

to the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University

## MAFES names Watson new associate director

Dr. Clarence E. Watson Jr., interim head of MSU's Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, is the new associate director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station.

As associate director, Watson will be responsible for planning and managing the experiment station's research efforts.

He joins Dr. Marty Fuller, MAFES associate director for external affairs, and Dr. Vance Watson, MAFES director, in leading the research organization. His appointment was effective Feb. 19.



Watson

"Dr. Clarence Watson brings a unique mix of training and experience to

this position," said Vance Watson, who also serves as interim vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine. "I'm confident that he will provide excellent leadership as part of the MAFES management team."

The Watsons are not related.

Clarence Watson will provide oversight to MAFES grants and contracts, research enhancement and federal data reporting and analysis. In addition, he will serve as a mentor to new MAFES faculty.

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in agronomy from New Mexico State University, and earned a doctorate in crop science from Oregon State University.

Watson joined the MSU faculty in 1976. He has conducted research to improve forage, row and food crops. His work has been featured in more than 200 publications, including four book chapters.

Since 1992, Watson has served as head of the MAFES Experimental Statistics Unit. He also served as an administrative adviser to the MSU Extension Service Priority Program Group for corn, soybean, horticulture, and the green industry. In addition to his service at Mississippi State, Watson has served as a consultant to the MidAmerican International Agricultural Consortium, an organization that supports the development of agriculture and natural resources programs in Mexico and Kenya.

### Tropics causing wild winter fluctuations

The cause of this winter's roller coaster Southern weather—balmy temperatures one day followed by below-freezing the next—has its origin on the other side of the world.

According to Mississippi State climatologist Michael E. Brown, a weather disturbance in the tropics of the Indian Ocean is the starting point for the cycles of unseasonably warm temperatures. Known as the Madden Julian Oscillation, the atmospheric

Continued on page 3



During recent National Engineers Week activities, the College of Engineering honored nine alumni for career and life accomplishments. Distinguished Engineering Fellows for 2002 are seated (l-r) Jimmy D. Clark, '61, civil engineering; Thomas B. Nusz, '82, petroleum engineering; Joe D. Cole, Jr., '71, industrial engineering; and Barrie McArthur, '67, electrical engineering. Standing (l-r) are David B. Beasley, '71, agricultural engineering; John D. Mauldin, '78, electrical engineering; Lester Andrews, '63, chemical engineering; Frank C. Thames, '66, aerospace engineering; and Hugh W. Coleman, '69, mechanical engineering.

## Hudson appointed to fund-raising position

A Tupelo native and Mississippi State alumnus is joining the university's efforts to raise private funds for the College of Engineering.

Blake W. Hudson, a 1989 industrial engineering graduate, is the MSU Foundation's new assistant director of development for engineering. Previously, Hudson served two years as associate director of fund development for the Campus



*Hudson*

Crusade for Christ's Southeastern region. As senior staff member for the international campus-based ministry, he coordinated fund-raising events for 10 college campuses. Prior to that, he worked for six years as an engineer with Memphis (Tenn.) Light, Gas and Water.

"Blake brings valuable fund-raising experience and engineering field experience to his new role," said Richard Armstrong, executive director of the MSU Foundation. "He will be a great asset to alumni and friends because of his knowledge of both areas."

Hudson joins John Rush, who recently was named director of development for engineering after serving more than four years as assistant director.

## MSU Women's Club scholarships offered

April 2 is the deadline to apply for the 2002 MSU Women's Club scholarships.

The \$500 awards recognize female graduate students who demonstrate records of excellence in academics, leadership, and service. They are awarded each spring for use in the following summer or fall semester.

Scholarship applicants must be U.S. citizens and enrolled full time in any graduate school discipline. The 2001 honorees were Susan Bowers in animal and dairy sciences, Dana Nettles in biomedical engineering, and Mary Margaret Wade in biological sciences.

