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Alumnus returns as education dean

A Mississippi State alumnus and onetime elementary school principal in neighboring Lowndes County is returning to the Starkville campus as the university's new dean of the College of Education.

Dr. Richard Lee Blackbourn, a professor and administrator at Clemson University for the past 16 years, will assume the MSU position July 1. His appointment was



Blackbourn

approved by the state College Board during its regular June meeting.

"Producing well-trained, new teachers is critical for every state and it is especially critical for the state of Mississippi," said MSU Provost Peter

Rabideau. "We are fortunate to have Richard Blackbourn join us as dean of the College of Education at a time when we have many challenges and many opportunities."

Blackbourn succeeds professor and interim dean Sue Minchew, who has filled the MSU post since the June 30, 2003, retirement of dean Roy Ruby.

"I feel honored to have the opportunity to return to Mississippi and serve as dean of the College of Education at MSU," said Blackbourn, a native of Blossom, Texas. "The college has a distinguished record of service to the state and is poised to support Dr. (Charles) Lee's goals that relate to educational attainment, economic development and quality of life.

"The college has unlimited potential in the areas of teaching, service and research,"

Tuition benefit for children of employees increases in fall

MSU employees with dependent children enrolled as undergraduates at the university will now receive an increased tuition remission benefit.

Effective with the fall semester, dependent children of benefits-eligible employees may receive a 50 percent reduction in tuition and required fees that apply to all students. Previously, the 50 percent discount applied only to the tuition portion of the overall fee.

To be eligible for the university's tuition remission benefit, dependent children of MSU employees must be enrolled at Mississippi State University and must not have received a bachelor's degree from MSU or any other institution.

Effective with the fall 2005 semester, tuition and required fees for in-state undergraduates will total \$2,156 per semester, up from \$2,053 last year. Fifty percent of next year's tuition and required fees, or \$1,078, may be waived for eligible dependent children. That represents an additional savings of more than \$240 per semester, compared with the policy in place last year. As a result of the change, MSU will fund an additional \$176,000 in waivers for the coming academic year.

The tuition remission policy does not cover laboratory fees or other special fees that are not required of all students.

Another change in the tuition remission policy will extend the benefit to all eligible dependent children as long as they remain in good standing with the university. Previously, a minimum cumulative grade-point average was required to retain the tuition benefit. There is no longer a GPA requirement associated with the benefit.

The tuition remission policy for regular, benefits-eligible employees applies to dependent children who are seeking their first bachelor's degree, and are unmarried and less than age 25.

No action is required of employees who have previously applied for the tuition remission for a currently enrolled dependent child; the change will be reflected in fall tuition and fee statements.

Employees who will be making an initial application for a dependent child should complete the application form available from Human Resources Management prior to the deadline for payment of fall fees.

Application forms and a more complete description of requirements for eligibility for the tuition remission benefit are available from the Department of Human Resources Management Web site at msstate.edu/dept/audit/PDF/60226a.pdf.



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Reese, King filling key posts in engineering dean's office

Two longtime faculty members in the Bagley College of Engineering are filling key administrative positions in the office of Dean Kirk Schulz.

Dr. Donna Reese, professor of computer science and engineering, replaces Robert Taylor as associate dean for academics and administration. She had held the post on an interim basis since Taylor's retirement from the university last October.

Dr. Roger King, professor of electrical and computer engineering, is the new associate dean for research and graduate studies. The post had been vacant since the resignation of Lesia Crumpton-Young in 2002.

In his capacity as associate dean, King also will begin serving July 1 as interim director of the Diagnostic Instrumentation and



Reese

Analysis Laboratory. A national search will be conducted for a new permanent director.

"Putting a complete leadership team in place was a goal of mine when I became dean of



King

the Bagley college," said Schulz. "These two positions are crucial to the operation and function of the college, and I am extremely

confident in Dr. Reese's and Dr. King's ability to provide the leadership necessary to move the college forward."

Reese became undergraduate coordinator for her department in 1997—advising incoming freshmen and transfer students, and assisting the Association for Computing Machinery as faculty sponsor since that time.

She earned a bachelor's degree at Louisiana Tech University, then completed a master's and doctorate at Texas A&M University.

A Grisham Master Teacher, Reese also was named Outstanding Faculty Adviser by the National Academic Advising Association in 2004. As interim associate dean since October 2004, she has represented the college as chair of undergraduate studies for computer science and software engineering committees.

