

## Dobbs named MSU registrar

Larry D. Dobbs assumed duties as registrar Dec. 1 after serving as interim registrar since 1998.

In his new position, the longtime MSU employee will manage the operations of the Registrar's Office, which include maintenance of student records, student registration, class scheduling, and athletic certification. He replaces W.S. "Bud" Smith II.



*Dobbs*

Dobbs, who says he came here as a  
*Continued on page 3*

## Memo from the president

December 4, 2000

TO: Faculty and Staff  
FROM: Malcolm Portera  
SUBJECT: University financial planning

You probably have read or heard news reports from the State Capitol in recent days indicating that the state will face a tight budget in fiscal year 2001-02, which begins next July. The Legislative Budget Committee each fall estimates how much money the state will have available for the coming year and recommends budget levels accordingly. Last week, pointing to slower than expected growth in the state economy and previous legislative commitments that require continued funding, the LBC recommended budget reductions next year for state agencies including higher education. Those recommendations could lead to a decline of 14 percent, or \$11-12 million, in Mississippi State University's state funding for 2001-02.

Obviously the financial outlook for the state is troublesome, and the Legislature that convenes in January will face difficult decisions and major challenges. But the economic condition of the state and the university remains fundamentally sound and we are confident that we will continue to make progress toward

*Continued on page 4*

## Student Association president to address commencement

The president of the MSU Student Association will deliver the fall commencement address Dec. 15 at Humphrey Coliseum.

Senior Jenny M. Reeves of Oxford will speak during graduation ceremonies scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. The political science major is only the second woman to lead the MSU student body in the school's history.

Some 1,200 students are candidates for degrees. Six receiving bachelor's degrees are in line to graduate with perfect 4.0 grade-point averages.

Reeves is a member of two of the school's most prestigious student groups, the Otilie Schillig Leadership and John C.

Stennis scholars. She also is a member of the campus Society of Scholars and the national Robert C. Byrd and Horace Mann scholars groups.

When not in class or fulfilling her SA



*Reeves*

duties, Reeves, an Oxford High School graduate and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Reeves, is a busy campus and community volunteer. This year, she is mentoring students at Starkville's Overstreet Elementary School.

The six MSU undergraduates with straight-A grades include Kwang H. Low of Starkville, Rachel Mueller of Huntsville, Ala., Alamelu Nagarajan of Starkville, Seth Rickertsen of Helena, Ala., Joel Waters of Laurens, Iowa, and Benjamin Womack of Utica. In recognition of the achievement, the university's Phi Kappa Phi honor society chapter will present each with medallions at the conclusion of the graduation program.

## Campus users soon will log in with NetID

A new electronic identifier for Mississippi State faculty, staff and student computer users is being introduced by the Office of Information Technology Services.

When fully implemented, NetID will be a person's unique identifier for accessing a variety of current and emerging network based systems and services. According to ITS head Mike Rackley, NetID, once operational, will eliminate the use of Social Security numbers—and the accompanying privacy concerns—for network access and authentication. In addition, the new system will allow the replacement of multiple, disparate log-ins and passwords with a single NetID and password for each individual.

"Given the number and diversity of systems and services on the MSU campus network today, these goals will not be achieved overnight," Rackley said. "This is a long-term project that will be accomplished through incremental change and evolution of systems, software and procedures."

NetID also "will not require faculty and staff to change existing e-mail addresses," he emphasized.

To be completed by the end of December, the first phase involves assignment of a unique NetID to each student and faculty and staff member. The general scheme for NetID assignment is a person's lowercase initials followed by a number for uniqueness.

"For example, John Michael Rackley might be assigned the NetID jmr12," Rackley explained. "Many will recognize this as the same scheme that has been used for years in assignment of logins on ra.msstate.edu. If a person already has a Ra login that conforms to this scheme, it will become his or her NetID. Otherwise a NetID will be generated and assigned."

The first use of NetID is expected during the 2001 spring semester by users of the WebCT and Blackboard online course management systems. Faculty using either of these systems will be getting more specific information prior to the start of the semester.

As efforts proceed to "NetID enable" other systems, information will be disseminated at appropriate times.

"By the beginning of the spring semester, it will be possible to determine one's NetID several different ways," Rackley said. "It will become part of the information displayed online at [www.msstate.edu/directory](http://www.msstate.edu/directory). It also will become part of class rosters and other information available to faculty and students via Banner Web."

Future plans call for the NetID to be imprinted and encoded on new university identification cards, he added.

## Flights set to Stennis

The Office of Research has scheduled 2001 flights to the Stennis Space Center via Aircraft Operations.

Seats are available for MSU faculty and staff with official business with agencies located on the Gulf Coast. The plane flies into Stennis International Airport near Bay St. Louis.

Dr. Ray Crochet, director of the MSU Science and Technology Center at Stennis, serves as the university's liaison with federal agencies on site. Visitors should contact Crochet to schedule and coordinate meetings by telephoning (228) 688-3227.

