

October 14, 2002
Volume 27
Issue 11

memo

TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Forum to focus on 20th-century ag evolution

Leading historians in the field will examine the significance and changing face of agriculture in the rural South during an Oct. 28 and 29 public program at Mississippi State.

“Revolution in the Land: Southern Agriculture in the 20th Century” is the theme of the university’s 18th annual



Daniel

Forum on Turning Points in History. The primary speakers include:

—Pete Daniel, curator in the Division of the History of Technology at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., and an award-winning

author whose works include “Breaking the

Land: The Transformation of Cotton, Tobacco and Rice Cultures Since 1880.”

—Jack

Temple Kirby, W.E. Smith Professor of History at Miami

University of Ohio, editor of the Studies in Rural History series for the



Kirby

University of North Carolina Press and author among others, of “Rural Worlds Lost: The American South, 1920-1960.”

—Melissa Walker, assistant professor of history at Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C., and author of “All

We Knew Was to Farm: Rural Women in the Upcountry South, 1919-41,” winner of the 2001 Southern Association for Women Historians’ Rose Prize for the Best Book in Southern History; and

—Jeannie M. Wayne, history department chair at the University of Arkansas, editor of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly and author of six books, including “A New Plantation South: Land, Labor and Federal Favor in Twentieth Century Arkansas.”

Sponsored by the MSU history department, the forum’s sessions will range from rural Southern women to the influence of the U.S. Department of Agriculture since the New Deal. With the exception of the opening brown-bag lunch, all presentations will take place in the Simrall Hall auditorium and will conclude with a question-and-answer period.

Continued on page 3

United Way seeking \$98,000 in funds

The 2002-2003 United Way of North Central Mississippi campaign is under way, with nearly 150 faculty, staff and student volunteers hoping to raise \$98,000 in contributions.

MSU United Way chairperson Cedric Henson of the Comptroller’s Office said employees have begun returning their pledge cards. Contributions will be accepted through December, he added.

“Even in economic hard times, the MSU family has always shown a tremendous outpouring of support for this worthy cause with donations to help those in our community,” Henson said.

Student chair Sara Sullivan said she has been contacted by several student groups seeking to sponsor United Way fund-raising events. MSU students conduct a

Continued on page 3



Women’s basketball coach Sharon Fanning received a T-shirt recently for being the first MSU employee to contribute to the campus United Way campaign. MSU U.W. chair Cedric Henson of the Comptroller’s Office made the presentation.

English educator is named outstanding MSU humanist

Dr. Clyde V. Williams of English is Mississippi State's Outstanding Humanist for 2002.

The longtime MSU faculty member will present a public lecture at 3:30 p.m., Oct. 16, in the John Grisham Room of the Mitchell Memorial Library. Williams' topic is "The Viper in the Ointment."

The Outstanding Humanist Award program is co-sponsored annually by the MSU College of Arts and Sciences and its Institute for the Humanities, as well as the Mississippi Humanities Council. Formal

recognition will take place in Jackson at a spring semester banquet.

An associate professor of English, Williams teaches courses in literature, writing and film. The Jackson native and former newspaper reporter joined the MSU faculty in 1968. He served on the National Endowment for the Humanities administrative staff 1974-76 before returning to Mississippi State.

Williams holds a bachelor's degree

Continued on page 4

Continuing ed relaunches personal enrichment courses

The Division of Continuing Education is again offering personal enrichment classes for the fall semester.

Subjects include home computing basics, wines of the world, holiday wreath making, holiday ceramics, jewelry making, beginning guitar, piano and holiday cooking. The non-credit courses are based on past popularity, current trends and requests.

"We have been listening to community members of all ages express interest in personal enrichment classes," said coordinator Michelle Johnston.

"The division has responded by reviving some of the programs that have been popular in the past, and by adding new courses to create an eclectic mix of classes for this year.

"Our ears are open for ideas and inquiries about course topics so that we can respond quickly to the needs and desires of the community," she added.

The schedule follows:

- Home Computing: Getting Started—one class, Joni Cannon, Oct. 18, 8 a.m.-noon, 107 Dorman Hall, \$65.

- Home Computing: The Next Step—one class, Joni Cannon, Oct. 25, 8 a.m.-noon, 107 Dorman Hall, \$65.

