

## MSU continues rise in rankings

Mississippi State continues its rise among the nation's universities recognized for research strengths.

In data recently posted by the National Science Foundation at [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov), the university shows gains in overall science and engineering research expenditures and holds a top 10 spot in agricultural research expenditures. [From the NSF main page, follow these links: "science statistics," "publications and data," "academic R&D expenditures."]

Mississippi State moved to 58th among public universities in total research and development expenditures, which include all funds used in the operation of a research project. A university goal is to rank in the nation's top 50 public research universities, as reported by NSF.

Among other highlights:

- Mississippi State continues to hold the eighth spot in agricultural expenditures at

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### Breakfast planned for MLK Day

All members of the university community are invited to participate in the annual Martin Luther King Day Breakfast planned for 7:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 15, at Bost Extension Center auditorium.

Mississippi State will host the community event for the third consecutive year. President Malcolm Portera and student leaders will be on the program, and the university's Black Voices Gospel Choir will perform. Admission is free.

Last year's event attracted about 400 participants.



*Despite temperatures still hovering near freezing last week, these campus visitors enjoyed the remains of a New Year's Eve snowfall near the George Hall "slopes." Four-year-old Charles Germany and his sister Elizabeth, 7, both of Brandon, took on the cold weather under the supervision of granddad—and retired MSU staffer—Charles Weatherly.*

## Research initiation grants are awarded

Ten new members of the Mississippi State faculty are receiving seed money to begin a series of basic projects in their specialized areas.

The grants are awarded through the university's Research Initiation Program to encourage recently arrived faculty members to undertake investigations that can be expanded in scope and eventually gain major funding through an external sponsoring agency.

Awards this year total nearly \$10,000.

Recipients and their projects include:

Joseph Chromiak, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Sports, "Effect of Resistance Exercises on Intraocular Pressure in Young and Elderly Subjects";

Justin Courcelle, Biological Sciences, "Determination of the Mechanism by Which Replication Recovers Following Disruption by DNA Damage";

David Ermer, Physics and Astronomy, "Novel Measurements of Ion Kinetic Energies from Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Mass Spectrometry";

Susan Hudson, Mechanical Engineering, "Pilot Project for Evaluating the Design

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# DataBasics

By Kerry Smith  
MSU Libraries

Authorized users of the University Libraries now have access to the JSTOR (Journal STORage) online collection of core scholarly journals.

Faculty, staff and students are able to read and print articles using standard personal computer equipment at any time and from any networked location (library, office, residence hall, or home).

The JSTOR database is unique because the complete backfiles of core scholarly journals have been digitized, starting with the very first issues, many dating from the 1800s. More than four million pages are now available and new titles and fields are being added constantly. Issues of journals are never "out"; they are always accessible and in pristine condition. And, the capacity for searching across disciplines opens up new possibilities for scholarship and research.

JSTOR is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping the scholarly community take advantage of advances in information technologies. The organization's initial goal is to provide electronic access to back issues of core journals in the humanities, social sciences and sciences. By making the complete runs of important journal backfiles available and searchable over the World Wide Web, JSTOR not only provides new research possibilities, it also helps libraries reduce longterm costs associated with storing these materials. There are now 117 titles accessible in the JSTOR collection.

JSTOR both reduces the longterm costs associated with storing materials and increases dramatically the convenience of accessing them. Even if older journals currently are available on shelves in the library, it may not be easy to find a particular article or reference, especially if the item in question was published long ago. Older journal articles, for example, may not be indexed in electronic databases, which typically cover back to the 1960s at the earliest.

For more information, including answers to frequently asked questions, see [www.jstor.org/about/](http://www.jstor.org/about/).

Persons affiliated with Mississippi State are permitted access to JSTOR at [www.jstor.org/](http://www.jstor.org/) and all library databases via the library's web site at [library.msstate.edu](http://library.msstate.edu). If access is denied, users should telephone the MSU Libraries Systems Department at 325-2842 or e-mail [systems@library.msstate.edu](mailto:systems@library.msstate.edu), 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. After 5 p.m., users should telephone the Libraries Reference Department at 325-7667 or e-mail [reference@library.msstate.edu](mailto:reference@library.msstate.edu).

