the University of Pittsburgh. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama.



Croom addresses the crowd at his first press conference as a Bulldog.

Freddie Kitchens, 29, is the former running backs coach at the University of North Texas. He earlier served as a graduate assistant with the national champion Louisiana State University Tigers. He was a three-year starter at quarterback for the University of Alabama.

Woody McCorvey, 53, is the new offensive coordinator. He comes to MSU from the University of Tennessee where he served as running backs coach. He also has coaching stints at the universities of South Carolina and Alabama. He holds a bachelor's degree from Alabama State University and a master's from the University of West Florida. McCorvey is a native of Atmore, Ala.

Jim Nowell, 37, former director of skill development on the strength and conditioning staff at West Virginia University. A Level I USA weightlifting and strength coach, he is a former strength coach for Louisiana State University. Before joining the college ranks, Nowell was assistant athletic director, football defensive coordinator and head strength coach at Madison High School. He was named Mississippi Strength Coach of the Year for 2000. A native of Magee, he holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's from William Carey College.

Brad Pendergrass, 27, was a recruiting assistant with the University of Tennessee for two years. The Huntingdon, Tenn., native holds a bachelor's degree in business/marketing and a master's in human performance and sports studies, both from Tennessee.

Health center director named team physician of the year

MSU's sports teams physician is the 2003 Southeastern Conference Team Physician of the Year.

Dr. Robert Collins, director of the Longest Student Health Center, is a 26-year veteran of MSU. He spent 11 years as a health center physician before being named director of the facility in 1988. He also is a clinical associate professor in family medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical School in Jackson.

Collins is board certified in family practice and holds a Certificate of Added Qualifications in Sports Medicine.

The award, presented annually to a family or orthopedic physician in the league, provides Mississippi State \$1,000 for use in the student athletic training program. A formal award presentation to Collins is planned for an upcoming men's basketball game.

The award, now in its second year, is sponsored by the Hughston Orthopedic Clinic of Columbus, Ga., and DJ Orthopedics of Carlsbad, Calif.



Collins

Miller to lead USA Elite Team again

For the third-straight year, Mississippi State head softball coach Jay Miller will lead the USA Elite team in the 2004 Canada Cup, U.S. Champions Cup and other events to be scheduled, the USA Softball organization announced earlier this month.

Miller, who began his 13th year with the USA Softball organization this month, will be assisted on the USA Elite staff by Cal State-Fullerton head coach Michelle Gromacki, as well as Oregon State head coach Kirk Walker.

The USA Elite team will take on the title of defending champions at the Canada Cup in July after defeating Australia in the championship game of the international tournament last summer. In that game, current Mississippi State all-American Iyhia McMichael sent a 2-2 offering from Australian ace Melanie Roche over the left field fence in the bottom of the 10th inning to give the USA Elite Team a 2-0 win.

"This is a tremendous honor for our program, as well as Mississippi State University," Miller said. "I am really looking forward to working with some of the best athletes in the country and to defending our Gold medal at the Canada Cup."

The 2004 USA Elite squad was announced as well and was chosen from the USA Softball player pool. Eight of the 14 players named were members of the 2003 Junior Women's World Championship team which captured the silver medal in Nanjing, China, in October.

As the National Governing Body of Softball, USA Softball is responsible for training, equipping and promoting women's, men's, junior girls' and junior boys' national teams that compete in international and domestic competitions. USA Softball is one of the only two women's sports to capture back-to-back gold medals at the Olympic Games since 1996.

20 football Bulldogs make SEC Academic Honor Roll

Mississippi State placed 20 football student-athletes on the 2003 Southeastern Conference Fall Academic Honor Roll.

Of the those recognized for their work in the classroom, sophomore place-kicker Keith Andrews led the way with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average in biological sciences.

Seniors named to the team include: Brittan Cross (3.55 in biological engineering), Blake Jones (3.61 in interdisciplinary studies), Joey Judge (3.13 in history), Brent Smith (3.97 in general business administration), and Robert Wallis (3.75 in geosciences).

Juniors who earned nomination to the team include: Jared Cook (3.84 in general business administration), Tyler Freeman (3.47 in general business administration), Reginald Harris (3.31 in secondary education), Logan Owens (3.28 in physical education), McKinley Scott (3.10 in general business administration), and Gabe Wallace (3.00 in general business administration).

In addition to Andrews, first-year eligible sophomores on the squad, are: Willie Evans (3.04 in general business administration), Kenny Kern (3.52 in banking and finance), Brett Morgan (3.04 in physical education), Samuel Myers (3.67 in biological engineering), Will Prosser (3.17 in physical education), Gregory Shelton (3.52 in banking and finance), Brad Weathers (3.02 in physical education), and Kyle York (3.82 in general business administration).

Salter honored as Alumnus of the Year

The Perspective Editor of the Clarion-Ledger is this year's Mississippi State University Alumnus of the Year.

Sidney L. "Sid" Salter of Forest received the MSU Alumni Association's highest honor in January at the annual awards banquet on campus.

Salter, a 1988 political science graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences, also is a longtime syndicated columnist who published and edited the Scott County Times in Forest before joining the Clarion-Ledger staff several years ago.

A Philadelphia High School graduate who enrolled at Mississippi State as a John C. Stennis Scholar, he was designated in 2002 as one of the university's Alumni Fellows, another lifetime honor recognizing career and personal achievements.

"Sid Salter is considered by his peers to be among the premier journalists in Mississippi," said MSU President Charles Lee. "He has won every major honor given by the Mississippi Press Association, including the J. Oliver Emmerich Editorial Excellence Award on two occasions."

The Emmerich Award, which recognizes the top editorial writer among Mississippi's two dozen dailies and nearly 90 weeklies, is named for the late Mississippi State alumnus who was editor and publisher of the McComb Enterprise-Journal. Salter received the award while at the Forest weekly and remains the only weekly editor to have won the honor more than once.



Sidney L. "Sid" Salter of Forest, center, was named the 2004 Mississippi State University Alumnus of the Year. Presenting the award are MSU President Charles Lee, left, and MSU Alumni Association President Gary Blair of Brookhaven.



Class ring tradition continues

Erin Brinton, a senior engineering major from Tupelo, was among those receiving their class rings from President Charles Lee in recent campus ceremonies. The Alumni Association sponsors the event to commemorate the institutional ring developed in 1935. The special presentation ceremony takes place in May and December. For more information about the proud tradition of MSU class rings, visit www.msbulldogs.msstate.edu/classrings.htm.



