

Harden is new department head

Dr. James C. Harden is assuming duties as head of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Harden, whose background includes commercial work in wireless cardiac monitoring and digitally tuned radios, was promoted last month. He had held the post on an interim basis since his predecessor, Marshall Molen, was appointed to an endowed professorship in 2002.

"We are fortunate to have a person with his industrial and academic experience to lead the electrical and computer engineering department," said Dr. A. Wayne Bennett, dean of the Bagley College of

Engineering. "I am excited about working with him as we plan the next phase in the growth and development of the college."

Harden, an associate professor, was the department's computer engineering coordinator from 1996-2002 and served from 1990-96 as computer architecture thrust leader for the university's National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center for Computational Field Simulation at MSU. His industry experience includes early commercial work in wireless cardiac monitoring employing digital telemetry and Chrysler's first prototypes of digitally

tuned radios.

Harden earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, respectively, from Mississippi State in 1965, Georgia Institute of Technology in 1966 and Texas A&M University in 1985. He was named an MSU Hearin-Hess Distinguished Professor in 1991.



Harden

Online employment system to be launched December 1

MSU's new paperless online employment system developed in partnership with the PeopleAdmin software company will become active on Dec. 1.

The Internet-based recruiting and employment system will automate many of the paper driven aspects of the hiring process and improve communication, said Human Resources Management Director Ann Bell.

The system will provide seven-day, 24 hour access from any computer with an Internet connection.

Prospective employees will be able to search for available positions, create or edit their application, and apply for positions online. Applicants for faculty, professional and executive positions will be able to submit letters of application, résumés and other documents electronically as attachments. Provisions will be made to accept transcripts or other paper documents that cannot be submitted electronically.

Hiring departments will be able to create and track a Position Approval Request Form electronically, review applicants' materials submitted online and make the

documents available in a secure environment to search committees, eliminating the need to copy and distribute supporting materials.

For prospective employees, public access computers will be available on campus in Human Resources Management, where applicants also may receive assistance when applying, if needed.

Computers with Internet access also are available at MSU Extension Service offices and Employment Security offices throughout the state, at Emerson Family School in Starkville and at many public libraries.

As of Dec. 1, job seekers will be able to apply online at www.jobs.msstate.edu or by clicking on the "Employment at MSU" link on the university home page at www.msstate.edu and selecting "Employment Opportunities."

HRM is offering training sessions starting this week for university personnel involved in the hiring process, beginning with departments that generally have the most hiring activity. Both training seminars and one-on-one assistance from HRM

generalists will be provided for as long as needed, and an online tutorial also will be available. HRM will contact departments to schedule training.

A similar online employment system already is in use at other universities including Auburn, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Texas A&M. University employees and job seekers at those institutions have adapted to the system quickly and easily, HRM officials said.

The PeopleAdmin company specializes in helping universities and government agencies with automation of the recruitment and selection process.

To assist in the transition to the Online Employment System, departmental employees who are involved in the hiring process may attend one of the scheduled training sessions:

- Tuesday, Nov. 18, McArthur Hall Lab A, 2-4 p.m.;
- Wednesday, Nov. 19, McArthur Hall Lab B, 2-4 p.m.;
- Thursday, Nov. 20, McArthur Hall Lab A, 9-11 a.m.;
- Friday, Nov. 21, McArthur Hall Lab B,

Continued on page 4

New study analyzes economic impact of marine resources

A new Mississippi State study confirms that commercial sport fishing is both good recreation and very good business—more than \$35 million in good business, to be exact.

A recent research project by the university's Forest and Wildlife Research Center focused both on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the state as a whole. Forestry graduate student Emily Loden of Fulton surveyed 630 anglers and marine activity participants during 2001 to gather data on spending patterns and recreational choices.

She found that marine-related economic impacts totaled \$31.8 million in coastal Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties and \$35.9 million statewide. Additionally, coastal marine resources supported 585 regional jobs and nearly 100 state-wide full- and part-time jobs.

Funded by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, the study was designed to help policy-makers and the public realize the economic value on areas of low-impact natural resource-based recreation activities, said Dr. Steve Grado, an associate professor of forestry.

"We knew that marine-related recreational and tourism expenditures contributed to both the state and local economy," Grado said. "Little information was available, however, on the actual economic impacts of marine resources of the Mississippi Gulf Coast."

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.

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To fill the information void, the MSU research team looked at a variety of activities, including on-shore fishing, fishing tournaments, and marine-related museums, festivals and educational centers.