King, a 17-year MSU faculty veteran and associate director for research at the university's GeoResources Institute, has administrated scientific investigations in more than \$23 million of sponsored research. He also holds the rank of William L. Giles Distinguished Professor, an honor bestowed on only a handful of MSU professors who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of research, teaching and service.

King's research specialty areas include remote sensing, intelligent systems and power, and ground and methane control. He holds a bachelor's degree from West Virginia University, a master's from the University of Pittsburgh and a doctorate from the University of Wales in the United Kingdom.

Survey ranks online engineering third in 'best buys'

A national survey ranks Mississippi State third in the nation in "best buys" among accredited, online engineering degree programs.

In a biennial survey released June 14, GetEducated.com, based in Essex Junction, Vt., ranked MSU behind only North Carolina State University and California State University (Dominguez Hills) for affordability. The survey considered 56 accredited distance-learning master's degree programs in engineering and was based solely on tuition costs.

Tuition for MSU's online master of science degrees in engineering ranged from \$6,848 to \$8,127, for a two- to three-year program of study, as reported by the publication. Among the most expensive online degrees was one offered by Massachusetts Institute of Technology at \$67,500.

"We believe that distance education provides an affordable and flexible alternative for many professionals who work full time," said Dr. Mark Binkley, director of MSU's Academic Outreach and Continuing Education.

"The university first began offering engineering courses in a distance education format in 1989 and today has approximately 89 students enrolled from all over the world in our engineering courses," he added. More than 60 percent are from locations in Mississippi.

For a complete listing of the best buys, see www.geteducated.com/articles/top25bestbuyengdegreeonline.htm.

Looking for a job?

View and apply for current MSU positions (executive, faculty, professional, and support staff) on the Human Resources Management Online Employment System at www.jobs.msstate.edu. For more information, telephone HRM at 325-3713, e-mail employment@hrm.msstate.edu or visit 150 McArthur Hall.

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.



MSU again high in African-American engineering, ed grads

Mississippi State ranks among the top 15 in the nation in awarding bachelor's degrees in both engineering and education to African-Americans, according to Black Issues in Higher Education.

Based on the most current figures from 2004 published in the national magazine's June 2 edition, the university is 11th in awarding education degrees and 14th in

engineering degrees at the baccalaureate level to African-Americans. The land-grant institution also ranks in the top 50 nationally in other fields: 25th in psychology, 32nd in business management and related areas, and 37th in mathematics and statistics.

In all disciplines combined, MSU is 48th among all institutions, including historically black institutions, and 28th among traditionally white universities.

The annual rankings published by Black Issues are based on U.S. Department of Education data.

The latest listing reflects bachelor's degrees given during the 2003-04 school year, when MSU awarded 448 to African-Americans, representing 17 percent of the total. The number was up from 392 during the previous year.

Mississippi State bachelor's degrees awarded to African-Americans in 2003-04 included 68 in education, 40 in engineering, 51 in psychology, 141 in business, and four in mathematics and statistics.

African-Americans make up about 18.5 percent of MSU's total enrollment.

MSU contracts for drop-off laundry service starting July 1

Responding to requests from faculty, students and staff members, the Office of Support Services has contracted with an area dry cleaning business to offer on-campus pick-up and delivery at the East Lee Boulevard location formerly occupied by MSU's laundry.

Paul Welch, director of support services, said that the university has entered a service agreement with B&S Cleaners of West Point to provide privately-operated laundry and dry cleaning services to the campus and surrounding community. Laundry dropped off at the Cooley Building—also shared by Parking Services—will be taken to West Point for processing, he added.

"Beginning July 1, B&S Cleaners will offer drop-off and pick-up for those who have expressed a need for a centrally located campus laundry service," Welch said. "The service will be managed and run on a day-to-day basis by the private provider."

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

By Deborah Lee
MSU Libraries

Access to the D&B Million Dollar Database is here! Developed by Dun & Bradstreet, one of the leaders in business information, the MDD provides information on more than 1.5 million leading public and private businesses in the United States and Canada. The MSU Libraries subscribes to the "premier" edition, which includes businesses with sales greater than \$1 million or 20 or more employees or branches with more than 50 employees.