- Cake Decorating I—five classes, Sheila Johnson, Thursdays, Oct. 24-Nov. 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Memorial Hall (Lewis-Sumner), \$60.

- Holiday Wreath Workshop—one class, Jim DelPrince, Dec. 8, 6:30-8:30

p.m., Floral Design Studio, \$45.

- Wines of the World—three classes, Cary Sutphin, Nov. 4, 11 and 25, 6-8:00 p.m., A.B. McKay Lab, \$115.

- Holiday Ceramics—two classes, Melanie Groner, Nov. 4 and 11, 6:15-8:15 p.m., Memorial Hall (Burgoyne Suite), \$75.

- Jewelry Making—one class, Melanie Groner, Oct. 24, 6:15-8:15 p.m., Memorial Hall (Burgoyne Suite), \$65.

- Beginners Pine Straw Basket Weaving—three classes, Bessie Johnson, Wednesdays, Oct. 23-Nov. 6, 6:15-8:15 p.m. Memorial Hall (Burgoyne Suite), \$55.

- Beginners Guitar—eight classes, Bo Jeffares, Mondays, Oct. 14-Dec. 2, 6-7 p.m., Memorial Hall, \$90.

- Piano for Pleasure—seven classes, Laura Stokes, Thursdays, Oct. 10-Nov. 21, 7:15-8:15 p.m., Music Building, \$100.

- You Can Cook for the Holidays—three classes, Amy Vickery: Lite Appetizers—Nov. 12, 6-8:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church; Hearty Appetizers—Nov. 21, 6-8 p.m., First United Methodist Church; Festive Desserts—Nov. 26, 6-8 p.m., First United Methodist Church; \$110.

For more information, or to request a detailed listing of classes, dates and costs, telephone Valerie Tate at 325-8876, e-mail vtate@ce.msstate.edu, or visit the Division of Continuing Education Web site at www.msstate.edu/dept/ced.

Senate historian to speak Oct. 31

U.S. Senate historian Richard A. Baker will open the 2002-03 Morris W.H. "Bill" Collins Jr. Speaker Series with an Oct. 31 public address.

Baker will speak at 3 p.m. in the John Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library.

Now in its third year, the series was named for the first director of the John C. Stennis



Institute of **Baker**

Government, one of its sponsors. Other sponsors include the library's Congressional and Political Research Center and the John Stennis-G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Association.

Baker has directed the nine-member staff of the Senate's Historical Office since its creation in 1975. In addition to his governmental duties, he has written books and numerous articles related to congressional history, including "Conservation Politics: The Senate Career of Clinton P. Anderson" and "The Senate of the United States: A Bicentennial History."

A former president of the Society for History in the Federal Government, Baker has edited collections of biographical essays on major Senate leaders and vice presidents. Before joining the Senate staff, he was a specialist in American history at the Library of Congress.

Baker holds master's degrees from Columbia and Michigan State universities, and a doctorate from the University of Maryland. He also taught courses in congressional history for Cornell University's Washington semester program and the University of Maryland.

For more information, telephone 325-0812.

United Way—continued from page 1

separate drive that is part of the overall university campaign.

This year the United Way is supporting 18 local agencies including the American Red Cross, Area Agency on Aging/Fellowship Food/Homemaker Service, Boy Scouts of America, Boys and Girls Club of Oktibbeha County, Brickfire Project, CONTACT Helpline, Epilepsy Foundation, 4-H clubs, Habitat for Humanity, Mark Mitchell Children's Shelter, North Mississippi Kidney Foundation, Oktibbeha County Humane Society, Girl Scouts of Northeast Mississippi, Recovery House Inc., Safe Haven/The Rape Crisis Center, Salvation Army, Sally Kate Winters Home, and Very Special Arts of Mississippi.

Team leaders from each of the university's 18 divisions include: Waanda Lee, Academic Affairs; Paul Welch, Administrative Affairs; Jim West, Architecture; Danette Barrier, College of Arts and Sciences; Straton Karatassos, Athletics/Bulldog Club; Anne Tolar, College of Business and Industry; Betty Purvis, College of Education; Pam Ray, College of Engineering; Joy Odom, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Cathy Dinning, College of Forest Resources; Marcia Hendren, College of Veterinary Medicine; Theresa Peay, MSU Extension Service; Laney Morgan, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station; Renee Taylor, Budget and Finance; Jenna Shook, External Affairs; Julie Berry, Student Affairs; and Marc McGee, Research.

