

MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

February 7, 2005

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Issue 23



Heavy-equipment operators recently removed the last vestiges of the former Hamlin Residence Hall. Completed in 1966 at a cost of \$1.5 million, the seven-story, 500-bed facility originally housed upperclass male students. In later years, the red-brick-and-concrete structure at East Lee Boulevard and Barr Avenue was home to upperclass women.

Organizers crowing about arrival of 4702

When a “new” year of the Chinese lunar calendar begins this week, Mississippi State students will have the opportunity to join in the celebration.

In a series of events coinciding with the Feb. 9 Chinese New Year’s Festival, several university organizations are helping highlight the culture and traditions associated with a chronological record that dates to 2600 B.C.

Two Feb. 8 seminars and a Feb. 10 festival will feature music, dance, drama, and food associated with the celebration that is among the most important to the Chinese culture, said Cai Shangshu of the MSU Association of Chinese Students and Scholars.

“We are joining with the MSU Libraries, International Services Office and Student Association to help others experience this important celebration in our culture,” he said.

In the Chinese lunar calendar, 2005 is both the Year of the Rooster and 4702 by ancient dating. As in American culture, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day are times of celebration. “It is a family affair, a time of reunion and thanksgiving,” Shangshu said. “Most celebrating the festival stay up until midnight, when fireworks are lit to drive away evil spirits.”

To introduce the celebration, ACSS students will sponsor public presentations at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in the Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium.

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Landscape architecture ranked 15th

Mississippi State’s undergraduate program in landscape architecture is listed among the top 15 programs in the country by a national publication that promotes quality design education.

DesignIntelligence, a monthly journal published by Greenway Communications for the Design Futures Council, released the rankings in its sixth edition of “America’s Best Architecture and Design Schools.” MSU was 15th out of 66 programs the publication ranked, with Ohio State University topping the list.

“I think the program earned this recognition through the commitment and dedication of the faculty to teaching,” said department head Cameron Man. He said it is the first time the publication has added rankings of landscape architecture to its ongoing assessments of architecture and interior design programs.

“This honor is a positive reflection on the quality of our landscape architecture faculty and the department’s academic program,” said Dr. Vance Watson, vice president of the university’s Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.

“The program’s recent reaccreditation for the maximum term also indicates its quality,” added Watson, whose division includes landscape architecture.

The Atlanta-based Greenway Group includes two divisions: Greenway Consulting, which performs consulting services; and Greenway Communications, which develops think-tank conferences and publications. The content of DesignIntelligence is aimed

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Sorority offers 'experience' with Animal Planet star

The popular host and namesake of the Animal Planet television channel's "Jeff Corwin Experience" will be featured at a special Feb. 21 public event.

Corwin, a wild-animal specialist and habitat conservationist, is the first speaker for the Dorothy Garrett Martin Lectureship in Values and Ethics, an annual campus program established last fall by the university's Delta Gamma social sorority. Corwin's address will begin at 7 p.m. in Humphrey Coliseum.

MSU chapter members and alumnae raised \$50,000 to match an equal amount from a Delta Gamma Foundation national grant provided by the Paul Martin family of Akron, Ohio.

To date, 11 of 14 proposed Martin Lectureships have been launched through the foundation. MSU remains the only Southeastern institution in the 11-campus contingent.

"The lectureship's goal is to bring speakers annually who can discuss topics that educate students and other campus community members on the value and importance of ethical conduct in their personal and professional lives," said chapter president Katie Lightsey of Jackson.

According to Corwin's biography, he was introduced to tropical rain forests while on a 1984 summer expedition to the Central American nation of Belize. While later pursuing dual bachelor's degrees in biology and anthropology at Bridgewater (Mass.) State College, he became an activist for protecting rain forests of the Americas.

Corwin also holds a master's from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where his graduate research focused on Central American bats. In 1999, he was honored with an honorary doctorate in public education from Bridgewater State for his work in communicating the importance of natural-resource conservation.

