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# memo

TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF  
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

## Gift by Delta businessman supports center

A \$2.5 million donation by Fred E. Carl Jr. of Greenwood will support increased small town design research and education at the College of Architecture.

The major commitment to the university by the president of Viking Range Corp. and Viking Capital Ventures will endow the college's Small Town Center, now renamed the Carl Small Town Center.

Carl, a fourth-generation Leflore County entrepreneur and former MSU architecture student, long has been a major supporter of student scholarships, student recruiting efforts and specific small town projects undertaken by the college.

College Dean James West said the gift will ensure stable funding for operational, staffing and materials needs of the center for years to come.

"This endowment by Fred Carl and Viking Range Corp. to create the Carl Small Town Center will provide resources to expand the scope and depth of the center's involvement and increase the number of communities we serve," West said.

The center has developed a national reputation for its assistance to rural Mississippi towns with various aesthetic and structural challenges. Established in 1979—six years after the state's only university program in architecture itself was launched—the non-profit unit also utilizes its community projects as real-world teaching tools for architecture majors.

"The Small Town Center always has believed in the value of good design to bring order and meaning to the built environment in support of a higher quality of life," West said. "Fred Carl has embodied this philosophy in his business and his work and this gift is another example of his personal commitment to make it a reality in the small towns of Mississippi."

West said the center now will be equipped to engage more students and

faculty in community assistance projects. "This focused engagement helps communities enhance their physical environments and create stable, safe and healthy towns that reveal their unique heritages and diverse values," he added.

College alumna Kimberly Brown said the center she directs has worked with or researched about 24 projects over the past year. Of that number, all have involved Mississippi towns and communities, she added.

Among some recent efforts cited by Brown: a transit feasibility study for Starkville, a variety of architecture-related challenges in the Mississippi Delta town of Jonestown and the design of Habitat for

Humanity homes in Meridian and Starkville.

"I join Dean West and everyone else in the College of Architecture in thanking Mr. Carl for his generous support," Brown said. "These are exciting times for architecture research and education at Mississippi State, especially now that we have this endowment to be used to promote the role of architectural research in small town design."

Founded by Carl in 1987, Viking Range manufactures and markets

*Continued on page 4*



*Carl*

## Iowa State administrator named provost

The dean of Iowa State University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has been named to the second-ranking position at Mississippi State, pending state College Board approval.

Dr. Peter W. Rabideau is the university's new provost and vice

president for academic affairs. A professor of chemistry, Rabideau earlier served as dean of the College of Basic Sciences at Louisiana State University.

"Dr. Rabideau emerged as the candidate ideally suited for this vital position by virtue of his outstanding credentials as a scholar, his extensive critical experience as an academic dean at two land-grant universities, and his reputation for getting important things done," said MSU President Charles Lee.



*Rabideau*

*Continued on page 4*

# Bonfanti to head international services office

A Mississippi State administrator who has headed the English as a Second Language program since 1999 is the new director of the International Services Office.

Philip Bonfanti succeeds Helen Zuercher, who recently retired. In addition to his ESL duties, Bonfanti also served for the past year as the interim director of the Division of Continuing Education.

"Phil Bonfanti has shown administrative leadership in his roles at Mississippi State, and he brings an extensive knowledge of international education issues to this position," said Dr. Jimmy W. Abraham, interim vice president for student affairs.

While ESL manager, Bonfanti served as Designated School Official, a position required by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to ensure compliance with federal laws and regulations. He is a member of the Association of International Educators and the World Neighbors Association.

The International Services Office, a part of the Student Affairs division, provides services and programs to assist students and scholars in meeting their responsibilities as non-immigrant visitors. The office annually serves approximately 900

students and scholars representing 73 countries.

"One of our immediate challenges is responding to the new federal tracking system for international students," Bonfanti said. Known as the Student Exchange Visitor and Information System, the INS-developed



*Bonfanti*

Internet system requires the tracking and monitoring of non-immigrant students and exchange visitors and their dependents.

In addition to meeting new federal requirements, Bonfanti said the office will expand cultural programming to benefit international students and the MSU community.

An MSU doctoral candidate in educational leadership, Bonfanti holds a bachelor's degree in French from Louisiana Tech University and master's degrees from the University of New Orleans in English, from Eastern Washington University in creative writing, and from the University of Arizona in library science.