College Alumni of the Year named

College Alumni of the Year were honored at the January alumni banquet. The 2004 group includes, seated from left, Fred P. Burke of Atlanta, Ga., managing partner of SQ Concepts, College of Engineering; Dr. Sharon F. Grace of Starkville, an associate clinical professor at MSU, College of Veterinary Medicine; J.L. "Jim" Tisdale of Starkville, retired manager of Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, College of Forest Resources. Standing from left are Thomas S. "Steve" Davis of Jackson, an architect and partner with Canizaro Cawthon Davis, College of Architecture; Jerry B. Slocum of Coldwater, a farm owner and operator, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Robert D. "Dan" Camp of Starkville, owner of Camp Real Estate and Development, College of Education; and Albert C. Clark of Starkville, president of C.C. Clark Inc., College of Business and Industry. Unable to attend was Mark C. Rohr of Richmond, Va., president and CEO of Albemarle Corp., College of Arts and Sciences.

Outstanding alumni chapters announced

The Alumni Association named outstanding chapters for 2003 at the annual alumni 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 and activities, and leadership were:

Category I, selected from chapters with membership potential of under 325—1. George-Greene County; 2. Covington County; and 3. Claiborne-Jefferson County.

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

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

Outstanding out-of-state chapters for 2003 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 Desoto, Lowndes, Southeast Mississippi, Warren, and Washington chapters within the state, and the Atlanta, Ga., Baton Rouge, La., Fort Worth, Texas, Huntsville, Ala., Nashville, Tenn., and New Orleans, La. chapters out-of-state.

Each chapter will receive an honor banner in recognition of their service. First- second- and third-place winners will receive \$1,000, \$750 and \$500, respectively, designated toward their local alumni chapter scholarship programs.



Distinguished Service Awards given

Roger R. Summerour of Lucedale, left, and Ed Gholston of Starkville have received Distinguished Service Awards for their years of service and dedication to the Mississippi State University Alumni Association. The two, along with Samuel T. Stacy of Vicksburg, received the awards at the association's annual awards banquet in January. Summerour is a 1973 chemical engineering graduate now working with CIBA Specialty Chemicals. Gholston, a 1942 and 1947 graduate, is a retired agronomist who formerly led the Soil Testing Laboratory at MSU. Stacy is a 1983 and 1988 graduate and is a civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Outstanding Young Alumnus honored

Everette Ryan Nelson of Vicksburg received the Outstanding Young Alumnus award for 2003 at the annual MSU Alumni Association awards banquet in January.

Nelson, a claims representative for the Social Security Administration, is a 1999 business graduate and president of the Warren County Chapter of the Alumni Association.

Since assuming his duties in August 2002, he has guided the MSU chapter in becoming the leading university chapter in the county in terms of scholarships awarded and banquet participation. He also was instrumental in organizing his chapter's golf tournament, which raises money for scholarships for Warren County high school students.

The 1999 business graduate has promoted the chapter banquet in local radio interviews and newspaper ads, and he organized a successful student recruiting party that brought representatives of Enrollment Services to Vicksburg to visit with students and parents.



Nelson, left, is presented the Outstanding Young Alumnus award by Alumni Association national president Gary Blair.

A letter from national president Gary Blair

Dear Alumni and Friends of MSU:

As the new governor and Legislature address state budget matters, active participation by our alumni in the state appropriations process is crucial. The state's economic development is directly tied to the quality of education for our citizens. Our state university system has not had stable funding for four years.

Recently the Joint Legislative Budget Committee released its recommendations for the fiscal year 2005 budget which includes a recommendation to cut the universities by \$72 million. State support of our universities already has been reduced \$70 million over the last four years, while enrollment has increased by more than 20 percent.

Higher Education Commissioner David Potter is encouraged, however, by Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck's recent statement that during the upcoming session of the Legislature, any extra funds will be targeted to "gap areas." She has identified IHL as one of those gaps.

Mississippi is the only state in the nation that did not raise tuition for 2003-2004. The Board of Trustees, Institutions of Higher Learning made this decision based on the legislature's action during the last legislative session. The board had previously raised tuition to recover some of the lost funds. University tuition increases and efficiencies are permitting the universities to maintain their levels of service for the short-term, but a full recovery cannot occur without additional funds.

Enrollment has been at record levels throughout the public university system for eight consecutive years. Currently, 67,380 students are pursuing degrees at our public universities. Our state, however, still has too few citizens with university degrees. Resources are sorely needed to serve the growing student body.

Unfortunately, students are facing the consequences of the budget cuts, such as fewer class sections in which to enroll and larger class sizes. In addition, faculty members continue to resign or retire at a rate 30 to 40 percent beyond our traditional average. Faculty salaries are on average \$7,000 behind other faculty salaries in the Southeast. The board has proposed a commitment to raise our faculty salaries by 12 percent over three years.

We have all read reports of the additional budget challenges the state faces, and the Board of Trustees has been mindful of the budget challenges in making its request for the FY 2005 budget. We believe that an investment in Mississippi's public institutions of higher learning is the surest way to secure the future of our state and the well being of its citizens. Our voices need to be heard by legislators, the governor and other decision makers about the need to provide stable education funding for a growing student population. We ask that Mississippi residents contact their legislators and the governor and express their concerns about the cuts to higher education. Urge them to take action to stabilize funding. Resources for all education (K-12, community colleges and universities) are desperately needed for our citizens to succeed.

Alumni of the eight universities can receive information on university issues throughout the legislative session by subscribing to the IHL Inter-Alumni Council's Network information line. To sign up, go to www.mississippiuniversities.com/alumni and complete the contact information on the front page. The IHL Inter-Alumni Council is a group of appointed alumni from each Mississippi public university. As your alumni association president, I am a member of the council. The council members work together as advocates for the needs of education and to increase access to public higher education in Mississippi.

Your support of our public universities' budget is needed. Please be active in letting your legislators know that higher education needs their support. Thank you for your actions on behalf of our system of higher education.



Gary A. Blair
National President
MSU Alumni Association

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 26 Memphis Maroon Club Golf Tournament
- 27 Faculty Recognition Banquet
- 28 Class Ring Ceremony, Hunter Henry Center

MAY

- 7 Commencement, Meridian Branch
- 8 Commencement, Main Campus, Humphrey Coliseum
- 12 Warren County Chapter Golf Tournament, Vicksburg
- 14-15 Alumni Association Former National Presidents' Weekend
- 25 DeSoto County Chapter Golf Tournament

JUNE

- 12 Mississippi in the Park, New York, N.Y.
Mississippi on the Mall, Washington, D.C.
- 16 Sharkey-Issaquena County Chapter Golf Tournament/dinner
- 21 Birmingham, Ala., Chapter Golf Tournament/dinner

JULY

- 15 Central Mississippi Extravaganza, Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson, 5:30 p.m.

