

MSU sets 5th consecutive enrollment record

With more than 16,530 students attending Mississippi State, the state's largest university is recording a fifth consecutive record enrollment this fall.

Enrollment on the Starkville campus is up 494 students, to 15,764, while Meridian Campus enrollment is up slightly to 721. The remaining students are in graduate programs at Vicksburg or at the Stennis Space Center in Bay St. Louis.

Among the 2,012 new freshmen are 38 National Merit Scholars and two students with perfect scores of 36 on the ACT exam. African-Americans make up 22 percent of the new freshman class, which is the second-largest in university history.

"We're working hard to provide the opportunities and challenges needed by the state's top high school graduates, and it's clear that they are responding in increasing numbers to what is available here," said President Malcolm Portera.

During the past year, Mississippi State has increased its number of full-time instructional faculty, expanded library holdings, and opened a major new classroom building.

The number of incoming undergraduate transfer students is up to a near-record 1,669. Traditionally, about half of Mississippi State's graduates begin their college careers at another institution.

"We're very appreciative of the state's excellent system of community colleges and the vital role they play in providing higher education in Mississippi," Portera said. "They're helping to ensure that all prospective college students have the opportunity to go as far as their abilities will take them."

This fall's enrollment also includes an increase in returning students. "That's a good indication that we're making progress in our effort to improve retention and graduation rates," Portera said. A

university goal is to increase the graduation rate to at least 60 percent from the current rate of 50 percent.

MSU's total headcount enrollment stands at 16,534, an increase of 458 over last year. Total African-American enrollment also is up again, to 2,998 students, or 18 percent of total enroll-

ment.

About 76 percent of this fall's students are Mississippi residents and about 82 percent are undergraduates. Graduate student enrollment totals 3,045.

"It's apparent that the demand for higher education in Mississippi is strong and

Continued on page 2

Lyceum Series offers dance, song, drama for season that begins in October

An October performance by the Mississippi Mass Choir opens the 2000-01 Lyceum Series.

The choir is one of five artists or groups scheduled this year. Season tickets and tickets for individual performances are available at the door. MSU students are admitted free with student I.D.

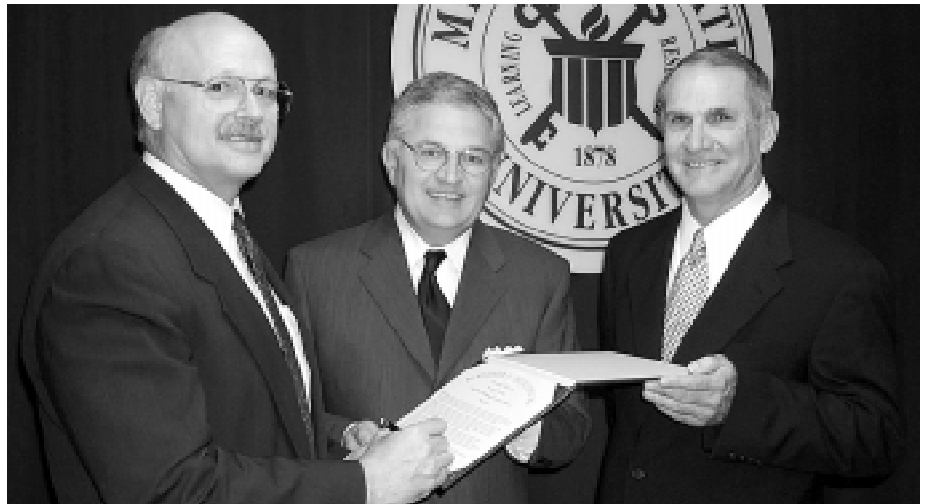
The Mississippi Mass Choir will perform Oct. 1 at 3 p.m. in Humphrey Coliseum. In the 10 years since its

creation, the group has received numerous awards and accolades and toured the world in song and ministry.

Later that month, the National Shakespeare Co. will perform "Twelfth Night." The oldest touring company in America will appear Oct. 17 and 18 at 7:30 each night in the McComas Hall theater.