## Technology could streamline oil production

Mississippi State has successfully tested an environmentally friendly oil-water separation system that could increase petroleum production and save millions of dollars in recovery costs.

The innovative XpaK family of systems, developed by Nu-Corp International Technologies Inc. of Byhalia, was shown in recent tests conducted by MSU's Diagnostic Instrumentation and Analysis Laboratory to recover more than 99 percent of the oil from oil-water mixtures with no detectable water contamination.

According to Nu-Corp officials, the pressurized recovery system processes mechanical emulsions without the need for chemical or other additives. The single-pass separation process can increase crude oil margins and refined petroleum production, and recover lost refined products associated with refining operations.

"Successful implementation of the XpaK enhanced recovery system will provide four important benefits to domestic oil producers: reduced capital equipment costs, reduced operating costs, increased yields of oil and improved environmental stewardship," said Dr. John Plodinec, director of DIAL.

"Once commercialized," he added, "XpaK should provide high recovery rates in applications as diverse as used oil at airports, end-of-run oil wells and oil recovery from our nation's 'Ghost Fleet'."

decommissioned ships that are awaiting dismantlement and are considered attractive targets for terrorists.

Plodinec said DIAL and Nu-Corp, which will manufacture and market XpaK, are seeking federal funding to conduct a large-scale demonstration of the new system at an oil-field site near Heidelberg sometime in the near future. Denbury Resources Inc., an independent oil and natural gas company based in Dallas, Texas, has agreed to provide in-kind support for additional testing. DIAL researchers involved in the project include John Etheridge, Arun Kumar and Larry Pearson.

## SARS resource guide available electronically

Persons seeking the latest in accurate and reliable information about the severe acute respiratory syndrome affecting many parts of the globe now may consult an online research guide recently established by Mississippi State.

Available at [nt.library.msstate.edu/resources/guides/](http://nt.library.msstate.edu/resources/guides/), the guide contains links to nearly 20 Web sites, including the Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization and Mississippi State Department of Health, among others. Updates will be added as new information sources become available.

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**Mississippi State**  
UNIVERSITY  
**125 YEARS**  
1878—2003

## Molen named distinguished engineering prof

An electrical engineering professor is the first holder of a new endowed professorship in the university's Bagley College of Engineering.

Dr. G. Marshall Molen, an 11-year faculty veteran, recently became the Ergon/Diversified Technology Inc. Distinguished Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The professorship was established last year to provide leadership in electrical and computer engineering education and research, as well as outreach efforts to industrial clients.

A unit of Ergon Inc. of Jackson, Ridgeland-based DTI has become a leader in the industrial and commercial computer industry since its founding in 1971. As a part of one of the largest private corporations in America, DTI develops and fabricates products primarily for communications, telephone, military, aerospace and medical markets.

A recognized authority in power electronics, Molen directs the department's High Voltage Laboratory. He also currently heads defense-related research projects the university is conducting for the U.S. Office of Naval Research and the Army Space and Missile Defense Command. He served as department head from 1992-2002.

A Greenville, Texas, native, Molen holds bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Texas Tech University.

## Houston reception scheduled for Sept. 19

A reception for Bulldog football fans attending the Mississippi State-University of Houston game is scheduled for Sept. 19.

The one-hour get-together will begin at 6 p.m. at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo-Reliant Center. The Texas event is sponsored by the MSU Alumni Association, Bulldog Club and the MSU Foundation.

Tickets are \$10 and \$22. Parking is \$7 per vehicle. The deadline to reserve a spot is Sept. 5.

For more information, telephone Dianne Jackson at 325-3444.



*Jim Schrock, lab operations supervisor for the Aerospace Engineering Department, made his way across campus recently on a six-foot Schwinn unicycle. Schrock is a member of the local unicycle club.*

## Professor co-authors 'bass handling' book

A Mississippi State professor is the co-author of a detailed new guidebook for fishing tournament organizers and the anglers who compete in the wildly successful aquatic challenges.

Hal Schramm of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center has collaborated with Gene Gilliland of the Oklahoma Fishery Research Laboratory to produce "Keeping Bass Alive: A Guidebook for Anglers and Tournament Organizers."

Focusing on ways to maximize the survival of bass caught and released during tournaments, the 44-page booklet is published by BASS/ESPN Productions Inc. The guide also is designed as an aid to tournament hosts and bass boat owners, dealers and manufacturers.

