

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

January 18, 2005

Volume 29

Issue 20

Jones is exec director of facilities

An alumnus who most recently oversaw a major facilities services contract for the U.S. Naval Academy is the university's first executive director of facilities.

Pontotoc native James A. Jones is heading a new unit composed of three formerly separate offices, said Ray Hayes,



Jones

vice president for finance and administration.

"He'll be pulling together and coordinating the offices of the Physical Plant, Custodial Services, and Campus Landscape and Grounds,"

Hayes said. By combining the

three functions, MSU is adopting an organizational structure found at most other universities.

"I think we'll soon notice positive results from a coordinated effort on our campus," Hayes added.

Jones is a 1981 MSU electrical engineer-

ing graduate who went on to receive a master's in management from the Naval Postgraduate School. He is a registered professional engineer.

In his new role, Jones will oversee maintenance, operations and housekeeping of all campus facilities and grounds, as well as the utilities system. He also will coordinate planning and construction of all new campus capital improvement projects.

As the general manager of the Naval Academy's Facility Management in Annapolis, Md., Jones oversaw a \$45 million contract that provided facility maintenance, utility operation and maintenance, transportation management, housing management, grounds maintenance, and special events set-up.

He has served as the chief operating officer for a number of naval construction organizations, with assignments that include the 20th Seabee Readiness Group and the 20th Naval Construction Regiment, both in Gulfport; the Puget Shipyard and Bremerton Naval Station in Bremerton, Wash.; and the Naval Coastal Systems Center Construction Office in Panama City, Fla.

\$5 million gift will support Brookhaven students

Former Brookhaven resident Dave C. Swalm believes in giving back to his community and his alma mater.

Through a recent \$5 million commitment to Mississippi State, the 1955 chemical engineering graduate hopes to set an example for others while providing significant assistance for students from his hometown who are beginning their higher education.

He has established a scholarship fund for Brookhaven students choosing to major in any technical field at MSU. "I hope this will prompt others to make investments in

the education and future careers of students from their own hometowns," Swalm explained.

His latest scholarships will provide \$2,500 annually to each qualifying student. The major gift also will assist the university in reaching its \$400 million goal for the recently announced capital campaign titled "State of the Future: The Mississippi State Campaign."

Founder of Texas Olefins, a Houston, Texas, manufacturer of petrochemicals,

Continued on page 3

MSU is beginning NCAA recertification self-study effort

Mississippi State is launching a scheduled yearlong effort to continue certification of its NCAA Division I athletics programs.

President Charles Lee said specific areas of the study include academic integrity, governance and commitment to rules compliance, as well as a commitment to equity and student-athlete welfare.

Lee said the project is being led by Dr. Sandra H. Harpole, interim associate vice president for research, and Dr. Donna S. Reese, interim associate dean of the Bagley College of Engineering. A 15-member steering committee "will lead broad campus participation in studying each area," Lee added.

Institutional self-studies were instituted by NCAA member institutions in 1993 and are required approximately every five-10 years. MSU undertook its initial NCAA self-study in 1997.

"The purpose of certification is to help ensure rules compliance in the institution's athletics operations," Harpole said. "It opens up athletics to the rest of the university community and to the public."

The resulting examination confirms strengths of the program and promotes plans to improve areas of concern, she observed.

The self-study committee will include faculty, administration, student, and staff representatives, as well as athletics department personnel. Members will evaluate athletics programs in accordance with NCAA operating principles.

"Once the university concludes its study this year, an external team of

Continued on page 3



National Players bringing Greek tragedy to stage

The nation's longest running classical touring company will perform a popular Greek drama Jan. 18 at Mississippi State.

"The Oedipus Cycle," a part of the 2004-05 Lyceum Series, will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the McComas Hall theater.

A tale of destiny, betrayal and self-discovery originally presented as part of ancient annual festivals, the Oedipus plays were written by 5th century B.C. playwright Sophocles and are among seven surviving in their entirety. They include "Oedipus the King," "Oedipus at Colonus" and "Antigone."

A condensed version of the three plays, "Cycle" has been adapted exclusively for the National Players Co.

of Washington, D.C. As directed by Alan

Wade, the production focuses on personal responsibility and its consequences in the lives of, among others, Oedipus, king of Thebes; his brother-in-law Creon; and Oedipus' daughters Antigone and Ismene.

Wade, a veteran Players director, is a theater professor at George Washington University. "The Pelican Brief" and "Homicide" are among his film and television credits.

Available at the door, tickets for the MSU performance are \$10 for adults; \$8 for senior citizens, by request; and \$6 for children 3-12 years old.

MSU students are admitted free with valid student identification.

