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Watson is interim head of extension and outreach

The vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine is taking on added duties as interim director of University Extension and Outreach.

Beginning July 1, Dr. Vance Watson began providing direct leadership for an organization that includes the MSU Extension Service, Division of Academic



Watson

Outreach and Continuing Education and Office of Industrial Outreach Services.

Dr. Joe McGilberry, who had headed the extension service since 2001 and served as extension and outreach director since 2003,

retired June 30. President Charles Lee will recommend Watson's interim appointment to the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning at its July meeting.

"We have made considerable progress over the past three years in re-aligning the Mississippi State University Extension Service to accommodate changes in the needs of our constituencies and the budgetary reductions imposed by the Legislature," Lee said.

"Concurrently, the business and industry community has responded very positively to our collective efforts to better coordinate our continuing education and industrial outreach efforts throughout the university. We must continue our efforts to better meet the needs of the people of our state if we are to enjoy their trust and financial support," he added.

During the interim appointment, Watson

will lead strategic planning activities focused on a comprehensive approach to teaching, research and extension throughout the university's Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine, Lee said. He also will work with Provost Peter Rabideau to further involve academic units of the university in continuing education or outreach functions.

"I am honored for the opportunity to serve the university in this interim role until a permanent director is selected," Watson said. "I look forward to working with the president to ensure that extension and outreach has a vision and goals

consistent with those of the broader university."

An advisory committee will be established within the next few weeks to help find a permanent director for university extension and outreach, Lee said. The unit's director reports jointly to the vice president for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine, and to provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Watson also is director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station and dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and will continue to perform those duties along with his new extension and outreach responsibilities.



As another part of the ongoing renovation effort, aeration devices recently were placed in Eckie's Pond to increase oxygen levels. The fountain-like process helps control algae and unwanted aquatic weeds in the campus landmark. Eckie's—the product of an 1890s horticulture demonstration project—is being restored with the assistance of private donations.



Partnership to create new industry here

A new partnership announced July 6 between Mississippi State and United Kingdom-based AEA Technology will establish a research and development facility to produce portable power systems in support of space, defense and homeland security missions.

Initially to be located in the university's Diagnostic Instrumentation and Analysis Laboratory, AEA Technology Battery Systems anticipates developing a more permanent facility near the Golden Triangle Regional Airport east of campus.

DIAL, as it's usually known, is among facilities located in the Thad Cochran Research, Technology and Economic Development Park, adjacent to campus.

"AEA is an international company with several U.S. sites, and we're delighted that they will expand research, development and manufacturing operations into Mississippi," said President Charles Lee.

One of the United Kingdom's leading technology companies, AEA Technology was privatized in 1996 from a former government agency, the Atomic Energy Authority. It now employs 2,700 people across 50 locations worldwide, in three major divisions: rail, environment and portable power.

"The latter will be the focus of the new MSU alliance," said group finance director David Lindsay.

Lindsay said AEA has developed a world-leading reputation in advanced power solutions, including lithium-ion cells, battery packs and chargers for highly demanding environments such as the defense, space, aerospace, and marine markets.

"The company's lithium-ion technology is particularly appropriate for the future power requirements of military users," he observed, adding, "Power on the battlefield has become a critical issue in an increasingly digitally dependent fighting force."

German is new CAVS director

An award-winning mechanical engineer and materials scientist at Pennsylvania State University is the new director of Mississippi State's Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems.

Dr. Randall German, who officially assumed his new duties at CAVS July 1, also will hold one of three CAVS endowed chairs in the Bagley College of Engineering. He begins his new duties full time in October.

"Dr. Rand German is an internationally recognized faculty member who will bring a tremendous amount of passion and vision as the next director of CAVS," said Bagley College Dean Kirk Schulz. "We are very fortunate to be able to recruit a person of his caliber to join the engineering faculty."

German succeeds CAVS director J. Donald Trotter, also MSU associate vice president for strategic initiatives, who retired June 30. Trotter has led CAVS since the center was created by the Legislature in 2001 to provide research and development support for Canton-based Nissan Motor Co. and help lure other automotive industries to the state.

"We are delighted that Rand German will be joining the excellent team at CAVS," said Colin Scanes, MSU's vice president for

research. "Rand has an outstanding international reputation. He will be invaluable in moving vehicle manufacturing in Mississippi to the next level, with a consequent increase in high-wage jobs."

The Brush Chair Professor in Materials in Penn State's department of engineering science and mechanics since 1991, German also has served since 1999 as director of the university's Center for Innovative Sintered Products at University Park, Pa. Penn State recently was recognized as the most dominant university in the field of material science internationally by the Institute for Scientific Information.

German is listed in various issues of Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Engineering and Who's Who in American Education. He has received more than 20 national and international awards over the past 20 years of his career.

"This is an outstanding growth opportunity for me—allowing a marriage of my prior emphasis on materials processing with the CAVS strength in computational and systems engineering," German said. "Such a combination is relevant today since more than 35 percent of all National Science Foundation funding is for computational modeling."

German earned a bachelor's degree in materials science and engineering from San Jose State University in 1968, a master's in metallurgical engineering from Ohio State University in 1971, and a doctorate in materials science from the University of California at Davis in 1975. He also completed an intense management program at the Hartford Graduate Center in 1979.



German

Laundry service drop-off site correction

The last issue of Memo announced the new dry cleaning service on campus, but listed the wrong building as the drop-off site.

