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## SemiSouth, II-VI Incorporated alliance promises high-tech jobs

A global high-technology corporation with manufacturing facilities in four states and two foreign countries recently announced a partnership with a Starkville-based company that was a spin-off from Mississippi State research.

II-VI Incorporated of Saxonburg, Pa., is teaming with SemiSouth Laboratories, located in the Thad Cochran Research, Technology and Economic Development Park. (II-VI is pronounced "Two-Six.")

The SemiSouth/II-VI collaboration will provide manufacturing development and scale-up capabilities for production of silicon carbide. SiC, as it's often referred, is a semiconductor used in high-voltage, high-temperature, and high frequency electronics applications, including radar, power conversion and radio-frequency transistors.

"The trip from Silicon Valley to Starkville just got a lot shorter," said Rep. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.). "II-VI is a world leader in its field and will be an invaluable partner with MSU and SemiSouth in growing this part of Mississippi into a high-technology magnet for future development."

II-VI initially will establish a manufacturing facility in the research park's 25,000-square-foot Ralph E. Powe Center for Innovative Technology, home of SemiSouth.

*Continued on page 3*



Carl Johnson (second from right), chairman and chief executive officer of II-VI Incorporated, was welcomed to Starkville by (l-r), Tommy Tomlinson of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, MSU President Charles Lee, and Rep. Chip Pickering, R-Miss.

## Engineering college moves up in rankings

The Bagley College of Engineering is nationally ranked among U.S. News and World Report's "Best Graduate Schools" for the second straight year, moving up four notches in the process.

In the latest ranking released last week, MSU is No. 77 among the top 90 doctoral-granting engineering schools in comparison with a No. 81 ranking last year. The MSU graduate engineering program is tied with Auburn and ranks ahead of such institutions as Louisiana State and Kentucky.

"We appreciate the work of the faculty and administrators whose efforts are reflected in the new ranking, and we are grateful for the continuing support of the state College Board as we build programs of

*Continued on page 4*

## Barnes, Chambers win coveted Powe award

Two internationally recognized Mississippi State scholars—one in forest products and the other in environmental health sciences—are co-winners of the university's 2005 Ralph E. Powe Research Excellence Award.

Forestry products professor H. Michael Barnes and environmental health sciences professor Janice E. Chambers share this year's honor, which recognizes faculty researchers making significant contributions to the economic welfare or cultural growth of the university, state and nation.

"We had such outstanding nominations for the award this year, it was almost impossible to pick one as the best," MSU President Charles Lee said in announcing the selections at the annual research awards

*Continued on page 3*



## 'IDay' to feature state executives, insurance leaders

Gov. Haley Barbour will be among featured speakers April 27 for the 18th annual Mississippi Insurance Day at Mississippi State.

Sponsored by the College of Business and Industry's Peter K. Lutken Chair of Insurance, the Wise Center event includes a series of assembly programs and continuing education sessions featuring professionals and others involved in the insurance industry. The college's risk management, insurance and financial planning academic program is co-sponsor of the event.

Barbour will address participants during the 1:15 p.m. assembly program in the center auditorium.

During the 8:30 a.m. opening ceremony—also in the auditorium—Mississippi Insurance Commissioner George Dale, along with fellow commissioner Robert Wooley of Louisiana and former New York superintendent of insurance Greg Serio, will discuss current business climates in their areas.

The annual spring semester gathering traditionally attracts insurance company attorneys, claims adjusters and agents, as well as fire investigators, legislators, municipal and county managers, and law enforcement officials. This year's theme is "2005: Continuing the Success."

"Insurance Day program has grown

significantly over the past few years, as evidenced by the more than 500 who attended last year," said Ed Duett. "It now is one of the largest risk management and insurance activities held in Mississippi."

Duett, a department of finance and economics faculty member who holds the Lutken endowed professorship, said the growth and development of Insurance Day has a parallel in the risk management, insurance and financial planning academic program.

"It has become one of the fastest growing academic programs of its kind in the country, and is ranked ninth largest in a recent issue of Business Insurance maga-

zine," he added.

Other 2005 Insurance Day speakers will include, among others:

—William Mullaney, president of the MetLife Home and Auto Co.;

—Ernie Ciszar, chief executive officer of the Property Casualty Insurers Association;

—Larry Forrester, chief executive officer of the Insurance Education Foundation; and

—Bob Hartwig, senior vice president of the Insurance Information Institute.