"All of these groups have interests in and responsibilities for maximizing the survival of bass caught and released during tournaments," Schramm said. "By following procedures described in this book, we believe survival of bass caught and released in tournaments can consistently be over 90 percent, even under the toughest conditions."

In addition to leading the MSU-based U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Schramm is a professor of fisheries in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. A member of the faculty since 1993, he holds degrees from the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University.

Begun in 1967 by Montgomery, Ala., resident Ray Scott, BASS now enrolls more than 600,000 members worldwide. Since its beginnings, the organization has worked to create "a credible and honorable tournament trail, improve the environment by uniting and amplifying the voices of anglers, and secure the future for youth."

BASS is a wholly owned subsidiary of ESPN, the Entertainment Sports Programming Network. The national multimedia sports entertainment company purchased BASS in 2001.

Copies of "Keeping Bass Alive" may be obtained by contacting the BASS Conservation Department at (334) 272-9530 or [conservation@bassmaster.com](mailto:conservation@bassmaster.com).



## 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 21

Instructional Media Center workshop: "PowerPoint Basics," ELI Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30 p.m. Bobbie Huddleston, 325-7676.

### 22

ITS workshop: "Banner: Invoice Processing," McArthur Hall computer lab, 8:30 a.m. 325-0631.

### 23

Last day to withdraw from the university.

Instructional Media Center workshop: "PhotoShop: Picture Perfect Beginning," ELI Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30 p.m. Bobbie Huddleston, 325-7676.

### 29

ITS workshop: "Banner: Electronic Approvals," McArthur Hall computer lab, 10 a.m. 325-0631.

### 31 and Aug. 1

Final exams.

### August

#### 2

Summer graduation.

#### 4-8

Floral design workshop, University Florist, 8 a.m. Registration fee after July 21 is \$350. Jim DelPrince, 325-1965.

#### 18 and 19

Final registration for fall semester.

#### 19

New student orientation.

#### 20

Classes begin.

#### 30

MSU vs. Oregon, football, Scott Field, 8 p.m.

#### 31

MSU vs. South Alabama, soccer, MSU soccer field, 1 p.m.

### Carl—continued from page 1

professional-grade kitchen appliances for the home. With headquarters on historic Cotton Row in downtown Greenwood, the company employs more than 1,000 in three Leflore County manufacturing facilities. The company also is constructing a research and development complex adjacent to the MSU campus that will serve as an engineering testing ground for new Viking products.

West credited the Carl gift to the businessman's personal experience with the center's staff. In 2002, Viking provided a grant to investigate the potential for revitalizing the much-declined Cotton Row, a five-block area that fronts the Yazoo River along Howard Street. This followed other projects in Greenwood, including a design by the Small Town Center for the redevelopment of the impoverished Baptist Town neighborhood.

Recently, the company also renovated and reopened the Hotel Irving, another historic structure near Cotton Row. Now called The Alluvian, the dramatically modernized facility serves as an upscale residence for visiting Viking distributors from around the country, as well as a steady stream of Delta tourists.

In addition to the College of Architecture, Carl serves on the MSU College of Business and Industry's advisory board and MSU Foundation's board of directors. He also is a board member of Trustmark National Bank, Mississippi Partnership for Economic Development and Greenwood-Leflore County Economic Development Foundation.

Carl was inducted into the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame in 2002.

## September

### 1

University closed for Labor Day holiday.

### Rabideau—continued from page 1

At Mississippi State, the provost and vice president for academic affairs is the chief academic officer of the university and the second-ranking institutional executive officer. The position provides leadership for MSU's eight academic colleges, with oversight for academic programs and services, institutional effectiveness of academic programs, and recruitment and development of faculty.

"This position is critical to Mississippi State's goal of becoming a premier undergraduate teaching and research institution," Lee noted. MSU currently enrolls more than 16,600 students and has more than 930 full-time faculty members.

At Iowa State, Rabideau developed the concept for a recently implemented Institute for Science and Society, a partnership between the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Agriculture. The institute studies the impact of science on society and society on the conduct and use of scientific research.

He also developed a new divisional structure for that university's College of Basic Sciences and recruited the leadership team to develop a \$10 million endowment campaign for the music and theater department, among other accomplishments.

Rabideau holds a bachelor's degree from Loyola University of Chicago and master's and doctoral degrees from Case Western Reserve University. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has held national appointments with the American Chemical Society and the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences.

Rabideau succeeds Dr. George Verrall, who has served in an interim capacity for the past 18 months.

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