

to the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University



Riley brothers Larry (left) and Julian look over a meteorite they found on Larry's land in North Mississippi. MSU geologist Bruce Panuska identified the meteorite--only the fourth found in the stat--as a chondrite and its age at about 4.5 million years old. Archaeologist John O'Hear estimates its appearance on Earth to be at least 1,000 years ago, based on its use by Native Americans as a tool used to crack nuts. Both MSU alumni and Verona residents, Julian is a 1965 graduate; Larry, 1967.

MSU, Ford looking for tough truck

Mississippi State engineers are part of a national team working to produce a new lightweight pickup for military and civilian use.

The U.S. Army's Improved Materials and Powertrain Architectures for 21st Century Trucks (IMPACT) program is providing \$150,000 for materials research by the university's College of Engineering. The overall project is a two-year, \$11.2 million joint effort between the Ford Motor Co. and the military.

"Fuel accounts for 70 percent of everything the Army moves to the battlefield, so fuel efficiency is critical," said MSU's Dr. Richard D. Patton. "The Army needs a full-size pickup tough enough to withstand the rigors of military use and achieve improved fuel efficiency over what is currently available."

Patton, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, and other MSU engineers and scientists are initially investigating the use of high-strength, lightweight steel designs for use in the

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More providers added to network directory

The Advanced Health System State Network Provider Directory for participants in the state insurance plan has been revised and is now available online.

Since the original directory was published earlier this year, there has been an increase in the number of physicians, hospitals and other allied

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Program earns national award

A Mississippi State program geared to the needs of natural resource managers is receiving international attention.

"Geographical Information Systems for Natural Resource Managers," a continuing education course in the College of Forest Resources, has received the Learning Resources Network's Certificate of Exemplary Programming during 1999.

Referred to most often by the acronym LERN, the network is a Manhattan, Kan.-based association in lifelong learning programming. Information about the MSU course was included in a showcase of international programs at LERN's recent Washington, D.C., convention.

The class brings natural resource managers from Mississippi and other states to the Starkville campus for instruction on the use of GIS resources in their work.

GIS is a computer program used to pose and answer geographic questions. Users guide the program to arrange and display location data in a variety of ways, including maps, charts and tables.

Dr. Wes Burger, associate professor of wildlife and fisheries, and Rich Minnis, director of the MSU-based Mississippi Gap Analysis Program, have taught the course since its beginning in 1997. Their students have included a mixture of more than 160 private landowners and timber company, government agency and university representatives.

The latest LERN honor is the third in a row for Mississippi State. The network presented a similar award for a wildlife forensics certification program in 1997 and for a workshop on curve sawing in 1998. All three award-winning programs were created by the College of Forest Resources and the university's Division of Continuing Education.

Cooper director of animal center

Dr. Robert C. Cooper Jr. is the new director of the Animal Health Center at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The center serves both as a student teaching hospital and a referral center for regional veterinarians.

"Dr. Cooper is one of the most highly respected veterinarians we have on the faculty," said college Dean John Thomson. "He has tremendous credibility with students, faculty, staff, and veterinarians in the state of Mississippi. We look forward to his leadership."

A CVM faculty member since 1979, Cooper has served as interim health center director since the fall. He earlier was honored with two teaching awards while conducting surgically related research.

Cooper was enrolled in MSU's pre-veterinary medical curriculum before earning a doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1975 from Auburn University. MSU's veterinary program was not established until 1974.

In addition to his medical responsibilities, Cooper serves this year as chair of the university's Holland Faculty Senate.

MSTV



The latest schedule for MSTV, cable channel 30, is as follows:

March 27: 6 p.m. The Insight (student news) and Bullyboard, 6:30 p.m. MSU Baseball with Pat McMahon, 7 p.m. The Learning Channel.

March 28: 6 p.m. The Insight (student news) and Bullyboard, 6:30 p.m. Bullyboard, 7 p.m. TLC.

March 29: 6 p.m. The Insight (student news) and Bullyboard, 6:30 p.m. MSU Baseball with Pat McMahon, 7 p.m. TLC.

March 30: 6 p.m. The Insight (student news) and Bullyboard, 6:30 p.m. MSU Baseball with Pat McMahon, 7 p.m. TLC.

