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# MEMO

TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF  
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

## William Kibler is named new student affairs vice president

A veteran student affairs administrator with experience at major Texas and Florida universities will become vice president for student affairs at Mississippi State.

Dr. William L. Kibler will join the university by early June. His appointment was approved March 18 by the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning.

Kibler has served for the past nine years as associate vice president and currently is interim vice president for student affairs at Texas A&M. In addition to overseeing 280 professional staff members and a budget of more than \$70 million, he is an associate professor of educational administration and human resource development.

At Mississippi State, he will head the division responsible for enrollment services, housing, financial aid, health services, student organizations, counseling, police, recreational sports, and other student service functions.



*Kibler*

“Dr. Kibler has a long record of solid

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*Campus Landscape staff members installed a new anodized bronze flagpole recently on the Drill Field. The project to light, landscape and enhance the central campus landmark is being funded by MSU's Interfraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and Panhellenic Council, the coordinating councils for 29 social sororities and fraternities.*

## *Furniture institute recognized for industry assistance*

A Mississippi State program that applies research and technical assistance to improve the international competitiveness of the state's \$4 billion furniture industry is receiving an award from the Southern Growth Policies Board.

The university's Institute of Furniture Manufacturing and Management is being honored with the 2004 Southern Growth Innovator Award for its role in boosting the Mississippi industry in the face of increasing global competition.

“While furniture manufacturing is important to the state, many companies and suppliers have been impacted in recent years by imports, primarily from countries where wages are much lower and costs of production are less because of fewer environmental regulations,” said institute director Steven Bullard.

Bullard said furniture manufacturing has an economic impact of \$4.1 billion in Mississippi each year, and is the state's No. 1 employer among the durable manufactured goods industry. The MSU institute provides research, service and education to help increase the international competitiveness of manufacturers, he added.

More specifically, the Southern Growth Innovator Award recognizes the MSU institute for assisting Mississippi furniture manufacturers in a variety of ways to prevent job dislocation and/or help displaced workers recover more quickly.

The institute conducts multi-disciplinary applied research to address current and future manufacturing needs of the furniture industry. This includes the implementation of “lean manufacturing” processes, which are designed to produce superior quality products at a low cost

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# Codes helping NASA design future shuttles

Research engineers at Mississippi State are providing unique, high-performance computer codes to help U.S. space officials design safer and more efficient rocket-propelled vehicles of the future.

A team from the university's Computational Simulation and Design Center is working closely with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to accurately and effectively simulate combustion problems and high-speed atmospheric flight. The team is led by Dr. Ed Luke, an assistant professor of computer science and engineering.

Coordinating primarily with the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., and Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis, the MSU researchers are developing state-of-the-art computer codes, known as LOCI and CHEM. The software allows NASA to quickly evaluate and synthesize complex numerical modeling configurations, which are

needed to simulate and automate rigorous testing procedures for spacecraft design.

"Several NASA engineers have been using software developed by our group to perform simulations in the evaluation and redesign of the space shuttle fuel tank in the wake of the space shuttle Columbia mishap," said Luke, who holds three engineering degrees from MSU, including a 1999 doctorate in computational engineering.

"NASA Marshall also has been using



Luke

the codes in the simulation and design of several rocket system components," he added. "We currently are expanding our research effort to provide NASA with next-generation rocket-system simulation capabilities."

Research team member Dr. Pasquale Cinnella, professor and graduate coordinator for the Aerospace Engineering Department, predicted the special computer codes may allow MSU to "lead the field in accuracy and reliability for physically complex problems.

"In order to go to the Moon and Mars, we will need more work focused on rockets and rocket engines," he added. "For Mars, we also need more research on how to negotiate its atmosphere at high speeds when entering. We are having good results."

NASA has provided grants totaling more than \$1.1 million and the National Science Foundation has given another \$300,000 to support the project. The grants are channeled through MSU's SimCenter, a unit of the ERC.

## Sigma Xi to present Harvard risk expert

A Harvard University researcher in the field of risk analysis, particularly as it relates to children, speaks on campus March 30.

The 3:30 p.m. public program led by Dr. Kimberly Thompson will take place in Room 1 of Swalm Chemical Engineering Building. Thompson, a faculty member in Harvard's School of Public Health, is visiting MSU as a guest of the campus chapter of Sigma Xi international scientific research society.

Her topic is "Science in the Age of Risk Management," an area in which she has written and spoken widely. She is the author of "Humor in the Age of Risk Management" (2003) and "Overkill: How Our Nation's Abuse of Antibiotics and Other Germ Killers is Hurting Your Health and What You Can Do About It" (2002).

