

to the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University

Priorities, goals update set April 24

A campus-wide open meeting is planned for 3 p.m. Monday, April 24, to review first-year progress toward meeting the university's strategic goals and to consider revising some goals. President Malcolm Portera will lead the discussion in Bost Extension Center theater.

University priorities and goals for 2000-2004 were adopted in May 1999, and annual progress reviews and updates are planned. The current statement consisting of eight major priorities and 130 specific goals is designed to help provide focus and direction at all levels as the university moves into the 21st century.

Leadership for the 21st Century: Mississippi State University Priorities and Goals, 2000-2004, is on the university web site at <msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/

Faculty awarded Schillig projects

Faculty members in the School of Architecture, the colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Education, and Engineering, and from MSU-Meridian are receiving 2000 Schillig Special Teaching Project grants.

Coordinated by the Office of Academic Affairs, the Schillig Projects program provides financial support to encourage new ideas for improving undergraduate teaching. Specifically, funds are provided for teaching activities and/or materials for which the usual financial resources do not exist.

Awards can be as much as \$2,500, though larger amounts are considered when a proposal is deemed to have significant merit. Normally, no more than one award is given to a project proposer

Continued on page 3

priorities/>. A version that incorporates progress reports on some goals as well as proposed revisions in some goals also is online at <msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/priorities/update/>.

The blueprint for the future was adopted last year after public review

and comment was received from faculty and staff during campus meetings in fall 1998 and April 1999.

Established priorities can provide a framework for budgeting and planning and for critical decisions that help determine

Continued on page 3



Malvin Williams of Alcorn State University (l) and Commissioner of Higher Education Thomas Layzell (c) joined MSU President Malcolm Portera on campus recently to launch a new \$8.5 million teacher education effort.

5-year ACHIEVE partnership launched

Administrative and faculty leaders from Alcorn State University, public school districts, and community colleges joined colleagues at Mississippi State April 6 to launch an \$8.5 million teacher education improvement project.

Funded by the federal Department of Education, the ACHIEVE Mississippi Partnership will work to change the way teachers teach and the way students learn. The five-year endeavor will train 1,800 elementary and secondary

education majors in problem- and studio-based learning techniques that rely heavily on technology.

MSU president Malcolm Portera stressed the partnership's importance in training with new methods and new technology.

"ACHIEVE Mississippi aims to do nothing less than to raise significantly the level of achievement in math, science and reading by students in 24 targeted public school districts around the state," he said.

Continued on page 4

Entrepreneurs subject of book

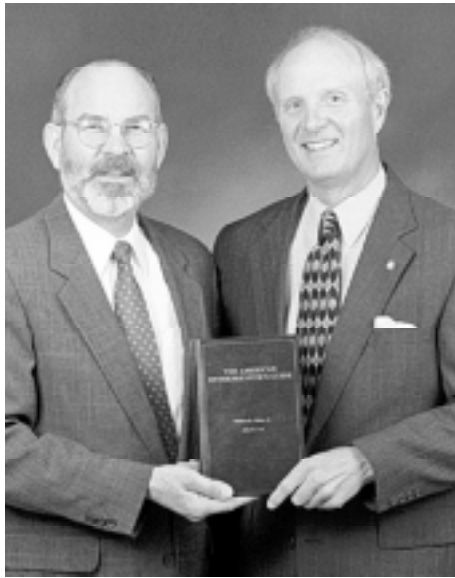
In a recently published book, two Mississippi State faculty members provide a detailed look at business creation and operation.

"The American Entrepreneur's Guide" is the work of William D. Eshee Jr. and John O. Lox of the College of Business and Industry.

Published by Starkville's Rockwell Press, the 322-page text includes information on a range of topics. Among these are the legal forms of businesses, e-commerce, global entrepreneurship, negotiation, business contracts, franchises, government regulation, business torts, patents and copyrights, and the business plan.

In their introduction, the authors call the book "a guide for those who aspire to independence as they create and manage their enterprises. While it does not contain all the answers, it provides a good foundation for business success."

Eshee, an attorney and Starkville municipal judge, teaches courses in entrepreneurship and business law. He also is an entrepreneur, with interests in real estate and timberland.



Eshee (l) and Lox

Lox directs international business academic programs and teaches international business courses. He has extensive senior-level general management experience in global companies. His enterprise, Lox Consulting International, has helped build businesses since 1990.

Art exhibition open through May 4

The works of six Mississippi State students will form a wide-ranging exhibition that opens April 17 at the McComas Hall gallery.

"Cowboys and Belles," a senior thesis exhibition that includes paintings, ceramics, drawings, sculpture, and photographs, will be displayed through May 4.

A 7-9 p.m. gallery reception April 28 will introduce the artists and their work. Regular gallery hours are 11 a.m.-3 p.m. weekdays.

Three exhibitors will present paintings: Tessa E. Easley of Winona, abstract oil and acrylic works; Brad Darby of Marks, acrylic on canvas; and Cecily A. Hill of Meridian, acrylic and mixed media.

Traditional and experimental ceramic works are the creations of Zach Howard of Centreville, Va., who blends figurative sculpture and traditional vessels, and Dylan P. Karges of Sandhill, whose installation will include large works on paper and steel sculptures.

