

to the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University

## University, NMHS launch partnership

Tupelo-based North Mississippi Health Services and Mississippi State announced Aug. 31 a first-ever collaboration to improve the quality of life in the region.

Jeffrey Barber, NMHS president and chief executive officer, joined President Malcolm Portera in a Starkville ceremony formalizing a partnership with the university's Social Science Research Center.

New efforts under way at the SSRC "dovetail nicely with our mission of continuously improving the health of the people in our region," Barber said.

The MSU center recently formed the Rural Health, Safety, and Security Institute to focus on quality of life and human risk factors associated with rural America. In partnership with NMHS, it will develop research projects that

evaluate the ways in which behaviors, culture and social factors affect health in Mississippi and other Southern states.

"Our goal is to work together to utilize social and behavioral research techniques to improve the health of rural populations and beyond," Barber explained.

Portera said both North Mississippi Health Services and Mississippi State have

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## Carter named to associate provost post

Dr. Brad Carter is now the associate provost for information services.

Carter has been deputy director of the MSU/National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center since 1997 and director of education at the ERC since 1996. He also is a professor and former head of the Computer Science Department.



Carter

The Office of Information Technology Services will report to Carter, who also will coordinate distance-learning activities delivered through multiple university units. After a transition period, he will assume the duties of the university's chief information officer.

"The new position will provide us with better coordination and greater cost effectiveness as we continue to develop the university's academic and technology infrastructure," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs David Cole.

Carter will continue in his position at the ERC for a few months and will assume

his new duties during a transition period. Interim Chief Information Officer Joe Thompson will assist with the transition, after which that position will be discontinued.

Thompson also is heading a task force to study the university's needs and

opportunities in the area of distance learning.

Carter earned bachelor's and master's degrees in industrial engineering from Mississippi State and earned a doctorate in the same field at the University of Arkansas in 1972.

## Private campus cellular network created

Mississippi State, in partnership with Cellular South, recently inaugurated a digital telephone cell site—the first of its kind actually in operation in the Southeast.

The site was constructed by Cellular South at no cost to the school.

With antennas installed atop Scott Field's west stands, the MSU Cellular Network also became one of a very few campus-based systems nationwide that is up and running.

"The network uses a technology known as private system identifier or PSID," said MSU telecommunications director Tom Lindsay. "The system operates as a private wireless telephone system encompassing the entire Starkville campus.

"When users leave campus, their phones automatically become a part

of the Cellular South network," he added.

Lindsay said the new system "greatly enhances" cellular telephone coverage on the Starkville campus by providing improved building penetration and eliminating "dead spots" where hand-held phones have not been able to operate. Per-minute charges for internal campus calls also are eliminated.

MSU Telecommunication personnel are busy converting departmental cell phones to the new system, with personal service for faculty and staff to be added around Oct. 1. Individual student plans may be available by the spring term.

"The demand for wireless voice service has grown dramatically, but limitations in coverage and per-minute costs have kept us from realizing the technology's full benefit," Lindsay said. "The new MSU-Cellular South system addresses both of these issues."

# Sharper MSU image wins international honors

Success in making a picture worth more than the proverbial thousand words is winning international recognition for a Mississippi State research team.

A mathematical approach university scientists regularly use to sharpen satellite images of the earth recently won first place in a first-ever data fusion contest organized by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' at its 2000 International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium.

The mathematical approach, or algorithm, was developed by electrical and computer engineering professor Roger King and computer engineering graduate student Jianwen Wang. Its purpose is to improve the visual and spatial quality of aerial and satellite images while keeping important data that can be used to gather information about land use, vegetation, moisture, and other characteristics of an area.

The key to the process is pixel size or resolution. The smaller an area covered by a pixel—the tiny dots or squares that make up a photographic or video image—the sharper and more recognizable it will be.

Because satellites often collect data about an area in several parts of the light spectrum at different pixel resolutions, King said several channels of light spectrum data are required “because information about the earth’s environment is contained in both the visible and invisible part of the light spectrum.”

King said primacy of MSU algorithms in the competition resulted from their ability to successfully “fuse” the high and low resolution channels without changing the light-spectrum data necessary for assessing the characteristics of an area.

“For the contest, we were asked to sharpen an image of the town of Hasselt, Belgium, taken by the Landsat 7 satel-

lite,” King said.

“The image we generated enhanced such man-made things as roads and bridges, while keeping the data necessary for obtaining environmental and other information about the area’s natural characteristics,” he added.

King and students under his direction work regularly with MSU’s Remote Sensing Technology and National Science Foundation Engineering Research centers. Their expertise is employed to enhance aerial photos of forests, agricultural areas and roadways in Mississippi and other parts of the United States.

“Data fusion is used to help determine such things as the impact of land-use changes on vegetation and insect populations,” King said. “Since it can be used for enhancing roads and bridges, data fusion also can be applied to transportation systems and urban planning.”

