

to the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University

## Faculty awards program is May 4

For the first time, Alumni Association, John Grisham and Giles Distinguished Professors awards will be presented at the 35th Annual Faculty Recognition Program on May 4.

Sponsored by the MSU Alumni Association, the awards begin at 6:30 p.m. in Humphrey Coliseum.

Five John Grisham Master Teacher Awards will be presented, along with the

John Grisham Fellow honor. Master Teachers are presented annually to full-time faculty members with at least three years of teaching experience. The fellowship only is presented when an individual has demonstrated continued outstanding contributions, especially in the area of undergraduate teaching.

William L. Giles Distinguished Professor Awards are based on research,

scholarship, outstanding teaching, and service.

A Giles professorship is the highest academic rank bestowed on faculty members and is based on research, scholarship, outstanding teaching, and service. Of more than 800 faculty members, only 14 others currently hold the honor named for

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## Regional conference to examine prairies

A public conference May 19 and 20 at Mississippi State will examine in detail the prairie regions of the central South-eastern United States.

"Blackland Prairies of the Gulf Coastal Plain: Culture, Nature and Sustainability" is the theme of the program at the university's Harned Hall auditorium. In addition to presentations by scientists, researchers and others, the conference will include a field trip on the 20th to Lyon's Bluff, a prehistoric Native American village site and mound in northern Oktibbeha County.

While admission is free, organizer Evan Peacock of MSU's Cobb Institute of Archaeology is asking persons not already registered to give advance notification so adequate seating can be assured.

The Cobb Institute is sponsoring the interdisciplinary conference with the Biological Sciences Department and anthropology academic program. Peacock put together the agenda with the assistance of Tim Schauwecker, an

MSU doctoral student in plant ecology, and Evan Weiher, a member of the biology faculty at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Clair.

"This program brings together archaeologists, geologists, botanists, paleontologists, biologists, ecologists, public educators, and others, all of whom are interested in the unique prairie ecosystems of this region," Peacock said.

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## Comment sought on priorities and goals changes

President Malcolm Portera has requested comment on reports of progress toward university goals and on proposed changes in the goals.

In a campuswide open meeting on April 24, Portera reviewed the priorities and goals statement adopted in May 1999 and provided updates on progress. He also proposed for consideration and comment a slightly shortened and condensed version of the goals document.

The current statement, Leadership for  
*Continued on page 4*



*With the help of beer goggles, MSU football players (l-r) Kenny Williamson, Robert Knight and Matt McRae try to walk a straight line in a simulation of the effects of intoxication. The educational demonstration--part of recent Disability Awareness Day activities--was provided by the Longest Student Health Center.*

# Oliva returns for concert

Former Music Education Department head Jack Oliva returns to campus tonight for a program of ragtime piano music.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the McComas Hall theater. A slide presentation will accompany Oliva's performance, which is co-sponsored by his former department and the Starkville Area Arts Council.

MSU department head 1985-1992, Oliva now directs the University of Florida's School of Music.

He currently serves on the editorial board of the Southeastern Journal of Music Education and recently was invited to serve as a reviewer for the second volume of the "Handbook of Research on Music Teaching and Learning."

He has presented numerous papers and lecture recitals for a variety of professional organizations, including the College Music Society, the International Society for Music Education, the Music Teachers National Association, and the Mississippi Music Educators Association.

In addition to his work in education, Oliva is active as a pianist and conductor in both the classical and popular music traditions. He maintains a special interest in ragtime and other forms of American popular music and presents recitals and lectures on piano ragas on a regular basis.



*Oliva*

His work also includes serving several years as music director and accompanist for singer Connie Francis.

Oliva holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Montclair (N.J.) State University and a doctorate from New York University.

For more information on the concert, telephone 325-3070.

## Streaming media offered by university

Members of the university community unable to attend key campus events may now turn to—and on—their desktop computers to view the proceedings.

The Office of Information Technology Services is making available a variety of videos, meetings, classes, and live performances through Internet streaming media. The programs may be seen and heard in "real time."

As a result, viewers will have a front-row seat for Holland Faculty Senate meetings, Student Association Senate meetings, the Weekly Information Technology Series, and Faculty Convocation, among others.

