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memo

TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

English prof is associate arts and sciences dean

An English professor who helped establish the creative writing program at Mississippi State is the new associate dean of arts and sciences at the university.

Dr. Gary L. Myers, who joined the faculty in 1989, primarily will be responsible for academic affairs in the

College of Arts and Sciences, which, with 16 departments ranging from art to biological sciences to psychology to physics, is MSU's largest academic unit.



Myers

"Dr. Myers has earned the consensus respect and friendship of the college faculty and staff," said Dean Philip B. Oldham. "His experience and leadership in the arts and humanities will ensure a healthy balance in the dean's office."

Recognized with the John Grisham Faculty Excellence Award, Myers directed the university's freshman English program for six years prior to his current assignment.

An active writer, he has published more than 100 poems in magazines and journals that include, among others, the *New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *Kansas Quarterly*, and *Louisville Review*. His book, "World Effects," earned the Stanley Hanks Poetry Award from the St. Louis Poetry Center. Another book, "Lifetime Possessions," won the Riverstone Press

Poetry Prize from the West Chester, Pa.-based publishing house.

Myers holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska, a master of

fine arts degree from the Iowa Writers Workshop of the University of Iowa and a doctorate in creative writing from the University of Houston.



The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision recently hosted a visit from members of its national advisory committee. RRTC research associate B.J. LeJeune (standing, right) demonstrates some of the center's technology to committee members McArthur Jarrett of Savannah, Ga., and Patty Sarchi of Auburn, Maine.

'Teaching with Technology Showcase' set

A March 6 "Teaching with Technology Showcase" will help promote and foster the use of information technologies in teaching.

A first of its kind at Mississippi State, the 10 a.m.-3 p.m. event in the Colvard Union ballroom is sponsored by the university's Instructional Technology Services Coordinating Group. The campus body includes representatives of the various units involved in the use of instructional technology to support faculty teaching.

The showcase will highlight campus initiatives to integrate information technology into the classroom, as well as offer faculty members a look at others' successes.

In addition to faculty presentations, the program will feature displays by vendors that supply the various information technologies to Mississippi State. Companies such as

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Maynard joins Career Center

Scott N. Maynard is the new associate director of the Mississippi State Career Center and will act as liaison to the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering.

Maynard will work with students, alumni, and employers in employment matters. In addition, he will assume administrative responsibilities for Career Center special projects.

Maynard holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi State University and most recently was director of the Professional Golf Management Program in the College of Business and Industry.



Maynard

Provost search committee at work

An 11-member search and screening committee has been formed to help seek the university's next provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The group chaired by Dean of Arts and Sciences Phil Oldham will work with a consultant from the firm of Korn/Ferry International to identify candidates for the chief academic officer position by May 1.

The committee is made up of six elected faculty and five members appointed by President Charles Lee.

Elected members are Dr. Lou D'Abramo, professor of wildlife and fisheries; Dr. Paul Grimes, professor and head of finance and economics; Dr. Dawn Luthe, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology; Dr. Michael Neumann, professor of mathematics and statistics; Dr. William Smyer, associate professor of industrial engineering; and Dr. Dwayne Wise, professor of biological sciences.

Nelson Seminar to highlight faculty members' contributions

The contributions of two Mississippi State scientists will be highlighted March 4 in the university's annual Lyle Nelson Lecture Series.

During a public presentation beginning at 2 p.m. in Dorman Hall auditorium, Auburn University professor Graeme Lockaby will discuss "A Perspective on the Contributions of Lyle Nelson and George Switzer to Forest Soil Science."

Nelson, for whom the lecture series is named, is a retired MSU soil scientist now residing in Starkville, while Switzer was a forestry professor at the land-grant university. Both they and their graduate students have been recognized for major contributions to the fields of forest biogeochemistry and productivity.

Lockaby, who received a doctorate at MSU in 1981 after working with the scientists, is a professor of forest biology in Auburn's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and a nationally recognized authority in floodplain ecosystems. His research is widely published, including contributions to the *Journal of Environmental Quality* and the *Soil Science Society of America Journal*.

He completed his undergraduate and master's degrees at Clemson University.

For more information on the program, telephone 325-2311.

Teaching teleconference is March 6

A teleconference to explore student learning will be held March 6 for faculty and staff members.

Sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and Division of Student Affairs, "Engaging Students in Learning" is scheduled for noon-2:30 p.m. in the Wise Center auditorium.

A panel discussion will feature Betsy

Barefoot, co-director of the Policy Center on the First Year of College, Brevard (N.C.) College; Patricia King, professor of higher education, University of Michigan; and George Kuh, Chancellor's Professor and director of the National Survey of Student Engagement, Indiana University.