The complete Insurance Day schedule may be viewed at [www.cbi.msstate.edu/iday](http://www.cbi.msstate.edu/iday).

## Auschwitz survivor to speak here

An Auschwitz survivor who went on to become an internationally recognized psychologist and motivational speaker shares her life's story April 13 during a public program at Mississippi State.

Edith Eva Eger's visit to the university is sponsored by the Campus Activities Board. Her presentation on taking charge of one's own destiny begins at 7 p.m. in the Colvard Union ballroom.

It was 59 years ago this year that a liberating U.S. soldier saw Eger's small hand moving beneath a pile of corpses at the massive Nazi death camp in Poland. The 17-year-old orphan weighed only 40 pounds after her 15-month interment.

Today, "Edie" Eger has a professional practice in La Jolla, Calif., and a faculty appointment at the University of California, San Diego. She is a specialist in logotherapy, a field of psychotherapy based on a search for meaning in life.

For more information, telephone Kelly Nesbit at 325-2930.

Rene Naba (l) and Adrian Sanchez were among crew members with Tupelo-based Stewart Environmental Construction planting trees recently near the intersection of Highways 12 and 82. The beautification project supported by MSU and the Mississippi Department of Transportation involves the location of 1,550 roadway trees along the north and west borders of campus. In addition to magnolias, the new greenery includes red oaks, redbuds and other varieties.





## **Award**—continued from page 1

banquet. “Two stood out from the rest, so this year we have two Powe award winners.”

Given each spring semester, the Powe award is a memorial to Mississippi State’s research vice president who died in 1996.

Current research vice president Colin Scanes and Dr. Vance Watson, vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine, presided over the presentation of more than 30 other awards to faculty, staff and students during the Hunter Henry Center event.

A member of the MSU faculty since 1971, Barnes is a professor in the Forest Products Laboratory, Forest and Wildlife Research Center, and College of Forest Resources’ forestry department. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Louisiana State University, and a doctorate from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

An MSU faculty member since 1980, Chambers is the William L. Giles Distinguished Professor and director of the Center for Environmental Health Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine’s basic sciences department. The Oakland, Calif., native holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of San Fran-

cisco and a doctorate in animal physiology from Mississippi State.

A recipient of numerous local, regional and national awards, Chambers later this year will be the first woman ever awarded the American Chemical Society International Award for Research in Agrochemicals, Ainsworth said.

Other 2005 faculty and staff and research awards included:

### **Bagley College of Engineering**

Associate professor Iona Baniscescu, computer science and engineering, and staff assistant Brenda H. Collins.

### **Centers and Institutes**

Professor Robert J. Moorhead II, electrical and computer engineering and georesources, and extension associate Mary Love Tagert.

### **College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station**

Associate professor Peter L. Ryan, animal and dairy sciences, and facilities manager Anna Chromiak.

### **College of Architecture, Art and Design**

Associate professor David C. Lewis and

visiting assistant professor Leah Faulk.

### **College of Arts and Sciences**

Assistant professor Kevin P. Knudson, mathematics and statistics.

### **College of Business and Industry**

Professor James J. Chrisman, management and information systems.

### **College of Education**

Assistant professor Richard A. Doggett, counseling, educational psychology and special education; and business manager Mary A. Kelly.

### **College of Forest Resources**

Professor R. Daniel Seale, forest products, and research associate Michael G. Sanders.

### **College of Veterinary Medicine**

Associate professor Lora R. Ballweber and laboratory manager Edward Meek.

### **Life Sciences Entrepreneurship Award**

Assistant professor David R. Ermer, physics and astronomy.

### **Office of Research**

Associate professor Gregory T. Pharr, College of Veterinary Medicine’s Basic Sciences Department; and compliance director Tracy S. Arwood.

## **II-VI**—continued from page 1

Currently, II-VI has manufacturing facilities in California, Florida, New Jersey, Texas, Singapore, and China.

Founded in 1971, II-VI is a diversified optical and opto-electronics manufacturing enterprise that produces single crystal silicon carbide substrates through its Wide Bandgap Materials Group. The group has a primary research and development center in New Jersey.

SemiSouth Laboratories is a privately held company formed in 2000 to commercialize silicon carbide electronic materials and device technologies developed at MSU.