Jenny R. McMillin of Gulfport works

with a series of black-and-white pinhole photographs that offer a brief glimpse into the past.

For more information, telephone the Art Department at 325-2970.

Annual Service Awards Program is scheduled

The annual Service Awards Program is scheduled for April 25 in the Bost Extension Center auditorium.

President Malcolm Portera will recognize all employees who will complete 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and 50 years of service with the university this fiscal year. Retiring employees also will be acknowledged.

The program begins at 3 p.m., with a reception to follow the ceremonies.

Participants who wish to ride a university shuttle should catch a maroon route bus in front of the cafeteria.

For more information, telephone the Department of Human Resources Management at 325-3713.

Disability awareness activist to speak here

Actor, athlete, aviator, and activist Henry Holden will speak April 25 at Mississippi State as part of the university's Disability Awareness Day observance.

"The Misconceptions Continue: How the Media Represents People with Disabilities" will be the topic of his 7 p.m. public program in Simrall Hall auditorium. The presentation will be accompanied by a slide-show illustrating his belief that media images mold and distort public impressions of persons with various handicaps.

Disability Awareness Day is sponsored each spring by the Division of Student Affairs' Office of Student Support Services.

Holden, who contracted polio when he was 4 years old, wears leg braces and uses crutches to walk. In the 1980s, he began challenging college students and other audiences both to re-examine their attitudes towards the disabled and to consider the subtle and not-so-subtle sources of those opinions.

Despite his personal challenges, Holden successfully pursued a dream of acting and has appeared on several television shows.

He also is the producer of "Look Who's Laughing," an award-winning documentary on six comedians with disabilities.

He also lists a variety of athletic achievements, among them downhill skiing and scuba diving.

For more information, telephone Julie Berry at 325-3335.

Egg hunt is April 18

The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils are hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children of faculty and staff members.

Children under age 8 are invited to bring a basket and meet April 18 at 5:30 p.m. in the field behind the president's home on Morrill Road. In case of rain, the event will be held in the YMCA Building.

For more information, telephone the Office of Student Life at 325-3322.



Ballard

Ballard writes new Civil War book on Mississippi

In the Civil War, Mississippi experienced a protracted and devastating invasion, with Union and Confederate forces fighting fierce battles at Corinth, Holly Springs, Iuka, Port Gibson, Vicksburg, and other locations.

With both military buffs and tourists in mind, Mississippi State archivist Michael B. Ballard has written a new book titled "Civil War Mississippi: A Guide." Available in hardback and paperback, the University Press of Mississippi publication is now in bookstores.

"'Civil War Mississippi' is the first comprehensive coverage of the war in this state," UPM promotions manager Steven B. Yates said. "In capturing the destruction, drama and bravery of Mississippi's war, Dr. Ballard examines the major campaigns, emphasizing why engagements occurred, how the battles ended, and how they affected the nationwide struggle.

"Both the novice and expert will relish this tour," he added.

Ballard describes a complex situation, involving sieges, trench warfare, naval bombardments, and brilliant cavalry engagements. He notes that some of the most storied names of the war--Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman, Nathan

Continued on page 4

Schillig--continued from page 1

within a 24-month period.

Receiving awards this year are:

- John Brocato, College of Engineering, \$2,500, for online resources for enhancing undergraduate writing and speaking instruction in the engineering curriculum;
- Alex Brown and Karyn Brown, Communication, \$2,745, using a teleprompter for teaching television performance;
- Michael Brown, Geosciences, \$2,495, incorporating meteorological instrumentation and corresponding measurements into undergraduate education;
- Harry Cole, Civil Engineering, \$500, digitizer for 35mm slides and negatives;
- Marcela Garma, Foreign Languages, \$2,500, using video technology in the foreign language classroom;
- Gordon Garretson, College of Engineering, \$1,949, Smart Board for the technical communication program;
- Nils Gore, Architecture, \$2,227, increasing technical proficiency through understanding of materiality and construction;
- Janie Gregg, Meridian-Business and Industry, \$2,500, developing web sites;
- Paul Grootkerk, Art, \$1,000, Art Department's slide collection project;
- Lana Johns, Music Education, \$2,542, PowerPoint presentations to enhance the delivery of information in the music appreciation classroom;
- Jack Jordan, Foreign Languages, \$2,500, Striving for fluency through French juvenile literature;
- Gail Levinsky, Music Education, \$2,500, funding for professional-level repair of a donated bass saxophone case;
- Michael Li, Mathematics and Statistics, \$2,500, integrating computer visualization and mathematical software in the classroom teaching of multivariate calculus and differential equations;
- Taylor E. Mack, Geosciences, \$2,255, incorporating global positioning systems into undergraduate education;
- Renee Matich and Jan Cooper Taylor, Human Sciences, \$2,500, purchasing food and equipment;
- Phyllis Bell Miller, Human Sciences, \$2,459, incorporating color technology into apparel, textiles, merchandising, and interior design courses;
- Charlotte Oakley, Human Sciences,

\$2,457, promoting and strengthening undergraduate nutrition research;