Since first airing in 2000, the Animal Planet program has generated a loyal following—including an online Corwin fan club.

Prior to his current high-profile TV role, Corwin helped establish the Cambridge, Mass.-based Emerald Canopy Rainforest Foundation and served as a member of the United Nations Environ-

ment Program. He also produced "Jaguar Trax," a docudrama situated in Costa Rica, and produced and hosted a Disney Channel series titled "Going Wild with Jeff Corwin."

In addition to his broadcast work, Corwin is developing a book series that explores the natural history of endangered

species and the threatened ecosystems they inhabit.

For more information on or to make a tax-deductible donation to the DG lectureship program, contact chairperson Paula Raffo at phraffo@yahoo.com or 323-8363.



Camerata Nordica

Swedish chamber orchestra to perform

One of Sweden's most highly regarded orchestral groups will be featured Feb. 22 at Mississippi State.

Camerata Nordica, a chamber orchestra that performs without a conductor, will begin its concert at 7:30 p.m. in McComas Hall theater. The program is part of the 2004-05 MSU Lyceum Series.

Formerly known as Camerata Sweden, the 15-member group has found widespread appeal among audiences ranging from classical concerts to rock festivals. In addition to touring widely in Europe, Central and South America, and the United States, the nine-man, six-women troupe is a staple on Swedish television and radio programs.

Available at the door, tickets are \$15 for adults; \$13, senior citizens, by request; and \$11 for children 3-12 years old. MSU students are admitted free with valid identification.

A previously announced 7 p.m. pre-concert lecture will not be held because of performance requirements.

Camerata Nordica celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1999. Over the decades, it has performed with some of the world's leading artists—among them, flutist Sir James Galway, soprano Barbara Bonney, mezzo soprano and jazz vocalist Barbara Hendricks, and Barry Tuckwell, recognized as the most recorded horn player in the world.

For more information on the MSU event, contact the Lyceum Series at 325-4201 or www.msstate.edu/dept/lyceum. The group's Web site may be found at www.camerata.se.



New health, pharmacy cards issued

Because of concerns about using employee Social Security numbers on insurance identification cards, new cards have been issued by the administering company.

Blue Cross & Blue Shield, medical claims administrator for the State and School Employees' Health Insurance, has created new health insurance cards with unique identification numbers for all participants. Social Security numbers are no longer being used for identification purposes.

Faculty and staff members should have received new health plan I.D. cards in the

mail by the end of January. The new numbers should be used when contacting Blue Cross & Blue Shield.

In addition, AdvancePCS, the plan's pharmacy benefit manager, has merged with Caremark Rx Inc. New pharmacy cards from Caremark with employees' new I.D. number were issued in December. Although their name has changed, the merger will not affect pharmacy services to participants.

Anyone not receiving new cards should telephone the BCBS Customer Service Department at (601) 664-5300 or 1-800-709-7881.

Black History Month plans under way

A diverse team of MSU employees is planning a series of events to commemorate February's nationally recognized Black History Month.

Some of the promotions developed by the new Facilities Diversity Team include distributing black history fliers and fact sheets about persons in the Facilities Management Department of Physical Plant.

"We have many talented African-Americans who are here every day maintaining the campus facilities. I am very proud of them and eager to highlight their life accomplishments," said Jim Jones, executive

director of facilities.

The month will culminate in a potluck luncheon, featuring a key note speaker from within the department and a performance by the MSU Custodial Choir. Information on the luncheon will be published in a later Memo.

Facilities Diversity Team members include Marvell Howard, Physical Plant; Donna Baptist, Physical Plant Accounting; Debbie Miller, Custodial Services; Benny Yarbrough, Campus Landscaping; and Maria White, Homes Cultural Diversity Center.

Landscape architecture—continued from page 1

at leaders seeking to improve the built environment and the design professions.