Laundry dropped off at the Roberts Building—also shared by Parking Services—will be taken to West Point for processing by B&S Cleaners. The East Lee Boulevard location formerly housed MSU's laundry, which closed in 2003.

The facility is open Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon.



Alumnus selected for forest leadership role

A Mississippi State forestry alumnus is the new dean of the College of Forest Resources and director of its Forest and Wildlife Research Center.

Dr. George M. Hopper assumes his new duties July 15, pending formal approval by the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning. The Vicksburg native succeeds interim dean Bob L. Karr, who has retired after 29 years of service.

MSU's College of Forest Resources includes the departments of forestry, forest products, and wildlife and fisheries.

Hopper has served for 11 years as head of the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. He previously was a professor for 11 years in the department.

A specialist in hardwood silviculture and the biology of oaks, Hopper earlier worked for Mississippi State's Forestry Department and the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Anderson-Tully Lumber Co.



Hopper

In addition to bachelor's and master's degrees from MSU, he holds a doctorate from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Besides holding the title of

Event to commemorate Holmes' admission

The Holmes Cultural Diversity Center will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the enrollment of the university's first African-American student July 19.

Dr. Richard Holmes, who was peacefully admitted to MSU on July 19, 1965, will serve as keynote speaker for the noon-1 p.m. event at the Colvard Union ballroom. A reception will follow immediately.

"I did not come here for fanfare or publicity," the young black man from Starkville said in a brief written message he read to the press on the day of his admission to the historically white institution.

"As a lifelong Mississippian, I am here to study and learn at a high-rated Mississippi university, which happens to be in my hometown," he wrote.

That was one year after the state's "long hot summer" of 1964, when three young civil rights workers were murdered in Neshoba County, and a year before the 1966 firebomb slaying of civil rights activist Vernon Dahmer near Hattiesburg.

Yet, Holmes's peaceful admission for summer classes at MSU caused little more than a blip on the state's racial radar screen.

Society of American Foresters Fellow, he is president-elect for the Southern region of the National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges.

"There were no catcalls, no racial slurs," recalled Holmes, who was 21 at the time. "It was quiet and serene. Nothing happened. There was just curiosity and disbelief."

Holmes subsequently earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts in 1969 and a master's degree in microbiology in 1973, both from MSU, and finished medical school at Michigan State University in 1977.

Mississippi State recognized Holmes by naming the university's cultural diversity center in his honor in 1991. He and his wife Judie later endowed a minority scholarship fund at the university.

After carving out a successful 23-year career as an emergency room physician in Birmingham, Ala., Holmes returned to his alma mater as a staff physician at the Longest Student Health Center in 2003. He served as the university's commencement speaker that spring.

"The university gained from the courage and dignity he demonstrated in 1965," said President Charles Lee. "Today's students are benefiting and learning from the professionalism and compassion that are evident in his practice as a campus physician."



Dr. Richard Holmes

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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.

July 11

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

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

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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.

ITS workshops: "WebCT: Preparing Documents," 9-11 a.m.; "WebCT: Content Modules," 1:30-3:30 p.m. 10 McArthur Hall. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops.

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ITS workshop: "Banner: Requisitions (two

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days)," 10 McArthur Hall, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops.

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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.

ITS workshops: "WebCT: Communication Tools," 9-11 a.m.; "WebCT: Assessment," 1:30-3:30 p.m. 10 McArthur Hall. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops.

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ITS workshops: "WebCT: Grade Manage-

ment," 9-11 a.m.; "WebCT: Integrating Images," 1-3 p.m.; "WebCT: Dreamweaver," 3-5 p.m. 10 McArthur Hall. www.its.msstate.edu/Information/Workshops.

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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.

Ballard writes two new books

University archivist Michael B. Ballard has had not one, but two books published recently. "Vicksburg: The Campaign That Opened the Mississippi" was published last fall by the University of North Carolina Press. "U.S. Grant: The Making of a General, 1861-1863" was published this spring by Rowman Littlefield.

The books are Ballard's seventh and eighth, seven of which deal with the Civil War. "Vicksburg" examines soldier attitudes, guerrilla warfare and the effects of the longest single military campaign of the Civil War on the civilians of the river city. "Grant" explores the general's strategic and tactical concepts during the period he rose from obscurity to commander of all the Union armies.

Other publications by Ballard include "A Long Shadow: Jefferson Davis and the Final Days of the Confederacy" and "Civil War Mississippi: A Guide."

In addition to serving as archivist, Ballard also is a professor and coordinator of the Congressional and Political Research Center in the MSU Libraries. The Ackerman resident holds bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Mississippi State.

Two earn first for Mississippi State

Two Sponsored Programs Administration administrators recently earned national certification, the first at Mississippi State.

Research administrators Robyn B. Remotigue and Kacey J. Strickland now are Certified Research Administrators. The professional certification is offered by the Research Administrators Certification Council for those who meet experience and education requirements and who pass a rigorous test in the field.

There are only six other CRA designees in Mississippi.

Remotigue has worked with SPA since 1994. She holds a bachelor's degree in communication arts from the University of Cincinnati and a master's in public administration from Mississippi State.

Strickland has been a research administrator at both MSU and the University of Georgia for a combined four years. She also is the Exports Control Officer for the university. Strickland earned a bachelor's degree in genetics from the University of Georgia and a master's in science education from the University of Texas.