ITS, in cooperation with the University TV Center, has provided Internet broadcasts through streaming media since

1997.

Streaming media calendar listings do not include video projects for classes and special presentations. Among campus units using the technology are Industrial Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Biological Engineering, Communication, Technology and Education, Geosciences, Mitchell Memorial Library, and the MSU Extension Service.

Viewing streaming media requires a computer with access to the campus network, a web browser such as Netscape or Internet Explorer, and RealPlayer software. The RealPlayer software may be downloaded free at <[www.real.com](http://www.real.com)>.

Minimum requirements to view

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## SAD T-shirts will be on sale at various campus locations

For the first time, Staff Appreciation Day T-shirts will be sold in advance at four campus locations.

Previously, shirts were available only from individual Professional and Support Staff Advisory Council members, sponsors of the annual event. In an effort to make sales easier for all, shirts will be on sale at the following locations, dates and times.

- Drill Field: May 5, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., and May 12, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

- Bost Extension Center: May 8, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

- Wise Center: May 9, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Engineering Research Center staffers may purchase T-shirts by contacting Nancy Covington by telephone at 325-8278 or by e-mail at <[nancy@erc.msstate.edu](mailto:nancy@erc.msstate.edu)>.

The shirts promote this year's SAD theme of "Beach Bash" and all sizes are available for \$8.

Staff Appreciation Day is May 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information, telephone Lorie White at 325-2307, Jean Bailey at 325-9672 or Kay Holland at 325-0664.



## 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](http://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.

# DataBasics

By Kerry Smith  
MSU Libraries

Here at DataBasics we don't like to presume much (hence our name), so this month's column is about the steps necessary for gaining access to the library's databases—a process with which everyone may not be familiar. Students may be asking you for this information as well.

So, here are the steps for finding and using the 130-plus library databases:

1. Join us at the library's web site at <library.msstate.edu>.
2. Click on "Online Resources" on the menu bar near the top of the screen. There also is a text link at the bottom of the page.
3. On the subsequent page, click on the link for the database listing of your choice, organized alphabetically by title ("Alphabetical List of Online Databases") or by subject ("Subject List of Online Databases").
4. If you opt for the title list, the next screen will provide a clickable alphabet that will take you to that segment of the database listing. If you choose the subject list, you will be taken to a listing that breaks the databases down according to disciplines, such as arts and humanities, social sciences, and so on. A link near the top of the lists allows you to switch between title and subject organization at will.
5. When you locate the database that interests you, click on its title and you will be taken to it. If you are accessing the web from beyond the university's network, you may be asked to enter your social security number for authorization purposes.

Individuals affiliated with Mississippi State are permitted access to all library databases. If for some reason you are denied access, please contact the MSU Libraries Systems Department during regular business hours at 325-2842, or by e-mail at <systems@library.msstate.edu>. If you experience problems after hours, feel free to contact the Ready Reference Desk at 325-7667 or <readyref@library.msstate.edu>.

## Mitchell new head of A&S Division at MSU-Meridian

Dr. Dennis Mitchell now is heading the Division of Arts and Sciences at the Mississippi State-Meridian Campus.

Mitchell came to MSU earlier this year from Jackson State University, where he was a professor and acting chair of the History Department.

"Opportunity," he said, was the deciding factor in his decision to accept the Meridian position.

"MSU-Meridian has been identified as a major growth point for the university," he said. "In addition to MSU's presence elsewhere, President Malcolm Portera specifically has committed human and financial resources in support of 'growing the Meridian Campus and the East Central Mississippi Region.'"

Previous to Mitchell's appointment, the division had been led since 1997 by several interim chairpersons.

Mitchell holds a bachelor's degree from Florence (Ala.) State University, now the University of North Alabama. He completed master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Mississippi.

### Prairie--continued from page 1

He added that the purpose is to examine the role humans have played in shaping the prairie ecosystems over time and to develop management recommendations for their sustainable uses in the future.

In addition to MSU, institutions and agencies taking part in the conference include the Mississippi Museum of Natural History, Texas A&M University, U.S. Forest Service, Arkansas Game and Fish and Arkansas Natural Heritage commissions, Arkansas Archaeological Survey, Starkville High School, Nature Conservancy, and University of Oklahoma, among others.