## Recruitment Assistance Grants presented

The Office of Graduate Studies recently awarded Recruitment Assistance Grants to 24 academic units with graduate programs.

The awards, ranging from \$300 to \$3,000, aid master's and doctoral degree programs in student recruitment. The program was initiated in 1991 to actively involve graduate faculty in recruiting students. It is funded by an annual allocation from the graduate application fees paid by out-of-state and international applicants.

"The program has worked extremely well for us in that the graduate student enrollment has moderately increased," said Dr. William A. Person, interim

director of graduate studies. "The funds allow for travel or the development of paper or computer literature for graduate student recruitment."

Grant recipients for 2000-01 include:

Dr. Benjamin Blair, Finance and Economics; Dr. Jack Blendinger, Educational Leadership; Anna Chupa, Art; Dr. Edward Clynch, Political Science; Dr. Stephen Foster, Chemistry; Dr. Regina Halpin, Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. David Hollingsworth, School of Accountancy; Dr. Lisa House, Agribusiness; Dr. Tom Hosie, Counselor Education; Dr. Rainey Little, Computer Science; Dr.

*Continued on page 4*

## Technology confab slated

Meeting the technological challenges of the changing educational landscape is the theme of this year's higher education technology conference, "Creating Futures Through Technology" scheduled for Feb. 19 and 20 in Hattiesburg.

This is the fifth year that the state Board for Community and Junior Colleges and the state Board of Trustees, Institutions of Higher Learning have brought together the best technology and innovations from Mississippi's two-year and four-year institutions.

The conference will be held at the Hattiesburg Convention Center and hosted by the University of Southern Mississippi's Division of Continuing Education.

Registration information for the conference and pre-conference workshops may be accessed online at [www.ihl.state.ms.us](http://www.ihl.state.ms.us) under the "Creating Futures" logo. Registration is \$55 before Feb. 14, and \$65 afterward. Pre-conference workshops are \$20 each. Hotel information also is available on the web.

Last year, more than 350 faculty from around the state participated in some 25 sessions that ranged from Internet II to web-based courses. A number of technology and distance learning initiatives, including the Mississippi Virtual Community College and the Southern Regional Electronic Campus, will be part of the discussion this year.

This year, a number of pre-conference

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## 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>>.

**TITLE:** Age-Related Changes in Reading and Oral Language Comprehension

**DOC#:** PA-01-002

**INSTITUTE:** National Institute on Aging (NIA); National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

**ITEM:** Notice inviting researchers to submit applications for projects designed to examine age-related changes in reading and language comprehension abilities and to develop interventions that prevent or compensate for declines.

**ACTION:** Application kits are available at the Division of Extramural Outreach and Information Resources, 301/435-0714. E-mail: [GRANTSINFO@NIH.GOV](mailto:GRANTSINFO@NIH.GOV). Applications are also available on the Internet at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>. This program announcement expires on February 1, 2004 unless reissued. See <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-01-002.html> for details.

**CONTACT:** Daniel B. Berch, 301/496-3137. Fax: 301/402-0051. E-mail: [db254g@NIH.GOV](mailto:db254g@NIH.GOV). Judith A. Finkelstein, 301/496-9350. Fax: 301/496-1494. E-mail: [jf119k@nih.gov](mailto:jf119k@nih.gov). Peggy McCardle, 301/435-6863. Fax: 301/480-7773. E-mail: [pm43q@nih.gov](mailto:pm43q@nih.gov).

