

# MEMO

To the Faculty and Staff of Mississippi State University

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## Parking, traffic, decal prices to change for fall

Gated parking lots, higher parking decal prices and the largely unlamented demise of Five Points intersection are among the changes planned for campus by the start of the 2005 fall semester.

The modifications will aid central campus traffic congestion and bring parking decal fees in line with other Southern universities, according to Paul Welch, director of support services. Decals for employees and students now will cost \$50, double the current price.

“We’ve looked at parking decal fees at other universities and found the average is probably \$100-plus a year,” Welch said. “Currently, funds for street and parking lot maintenance and construction, as well as shuttle operations, come out of the university’s general budget. By raising our decal prices, we will be able to use those fees, along with monies generated by parking fines, for the same expenses without going to the general budget.”

He said a regional review by his staff found that annual fees at the:

- University of Alabama are \$60 for both faculty/staff and student decals;
- University of Florida, \$94 for students, \$102 for commuters and \$200-702 for employees;
- University of Georgia, vehicle owners pay \$10-30 a month;
- Louisiana State University, \$39 for all;
- University of Mississippi, \$70 for students, \$90 for employees;
- University of Southern Mississippi, \$24 for employees, with a \$5 late fee; and
- University of Texas: \$60-650.

“We are looking at a five-year plan of gradually raising decal prices until they level out near \$100 a year,” Welch said. “Last year fines and decals brought in a little over \$1 million to the university; raising decal prices to \$50 will bring in another \$400,000.”

Welch said campus-use consultants have

determined that \$29 is the average annual cost required to maintain a single parking space, making MSU’s current \$25 decal \$4 short of the status quo. The old price also leaves no funds for new construction.

Besides maintaining campus streets and parking lots, the additional funds will be used to build more lots, including a multi-story parking garage “in the not-too-distant future.”

All the planned changes are part of the university’s long-range goal to make the central campus pedestrian friendly, Welch said.

“The plan calls for a connector road around central campus with zoned commuter parking along the perimeter,” he added, explaining that zoned parking will be put into effect as soon as some old roads are closed and new ones open.

If the plan develops as scheduled, Five Points—aka “Malfunction Junction”—will evolve by fall into a large, continuous green between Dorman Hall and Davis Wade Stadium that’s suitable for, say, pre-game picnics.

To accomplish this, Welch said:

—West Lee Boulevard will come to an end at the Leo Seal M-Club Building,

—Bully Boulevard will end at the Amphitheater, and

—Russell Street will be expanded to three-lanes and curve into Stone Boulevard.

Welch said other road changes include extending Morgan Street to Stone Boulevard—the first leg of a planned connector road. Also, the former tennis courts behind Hathorn Residence Hall and a portion of the

*Continued on page 3*



Dr. Richard Holmes, staff physician at the Longest Student Health Center, was honored recently during a campus reception marking the 40th anniversary of his admission to Mississippi State. The event is the first of several that will commemorate his enrollment in 1965 as MSU’s first African-American student.



## Mother of hate crime victim to speak March 23

After her 21-year-old son was killed in a 1998 hate crime incident, Judy Shepard became a national voice for diversity, understanding and compassion.

Now as executive director of the Casper, Wyo.-based Matthew Shepard Foundation, co-founded with husband Dennis, Shepard will speak March 23 at Mississippi State. Her public presentation begins at 7 p.m. in Lee Hall auditorium.



Shepard

Her campus visit is sponsored by the university's divisions of Student Affairs and External Affairs, University Honors Program, offices of Sexual Assault Services and Counseling and Testing Services, Holmes Cultural Diversity Center, College Democrats, Delta Lambda Phi, Delta Xi Phi, Lambda Professionals, Residence Hall Association, Spectrum, and the Women's Studies Program, among others.

"Judy Shepard's message is one that focuses on the values of respect and dignity for others," said Dr. Bill Kibler, vice president for student affairs. "She uses the tragic story of the murder of her son Matthew to educate students on hate language and hate crimes."

Observing that hate crimes are "a learned behavior," Kibler added, "I highly

### Faculty/Staff Golf League to hold membership meeting

It's time for all MSU golfers to get those clubs out and prepare for the upcoming Faculty/Staff Golf League season.

A membership meeting for all interested players will begin at 5:15 p.m. March 29 at the MSU Golf Course. The league, open to all faculty and staff members and their spouses, consists of weekly play and monthly weekend tournaments.

