

Cristil, Ruby featured in December graduation

Two of Mississippi State's best-known figures will be honored Dec. 13 as part of the university's 2002 fall graduation program.

The more than 1,400 degree candidates will share the 10 a.m. celebration in Humphrey Coliseum with storied football and basketball broadcaster Jack Cristil of Tupelo and veteran MSU administrator Roy H. Ruby.

Cristil, recently recognized for his 50 years of service as "The Voice of the Bulldogs," is receiving an honorary doctoral degree. Ruby, vice president for student affairs since 1985 and now dean of education, is the commencement speaker.

Approved for the special recognition by

the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning at its Nov. 21 meeting, Cristil—who turns 77 on Dec. 10—becomes the eighth person to receive an honorary doctorate since MSU began bestowing the high tribute in 1999.

A Memphis, Tenn., native, Cristil studied broadcast journalism at the University of Minnesota in the mid-1940s before returning home to begin work as a minor league baseball announcer for several mid-South teams. After hearing of a job opening in August 1953, he sent audition tapes to legendary athletic director C.R. "Dudy" Noble, who hired him a short time later for that season's football games.

"Jack Cristil has been telling an important part of the Mississippi State story for the past half century," said Interim President Charles Lee. "In the process, he has become an important part of a major segment of the

university's 124-year history."

Cristil's numerous accolades over the years include a record 21 separate selections as Mississippi Sportscaster of the Year and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame's only non-coach/non-athlete inductee. He also has received the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association's Ronald Reagan Lifetime Achievement Award and the National Football Foundation's Chris Schenkel Award for excellence in college broadcasting.

"That unmistakable voice on the radio is as familiar and as comforting to multitudes of Bulldog fans as that of a dear friend,"

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Student affairs veteran is interim vice president

A Mississippi State administrator who has worked with students for the past 25 years now is interim vice president for the university's Division of Student Affairs.

Dr. Jimmy W. Abraham, assistant vice president for the past two years and director of Mississippi State's student recruitment effort for 15 years before that, assumed the top student affairs post upon formal College Board approval in late November.

He succeeds Dr. Roy H. Ruby, who last spring chose to give up the vice president's position he had held since 1985 to become dean of the university's College of Education. Ruby has done double duty as both

Continued on page 2



Ruby



Cristil



MSU first lady Pat Lee recently was joined by a North Pole visitor at Mitchell Memorial Library to launch the holiday season. Library staff members continued an annual tradition of decorating a massive tree displayed in the west side entrance lobby.

International society names engineering prof 'outstanding young teacher' for 2002

For the first time since being instituted in 1972, a national award recognizing achievements in university engineering instruction is being presented to a Mississippi faculty member.

Dr. Noel N. Schulz, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at Mississippi State, is the 2002 C. Holmes MacDonalld Outstanding Young Electrical Engineering Teacher.

The award is presented annually by Eta Kappa Nu, the international honor society for electrical engineers. EKN includes more than 200 chapters spread throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

"To be singled out for this award among a high caliber of nominees denotes a remarkable record of scholarship and the highest standards of classroom teaching and service," said Dr. A. Wayne Bennett, dean of the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering. "It is among the most prestigious awards presented to young professionals in the electrical engineering

field."

Since joining the MSU faculty last year, Schulz also has been honored with the National Science Foundation's Faculty

selected for the American Society of Engineering Education's Dow Outstanding New Faculty Member Award.

In announcing Schulz's selection for the

EKN honor, organization officials cited several accomplishments, including:

- Teaching evaluations that place her among the highest-ranked faculty members in the MSU engineering college;

- A research record that includes projects funded by electric utilities and manufacturers for electric utilities;

- Contributions to professional organizations, including service as an officer of two major recognition committees or subcommittees;

- Community service that includes tutoring local first- and fifth-graders in mathematics and serving as assistant leader for a local Cub



Congratulating Noel N. Schulz (c) are Paul Jacobs of Starkville (l), former MSU department head and an EKN officer, and engineering dean Wayne Bennett.