Application forms are available in the Department of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, 117 Garner Hall. They also may be printed from the Women's Club Web site at [www.msstate.edu/dept/sfa](http://www.msstate.edu/dept/sfa).

Completed applications and supporting documents should be submitted to the same office. Faculty nominations are welcome. The Women's Club Scholarship Committee reviews the applicants' achievements and makes the final selection.

For additional information, telephone Beth Altenkirch at 325-8691.

## Presidential search firm is selected

At its February meeting, the state College Board selected a search consulting firm to assist in identifying and screening applications as part of the MSU presidential search process.

Bill Funk of Los Angeles-based Korn-Ferry International will help with candidate screening. Funk also participated in the 1998 MSU presidential search.

During March, the Board of Trustees is expected to name an advisory committee made up of 30 to 40 faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community representatives to assist in screening applicants for the president's post.

Board officials have said they hope to name the university's next president by early 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/](http://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  
Contributors—Maridith Geuder  
Sammy McDavid  
Bob Ratliff  
Fred Faulk  
Russ Houston

## Lehman to lead professional business organization

A longtime professor of management and information systems at Mississippi State is the new president of the Association for Business Communication, Southwest Region.

Dr. Carol M. Lehman, who for 16 years has taught business communication in the College of Business and Industry, will lead a professional group that fosters excellence in business communication, scholarship, research, education, and practice. The organization draws its members from academic disciplines that include marketing, English, communication, linguistics, and information systems.

Headquartered at Baruch College's New York campus, ABC is organized into five U.S. regions and four international regions. It is affiliated with the Federation of Business Disciplines, which is composed of 12 regional and national business-related organizations.

In her capacity as ABC president, Lehman will preside over a March 6-8 annual conference of her group and the federation, meeting this year in St. Louis, Mo. In addition to hosting scholarly meetings, ABC publishes *The Journal of Business Communication* and *Business Communication Quarterly*.

Lehman is a co-editor of *Business Communication*, a textbook published by South-Western Thomson Learning and used by more than one million students since it first was introduced more than three decades ago. She first was named an editor of the classic text in 1990 following a national search for successors to then-editors William Himstreet and Wayne Baty.

Lehman has taught at Mississippi State since 1985, and has two times been recognized by the business college with its Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award. She also has been recognized as the Continuing Education Faculty Member of the Year at MSU.

She received bachelor's and master's degrees in business education from the University of Southern Mississippi and a doctorate from the University of Arkansas.

# Researchers continue 'intelligent' software effort

To survive in a constantly changing environment, living creatures learn various techniques of adaptation. Wouldn't it be great if complex computer software systems could do the same?

With that goal in mind, Mississippi State engineer Bharat Soni is part of a national research team formed two years ago to develop such an "intelligent" system. Director of the Center for Computational Systems at the Engineering Research Center, he is among several MSU engineers, computer scientists and physicists working on the Adaptive Software Project.

Now at its mid-point, the four-year, \$5 million National Science Foundation-funded effort is a collaboration among Mississippi State, Cornell, Ohio State, and Clark Atlanta universities, and the College of William and Mary.

To explain the current inability of software to adapt to changes in resource requirements, Soni uses the example of a self-check line in the grocery store.

"Computers are programmed to know the regular price of goods," he said. "If there's a sale on a particular item, however, the machine needs to adapt."

On a much larger scale, that principle applies to very complex systems like those found in National Aeronautics and Space Administration launch vehicles, where changes might occur either in the computer's numerical program—its algorithms—or in the computer hardware.

"Our goal is to develop principles for building software systems that can adapt to changing conditions, not just to develop the adaptive systems," Soni said.

Mississippi State is the lead institution in one of two high-performance computer applications being undertaken to showcase the research team's efforts. In addition to Soni, the MSU team includes Dr. Joe F. Thompson, a Distinguished Professor of Aerospace Engineering, who jointly serves with Soni and the Cornell researchers as principal investigators. Computer science assistant professor Edward A. Luke and associate professor Ioana Banicescu, along with ERC researchers Roy P. Koomullil and David S. Thompson, are other MSU team members.