March 31-April 1: TLC all day.

Materials training aids careers

For current and aspiring engineers, Mississippi State announces a new program to aid in career advancement.

The Materials Certificate Program in Engineering offers both enrolled students and graduates now working in industry a way to increase their knowledge of metals, plastics, ceramics, composites, and other materials used in manufacturing.

An interdisciplinary working group made up of representatives from the colleges of Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and Forest Resources designed the program.

"There's a demand in industry for engineers with materials training above and beyond what's required for a bachelor's degree," said Dr. John T. Berry, professor of mechanical engineering and working group chairman. "We're often asked to identify students with strong backgrounds in plastics, metallurgy or other materials related fields."

Students at both bachelor- and master's-degree levels in engineering or science areas can enroll in the series of approved courses.

Working group member Dr. Nancy S. Losure, an assistant professor of chemical engineering, said a variety of new materials regularly enter the industrial marketplace.

"It is difficult to keep up with the

advances without taking advantage of continuing education," she said, adding that the group is joining with MSU's Division of Continuing Education to make the training accessible for company employees and others unable to attend classes in Starkville.

"This is part of our outreach effort to make as many of the needed courses as possible available through correspondence and engineering distance learning channels," Losure said.

Biomedical engineer Dr. Joel D. Bumgardner and assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering Dr. Steve Sadow also played key roles in the certification program.

PSSAC elects officers

New officers were elected to lead the Professional and Support Staff Advisory Council for 2000-2001.

Janis Bryant is chair; Lori White, vice chair; and Jean Bailey, secretary.

The trio assume their duties with the July PSSAC meeting.

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truck's body and frame. The technology will be demonstrated on a Ford F-150. Patton said America's voracious truck-buying public ultimately will benefit from the research.

"The goal is to design trucks for commercial production that are suitable, with few modifications, for military use," he explained. "In addition to fuel efficiency, the military requires vehicles that have corrosion resistance, low maintenance requirements and other qualities that will keep them in service for more than 20 years."

The IMPACT program is sponsored by the Army Tank Automotive and Armaments Command's National Automotive Center, which develops dual-use technologies for military vehicles. The American Iron and Steel Institute is providing additional support.

Oak Ridge (Tenn.) National Laboratory and the University of Louisville are the other project participants.

AHS--continued from page 1

providers participating in the network health insurance plan. The directory--updated weekly--may be accessed at <www.dfa.state.ms.us>.

The site allows for provider searches by last names or by counties. Only those providers who have completed the credentialing process are included in the directory.

For questions about a particular provider, the AHS Customer Service Department is available by telephoning 1-800-294-6307, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Current information on benefits for MSU employees is available on the Human Resources Management web site at <www.hrm.msstate.edu>.



Funding Opportunities

Below are funding opportunities received from various sources such as the Grants Resource Center. Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA), 325-7404, will assist you in obtaining information and applications necessary for submission to governmental or private sources. For complete listings and other opportunities, see the Sponsored Programs World Wide Web page on the MSU server: <<http://www.msstate.edu/Dept/SPA/index.html>>.

Program: Head Start Research Grants
Agency: Administration for Children and Families

Next Deadline: Apr 24, 2000
Supports research projects aimed at improving services provided by the Head Start programs. In FY 00, ACF is supporting University-Head Start Partnerships & the Graduate Student Head Start Research Grants. Areas of interest are the influence of culture on infant & toddler development, school readiness, mental health & the development of low-income children. See the 2/24/00 Federal Register for FY 00 information, or <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/information/hsb/>. CFDA Number: 93.600
Contact: Shari Siuta, Head Start Research Support Center
1815 N. Fort Meyer Drive
Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22209
800/351-2293

Program: Family Violence Prevention & Services Discretionary Funds
Agency: Administration for Children and Families
Next Deadline: May 15, 2000
Supports outreach, training, technical assistance, & resource centers for violence prevention & services. In FY 00 there are 4 priority areas: Demonstration projects for services to underserved & diverse populations; minority training grant stipends in domestic violence for HBCUs, HSIs, & tribal colleges; public information/community awareness campaign projects for family violence prevention; & connecting faith-based & domestic violence organizations. See the 2/17/00 Federal Register or www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/ocs. CFDA Number: 93.592
Contact: Sunni Knight, Division of State Assistance