Individual travelers must reserve their seats by telephoning Joan Pritchett, administrative assistant, at 325-3571, or by e-mailing her at [joan@research.msstate.edu](mailto:joan@research.msstate.edu). Cancellation must be made 48 hours prior to departure.

Two flights usually are scheduled each month:

Jan. 10 and 25; Feb. 13 and 28; March 13 and 28; April 11 and 26; May 9 and 24; June 12 and 28; July 11 and 26; Aug. 14 and 30; Sept. 11 and 26; Oct. 10 and 30; Nov. 15 and 28; and Dec. 12: depart Starkville at 4 p.m.; arrive in D.C. at 7:30 p.m.

Approximate departure and arrival times for all dates include:

Depart Starkville, 7:30 a.m.; arrive Bay St. Louis, 8:30 a.m.; depart Bay St. Louis, 8:45 a.m.; arrive Starkville, 9:45 a.m.

Depart Starkville, 4 p.m.; arrive Bay St. Louis, 5 p.m.; depart Bay St. Louis, 5:15 p.m.; arrive Starkville, 6:15 p.m.

## Human Resources Management Notes

Department of Human Resources Management representatives will be monitoring 325-3713 for voice mail messages during the holidays. Faculty and staff members with an emergency requiring immediate assistance should listen to the voice mail for instructions.

### Flexible Spending Account Confirmation Letters

Glynn Griffing and Associates, MSU's cafeteria plan third-party plan administrator, soon will be sending letters confirming calendar year 2001 amounts for employees with Careflex and Mediflex payroll deductions.

Employees who receive their letters during the holidays and whose monthly deduction is not correct should e-mail their benefits counselor at the address on the confirmation letter, or contact their counselor within five working days after returning from the holidays.

Memo is published for the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University by the Office of University Relations. It is published weekly during the fall and spring semesters and twice a month during the summer. It is also available electronically through the World Wide Web at [msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/msu\\_memo/](http://msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/msu_memo/). Editorial material should be sent to Kay Fike Jones, Mail Stop 9512, or via Internet to [jonesk@ur.msstate.edu](mailto:jonesk@ur.msstate.edu).

Editor—Kay Fike Jones

Contributors—Maridith Geuder

Sammy McDavid

Bob Ratliff

Dale Dombroski

Fred Faulk

Russ Houston

# United Way is still accepting contributions

Contributions are still being sought by 2000-01 United Way organizers in an effort to surpass last year's university goal.

According to Susie Latham, campaign chair, this year's target of \$101,000 is \$1,000 more than the 1999-2000 goal.

---

## Dobbs--continued from page 1

---

student and "never left," earned a bachelor's degree in science, business statistics and data processing from MSU in 1971. He also has completed graduate courses in educational leadership.

While a student, he worked in Data Processing, later joining the department as a computer programmer and operator. In 1971, he joined the Registrar's Office as assistant registrar and programmer. In 1993, Dobbs was promoted to associate registrar and then to senior associate registrar in 1997. He also taught courses from 1977 to 1980 in the Department of Computer Science.

Dobbs is a member of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and both the regional and state chapters of the organization.

"Right now we are just below our goal for the university campaign which includes faculty, staff and students," she said.

She added, "As most people know, their contributions go for a good cause and they may designate gifts for any of the United Way-supported agencies."

The 20 agencies include the American Red Cross, the Golden Triangle Area Agency on Aging/Fellowship Foods, Arthritis Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, Brickfire Project, Contact Helpline, Epilepsy Foundation, 4-H Clubs, Girl Scouts of Northeast Mississippi, Habitat for Humanity, Mark Mitchell Children's Shelter, North Mississippi Kidney Foundation, Oktibbeha County Humane Society, Pilot Club Mini Bus, Recovery House, Safe Haven/The Rape Crisis Center, Salvation Army, Sally Kate Winters Children's Home, Trinity Place Homemaker Service, and Very Special Arts Mississippi.

Persons wishing to give may telephone Latham at 325-3473, or contact any of the university division chairs. They include (all 325 telephone prefixes) John McRae,

School of Architecture, 2202; Dr. Robert Wolverton, College of Arts and Sciences, 2395; Anne Tolar, College of Business and Industry, 1888; Bo Hemphill, College of Education, 3496; Teresa Sappington, College of Engineering, 1360; Linda Chesser, other academic units, 2663; Michelle Lemmons, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, 2950; Beverly Smith, College of Forest Resources, 2953; Dr. Wayne Groce, College of Veterinary Medicine, 1103; Angie Simpson, Mississippi State Extension Service, 1727; Melanie Greene, Mississippi Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, 3000; Joy Odom, Office of International Programs, 0549; Paul Welch, Business Affairs, 9569; Frank Shannon, External Affairs, 3686; Thomas Bourgeois, Student Affairs, 3611; Marc McGee, Research, 3570; and Debby Golson, Athletics/Bulldog Club, 0863.

## Special meal is offered

Perry Cafeteria is hosting a Dec. 15 pre-Christmas lunch with white tablecloths and complimentary desserts, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Reservations are required and may be made by telephoning 325-0923 or 325-3394.