In moving the project ahead, ASP team members recently welcomed some 40 other U.S. scientists and engineers to MSU for an evaluation of ideas and possible solutions for developing adaptive algorithms. Non-team representatives included scientists from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, University of Texas at Austin, Department of Energy's Argonne and Sandia national

## BellSouth poster, essay contests under way

The deadline for entries to the annual BellSouth Poster and Essay Contest is March 8.

Youth from all over the state in grades one-12 have the opportunity to win \$10,200 in U.S. Savings Bonds through a poster and essay contest entitled, "Preparing for College."

Sponsored by BellSouth, BellSouth Pioneers, the Institutions of Higher Learning, the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, the Mississippi Department of Education, and the Mississippi Private School Association, the contest seeks to help students realize the benefits of a college education.

The poster contest is open to public, private and home-schooled students in grades one-five with the theme: "What I Can Be With A College Degree." Students may use any media they wish in creating posters. Poster size is limited to 22-by-28 inches.

The essay contest for grades six-eight carries the theme of "With A College Education, I Can Be Anything I Want," and for grades nine-12 the theme is "Preparing Today for College Tomorrow." The essay contest also is open to public, private and home-schooled students.

Essays should be no longer than 500 words and submitted on eight-and-a-half-by-11-inch paper. Typing is encouraged, but not mandatory. Typed entries should be double-spaced.

First-, second- and third-place winners will be chosen for each grade for both the poster and essay contests. The first-place winner will receive a \$500 U.S. savings bond; second place, a \$200 savings bond; and the third-place winner, a \$100 savings bond. An overall winner for the best entry from each of the three categories will receive an additional \$200 in savings bonds.

laboratories, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Even though the multi-university team's goal is daunting, Soni expressed confidence this week that the project is moving in the right direction.

"We believe the concepts we are developing have the potential to significantly increase the efficiency of complex numerical simulations," he said.

A three-by-five-inch card with the following information must be attached to the back of each entry: student name, school name (unless home schooled), school phone number, school address, grade, teacher's name, student's home phone number and student's home address. Entries should be mailed to:

*Continued on page 4*

---

## Weather—continued from page 1

---

condition first was identified in the mid-1970s.

"Only in the last seven or eight years have scientists begun to link the Madden Julian Oscillation with tropical storms," explains the associate professor of geosciences.

Occurring every 30-60 days, MJO creates a region of thunderstorms as it spreads eastward across the Pacific Ocean. A cycle of varying weather conditions results.

"It creates tremendous clouds, which shade the ocean surface and prevent heat over the oceans," Brown says.

Wind patterns in the MJO also have been linked to greater hurricane and tropical storm activity, he adds.

The phenomenon appears to be the strongest December-March before tapering off in the summer.

"This has been a very strong season for the Madden Julian Oscillation and the weather patterns will follow it," Brown observes. "We will have 30 days of cool weather and 30 days of warm weather."

Luckily, Brown said, the weather should be returning to a more normal seasonal pattern. "Our temperatures should now be in the lower 40s rather than the lower 80s that we've experienced in January."



## 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](http://www.msstate.edu) and click on "News" for msu.NOW!

### Ongoing Events, Activities

American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Support Group meeting, first Thursday of every month, Zeta Tau Alpha sorority house, 107 Robert Louis Jones Circle, 6-7 p.m. 324-0851.

### March

**4**

Instructional Media Center workshop: "Dreamweaver--Now the Fun Begins," ELI Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30-4:30 p.m. [library.msstate.edu/workshops](http://library.msstate.edu/workshops).

Human Subjects Research and IRB Training Session, Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium, 9:30 a.m. Jerri White, 325-0994. Register online, [www.msstate.edu/dept/compliance/irb/irbregistration.htm](http://www.msstate.edu/dept/compliance/irb/irbregistration.htm).

