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Longtime administrator to lead alumni association

Dr. Jimmy W. Abraham, a veteran of nearly 30 years in student affairs at Mississippi State, is being named the university's associate vice president for external affairs and executive director of the alumni association.

The Clarksdale native and 1975 MSU graduate succeeds John V. Correro, who retired earlier this month after a 36-year career in alumni affairs. Currently associate vice president for student affairs, Abraham begins his new duties Aug. 8, pending approval by the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning.

"Dr. Abraham has earned the highest respect of the campus and thousands of alumni for his energy, integrity and dedication," said MSU President Charles Lee.

"This appointment, coupled with the recent appointment of an exceptional

individual for athletics marketing and fund raising, provides us the opportunity to literally put a new face on the way we interact with our alumni," Lee added. "Dr. Abraham is particularly well-qualified to encourage our students to move smoothly into active alumni roles."

Abraham will serve as the key liaison between the university and its more than 100,000 living alumni around the state and across the nation. The 126-year-old land-grant institution has more than 80 alumni chapters in locations from Colorado to New York.

In his new role, Abraham will develop and implement programs to maintain lifelong connections between Mississippi State graduates and the institution and provide feedback from alumni about their concerns, said Dennis A. Prescott, vice

president for external affairs.

"We are delighted to attract someone with Jimmy's breadth of knowledge, commitment to Mississippi State, and wealth of connections to alumni," Prescott said.

"I have full confidence that under his leadership the Alumni Association will find increasingly innovative ways to strengthen relationships



Abraham

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Crew members Scott Funk (l) and Paul Hawkins with Sneed Construction Co. of Columbus removed bricks recently from Orientation Park along the west side of Lee Hall. Their preparatory work precedes the significant expansion and enhancement—including air conditioning—of Lee, a 95-year-old historic structure that once was the primary campus administration building.



Student support services interim head named

The associate director of Mississippi State's primary program to aid physically challenged and other special-needs students now is its interim director.

Julie L. Berry follows Dr. Debbie Baker as head of the university's Office of Student Support Services. Berry has worked in the office since 1991 and served as associate director since 2001.

Baker, who has led the office since 1993, is leaving to accept a similar position with East Mississippi Community College in Scooba. She also will be closer to her family in Meridian.

Dean of Students Mike White, who was Baker's predecessor in the position, said MSU is fortunate to have an administrator with Berry's experience to continue "this important mission."

Student Support Services is a federally funded department providing academic support and instruction to low-income, first-generation college students. Among other duties, the MSU staff also works with other students with disabilities who have academic needs and the potential for success in higher education.

Berry is a 1990 MSU English major who went on to complete master's degrees in secondary English education and counselor education/student development in 1992 and 1993, respectively. She also is a certified Mississippi teacher.

The Office of Student Support Services is located on the ground floor of Montgomery Hall.

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.

Alumna is animal resources director

A Mississippi State alumna who has headed a major industry research program since 1988 is the university's new director of animal resources and attending veterinarian.

Dr. Lucy H. Senter, formerly of West Chester, Ohio, will ensure university compliance

with standards and procedures relating to laboratory animal welfare in all research and teaching programs. The Starkville native and 1986 graduate of MSU's College of Veterinary



Senter

Medicine succeeds Dr. John Harkness, who retired earlier this year after serving in the position since 1984.

Formal approval of the appointment is expected at a future state College Board meeting.

A diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, Senter has held a variety of leadership positions with Ethicon EndoSurgery Inc., a Johnson and Johnson company that develops advanced surgical instruments and medical devices. Under her direction, the organization consistently was cited by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as a center of excellence for animal care.

"We are extremely pleased to have a Mississippi State University-educated veterinarian return to head a significant regulatory program for the university," said Colin Scanes, MSU vice president for research and graduate studies. "Dr. Senter is an extremely capable professional who will continue Mississippi State's commitment to the highest standards of animal care and welfare."

Mississippi State is one of two Mississippi universities accredited by the Association

for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International, a nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs.

