

Memo

July 8, 2002
Volume 27
Issue 1

to the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University

Pote named interim v.p. for research

Longtime faculty member and research administrator Jonathan W. Pote will serve as interim vice president for research at Mississippi State.

Beginning July 8, he assumes the duties performed for the past four years by Dr. Robert A. Altenkirch, who recently was named president of the New Jersey

Institute of Technology in Newark.

Pote has been the university's associate vice president for research since 1998 and a faculty member in agricultural and biological



Pote

engineering since 1985. The Pine Bluff, Ark., native also was director of MSU's Water Resources Research Institute 1992-98.

"Dr. Pote's record of success as a teacher, researcher, and administrator makes him well suited to ensure that operations of the Office of Research and its reporting units continue smoothly, that our federal relations efforts are sustained, and that we continue to make progress in stimulating the development of research-based industry in Mississippi," said Interim President J. Charles Lee.

Mississippi State ranks 57th among the nation's more than 600 public colleges and

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Memo from president

Efforts over the past two years to cut costs and downsize the institution in anticipation of declining levels of state support have made it possible for the university to award merit-based salary increases averaging 4 percent to faculty and staff, effective July 1.

The Legislature allocated funds for FY 2002-2003 to provide a 2 percent salary increase effective January 1, 2003, and those funds are incorporated into the raises averaging 4 percent being awarded July 1. During the first half of FY 2002-2003, the

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Study reveals risks of pre-cooked shrimp for some

A recent Mississippi State study finds that so-called ready-to-eat shrimp can be a reservoir of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and could be dangerous to people with compromised immune systems.

University microbiologist Douglas L. Marshall recently concluded a two-year study to determine if ready-to-eat shrimp is contaminated with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. The professor of food science and technology said he and graduate student Gianna Duran analyzed 13 packages of prepared shrimp products, including shrimp cocktails and shrimp salads available in grocery outlets.

"We found 657 different cultures resistant to antibiotics," Marshall said. Of the 131 different species of bacteria found, some were

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McGilberry is named new extension head

Long-time state program leader and administrative support coordinator Joe McGilberry is director of the Mississippi State Extension Service after serving one year as its interim director.

According to Dr. Vance Watson, "Dr. McGilberry's unparalleled familiarity with the new organizational structure and the philosophy behind it, coupled with his career-long focus on issues related to economic and community development, make him an obvious and excellent choice to head this major component of Mississippi State on a long-term basis." Watson is interim vice president of MSU's Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.

McGilberry was appointed interim extension director last July, having served since 1978 in various extension economic development efforts. For the 10 years prior to his appointment as interim director, he

headed the Enterprise and Community Resource Development state program area within the Extension Service.

"Dr. McGilberry assumed leadership of the Extension Service during a time of transition, and

we have depended on his experience in managing the business of the organization



McGilberry

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Floral workshops begin in August

A series of Mississippi State workshops that begin in August and conclude in January will give both amateurs and professionals training in basic and specialized floral designs.

Taught by faculty members Jim DelPrince and Lynette McDougald of the retail floristry management program, the three intensive sessions in August, October and January are intended for both new and seasoned professional florists.

Registration fee for the August workshop is \$300; \$200 for the others. The charge covers all plant materials and florist supplies.

The workshop schedules include:

—Floral design, Aug. 5-9. Being offered for the fifth year, the daylong sessions for both professionals and amateurs with entry-level educational needs will focus on cut plant materials conditioning and dish garden construction, among other topics.

—A “Celebrations Conference,” Oct. 5-6. The daylong Saturday and half-day Sunday event on the handling and design of holiday materials, home decorating and holiday weddings also will include a Saturday evening dinner party.

—Wedding and floral design, Jan. 11-12. Another full-day Saturday and half-day Sunday agenda, this one dealing with order-taking and sales techniques, as well as effective designs for bouquets, altars, pews, and centerpieces.

For more information, telephone 325-1965.

Phi Kappa Phi list adds

In compiling the names of Mississippi State faculty members inducted during the 2001-02 school year into Phi Kappa Phi honor society, two names were omitted inadvertently.

They are among more than 200 persons newly selected for membership in the university’s chapter of the leading national scholar-recognition organization that was founded in 1897 at the University of Maine.

Also inducted this year are Frances N. Coleman, MSU dean of libraries, and Dr. G. Sam Foster, dean of MSU’s College of Forest Resources and director of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center.



