

# MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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## State-born novelist, photo exhibit highlight events

A novel set against a backdrop of this Deep South state's racially segregated past and a photography exhibit focusing on issues of race and ethnicity are being featured this month in campus events.

Laurel native and author Jonathan Odell will discuss his widely acclaimed first novel, "The View from Delphi," Feb. 22 during a 6:30 p.m. University Honors Forum lecture and book-signing event at Giles Hall's Betterworth Auditorium. Earlier in the day, he will meet with about 40 University Honors Program students who are reading the book.

Minnesota native and award-winning visual artist Jim Kuether's photo exhibit, "MSinterpretations: Images of Mississippi," will be displayed alongside the documentation photography of David Perkes through March 25 in the College of Architecture, Art and Design Gallery, also in Giles Hall.

Immediately following his presentation,

Odell will sign books during a reception held among the photo exhibit in the Giles gallery.

"This exhibit is a double billing of two artists (Kuether and Perkes) working in a similar vein of subject, the Southern vernacular as evidenced in the culture of the South," explained MSU art instructor Bill Andrews.

He said another campus exhibit, "Stories of the Community: Self-Taught Art from the Hill Collection," will take place Feb. 15-March 25 at the Department of Art Gallery in McComas Hall. Thirty-three vernacular art objects from 19 Southern states will be featured.

Kuether spent four weeks last year traveling throughout Mississippi, capturing images for his photographs and watercolor paintings. His work emphasizes the human condition, particularly issues of race and ethnicity.

"Attempting to capture and reconcile the contradictions between Mississippi's elegance and beauty with the darkness and complexities of its past has been an experience unlike any other for me," said Kuether.

Odell's novel (*MacAdams/Cage*, June 2004) tackles institutionalized racism in a small Mississippi Delta town in the 1950s through the eyes of two young mothers—one wealthy and white, the other poor and black. They have only two things in common—the devastating loss of their sons and an abiding hatred for one another.

Currently a resident of Minneapolis, Minn., Odell often collaborates with Kuether on creative projects.

Jonathan Odell is a pen name, he said, explaining that his real name is Johnny Johnson. He is the son of former Sanderson Farms president Odell Johnson, whose "portrait hangs over in the Poultry Hall of Fame" at MSU's Hill Poultry Science Building.



Don Downer, (second from right) is receiving Mississippi State's 2004 Outstanding Student Adviser Award. The professor and former Biological Sciences Department head will represent the university in an annual national recognition program. Curriculum and Instruction assistant professors (from left) Devon Brenner and Terry Jayroe received certificates of merit in the University Academic Advising Center's annual commendation program. Provost Peter Rabideau presented the awards at the recent spring general faculty meeting.



## European writer to launch Distinguished Speaker Series

A Swedish-born author who has won critical acclaim for her biography of a powerful French noblewoman will be the first guest Feb. 16 for a new Mississippi State lecture series.

Leonie Frieda, now a London resident, will discuss her study of Catherine de Medici during a 4 p.m. public program in the John Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library. She is helping inaugurate the Distinguished Speakers Series co-



Frieda

sponsored by the university's Institute for the Humanities, Office of Research and College of Arts and Sciences.

A native of Italy and contemporary of England's Queen Elizabeth I, de Medici (1519-89) married into French royalty and played a major role in the French court during more than three decades at the height of the Renaissance. She became an

accomplished political strategist who continues to be remembered for her ruthlessness in maintaining a power base for her children—three of whom became French kings.

Frieda, a former model, was educated in Britain, Germany and France and is fluent in five languages. She began the background for "Catherine de Medici: A Biography" (Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 2004, U.K.) after concluding a successful career as co-owner of a major European recording studio.

Being released in the U.S. this year, Frieda's first book drew immediate critical acclaim in her adopted

homeland. London's Literary Review called it "an enthralling book"; The Spectator, "an engrossing tale, compellingly narrated."

British historian Jeremy Black will headline the second DLS program of the 2005 spring season when he visits campus March 22.

For more on the MSU Distinguished Lecture Series, telephone 325-2646.

## Leflore businessman, alum honors mother with scholarship

A Mississippi State alumnus and Greenwood resident is honoring his mother with a scholarship at the university.

The Lucile G. Guldge Endowed Scholarship recently was established by W.M. "Morgan" Guldge Jr. to benefit students in two academic areas of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Morgan Guldge, a 1977 agriculture economics graduate, is managing partner with Guldge Enterprises.

The Lucile Guldge Scholarship will be available for full-time majors in the human development and family studies programs of the college's School of Human Sciences. The first Guldge Scholar is scheduled to be named in the 2005 fall semester.

Guldge and his mother previously established the W.M. Guldge Sr. Memorial Scholarship at MSU in honor of his father, a 1937 graduate of then-Mississippi State College. For many years, the initial Guldge award has assisted School of Accountancy majors from Leflore and Washington counties.

The Lucile Guldge Scholarship is an open fund in the MSU Foundation and may be increased through additional contributions.

For more information, telephone Jud Skelton, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences development director, at 325-2110.

## Child development veteran joins Early Childhood Center

A former Mississippi Public Broadcasting administrator now is leading a pilot program developed by the National Center for Rural Early Childhood Learning Initiatives.