Association supports Reveille marketing

The Mississippi State University Alumni Association and the Department of Student Life are partnering with Taylor Publishing's Milestone Division to produce and publish a new and expanded Reveille, the university yearbook. Two new features include a directory listing of all students with class year, hometown and honors, and an optional best wishes message from family members.



Through this partnership, the Reveille staff will continue to produce and maintain editorial control of the Reveille. All marketing will be a joint venture between the Alumni Association and Taylor/Milestone, with resulting revenue supporting student programs.

"The Reveille has a longstanding history of documenting student life on the campus of Mississippi State," said John Corroero, executive director of the Alumni Association. "We are excited to be joining the Reveille staff and Taylor/Milestone in continuing to create lasting memories of our university."

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.

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Mississippi State, MS 39762-5526
662-325-7000
www.msubulldogs.msstate.edu



Forbes believes in sticking to the basics

James C. Forbes grew up the son of a sharecropper in the Mississippi Delta during the Great Depression. He and his late wife lived frugally throughout their lives, never spending unnecessarily when they could save instead.

The 1941 electrical engineering alumnus never imagined he would be among the Bagley College of Engineering's largest individual donors.

Born in Tomnolen, Jim Forbes moved around the northern part of the state with his family during his youth. They were farming near the Tallahatchie River in 1929 at the onset of the Depression. They soon moved to land near Sidon, where they lived "so far back in the woods, the roads weren't even graveled." The school bus could not reach them, and he and his four brothers and sister had to walk the miles between home and school. "We got so discouraged, we just didn't go," he says. Eventually, he completed high

school in Benoit. On an upperclassman's recommendation, he chose engineering. Graduating third in his class, Forbes accepted a much-coveted job with General Electric.

He entered the company's training program in 1941, making \$1 per hour. After a few years in the Northeast, he transferred to West Virginia. It was here he met a young waitress named Hazel Ruby, the daughter of a coal miner.

In 1955, the couple transferred to Dallas and bought the house in which he still lives. At that time, G.E. began an employee investment program, offering to match employees' contributions. The Forbeses decided to participate, investing the maximum in G.E. stock and agreeing between themselves to take nothing out. Today, Mr. Forbes, retired from the company after decades of service, owns approximately 75,000 shares of General Electric.

"I owe a lot to Mississippi State," he declares. "They gave me a good education, and they got me an interview. Without them, I wouldn't have gotten a job with General Electric."

Forbes was the first college graduate in his family. Now, he says, he intends to help others get a college education by including the Bagley College of Engineering in his will. The contribution of his GE stock will provide financial assistance for many future students, who will be encouraged to repay the opportunity in turn.

At the age of 86, Forbes prefers to continue living unpretentiously and leave his wealth intact. "My needs are pretty simple," he says. "It will be more



Forbes

satisfying to leave it to students than for me to use it."

The value of Jim Forbes' projected donation makes him one of the college's top donors. He didn't get there by founding a Fortune 500 company. He didn't do it by inventing an indispensable gadget. This engineer and his wife did it together through a lifetime commitment to longtime American values—savings, moderation and basic hard work.

For his bequest, the MSU Foundation is honored to recognize James Forbes as a member of the Old Main Society, a distinguished group of donors who have made significant investments in the university through planned gifts. For more information on making a bequest or other deferred gift, please contact Vance Bristow at 662-325-3707.

"I owe a lot to Mississippi State. They gave me a good education, and they got me an interview. Without them, I wouldn't have gotten a job with General Electric."

—Forbes

Endowed positions needed to help MSU make the grade

There is always one professor who truly inspires a student—a professor who goes the extra mile and challenges the student to achieve, often turning him or her into a promising young scholar along the way.

Hundreds of Mississippi State University students have the opportunity to receive hands-on tutelage from exceptional chairholders and distinguished professors who are impacting the world around them. These professors are shaping the future in science, education, the arts and humanities, and in national and

international affairs. They also are extending the university's resources to assist families, communities, public education, and business and industry.

A goal of Mississippi State is to develop and enhance programs of excellence in teaching, research and service that benefit Mississippi and beyond. To do so, Mississippi State must maintain the ability to recruit and retain first-rate faculty in those areas.

For universities like Mississippi State, there is not a more valuable tool than permanently endowed positions as a means for attracting champion faculty. These integral positions allow students a rare opportunity to learn and conduct research

experience that often makes these students even more marketable to corporate recruiters.

A named chair or professorship is linked to a premier faculty position filled by a truly outstanding scholar and teacher, as judged by rigorous, nationally accepted standards. These distinguished scholars make significant contributions to the research and teaching missions of the university, and they increase the university's visibility, which aids in attracting superior faculty, excellent students and external resources for research.

"Instructional quality at any university is only as good as its faculty, and competition for the best teachers and researchers is intense," said Peter W. Rabideau, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Mississippi State.

MSU draws its faculty from a national marketplace, competing head-to-head with leading institutions from coast to coast.

"Instructional quality at any university is only as good as its faculty, and competition for the best teachers and researchers is intense."

**—Peter W. Rabideau
Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs**

with an outstanding professor, an

continued next page

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“Our campus frequently is a recruiting ground for other institutions,” said MSU President J. Charles Lee. Rabideau agrees.

“Too often our faculty—particularly up-and-coming junior faculty—are lured away to other institutions that offer better resources,” he said.

A significant gap exists between the number of endowed chairs and professorships in Mississippi universities and the number currently found in peer institutions in the Southeast, according to a 2003 survey. In fact, the total number of endowed chairs and professorships in all public universities in Mississippi is fewer

than the total of any single Southeastern Conference university outside the state.

Mississippi State lags well behind institutions such as Auburn University, the University of Tennessee and the University of Kentucky in the number of established endowed positions.

Although only a small percentage of Mississippi State’s 731 tenure and tenure-track faculty members hold endowed positions, the university has experienced some growth in recent years.

The Bagley College of Engineering is leading the way with 18 endowed positions, many of which are the result of private support. The colleges of Business and Industry and Agriculture and Life Sciences have less than a handful of endowed positions between them, and the

College of Veterinary Medicine acquired its first chair a mere four years ago. Some other academic units, such as Arts and Sciences, Education, Forest Resources, and Architecture still are seeking their first-ever endowed chair or professorship.

“An endowed chair or professorship would allow the College of Education to attract a nationally known scholar/researcher who would add immeasurably to the reputation of the college,” said Roy Ruby, dean of education.