**5**

"Databasics: Conquering Empirical Research," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. Beth Ashmore, 325-3834.

**6**

ITS: "Banner: Navigation and Financial Query," 8:30 a.m.-noon; "Banner: Payroll Time Entry," 2-4 p.m., both in McArthur Lab B. 325-0631.

Baseball: MSU vs. Jackson State, Polk-DeMent Stadium, 4 p.m.

Instructional Media Center workshop: "Windows 2000--Tips and Tricks," ELI Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-5 p.m. [library.msstate.edu/workshops](http://library.msstate.edu/workshops).

Workshop: "Introduction to Research Insight/Compustat," ELI Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. Deborah Lee, 325-7682.

Seminar: "The Practical Professor: Copyright or Copywrong?" Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1 p.m. Jill E. Grogg, 325-8162.

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

**8**

Baseball: MSU vs. Loyola Marymount, Polk-DeMent Stadium, 4 p.m.

Women's Tennis: MSU vs. Vanderbilt, A.J. Pitts Tennis Centre, 2:30 p.m.

**9**

Continuing Education workshop: "Intermediate Word 2000 for Windows," 107 Dorman Hall, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Telephone Valerie Tate, 325-8876, for fees.

Baseball: MSU vs. Loyola Marymount, Polk-DeMent Stadium, 2 p.m.

**10**

MSU vs. Loyola Marymount, baseball, Polk-DeMent Stadium, time to be announced.

Women's Tennis: MSU vs. Kentucky, A.J. Pitts Tennis Centre, 12:30 p.m.

**15**

Men's Tennis: MSU vs. Alabama, A.J. Pitts Tennis Centre, 1 p.m.

Baseball: MSU vs. South Carolina, Polk-DeMent Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

Royal Hanneford Circus, Mississippi Horse Park, Agricenter and Fairgrounds. 325-9350.

**16**

Softball: MSU vs. South Carolina (DH), MSU Softball Field, noon.

Baseball: MSU vs. South Carolina, Polk-DeMent Stadium, 2 p.m.

**17**

Softball: MSU vs. South Carolina, MSU Softball Field, 12:30 p.m.

Men's Tennis: MSU vs. Auburn, A.J. Pitts Tennis Centre, 1 p.m.

Baseball: MSU vs. South Carolina, Polk-DeMent Stadium, 1:30 p.m.

**19**

ITS workshop: "Adobe Photoshop II, McArthur Lab A, 1:30-5 p.m. 325-0631.

Seminar: "Good Citations," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. Jill E. Grogg, 325-8162.

Lyceum Series: Guitarist Giovanni DeChiaro, Colvard Union ballroom, 7:30 p.m. For ticket prices, telephone 325-4201.

**19 and 20**

ITS workshop: Banner: Requisitions, McArthur Lab B, 8:30-5 p.m. 325-0631.

**20**

ITS workshop: "Intro to Microsoft PowerPoint 2000," McArthur Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-0631.

Seminar: "The Practical Professor: That Cheating Heart: Keeping Plagiarism Out of Your Classroom," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. Beth Ashmore, 325-3834.

Workshop: "Developing a Literature Review," ELI Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 10 a.m. Deborah Lee, 325-7682.

Baseball: MSU vs. Mississippi Valley State University, Polk-DeMent Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

**21**

ITS workshop: "Intro to Microsoft FrontPage," McArthur Lab A, 1:30-5 p.m. 325-0631.

Floral design presentation by renowned Dutch floral designer Els Hazenberg, Colvard Union small auditorium, 7 p.m. No admission charge. 325-1965.

---

### Contests--continued from page 3

BellSouth Pioneers, 110 Landmark Center, P.O. Box 811, Jackson, MS 39205.

Both poster and essay entries must be postmarked by March 8.

For more information, contact Clotee Lewis at 601-432-6647 or Malinda Prather at 601-961-2360. Information about the contest may also be found at [www.bellsouthmspioneers.org](http://www.bellsouthmspioneers.org).



### 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.