“This partnership benefits Mississippi by moving university-based research into the private sector,” said MSU President Charles Lee. “It will help significantly expand an existing high-tech industry, boost the capabilities of both companies and create the potential for additional industry spin-offs and jobs.”

SemiSouth originated years ago in a research effort based in MSU’s Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. Engineering professor Michael Mazzola directed the program that led to the company Casady now heads.

Since 2000, SemiSouth and II-VI have received a combined total of more than \$10 million in federal support for technology development, process improvement, and process scale-up, particularly in Defense Department-related projects.

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Editor—Kay Fike Jones

Contributors—Maridith Geuder

Phil Hearn

Sammy McDavid

Russ Houston

Megan Bean





## 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

Senior art students' exhibition, "Thesis Pieces," April 4-29, Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall basement. Public reception April 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m. 325-2970.

### April 12

Concert: Brass Invitational, Colvard Union fallroom, 7:30 p.m. 325-3070.

Instructional Media Center Bits and Bytes Workshop: "Illustrator CS," Giles classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2-4 p.m. 325-7676; [library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp](http://library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp).

### 13

ITS workshop: "Microsoft Word 2003 II," 10 McArthur Hall, 1:30-5 p.m. [www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/](http://www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/).

Speaker: Auschwitz survivor Edith Eger, Colvard Union ballroom, 7 p.m. 325-2930. (see story page 2)

### 14

Internal Audit session: "Preparing for A+ Audits, Departmental Controls and Self



Assessment," Bost Extension Center theater, 2-4 p.m. Open to unit heads and employees involved in payroll, purchasing and budgets; registration requested. 325-3713 or [helms@hrm.msstate.edu](mailto:helms@hrm.msstate.edu).

ITS workshop: "Introduction to Microsoft Access 2003," 10 McArthur Hall, 1:30-5 p.m. [www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/](http://www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/).

Instructional Media Center Bits and Bytes Workshop: "InDesign CS," Giles classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2-4 p.m. 325-7676; [library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp](http://library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp).

### 15

Concert: Flat-pick guitarists Robin Kessinger and Brandon Bentley, with singer Deb George and bass player Jim Petsch, Colvard Union small auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Wayne Kelly, 325-2562; [www.goldentriangleguitar.com/index.html](http://www.goldentriangleguitar.com/index.html).

### 15 and 16

Horticulture Club plant sale, behind the University Greenhouses; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on the 15th and 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on the 16th. 312-6482.

### 16

Concert: Gospel singer Shirley Caesar, Humphrey Coliseum, 6 p.m. 325-4201.

Concert: "Beethoven, Broadway and the Blues," MSU/Starville Symphony Orchestra, McComas Hall theater, 8 p.m. 325-3070.

### 18

Deadline to nominate support and professional staff members for Zacharias Distinguished Staff Awards. 325-0664.

Instructional Media Center Bits and Bytes Workshop: "Advanced PhotoShop CS," Giles classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 9-11 a.m. 325-7676; [library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp](http://library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp).

### 19

Workshop: "Research and Dissertation Basics," 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).

### 19 and 20

ITS workshop: "BANNER: Requisitions," (two days), 10 McArthur Hall, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. [www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/](http://www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/).

### 20

Instructional Media Center Bits and Bytes Workshop: "Excel," Giles classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 9-11 a.m. 325-7676; [library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp](http://library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp).

ITS workshop: "Introduction to Microsoft PowerPoint 2003," 10 McArthur Hall, 8:30 a.m.-noon. [www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/](http://www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops/).

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### Rank—continued from page 1

national strength and visibility," said President Charles Lee.

The rankings are based on analysis of several indicators that include surveys of engineering deans and graduate studies deans at 198 engineering doctoral-granting institutions, Graduate Record Examination scores of entering master's and doctoral engineering students, graduate student/faculty ratio, number of engineering doctorates awarded, and engineering research expenditures.

"I am excited to see the Bagley College of Engineering move up in the U.S. News and World Report rankings," said Dean Kirk Schulz. "This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff.

"The college has a history of excellence in graduate education and research, and the rise in our rankings illustrates our growing stature as a major player in engineering research," Schulz added. "We currently rank fourth when compared with the Southeastern Conference schools, and I anticipate that we'll continue to move up in this peer group over the next five years."

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.