

to the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University

## Music education fully accredited

The music education program is receiving a national stamp of approval.

The National Association of Schools of Music has notified the university of its recent full accreditation. The Department of



Music Education has held associate membership since 1991.

The Reston, Va.-based NASM, founded in 1924, is the professional agency establishing nationally recognized standards for undergraduate and graduate degree programs in music. Accreditation is awarded after extensive review by peer institutions.

MSU's bachelor of music education degree was recognized as meeting academic and procedural guidelines established by the association.

"This accreditation is the result of hard work by many of our faculty members," said Dr. Michael R. Brown, department head. "It recognizes our commitment to providing an outstanding academic preparation for our students."

Mississippi State offers bachelor's degrees in instrumental music education and vocal music

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## Crystal protein experiments take flight

How on Earth can a future space shuttle mission to the International Space Station lead to a better treatment for diseases?

MSU chemistry professor Bill Wilson and colleagues he is working with at NASA have discovered that gravity may be the key.

Their efforts are part of what is known as the Dynamically Controlled Protein Crystal Growth mission, a \$13 million National Aeronautics and Space Administration project. Other research sponsors include the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., and the Center for Biophysical Science and Engineering at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Wilson, a Giles Distinguished Professor, was the first researcher to develop a method for predicting the conditions in which protein crystals will grow efficiently. In tribute, the process, known as the Wilson Crystallization Slot, bears his name.

He also will be the first Mississippi State faculty member to have an experiment fly aboard the space station.

He said a space shuttle flight, possibly next summer, will transport proteins associated with certain diseases—sickle cell anemia, influenza, and diabetes, among others—to the just-opened space station. In the gravity-free environment, the crystals will be grown to produce accurate three-dimensional structures of the proteins.

Wilson said the absence of gravity generally produces better three-dimensional crystal growth. "Earth gravity has an adverse influence on crystal growth," he explained. "Because there is almost no gravity in space, you get a better protein crystal structure."

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## Faculty award nominations due Feb. 1

Nominations for the 36th Faculty Recognition Awards are due by Feb. 1.

Awards traditionally are presented in the following categories: Teaching—Graduate Level, Upper Level and Lower Level; Research; and Service. Each recipient will receive a commemorative plaque and monetary award at the Faculty Recognition Banquet on May 3 in Humphrey Coliseum.

Nominations and all supporting data must be submitted to Libba Andrews, associate director of the sponsoring Alumni Association.

To receive a nomination booklet, call or come by the Butler-Williams Alumni Center, or access the web page at [msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/alumni/awards/faculty](http://msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/alumni/awards/faculty).

Nominations downloaded via the Internet cannot be completed and returned by e-mail, as the nominator must sign the form. Completed packets must be returned to the alumni center.

For more information, telephone Andrews at 325-3479, or by e-mail at [landrews@alumni.msstate.edu](mailto:landrews@alumni.msstate.edu); or Karen Hudson, 325-2284, [khudson@alumni.msstate.edu](mailto:khudson@alumni.msstate.edu).

## Scholarship gifts can honor an individual

Faculty, staff or students may honor friends and colleagues by contributing to the Faculty and Professional Women's Association Scholarship Fund. Honorees will be notified of the gift in their name by a card.

FPWA awards two scholarships each year to outstanding graduate and undergraduate women at MSU.

Contributions may be mailed to Judy Duncan, FPWA treasurer, Mail Stop 9736, MSU.

For more information, contact FPWA president Wanda Dodson at 325-8429; wld@humansci.msstate.edu.



*John Maxson, training director for the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision, was presented the national Rehabilitation Services Administration Commissioner's Award for 2000. The honor recognized the center's "Placement 2000" training program for "outstanding achievement and distinction in the training of qualified rehabilitation personnel." More than 130 persons completed the RRTC/American Foundation for the Blind program at locations ranging from Guam to Canada.*

## msu.NOW!

Check out the university news page by clicking on "News" at the university home page, [www.msstate.edu](http://www.msstate.edu).



*Six retired School of Accountancy faculty members recently were honored during dedication of the Accounting Professors' Classroom in McCool Hall. The technology-enhanced classroom was made possible by a gift from 1970 accounting graduate Richard C. Adkerson (center). Talking over old times with him are (from left) William A. Simmons, Dora R. Herring, Joseph F. Curry, and R. Scott Wofford. Not pictured are two other honorees, William L. Cross and the late William W. Littlejohn.*

## Crystals--continued from page 1

Wilson, whose research efforts have been supported continuously by NASA since 1991, said drug companies can use structures determined from the crystal analysis for what is known as structure-based drug design. "That basically means the protein crystal is giving the drug companies a 3-D model of what the disease protein looks like so they can design their drugs to combat that disease."

