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memo

TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY



As part of the 30th anniversary celebration of the College of Veterinary Medicine, actor Morgan Freeman (second from left) was on hand to dedicate an equine research facility named in his honor. Joining him were (l-r) Dean John Thomson; Vance Watson, vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine; Wayne Groce, CVM Office of Special Programs; and Richard Hopper, director of the new facility.

Engineering college names new fellows

Nine alumni who carved out successful careers after graduating from the Bagley College of Engineering are being honored as 2004 Distinguished Fellows.

Leaders in business and education, they were recognized for life accomplishments during a February banquet marking National Engineers Week (E-Week) on campus. Each honoree received a plaque and the personal thanks and congratulations of college dean A. Wayne Bennett.

“National Engineers Week is a celebration of the contributions engineers make to our society,” said Bennett. “For the Bagley College, it is an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of our alumni.”

The 2004 Distinguished Fellows include:

—Billie J. Ball of Starkville, professor and department head emeritus of electrical and computer engineering at MSU. A faculty member from 1964 until his retirement in 1992, he received bachelor’s degrees in chemical and electrical engineering in 1956, and a master’s degree in electrical engineering in 1959. He completed a doctorate in electrical engineering from Texas A&M University in 1962.

—Virginia L. Carron of Atlanta, Ga., a 1989 biological engineering graduate who went on to earn a juris doctorate degree, with distinction, from the Emory University

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Distinguished Jurist Award going to Payne

A retired state appeals court judge and first dean of a Jackson-based law school is this year’s honoree of the Mississippi State Pre-Law Society.

During campus ceremonies March 9, Mary Libby Payne of Pearl becomes the 28th person receiving a distinguished jurist award from the student organization for future legal professionals. The founding dean of Mississippi College’s School of Law will accept the distinctive plaque in a public program to begin at 11 a.m. in the John Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library.

Preceding presentation of the honor by society president Matthew L. Anderson of Coshatta, La., Payne will address the audience on a legal topic of her choosing. Later, at 2 p.m. in 180 McCain Hall, she and society members will engage in a roundtable discussion—also open to the public—of current legal issues.

First presented to retired U.S. Supreme Court associate justice Tom C. Clark in 1977, the Pre-Law Society recognition includes both sitting and retired jurists at all levels of service.

Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox; former U.S. attorneys general Griffin Bell, Edward Levi and William Webster; Mississippi chancery judge Sebe Dale Jr.; and District of Columbia federal district judge Norma Holloway Johnson have been among earlier honorees.

Payne, who was law dean 1975-94, continues to serve Mississippi College as a



Payne

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DataBasics

By Deborah Lee
MSU Libraries

Electronic books: anywhere, anytime

The Mississippi State University Libraries provide access to netLibrary, a collection of more than 27,000 electronic books, known as eBooks. These are full-text electronic versions of published books that library users can search, borrow, read, and return over the Internet. In addition to the 27,000-plus purchased titles, the netLibrary collection includes some 3,400 freely available titles, bringing the total number of titles available to more than 30,000.

The eBooks are available to MSU users at computer terminals in the library and from their personal computers via the Internet. Robust search technology allows users to quickly search all the eBooks in the collection to identify the reputable published sources of greatest interest at any time. Users may search the entire eBook collection for authors, titles or keywords, and they may search within eBooks for keywords and phrases. The eBooks are available for checkout and are automatically checked back into the library collection when the checkout period expires, making the eBook available for another user.

The eBook titles range in scope from core academic areas of science, social sciences and the humanities to collections of specialized study in areas such as business, education, library science, medicine, religion and philosophy, computer science, and engineering. As an added feature, the Houghton Mifflin fourth edition of The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language is embedded into NetLibrary eBooks. Faculty, staff, students, and other users may obtain dictionary definitions simply by clicking on a word in the eBook, or by entering a word in the dictionary search window. Some word definitions are accompanied by audio.

The netLibrary collection is integrated into the MSU Libraries online catalog, known as Galaxy, or may be searched via the NetLibrary interface. For access to the netLibrary collection, visit the MSU Libraries Web page and select "Online Resources."

For additional information about using the NetLibrary eBook collection, contact the Reference Department at 325-7667, or visit the Ready Reference Desk on the second floor of Mitchell Memorial Library.

SACS reaffirms accreditation of university

At its December 2003 meeting, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaffirmed Mississippi State's accreditation based on a self-examination process the university conducted 2001-03.

Self-Study director Leslie E. Bauman said that based on MSU's comprehensive review of all aspects of the university, the SACS peer committee reviewing the university made 17 recommendations for follow-up.

"We have satisfied 11 of those and will submit additional documentation in September," she reported.