Workers recently put the finishing touches on an 80-foot spire that is the signature architectural feature of the Hunter Henry Center, the alumni and foundation building now under construction. The 41,000 square-foot facility will be completed this fall.

Staffers win state broadcast, P.R. awards

Communication professionals in several Mississippi State offices are bringing home top awards from recent statewide competition.

Staff members at the campus radio station WMSV-FM, the University Television Center and the agricultural communications office received a combined total of 27 awards in separate competitions sponsored by the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters and the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi. Ten gold and five first-place awards, the highest given by the respective organizations, were among the MSU honors.

Specifically:

—WMSV collected five golds at the recent broadcast association convention in Gulfport. The recognitions involved the station’s special 9/11 coverage, mid-day news program, two public service announcements, and a baseball promotional spot.

—The University Television Center received three MAB golds for “Insight,” a student-produced newscast; the Coach Ron Polk show highlighting MSU baseball; and a public service announcement related to Black History Month.

—Agricultural communications, which serves the MSU Extension Service and

other related programs, was awarded two MAB golds for a public service announcement about MSU-developed turf grass at the 2001 World Series and a program related to a state lumber enterprise.

MAB Silver Awards included:

—One to WMSV for its morning newscast.

—Two to the television center for the ThisWeek@MsState and “MSU On-Air” programs.

—Three to agricultural communications for “Southern Gardening with Norman Winter,” a public service spot related to tailwater irrigation recycling and a public affairs program focusing on sunset corn maize.

In addition, agricultural communications staff members were presented with a total of 11 awards—including five first places—at the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi’s annual meeting. These included:

—First place for the College of Veterinary Medicine bulletin, a television program titled “Catch a Dream,” a video presentation on the 4-H Centennial, the Web page msucare.com, and a public relations innovation titled MediaLink 2001.

—Second place for a television news

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Kudos

Ann Bailey, housing and residence life, is serving as vice president for partnerships on the executive council of the Southern Association for College Student Affairs. She also is a foundation board member and serves as local arrangements chair for the group's 2002 Biloxi conference.

Phillip E. Harrell, Center for Safety and Health, recently spent a week as part of an Occupational Safety and Health Administration team providing safety and health support at the remains of the World Trade Center in New York. He sampled for asbestos, silicon and metals in the air surrounding the site.

Frank M. Howell, anthropology, sociology and social work, wrote a report on the issue of maintaining the privacy of individuals who furnish data that becomes publicly available via cyberspace. The article is featured in the official bulletin of the University of Michigan's Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research. In addition, Howell was named to a blue ribbon panel created by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology to study cooperation between urban and rural leaders.

Roger L. King, electrical and computer engineering, was awarded membership in the Academy of Distinguished Alumni of the Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering at West Virginia University.

Ned B. Lovell, **Mary L. Alexander** and **Laura A. Kirkpatrick** wrote "Minority Faculty at Community Colleges," which was published by the Phi Delta Kappa Educational Foundation.

John Marszalek, recently retired from history, was voted the highest-rated speaker for the Lincoln Forum, a national Gettysburg, Pa., gathering of scholars interested in Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War.

Pete Melby, landscape architecture, and **Tom Cathcart**, agricultural and biologi-

cal engineering, recently published a new book, "Regenerative Design Techniques: Practical Applications in Landscape Design." In addition, the two were honored with a 2002 Gulf Guardian Award for a low-maintenance beach design for Biloxi.

E. Ruth Morgan and **Martin W. Brunson**, MSU Extension Service, recently collaborated on "Toxicities of Agricultural Pesticides to Selected Aquatic Organisms," a publication of the Southern Regional Aquaculture Center.

Kelly M. Tucker, Center for Safety and Health, was elected to a two-year term on the board of directors for the National Association of Occupational Safety and

MSU-Meridian faculty take Phi Delta Kappa awards from chapter

Two MSU-Meridian Campus faculty members were presented awards recently by the Meridian Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, the international education honor society.

Sandra Vaughn, associate professor and director of the social work program, and Rhonda Carr, assistant professor and coordinator of field education, were recognized during the local chapter's annual meeting.

Vaughn, also serving as interim chair of the Division of Arts and Sciences, received the College Administrator of the Year Award.

The Teacher of the Year Award went to Carr. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Carr also is adviser for the MSU-Meridian Chapter of the Association of Student Social Workers.

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

Health Consultation Programs at its recent meeting in Tuscon, Ariz.

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resistant to the most frequently prescribed antibiotics and some were capable of causing diseases, he added.