"While no ranking system is perfect, this does provide a way to celebrate excellence toward a new ascendant condition in landscape architecture," said James P. Cramer, Greenway Consulting's chairman.

The Greenway Group works with professional firms, planners, architects, engineers, designers, contractors, facility owners, manufacturers, and related professional and cultural organizations that concentrate on improvement of the environment.

"We want to aggregate the subjective

views of individual practitioners, inspire and inform local conversations about the components of a quality design education, and help prospective students make arguably the single most important career choice they will ever make," added Cramer.

DesignIntelligence America's complete listing of its 15 best landscape architecture schools include, in order, Ohio State, Georgia, Kansas State, Pennsylvania State, Louisiana State, Cornell, Purdue, California Polytechnic-San Luis Obispo and Michigan State (tie), Ball State and California State Polytechnic-Pomona (tie), Iowa State and Massachusetts-Amherst (tie), Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and Mississippi State.

Rooster—continued from page 1

On the 10th, Chinese-style dinner and entertainment will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Bost Extension Center auditorium. Tickets are \$5.

The MSU Libraries, which last fall co-sponsored a Diwali celebration in cooperation with the India Student Association, are continuing to promote cultural awareness and understanding, said outreach coordinator Gail Peyton.

"We believe this to be an important part of our mission in serving the campus," Peyton said.

International Services Office director Philip Bonfanti said the collaboration with international students also helps foster cross-cultural interactions.

"By partnering with the library and the international student associations, we are able to hold awareness seminars in conjunction with the festival so that students can learn about the celebrations and attend them with a greater appreciation," he said.

For more information about Chinese New Year events, visit www.msstate.edu/org/acss/.

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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

8

ITS workshop: "Intro to Microsoft FrontPage 2003," 10 McArthur Hall, 1:30-5 p.m. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/.

8 and 9

ITS workshop: "BANNER: Requisitions," two-day class, 10 McArthur Hall, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/.

8-10

Chinese New Year Festival. (see story page 1)

9

ITS workshop: "Intro to Microsoft PowerPoint 2003," 10 McArthur Hall, 8:30 a.m.-noon. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/.

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.

ITS workshop: "Adobe Photoshop II," 10 McArthur Hall, 8:30 a.m.-noon. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/.

Recital: Pianist Jackie Edwards-Henry and flutist Lana Johns, McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. \$5. 325-3070.

11

Discovery: MSU. 325-2224.

12

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

16

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

16 and 17

ITS workshop: "BANNER: Invoice Processing," two-day class, 10 McArthur Hall, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and 8:30 a.m.-noon. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/.

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.

ITS workshop: "Introduction to SPSS," 10 McArthur Hall, 1:30-5 p.m. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/.

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

18

Deadline for Outstanding Woman Awards nominations. 325-7390.

19

Floral workshop, floral design studio attached to the University Florist, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Deadline to register is Feb. 11. \$75 fee for materials and lunch. 325-1965.

21

"Jeff Corwin Experience," Humphrey Coliseum, 7 p.m. 323-8363. (see story page 2)

22

Lyceum Series: "Camerata Nordica" concert, McComas Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-4201. (see story page 2)

23

ITS workshops: "Microsoft PowerPoint 2003 II," 8:30 a.m.-noon; "BANNER: Leave Entry," 8:30 a.m.-noon, 10 McArthur Hall. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/.

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.

24

ITS workshop: "Introduction to Macromedia Dreamweaver," 10 McArthur Hall, 8:30 a.m.-noon. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/.

26

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

27

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

Flex participants must file claims by March deadline

All Flexible Spending Account participants must send 2004 Mediflex and Careflex claims to the third party administrator on or before March 1.

Forms should be mailed to Glynn Griffing & Associates, P.O. Box 16509, Jackson, MS 39236-6509.

For more information, telephone GGA at (800) 326-4885, or the MSU Department of Human Resources Management at 325-3713.