## MSTV



MSU programming airs on Northland Cable’s channel 7. The September slate of shows includes the following:

Sept. 4–6 p.m., Bullyboard (current events calendar); 6:30 p.m., MSU Football with Jackie Sherrill; 7 p.m., network-SCOLA (international programming).

Sept. 5–6 p.m., Bullyboard; 6:30 p.m., MSU Football with Jackie Sherrill; 7 p.m., MSU Football Game Replay (Memphis-Comcast); 9:45 p.m., Bullyboard; 10 p.m., SCOLA.

Sept. 6–1 p.m., WITS Technology Instruction; 2 p.m., SCOLA; 6 p.m., Bullyboard; 6:30 p.m., MSU Football with Jackie Sherrill; 7 p.m., MSU Football Game Replay (Memphis); 9:45 p.m., Bullyboard; 10 p.m., SCOLA.

Sept. 7–6 p.m., Bullyboard; 6:30 p.m., Underground Transmission (music videos), 7 p.m., SCOLA.

Sept. 8 and 9—SCOLA all day.

Sept. 10–6 p.m., Bullyboard; 6:30 p.m., Underground Transmission (music videos), 7 p.m., SCOLA.

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*Personnel with a Selma, Ala., construction firm prepare to add a section to the second of two giant boom cranes towering above the Scott Field expansion. Once complete, the stadium addition will add 50 skyboxes and more than 10,000 seats to the east side.*

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# Task force to study course technologies

A 14-member faculty task force soon will begin reviewing various online course management technologies with the goal of recommending a university-wide strategy by early 2001.

Appointed by Provost David Cole, the group will work with Dr. Brad Carter, associate provost for information services, to examine the wide range of tools and services involved in course management. These include the widely used WebCT and similar online course instruction tools from other vendors. BANNER-based tools now in use or planned for the near future also will be studied.

"Now is the time to carefully review our progress and the wide range of new technologies currently available," Carter said. "The task force is charged with reviewing the state of the technology and making recommendations on how the university should proceed."

Task force members will submit an interim report at the end of the fall semester, with a final report due in the spring.

Nominated by their deans, task force members include Barry Barnett, agriculture and life sciences; Keith Belli, forest resources; Michael Busby, continuing education; Connie Forde, education; Fred Lehman, veterinary medicine; Christopher Monson, architecture; Taha Mzoughi, arts and sciences; Julia Porter, Meridian Campus; Masoud Rais-Rohani, engineering; Matt Raven, Information Technology Services; Kevin Rogers, business and industry; Butch Stokes, registrar; Suzy Turner, library; and Cheryl Whitfield, extension service.

Faculty members are urged to contact their representative on the task force with questions or suggestions.

## msu.NOW!

Check out the university news page by clicking on the "News" button of the university home page <[www.msstate.edu](http://www.msstate.edu)>.

## FPWA kicks off year with social

The Faculty and Professional Women's Association begins the year with a Sept. 12 membership social for new and returning members of the university organization.

FPWA is dedicated to promoting the professional growth and development of women, addressing issues of concern to the female sector of the academic community through monthly programs and sponsoring one undergraduate and one graduate scholarship each year. Scholarships are awarded at the May meeting.

The association is open to all current and retired university-related personnel in executive, administrative, managerial, faculty, and professional non-faculty positions (EEOC occupation categories I, II and III).

Anyone interested in joining or re-joining is encouraged to attend the 5:30- 7 p.m. social hosted by Wanda Thorne at 516 Chestnut Drive, Longmeadow Subdivision. In addition to food and fellowship, participants may contribute possible spring semester program topics.

Fall programs include a presentation on the information age by University Libraries dean Frances Coleman and a December holiday party featuring Martha Johnston of Birmingham, Ala., vice president for business development at Southern Living magazine.

For more information, telephone Wanda Dodson, president, at 325-8429, or e-mail her at [wld@humansci.msstate.edu](mailto:wld@humansci.msstate.edu).

## Alliance--continued from page 1

a long record of service to the region.

"NMHS has provided health-care services to the people of Northeast Mississippi for more than 60 years and has ample clinical research experience," he said. "The SSRC has 50 years of experience in analyzing economic and social issues in Mississippi, the Southeast and the nation. This agreement will create a powerful alliance to improve the potential for better health in our area."

NMHS has been actively involved in clinical research for many years. The NMHS Institutional Review Board currently is monitoring 35 studies, including 17 focused on cardiology and 10 on oncology. Funding from drug companies often supports the research, which develops protocols that compare one regimen to another.

By contrast, the new collaboration with Mississippi State will seek funding from private and federal grants.

"Our center has a long and successful record of securing research funding to address issues in Mississippi ranging from driving-under-the-influence to substance abuse treatments available," said SSRC director Art Cosby.

Research projects currently under way at the SSRC include those funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, state

Department of Public Safety, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, among others.