For more information, telephone Dr. Joe Seger at 325-7522 or e-mail him at [jds1@ra.msstate.edu](mailto:jds1@ra.msstate.edu).

recommend the program as a 'must-see' for all students."

At the time of his death, Matthew Shepard was a political science major at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. He also served as a student representative on the Wyoming Environmental Council.

His beating and torture at the hands of two men close to his own age drew national attention to the issues of anti-gay crimes.

"The consequences of hate hurt everyone," Judy Shepard said in a 2004 statement at the sixth anniversary of her

son's murder. Those who suffer include "not only the victims and their families and friends, but also the families of the perpetrators," she added.

The Shepard Foundation currently supports a variety of educational efforts designed to raise awareness of issues involving discrimination and diversity. More information about its efforts can be found at [www.matthewshepard.org/](http://www.matthewshepard.org/).

For more information about the program, telephone Student Affairs at 325-3045.

## Fulbright veteran now earns elite honor

A nationally recognized Mississippi State humanities scholar is among only 31 U.S. educators receiving a major 2005 honor from the Fulbright Scholars program.

Dr. Nancy D. Hargrove, a Giles Distinguished Professor of English, recently was named a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in the international education exchange program. The designation is among the most prestigious awarded by the organization that Congress established in 1946 to enhance mutual understanding among nations of the world.

Hargrove will hold the Fulbright-University of Vienna Distinguished Chair in Humanities and Cultural Studies for the 2005-06 school year. She will teach three upper- and graduate-level courses in American literature, the field in which she has received national attention.

Hargrove is no stranger to the program, having been named a Fulbright Fellow on four previous occasions—once as a student and three times since joining the MSU faculty in 1970.



Hargrove

She holds an undergraduate degree from Agnes Scott College, a master's from the University of Wisconsin and a doctorate from the University of South Carolina.

### Nominations due for FPWA scholarships

Nominations are due soon for two scholarships for women offered by the Faculty and Professional Women's Association.

Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded for the 2004-06 academic year to one undergraduate woman and one female graduate student. Undergraduate applicants must have a grade-point average of 3.4 or greater; graduate applicants must have a 3.8 or greater GPA.

To apply, submit a letter of application, including intended educational plans, career goals and a statement of need; personal data sheet, resume or vita; transcripts of college courses; three letters of recommendation from MSU faculty or professional staff members, preferably at least one of whom is a member of FPWA; and a financial aid scholarship application.

A copy of application guidelines may be obtained from the FPWA Web site at <http://www.msstate.edu/org/FPWA/scholarship.html>.

Materials should be sent on or before April 13 to Judy Smith in the Office of Admissions and Scholarships, 157 Montgomery Hall.



Wallpaper reproduction specialist Jim Yates (r) discussed plans for Meridian's Grand Opera House during a recent visit to the 115-year-old Lauderdale County structure. With him are conservation technician Kirsten Travers and Nick Nichols, dean of Mississippi State-Meridian. Efforts to convert the historic facility and adjoining Marks Rothenberg Building into an education and conference center are being undertaken by the university with private and government funds.

## Federal judge selected for pre-law award

The Pre-Law Society at Mississippi State is selecting the state's newest federal judge for its 2005 Distinguished Jurist Award.

U.S. District Judge Keith Starrett of McComb will receive the honor March 29 during an 11 a.m. public program in the John Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library. He was nominated to the federal bench last year by President George W. Bush.

Prior to receiving the award from Pre-Law Society President Robert W. Miles of Morton, Starrett will speak on a topic of his choosing. Later, he will join members of the student organization in 180 Bowen Hall for a panel discussion—also open to the general public—of current legal issues.

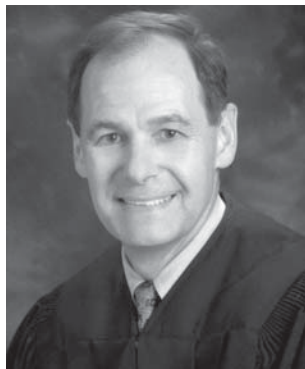
First presented to retired U.S. Supreme Court associate justice Tom Clark in 1977, the Distinguished Jurist Award is supported by the MSU College of Arts and Sciences and Office of the President. Both sitting and retired jurists at all levels of service have been selected for the career recognition.

Starrett, a sixth-generation Mississippian, is a 1972 MSU business graduate who went

on to earn a juris doctorate at the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1974.

Before assuming the Hattiesburg-based bench of the U.S. District Court of Southern Mississippi earlier this year, he served since 1992 as circuit judge for the Mississippi 14th Judicial District. Among other accomplishments while a circuit judge, he led in establishing and presiding over Mississippi's first felony-level drug court.