On Nov. 20, flautist Galen will bring his jazz style to campus. The performance is at 7:30 p.m. in McComas Hall theater.

Continued on page 2



In recent ceremonies, MSU President Malcolm Portera (c) and Jeffrey Barber, head of Tupelo-based North Mississippi Health Services, signed a first-ever agreement between the two institutions to research regional health-care issues. Dr. Arthur Cosby (r) is director of MSU's Social Science Research Center, which will collaborate with NMHS on a major health assessment of persons in a 22-county area.

DIAL part of \$44.9 million contract

A Mississippi State laboratory is joining a university/industry team involved in environmental protection and pollution prevention services for the Navy.

The Diagnostic Instrumentation and Analysis Laboratory is providing engineering and scientific support to the team headed by GEO-CENTERS INC. as part of a \$44.9 million service contract with the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Bethesda, Md.

Newton, Mass.-based GEO-CENTERS asked the Mississippi State lab to participate because of its significant experience in environmental monitoring and handling of environmental problems, said DIAL industrial programs director Bob Kirkland.

"We're excited that DIAL was asked to serve on the team with such a highly

respected and recognized defense contractor," he added. "This is an opportunity for DIAL to expand its customer base while making new applications for its capabilities and expertise."

For more than two decades, DIAL's multidisciplinary group of scientists and engineers have focused their research on specialized measurement and testing procedures, especially in situations where traditional equipment cannot be used.

The development of a device to test pressure buildup inside hazardous waste containers and the use of high-temperature plasma torches to turn hazardous waste into glass are among its more recent achievements.

GEO-CENTERS is a leader in providing diverse research solutions and product development services to protect

people and the environment. Company vice president Dick Beers said this most recent defense-related contract reflects "the quality of the individual team members who were picked for both their expertise and established past performance in support of the Navy."

Enrollment--continued from page 1

growing," Portera said. "We're doing our best to ensure quality while keeping pace with the demands of increasing numbers, but our challenge is to get better, not bigger.

"Overall, the academic qualifications of our freshmen are quite good, but we need to do a better job of helping prospective students understand what it will take to succeed here," he added.

Mississippi State has adopted a policy of focusing recruiting efforts on better-prepared students and more closely monitoring academically at-risk students to improve their chances of staying in school.

"We're telling students who have either a high school grade-point average of 2.5 on their core courses or an ACT score of 21 that they have a good chance of being successful at Mississippi State," Portera said. "We're telling those who don't have at least one of those indicators of potential for success that their odds of earning a degree from Mississippi State are not as good, based on years of experience and observation."

Actual admission requirements at Mississippi State are the same as those for all state universities, and are set by the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning.

Starting in fall 2001, students admitted to MSU who can't present either a 2.5 high school grade average on the required core courses or an ACT score of at least 21 will be advised by the University Academic Advising Center for their first 30 hours of basic courses. Those students also will be restricted to a class load of 12 to 15 hours, including a basic study skills course.

The deadline for applying for MSU admission for fall 2001 will be April 1. Highly qualified students may gain early acceptance and notification by applying by Dec. 1, 2000.

MSTV slate

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

Sept. 11—1 p.m., WITS Technology Instruction; 2 p.m., SCOLA; 6 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., Underground Transmission; 7 p.m., SCOLA.

Sept. 12—6 p.m., Bullyboard; 6:30 p.m., Underground Transmission (music videos), 7 p.m., SCOLA.

Sept. 13—1 p.m., WITS Technology Instruction; 2 p.m., SCOLA; 6 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., Underground Transmission; 7 p.m., SCOLA.

Sept. 14—6 p.m., Bullyboard; 6:30 p.m., Underground Transmission (music videos), 7 p.m., SCOLA.

Sept. 15 and 16—SCOLA all day.

Sept. 17—6 p.m., Bullyboard; 6:30 p.m., MSU Football with Jackie Sherrill; 7 p.m., MSU Football Game Replay (BYU vs. MSU); 9:45 p.m., Bullyboard; 10 p.m., SCOLA.

