

MSU, national child health center join forces

Mississippi State is joining with a major national institute to promote research that can improve the health of children around the nation.

The Center for Child Health Research, an independent affiliate of the American Academy of Pediatrics, announced March 7 that it is joining with the university's Social Science Research Center to conduct studies of critical issues facing children and their families.

Additionally, the two institutions will take steps to develop links between ongoing research and public policy and to provide a bridge between health-care professionals and a wide variety of academic disciplines.

The new Collaborating Centers for Child and Family Health Research will

involve research scientists, physicians and others with an expertise in child health issues and social science research.

Dr. Linda H. Southward, coordinator of the SSRC's Family and Children Research Unit, will lead the MSU effort and serve as liaison to the Center for Child Health Research. A former social work practitioner and educator, she was among 50 participants in the 1999 national Rochester Child Health Congress Leadership and Advocacy Program.

"The collaborating centers' agreement offers tremendous benefits for all involved," Southward said. "This unprecedented opportunity to promote children's health and well-being in

Mississippi and the rest of the nation brings together some of the pre-eminent researchers in the field to determine the most important research questions affecting children's health."

The Center for Child Health Research was created in 1999 by the 55,000-member American Academy of Pediatrics. An independent entity, it is based at the University of Rochester and collaborates with institutions and researchers nationwide.

AAP is the world's largest organization of medical specialists in child health. Its Pediatric Research in Office Setting program—PROS, for short—operates America's largest clinical research labora-

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Cooper tapped for HEADWAE honor

Dr. Robert C. Cooper was among faculty and students receiving special statewide recognition by the Mississippi Legislature.

Cooper, a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, recently joined others honored for "outstanding achievement" by the Legislature as part of its 14th annual HEADWAE celebration.

Student Association president Jenny Reeves of Oxford was the student HEADWAE honoree from MSU.

HEADWAE, the acronym for Higher Education Appreciation Day/Working for Academic Excellence, was established by lawmakers in 1988 to spotlight individual academic accomplishment and the overall contribution of public and private institutions of higher learning.

The state's business community also supports the annual recognition program.

Cooper, last year's chair of the Robert

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Laurel Mayor Susan Boone Vincent spoke at the March session of MSU's Morris Collins Lecture Series. Vincent, who won the mayor's race in 1997 after an unsuccessful first attempt four years earlier, is one of nearly 40 women now leading a Mississippi municipality. Launched last fall and held in Mitchell Memorial Library's John Grisham Room, the monthly lecture series brings a variety of local, state and national leaders to campus during the school year.

SSRC's survey shows state's attitudes on tobacco

With more than 40 percent of Mississippi homes reporting they now are smoke-free, the Magnolia State leads the nation in many aspects of tobacco control.

These are among findings of a new survey released in early March by Mississippi State.

In 1999, the university's Social Science Research Center surveyed 3,040 residents about their tobacco use and attitudes as part of an overall evaluation of the state's tobacco pilot program. A recent follow-up survey provides evidence of changes in the social climate regarding tobacco use, said SSRC director Arthur G. Cosby.

"In one year, Mississippi has experienced some significant changes in the social climate for tobacco control," said Cosby, also a project investigator.

The follow-up study coincides with the first complete year of the Mississippi Tobacco Pilot Project, a comprehensive tobacco prevention and education program directed by the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi.

"Perhaps the most notable change occurred in our homes," said research psychologist Robert C. McMillen, who helped design the survey. "In 2000, some 42 percent of Mississippi households surveyed were smoke-free. That compares to less than 26 percent the previous year."

The percentages mean 148,000 more Mississippi households became smoke free. In other findings, the Mississippi Social Climate Survey finds:

—More than 80 percent of Mississippi adults consider teenage tobacco use a serious problem, up from 75 percent the year before.

—More than 80 percent believe that tobacco company logos should be prohibited on clothing and gear students wear to school, up from 76 percent the previous year.