“As we seek to produce stronger and stronger teachers for the state and region, an endowed position would add a level of quality that has been out of our financial reach,” he added.

The university has made little progress in recent years toward meeting the regional average faculty salary. Closing that gap will take time and significant state support, but the university can make significant gains in critical areas by attracting a nucleus of outstanding faculty who are national and international leaders in their disciplines.

“An endowed chair or professorship would allow the College of Education to attract a nationally known scholar/researcher who would add immeasurably to the reputation of the college.”

**—Roy Ruby
Dean of Education**

Hatcher family understands importance of chair

The list of those who have chosen to support Mississippi State University by funding endowed faculty positions continues to grow. From individuals to companies to families—many are establishing these positions to give the university an edge in recruiting and retaining distinguished faculty.

One such example is the Hatcher family of Pinehurst, N.C., which has established a chair in the Bagley College of Engineering. Jack Hatcher, his wife Nell and their children made a \$1.25 million contribution to establish the Jack Hatcher Chair for Engineering Entrepreneurship.

“My husband Jack really didn’t want the chair to be named for him, but our son Jack Jr. said that’s my name, too, so let’s call it that,” said Nell Hatcher. “We were really pleased that all the children wanted to get on board and help us create this extraordinary position.”

Ultimately, the chair was named for Hatcher Sr., who has enjoyed a longtime career as an entrepreneur, often encouraging others to become involved in his entrepreneurial ventures, as well.

Together with former employees, Hatcher bought several troubled or underachieving companies, turned them around and sold them. His enjoyment and

satisfaction in these relationships led him to create the chair.

Hatcher co-founded the nation’s second-largest metal building manufacturing company. After selling it to an international firm, he became president of the combined companies. Later, he served for 10 years as chairman and chief executive officer of Chicago-based Robertson-Ceco Corp., a Fortune 500 manufacturer of pre-engineered metal buildings.

“Mr. Hatcher’s entrepreneurial spirit is evident through his many successes and his input is invaluable to us,” said Gerald Nelson, MSU engineering instructor and director of the entrepreneurship program.

“To keep stellar men and women on the faculty at Mississippi State so they may continue to educate future generations and conduct cutting-edge research and scholarship, we must be able to provide them with competitive salaries and opportunities,” Lee said.

The creation of an endowed chair or professorship can help attract significant additional funding for a related research program, and it can attract some of the world’s leading researchers to Mississippi State.

“Relocating to Mississippi becomes

more attractive when an endowed position can be offered,” said Dennis Prescott,

vice president for external affairs. “And private gift support is the vehicle that can make this happen.”

Through the generosity of alumni and friends, Mississippi State is able to offer endowed positions to faculty who have achieved national and international recognition for their scholarly work. In addition to receiving an annual monetary supplement, endowed chairs and professors receive further funding to be used at their discretion for

professional travel, research or outreach projects that truly make a difference.

Naming opportunities for chairs and professorships are available throughout campus. A minimum gift of \$1.5 million is needed to endow a chair, and \$500,000 will create a professorship.

“A world-class university faculty is an asset for the institution and a magnet for others to join us,” Lee said.

Equipped with funds comparable to those of its peer institutions, Mississippi State can not only succeed in building a strong faculty, it can succeed in building strong foundations for the future of the state, the nation and the world.

For more information on supporting endowed positions, contact the MSU Foundation at 877-677-8283.

“To keep stellar men and women on the faculty at Mississippi State so they may continue to educate future generations and conduct cutting-edge research and scholarship, we must be able to provide them with competitive salaries and opportunities.”

**—J. Charles Lee
President**

Hatcher now leads an advisory board of alumni who provide continuing input to the chair as a member of the engineering college’s development council. Through a seminar series, coursework, project experience, and a business plan, MSU entrepreneurial students acquire knowledge and credentials that will take them wherever they choose to go.

“These students and this university owe a great deal to the Hatcher family and I am proud to be a part of their legacy here at Mississippi State,” Nelson said. “Being an endowed chairholder has been a rewarding experience for me and has provided me the resources to greatly impact my students.”

The family portrait includes Nell and Jack Hatcher Sr. with their children (seated, left to right) Barbara Hatcher, Jack Hatcher Jr., Tere Hatcher Smart, and Hayley Hatcher Dettor.

Photo by Thomas Brown



51

Mack Lofton of Mountain Brook, Ala., has written and published his third book, *In the Name of the Law*. Retired from a 34-year career with Sears, Roebuck and Co., he also is the author of *Voices from Alabama* and *Healing Hands: An Alabama Medical Mosaic*.

58

Robert S. Moss of Stringer is retired from the U.S. Forest Service and was the first Mississippi State forestry graduate to serve as State Forester.

62

C. Gerald Cotton of Brandon, executive vice president of Baptist Health Systems, has been elected to serve as chairman of the Mississippi Hospital Association's Board of Governors.



Cotton

Rodney Forest Persons has retired from Entergy Corp. after more than 41 years of service.

63

Charles C. Calhoun Jr. of Vicksburg, an engineering consultant, has been named 2004 president of the Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

64

Gerald Wilbanks, a principal engineer with Documentation & Engineering Services in Birmingham, Ala., has been named a Fellow of the Instrumentation, Systems and Automation Society.

66

Jere W. Hess Jr. (M.B.A. '67) of Wiggins has been named associate vice president for development at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. He retired from Peavey Electronics in 2001.



Hess

68

Stephen W. Alderman of Canton, Mich., has retired from Ford Motor Co. as human resources manager of the Ford Customer Service Division, following a 34-year career with the auto maker.

John B. Noblin (M.S. '70, Ph.D. '72) of Goodyear, Ariz., manager of systems engineering at Lockheed Martin Management and Data Systems-ISR Systems, has been named the 2003 Tech Fellow for Systems Engineering by the Government Electronics and Information Technology Association.

70

Christopher J. Ward of Germantown, Tenn., has been named senior vice president of the National Bank of Commerce Trust Division in Memphis. He is a certified public accountant.

72

Tom T. Flowers of Universal City, Texas, a senior analyst for Operational Technologies Corp., has earned a Ph.D. in post-secondary and adult education at Capella University.

Karen D. Hulett of Jackson, a physician, has been recognized as Medical Consultant of the Year for the Southeastern U.S. for her work with the Social Security Administration's Disability Determination Service.