Sept. 18—6 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., MSU Football with Jackie Sherrill; 7 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 7:30 p.m., On-Air (MSU conversation); 7:45 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 8 p.m., Underground Transmission; 8:30 p.m., SCOLA.

Lyceum--continued from page 1

Playing the traditional music of Ireland and Scotland, the Poor Clares will perform April 10 at 7:30 p.m. in McComas Hall theater.

To wrap up the season, Common Ground will bring its Irish dancing to Starkville April 17. The performance is set for 7:30 p.m. in Humphrey Coliseum.

Season tickets are \$25 and may be ordered by sending a check and self-addressed, stamped envelope to MSU Lyceum Series, P.O. Box HY, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

For individual performances of the Mississippi Mass Choir, Galen and the Poor Clares, tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens (by request) and \$4 for children 3-12. Individual tickets for the National Shakespeare Co. and Common Ground are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens (by request) and \$6 for children 3-12. Individual tickets are available only at the door.

A group rate for 10 or more patrons will be offered for the performance of the Mississippi Mass Choir. To receive the rate, telephone (662) 325-4201 and make arrangements by Sept. 29.

For more information on the series or about specific performances, please telephone Stephanie Sanders at (662) 325-4201, or visit the Lyceum web site at www.msstate.edu/dept/lyceum.



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: Occupational Safety and Health Research

Agency: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Next Deadline: Nov 01, 2000

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, along with several NIH institutes (NCI, NHLBI, NIA, NIAAA, NIAID, NIAMS, NIDCD, and NIEHS), support the prevention of occupational diseases and injuries to better understand their underlying pathophysiology. Non-renewable award provides 3 years of support for full-time research. Awards should not exceed \$50,000/year in direct costs for salary support, tech. assistance, equipment, supplies, consultant costs, travel, publications, etc. See <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-99-144.html>.

CFDA Number: 93.262

Contact: Roy M. Fleming, Research Grants Program

Nat. Inst. for Occupa. Safety and Health
Building 1, Room 3053, Mailstop D30
Atlanta, GA 30333
404/639-3343

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy; Office of Science

ITEM: Notice of interest in receiving grant applications for support under the Advanced Detector Research Program. Applications should be from investigators who are currently involved in experimental high energy physics, and should be submitted through a U.S. academic institution. The purpose of this program is to support the development of the new detector technologies needed to perform future high energy physics experiments.

ACTION: Requested letters of intent to submit a proposal are due by November 1, 2000, and full proposals are due by December 5, 2000. See also, <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html> or <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/Colab.html>

for electronic access to information.

CONTACT: Michael Procario, 301/903-2890. E-Mail: michael.procario@science.doe.gov.

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy; Office of Science

ITEM: Notice seeking grant applications for support under the Outstanding Junior Investigator Program in nuclear physics. The purpose of this program is to support the development of individual research programs for outstanding scientists early in their careers. Applications should be from tenure-track faculty who are currently involved in experimental or theoretical nuclear physics research, and should be submitted through a U.S. academic institution.

ACTION: Applications are due by November 15, 2000. Go to <http://www.sc.doe.gov/production/grants/grants.html> for electronic access to information.

CONTACT: Dennis Kovar, 301/903-3613. Fax: 301/903-3833.

E-Mail: ennis.kovar@science.doe.gov.

TITLE: Alan T. Waterman Award Program
DOC#: NSF 00-123

DIVISION: National Science Foundation-Wide

ITEM: Notice seeking nominations for candidates for the 26th Alan T. Waterman Award, which will be presented in May of 2001. This Award is presented annually by NSF and the National Science Board to an outstanding young researcher in any field of science or engineering funded by the NSF.

ACTION: Nominations are due by December 31, 2000. See also, <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf00123> for electronic access to this notice.

CONTACT: Susan Fannoney, 703/292-8096. E-mail: sfannone@nsf.gov.

TITLE: Advanced Propulsion Systems
SOL: RA 00-49

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Defense; Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

ITEM: Notice seeking innovative concepts for advanced turbine propulsion systems and critical propulsion system technologies. The objective is to increase efficiency relative to current-technology supersonic aircraft and reduce takeoff and landing noise. Advanced propulsion systems will enable supersonic vehicles having greater unrefueled range, greater area coverage, and lower overall operational cost when integrated into advanced aircraft.