—More than 77 percent feel tobacco company advertising should be prohibited at sporting and cultural events, up from 72 percent the previous year.

The survey also shows Mississippians often are more progressive in attitudes about tobacco prevention than are other Americans, McMillen said.

Mississippi adults, for instance, are more likely than adults in other states to

believe that tobacco should be regulated as a drug (67 percent vs. 58 percent nationally) and more supportive of penalizing stores which sell tobacco to minors (94 percent vs. 91 percent).

Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi is a non-profit coalition of more than 60 statewide governmental and non-

governmental agencies and more than 700 local groups. It is funded by an award from the tobacco industry, separate from the state's historic \$4 billion settlement.

For more about the Mississippi Social Climate Survey, visit the SSRC web site at www.ssrc.msstate.edu/.

Research uses new nanotechnology

A Mississippi State engineer is joining a federal government-supported research project involving a new frontier of technology that's both tiny and huge.

Dr. Stephen E. Sadow, director of the Emerging Materials Research Laboratory, recently received the university's first research award focusing specifically on nanotechnology to create materials on the scale of nanometers or one-billionth of a meter.

One-billionth of a meter! We're talking atoms and molecules here, folks!

Sadow will be collaborating with colleagues at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa., who earlier received the comprehensive Department of Defense grant to apply nanotechnology to the manufacture of compound semiconductors.

"Nanotechnology is both exciting and challenging because of the dimensions of the work, which involves the manipulation of matter a thousand times smaller than a human hair," Sadow said.

The five-year project is one of only 16 selected this year for funding by DOD's University Research Initiative on Nanotechnology, or DURINT. MSU's portion of the DURINT grant totals \$625,000.

In addition to Mississippi State and Carnegie Mellon, the team includes scientists at Virginia Commonwealth University, universities of Pittsburgh and South Florida, and State University of New York at Albany.

Sadow said he and MSU team members will focus on the application of

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Holland Faculty Senate, also is director of CVM's Animal Health Center. He earned his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Auburn University in 1975, followed by a master's in 1979.

nanoporous buffer layers to silicon carbide and gallium-nitride semiconductors to improve their material properties.

Researchers at MSU's Emerging Materials Research Laboratory, working with colleagues at TDI Inc. in Maryland and Russia's Ioffe Institute earlier pioneered the use of nanotechnology to create a buffer layer between silicon carbide/gallium-nitride starting material and the electronics built into a semiconductor. They continue to work on further improving the process.

PCSW to hold reception for award winners

For the first time, the President's Commission on the Status of Women will present its annual outstanding women awards at a free, public March 28 reception.

The reception honoring the award winners will be held 2-4 p.m. in the John Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library.

PCSW annually recognizes the accomplishments of women on campus, in the community and in the state. In the past, the winners were recognized at an annual luncheon.

Among MSU employment categories are executive/administrative; faculty; professional; non-faculty; technical/paraprofessional; secretarial/clerical; skilled crafts; and service/maintenance. Undergraduate and graduate students also are honored.

The awards are co-sponsored by the Starkville branch of AmSouth Bank.

For more information, telephone Shay McDonnell at 325-3359, or e-mail her at shay@saffairs.msstate.edu.



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>>.

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); Rural Business-Cooperative Service

ITEM: Notice requesting proposals for the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Program (VADG). This request is to establish a single pilot project to be known as the Agricultural Marketing Resource Center, which will have the capabilities, including electronic, to coordinate and provide information regarding research, business, legal, financial, and logistical assistance to independent producers and processors of value-added agricultural commodities and products of agricultural commodities. The center will also develop a nationwide market information and coordination system.

ACTION: Proposal deadline is April 30, 2001. Up to \$5 million is available to make one award. See <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm> for electronic access to application materials.

CONTACT: Thomas Stafford, 202/690-0368. E-mail: thomas.stafford@usda.gov. Fax: 202/690-2723.