To make a contribution, telephone Henson at 325-0511.

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/. Editorial material should be sent to Kay Fike Jones, Mail Stop 9512, or via Internet to jonesk@ur.msstate.edu.

Editor—Kay Fike Jones

Contributors—Maridith Geuder
Sammy McDavid
Bob Ratliff
Fred Faulk
Russ Houston

Forum—continued from page 1

"The 20th century saw dramatic regional changes in the nature of agriculture," said assistant professor Connie L. Lester, this year's forum coordinator.

Southern agriculture at the beginning of the last century dominated primarily through small family, tenant or sharecropper farms, Lester said. "By the end of the century, however, agriculture had become a more large-scale enterprise, with new products, new lines of capital and new technologies," she added.

Closely tied to the changes was a growing nationwide system of agricultural colleges and experiment stations and New Deal-era policies that improved credit access and farm prices, she observed.

"This forum will explore both the changes and their significance," Lester said. A concurrent exhibition at Mitchell Memorial Library will feature artifacts illustrating the history of agriculture in the rural South.

The Oct. 28 forum sessions include:

—Noon, brown-bag lunch in the Colvard Union faculty lounge. "Reconstructing the Agrarian Past: From Oral History to Remote Sensing" will be the topic of discussion by MSU faculty members and graduate students.

—2 p.m., Melissa Walker speaking on "Rural Southern Women, the Family Economy and Economic Change."

—7 p.m., keynote address by Pete Daniel titled "The USDA Legacy: From



Walker

New Deal to Silent Spring." This session will be available at MSU-Meridian by interactive video.

Events on the 29th include:

—9:30 a.m., Jeannie Whayne on "The Changing Face of Sharecropping and Tenant Farming in the



Whayne

20th Century."

—2 p.m., Jack Kirby examining "Post-Modern Landscapes of the American South."

—7:30 p.m., a concluding group discussion of the forum theme by all speakers, moderated by MSU professor emeritus John Lee of the department of agricultural economics. This session also will be broadcast by interactive video to the MSU-Meridian campus.

Additional forum sponsors include the Mississippi Humanities Council, MSU's University Honors Program, Provost's Office, Vice President for Research, Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Mitchell Memorial Library, College of Arts and Sciences, Women's Studies Program, American Association of University Women chapter, School of Human Sciences, Phi Alpha Theta honorary, and MSU-Meridian Dean's Office.

For more information, telephone the Department of History at 325-3604.

Art alumni show works

The 2002 Art Alumni Exhibition, which runs through Oct. 24, will feature the work of 17 graduates of the Department of Art.

The display is located in the department's basement gallery in McComas Hall. Operating hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

Alumni artists include: Robert Bean of Baton Rouge, La.; Celeste Brignac of Starkville; Cindy Davis of West Point; Faye Fisher of Starkville; Bart Galloway of Tupelo, former art faculty member; Mark Gammill of Villa Rica, Ga.; Rebecca Dier Hart of Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.; Cecily Hill of Meridian; Kerry Jackson of Sugar Hill, Ga.; Donna McGee of West Monroe, La.; Jacques Murphree of New Orleans; Amie Oliver of Richmond, Va., former art faculty member; Susie Ranager of Ocean Springs; Carol Roark of Enid; Virginia Rood of Bristol, England; and Laura Wells of Kingwood, Texas.

The exhibition is supported by Gretchen Gullmon, the Chalet, University Honors Program, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

For more information, telephone 325-2970.



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

Alumni art exhibition: Works by 17 MSU art graduates, through Oct. 24, Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall. 325-2970.

October

14

Bits and Bytes Workshop: "PhotoShop—A Picture Perfect Beginning," Instructional Media Center, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30-4:30 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops.

Lecture: Dr. Gerald L. Mattingly, "A Solomonic Style Gate on the Trans-Jordan Plateau," 102 Hilbun Hall, 5 p.m. 325-3826.

