

Parker gift to support new Henry Center

A \$1 million gift from Mr. and Mrs. Hal Parker will fund a grand ballroom in the new 34,000 square-foot alumni and foundation center at Mississippi State.

The Hal and Linda Parker Ballroom will accommodate 400 people for a seated dinner, providing ample space to handle most campus functions.

The Bolton couple's commitment—the second largest to date—is among more than \$6 million in contributions received for the Hunter Henry Center.

Student Affairs VP Ruby is interim dean of education

Vice President for Student Affairs Roy Ruby is taking on added responsibilities as interim dean of the College of Education for the coming academic year.

He succeeds Dr. William Graves, who is leaving the university to become dean of education at Old Dominion University in Virginia.

Ruby will assume the additional duties on May 1 and will serve in the interim role for at least one year, said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs David Cole.

"We are fortunate that an experienced and able administrator is willing to take on this major responsibility," Cole said. "With Dr. Ruby providing leadership, we will have the time and opportunity to plan and carry out a very careful and extensive search for a permanent dean and to fully evaluate the role and structure of the College of Education.

"We appreciate President Portera's consenting to this double duty," Cole said.

Ruby holds faculty rank as an associate professor of counselor education and has taught courses in the Department of Counselor Education and Educational

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Construction soon will begin on the \$8 million, Foil Wyatt Architects-designed facility to be located on the western edge of campus at the intersection of Barr Avenue and University Drive. Foil Wyatt is based in Jackson.

Named for the 1950 MSU graduate, Canton native and retired Dow Chemical USA president, the Henry center also will house offices, four major meeting rooms and a centralized area for donor recognition.

"The ballroom is one of the building's highlights because it will provide the university with something it desperately needs, a large meeting and dining site," said Dennis A. Prescott, MSU vice

president for external affairs.

"With this building as one of the largest meeting places on campus, we will have the opportunity to open our doors to an even wider variety of people and showcase the foundation, alumni association and our donors," Prescott added.

Hal Parker is president of Sunbelt Wholesale Supply in Pearl and a 1969 MSU business graduate. He and his wife are members of the prestigious Dean W. Colvard Founders program, a designation recognizing lifetime support from \$1 million-\$4.9 million.

The Colvard Founders honors Mississippi State's 12th president (1960-66) who led in establishing the MSU Foundation.



The National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center recently held ceremonies to celebrate the center's 10th year of operation and its "graduation" from fixed federal funding. The ceremony also recognized three faculty members who made the original proposal for an MSU engineering research center. They are (l-r) Dr. Joe Thompson, Giles Distinguished Professor of Aerospace Engineering and the ERC research leader; Dr. Don Trotter, associate vice president for strategic initiatives and interim director of the new Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems that was created to help attract Nissan to Mississippi; and Dr. David Whitfield, Giles Distinguished Professor of Aerospace Engineering and director of the Computational Simulation and Design Center.

Swedish IT expert will lecture on e-learning May 1

A Swedish information technology expert with strong ties to the European Community will speak on "E-Learning for Large Numbers of Users" at 1 p.m. Tuesday (May 1). The lecture by Dr. Richard Hsieh, a professor at Sweden's Royal Institute of Technology, will be in Tully Auditorium of Thompson Hall.

At the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden's equivalent of MIT, Hsieh is responsible for projects in education and telematics that form the foundation of a new information technology-related university being built in Stockholm.

The new IT Institute is a joint government and industry effort aimed at promoting information technology development throughout the European Union.

Telematics is the integration of information technology and telecommunication technology with an application area such as automotive navigation systems, online health systems, or online education systems.

Hsieh also is extensively involved in business development in the information technology industry within the European Community and throughout the world. He works part time with the European Commission Directorate-General on industry legislation and standardization for telematics networks and systems.

Hsieh (pronounced "She") is an IT consultant to the government of Belgium, working to promote Swedish business interests there. He is coordinator for Northern Europe of an information technology-related project involving about 200 small and medium-sized independent enterprises.

Hsieh has published about 90 papers and edited 10 books concerning telematics in education, materials physics, and science-industry partnerships. He is on the editorial board of Technical Management and other journals. He is editor-in-chief of two scientific series on applied mechanics and applied electromagnetics in materials.