Senter will administer MSU's animal care and use programs subject to the regulations of the AALAC, and governing federal and state agencies.

Prior to entering the MSU veterinary medicine doctoral program, she completed a bachelor's degree in biology from Agnes Scott College and a master's in laboratory animal medicine from the University of Missouri.

During her career, Senter has earned a "black belt" certificate in the Six Sigma Process Excellence Program, a corporate management development curriculum, and been honored with several Johnson and Johnson achievement awards.

She is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Industrial Veterinarians and American Association of Laboratory Animal Science, among others.

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Bass to head athletic fund-raising efforts

A North Carolina State University alumnus will oversee all athletic fund-raising and marketing activities at Mississippi State as he assumes a newly created position in the Department of Athletics.

Jimmy Bass is senior associate director of athletics for development and marketing, pending approval by the state College Board.

“We are extremely excited to have Jimmy Bass joining the Mississippi State athletic team,” Larry Templeton, director of athletics, said. “He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our program.”

Bass comes to MSU from North Carolina State, where he served the last five years as associate executive director of the Wolfpack Club. He was in charge of major gift fund raising for capital projects, the university’s athletic scholarship endowment and deferred giving. He also assisted in the athletic fund raising, campaign communica-

tions, donor research, and solicitation strategy for the Wolfpack Club.

“Jimmy’s broad experience with marketing and fund raising, and his great personality, will help us to ensure that financial support for athletics will be there to support our commitment to excellence,” said President Charles Lee.

Before joining N.C. State’s athletic fund-raising wing, Bass served as associate vice chancellor and executive director for alumni relations at the Raleigh, N.C.-based institution. He served his alma mater in that capacity for nearly seven years. He also has fund-raising experience at the University of Pittsburgh, East Carolina University, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and Davidson College.

In his athletic fund-raising work at N.C. State, Bass directed the strategic planning for the five-year Goal Line Drive, a capital campaign initiated to raise \$50 million for

expansion of Carter-Finley Stadium. That drive concluded 15 months early after more than \$62 million was collected, 25 percent more than the goal.

As a senior staff member of the club, Bass was credited with directing activities that generated more than \$10 million in capital campaign gifts in 2004, the first time a single area of giving within the club had exceeded the \$10 million mark. The Wolfpack Club raised more than \$21.5 million in ’04, the most successful fund-raising year in the 68-year history of the organization. During his tenure, he also led campaigns generating revenue for NCSU’s baseball and tennis facilities.

Bass earned a bachelor’s degree in speech communications from North Carolina State in 1978 and a master’s in sports administration from Ohio University in 1980.

Bowden new head of industrial engineering

Dr. Royce O. Bowden Jr. is the new head of the Department of Industrial Engineering.

A faculty member for the past 13 years and among the Hearin Eminent Scholars designated by the Bagley College of Engineering, Bowden succeeds retiring department head Larry Brown. Brown retired in early June after more than 30 years of service to the university.



Bowden

“The industrial engineering faculty under Dr. Brown has developed a strong, modern curriculum that is serving our constituents extremely well,” said Bowden, who joined the MSU faculty in 1992 and was named a full professor in 2002.

“It is a privilege to be working with the enthusiastic faculty, committed staff and

talented students of industrial engineering,” he added.

Dr. Kirk Schulz, dean of the engineering college, said Bowden “brings a dynamic personality and a compelling vision for excellence that will help elevate our industrial engineering program to national prominence.”

A native of Picayune, Bowden did the seminal research in discrete-event simulation optimization using modern optimization algorithms. His work at MSU involves the design of computer algorithms to solve complex problems by manipulating engineers’ computer simulation models of systems.

Bowden’s research also provided the foundation for ProModel Corp.’s SimRunner™—a simulation optimization package that is sold and used worldwide.

Bowden earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering technology from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1984. He completed additional undergraduate engineering coursework at MSU, and then earned master’s and doctoral degrees in industrial engineering from MSU, respectively, in 1989 and 1992.