Mississippi State is playing an integral part in the research aspects of the flight mission. The university's newly renovated Hand Chemical Laboratory will enable Wilson's research group to better study the proteins.

## IHL web server down

The state Institutions of Higher Learning web server has failed and will remain offline for an indefinite time period.

Persons wishing to participate in the IHL-sponsored conference, "Creating Futures Through Technology," may access two alternate servers: [www.sbcjc.cc.ms.us](http://www.sbcjc.cc.ms.us) and [www.cice.usm.edu/ce/noncredit/cr-tech/index.html](http://www.cice.usm.edu/ce/noncredit/cr-tech/index.html).

The conference is scheduled Feb. 19 and 20 in Hattiesburg. Telephone Marie Antoon, IHL, at (601) 432-6446 or e-mail her at [marie@ih.state.ms.us](mailto:marie@ih.state.ms.us) for additional information.

"Scientists traditionally have used trial and error to get these protein crystals," he said. "Now people all over the world are beginning to use the method we discovered to render better crystals in a more efficient manner."

MSU also is involved in constructing the actual flight hardware for growing the crystals.

"The crystallization process will be controlled automatically and totally self-contained through hardware MSU and UAB are collaborating to build," Wilson said. "The astronauts will be busy doing housekeeping of sorts on the space station and won't have the time or the expertise to deal with the crystals. With our hardware, the crystals will take care of themselves."

The first NASA flight with the crystals tentatively is scheduled for June.

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/](mailto: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

# Bulldog baseball begins with first NBC Classic

Mississippi State will open its 111th baseball season and a 34-game home schedule hosting Notre Dame and the University of New Orleans in the first National Bank of Commerce Classic Feb. 16-18 at Dudy Noble Field.

The three-day event is sponsored by the Golden Triangle-headquartered National Bank of Commerce and is a part of a 56-game baseball schedule for the 2001 season.

The Bulldogs take on the UNO Privateers Feb. 16 and, in a rematch of the 2000 NCAA Starkville Regional, meet the Notre Dame Fighting Irish Feb. 17 and 18 on opening weekend. Last season, the Bulldogs split regular season home games with UNO and won two of three matchups with Notre Dame to advance to the NCAA's Super Regionals in May.

"This is an exciting way to open the 2001 season," exclaimed baseball coach Pat McMahon. "We appreciate the support of National Bank of Commerce in helping make this event a reality. With Notre Dame and New Orleans in the tournament, our great fans will be treated to a weekend of regional tournament-caliber baseball."

The Bulldogs' schedule features three-game SEC home weekend series against defending national champion Louisiana State, 2000 regular season Southeastern Conference champion South Carolina, NCAA regional tournament participants Alabama and Auburn and Eastern Division rival Kentucky. MSU travels to Vanderbilt, Arkansas, Tennessee, Florida and Mississippi.

MSU, 10 wins away from becoming the first SEC team to reach 2,000 wins, plays 14 of its first 17 games at Dudy Noble Field, Polk-DeMent Stadium.

Twenty-nine of MSU's 56 games are against teams that played in the NCAA Tournament and 18 against teams that finished with top 30 national rankings. Eleven of the Bulldogs' 2001 opponents competed in the 2000 NCAA Tournament and two of those advanced to Omaha and the College World Series. "This schedule will be a tremendous test for our young ball club," said McMahon.

The Bulldogs' 56-game slate includes first-time meetings with Austin Peay State University and Troy State and an early-season three-game road series against

NCAA College World Series participant Southern California. In addition, Mississippi State makes an appearance at Smith-Wills Stadium in Jackson March 28, taking on Mississippi in the 22nd renewal of the Mayor's Trophy Game.

## Drought of 2000 hits Mississippi hard

The drought of 2000 hit Mississippi's farmers hard, with conservative estimates exceeding \$300 million in lost revenues and increased production costs.

Charlie Forrest, agricultural economist with the Mississippi State Extension Service, said many of the actual losses are nearly impossible to calculate. The hardest hit commodities were cotton, soybeans, cattle and forestry.

"Yield losses were significant, espe-

## Ag communicators win technical competition

Office of Agricultural Communications staff members recently were honored with regional awards for technical writing.

The Midsouth Chapter of the Society for Technical Communications presented the awards for several publications from Ag Communications.

Two articles by Bonnie Coblenz, print news editor/writer, won awards of merit for "Research Traces Broiler Health To Hen Diets" and "Parasite Threatens Mississippi Catfish."

Senior print editor Linda Breazeale also won a merit award for her article, "Researchers Working to Improve Cattle Breeding."