The panelists will discuss overcoming barriers to student success, strategies for involving students that lead to learning, and an exploration of national and local assessment instruments designed to increase understanding of students' engagement and achievement.

During the teleconference, participants will have the opportunity to call and e-mail questions live to the panelists. In addition, MSU psychology professor Tom Carskadon will lead a 30 minute post-teleconference discussion.

For more information, telephone Student Affairs at 325-3045.

Appointed by the president are Oldham; Josh Blades, a junior political science major; Dr. Margaret Kern, associate professor and associate director of the Animal Health Center in the College of Veterinary Medicine; Ruth Prescott, assistant vice president for academic affairs; and Dr. Roy Ruby, dean of education.

The committee met with consultant John Kuhnle last week.

In his charge to the committee, Lee asked the group to be aggressive in identifying qualified candidates, including minorities, and to forward to him the names of three or four individuals for campus interviews. Oldham urged the entire campus community to nominate potential candidates.

Nominations should be sent by e-mail

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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.

University personnel consider animal safety

While some people are preparing for a biological crisis with duct tape and plastic, Mississippi State representatives are considering the animals in the food supply and the veterinarians who examine them.

John Huston knows he cannot predict a crisis impacting animals, but he wants to be prepared. Huston is the Prairie Research Unit facilities coordinator with the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. He also serves as an animal technician on the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team, a federally funded program providing disaster relief to animal victims.

In December, he attended an intensive VMAT training session in North Carolina. Participants were trained in animal handling, foreign animal diseases, bioterrorism, and food safety, and they went through a mock disaster situation of a hurricane hitting North and South Carolina.

"The training was intense because right now we have a heightened awareness of

the potential threats that exist, especially terrorism," Huston said.

Since 1998, VMAT has provided veterinary assistance in disasters such as Hurricane Floyd in North Carolina, the foot-and-mouth outbreak in the United Kingdom and the World Trade Center attack.

When a crisis occurs, VMAT issues a call to its members. The veterinarians and technicians respond on a voluntary basis because of the typical 30-day commitment required. Members work cooperatively with local veterinarians and emergency responders to triage and stabilize patients.

"It is critical to work with the organizations that already exist in a disaster area," Huston said. "From the events of Sept. 11, 2001, we learned how important it is for groups like the police, fire department and emergency medical teams to work together in a crisis. We would apply this same tactic to a disaster involving animals."

MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine

also is making an effort to educate veterinary practitioners about preventing and preparing for disaster situations or disease outbreaks.

Dr. Carla Huston, John's wife and assistant professor of epidemiology at CVM, recently lectured on biosecurity procedures at the Foreign Animal Disease Short Course at MSU.

"Biosecurity refers to measures taken to prevent the introduction or reintroduction of diseases into susceptible populations," she said. "For farmers and agricultural workers, these steps include quarantine of new or sick animals, knowing the sources of new additions, cleaning and disinfecting, and restricting visitors and vehicles."

Showcase—continued from page 1

WebCT, Sun Microsystems, Thomson Publishing, Microwarehouse, and Howard Computers will demonstrate products that can be used both in and outside the classroom.

Dr. Brad Carter, recently retired associate provost for instructional technology, said the idea for the showcase grew from the university administration's commitment to instructional technology and the work of the ITS Coordinating Group.

"The showcase is aimed at faculty and others involved in instructional delivery," Carter said. "The goal is to provide a forum for faculty to learn from others of their experiences using technology in instruction and learning and to give the faculty a better opportunity to learn what university support is available to assist them with the use of technology in their courses."

Supporting information on available campus resources will be provided during the program by staff members from ITS, University Libraries, Division of Continuing Education, University Television Center, and the MSU Extension Service.

Door prizes such as a CD burner and digital camera will be awarded throughout the day.

For more information, to see a complete list of vendors or a schedule of faculty presenters and their topics, access the event's Web site at www.instr-tech.msstate.edu/showcase.

Logan Canyon Winds to perform at MSU

The Logan Canyon Winds, a Utah-based wind quintet, will perform in



Logan Canyon Winds

concert March 4 as part of the university's Lyceum Series.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. program in McComas Hall theater are \$6 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens (65 and over by request), \$2 for children ages 3-12, and \$4 for groups (10 or more). Individual tickets are available only at the door, and MSU students will be admitted free with student identification.

The quintet, in residence at Utah State University, is composed of Leslie Timmons, flute; Susan Swidnicki, oboe; Nicholas Morrison, clarinet; Carolyn Bodily, bassoon; and Craig Knutson, horn.

The Logan Winds ensemble performs music ranging from light 20th century classical to historical styles and often includes music from various cultures.

