

\$2.5 million committed for new alumni facility

A \$2.5 million commitment from a Mississippi State alumnus will help fund a new alumni and development center at the university.

The lead commitment from Hunter W. Henry Jr., a 1950 chemical engineering graduate, will assist with planning and construction of a building to house the staffs of both the MSU Alumni Association and the MSU Foundation.

The facility will be built at an already approved campus site and will be funded entirely with private funds, said Dennis A. Prescott, vice president for external affairs.

Henry, of San Marcos, Texas, is a native of Canton and the retired president of Dow

Chemical USA. A member of the executive committee of the MSU Foundation's board of directors, he is a former national alumnus of the year and a distinguished engineering fellow.

In 1988, the year he was recognized as the university's outstanding alumnus, he was among 10 university alumni featured in a volume published by the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges to honor the contributions of the nation's major universities.

"Mr. Henry has a long history of giving to Mississippi State, having previously funded an endowed chair in

chemical engineering, as well as major scholarship programs in engineering and other disciplines," Prescott noted.

"We are grateful for his leadership pledge, because it allows us to move the project forward," he said. "As a result of

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State may become high-tech mecca

Taking a cue from California's Silicon Valley, a team of Mississippi State engineers is working to see this state become known as the "silicon carbide valley."

The Mississippi Center for Advanced Semiconductor Prototyping is the creation of a university engineering group with a proven record of success in silicon carbide research.

Commonly found in sand, silicon is the basic material in semiconductors, the building blocks for computer chips. The addition of carbon to silicon produces a material superior to common silicon in high-temperature, high-voltage and high-frequency applications.

"Moving what we've learned in research toward commercial application is the next logical step," said Michael S. Mazzola, an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering. "We hope the ultimate result will be a silicon carbide semiconductor industry that is a major economic force in Mississippi."

In addition to Mazzola, the center's staff includes Jeff Casady, an assistant professor

of electrical and computer engineering, and laboratory manager Geoff Carter.

"We realized last year that we were ready to move toward assisting industry in applying what we've learned about everything from growing the initial material to stamping out the final chip," Casady said. "We've received enthusiastic support from the university administration and from Senators (Thad) Cochran and (Trent) Lott in making that move."

Support from outside the state includes a \$1.6 million grant from the Air Force Research Laboratory's Ballistic Missile Defense Organization.

Industry support for the center has come in the form of an electron microscope donated by IBM Corp. and other highly specialized equipment provided by the Lam Research and Northrop Grumman corporations in California. Lam is based in Fremont; Northrup Grumman, in Los Angeles.

"The industry participation is critical for the center's success," Mazzola said.

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Drs. Edward E. Milam (l) and W. William Wilson are new William L. Giles Distinguished Professors at Mississippi State. Milam is a faculty member in the School of Accountancy, where he also holds the title of Arthur Andersen Professor. Wilson is a member of the chemistry faculty. Based on research, scholarship, outstanding teaching and service, the Giles professorships are the university's highest academic rank. Milam and Wilson are among 15 who currently hold the honor named for the university's 13th president.



Art professor Paul Grootkerk (l) is the university's first John Grisham Fellow. Accompanied by a check for \$15,000, the honor recognizes an individual who demonstrates continued outstanding contributions, especially in undergraduate teaching. The Grisham Fellows program is named in honor of the best-selling novelist who graduated from MSU in 1977. Dr. Stephen J. Waldhalm, chair of the university's Instructional Improvement Committee, congratulates Grootkerk.

Research, technology corporation formed

A recently formed nonprofit corporation affiliated with Mississippi State will help the university manage intellectual property and facilitate the transfer of technology into the private sector.

Mississippi State University Research and Technology Corp. will promote development of new businesses and industries formed to bring technology developed by MSU to the marketplace, said Robert A. Altenkirch, vice president for research. He and J. Charles Lee, vice president for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, will serve as presidents of the corporation in alternate years.