He has been a guest professor at the University of Paris and Tokyo University, among others, and has lectured at about 40 universities, including MIT, Stanford

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New student classification rules to affect some financial aid

Mississippi State students must have earned 30 credit hours to be classified as a sophomore, 60 to be a junior, and 90 to be a senior, effective at the end of the current semester.

The new classification requirements, which are increases from 27, 54, and 87 hours, respectively, are necessary to comply with a State Institutions of Higher Learning policy adopted to make classification practices consistent among Mississippi's eight public universities.

Two popular financial aid programs provide greater assistance for students in higher classifications, and some students will need to earn additional credit hours under the new rules to qualify for the higher amounts.

The Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant program awards up to \$500 a year to eligible freshmen and sophomores. The amount for which students are eligible doubles for juniors and seniors, to a maximum of \$1,000 a year.

Under the federal Stafford Loan Program, annual loan limits are \$2,625 a year for freshmen, \$3,500 for sophomores, and \$5,500 for juniors and seniors.

The new classification requirements will apply to Stafford loans for the summer term beginning in June and thereafter and will apply to the MTAG program starting next fall, since MTAG grants are not awarded for summer study.

Other financial aid programs, such as Pell Grants and College Work-Study, are not affected by classification levels.

Financial aid award letters being distributed this month are based on what students said their classification would be during their next term of enrollment, said Bruce Crain, director of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships. But the change in classification requirements means that some students will not have achieved the standing they expected to have by the end of the semester.

MTAG and Stafford Loan recipients affected by the change, or who misjudged their expected classification for some other reason, such as withdrawing from or failing a course, will receive corrected award letters in June.

"We want to provide up-to-date award information as soon as we can after the current semester ends to give students as much time as possible to make finance-related decisions by next fall," Crain said.

The change in classification requirements will give some other students more time to increase their cumulative grade-point average before running afoul of the university policy on academic standing.

Students with a semester GPA of less than 2.0 who have been enrolled for at least two terms are suspended unless they have a cumulative GPA of 1.3 as a sophomore, 1.7 as a junior, or 1.9 as a senior. A 2.0 GPA is required for graduation.

For additional information, telephone 325-3990.

Senate elects officers; discusses grading standards

English professor Dan Embree continues his service as chair of the Holland Faculty Senate, while associate professor Ladonne Delgado of Mitchell Memorial Library again is the advisory body's secretary.

Neither incumbent faced opposition April 20 at the senate's designated time for selection of 2001-02 year officers. There is a change from last year's leadership triumvirate, however.

Professor Walter J. Diehl III of Biological Sciences is the new vice chair. He was the only candidate nominated to replace Louis R. D'Abramo of Wildlife and Fisheries, who is completing a seven-year senate term, the last two as vice chair.

Following officer selection, the campus representatives turned their attention to a special committee report on grading standards. After wide-ranging debate and two successful "friendly" amendments to

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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>>.

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

ITEM: Notice requesting proposals for Grants for Education Programs in Occupational Safety and Health. The goal of the program is to provide an adequate supply of qualified personnel to carry out the purposes of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Projects are supported for Occupational Safety and Health Education and Research Center Training Grants (ERCs) and for Long-Term Training Project Grants (TPGs).

ACTION: Proposal deadline is July 5, 2001. Approximately \$5.9 million is available for competing continuation or new awards to fund ERC and TPG programs in FY 02. See <http://www.cdc.gov> for further information.

CONTACT: Sonia Rowell, 770/488-2724. E-mail: srowell@cdc.gov or, for technical assistance, John Talty, 513/533-8241. E-mail: jtt2@cdc.gov.

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE); National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)

ITEM: Notice requesting proposals for "Biomass Research and Development: Advance Biomass Power Generation Technologies." This solicitation will support the development of advanced biomass power systems offering to diversify the range of products that can be efficiently and cost-competitively produced from biomass by encouraging the co-production of power and heat as an integrated component of biomass processing. These systems are to be predominantly based on advanced biomass gasification technologies and may incorporate related research in advanced turbine and stationary fuel cell technology for production of electricity from biomass.

