

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

January 31, 2005

Volume 29

Issue 22

Civil rights litigator Dees to speak

The co-founder and chief trial counsel of a nationally recognized Alabama civil rights and justice organization speaks Feb. 3 as part of the university's Black History Month observance.

Morris S. Dees Jr. of Montgomery's Southern Poverty Law Center will be featured at a 7 p.m. public program in the Colvard Union ballroom. His visit is sponsored by the Richard Holmes Cultural Diversity Center.

Dees is the Scots-lineage great-grandson of a Confederate soldier and the son of a rural Central Alabama cotton farmer. The University of Alabama law school graduate began his professional life with a private law practice in the Alabama state capital and the continuing leadership of a successful national direct mail publishing business he'd started while a college student.

During the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, attorney Dees became active in aiding minorities in court. In 1967, he filed suit to stop construction of a white Alabama university in a city with an established, predominately black state college. A year later, he filed another suit to integrate the all-white Montgomery YMCA.

With fellow Montgomery attorney Joseph J. Levin Jr., he founded the Southern Poverty Law Center in 1971. Since that

time, the organization—supported by contributions from nearly 500,000 private U.S. citizens—has engaged in a string of civil rights lawsuits.

In 1980, the center responded to a resurgence in organized racist activities with the creation of Klanwatch, a project that monitors hate groups and develops legal strategies for protecting citizens from violence-prone organizations. Its \$7 million judgment against the United Klans of America on behalf of the mother of a lynched Mobile black man set a legal precedent.

For his work and that of the SPLC, Dees, the 68-year-old married father of three sons and a daughter, has received a host of honors and tributes. He is the author of an autobiography, "A

Season for Justice" (Charles Scribner's Sons), and "Hate on Trial: The Case Against America's Most Dangerous Neo-Nazi" (Villard Books), which chronicles the trial and \$12.5 million judgment against white supremacist Tom Metzger and his White Aryan Resistance group.

"Gathering Storm" (HarperCollins Publishers), his latest book, deals with the dangers posed by today's domestic terrorists.

For more information about Dees' campus visit, contact Holmes Center director Aretha Jones-Cook at 325-2033.



Dees

Grzybowski again directs High Voltage Laboratory

Mississippi State electrical and computer engineering professor Stanislaw Grzybowski is returning as director of the university's High Voltage Laboratory, considered one of the largest academic research facilities of its kind in the nation.

A member of the MSU faculty since 1987, Grzybowski headed the lab from 1993-2000 and had remained actively involved in the facility's management since that time.

"Stan's assuming the position of director of the High Voltage Laboratory complements a diverse and active electrical and computer engineering power program, both in the department and at CAVS (the university's Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems)," said ECE department head Jim Harden.

The department and lab operate as a part of the Bagley College of Engineering.

Known as the largest high voltage lab among North American universities, the multi-purpose research facility helps meet testing and evaluation needs of industry and utilities, and provides a basic academic environment for high-voltage engineering. Founded by former longtime director Paul B. Jacob in 1977, the lab operates in the Simrall Electrical Engineering Building.

Grzybowski's areas of research and expertise include lightning protection of electrical power systems, warships, aircraft, aerostat and other objects; as well as electrical degradation of high-voltage insulation and aging mechanisms in polymer high-voltage cables and insulators. He has authored three textbooks and 198 papers, and is a Life Fellow in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering.

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Nominations open for outstanding women

MSU faculty, staff and students are invited to recognize the significant professional and personal accomplishments of campus and community women through the Outstanding Woman Awards program sponsored by the President's Commission on the Status of Women.

The deadline for nominations is Feb. 18. Nomination forms and information are available online at www.committees.msstate.edu/pcsw/. After accessing the site, find the link called Nomination Forms 2005 on the left side of the page and click on it. The next is a list of the Outstanding Woman Awards with links to the respective nomination forms. The forms are created in Microsoft Word and may be downloaded by clicking on the "save" button when it comes up.

To help the committee facilitate the review and awards process, nominators are being asked to check with the Department of Human Resources Management to determine the appropriate employment category for a nominee and to include a current mailing address and telephone number for the nominee.

The winners will be honored at an awards reception March 30.

For additional information, contact Lillian Wade at 325-7390 or wade@dial.msstate.edu.

Floral workshop to reinvent traditional styles in design

The newest trends and products available in floral design will be introduced during a Feb. 19 workshop at Mississippi State.