TITLE: Revolutionary Materials Technologies for Future Generation Turbine Engine Propulsion Systems

SOL: NRA-01-GRC-03

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

ITEM: Notice soliciting proposals that will contribute to the advancement of technologies in the areas of computational materials science, advanced high temperature coatings, or development of nano-type structures for advanced composites. The technologies that will be pursued by NASA will ultimately be applicable to a wide range of future generation vehicles over a wide range of flight speeds. Participation is limited to educational institu-

tions. Participation from HBCUs, HSIs (Hispanic Serving Institutions), TCUs (Tribal Colleges and Universities), and other minority institutes is highly encouraged.

ACTION: Proposal deadline is April 6, 2001. Up to \$4 million will be available to make multiple awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$600,000. See <http://www.msfc.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/EPs/bizops.cgi?gr=Dandpin=22#NRA-01-GRC-03> for further information.

CONTACT: Robert Draper, 216/433-6779. E-mail: Robert.D.Draper@grc.nasa.gov. Fax: 216/977-7133 or Syreeta Stewart, 216/433-8673. E-mail: Syreeta.J.Stewart@grc.nasa.gov. Fax: 216/433-2480.

ADDRESS: NASA/Glenn Research Center, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135.

AGENCY: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

ITEM: Notice soliciting proposals from state water pollution control agencies and other organizations, including colleges and universities, for Water Quality Cooperative Agreements under the Clean Water Act section 104(b)(3) in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Proposals should be for innovative projects/demonstrations/studies that have maximum transferability or can be used as models relating to the prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.

ACTION: Proposal deadline is April 23, 2001. Approximately \$300,000 is available to make multiple awards ranging from \$25,000 to \$150,000.

CONTACT: Dorothy Rayfield, 404/562-9278. E-mail: rayfield.dorothy@epa.gov.

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

ITEM: Notice seeking abstracts for policy research and studies related to welfare reform. The purpose of this announcement is to encourage field-initiated research on the outcomes of welfare reform and the impacts of policy changes on low-income children and families. These studies should focus on outcomes for the broad population of welfare recipients, former recipients, potential recipients, and other special populations affected by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) policies.

ACTION: Deadline for abstracts is April 6, 2001. Approximately \$1 million is expected to be available to fund between 8 and 12 awards of \$75,000 to \$150,000. See <http://aspe.hhs.gov/funding.htm> for further information.

CONTACT: Adrienne Little, 202/690-8794. E-mail: amirsky@osaspe.dhhs.gov or Evvie Becker, E-mail: ebecker@osaspe.dhhs.gov. Fax: 202/690-6562.

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

ITEM: Notice requesting proposals under the Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Grant Program for research and development projects that address various aspects of U.S. fisheries (commercial or recreational), including, but not limited to, harvesting, processing, marketing, and associated infrastructures. Priorities are for activity in the areas of: Conservation Engineering, Optimum Utilization of Harvested Resources under Federal Jurisdiction, Planning for Fishing Community Transition, and Marine Aquaculture.

ACTION: Proposal deadline is May 7, 2001. Approximately \$3.8 million is available to make multiple FY 01 awards. See www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfweb/skhome.html for further information and for access to application materials.

CONTACT: Alicia Jarboe, 301/713-2358.

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

ITEM: Notice revising the standing program announcement for the Community Action Grants Program and announcing the availability of funding for a Special Racial and Ethnic Priority Initiative under the Community Action Program. The grant program supports the adoption and implementation of exemplary practices related to the delivery and organization of services for children with serious emotional disturbances or adults with serious mental illness. The target population may also have co-occurring disorders, such as substance abuse or other mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders.

ACTION: Proposal deadlines are May 10, 2001, and, for Phase II, September 10, 2001. Approximately \$5.1 million is available to make multiple Phase I awards in FY 01. See <http://www.samhsa.gov> for further information.