ACTION: Solicitation will be available at <http://www.netl.doe.gov/business> after March 30, 2001. Approximately \$1 million is available to fund this solicitation. Proposal deadline is May 31, 2001.

CONTACT: Donna Jaskolka, 412/386-6106. E-mail: jaskolka@netl.doe.gov. Fax:

412/386-6137.

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

ITEM: Notice soliciting proposals for Collaborative Community Actions Prevent Youth Violence and Promote Youth Development. Two types of awards will be made: Level 1 awards for projects developing youth violence prevention community collaboration and services and Level 2 awards for well-established collaborations to enhance collaboration activities and to expand youth violence prevention services.

ACTION: Proposal deadline is May 16, 2001. Approximately \$5 million is available to make 25 to 35 FY 01 awards. See <http://www.samhsa.gov> for further information.

CONTACT: Malcolm Gordon, 301/443-7713. E-mail: mgordon@samhsa.gov.

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Defense (DoD); Department of the Air Force

ITEM: Notice soliciting proposals for the Supporting Technology for Atmospheric Compensation and Imaging (STACI) program. The department is seeking analysis, simulation, and experimental work relevant to atmospheric turbulence effects in three distinct task areas: Ground-Based Laser Technology, Airborne Laser Technology, and Imaging.

ACTION: Proposal deadline is May 15, 2001. Approximately \$3.425 million will be available to fund multiple awards beginning in FY 02.

CONTACT: Marialyn Achille-Argaez, 505/846-6876. E-mail: Marialyn.Achille-Argaez@Kirtland.af.mil. Fax: 505/846 1546.

ADDRESS: Department of the Air Force, Air Force Materiel Command, AFRL — PL "Directed Energy Directorate", 2251 Maxwell Ave, Kirtland AFB, NM, 87117.

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Education (ED); Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)

ITEM: Notice requesting applications under the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) Special Focus Competition for Institutional Cooperation and Student Mobility in Postsecondary Education Among the United States, Canada and Mexico (FIPSE North American Mobility program). The overall purpose of the program is to provide grants to improve postsecondary education opportunities by focusing on problem areas or improvement approaches in postsecondary education.

ACTION: Proposal deadline is May 14, 2001. \$300,000 is available for FY 01 to make multiple awards ranging from \$25,000-30,000 per year. See <http://www.ed.gov/FIPSE> for further information.

CONTACT: FIPSE program officers, 202/

502-7500. E-mail: FIPSE@ed.gov.

TITLE: Neuroscience Enabled Computer Vision (NEC)

SOL: NMA201-01-R-0005

AGENCY: National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIA)

ITEM: Broad Agency Announcement for research and development for Neuroscience Enabled Computer Vision (NEC). The Advanced Research and Development Division of Nimbi's Acquisition and Technology Directorate has identified better understanding of brain-based mechanisms of visual processing as an enabling technology area that has the potential to dramatically impact Nimbi's mission. To realize this potential, NIA is soliciting proposals for research at the intersection of the biological visual sciences and computer vision domains.

ACTION: Proposal deadline is May 7, 2001. See <http://164.214.2.59/poc/contracts/contracts.html> for further information and to download solicitation package.

CONTACT: Karen Eichelberger, 301/227-7830. E-mail: eichelberk@nima.mil.

ADDRESS: National Imagery and Mapping Agency, Contracting for Acquisition & Technology Directorate, Attn: CPA/D-88, 4600 Singapore Road, Bethesda, MD 20816-5003.

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Psychology for many years. He earned the doctor of education degree in higher education and student personnel from the University of Mississippi in 1973.

"Obviously I was not seeking an additional job, but I am honored to be asked to assist the College of Education on a temporary basis," Ruby said. "The role of the college is central to the mission of the university. I cannot imagine Mississippi State not taking a leadership role in preparing the teachers and other school personnel for this state.

"I look forward to working with the faculty and staff in the College of Education and to helping them ensure that our programs are as strong as we can make them by the time a new dean comes on board," Ruby said.

Ruby received bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from Mississippi State in 1961 and 1966, and has worked for the university since 1964, serving as vice president since 1985.

Earlier positions included dean of student administrative services, assistant to the vice president for student affairs, and director of Mississippi State's degree-granting branch in Jackson, a position he held from 1974 to 1978.