Hulett

74

Bob Blakely of Goldvein, Va., has been promoted to vice president at ITT Industries. He also has received an M.B.A. degree from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

Alan F. Hunter (M.S. '96) of Slidell, La., has been promoted to area engineer,

New Orleans Area Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Last year, he received the Mississippi Valley Division's Construction Management Excellence Award.

Tim Lawrence of Flowood, a Jackson-based investment consultant, has been elected president of the Jones County Junior College Foundation.

William L. Waller Jr. of Jackson has been named a presiding justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court. Waller joined the Supreme Court in 1998 and is chairman of the court's Rules Committee. He has completed 29 years of service in the Mississippi National Guard, having most recently commanded the 66th Troop Command headquartered in Jackson.



Hunter



Lawrence

75

Catherine C. Dunn of New Orleans, La., has been named a Woman of the Year by the newspaper New Orleans City Business. Dunn is deputy director for port development for the Port of New Orleans and an adviser to the New Orleans Public School Board.

78

Jess H. Dickinson of Gulfport is a new associate justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court. He practiced law for 20 years in Gulfport, and for the past year has served as a special circuit judge in Forrest and Perry counties.

George Loden (M.P.P.A. '79) of Belden, a broker with Century Commercial Real Estate Services, has been named Realtor of the Year by the Northeast Mississippi Board of Realtors.

Brooks Taylor, publisher and co-owner of The Tunica Times, has received the prestigious McKinney Award of the

National Newspaper Association for providing distinguished service and leadership through the community press.

79

Jonni R. Webb has been named one of the state's 50 Leading Businesswomen for 2003 by the Mississippi Business Journal. She is the publisher of Coffee News in the Jackson area and owner of JRWebb Pottery in Madison County.



Webb

80

William F. Long (M.B.A. '91) of Vinings, Ga., an attorney with Needle & Rosenberg, has been named a shareholder of that firm.

81

Johnny Bratton of Huntsville, Ala., an engineer with Northrop Grumman, completed a master's degree in business management at the University of Alabama in Huntsville in December 2002.

Vickie Smith Graves of Madison, a mortgage lender and owner of AMS Mortgage, has been named one of the state's 50 Leading Businesswomen for 2003 by the Mississippi Business Journal.

Bob Kremer of Columbia, Mo., a microbiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has been named a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy.

82

Eva Ann Beasley Dorris (M.E.E. '89) of Pontotoc is editor of the regional agricultural publication *On the Farm in the Mid-South*. She previously was editor of



Dorris

Mississippi Farmer magazine and is the author of several syndicated columns in state publications.

Bobby Marzine Harges of New Orleans, La., a law professor, has been named the Adams and Reese Distinguished Professor of Law II at Loyola University New Orleans School of Law. The professorship is in the field of alternative dispute resolution and business law.

83

Mark Keenum (M.S. '84, Ph.D. '88) of Alexandria, Va., chief of staff for U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, is the 2003 recipient of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation's prestigious Distinguished Service Award for his numerous contributions to agriculture in Mississippi.



Keenum

85

Gary D. Jackson of French Camp has been elected to the Mississippi Senate, District 15, which includes Choctaw and Webster counties and parts of Attala, Calhoun, Montgomery, Oktibbeha, and Winston counties.



Jackson

87

Jo Ann Streiff Herold of Atlanta, Ga., has been promoted to vice president for marketing at Honey Baked Ham Co.

89

Doug Wert has been named program director for the Professional Golf Management program at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

90

William McLemore has been promoted to information technology methodology and process analyst at Hughes Supply Inc. in Orlando, Fla.

91

Jose A. Rosado has joined Deutsche Bank in New York, N.Y., as an associate in the Leveraged Lending Portfolio Group.

Dennis Seid has been promoted to business editor/assistant city editor at The Jackson Sun in Jackson, Tenn., a daily newspaper with a circulation of 40,000.

J. Jay Vinicki has been appointed director of strategic planning and budgeting for the suburban Atlanta city of Roswell, Ga. He previously was operating budget manager for the Gwinnett County (Ga.) Board of Commissioners and a senior policy analyst for the state Office of Planning and Budget.

92

Shane Crowe of Jackson has joined Cellular South as system performance manager.

Brian Currie of Long Beach has joined Access to Money Inc. as vice president of dealer sales and processing development. He also is owner of Southern Cash Systems.

Spencer J. Flatgard (M.P.P.A. '94) of Ridgeland, a partner in the law firm of Smith, Reeves & Yarborough, has been selected to participate in the 2003-04 Leadership Mississippi program, sponsored by the Mississippi Economic Council's M.B. Swayze Educational Foundation.

Tony Jeff has been named executive director of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Mississippi. He previously was project manager for the Mississippi Alternative Energy Enterprise.



Jeff

Chandler Seagraves of Meridian, a major in the U.S. Marine Corps, is events coordinator for the Blue Angels Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron.

Scott Stricklin has joined the University of Kentucky Athletic Department as assistant athletic director for media relations. He previously held similar positions at Tulane and Baylor universities.

93

Fred Tyner of Flowood, an engineer with Engineering Associates Inc., became a registered professional engineer in Mississippi in May 2003.

94

Lea Henderson Byers of Memphis, Tenn., is a renal dietitian with the Renal Care Group.

Cass Everitt has been promoted to 3-D architect at nVIDIA in Austin, Texas.

Nancy M. Hill of Ellisville has co-authored a novel, *Incommunicado*, published by BookEnds Press.

John P. Works is an associate with the law firm of Smith, Bundy, Bybee & Barnett in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

95

Susanne Allen Heartsill has opened Downtown Animal Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. She previously was employed at Terrell Mill Animal Hospital in Marietta, Ga.

Kevin Ikenberry has been named executive director of the Challenger Learning Center of Kansas, located near Wichita. He previously was director of education at Challenger Learning Center of Arizona.

96

Joe Gibbs III of Jackson has joined Engineering Associates Inc. as a transportation engineer.

Danielle Louys Hampton (M.B.A. '99) of Cincinnati, Ohio, has joined Pfizer Animal Health as a therapeutic specialist.

Patrick Plourde has joined Structural Design Group in Birmingham, Ala., as project manager.

Clay Williams of Ocean Springs is economic development coordinator and field representative for U.S. Sen. Trent Lott in the senator's Gulfport office. Williams

previously worked on the staffs of Lott and Congressman Chip Pickering in Washington, D.C.

97

Jay Aldy of The Woodlands, Texas, is national account manager for Holmes Foods Inc.

Tempy Segrest has joined *Mississippi Magazine* in Jackson as art director.

98

Jason Bush of Madison has joined the law firm of McGlinchey Stafford as an associate in the commercial litigation section of the firm's Jackson office. Prior to that, he clerked for Chief Judge Glen H. Davidson in the Northern District of Mississippi.