Office of Community Services
370 L'Enfant Promenade, SW

Washington, DC 20447
202/401-5319

Program: Grants Program
Agency: Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation
Next Deadline: Jun 15, 2000
Supports creative projects & academic research that promote the pursuit of excellence & adherence to high ethical standards in journalism. Applications should be submitted by June 15 for consideration at the Advisory Committee's mid-summer meeting or by December 15 for consideration at a mid-winter conference. Average grant is about \$5,000.
CFDA Number: N/A
Contact: Rita Holder, Coordinator
P.O. Box 26192
Oklahoma City, OK 73126-0192
405/235-1356

Program: Safe & Drug Free-Schools & Communities: Insts. of Higher Ed.
Agency: U.S. Department of Education
Next Deadline: Apr 2000 (tentative)
Supports innovative projects that demonstrate effective new methods of ensuring safe drug-free institutions of higher education (IHEs). In FY 00, ED will support an Alcohol & Other Drug Prevention models on College Campuses Grant Competition & a Grant Competition to Prevent High-Risk Behavior Among College Students. The tentative deadline date is April, 2000. 8-12 awards, between \$125,000-\$225,000, will be made. See <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS> & the 2/14/00 Federal Register for proposed priorities.
CFDA Number: 84.184H
Contact: Kim Light, Safe and Drug-Free Schools
Staff, OESE
400 Maryland Ave, SW
FOB 6, Room 3E22
Washington, DC 20202-6123
202/260-2647

Program: Community Outreach Partnership Centers Program
Agency: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Next Deadline: May 10, 2000
Awards grants to institutions to support centers that conduct research on problems (including housing, health care, crime, education & training, & economic development) in large & small cities & facilitate partnerships & outreach activities between IHEs, local communities & local governments. Grantee must provide 50 percent of the research costs & 25 percent of the outreach costs. In FY 00, approximately \$8 million is available for new grants & new

directions grants to previous COPC grantees to undertake new directions. See the SuperNOFA in the 2/24/00 Federal Register or <http://www.oup.org>. E-mail: jane_R._@hud.gov.
CFDA Number: 14.511
Contact: Jane Karadbil, Office of University Partnerships
Office of Policy Development & Resch.
451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 8110
Washington, DC 20410
202/708-5918

Program: Otolgic Research Grant Awards
Agency: Deafness Research Foundation
Next Deadline: Jun 01, 2000
Approximately 30 awards are made annually for research on the ear, including anatomy, biochemistry, embryology, genetics, pathology, & physiology. Preference is given to new investigators & pilot studies. Awards offer up to \$20,000 per year for one to three years & often serve as catalysts for receiving larger grants from other sources. Applications are judged according to the project's potential for significant advances in basic knowledge or clinical applications, the available facilities & personnel at the institution in which the research is carried out, & the qualifications of the investigators. See <http://www.drf.org/>. CFDA Number: N/A
Contact: Karen Schopmeyer,
1225 I Street, NW, #500
Washington, DC 20005
202/289-5850

Program: Methodology and Measurement in the Behavioral & Social Sciences
Agency: National Institutes of Health
Next Deadline: Jun 01, 2000
Supports research on methodology & measurement in the behavioral & social sciences, including processes that underlie self reports, research design, data collection & data analysis techniques, measurement, & ethical issues. Research studying diverse populations or sensitive behaviors is particularly requested. NIH institutes supporting this program are: NIA; NIAAA; NCI; NICHD; NIDR; NIDA; NIMH; NINR; & NHLBI. See <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-98-031.html>, or <http://www1.od.nih.gov/obssr/sciinfo.htm>.
CFDA Number: N/A
Contact: Virginia S. Cain, Office of Behavioral & Social Sciences Research
1 Center Drive, Room 326
Bethesda, MD 20892
301/402-1146



Calendar of Events

Send your calendar items to

Kay Fike Jones, 102 George Hall; Mail Stop 9512; FAX 325-7455; e-mail <jonesk@ur.msstate.edu> at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance. For updates, check <www.msstate.edu> and click on "News" for msu.NOW!