Studies being considered under the new NMHS/MSU collaboration include:

—A regional health assessment of those residing in NMHS' 22-county service area to provide a comprehensive picture of the region's community health beliefs, behaviors and practices.

—A two-year study of the cognitive effects of chemotherapy in women treated for breast cancer.

—A study to assess patients' drug knowledge and understanding based on information provided in television and magazine advertising.

—An organizational review of the successful NMHS system to provide a model that can be emulated in other rural health systems.

—An evaluation of the region's end-of-life awareness. The project will be tied to a four-part public television special by journalist Bill Moyers airing Sept. 10-13 and will assess end-of-life awareness before and after the series.



# 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

"The Tropic of Cancer—Recent Sculpture by Rea Mingeva" exhibition, Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall, through Sept. 28. Mingeva to speak about her work on 28th, 100 Stafford Hall, 4:30 p.m. Reception to follow in the gallery, 7-9 p.m.

## September

**4**

University closed for Labor Day.

Mitchell Memorial Library is open 1 p.m.-2 a.m.

**5**

Entrepreneurship Seminar, Doug Marchant, president, EPN Corp., Eastman Auditorium, Swalm Building, 2:30 p.m. Rick Smith, 325-2464.

**6**

WITS: Using Netscape Messenger or Outlook Express to access MSU E-mail workshop, 140 Swalm. 325-8800.

MSU vs. Belmont, volleyball, Newell-Grissom Building, 6 p.m.

ITS workshop—Banner: Navigation and Financial Query, McArthur Hall, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-0631.

**7**

"Attracting Birds to Southern Gardens," Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, 7 p.m. (601) 799-2311, extension 21.

**8**

"Surviving America," International Student Required Extended Orientation, A Healthy

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

Student and Understanding Money, Allen Hall, Room A-13, 3-5 p.m. 325-8929.

MSU vs. Centenary, volleyball, Newell-Grissom Building, 10 a.m.

**9**

MSU vs. Tennessee Tech, volleyball, Newell-Grissom Building, 4 p.m.

**10**

Campus Awareness Forum, MSU Vegetarian Society, Colvard Union small auditorium, 7 p.m. 323-2851.

**11**

WITS: Using Netscape Messenger or Outlook Express to access MSU e-mail workshop, 140 Swalm, 1 p.m. 325-8800.

**12**

E-2000 conference on Internet-based commerce, 125 McCool, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Registration fee, \$75; after Sept. 1, \$85. Jeri Mangum, 325-3817.

Entrepreneurship Seminar, Billy and Linda Howard, Howard Computers, Eastman Auditorium, Swalm Building, 2:30 p.m. Rick Smith, 325-2464.

ITS workshop—Banner: Requisitions, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Microsoft FrontPage, 1:30-5 p.m., McArthur Hall. 325-0631.

**13**

WITS: Microsoft Word: Top 10 Tips, 140 Swalm, 1 p.m. 325-8800.

ITS workshop—Banner: Requisitions, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Microsoft PowerPoint 97, 8:30 a.m.-noon, McArthur Hall. 325-0631.

**14**

Library seminar: Identifying Grants and Funding Resources, ELI Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. Kerry Smith, 325-8162.

ITS workshop—Introduction to Microsoft Excel 97, 1:30-5 p.m.; Interactive Video I, 1:30-5 p.m., McArthur Hall. 325-0631.

**15**

"Surviving America," International Student Required Extended Orientation, American Higher Education and Etiquette, Allen Hall, Room A-13, 3-5 p.m. 325-8929.

**18**

ITS workshop—Introduction to Microsoft Access 97, 1:30-5 p.m., McArthur Hall. 325-0631.

**19**

Career Day, Humphrey Coliseum, noon. 325-3344.

Entrepreneurship Seminar, David McMillen, president, HMC Technologies, Eastman Auditorium, Swalm Building, 2:30 p.m. 325-2464.

ITS workshop—Banner: Invoice Processing, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Introduction to Microsoft Word 97, 8:30 a.m.-noon, McArthur Hall. 325-0631.

**20**

Career Day, Humphrey Coliseum, noon. 325-3344.

WITS: Microsoft PowerPoint: Top 10 Tips, 140 Swalm, 1 p.m. 325-8800.

ITS workshop—Banner: Invoice Processing, 8:30 a.m.-noon; Introduction to groupwise, 1:30-5 p.m., McArthur Hall. 325-0631.

**21**

ITS workshop—Introduction to SAS, 8:30 a.m.-noon; Interactive Video II, 1:30-5 p.m., McArthur Hall. 325-0631.

**22**

"Surviving America," International Student Required Extended Orientation, The INS and You, Allen Hall, Room A-13, 3-5 p.m. 325-8929.

MSU vs. South Alabama, soccer, MSU soccer field, 4 p.m.

**23**

Fall Plant Sale, Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, 10 a.m. Kimberly D. Johnson, (601) 799-2311, extension 21.



## 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.