**Program:** Research Grants

**Agency:** Association for Asian Studies  
**Next Deadline:** Feb 01, 2001

In conjunction with the Korea Foundation, grants are offered to assist the research of individual scholars based in North America, to improve the quality of teaching about Korea on both the college & precollege levels, & to integrate the study of Korea into the major academic disciplines. Research travel grants

provide dissertation & post-doctoral research opportunities in Korea. Other small grants support research assistance, workshops and conferences, & Korean-studies teaching. See <http://www.aasianst.org>.

**CFDA Number:** N/A

**Contact:** Linda Smith, NEAC Korea Grants, 1021 East Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, 734/665-2490

**Program:** Short-Term Travel Grants

**Agency:** International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)

**Next Deadline:** Feb 01, 2001

Supports brief visits (for up to two months) for humanities & social science scholars engaged in research focused on Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, & limited opportunities for Mongolia. Activities funded by these grants include: research visits; presentations at conferences; invited lectures or consultations; collaborative projects & joint publications; & visits of up to two foreign scholars to the U.S. for collaborative research or conference presentations. Grants normally do not exceed \$3,000. See <http://www.irex.org/programs/stg/> for more information.

**CFDA Number:** N/A

**Contact:** Jessica McDonnis, Program Officer, 1616 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006, 202/628-8188

**Program:** Grants and Contracts for Eurasian and East European Research  
**Agency:** National Council for Eurasian and East European Research  
**Next Deadline:** Feb 15, 2001

Supports research, especially in the humanities & social sciences, on major policy issues of Russian, Eurasian & East European social, political, economic, & historical development. Contracts program supports collaborative projects involving two or more U.S.-based postdoctoral scholars limited to a maximum award of \$70,000. Grant program supports postdoctoral research by an individual, U.S.-based scholar limited to a maximum of \$40,000. See <http://www.nceer.org/>. Also funds the Hewett Fellowship for forming U.S. policy towards one or more nation in this area (deadline 3/15/01).

**CFDA Number:** N/A

**Contact:** Bud Jacobs, Program Officer,

910 7th Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20006, 202/822-6950

**Program:** Planning, Scripting, Implementation, & Production Grants (Public Programs)

**Agency:** National Endowment for the Humanities

**Next Deadline:** Feb 01, 2001

Awards up to \$40,000 for planning exhibitions & other community-based projects; up to \$30,000 for planning radio & television/film projects; & up to \$50,000 for planning interactive multimedia projects. Scripting grants are for radio & TV/film projects & should not exceed \$60,000 for a 1-hour documentary. Implementation & production grants range from \$100,000 to \$300,000 for an exhibition or a national reading or discussion, to \$800,000 for a television/film documentary. Planning grants are due 11/1/00 & 2/1/01. Deadline for Scripting, Implementation or Production grants is 2/1/01. See <http://www.neh.gov/grants/deadlines.html>.

**CFDA Number:** 45.137

**Contact:** Division of Public Programs and Enterprise, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 426, Washington, DC 20506, 202/606-8267

**Program:** Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars (LARSS) Program

**Agency:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Next Deadline:** Feb 01, 2001

Program targeting undergraduate juniors & seniors & first-year graduate students who are pursuing degrees in aeronautical engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, materials science, computer science, atmospheric science, astrophysics, physics, chemistry, or selected space disciplines of interest to LaRC. Approximately 100 students will be selected each year for a 10-week period of research under the supervision of a NASA mentor. Each student will be awarded a scholarship of \$4,200. Applications due by 2/1/01. See <http://edu.larc.nasa.gov/larss/index.html>.

**CFDA Number:** N/A

**Contact:** Rafaela Schwan, Program Administrator, Office of Education, NASA Langley Research Center, Mail Stop 400 — LARSS, Hampton, VA 23681-0001, 757/864-5298



## 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!

### January

#### 10

MSU vs. Florida, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

#### 12

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

#### 15

University closed for Marth Luther King Jr. Day.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast, Bost Extension Center auditorium, 7:30 a.m. Admission is free. 325-3221.

#### 16

"An Evening of Readings from Dr. Seuss," Pat McMahon, Kathy Arendsen and others read, Colvard Union ballroom, 7 p.m. 325-2091.