Volunteers sought for ‘Move-In Day’

The Residence Hall Association, along with the Department of Housing and Residence Life, are asking for volunteers to help with “Move-In Day 2005!” Aug. 13 for all freshman residence halls. Anyone wishing to help new students move into their new accommodations are asked to work at least an hour shift—8 a.m.-5 p.m.—at a particular residence hall. All participants will receive the official “Move-In Day 2005!” T-shirt to wear during their shifts.

Volunteers may do anything from lifting boxes and other belongings to passing out goodies and drinks. Other tasks may be assigned, depending on individual residence hall needs.

To volunteer, or for more specific information, please contact Timothy S. Jackson, Residence Hall Association president and co-coordinator of “Move-In Day 2005!” at 325-2460 or at rhaexecs@saffairs.msstate.edu.



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 26

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

ITS workshop: "BANNER: Leave Entry," 10 McArthur hall, 8:30 a.m. 325-0631.

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ITS workshop: "BANNER: Electronic Approvals," 10 McArthur hall, 10 a.m. 325-0631.

August 1-5

Floral Design Workshop, Floral Design Studio adjacent to the University Florist, 8 a.m. \$500 fee. 325-3585.

5-7

Mississippi Arabian Horse Association Fall Classic, Mississippi Horse Park, 8:30 a.m. 325-9350.

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"Move-In Day 2005!" for freshman residence halls, 8 a.m. 325-2460. (see story page 3)

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.



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Fall semester classes begin.

26

MSU vs. Iowa State, women's soccer, MSU Soccer Field, 7 p.m.

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MSU vs. Samford, women's soccer, MSU Soccer Field, 1 p.m.

Riley Center marketing director named

Lauderdale County native Penny Kemp, a 1992 Mississippi State graduate, is the marketing director of the university's Riley Center.

To be operated by MSU-Meridian once restoration is complete next summer, the Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts is named in honor of the local Riley Foundation, which made the \$12.1 million anchor contribution for the downtown project.

In addition to a bachelor's degree in marketing, Kemp earned a master's in business administration from MSU. The Meridian High School graduate began her new duties in mid-July.

She has led and implemented brand marketing efforts at major Southeastern advertising agencies for the past decade, most recently at Atlanta-based Sawyer Riley Compton. In Georgia, her clients included the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, James Hardie Building Products and National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Beyond preparation for the center's 2006 opening activities, Kemp will develop all ongoing marketing materials and programs, coordinate public relations activities and oversee theater box office operations, as well as conference center sales efforts.

"I was drawn to this opportunity," said Kemp. "Coming back home to help market the Riley Center, knowing what a profound impact it will have on Meridian's downtown revitalization and economic development, combined with the chance to contribute to more and diverse cultural experiences, is incredibly exciting to me."

The Riley Center includes a historic, 1,000-seat opera house that is being restored to its original early 20th century beauty, as well as an adjacent five-story, state-of-the-art conference center, formerly the Marks-Rothenberg and Newberry buildings.

The multi-use center will host a variety of performing arts and educational programs that will appeal to people of all ages and interests.

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between Mississippi State and an extensive alumni family," he added.

In his new role, Abraham will work closely with other external affairs units that include the MSU Foundation, University Relations Office, campus radio station WMSV-FM, MSU Golf Course, and the Flight Department.

In student affairs, Abraham has helped lead a division that includes enrollment, housing, financial aid, health services, student organizations, counseling, police, recreational sports, and other student service functions. He began his student affairs career in 1977 as a residence hall director.

"I am very thankful to have this opportunity to work with those who care so much about Mississippi State University, our alumni," Abraham said. "I welcome this new role with much enthusiasm and excitement."

As a longtime director of enrollment services at Mississippi State, Abraham headed student recruitment efforts that resulted in unprecedented growth 1979-2000. He subsequently served both as assistant and associate vice president in the division, as well as interim vice president 2002-04, overseeing the entire range of student affairs functions.

He received an undergraduate degree in marketing in 1975 and a master's degree in student personnel and counselor education in 1977, both from Mississippi State. He earned a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Mississippi in 1985.