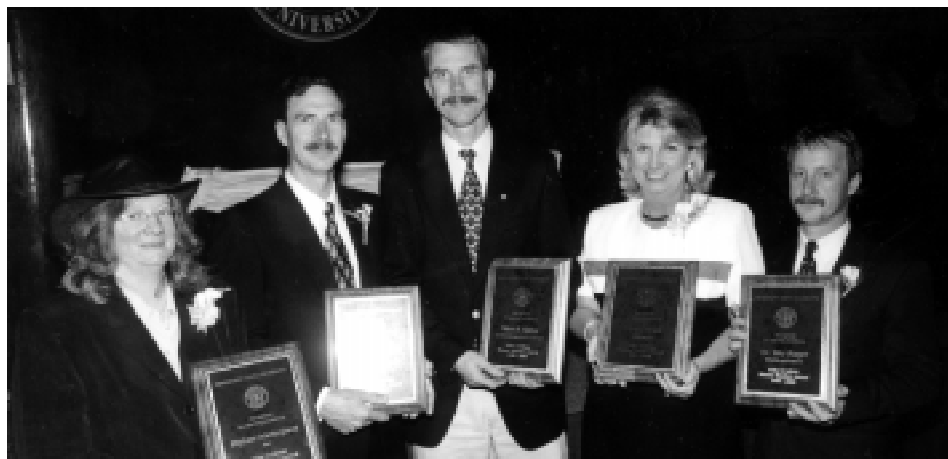
"It will facilitate the movement of university discoveries into the private sector and allow flexibility in managing intellectual property," Altenkirch said.

The corporation is organized under the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act

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The Mississippi State University Alumni Association honored five with 2000 Faculty Achievement Awards. They include (l-r) Charles U. Pittman Jr. of chemistry, Research Award; R. Dan Brook of computer applications, Service Award; R. Gregory Dunaway of sociology, anthropology and social work, Graduate-Level Teaching Award; Rickey L. Travis of political science, Lower-Level Teaching Award; and Diane E. Wall, also of political science, Upper-Level Teaching Award. Committees of faculty, students and alumni have selected more than 150 faculty members and others for the annual awards since the recognition program began in 1965.



Five faculty members are new John Grisham Master Teachers. The 2000 additions include (l-r) Marita Gootee of art; Keith L. Belli of forestry; Matt R. Raven of information technology services; Diane L. Daniels of mathematics and statistics; and L. Wes Burger Jr. of wildlife and fisheries. Each receives a cash award and is responsible for conducting workshops and other instructional improvement activities for faculty colleagues. The honors are named for the best-selling novelist who graduated from MSU in 1977.

Tanzania beginning to benefit from MSU collaboration on pesticide disposal

The East African country that is home to famed Mount Kilimanjaro is beginning to benefit from a two-year research collaboration with Mississippi State.

The partnership between MSU and the United Republic of Tanzania's largest public university involves the sharing of information and expertise on the management and proper disposal of pesticides.

The U.S. Agency for International Development provided funding for the project.

Launched in 1998 by MSU's Center for International Security and Strategic Studies, the cooperative effort ended in May with a visit to Mississippi by project director Msafiri Jackson, head of environ-

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Deeds named to National FFA leadership

A veteran Mississippi State faculty member is joining the board of directors of the United States Department of Education body that guides the country's agricultural leadership development program in public schools.

Jacquelyn P. Deeds of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will be one of nine members overseeing the National FFA Organization. When her appointment becomes official July 1, the professor of agricultural information science and education will represent all institu-

tions of higher learning involved in agricultural education.

Formerly known as Future Farmers of America, National FFA changed its name in 1988 to reflect the evolutionary effects science, business and technology were having on production farming. Open to all students ages 12-21 in rural, urban and suburban schools, the organization currently has more than 400,000 members spread among some 7,200 chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and U.S. island protectorates.



Deeds

Deeds, who joined the MSU faculty in 1985, teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in her department. She also coordinates student and beginning teacher programs, as well as supervising student teaching and field experiences.

She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Oregon State University and a doctorate from Ohio State University.

Since coming to the Starkville campus, she has been selected for a number of leadership positions, among them chairs of the MSU President's Commission on the Status of Women and the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine Faculty Senate.