Daniel Cassidy of Knoxville, Tenn., is completing work on a Ph.D. in forestry at the University of Tennessee.

Stephanie Mills is a contract specialist for the U.S. Air Force at Holloman AFB, N.M. She previously was store supervisor at the MSU Bookstore.

99

Steven R. Wood of Picayune has been promoted to assistant vice president with Hancock Bank.

00

Alan F. Hayes of Brentwood, Tenn., has joined Thomas, Miller & Partners of Brentwood as an intern architect.

01

Lauren Holmes Furniss has been promoted to marketing coordinator at Creative Entertainment Services in Burbank, Calif.

Adam G. Howell of Lebanon, Tenn., is a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine, teaching English in a secondary school.

Thomas Adams Upchurch of Statesboro, Ga., an assistant professor of history at East Georgia College, has written a book, *Legislating Racism: The Billion Dollar Congress and the Birth of Jim Crow*. It is published by University Press of Kentucky.

02

Jason R.W. Weir (M.S. '03) of Du Pont, Wash., a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, has graduated from the U.S. Army Medical Officers School at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. He has been assigned to the Headquarters Company of the 62nd Medical Brigade at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

03

Kim Bradberry teaches mathematics at Clinton Junior High School.

Meredith Broyles of Starkville has joined the staff of Mississippi Farm Bureau as a governmental relations assistant. She previously served as an intern with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service and in the office of Sen. Thad Cochran in Washington, D.C.



Broyles

Michael Volk of Jackson, an engineer with Engineering Associates Inc., has received a master's degree in civil engineering at MSU.

BIRTH Announcements

Sophia Walker Abraham, Sept. 30, 2003, to **William Abraham ('94)** and wife Shannon of Clarksdale.

Jaxon Forrest Adcock, Feb. 5, 2003, to **Eric Adcock ('99)** and wife Holly of Philadelphia.

Samuel Allen Arender, Sept. 1, 2003, to **Laura Curto Arender ('99, M.B.A. '00)** and **Allen Arender ('99)** of Baton Rouge, La.

Caitlyn Presley Atkins, June 6, 2003, to **Harold Atkins ('94, M.P.P.A. '97)** and **Susan Moses Atkins (attended)** of Columbia, Md.

Annsley Elise Baxley, Nov. 6, 2003, to **Kimberly Wilkins Baxley ('93)** and husband Allen of North Augusta, S.C.

Emily Elizabeth Beckham, June 25, 2003, to **Hugh Beckham Jr. ('88)** and wife Elizabeth of Olive Branch.

Brandon Sanford Broadway, July 9, 2003, to **Brent Broadway ('89)** and wife Dannel of Houston, Texas.

Kathryn Brooks Bell, March 10, 2003, to **Criston Loyd Bell ('90)** and **Loren S. Bell ('91, M.Ed. '93)**.

William Everett Broocks, Feb. 23, 2003, to **Jeffrey Broocks ('97)** and **Ashley Everett Broocks ('99)** of Brandon.

Brooks William Byers, April 11, 2003, to **Lea Henderson Byers ('94)** and husband Brad of Memphis, Tenn.

Robert Gibson Cheney, Nov. 3, 2003, to **Nancy Bigelow Cheney ('91)** and husband Bill of Jackson.

Marlene Chmielewski, Sept. 9, 2003, to **Bess L. Combs-Chmielewski ('94)** and husband Richard of Atlanta, Ga.

Maggie Grace Clifton, Aug. 29, 2003, to **Ann Chappell Clifton ('93)** and **Ricky Clifton ('90, M.B.A. '93)** of Olive Branch.

Chyna Tonia Crayton, Oct. 31, 2002, to **Indya Everson Crayton ('97)** and husband Torris of Winston-Salem, N.C.

Kara Wells Daly and Owen Patrick Daly, July 3, 2003, to **Gina Wells Daly ('96)** and **Douglas Patrick Daly ('93)** of Meridian.

Daniel Alexander Del-Castillo, Nov. 3, 2003, to **Jennifer Watkins Del-Castillo ('00)** and **Dennis Del-Castillo ('99)** of Virginia Beach, Va.

Jacob Nelson Domingue, June 18, 2003, to **David Domingue ('94)** and **Lora**

Nelson Domingue ('94) of Carrollton, Texas.

Robert Samuel Draper, Nov. 21, 2003, to **Mike Draper ('91, M.S. '93)** and **Katie Strickland Draper ('93)** of Corinth.

Regan McKensie Felder, Nov. 3, 2003, to **Bill Felder ('91)** and **Kimberly Buskirk Felder ('93)** of Madison.

Grayson Elizabeth Gardner, July 22, 2003, to **Courtney McCain Gardner ('97)** and **Chris Gardner ('95, M.S. '97)** of Kennesaw, Ga.

William Thompson Gibbs, Sept. 30, 2003, to **Natalie Sorrels Gibbs ('95)** and **David A. Gibbs ('94)** of Ridgeland.

Lily Grace Herold, Aug. 22, 2003, to **Jo Ann Streiff Herold ('84)** and husband Mark of Atlanta, Ga.

Gatlin Bryce Huber, Sept. 29, 2003, to **Corey Huber ('02)** and **Jamanda Walker Huber ('01)** of Purvis.

Annalee Jane Hunniford, Sept. 13, 2003, to **James Hunniford ('90)** and wife Melissa of Dumfries, Va.

Anne Marie Hurt, Dec. 23, 2002, to **Marianne Warren Hurt ('84)** and husband Stan of Ocean Springs.

Race Cooper Hutson, March 18, 2003, to **Brian S. Hutson ('87)** and wife Angie of Plano, Texas.

Bradley Keffer Jones, Oct. 2, 2003, to **Ed Jones ('98)** and **Paige Craig Jones ('96)** of Flowood.

Henry Patton Kincaid V, Nov. 4, 2003, to **Patton Kincaid IV ('94)** and **Rebecca Gathings Kincaid ('98)** of Madison.

Charles Reece King, Sept. 27, 2003, to **Justin W. King ('98)** and wife Patricia of Stringer.

John Coulson Mars, Sept. 22, 2003, to **Sam Mars ('98)** and wife Wendy of Ridgeland.

Hannah Grace McLaughlin, Oct. 15, 2003, to **Jennifer Felder McLaughlin ('93)** and husband Brian of Gulfport.

Haley Nicole Monroe, June 11, 2003, to **Michael Monroe ('92)** and wife Cynthia. Michael Jonathan Moore, April 30, 2003, to **Roger Moore ('84)** and wife Charlotte of Rogers, Ark.