"The remaining recommendations concern planning and evaluation for institutional purpose; academic programs; research and service functions; administrative and academic support services; effectiveness of institutional research; and instructional programs," she said.

Bauman said the relatively few recommendations resulted from the hard work of more than 200 faculty and staff volunteers who participated in the two-year effort.

The next SACS review begins in 2012 for reaffirmation in 2014.

For a complete self-study report, including follow-up recommendations, see library.msstate.edu/selfstudy/.

Mather estate continues insect study aid

The estate of a government geologist from Clinton will fund future statewide insect surveys and provide support for the Mississippi Entomological Museum at Mississippi State.

Though known internationally for his expertise on concrete, Leon B. Mather also was highly devoted to the study of insects. He became a major supporter of the university's insect research program during his nearly six-decade career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Prior to his death in 2002, Mather donated an extensive personal collection of almost 50,000 noteworthy insects to the repository in the Clay Lyle Complex, home of MSU's entomology program.

Now, a gift of almost \$400,000 from the Mather estate will be used to fund travel and field expenses for the museum's ongoing surveys. The fund also will support the purchase of needed equipment and supplies, as well as maintenance of the numerous insect displays.

"Mr. Mather accumulated more than 190,000 moths and thousands of other insects," said museum director Richard L. Brown. "While he donated many specimens to the American Museum of Natural History, the Smithsonian and other institutions, he kept the best and unique for his personal collection, which we have on display here at the museum."

Hardy St. to be blocked

A section of Hardy Street will close temporarily during spring break to allow a large exhaust fan to be lifted onto the east end of the roof of Hand Lab.

The March 18 procedure will block Hardy Street from the Band Hall drive to Morrill Road. North and south through traffic will be routed temporarily through the Band Hall drive and in front of the Industrial Education building through the parking lot east of Longest Student Health Center.

Barricades will be set up at 7 a.m., and the lift is expected to be completed by noon. An additional lift will be required on the west end of Hand Lab to set another fan, but only the drive into the service court of the Swalm Chemical Engineering Building should be affected.

MSU helping Navy develop high-power radar systems

Mississippi State researchers are using a grant of more than \$730,000 to perfect silicon carbide material technology that may help the U.S. Navy develop new high-power radar systems.

The Office of Naval Research award of \$731,858 to the university's Emerging Materials Research Laboratory also may help promote the state's semiconductor industry.

MSU researchers will develop specialized material fabrication processes potentially important to development of silicon carbide—SiC—radio-frequency transistors for radar and other specific Navy and Marine Corps applications.

"We are trying to employ the latest developments in semiconductor physics, material science and chemistry," said principal investigator Yaroslav Koshka, an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, administrative home to EMRL.

Scientists say the small, circular SiC wafers are used in high-voltage, high-temperature and high-frequency applications. They note SiC epitaxial growth is one of the more significant processes used to fabricate transistors.

SemiSouth Laboratories, a small Starkville-based business established in 2001 to commercialize SiC device technology, is one potential user of the material processes being developed by the MSU researchers. The company is located adjacent to campus in the Thad Cochran Research, Technology and Economic Development Park.

Koshka said Dr. Charles U. Pittman Jr. also has become a valuable research ally in developing novel SiC epitaxial growth processes and simulation models. Pittman, a chemistry professor, is a co-principal investigator in the EMRL project.

WMSV online again

MSU radio station WMSV (91.1) is back streaming on the Web at www.wmsv.msstate.edu/.

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School of Law. Practicing in the Georgia capital, she focuses on patent and trademark litigation and counseling as a partner with Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner LLP, one of the world's largest intellectual property law firms.

—James W. Dow of Pelham, Ala., who received bachelor's and master's degrees in aeronautical engineering in 1970 and 1972, respectively. Recognized as an international authority on implementations of computer-assisted drafting and manufacturing procedures, he is president and chief executive officer of Aerotec. The company is a provider of high-quality, airborne, laser-scan surveys, digital imagery topographic mapping and three-dimensional engineering models.

—Mohammad H. Hosni of Manhattan, Kan., professor and department head of mechanical and nuclear engineering at Kansas State University and a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Hosni earned a doctorate in mechanical engineering from MSU in 1989 after receiving bachelor's and master's degrees in the field from Southern and Louisiana State universities, respectively.

—Harry L. James of Canton, deputy executive director and chief engineer for the Mississippi Department of Transportation. The 1976 civil engineering graduate joined MDOT as a bridge designer in 1982 after working in the private construction industry and later for a consulting engineering firm.

—Curry Knight of Huntsville, Ala., a 1982 computer science graduate who, with others, founded DiscoveryCom in 1996 to design, test, manufacture, and install tools for the telecommunication industry. After the company was sold to Nokia in 2001, Knight became a managing partner in Discovery Ventures LLC, an investment company he launched with other DiscoveryCom co-founders.