Policy-makers and the public are often challenged with land-use issues, often between developing and conserving the resource," Grado explained. "Placing an economic value on activities justifies funding of existing public areas and also validates the building of additional public sites."

The study recommended that the amount and quality of public outdoor recreation sites and events on the Mississippi Gulf Coast be increased and improved to promote the use and conservation of marine resources. Doing so will correspondingly increase their economic values.

"Our research clearly indicates that fishing and related activities on the Gulf Coast benefit the three coastal counties and Mississippi," said MSU wildlife biologist Jeanne Jones, an associate professor of wildlife and fisheries. "Further research is needed on a multi-state level to estimate the economic impacts of marine-related activities on the entire Gulf of Mexico."

To better assess overall marine angling expenditures in Mississippi, the researchers also called for additional study of expenditures by private pier operators and private-boat marine anglers.

"Studies such as these will aid governmental entities in decision-making crucial to the conservation of these coastal ecosystems and are important in determining more precisely the value of Mississippi's natural resources," Jones said.



Army human resources officer to speak

A senior Army Reserve officer who helped mobilize U.S. troops for duty in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan speaks here Nov. 19.

Col. Leonette W. Slay of Birmingham, Ala., will discuss women's leadership in the military during a noon public program at the Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium.

Her visit is sponsored by the university's Faculty and Professional Women's Association.



Slay

Slay, a West Point native and Millsaps College graduate, has served since 2001 as assistant chief of staff for the Birmingham-based 87th Division (Training Support) that mobilized more than 15,000 troops for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Slay received a direct Army commission in 1976 after completing a master's degree from the University of Texas' Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. In 1997, she was appointed to command the 324th Replacement Battalion in Starkville. From 1999 until assuming her current position in 2001, she led the newly activated 310th Personnel Group in Fort Jackson, S.C.

During a nearly three-decade military career, Slay has held a variety of other assignments, including military intelligence posts at Ft. Knox, Ky., and administrative positions at installations in Germany and the Pentagon. Her awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service and Joint Staff Commendation medals, among others. She also received the Horatio Gates Bronze Medal for service to the Adjutant General's Corps.

Architect views future of manufactured housing

Affordable, easily constructed off-site and readily transported, mobile homes long have offered a way for many state residents to own a home.

As a Mississippi State architecture professor observes, however, the very features that make manufactured housing affordable also can create long-term issues of expense and questionable returns on investment.

“The initial investment in the typical mobile home is significantly less than that of a conventional home, but the owner will probably incur enormous energy costs over time,” Michael Berk said. “In addition to paying higher insurance rates, the owner also loses equity with the investment.”

Through the Fred Carl Small Town Center in MSU’s College of Architecture, Berk is proposing a next-generation affordable mobile home that may alter current realities. He envisions units built off-site of insulated structural panels made from Mississippi wood products.

Berk said several in-state companies now manufacture the panels, which incorporate two outside layers of wood with insulation sandwiched in between. With a super-high R-value they offer greater energy efficiency, he added. (R-value is the measure of resistance to heat flow; the higher the R-value, the more the material insulates.)

Instead of metal or vinyl siding exteriors, Berk’s mobile home would have wooden siding exteriors made of harvested, naturally finished cedar or cypress, both sustainable products. Also added would be interior walls of wood veneers that require no painting.

As a result of these factors, Berk said, the new structures would meet standard building codes and be qualified for conventional mortgage financing and homeowner’s insurance.

He and Carl Small Town Center director Kimberly Brown currently are developing a proof-of-concept that will lead to construction of a prototype. With a grant from Jackson-based Mississippi Home Corp., the center also is completing a master plan for a mobile home park in



Michael Berk (l) and Kimberly Brown of the Carl Small Town Center look over an architectural model of the center’s proposed sustainable mobile home. Architecture intern Jason Pressgrove of Jackson (c) assisted with the project.

the growing Northwest Mississippi town of Tunica, home to a number of major casinos.

“We’re proposing to build mobile homes more solidly, weld them on-site to helical foundation piers for increased stability and incorporate the site into an overall sustainable design,” Berk explained. “As a result, they would increase in value rather than depreciating and would help the homeowner realize energy savings over the life of the home.”

Like current mobile homes, Berk’s model could be pre-assembled and transported on state highways. Unlike their current counterparts, the next-generation mobile homes would offer clip-on “saddle bag” room kits that include porches, areas for washer and dryers, and other spaces that would expand the traditional mobile home envelope.