#### 19

International Student Required Extended Orientation, "A Healthy Student" and "Understanding Money," Eastman Auditorium, Swalm Chemical Engineering Building, 3-5 p.m. 325-8929.

### Grants—continued from page 2

David Monts, Physics and Astronomy; Dr. Linda Morse, Educational Psychology; Dr. John Mylroie, Geosciences; Dr. Janet Rafferty, Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work; Dr. Oswald Rendon-Herrero, Civil Engineering; Drs. Jeff Schulz, Barry Hunt, Stuart Usdan, Joseph Chromiak, and Daniel Webb, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Sports;

Drs. Ratnashingham Shivaji and Bruce Ebanks, Mathematics and Statistics; Dr. Barbara Spencer, College of Business and Industry; Dr. Michael Thorne, Psychology; Dr. Scott Willard, Animal and Dairy Sciences; Martha Wilson, Forest Products; and Dr. Nicolas Younan, Electrical and Computer Engineering.

### Rankings--continued from page 1

all universities and colleges with \$57.9 million reported in 1999, up from \$54.9 million the previous year. It ranks ahead of Texas A&M, Louisiana State and Cornell universities, among others.

• In engineering expenditures, the university moved to a 37th-place ranking among all universities, up from 49th the previous year. With \$30.7 million in expenditures, Mississippi State ranked ahead of Clemson, Rutgers and the universities of Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia.

"These totals reflect the commitment of MSU faculty members to seek research funding that will help address the needs of the state, the region and beyond," said Dr. Robert A. Altenkirch, vice president for research.

"The faculty's success in areas that include remote sensing, electronics, biotechnology, and computational engineering, among others, is translating

### Research--continued from page 1

Process through Uncertainty Techniques";

Georgios Lazarou, Electrical and Computer Engineering, "Characterizing the Burstiness of Internet Traffic with the Index of Variability";

Benjamin Magbanua, Civil Engineering, "Microbial Community Development in Biofilters Treating Reduced Sulfur Gases and Volatile Organic Compounds";

Evan Peacock, Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, "Processing and Analysis of Artifacts from the Lyon's Bluff Archaeological Site";

Lesya Pinchuk, College of Veterinary Medicine, "The Role of Monocyte-Derived Dendritic Cells in the Initiation and Regulation of Immune Responses in Cattle";

Alejandro Rooney, Biological Sciences, "Molecular Evolution of the MICA Gene in Chimpanzees: Comparative Aspects with the Human MICA Gene";

Judy Schneider, Mechanical Engineering, "Use of Internal Friction Measurements to Predict Alloy Chip Formation Characteristics in High-Speed Machining."

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

into direct economic benefits for Mississippi.

"The ranking of our engineering college, indicating an extensive research capacity, and the diversity of its expertise were important factors in the recruitment of Nissan to Mississippi. We're pleased to be able to contribute to economic development in this way," he added.

For the 1999 fiscal year—the most recent year reported by NSF—MSU's research expenditures were \$110.89 million, up from \$100.4 million the previous year. Mississippi State ranked ahead of Clemson, Arizona State, Florida State, and Auburn universities, among others. Last year's totals placed the university at 59th.

Of the \$153.2 million reported for all of Mississippi's doctoral-granting institutions, MSU's expenditures represent more than 72 percent of the state's total, Altenkirch said.

### Confab—continued from page 2

workshops will be held to accommodate the requests for hands-on training. Subjects include WebCT, Blackboard, PowerPoint, and web design.

Other topics to be covered include new desktop applications, using technology to provide outreach programs, providing services for the distance-learning student, remote-sensing applications, and how students feel about distance education.

The Creating Futures conference is the only statewide conference designated specifically for college and university faculty and administrators.

For more information, telephone Marie Antoon, IHL, at (601)432-6446, or e-mail marie@ihl.state.ms.us; or Becky Cade, state Board for Community and Junior Colleges, (601)432-6684.

### 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.