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.

Bachelor of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition, "Live Artists: 20 Cents-a-Pound: Works by Chris Crowley, Casey Hayden, Elizabeth Laird, Samuel Lawson Jr., Chris Lucius, Brady Noble, Aaron Reece, and Tommy Simmons," through May 3, Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday. 325-2970.

April 30

Mississippi Quarterly speaker series: Deborah Cohn, Vanderbilt University's Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, on William Faulkner and Latin America, John Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 7 p.m. 325-2378.

General faculty meeting, McComas Hall theater, 3:30 p.m. Discussion topics: university budget for fiscal year 2001-2002; preliminary planning for possible capital campaign.

May 1

ITS workshop: Banner: Navigation and Financial Query, McArthur Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-0631.

Lecture: E-Learning for Large Numbers of Users, Tully Auditorium of Thompson Hall, 1 p.m. 325-3222. (see story page 2)

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ITS seminar: Desktop Videoconferencing, 255 Allen, 1:30-2:30 p.m. No registration required. Kathleen Olivieri, 325-8800.

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

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ITS workshop: Banner: Payroll Entry, McArthur Lab B, 10 a.m.-noon. 325-0631.

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fine-tune the wording, the committee recommendations were approved 33-5.

The special committee of seven senate and non-senate members was formed in December after Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs David Cole requested a senate study of "the problem of grade inflation."

Embree, who chaired the committee, said the group purposefully delayed gathering until after a March 3 Senate Roundtable between faculty members and university administrators also had discussed the topic.

With the delay, committee members had the advantage of "build(ing) upon the roundtable's own discussion of MSU grading standards," Embree said. As a result, members decided to set aside the question of grade inflation "in favor of the question of grading standards," he added.

"The committee thought that bringing about more consistent grading from professor to professor and from department to department would be a major step toward bringing about more consistent [university] grading from year to year," Embree said.

The group's report said "disproportionately high grades result from a lack of consensus among professors about what letter grades actually represent—not in the abstract but in particular courses, with particular syllabi and particular objectives and requirements. There currently is no formal or required process or forum in which professors in a discipline routinely discuss, (or indeed, even know) [committee parentheses] the grades given by their colleagues."

In approving the four recommendations, senators requested that Provost Cole:

—Direct the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Institutional Effectiveness to prepare annual grade summaries displaying the following data by course and professor: number of A's, B's, C's, D's, F's, and W's; grade-point averages; number of students for each of the previous three years; and grade-point averages for each of the previous three

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School of Architecture recognition ceremony, Dr. Clyda S. Rent, Giles Hall auditorium, 1:30 p.m., reception to follow. 325-2202.

years. When compiled, the information is to be distributed to every member of each academic department.

—Direct all department heads to conduct annual meetings with their faculties, and all academic deans to conduct annual meetings with their department heads, to review and discuss the annual grade summaries. Each level of administration then is to report the results of these discussions to the provost.

—Institute pass/fail grading for practicum courses and cooperative programs.

—Direct that consistent and relevant grading practices be a standard topic in the overall assessment of teaching performances in annual reviews.

A complete summary of these and other business matters conducted at the April meeting is available on the Internet at the Holland Faculty Senate home page. It can be reached via www.msstate.edu, then by clicking on the "Academic Programs" icon and scrolling to "Organizations."

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and Princeton.

Government partnership with the IT industry has helped Swedish companies become leaders in Europe and the world in telecommunications and related industries. Ericsson Telephone Co., a manufacturer of wired and mobile communications systems for networks, is among the best known in the United States.

Hsieh is a technical consultant to several large corporations, including ABB, a diversified international firm based in Zurich, and SKF of Sweden, a manufacturing and engineering firm.

From 1990 to 1995, he was director of the science sector for UNESCO in Paris and initiated the Science-Industry Partnership program. He was responsible for UNESCO relations with the United States, Mexico, and the former Soviet Union, and was the main negotiator with Fiat, BP, Dupont, and Toyota.

Hsieh, a Swedish citizen, was born in Shanghai and grew up in France and Belgium. He holds doctoral degrees in physics and mechanics.