Director of the public health school's Kids Risk Project, Thompson has gained an international reputation for her work in the area of children's risks and probabilistic risk analysis. She has been a tireless proponent of the need for better information to improve decisions made by kids, parents and government policy-makers, among others.

More broadly, her research focuses on issues related to developing and applying quantitative methods for risk assessment, risk management and considering public policy implications of the variability and uncertainty in risk characterization.

In addition to her work at Harvard, Thompson is co-founder and research director for the Center for Media and Child Health at the Boston Children's Hospital. Through that center, she performs research on messages in popular media such as motion pictures and video games.

She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a doctorate in environmental health from Harvard.

For more on the program, telephone Todd French at 325-4308.

## Furniture—continued from page 1

for furniture and supplying businesses.

"It has been estimated that furniture research at Mississippi State University is saving the state's manufacturers around \$3 million each year," said Dr. Liam Leightley, head of the Department of Forest Products.

He said creation of the institute in 2001 and the opening of the Franklin Center for Furniture Manufacturing and Management earlier this year represent novel moves to help furniture manufacturers and supplying businesses reach their full potential.

"Our expertise in furniture manufacturing and management will allow our state's manufacturers to thrive and prosper in an ever-increasing competitive global marketplace," Leightley predicted.

The Southern Growth Policies Board is a non-partisan public policy think tank based in North Carolina. The board is a public-private partnership devoted to strengthening the South's economy and creating the highest possible quality of life.

# Holland Faculty Senate revises promotion, tenure document

By a vote of 23-14 at its March meeting, the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approved a newly revised faculty tenure and promotion document.

The vote, which also included three abstentions, winds down a revision process that seemed to have been concluded in January with another majority vote of the elected advisory body.

Sen. Mark Goodman of Communication said a second vote was due, in part, to the number of faculty comments that had been received since the first 2004 vote. He said the senate's Faculty Affairs Committee, which he chairs, had considered at least 70 of them and the entire senate membership found itself debating several of the major document issues during the February meeting.

As a result, he added: "Our committee met Feb. 16 to review the comments and to make final changes. The final draft of the new document was posted on the Web for senators to review Feb. 27 and the general faculty to review March 1."

He said the major changes made between January and March included the:

—Choice of each department to decide whether to allow non-tenured faculty to serve on the Promotion and Tenure committees;

—Requirement for a single vote on promotion or promotion/tenure and a detailed discussion of the applicant's service, teaching and research, with the decision of whether to conduct votes on each area left to the individual departments;

—Requirement that external letters of review be sent to the provost as part of the applicant's packet; and

—Removal of the phrase "or testified to by competent witnesses" and two rewriting changes to now read:

- "If three members are not available because of absence, recusal or insufficient class, the professorial faculty of that department will select substitutes from the professors of an appropriate unit"; and

- "Applicants may review the external letters of review, but the reviews will be

blind."

Prior to the vote, Goodman admitted that, "We recognize probably no one, including committee members, is happy with all sections of the [final] promotion and tenure document. However, we believe it will lead to a significant improvement in the process."

In other business at the March meeting, senators:

—Approved 36-3-1 the recommendations of an Academic Affairs Committee report that had examined compensation packages for MSU graduate students. The recommendations call on the university administration to support "100 percent of tuition and fee waivers to those students who will be offered graduate assistantships" and an "increase in the minimum (graduate) stipend to be competitive with our peer institutions."

—Approved 27-103 a resolution submitted by Sen. Dan Embree of English that read:

"The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University expresses its support for the faculty and faculty senate at the University of Southern Mississippi in their defense of the right of professors to engage in responsible and professional criticism of the administration of their university."

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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/](http://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](mailto:jonesk@ur.msstate.edu).

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## *Elmo, Big Bird, Cookie Monster coming to MSU*

Tickets for the April 30-May 2 Mississippi State performances of Sesame Street Live are on sale.

"Everyone Makes Music" is a 90-minute traveling production that gives children of all ages the chance to do the Crumb-A-Rumba with Rosita or count to 10 with The Count. The Friday-Sunday event is sponsored by Music Maker Productions.

In addition to Rosita and The Count, the cast features Elmo, Cookie Monster, Big Bird, Bert and Ernie, and other well-known television and storybook characters. "The People in Your Neighborhood," "Sing" and "Dance to the Music" are among the musical selections.

Performances—all at Humphrey Coliseum—begin at 7 p.m. on April 30; 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on May 1; and 2 p.m. on the 2nd. Tickets are \$16 and \$14, depending on seating priority.

Children 1-11 years of age receive a \$1.50 discount, while groups of 10 or more can get a \$3 discount per ticket for lower-level seating. Tickets are required for all children age 1 or older.