Early Career Development Award and the Walter Fee Outstanding Young Power Engineer Award of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Prior to coming to Mississippi, she was

Scout group.

Schulz holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Tech University in her hometown of Blacksburg, Va. Her doctorate was completed at the University of Minnesota.

Abraham—continued from page 1

vice president and dean for the past six months.

Abraham now heads the division responsible for enrollment services, housing, financial aid, health services, student organizations, counseling, police, recreational sports, and other student service functions.

"Dr. Abraham brings a wealth of knowledge about MSU to this role and is revered by thousands of alumni for his enthusiastic response to their individual needs when they were students," said Interim President J. Charles Lee. "We are confident that he can do an outstanding job in this broader role."

Abraham will serve as vice president on an interim basis in order to allow the next president of the university to make a permanent appointment, Lee said. The

College Board currently is conducting a search for the next president of MSU. Lee has been interim president since Jan. 1 this year.

As director of enrollment services from 1985-2000, Abraham headed MSU recruitment efforts during a period of rapid growth and worked closely with hundreds of student volunteers involved in recruitment and new student orientation.

He previously served as assistant director of enrollment services and as a residence hall director, where he began his career with the university after receiving a master's degree in student personnel and counselor education at MSU in 1977. He also earned a bachelor's degree in marketing at MSU in 1975 and a Ph.D. in higher education

administration from the University of Mississippi in 1985.

Abraham also has been an assistant professor of counselor education and educational psychology since 1985. He became assistant vice president for student affairs in August 2000.



Abraham

Printing Services to host open house, press demo

Printing Services is hosting a Dec. 11 open house to introduce faculty and staff members to its two new color presses.

The 10 a.m.-3 p.m. event includes tours of the Auxiliary Plaza facility located on Russell Street. Refreshments will be

available.

Visitors will be treated to demonstration of the department's Heidelberg Quickmaster DI four-color press and Heidelberg Printmaster two-color press.

For more information, telephone 325-2251.

MSU United Way still accepting contributions

Contributions continue to be accepted for the MSU United Way campaign.

Campus fundraisers say nearly 90 percent of the organization's \$98,000 goal has been met.

To make a new contribution, or to add to a previous one, forward gifts to MSU United Way chair Cedric Henson at Mail Stop 9602. To arrange for payroll deduction, contact Henson or Cris Bell at 325-9417.

Correction

A story in the Nov. 18 issue of Memo on the College of Education reaccreditation incorrectly identified programs at MSU-Meridian.

The Division of Education at the Meridian campus offers undergraduate programs in elementary and secondary education and graduate programs in elementary and secondary education, counselor education and educational leadership.

Graduation—continued from page 1

Lee said. "It gives one pause to reflect on all of the history that Jack has witnessed, but that escalates into amazement when we stop to consider that he has been much more than a passive observer.

"Jack Cristil has, in fact, been the best in the business during five tumultuous decades," Lee added.

Lee also expressed high praise for Ruby, a university alumnus who returned to work at his alma mater in 1964 and went on to hold a variety of leadership positions in the Division of Student Affairs.

"Countless university students, faculty, staff, and friends have had the opportunity to appreciate Dr. Ruby's tremendous interpersonal and administrative skills in one or more of the many offices he has held at Mississippi State," Lee said. "Beginning in 1964 as program director for the Colvard Union, he progressed to coordinator of student activities, assistant dean of men, associate dean for student development, assistant to the vice president for student affairs, and dean of student administrative services, among others.

"Let us not forget that he also directed the MSU branch campus in Jackson for several years," Lee continued.

Ruby, a Yazoo City native who was raised in Belzoni, holds bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from MSU and a doctorate in higher education and student personnel from the University of Mississippi.