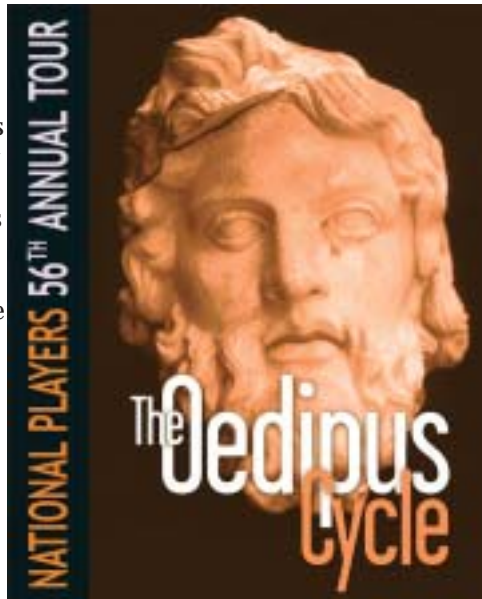
National Players is composed of young professionals

from the country's leading college drama

programs. The troupe has performed in 35 states and 10 foreign countries, with the guiding performance philosophy of "tell the story."

In addition to sometimes multiple roles during a performance, cast members are involved in every aspect of staging, from set raisings to prop and lighting checks.

For more information about this or other 2005 MSU Lyceum performances, visit www.msstate.edu/dept/lyceum/ or telephone 325-4201.



Counseling prof to present creative ways to 'de-stress'

An MSU counseling specialist will lead a Jan. 19 public program on stress management at the T.K. Martin Center.

Assistant professor Deborah L. Jackson, who holds certification from the National Board of Certified Counselors, will be featured during a noon program in the center's education room. "Creative Ways to De-Stress" will be her topic.

The presentation is sponsored by the Faculty and Professional Women's Association. The Martin Center is attached to the Longest Student Health Center on Hardy Road.

Jackson is program coordinator both for the Division of Student Affairs and the College of Education's college counseling academic emphasis.

A graduate of Baylor and Mississippi State universities, she regularly leads programs on stress management, as well as counseling strategies for reducing high-risk drinking among college students and other related topics.

She is a member of the American Counseling and American College Counseling associations, and the Mississippi Association of College Student Affairs Professionals.

For more information about the program, telephone 325-7454.

Project boosts science, math, tech teachers

Mississippi State will partner with nearby Red Hills Mine this summer to help science, mathematics and technology teachers in a 12-county area acquire real-world skills and high-tech resources they can pass on to their students.

Utilizing a grant of \$197,600 from the Appalachian Regional Commission and another \$21,500 from the Choctaw County mine, the university's Center for Science, Mathematics and Technology will conduct Project SMART July 11-22.

"These funds are an investment in our teachers and will impact students for years in the future," said U.S. Rep. Chip Pickering, who helped secure the ARC grant along with U.S. Sens. Thad Cochran and Trent Lott, all R-Miss.

Project SMART—Science and Mathematics Advancement and Reform utilizing Technology—will allow eight teams of three teachers each to participate in intensive technology training during a two-week workshop on the MSU campus and at the Ackerman-based mine, which is operated by Mississippi Lignite Mining Co.

Targeted for participation in the program will be science, math and technology teachers in grades 7-12 from school districts in a dozen ARC-designated counties in Northeast Mississippi: Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, Kemper, Marshall, Montgomery, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Panola, Webster, Winston, and Yalobusha.

"Students in Mississippi classrooms will become the workforce of tomorrow," said Dr. Sandra Harpole, a physics professor who directs the MSU center.

MSU co-principal investigators on the project are Dr. Darrel Schmitz, professor and interim head of the department of geosciences; and Dr. Giselle Thibaudeau, associate professor of biological sciences.



Scientist eligible for national grant

A Mississippi State professor is among 86 of the nation's top nanotechnology scientists now competing for a portion of \$1 million in seed grants designed to spark innovative, collaborative research in the field.

Dr. Adrienne Minerick, an assistant professor in the Dave C. Swalm School of Chemical Engineering, recently joined other researchers from academia, industry and government to explore the future of nanoscience in medical imaging, materials science, biological machines, and tissue engineering.

Each participant in the second annual National Academies Keck Futures Initiative Designing Nanostructures conference held recently in Irvine, Calif., became eligible for \$1 million in seed grants—up to \$75,000

Farris, Geuder, have new roles

Director of University Relations and Assistant to the President Joe Farris is taking on new duties as part of an effort to make the state and nation more aware of MSU programs.

Among his responsibilities will be monitoring all criteria for national rankings and helping university decision makers identify and follow up on opportunities for improvement.