Jane Claire Newman, March 21, 2003, to **Christina Clark Newman ('95)** and **Monroe Newman ('95)** of Columbus.

Thomas Taylor Olinger, May 9, 2003, to **Christy DeBerry Olinger ('97)** and **Philip Olinger ('97)** of Newark, Ohio.

Mattie Frances Powell, June 18, 2003, to **Brent Powell ('94)** and **Natasha Goff Powell ('94)** of Brandon.

Jensen Collins Presley, Aug. 16, 2003, to **Julian Presley ('97)** and wife Chelsea of Clarksdale.

Caycen Colter Ratliff, Sept. 19, 2003, to **Brandi Jessee Ratliff ('02)** and **Colt Ratliff ('02)** of Wiggins.

Elizabeth Ann Ray, May 28, 2003, to **James Ray ('96)** and wife Nicole of Oklahoma City, Okla.

Katherine Hope Shurden, Aug. 27, 2003, to **Chris Shurden ('96, M.B.A. '97)** and wife Amy of Nashville, Tenn.

Stratton Holt Smith, Sept. 18, 2003, to **Angel Whatley Smith ('94)** and husband Brandon of Oxford.

Seth Lane Sorgen, Oct. 13, 2003, to **Virginia Leigh Herring Sorgen ('91, M.B.A. '92)** and husband Dale of Everett, Wash.

Abigail Katelan Tucker, July 22, 2003, to **Colin Tucker ('94)** and **Allison Wallace Tucker ('94)** of Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Allyssa Faith Turner, July 31, 2003, to **Kim Whitaker Turner ('95, M.Tx. '96)** and husband Andy of Eupora.

Madelynn Elizabeth Wicks, Nov. 4, 2003, to **Lori Wellen-Wicks ('90)** and husband Rocco of Fort Worth, Texas.

Callie Ellis Willett, Aug. 7, 2003, to **Jamie Short Willett ('97)** and husband Philip of Birmingham, Ala.

Sidney Wood, Oct. 8, 2003, to **Steven R. Wood ('99)** and **Karey Jarrell Wood (attended)** of Picayune.

Brantlee Luke Wright, July 10, 2003, to **Robin Jefcoat Wright ('99)** and **Gregory Lee Wright ('97)** of Louisville.

Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish birth announcements that are received more than one year after the baby is born.

JOE THOMAS CARDWELL

professor emeritus of dairy science

Joe Thomas Cardwell of Starkville, longtime professor of dairy science at Mississippi State, died Nov. 1, 2003. He was 81.

Cardwell received bachelor's and master's degrees in dairy science at Texas Tech University and a doctorate in animal science at North Carolina State University.

He joined the Mississippi State faculty in 1952 and subsequently held joint appointments with the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station and the MSU Extension Service. He retired in 1994, following 42 years of service to the university.

The World War II Air Corps veteran was a scout master for local Troop 45, a former state president of Civitan Club, and a recipient of the Starkville Chamber of Commerce T.E. Veitch Award.

LINDA OGG BRASHER

English instructor

Linda Ogg Brasher of Starkville, an instructor in English and literature at Mississippi State, died Dec. 20, 2003. She was 55.

Brasher received bachelor's and master's degrees in English at Mississippi State in 1982 and 1985, respectively. She had been a member of the MSU Department of English faculty for more than 17 years.

In addition to her teaching duties, she was undergraduate director of English and a student adviser for a number of years.

JAY TAYLOR KEEHLEY

associate professor of philosophy

Jay Taylor Keehley of Starkville, an associate professor in the department of philosophy and religion at Mississippi State and board attorney for Oktibbeha County School District, died Nov. 29, 2003. He was 60.

Keehley, who also had a private law practice, received a bachelor's degree at the University of South Florida in 1966, a doctorate at Florida State University in 1974, and the juris doctorate at the University of Mississippi in 1987.

Keehley specialized in teaching business ethics and philosophy of law.

Cameron W. Burch ('30)—94, Jackson; retired district engineer for the state Highway Department and vice president and chief engineer for the consulting firm of Michael Baker Jr., and World War II veteran, Sept. 20, 2003.

Hubert H. Wolfe ('30)—97, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; retired civil engineer, co-owner of Southern Construction Co., and World War II veteran, Dec. 14, 2003.

Oliver Kenneth Power Jr. ('32)—94, Kosciusko; owner and manager of O.K. Power Ford dealership and former director of Merchants and Farmers Bank, Dec. 19, 2003.

Thomas Henry Suttle ('32)—92, Jackson; retired plant engineer for Filtrrol Corp., Nov. 7, 2003.

Wade J. Finger ('35)—91, Tupelo; retired sales representative and Chancery Court employee and World War II veteran, Jan. 8, 2004.

Charles Owen Nicholson ('36)—91, Jackson; retired manager for Commercial Credit Corp., tree farmer and World War II veteran, Oct. 14, 2003.

Paul William Gaither ('38)—86, Jackson; former Mississippi Motor Vehicle Comptroller, retired director of transportation for the state Public Service Commission, and World War II veteran, Oct. 6, 2003.

Roy A. McCarley ('38)—86, Jackson; former teacher and retired statistician for the Employment Security Commission, Nov. 2, 2003.

V. Miles Patterson Sr. ('38)—87, Gainesville, Fla.; retired Southern Baptist minister, Oct. 19, 2003.

Elbert Smith Pounds ('38)—89, Jackson; retired Veterans Administration employee and World War II veteran, Dec. 6, 2003.

Roy Michael Donahoe Sr. ('41)—84, Jackson; retired office manager for Howard-Wilson Chrysler-Plymouth and World War II veteran, Oct. 11, 2003.

Robert Owen Sparks ('41)—Huntsville, Ala.; retired NASA and Huntsville Space Center engineer and World War II and Korean War veteran, Oct. 11, 2003.

Paul C. Bacon Jr. ('42)—83, Wiggins; retired field auditor for the State of Mississippi and World War II veteran, Dec. 3, 2003.

George Rogers ('42)—83, Clinton; retired senior vice president for Production Credit Association and World War II veteran, Nov. 8, 2003.

Jack F. Truitt ('43)—81, Hoover, Ala.; retired from Memphis Bank and Trust Co. and World War II veteran, Jan. 10, 2004.

Robert Edmund Waring ('43)—82, Vicksburg; retired, World War II veteran, Nov. 28, 2003.