Ruby is a retired officer in the United States Army Reserves and a former president of the board of trustees of the Starkville Public Schools.

Like Cristil, he has been honored by the National Football Foundation; in his case, the Contribution to Amateur Football Award. He also has been recognized as an alumnus of the year by MSU's Army ROTC program.

Ruby holds membership in Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta, Pi Delta Epsilon, Phi Delta Kappa, and Golden Key honor societies.

DataBasics

By Jill E. Grogg
MSU Libraries

MSU Libraries now subscribes to Digital Dissertations, the most authoritative source for information about doctoral dissertations and master's theses. The new product allows two kinds of access to dissertations and theses: bibliographic access to materials ranging from the first U.S. dissertation, accepted in 1861, to those accepted as recently as last semester, and full-text access to dissertation titles published in digital format from 1997 forward.

Previously, MSU Libraries subscribed to Dissertation Abstracts through a different vendor that provided access only to citations and abstracts. Dissertation Abstracts and all its citations and abstracts are completely included in the new product, Digital Dissertations.

The database features more than 1.6 million entries, including some full text of the works of authors from more than 1,000 graduate schools and universities. The full-text titles (those published in digital form since 1997) are available in PDF digital format and have 24-page previews. It is important to note that the full-text files are extremely large and may take quite some time to download, depending on connection speed.

Access to Digital Dissertations is limited to the MSU community. To enter the database, go to the libraries' Electronic Indexes/Databases Web page, library.msstate.edu/resources/databases/, and navigate to Dissertation Abstracts (Digital Dissertations) in the alphabetical list. From anywhere on the campus network, access will be seamless.

If accessing from home or elsewhere, users will be prompted to enter their social security numbers for authentication as a member of the MSU community. For more information, contact the Reference Department at reference@library.msstate.edu or 325-7667.



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!

December

9-13

Final exams.

9

"Education and Industry Forum 2002," Hunter Henry Center, 9 a.m. Debbie Weeks, 325-2922.

10

Hunter Henry Center open house and tour, 2-4 p.m. 325-7000.

11

Printing Services open house and demonstration of color presses, Auxiliary Plaza, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 325-2251. (see story page 3)

Faculty and Professional Women's Association meeting, City Bagel Cafe, University Drive, Dutch treat. Tables reserved for FPWA beginning at 11 a.m. Architectural historian Joan Embree will speak on "The History of University Drive." Walking tour is possible, depending on weather. 325-2179.

13

Commencement, Humphrey Coliseum, 10 a.m. Speaker: Dr. Roy Ruby, dean of the College of Education.

20-Jan. 1

University closed for winter holidays.

31

Deadline to use Mediflex and Careflex funds. 325-3713.

January

2

University reopens.

MSU vs. Xavier, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

6

MSU vs. UAB, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

7

MSU vs. Florida, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 8 p.m.

12

MSU vs. Vanderbilt, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 2 p.m.

22

MSU vs. South Carolina, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

23

Faculty Recital Series: soprano Rebecca Koenigberg, accompanied by pianist Rose Sebba, Betterworth Auditorium of Giles Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$5, 325-3070.

MSU vs. Auburn, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

23-25

"Alliance for Graduate Education in Mississippi 2003 Winter Scholar Symposium. Jennifer Barclay, 325-0645; www.msstate.edu/dept/grad/agemsymposium/.

25

MSU vs. LSU, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 2 p.m.

30

MSU vs. Alabama, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

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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.

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February

5

MSU vs. Vanderbilt, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

8

MSU vs. Arkansas, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 4 p.m.

9

MSU vs. LSU, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 2 p.m.

12

MSU vs. New Orleans, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

15

MSU vs. Mississippi, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 6 p.m.

16

MSU vs. Kentucky, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 2 p.m.

23

MSU vs. Mississippi, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 2 p.m.

26

MSU vs. Alabama, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

27

MSU vs. Georgia, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.



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.

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