Wanda Thorne, publications editor; George Taylor, retired graphic artist; Tom Thompson, medical photographer; and Jerald Ainsworth, director of research for the College of Veterinary Medicine, collectively produced "MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine Research Program Annual Report," which won an award of excellence.

"The STC competition is typically a tough one, and I am proud of my colleagues," said Tom Knecht, head of agricultural communications. "These awards recognize the authors' ability to communicate technical information in a clear and interesting manner."

MSU also has adopted a new starting time for most of its Saturday home SEC games, moving first pitch up 90 minutes to 4 p.m. The starting times for Friday and Sunday games remain unchanged (6:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.).

cially when compared to the five-year average. Cotton yields were down 96 pounds per acre and soybeans were down five bushels per acre," Forrest said. "Add this to the fact that more land than normal was never harvested, and you have a substantial impact. The lost revenue from abandoned acres of both crops was about \$28.3 million."

Forrest said lower production and lower quality caused cotton producers to lose revenues of nearly \$128 million, and soybean growers lost about \$45 million.

Extension cotton specialist Will McCarty said cotton can grow under hot and dry conditions, but that doesn't mean it will flourish. The state's average yield was 649 pounds per acre, compared to 704 pounds from the previous year's drought harvest. The state's record harvest was 901 pounds in 1997, when the average price per pound was more than 7 cents higher than projected for the 2000/2001 crop year.

"The year 2000 is the first time Mississippi cotton growers have made less than 700 pounds per acre since 1995," McCarty said. "Not only was yield reduced by weather, but quality was hurt as well. The overall quality of the 2000 cotton crop is below average for Mississippi."

For cotton and other row crops, prices

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## Music—continued from page 1

education. With approximately 55 majors, it provides specialized training in music theory and composition, keyboard, wind and percussion, voice, and strings.

Among performing ensembles the department sponsors are the Famous Maroon Band, the Wind, Jazz and Percussion ensembles, and the Symphonic and Concert bands.



## 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

#### 16

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

Intro to Microsoft PowerPoint 2000, McArthur Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-8768.

Guided Library Walking Tour, second floor, Mitchell Memorial Library, 9:30 a.m. 325-8162.

University Honors Forum: Walter Smith, "Art and Worship in Traditional India--Temple, Image," 13 Allen Hall, 12:30 p.m. 325-2522.

#### 17

Banner: Requisitions, McArthur Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-noon; Microsoft FrontPage, McArthur Lab A, 1:30-5 p.m. 325-8768.

College of Engineering Dell (computer) Day, student lounge, Swalm Engineering Building, 9 a.m. 325-2267.

#### 18

"Creative Dating," interactive presentation, Colvard Union ballroom, 7 p.m. Sarah Runyon or Paula Raffo, 325-2930.

Inaugural Jean Chisholm Lindsey Lecture in Landscape Design: Robert B. Riley, professor emeritus of landscape architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Crosby

### SAD meeting Jan. 16

An organizational meeting for Staff Appreciation Day 2001 will be held Jan. 16.

Any interested MSU professional or support staff member may attend the 9:30 a.m. meeting in Memorial Hall's Coskrey Auditorium. Ideas on food, entertainment and fun for SAD are welcome.

For more information, telephone the sponsoring Professional and Support Staff Advisory Council office at 325-0664.

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

Arboretum, Picayune, 5:30 p.m., followed by buffet reception. \$60 per person. (601) 799-2311, extension 21.

Microsoft PowerPoint 2000 II, McArthur Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon; Banner: Requisitions, McArthur Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. 325-8768.

#### 19

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



*Patrick Hughes (right), former director of the United States Defense Intelligence Agency, visited with Mississippi State's Janos Radvanyi prior to a recent state program organized by the Radvanyi Chair for International Security and Strategic Studies. Hughes, a retired Army lieutenant general, discussed future global trends and conditions during an interactive broadcast linking audiences at MSU and Jackson State University.*

### Drought—continued from page 3

added insult to injury as weaker yields faced similarly weak prices. For example, if soybean yields are down five bushels per acre to 21 bushels and prices are averaging \$1.30 lower than the five-year average of \$6.30, the loss per acre would be about \$60.

"The drought cost the forestry industry about \$65 million in additional fire losses, seedling failure and individual tree mortality," Forrest said.

During typical years, fires result in about \$46 million in lost trees in Mississippi. The 2000 drought caused one of the worst forest fire seasons in years and losses totaled \$86 million.

"The Mississippi Forestry Commission is reporting a 50 percent plantation failure in 2000. That totals about \$15 million worth of lost seedlings," Forrest said. "Forestry specialists estimate another \$10 million in individual trees

lost statewide."

The drought even hurt the state's catfish industry, where producers lost more than \$13 million due to increased pumping costs, decreased water quality, harvesting problems, stress and related diseases, and other production problems.



### 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.