“The structure becomes open rather than fixed,” Berk said. “Homeowners can add the clip-ons according to their own preferences and budgets.”

Brown said that, in addition to porches, the outdoor design would include southern overhangs to protect from the sun in the summer and decrease energy costs; photovoltaic panels to collect energy for later use; and either shingle pattern or standing seam metal roofs, which she and Berk agree is “the smartest material for use in Mississippi.”

Brown said indoor appliances “would be selected for their federal Energy Star ratings, including a ductless heating and cooling system and a tankless hot water system.” An interior clerestory wall would promote air circulation and daylight throughout the structure.

“The thin, long shape of standard single-wide mobile homes actually makes them a perfect shape for cross-ventilation,” Berk said, noting that his plan also calls for siting the home to take advantage of trees and natural ventilation.

“Our proposal is to modify the end product so that the homeowner realizes benefits now and long into the future,” he said.



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 "Calendar of Events."

Ongoing Events, Activities

BFA Thesis Exhibition, through Dec. 5, McComas Hall Department of Art Gallery. Opening reception: Nov. 6, 7-9 p.m. 325-2970.

November

17

Extension Annual Conference, Mississippi Horse Park, 8 a.m. 325-9350.

18

Human Resources Management: "Hiring of Internationals, Paperwork and Procedures," 150 McArthur Hall, 10 a.m.-noon. Registration required. Repeated on Dec. 3. 325-3713.

19

Entertainment: Poetry Night, Colvard Union Dawg House Coffee Shoppe, 8 p.m. 325-2930.

Brown-bag lunch meeting: Faculty and Professional Women's Association, Army Reserve Col. Leonette W. Slay, "When the 'Old Man' is a Woman: Female Leaders in Today's Army," Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium, 11:30 a.m. 325-7454.

"Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP): The Basics," co-sponsored by Professional and Support Staff Advisory Council and Human Resources Management, Coaches' Training Room, Sanderson Center. Information session, 10-11 a.m. with CHIP representative available until 1 p.m. 325-3713.

20

ADS/MAFES Production Sale, Mississippi Horse Park, noon, 325-2802.

20 and 21

Theatre MSU: "Clown's Play," McComas Hall theater, 7 p.m. 325-3203.

22

MSU vs. Tennessee-Martin, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

24-26

Fall break for students and faculty.

26

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

27 and 28

University closed for Thanksgiving holidays.

27

MSU vs. Mississippi, football, Davis Wade Stadium, 6:30 p.m.

30

Lyceum Faculty Chamber Series: Michael Patilla on classical guitar, Starkville First United Methodist Church, 4 p.m. 325-3070.

December

1

Classes resume.

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

2

Concert: recital music for trombone and organ, Richard Human and Wendy Payton, Starkville First Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m. 325-8021.

3

Human Resources Management: "Hiring of Internationals, Paperwork and Procedures," Coaches' Training Room, Sanderson Center, 2-4 p.m. Registration required. 325-3713.

MSU vs. Louisiana-Monroe, men's basketball,



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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Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

4

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

5

Classes end.

6

Reading Day.

"Little Britches Rodeo," Mississippi Horse Park, 10 a.m. 465-6377.

MSU vs. UAB, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 1 p.m.

7

Reading Day.

8-12

Final examinations.

13

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

16

MSU vs. UT-Martin, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

HRM—continued from page 1

9-11 a.m.;

• Monday, Nov. 24, McArthur Hall Lab A, 2-4 p.m.;

• Tuesday, Nov. 25, McArthur Hall Lab A, 9-11 a.m.;

• Tuesday, Dec. 2, McArthur Hall Lab A, 9-11 a.m.;

• Thursday, Dec. 4, McArthur Hall Lab A, 2-4 p.m.;

• Monday, Dec. 8, McArthur Hall Lab A, 2-4 p.m.;

• Wednesday, Dec. 10, McArthur Hall Lab A, 2-4 p.m.; and

• Thursday, Dec. 11, McArthur Hall Lab A, 9-11 a.m.

Registration is required. Telephone HRM at 325-3713, or e-mail helms@hrm.msstate.edu.

Open lab times—which do not require registration—will be offered to give employees an opportunity to explore the new Online Employment System on their own. Assistance is available, if needed. Dates are:

• Dec. 2 and 11, 2-3 p.m.

• Dec. 4 and 8, 9-10 a.m.