Deeds also is active in the regional chapter of the American Association for Agricultural Education. She received the organization's outstanding teaching award in 1996 and served as its vice president for the past two years.

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his commitment, the university will propose to the Board of Trustees, Institutions of Higher Learning that the new facility, when finished, be named the Hunter W. Henry Jr. Center."

In addition to office space, the new alumni center also will include meeting space, banquet and reception facilities, and a centralized area for donor recognition that, according to Prescott, is among only a few of its kind in the nation.



Three College of Forest Resources faculty members recently were honored with outstanding achievement awards. They are (l-r) associate professor Wes Burger for teaching; assistant unit leader and assistant professor of wildlife Francisco Vilella for research, and assistant professor Donna Minnis for service.



Beverly Smith and Dutch Ames recently were honored with 2000 Special Service Recognition Awards for outstanding service to the College of Forest Resources and the Forest and Wildlife Research Center Staff Advisory Council. Smith is an administrative assistant to the dean and director; Ames is a project technician.



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!

June 15, 16

Freshman orientation.

16-23

Design Discovery Summer Camp, Giles Hall, 9 a.m. Jane Lewis, 325-2202.

23

Transfer student orientation.

24, 25

Freshman orientation.

28, 29

Final exams.

30

Final registration for second summer term.

Summer school orientation.

July

4

Holiday.

5

Second semester classes begin.

Cox wins staff award

Dr. Nancy M. Cox won a Zacharias Distinguished Staff Award in the executive, managerial and administrative category. She was unavailable for the photograph of winners published in the May 29 issue of MSU Memo. Cox is assistant director of Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station administration.

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

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mental engineering at the University College for Lands and Architectural Studies.

A branch of the University of Dar es Salaam, Jackson's campus is a leading force in the region for agricultural research and development, said project director Paul Kaiser, an associate professor in MSU's Political Science Department.

During his trip to the state, Jackson reviewed the project with Mississippi State faculty and staff, as well as with key officials of the state departments of Health and Environmental Quality.

The partnership has brought together interdisciplinary experts from MSU and

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exclusively for scientific, literary and educational purposes, he added.

Among goals of the corporation are encouraging activities related to development of new technologies and research; facilitating development of incubation companies by providing facilities, resources and other support to launch or expand a business; and enhancing research and development through contractual agreements undertaken by the corporation.

The corporation is guided by a 13-member board of directors that includes Altenkirch and Lee, as well as the university's vice presidents for academic affairs, business affairs and external affairs.

Additional board members appointed by President Malcolm Portera include Lester J. Berry, retired executive vice president of Microtek Medical Inc.; Will Carpenter, retired vice president of Monsanto Co.; William C. Clements, president of Clements Enterprises; Howard W. Duzan, manager of Southern Forestry Research, the Weyerhaeuser Co.; Lyle Hansberger of Hansberger Ltd.; Bruce Brumfield, partner, Brumfield Plantation and FTB Farms; Pat Salmon, general manager of Flexsteel Industries; and Vance Watson, director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station.

For more information about the MSU Research and Technology Corp, visit <www.msstate.edu/Dept/ott/msurt_corp.html>.

the state to help their Tanzanian counterparts develop public policies and guidelines, as well as the necessary facilities, to safely dispose of a variety of chemicals used to destroy plant and animal pests.

In addition to Kaiser, major Mississippi participants in the project include Robert McCarty, director of the state Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Bureau of Plant Industry, and Melvin Ray and Dennis Truax of MSU. Ray is special assistant to President Malcolm Portera, while Truax is a professor of civil engineering.

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"Lam, for example, is providing plasma etching equipment that is essential for working with silicon carbide, which is almost as hard as diamonds."

With equipment currently being installed on campus, the Mississippi State scientists soon will begin work on prototypes of devices that could be manufactured by startup companies in the emerging silicon carbide industry.

Prototypes will be available for manufacturing licenses through the university's Research and Technology Corp., providing an opportunity for new high-tech businesses in the state.

"The center will have the ability to operate as an incubator for small businesses," Mazzola said. "The combination of a high level of technical support and the availability of engineering graduates should make this area of Mississippi attractive to semiconductor-related companies."



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.