## First-edition Faulkner novels donated to library



*Dr. John P. Elliott and Director of University Libraries Frances Coleman*

Dating from the 1930s, several first-edition copies of novels by Nobel and Pulitzer prize-winning novelist William Faulkner are being donated to Mississippi State.

The recent gift by Tupelo physician and MSU alumnus John P. Elliott to the Mississippiana section of Mitchell Memorial Library includes the Oxford writer's "Go Down, Moses," "As I Lay Dying" and a trilogy of works about the Snopes family of his fictional Yoknapatawpha County.

Elliott, a 1952 general science graduate, also is providing his alma mater with some first editions of Jackson novelist Eudora Welty, also a Pulitzer Prize winner, including the limited edition "The First Story." Among other segments of his donation are biographical and critical works about Faulkner and Welty, generally considered among America's finest writers.

Additionally, the Elliott Collection includes a copy of Maud Morrow Brown's "University Greys," first published in 1940. After more than 20 years diligently gathering first editions and other works related to Mississippi authors, Elliott said the collection has reached the point where its "real benefit would be for scholarly review."

Once catalogued, the works will be available to students and

*Continued on page 4*



## Calendar of Events

### December Through 14th

Final exams.

University Libraries open at 1 p.m. Sunday and close Thursday at 5 p.m.

**15**

Commencement, Humphrey Coliseum, 10 a.m.

University Libraries open at 7:30 a.m. Friday and close at 5 p.m.

Pre-Christmas lunch, Perry Cafeteria. Reservations required. 325-0923, 325-3394. (see story page 3)

**16, 17**

University Libraries closed.

**18, 19**

University Libraries open 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

**20-27**

University Libraries closed.

**28, 29**

University Libraries open 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

**30-Jan. 1, 2001**

University Libraries closed.

**Dec. 20-Jan. 1, 2001**

University closed for winter holidays.

### January

**2**

MSU-Meridian Campus final registration. (601) 484-0100.

**2, 3**

New student orientation, MSU-Meridian. Lesa Aymami, 1-800-824-5288, extension 136.

**2-5**

University Libraries open 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

**6, 7**

University Libraries closed.

**12**

International Student Required Extended Orientation, "Culture Shock and Immigration," Eastman Auditorium, Swalm Chemical Engineering Building, 3-5 p.m. 325-8929.

### Portera memo--*continued from page 1*

our major institutional goals. I hope you will keep in mind these points during the coming weeks:

1. It is still early in the state budgeting process. State agency budgets for 2001-02 will not become final until April, and we will work hard during that time to help our legislative leaders find ways to avoid

### **Medical fund to aid former employee**

A support fund has been established at the Jackson USDA Federal Credit Union to help defray medical expenses for a longtime Physical Plant employee.

John C. Ellis, 52, who retired in February after 15 years as Physical Plant's project coordinator, recently resumed chemotherapy treatments for another mass in his lungs.

Contributions may be mailed to the John C. Ellis "62 Account," in care of the Jackson USDA Federal Credit Union, P.O. Box 469, Starkville, MS 39760-0469.

For more information, telephone Janice Dill at 325-2043.

### **Prof among group visiting China**

A Mississippi State professor is among two dozen professionals who recently engaged Chinese contemporaries in wide-ranging discussions of economic and political theory.

Dr. Michael R. Clifford of the Philosophy and Religion Department was among American scholars traveling to the People's Republic of China. The group included specialists in biomedical ethics, academic freedom and judicial concepts, among other areas.

The People to People Ambassador Program, a Kansas City, Mo.-based organization established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to promote international understanding, sponsors the program. It annually supports a variety of educational and cultural exchanges.

the proposed budget reductions.

2. The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning is well aware of the potential impact of the proposed cuts on the operation of the universities. Individual board members have pledged to work with us to mitigate the effects of decreased state funding and to seek ways to increase revenue from other sources.

3. We have ample time to develop contingency plans on campus to lessen the impact of a funding reduction next year. We are seeking innovative ways to operate more efficiently and reduce costs. The faculty and staff will be asked to participate in developing these plans.

4. We already have made a substantial start on dealing with a likely reduction in next year's state funding. We are well on the way to completing a plan adopted this fall to reallocate \$5.85 million in anticipation of a state budget cut during the current fiscal year. That permanent reallocation of funds can be used starting next July to help offset any reduction in state funding for 2001-02 and beyond.

These are challenging times, but there is no doubt that we will adapt to our circumstances and continue to move forward. Thank you for your continuing dedication and support. We will provide a more detailed update on the financial outlook at the spring semester faculty meeting in January or early February.

### **Faulkner—*continued from page 1***

scholars in the library's Special Collections, according to reference librarian Lynne Mueller.

"We are delighted that Dr. Elliott has helped us build our collections of these Mississippi authors with such a significant gift of first editions and other works," Mueller said.

MSU's expanding treasury of Mississippiana includes materials by and about writers either born or residing in the state, as well as official documents, genealogical materials and subject files on state-related topics, she added.

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