

to the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University

## Cold December puts insect population on ice

Most of Mississippi's weather in 2000 did more harm than good for the state's farmers — until December.

After four relatively mild winters, entomologists predict significant insect mortality from the cold. The state climatologist reported December temperatures were among the coldest in reported history.

"The East Central Mississippi area posted the second coldest average temperature for December since we started keeping records in 1895," said Dr. Charles Wax, professor and head of geosciences at Mississippi State. "The average temperature in 2000 was 36.1 degrees. The previous coldest average had been 36.6 in 1963."

Wax said temperatures got as cold as 11 degrees and four days did not get above freezing.

"A total of 24 days dropped to freezing or below in December," he said. "Rainfall was below normal at 2.42 inches, compared to the normal average near 6 inches."

Dr. Blake Layton, Extension entomologist, said wet conditions combined with the cold are more detrimental for insects than dry, cold weather. Sudden drastic temperature drops and extended extreme cold also are ideal for killing insects.

"Boll weevils have probably been the main victims of the cold weather. At this point, we've probably had about 95 percent mortality and because of the boll weevil eradication program, we didn't have many weevils going into the winter anyway," Layton said.

"The past four winters have been no help in the eradication process, but this year should be a drastically different story," he said.

Layton cited research that predicts 30 percent mortality in dry conditions when

temperatures reach 15 degrees for six hours, 85 percent when temperatures reach 10 degrees for six hours and 100 percent mortality when it drops to 5 degrees for six hours.

"If it's wet, there is significant mortality when it just reaches 20 degrees for six hours," he said.

Layton said other insect pests knocked back by the cold include stink bugs and fall armyworms.

"Fall armyworms never overwinter in Mississippi, but remain relatively close in Texas and Florida during mild

winters. This year should push them even further away, and make it take longer in the season for them to reach us," he said.

Dr. Evan Nebeker, another MSU entomologist, has watched Ips beetle and Southern pine beetle populations in recent years. Mississippi pine trees had significant Ips damage in 2000, largely because of drought stress making trees more susceptible.

"Both the Ips and the Southern pine beetle populations should be reduced from this winter's temperatures," Nebeker said.



*Instruction librarian Beth Ashmore (r) explains materials housed in Mitchell Memorial Library's Instructional Media Center to students Derrick Pratt of Ackerman and Charlotte Alford of Jackson. Guided library tours are being offered to the public Jan. 22 at 9 a.m. and Jan. 23 at 9:30 a.m. For more information, telephone Kerry Smith at 325-8162.*

# What's in a name? In politics, not always clear

While a Republican administration takes office—assisted by at least one Democrat from the last administration—what does a political label mean these days?

Voters in the landmark 2000 presidential election seemed unable to separate the ideas of President-elect George W. Bush from those of Vice President Al Gore, but there are clear historical differences in the politics each represents, says a Mississippi State political philosopher.

“Our concept of ‘liberal’ and ‘conservative’ was influenced by our early experiences in the New World,” said Dr. Michael R. Clifford, associate professor of philosophy and author of a forthcoming book on American political identity. Americans feel those differences well into the 21st century, he added.

In a chapter specifically dealing with liberals and conservatives, he traces conflicting views that grew out of threats the wilderness presented. His book, which will be published in April by Routledge Press of New York is titled “Political Genealogy after Foucault: Savage Identities.”

“American political identity, both liberal and conservative, was shaped in part by our early encounters with Native Americans,” he noted.

His book traces the consequences of colonials’ reactions to the natives they met. The Puritans, in particular, viewed the strangers as cannibals and adopted a mission of imposing on them civilized values. Other colonials incorporated values of a “noble savage” concept emphasizing self-reliance, independence and strength.

“Two political viewpoints were taking shape according to competing views of the wilderness,” Clifford noted.

Other differences emerged in terms of values such as tolerance, the role of the state, freedom, and individuality.

To illustrate with one of the hot issues of the Bush-Gore debates, Clifford describes a liberal vs. conservative approach to the concept of school prayer.

“To a liberal, freedom of religion means the right not to have others’ beliefs imposed on you,” he explained. “A liberal says that you can’t interfere with the individual’s right to choose.”

By contrast, a conservative believes in

promoting the proper virtues, he said. “A conservative sees government restrictions on school prayer as interference in freedom of religion.”

The division is, in part, built into the system itself, Clifford says. In a state of nature, lawlessness prevails. Civilized societies enter a social contract to preserve and protect freedom, with a sovereign power given authority to set and enforce laws.

But, conservatives and liberals often interpret that authority differently. “A conservative believes that a government sets laws, and we abide by them,” he explained. “A liberal, on the other hand, may see the government as a means of preserving and enlarging freedom.”

Despite the differences, he said the

American electorate saw Bush and Gore as surprisingly similar candidates.

“We didn’t see acrimony in terms of the candidates themselves, but in terms of the outcome of the election,” he said.

Commenting on the ensuing discord, Clifford wonders if the nation is becoming increasingly polarized.