Sponsored by the University Florist, the 9 a.m.-3 p.m. public sessions will be led by James DelPrince, a professor in the university's retail floristry program, and florist manager Lynette McDougald.

Feb. 11 is the deadline for registration, which includes a \$75 fee to help cover the cost of training materials and lunch.

The program will be held in the floral design studio attached to the florist on Lee Boulevard.

For more information, contact DelPrince at jdelprince@pss.msstate.edu or 325-1965.

Festival to highlight music of Brazil

A guitarist performing the music of his native South American country will be featured during the Brazilian Music Festival being held this week at Mississippi State.

The Wednesday-Friday [Feb. 2-4] series of public programs is sponsored by the Music Education Department with support from the Lyceum Series.

Thomas Garcia, associate professor at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, will be joined by MSU faculty artists during a Thursday [the 3rd] concert in McComas Hall theater. General admission to the 7:30 p.m. Brazilian Chamber Concert performance is \$5; free to MSU students with valid identification.

Selections will be featured from the works of Heitor Villa-Lobos, Nicanor Teixeira, Mozart de Araujo, and Baden-Powell, among others. The faculty performers include pianist Rosângela Sebba, also a Brazilian native; guitarist Michael Patilla; bassoonist Elaine Peterson; and clarinetist Sheri Falcone.

Other Brazilian Festival events include:

—A free Wednesday [the 2nd] Garcia recital to begin at 2 p.m. in the Betterworth Auditorium of Giles Hall.

—A Friday [the 4th] recital, also free, by students who participated in a Garcia-led master class. Also in Betterworth Auditorium, this final program of the week begins at 7:30 p.m.

Garcia holds bachelor's and master's degrees in performance from New York's Juilliard School, a master's degree in musicology from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst and a doctorate in performance practice from Duke University.

He has performed widely throughout the U.S. and Brazil, including New York City concerts at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and Merkin Concert Hall. In Brazil, he has performed at the Villa-Lobos Museum and the Museum of the Republic in Rio de Janeiro.

He is co-author of the forthcoming "Chôro: A Social History of Brazilian Popular Music" (Indiana University Press, spring).

For more information, telephone the Music Education Department at 325-3070.

High voltage—continued from page 1

"As an IEEE Fellow and a world-recognized leader in high-voltage engineering, lightning protection and insulation, Stan provides a strong research dimension to the service capabilities of one of the largest academic high voltage laboratories," said Harden. "I know he is committed to building further support for the lab on a regional and national level, and I look forward to working with him."

Grzybowski earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1954 from the Poznan University of Technology, and master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering, respectively, in 1956 and 1964, from Warsaw University of Technology in his native Poland.

In 1984, he reached a level few have attained in receiving the rank of Doctor Habilitated in electrical engineering from Wroclaw University of Technology, also in Poland.



Grzybowski



Public information staffs capture 15 communication awards

Mississippi State public information professionals in separate areas of the university collected a total of 15 awards in competition with other print, broadcast and electronic communicators across the country during 2004.

Office of University Relations news, publications and photography staff members captured six awards from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, which includes colleges and universities in a nine-state area of the Southeast. They will be recognized during the Feb. 20-23 CASE District III conference in Atlanta.

The university's Office of Agricultural Communications won three awards from the Association for Communication Excellence's International Critique and Award Program and four awards in the statewide Public Relations Association of Mississippi's Prism Award Program.

The Mississippi State TV Center received two 2004 Communicator Awards in video competition, which recognizes outstanding work internationally.

A specific summary of the MSU awards includes:

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS—

Publications

Award of Excellence—Erin Norwood, MSU Lyceum Series poster.

Special Merit Award—Erin Norwood, Megan Bean, Russ Houston and Kay Jones, "Top 10 Reasons" housing recruitment piece.

Special Merit Award—Erin Norwood, senior graphic design major Bonnie Dickerson of Gulfport, Megan Bean, Russ Houston, and the MSU Foundation, 2005 MSU Calendar.

News

Award of Excellence—Maridith Geuder, news story or series, "Medical Sociology News Series."

Award of Excellence—Phil Hearn, news story or series, "Diabetes Breathalyzer."

Award of Excellence—Phil Hearn, news and feature writing, "MSU Wood Preservation Expert Focuses on Civil War Gunboat, Southern Housing" series.