Anno Lemons of Madison recently was chosen to direct Excel by Five, a community planning initiative of the Mississippi State University-based center. She previously was head of early childhood programming in MPB's Education Services Division.

Funded by Chevron Texaco and the Meridian-based Phil Hardin Foundation, Excel by Five initially is focusing on pre-kindergarten children in Cleveland, Pascagoula, Petal, and West Point. Developed by state education and child care professionals, the grassroots endeavor has established standards related to parent training, community participation, child care, and health that support pre-K youth and their parents.

"The program is designed to give communities, regardless of size, and those responsible for early child care and education a structured set of achievable steps toward the Excel by Five certification," said Early Childhood Center Director Cathy Grace.

If the project proves effective during the pilot stage, the center may seek to replicate it in rural communities of other states, the MSU education professor said.

Mississippi State University complies with all applicable laws regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity in all its activities and programs and does not discriminate against anyone protected by law because of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, handicap, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran.



## Service requests available online

A new procedure for obtaining some campus services now is available to faculty and staff through Web access.

To request service from Campus Landscaping, Custodial Services or Physical Plant, search for “facilities” in the search block on the main MSU web page, [www.msstate.edu](http://www.msstate.edu). Next, click on Physical Plant, and then Request for Services (text). Fill out the form and click the submit icon.

Employees are invited to test the procedure, as long as they write “this is a test” in the description of work block.

According to Jim Jones, executive director of facilities, consolidating the service request process for Physical Plant, Campus Landscaping and Custodial Services will provide benefits such as:

- allow employees to request service regardless of the time of day;
- allow the customer to describe in his or her own words exactly what the problem is;
- instantly provides a tracking number;
- allow Facilities Management to keep all requests not immediately taken care of for future planning;
- increase the visibility and number of requests that are documented for corrective action; and
- let the Facilities Management team determine what unit will respond.

For more information, telephone 325-2052.

## Arwood joins national research ethics council

A Mississippi State administrator is a newly elected representative to the Applied Research Ethics National Association.

Tracy S. Arwood, director since 2001 of the university’s regulatory compliance office, is one of six new members and one of only three professionals from the South on the council.

Based in Boston, Mass., the organization includes members worldwide who are research administrators, government officials, academic officers, and others interested in the protection of human and animal research subjects.

Arwood heads the MSU office respon-



Arwood

sible for biosafety, radiological safety, hazardous waste management, human use in research, animal care and use, and scientific misconduct. She ensures compliance with all institutional, state and federal regulations governing each area.

“Tracy is an outstanding professional who is highly knowledgeable about the responsibilities of those conducting research,” said Dr. Colin Scanes, vice president for research. “With her appointment to this highly prestigious association, she joins some of the leading professionals in the world addressing ethical issues in research.”

Arwood has served as a consultant to a number of health care systems in Mississippi and is a member of a human subjects research committee for the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in criminal justice, both from Radford (Va.) University.

## Local financial planner to lecture

Starkville financial planner Lynn M. Phillips will be the guest speaker for a Feb. 16 public presentation sponsored by the Faculty and Professional Women’s Association.



Phillips

“Top 10 Tips for Women and Financial Management” will be the subject of her noon presentation in the second-floor classroom of the university’s T.K. Martin

Center, which adjoins the Longest Student Health Center on Hardy Boulevard.

Phillips, who has a statewide clientele, is the founder and owner of Phillips Financial Advisory Inc. She holds the professional rank of both Certified Financial Planner and Certified Retirement Counselor.

The 1978 MSU graduate has been included in Sunburst Bank’s “Top 40 under 40” and Mississippi Business Journal’s 50 Business Women in Mississippi recognition programs.

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

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recycled paper



## 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.

### Ongoing Events

Jim Kuether's photo exhibit, "MSinterpretations: Images of Mississippi," and documentation photography of David Perkes, through March 25, College of Architecture, Art and Design Gallery, Giles Hall. Also, "Stories of the Community: Self-Taught Art from the Hill Collection," Feb. 15-March 25 at the Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall. 325-2970.

### February

#### 16

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

Distinguished Speaker Series lecture by Leonie Frieda, John Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 4 p.m. 325-2646. (see story page 2)

Faculty and Professional Women's Association brown-bag meeting: financial planner Lynn Phillips, second-floor classroom, T.K. Martin Center, noon. 325-7454. (see story page 3)

#### 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/](http://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](mailto:helms@hrm.msstate.edu).

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

#### 22

Lyceum Series: "Camerata Nordica" concert, Colvard Union ballroom, 7:30 p.m. 325-4201.

Jonathan Odell discusses his novel, "The View from Delphi," Bettersworth Auditorium, Giles Hall, 6:30 p.m. (see story page 1)

#### 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/](http://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/](http://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.

### March

#### 5

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

#### 8

Workshop: "SciFinder Scholar: Chemistry and More!" ELI/Giles electronic classrooms, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. Registration required. Deborah Lee, 325-0810 or [dlee@library.msstate.edu](mailto:dlee@library.msstate.edu).

#### 9

Workshop: "Developing a Literature Review," ELI/Giles electronic classrooms, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. Registration required. Deborah Lee, 325-0810 or [dlee@library.msstate.edu](mailto:dlee@library.msstate.edu).

#### 30

Outstanding Woman Awards ceremony, Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. 325-7390.

### 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.