CONTACT: Steve Hudak, 301/443-4456.



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

A support group for African-American females meets each Monday, 4-5:30 p.m., in the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center. Discussion topics range from social to personal to academic concerns. Sponsored by Holmes Cultural Diversity Center and University Counseling Center. Refreshments are available. Regina Fults or Kenya Crawford, 325-2091.

"New Schoolhouse in Vienna," 1990-96 series chronicling modern European school architecture, Giles Hall Gallery, through April 16. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Fridays. John Jay Miller, 325-2202; www.sarc.msstate.edu/events/exhibitions-00-01.html.

March

26

Speaker series: Scott Romine, "The Stylistics of Fate in the Works of Selected Contemporary Southern Writers," John Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 7 p.m. Jonathon R. Smith, 325-2378.

27

Golden Key National Honor Society annual induction ceremony, Bost Extension Center auditorium, 7 p.m. 325-2561.

Presentation: "How to Use Your Library," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. Kerry Smith, 325-8162.

Banner: Invoice Processing, McArthur Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Intro to Blackboard, McArthur Lab A, 1:30-5 p.m. 325-8768.

28

President's Commission on the Status of Women awards reception, John Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2-4 p.m. 325-3359. (see story page 2)

Banner: Invoice Processing, McArthur Lab B,

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8:30 a.m.-noon; GroupWise II, McArthur Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-8768.

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Banner: Electronic Approvals, McArthur Lab B, 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. 325-8768.

30

MSU vs. University of Alabama at Birmingham, women's tennis, A.J. Pitts Tennis Centre, 2:30 p.m.

Concert: "Percussion Music of Africa," Bost Extension Center auditorium, 7:30 p.m. 325-3070.

31

MSU vs. Arkansas, men's tennis, A.J. Pitts Tennis Centre, 1 p.m.

April

1

MSU vs. Vanderbilt, women's tennis, A.J. Pitts Tennis Centre, 1 p.m.

Open house: "Strawberries and Cream," Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, 1 p.m. (601) 799-2311, extension 22.

Gospel Extravaganza, Colvard Union ballroom, 6 p.m. Dunbar Henry, 320-4786.

3

MSU vs. UAB, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.

4

MSU vs. Troy State, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.

5

Human Subjects and IRB Training, Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium, 9 a.m. Tracy Arwood, 325-3994.

Presentation: "How to Use Your Library," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, noon. Kerry Smith, 325-8162.

MSU vs. Southern Mississippi, softball, MSU Softball Field, 4 p.m.

6

MSU vs. Florida, men's tennis, A.J. Pitts Tennis Centre, 2 p.m.

6, 7

College of Veterinary Medicine Open House, Wise Center, 8:30 a.m. Tara Puckett, 325-7910.

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tory, some 1,500 practitioners recording data as they provide care to more than five million children.

"Integrating the skills and resources of these two organizations creates the potential to do a great deal of good for children throughout the United States," said Dr. Robert Greenberg, chairman of the child health research center's board of directors.

An immediate impact will be the expansion of the PROS network to include more children and medical providers from rural areas and the South, Greenberg said.

SSRC director Arthur G. Cosby said the new alliance would address issues with special relevance of one kind or another in every region of the country.

"While some of the initial projects will focus upon the health of Mississippi's children, we also will develop studies that are national in scope and substantially contribute to improved health of children throughout the country," Cosby said.

As the collaboration effort grows, the MSU administrator said researchers will focus on the use of information technology to improve medical access. Also planned are periodic surveys of the changing health-care needs of American children and a linkage with similar national networks to design better health-related research programs.

Dr. Michael Weitzman, CCHR executive director, said this joint effort "reflects the social science expertise of Mississippi State being wedded to pediatricians and pediatric insights in collaborative research projects."

For more information, visit www.ssrc.msstate.edu/ or www.aap.org/cchr/new/.

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.