W.G. Gray ('47)—89, Hattiesburg; former Mississippi Highway Patrol trooper, Public Service Commission investigator, and sheriff of Forrest County, Nov. 6, 2003.

Anthony Brocato Jr. ('48)—80, Shreveport, La.; retired home builder, Dec. 17, 2003.

John F. DeCell Jr. ('48)—Baytown, Texas; retired sales representative and World War II veteran, Feb. 23, 2003.

William Carmen Jefcoat ('48)—82, Bay Springs; retired county agent for Jasper and Jackson counties and founder of Jefcoat Pest Control, Nov. 22, 2003.

John Frank Gillentine ('49)—80, Bartlett, Tenn.; retired executive with Williams Co. of Tulsa, Okla., and World War II veteran, Sept. 26, 2003.

Lewis C. Kittrell ('49)—83, Sand Hill; retired review appraiser with the state Highway Department and World War II veteran, July 25, 2003.

William H. McCann ('49)—76, Shuqualak; owner of Prince Lumber Co. and World War II veteran, Oct. 1, 2003.

Edgar Lee Shotts ('50)—83, Mendenhall; retired U.S. Postal Service employee and World War II veteran, Jan. 4, 2004.

Yancey Lea Adams Bittle ('51)—Columbia, S.C.; retired secretary, July 2003.

Everette Howard Lamar ('51)—75, Meridian; retired certified public accountant, Jan. 7, 2004.

Theodore Bratton Brister ('52)—73, Lakeway, Texas; retired marketing manager for Exxon Coal and Minerals and Korean War veteran, March 9, 2003.

Ralph Lee Carter Sr. ('52)—89, Noxapater; retired salesman for Cole Brothers, Dec. 23, 2003.

Mary Nell Hand Mansell ('54)—86, Starkville; Oct. 4, 2003.

Arthur Milton Cook ('56)—69, Kosciusko; civil engineer and retired Kosciusko city engineer and Attala County engineer, Dec. 4, 2003.

James Dewitt Martindale ('56)—70, Bay Minette, Ala.; retired chairman of the Natural Science Department at James H. Faulkner Community College, Oct. 16, 2003.

Donald E. Richmond ('56)—McComb; retired director of computer services for McComb Schools.

Harold N. Hutchison ('57)—70, Clinton; retired accountant and auditor for the Mississippi State Tax Commission, Oct. 14, 2003.

Wilbur Earl Jones Jr. ('57)—73, Ridgeland; retired vice president for Deposit Guaranty Bank and Korean War veteran, Dec. 20, 2003.

Billy H. Ashley ('59)—71, Brandon; retired chemist and Korean War veteran, Oct. 27, 2003.

James Robert Mullen ('60)—66, Oakland; retired plant manager for Jimmy Sanders Chemical Co. in Cleveland, Sept. 1, 2003.

Warner Carroll Snell ('60)—64, Starkville; former educator and retired owner of Gun Dog Supply in Ridgeland, Sept. 24, 2003.

David Stribling Divine ('61, M.A. '65)—65, Sharon; retired Sharon postmaster, Sept. 30, 2003.

Jamie W. Hurley ('61, M.S. '67)—Germantown, Tenn.; civil engineering professor at the University of Memphis, Oct. 1, 2003.

George R. Mars ('61)—62, Philadelphia; retired owner of Mars Bros. Dept. Store, Sept. 29, 2003.

Carey Griffin ('62)—64, Selmer, Tenn.; retired mechanical engineer for Harmon Automotive, Oct. 9, 2003.

Joel D. Rice ('62)—63, El Dorado, Ark.; financial adviser and broker for Edward Jone Co., Aug. 30, 2003.

John Rufus Sims ('62)—62, Bay Springs; former Bay Springs mayor, member of the Jasper County Board of Supervisors, and farmer, Sept. 8, 2003.

Lottie Faye Hood Owen ('64, Ed.S. '74)—74, Vestavia Hills, Ala.; retired business teacher in the Durant School System, Dec. 3, 2003.

Lester Peterman Jr. ('65)—Ferriday, La.; former school superintendent for Concordia Parish, Oct. 2, 2003.

Emmadine S. Owen ('67, Ed.S. '70)—81, Jackson; retired state facilities supervisor for the state Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dec. 31, 2003.

Otha Charles Phillips ('67)—60, Vicksburg; civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, June 13, 2003.

George Gilmer Richey ('68)—59, Charlottesville, Va.; Mint Printing Co. employee, Oct. 3, 2003.

Samuel Thomas Rayburn ('70)—56, Oxford; attorney with Rayburn Coghlan Law Firm, Nov. 30, 2003.

Ray Glenn Jones Jr. ('74)—74, Boone, N.C.; retired finance, insurance and real estate professor at Appalachian State University and World War II veteran, Nov. 8, 2003.

Bennie Gregory Jones ('76)—49, San Antonio, Texas; owner and president of Professional Software Services, Nov. 7, 2003.

Michael E. Luft ('76)—54, Jackson; electrical project manager and Vietnam War veteran, Oct. 20, 2003.

Donald L. Purvis ('76)—53, Kennesaw, Ga.; engineer for the Facility Group, Eagle Scout and scouting leader, Aug. 29, 2003.

Judy Reinschmidt ('80, Ed.S. '83)—53, Starkville; librarian at Overstreet Elementary School and longtime educator, Nov. 12, 2003.

Stephanie Anne Edwards Knight ('93)—32, Florence; former Union Planters Bank employee, Oct. 29, 2003.

Garvin Harold Deshler ('99)—52, Eupora; retired welder for Babcock & Wilcox.

M. Shannon Mallard ('02)—30, Starkville; Nov. 3, 2003.

Frank George Carney Jr. (attended)—77, Crystal Springs; farmer and cattleman and World War II veteran, Dec. 21, 2003.

Camille Hogan Davis (attended)—74, Jackson; Nov. 7, 2003.

Norman Mitlin (former employee)—85, Rock Hill, S.C.; former adjunct professor of entomology and research associate at Mississippi State and World War II veteran, Dec. 6, 2003.

Cecil Rigel Stott (former employee)—83, Arlington, Texas; former records clerk at Mississippi State, Nov. 30, 2003.

Lola Smith Hunter (friend)—84, Lucedale; retired city clerk for the City of Lucedale, Nov. 5, 2003.

Frankie Clark Monroe (friend)—87, Lucedale; homemaker, July 12, 2003.

Jane Turnage Perry (friend)—99, Spanish Fort, Ala.; homemaker and philanthropist, Jan. 3, 2004.

Clover Dyess Turner (friend)—Jackson; schoolteacher and homemaker, Dec. 23, 2003.