To register attendance, receive a complete schedule or receive additional information on the conference, contact Peacock by telephone at 325-1663 or e-mail at <peacock@anthro.msstate.edu>.



*Ann Copeland (c), education assistant to Sen. Thad Cochran, recently visited the Mississippi Writing/Thinking Institute at MSU. She discussed a new strategic plan for improving the teaching of writing throughout the state with institute director Sherry Swain (r) and coordinator Kim Patterson. Copeland also accompanied the two to Kemper County where the institute is conducting a three-year school reform program.*



# 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!

## May

**1**  
Ragtime concert: pianist Jack Oliva, McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-3070.

**1-3**  
Dead days.

**3**  
MSU vs. Samford, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.

**4**  
Reading day.

Faculty Recognition Program, Humphrey Coliseum, 6:30 p.m. 325-2434. (see story on page 1)

**5**  
MSU vs. Florida, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.

MSU Women's Club scholarship program, noon, Colvard Union. 325-3573.

**5, 6, 8, 9, 10**  
Final exams.

**6**  
MSU vs. Florida, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 6 p.m.

**7**  
MSU vs. Florida, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 1:30 p.m.

**11**  
FPWA meeting, Harvill and Jones Dining Rooms, Colvard Union, 11:30 a.m. 325-8643.

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

**13**  
Commencement, Humphrey Coliseum, 1:15 p.m.

Children's program: "Don't Bug Me," MSU Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, 1 p.m. Members \$3, non-members \$5. Kim Johnson, (601) 799-2311.

## Priorities--continued from page 1

the 21st Century: Mississippi State University Priorities and Goals, FY 2000-2004, is online at <msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/priorities/>.

The same site provides links to a version of the current statement that incorporates progress reports and proposed changes in some goals; the proposed new version of the priorities and goals statement; and a webcast video of the April 24 open meeting.

All members of the university community are invited to comment on the progress reports or proposed goal revisions by sending e-mail to <president@msstate.edu>.

An updated version of the priorities and goals statement, incorporating the

changes that may be made as a result of the current review, will be adopted and presented during the first week of May.

"Establishing priorities and goals and then measuring our progress toward them can help us get to where we want to be and help us get there faster," Portera said.

"Our stated goals and priorities have been well received on campus and off," he said. "One benefit that we have seen is that this rather concise outline of what we want to accomplish as a university has helped many of our constituencies to gain a better overall understanding of what Mississippi State is and what it aspires to be. And that enables them to better assist us in realizing those aspirations."

## Streaming media--continued from page 2

streaming media at MSU are:

### Windows

16 MB of RAM  
90 MHz Intel Pentium processor or equivalent  
14.4 Kbps modem (audio only) or 28.8Kbps modem (video) (or Ethernet)  
16-bit sound card and speakers  
65,000-color video display card (video)  
Win 95, Win 98 or Win NT operating system

### Macintosh

Mac OS 8.1 or later  
32 MB RAM  
14.4 Kbps modem (audio only) or 28.8Kbps modem (video) (or Ethernet)  
65 MB virtual memory  
604 PowerPC (200 MHz or better)  
Browser support: Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.01 or later, or Netscape 4.05 or later.

Available streaming media events include:

—**Student Association Senate Meetings** <http://www.sa.msstate.edu>, first and third Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m.

—**Weekly Information Technology Series** <www.its.msstate.edu/webguides/wits.html>, Tuesdays, 12:30-1 p.m.

Streaming media archives available include:

—**MSU promotional videos** <http://msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/video/>

—**University TV Center** <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/utc/index.htm> 1999 Football Highlights, Lewis and Clark Expedition Remote Sensing Program, and The Insight, a student-produced news show from the Department of Communication.

For more information about streaming media, contact the ITS Help Desk at 325-0631 or visit <www.its.msstate.edu/video/s\_media.html>.

## Awards--continued from page 1

the university's 13th president.

The Alumni Association Faculty Awards annually recognize "significant contributions to the welfare of humankind and the stature of Mississippi State University" in the categories of classroom teaching, research and service. Awards are presented for teaching at the graduate, upper and lower levels, for research and for service.

For more information on the evening's events, telephone the alumni association at 325-2434.