ACTION: Proposals are due by October 6, 2000. See also, <http://www.darpa.mil/baa/#tto>

for electronic access to information. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Institutions (MIs) are encouraged to submit proposals and join others in submitting proposals; however, no portion of this RA will be set aside for HBCU and MI participation because of the impracticality of reserving discrete or severable areas of research.

CONTACT: Richard Wlezien, via facsimile, to 703/696-8401.

ADDRESS: Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA),
Contract Management Office (CMO),
3701 N. Fairfax
Drive, Arlington, VA 22203-1714

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Commerce; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)

ITEM: Notice announcing the availability of funds for FY 2001 for research support in the Ocean Remote Sensing Program area, the goal of which program is to expand the use of, and improve access to, operational satellite oceanographic data by state, federal, regional governmental, and non-profit entity users.

ACTION: Proposals are due by November 28, 2000. Participation by Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions is encouraged. See also, <http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~grants/index.html> for electronic access to information.

CONTACT: H. Lee Dantzler, Jr., 301/763-8184. E-mail: ldantzler@nesdis.noaa.gov.

TITLE: FY2001 Innovative Science and Technology Research Program for BMDO Office of the Chief Scientist

SOL: CBD Reference No: BMDO/0013

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Defense; Ballistic Missile Defense Organization

ITEM: Notice releasing the FY 2001 Innovative Science and Technology Research Program, which will consist of applied/exploratory research approaches through scientific and technological investigation in the seven topical areas listed in the BAA.

ACTION: The BAA will be open until September 30, 2001. See <http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/bmdolink/html/intro.htm> for access to electronic information.

CONTACT: Cassandra Watkins, 703) 604-3321. E-mail: cassandra.watkins@bmdo.osd.mil.

ADDRESS: Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, 1725
Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 809,
Arlington, VA 22202



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

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.

Faculty and Professional Women's Association membership social, 516 Chestnut Drive, 5:30-7 p.m. 325-8429.

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.

Town Hall meeting for College of Business and

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

Industry students, faculty, administrators, McCool Hall auditorium, 5-6 p.m. 325-2580.

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.

Morris W.H. "Bill" Collins Jr. Speaker Series, Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3-5 p.m. 325-3328. (see story below)

15

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

Speaker series begins

To expand discussions of major public issues and recognize the achievements of the first director of its government institute, Mississippi State is launching the Morris W.H. "Bill" Collins Jr. Speaker Series.

The first of the monthly public programs takes place 3-5 p.m. Sept. 14 in the John Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library. Collins, now retired in Athens, Ga., will be among the speakers.

Others include former 3rd District congressman David Bowen of Jackson; Rex Buffington, director of the Starkville-based Stennis Center for Public Policy; Starkville businesswoman Pat Permenter; retired Starkville dentist Lloyd Rose; and Scott County Times publisher and syndicated columnist Sid Salter. Frances Coleman, MSU dean of libraries, and Marty Wiseman, current Stennis Institute director, will join them on the program.

In addition to the government institute and the library's Congressional and Political Research Center, the Collins Speaker Series is sponsored by the John Stennis-G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Association. A student organization named for two prominent university graduates who went on to decades of public service, SMA was formed two years ago to promote a deeper interest in the political process among those enrolled at the state's largest university.

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.

Memorial blood drive scheduled Sept. 12

A university-wide effort to collect blood as a memorial to the wife of a university employee will take place Sept. 12 in the Colvard Union.

Conducted by Mississippi Blood Services of Jackson, the 9 a.m.-3 p.m. drive will honor Vicki McGinnis who died Sept. 2 after a prolonged illness.

She was the wife of Jerry Wayne McGinnis, physical plant paint supervisor.

The MSU Physical Plant-sponsored drive will help replenish MBS inventories, which are in short supply this summer.

For more information, telephone Timmy Shaw at 325-1861 or Kathy Collins at 325-1880.



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.