“Americans don’t seem to be dissatisfied with the system so much as with those who run the system,” he observed. “Policy issues sometimes seem to be secondary.”

But, he believes, in history there is hope.

“If we can understand how we arrived at this point and understand what it is that separates us, it is possible to go in another direction.”



*Professor of mechanical engineering John Berry (l) and Physical Plant assistant director Peter Rook inspect a street sign skirt donated to the university by the Mid-South chapter of the American Foundry Society. The skirts are being cast by ESCO of Meridian, Dews Foundry of Hattiesburg and other AFS members. They will be used to cover the base of new street sign support poles on campus. Each casting features the university seal, “Bully,” the emblems of AFS and its Foundry Education Foundation, and the logo of the foundry where it was produced.*

## Reinvent yourself at Jan. 29 meeting

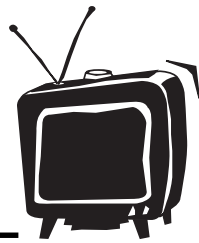
A marketing expert and entrepreneur will present a public program Jan. 29 as part of the regular meeting of the Faculty and Professional Women’s Association.

Mary Harms will speak on “Reinventing Yourself” at 11:30 a.m. in the Instructional Media Center at Mitchell Memorial Library (located on the bottom floor, behind the stairs). Participants may bring a brown-bag lunch.

Harms is an adjunct marketing professor and the director of marketing and alumni relations for the College of Business at Iowa State University in Ames. Also a businesswoman, she owns a company that supplies graduation regalia to colleges, including Iowa State.

For more information, telephone Maridith Geuder at 325-3442.

# MSTV



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

Jan. 22—6 p.m., Bullyboard; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., MSU Women's Basketball (hosting Alabama); 8:45 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Jan. 23—6 p.m., Bullyboard; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., MSU Women's Basketball (hosting Alabama); 8:45 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Jan. 24—6 p.m., On-Air (MSU conversation); 6:15 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., Annual MSU Football Banquet; 7 p.m., SCOLA.

Jan. 25—6 p.m., On-Air; 6:15 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., LIVE MSU Women's Basketball (at Auburn); 8:45 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Jan. 26 and 27—SCOLA all day.

Jan. 28—6 p.m., Bullyboard; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., MSU Women's Basketball (hosting Mississippi); 8:45 p.m., Bullyboard; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Jan. 29—6 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., MSU Women's Basketball (hosting Mississippi); 8:45 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Jan. 30—6 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., Underground Transmission (music videos) 7:30 p.m., SCOLA.

Jan. 31—6 p.m., On-Air (MSU conversation); 6:15 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., Underground Transmission; 7 p.m., SCOLA.

Feb. 1—6 p.m., On-Air (MSU conversation); 6:15 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., Underground Transmission; 7:30 p.m., SCOLA.

Feb. 2 and 3—SCOLA all day.

Feb. 4—6 p.m., Bullyboard; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., MSU Women's Basketball (hosting Mississippi); 8:45 p.m., Bullyboard; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Feb. 5—6 p.m., Bullyboard; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., MSU Women's Basketball (hosting Mississippi); 8:45 p.m., Bullyboard; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Feb. 6—6 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., "The Man Who Came to Dinner," MSU theater; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Feb. 7—6 p.m., On-Air (MSU conversation); 6:15 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., Underground Transmission; 7 p.m., "The Man Who Came to Dinner," MSU theater; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Feb. 8—6 p.m., On-Air (MSU conversation); 6:15 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., MSU Basketball (hosting Alabama); 8:45 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Feb. 9 and 10—SCOLA all day.

Feb. 11—6 p.m., On-Air (MSU conversation); 6:15 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., MSU Basketball (hosting Alabama); 8:45 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Feb. 12—6 p.m., On-Air (MSU conversation); 6:15 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., MSU Women's Basketball (hosting Vanderbilt); 8:45 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Feb. 13—6 p.m., The Insight (student newscast); 6:20 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., Underground Transmission; 7 p.m., MSU Women's Basketball (hosting New Orleans); 8:45 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Feb. 14—6 p.m., The Insight; 6:20 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., Underground Transmission; 7 p.m., MSU Women's Basketball (hosting New Orleans); 8:45 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 9 p.m., SCOLA.

Feb. 15—6 p.m., The Insight; 6:20 p.m., Bullyboard with Bulldog Weather; 6:30 p.m., MSU Basketball with Rick Stansbury; 7 p.m., SCOLA.

Feb. 16 and 17—SCOLA all day.

## Flights scheduled from MSU to D.C.

The Office of Research has scheduled spring semester flights to Washington, D.C., via Aircraft Operations.

Seats are available for MSU faculty and staff with official business with agencies located in the nation's capital. The schedule also is available on the web by accessing [www.acops.com](http://www.acops.com).