"We want the university and the community to realize how important our reputation is in attracting faculty and students, foundation support, and, most importantly, adding more recognition to previous and future diplomas for our graduates," said President Charles Lee.

Responsibility for heading the Office of University Relations are being assumed by associate director Maridith Geuder on an interim basis, while Farris becomes assistant to the president on a full-time basis.

Farris became director of university relations in 1986 and has doubled as assistant to the president since 1995.

Geuder, associate director for public information since 1990, will oversee an office that provides media relations, publications services, photography and Web site management for the university.

each—to begin new lines of collaborative research inspired by ideas and relationships developed during the conference. Grant recipients will be announced in April.

Minerick earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Michigan Technological University in 1998. She received both master's and doctoral degrees, also in the major, from the University of Notre Dame in 2003.



Minerick

Her research specialty area is in the development of handheld blood diagnostic kits for use at home, in doctor's offices or in clinical laboratories.

NCAA—continued from page 1

reviewers will conduct a two-day evaluation site visit to Mississippi State," Reese said.

Composed of peers from other universities, the site team will report to the NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification, which may decide that the institution is certified, certified with conditions, or not certified.

The steering committee also includes Jimmy Abraham of the Division of Student Affairs; outgoing Athletic Council faculty representative Kirk Arnett of the College of Business and Industry; and Julie Berry of the Student Support Services Office, chair of the Professional and Support Staff Advisory Council.

Others include Art Cosby of the Social Science Research Center, Maridith Geuder of the university relations office, Sue Minchew of the College of Education, Student Association President Adam Telle, and incoming Athletic Council faculty representative Steven Turner of the agricultural economics department.

Athletic department members include director Larry Templeton; associate director David Boles, who also heads the university's Academic Advising Center; associate director Samye Johnson, who directs the women's sports programs; and varsity basketball player Shane Power, representing the Student Athlete Advisory Council.

Swalm—continued from page 1

Swalm since 1988 has made donations to his alma mater totaling more than \$20 million.

After having worked his way through MSU, he was hired by Dow Chemical following graduation. He subsequently held positions at Texas Butadiene and the Steuber Co. before investing his entire savings of \$6,000 to found his own company in 1968.

He sold Texas Olefins for \$500 million in 1996.

Among his earlier generosity to MSU was a \$14 million gift that made possible a 100,000-square-foot chemical engineering building and a school of chemical engineering that now bears his name. Other contributions support scholarships, faculty development programs and laboratory equipment.

For more information about the Swalm Scholarships, contact Amy Cagle of the MSU Foundation at 325-1006.

Memo is published for the faculty and staff of Mississippi State University by the Office of

University Relations. It is published weekly during the

Mississippi State UNIVERSITY

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

18

Lyceum Series: "The Oedipus Cycle," McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-4201. (see story page 2)

20

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

The Circle of Sisterhood presents "The Gift of Life," a presentation on organ donation and her husband's experience with it by Maridith Geuder, interim director of University Relations, third-floor faculty lounge, Colvard Union, noon-1 p.m. 325-2091.

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.

February

1

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

2-4

Brazilian Music Festival. 325-2854.

3

MSU vs. Vanderbilt women's basketball game has been moved to 8 p.m. for airing by Fox Sports Net South, Humphrey Coliseum.

5

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

12

MSU vs. Vanderbilt, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 6 p.m.

16

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

17

Human Resources Management session: "Disciplinary Action (non-contract employees)," 150 McArthur Hall. 1-4 p.m. Open to supervisory employees. Registration required. 325-3713 or helms@hrm.msstate.edu.

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

23-25

Play: "A Staged Reading of Fragments" by Edward Albee, \$5 general admission, McComas Hall lab theater, 7:30 p.m. Recommended for mature audiences. 325-3203.

26

MSU vs. Mississippi, men's basketball, Humphrey Coliseum, 6 p.m.

27

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

March

5

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

Basketball grads top list

An analysis published in the Chronicle of Higher Education shows Mississippi State did well in graduating its basketball players.

In the Dec. 10, 2004, issue the Chronicle took the Associated Press's top 25 men's basketball team rankings for preseason and figured graduation rates for players who entered college from 1994 to 1998. It included the teams' won-loss records since 1994 and the teams' profits, defined as team revenues minus expenses for 2002-03.

Mississippi State was ranked No. 12 in the preseason poll, but ranked No. 1 in graduating its players with the rate at 75 percent. Graduating the second-highest number of players in the same period was the University of Wisconsin at Madison with 73 percent.

MSU's net profits were nearly \$1.5 million, well below the University of Louisville's \$11 million profit. However, Louisville's player graduation rate was only 17 percent.