

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

January 10, 2005

Volume 29

Issue 19

Accreditation follow-up is completed

Mississippi State has completed follow-up reporting to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in response to recommendations included in the reaffirmation committee report of April 2003.

MSU was notified following the annual SACS meeting last month that the university's first follow-up report, submitted in September 2004, has been accepted and no further reports are required.

The September report addressed the university's efforts to comply with six peer review committee recommendations related to institutional planning and evaluation. Eleven of the 17 total recommendations included in the reaffirmation committee's report already had been satisfied with submission of MSU's October 2003 institutional response.

"The timely conclusion of the reporting process is a significant accomplishment, brought about by months of hard work by self-study director Leslie Bauman and the hundreds of faculty and staff who participated in the self-study and its follow-up," said President Charles Lee.

"The entire process has been greatly beneficial to the institution," Lee said. "This successful outcome gives us assurance that the planning and assessment procedures now in place can contribute to strategically sound decision-making and link resource allocation to institutional goals."

The September follow-up report documented MSU assessment processes and changes made as a result of assessment in academic programs, research and service functions, administrative and educational

Continued on page 3



Demolition of Hamlin Hall is continuing into the new year as the seven-story residence hall becomes history. Only around half of the aging structure—built in 1966—remained standing as of Jan. 3.

Faculty supports totally online courses

Mississippi State administrators are taking a close look at the results of a recent campus survey that indicates most MSU faculty would welcome an opportunity to teach classes offered totally online.

Associate Provost Jerry Gilbert said 407 faculty members responded to an online survey posted by MSU doctoral student Teresa Gammill. It was conducted as part of Gammill's dissertation research in the Agricultural Information Sciences Department.

Although only about one-fifth of faculty members has taught a course exclusively on the Web, according to Gilbert, a large percentage of those responding to the survey indicated they would be open to the idea of offering totally online courses, with proper incentives.

"We were very pleased with the faculty response to the survey," said Gilbert. "The survey results will provide us with valuable information that is useful in making decisions about future technology issues in instruction.

"We would like to see MSU professors enabled to most effectively carry out our teaching mission," he added. "Web-based and Web-assisted instruction provide opportunities to extend and enhance our professors' teaching methods."

Gilbert said President Charles Lee has established the improvement of classrooms as one of his priorities and is providing funding to upgrade 43 classrooms with advanced teaching technology. Lee said it is through the additional technology in MSU classrooms and facilities that the university better serves its educational mission.

"Extending our educational resources via technology to meet the needs of people who

Continued on page 4



MSU Police Department receives a major stamp of approval

When approved early this year, the Mississippi State Police Department will become the first at a Mississippi institution of higher learning and just the third law enforcement unit statewide to hold national accreditation.

Based on a campus visit and the assessment of a team of law officers, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies is recommending that its membership grant the designation to MSU. Formal approval will be made at CALEA's national meeting in Birmingham, Ala., in March.

"CALEA is the country's only accrediting organization for law enforcement agencies," said police chief Tom Johnson. "In addition to the United States, it provides a professional stamp of approval to agencies in Canada and Mexico."

Johnson said accreditation requires a local department to comply with more than 440 standards that represent the best practices of law enforcement. Participation is voluntary.

Based in Fairfax, Va., the commission was established as an independent authority in 1979 by four major associations: International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Sheriff's Association, and Police Executive Research Forum.

The cities of Hattiesburg and Madison were the first two in Mississippi to gain CALEA accreditation.

CALEA's assessment team for MSU included Deputy Police Chief William Price of Vernon Hills, Ill.; Police Chief Donald Bowen of Lebanon, Tenn.; and Program Support Specialist Denise Linkenhoker of the Virginia Tech University Police Department.

"This has been a three-year process of self-study and improvement by the 37 men and women of the MSU Police Department," Johnson said. "We are very proud of their accomplishments."

Johnson gave special recognition to Officer Terry Wheeler, the department's accreditation manager. "Terry has done an outstanding job in this very demanding role," he said.

In addition to enhancing the department's professionalism, Johnson said benefits of CALEA accreditation include, among others, a minimization of departmental exposure to liability and the ongoing guidance necessary for "engaging the best practices of law enforcement."

Johnson said the department, a part of MSU's Division of Student Affairs, hopes to serve as a model for other state law enforcement agencies seeking both state and national accreditation.

"This process has been very long and challenging," Johnson said. "For those reasons alone, we are happy to assist others who may wish to volunteer for the process."