Marilyn Martin of Kingsport, Tenn., a former longtime employee in the financial field who earned a chemical engineering

degree 1992. She now serves as operations manager for Eastman Chemical Co.'s Vordian Division, a manufacturer of acetate processing-fiber ester flake. Martin also is an advisory board member for the Swalm School of Chemical Engineering, a major unit of the MSU engineering college.

—Prentice McKibben, also of Kingsport, a 1973 industrial engineering graduate who is Eastman's vice president to the chairman and the company's chief executive officer. McKibben, who also completed a master's degree in business administration at MSU in 1974, heads special projects involving multiple organizational units. He has worked with Eastman since completing his graduate degree.

—James M. Trimble of Houston, Texas, a 1971 petroleum engineering program graduate now chairman of the board at Tri-Union, an exploration and development company with operations in Texas, California and the Gulf of Mexico. Earlier, he served as the company's president and chief executive officer.

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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."

To list calendar events online, access www.ur.msstate.edu/news/today.asp and follow the instructions.

March

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ITS workshop: "WebCT: Content Modules," McArthur Hall computer lab, 1:30 p.m. 325-0631.

MSU vs. South Alabama, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 4 p.m.

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ITS workshops: "Banner: Leave Entry"; "Introduction to SPSS." McArthur Hall computer labs, 8:30 a.m. 325-0631.

Workshop: "Research and Dissertation Basics," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. 325-0810.

MSU vs. South Alabama, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 3 p.m.

Faculty and Professional Women's Association brown-bag lunch meeting: "Theater Scenes from Starkville Community Theater," Colvard Union faculty lounge, noon. 325-3848.

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Workshop: "Publisher: More Than Templates," ELI, first floor Mitchell Memorial Library, 1 p.m. 325-7676.



Employment Opportunities

View and apply for current MSU positions (executive, faculty, professional, and support staff) on the Human Resources Management Online Employment System at www.jobs.msstate.edu. For more information, telephone HRM at 325-3713, e-mail employment@hrm.msstate.edu or visit 150 McArthur Hall.

ITS workshop: "WebCT: Intro to Web Graphics," McArthur Hall computer lab, 1:30 p.m. 325-0631.

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MSU vs. Southern California, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 4 p.m.

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MSU vs. Southern California, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 2 p.m.

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MSU vs. Southern California, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 1:30 p.m.

Association seeks nominations for two scholarships

April 9 is the deadline to nominate two students for scholarships annually awarded by the Faculty and Professional Women's Association.

Each totaling \$500, undergraduate and graduate student scholarships are presented at the university organization's May meeting. Nominations and supporting materials should be sent to the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships. (P.O. Box 6035, Mississippi State, MS 39762)

"This is our organization's primary service project and we select winners from Mississippi State based both on academic qualifications and need," said FPWA President Mattie Sink.

Undergraduate students must have maintained a 3.4 grade-point average (based on a 4.0 scale), while 3.8 is the minimum for graduate students. Applicants must be enrolled during the 2003-04 academic year, Sink said.

A completed application must include a letter outlining educational plans, career goals and a statement of need; personal data sheet, resume or vita; transcripts of college courses; and three letters of recommendation from an MSU faculty or staff member.

For more information, telephone Sink at 325-3848 or visit www.msstate.edu/org/FPWA/scholarship.html.

15-19

Spring break for students.

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Lambda Professionals meeting: Colvard Union third-floor faculty lounge, noon-1 p.m. 325-1965.

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HRM workshop: "Managing Your Emotions," Sanderson Center, 10 a.m.-noon. For all MSU employees. Registration required. 325-3713; helms@hrm.msstate.edu.

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scholar-in-residence who is helping to write a history of the Baptist-affiliated institution. She was a member of the Mississippi Court of Appeals 1995-2001.

Even before Payne was appointed to state appeals court, she had practiced in all three branches of state government. She served as a legislative draftsman, executive director of the Mississippi Judiciary Commission and an assistant attorney general.

After attending Mississippi University for Women for two years, Payne transferred to the University of Mississippi, where she graduated, with distinction, in political science. She later finished first in her class at the Ole Miss law school. She subsequently completed additional study at New York University and the National Judicial College.

The MSU Pre-Law Society award joins a long list of honors garnered earlier by the Rankin County resident. Among them are MUW's Alumnae Achievement Award, life membership in the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation and the Susie Blue Buchanan Award of the Mississippi Bar Association. Additionally, she is the only woman to date receiving the Christian Legal Society's Lifetime Achievement Award.

The society's sponsorship of the distinguished jurist award program is supported by the MSU President's Office and College of Arts and Sciences.

For additional information on the awards program, telephone Dr. Diane Wall of the Political Science Department at 325-2711.