Individual travelers must reserve their seats by telephoning Debbie Richardson, flight scheduling coordinator, at 325-3010, or by e-mailing her at [drrichardson@acops.com](mailto:drrichardson@acops.com). A completed aircraft trip request form must be forwarded to Aircraft Operations at least two days prior to departure.

The schedule format has been changed to both one-day and two-and-a-half-day trips.

Dates and itinerary (all Starkville times are central and all Washington times are eastern) include:

Jan. 22: depart Starkville at 7 a.m.; arrive in D.C. at 10:30 a.m.

Jan. 23: depart D.C., 6 p.m.; arrive Starkville, 8 p.m.

Feb. 4: depart Starkville, 4:30 p.m.; arrive D.C., 8 p.m.

Feb. 6: depart D.C., 6 p.m.; arrive Starkville, 8 p.m.

Feb. 21: depart Starkville, 6:30 a.m.; arrive D.C., 10 a.m.

Feb. 22: depart D.C., 6 p.m.; arrive Starkville, 8 p.m.

March 18: depart Starkville, 4:30 p.m.; arrive D.C., 8 p.m.

March 20: depart D.C., 6 p.m.; arrive Starkville, 8 p.m.

April 19: depart Starkville, 6:30 a.m.; arrive D.C., 10 a.m.

April 20: depart D.C., 6 p.m.; arrive Starkville, 8 p.m.

May 21: depart Starkville, 7 a.m.; arrive D.C., 10:30 p.m.

May 23: depart D.C., 5 p.m.; arrive Starkville, 7 p.m.



## 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

"Mnemonic Devices:" A multi-media sculpture installation by Toni Arpad, assistant professor of art, Florida International University, Jan. 25-Feb. 16, Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall. Opening reception and talk by the artist, Jan. 25, 7-9 p.m. (Talk begins at 7:30 p.m.) Gallery open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 325-2947.

### January

#### 22

Intro to Microsoft Word 2000, McArthur Lab A, 1:30-5 p.m. 325-8768.

Guided Library Walking Tour, Mitchell Memorial Library, 9 a.m. 325-8162.

#### 23

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

Banner: Invoice Processing, McArthur Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Microsoft PowerPoint 2000 II, McArthur Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-8768.

#### 24

Spring 2001 Town Hall Meeting, College of Business and Industry Council of Student Organizations, McCool Hall auditorium, 1 p.m. 325-1888.

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Banner: Invoice Processing, McArthur Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-noon; JavaScript, McArthur Lab A, 1:30-5 p.m. 325-8768.

#### 25

Intro to WebCT3, McArthur Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-8768.

#### 26

International Student Required Extended

Orientation, "American Higher Education" and "Etiquette," Eastman Auditorium, Swalm Chemical Engineering Building, 3-5 p.m. 325-8929.

#### 29

Faculty and Professional Women's Association brown-bag meeting: Mary Harms, Instructional Media Center, Mitchell Memorial Library, 11:30 a.m. 325-3442. (see story page 2)

## Outstanding women sought by PCSW

The President's Commission on the Status of Women is accepting nominations through Feb. 28 to recognize accomplishments of women on campus, in the community and in the state.

The organization annually makes awards that include the Outstanding Mississippi Woman and Outstanding Community Woman. Awards also recognize those in each MSU employment category and an outstanding undergraduate and graduate student. Winners will be honored at a March 28 awards luncheon.

Among MSU employment categories are executive/administrative; faculty; professional; non-faculty; technical/paraprofessional; secretarial/clerical; skilled crafts; and service/maintenance. Candidates are evaluated on service, professional and community activities.

Last year's recipients included former Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice

Lenore Prather, named Outstanding Mississippi Woman.

A letter from the PCSW detailing nomination procedures is being mailed this week to university employees. Nomination forms also are available at the Starkville Chamber of Commerce at 322 University Drive, or at any location of co-sponsor AmSouth Bank.

Those nominating someone will fill out a form and attach two letters of recommendation. PCSW also will ask nominees whose packets are submitted to complete an information form.

The commission was created in the late 1970s to advise the university president on issues affecting the status and role of women on campus. In more than two decades, it has continued to provide informational and educational programs to address concerns of women at the university.

For more information about the Outstanding Woman Awards, telephone Shay McDonnall at 325-3359, or e-mail her at shay@saffairs.msstate.edu; or telephone Elaine White at 325-3161, or e-mail her at ewhite@cobilan.msstate.edu.

### Trip to France offered

Faculty, staff and alumni may participate in a Department of Art summer study abroad program in France.

The 10-day trip will take place during the first two weeks of the second term of summer school, July 1-12. The program offers three nights in Paris, one night in Provence, and four nights in Nice for \$2,500, not including tuition. Students may earn up to six hours undergraduate and graduate credit.

An informational meeting is scheduled at 6 p.m., Jan. 23, in 100 Stafford Hall, beginning at 6 p.m. Application forms will be available and the trip will be outlined for all interested persons.

For more information, telephone Marita Gootee at 325-3039, or e-mail her at gootee@ra.msstate.edu.

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



### 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.