MSU's top law enforcement officer since 1997, Johnson is a Pensacola, Fla., native who formerly led the Marshall University department. He holds a bachelor's degree, with highest honors, from Troy (Ala.) State University and a master's in psychology from the University of West Florida in Pensacola. He also has been pursuing a doctorate in education at MSU.

Beware of unsolicited telephone sales calls

Faculty and staff members are warned to be wary of unsolicited telephone calls from individuals selling office products.

More than one campus office has received the high-pressure sales calls, which MSU Police Chief Tom Johnson calls "questionable."

He said many times the caller asks to send a sample of the product—such as toner—and an invoice comes with it. The product then keeps coming, along with more bills.

At least one staff member said his office received several telephone calls. When he managed to get a price quote from the caller, costs were higher than what the office already was paying to an established vendor for the same product.

"Be alert and check it out before accepting delivery of anything that comes from a vendor you don't know," Johnson advises.

MSU Foundation promotes John Rush

A Mississippi State alumnus and fund-raising veteran is the university's new director of major gifts.

John P. Rush will now lead efforts to obtain non-public funds, including constituency-based major fund raising, planned giving, and corporate and foundation support.

The Leakesville native most recently was director of development for the Bagley College of Engineering.

The MSU Foundation was established in 1962 to help attract support from private sources and now

administers most campus fund-raising activities and endowment funds, which currently exceed \$180 million. Over the past five years, the foundation has averaged nearly \$52 million annually in gifts from individual donors, corporations, foundations, trusts, and estates.

Rush, who officially assumed the new position Jan. 1, is a 1994 political science graduate who also completed a master's in public policy and administration at his alma mater. He became the engineering college's development director in 2002 after four years as assistant director.

"We have great confidence in John Rush's ability to lead our fund-raising staff at the MSU Foundation and move the university's *State of the Future* campaign forward," said Dennis A. Prescott, vice president for external affairs. "He has established a great relationship with donors, friends of the university and board members."

In October, MSU announced its most ambitious major gifts campaign in the



Rush

Continued on page 4



MSU opening new home for Templeton music collection

OkTibbeha County businessman Charles H. Templeton Sr. is being memorialized with a permanent music museum in his honor at Mitchell Memorial Library.

Templeton, a keen businessman and avid music lover who died in 2000, was a 1949 MSU accounting graduate who played both oboe and piccolo during his student days in the Famous Maroon Band.

At a campus ceremony last month, his wife Mary Ann Templeton was formally thanked for funding the renovation of an existing room in the library to permanently house the massive collection. Expected to open in March, the Charles Templeton Music Museum will be located on the fourth floor.

“For more than 40 years, Mr. Templeton collected sheet music, instruments and other music memorabilia,” said dean of libraries Frances Coleman. “His donation of this extraordinary collection of musical machines and period sheet music was given to MSU in 1986 and at that time was valued at approximately \$500,000.

“This is a tremendous act of love for his alma mater and Mitchell Memorial Library is honored to receive this collection,” Coleman added.

Speaking on behalf of the university, Mississippi State President Charles Lee

expressed “Mississippi State’s deepest and most sincere appreciation to Mary Ann Templeton for her generosity in making the Charles Templeton Music Museum a major addition to MSU’s central repository of learning.”

Dating from approximately 1897 through the 1940s, the 22,000 pieces of Templeton’s sheet music have been, since 2001, in the process of being digitized so they may be accessible instantly for online researchers around the world.

Together with some 200 musical instruments, the collection represents what

Templeton called “the business of music”—the popularization of music that ranges from ragtime and blues to Irving Berlin ballads and a generation of

tunes documenting World War I.

In its previous and temporary location in a campus residence off Blackjack

Road, the collection became a popular stop for campus visitors, including writers for Southern Living magazine and other popular publications that helped to further publicize it in their pages.

“With its new location in the Mitchell Memorial Library, the Charles Templeton Music Museum again will be enjoyed by the public,” Coleman said.



Starkville resident Mary Ann Templeton (second from left) and President Charles Lee (second from right) were joined at the campus appreciation ceremony by Templeton’s son Chip and daughter Mary Beth Langston.

SACS—continued from page 1

support services, and instructional programs.

Among the assessment efforts reported, for example, were the use of the Academic Profile test designed by Educational Testing Services and participation in the National Survey of Student Engagement to monitor student learning outcomes university-wide.

The follow-up report also noted the university’s implementation of college strategic plans and budget hearings, the use of metrics for performance-based planning and budgeting, and the establishment and publication of assessment plans for each degree program. Unit assessment reports for research, service, administrative, and educational support units also were submitted.