For more information on the Lyceum Series concert, please telephone 325-4201 or visit www.msstate.edu/dept/lyceum.

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



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

MSU Art and Design Competitive Exhibition, Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall basement, through March 20. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4 p.m. 325-2970.

March

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Affirmative Action workshop: "Managing Workplace Diversity," Mitchell Memorial Library presentation room, 10-11:30 a.m. Registration is required. 325-3713; helms@hrm.msstate.edu.

Hazardous Waste Management Training, Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium, 2:30 p.m. Marian Hughlett, 325-3294.

Planning meeting for Staff Appreciation Day, Coskrey Auditorium, Memorial Hall, 10:30 a.m. 325-0664.

Lyle Nelson Lecture Series: Dr. Graeme Lockaby, "A Perspective on the Contributions of Lyle Nelson and George Switzer to Forest Soil Science," Dorman Hall auditorium, 2 p.m. 325-2311. (see story page 2)

Lyceum Series: "Logan Canyon Winds," McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-4201. (see story page 3)

4 and 6

Continuing Education Personal Enrichment Course: "Conversational Spanish I," Emma Rodriguez, Memorial Hall, 6-8 p.m. \$70. 325-8876; vtate@ce.msstate.edu; www.ce.msstate.edu/pe/.

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Teleconference: "Engaging Students in Learning," Wise Center auditorium, noon-2:30 p.m. 325-3045. (see story page 2)

"Teaching with Technology Showcase," Colvard Union ballroom, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. www.instr-tech.msstate.edu/showcase. (see story page 1)

6, 13, 20, 27

Continuing Education Personal Enrichment Course: "Cake Decorating I," Sheila Johnson, Lewis-Summer room, Memorial Hall, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$65. 325-8876; vtate@ce.msstate.edu; www.ce.msstate.edu/pe/.

6, 20, 27, April 3, 10

Continuing Education Personal Enrichment Course: "Piano for Pleasure" Laura Stokes, Music Building, 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$100. 325-8876; vtate@ce.msstate.edu; www.ce.msstate.edu/pe/.

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

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

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"Research and Dissertation Basics Seminar," ELI Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 10 a.m. To register: Deborah Lee, 325-7682; library.msstate.edu/workshops/Survival.asp.

Workshop: "Databasics: Finding the Full Text," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-2 p.m. Jill Grogg, 325-8162, jjgrogg@library.msstate.edu.

Continuing Education Personal Enrichment Course: "Introduction to Ceramics," Tom Love, 209 IED Building, 6-8 p.m. \$90. Five classes, Tuesdays, through April 15. 325-8876; vtate@ce.msstate.edu; www.ce.msstate.edu/pe/.

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Human Resources Management workshop:

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to Korn/Ferry at Karen.Vassar@kornferry.com. Applications and nominations should be submitted by April 1. A complete position announcement is online at www.ur.msstate.edu/news/announce/provostsearch.asp.

The next provost and vice president for academic affairs will succeed Dr. George Verrall, who returned from retirement a year ago to assume the position on an interim basis.

"Overview of Supervisory Responsibilities," 150 McArthur Hall, 1-5 p.m. Open to supervisory employees and registration is required. 325-3713; helms@hrm.msstate.edu.

U.S. Professor of Year nominations invited

The university's Instructional Improvement Committee is seeking nominations for the U.S. Professors of the Year program by March 21.

The program to recognize outstanding professors is sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

National winners are named each year in four categories based on institutional size and type. One State Professor of the Year also is named from each state, and may come from any size or type institution of higher education. Four Mississippi State faculty members have been named Mississippi's Professor of the Year during the past seven years.

A university may nominate up to three faculty members for 2003 Professors of the Year honors. They must teach at the undergraduate level and must have taught during at least one semester of the 2002-2003 academic year. They may be of any rank and may teach full time or part time.

The Instructional Improvement Committee will solicit nominations, gather supporting data and select up to three nominees for the honor. To recommend a nominee, submit by March 21 a one-page statement summarizing the faculty member's education, teaching experience, other teaching awards, publications, service, and other significant contributions to Dr. Taha Mzoughi, Chair, Instructional Improvement, Mail Stop 9538, or e-mail mzoughi@ra.msstate.edu.

The nominees and their nominators will be contacted by the committee after March 21 and asked to provide additional supporting materials, which must be mailed to CASE or submitted online by April 25. CASE will not accept self-nominations or nominations by students.

A copy of the "2003 Call for Entries" brochure, which includes a more complete description of the program, its rules and regulations, and nomination procedures, is available online at www.case.org/poy/PDF/2003USPOYCFE.pdf.