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS—

ACE Gold and Outstanding Professional Skill awards in the information technology category ("gold of the gold" award)—OAC Web team members Patsy Sykes, Rick Noffsinger and Cindy Callahan, MSUcares.com Web site.

ACE Bronze Award—Leighton Spann, audio news and features, Farmweek radio feature on red deer production in Gluckstadt.

ACE Bronze Award—Danny Gardner, interactive media program, new Master Gardener kiosk.

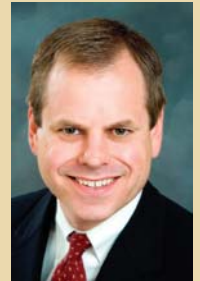
PRAM Prism Award—Danny Gardner, Mary Jo Wallace, Jim Lytle, Marco Nicovich, and Beth Dishongh, annual report over \$2,000 category, Extension Annual Report (calendar).

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Engineering college has new director of development

Blake W. Hudson is the new director of development for the Bagley College of Engineering.

The college's assistant development director since 2002, the Tupelo native and 1989 MSU industrial engineering graduate succeeds John P. Rush, who now is the MSU Foundation's major gifts director.



Hudson

Hudson was associate director of fund development for Campus Crusade for Christ's Southeastern region before coming to work at the university. Prior to that, he was a staff engineer with the Memphis (Tenn.) Light, Gas and Water Department.

One of the two oldest academic programs at MSU, the Bagley College enrolls more than 2,600 undergraduate and graduate majors. It currently ranks 24th among national public and private engineering colleges in research and development expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation.

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

Mississippi State 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.

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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.

Ongoing Events

Department of Art's 33rd Annual Art and Design competition, more than 100 works in a variety of media, through Feb. 11, Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall. 325-2970.

February

1

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

2

General faculty meeting, Hunter Henry Center, 3 p.m.

2-4

Brazilian Music Festival. 325-2854. (see story page 2)

3

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

Civil rights litigator Morris Dees to speak, Colvard Union ballroom, 7 p.m. 325-2033. (see story page 1)

Faculty and student members invited to Phi Kappa Phi business meeting, 118 Thompson Hall, 5:30 p.m. Free pizza and \$75 door prize. Angela Hill, 325-3830.

Reception honoring Dr. Kirk H. Schulz as the new dean of engineering and holder of

the Earnest W. and Mary Ann Deavenport Jr. Chair, Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3-4:30 p.m. 325-7183.

5

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

10

Workshop: "EndNote 101," ELI/Giles electronic classrooms, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. Registration required. Deborah Lee, 325-0810 or dlee@library.msstate.edu.

Spring enrollment includes 910 online students

MSU's spring semester unduplicated headcount enrollment for all campuses stands at 14,914.

This semester's student body is 76 percent Mississippi residents, 77 percent undergraduate, 52 percent male, and 19 percent African-American.

A total of 910 current students are enrolled exclusively in online courses, with a majority of that number accounted for by meteorology programs in the Geosciences Department.

In keeping with a change in counting procedures prescribed by the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning, students taking only online courses will be reported separately from now on, rather than being associated with the MSU campus through which they registered.

The change means that this spring's enrollment totals by campus are not comparable to those for previous semesters, although the overall enrollment number is not affected.

The breakdown by campus under the new counting method includes 13,249 students at the Starkville campus, 695 at Meridian, four at Stennis Space Center, 56 at Vicksburg, and 910 enrolled online. (Using the previous counting method, this semester's main campus enrollment would have been 14,121.)

The statewide total unduplicated headcount for spring 2004 was 15,088.

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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.

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Deadline for Outstanding Woman Awards nominations. 325-7390. (see story page 2)

Awards—continued from page 3

PRAM Award of Excellence—Bob Ratliff, publication for an external audience (over \$2,000) category, MAFES Research Highlights.

PRAM Certificate of Achievement—Bonnie Coblentz, "Summer Program Sends Students to Med School" feature article.

PRAM Certificate of Achievement—Leighton Spann production of the Farmweek television program broadcast from the 2003 Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition in Moultrie, Ga.

MSU TV CENTER—

Communicator Awards:

Award of Excellence—Producer-editor-videographer Marc Rolph and graphics specialist Ben Cook, Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program video for first-time DUI offenders titled "No Accident."

Award of Distinction—Producer Ralph Olivieri, Marc Rolph, Steve Carver, Lewis Halbert, and Tony Boutwell, MSU Foundation's *State of the Future* promotional video.