The MDD allows users to search for company records based on a number of company, industry and executive criteria. Using MDD, users can create lists of companies meeting criteria they select (such as by geographic location, number of employees, amount of sales, or by NAICS /SIC industry codes), locate subsidiary/parent company relationships, locate branches or headquarters, or locate brief biographies of the major officers. While not all major officers have biographical notes, those with biographical notes include educational background. For example, this feature allows searchers to locate major officers who are MSU alumni.

Records from the MDD may be printed or downloaded in a comma separated value (csv) file for use in a spreadsheet or database. A limit of 100 records may be downloaded at a time. Records may be printed with only contact information, basic company information, or the full record.

Remote access to the Million Dollar Database is restricted to MSU-affiliated faculty, staff and students. Public access is available in the Reference Department, located on the second floor of Mitchell Memorial Library. The MSU Libraries currently provides access for only one user at a time. Access to this database is being provided through the cooperative agreement between the Southern Rural Development Center, the Social Science Research Center, State Program Leader-ECRD & ACS, the Finance and Economics Department, the Office of Research, the Office of Graduate Studies, the Department of Agricultural Economics, and MSU Libraries.

Departments or groups wishing to set up an instructional session may contact Deborah Lee at 325-0810 or dlee@library.msstate.edu. Additional assistance also may be obtained by contacting the Reference Department in the Mississippi State Libraries.



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."

Ongoing Events

June is National Rose Month and Mitchell Memorial Library is celebrating with monthlong displays and exhibits. In addition, the MSU Florist will provide a new arrangement of roses on the library's third floor each week. library.msstate.edu.

June 27 and 28

Freshman Orientation. 325-2224.

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Retirement reception honoring John V. Correro, who is retiring as executive director of the MSU Alumni Association, Parker Ballroom, Hunter Henry Center, 2-4 p.m., program at 2:30 p.m. RSVP to djackson@alumni.msstate.edu or 325-3444.

July 1

Laundry drop-off service begins. (see story page 3)

2

Bulldawg Championship Trophy Cricket Tournament, Drill Field, 8 a.m. 312-7129.

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Instructional Media Center Bits and Bytes Workshop, "Publisher," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-3 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

8-10

Team Josey Barrel Racing Clinic, Mississippi Horse Park, 8 a.m. 325-9350.



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Workshop: "How to Use Your Library," ELI classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 3 p.m. Brad Brazzeal, 325-3834; bbrazzeal@library.msstate.edu.

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Instructional Media Center Bits and Bytes Workshop, "Excel," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-3 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

Workshop: "How to Use Your Library," ELI classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 11 a.m. Brad Brazzeal, 325-3834; bbrazzeal@library.msstate.edu.

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Instructional Media Center Bits and Bytes Workshop, "Adobe Illustrator" Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-3 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

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Instructional Media Center Bits and Bytes Workshop, "Dreamweaver," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-3 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

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Instructional Media Center Bits and Bytes Workshop, "Adobe PhotoShop CS," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 10 a.m.-noon. library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

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Instructional Media Center Bits and Bytes Workshop, "Adobe InDesign," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-3 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

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Instructional Media Center Bits and Bytes Workshop, "Flash," Giles Electronic Classroom, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1-3 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops/bitsnbytes.asp.

Blackbourn—continued from page 1

he added. "I look forward to working with faculty, students, staff, and administration, along with individuals throughout the state, in realizing this potential."

Blackbourn earned three degrees from Mississippi State—including bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education in 1974 and 1976, respectively, and a doctorate in educational leadership in 1983.

He taught school in Natchez and Pascagoula from 1974 to 1977, before serving from 1977 to 1984 as an elementary school principal in Lowndes County.

He held teaching and administrative posts at Northeast Louisiana University from 1984 until joining the Clemson faculty in 1989. For the past three years at Clemson, he has served as professor and chair of leadership, technology and counselor education.

"Dr. Blackbourn is highly regarded by his colleagues at Clemson, and he brings both knowledge of the state of Mississippi and an extensive background in education to his position as dean," Rabideau noted in announcing the appointment.

Blackbourn has written numerous scholarly articles, published widely in professional research publications over the years and is the co-editor of one book, "The Pursuit of Continuous Improvement in Educational Organizations," published by University Press of America Inc. in 1997.

He served as president-elect of the South Carolina Association for Rural Education in 2004 and is a member of Phi Kappa Phi. He also is associate editor of The Record in Educational Leadership, and serves on the editorial boards of two other national journals.