"That's not what we expected," he said. "We expected to find bacteria associated with spoilage, not those associated with human disease. There shouldn't be any illness-causing bacteria on a ready-to-eat product.

"Not only could the bacteria cause consumers to become ill, but some also are resistant to the antibiotics that would be used to treat those illnesses," Marshall observed.

Escherichia coli, salmonella cholerasius and staphylococcus aureus are among the highly resistant bacteria the MSU team found in the shrimp products.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, E. coli can cause urinary tract infections, neonatal meningitis and intestinal diseases, while salmonella infections also can lead to intestinal diseases.

The staphylococcus bacteria has the potential to cause various infections, including pneumonia and meningitis, as well as food poisoning and toxic shock syndrome.

"These bacteria are around us all the time and they rarely lead to illness, so for the average consumer the ready-to-eat shrimp products are probably not an issue," Marshall said. "People with compromised immune systems, however, including the very young, very old, people infected with HIV, cancer and chemotherapy patients, and people taking immune system suppressors, should be more careful."

He recommends persons in the high-risk categories re-cook prepared seafood products to kill possible bacteria.



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!

July 8

ITS workshop: "WebCT Specialty Area: Assessment," 1:30-5 p.m., www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php; 325-0631.

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IMC workshop: "Flash," ELI Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30-4:15 p.m., library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

ITS workshop: "Banner: Navigation and Financial Query," 8:30 a.m.-noon; "WebCT Specialty Area: Communication Tools," 1:30-5 p.m., www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php; 325-0631.

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ITS workshop: "WebCT Specialty Area: Intro to Web Graphics," 1:30-3:30 p.m., www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php; 325-0631.

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IMC workshop: "Publisher," ELI Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 10-11:15 a.m., library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

ITS workshop: "WebCT Specialty Area: Preparing Documents," 1:30-3:30 p.m., www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php; 325-0631.

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"How to Use Your Library!" Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. Beth Ashmore, 325-3834.

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story on corn yields, a segment on the weekly television program "Farmweek" and a segment of "Farmweek" on Public Radio in Mississippi.

—Third place for the magazine MAFES Research Highlights, a video spot for the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, and the Farmweek Web site.

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ITS workshop: "Banner: Requisitions," 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php; 325-0631.

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IMC workshop: "Dreamweaver," ELI Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30-4:15 p.m., library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

ITS workshop: "Banner: Requisitions," 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; "Intro to Adobe PageMaker," 8:30 a.m.-noon, www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php; 325-0631.

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ITS workshop: "Intro to Microsoft Excel 2000," 1:30-5 p.m., www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php; 325-0631.

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HRM workshop: University Police chief Tom Johnson presents "Workplace Violence," 10 a.m.-noon, Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium. Open to all employees. Register by calling 325-3713, or online at www.hrm.msstate.edu/trainingschedule.html.

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universities in total research and development activity, according to the National Science Foundation. The university ranks 34th in engineering research and fifth in agricultural research among all universities in the United States.

Pote's own research has been in the areas of water chemistry and water management and conservation, including aquaculture, environmental planning, and alternative agriculture. He has published numerous scholarly journal articles on the use of climate data in engineering design models.

He has been president of the National Institutes for Water Resources and chair of the National Association of Land-Grant Colleges and State Universities section on water resources, and is the current chair of NASULGC's board on Natural Resources.

Pote joined MSU as a faculty member in agricultural and biological engineering after earning a doctorate in the same field at the University of Arkansas. He also holds a master's degree in environmental and water resources engineering from Oregon State University and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Hendrix College in Arkansas.

IMC workshop: "PhotoShop," ELI Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 10-11:15 a.m., library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

ITS workshop: "Banner: Invoice Processing," 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; "Intro to Microsoft PowerPoint 2000," 1:30-5 p.m., www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php; 325-0631.

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ITS workshop: "Banner: Invoice Processing" 8:30 a.m.-noon; "Intro to Microsoft FrontPage," 8:30 a.m.-noon, www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php; 325-0631.

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IMC workshop: "FrontPage," ELI Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30-4:15 p.m., library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

ITS workshop: "Intro to WebCT," 1:30-5 p.m., www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php; 325-0631.

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university will fund the full amount of the salary adjustments. During the second half of the year, half of the funds will come from the Legislative appropriation and half will come from university sources. No further general salary increases are planned for the coming year.

These salary increases recognize the additional efforts required by the university's reduced staff. Thank you for your hard work and continuing commitment to Mississippi State.



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.