For his career achievements, Starrett has been named a Fellow of the Mississippi Bar Association and received the association's Judicial Excellence Award.



Starrett

## Traffic—continued from page 1

nearby intramural fields will be converted to some 700 parking spaces for commuting students. Most gravel parking lots also will be paved.

Some parking lots may be gated and only drivers who elect to pay an additional monthly fee will be allowed to park there. Also on the agenda is the summer demolition of the Tin Gym and accompanying relocation of Creelman Street nearer to the front of Dorman Hall.

"Of course, all of this is contingent on funding from the Legislature to the College Board on down," Welch cautioned.

In addition to roadways, shuttle routes will change by the fall semester. The Green Route will end, replaced by a new express route from Humphrey Coliseum to Colvard Union. The Maroon and Gray routes will continue as they are.

Welch said the recent purchase of an additional bus has enabled the addition of the Wise Center/College of Veterinary Medicine to the shuttle route.

"We hope that these changes will make university traffic move more smoothly and parking more accessible for our employees and our students," Welch said.

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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](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," through March 25 at the Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall. 325-2970.

## March 22

Workshop: "Who's Citing You?" 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).

Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils' annual Easter Egg Hunt, President's Home lawn, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Bring a basket; rain cancels. 325-3322.

Compliance seminar: "Protecting Confidentiality," presented by Duane Gill, Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium, 8:30 a.m. Register at [www.msstate.edu/dept/compliance/irb/irbrainschedule2.htm](http://www.msstate.edu/dept/compliance/irb/irbrainschedule2.htm).

Lecture: British military historian Jeremy Black to lead the Institute for Humanities Lecture Series, John Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 4 p.m. 325-2646.

Internal Audit session: "Should I Do That? Use of University Assets," Bost theater, 10 a.m.-noon. Open to all employees; no registration. 325-3713; [helms@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:helms@hrm.msstate.edu).

## 23

Human Resources Management session: "Performance Appraisal of Professional and Support Staff," 150 McArthur Hall, 2-4 p.m. Open to supervisors; registration required. 325-3713; [helms@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:helms@hrm.msstate.edu).

## 24

Workshop: "EndNote 101," 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).

Human Resources Management session: "Supervisors' Guide to Workers' Compensation," 150 McArthur Hall, 10 a.m.-noon. Open to supervisors; registration required. 325-3713; [helms@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:helms@hrm.msstate.edu).

John F. and Jeanne A. Marszalek Lecture Series, featuring historian James F. Sefcik and student writer Jared Peatman, John Grisham Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. 325-2559.

## 25

University closed for holiday.

## Senators support ban on cell phone 'use' in class

As the last order of business and following about 20 minutes of discussion at its March meeting, the Robert Holland Faculty Senate overwhelmingly agreed with Senator Walter Diehl about cell phones.

The advisory body approved a change the Biological Sciences professor first had proposed at the November 2004 meeting. By voice votes that indicated none against and one abstention, senators recommended that the university's Academic Operating Policy 10.08 dealing with classroom regulations be amended to now read:

1. Cell Phones and Electronic Devices in Classrooms: In order to limit classroom disruptions, as well as protect against academic misconduct, the use of cell phones, messaging devices and any other non-authorized electronic devices is prohibited in the classroom.

In submitting the change for full senate consideration and vote, the University Resources Committee that has studied Diehl's proposal said it is "in agreement that the proliferation of cell phones among students has caused an increased and, in some cases, intolerable amount of disruptions in the classrooms.

"The committee also recognized that technology associated with cell phones, as well as other electronic devices commonly possessed by students, have great potential for academic misconduct," committee members concluded in their report.

Through news coverage by both on- and off-campus media since the ban first was proposed, the issue has gained considerable attention, even to the national level. As a result, some students and others apparently came to believe the change, if approved, actually would ban the phones themselves from classrooms.

During the discussion period, Diehl, as he has in the past, stressed that his proposal dealt only with "use" of the phones in classrooms, not the electronic devices themselves. He compared it to the university policy dealing with tobacco products.

While cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, and related substances are not prohibited from being carried to class by students, their use during course sessions is forbidden.

The issue now progresses to the MSU Executive Council, which includes the president and other top institution administrators.

A complete summary of this and other matters at the March meeting is available on the Internet at the senate home page. Also, in time, a University Television Center-developed video replay of the entire meeting will be available for viewing at this site.