Ongoing Events, Activities

MFA Thesis Exhibition in Electronic Visualization featuring works of Jeannie M. Richard and Jeffrey S. Thruston, March 31-April 7, McComas Hall art gallery. Opening reception, 31st, 7-9 p.m. 325-2970.

March Through 28

"International Females on Southern U.S. Campuses" teleconference, Tait-Butler Room, Wise Center. 325-1466.

28

"Women's Financial Health," Alyson Hardin, certified financial planner, Colvard Union faculty lounge, noon. 325-1008.

Pre-Law Society Distinguished Jurist Award program, Simrall Hall auditorium, 11 a.m. 325-7864.

Weekly Information Technology series: Microsoft Word: Top 10 Tips to Get Started, 301-302 Colvard Union, 12:30-1:30 p.m. 325-0631.

29

North Mississippi Health Services Morning Workshop, Bost Extension Center, 9-11:45 a.m. 325-7390.

2000 Outstanding Woman Awards Luncheon, Bost Extension Center auditorium, noon. Tickets, \$10. Debra Fairbrother, 325-0812.

30

MSU vs. Mississippi, women's tennis, Pitts Tennis Centre, 2:30 p.m.

Author Randall Kenan to read from his book "Walking on Water: Black American Lives at the Turn of the 21st Century," Starkville Community Theater, 108 East Main St., 8 p.m. 325-3644.

31-April 2

MSU Harness Training Facility Open House, MSU AgriCenter. Webb Flowers, 325-9350.

31

MSU vs. Arkansas, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.

April 1

MSU vs. Georgia, women's tennis, Pitts Tennis Centre, noon.

MSU vs. Arkansas, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 5 p.m.

Best of Breed Match--Puppy Show, MSU AgriCenter, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Mary Morgan, 323-2331.

2

MSU vs. Auburn, men's tennis, Pitts Tennis Centre, 1 p.m.

MSU vs. Arkansas, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 1:30 p.m.

4

Lyceum Series: Martha Graham Dance Ensemble, Lee Hall auditorium, 7:30 p.m. 325-4201.

MSU vs. South Alabama, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.

Weekly Information Technology series: Microsoft PowerPoint: Top 10 Tips to Get Started, 301-302 Colvard Union, 12:30-1:30 p.m. 325-0631.

5

MSU vs. Southern Mississippi, softball, MSU Softball Field, 3 p.m.

MSU vs. South Alabama, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 3 p.m.

6-8

All East Intercollegiate Livestock Judging and Evaluation Contest, MSU AgriCenter. Tommy Shields, 325-2802.

7, 8

College of Veterinary Medicine Open House, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Tara Puckett, 325-1167.

7

MSU Women's Club: fashion show, Colvard Union ballroom, noon. 325-3573.

MSU vs. South Carolina, women's tennis, Pitts Tennis Centre, 2:30 p.m.

MSU vs. LSU, softball, MSU Softball Field, 5 p.m.

8

MSU vs. LSU, softball, MSU Softball Field, 1 p.m.

MSU vs. Kentucky, men's tennis, Pitts Tennis Centre, 1 p.m.

9

Scholarship Recognition Day, Humphrey Coliseum, 2:30 p.m. Reception to follow ceremony.

MSU vs. Tennessee, women's tennis, Pitts Tennis Centre, 1 p.m.

11

Faculty and Professional Women's Association meeting: Dr. Cynthia West on "Women in Management," Colvard Union faculty lounge, noon-1 p.m. 325-8643.

11-13

School Days on the Farm, MSU AgriCenter. Byron Williams, 325-2110.

12

MSU vs. Alabama, men's tennis, Pitts Tennis Centre, 4 p.m.

13-15

Communication Department presents "A Streetcar Named Desire," McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-7951/4630.

14

MSU vs. Tennessee, softball, MSU Softball Field, 3 p.m.

15

MSU vs. Kentucky, softball, MSU Softball Field, 12:30 p.m.

16

MSU vs. Mississippi, men's tennis, Pitts Tennis Centre, 1 p.m.

19

MSU vs. Georgia Tech, softball, MSU Softball Field, 4 p.m.

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