Workshop: "The Practical Professor: Taking Students Beyond the Internet," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. Jill Grogg, 325-8162.

14-Dec. 2

Continuing Education Personal Enrichment Course: "Beginners Guitar," Memorial Hall, Mondays, 6-7 p.m., Bo Jeffares, \$90. 325-8876, vtate@ce.msstate.edu, www.msstate.edu/dept/ced.

15

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

Faculty and Professional Women's Association brown-bag lunch meeting: Dr. Lori Bruce, "Remote Sensing to Detect Tumors," Joe Frank Sanderson Center conference room, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. 325-2179.

ITS Workshop: "Microsoft Word 2000 II," McArthur Lab A, 1:30 p.m. 325-0631, www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/index.php.

16

Workshop: "Databasics: Better Living (and

Research) Through Citation Indexes," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. Beth Ashmore, 325-3834.

ITS Workshop: "Intro to Microsoft Access 2000," McArthur Lab A, 8:30 a.m. 325-0631, www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/index.php.

Gay and lesbian faculty and staff meeting: brown-bag lunch, Counseling Center, YMCA building, noon-1 p.m. 325-1965.

Outstanding Humanist lecture: Dr. Clyde Williams, "The Viper in the Ointment," John Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3:30 p.m. (see story page 2)

17

Workshop: "Databasics: I Found the Law," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. Jill Grogg, 325-8162.

ITS Workshop: "WebCT Specialty Areas: Grade Management," McArthur Lab A, 1:30 p.m. 325-0631, www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/index.php.

17-19

Theatre MSU: "The Imaginary Invalid," McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-3320.

18

Continuing Education Personal Enrichment Course: "Home Computing: Getting Started," 107 Dorman Hall, 8 a.m.-noon, Joni Cannon, \$65. 325-8876, vtate@ce.msstate.edu, www.msstate.edu/dept/ced.

18 and 19

MAFES' Truck Crops Branch in Crystal Springs hosts 24th annual Fall Flower and Garden Fest, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. each day. Dedication ceremony for branch's first Liberty Garden, 11:30 a.m., Oct. 18. 601-892-3731.

20

MSU vs. Tennessee, volleyball, Newell-Grissom Building, 2 p.m.

21

Workshop: "eXtreme Information" Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 11 a.m. Beth Ashmore, 325-3834.

21 and 22

Theatre MSU: "Bamboozled," children's show, McComas Hall theater, 7 p.m. 325-3320.

22

Workshop: "Databasics: Talking 'bout the

Government," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. Beth Ashmore, 325-3834.

ITS Workshop: "Intro to Adobe Illustrator 9.0," McArthur Lab A, 1:30 p.m. 325-0631, www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/index.php.

22 and 23

ITS Workshop: "Banner: Requisitions," McArthur Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. 325-0631, www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/index.php.

23

ITS Workshop: "Intro to Microsoft FrontPage 2002," McArthur Lab A, 8:30 a.m. 325-0631, www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/index.php.

23-Nov. 6

Continuing Education Personal Enrichment Course: "Beginners Pine Straw Basket Weaving," Burgoyne Suite of Memorial Hall, Wednesdays, 6:15-8:15 p.m., Bessie Johnson, \$55. 325-8876, vtate@ce.msstate.edu, www.msstate.edu/dept/ced.

24

Bits and Bytes Workshop: "Illustrator—Learning the Secrets," Instructional Media Center, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30-4:30 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops.

Continuing Education Personal Enrichment Course: "Jewelry Making," Burgoyne Suite of Memorial Hall, 6:15-8:15 p.m., Melanie Groner, \$65. 325-8876, vtate@ce.msstate.edu, www.msstate.edu/dept/ced.

ITS Workshop: "WebCT Specialty Areas: Assessment," McArthur Lab A, 1:30 p.m. 325-0631, www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/index.php.

Music Education Faculty Recital Series: Sheri A. Falcone, saxophone, Bettersworth Auditorium of Giles Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$5. 325-3070.

Williams—continued from page 2

from Millsaps College, a master's from Mississippi State and a doctorate from Louisiana State University. He has done post-doctoral work at the University of Virginia, City University of New York and the Directors Guild of America.

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