Purchases may be completed in advance via [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com) or by telephone at (866) 468-7630 or (662) 325-2600. A convenience fee applies to charged orders, as well as those at the following area locations:

- Humphrey Coliseum Ticket Office, MSU;
- BeBop Records, Starkville;
- Bryan's Records and Pets, Columbus; and
- BancorpSouth Center Ticket Office and Ticket Alley, both in Tupelo.

For more information about the MSU appearance of Sesame Street Live, visit [www.sesamestreetlive.com](http://www.sesamestreetlive.com) or telephone 325-4201.

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*Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or group affiliation, 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](mailto:jonesk@ur.msstate.edu) at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance. For updates, check [www.msstate.edu](http://www.msstate.edu) and click on "Calendar of Events."

To list calendar events online, access [www.ur.msstate.edu/news/today.asp](http://www.ur.msstate.edu/news/today.asp) and follow the instructions.

### March

#### 29-April 2

WMSV 10th anniversary celebration.

#### 30

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

Sigma Xi speaker: Dr. Kimberly Thompson, "Science in the Age of Risk Management," Room 1, Swalm Building, 3:30 p.m. 325-4308. (see story page 2)

Workshop: "Developing a Literature Review," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 10:30 a.m. Deborah Lee, 325-0810.

MSU vs. UAB, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.

Lyceum Series: Minneapolis Guitar Quartet, Colvard Union ballroom, 7:30 p.m. 325-4201.

#### 31

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

MSU vs. Louisiana-Monroe, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.

### April

#### 1

Institutional Review Board training: Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium, 2:30 p.m. Register at [www.msstate.edu/dept/compliance/irb/irbregistration.htm](http://www.msstate.edu/dept/compliance/irb/irbregistration.htm).

Workshop: "Research and Dissertation Basics," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. Deborah Lee, 325-0810.

#### 2

MSU vs. Mississippi, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 6:30 p.m.

#### 2 and 3

"Theatre MSU," spring production, McComas Hall, 7:30 p.m. 325-3203.

College of Veterinary Medicine open house, Wise Center, 8 a.m. 325-2283.

#### 3

Mississippi Coalition for Women's spring conference, with address by Mississippi first lady Marsha Barbour, Social Science Research Center, \$15 and includes lunch. Registration is 8:30 a.m.; Barbour speaks at 9:30. Roberta Avila, 228-374-2218; Susan Hall, [shall@library.msstate.edu](mailto:shall@library.msstate.edu).

14th annual International Fiesta, Drill Field, 10 a.m. 325-2648.

MSU vs. Mississippi, baseball, Dudy Noble Field, 2 p.m.

#### 4

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

#### 5

HRM workshop: "Stress Management," Sanderson Center, 1-3 p.m. For all MSU employees. Registration required. 325-3713; [helms@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:helms@hrm.msstate.edu). Repeated April 14.

J Schwanke floral presentation, "Colors for Every Mood," 128 Dorman Hall, 3:30 p.m. 325-1965.

Spring Lecture Series, Michael Haspel, comparing black churches of the American civil rights era with East German protestant churches, Bost Extension Center auditorium, 5 p.m. 325-4724.

#### 8

Workshop: "Crawling the Web of Science: Social Sciences," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. Deborah Lee, 325-0810.

#### 9

University closed for holiday.

#### 14

HRM workshop: "Stress Management," Sanderson Center, 10 a.m.-noon. For all MSU employees. Registration required. 325-3713; [helms@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:helms@hrm.msstate.edu).

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performance and experience in every aspect of student affairs," said President Charles Lee. "He brings a combination of administrative talent and rapport with students that will help us build on our excellent programs and services that enhance student life and development."

In addition to gaining the support of faculty and staff on campus, Kibler "also was the choice of Mississippi State student leaders with whom he met," Lee added.

Kibler received bachelor's, master's, and educational specialist degrees from the University of Florida, where he began his student affairs career. He completed a doctorate from Texas A&M, which he joined in 1980.

Active in national professional organizations, he has published and presented extensively on a variety of student affairs issues. He also has been heavily involved in civic and community affairs.

Kibler's appointment follows a nationwide search that attracted about 50 applicants and nominees.

He succeeds Dr. Roy Ruby, who gave up the vice president's post in late 2002 to become dean of the College of Education. Associate Vice President Jimmy Abraham has served as interim head of the student affairs division.

"Dr. Abraham has provided unselfish leadership during this interim time and continues to be a very important part of this leadership team," Lee said.



### 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](http://www.jobs.msstate.edu). For more information, telephone HRM at 325-3713, e-mail [employment@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:employment@hrm.msstate.edu) or visit 150 McArthur Hall.