- Stephen Paul, Psychology, \$2,500, equipment purchase;
- David Perkes, Architecture, \$2,648, equipment purchase;
- Kathlene Postma, English, \$960, improving undergraduate education in magazine production;
- Julianne Trautmann and Catherine Boyd, Human Sciences, \$2,500, developing a database and online exhibits for the Historic Costume and Textiles Collection;
- Sandra Vaughn, Meridian-Arts and Sciences, \$2,500, Changing Attitudes through Cooperative Learning;
- Daniel Webb, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Sport, \$2,500, equipment purchase;
- G. Wayne Wilkerson, Landscape Architecture, \$2,000, Trimble GeoExplorer 3 for Educators Pack for Department of Landscape Architecture; and
- Scott Willard, Animal and Dairy Sciences, \$2,492, Practices in Physiology of Reproduction (Teaching Laboratory ADS 4611).

Priorities--continued from page 1

how well the university fulfills its purpose, Portera said. Periodic revisions may be necessary to keep the goals current and to reflect accomplishments, new opportunities, or changes in the external environment.



Employment Opportunities

Lists of currently posted MSU positions (executive, administrative, faculty, and staff) are available on the Human Resources Management web site <www.hrm.msstate.edu/employment/postings.html>, or by visiting HRM Employment Services at 150 McArthur Hall. Information on open support staff positions may also be obtained by calling Dial-A-Job at 325-4132.



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

"Cowboys and Belles," senior thesis art exhibition, April 17-May 4, McComas Hall gallery. Gallery reception is April 28, 7-9 p.m. 325-2970.

April 17

MSU Percussion Ensemble concert, McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-3070.

18, 19

MSU Insurance Day. 325-7475.

18

Weekly Information Technology Series: "File Management and Media Storage," ITS course, 301-302 Colvard Union, 12:30-1:30 p.m. 325-0631.

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

Easter Egg Hunt for faculty and staff children under age 8, field behind the president's home on Morrill Road, 5:30 p.m. Rain location: YMCA Building. 325-3322. (see story on page 2)

19

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

MSU vs. New Orleans, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 3 p.m.

20

Internet2 Seminar, Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium, 1-3 p.m. <kolivieri@its.msstate.edu>.

Choral Concert, McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-3070.

Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status.

21

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

Royal Hanneford Circus, MSU AgriCenter, 716 Poorhouse Road East, showtimes at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets on sale at Be-Bop Records, Starkville Chamber of Commerce and Oktibbeha County Co-op. 325-9350.

22

MSU vs. Alabama, softball, MSU Softball Field, 2 p.m.

24

Campus-wide priorities and goals review, Bost Extension Center theater, 3 p.m. (see story on page 1)

25

MSU vs. Samford, softball, MSU Softball Field, 6 p.m.

Weekly Information Technology Series:

Ballard--continued from page 3

Bedford Forrest, and John Pemberton--experienced their most triumphant and harrowing moments on Mississippi battlegrounds.

And speaking of the latter officer, University Press also is releasing a paperback edition of Ballard's much-praised 1991 hardback, "Pemberton: The General Who Lost Vicksburg."

In a review at the time for Civil War News magazine, Vicksburg National Park historian Terry Winschel said the book "fills a significant void" in the historical literature on the controversial Northern-born Confederate commander at Vicksburg."

American History magazine echoed Winschel, calling the book "a sympathetic but honest biography" that provided "the first full account . . . of this unfortunate Confederate leader."

Ballard, coordinator of Mitchell Memorial Library's Congressional Collection, previously has authored two History Book Club selections, "A Long Shadow: Jefferson Davis and the Final Days of the Confederacy" and "Pemberton: A Biography."

An Ackerman resident who joined the library in 1983, he holds bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in history from MSU.

Teaching--continued from page 1

"We are starting from the premise that the most important variable in teaching is the classroom teacher."

Portera said the project provides \$1.7 million to the participating school districts to help upgrade their instructional technology. Four community colleges--Copiah-Lincoln, East Mississippi, Meridian, and Itawamba--also are involved in the partnership.

Malvin Williams, Alcorn State's vice president for academic affairs, said the historic partnership challenges the direction of teacher preparation in Mississippi.

"This is an extremely important project involving the state's two land-grant institutions that is designed overall to improve the quality of life for people in Mississippi," Williams said. "The development of new teacher education programs and the dissemination of our results will benefit all children in the state."

State higher education commissioner Thomas Layzell said he is excited to see the university and community college faculty working together to change teacher education.

Olon Ray, Layzell's counterpart at the state community and junior college board, emphasized the sense of urgency for change expressed by state business leaders.

"More and more, business will look at what the employee brings, regardless of a diploma," he said. "I like the project because we're thinking outside of the box with ACHIEVE Mississippi. We're bringing new approaches.

"Community college people are excited about this project and about the value of our relationship with Mississippi State and Alcorn State."

662 is mandatory May 1

Following a yearlong phasing-in period, Mississippi's new 662 area code becomes mandatory on May 1.

On that date, area code 601 will no longer work for the northern part of the state. A recorded message will alert telephone users to redial using 662.