Mississippi State conducted its decennial self-study in 2001-03, concluding with a reaffirmation visit in April 2003, and accreditation was reaffirmed by the SACS Commission on Colleges at the December 2003 annual meeting. MSU’s next reaffirmation of accreditation is scheduled for 2014, with the internal review process to begin in 2011.

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 also is available on the Web at msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/msu_memo/. Editorial material should be sent to Kay Fike Jones, Mail Stop 9512, or via e-mail to jonesk@ur.msstate.edu.

Editor—Kay Fike Jones

Contributors—Maridith Geuder

Phil Hearn

Sammy McDavid

Russ Houston

Megan Bean



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 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.

January

10

MSU vs. University of California-Santa Barbara, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m.

13

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

15

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

20

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

21

The International Services Office is sponsoring a presentation by immigration lawyer David Ware of New Orleans, La., in Eastman Auditorium, Swalm Chemical Engineering Building, 3 p.m. He will speak on general F and J immigration rules, regulations and issues. The presentation is open to faculty and staff members who work with or advise international students. 325-8929.

22

MSU vs. South Carolina, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 5 p.m.

23

MSU vs. Georgia, women's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 2 p.m.



Honorary degree nominations are open

Nominations for honorary doctoral degrees to be awarded by Mississippi State next spring are being accepted until Feb. 1.

Nominations, including supporting materials, should be sent to the Honorary Degree Committee in care of the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning authorized state universities to begin awarding the degrees in 1999 and generally allows each institution to give up to two each year. Mississippi State so far has awarded nine honorary degrees.

Under IHL guidelines, persons eligible for the doctor of laws, doctor of science, doctor of humane letters, doctor of creative and performing arts, or doctor of public service must have demonstrated nationally recognized sustained achievement in scholarship, public service, creative and performing arts, or professional activity.

Faculty, staff and administrators of the university, and elected or appointed public officials are ineligible for an honorary degree until one year after leaving their position. Candidates for public office also are ineligible.

The Honorary Degree Committee will evaluate nominations, develop additional information about nominees, and verify information submitted. The committee will recommend to the president candidates for degrees to be presented at May 2005 commencement ceremonies. The state College Board must approve honorary degrees at least two months prior to their announcement. Names of nominees will be kept confidential until they are approved.

Any member of the university commu-

nity may submit nominations. All information that nominators wish to present to the Honorary Degree Committee should be provided along with the nomination by the Feb. 1 deadline.

Prior recipients of honorary degrees at Mississippi State are John H. Bryan Jr., former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Sara Lee Corp.; Leo W. Seal Jr., chairman and CEO of Hancock Bank in Gulfport; Harry Charles F. Simrall, dean of engineering at Mississippi State until his retirement in 1978; Dave C. Swalm, retired petroleum products company owner; G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, former 3rd District congressman from Meridian; and Hunter Henry, retired Dow Chemical Co. executive; Bobby Martin, president of The Peoples Bank in Ripley; Jack Cristil, radio play-by-play announcer for MSU football and basketball games for the past 50 years; Charles B. Cliett, head emeritus of the Aerospace Engineering Department; and Hartley D. Peavey, owner and CEO of Peavey Electronics in Meridian.

Members of the Honorary Degree Committee are Peter Rabideau, chair, provost and vice president for academic affairs; Connie Forde, professor of instructional systems and workforce development; Sara Freedman, dean of the College of Business and Industry; Jamie Mixon, professor of art; David Shaw, director of the Remote Sensing Technologies Center; and Bill Wilson, professor of chemistry.

Survey—continued from page 1

cannot come to campus, even in the evening, because of location, job or other reasons, is a very significant part of our commitment to providing educational opportunities," said the president.

Gilbert said this effort and others are improving the delivery of instruction to MSU students. "The input from faculty was greatly appreciated," he added.

The associate provost said results of the faculty survey have been presented to the university's Instructional Technology Advisory Committee. He said the ITAC plans a survey next spring to document student perspectives on Web-based instruction issues.

Rush—continued from page 2

institution's 126-year history. *State of the Future: The Mississippi State Campaign* seeks \$400 million in private support for student scholarships and fellowships, endowed faculty positions, new and renovated facilities, and program enhancements.

Over the last three years, the campaign's "silent" phase raised \$200 million—the halfway mark. *State of the Future* runs through December 2008.

Rush's wife Jennifer is assistant general counsel at MSU.